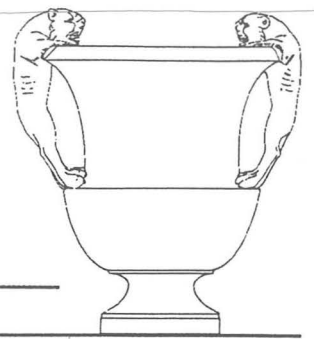


ACOR Newzette

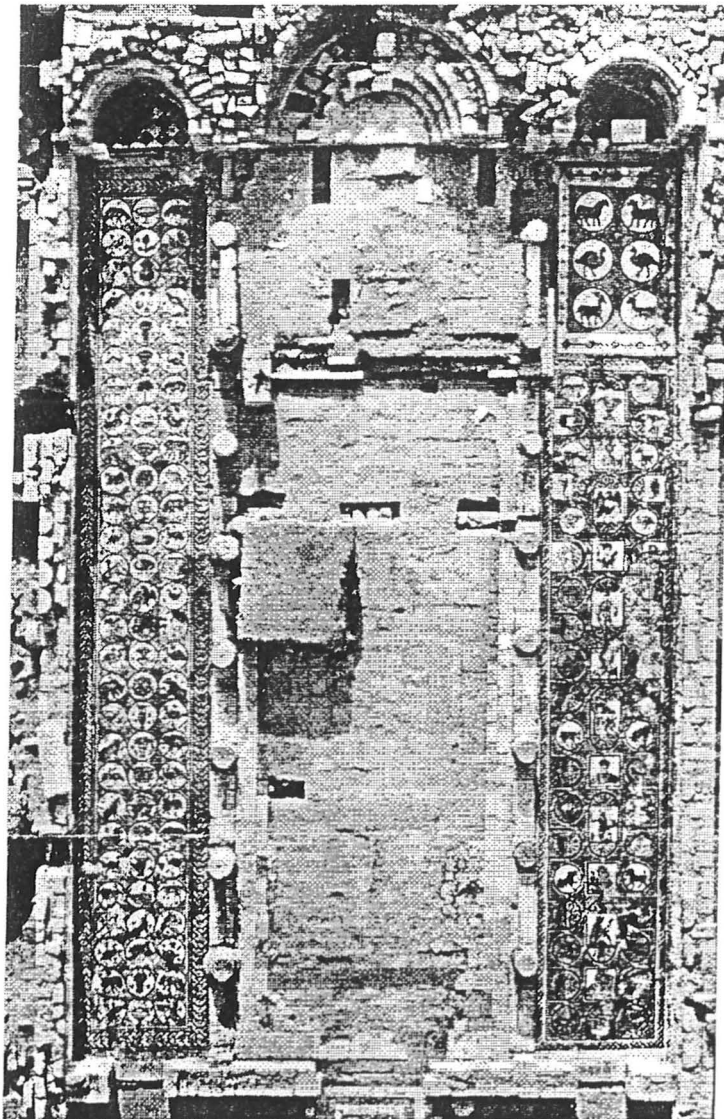
Vol. 1.6 — June 1993



Current Fieldwork Projects

The Great Temple of Amman, Restoration, ACOR/Department of Antiquities, Chryssanthos Kanellopoulos
Petra Church Project, Restoration and Shelter, ACOR/Department of Antiquities, Pierre Bikai, Zbigniew Fiema, Robert Schick, Khairieh 'Amr

Cultural Resource Management (CRM) Program, ACOR/Department of Antiquities, Gaetano Palumbo and Dr. Safwan Tell, Director-General of the DAJ
Balloon Project: ACOR/Ministry of Tourism, Wil and Ellie Myers
All the above are funded by USAID



Aerial view of the Petra church. Photo by J. Wilson and Eleanor Myers.

Madaba: Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities/ACOR: Roman Road Project, Ghazi Bisheh; Shelters for the Apostles' Church, the Church of the Virgin and the Hippolytus Hall, Ammar Khammash; Archaeological Park, Pierre Bikai, Tim Harrison, Branwen Denton

ACOR-Affiliated Projects

Humeima, U. of Victoria, John Oleson
Tell Jawa, Wilfrid Laurier U., Michèle Daviau
Tell Nimrin, Willamette U., Case Western Reserve U., David McCreery, Jim Flanagan
Tell Handaquq and Jebel el-Jil, Harvard U., Meredith Chesson and Ian Kuijt
Wadi Hasa Paleolithic Project, Arizona State U., Geoffrey A. Clark
Um el-Jimal, Calvin College, Bert de Vries

Fellows in Residence

Dr. Lynn Killean, USIA Fellow, ASAIIP Coordinator, U. of Chicago, "Sociolinguistic Style Variation in Jordan"
Mr. Eric Lapp, USIA Fellow, Duke U., "Trade connections as determined by petrographic, X-Ray diffraction and neutron activation analysis of ceramic oil lamps and associated pottery"
Mr. Brian Fitzgerald, USIA Fellow, Princeton Theological Seminary, "The Christianization of Gerasa"
Mr. Nicholas Alexander, USIA Fellow, U. of Michigan, "The Oral Poetry of Jordanian Bedouin: Current Trends"
Dr. Laurie Brand, USIA Fellow, U. of Southern California, "The Impact of Political and Economic Liberalization on Women in Jordan"
Linda Adams, USIA Fellow, Baylor U., "Political party formation in Jordan: An examination of the sociopolitical impact of the state"
Andrew Smith, USIA Fellow, North Carolina State U., "Southeast Araba Archaeological Reconnaissance"
Jane Peterson, USIA Fellow, Arizona State U., "Tracking changes in the sexual division of labor with the development of domestication economies: evidence from the Levant"
Peter Warnock, USIA Fellow, Consultancy, U. of Missouri Columbia, "Macrobotanical laboratory and study collection"
Mike Neeley, USIA Fellow, Arizona State U., "Levantine Epipaleolithic lithic assemblage variability"
Tom Paradise, USIA Fellow, U. of Hawaii, Petra Sandstone Weathering Project

