

## **Petra: Temple of the Winged Lions**

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Fig. 1. Pauline Piraud-Fournet and Nora Al Omari at the American Center of Research, processing artifacts in February 2020. (Photo by J. Green.)

A continued and increased focus on archival study and publication of the Temple of the Winged Lions (TWL) was already underway at the time that the global pandemic struck in March 2020: a major phase of conservation of the Temple of the Winged Lions, presentations of work conducted at the site, and pilot visitor surveys had already been completed in 2018–2019 (Green and Piraud-Fournet 2020).

American Center of Research (ACOR)-TWL Publication Fellow Pauline Piraud-Fournet (Institut français du Proche-Orient) completed a major report on key findings and research to date on the American Expedition to Petra (AEP) and the TWL Cultural Resource Management Initiative (TWLCRM) in summer 2020 (Piraud-Fournet 2020), which in turn contributed to a coauthored article published in



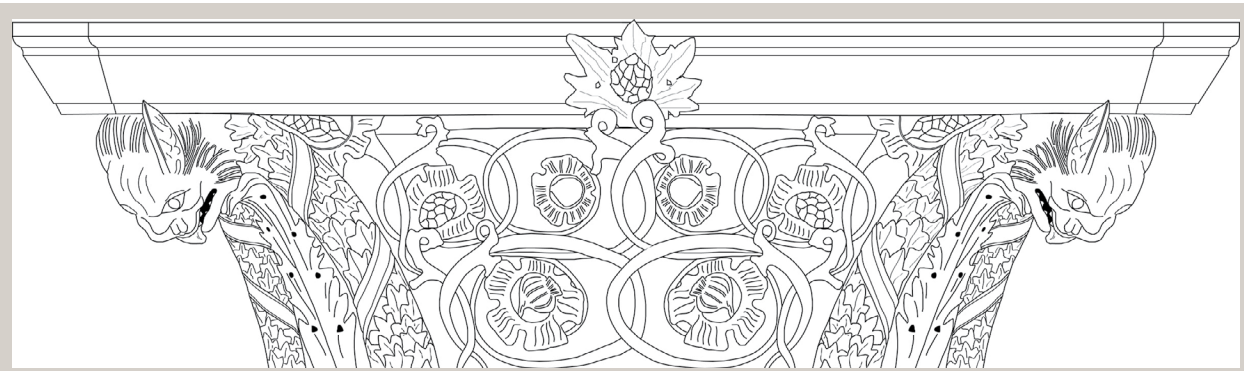


Fig. 2. Capital with lion heads from TWL. (Drawing by M. Dehner, 2021).

*Near Eastern Archaeology* (Piraud-Fournet et al. 2021). American Center intern Nora Al-Omari was able to finalize the inventory of physical objects from the AEP and TWLCRM that had been housed at the American Center in 111 crates since just before the March 2020 lockdown (Fig. 1), and she was able to complete the digital inventory remotely, thus allowing the project to develop at a significant pace despite lack of physical access.

In October 2020, the second ACOR-TWL Fellow, Marco Dehner of Humboldt University, traveled to the American Center in Amman, where he carried out archival research on the decorated stone from the TWL that the AEP and the TWLCRM Initiative had documented, and he also continued analysis of the existing lapidaria at the TWL site. Dehner's in-person visits to Petra in the winter of 2021 allowed for verification of archival data, new photographic documentation, and measuring of specific sculpted elements on the TWL site (Dehner 2021) (Fig. 2). With this research, a database of approximately 1,200 objects—as well as accurate illustrations to be made for key elements of the decorated stone from the Temple of the Winged Lions (Fig. 3), the North Court, and possibly adjacent buildings—could be completed. Dehner wrote a chapter and catalog of the decorated stone of the Temple of the Winged Lions for the final report.

Jack Green served as the project director of the TWLCRM Initiative and TWL Publication Project through June 2021, supervising the work of interns and fellows, and guiding specialist researchers. Other chapters completed (and subsequently edited by Noreen Doyle) in 2021 included “Temple of the Winged Lions: Project Histories” (Green and Piraud-Fournet), “Site Accessibility and Presentation” (Green), “Visitor Survey and Tracking” (Green and Mukhles M. Al Ababneh) and “Personal Ornaments and Cosmetic Implements” (Green). Major progress was furthermore made with Robert Wenning's contribution on the TWL sculpture.

A grant application submitted to the National Endowment for the Humanities by Green in November 2020 was successful, resulting in significant funding that will allow the American Center to continue preparations for specialized research and publication of the TWL volume. Since July 2021, Doyle and Pearce Paul Creasman have overseen the publication project and its grant, with Green continuing to serve as advisor and coeditor.

S. Thomas Parker, the TWL Publication Project's original advisor and mentor, died in September 2021.



## References

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- Piraud-Fournet, P. 2020. "Reviewing the Temple of the Winged Lions, Petra: Digging Through Forty Years of Archives." Unpublished report (2 vols), American Center of Research, Amman.
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Fig. 3. Lapidarium 1: mapping of the documented stones at the TWL site. (SfM 3-D model by M. Dehner, 2021).