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AMERICAN CENTER OF RESEARCH

ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA | AMMAN, JORDAN

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The center's newly refurbished entrance, with stairway to Khirbet Salameh. (Photo by Pearce Paul Creasman.)

Excavating ACOR Renovations Complete!

Pearce Paul Creasman

Readers of recent issues of this newsletter will be well familiar with the major renovations that our center in Amman has undergone during these past years. Having taken virtually every surface “down to the studs,” we are exceedingly pleased to declare the renovations to be complete. The 2020–2022 renovations represent the third major building event for our current facility, preceded by its construction in 1985–1986 and expansion in 2005. Foremost, we would like to thank the numerous people and organizations that made this transformative work possible. While there are too many to list individually here, ACOR Ambassador (and then director) Dr. Barbara A. Porter, Dr. Jim Barnhart, who was USAID mission director in Jordan at the time, and their staffs must be specifically recognized for negotiating the scope of the work and securing the primary funding in 2019.



Left: The first nail: official start of renovations.
(Photo by P. P. Creasman.)



Right: Robert Schick in our temporary library, holding fast through it all.
(Photo by P. P. Creasman.)

Our renovation adventure formally began on September 30, 2019, when the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) signed an agreement to authorize the renovation funds. The grant and primary responsibility for its implementation went to the United Nations Offices for Project Services (UNOPS) in Jordan. The purpose of the project was to upgrade our facility with specific attention to safety and security, disability access, gender sensitivity, and reduction of operating costs. Owing to difficulties and delays resulting largely from the COVID-19 pandemic, with a healthy dose of normal renovation-type surprises, not all of the intended scope of work could be completed within the authorized funding and schedule. Consequently, we undertook a significant portion of the renovation ourselves, focusing on improvement of the conservation laboratory, archival and library spaces, the grounds, and living and social spaces. We are exceedingly grateful to the fifty individual donors who have contributed directly to these efforts to date and have recognized them with a plaque in the center. (It is not too late to add your name with a directed donation!)

Courtesy of the pandemic, the intended June 2020 commencement of renovations was delayed to December 2020. We made use of the intervening time to inventory and move objects, equipment, furniture, and people. UNOPS finished its work on December 30, 2021, but we carried on through May 2022. The first nail (yes, a literal nail) was set on December 9, 2020, after nearly two years of planning,



Renovation in action, lower library. (Photo by P. P. Creasman.)

design, and preparation. The last nail—technically a screw—was tightened on May 25, 2022.

Because closer to two decades than one had passed since the last renovations, and nearly four decades had elapsed since some of the spaces in the lower floors had seen major upgrades, we decided to treat our preparations for the work like... an excavation! We mapped and photographed *everything* where it was before (*in situ*), labeled it, moved it, and cataloged where it was temporarily stored. With



*The museum room, post renovation.
(Photo by P. P. Creasman.)*

more than a century of archaeological experience between us, Jehad Haron, John Shearman, Justin Schneider, and I implemented these efforts with the help of many, especially Abed Adawi, Ghassan Adawi, Said Adawi, Saja Adawi, and Samya Khalaf Kafafi. As we needed to keep a close watch on the thousands of artifacts we hold and the sensitive equipment in our care, such materials never left the building but were instead moved within it from one secure place to the next. Less sensitive materials—such as some books and office and residential furniture—found temporary homes in off-site storage. Our long engagement with archaeology served us well: we were able to account for, quickly locate, and provide access to every object, book, and piece of gear requested of us during the throes of renovation. Now that the renovations have passed and we have situated everything in its new home, we are all the more organized and efficient in our efforts to advance knowledge.

For a host of reasons (but primarily financial), we elected to remain in residence in the center during renovations. That is, we kept the hostel open, albeit with limited rooms,

and staff in our offices, albeit often shifting to occupy different places. In retrospect, I think we all would have done this differently, resources permitting. We are grateful to the staff, fellows, and visitors who gracefully endured this, with specific recognition due to scholar Dr. Robert Schick, who remained in residence for nearly the entire renovation. To accommodate us in the facility during ongoing renovations, the works took place in two primary stages: first, renovation of the sixth, fifth, and a portion of the fourth floors (originally residential space, now residential and office space) and then, second, the rest of the building. When stage one was completed, we moved everything and everyone upstairs for the duration. Although conditions were dusty, a bit noisy, and generally difficult, our superb staff were able to keep the core functions of ACOR active throughout, with comparatively minimal interruptions brought about by construction schedules and compounded by the pandemic. Ultimately, we were forced to close only for several weeks in late summer 2021, when the cacophony and service cuts (e.g., to upgrade water and electrical systems) became too frequent.

By fall 2021, we were receiving additional completed floors (fourth, then some months later the third, and so on, down the building) and occupying, outfitting, and opening them for use. In late November 2021, we were giving thanks that the light at the end of the tunnel was near. At the new year, we celebrated having the facility back to ourselves, if with meaningful work yet to do. With the



Renovations Online

Brief video of the center with before, during, and after images of the renovation:

youtu.be/499fjCkwvT8

Many more photographs and further details of the planning and implementation:

acorjordan.org/renovations2022

The new gym, available to residents and staff. (Photo by P. P. Creasman.)

board of trustees scheduled to meet in Amman in late May 2022, we were exceedingly pleased to have the renovations complete and to host the board for our first in-person event of the COVID/renovations era, formally marking its full reopening and end of the renovations.

The primary renovation contractor was Al Rasekhoun Al Arab for Construction and Contracting Company, Ltd., represented by Gaith Al Tarawneh, and UNOPS was represented in the project by Rawan Abu Al Ghanam and Asem Barakat. The American Center of Research was well served in our renovation efforts by Hasan Sabrah, without whose energy and attention to detail we would not have the center you see today.

Call For 2023–2024 FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS!

