



FALL 2010

INVENTORY

NEWS FROM THE JOUKOWSKY INSTITUTE FOR ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE ANCIENT WORLD

CONSISTENT CHANGE

A consistent element in the story of archaeology at Brown is the site of Petra in southern Jordan. Martha Sharp Joukowsky ran a field project at the Great Temple in Petra city center for nearly two decades. Generations of Brown undergraduates and graduates were trained there in techniques of excavation and careful documentation, as well as made to think about difficult issues of architectural preservation and restoration. The longevity of the project led to deep Brown connections with the local Bedouin community of Umm Seyhoun, as well as established relationships with the Department of Antiquities of Jordan.



Most of our attention, however, was turned to areas 'out of town', to counterbalance the heavy archaeological emphasis, to date, on the city proper. The team carried out intensive

regional survey some 7-10 kilometers north of Petra, in the Wadi Bekaa and Wadi as-Slaysil, discovering a rich landscape of rock-cut features, walls and terraces, and artifactual scatters of both ceramics and lithics, dating from the Palaeolithic to the present day. The degree of ancient investment and infrastructure necessary to 'make



When Martha and Arte Joukowsky decided to stop active excavation and focus on publishing the Great Temple, the Joukowsky Institute in turn decided that fieldwork at Petra should be continued. In summer 2010, the Brown University Petra Archaeological Project (BUPAP) was launched, with a five-week season in June and July. The team consisted chiefly, if not entirely, of Brown graduate students (and one undergraduate, Harrison Stark) and was co-directed by myself and Christopher Tuttle, a Brown Ph.D. who is currently Associate Director of the American Center of Oriental Research in Amman,



Jordan. We would like to thank the Department of Antiquities of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for their kind permission to carry out this research.

And it was both fascinating, and fun, research. BUPAP did a variety of things. We conducted geophysical survey and excavated a water channel system in the so-called 'Upper Market', a large open space just down the Petra 'Main Street' from

the Great Temple. The Upper Market sits on the same high artificial terrace as the Great Temple, and we are curious about connections between these two urban complexes.



this desert bloom' – which it must have done to feed the nearby city of Petra – is revealed by numerous hydraulic and agricultural elements, such as a major system of dams mapped by the team.

Finally, we worked at a medieval village near the modern settlement of Bayda (and near the present-day tourist site of 'Little Petra'). This village had been little explored before: not surprising, given a relative lack of interest in the post-antique periods in southern Jordan. We mapped the entire village and

opened two excavation trenches, in one of which we found traces of domestic life such as spindle whorls and an oven.

BUPAP hopes to return to Petra this summer and to continue to explore these 'new' aspects of Petra. Brown at Petra: *plus ça change!*

Sue Alcock

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THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL LANDSCAPE OF SPRINGS AND CAVES

The Yalbur Yaylası Archaeological Landscape Research Project had its first field season in July-August 2010, under the direction of Assistant Professor Ömür Harmanşah. Yalbur Yaylası is a high pasture landscape in southwest inland Turkey (the western part of Konya province), well-known for its Imperial Hittite sacred pool complex, built at an abundant spring at the time of the famous Hittite king Tudhaliya IV (13th c. BC).

The Yalbur Survey aims to put the area's monuments into their regional and local landscape context at the time of the Hittite Empire and, following its collapse, into the Iron Ages. It constitutes the field component of a much broader research project on Anatolian rock reliefs, spring monuments, sacred caves and sinkholes, geared towards developing what Harmanşah calls an "archaeology of place".

This past summer, the team worked in fifteen different survey units including mounds, settlements, citadels, cemeteries, and quarries, and documented several previously unregistered sites.



Some of the most exciting discoveries were in close vicinity to the Hittite pool, which turned out to be a massive settlement during the Late Iron Age, Hellenistic and Roman

periods. Close to this site, the team discovered an impressive sinkhole/cave sanctuary with rich midden deposits, most

intensively used during the Hellenistic and Roman periods. The rich surface finds at this site include terracotta figurines, marble architectural fragments, an inscribed funerary stele, an exquisite ceramic assemblage of unused pots, and pieces of sculpture, as well as bone and metal artifacts. The survey team then focused their attention on the Çavuşçu Lake basin, where a major imperial Hittite settlement was identified and brought much excitement to the project. Near the Köylütolu Dam, there lies an impressive fortress built with large-scale ashlar masonry, which has always been assumed in scholarly literature to date to the Hellenistic period. Preliminary observations at the site, however, suggest the possibility of an earlier, possibly Late Imperial Hittite or Early Iron Age date for the citadel.

