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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As I write, some three weeks after our most formative Annual Meeting in New Orleans, the momentum generated there continues to move us forward. Already the decision to conduct independent meetings in the future has taken form for 1997. On the recommendation of the Annual Meeting and P

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construct the agreement for ASOR's meeting participation with Joint Ventures this year. While this arrangement was to have continued through 1997, our decision to abrogate it has been met by SBL with regret but with understanding. For this I am most appreciative.

As was clearly evident in discussions at the Members' Meeting, the motivation for our decision springs primarily from the need for ASOR to reaffirm and reinforce its special purposes and identity. The Annual Meeting Committee has already been energized by the prospects of adding new program sections and features. Everyone is committed to working very hard to create the best possible circumstances for our 1997 sessions. During this first year, member attendance and participation will be specially important and everyone is invited to respond promptly to registration opportunities. Early consideration of hotel reservations and travel options is also advised. By April 1 we will need to know how much of the option on room space we should continue to hold and from that point reservation choices will likely become increasingly limited.

Among other formative actions at the meeting, I want to call special attention to the successful conduct of elections. In spite of the fact that the formation of the Nominations Committee was not completed till after the first round of new member elections held by mail last spring and the resulting late circulation of the call for nominees, full slates for all Trustee and Committee positions were assembled and the election processes were conducted in a deliberate and effective fashion. A very sincere vote of thanks is due to Nominations Committee Chair Charles Miller, and to all Nominations Committee Members for their perseverance and hard work. We feel confident that most of the 'bugs' have now been worked out of the system. Members, both Individual and Institutional, should remember that each year new Trustees and Committee members must be elected. A call for nominations will go out in the next Newsletter issue, but nominations can be put forward at any time.

Finally, I believe everyone will agree that that our Centennial Kickoff Reception will provide us with many wonderful memories. The presentation of the Oxford Encyclopedia of Archaeology in the Near East represents a most significant milestone in ASOR history. ASOR past President and encyclopedia editor Eric Meyers, along with his editorial staff, and Jeff Edelstein and the staff of Oxford University Press all deserve the highest honors for preparation of a most handsome and truly formative resource for students and scholars in Near Eastern studies and archaeology.

Similarly deserving of high praise were the other Honorees of the evening. Scheuer Medal Recipient P.E. MacAllister has made significant contributions to ASOR for more than twenty years, most recently making possible its smooth transition to the new Boston office and providing energy and direction to its work as Chairman of the Board of Trustees. In a similar way, previous Scheuer Medal Recipient and Past Board Chairman Charles Harris, through his most constructive past and still continuing service within the organization, provides an ideal model as the first ever Life Trustee on the ASOR Board. As Treasurer of ASOR for almost a decade, W. H. Holden Gibbs has managed ASOR's finances and has guided its way through several presidential terms, always deliberately and as a true gentleman. His award of a certificate of special merit was most appropriate and fitting.

It was likewise most appropriate that ASOR recognize the long term and dedicated service of the Past President of ACOR and of ASOR, Jim Sauer. Jim's special effort to be present with us in

New Orleans will be long remembered. The love and respect he has earned from all of us was beautifully represented by the words of Prince Ra'ad Bin Zeid, and by his presentation to Jim on behalf of His Majesty King Hussein of Jordan of the "Order of the Star." We are indeed proud of

continuing problems of self-identification and defining its role in the whole enterprise, with the overseas centers as partners.

President Seger also introduced Khalid Neshef as the corporate representative for the new corporation member, the Palestine Institute of Archaeology at Bir Zeit University, Bir Zeit, Palestinian Entity.

He also drew attention to the "blue sheets" prepared by his office to explain the organization and sub-groups of the ASOR (distributed). He also indicated the need for some by-laws changes to be acted on in the subsequent Board of Trustees Meeting:

1. The reinstatement to board membership of the representatives of the founding organizations: SBL, AIA, and AOS.
2. The chairs of standing committees (CAP, etc.) as ex-officio members of the board and the executive committee with vote.