We are now accepting applications for the 2023–2024 fellowship cycle. The center offers fellowships and scholarships at all levels, from undergraduate to postdoctoral.

To apply, please visit: orcfellowships.smapply.org

The deadline for most fellowships is February 1, 2023.

For more information, please visit our website.



USAID SCHEP Updates: January–June 2022 *John Shearman*

Jordan Archaeological Heritage Strategy

Meetings were held with the Department of Antiquities (DoA) to discuss the main pillars and sub-pillars and to collect data necessary to help formulate its new Jordan Archaeological Heritage Strategy, which focuses on enhancement of the systems and mechanisms that manage and preserve the country's cultural heritage in accordance with its legal framework and international standards, as well as with the aim of sustainable economic, social, and cultural development. Besides statistics, lists of archaeological missions and projects, and projects for documentation, management, and conservation, the data needed also included plans for Jordanian World Heritage sites, risk-management plans, action plans, and project-evaluation methods.

With the data obtained, a draft of the strategy was developed in Arabic. With the agreement of all related

The works described below are made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are the responsibility of ACOR and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

*Opening ceremony for the National Heritage Museum on the University of Jordan campus in Amman.
(Photo by Abed Al Fatah Ghareeb.)*

parties, the strategy's final version will rely on two main pillars: developing 1) the management of archaeological heritage resources and 2) a supportive and enabling environment through participatory efforts. After review and approval of the draft by the DoA, it was next sent to a short list of stakeholders for comments and questions. The project is now working on the English translation and designing the strategy for publication.

Jordan Cultural Heritage Portal (JorCHP)

JorCHP is a comprehensive online resource hub for information and knowledge related to cultural heritage resources (CHR) in Jordan. This portal will expand the sharing of project results, work and internship opportunities, scholarship and fellowship announcements, and important documents, manuals, publications, and CHR charters and legal documents. The portal will feature Jordanian and international resources from a range of organizations. JorCHP will include the profiles of major foreign institutes (the American Center of Research, Institut français du Proche-Orient [Ifpo], Council for British Research in the Levant [CBRL], and others), which will provide overviews of their areas of expertise, previous work, interests, and publications. Currently, JorCHP is in the final review stages prior to official launch.

Aqabawi Kitchen

Aqabawi Kitchen is a Jordanian-owned company that offers tourists the opportunity to visit a typical Jordanian home and experience the preparation of a traditional dish. Originally, Aqabawi Kitchen could accommodate five people at a time, but SCHEP upgraded the facility so that, as of May 2022, it can now host up to twenty-five visitors.

Amman Citadel

In April 2022, work was completed at the Amman Citadel's southern gate area; here, a stone stairway with buttresses was installed. This is a prelude to further development of a southern entrance to the Citadel.

Wadi Rum Documentation Project

Surveys and documentation of existing features in the Wadi Rum Protected Area were undertaken. The work concentrated on the area north of the visitor center, toward the borders of the park from the Ad Disah area, as well as on the eastern side of the park. A total of 1,405 cultural elements were documented: 1,072 petroglyphs, 320 inscriptions, and 13 architectural elements.

Busayra

Safa Al Rfou' received a grant from SCHEP to establish the Busayra Cultural Heritage Foundation, headquartered in an abandoned house rehabilitated with financial and technical support through the grant.

The American Center/SCHEP team merged its efforts with those of the Busayra Cultural Heritage Foundation and developed the local historical site, creating touristic experiences, establishing partnerships, training students and supporting their ideas, and promoting the community's cultural heritage. All programs introduced under the umbrella of the foundation serve local residents and tourists.

The Busayra archaeological site now offers newly created trails, shaded areas, interpretive panels, and murals. At the Busayra Cultural Heritage Foundation, visitors can experience a diversity of hands-on cultural activities, such as preparing traditional dishes and making ceramics.

Natural Science Museum at Al-Hussein Bin Talal University

The project supported the establishment of the Natural Science Museum at Al-Hussein Bin Talal University. The intention was to create an educational tool targeting students, especially those in the College of Science. Moreover, the museum will be a destination for learning and discovery for the local community and students in the Ma'an Governorate. An opening ceremony was held on March 23, 2022.



Zaid Kashour and Abed Al Fatah Ghareeb attending the SCHEP booth at the MEL conference. (Photo by Hanadi Al Taher.)

The University of Jordan's National Heritage Museum

The University of Jordan is the country's largest and oldest institution of higher education, offering a wide range of academic programs and a diverse environment. It has devoted particular attention to preserving, protecting, and presenting Jordan's heritage in a visual manner, including through its thirty-six-year-old National Heritage Museum. The museum presents the lifestyles of Jordanians in villages and deserts during the 19th and early 20th centuries. SCHEP supported the university's rehabilitation of the museum, which included enhancing elements of the building's external and internal infrastructure, its museum environment, its collection, and its display interpretations, as well as digitizing the museum collection. With the successful completion of this project, the opening ceremony was held on May 18, 2022.

Annual Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Conference

In May, project monitoring and evaluation specialist Zaid Kashour and Abed Al Fatah Ghareeb, creative producer and editor (representing the communications team), attended the USAID-sponsored Annual Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Conference, held in Amman.

Publications Supported

- *The Archaeological and Tourism Reality in the Eastern Desert* by Ahmad Lash (in Arabic)
- *Atlas of the Snakes of Jordan* by Ehab Eid (in Arabic and English editions)
- *Documentation of Jordanian World Heritage Sites* by ICOMOS Jordan



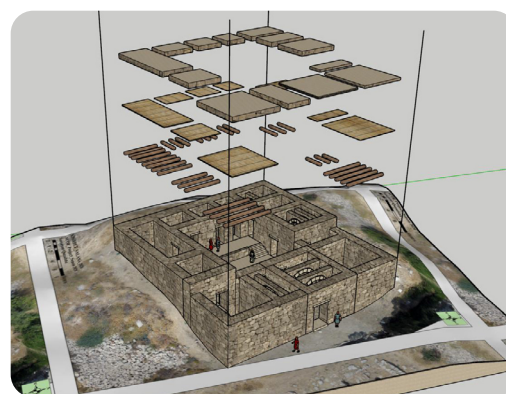
Khirbet Salameh Augmented Reality *Jehad Haron and Hussam Ababneh*

Above: Landscape study, with QR code to download the app.
Below: Creating the model. (Images by Hussam Ababneh.)

