

ACOR Newsletter

أخبار أكور



No. 1 - November 1989

Launching the ACOR Newsletter

The goal of this newsletter is to keep ACOR friends and alumni informed of major developments and events at the institute. The plan is to publish three issues per year, each dealing with a specific aspect of ACOR's program. Following issues will focus on recent ACOR-based field work and the cultural resource management activities. This issue features research at ACOR, with news about the work done by resident scholars in the last two years and information about the ACOR library. Please send reactions and inquiries to the ACOR director.

Research trends at ACOR

Looking over the work of the nine scholars reported in this issue prompts two observations about the nature of ACOR as a research institute. First, the research done here has gone far beyond "archaeology" into a broad range of disciplines. Among the nine scholars, four are anthropologists, two historians, and one each a geographer, a geologist and an epigrapher. Strikingly, anthropologists have recently made up the largest single group of scholars at ACOR.

Second, the chronological interest falls into a much broader range than it did a decade ago. Three of the scholars deal with the stone ages and three with the Islamic periods. These represent a recent trend away from the more traditional interests in the periods between the Bronze and Byzantine ages. In fact, in all the work being done in Jordan, pre-history now appears most popular, and the Islamic periods are at least equal in stature to the Bronze-to-Byzantine periods.

These statistics signal the fact that research at ACOR is changing rapidly in both subject interest and methodology. Another fact is that seven of the nine are in their twenties or early thirties, at the beginning of their careers. The challenge for ACOR is to be available and serviceable to them when they are at the peaks of their research careers in about the year 2000.

This issue also features the library, because it is the foundation of ACOR's claim to becoming a viable research center. The buildup of the collection is this director's primary development goal. Site access has always been the basic reason for the existence of ACOR. However, site access has to be combined with books in order to give a field researcher the ideal place to prepare her publications.

The urgency of improving the library has amplified recently, because the devaluation of the dinar has greatly diminished the acquisition budgets of the local libraries. Jordanian scholars and students are increasingly counting on ACOR to have the new publications their own libraries can no longer afford. What they do not realize, of course, is that ACOR has no viable acquisition budget beyond voluntary contributions of books and money. It is the strength of your donations that has enabled the healthy growth of the library. We are both grateful and pray that you will keep it up.

Bert de Vries

ACOR Director

Geologist Frank Koucky completes surveys

During 1987-8 Dr. Frank Koucky of Wooster College was NEH fellow at ACOR. He used his tenure to work on reports for various archaeological projects for which he has served as geologist throughout the Near East. In Jordan itself, these included surveys of the surroundings for the Umm el-Jimal and Limes Arabicus Projects and the Wadi Araba Survey.

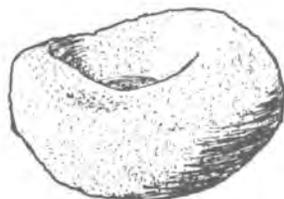
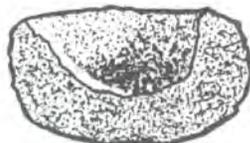
While here, he also took advantage of the improving collection of books at ACOR. He says, "coming from a small college with a limited library there was much reading to catch up on, especially in newer books and journals and some of the very old journals."

During the year he gave two lectures at ACOR, on "The Ancient Metallurgy of Cyprus" and on "The Geology of Palestine."



Frank Koucky

Karen Wright studies ground stone tools



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During the academic year 1987-1988 Katherine Wright worked on her thesis research at ACOR under a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship. The title of her thesis is "Ground Stone Assemblage Variation and Paleoecology in Early Villages of Jordan, 7500-4000 B.C." The term "ground stone" refers in particular to milling tools such as handstones, grinding slabs, mortars and pestals but the term commonly covers a diverse set of artifacts manufactured using the techniques of pecking and grinding.