Executive Director Dornemann passed out the Articles of Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation. It was then moved, seconded, and passed to increase the number of trustees to account for the additions noted above, and to shift within the Articles the references to overseas centers members.

Director Dornemann also reported for Holden Gibbs as Treasurer. He distributed a summary sheet for the budget, and noted the draft audit, commenting on some temporary discrepancies. Owing to the move to Boston it will be necessary to acquire new auditors.

In his own report, Director Dornemann mentioned particularly the circumstances surrounding the move to Boston, and commented on the involvement of the overseas centers there.

Eric Meyers reported for the Centennial Committee, which met later that day; he briefly

unlikely that there can be a significant change for arrangements on the part of the Joint Ventures authorities. Various possibilities for a separate meeting have been explored. Subsequent remarks from the floor emphasized the difficulty a separate meeting would entail for academic members, and suggestions for other meeting combinations, notably with AIA or AOS. Obviously going on our own would allow for greater flexibility of program.

Charles Harris moved (subsequently seconded) that the members direct the board to make such arrangements as would make it possible for the ASOR to meet independently, or with other such organizations, as soon as practicable. The question was called, and the motion was passed by a vote of 89 in favor, and 45 opposed.

Due to the already late hour, Walter Rast deferred his report from the Committee on Archaeological Policy; the full report will appear in the Newsletter.

Al Leonard reported for the Publications Committee. He especially mentioned the good work of Billie Jean Collins, and her role as new editor of the Newsletter. Publication of the Annual is temporarily on hold, but the BASOR and the JCS are catching up. There is a need for more aggressive marketing, and an examination of electronic publishing opportunities.

Member Larry Stager made a rather forceful objection to a certain recent article in and issue of the BA; BA editor David Hopkins responded.

Nancy Serwint reported as director of CAARI, mentioning particularly fellowships, projects, and the increasing use of the hostel.

Pierre Bikai reported as director of ACOR, noting the archaeological park in Madaba, continuing work on the Petra church, the endowment campaign, and various grants.

Seymour Gitin reported as director of the AIAR. He announced final success in the transfer of land and property from the ASOR to the AIAR, done without undue expense or taxes. He also noted fellows at the Institute, various programs, and an extensive inscription discovered at Miqne. There are cordial relationships with Al Quds, Bir Zeit, and the Department of Palestinian Archaeology.

Michael Fuller reported for the Damascus Committee, commenting that there is not a great deal of clarity from the Syrian government. Various projects were mentioned, along with a forthcoming congress. Fuller's written report was circulated to the members. Due to the late hour, Paul Zimansky's report on the Baghdad Committee was deferred for later publication in the Newsletter. The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

James F. Ross, Secretary

**ASOR Committee on Archaeological Policy
Affiliated ASOR Projects, 1997**

CARTHAGE

Carthage Punic Project (publication) L. Stager, J. Greene

CYPRUS

Kholetria Ortos (publication) A. Simmons
Vasilikos Valley Project (publication) A. South I. Todd
Kourion Amathus Gate Cemetery (field) D. Parks
Kalavastos-Kopetra (publication) M. McClellan, M. Rautman
Sydney Cyprus Survey Project (field) B. Knapp
Vasilikos Valley Project (field) I. Todd, A. South
Sotira Kaminoudhia (publication) S. Swiny
Paphos Harbor (publication) R. Hohlfelder

ISRAEL

Caesarea Promontory Palace (field) K. Gleason, B. Burrell
Tell el-Hesi (publication) J. Blakely
Rekhes Nafha (field)

Tell Qarqur (publication)

R. Dornemann

WEST BANK

The member representatives for the Founding Societies will be announced once they are formally designated by their respective organizations.

Warmest congratulations to each of those so-elected, and sincere thanks to all for being willing to serve ASOR in this important way. Most sincere thanks also to Dr. Donald Wimmer of Seton Hall University who will complete his term as Trustee this year.