Ms. Marion Katz, ASAIP Fellow, U. of Chicago
Ms. Charlene Constable, ASAIP Fellow, U. of Washington
Mr. Tim Gianotti, ASAIP Fellow, U. of Toronto
Also in residence are Arabic students Jenny Klages and Mike Shamatt and Fulbrighter Mike Doran from Princeton who is studying "Inter-Arab Relations in the 1950s"

Happenings at ACOR

- May 12. Pierre and Patricia host a going-away party for departing USIA and ASAIP Fellows
- May 13. Chris Hedges of the New York Times pays ACOR a visit and agrees to do a write-up of the Petra Church.
- May 14. The Jawa and Humeima teams descend upon ACOR.
- May 15. The Tell Nimrin team and the rest of the Humeima team descend upon ACOR.
- May 15. Submissions for the competition to design the Petra Church shelter arrive.
- May 16. Chryss puts up another column drum (2nd from the bottom) on column two.
- May 21. A bus full of tourists arrives at ACOR. Pierre extracts a \$50 donation, sells one mosaic book and then seven of Jim Mason's bowls to this hapless and unsuspecting group.
- May 21. ACOR Trustee Tom Parker arrives. The ACOR U.S. representative, Robin Brown, is released from the hospital in Baltimore, much to everyone's (especially Robin's) relief.
- May 22. The rest of Michèle Daviau's Tell Jawa crew arrives.
- May 22. The Myers fly their balloon at Um er-Rasas despite being one tank short of helium. They can only go up to 300 meters, but the pictures are of the entire fortress.
- May 22. Pierre takes apart and "fixes" the new microwave oven—without having turned it on in the first place to see if it actually works or not! Pierre is now glowing with pride.
- May 24. The carpenters come by and install new shelves on top of the existing shelf units in the library. Humi estimates that this new space will accommodate the books donated and purchased in recent months which have been sitting in Pat Masri's library storeroom. Two more boxes of books donated via Robin Brown are unpacked an hour later—putting the library at a shelving deficit—AGAIN!!
- May 26. Kathy says: "That's the second time somebody asked me that today. I don't know how these people manage to get Ph.D.'s!"
- May 27. The titanium rods for the Temple of Hercules arrive and another column drum goes up on the Temple of Hercules.
- May 27. Six Jawa-ites (Jawanians?) miss their graduation day but Pierre delivers special cakes and sings "Pomp and Circumstance."
- May 27. Everybody decides its a good day to quit ACOR and take some much needed R&R on the Azores. The Tell Handaquq excavation team arrives. Kathy begins a 10 day vacation—the first since the beginning of her employment at ACOR. Her words upon leaving the building: "If there are any problems—DON'T CALL ME!"
- May 28. Pierre and Patricia escape to Petra for a much needed vacation. No idea when (or if) they will return.
- May 29. Two busloads of journalists arrive in Petra for a tour of the church and the mosaics conducted by Pierre and Zbig. (So much for the Bikais' vacation.) CNN interviews Zbig, Olivia Alberti and Tom Roby.
- May 29. Chryss' "Eid Project" (really, his latest toy!), a 1:20 scale model of a Greek/Roman crane arrives from the modelmaker. He begins final assembly.
- May 29. Another drum is set into place on column two of the Temple of Hercules.
- May 29. Four massive crates arrive from Aqaba at 11:00 PM (the fume hood and cabinets; and the flotation separator for the conservation lab).
- May 31. After seeing himself on Jordan TV for the second time in two weeks and giving yet another interview to the international press (The Washington Times), Petra co-director Zbig Fiema is collapsing from the weight of the glory and fame.
- June 2. Peter Warnock lugs 25 lbs. of brown sugar and 20 lbs. of chocolate chips through the airport. We think he likes Mohammed's cookies.
- June 2. Mike Neeley opens a package that was mailed to him on the third of March, 1992. It contains old magazines, a plastic bag of now-powdered chocolate Easter eggs, but NO PEANUT BUTTER!
- June 4. Pierre and Patricia return from Petra. Chryss, Glen and Peter string up the Roman crane model and "fine tune it—like a Stradivarius."
- June 6. Patricia finishes the mock-up and text editing for ACOR's 25th Anniversary book. A few minor additions and its ready to go to press!
- June 7. Anthi gets a call from her mother—the Petra Church has made the Greek newspapers!
- June 8. The Labconco fume hood is unpacked and set into place. Glen and Peter Warnock begin assembly of the fume extraction system.
- June 8. Landscape architect Mary Mattocks takes charge of the design and implementation of the new patios being installed in the front and side yards.
- June 8. Prince Edward (son of Queen Elizabeth) pays a visit to the Madaba project and the Petra Church.
- June 9. At long last the paper for *The Mosaics of Jordan* arrives at the Jordan Press Foundation.
- June 11. A moment of PANIC ensues when laundry intended for members of the Jawa crew is found to be enroute to Humeima. Kathy frantically tries to locate the culprits by calling every Pizza Hut in Amman.
- June 11. Former ACOR Director Bert de Vries arrives to begin work at Um el-Jimal.

The logo on the title page is a drawing of a large marble urn with lionesses as handles uncovered at Petra. It is Roman but was apparently reused in the church. It was restored by Olivia Alberti from over 120 pieces.

