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The Richard J. Scheuer Medal - This is the most prestigious award which honors an individual who has provided truly outstanding , long term support and service contributions to ASOR. (given only as appropriate)

The Charles U. Harris Service Award - This award is given in recognition of long term and/or special service as an ASOR officer or Trustee. (one annual award)

The P.E. MacAllister Field Archaeology Award - This award honors an archaeologist who, during his/her career, has made outstanding contributions to ancient Near Eastern and eastern Mediterranean archaeology. (one annual award)

The G. Ernest Wright Award - This award is given to the editor/author of the most substantial volume(s) dealing with archaeological

I suggested at the November meeting that one of two things should happen: if certain members of the BA editorial board, claiming epigraphic expertise, recommended publishing this "skunk" of an article, then they should be dismissed for incompetence. If the Editor was advised by competent epigraphers against its publication (as I later learned he was), then he should resign for lack of good judgment.

In his defence, Editor Hopkins says that he "solicited a response to the authors' (Rogerson and Davies') epigraphic presentation-the most significant bone of contention-and scheduled the response for the very next issue (December, now out)." And, indeed, one of the BA editorial board members, Prof. Ron Hendel pulls the Hasmonean skunk out of the tunnel and gives it a few whacks with his epigraphic club. But it is difficult to believe that the Editor had planned to publish Hendel's piece in advance of the furor in October and November. If this were not a case of post hoc propter hoc, then surely Editor Hopkins would have mentioned the controversy and

affiliates and provides a challenge for ASOR to develop resources to enable it to budget additional funds for similar matching incentives in future years.

Also most positive is the early report on registration for the November Annual Meeting in Napa. In projecting costs for the meeting a total of 250 registrants was projected by CAMP as a "break even" figure and current numbers have already reached more than half of that total. As indicated in the preliminary schedule published here, a very full and exciting program is planned. The CAMP deserves special thanks for its energetic and pioneering work.

In this same connection a new committee, charged with overseeing the selection of students for receipt of Dorot and Lindstrom Annual Meeting travel and participation scholarships, has been appointed, with Fred Winter as chairman and including Oded Borowski and Andy Dearman as members, and with Rudy Dornemann and Billie Jean Collins ex officio. The committee has already announced early awards to Glenda Friend (Dorot) and Jennie Ebeling, Elizabeth Willett, Jonathan Lawrence, and Alice Hudiburg (Lindstrom). Funds for additional awards are still available and applications for both will be accepted until September 15.

Among other initiatives now underway and continuing are the following:

Awards and Honors Committee Chair Lydie Shufro has organized a schedule of award categories to provide special recognition due to ASOR members for special service and support contributions. This newsletter includes a special solicitation for nominations and it is hoped that everyone will seize this opportunity to promote those within ASOR who deserve special recognition.

The Development Committee, chaired by Holly Hendrix, has continued to meet regularly and is currently engaged in planning a 1997 Annual Fund Campaign to be launched by early fall. Among the features of the campaign will be a special Fund Raising Dinner to be held in connection with the Annual Meeting. Further information and invitations will be forthcoming later in the summer.

The Centennial Committee is likewise continuing work on the several facets of its program plans, including a special exhibition, preparation of a TV series, and various academic sessions and gala events. In this regard, the initiatives of the Albright Institute and its Trustees is already setting firm plans for a major symposium program in Jerusalem in centennial year 2000 bears special notice. Also in connection with the centennial, and in order to make sure that every possible member of ASOR's extended family will receive centennial news and other ASOR communications, the committee is also continuing and extending its "Longlist" initiative through the end of 1997.

All of this above is of course in addition to the regular and ongoing work of COP and its editors and staff, and of CAP, as well of the standing committees on Finance, Nominations, and Agenda, and of the many others who work to promote and enhance our organization. So as we labor to keep pace with routine business of ASOR and with the demands of its new initiatives through the summer, how thankful we are for the abundant energies that continue to be poured out by so

many in support of our efforts! Keep up the good work ASOR! *Joe D. Seger*
ASOR President

NOT THE END FOR BA!