Joe Seger, ASOR President

CYPRUS AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE NEWS

The Lecture Series at CAARI remains the centerpiece of the Institute's program activities, and the lectures offered so far this year have been presented to enthusiastic audiences. Because CAARI Fellows and researchers associated with the institute embrace the gamut of Cypriot studies, the range of subject matter of public lectures offered at CAARI is deliberately varied to appeal to a diversity of interests. The 1996/1997 Lecture Series with its program, to date, is as follows:

- Ms. Nicolle Hirschfeld, Fulbright Fellow and Ph.D. Candidate at the University of Texas at Austin, *Scratches and Scribbles on Late Bronze Age Pottery.*
- Dr. Peter Matthews, Researcher at the National Museum of Ethnology, at the University of Texas at

International Symposium

Plans are underway for CAARI to host an international symposium treating the subject of women and gender roles in Cyprus during antiquity. The conference, Engendering Aphrodite: Women and Society in Ancient Cyprus, will be held in Nicosia from March 19-23 1998. Format for the papers is available from CAARI and is also elaborated on in the Call for Papers (see infra). Those interested in participating should submit a title and 250 word abstract to CAARI by 1 April 1996.

REPORT ON PUBLICATIONS

New Appointments

At the annual meeting in New Orleans, the Publications committee, on the recommendations submitted by Robert Hohlfelder, Chair of the publications committee on nominations, approved the following appoint

Two titles appeared in the ASOR Books Series this summer. Larry Herr's *Published Pottery of Palestine* and Itamar Singer's *Muwatalli's Prayer to the Assembly of Gods Through the Storm-God of Lightning* are both selling well in their first few months in print. The ASOR Books Series is edited by Victor Matthews.

Journals

Volume 47 of the *Journal of Cuneiform Studies* will be out in January 1997. Volume 48 is expected to appear in August 1997.

The editorial board of *Biblical Archaeologist* unanimously approved a motion to change the name of the journal following a year long investigation into this possibility by the journal's editor, David Hopkins. This recommendation was brought to the Committee on Publications, which passed the motion by a vote of 9 to 2. The motion then went before the Trustees of ASOR, who, after some discussion also approved the motion. The decision as to the Journal's new name has been postponed pending further research into possible alternatives (see p. 7 for more on BA's name change).

The *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research* is gradually getting back on schedule. The manuscript base for the journal is steadily increasing.

Future Plans

Much of the discussion at the various publications editorial board and committee meetings involved future plans for ASOR's publications. With the arrival of the Centennial Celebrations, both BASOR and BA are planning to produce one or more special volumes celebrating ASOR's contribution and commitment to Near Eastern archaeology.

Increasing our marketing abilities in general and our technological know-how for the purpose of actively pursuing electronic publication of excavation reports are two of Publications' primary goals for the next year.

Billie Jean Collins, Director of Publications

The ASOR Book Series was recently initiated with Victor Matthews as editor. This series is designed to accommodate publication of manuscripts that do not fall into the parameters of other ASOR series. For instance, its first two publications have been Itamar Singer's *Muwatalli's Prayer to the Assembly of Gods Through the Storm-God of Lightning* (CTH 381) and Larry Herr's *Published Pottery of Palestine*. Since this series will publish a variety of studies (textual analysis and commentary, historical monograph, bibliographic work), the format and size of the volumes will be styled to best present the author's data. Authors are encouraged to submit manuscripts dealing with aspects of the history, culture, literature, and religion of the ancient Near Eastern and Levantine world. They should be sent to Victor Matthews, Religious Studies Department, Southwest Missouri State University, 901 S. National, Springfield, MO 65804. E-mail: VHM970F@NIC.SMSU.EDU; Tel. (417) 836-5491; Fax (417) 836-4757.