Khirbet Salameh was an agricultural settlement founded in about the 3rd century BCE, during the Hellenistic period. The ruins, which are a rare example of ancient rural architecture in the Amman area, date to the Roman period (2nd century CE) and were reused during the Byzantine and early Islamic periods. The re-presentation and interpretation of this site is an exciting opportunity within urban Amman, an area under constant development, which presents a threat to such historic agricultural settlements in urban spaces. In late 2021 and early 2022, augmented-reality and virtual tours were created to allow people from all walks of life (and from all across the world) to interact with and learn about the site, located adjacent to our center.

Augmented reality (AR) is a direct or indirect real-time display of a physical, real-world environment that has been enhanced through the addition of virtual, computer-generated information. The first steps in the creation of an augmented-reality model consist of gathering information related to the archaeological site, scanning site features, and reviewing excavation plans. These results form the foundation for a virtual reconstruction of the archaeological site using original site plans, physical evidence at the site, and aerial photos. Reconstruction of the surrounding landscape is considered one of the most important parts of such a project. In order to create an accurate image of the landscape as it appeared in antiquity, it is necessary to draw from surveys, land geomorphology, topography, and, in the case of Khirbet Salameh, the location of old springs and knowledge of ancient agricultural practices. We considered ourselves lucky with Khirbet Salameh because, despite the presence of modern Amman (including the center itself), most of the immediately surrounding landscape retains much of its ancient condition, especially to the north.

Once made, the new model needs to be promoted and shared, and we accomplished this by offering a free app on Google Play store and the Apple App Store. To help visitors find it, we added a QR code to the newly installed



interpretation panel at the entrance to the site. Installed on a smartphone or other device, the app will display the virtual reconstruction using AR technology, a virtual tour, and other features that allow you to tour the site from a distance. The American Center is a pioneer with this technology in Jordan, and hopefully we can document and present more sites in this way.

Online (app downloads)

Android: play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.WerewolfStudios.KhirbetSalamehAR

Apple: apps.apple.com/ca/app/khirbet-salameh/id1623698172



Using the Khirbet Salameh app on a smartphone. (Photo by Hussam Ababneh.)

Martha Sharp Joukowsky

September 2, 1936–January 7, 2022

On January 7 of this year, the field of archaeology lost a dynamic, acclaimed, and accomplished scholar, Martha S. Joukowsky.

After earning a bachelor's degree from Brown University's Pembroke College, she went on for her master's at the American University of Beirut and doctoral degree from Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne. Fieldwork took her to Italy, Greece, Turkey, Lebanon, Hong Kong—and, of course, Jordan, where, over more than a decade, she excavated Petra's Great Temple. For forty years (1982–2002), students at Brown had the honor of studying and working under her expertise, including at the Great Temple. Generous and engaging, she took a genuine interest in her students. Her *A Complete Manual of Field Archaeology: Tools and Techniques of Fieldwork for Archaeologists* (Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall, 1980) became a standard textbook.

In 1981, she and her husband, Artemis, established the philanthropic Joukowsky Family Foundation, which supports educational and cultural—including archaeological—projects, such as those of the American Center. Soon after her retirement in 2002, she and her husband founded Brown University's Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World.

She was predeceased by her husband of more than half a century (see *ACOR Newsletter* 32.2, p. 7) and is survived by their three children—longtime ACOR trustee Nina Joukowsky Köprülü, Artemis Joukowsky, and Michael Joukowsky—numerous grandchildren, and a long legacy of contributions worldwide to the field of archaeology.



Martha Joukowsky and her husband, Artemis "Arte" Joukowsky, in Petra, 2005.
(Photo by Barbara A. Porter.)



Scout troop learning about excavation at Khirbet Salameh. (Photo by Pearce Paul Creasman.)

Tours January–June 2022

Staff guided more than a dozen tours in the spring, as visitors returned to Jordan in droves. We guided groups to Petra, the Citadel, the Baptism Site, and many others. Among the visitors were members of Congress (including Sen. Richard Shelby [Alabama], Sen. Deb Fischer [Nebraska], Sen. Roger Marshall [Kansas], Sen. Tommy Tuberville [Alabama], Rep. Kay Granger [Texas], and

Rep. Jerry Carl [Alabama]), USAID, the U.S. Embassy, the Archaeological Institute of America, Fulbright Jordan, Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad (p. 9), and the German Protestant Institute of Archaeology in the Holy Land, as well as groups brought by private tour companies. Also during the spring, in March and April, several staff led by Pearce Paul Creasman helped to teach an archaeology merit badge to a local Boy Scout troop. Ten scouts completed the merit badge, and several children from the Tla'a Ali area around our center also participated.



Engraving from 1849 showing the transport of one of the metal-hulled boats of William Lynch's 1848 expedition to the Dead Sea and River Jordan (republished in Robert E. Rook's 150th Anniversary of the United States Expedition to Explore the Dead Sea and River Jordan, p. 15).

