



SIEGFRIED H. HORN: 1908-1993  
A TRIBUTE

On November 28, 1993, Siegfried H. Horn, first editor of *Andrews University Seminary Studies*, passed away in St. Helena, California, at the age of 85. As was discovered after his death, he had malignant lymphoma.

Horn's long and distinguished career in biblical archaeology has been documented in recent issues of *Biblical Archaeology Review*. Larry G. Herr's article "The Search for Biblical Heshbon",<sup>1</sup> told of Horn's

<sup>1</sup> *BAR* 19 (Nov.-Dec. 1993): 36-37, 68.

leadership in the Hesban project, which has been reported through the years in the pages of *AUSS*. The article ended by saying that "at the age of 85, Siegfried Horn still keeps an eye on our work and would have it no other way." Herr, currently Annual Professor at the Albright Institute of Archaeological Research in Jerusalem, intended for his piece to be a tribute that Horn might read and enjoy in life. Whether Horn saw it, we do not know. *BAR* also carried a tribute written by Larry Geraty, in which Horn's life story is told.<sup>2</sup>

Siegfried Horn was the son of a Seventh-day Adventist Bible teacher and one of Germany's earliest aviators. He was educated in Jewish schools so he would not have to attend school on Sabbath. After theological education in Germany and England, Horn served as a missionary in the Dutch East Indies. Interned with other German nationals, first in Java and then in India, Horn spent seven years in prison camps. During those years he spent time with his cherished books, miraculously preserved through many difficulties. Not only did he read and study for himself, he taught Greek, Hebrew, and other Bible courses to fellow inmates. In 1947 Horn came to the United States, where he studied for a B.A. (Walla Walla College, WA), an M.A. (S.D.A. Theological Seminary, Washington, DC), and a Ph.D. in Egyptology, which he completed at the Oriental Institute in 1951. At that time he began teaching at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, where he remained until his retirement in 1976. While teaching and writing, Horn became more than an armchair archaeologist. He participated in excavations at Shechem (1960, 1962, and 1964) and later initiated and directed the Heshbon dig (1968, 1971, 1973). Upon retirement, Horn moved to California, near San Francisco, so he could be near good libraries and an airport, since he traveled extensively, both in the interest of archaeology and to see the world.

Horn began publishing *AUSS* almost single-handedly in 1963. One might have expected that since his field of interest was biblical archaeology, the journal would reflect his interests. Although the preliminary reports of Andrews University excavations have appeared regularly in *AUSS*, the table of contents shows careful regard for other fields of biblical, historical, and theological research. Horn continued as editor until 1974, when Kenneth Strand took over.

Horn is remembered by many as a promoter of biblical archaeology. His fascinating articles in Seventh-day Adventist periodicals bolstered faith in the Bible by throwing light on persons and events of antiquity. He wrote the introductory articles on history and archaeology for the seven-volume

<sup>2</sup> "In Memoriam: Siegfried H. Horn," *BAR* 20 (March-April 1994): 22, 24. The early part of Horn's story is also told in Joyce Rochat, *Survivor* (Berrien Springs, MI: Andrews University Press, 1986) and Horn's autobiographical account, *Promise Deferred* (Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald, 1987).

*Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*. Later he edited (and authored many articles of) a one-volume *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Dictionary*; in 1979 he brought out a revised edition of this work. In addition, Horn published in other journals.

Many think of Horn as the biblical archaeology professor. From 1951 until 1976 he taught biblical backgrounds and archaeology at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary. His students remember him as the teacher who always started and finished his classes on time. Each class began with prayer, not as a formality, but because Horn was a man of prayer. We could count on his finishing the sentence during which the bell rang and closing his notes. Between beginning and end, Horn provided mountains of information, well organized and fitting neatly into his typewritten syllabus. One can only guess how many students used his detailed syllabus as the basis for their own teaching, often in far-flung corners of the world.

Early in his teaching career, Horn began to gather artifacts to bring biblical archaeology to life for his students. The early collection fitted easily into one cabinet of his classroom. Today the Horn Archaeological Museum on the campus of Andrews University contains a fascinating collection of objects from antiquity. Students and visitors come here from many places to learn from these mementos of the past. The museum also houses the Horn Library, inaugurated in 1991, after Horn donated his personal library for the use of future generations.

I like best to remember Horn as Siegfried my friend. In 1986, Siegfried spent a short term lecturing at the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies in the Philippines, where my husband and I were teaching. Without the limitations imposed by administrative responsibilities and excavation schedules, Siegfried became a real person. Within one hour of his arrival on campus, he was exploring the nearby village. His curiosity about the world was as insatiable as his appetite for the Indonesian food he had learned to love in pre-World War II Java. Together we followed the revolution which paralyzed the country and brought Cory Aquino to power. Together we visited Manila. Together we studied the Bible. He told his life story, sharing his own faith journey. His students were amazed at his great knowledge; I was more impressed with his magnificent humanity.

*AUSS*, together with his colleagues and students at Andrews University, pays tribute to Siegfried H. Horn—archaeologist, biblical scholar, writer, professor, administrator, and friend.

Nancy J. Vyhmeister

Painted by Nathan Greene, the portrait of Horn that accompanies this tribute hangs in the foyer of the Horn Archaeological Museum. Photo by David Sherwin.