The decision to change the name of ASOR's Biblical Archaeologist magazine to Near Eastern Archaeology, was taken at the April 12, 1997 meeting of the Board of Trustees in Boston. It is a decision as momentous as it was perhaps inevitable, but the action was not at all precipitous. The widening of the scope of the Middle Eastern archaeological enterprise in the second half of the twentieth century, along with the increasing circumscription of the meaning of the adjective "biblical" as related to archaeology within the region, served to raise the question whether a title like Biblical Archaeologist was still suited to the magazine's contents and if it appropriately represented ASOR's widening focus of interest and scholarship. Already in the early 1980s, then president, Jim Sauer proposed to change the magazine's title to one somewhat similar to the one now chosen. Since that time the name change issue reemerged regularly within COP as the committee struggled to cope with BA's stagnating circulation base. Several marketing initiatives designed to increase the BA readership were taken during this interim, but these met with little success. This circumstance was at the heart of the recent round of discussions on the matter. A decision to make a change in name was voted by the Board at its November 23, 1996 meeting in New Orleans, but at that time action on the choice of a new name was deferred.

The agenda for the April 1997 Board Meeting in Boston was thus to focus more narrowly on the choice of a new magazine title, but a broad review of the change question was also again undertaken. Speaking at the Board session, BA editor, David Hopkins, reported that a marketing test for the new title, Near Eastern Archaeology, (as authorized by November Trustee action), produced a very positive 20% response return. At the same time he noted that, while the recent survey among BA subscribers showed that well over 80% favored keeping Biblical Archaeologist as the title, a similarly high percentage likewise indicated that they would continue their subscription even if there were a name change. Given this marketing data, Hopkins urged that the proposed new title be accepted. He emphasized that these data showed opportunity for enlarging the magazine's readership. At the same time he noted that the new title suggests a wider scope of content, more in line with ASOR's current broad interests in Near Eastern antiquity and culture, and that it should prove more attractive to a larger pool of contributors.

Discussions in the Spring Board meeting had been preceded by earlier and very lively consideration of the issue in an Executive Committee session. At that meeting Chairman MacAllister introduced the topic by referring to the November decision to make the name change and Al Leonard, COP Chairman, put forward the nomination of the title Near Eastern Archaeology on behalf of the committee. The 20% return rate success of the marketing test for the new name was reported by Billie Jean Collins. A formative discussion followed in which a number of significant points were articulated. Central to all was a concern that the magazine reflect both the continuity of ASOR's strengths and traditions as well as its newer directions and opportunities. Dick Scheuer reflected on the fact that W. F. Albright's vision for ASOR's work was very broad, stretching geographically from Gibraltar to Mesopotamia, and from prehistory to the Middle Ages and beyond, and he noted that it also encompassed a strong sense of moral purpose. He voiced worries that changing the magazine name would have erosive effect on

relations with biblical studies colleagues. Eric Meyers noted that this might especially be so as it comes fast in the wake of the decision to disengage from long standing arrangements for meeting jointly with SBL and AAR. Holly Hendrix questioned the reliability of the sample used for the test marketing of the proposed new name, and Charles Harris queried the assumption that the new title would necessarily produce circulation growth. As time for discussion drew to a close the focus of consideration was narrowed to matters of purpose and content. The breadth and general excellence of the scholarship represented in BA was well-acknowledged, but a question about its clear identification with ASOR and its service as a vehicle for ASOR' wider programs

Grants are to be awarded for one, two, or three years on a contractual basis. Progress reports are to be submitted regularly to the Committee for review and annual renewal of the grant.

