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NEWSLETTER

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## A Century of Preserving Jordanian Heritage



*Jehad Haron, Noreen Doyle, and Pearce Paul Creasman*

*In 2021, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan celebrates its centennial. In honor of these first hundred years, ACOR takes a moment to look back at some of the critical legislative roots that have made preserving Jordan's cultural heritage possible.*

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, when Jordan was part of the Ottoman Empire's frontiers, political and social movements were developing in the region to demand greater independence. The outbreak of the World War I in 1914, followed

On page 1:

*Façade of the Nabatean royal funerary monument known today as the Treasury (al-Khazneh) in Petra. Scaffolding surrounds a column that was restored by the Department of Antiquities during work undertaken at the site in the late 1950s and early 1960s. (Courtesy of the J. Haron collection.)*

two years later by the Great Arab Revolt, ultimately forced the empire to withdraw. In the aftermath of these events, in 1921 the modern Jordanian state emerged with new geographical borders and its first emir, Abdullah bin Al Hussein.

Founded as the Emirate of Transjordan, the state that would, in 1946, become known as the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan immediately began to formulate rules of governance and consider the complex milieu of regulations needed to ensure that the new country would survive and thrive. Amid the daunting tasks that arose during the creation of this new nation was recognition of the importance of preserving cultural heritage. Thus, just two years after Jordan's formation, in 1923 it established the Department of Antiquities and began to enact laws and regulations that would protect its ancient legacy. This was especially important because archaeological work had been ongoing in its territory for more than a century: European travelers, researchers, and explorers had long been visiting the region with their own goals, among them historical investigation, religious pilgrimage, colonial enterprise, and the collection of artifacts for museums and private collections abroad. Of particular note, archaeologists Gertrude Bell and T. E. Lawrence had contributed to political developments in Jordan and the wider Middle East, playing prominent roles in politics to support the emerging nations.

Creating the appropriate legislative environment for sustaining Jordan's cultural heritage was a vital role of the new state: despite the Ottoman Antiquities Decree of 1869, many important artifacts had already been exported to European museums as purchases, gifts, and the fruits of unpermitted and illegal excavations. Jordan's Department of Antiquities was formed to help prevent further losses of the country's rich legacy. It issued an antiquities law in 1925, and two years later the first licensed foreign archaeological excavation broke ground. In the decades that followed, starting with

George Horsfield, Lankester Harding, Awni Dajani, Abdel-Karim Al-Gharaybeh, and others, scientific documentation and reports began to play major roles in recovering, preserving, and understanding this heritage. Publication of the first volume of the *Annual of the Department of Antiquities* in 1951 reflected the scientific progress at that time. The decision, in 1976, to prohibit the trading of antiquities has helped to keep many archaeological objects within Jordan and to improve preservation of its heritage.

Today perhaps the primary challenge Jordan still faces when examining its history holistically is a gap in its antiquities and heritage laws, which specify that an "antiquity" is anything created before AD 1750; historic objects and sites from 1750 to present are subject instead to the Urban Heritage Law of 2005. This temporal bisection encourages division of scholarship and the preservation of more than two and a half centuries when social and economic transformations—such as the urbanization movement, the arrival of foreign missionaries and ethnic groups including Circassians and Chechens, the development of the railway, and the birth of Jordan itself—were having great impacts on the area's cultural identity.

Legislative efforts to preserve Jordan's material heritage continue. The antiquities law of 1988 is currently under review with proposed revisions. If such revisions are approved, Jordan will be in a considerably better position to protect its material culture and heritage. The December 2019 signing of the USA-Jordan Cultural Property Agreement memorandum of understanding, designed to restrict the import of Jordanian artifacts to the United States (which is perhaps the world's foremost consumer of illicit antiquities), is another critical step forward.

Having taken an early stand for the preservation of its history and gone on to implement important updates throughout the past century, including in the past few years, Jordan is well positioned to enter its second century. While much can yet be accomplished by the time Jordan celebrates its bicentennial in 2121, further results of its considerable progress are already on the horizon.

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## USAID SCHEP Update

Starling Carter, Shatha Abu Aballi, and Nizar Al Adarbeh

In the second half of 2020, the USAID Sustainable Cultural Heritage through Engagement of Local Communities Project (SCHEP), implemented by ACOR, continued to work with partners in local

communities, cultural heritage institutions, and tourism enterprises to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 on Jordan and to begin to prepare for the post-pandemic period. The project was able to adjust many of its activities to the changing situation within Jordan and to meet many of its goals for the year, despite the challenges posed by the pandemic.





*Dr. Fatma Marii (far left) and participants in the MRAMP Artifact Handling Workshop, September 2020.*

## Institutional Development and Cooperation

As one of its main components, USAID SCHEP works with Jordanian Cultural Heritage Resource (CHR) entities to develop their capacities in the management of Jordan's heritage sites and other resources. SCHEP worked with Sadda Design and Build to finalize the renovation of the circular hall at the Department of Antiquities (DoA) headquarters in Amman. The aim of this renovation project is to enhance the DoA's capacity for holding trainings, conferences, and meetings. A launch event will be held as soon as the public health situation allows.

Based on a request for support from the DoA, SCHEP worked with the law firm Barghouthi, Khirfan and Hattar to complete a full revision of the new draft of the Jordanian antiquities law in Arabic. In September 2020, SCHEP received the English translation of the final draft. The draft was successfully submitted to and approved by the DoA and has moved on to final stages of editing and approval.

SCHEP offered support to the DoA, the Petra Development and Tourism Region Authority (PDTRA), and the Wadi Rum Protected Area (WRPA) through twelve internships. SCHEP-supported interns (p. 11) worked in a variety of departments across these three entities, assisting with tasks related to excavations and surveying, site management, public relations, electronic documentation and archiving, and more.