Publications Update

Noreen Doyle

Besides assisting SCHEP with several of its publications (p. 5), preparations of future volumes kept publications staff busy during the first half of 2022. Dr. Carrie L. Sulosky Weaver, a researcher associated with the University of Pittsburgh's Department of Classics, was engaged to copyedit manuscripts and, aided by U.S.-based assistant director Dr. China Shelton, proofread for *Studies in the History and Archaeology of Jordan* 14, proceedings of the 14th International Conference on the History and Archaeology of Jordan (ICHAJ), held in Florence, Italy, 21–25 January 2019. Noreen Doyle, assistant director for publications and grants, typeset. Full announcement of the publication, scheduled to debut at ICHAJ 15 in Amman

(2–5 August 2022), will follow in the next newsletter, as will announcements of additional volumes that have been in preparation through SCHEP.

The two booklets that SCHEP produced in recent years have been added to the website: *Aqabawi Community-Based Cultural Experiences* (2019) and *Visit Safi* (2020).

Also added as an open-access volume was Robert E. Rook's *150th Anniversary of the United States Expedition to Explore the Dead Sea and River Jordan*. Published in 1998 in a hardcover edition, the book is a critical and engaging examination of the controversial expedition led by Lt. William Lynch, who sailed with a crew from Brooklyn, New York, to the Ottoman Empire in a commercially and religiously motivated campaign of exploration. Illustrated with period maps and engravings, this slim (31-page), handsomely done volume provides an excellent overview of the cultural and political background of the campaign, the results of which Lynch published in 1849 as *Narrative of the United States Expedition to the River Jordan and the Dead Sea*. Copies of Lynch's volume are available at the library in the rare books collection, and, of course, the hardcover edition of Rook's may also be found in the library.

Online

publications.acorjordan.org



RS 24 participants on the terrace at the American Center. (Photo courtesy of the American Foundation for Cultural Research.)

Rencontres Sabéennes 24

On May 13–23, twenty-two scholars and officials from Yemen came to Amman to attend an emergency-response training program for Yemeni cultural heritage professionals (seen here at the American Center), which was followed by the twenty-fourth Rencontres Sabéennes meeting (RS 24; May 24–26). Workshop and conference were made possible with the support of the Smithsonian's

Arthur M. Sackler Gallery/Museum of Asian Art, the J.M. Kaplan Fund, the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC), the Smithsonian Cultural Rescue Initiative (SCRI) and the American Foundation for Cultural Research (AFCR), with additional support from the American Center of Research and the Jordanian Department of Antiquities. RS 25 will likewise be held in Amman, in May/June 2023.



Participants in the University of Arizona's Center for Middle Eastern Studies (CMES) Fulbright-Hays Group Project Abroad at the American Center. (Photo courtesy of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, University of Arizona.)

Continuity and Change in Jordan: Social and Environmental Factors A Fulbright-Hays Group Project Abroad in Jordan

*Abby Limmer (University of Arizona) and
Victoria Vicente (Rio Grande High School,
Albuquerque, New Mexico)*

The University of Arizona's Center for Middle Eastern Studies (CMES) and the American Center of Research cosponsored a Fulbright-Hays Group Project Abroad (FHGPA) to Jordan from late May to late June 2022. The project, Continuity and Change in Jordan: Social and Environmental Factors, included fourteen American educator participants, all of whom were either Native Americans, teachers of Native American students, or instructors teaching Native American content. They teach in Alaska, Arizona, Indiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, and Oklahoma. The grant was written by CMES's late outreach director, Dr. Lisa Adeli, with the project led in Jordan by Victoria Vicente, a veteran of other educator trips who is a social-studies teacher of AP World History at Rio Grande High School in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Tate Crossley, a University of Arizona School of Middle Eastern and North African Studies graduate student, offered Arabic instruction, background information, and cultural assistance.

The educators traveled throughout Jordan, spending sixteen nights in Amman, five in the north, and eight in the south. Early on, the group visited the American Center and had the opportunity to learn from Jihad Haron, associate director for projects. He gave the teachers an overview of the center's mission and history, the history and archaeology of the region, and its importance for international trade throughout prehistory and history. The group's visit to

the center was one of the highlights of the project. The teachers appreciated Mr. Haron's introduction to Jordan's past, which provided an excellent orientation to their subsequent travels to many of the sites he described, including Umm el-Jimal, Petra, Jerash, the Amman Citadel, Madaba, and many castles.

While based in Amman, trip participants were introduced to Jordanian education by speakers at the University of Jordan's School of Education and at a refugee camp. They learned about Islam at the King Abdullah Mosque, visited Salt, experienced the Wild

Jordan Market, and went to archaeology and art museums. The educators used Arabic to navigate the city, as well as to present gifts to speakers. Back in Amman at the end of the trip, they enjoyed Jordanian music, had a cooking lesson at Beit Sitti, and learned about women and work in Jordan.

In eastern and northern Jordan, the teachers visited Yarmouk University. In line with the project's environmental-studies theme, the group increased their knowledge of water issues and sustainability at the Azraq wetlands, Shawmari Wildlife Reserve, and Sharhabil Bin Hassneh EcoPark. For social and cultural learning, they visited a Druze village, the Umm el-Jimal women's cooperative, castles, Pella, Umm Qais, and Jerash on their way back to Amman.

In the south, the group started in Madaba, stopped at Mount Nebo on their way to the Dead Sea, and visited Karak, Dana, Petra, Wadi Rum, and Aqaba. They were interested in learning about Bedouin tribal traditions and social structures, comparing them to Native American tribes and nations. The educators enhanced their knowledge of sustainability issues through visits to the Red Sea, the Jordanian Society for Sustainable Development, and an aviary.

FHGPA participants create curricular materials based on their travels for the grade levels and subjects they teach; in this group, grades taught ranged from kindergarten through community college. The educators were particularly impressed by the American Center's digital archive of photos (see p. 13), which allows teachers in distant locations to engage with their students in studies of cultural preservation. Many of their lesson plans will incorporate what they learned at the American Center of Research; they all appreciate the center's educational resources and support.



The Schick family in Qumran Cave 4, March 1971.
(Photo courtesy of the Schick family.)