Victor Matthews, ASOR Books Editor

NAME CHANGE VOTED FOR BA

to communicate BA's scope to a larger world. ASOR committees noted that interest in research that deals constructively with biblical literature, history, and archaeology can be accommodated

detractors would claim. I had reasoned that the cover would attract some attention to the magazine (beware, you may get what you wish for!)

However one judges the editorial decision-making process and the editor, it is both myopic and misinformed to deride the recent record of BA. Within the past four volumes, the facts of BA's record are timely publication, enhanced presentation values, full electronic production and a stable subscription base—all on a budget two-thirds the size of that of 1990. The facts are: diverse and significant content—articles on the archaeology of Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and Turkey, on Neolithic through Medieval periods, by a prestigious list of authors including Banning, Borowski, Cohen, Dever, Finkelstein, Hesse and Wapnish, Levy, Margueron, Sasson, and Ward, to name just ten researchers, all of them subjected to peer review by members of the Editorial Committee and others (even if one judges the process to have failed in a particular case, the process is consistently applied). The facts are: more timely content ("Arti-Facts"); a column on electronic opportunities in archaeology; acclaimed theme issues on nomadic pastoralism and ceramics and ethnicity; the rejuvenation of the frequently cited Archaeological Sources for the History of Palestine series, including plans for publication of a comprehensive textbook; a CD-ROM project; the mounting of BA on the World Wide Web; and the resolution of decade-old indecisiveness about the journal's title. The list goes on. Professor Stager is on record proclaiming the nadir of Biblical Archaeologist. While I am distressed that one ASOR's most distinguished scholars views the journal with such discouragement, I am convinced that he is utterly mistaken.

David Hopkins, BA Editor

AIAR 1995-96 POST-DOCTORAL FELLOW'S REPORT

This past December my family and I returned to Jerusalem after an eight year absence. I received a Yad-Hanadiv/Barecha Foundation Fellowship in Jerusalem and was awarded a "junior sabbatical" from the University of Arizona. We were especially pleased also to have a postdoctoral appointment at the Albright since ten years ago I was the 1986-87 J. Henry Thayer Fellow and Keeley worked as Sy's assistant from 1985-87. We became intimately familiar with the school, its staff, programs, and traditions. While we learned a great deal during those years, the highlight came when our daughter Angela was born in Jerusalem in 1987. She came earlier and faster than we had anticipated, nearly being born in the foyer of the Albright! many of our family's professional and personal friendships can be traced back to our "Albright days." Returning to Jerusalem this past winter was, therefore, an eagerly anticipated event for our family.

My research this winter focused on my monograph tentatively entitled "The Early History of Heaven." I am tracing the origin and development of the depictions of the heavenly realm(s) in early Judaism. I was able to finish editing three chapters and make good progress on two others. Because the book touches on the conceptions of the heavenly realms in other ancient Near Eastern cultures, the resources of the Albright were immensely helpful, especially with reference to the inscriptional and iconographic sources from across the Near East. My work focuses on how Jews in antiquity conceived of and described the heavenly realms. It will show how ancient

I spent my time at the Albright Institute investigating the material culture and literary representation of viticulture for ancient Israel. I reconstructed how viticulture was practiced in Iron Age Israel and examined how biblical authors were appropriating vine-growing practices into portraits of people and their deity. The project is, then, an historical reconstruction of the social history of Israelite viticulture and an exegetical analysis of biblical traditions of vines and wine.

Much of my research was done in the Albright library where I concentrated on ancient agriculture and the archaeology of Iron II, particularly the evidence for wine presses, field towers, and the epigraphic material concerning wine in the Gezer Calendar, Samaria Ostraca, and

study the vault and its content

One of the highlights of living in Jerusalem this year was the accessibility of the glass collection in the Israel Museum and the staff of the Antiquities Authority who work with it. The Albright

In order to approach these research problems, I have examined artifacts from several metallurgical assemblages. Each artifact was catalogued and a set of quantitative data, e.g. weight and size, recorded. When possible, both crucible sherds and furnace remains were treated as a pottery assemblage to estimate the complete shape and total number of these objects. In addition, certain noteworthy artifacts, i.e. particularly informative crucible and furnace fragments as well as complete objects such as copper tools, were drawn and photographed. Ultimately, I hope that this work will result in documentation that will be satisfactory to an interested audience and sufficiently accessible through publication.