Application is open to archaeologists holding the doctorate, or doctoral candidates conducting research on unpublished field work as a dissertation topic, provided they can devote full time to the publication project. Grants are conditional on applicants securing the legal right to prepare such materials for publication. For further information contact: The Shelby White - Leon Levy

Harrison, Timothy P. Megiddo Stratum VI Excavated by the Oriental Institute Between 1925 and 1939

Hatzaki, Eleni M. The Late Bronze Age Temple Tomb at Knossos

Herzog, Ze'ev Iron Age II Material From Tel Beersheba (with Itzhaq Beit Arieh and Anson F. Rainey)

London, Gloria A. Tell Hesban Pottery (with Larry G. Herr)

Development Committee Lays Plans for Fund Raising Dinner

Hold the evening of Tuesday November 18 at the Annual Meeting in Napa for a special Fund Raising Dinner.

The event is being planned by the ASOR Development Committee as part of the 1997 Annual Fund campaign. The featured speaker for the evening will be Dr. Avraham Biran, Archaeological Director at the Nelson Glueck School of Biblical Archaeology in Jerusalem and former Director of the Israel Department of Antiquities. A student of W. F. Albright, Biran was Thayer Fellow at the AIAR (then the ASOR Jerusalem School) in the 1930s and is one of the ASOR's most distinguished senior members. Watch for the distribution of invitations with further details and reservation information in September.

ARIT/USIA, NEH/ARIT, Kress/ARIT, and ARIT/Mellon Fellowship Competitions

1 The American Research Institute in Turkey announces the National Endowment for the Humanities/ARIT Post-doctoral Fellowships for Research in Turkey, 1998-1999. ARIT/NEH Fellowships cover all fields of the humanities, including prehistory, history, art, archaeology, literature, and linguistics as well as interdisciplinary aspects of cultural history. The fellowships may be held for terms ranging from four months to a full year. Stipends range from \$10,000 to 30,000.

2. ARIT announces the ARIT Fellowships for Research in Turkey, 1998-1999. ARIT Fellowships are offered for research in ancient, medieval, or modern times, in any field of the humanities and social sciences. Post-doctoral and doctoral fellowships may be held for various terms, from two to three months up to terms of a year. Stipends generally range from \$3,000 to \$10,000.

3. Pending funding, ARIT will continue the Kress/ARIT Fellowship for Research in Archaeology and Art History in 1998-1999. Graduate level fellowships of up to \$13,500 and tenures of up to one year will be offered for graduate students matriculated at U.S. institutions.

4. The Mellon Fellowship for Research in Turkey by East European Scholars will continue for the coming year.

Post-doctoral fellowships up to \$10,500 for two to three months periods for research in any field of the social sciences or humanities, to be carried out in Turkey by scholars from the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, or Slovakia. Fellowship deadline March 5th.

5. Intensive Advanced Turkish Language Study will again be offered at Bosphorus University, pending funding. Scholarship, travel, and stipend to support eight weeks of Turkish language study. Application deadline February 15.

Contact: Sheila Andrew, phone: (314) 935-5166, fax: (314) 935-7462, email: sandrew@artsci.

amusing archaeological anecdotes, or advice for graduate students... submit it! Want to know more about the sorts of things we're looking for? Please check out our Web site at <http://www.shef.ac.uk/~assem/> and read through our Mission Statement/Call for Papers, and our Submissions Manifesto. (Or if you don't have WWW access, write to us and we'll mail you a copy.)

Deadline for material requiring peer review (formal scholarly articles): July 20, 1997. Deadline for all other material: August 20, 1997. Material received later will be considered for the subsequent issue. Please contact the editors with a proposal or abstract as soon as possible.

assemblage is based at the Research School of Archaeology and Archaeological Science, University of Sheffield, 2 Mappin St., Sheffield, England, S1 4DT. e-mail: assemblage@sheffield.ac.uk tel: (0114) 2825109/2 WWW: <http://www.shef.ac.uk/~assem/>

EXHIBITION OF RARE ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERY AT THE JEWISH MUSEUM BEGINNING SUNDAY, JUNE 29TH

In *Revealing an Ancient Message: A Synagogue Mosaic from Sepphoris*, The Jewish Museum will present the first United States exhibition of a magnificent, recently excavated mosaic floor from a 5th-century synagogue in Sepphoris. Sepphoris was a city in the Galilee (in Israel) important in Jewish history as the site where the Mishnah (an anthology of rabbinical and legal texts that forms the basis of Jewish law) was codified in the 3rd century. This rare archaeological find, measuring 44.5 by 14.5 feet, was discovered by chance in 1993 by archaeologists from Hebrew University during preparations for Sepphoris' opening as a national park. *Revealing an Ancient Message: A Synagogue Mosaic from Sepphoris* will be on view at The Jewish Museum from June 29 through October 12, 1997.