Edwin A. Schick May 7, 1921–February 9, 2022

Dr. Edwin Schick, ACOR Annual Professor for the 1978–1979 academic year, passed away on February 9, 2022, at the age of 100.

The fourth of six children, Edwin grew up on a Homestead Act farm in north central South Dakota and was the first in his family to attend high school. He went on to earn a PhD in New Testament studies from Princeton Theological Seminary. Edwin spent his career first on the faculty of Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa, and then from 1964 until his retirement in 1986 at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa.

His first visit to the region, in 1963, was a study tour of Israel that included participation in excavations at Tel Nagila. In 1970, for a sabbatical year he brought his wife, Barbara, and their sons, John and Robert, to Jerusalem, where he was affiliated with the Albright Institute. He participated in the 1971 season of excavations at Caesarea, to which the family returned in 1974. At the end of the 1974 excavation season, Edwin arranged to visit Jordan on a short trip as a representative of the Lutheran World Federation. The family was so favorably impressed with Jordan that Edwin chose to spend his next sabbatical year, 1978–1979, as Annual Professor at ACOR, focusing his attention on pilgrimage and teaching a course on religious symbolism.

—Robert Schick

Public Events

Helen Malko

The center presented exciting public lectures during the spring of 2022. We thank all those who joined us for this online lecture series. You can find recordings of these events on our YouTube channel.

This lecture series brought to our audience speakers from the fields of museum studies, archaeology, and art history. It started with a critical lecture presented by Dr. Melissa Forstrom entitled “Polytemporality, Polyvocality and Connecting the Ancient and Contemporary Middle East.” Employing a structural-justice approach, this lecture examined the role of exhibition interpretation and the possible effects of presenting ancient and modern contexts and narratives and a multiplicity of expert voices, as demonstrated by *The World Between Empires: Art and Identity in the Ancient Middle East* (March 18–June 23, 2019) at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Drawing on exhibition visits and interviews with curators, Dr. Forstrom argued that the future relevance of art-museum exhibition could be in interpretation, which is responsible for the meanings audiences create, and is essential in linking the familiar with the unfamiliar.

In March, the center hosted Dr. Jennifer Ramsay, a former ACOR-CAORC Fellow (2006–2007) and current associate professor and chair of the anthropology department at State University of New York (SUNY) Brockport, as well as one of our trustees. Focusing on “Funerary Dining or Offerings for the Dead? Archaeobotanical Evidence from the Shaft Tombs at Petra, Jordan,” Dr. Ramsay presented her research, which aims to gain a better understanding

of the role of plants in this type of ritual context through the analysis of botanical remains from Nabataean tombs in Petra. Analysis of samples from several tombs excavated over three seasons (2012, 2014, and 2016) indicated the presence of a variety of foodstuffs such as types of wheat, barley, lentils, grapes, figs, and dates. These finds provide intriguing evidence of plants consumed or offered to the dead during ritual events.

We concluded our spring series with a presentation by Dr. Nada Shabout, Regents Professor at the University of North Texas, entitled “History Disjointed: Mapping Art Histories in the Arab World, Iran, and Turkey.” With the increasing interest in the modern and contemporary arts of the Arab world, Iran, and Turkey, the need for the field’s historiography is crucial. The ongoing Mapping Art Histories in the Arab World, Iran and Turkey project compiles information about teaching art history across fourteen countries in the region and makes it available for scholars, researchers, and students in order to develop a better understanding of global art history. This presentation initiated a discussion of both practical and theoretical challenges and commented on the state of the field and its definitions and system of understanding. It unpacked the role of art history as a discipline within the region, connecting disciplinary initiatives within the region and diaspora and contributing to continuing discussions on the possibilities for decolonizing art history within academia and beyond.

Online
youtube.com/acorjordan1968



Staff making their way through the Gadara Tunnels. (Photo by P. P. Creasman.)

Staff Retreat

In the days before Ramadan, March 30–31, our spring staff retreat went north. Leaving from our center early in the morning, we first went to Bayt Ras and saw the painted tomb, then to Umm Qais, where we toured the underground tunnels, hiked around to a viewpoint of Lake Tiberias, and had lunch at the old rest house (which the center refurbished in the 1990s) before heading down to the Ajloun Forest Reserve for a night in the cabins at the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature's camp. The evening was full of fun and games revolving around team building and learning more about one another. The next morning started off with a trip down the Ajloun zipline for anyone willing. The laughter carried us all the way home, with quick stops at Ajloun Castle and for lunch overlooking Jerash. It was a wonderful bonding experience and, as last fall when we visited Wadi Rum and Petra, it was the first time many of our staff had been to these places.

Now Available

Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Report

1 October 2020–31 September 2021

acorjordan.org/annualreports

Staff Updates

Khadija Adam joined the center as archaeological project manager in April 2022 with more than a quarter century of experience in conservation, restoration, management, training, historic site development, and community-engagement projects throughout the region.

Several staff members received promotions in the first half of 2022: Noreen Doyle from grant support and publications specialist to assistant director for publications and grants, Saja Adawi from human-resources/operations assistant to office manager, Sahar Abu Laila from junior accountant to accountant, and Nora Al Omari from archival project assistant to assistant archivist.