Prehistorians working on materials of the Epipaleolithic, Neolithic and Chalcolithic periods have focused a great deal of attention on the origins and evolution of village farming, a major problem in the study of human ecology in the Levant. Present evidence suggests hunting and gathering adaptations of the Paleolithic era gradually expanded in scope and eventually came to include effective manipulation of plant and animal reproduction. By the eighth millennium B.C., populations in Jordan occupied villages of varying degrees of permanence, which were supported by combinations of farming, herding, hunting and gathering, as attested by sites such as Beidha and Ain Ghazal. Among the questions asked concerning this problem are: at what point did these villages begin to depend on agriculture (and in particular grain agriculture) and/or herding for their livelihood? Did this dependence develop as early as the Pre-Pottery Neolithic? Did it develop in some

regions and not in others? How were these developments linked with sedentarism?

One of the key indicators of the transition from Epipaleolithic to Neolithic culture is the drastic increase in the number of groundstone tools. The prevalence of these tools is usually interpreted as evidence that the milling of foodstuffs, especially cereals, became common in the Neolithic age. Because these tools are critical evidence for the process of converting harvested grain into consumable form, it is surprising that so little research has been conducted on the variability of these assemblages in the Neolithic. The sophisticated analyses of flint tools (and, for the Late Neolithic and Chalcolithic, of ceramics) and their variations do not yet exist for ground stone assemblages, in spite of the importance of these artifacts for our understanding of ancient economies.

Katherine Wright's research focuses on describing and interpreting details of size, shape and raw materials of ground stone assemblages from three Pre-Pottery Neolithic sites in widely different environments (Beidha, Ain Ghazal, and Wadi Jilat 7), and on changes through time as observed at the Late Neolithic and Chalcolithic sites of Dhuweila and Tell Abu Hamid. In the year here in Jordan she completed the data collection for two of these sites and is in the process of completing the recording of data from the other three.

Andrea Lain, a Teagle Fellow and Fulbright-Hays Dissertation Research Abroad Grant recipient, worked at ACOR on "Bedouin Skeletal Remains of el-Lejjun" during the 1988-9 academic year.

Andrea is investigating a collection of pre-modern bedouin skeletons from the site of el-Lejjun in southern Jordan. Initially, the study was to focus on gender-related trauma. However, insufficient evidence concerning this has been recovered.

Instead, the analysis has turned to researching the dialectical relationship between society and mortuary behavior, including looking at living bedouin societies in an attempt to understand what the placement of the bodies means to the bedouins of the past.

The first step is reconstructing the bedouin population from the skeletal remains. This is accomplished by estimating the age at the time of death and sex of individuals represented by the burials. The ages and sexes of

the Lejjun bedouin conform to an expected distribution, because all age categories are represented and the sexes are present in roughly equal numbers.

Andrea's analysis has shown the population to be a fairly young one, with the oldest individuals around 50. She has discovered one possible case of tuberculosis, and remains from one particular area show certain genetically linked traits not found in the rest of the burial population. There also appears to be a high level of dental disorders throughout the population, primarily in males.

Andrea has also been conversing with professors at Yarmouk University and the University of Jordan in order to learn about earlier bedouin societies. She continued this research while in the field in June and July, interviewing workmen and inhabitants of the Lejjun area.

She is now assembling the results of her study for her Ph.D. thesis at SUNY-Binghamton.

Andrea Lain analyses bedouin skeletal remains of el-Lejjun

Dr. Bryan Byrd spent the 1987-1988 academic year as an ACOR resident supported through an Annual Professorship, a NEH Post-doctoral Fellowship, and a Wenner-Gren Foundation Grant. While at ACOR he pursued research dealing with the Azraq Basin project, including participation as the assistant director during the 1987 field season. The Azraq Basin project is a long-term research venture examining changes in settlement and subsistence strategies during the shift from hunter-gatherer economies to food production during the Late Pleistocene in the arid Azraq Basin region of northeastern Jordan. Investigations have been conducted in the region from 1982 to 1987 under the leadership of Dr. Andrew Garrard, director of the British Institute in Amman. Nine sites, dating from the late Upper Paleolithic (22,000 years BP) through the early Neolithic (10,000 years BP) have been excavated. Among the data recovered has been a robust sample of chipped stone artifacts.

