

The reasons for ASOR's decision to hold independent meetings are numerous. Chief among these is that the circumstance of the supermeeting had increasingly eroded the integrity of ASOR's academic and business meetings. In fact, in the 1996 Annual Meeting program book, ASOR was not identified, and our meetings were not marked independently. All appeared as meetings of Joint Venture, a feature that has required separate publication of the ASOR Annual Meeting program for the past several years in the ASOR Newsletter. In addition, the costs of holding annual meetings in contract with Joint Venture had again begun to rise dramatically. With no income from membership registration, ASOR has paid more than \$20,000 each year for meeting rooms, audio-visual rental, receptions, and printing of the meeting schedule. It seemed clear that the costs to ASOR for its own meetings were not going to decrease, that continuation

E. Campbell (ACOR)	J. Blakely (Ind)	P. E. MacAllister (Board)	A. Ogilvy
J. Cooper (CAARI)	W. Dever (Inst)	B. MacDonald (Ind.)	A. Oliver
N. Frederick	W. H. Gibbs (Board)	J. Magness (Inst)	
T. Schaub	H. Hendrix (Board)	J. Ross (Ind)	Ex officio
T. Schneider (CAMP)	E. Meyers (Ind)	J. Seger (Board)	P. Jacobs
D. Stern (Board) (COP)	R. Scheuer (Board)	J. Spencer (Inst)	A. Leonard
G. Thompson (CAP)	L. Shufro (Ind)	G. Vincent (Board)	W. Rast
		R. Younker (Inst)	

1998 Trustees were elected
Trustee
before ASOR restructuring.

Life
C. Harris

Note: Board representatives of the Founding Member societies (AIA, AOS and SBL) have yet to be designated.

Nominations for the positions on the following ASOR Committees will be accepted by the ASOR Nominations Committee through September 10, 1997: Nominations Committee

- One (1) recommended trustee representative for the Nominations Committee from the Institutional Members to be elected by representatives of Founding, Consortium, Advisory and Overseas Centers Members, to serve upon appointment by the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees through June 30, 2000.

- One (1) recommended trustee representative for the Nominations Committee from the Individual Members to be elected by Individual Voting Members, to serve upon appointment by the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees through June 30, 2000.

Current members of the Nominations Committee:

Ex Officio	Class of 1997	Class of 1998	Class of 1999
P. E. MacAllister (Board)	C. Miller (Board)	H. Hendrix (Board)	R. Younker
J. Seger (Inst)	T. Schneider (Inst)	P. Jacobs (Inst)	J. Magness
R. Hallote (Ind)	E. Meyers (Ind)	J. Blakely (Ind)	

Agenda Committee

- One (1) Agenda Committee member from the Institutional Members to be elected by representatives of Founding, Consortium, Advisory and Overseas Centers Members, to serve July 1, 1998 through June 30, 2000.

- One (1) Agenda Committee member from the Individual Members, to be elected by the Individual Voting Members, to serve July 1, 1998 through June 30, 2000.

Agenda Committee candidates must be members of ASOR in good standing and willing to serve a two year working term. A one paragraph biography should accompany the nomination.

Current members of the Agenda Committee:

Ex Officio	Class of 1997	Class of 1998	Class of 1999
J. Seger	R. T. Schaub (Inst)	B. Dahlberg (Inst)	B. Cresson (Inst)
J. Ross	J. Zorn (Ind)	M. Risser (Ind)	V. Matthews (Ind)

Ghor and Northeast Arabah Archaeological Survey 1985-1986, Southern Jordan; The Wadi el Hasa Archaeological Survey 1979-1983, West-Central Jordan.

Dr. Jodi Magness was awarded a B.A. in Archaeology and History from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and her Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in Classical Archaeology. She is currently Assistant Professor of Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology at Tufts University, Medford, MA. Her publications include *Jerusalem Ceramic Chronology circa 200-800 C.E.* She has in excess of 20 encyclopedia entries published with more than 20 more forthcoming. Excavations participated in include Nahal Yattir (Iethira), Israel co-director; Masada, co-director of excavations in the Roman siege camps; Caesarea (CCE), Late Roman and Byzantine ceramics specialist. 1974-89 participated as a staff member or volunteer on 15 excavations in Israel and Greece.