Interns

Helen Malko

We are grateful for the support of five interns from Jordan and North America who worked remotely and in person. **Omar S. Omar**, a graduate of Mount Royal University in Canada, and Siena College undergraduate **Nathan Simons** interned in the library from February to May. Both helped apply new security labels to every book and organize books in proper order for reshelfing, which allowed the library to reopen in March 2022. Additionally, both supported the Title VI grant through digitization of slides. Their positive attitudes and helpfulness were much appreciated and made them a joy to work with. As a hosting institution with the US/ICOMOS International Exchange Program, we hosted **Danielle Wolfson** (The Pennsylvania Philharmonic), who provided administrative support for our Prevention of Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property project. She supported the training courses, drafted social media material, and prepared documents related to the project. **Eman Shahin** (American Academy Jordan School) spent her summer researching and writing about the Umayyad period segment of the ongoing Timeline of Jordan project. Last but not least, **Federica Ceci** (Ca' Foscari University) interned at the center as a branding and digital communications assistant. She worked closely with the communications lead and the creative producer and editor to create a branding identity for the library's book promotion on our social media platforms. She also created a brand plan that would assist the communications team with developing our brand identity.

Library Update

Ryder Kouba and Samya Khalaf Kafafi

The past six months have been active at the library; since reopening in March, we have been happily welcoming new and old faces to the renovated space. After the reshelfing of our existing collection, librarian and archivist Ryder Kouba and associate librarian Samya Khalaf Kafafi quickly set to work acquiring new books. During the first two years of the pandemic, new purchases were paused, which resulted in a considerable backlog of new releases to prioritize and order. Almost everyone who visited the library helped, thanks to the library staff's consistent questions to patrons about what recent releases they would suggest we acquire—so thanks are due to very many for their assistance. (In fact, staff are always open to suggestions, either in person or by email: library@acorjordan.org.) The library has also benefited greatly from the generosity of its supporters who donated books and journals, and we are pleased to be giving so many books a good home.

Staff have also been working to add open-access books that fit into our collecting policy and can be accessed by users from anywhere in the world. This has led to some interesting philosophical discussions about the purpose of our catalog compared to Google or the Internet Archive. Does it make sense for our library catalog to link to the digitized copy of *Kusejr 'Amra* by the Kaiserliche Akademie der Wissenschaften (archive.org/details/KusejrAmra/mode/2up)? The illustrations are gorgeous and relevant for many of our users, but surely researchers can find this on their own. On the other hand, the time commitment required to include it in our catalog is minimal.

In coordination with the communications team, each week we plan to highlight a new arrival that showcases the breadth and depth of ACOR's collecting policy. Records

for the newly cataloged books can be viewed at the link given below.

Books that we are especially excited to have received in the first half of 2022 include:

- *Story of a City: A Childhood in Amman* by 'Abd al-Rahmān Munif. We acquired both the original Arabic edition as well as the English translation of this memoir of growing up in 1940s Amman.
- *Settlement and Urbanization in Early Islamic Palestine (7th–11th Centuries): Texts and Archaeology Contrasted* by Hagit Nol. Archaeology being a cornerstone of the American Center's collections, we are pleased to offer this 2022 publication to library users.

Online

Recent Arrivals: library.acorjordan.org/liberty/opac/new.do?_open=1

Implementation of the Prevention of Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property Project

Ahmed Fatima Kzzo, Helen Malko, and Jihad Haron

In its second and third quarter, the Prevention of Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property project, funded with a grant from the Office of Public Affairs at the US Embassy in Amman, has made significant strides. To continue implementation of the project, Prof. Fadi Bala'awi, director general of the Department of Antiquities (DoA), and Dr. Pearce Paul Creasman, executive director of the American Center of Research, signed an agreement on April 19, 2022.

We delivered the equipment to the DoA for distribution to directorates in those governorates located on the borders with neighboring countries and also led training courses in coding systems used to record and track artifacts and legislation, conventions, and international organization.

Online

Twitter: twitter.com/prevtrafficking



Training course on QR coding and printing for DoA warehouse employees. (Photo by A. Ghareeb.)

Ryder Kouba and Samya Khalaf Kafafi

We are pleased to report that digitization of the Barbara A. Porter (almost 13,000 slides) and Brian Byrd (3,000) collections have been completed thanks to the hard work of Nora Alomari, Jude Maraka, and Samya Khalaf Kafafi. More than 8,000 slides from Dr. Porter have been described and are available online. We are constantly adding to the digital archive as we work our way through the collections.

In addition to digitization, materials on born-digital formats (CDs, floppy disks) have been transferred to our server space as a digital preservation measure. Unfortunately, the failure rate was in line with the Library of Congress's estimate of 4 percent after a decade, but hundreds of disks have had their materials safely migrated to modern long-term storage.

Another important aspect of digital preservation being undertaken is web archiving. Through use of tools such as Broswertrix, over 100 gigabytes of web data have been archived. Our websites and materials related to our existing collections and collecting policies have been preserved. An email kindly sent by Robert Mittelstaedt (assistant director, 1996–1998) shed some light on the history of the American Center’s web presence. Work began on the first website (hosted by Boston University) twenty-five years ago, and it was launched in 1998. Luckily, the Internet Archive captured www.bu.edu/acor starting in 2000 (see link, below), so this artifact from our institutional history is being preserved. Perusing the old website, one can find information that is probably not written down in any official records and might only ever be recalled in oral histories. A good example of this is a throwaway line about how “[f]urther down Madeenah Street on the right past the next light is Chen’s Chinese (Cantonese) restaurant, something of a hangout for ACOR fellows. Medium [price].” This sheds a bit of light on the lives of fellows at the center at the turn of the millennium. And, of course, everyone beyond a certain age can readily imagine (and remember) many bits of data that, in former days, might have been preserved in paper correspondence, letters to the editor in printed newspapers, thoughts scribbled in notebooks, etc. that are now solely online. Archivists recognize the enormity of the challenge to manage the acquisition, preservation, privacy issues, and access of such varied materials.

Online

Archived bu.ed/acor: web.archive.org/web/202200000000000*/https://www.bu.edu/acor



Scanned 35 mm slide in the Barbara A. Porter collection:
Lion fountain (and donkey), Petra.