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ACOR Newzette



Vol. 1.7 — July 1993

Current Fieldwork Projects

The Great Temple of Amman, Restoration, ACOR/Department of Antiquities, Chryssanthos Kanellopoulos
Petra Church Project, Restoration and Shelter, ACOR/Department of Antiquities, Pierre Bikai, Zbigniew Fiema, Robert Schick, Khairieh 'Amr

Madaba: Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities/ACOR: Roman Road Project, Ghazi Bisheh; Shelters for the Apostles' Church, the Church of the Virgin and the Hippolytus Hall, Ammar Khammash

Cultural Resource Management (CRM) Program, ACOR/Department of Antiquities, Gaetano Palumbo and Dr. Safwan Tell, Director-General of the DAJ

'Ain Ghazal, Excavation (with Yarmouk University). Zeidan Kafafi, Gary Rollefson

Um er-Rasas Feasibility Study. Michele Piccirillo

All the above are funded by USAID

ACOR-Affiliated Projects

Tell Nimrin, Case Western Reserve U., Willamette U., James Flanagan, David McCreery,
Wadi Hasa Paleolithic Project, Arizona State U., Geoffrey A. Clark

Umm el-Jimal, Calvin College, Bert de Vries

Levantine Mousterian Project, U. of Tulsa, Don Henry

Tell el-Fukhar, Danish Palestine Exploration Fund, John Strange

The South Temple, Petra, Brown U., Martha Joukowsky

This month ACOR celebrates its 25th anniversary. A number of events are planned:

Tues., July 27th, 5 pm: Colloquium: "ACOR at 25."

6:30 pm: Official dedication of the new conservation laboratory.

7 pm: Reception

Wed., July 28th, 6 pm: Ceremony at the Citadel marking the completion of the Great Temple of Amman restoration project

Additionally, there is an exhibit at ACOR on the past 25 years and a new publication: *ACOR: The First 25 Years*.

Fellows in Residence

Eric Lapp, USIA Fellow, Duke U., "Trade connections as determined by petrographic, X-Ray diffraction and neutron activation analysis of ceramic oil-lamps and associated pottery"

Brian Fitzgerald, USIA Fellow, Princeton Theological Seminary, "The Christianization of Gerasa"

Nicholas Alexander, USIA Fellow, U. of Michigan, "The Oral Poetry of Jordanian Bedouin: Current Trends"

Andrew Smith, USIA Fellow, North Carolina State U., "Southeast Araba Archaeological Reconnaissance"

Jane Peterson, USIA Fellow, Arizona State U., "Tracking changes in the sexual division of labor with the development of domestication economies: evidence from the Levant"

Peter Warnock, USIA Fellow, Consultancy, U. of Missouri, Columbia, "Macrobotanical laboratory and study collection"

Mike Neeley, USIA Fellow, Arizona State U., "Levantine Epipaleolithic lithic assemblage variability"

Edith Dunn, USIA Fellow, Columbia U., Documentation and Evaluation of Vernacular Jordanian Villages

Laurie Brand, USIA Fellow, U. of Southern California, The impact of political and economic liberalization on women in Jordan.

Happenings at ACOR (July 1993)

June 13. Kathy states, "I leave the windows in the office open—that way anything that blows away I don't have to deal with!"

June 13. The Myers' balloon photographs of the Citadel and the Petra Church arrive. An hour later, the model of the Great Temple of Amman arrives—Christmas in June!!

June 14. Pierre claims that he has found the "first, the oldest and the best bicycle ever built in Jordan"—at the bottom of the Madaba Cistern.

June 14. Peter Warnock conducts the first real tests of the Dausman flotation separator with charred tomato seeds. The recovery rates: 93%, 96% and 100%!!

June 14. ACOR gets turned down for the ASHA grant.

June 14. Geoff Clark's Wadi Hasa Paleolithic crew arrives.

June 15. Peter Kovach of USIS arrives for lunch and brings along five boxes of books donated to the ACOR library.

June 17. Rumor of a hoard of gold Byzantine coins found at Tell Nimrin reaches ACOR. The newest Pteranodon flies at ACOR—in Branwen and Glen's office.

June 18. Two rather lost members of the 'Ain Ghazal team arrive at ACOR. The funding for their project has yet to be approved.



Chryssanthos Kanellopoulos and Glen Peterman with the model of the crane. Photo by A. Koutsoukou.

SPORTS (Yes, Sports!)

July 9. A contingent from ACOR is invited to the "in-house" U.S. Embassy 4th of July party. In the volleyball tournament, ACOR's pick-up team of "pansy archaeologists" wins the championship by spiking the stuffing out of the team composed mainly of U.S. MARINES!! ("pound for pound the finest soldiers in the world"). The ACOR Dirt Dogs humiliate the leathernecks in the final game with a 15-6 score. When the ACOR team asks what they have won, they are told "the bragging rights"—and they've been using them!! Congratulations to Peter Warnock, Mike "the Spike" Neeley, Jane Peterson, Andrew Smith, Zbig Fiema and Mike Forstadt.

June 19. Chryss raises into place another column drum.
 June 20. Glen receives a panicked call from somewhere in the Jordan Valley—"We found a gigantic wall—a huge stone wall two meters tall, with 3 meters of mudbricks on top of that! We're afraid of it!!! What do we do??"
 June 21. Pierre proudly shows off the Roman walls on the Citadel and Pierre, Patricia and Glen make a pilgrimage to the Church of St. George in the garden of Peake Pasha's house.
 June 21. Tom Parker's film crew arrives from the U.S. to film 15 major sites in Jordan in as many days.
 June 23. Pierre is interviewed by Tom Parker's video crew. The installation of the Naderman fume extraction system nears completion.
 June 24. The judging of the shelter designs for the Petra Church begins. The blue-ribbon panel convenes in the ACOR lecture room.
 June 24. The installation of the fume extraction system and the airbrasive unit is completed.
 June 25. Peter Kovach (USIS) and his guest Leila Fawwaz of Tufts University pay a visit to ACOR.
 June 27. Tom Parker's film crew leaves for the States. They promise to put together a 5-minute video on ACOR.
 June 27. Mohammed makes his special brownies for dessert. **FEEDING FRENZY!!! FEEDING FRENZY!!!**
 June 27. More chaos, mayhem and fun with large vehicles on the Citadel. During the Ministry of Tourism-funded work on the Citadel (which Pierre is directing with Mo-

ammed Najjar) a driver manages to flip the front-end loader upside down in a trench near the Byzantine Church. Pierre, in shock and surprise, falls on top of Mohammed Najjar from a tree he was cutting. The bulldozer is righted but Pierre and Mohammed have some nasty scratches to deal with.

June 30. Excavations begin in earnest on Khirbet Salameh, the ACOR/U. of Jordan field school directed by Pierre.