Although ancient texts referred to a large number of synagogues in Sepphoris, a mostly Jewish city, the mosaic floor is from the first complete synagogue to actually have been uncovered at the site. The rich and complex imagery of the Sepphoris mosaic illustrates three major subjects: the Hebrew patriarch Abraham and his son, Isaac; the Tabernacle and Jerusalem Temple; and a zodiac circle. The floor is one of only six extant mosaic depictions of the zodiac from ancient Israel.

The floor's themes have been represented in several other ancient synagogue mosaics, but their symbolism has never been clear. The much more elaborate versions of the scenes in the Sepphoris mosaic have led to the realization that the three themes together may have conveyed a single message to the Jews of ancient Israel.

symbols of Roman and Christian art. The eighth section, from the side aisle, is ornamented by a geometric pattern and inscribed in Aramaic with the names of donors to the synagogue construction and decoration. Dedicatory inscriptions in Greek are also found in the mosaic.

The discovery of the synagogue mosaic represents an important contribution to the study of Jewish society at a time when paganism was on the wane, and Christianity was on the rise. Elements unique to this mosaic, such as the depiction of the sun at the center of the zodiac rather than the Greek god Helios, help viewers understand the complexity of Jewish attitudes towards Hellenism in Sepphoris. Other details in the floor, such as a pair of birds hanging over the side of an offering basket, refer to rabbinic texts of the era and reveal the artist's knowledge of Jewish law. Archaeologists believe that the themes of the mosaic illustrate a single point: that God will remember his promise to Abraham and redeem his children in the future. This message expresses the hope for redemption, the rebuilding of the Temple, and the return of goodness and plenitude to the land. Interpretive text panels in the exhibition will explain how the symbolic elements in the mosaic reveal this message, as well as the process of removing and restoring the mosaic for display.

Sepphoris was a primarily Jewish city whose population also included pagans and Christians. During various times it was the administrative center of Jewish rulers and Roman emperors as well as the seat of the Sanhedrin, the Jewish legislative authority. Sepphoris was also a great center of Jewish learning, where many prominent rabbis lived.

organization. He was followed by Hayim Tadmor who presented some personal reflections of the development of Assyriology in Israel and then read a paper on "Assyrian and Babylonian Royal Inscriptions- An Interim Assessment." The lecture was followed by a discussion of the goals and organization of the new society.

The goals of the society are "To develop and promote the scientific study and academic instruction in Israel of Assyriology and ancient near eastern studies on the basis of primary epigraphic sources; to encourage cooperation between Assyriologists and scholars in other areas of ancient near eastern studies both in Israel and abroad; to hold scientific conferences; to encourage cooperation with parallel organizations outside Israel; to foster public knowledge of the ancient near east."

For further information contact: The Israel Society for Assyriology, c/o S. N. Kramer Institute of Assyriology, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan 52900, ISRAEL.

ASOR By-Law Amendment

In the April Board of Trustees meeting in Boston, the ASOR Board voted to amend By-Laws Article II, Section 5, which describes procedures for electing members to the Agenda Committee for the annual Membership Meeting to read as follows:

"Membership on the agenda committee will consist of the president of ASOR, the Secretary of the Corporation, and four (4) members of ASOR, two (2) each representing respectively the institutional members and the individual voting members, elected for two year terms (arranged so that one new member representing each Member group is elected each year). Separate ballots will be used for the vote by institutional members (Founding, Consortium, Advisory and Overseas Centers) (Article II, Section I, A-D) and for the vote by the individual voting members (Article II, Section 1.E)."