The specific types of scientific analysis mentioned above, namely metallography and elemental analyses, require specialized apparatus and will be completed at MASCA in the University of Pennsylvania Museum in Philadelphia, and the German Mining Museum in Bochum, Germany. The archaeological material that I am studying for my dissertation includes a wide range of artifact types from a number of sites. These artifacts and associated excavation records are housed at a number of different institutions in Jerusalem, including the Centre de Recherche Francais de Jerusalem, the HUC-JIR Nelson Glueck School of Biblical Archaeology, the Israel Museum, the Israel Antiquities Authority, the Rockefeller Museum, and the Pontifical Biblical Institute. My fellowship has given me continual access to these institutions and has allowed me to participate in a lively and exciting archaeological community.

A rather different aspect of my research is the study of cultural patterns in the late prehistory of the Near East as a whole, particularly from the perspective of metal and metallurgical technology as a mobile commodity. While it is often taken for granted that the Chalcolithic period is distinguished by the presence of metal technology, there has been little effort to address the issue of its first appearance in the southern Levant. This topic also raises questions regarding the transition from the late NG(e)461 0 0 ichsa4(NGNG-4(ionHo.ouse)3(d a)4(t a numbe)4(r o)-6(f dif)4(fe)7(r)-6(c

into a publishable manuscript. I completed my thesis, defended it successfully, and am now nearly finished with revisions for the manuscript. During this year I was also able to take advantage of the Albright fieldtrips, both in country and abroad, and the abundance of scholarly lectures and events at the institute and affiliated organizations.

In the Fall, thanks to the resources at the Albright and neighboring libraries, I nearly completed my research before returning to the States to deliver a paper at the ASOR meetings in Philadelphia. The time freed up by the assistance of the institute's staff, who take care of most of one's basic needs, allowed me to concentrate fully on my work. Before the Meeting in Philadelphia, I spent two weeks away from the Albright helping to excavate a Byzantine shipwreck at the Tantura Lagoon just south of Tel Dor. The project, run by Prof. Shelley Wachsmann of the Institute of Nautical Archaeology at Texas A & M, was the first time I'd been able to return to my interests in underwater archaeology since I worked with the Department of Maritime Civilizations in Haifa back in 1986-87. I also had a chance to rekindle earlier interests in Late Bronze Age trade through discussions with fellows Nicolle Hirschfeld and Michael Sugeran, whose research is expanding our knowledge of interconnections in the eastern Mediterranean.

While their work deals with the profane, I have been able to draw new conclusions about the sacred beliefs and practices of Canaanite and Phoenician seafarers. I have found that because of the hazards faced at sea, Canaanite-Phoenician mariners took on guardian deities to guarantee divine protection. In order to appease these sacred benefactors, sailors worshipped their patrons in port temples and in isolated shrines erected on promontories along sea routes, as well as on board ship. Vessels contained sacred areas, at their prow or stern, for conducting ceremonies at sea, and the ships were imbued with the spirit of a tutelary god to ward off the dangers of the deep. Rituals were performed at transition points in the voyage, to ensure a safe journey. If a ship was lost at sea, however, fellow mariners gathered on shore to conduct mourning rites and sing laments. Mortuary rituals included the interment of seafarers with symbols of their profession, such as sacred anchors and models of divinely protected ships. This evidence describes the specialized nature of the religion of Canaanite and Phoenician sailors. Maritime religion was a discreet subset of the general religious beliefs and cultic practices of Canaanite and Phoenician society, generated by the unique uncertainties and dangers faced while living and voyaging at sea. The picture developed permits us to connect this aspect of Canaanite and Phoenician life with what we have long known of the crucial importance of maritime trade to the early Levantine cultures that pioneered seafaring and exploration throughout the Mediterranean.