Dr. Byrd's major contribution to the Azraq Basin project has been the research of changes in the use and manufacture of these chipped stone artifacts. By the end of his stay at ACOR, Dr. Byrd had completed the classification of all the lithic assemblages, over 200,000 arti-

facts, and had conducted detailed analyses of tools, cores and a sample of debitage for functional and technological attributes. The analysis focused on intersite variability in the range of tasks for which the stone tools were used, and temporal developments in manufacturing techniques. Since the lithic assemblages represent over 99% of the man-made artifacts recovered, they provide the primary body of evidence for examining the activities that took place at the excavated settlements.

The results of Dr. Byrd's research will be integrated by Dr. Garrard along with the other specialists' reports to form the first volume dealing with this multidisciplinary project. They expect the project to contribute to the understanding of human adaptive changes in an arid region adjacent to the better studied semi-arid areas of the Levant, and to the role these changes played in the development of food-producing economies.

Dr. Byrd praised the ACOR facilities, saying his research benefited from the spacious laboratory used to study the collection in, and the office made available to conduct further analysis. The support given the project by Dr. David McCreery, the former Director of ACOR, was greatly appreciated.

Brian Byrd studies chipped stone tools



Patricia Fall measures deforestation in southern Jordan

During May and June of 1989 Dr. Patricia Fall, accompanied by husband Steve Falconer, investigated deforestation and environmental changes in southern Jordan. Her work was supported by an Albright Fellowship. The object of her study is to measure vegetation changes over the millennia and to correlate these to the denuding effects of human occupation.

Pat is attempting to do this through the analysis of plant fragments preserved in hyrax midden deposits. The hyrax, a foraging animal distantly related to the elephant, collects plant remains in its lair, where its own urine preserves the leftovers as a hard organic deposit that can be radio-carbon dated.

This pilot study in the Near East is analogous to research on pack-rat middens in the

American Southwest. She is using the hyrax midden approach due to the lack of lake or bog sediments for palynological studies, which are frequently used in studying environmental change. Hyrax middens contain both plant macrofossil and pollen evidence which can be analyzed. The southern mountain regions of Jordan have been targeted for this research because the Syrian rock hyrax lives in this region and because its deposits are preserved here in dry caves or rock shelters.

Analysis of midden deposits collected around Petra in 1985 shows a change from a degraded forest during the Nabataean and Roman periods to a steppe vegetation in the Islamic and modern periods. The goal this past summer was to increase the data base and region under study.

William Jobling collects North Arabian inscriptions

Dr. William Jobling, an ACOR annual professor in 1988-9, thanked ACOR and its staff for the support and opportunities provided him during his tenure here. He especially praised the improving library facilities and the assistance provided by the new librarian, Humi Ayoubi.

Dr. Jobling has been researching "North Arabian Inscriptions", coordinating the last 9 years of epigraphic research of the Aqaba-Amman archaeological and epigraphic survey. He considered his time at ACOR valuable as it allowed him to further research the survey inscriptions, including numerous field trips to the South to recatalogue, draw and photograph rock art at previously investigated sites. This further research allows a comparison of South Jordanian epigraphic North Arabian and Nabatean material with similar inscriptions located elsewhere in the Transjordan region.

Working with the help of computers and with a computer based repertoire of North Arabian script, he has commenced work on the analysis of the distinctive differences in the North Arabian alphabet script in order to produce a more scientifically based typology of the script.

"In the past, other researchers have compiled helpful typologies based on sight rather than statistical analysis and this earlier approach in my view has left much room for error, especially with regard to conclusions

about chronology. I hope that my research will contribute to a better and more scientific understanding of the idiosyncrasy of the free-hand writing systems preserved in the deserts of North Arabia," he says.