The Yalbur Survey is funded by a Richard B. Salomon Faculty Research Award, as well as funds from the Joukowsky Institute and the Department of Egyptology and Ancient Western Asian Studies. It is a collaboration of students and faculty from Brown and Selçuk University. A small team of geologists from Ankara University led by Dr. Ugur Dogan investigated the geomorphology of the region, with a special focus on the springs and other karstic features in the area.



ARCHAEOLOGIES OF TEXT

During a meeting of the Beer Club at the Wickenden Pub in October of 2009, a discussion ensued about ancient texts and archaeology. Over pale ales and porters, Assyriologist Matthew Rutz (Assistant Professor of Egyptology and Ancient Western Asian Studies) and archaeologist Morag



Kersel (then a postdoctoral fellow at JIAAW, and now Assistant Professor of Anthropology at DePaul University) discussed the topic of provenance (archaeological findspot and object history) and its importance to the study and interpretation of ancient textual material. Do we really need to know that a cuneiform tablet came from a certain archive or can we know everything about the artifact by translating the text? Do ancient documents speak for themselves or do they require the contextual information provided by archaeological recovery?

In early December of 2010, scholars who work in the Near East, the Mediterranean, East Asia, and Central America converged on Rhode Island Hall for "Archaeologies of Text: Archaeology, Technology, and Ethics," organized by Kersel and Rutz to address these questions. The focus of the symposium, jointly sponsored by the Department of Egyptology and Ancient Western Asian Studies, the Joukowsky Institute, the Program in Early Cultures, and The Colver Lectureship Fund, was the examination of the archaeology of text from multiple perspectives.

University of Chicago Professor Matthew Stolper kicked off the symposium with a lively keynote presentation on his work with the Persepolis Fortification Archive, discovered in 1933 in present-day Iran. He addressed the major themes of the weekend – archaeology, text, technology and ethics – using the corpus from Persepolis as a springboard to discuss the best practices in archaeological and epigraphic methods, documentation and dissemination technologies, and ethical guidelines for dealing with early inscriptions.

Over the course of the weekend participants were treated to discussions of cutting-edge publishing practices, case studies that looked at texts from the Near East, the Mediterranean, Mesoamerica, and East Asia, the problems posed by fakes and forgeries, ethical guidelines for research and publishing, and even some fall-out from WikiLeaks. Discussions among participants, interested audience members, and students moved beyond the tendency to treat text and archaeology as independent sources of information; instead the conversation explored the intersection of these approaches with the goal of producing a better understanding of how people lived in past societies.



To learn more about the Institute's events, faculty, fieldwork, and activities, visit our websites, at www.brown.edu/joukowskyinstitute and proteus.brown.edu/joukowskyinstitute.

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Archaeology for All

Families visiting Providence this October for Brown's Family Weekend were surrounded by archaeology in action. The Joukowsky Institute has invited the community to observe – and participate in – our Archaeology of College Hill excavations since 2006. This year, we expanded to three sites: active fieldwork at the John Brown House, the historical home of the Brown family; geophysical surveys at the Nelson W. Aldrich House, built in 1822; and an open house at Rhode Island Hall, the newly renovated home of the Institute. Some families made a whole day of it: morning at Rhode Island Hall, talking with graduate students and faculty about ancient coins, artifacts, and faunal remains; early afternoon uncovering stone walls in the trenches outside the John Brown House; then late afternoon observing techniques such as ground penetrating radar and electrical resistance survey in the yard adjacent to the Aldrich House. Others were content just to admire the architecture of Rhode Island Hall, or spend some time with students finding out more about the history of a few of College Hill's most notable homes.



BROWN STUDENTS TAKE ON ALIENS

Enormous images of spiders, birds, geometric shapes, and long lines stretch across the desert on the south coast of Peru, only visible to tourists from tiny planes that fly overhead. Who built these geoglyphs, known as the Nasca Lines? Why even bother if you would never be able

to fly over them? Answers to these puzzling questions have usually been fanciful, mysterious, or improbable. Maybe extraterrestrial overseers guided their construction. Or, perhaps the Nasca people built them to entice aliens to land nearby.

Is there another explanation? On October 4, students from

“Archaeology of the Andes”, taught by postdoctoral fellow Allison Davis, recreated a scale model of the famous Nasca hummingbird using only measuring tapes, marking flags and brightly colored tape – all in under 50 minutes! Using a grid overlaid

on an air photograph of the real hummingbird, students measured the coordinates, plotted points on the ground, and connected the points with marking tape. Although no airplane was available to check their work, students were able to climb a short set of bleachers nearby – from which the entire figure was easily visible!

Though we can’t know for sure how the original lines were made (in the years AD 400 to 650), students were able to show that you don’t need a spaceship or even an airplane to make or view such huge figures.