## Capacity-Building

SCHEP employed two interns to assist the work of the Bayt Ras Tomb Project and a combined four

interns to work with three SCHEP-supported MSEs (micro to small enterprises), the Jordan Southern Ghawr Company, Busayra Foundation for Cultural Heritage, and Aqabawi (p. 11). They worked on documentation, graphic design, architectural plans, and interior design for projects to be initiated in 2021. Despite limitations imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, SCHEP was able to hold several training courses. Since January 2020, SCHEP has been working with AMIDEAST to offer a tailored English-language

capacity-building program to Jordanian professionals in the cultural heritage management and tourism sectors. In addition to specialized English courses for 108 local community members and heritage/tourism sector employees in Wadi Rum, Petra, Amman, and Tafleh, SCHEP supported the participation of thirty-eight DoA employees in AMIDEAST's regular English courses in Amman.

SCHEP also organized several other workshops and training modules, including an artifact-handling workshop in partnership with the Madaba Regional Archaeological Museum Project (MRAMP) in September. A total of eleven museum professionals from the DoA participated and received certificates for their new knowledge and improved capacities.

SCHEP worked with the WRPA to organize a series of training sessions for WRPA staff, new trainees, and local community members working in tourism services. Four sessions throughout October and November related to the management and development of mixed (natural and cultural) World Heritage Sites such as Wadi Rum, including one on the participatory site management in partnership with local communities. The program also involved a visit to Al Azraq Wetland Reserve and the Shomari Wildlife Reserve, allowing the participants to learn from the experiences of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature in managing protected areas and to engage in dialogue and exchange with RSCN team members.

## Tourism and Economic Development

SCHEP continued to offer financial and technical support to its four affiliated MSEs, which saw their income sources threatened and their plans delayed due



A woman from Busayra learns to create packaging for products and activity kits as part of a SCHEP-supported training program in October 2020.

to the pandemic. Once Jordan's lockdown restrictions were eased, SCHEP worked to ensure that all four of these MSEs were included in the Urdonna Jannah program, organized by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MOTA). This program aimed to increase domestic tourism to natural and cultural sites throughout Jordan by offering trips and experiences at a 40% discount. To learn more about the effects of COVID-19 on Jordan's tourism industry and ACOR's initial attempts to address them, see "Jordan's Tourism Sector in the Wake of COVID-19: Where Do We Go From Here?," published in *Insights* (link, p. 5).

In July and August, SCHEP held two training sessions on COVID-19 health and safety practices for employees of partner MSEs and other community members in Ghawr as-Safi and Busayra. These were implemented in partnership with Ammon Applied University College and the Talal Abu Ghazaleh Academy, respectively. In addition to the Jordan Southern Ghawr Company and the Busayra Foundation for Cultural Heritage, participants represented local offices of the DoA and MOTA, local municipalities, and other organizations. When Jordan is ready to reopen to domestic and international tourism, these courses will help the local community prepare to welcome visitors while employing the highest level of safety measures to protect themselves and others. SCHEP also organized two training courses on packaging and silkscreen printing, in cooperation with the Jordan Handicraft Producers Association and the Busayra Foundation for Cultural Heritage. This course aimed to develop the skills of vulnerable women in Busayra, equipping them to take on future employment opportunities at the foundation, including the production of packaging for mosaic, clay, and pottery activity materials. Twelve local women were equipped with skills they can put to

good use with the Busayra Foundation while earning money for themselves and their families.

In September, with SCHEP support, the Busayra Foundation held the first Busayra Festival for Agricultural Tourism, celebrating the guava fruit. Guava thrives in the area and can be used to make jams, juice, and other treats. The foundation aims to make this festival an annual occasion to celebrate the area's agricultural products, support local producers, and attract visitors from throughout Jordan (and beyond).



Abdeljawad Osheibat describes the founding of the Southern Ghawr Company for Sustainable Heritage and Tourism Development. Screenshot from the video Ghawr as Safi Success Story, now available on the USAID SCHEP YouTube channel.

## Communications

In order to further the engagement with faculty from U.S. community colleges and minority-serving institutions that was initiated during the January 2020 CAORC Faculty Development Seminar in Jordan, SCHEP partnered with Prof. Laura Penman to participate in the State University of New York (SUNY) Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) program. The summer 2020 program focused on sustainable development goals (SDG), and SCHEP was proud to serve as a partner for Penman's Sustainable Cities and Communities course. SCHEP connected twelve students to three of the project's affiliated MSEs. Building on discussions about each MSE and its context and needs, the students produced storytelling and outreach materials for the companies. This experience was a welcome chance for ACOR to connect to new audiences in the U.S. in order to increase their awareness of Jordan's cultural resources and sustainable tourism development, and for the students to gain experience working with international clients across cultural and language barriers.

In June, SCHEP launched its very own photo archive project. In its June–December 2020 pilot phase, the project focused on compiling, editing, and storing selected photographs from SCHEP's first four years (2014–2018). In early 2021, these efforts will



culminate in thousands of new images made available to the public as a special collection within the ACOR Photo Archive. Sustainability and knowledge sharing are key components of SCHEP, and this project will help to ensure that SCHEP's work and its methodology are preserved and made accessible to all for many years to come.

In September, SCHEP published a success story and video about Abdeljawad Osheibat of the Jordan Southern Ghawr Company. In the video, *Ghawr as Safi Success Story*, Abdeljawad tells of how SCHEP helped him realize his vision of uplifting his local community and sharing his beloved hometown with the rest of Jordan and the world. Our colleagues at USAID Jordan published their own video covering SCHEP's efforts and shed light on the difficulties faced by local communities whose livelihoods depend on tourism during the lockdown. (See links at right for both videos.)

