



# DIGSIGHT

INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY LYNN H. WOOD ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

## SOUTHERN EQUIPS FOR EXCAVATIONS

Last month Southern Adventist University approved the purchase of high precision surveying and digital photography equipment to be used in the Institute of Archaeology's upcoming excavations in Israel. The equipment was obtained thanks to the generous donations of donors and supporters of the Institute of Archaeology.

From June 28 to July 17 the Southern team will excavate the biblical site of Khirbet Qeiyafa located near the Elah Valley in Israel. Excavations conducted by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's team last summer uncovered monumental fortifications dating to the time of King David, the tenth century B.C. Archaeologists Yosef Garfinkel (Hebrew University) and Saar Ganor (Israel Antiquities Authorities) also found a pottery sherd containing what is believed to be the oldest Hebrew inscription ever found.

Archaeology by its very nature is a destructive discipline. An occupational layer (and everything found in it), once removed, can never be replaced. That is why it is very important that excavators accurately record *where* and *how* (i.e., in what condition) objects are found. "This

equipment will be a great asset in analyzing and reconstructing what we find in the field," said Dr. Michael Hasel,



**Dr. Scot Anderson with GPS receiver**

director of the Institute of Archaeology at Southern. High precision digital measurements taken with GPS and Total Station surveying tools will allow the Southern team to record spatial and topographical data down to a centimeter of accuracy.

This data, together with other information collected from maps, site plans, and digital photographs, will be

processed and integrated into a GIS (Geographic Information Systems) database. A GIS database gives excavators and researchers the ability to retrieve any kind of information recorded about an object or feature found. Rather than looking at each type of data indi-

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**SOUTHERN**  
ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

**Power for Mind & Soul**

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# SOUTHERN EQUIPS FOR EXCAVATIONS, CONT.

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visually, GIS combines everything found by the excavator into a single electronic search engine. With the click of a mouse the excavator can study occupational patterns, trace important architectural features, and identify key relationships in the archaeological record.

Dr. Scot Anderson, School of Computing professor at Southern and ArcGIS software expert, will be in charge of collecting and processing the GIS data. "One of the neat things about ArcGIS," Anderson explains, "is that the software allows you to create virtual 3-D renderings of the excavated strata. You can see a life-like image of what the site would have looked like when it was

inhabited." The Center for Innovation and Research in Computing at Southern recently awarded Scot Anderson and the Institute of Archaeology a research grant to help train computing students in spatio-temporal analysis and visualization. Using the ArcGIS software students will help in developing the GIS database and 3-D reconstructions also known as Digital Elevation Models.

This November the results of this season's excavations will be prominently featured in two sessions at the American Schools of Oriental Research professional meetings to be held in New Orleans. Dr. Garfinkel and Dr. Hasel will be presenting the preliminary results of the 2009 season and pro-



**Dr. Anderson with entire GPS setup**

jected goals for excavations in 2010 and 2011. Dr. Anderson will present the results of his work in future professional meetings.

## LECTURE: ROME AND CHRIST IN COINS

Two thousand years ago, long before high-resolution images and HDTVs, Romans emperors learned to disseminate their political message through coins. "Roman coins," wrote numismatist Michael Grant, "served a propaganda purpose far greater than has any other national coinage before or since." The Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum's special exhibit, *Faces of Power: Ancient Coins of the Biblical World*, aims to show visitors how Roman emperors not only popularized their own images but also their political agendas.

One aspect of iconographic propaganda not covered in the exhibit,



**Coin of Constantine the Great**

however, is the emergence of Christian symbols in Roman coins of the late empire. On February 19, the museum invited Dr. Stan Hudson, a biblical numismatist and pastor of the Moscow (Idaho) Seventh-day

Adventist church, to speak on this topic. His lecture, entitled "Tracing the Spread of Early Christianity Through Coins," emphasized the impact that the Christianization of the Roman Empire had on Western civilization. The person chiefly responsible for this change was the Roman emperor, Flavius Valerius Constantinus, a.k.a. Constantine the Great, who embraced Christianity following his victory at the Battle of Milvian Bridge, in A.D. 312.

Constantine's conversion was only the beginning of a long history of using religion and religious

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## COIN EXHIBIT EXTENDED

**F**aces of Power: Ancient Coins of the Biblical World highlights the economic, political, and cultural power of coins and those who wielded that power. The special exhibit showcases a unique assemblage of Greco-Roman coins acquired on loan from several private and museum collections. “Faces of Power” opened in October and was scheduled to be on display until May of this year.