Dr. Victor H. Matthews received his Ph.D. from the Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies at Brandeis University in 1977. He taught at Clemson University from 1978-80 and at Anderson College in South Carolina from 1980-84. In 1984 he joined the Department of Religious Studies at Southwest Missouri State University as a Professor of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament. He is the former editor of the ASOR Newsletter and the General Book Editor for ASOR. His field of interest is ancient Near Eastern history (ASOR Diss. Series, 3: Pastoral Nomadism in the Mari Kingdom), and the social world of ancient Israel. His recent research includes: *Manners and Customs in the Bible*, and *The Social World of Ancient Israel*.

Dr. Jim Ross is a graduate of Doane College and Union Theological Seminary and holds a B.D., Th.D. as well as an honorary D.D. from Doane College. He is now retired and living in Gaithersburg, MD. He has taught at Dartmouth, Drew, and Virginia Theological Seminary. He has been a visiting professor at both Swarthmore and Princeton University. He has served as a staff member on excavations at Shechem, Caesarea, Tell Jemme, and Tell el-Hesi. He has received annual appointments as Archaeological Director at Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem and as Professor of Archaeology at the American School of Oriental Research (now Albright Institute).

Dr. John R. Spencer received his Ph.D. in Biblical Studies from the University of Chicago and has worked on the staffs of the excavations at Tell el-Hesi and Ashkelon. He is a professor of Biblical Studies and Archaeology and Director of the Honors Program at John Carron University. He is a member of several professional organizations and publishes in the fields of Archaeology and the Hebrew Bible. He serves as Vice-chair of the Board of Directors of the Tell el-Hesi Joint Archaeological Expedition and is the Treasurer of the Board of Trustees of the W.F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research. He has received several awards and honors, including the Distinguished Faculty Award from John Carroll University and USIA Research Fellowship.

Dr. Randall Younker received his M.A. and Ph.D. in Near Eastern Archaeology from the University of Arizona. He has served as Director of the Institute of Archeology and Assistant

he has been director of Tell Jalul Excavations in Jordan. He has participated in thirteen archaeological field seasons in Israel and Jordan: Tel Dor, Tel Gezer, Tell el-Umeiri, Tell Jawa, Dreijjat, and Tell Jalul. He has over 40 scholarly publications to his credit. He also has been co-editor of the Madaba Plains Project volumes. He is currently co-editor of a book on the Archaeology of the Ammonites with Burt MacDonald for E. J. Brill.

Dr. Jeffrey R. Zorn received his B.A. in Mesopotamian archaeology from UC Berkeley in 1980. He stayed on at Berkeley and received his M.A. and Ph.D. in Syro-Palestinian archaeology. His dissertation is entitled Tell en-Nasbeh: A Re-evaluation of the Architecture and Stratigraphy of the Early Bronze Age, Iron Age and Later Periods. He has held both NEH (1995-1996) and

the Lindstrom Fund has already been contributed by ASOR members. At the same time, all members of ASOR's many committees continue their very productive work. Expressive of members' willingness to contribute help are the following who have more recently accepted appointments to new or continuing assignments: Randall Younker as Chair of the Nominations Committee, Lydie Shufro as Chair of a new Committee on ASOR Honors and Awards, Victor Matthews as Chair of the Agenda Committee, Tammi Schneider as Chair of the EBR Fellowship Committee and Tom Schaub as continuing representative for ASOR on the committee for the EBR-sponsored ASOR/SBL Joint Lectureship program. To these and to all of you who serve to maintain and carry forward ASOR's work, very sincere thanks.

Regarding communications, special efforts are being made to ensure that members have access to the most current information on ASOR activities and work even beyond the formative contributions being made through our excellent set of professional journals. You will note of course that the Newsletter has been "beefed up" considerably with added news and new features. Through the considerable efforts of the Newsletter editor and Director of Publications, Billie Jean Collins, this information and more is also available via the Scholars Press "TELA" site on the World Wide Web. TELA now also provides connection on-line to ASORDigs96 via the /cobb.msstate.edu Web Site. In addition, the Centennial Committee is continuing and extending its "Longlist" initiative to ensure that every possible member of ASOR's extended family can receive communications on Centennial programs and activities. Will everyone know everything we are doing all the time? Probably not! But we are trying to close the gap. And please remember, communication is a two way street. You may be sure that your questions addressed to Officers, Committee Chairs, Editors, and office staff will not go long unanswered.