In October, SCHEP re-launched its website, [usaidschep.org](https://usaidschep.org), with brand-new content and design to reflect the goals and activities of the project's extension period (2018–2022), in addition to the accomplishments of the first four years. This website will help researchers, heritage practitioners, and the general public find information and publications about SCHEP's work and its associated heritage sites. An Arabic-language version of the website is in progress and will be made public in 2021.

Finally, SCHEP was proud to launch two major publications in December 2020: *The Story of SCHEP 2014–2018*, which details the project's work and achievements over the first four years, and *Zoara, the*

*Southern Ghor of Jordan: A Guide to the Landscape and Heritage of the Lowest Place on Earth*, a guidebook on the southern Jordan Valley by Konstantinos D. Politis. Both are available digitally on the SCHEP and ACOR websites (see p. 6). These achievements were only possible through the hard work and dedication of the entire USAID SCHEP team. For a full list of team members, please see [usaidschep.org/en/OurTeam](https://usaidschep.org/en/OurTeam).

## Links

“Jordan’s Tourism Sector in the Wake of COVID-19: Where Do We Go From Here?”: [publications.acorjordan.org/2020/07/15/jordans-tourism-sector-in-the-wake-of-covid-19-where-do-we-go-from-here/](https://publications.acorjordan.org/2020/07/15/jordans-tourism-sector-in-the-wake-of-covid-19-where-do-we-go-from-here/)

*Ghawr as Safi Success Story*: [youtube.com/watch?v=qlq0VqJW1yQ](https://youtube.com/watch?v=qlq0VqJW1yQ)

*Jordan Southern Ghawr Company*: [facebook.com/watch/?v=211355326971710&\\_rdc=1&\\_rdr](https://facebook.com/watch/?v=211355326971710&_rdc=1&_rdr)

For regular updates on the project and its activities, follow us on our social media channels:

Facebook: [USAID SCHEP](https://facebook.com/USAIDSCHEP)      Twitter: [@USAIDSCHEP](https://twitter.com/USAIDSCHEP)  
Instagram: [USAID\\_SCHEP](https://instagram.com/USAID_SCHEP)      LinkedIn: [USAID SCHEP](https://linkedin.com/company/USAIDSCHEP)  
Flickr: [USAID SCHEP](https://flickr.com/photos/USAIDSCHEP)      Snapchat: [USAIDSCHEP](https://snapchat.com/add/USAIDSCHEP)  
YouTube: [USAID SCHEP](https://youtube.com/USAIDSCHEP)

## Note

The Sustainable Cultural Heritage Through Engagement of Local Communities Project (SCHEP) is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by ACOR.

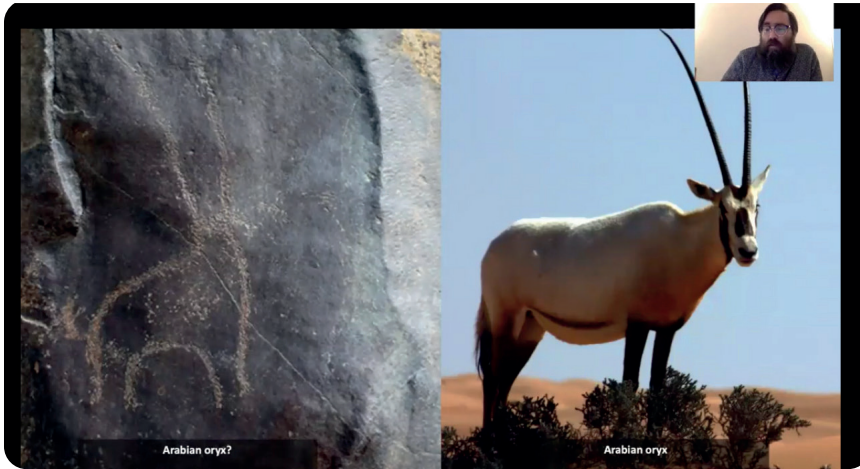
## Staff Awards

Nisreen Abu Al Shaikh, ACOR's CFO and deputy director, received the W. F. Albright Service Award at the November 2020 annual meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR) for her many years of service to ACOR, which began in 1995. This award “serves to honor an individual who has shown special support or made outstanding service contributions to one of the overseas centers, ACOR, AIAR, CAARI, or to one of the overseas committees—the Baghdad Committee and the Damascus Committee.”

Nizar Al Adarbeh (SCHEP chief of party), Hussein Khirfan (SCHEP tourism development lead), Hisham Al Majali (SCHEP cultural heritage resources field manager), Dina Al Majali (SCHEP marketing and promotion officer), and Zovinar Mananian (ACOR administrator) received certifications for their participation in the Global Sustainable Tourism Council online training held in June 2020.

Assistant librarian Samya Khalaf Kafafi received certifications for her participation in the UNESCO-QNL “Collection Management and Documentation Techniques” training held in Amman March 2–5 and in the Arab Federation for Libraries and Information (AFLI) online conference held December 7–9.

Director Pearce Paul Creasman is featured as a “genius” in the 2021 *National Geographic Almanac* for his archaeological research in Sudan: excavation of the now underwater burial chambers of the Iron Age Kushite kings beneath their pyramids at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Nuri.



Screenshot from ASOR's virtual annual meeting, December 2020:  
Chad Hill, "Petroglyphs and Desert Kites at Wisad Pools, Jordan."