June 30. Chryss puts up the "necking" drum for the second column.

July 1. Don Henry's excavation crew arrives. Gary Rollefson arrives to begin work at 'Ain Ghazal. Pierre presents the Tall Jawa and Humeima crews with a special cake (with gooey red maple leaves) in honor of Canada Day.

July 2. With a little bit of superglue, the Pteranodon (now named Imelda) flies again!

July 3. Chryss puts up the second column capital.

July 5. Chryss decides that it is not feasible to restore the architrave on the Temple of Hercules

July 7. Ambassador Harrison and the ACOR trustees come to lunch for a farewell salute. Ambassador and Mrs. Harrison are presented with the ACOR Distinguished Service Medal.

July 7. Fred Cadora's group arrives and fills up the building. They are high school social science teachers from all over the U.S. who have been participating in a 3-year program funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities at Ohio State. They have been learning Arabic and about the Arab world. During their 5-week stay here they will have intensive language training and a multitude of lectures on all aspects of Jordan and the region.

July 8. Chryss puts up another drum for column three.

July 11. The first copy of ACOR: *The First Twenty-Five Years* arrives.

July 12. Chryss decides to try to restore the architrave, to see if it will work. Stay tuned.

July 12. The Xerox machine fails again. Kathy says that she was told it's the "zipper-stripper" or the "flipper-gripper" or something like that that's broken.

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ACOR Newzette

Vol. 1.10 —October 1993

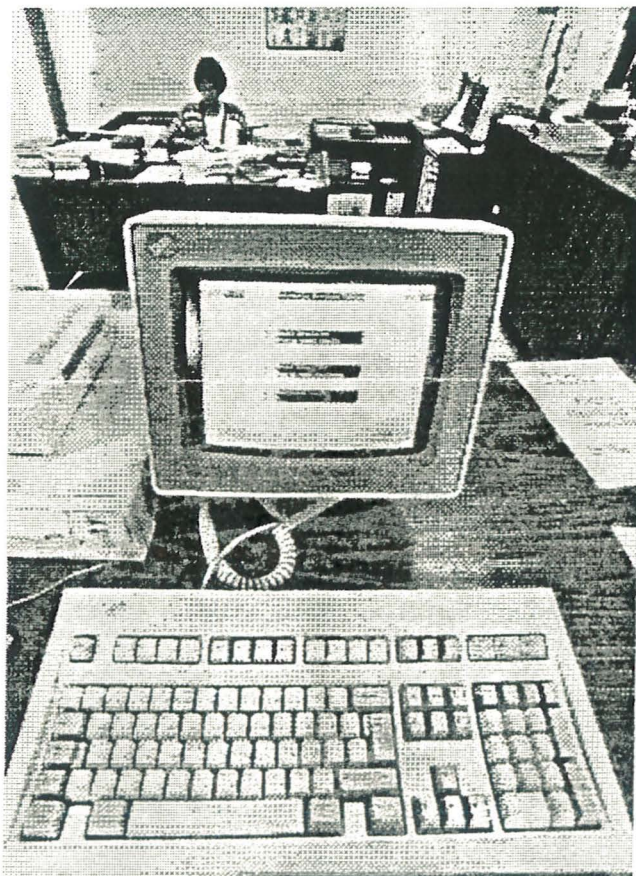


Current Fieldwork Projects

Madaba, Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities and ACOR/USAID: Burnt Palace, Ghazi Bisheh; Shelters for the Apostles' Church, Church of the Virgin and the Hippolytus Hall, Ammar Khammash; Archaeological Park, Pierre Bikai, Branwen Denton and Michele Piccirillo
Cultural Resource Management (CRM) Program, ACOR/USAID and the Department of Antiquities, Gaetano Palumbo and Dr. Safwan Tell, Director-General of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan
St. George's Church, Jebel ai-Webdeh, ACOR and the Shoman Foundation, Pierre Bikai
Petra, Petra Church North Rooms and Atrium Project, ACOR/USAID, Pierre Bikai and Zbigniew Fiema
Amman Citadel Beautification, Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities/ACOR, Mohammed Najjar and Pierre Bikai

Research Projects

Lehun, Denyse Homès-Fredericq and Claude Saba, Musées Royaux, Brussels
Tell Abu Kharaz, Peter Fischer, University of Goteborg.



The computerized library catalogue went into service this month. Congratulations to Librarian Humi Ayoubi and all the others who helped. Photo by Glen Peterman.

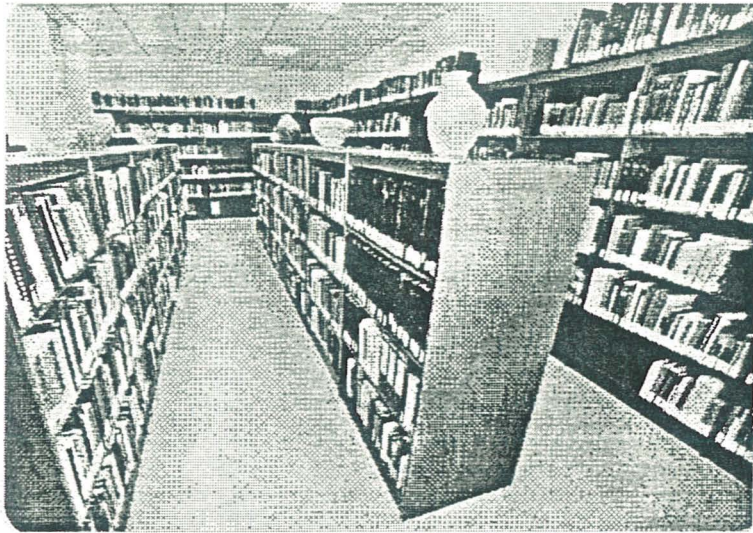
Tell Reheil Survey and Excavation, Gaetano Palumbo, University of Rome.