ASOR at its best is ASOR interactive. Benjamin Franklin once said that the noblest question in the world is "what good can I do in it?" If all of us in ASOR continue to embrace that same spirit, the organization will have a bright future indeed.

Joe Seger, ASOR President

CAARI PROGRAM

Lecture Series

CAARI continues its series of lectures covering the gamut of Cypriot studies which are designed to appeal to a diversity of interests. Upcoming lectures include:

- Dr. Carole McCartney, 1996 John Grier Bartol Fellow, "Rethinking the Cypriot Ceramic."
- Dr. Ian A. Todd, Director, Vasilikos Valley Project, "The Vasilikos Valley Project: The First Twenty Years."
- Dr. David Roessel, Faculty, College Year in Athens, "George Seferis and Il Postino."
- Dr. Nancy Serwint, Director, CAARI, "The Terracotta Sculpture from Ancient Marion."

- Dr. Gisela Walberg, The Marion Rawson Professor of Aegean Prehistory, Department of Classics, University of Cincinnati, "The Excavation of the Megaron at Midea."
- Timothy Boatswain, M.Sc., Dean, Faculty of Humanities, University of Luton, "Sir Arthur Evans and his Minoan Utopia."
- Dr. Diana Wood Conroy, University of Woolagong, "Introduction to Aboriginal Art and Archaeology in Australia."
- Mr. Joseph Parvis, 1996-1997 Fulbright Fellow, "Public and Private Responses to the Ideology and Implementation of British Colonialism during the Early Years of British Administration on Cyprus through the Medium of Photography."
- Dr. Michal Artzy, University of Haifa, "Tell Nami."
- Mr. Michael Mueller, 1996-1997 Fulbright Fellow, "Social Reorganization and Identity of Greek Cypriot Refugees Living in Southern Cyprus."

CAARI Field Trips

Trips to various sites and archaeological excavations form an important part of the CAARI program. Visits provide scholars with up-to-date information on excavations, and discussion with excavation directors allows CAARI scholars access to the latest archaeological discoveries and excavation methodologies. Trips this year have been to:

- Kourion-Amathus Gate Cemetery, led by Ms. Danielle Parks, Director of the excavations and Ph.D. Candidate, University of Missouri at Columbia. EILr of co

- Marki-Alonia, led by Dr. David Frankel and Dr. Jenny Webb, Co-Directors, Latrobe University excavations.

- Adelphi-Lithospouri, led by Ms. Julia Ellis Burnet, Co-Director of Macquarie University excavations.

CAARI NEWS

Greek Lessons at CAARI

Many scholars using CAARI as their base for long-term research projects quickly discover the need to learn Modern Greek to facilitate contacts with Cypriot colleagues, government officials, shopkeepers, and local villagers. Beginning in January, CAARI inaugurated Modern Greek lessons at the institute; a language teacher comes to CAARI once a week and offers instruction at various levels.

More Tremors Rock Cyprus

Following on the heels of the strong earthquake that rocked Cyprus last October, an almost equally strong quake (variously reported at 5.8 and 6.3 Richter scale), struck the island. Very little damage was reported island-wide, and there were no ill effects at CAARI. And a good thing-CAARI is still patching cracks from the October quake.

ASORDIGS96 A SUCCESS

The Committee on Archaeological Policy (CAP) has developed an experimental online publication of field and publication reports submitted by affiliated excavation projects. ASORDIGS96 went online in the fall of 1996, eventually including reports from twenty-one excavation and publication projects. Each of these brief reports contains not only text but also photographs, plans, maps, drawings, and/or movies.