## New Video Releases from ASOR, MELA, and MESA on YouTube

Jacqueline Salzinger

Members of ACOR's scholarly community, including our staff, board, and fellows, have long enjoyed annual opportunities to gather at fall research conferences in order to exchange new ideas and discoveries in our fields. This year, due to the pandemic, such conferences—including annual meetings of the Middle East Librarians Association, the Middle East Studies Association of North America, and the American

Schools of Oriental Research—took place wholly online. In certain respects, the digital format was advantageous, as it allowed for remote participation from all over the world and for more materials to be made available on demand. As just one of the many examples in the world today of academics and educators effectuating digital outreach to meet the times, ACOR is pleased to have published over a dozen of these conference presentations by researchers in Jordan on our YouTube channel in December 2020. Topics shared on

our channel are now even more wide-ranging than they were before; see, for example, "Organizing, Enduring, Empowering, and Sharing: Challenging Institutional Constructs in Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey," "The Documentation of Amman Heritage Houses Using EAMENA Methodology," and "Petroglyphs and Desert Kites at Wisad Pools, Jordan." You can find all of these and more, including ACOR's in-house lecture series (p. 14), at [youtube.com/acorjordan1968](https://youtube.com/acorjordan1968). Please remember to like and subscribe to express your support. (We are most grateful to all who do, as subscriptions help us in YouTube and Google search algorithms!)

## Publications Update

Noreen Doyle

ACOR published the second volume of its biennial open-access journal *Archaeology in Jordan*, which features fifty-three informative reports on the 2018–2019 seasons of excavations, surveys, and other projects throughout the country. The entire volume and individual articles are available for download at [publications.acorjordan.org](https://publications.acorjordan.org). Also available through this link are two major publications by SCHEP, *Zoara, the Southern Ghor of Jordan: A Guide to the Landscape and Heritage of the Lowest Place on Earth* by Konstantinos D. Politis and *The Story of SCHEP* (p. 5), along with one of ACOR's many older publications, *ACOR: The First 25 Years*, which covers ACOR's history from 1968 to 1993.

Among the many essays to appear in *Insights* ([publications.acorjordan.org/insights](https://publications.acorjordan.org/insights)) in late 2020 were "Jordan's Tourism Sector in the Wake of COVID-19: Where Do We Go From Here?" by members of the SCHEP team, "Sustainability at the

Margins in Jordan—Notes from an Ecologist" by Marjolein Schat, "Reconnecting with Our Heritage: How Do We Relate the Past to the Present?" by Abbad Diraneyya (in English and Arabic), and "Reflections on Race at the Lowest Place on Earth" by Blaine Pope. Jane Taylor presented a photo essay, "My Petra."

A companion to ACOR's publications pages is the new Initiatives section, [acorjordan.org/archaeological-projects](https://acorjordan.org/archaeological-projects). Thanks to ACOR's development and communications officer Jacqueline Salzinger and a number of project directors, each of ACOR's projects has—or will soon have—one or more webpages outlining ACOR's fieldwork and conservation efforts there through the years. Currently available are 'Ain Ghazal, the Amman Citadel, Ayla/Aqaba, Bayt Ras, Darat Al Funun, Khirbet Salameh, the Madaba Archaeological Park, and several locations in Petra. At [acorjordan.org/other-projects](https://acorjordan.org/other-projects), you will find pages for the AMAES Digital Archive, the Petra papyri, the CRM in Jordan Project (1986–1995), and more.



## Artemis A. W. Joukowsky

1930–2020; Board of Trustees 1992–2011

ACOR is saddened to report that Artemis A. W. Joukowsky, former president of ACOR's board of trustees from 1992 until 2011, passed away on December 11, 2020, at the age of 89 due to complications of COVID-19. Arte was first introduced to ACOR in 1992 through his old friend and ACOR's then-director, Dr. Pierre Bikai. It was Arte's executive leadership skills from his time at The American Insurance Group (AIG) and Brown University that Pierre felt could ensure ACOR's financial survival in the aftermath of the First Gulf War. Arte almost immediately instigated an intensive review of ACOR's mission, bylaws, and board structure, in addition to leading a fundraising drive that essentially saved the institution.

Indeed, under his guidance ACOR grew dramatically in size and scope in the 1990s and 2000s, which Pierre remembers also included much laughter in addition to hard work. Arte was instrumental in overseeing ACOR's expansion and building of a significant endowment under both Pierre and Dr. Barbara A. Porter as directors. As ACOR board member Dr. S. Thomas Parker notes, "during Arte's two decades as president ... ACOR was literally transformed into one of the leading research centers of the Middle East."

The majority of Arte's time in Jordan was spent in the field, assisting his wife, Dr. Martha Sharp Joukowsky, with her Great Temple excavation project at Petra from 1993 to 2009. Arte served as the official site steward and photographer for the excavation and was always a gracious host to those visiting the site—often inviting them to have second breakfast with the team. He was always so proud of Martha, whom he met while they were students at Brown. "Arte never missed a chance to celebrate Martha," Patricia Bikai notes. "He adored her."

In 2004, Arte and Martha's dedication to archaeological research culminated in the establishment at Brown of the Artemis A. W. and Martha Sharp Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World. Arte and his family's foundation also supported archaeological research and conservation projects and assisted local communities in Jordan. Arte's efforts were recognized in 1996 with an Order of Independence medal from Jordan and in 2007 with a W. F. Albright Service Award from ASOR.

Arte had a generous spirit, welcoming visitors with open arms at both the Great Temple excavation and his and Martha's home in Providence, Rhode Island. He is survived by his wife, Martha Sharp Joukowsky, their three children, Nina Joukowsky Köprülü, Artemis Joukowsky III, and Michael Joukowsky, and eight grandchildren.

—Megan Perry



Arte Joukowsky (right) with HRH Prince El Hassan bin Talal at ACOR's twenty-fifth anniversary in 1993.

## Kenneth W. Russell Fellowships

The Russell Fellowship supports Bedul education assistance for the children of the Umm Sayhoun community in the Petra region. Given annually to the top *Tawjihi* (General Secondary Education Certificate Examination) finalist of each sex, this takes the form of a cash prize and certificate commending their achievement.

2019

Ayat Dakheel Allah al-Badoul  
Abdullah Khaled Musa Al-Mousa

2020

Eman Abdullah al Bedoul  
Bashar al-Faqeer





Naif Zaban (left) and three of the DoA workers who helped fill and place the sandbags at Khirbet Salameh. (Photo by J. Green.)