Fellows in Residence

Robert Schick, USIA Fellow, el-Quweisma Church Publication
Marie-Jeanne Roche, Dodge Fellow, The Origins and Background of the Khirbet et-Tannur Temple Sculptures: Research on Ancient Edomite Communities of the Nabatean Period
Abdu Maiki, USIA Fellow, Computer Database of the Byzantine Churches of Jordan
Irfan Shahid, USIA Fellow, The Ghassanid Structures in the 6th century and their Relevance to those of the Umayyads in Islamic times.
Marie Alanen, USIA Fellow, Architectural Reuse at Jerash; A Case Study in Transformations of the Urban Fabric, A.D. 100-750
Bruce Borthwick, ASAIP Coordinator, Albion College
Amy Bentley, ASAIP Fellow, Georgetown U.
Rochelle Davis, ASAIP Fellow, U. of Michigan
Timothy Werner, ASAIP Fellow, Harvard U.
Eric Evans (unaffiliated Fulbright), Arabic studies
Stefania Dodoni (unaffiliated), Arabic studies
Stefania Cunial (unaffiliated), Arabic Studies

Happenings at ACOR

Sept. 11. Madaba Project Chief Archaeologist Ghazi Bisheh undergoes emergency surgery in Madaba.
Sept. 13. Patricia is busy on the index of *The Mosaics of Jordan*. She says she is somewhere "between jellyfish and Jerash."
Sept. 14. Patricia gets the \$300,000 phone call from Peter Kovach. NMERTA received final approval from Congress. Robin sends out the advertising from Baltimore.
Sept. 14. Bruce Borthwick, ASAIP Coordinator arrives.
Sept. 15. The rest of the ASAIP group arrives.
Sept. 16. Suha Shoman donates two paintings of Petra.
Sept. 18. Fatma Marii completes the cleaning of the wall mosaic fragments from Petra.
Sept. 18. We learn that the hospital in Madaba is automatically transferring all telephone calls directly to Ghazi Bisheh's room. Apparently he has so many friends calling that the hospital staff got tired of answering the phone!!
Sept. 18. Her Majesty Queen Noor visits Petra and Zbig shows her the mosaics of the Petra Church.
Sept. 19. Glen escapes to Greece for 10 days.
Sept. 19. Leslie Wilkens, Rare Book Librarian at the American University of Cairo, visits ACOR and advises on rare books and library security.
Sept. 23. A new mosaic is discovered in the Church of St. George.
Sept. 24. Zbig reports that he and his workmen have moved 120 cubic meters of stone at Petra in 6 days.



ACOR Library: So many of our friends are contributing to the library that the books are now being shelved on top of the cases. Funding is being sought to implement the library expansion in the periodicals room. Photo by Glen Peterman.

Sept. 26. A member of the Petra crew, Deborah Kooring, arrives.

Sept. 30. Pierre and Patricia host a working breakfast for Dr. Antonio Almagro who is directing the Spanish excavations at the Umayyad Palace on the Citadel.

Sept. 30. There is a special send-off at lunch, complete with cake, for Fatma Marii, who is suspending her work for the Petra Church Project in order to be an intern at the conservation lab of the Institute of Archaeology at Yarmouk U. She is almost reduced to tears when in-



Wall mosaics from Petra, currently being restored.

formed that Zbig has been finding more tesserae in the new excavation area (he only found two).

Oct. 1. The Bikais escape to Petra for a few days.

Oct. 1. Robin reports that the ASOR office is overrun with a zillion mice, which leave "messages" on Rudy's desk calendar but, strangely, leave Robin's office unmolested. She speculates that her North African perfume (Lac de Tunis) is keeping them away.

Oct. 2. Peter Fisher's Abu Kharaz excavation team arrives.

Oct. 3. Pierre and Patricia return from their usual "vacation" in Petra: one of them returns as sick as a dog. This time it's Pierre.

Oct. 3. USIA Fellows Marie Alanen and Irfan Shahid arrive.

Oct. 4. Gaetano heads off to the Jordan Valley to check the alignment of a new road from South Shuneh to Mashareh right next to the Jordan River.

Oct. 4. After Kathy gives a wake-up call to USIA Fellow Marie Alanen—asleep for 15 hours after

her flight from L.A.—Marie says, "I'm really out of it!" Kathy says, "she'll fit right in around here!"

Oct. 4. Branwen spends another fun-filled day in exotic downtown Madaba. The owner of the house she is inspecting tells her that it is the oldest one in Madaba (the fourth person to do so). He also asserts that it is the "oldest house in Jordan!" Branwen vows to pass on this astounding piece of information to Gary Rollefson at once.

Oct. 4. Tom Dailey and Patricia finish the editing of the mosaics book. Tom Dailey says, "I think we're done!"

Oct. 5. Gaetano reports that the sites of Um er-Rasas, and Mount Nebo have been protected through a rezoning of the area.

Oct. 6. Prince Ra'ad pays a visit to ACOR and delivers the presentation for *The Mosaics of Jordan*, signed by His Majesty King Hussein.

Oct. 6. Languages spoken in the Center this month include: Arabic, Dutch, English, Flemish, French, German, Italian, Polish, Spanish and Swedish and—of course—"amurken."

Oct. 8. Tom Dailey and Patricia finish the editing of the mosaics book (for the fourth time). Tom Dailey claims, "I think we're done!" Fat chance.

Oct. 9. Pierre redecorates the ACOR living room. Karsten Korber, Asst. Director of the German Institute takes one look and remarks to Pierre, "It's nice." Less than a minute later he quietly mutters the truth to Patricia: "Wow! That's really awful!!" Everyone in the house agrees and, as a result, interior decorating is excluded from Pierre's job description.

Oct. 10. Glen, Patricia and Sa'id install the ACOR section of the Petra exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Oct. 10. The Bikais host a welcome party for this semester's ACOR fellowship holders.

Oct. 10. Stefania Sofra of the Tell Reheil team arrives, bringing the number of Italian students in the house to three, ALL named Stefania. We wonder what the odds of that are.