He is also working on the compilation of a newer edition of Ugaritic myths and legends using the Apple Mac and Mac Semitic programs. He plans to produce a computer based edition using the computer version of the Ugaritic cuneiform signs. This edition is to serve as a teaching and research tool.

Dr. Jobling's interests in semitic writing systems extend back to his doctoral research of the early 70's on Ugaritic and its place in the history of alphabetic evolution in the Levant. As the Annual Professor based at ACOR he had the opportunity to visit Syria and Iraq where he undertook museum and field research in pre-Islamic writing systems. His stay at ACOR also allowed a trip to visit and lecture at the Oriental Institute in Leningrad at the invitation of the Soviet Academy of Science.

Dr. Jobling's time here has also allowed research in dating panels of rock art and epigraphy, and in the applicability to the Near East of cat-ion and cosmic ray track dating techniques used in Australia on aboriginal rock art. The application of this technology has included input from American and Australian physicists passing through Jordan. Though these methods need more work, it is



hoped that future field seasons will see these methods employed.

His photographic exhibit of rock graphiti was displayed at ACOR and at the Registration Center of the Department of Antiquities.

It is currently to be seen at Petra. Having accomplished so much, but with so much yet to do, Dr. Jobling plans to return in the winter of 1989-90 to resume fieldwork.

A recent addition to the ACOR staff is Carmen "Humi" Ayoubi, who has been librarian since August, 1988. Humi took over the librarian duties after the departure of Meryle Gaston. Meryle deserves a great deal of praise for laying the foundation for the current professional appearance of the library. A lot of hard work was put into improving the resources, function and looks of the library, and it shows.

Humi brings an impressive background to ACOR, with a Masters in Library Science and a double major Masters in Education of counselling and student personnel administration, all from Indiana University. She was also the graduate assistant to the Latin American Librarian at Indiana University. Prior to her arrival at ACOR, Humi worked as a senior cataloguer in the University of Jordan library.

Since Humi arrived at the ACOR library, she has worked on the cataloguing backlog and on increasing library acquisitions, and has started improving the map collection. The

library has become a circulating library, accessible to students and scholars outside the ACOR community. Humi has already noticed an increase in the number of Jordanian students using the library resources, and would like to see this trend continue.

Humi says her goal for the library is to develop it into a true research library, open and available to all scholars, and hopes in the future people would come to ACOR to do research at the library. A cooperative effort with other institute and university libraries is designed to avoid duplicate and overlapping acquisition as much as possible.

For the future, Humi states that a library without books isn't really a library. Fund-raising for increased purchasing is therefore a high priority. Another goal is the computerization of the library files and catalogues. Ultimately, the goal is to have a computer system compatible with other resources in Jordan, linking ACOR to other centers and libraries in a national network.

Humi Ayoubi: New Librarian

The trend towards emphasis on Islamic archaeology and history was bolstered by the research of Dr. James Deemer, NEH fellow at ACOR from July 1988 to July 1989. Deemer's major research interest dealt with the question of Jordan's place between the two political poles of Damascus and Cairo in the Islamic Middle Ages. He focused on this broad question by looking at specific topics like the Ayyubid-Mamluk postal system. The sources for this research combine the Islamic archaeological remains of Jordan with the literary and historical Arabic works dealing with the southern Bilad esh-Sham. For the Arabic sources the University of Jordan library was a must, and trips to Cairo very helpful.

Jim also prepared a splendid art history paper entitled "Formal continuity and regional autonomy in the development of geometric interlace patterns on Umayyad floor mosaics in southern Bilad esh-Sham." In it

he argued that the regionally distinctive geometric patterns of the Byzantine Madaba style continued and evolved in the Umayyad period in both Islamic and Christian interlace pattern designs.