## Fieldwork Projects Update

*John D. M. Green*

Because of the pandemic, ACOR's fieldwork and conservation activities were limited in 2020, yet it was possible to conduct some small-scale projects in this time.



High-resolution digital image of Khirbet Salameh obtained using drone photography taken in July. Top of image is north. (Image by Qutaiba Dasouqi.)

## Khirbet Salameh

The Roman- and Byzantine-era site of Khirbet Salameh, which is adjacent to the ACOR building and was the focus of excavations in the 1980s by Cheri Lenzen and Alison McQuitty and in the 1990s by Pierre Bikai, required some emergency interventions to clear vegetation and to prevent erosion and collapse of standing walls. With the support of Naif Zaban of the ACOR Conservation Cooperative (p. 12), vegetation was cleared from the site during the summer. Following this, and in cooperation with the Department of Antiquities, surveyor Qutaiba Dasouqi conducted an unmanned aerial vehicle (drone) flight to document the condition of the site and identify areas of need prior to subsequent interventions. In partnership with the DoA, with thanks to Basem Mahamid and Asem Asfour, who provided workers to assist ACOR with emergency interventions, it was possible to protect vulnerable areas of the site, such as eroding walls and open cisterns, with covers and sandbags. This short-term intervention was completed in advance of the winter rains. It is hoped that Khirbet Salameh will undergo a future program of conservation that may protect the site from the elements and make it safe and accessible for visitors.

## Temple of the Winged Lions Cultural Resource Management (TWLCRM) Initiative

The TWLCRM Initiative, which saw no active fieldwork in 2020, continued in its long-term efforts to bring the final report of the Temple of the Winged Lions to fruition. Dr. Pauline Piraud-Fournet continued as ACOR TWL Publication Fellow



through August 2020, contributing “Reviewing the Temple of the Winged Lions, Petra: Digging through Forty Years of Archives.” This report, which is available through the ACOR Library, provides an overview of the American Expedition to Petra and a reassessment of key findings and interpretations related to the Temple of the Winged Lions, which will inform future research and publication directions. A video of a lecture by Piraud-Fournet and TWLCRM Initiative director Dr. Jack Green, presented at the ASOR Virtual Annual Meeting in November, summarizes this research and can be seen on ACOR’s YouTube channel (link at right). Considerable efforts were also made by TWL Project Intern Nora Al Omari, who completed object inventories related to material from the TWLCRM Initiative and the Hammond/AEP archive at ACOR (p. 11). At the time of writing, a total of 6,775 tagged items were documented at ACOR over the past two years. These items will be the focus of future assessment and study as part of the TWLCRM Initiative.

October saw the arrival of Marco Dehner of Humboldt University, Berlin, as the TWL Publication Fellow for 2020–2021. Dehner is focused on preparing relevant sections of the final report related to decorated stone uncovered by the AEP and TWLCRM Initiative, as well as the lapidaria of the Temple of the Winged Lions, and he is assisting in the preparation of the final report and the management of the Hammond/AEP archive at ACOR.

### Petra Church

The Petra Church received repairs to the temporary shelter over the baptismery in the fall, required due to damage and loss of ropes sustained earlier in the year. ACOR supported the Petra Development and Tourism Region Authority with materials and contractor costs to help facilitate the repairs, which Taher Falahat of the PDTRA conducted under the supervision of Ibrahim Farajat, director of the PDTRA’s Cultural Resource Management Unit. The temporary shelter is a short-term intervention to cover one of the earliest and best-preserved baptismal fonts in Jordan. It is hoped that a longer-term solution may be possible in the future. We are grateful to the PDTRA for being able to carry out these repairs under challenging circumstances.



*Repaired section of the temporary baptismery shelter at the Petra Church.  
(Photo by T. Falahat.)*

### Link

“Temple of Winged Lions: Reassessment Based on Archives (Archaeology of Petra & Nabataea) [ASOR 2020]”: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=GjZIQ-f5f9k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GjZIQ-f5f9k)

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## Staff Updates (July–December 2020)

SCHEP communications specialist Starling Carter has taken on the new, additional role of programs and policy associate for ACOR. She assists the director in advancing ACOR initiatives, developing consistent procedures, and revising policies.

In October, ACOR hired Dr. Ghadeer Hamdan, who earned her PhD in Modern Standard Arabic and Arabic literature from the University of Jordan, to serve as assistant director for language and culture. She edits Arabic-language content, teaches Arabic, and assists with the building renovation (p. 10).

Raneen Naimi has left her position as SCHEP’s awareness and outreach coordinator

Jessica Holland, who joined ACOR as archival intern in spring of 2017 and became the archivist in January 2019, returned to the United Kingdom and is now serving as archival consultant.

Ashley Lumb, who most recently served as SCHEP photo archivist, has completed her scope of work with ACOR and returned to the United States.

## New Trustee: H.E. Ms. Hala Lattouf

Hala Lattouf is a managing partner at AYA for Consultancy and Development. In the recent past she served as Jordan's minister of social development and as a senator in the Jordanian Parliament, where she chaired the Labor and Social Development Committee. In her time at the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities she has worked to protect archaeological sites, Petra in particular. Ms. Lattouf received an MSc in accounting and finance from the London School of Economics and Political Science.



## New Trustee: Mr. Laith Al-Qasem

Laith Al-Qasem is an established business leader with over a quarter century of experience. He serves as a member of the Jordan Economic and Social Council and has led and participated in several Jordanian national economic development initiatives. He holds a diploma in leadership in the Middle East from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government (2011), an MBA from Georgetown University (1986), and a BS in mechanical engineering from the University of Michigan (1983).