“We were very pleased with how well the exhibit was received,” commented Justo Morales, Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum coordinator. More than 2,500 visitors came to see the exhibit in the 7-month period that it was opened. “This is a significant increase in visitor numbers from previous years when we did not have a special exhibit,” Morales added. “Faces of Power” is the first special exhibition since the museum opened in 2004.

In March of this year, the Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum received an “Award of Excellence” for Faces of Power from the Tennessee Association of Museums (TAM). The category was small museum/temporary exhibit. The three degrees of awards are “Award of Excellence,” “Commendation,” and “Special Mention.” The last time the museum received a TAM award was in 2005 for its permanent exhibition “Vessels in Time: A Journey into the Biblical World.” According to their website, TAM has about 90 institutional (museum) members.

Due to its success, museum staff are planning to keep the exhibit on display through the end of the calendar year, pending negotiations with the coin lenders. “There are a lot of people in the community who, for one reason or another, never got around to seeing the exhibit and we would like to give them a second chance,” remarked Michael Hasel, museum curator. Several thousand dollars and months of arduous planning were spent in the production of the special exhib-



it. The museum is working on a minor expansion on coins from the Jewish period and post-Constantinian coins of the early Christian period.

## LECTURE, CONT.

*Continued from page 2*

symbols to promote state power, the evidence of which can be clearly seen in the coin iconography of the late empire. Constantine's successors not only introduced distinctively Christian symbols like the Cross and the Christogram ("Chi Rho") but also blurred the difference between pagan and Christian symbolism. For example, Jesus was confused with Sol, the sun god; the winged goddess, Victory, became an angel. By the tenth century AD coins no longer had any mention of the emperor but only Christ.

Dr. Hudson has written several articles on biblical coins for publications like *Bible Review* and *Biblical Archaeology*. He was the main numismatist consultant for the Faces of Power exhibit and many coins from his personal collection are currently on display.

## CURRENT EVENTS

The activities of the Institute of Archaeology and the Museum keep increasing as new projects and responsibilities move forward. One could describe these activities in six major areas.

**Teaching and Mentoring.** The academic year ended with twenty undergraduate archaeology majors and minors with one student graduating in December, 2008. This year students were engaged in assisting in the cataloging of the library, the opening of a new exhibit, and docenting for the museum in addition to their other responsibilities. Several of the students are studying languages abroad either this past year or the coming year. Most of the students will be participating in the Middle East Study Tour to Turkey and France this June. We anticipate several new students in the Fall semester.

**Museum Exhibit.** The Museum saw a dramatic increase in visitors with the new coin exhibit this year. Due to popular demand, the exhibit will be extended into the next academic year with an expansion on coins from the Jewish period and post-Constantinian coins of the early Christian period. Justo Morales, museum coordinator, also accepted a major award from the Tennessee Association of Museums and attended their annual meeting in Chattanooga.

**Publications and Scholarship.** A number of new publication opportunities included several articles for the *New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*, a series of articles for the new *Resource Bible* to be published by Review and Herald, and the continued work on a book project. Papers were also presented at several national and international conferences in the United States and Israel.

**Excavations at Khirbet Qeiyafa.** This spring careful plans were laid for the new excavations with the Hebrew University including fund-raising efforts, training with new GPS and surveying equipment, procuring equipment and tools, and setting up a new database which will be tested in the field. A weekend orientation meeting for all staff was held in March to go over plans and recording methodologies for the excavations. Travel to Israel in May made it possible to lay concrete plans and strategize for the summer. Everyone is looking forward to the summer with great anticipation.

As we head out to engage in various summer activities we are looking forward to the prospects ahead as we continue to serve the university and the community to foster a deeper understanding of the lands of the Bible and contribute to new discoveries that will bring its world to life for students, faculty, and individuals seeking to better understand its richness and diversity.



Dr. Michael G. Hasel



Dr. Yosef Garfinkel examines a mended vessel excavated last summer at Khirbet Qeiyafa

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael G. Hasel".