Jim and Zaha Deemer

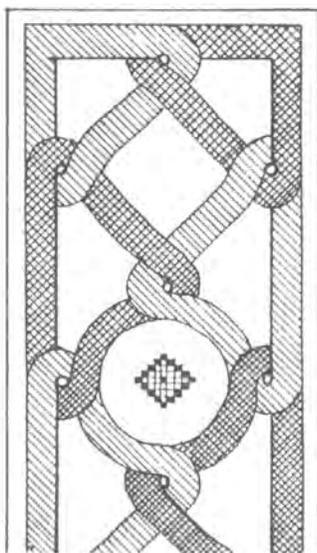
Jim Deemer studies "Jordan between Islamic Egypt and Syria"

Jonathan Mabry: Wadi el-Yabis Survey

From November 1987 to February 1988, Jonathan Mabry researched "Prehistoric Water Management in the Jordan River Valley", supported by a Shell Fellowship. Ethnographic field research of traditional systems of land and water division for irrigation agriculture in the east central Jordan Valley was done in order to compare prehistoric and historic strategies of water management. Farmers in three villages and semi-nomadic farmers in their vicinities were interviewed with the assistance of Afaf Ziadeh, an archaeology/anthropology graduate student from Yarmouk University. Some of the farmers were re-interviewed at intervals throughout the winter growing season. The research focused on traditional social systems for the division and tenure of rights to irrigation water and arable land.

Prehistoric and historic potentials for water management can be reconstructed through archaeological dating of alluvial cycles. A survey for buried archaeological sites in the Jordan River Valley was conducted between November 1987 and March 1988. Traces of twelve *in situ* sites were identified in Holocene alluvial deposits in the southern, central and northern valley. Artifacts indicate the new sites range in date from the late Epipaleolithic to Medieval, though most were prehistoric. The stratigraphic sequence of Holocene deposits was measured, drawn, photographed, and described at each site locality.

Evidence of late prehistoric water manage-



ment was found at Tell el-Handaquq, a large, Early Bronze Age town site, located on the north bank of the Wadi es-Sarar, in the east central Jordan Valley. A preliminary season of fieldwork was carried out between March 11-18, 1988. Mabry directed the work, assisted by Dr. Gaetano Palumbo of the University of Rome, and Wajih Karasneh, the Representative of Jordan's Department of Antiquities.

Systematic collection of surface artifacts yielded flint tools and sherds from the early 4th to the late 3rd millennia B.C. Numerous contemporaneous tombs were found in the nearby hills, which are currently being robbed. A detailed survey of the topography and visible architecture recorded traces of prehistoric stone structures over an area of 25-30 hectares. Among the architectural remains found were massive defensive walls, towers and gates, monumental buildings, terrace walls and dams. A sounding exposed burials and major phases of house construction, as well as a large number of animal bones. Up to two and a half meters of cultural stratigraphy was seen in a 60 meter bulldozer cut through the southwest corner of the site. From the diagnostic artifacts in the cut, seven major Early Bronze Age phases were discernible.

Mabry is continuing his research in the region with an extensive survey of the Wadi el-Yabis catchment area in June-July, 1989. The project is co-directed by Dr. Gaetano Polumbo.

If you visit ACOR, be sure to stop by the periodicals room to enjoy the three sections of mosaics from the Byzantine and Umayyad period church at el-Quwaysma. The mosaics, two Umayyad and one Byzantine, are the result of a salvage excavation conducted by Dr. Robert Schick. Robert has been at ACOR since June of 1987, first as a Shell Fellow for the 1987-88 academic year, and then as an Annual Professor for the winter and spring of 1989.

Robert's main focus has been the study of Christianity in the Byzantine and Early Islamic periods, specifically in Southern Jordan. He has spent much of the last year reading Arabic historical texts in the University of Jordan library. He has been working on a book about Christianity in Southern Jordan, and on articles about the history of the city of

Aqaba and the history of Jordan and Palestine in the Early Abbasid Period. This research follows up his dissertation *The Fate of Christians in Palestine during the Byzantine-Umayyad Transition, A.D. 600-750*, completed at the University of Chicago in 1987.

