

JUN 9 - THURS
 Area XI shaping up - but
 brick cross walls are a real
 problem to define.
 New area opened up where
 porcelain blade was found
 yesterday - put Mark in
 charge.
 Numeish developing
 beautifully - town wall
 + cross walls - good
 stratigraphy - Jack doing a
 fine job.
 Expectant back in cemetery -
 f. Opie - C. cemetery - round
 shaft with stones like A1
 - Jack Hunted - 3 figurines along
 with beautiful group of
 transitional pottery from EB1A
 to EB1B incl. spouted bowls.

JUN 9 THURS
 - 2 figurines from A78 SW
 - 3 MORE FOUND IN G#2
 SHAFT TOMB - JACK HUNTED

Fig. 59. Scan of one page from Tom Schaub's pocket diary summarizing fieldwork on June 9, 1977 at Bab adh-Dhra' and Numayra. (Courtesy of the R. Thomas Schaub Papers).

Funded by a Wenner-Gren Anthropological Foundation Historical Archive Grant, and in cooperation with the Carnegie Museum for Natural History, we began curating the archives of the late R. Thomas Schaub, a long-time ACOR supporter. This crucial research facilitates our analyses and final publication of the Expedition to the Dead Sea Plain's (EDSP) legacy excavations at the Early Bronze Age (EBA) cemeteries of Bab adh-Dhra', Fifa, and Khirbat Khanazir. The archives contain excavation documentation (Fig. 59), Tom's personal and professional correspondence (Fig. 60), and historically significant photographs of fieldwork, laboratory, and Jordan's archaeological community from 1965 to 2015. Tom's papers offer a fascinating foray into the introduction of scientific and anthropological approaches to archaeology in Jordan, Palestine, and Israel. In excavating these archives, we organized records of fieldwork and analyses from excavated EBA cemeteries and townsites (Bab adh-Dhra' and Numayra). Color slides, black-and-white photographs, contact sheets, and negatives; top plans and profiles; maps; survey notes; correspondence about fieldwork and laboratory analyses; grant applications; and original artwork of reconstructions of life and death at these sites provide the essential background for a comprehensive publication of Tom's research. Much of the correspondence is between Tom and Jordanian colleagues,

EXPEDITION TO THE DEAD SEA PLAINS

Meredith S. Chesson

University of Notre Dame

Morag M. Kersel

DePaul University

Sara Beramun

University of Notre Dame

Dayonni Phillips

University of Notre Dame

Theresa Kyoo Young Kim

University of Notre Dame

Organizing and processing this archival collection is integral to a more complete understanding of the history of archaeology along the Dead Sea Plain in Jordan as well as Early Bronze Age small-scale urbanism. In 1973 Tom and co-PI Walter E. Rast adopted the New Archaeology's methods and theories to archaeological knowledge production and research design, devising the innovative EDSP to investigate the rise of EBA urban society with a distinctive focus on links between environmental and social systems. Tom's correspondence, research reports, and presentations chronicle their efforts to transform southern Levantine archaeology into an anthropologically grounded discipline. His research into EBA ceramic technology set new standards of excellence by combining petrographic and SEM analyses of fabrics with ethnoarchaeological studies of traditional potters working with and without wheel technologies. Like any bringers of change, Tom and Walt's research designs, methodologies, and theoretical approaches were not universally accepted, and preliminary glimpses into the correspondence reveal both skepticism and enthusiasm for processual approaches to understanding early urbanism in the EBA.

Project Website:

www.expeditiondeadseaplain.org

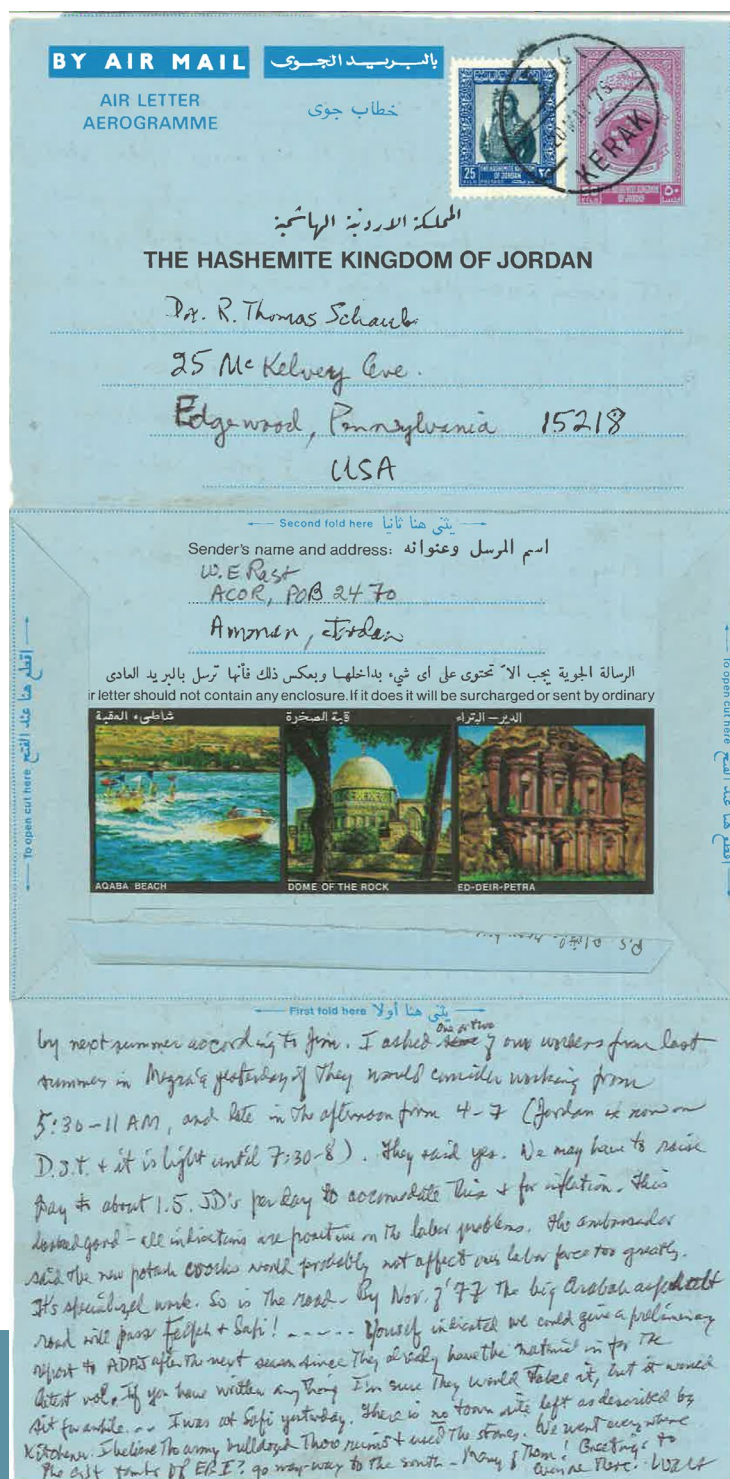


Fig. 60. Part of an aerogram from Walt Rast to Tom Schaub, May 20, 1976. (Courtesy of the R. Thomas Schaub Papers)