The success of this first online publication by CAP may be judged from the numbers of users of ASORDIGS96. Created by Paul Jacobs and designed by Patty Seger, ASORDIGS96 is housed on the Cobb Institute of Archaeology's homepage (www.cobb.msstate.edu). Since Dec. 17, 1996, (the date a new statistical package was installed), 38,477 "hosts" (individual computers) made contact with the Cobb site. ASORDIGS96 received 14,394 (37.41%) of these requests. Browsers from 45 domains (countries) logged onto the site in that time: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Malaysia, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Yugoslavia. In February alone 5,867 "hosts" logged on. ASORDIGS96 seems to have been a useful medium for dispensing information about ASOR related projects.

CAP plans an ASORDIGS97 to go online in late 1997. Project directors will again be invited to submit reports with illustrative graphics.

Endowment for Biblical Research Travel and Research Grant Recipient Profile and Final Report Information 1997

The members, officers and staff of the American Schools of Oriental Research would again like to express their gratitude to the Endowment for Biblical Research for making the ASOR-EBR Travel and Research Project possible. After reviewing the reports of the 1996-97 participants, it is again clear that the program was a great success. All of the participants had positive experiences which would not otherwise have been possible. This experience will undoubtedly carry through in the future as each of the scholar's careers progresses. Below are short review statements on each awardee and their projects. Copies of four of the Travel Fellowship reports and one Research Fellowship report have been included to provide a cross-section and illustration of the variety of projects involved. They consistently express their sincere gratitude for EBR's generous support.

Seminarians

is a graduate student at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago. She participated in the Leon Levy Expedition at Tell Ashkelon in Israel. Her report follows:

I worked for three weeks at Tell Ashkelon, with the Leon Levy Expedition, associated with the Harvard Semitic Museum. The excavation is a teaching environment, where lectures were given on a nightly basis, and questions and research encouraged at all times. Digging was taking place in several areas at one time. I personally worked on excavating what we believe was a wine press, dating just a bit more recently than most of the rest of our grid. Though our goal was to get down to the level of the surrounding area, we did not progress as rapidly as that; we kept coming upon interesting and noteworthy things. My big find was a faience bead, closely resembling a Cheerio. In addition to the excavating I did, I also worked in the pottery compound, marking pieces to be used in reports or sent to museums.

My personal goals for this trip were to take the archaeology I have studied, and the Biblical perspectives I have, and move them out of a two-dimensional context and into real life. I also wanted to see for myself, and then be able to come home and share with others, the land of my faith roots, and the struggle that is going on there currently. Many of the lessons I learned happened during the nine day period of time I was travelling after I worked at the excavation. I traveled to Tel Aviv, where I met friends who traveled with me, and we proceeded to Jerusalem. We climbed Massada (actually, I went there twice and was especially thrilled with the baths, in light of my classical archaeology undergrad degree). I enjoyed our time around the Sea of Galilee best, especially an excellent tour we took of the Golan Heights.

At Ashkelon, the Harvard team has a good arrangement, staying at the Shulamit Gardens Hotel. They have a pottery compound set up just on the other side of the parking lot and a group of rooms in the basement for housing the library and office. The lectures were very informative, and the field trips were even more so. The staff was a very impressive collection of scholars from

around the country, and I wish that the students had been able to work more closely with them. Overall, I found the set-up and working conditions to be as good, if not better than I had expected-granted, I was prepared by Melvin Lyons' booklet, *The Care and Feeding of Dirt Archaeologists*, written in 1978.

I am a seminary student, interested in teaching, not just adult education classes, but also at the

excavated at Tell Jalul, which is part of the Madaba plains project. A few comments from his

information in this regard. The new squares provide a comparison of the ashy region to a non-ashy region and further excavation in the new squares will facilitate this. No further excavation is planned for the original squares. Thus another season of survey work and then one more season of intense excavation pointed directly at answering the questions that still remain should be enough to tie together this stage of the Umm el-Jimal Project. The stratigraphy probe functioned as designed and provided a control with which to compare pottery findings and soil layers found in surrounding squares. The soil samples were floated and provided excellent information about what the people ate at different periods in time. Reports of the findings of this season are scheduled to be published as soon as possible. In addition a comprehensive report on the pottery found at Umm el-Jimal over many seasons should also be published. These reports should lead to a definitive Umm el-Jimal project report in upcoming years.