Robert has also assisted in editing three volumes of the Annual of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan, and edited the collected papers of a conference on the History of Bilad esh-Sham in the Umayyad period held in October 1987. His time has also been spent working on a number of excavations, including Aqaba, the rescue excavation at el-Quwaysma, Mt. Nebo, and Umm el-Rasas. He worked in the field at Humayma and Umm el-Rasas this summer, and is finishing his dissertation revision for publication.

Robert Schick: Churches in transition

The ACOR Library: An Expanding, Quality Resource Facility

By: Burton MacDonald

Purpose

The main purpose of the ACOR Library is to support the research needs of its resident and visiting scholars. It also serves as a resource to Jordanian scholars and graduate students, as well as to researchers from other scholarly institutions with which ACOR cooperates. Fields of particular relevance to the library's users are: the archaeology of Jordan, Palestine, and Syria (prehistoric, Biblical, Classical, and Islamic); the history and culture of Jordan; Middle Eastern anthropology; Islamic art and architecture; Middle Eastern/Islamic history and culture; preservation and conservation of antiquities and sites; and Biblical studies (particularly the Old Testament). In general, the collection concentrates on subjects relevant to the fields of archaeology and the Middle East, with primary emphasis on Jordan. The library is, thus, specialized and selective, and serves a very special clientele.

History and Content

The nucleus of the ACOR library is the G. Ernest Wright collection which was purchased in 1976. This collection's strengths are Biblical archaeology and Old Testament studies. Another significant addition to the library was the J. Lawrence Angel collection donated in 1987, which built up the library's holdings in physical and forensic anthropology. Many of ACOR's visiting and resident scholars have donated materials from their own libraries or their own publications. The collection contains a large number of unpublished manuscripts (including dissertations and excavation reports) dealing with topics of interest to Jordanian/Palestinian archaeology and history.

Over the years, funding, acquisitions and personnel have varied tremendously. This accounts for the serious gaps in the library's collections. Assessment reports, based on checking appropriate bibliographies against ACOR's holdings, reveal many gaps in the library's primary areas of specialization, such as Jordanian/Palestinian archaeology and history, and serious lacunae in other areas such as Islamic/Middle Eastern Studies, appropriate reference sources, and indexing/abstracting services.

The library contains approximately 5000 monograph volumes; 345 periodical titles equalling approximately 4000 volumes (118 of these titles are received currently through subscription or exchange); and approximately 530 single sheet maps of geological and archaeological interest.

The library is cataloged according to the Anglo-American Cataloging Code (2nd edition) and uses Library of Congress classification and subject headings. It follows Library of Congress cataloging practice and relies on its cataloging whenever practicable.

Sources and Methods of Acquisition

In the past, the funding for library acquisitions has varied. The collection has been highly dependent on gifts (both monetary and in kind) and exchanges. At its June 1988 meeting, the ACOR Board of Trustees resolved to make a continuing commitment to the library, for both personnel and library acquisitions.

Decisions for the acquisitions of materials for the library are made by the librarian and/or director in accordance with a precisely formulated acquisition policy. A regular program of selection is pursued, dependent upon the availability of financial resources, using current awareness sources. Because there are many gaps in the ACOR collection, especially as concerns earlier imprints, a regular program of retrospective acquisitions must be followed. A survey of former and current visiting scholars was conducted in 1984 to obtain individual suggestions for the ACOR collection. These suggestions were used in ascertaining the collection areas of importance to the library. Most materials acquired are in English, but a significant number of volumes in other European languages and Arabic are also joining the collection.



Materials for the library are acquired in three ways, namely, purchase; donation; and exchange.

Purchase:

Materials are purchased according to the guidelines set forth above. However, more funding is required to carry this out in a systematic fashion.