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ACOR Newzette

Vol. 1.11—November 1993



Current Fieldwork Projects

Madaba, Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities and ACOR/USAID: Burnt Palace; Ghazi Bisheh; Shelters for the Apostles' Church, Church of the Virgin and the Hippolytus Hall, Ammar Khammash; Archaeological Park, Pierre Bikai, Branwen Denton, Beatrice St. Laurent and Michele Piccirillo

Cultural Resource Management (CRM) Program, ACOR/USAID and the Department of Antiquities, Gaetano Palumbo and Dr. Safwan Tell, Director-General of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan

St. George's Church, Jebel al-Webdeh, ACOR and the Shoman Foundation, Pierre Bikai

Petra, Petra Church North Rooms and Atrium Project, ACOR/USAID, Pierre Bikai and Zbigniew Fiema
Aqaba/Ayla, ACOR/USAID/U. of Chicago, Donald Whitcomb

Research Projects

Tell Reheil Survey and Excavation, Gaetano Palumbo, University of Rome.



Zbig Fiema (right) explains the Petra mosaics to Her Majesty Queen Noor as the Secretary General of the Ministry of Tourism, Nasri Atalla, looks on.

Fellows in Residence

Marie-Jeanne Roche, Dodge Fellow, The Origins and Background of the Khirbet et-Tannur Temple Sculptures: Research on Ancient Edomite Communities of the Nabatean Period

Abdo Malki, USIA Fellow, Computer Database of the Byzantine Churches of Jordan

Irfan Shahid, USIA Fellow, The Ghassanid Structures in the 6th century and their Relevance to those of the Umayyads in Islamic times.

Marie Alanen, USIA Fellow, Architectural Reuse at Jerash; A Case Study in Transformations of the Urban Fabric, A.D. 100-750

Bruce Borthwick, ASAIP Coordinator, Albion College

Amy Bentley, ASAIP Fellow, Georgetown U.

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Timothy Werner, ASAIP Fellow, Harvard U.

Eric Evans (unaffiliated Fulbright), Arabic studies

Stefania Dodoni (unaffiliated), Arabic studies

Stefania Cunial (unaffiliated), Arabic Studies

Happenings at ACOR

Oct. 12. ACOR is "invaded" by a regiment of soldiers who have come to inspect the model of Roman Lejjun for a seminar on strategy and tactics. Patricia is told that a photograph is "not necessary"—otherwise we would have put a photo of this event in the *Newzette*.

Oct. 12. Abed Adawi uses a huge HAMMER DRILL on the concrete office wall so Glen can install printer network cables. Sa'id wonders if the safe is still behind the wall where Abed is drilling away.

Oct. 13. ACOR's resident hawk is still using the Bikais' windowsill as its hunting, eating and "dumping" perch. Patricia estimates that ledge now carries the remains of "at least fifteen birds and one rodent-like creature."

Oct. 14. The Bikais attend a fund-raising dinner for the Petra National Trust. Pierre is volunteered to be the auctioneer for items being sold to raise funds.

Oct. 15. The Bikais take a short trip out of town and take with them lots of books and journals.

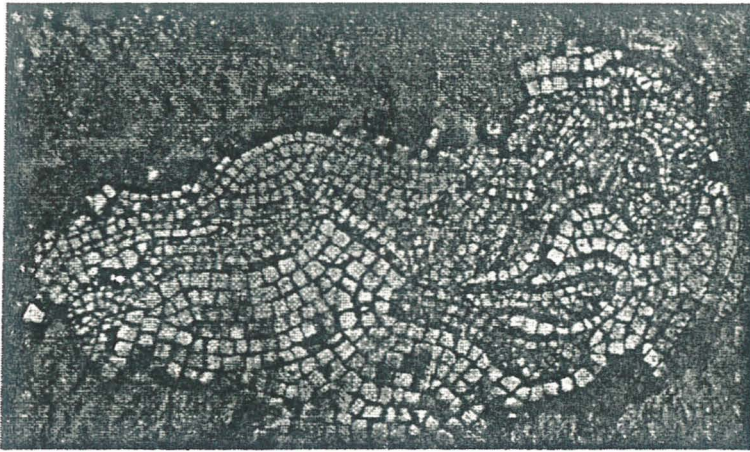
Oct. 16. Branwen escapes to Syria for 10 days.

Oct. 16. Mohammed makes his special brownies again. FEEDING FRENZY! FEEDING FRENZY!!!

Oct. 16 ACOR is represented at the Petra Exhibition (in the absence of the Bikais) by a Jordanian, a Brit, a Japanese-Peruvian, an Italian, and ONE American. The Queen has nice things to say about ACOR.

Oct. 17. Kathy returns from her week's "vacation," during which she cleaned up her house after new stone flooring was laid down.

Oct. 18. The Bikais return from their short vacation with many stories to tell.



A lion from the Church of the Prophet Elias at Madaba



Pierre (left) and a laborer clean the lion mosaic as Tom Dailey and Ghazi Bisheh look on.

Oct. 19. Antonio Almagro's excavation team shows up at ACOR.

Oct. 20. Pierre brings "another rock from the Webdeh excavation with scratches on it" into ACOR. He claims it is a Safaitic inscription, but it turns out to be a highly important Kufic inscription.

Oct. 20. Mr. Gregorz Jerzykowski, First Secretary of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland visits ACOR.

Oct. 20. Peter Kovach comes to lunch again, and again misses by one day his favorite: mashed potatoes.

Oct. 21. The ACOR library receives a printer for the catalog cards. Humi is ecstatic.

Oct. 23. Dr. Najeeb Shorbaji of the World Health Organization (WHO) pays a visit to ACOR to review the library's CDS-ISIS package, and gives a few hints on how it may be further utilized.

Oct. 24 Kathy wonders what to do with the free copies of *ADAJ* and *SHAJIV* for Tom 'Scuba.' (Tom Schaub)

Oct. 24. Pierre declares himself "The King of Pasta," and claims "this is the best pasta I've ever made in my life!!" Immediately afterwards he decides to fire everybody at ACOR and do all the work himself.

Oct. 25. Pierre lectures on dendrochronology, and expounds upon "seismic rays bringing C-14 down from the sun."