## Renovations Update

*Pearce Paul Creasman*

On September 30, 2019, an agreement was signed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to authorize a grant for the renovation of ACOR's purpose-built center in Amman. The center was first opened in 1986 and expanded in 2005. The 2020–2021 renovation is being implemented by the United Nations Offices for Project Services (UNOPS) and will upgrade the facility with specific attention to safety and security, disability access, gender sensitivity, structural reinforcements, and technological aspects to reduce operating costs. Our furniture and equipment in the seminar room, library, archives, study, and

storage spaces will specifically benefit. Residential, dining, lounge, kitchen, and office spaces, as well as the grounds, will also be improved.

The renovations are taking place in two primary stages: 1) the sixth and fifth floors and a portion of the fourth floor and 2) the rest of the building. Stage one began in November 2020 and is expected to run through approximately March 2021. Stage two will begin after stage one is complete and is expected to take approximately six months. ACOR will remain open throughout the renovations, although services may be interrupted or limited based on construction schedules. Follow our renovations with weekly photo updates: [tinyurl.com/renovation2021](https://tinyurl.com/renovation2021).

## Return of Artifacts from Petra Projects to the DoA

*Starling Carter*

In ACOR's capacity as a hub for archaeological research in Jordan over the past several decades, the center in Amman has often served as a temporary home for artifacts discovered at sites all over the country. These remain in our facility with the permission of the Department of Antiquities until completion of their study and publication. It is our responsibility to then return items from ACOR's projects to the proper authorities within the Jordanian government.

In December 2020, following the publication of *The Petra Papyri V* and *Petra: The North Ridge*, ACOR was pleased to return several hundred objects related to ACOR legacy projects to the care of the DoA. These efforts were led by Starling Carter and Jihad Haron, with significant assistance from Naif Zaban and Abed Adawi and the cooperation of Ahmad Lash and Omar Smadi of the DoA. Among the artifacts returned were over 200 glass plates containing carbonized papyrus scrolls and



Zbigniew Fiema with team (including Naif Zaban, Cathy Valentour, and Hussein Hamad) recovering the Petra Papyri, 1993.



fragments from the Petra Church, discovered in 1993 during ACOR excavations at the site. These remarkable documents have been analyzed over many years, with the results being published in ACOR's *Petra Papyri* series. However, many of the fragments were impossible to read with the technologies and techniques available at the time; these specimens have been retained at ACOR for future study using new methods that may allow researchers to gather even more information from these unique sources.

In order to protect the glass plates and the fragile papyrus fragments within them during the transfer, ACOR arranged to move them within their shelving units, encased in archival boxes that were constructed to their exact measurements. In addition to these papyri, ACOR returned over 300 ceramic and marble objects excavated by the Petra North Ridge Project and sixty-six boxes of mosaic fragments, twenty-seven boxes of glass, plaster, and pottery, and several marble elements from the Petra Church. Plans are in place to complete another round of artifact transfers in early 2021.

## Internships

*John D. M. Green and Jacqueline Salzinger*

Nora Al Omari, who completed her BA in anthropology with a minor in conservation and cultural-resource management from Yarmouk University, served as an ACOR intern for the Temple of the Winged Lions Publication Project between December 2019 and September 2020. She focused on inventorying and organizing digitized materials, including around 2,600 registered artifacts from the American Expedition to Petra field records. She also created a list of about 2,400 digitized line drawings of pottery and other objects from the same archive. Her contribution greatly assists ACOR in its preparations for the Temple of the Winged Lions publication. You can read more about Nora's internship in her essay available in *Insights* (link at right).

Prastik Mohanraj, a Yale undergraduate who intends to major in global affairs and also studies Arabic, contributed 150 hours in his role as a remote library intern. He focused on online research and data gathering on open-access resources, particularly scholarly resources related to Arabic language and literature, as well as Middle Eastern studies. The benefits of his internship activities will be passed on to our library users and the wider research community through our online library catalog.

ACOR is also grateful for the contributions of the

## ACOR Joins IIE Scholar Rescue Fund Alliance as Commitment Partner

In fall 2020, ACOR joined the Institute of International Education Scholar Rescue Fund (IIE-SRF) Alliance, a global network of partners offering practical support to scholars threatened and displaced globally. ACOR has committed to host and support scholars, helping them to connect more easily to ACOR resources, including training, library and information resources, and facilitation networks, so that they may continue to teach and supervise students, give lectures, and publish their latest work.



following interns who aided various projects and functions between July and December: SCHEP INTERNS: Hebah Abo Dalo, Sahar Abu Samra, Sura Al Guzo, Naji Al Khlifat, Bushra Al Kloub, Hakem Al Mahmoud, Lana Al Nawafleh, Sara Okasha, Ahmad Qaisieh, Majd Qteish, Sabreen Al Radaween, Rasha Al Rawashdeh, Huda Saudi, Faisal Weshah, and Dania Al Zaatari; REMOTE SUMMER INTERNS: Aliya Boshnak, Maura Doyle, and Ruth Folmar.

Link

"Making a Connection with the Past: My ACOR Internship on the Temple of the Winged Lions": [publications.acorjordan.org/2020/09/15/making-a-connection-with-the-past-my-acor-internship-on-the-temple-of-the-winged-lions/](https://publications.acorjordan.org/2020/09/15/making-a-connection-with-the-past-my-acor-internship-on-the-temple-of-the-winged-lions/)

## New Trustee: Mr. Hani Al Kurdi



Hani Al Kurdi is a partner in the Eversheds-Sutherland litigation and dispute management practice group and head of arbitration in the Amman office. He obtained his law degree from the University of Jordan and, from University College London, a postgraduate diploma in shipping law and an LLM in computer and communications law. He also holds a graduate diploma in English law and a legal practice course (LPC) certificate.

## Naif Zaban Retires from ACOR

Mr. Naif Zaban, who served ACOR as conservation technician through the ACOR Conservation Cooperative beginning in 2006, retired at the end of December 2020.