Donations:

The same selection criteria must be applied to gifts as are applied to regular purchases in order to ensure the continuing development of a quality collection. Gifts are rejected if they are not deemed appropriate for the ACOR collection. Materials donated to the library are evaluated for income tax purposes. If the value of the material is \$1,000.00 or less, the evaluation can be done by the donor. The donor, however, needs a letter, for income tax purposes, acknowledging receipt of the material by ACOR. Materials worth more than \$1,000.00 must be evaluated by an independent assessor. ACOR cannot be the assessor for such donations. At present, the donation of several important personal libraries is pending. These donations are expected to add greatly to the library's retrospective acquisitions.

Exchange:

Many of the library's periodical subscriptions are acquired through an ASOR-sponsored exchange. Consequently, ACOR does not have complete control over the titles selected for receipt. Exchange titles deemed inappropriate are rejected.

Other Area Resources

ACOR, as an institute and a library, has close relations and/or interests with several area institutions. These include the British Institute for Archaeology and History; the German Protestant Institute for Archaeology; the Institut Francais Archeologique du Proche-Orient; the Department of Antiquities of Jordan; the Department of Archaeology and History at the University of Jordan; and the Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology at Yarmouk University. All of these institutions have collections of interest to ACOR-related scholars.

Library Personnel

Meryle Gaston, Near Eastern Librarian, E. H. Bobst Library, New York University, spent the 1986-87 academic year in residence at ACOR. She reviewed the condition of the library's catalogue and brought it up-to-date. She developed an ACOR library collection policy with respect to both retrospective and current purchasing. She assessed the possibility of automating library functions at ACOR. She studied a number of computer programs and became quite enthused with the system that the Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute in Nicosia is developing. She concluded that that system would need a few modifications, but at minimal cost.

Humi (Carmen) Ayoubi is presently serving as ACOR's librarian. She replaced Meryle in September 1988. She is a professional librarian with a Masters Degree in Library Science from Indiana University, Bloomington.

The Library Committee of the ACOR Board of Trustees, chaired by Burton MacDonald, is actively pursuing a program of informing ACOR users and/or friends of the library's needs. It has initiated contacts with several institutions and individuals in an attempt to increase the library's collection. The committee realizes that the library is a unique scholarly resource in Jordan. It is attempting to improve that resource into a first-rate facility for current as well as prospective users.

Meryle Gaston, a member of the Library Committee, will serve as the "clearing house" for materials donated to the ACOR library. She can be contacted at 18E, 8th Street, #3B, New York, NY 10003 or at the E. H. Bobst Library, New York University, 70 Washington Square, South, New York, NY 010012.

Two new newsletters on Jordanian archaeology

Individuals and institutions around the world interested in keeping up with new research into the history, archaeology and ethnography of Jordan should be interested in two new newsletters published in Jordan and available to subscribers outside the country. The Friends of Archaeology Society has established a new category of "non-resident member". For an annual membership fee of just \$10, non-resident members will receive the monthly newsletter of the Friends of Archaeology, with regular listings of lectures, fieldtrips, fieldwork in progress, exhibitions in Jordan and abroad, members' news, and publications. Three times a year, the Friends of Archaeology, in cooperation with the Department of Antiquities and Al Kutba Publishers, publishes a newsletter entitled Ancient Jordan, with brief reports on the latest results of new fieldwork. Non-resident members of the Friends of Archaeology will receive both newsletters.

Interested individuals or institutions should send their \$10 membership fee to Muna Zaghoul, FoA Treasurer, P.O.Box 2440, Amman, Jordan (Telephone 659978).

The ACOR Newsletter is published three times per year, edited by Dr. Bert de Vries and published at Al Kutba in Amman, Jordan. Send inquiries and comments to the editor at ACOR, P.O.Box 2470, Amman, Jordan.

The reports on research were written by the researchers, the editor and Peter Warnock. Graphics in this issue are by Randa Azar Sayegh except the chipped tool (courtesy of Dr. Brian Byrd) and the Thamudic inscription (courtesy of Dr. William Jobling). The mosaic pattern is from the el-Quwaysma Church and the ground stone objects are from Tell Abu-Hamid. Newsletter design by Maha Zabaneh Madbak.