Oct. 26. Don Whitcomb arrives to continue excavations at Aqaba.

Oct. 27. Kathy remarks that "it has been a tough morning—swish! swoosh! shwaaa! shwoom! zing! bang!! zoom!!! Everything!!!"

Oct. 27. The ACOR *Newsletter* arrives. Less than two hours and 4000 copies later, issue 5.1 is stuffed into envelopes by the ACOR residents (the volunteered) and readied for mailing. Marie Alanen demands sauteed peacock livers for the next day's lunch as a reward.

Oct. 27. The Jordanian Subcommittee of the Board of Trustees meets at ACOR.

Oct. 27. ACOR's prospectus for a grant for conservation at Petra is received enthusiastically by the World Monuments Fund—ACOR is asked to submit a formal proposal as soon as possible.

Oct. 28. Pierre gives a tour to teachers from the Salt School for the Gifted to see if ACOR may be able to provide new learning opportunities for their students.

Oct. 28. Patricia escapes to Cyprus for a week. Everybody wonders if she will really take the time to find an industrial size kitchen mixer for Mohammed. (She does!!)

Nov 1. Gaetano's Zenith laptop arrives via former ACOR president Ed Harrell.

Nov. 2. Beatrice St. Laurent arrives to begin a brief study of the vernacular architecture at Madaba.

Nov. 2. Pierre, Branwen, Beatrice and Tom Dailey head off to Mt. Nebo for a "Pesto Fest" to determine who is the real "King of Pasta"—Pierre, Garbo, or Tom Dailey's major domo, Luis. Pierre rounds out the evening by showing Beatrice an Ottoman house in the middle of nowhere at 10 pm.

Nov. 2. Robin sends out 350 announcements for a conservator for Madaba III.

Nov. 3. ACOR's newest castoff car, a gift from the U.S. Embassy, arrives at its new home.

Nov. 3. Patricia and Glen visit Jordan Press where *The Mosaics of Jordan* are being printed. While they are there, a mistake is found on the VERY LAST color section being printed, requiring the separation to be redone in Dubai. It sets back the publication schedule no less than two weeks. Everybody gets depressed.

Nov 4. Rock Brynner (son of Yul Brynner) comes to ACOR for lunch.

Nov 4. Zbig Fiema, after excavating in Petra for 17 months, goes to the doctor and learns to his horror that he has sarcastic sarcophagus disease(?)—asbestos asparagus disease(?)—asphaltic astragalus disease(?), or a spastic esophagus. Everybody RUNS FOR THEIR LIVES!!!

Status Report on the assistant conservators of the Petra Project: Fatma Marii is progressing well at the Archaeological Institute of the U. of Yarmouk. She is an intern in the conservation lab and is broadening her horizons to include cleaning preservation of metals and of cloth. She will return to the Petra Project next summer. Naif Zaban returned to the project in early November to work on the marble fragments uncovered during the current excavation. He had spent six weeks at the Mosaics Institute in Ravenna where he had the privilege of working on the glass wall mosaics at the Church of San Vitale.

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ACOR Newzette

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Current Fieldwork Projects

Madaba, Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities and ACOR/USAID: Burnt Palace, Ghazi Bisheh; Shelters for the Apostles' Church, Church of the Virgin and the Hippolytus Hall, Ammar Khammash; Archaeological Park, Pierre Bikai, Branwen Denton, Beatrice St. Laurent and Michele Piccirillo

Cultural Resource Management (CRM) Program, ACOR/USAID and the Department of Antiquities, Gaetano Palumbo and Dr. Safwan Tell, Director-General of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan

St. George's Church, Jebel al-Webdeh, ACOR and the Shoman Foundation, Pierre Bikai

Petra, Petra Church North Rooms and Atrium Project, ACOR/USAID, Pierre Bikai and Zbigniew Fiema
Aqaba/Ayla, ACOR/USAID/U. of Chicago, Donald Whitcomb

Fellows in Residence

Marie-Jeanne Roche, Dodge Fellow, The Origins and Background of the Khirbet et-Tannur Temple Sculptures: Research on Ancient Edomite Communities of the Nabatean Period.

Abdo Malki, USIA Fellow, Computer Database of the Byzantine Churches of Jordan

Irfan Shahid, USIA Fellow, The Ghassanid Structures in the 6th century and their Relevance to those of the Umayyads in Islamic times.

Marie Alanen, USIA Fellow, Architectural Reuse at Jerash; A Case Study in Transformations of the Urban Fabric, A.D. 100-750

Bruce Borthwick, ASAIP Coordinator, Albion College

Amy Bentley, ASAIP Fellow, Georgetown U.

Rochelle Davis, ASAIP Fellow, U. of Michigan

Timothy Werner, ASAIP Fellow, Harvard U.

Eric Evans (unaffiliated Fulbright), Arabic studies

Stefania Dodoni (unaffiliated), Arabic studies

Stefania Cunial (unaffiliated), Arabic Studies

Happenings at ACOR

Nov. 8. The cover pages and index for *The Mosaics of Jordan* are printed.

Nov. 8. Don Whitcomb calls from Aqaba to say that he has found a large structure with columns and capitals intact!!

Nov. 9. Peter Kovach and USIS visitor Brent Byers attend ACOR lunch. Peter gets his favorite—mashed potatoes—and dives in head first. [We wouldn't keep reporting this but Peter gets a kick out of it—eds.]

Nov. 9. Shishir Dutta, under tremendous pressure and against all odds, works to produce a bound copy of *The Mosaics of Jordan* for the Bikais to take to the U.S. for display at the ACOR booth at the Annual Meeting.

Nov. 9. The Bikais prepare to leave for their US tour. Patricia receives 9 "panic!!" calls in 20 minutes.

Nov. 10. At 1:00 AM—four hours before the Bikais leave for the U.S.—a man from the bindery appears out of the mists carrying the first bound copy of *The Mosaics of Jordan* to ACOR like a newborn baby. Glen immediately loads 30 pounds of encyclopedias on top of it to ensure that the cover stays flat.

Nov. 10. Bikais escape to the U.S.