Fellows in Residence (January–June 2022)

CAORC PREDOCTORAL FELLOWS

Lauren Erker, University of Bonn, Islamic Archaeology: Problematizing Islamization from the Early Islamic Period to the Early Modern Period in Rural Transjordan *and* Ottoman Archaeology of Palestine and Transjordan

Jeremy Reed, Indiana University, Bloomington, Ethnomusicology: The Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts as Indicator of Jordanian National Well-Being

PIERRE AND PATRICIA BIKAI FELLOWS

Sarah Wenner, University of Cincinnati, Classical Archaeology: Petrean Refuse Reuse

McClean Pink, East Carolina University, Anthropology:
Petra North Ridge Mortuary Practices

JAMES A. SAUER FELLOW

Ana Silkatcheva, University of Oxford, Oriental Studies:
Geometric Patterns on Floor Mosaics of the Byzantine and
Islamic Periods in the Levant

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acorjordan.org/jobs-and-employment

Staff Updates



In February 2022, Duna Dabbas came aboard as communications lead, responsible for developing and implementing an effective communications strategy.

Ahmad Alkhateeb was hired in March 2022 as an accountant to



support the chief financial officer with various aspects of accounting and record keeping.

Jude Maraka joined the staff as outreach project archivist in June 2022.



Fellowship Awardees 2022–2023

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP: **Yorke Rowan** (Oriental Institute, University of Chicago): Tracking the Small Things: Late Neolithic Material Culture of the Black Desert; **Arpan Roy** (Program in Islamic Studies, Johns Hopkins University): Call to Prayer: Romani People and the Islamic Mission. ACOR-CAORC POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP: **Sarah Islam** (Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University): Blasphemy (*Sabb al-Rasūl*) as a Legal Category in Islamic Law: Historical Formulations and Contemporary Applications. ACOR-CAORC PRE-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP: **Samar Ahmad** (History, Georgetown University): Gender and Revolution: A Social History of Jordan in the 1960s–1970s; **Johnathan Norris** (Anthropology, Boston University): Politics of Place: Emotion, Religiopolitical Networks, and Place-Making Amongst Syrian Refugees; **Clare Rasmussen** (Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology, Bryn Mawr College): Water Consumption in the Decapolis: Examining Water Use in the Ancient Cities of Gadara, Jerash, Pella, and Philadelphia; **Nicolas Reeves** (International Development and Political Science, Sciences Po [Paris] and Freie Universität Berlin): The Impact of Low Tourism Demand on Tourism-Reliant Communities in Jordan. BERT AND SALLY DE VRIES FELLOWSHIP: **Tucker Deady** (Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations, University of Toronto): Archaeological Expedition to Khirbat Iskandar. JENNIFER C. GROOT MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP: **Adrienne Baker** (Anthropology, University of Washington): Balu'a Regional Archaeological Project. HARRELL FAMILY FELLOWSHIP: **Summer Courts** (Classics, University of Reading): Late Antique Jarash Project (Life and Death in Late Hellenistic/Early Roman Jarash: A Study of the Human Remains Found in a Cistern in the Southwest Corner). JAMES A. SAUER FELLOWSHIP: **Maéva Lhériveau** (Sciences of Antiquity, La Sapienza, Università di Roma): Archaeological Expedition to Khirbat Iskandar. LAWRENCE T. GERATY TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP: **Domizia Paolucci** (Sciences of Antiquity,

La Sapienza, University of Rome): Archaeological Expedition to Khirbat Iskandar. PIERRE AND PATRICIA BIKAI FELLOWSHIP: **McClean Pink** (Anthropology, East Carolina University): Petra North Ridge Mortuary Practices. S. THOMAS PARKER MEMORIAL FUND AWARD: **Hafsa Al-Jandabi** (Architectural Conservation, German Jordanian University): Conflict Damage Assessment in the Old City of Sana'a and Recommendations for Post-Conflict Conservation. JORDANIAN GRADUATE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP: **Ahmad Ababnah** (Archaeology, Yarmouk University): The Mamluk and Ottoman Mosques on the Shami Pilgrimage Route; **Jalal Alheji** (Archaeology, Yarmouk University): Neolithic Sickle Blades of Tell Abu Suwwan from the 2005–2008 Excavation: Descriptive, Analytical, Comparative Study; **Abed Alsuliman** (Geology, Yarmouk University): Investigation of the Eastern Part of the Amman-Hallabat Structure in Jordan Using Geological Study and Remote Sensing Analysis and Its Effect on Hallabat Palace Stability; **Bushra Dabash** (Archaeology, University of Jordan): university study. KENNETH W. RUSSELL MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP: **Rasha Albader** (Conservation and Management of Cultural Heritage Resources, Yarmouk University): Conservation of the Twelve Great Feasts from Baptism Museum Using Zinc Oxide Nanoparticles. FREDERICK-WENGER JORDANIAN EDUCATIONAL FELLOWSHIP: **Sara Abo Alfoul** (Nursing, The Hashemite University): Implementing Hospice Care in Jordan; **Nour Hammash** (Social Work/Migration and Refugees, German-Jordanian University): university study. ACOR JORDANIAN TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP FOR THE ASOR ANNUAL MEETING: **Ahmad Al-Adamat** (New Umm el-Jimal Municipality): Impact of Refugees Community at Umm el-Jimal on the Re-Use of Basalt Stone in the Local Community Architecture and Urban Fabric; **Samar Shammas** (Columbia Global Centers): “You Shall Take the Garments...” (Ex. 29: 5) Clothing and Fashion in the Levant during the Middle Bronze Age in Light of Palatial Wall Paintings.