After my talk at the ASOR meetings on sacred space aboard Canaanite and Phoenician ships, I was able to put the finishing touches on my dissertation and defend it in February. Since then I have returned to Jerusalem, and have been editing and expanding sections in preparation for submitting the manuscript for publication in the Harvard Semitic Monograph series. The Albright trip to Jordan was a welcome distraction from my work and the recent tensions in Jerusalem. Robert Schick guided us through the southern part of the country, with his expert, first-hand knowledge of the history, archaeology, and geography of Jordan. Highlights included seeing Petra for the first time, Dibon, Tell el-Khelifeh, Araq el-Amir, Pella, and the Bronze age mounds in the Jordan Valley.

I would like to thank the United States Information Agency and the staff and fellows at the Albright Institute, without whose help this year would not have been such a success.

CAORC ADVANCED MULTI-COUNTRY RESEARCH FELLOW'S REPORT

Although these may be fighting words, in spite of a skyline dominated by the Dome of the Rock and the Dome of the Holy Sepulcher, the Old City of Jerusalem was arguably just a provincial Ottoman town. I didn't come to the Albright Institute to prove or disprove this, but rather to explore Jerusalem in the context of provincial Ottoman urbanism. I arrived from Aleppo and Damascus, via Amman, three cities that were important satellites in the Ottoman cosmos. My projects there, as in Jerucif

mountain roads in the Petra tou Romiou area, and road closures were reported at Kourion and Pissouri.

Over 1,300 aftershocks, with several measuring 5.0 and greater, have continued after the quake and more are expected over the course of the next two to three months. The quake (and aftershocks) were also felt in Nicosia and the initial tremor was strong enough for CAARI to be rocked. The CAARI building sustained very little damage-existing cracks in walls lengthened only slightly, and small patches of mortar facing on the institute's facade fell off in places.

ARGOS: A Limited Areas Search Engine of the Ancient and Medieval Worlds

argos.evansville.eduA test version of an experimental search engine dedicated to the ancient and medieval portions of the internet is now on-line. Argos--a cooperative effort from the editors of ABZU (Charles Jones), Byzantium (Paul Halsall), Diotima (Ross Scaife and Suzanne Bonefas), Exploring Ancient World Cultures (Anthony Beavers), Kirke (Ulrich Schmitzer), Perseus (Gregory Crane) and Romarch (Pedar Foss)--is the first (?) peer-reviewed search engine on the internet. As such, it attempts to filter out portions of the internet irrelevant to ancient and medieval interests. To learn more about how Argos works and what "peer-review" means in this context, please see the "about" page accessible from any Argos page.

We ask that you keep in mind that the current version of Argos is a "beta" release. We are in the process of fixing errors. We are putting Argos on-line at this time to test its performance under real conditions. If you would like to know more about the current state of Argos and our immediate plans, please see the "Version Announcement" accessible by clicking "Beta Version" on the top of any Argos page.

Argos was designed by Anthony Beavers and Hiten Sonpal at the University of Evansville.

Jordan Antiquity, Rami G. Khouri's weekly feature on Jordanian archaeology and history, is now available for international subscription and publication. The weekly articles of approximately 1200 words each cover the results of the latest archaeological excavations and surveys in Jordan, and include occasional reviews of new books.

Personal and institutional subscriptions, and reprint rights for publications: Interested individuals or institutions that wish to receive the feature every week by e-mail (to read, but not to reprint or electronically post) can subscribe at an annual cost of \$45 for individuals and institutions, for 48 articles per year. Publications that wish to reprint all or some of the articles may do so upon paying an annual syndication fee of US\$600 for publications...

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