

Global Moments in the Levant

Four ASOR archaeologists, Bert deVries (Calvin College), Øystein S. LaBianca (Andrews University), Thomas Levy (UCSD) and Bethany Walker (Grand Valley State University) will be joining an international team of anthropologists, archaeologists, geographers, historians and sociologists in a study of “Global Moments in the Levant.” The team of 16 researchers will be headed by Leif Manger, Professor of Anthropology, University of Bergen, Norway, to study “breakthrough events that change people’s lives and their futures.” The team was informed in February 2005 by the Norwegian Research Council that their application “Global Moments in the Levant: Towards an Understanding of a Contact Zone between Peoples, Cultures and States” had been approved for funding over the next four years in the amount of 16 million Norwegian Kroner or ca. \$2.6 million USD. The team was one of seventeen successful applicants out of 263 in an annual competition for 250 million Norwegian kroner of NRC funding for basic research in all fields.

According to Øystein LaBianca, Visiting Researcher at the University of Bergen, who co-authored the proposal with Leif Manger last spring, global moments are “developmental events that come to both incubating global moments and having to cope with their consequences. What has made this region a virtual cauldron of global moments is its strategic location astride a vital intercontinental land bridge connecting the continents of Africa, Asia, and Europe. This location has made it a crossroads of cultures and civilizations, a corridor of communication and commerce, and a highway of military movement and intrigue since the dawn of settled life.”

The proposal mentions as examples of global moments the Neolithic revolution that produced the first settled farmers; the Chalcolithic revolution that produced crafts specialization and long distance trade; the Early Bronze urban revolution that culminated with the rise of the first cities and states;

the rise of monotheism during the Late Bronze and Iron Age; the global moments that led to the rise of the Greco-Roman, Byzantine, Islamic- and Modern Capitalist ‘great traditions,’ and various political developments, for instance the fact that, from the earliest empire states in Egypt and Mesopotamia, the Levant has been of strategic importance to a long succession of superpowers, starting with the ancient Egyptians and ending with the United States.

A major objective of the collaboration is to advance understanding of how global moments alter the lives of local groups and communities. This is especially where the contribution of archaeology will be important, for it provides the best window on how the daily lives of ordinary men and women have changed in response to successive global moments. At the same time, it also offers subtle clues to the processes by which such changes were transmitted and adopted. The work of LaBianca and other Madaba Plains archaeologists on long-term food system cycles and settlement changes in Central Jordan will play a prominent role as a source of archaeological data on global moments and their impact on local populations. To their perspective from Central Jordan, deVries and Walker will add views from the north with their work at Umm el-Jimal and Umm Qays respectively, and Levy a view from the south with his project in the Faynan district. Norwegian archaeologists on the team include Randi Haaland whose research deals with the Neolithic in Palestine and the Nile Valley and Nils Anfinset who is studying the Late Neolithic-Chalcolithic in Palestine.

According to Manger, theory development is going to be a central part of the Global Moments project. “It is not the details in the historical development lines that are in focus here, but broad comparisons in time and space. Such comparisons will advance theory about long-term culture change and conflict as a foundation for understanding contemporary events

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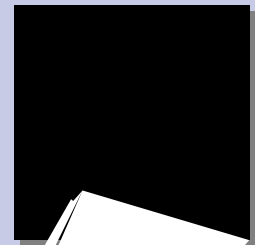
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ASOR Statement of Financial Position
Year Ended June 30, 2004

ASSETS	2004	2003
Cash and cash equivalents	\$242,387	\$415,066
Investments	610,948	93,334
Accounts receivable:		
Memberships and subscriptions, less allowance		
Ended June 30		

ASOR Needs Your Help!

While we have high hopes for the new fundraising efforts now getting underway in ASOR, this is a *Z li fY* expectation—a future that is one to two years away, however aggressive we are about it. What we need in the *dfYbhis* the generous support of all members of ASOR. Please take a minute *fj\h' bck* to visit the “Give to ASOR” page on the ASOR website (<https://www.bu.edu/asor/gift.html>) and make a secure, tax-deductible contribution to the mission and vision of ASOR.

Statement of Activities
Year Ended June 30, 2004

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
SUPPORT AND REVENUE:				
Contributions	\$197,677	\$115,869	\$1,825	\$315,371
Publication income	10,000			

R E G I O N A L A S O R

Pacific Southwest

Thanks to the work of ASOR representative, Beth Alpert-Nakhai, the ASOR-Pacific SW region (formerly Pacific West Coast), is now an official partner of WESCOR (SBL/AAR West Coast). Beth reports that ASOR-Pacific Southwest met on March 14th, 2005 in conjunction with The Western Commission for the Stms

countries in the Near and Middle East and South Asia. Open to doctoral candidates and established scholars with U.S. citizenship, as individuals or as teams. For information and application, contact CAORC (tel: (202) 842-8636; e-mail: caorc@caorc.si.edu; web: www.caorc.si.edu).

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- Iraq
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- the archaeology of religion
and the sacred
- the Byzantine and Early
Islamic Near East
- Gezer Excavations in
Retrospect and Prospect
- Science and Technology
in the Ancient World
Measurement and Standards

Wednesday Plenary Session
James Muhly (University of Pennsylvania, emeritus)
*The Mesopotamian Metals Project:
Recent Discoveries*

Thursday
Presidential Forum
Cultural Preservation in the Middle East

See you in Philadelphia!

For more information and updates, visit our website at www.asor.org/AM/am.htm

May 10-13 2005

“Mediterranean Crossroads Conference (MCC): New directions in the study of the Mediterranean and its history at the onset of the 21st century.” The aim of this conference is to bring together researchers working on different aspects of the Mediterranean region (past and present) and to encourage the sharing and examination of a wide spectrum of themes and problems. Moreover, it will provide an excellent opportunity for interdisciplinary collaboration and will hopefully help to forge and identify new methodologies for dealing with the now widely acknowledged complexity of Mediterranean history. The conference will take place in Athens in the large Conference Complex of “ATHINAIIS,” a modern “multi-purpose” venue in the historic district of Votanikos in Athens, Greece (<http://www.athinaiis.com.gr/> >www.athinaiis.com.gr). Contact: Despina Catapoti either by email (pierides1@athinaiis.com.gr) >pierides1@athinaiis.com.gr) or by phone (00302103480000).

May 19-21, 2005

Religious Pluralism in Ancient Anatolia: From the Post-Hittite Era to the Beginning of the Hellenistic Period. Religionswissenschaftliches Seminar, University of Bonn, Germany. This conference will focus mainly on texts in Hieroglyphic Luwian, Lycian, Lydian and Carian as well as on Phrygian and Urartean. Central themes to be covered by the papers will be religious continuity since the Hittite Empire, but also religious change to new cults or beliefs, and exchange of religious ideas between different areas of Anatolia before the advance of Hellenism. Contact: Manfred Hutter (mhutter@uni-bonn.de).

June 3-4 2005

Iconography without Texts. Organized by Paul Taylor (paul.taylor@sas.ac.uk).

This colloquium will discuss the relationship between iconography and text in ancient Anatolia. The speakers will be: ...

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