A veteran of archaeological heritage conservation in Jordan, Naif has worked on some of the most important sites and artifacts in the country. He first became professionally involved with archaeology in 1988 through Mohammed Najjar, a co-director of the joint expedition of the Department of Antiquities (DoA) and the École biblique et archéologique française (EBAF) on the Amman citadel. Two years later, Najjar began work with the USAID-funded ACOR Temple of Hercules project there, and Naif was a member of its core technical team.

Naif joined ACOR's Petra Church excavations in 1992, during which he witnessed the discovery of the Petra papyri in December of the next year (p. 10). During these excavations he not only assisted with the preparation of Nazzal's camp as the project dig house but also observed the work of Tom Roby and Livia Alberti in their stabilization and conservation of the church's mosaics, as well as the object-conservation work of Noël Siver. Much of Naif's knowledge about conservation of sites and artifacts came through such careful observation. He also assisted the Humayma excavations under the direction of John Oleson. Here, working with conservator Judy Logan and archaeologist Rebecca Foote, he displayed extraordinary skill in the conservation of Abbasid-period (8<sup>th</sup>-century) ivory furniture panels for the Jordan Museum.

In 2006, with the support of a USAID-funded endowment, the ACOR Conservation Cooperative was formed to assist with conservation and restoration needs in order to help dozens of Jordanian and foreign projects move toward final publication and realize museum displays of artifacts recovered by excavation. Naif performed most of the work of the ACC over the past fourteen years, largely in the ACOR Conservation Lab. Among his many efforts has been restoration of ceramic vessels of a wide range of periods and locations, including the Bronze Age (Murayghat



*Naif Zaban at the Jordan Museum in 2010 for Umayyad Mosaics of the Dome of the Rock: A Closer Look, an exhibition that included reproductions of an arcade spandrel created by the Mosaic Centre in Jericho.  
(Photo by Barbara A. Porter.)*

and Khirbet Umm al-Ghozlan), Iron Age (Amman, Khirbet Ataruz, Khirbet Mudayna, Pella), classical periods, including Nabataean and Roman (Humayma, Petra), and Islamic and medieval times (Bayda, Pella, Khirbat Sheikh 'Issa, Ghor as-Safi, Tall Abu Sarbut). Coins from many sites in Jordan have also received his skillful attention. He has conserved objects for several museums, the Jordan Museum and the Dar as-Saraya Museum in Irbid among them. And he conducted conservation work at sites including Darat al-Funun, the Petra Church, the North Ridge, and, most recently, Khirbet Salameh (p. 8). In recent months here at ACOR, Naif played an important role helping the renovation project team prepare and clear spaces, as well as pack delicate items and artwork in advance of future work.

Along with all of us at ACOR, project directors from around Jordan and the world declare their gratitude and respect for Naif Zaban: you will be greatly missed as a key member of the ACOR family, and we all wish you the best in your retirement.



*ACOR staff gather to say farewell to Naif on his retirement. (Photo by P. P. Creasman.)*



## Photo Archive Update— and Toward the Digital Archive

*John D. M. Green and Jessica Holland*



*From the ACOR Photo Archive: Excavation trench at Tur Imdai, Petra. Steve Simms (left), Kenneth Russell (right), ca. 1990. Kenneth Russell collection.*

This year saw the digitization and upload of over 9,400 images accessible via the ACOR Photo Archive at [acor.digitalrelab.com](http://acor.digitalrelab.com) through a project supported by a Title VI grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The project target of 30,000 images was exceeded, reaching 31,456 images by the close of September. We are grateful to all team members, including Samya Khalaf Kafafi (metadata coordinator), Razan Ahmad (archival technician), and Eslam Dawodieh (library and archives assistant), who adjusted to remote working and helped maintain the flow of scanning and metadata despite the COVID-19 lockdown. Ashley Lumb (project archivist) continued with the ACOR Photo Archive project until May 2020. She focused on the Kenneth Russell collection, scanning and indexing over 1,200 images and preparing a photo essay. Ashley played a vital role digitizing physical slides at ACOR during the lockdown. She joined the newly formed SCHEP Archive project from June to December; this focuses on making selected images from the first four years of SCHEP (2014-2018) available to the public.

An evaluation of the ACOR Photo Archive project took place in September through online meetings with Aaron Rubinstein of University of Massachusetts, Amherst. To assist ACOR during the challenges of COVID-19, a project extension allowed the completion of vital tasks for an additional two months, overlapping with the new ACOR Digital Archive project, which started in October. In addition to the Kenneth Russell collection, further images from the collections of Rami Khouri and Jane Taylor were added, as well as ACOR institutional photos by former ACOR directors James Sauer, Bert de Vries, and Pierre

Bikai. ACOR also gratefully received a collection of slides from Barbara A. Porter, which have already been partially digitized. Further images were also digitized from the William Jobling/AMAES archive, with support from Near Eastern Archaeology Foundation, University of Sydney.

In February 2020, Jack Green and Jessica Holland gave a public lecture on the ACOR Photo Archive (now online). A related exhibition was presented at this event. In March, Samya Khalaf Kafafi and Razan Ahmad presented at the UNESCO/Qatar Digital Library workshop for librarians, held in Amman. In October, Holland presented the team's response to working during COVID-19 at the Middle East Librarians Association (MELA) virtual annual conference (p. 6). In November, Green chaired and presented at the "Online Photo Archives" workshop at the ASOR virtual annual meeting. Lastly, in December a photo essay by Jane Taylor entitled "My Petra" was published, making use of many of her images from the ACOR Photo Archive. Please see the ACOR website for related content.