Donations (January–June 2022)

ANNUAL FUND

Anne H. Aarnes; Susan Ackerman; Catherine Alexander in honor of working and living in Petra (Petra Church Project); Bjorn Anderson; Edward and Jocelyn Badovinac; Mary Bartlett; Donald A. Best; Pearce Paul Creasman; Edward E. Curtis IV; Thomas Davis; Elisabeth Dudley; Paul Fitzpatrick; Tricia C. Fox in memory of Tom Parker; Gemma S. Hall; Sarah Hansen; Spencer Harper III in honor of Barbara A. Porter; Doris Heinemann; Ray Anita Hemphill in honor of Barbara A. Porter; Randall L. Hoffman; William B. Inglee; The Joukowsky Family Foundation; Øystein and Asta LaBianca; Nancy D. Lampe in memory of S. Thomas Parker; Hala Bsaisu Lattouf; Patricia T. Leiser in memory of Toni Cross; Caroline S. Lovelace; Carol and Drew Luten; Hazem Malhas; Jenna de Vries Morton; Saif Omeis; John Oleson; Megan A. Perry; Meg Pickering and John Schmidt; Barbara Reeves; Jerome Rose; Edwin Schick; Joe D. Seger; John Shearman; Robert Snyder in honor of Suhail Bisharat; Joseph and Julie Stanik; Courtney Taylor; Bethany J. Walker; Thomas and Theresa Whetstine in memory of Martha Joukowsky and in memory of Ghazi Bisheh; Malcolm Wiener; Ray E. Willey in honor of Barbara A. Porter; Jill A. Zahner; two anonymous donors.

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IN-KIND DONATIONS TO THE LIBRARY

Fawzi Abu Danah; Hussein Abu Bakr Al Aidarous; Douglas Clark; Clinton Creasman; Pearce Paul Creasman; Tali Erickson-Gini; Edward “Skip” Gnehm, Jr.; Barbara Henning; Zeidan Kafafi; Will Kennedy; Øystein S. LaBianca; Barbara A. Porter; Suzanne Richard; S. Thomas Parker Library; Robert Schick; Moawiyah Ibrahim Yousef

The Board of Trustees Returns to Amman in 2022

China Shelton

It was with great excitement that the board of trustees met in Amman in late May 2022, with members from the United States and Europe traveling en masse to meet with their Jordanian colleagues in person for the first time since 2018. The trustees typically meet in Amman every other year, but that tradition was preempted in 2020 by the COVID-19 pandemic. The trustees were able to stay in, tour, and admire the renovated building. On May 27 they attended a reception hosted by first vice president Abdelalah Al Khatib, followed by a dinner out. On the morning of May 28, they went to the Amman Citadel to see work on the new path designed to connect the upper

archaeological remains and museum to the lower area around the theater and Roman baths (*ACOR Newsletter* 33.1, pp. 1–2.); the board meeting itself took place later that afternoon. In the evening, we hosted a dinner for the staff, their families, and the trustees, and a wonderful time was had by all. On Sunday May 28 the board traveled together on a field trip to Bayt Ras, where they visited both the painted tomb discovered in 2016 (see also *ACOR Newsletter* 31.2, pp. 1–6) and the theater, the former a SCHEP-supported conservation and documentation project, and the latter where the American Center hopes to contribute to future restoration and conservation work. Reengaging with ACOR-supported projects in person and having the opportunity to reconnect with each other and the center staff was a valuable experience for all.

Trustees

CLASS OF 2023: Mrs. Anne H. Aarnes (Secretary); Mr. Ahmad Abu Ghazaleh; Mr. Geoffrey H. Coll; H.E. Mr. Claus Gielisch; Ambassador Edward W. Gnehm, Jr. (President); H.E. Ms. Hala Bsaisu Lattouf; Mr. Hani Al Kurdi; Ms. Jenna de Vries Morton; Mr. David Nickols (Treasurer); Mr. Laith Al-Qasem

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May 2022 Board Meeting

The American Center of Research board of trustees meeting took place in person on May 28, 2022, in Amman, Jordan (with some members attending remotely via zoom). Ambassador Edward “Skip” Gnehm presided and recognized that a quorum was present. President Gnehm began by remarking on how good the building looks now that the renovations have been completed and what a pleasure it is to be able to meet in Amman again. Executive director Pearce Paul Creasman updated the board on the COVID-19 situation in Jordan and noted that in recent months the pandemic has not been an issue at the center. Renovations to the building were recently completed, and David Nickols expressed thanks to USAID for funding that project. The residence is receiving many bookings, and we are now hosting more workshops and events. There is a new communications officer, the number of people we are reaching online has increased dramatically over the last couple of years, and we are communicating more in Arabic. We are applying for more grants and are optimistic about receiving those, including another SCHEP extension. We are also working with the Department of Antiquities on a few projects, including the cover for the church in Aqaba. The senior staff in Amman (Helen Malko, Jihad Haron, and John Shearman) gave brief reports on their projects. Treasurer David Nickols reported on the center’s financial situation, which is still strong despite recent drops in the stock market. The 2023 budget will be approved at the fall meeting in Boston. John Oleson reported that the library is fully up and running again and we anticipate an increase in the number of visitors. The board elected the class of 2025; Jennifer Ramsay was elected chair of the Fellowship Committee, and Anne Aarnes joined John Oleson as co-chair of the Nominations Committee. The board also voted that Moawiyah Ibrahim be granted emeritus status upon his retirement from the board. It was noted that the annual report would soon be publicly available and that we are working on an updated version of the *50 Years in Jordan* booklet. The American Center’s board of trustees plans to meet in person in fall 2022 at the annual meeting of ASOR in Boston.

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Wedding in Petra: On June 6, 2022, we had the pleasure of hosting a wedding ceremony in Petra. The intimate event, with only four attendees, was permitted by park officials and saw an American and Belgian couple united in matrimony. Our executive director performed the service in front of the Treasury. The couple are grateful to all who made their vows possible in Petra. Photographs have been made available to park officials to help advertise Jordan as a destination-wedding location. So do not be surprised if you see them in advertisements for tourism in Jordan! (Photo by A. Ghareeb.)

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