

Introduction

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The 2022 volume of *Archaeology in Jordan* is the third in the American Center of Research's effort to summarize recent fieldwork in Jordan by collecting, in an independent journal, reports from researchers working on projects throughout the country. Twenty-two previous compilations were published in the *American Journal of Archaeology*; those reports are all also available as open-access content online. *AJ* 3 presents reports on projects that took place from January 2020 to December 2021, organized generally by governorate, from north to south (see map on p. iv).

Projects faced many challenges during the period covered herein due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Consequently, while *AJ* typically reports on fieldwork only, given the unprecedented conditions projects have had to navigate over the past two years, we present here the first (and, we hope, only) "pandemic volume," which includes many activities other than active fieldwork, all of which are equally critical parts of the research and publication process. We hope that sharing information regarding how different projects manage the traditionally less "visible" stages of knowledge production will lead to insight and inspiration for all concerned. We also suspect that recognizing the impact of COVID-19 on each other's work may prove cathartic for many, as all have struggled in this shared crisis.

Despite these difficulties, some eighty contributors have provided updates on their most recent achievements on thirty-five projects. Some were able to find the time and personnel to excavate, survey, produce new data, or otherwise work on site. New excavations took place, for example, at Tell Bleibil (pp. 32–34), the Temple of Zeus at Jerash (pp. 26–28), Tall Hisban (pp. 35–37), and Tall el-Hammam (pp. 38–39). The Karak Neolithic Survey began their long-awaited pilot survey project (pp. 74–76), and at Tall Zira'a researchers worked toward environmental reconstruction (pp. 12–14). Other teams caught up on analysis of extant data and artifacts, archival work, and publication (another form of active data production, of course). These include, among others, work by researchers at Tall al-Mashhad (pp. 60–61), at Khirbat Iskandar (pp. 67–69), and at Khirbat al-Mukhayyat (Town of Nebo Archaeological Project) (pp. 54–56), on the Petra Sculpture Project (pp. 95–96), in the Al-Jafr Basin (pp. 80–82), with the Expedition to the Dead Sea Plain (EDSP) (pp. 77–79), and with the Islamic Bayda Project (pp. 83–85). Collaboration and the creation and promotion of online venues and activities were also points of focus for some projects, as with the Madaba Regional Archaeology Museum Project (MRAMP) (pp. 57–59) and a revision of the Follow the Pots website (p. 79). MRAMP also carried out site maintenance and installed new interpretive signs in the archaeological park. The Balu'a staff developed a "stateside study season" at La Sierra University, where students could work and receive college credit (pp. 71–73).

The increasingly strong tradition in Jordan of centering cultural heritage management and engagement with the communities living in and near archaeological sites continued to grow during this period. The many examples include work by the Mapping Digital Cultural Heritage in Jordan group (MaDiH) (pp. 3–4) and the various projects supported by ACOR-SCHEP (pp. 7–8) and the Department of Antiquities (DoA) that were also able to continue work during the pandemic, at least periodically. Work progressed on the Amman Citadel path (pp. 40–42), at the Amman Roman baths (pp. 43–45), at Bayt Ras (pp. 17–22), at Khirbet Salameh just outside the American Center itself (pp. 46–48), and elsewhere. As ever, all of these projects are multi-component both methodologically and temporally, and

they employ ever-more-sophisticated techniques of recovery, technological evaluation, and scientific investigation.

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