The work I did this summer directly contributed to my desire to teach theology at the college level. The work contributed to my understanding of the Biblical world as discussed later and emphasized to me the importance that other people know what I learned. In addition, over the next semester or two, I may work on compiling the Greek texts and names used on tombstones found at Umm el-Jimal and then compare them to names found throughout Arabia-including in Nabatean desert writings on rocks.

Being part of the community of scholars at ACOR helped me to feel like I was part of a larger picture. Because of this connection, I did not feel like Umm el-Jimal was an exception or an isolated occurrence. I realized that archaeology in Jordan was a common and important part of that country's history. Being part of

Chaffee William Viets is an undergraduate student at North Carolina State University, and participated in the excavations at Roman Aqaba in Jordan. Selections from his report are included to demonstrate the impact that the summer's experience had on him.

The excavation during the final two weeks of the season was much easier and quite rewarding personally. Nearly all the artifacts found in both my trench and Area M were Early Roman and Nabataean. I successfully excavated one wall to below its foundations and excavated the remaining portion of the trench, with the exception of one wall, to the same elevation as the bottom of the modern pit.

I spent many hours not only excavating my trench, but also in postulating my own theories and considering theories of others that concerned my trench and area. Artifact processing helped me learn about the economy and history of ancient Aila, as detailed pottery readings often yielded information about regions as far away as the Mediterranean, the Arabian peninsula, Egypt and parts of Africa.

My summer in Aqaba was my first archaeological season, so I was placed on Student Staff as a trench supervisor rather than on Publication Staff. As a consequence, I have no plans to publish any interim or definitive reports. However, as far as completing or continuing work on the project, I do have specific goals.

The first of these is to go to Aqaba again and aid Dr. Parker as a trench supervisor in 1998. I am very much looking forward to the 1998 Season and contributing in a greater fashion than I was able to in 1996.

The second of these goals includes a series of slide presentations and lectures that I will give to various NCS campus organizations, including the NCSU History Club, and other off-campus symposia. As well, I have been asked to wion pr

During the upcoming academic year I will be completing my dissertation proposal, which may be based on the research I completed this summer.

My stated goals for the use of the EBR Travel Grant were to participate in the Roman Aqaba Project as a trench supervisor in Area J, to take advantage of ACOR resources in Amman and to visit archaeological sites in Jordan which were important in the development and spread of Christianity in the region. I was able to achieve each of these goals with varying degrees of success.

Work in Area J of the Roman Aqaba Project was most rewarding. I worked in trench J.3, which was thought to contain the architecture of a possible mudbrick basilica. This trench, a 5 x 5 meter trench in the 1994 season, was expanded to 8 x 7 m during this season. Most exciting in this trench was the architecture we uncovered.

Research Grants

was the recipient of the research grant for this year. She is a graduate student in Women's Studies at Duke University in North Carolina.

The title of my project is "Magic and Midwifery in Late Antique Palestine: Women's Religion According to Material Culture and Literary Evidence." This project is undertaken in order to fulfill the degree requirements for the Ph.D. in the Department of Religion at Duke University. My dissertation considers social magic as an element in Jewish popular religion from the late Hellenistic to the late Roman era, juxtaposing ambivalence toward magic in the literary record of Tannaitic and Talmudic material with the prevalence of amulets, magic bowls, and magical texts (many specific to women) throughout Palestine during this era.

During the award period, I conducted a significant amount of research which would have been impossible had I not travelled to Israel. The primary goal of my trip was to research in archaeological archives administrated by the Rishut Atiqot (Israel Antiquities Authority) to record the texts of unpublished amulets (inscribed metal sheets bearing incantations and worn as pendants). These texts comprise the primary pool of archaeological data for my dissertation, and so they are very important for my own research on the topic and for further projects.

Annual Meeting Information

Annual Meeting Schedule

The academic sessions of the Annual Meeting will begin on Tuesday morning, November 18 at 8:00am and end at 12:15 pm on Friday, November 21. The exhibit and registration desk, both located on the main floor of the Marriott outside the meeting rooms, will open on Monday at 1:00pm and close on Friday at 11:00am.