Nov. 10. The much awaited letter from Getty arrives. ACOR is asked to submit a full proposal for library development.

Nov. 12. Imelda flies again after her holes are patched with some of Abed's special silicone goo.

Nov 12. Zbig is put "on call" to show the Petra Church to Britain's Prince Charles. The prince skips Petra and also skips Don Whitcomb's excavation at Ayla.

Nov 14. ACOR rents the corner house for a year.

Nov 14. Gaetano's CRM computer is massively trashed. A virus is suspected.

Nov 20. Gaetano presents a paper at the University of Jordan Conference on Cultural Heritage Preservation.

Nov 21. At long last the steel for the roof of the shelter for the Virgin Church/Hippolytus Hall at Madaba arrives.

Nov 22. Glen, Branwen, Gaetano, Kathy and Marwan agree that it has been the worst day yet, and decide to quit, *en masse*. A fax to that effect is sent to the Bikais.

Nov 23. Reception for 100 participants from the CRM and Cultural Heritage Conference sponsored by the University of Jordan.

Nov 24. Don Whitcomb is invited for a broiled swordfish steak dinner aboard the Swan Tour liner, the Argonaut.

Nov 25. Thanksgiving. Mohammed Adawi outdoes himself once again.



Shishir Dutta with the final pages of *The Mosaics of Jordan*.

Nov 26. Gaetano manages to fix the CRM computer. Nobody really has any idea what happened. Marwan suggests the recent activity of sunspots.

Nov 27. Gaetano dashes off to Cairo to attend a conference on world cultural heritage preservation.

Nov 29. Marwan's wife has her baby!! Its a girl!!!!!! 3.5 kilos and her name is Farah.

Nov 29. The printing of *The Mosaics of Jordan*, at last is complete (except for the dust cover).

Nov 30. Glen is visited by a shady character who has access to a "valuable antiquity"—a copper disk with incised characters. He claims it is some "60 meters in diameter—I mean 60 centimeters. Sorry ... I'm new to the metric system. I'm used to the BTU system, you know ... British Thermal Units." Knowing that the transportation of the Copper Scrolls to France has recently been announced in the local press, Glen is suspicious of the authenticity of this unique and amazing find but directs the visitor to report his find to the Department of Antiquities.

Dec 1. Pierre and Patricia call from California to say they have looked over their new land and have "decided exactly where all the gold is located." Being familiar with Pierre's penchant for extraordinary hyperbole, Glen is highly suspicious of this claim too.

Dec 4. A light fixture in the dining room leaps off the ceiling and disintegrates into a million pieces on top of a dining table. Fortunately this occurs before, rather than during, lunch.

Dec 6. Glen is paid another unannounced visit by the man with the "valuable copper disk." It turns out to be a brass plate, probably made in Syria less than ten years ago.

Dec 6. Glen is summoned to the Citadel to conduct a tour for the press who are following U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. They include John Dancy (NBC), Ralph Begleiter (CNN), and John McWethy (ABC); the latter comes up with the best idea—"just tell us anything—we're easily influenced."

Dec 6. In a response to an excited call from Zbig, Kathy asks, "What is this stuff, P-A-P-Y-R-I?" When told, she exclaims, "That's all?? What is he getting so excited about a bunch of old paper for???"

Dec 7. Kathy receives a frantic call from Zbig with a request for packaging for his latest find. It turns out he now has 25 scrolls. Glen and Tim Werner make a mad dash to Pizza Hut for the requested "cardboard boxes for deep dish pan pizza—pan pizza only, the others will be too thin."

Dec 7. Two specialists arrive from Italy to assist with the binding process for *The Mosaics of Jordan*.



Overview of the scene at Petra as the scrolls were removed.

Dec 8. Glen goes to Petra with video equipment, cameras, a huge roll of acid-free paper and the pizza boxes. The scrolls are removed by Zbig, Deb, and Cathy Valentour, the conservator whom Don Whitcomb was kind enough to lend to the Petra Project from the Aqaba Project. The excavation continues from dawn to dusk. Meanwhile the Bikais in the U.S. are trying to line up conservation possibilities for the badly charred but apparently legible scrolls—a cursive Greek has been recognized on some.



Cathy Valentour prepares to lift one of the scrolls.

Dec 9. Gaetano returns from his sojourn in Egypt.

Dec 9. The remainder of the scrolls—perhaps as many as 40—are excavated and transported to Amman.

Dec 9. Don Whitcomb delivers a lecture at ACOR on the Aqaba project. Officials from USAID view some of the scroll fragments under the new \$15,000 microscope paid for by USAID's American Schools and Hospitals Abroad program. They are pleased.

Dec 10. Zbig and Glen labor for hours on the press release for the Petra Scrolls. At 6:49 CNN calls in response from a tip from Atlanta. Wow, they really work FAST!!

Dec 10. Zbig, Deb and Na'if leave ACOR to go shopping at Safeway on their way to Petra. They leave at about 6:15.

Dec 11. News of the Safeway fire—which injured 350 and began at 7:00 pm the previous night—comes to ACOR. Branwen and Don Whitcomb head off to see if the Petra Hilux is still in the parking lot. Fortunately, it isn't.

Dec 12. Shishir comes to ACOR with tales of disaster with the binding process.

Dec 12. Zaafer Toukan appears in the ACOR Library to conduct some final research for his video docudrama on the Great Temple of Amman.

Dec 13. Peter Kovach and USIA VIP Kent Obe attend lunch at ACOR and get the grand tour [OK—no more reports on mashed potatoes—eds.]

Dec 14. Zbig shows a high level delegation of U.S. Embassy and USAID officials around Petra. Everybody is pleased.

Dec 15. Mohammed is sick and stays home for the day—probably the first time in 25 years. Sa'id cooks spaghetti for lunch. Everyone agrees that his father has trained him well.

Dec 15. Dr. Irfan Shahid delivers a well-attended lecture at ACOR on the Ghassanids.

Dec 16. The Bikais return from their "vacation" in the U.S. Glen declares it to be his "Liberation Day."

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