Director, Institute of Archaeology



# HASEL SPEAKS AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

This year the American Research Center in Egypt, the largest national professional society for Egyptology, held its annual meetings in Dallas, Texas. The meetings focused on reports of excavations, Egyptian linguistic and textual studies, Egyptian history from pre-historic times through the Islamic periods, and art historical studies. This year over 300 people attended and 100 speaker sessions included presentations by specialists in all fields. Dr. Michael Hasel, presented a paper entitled, “Foreign Names in the Report of Wenamun and the Identification of Alasiya” on April 24. The paper dealt with a papyrus report dated to 1065 BC of Wenamun who traveled along the coast of Canaan to procure timber for the building of a temple in Thebes. The story recounts the places he

visited during his journey and these places provide important information for historical geography and how the Egyptians understood the cities of Canaan and the land of Alasiya. Hasel argued that Alasiya was both a city and a larger territory designated as a land in the same way that Canaan and Egypt were in the Report. This points toward a larger entity the size of Cyprus and not a smaller city along the Mediterranean coast. The presentation was well attended and received.

The international conference, “Egypt, Canaan, and Israel: History, Imperialism, and Ideology,” was organized by the University of Haifa in Israel and brought together experts from Australia, England, Israel, Germany, the United States. Hasel presented a paper entitled, “Identifying New Kingdom Poli-

ties, Places, and Peoples in Canaan and Syria.” He focused on the consistency of determinative usage in the names of foreign geographical names mentioned in the Battle of Qadesh between the Egyptian king Ramses II and the Hittite king Mawatalli II. The report of the battle is found in temples throughout Egypt and in a number of papyrus copies. This provides an excellent context to compare the use of geographical names and their determinatives in the various copies of the account. Hasel concluded that the Egyptians were remarkably consistent in their description and writing of these ancient peoples, places, and countries, especially in the monumental inscription on temple walls. The notion that Egyptian scribes were careless must be carefully reconsidered.



# RECENT SIGHTINGS



## FAMOUS BUST OF NEFERTITI A FAKE (BBC News)

Henri Stierlin, who has studied the subject for 25 years, claims the bust of the Egyptian beauty is a 1912 copy. He suggests it was made on the orders of German archaeologist Ludwig Borchardt, who is credited with finding the treasure on the banks of the Nile. A spokesperson for the Neues Museum in Berlin, where the bust is housed, was not available for comment. Swiss-born Stierlin, the author of several books on Egypt and the Middle East, said: “It seems increasingly improbable that the bust is an original.”

[Click here to read more](#)

## BABYLON RUINS REOPEN IN IRAQ, TO CONTROVERSY (New York Times)

After decades of dictatorship and disrepair, Iraq is celebrating its renewed sovereignty over the Babylon archaeological site—by fighting over the place, over its past and future and, of course, over its spoils. Time long ago eroded the sun-dried bricks that shaped ancient Babylon, the city of Hammurabi and Nebuchadnezzar . . .

[Click here to read more](#)



## FRAGMENT OF HEBREW INSCRIPTION FROM PERIOD OF KINGS OF JUDAH FOUND (ScienceDaily)

A fragment of a limestone plaque bearing several letters of ancient Hebrew script was discovered while sifting soil that was excavated in the vicinity of the Gihon Spring, within the precincts of the walls around Jerusalem National Park.

[Click here to read more](#)

## A FISHY TALE OF CHRISTIANITY IN ROME (TimesOnline)

In Ancient Rome lions ate Christians, so we are told. But what did early Christians eat? A lot of fish, according to recent research on bones from the Roman catacombs. “The eating habits of Rome’s early Christians are more complex than has traditionally been assumed,” . . .

[Click here to read more](#)





# UPCOMING EVENTS

## ASI CONVENTION

International Meeting  
August 5 – 8, 2009  
Phoenix, AZ

Come visit our booth and learn more about our excavations in Israel at Khirbet Qeiyafa, 2010 and 2011 seasons.

## MUSEUM SUMMER HOURS

**Sunday – Friday**, by appointment only.  
**Saturday**, 2 – 5 p.m.

To schedule a guided tour contact **Star Stevens** at 423.236.2988 or <[ss Stevens@southern.edu](mailto:ss Stevens@southern.edu)>

## AMERICAN SCHOOLS OF ORIENTAL RESEARCH

Annual Meeting  
November 18 – 21, 2009  
New Orleans, LA

“Khirbet Qeiyafa: A Fortified City in Judah from the time of King David”



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