Registration Benefits

Your \$90 registration fee will entitle you to participate in all the academic sessions (33 sessions are currently planned), the Annual Meeting Grand Reception on Wednesday evening, and the

Plenary Session celebrating the Dead Sea Scrolls Jubilee. In addition, coffee breaks and a continental breakfast will be provided to all registered conference participants free of charge.

Air Transportation

Special airfares have been negotiated by Academy International Travel, Inc. with Delta and American Airlines. 5% discount off lowest published domestic fares round trip on Delta and American are available. Special zone fares that do not require a Saturday night overnight are also available. To receive the discount, your travel arrangements must be made through Academy International Travel Service, Inc., 1832 Century Place, Suite 105, Atlanta, GA 30345, USA. Tel. (404) 321-6943 or (800) 476-6943; Fax: (404) 633-7865.

Ground Transportation

Evans Airport Service provides ground transportation between the Napa Valley Marriott and San Francisco International Airport. Round trip fares are \$36.00. A 24 hour answering service is available. Reservations can be made by telephoning (707) 255-1559. The shuttle departs the airport frompaCtle departs the

After a period of study and restoration the statues will be placed in the Cyprus museum, where exhibits of Cyprus's rich cultural heritage are displayed.

Man

A guard gets 5,000 dinars per month -- less than five U.S. dollars. A cylinder seal of a precious stone, a common Mesopotamian artifact available in almost all ancient mounds in Iraq, could fetch thousands of dollars abroad.

"The guards are flying out and the thieves are coming in," George said.

One archaeologist said two thieves, currently behind bars pending trial, had confessed to selling two 5,000 year-old Sumerian statues they illegally dug up from a mound in southern Iraq for about 100 million dinars (approximately \$100,000).

This is a huge sum in a country where the average monthly salary of a civil servant is 3,500 dinars.

Iraq is waging a two-front war on archaeological theft.

Harsh penalties, including the death sentence, await thieves once caught and convicted. Huge financial rewards await anyone voluntarily surrendering artefacts. The police catching the items get 100 percent of the estimated value as an incentive.

George said the department last year paid 30 million dinars (about \$30,000) for a statue from the stone-city of Hatra which flourished in the second century A.D. "We had to take it. It was

OBITUARY

James Pritchard; professor and biblical archaeologist

James Bennett Pritchard, 87, of Haverford, former professor of religious thought at the University of Pennsylvania and an archaeologist who spent more than 40 years sifting the dust of ancient Middle Eastern towns to learn about the daily lives of the

In another dig in the mid-1960s, at Tel es-Sa'idiyeh, his archaeologists found a jewel-covered skeleton of a woman in what was said to be the richest tomb found in Jordan up till that time. Although they didn't find out what the long ago inhabitants ate for breakfast, they found ashes from 2,800-year-old cooking fires and grains of wheat in storage bins.

Born in Louisville, KY, Dr. Pritchard earned a bachelor's degree at Asbury College in 1930, a bachelor of divinity degree at Drew University in 1935, and a Ph.D. at the University of Pennsylvania in 1942.

He began his field work at Dhiban, Jordan, on an expedition with the American Schools of Oriental Research in 1950. The following year, he was the field director of an expedition at Jericho.

He was the author of numerous books, monographs and magazine articles on the ancient history of the Near East. Among his books were *Gibeon, Where the Sun Stood Still*, and *Recovering Serepta, a Phoenician City*. He was editor of the *Harper Atlas of the Bible* and *The London Times Biblical Atlas*, which also has been popular with Bible readers. He was former editor of the *Journal of the American Oriental Society*.

In 1993 in his honor, the University of Pennsylvania endowed the James B. Pritchard Chair for Biblical Archaeology and Related Fields.

Besides his daughter, he is survived by his wife Anne Cassidy Pritchard; another daughter, Mary Mitchell; four grandchildren; and a sister.

[Publications](#)

[Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research \(BASOR\)](#)

[Journal of Cuneiform Studies \(JCS\)](#)

[Near Eastern Archaeology \(NEA\)](#)

[ASOR Newsletters](#)

[Books and Monographs](#)