The purpose of the revision was to provide for the orderly succession of membership on the Agenda Committee and to bring it's

**"The Aegean and the Orient in the Second Millennium"
A Conference Sponsored by
The Classics Department of the University of Cincinnati April 1997**

Twenty-nine papers presented by thirty scholars over the course of three days honored the memories of Helene Kantor, Carl Blegen, and Marion Rawson.

The conference marked the seventieth anniversary of the arrival at UC of Carl W. Blegen, the late archaeologist made famous for his findings at the fabled site of Troy, and his assistant, Marion Rawson. Blegen (1887-1971) was recognized as the world's outstanding authority on ancient Troy and became one of the foremost scholars in Greek archaeology. He joined the faculty of the University of Cincinnati in 1927 as professor of classical archaeology and retired in 1957. His discoveries at Troy and the Palace of Nestor at Pylos stand among the 20th century's most significant archaeological achievements in Greek prehistory.

The conference also marked the fiftieth anniversary of the publication of the influential AIA monograph *The Aegean and the Orient in the Second Millennium B.C.* (1947) by Helene Kantor of the University of Chicago, who was among the first American archaeologists to cite evidence of the often controversial theory that ancient Greece was not an isolated culture, but one that borrowed from and interacted with its neighbors in the eastern Mediterranean, including the Near East and Egypt. The American Institute of Archaeology reprinted the volume for the Conference with a new forward written by Eric H. Cline and James D. Muhly.

Participants in the conference included graduate students as well as such established leaders in the field as George Bass, the "Father of Underwater Archaeology," and James D. Muhly (keynote speaker), who in July will retire from the University of Pennsylvania to become the new director of the American School of Classical Studies in Athens, and Katie Demakopoulou, director of the national Archaeological Museum in Athens.

The 165 attendees to the conference came from fourteen countries and four continents. A list of the papers presented follows:

"Middle Minoan Objects in the Near East" Philip P. Betancourt, Temple University

"Aegean Ornaments and Designs in Egypt" Elizabeth J. W. Barber, Occidental College

"Egypt and Crete in the Early Middle Bronze Age: A Case of Trade and Cultural Diffusion" L. Vance Warrus, SUNY Buffalo

"Aegean LB I and II Pottery in the East: 'Who is the potter, pray, and who the pot?'" Vronwy Hankey, University College London and Al Leonard, Jr., University of Arizona

"Aegean Natives in the Theban Tomb Paintings: The Keftiu Revisited" Paul Rehak, Duke University

"From West to East: The Aegean and Egypt in the early Late Bronze Age" Robert Laffineur, University of Liège

"Minoan Frescoes in the Eastern Mediterranean" Wolf-Dietrich Niemeier, Universität Heidelberg

"Trade During the Late Helladic III Period" Al Leonard, Jr., University of Arizona

"Priest-kings and Keftiu: Knossos and Thebes in the Eighteenth Dynasty" J. Alexander MacGillivray, Columbia University

"'International Style' in the Aegean and the Levant" Annie Caubet, Musée de Louvre

"Mycenaean Defensive Outposts in the Aegean and Cyprus: Some Comparisons" Vassos Karageorghis, University of Cyprus

"Anatolia and the Aegean in the Late Bronze Age" Christopher Mee, University of Liverpool

"Egypt and the Aegean" Robert S. Merrillees, Australian Ambassador to Greece

"Aegean and Aegean-Style material Culture in Canaan During the 14th-12th Centuries BC: Trade, Colonization, Diffusion or Migration?" Ann E. Killebrew, Hebrew Univ. of Jerusalem

"Iconography and Interconnections" Janice L. Crowley, University of Tasmania

"Sailing Between the Aegean and the Orient in the Second Millennium BC" George F. Bass, Texas A&M University

On July 26th, CAARI wi

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