### Announcing a New Project: The ACOR Digital Archive Project

Following the success of the 2016–2020 project, a 2020–2024 project is now made possible through a fiscal year 2020 American Overseas Research Centers (AORC) Title VI grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The project is entitled "The ACOR Digital Archive: Developing a Multimedia Teaching and Learning Resource" and will make over 18,000 images and multimedia resources available online. It will engage new audiences and work with U.S. educators to develop curricular materials, including lectures, lesson plans, syllabi, and interactive media.

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### New Trustee: Dr. Tom Davis



Thomas W. Davis is professor of archaeology at Lipscomb University and a specialist in the eastern Roman empire and biblical archaeology. He did part of his archaeological training at Jordan's Tell el-Hayyat site while earning his graduate degrees, a PhD and MA from the University of Arizona in Syro-Palestinian archaeology (1987 and 1983, respectively). He also holds a BA in history and archaeology and Near Eastern studies from Wheaton College (1979).

## Fellows in Residence (July–December 2020)



CAORC  
PREDOCTORAL FELLOW  
**Morgen Chalmiers**  
Medical Scientist Training  
Program, University of  
California, San Diego  
*Local Intermediaries as  
Translators in Humanitarian  
Settings: An Ethnographic  
Study of Transformations  
in Gendered and Religious  
Subjectivities*



TEMPLE OF THE  
WINGED LIONS  
PUBLICATION FELLOW  
**Marco Dehner**,  
Humboldt University, Berlin  
*The Decorated Stone from the  
Temple of the Winged Lions*



CAORC  
PREDOCTORAL FELLOW  
**Melissa Scott**  
Ethnomusicology, University  
of California, Berkeley  
*Sounding Place: Classical Arab  
Music and Humanitarian  
Sentiment in Jordan*

## Annual Reports for Download

The many new resources offered on the website now include ACOR's annual reports. Reports from fiscal years 2018–2020 may be now downloaded from:

[acorjordan.org/annualreports/](http://acorjordan.org/annualreports/)

## Public (Online) Events (July–December 2020)

AUGUST 26

Betty Anderson (Boston University), "The Making of Amman: Stories, Tours, and Traffic Jams"

SEPTEMBER 2

Jehad Haron (USAID SCHEP) (presenter); prepared by Jehad Haron, Nizar al Adarbeh (USAID SCHEP), Ahmad Lash (Department of Antiquities of Jordan), Amjad Batayneh (Department of Antiquities of Jordan), "Heritage vs. Development: The Bayt Ras Tomb Project 2017–2019"

OCTOBER 24

ACOR Wikimedians in collaboration with the Jordan Open Source Association and Wikimedia Levant, "Jordanian Academics Edit-A-Thon"

Recordings of all of these events are available on ACOR's YouTube channel, alongside dozens of past lectures and, newly, 2020 conference recordings from ASOR, MELA, and MESA (p. 6). Visit [youtube.com/acorjordan1968](https://youtube.com/acorjordan1968) to watch and subscribe.



Screenshot from Betty Anderson's Zoom lecture, "The Making of Amman."

## Donations of the ACOR Newsletter

The ACOR Newsletter has served as a rich resource in the academic community in Jordan for over 30 years. Volume 1, covering "research trends," was published in 1989, and since then the publication has documented major discoveries, heritage projects, and academic histories. As part of the center's ongoing renovation, we conducted an informal inventory of our collection of past newsletters in December 2020 and ultimately donated thousands of printed copies to partner universities throughout Jordan, where we know they will make for better, active readership. In addition, we will soon be making a donation of newsletters to another university in Iraq. You can access our complete digital archive of newsletters at [publications.acorjordan.org](http://publications.acorjordan.org).

Busayra Foundation for Cultural Heritage  
Friends of Archaeology and Heritage  
German Jordanian University  
Hashemite University  
Al Hussein Bin Talal University

Mutah University  
Turath: Architecture and Urban Design Consultants  
The University of Jordan - Amman  
The University of Jordan - Aqaba  
The Yarmouk University

## Donations of Mosaics of Jordan

ACOR donated a total of 45 unbound copies of the *Mosaics of Jordan* to the following institutions so that they could be used for educational purposes:

Madaba Institute of Mosaic Art and Restoration (MIMAR)  
The Jordan Museum, Amman

The Children's Museum, Amman



## Donations to ACOR (July–December 2020)

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## ACOR Receives Its First National Geographic Grant

We are excited to announce that our director was awarded, on behalf of ACOR, a COVID-19 response grant from the National Geographic Society for “Drones and GIS: Monitoring Illegal Excavation and Vandalism of Archaeological Sites in Wadi Rum (UNESCO World Heritage Site).” The idea for the project resulted from a collaboration between Nizar Al Adarbeh and Jehad Haron.

### November 2020 Board Meeting

The board of trustees meeting took place virtually on November 7 in place of the meeting normally scheduled in concurrence with the ASOR annual meeting, which was also virtual this year. Ambassador Edward “Skip” Gnehm presided. Gnehm noted that circumstances continue to be difficult due to the pandemic but that under the direction of Pearce Paul Creasman ACOR is doing well. Nisreen Abu Al Shaikh was congratulated on receiving the ASOR W. F. Albright award. Hala Bsaisu Lattouf was elected to the board class of 2023. Director Creasman reported that ACOR has been learning how to operate under the ever-changing conditions and regulations of the pandemic, and that, while in-person programming is still not possible, advances in programming and outreach are still being made on several fronts. The center is about to enter a phase of extensive renovation. Thomas Parker reported on the status of ACOR’s publications, noting in particular that there have been advances toward publishing the Temple of the Winged Lions and the Madaba Burnt Palace. Megan Perry requested that the board vote to approve Thomas Davis and Seteney Shami joining the fellowship committee, and they did so. The board also voted to approve amendments and updates to ACOR’s bylaws for practical purposes, such as to bring them in line with ACOR’s recent name change.

### YOUR SUPPORT KEEPS ACOR GOING.

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[acorjordan.org](http://acorjordan.org)

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