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Departmental Newsletters

Summer 2008

Summer 2008 DigSight Newsletter

Southern Adventist University

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DigSight

Institute of Archaeology
Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum

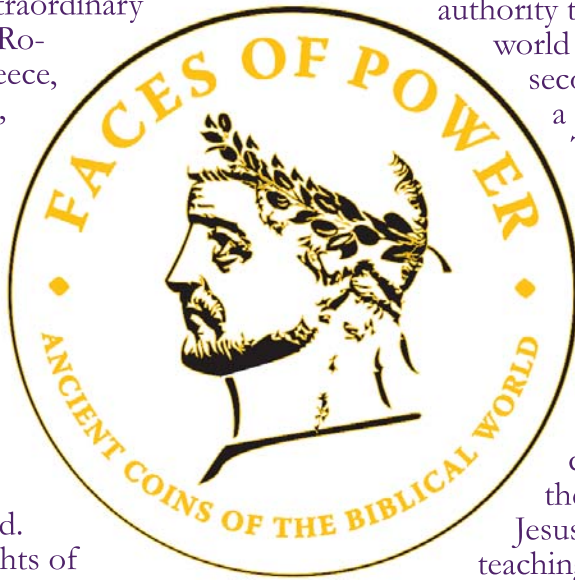
Special Exhibit Opening

The Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum is proud to announce the grand opening of a stunning new exhibition, *Faces of Power: Ancient Coins of the Biblical World*. The exhibition is comprised of an extraordinary selection of Greco-Roman coins from Greece, Rome, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, and Israel, in addition to original art pieces commissioned for this project.

This unique numismatic collection covers more than 600 years of history, displaying some of the earliest coins ever minted. Some of the highlights of this exhibition include a silver shekel of Xerxes, a gold stater of Philip II of Macedon, a silver tetradrachm of Alexander the Great, as well as an extensive collection of silver denarii from the first twelve emperors of Rome.

Faces of Power explores the power of

ancient coinage and those who wielded it. It is organized in two parts. The first section showcases the Roman heads of state of the first century AD. These emperors used coinage as a propaganda tool that publicized their image and authority throughout the world of Jesus' time. The



second part displays a collection of New Testament coins which include, the "widow's mites," the "tribute penny," the temple shekels, the "thirty pieces of silver," the "lost coin," and the "sparrows" coin. In contrast to the Roman emperors, Jesus used coins as a teaching aid for preaching the message of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Faces of Power will be the first temporary exhibit since the grand opening of the Museum in 2004. It mirrors our permanent collection theme, *Vessels in Time: a Journey into the Biblical World*, tracing the progression of coins through time while highlighting important events and peoples from history and the Bible. The Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum plans to develop a new temporary exhibit every year.

This new exhibition—made possible by the generous contributions of donors—is scheduled to open October 8, 2008 through May 3, 2009. *Faces of Power* is free of charge and open to the public during regular museum hours.

Summer 2008

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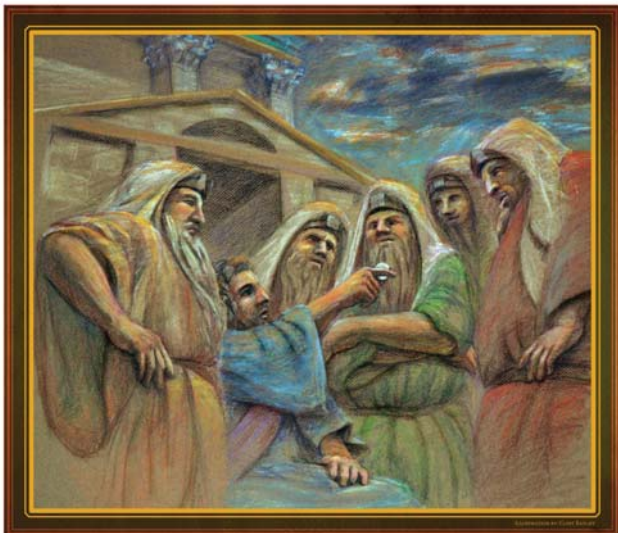
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Upcoming Events

Did You Know?

In a world without newspapers, television, or internet, coins were the media of choice for kings and emperors to advertise their image to their subjects. Often, coins also commemorated their accomplishments, such as military victories, and chronicled events of significance, such as an earthquake or a flood.



SOUTHERN
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Touring Revelation's Seven Churches

The “Jerusalem of the Aegean” is how a fifth century inscription describes the island of Patmos. It was here that the apostle John, exiled between AD 95 and 97, was inspired to write the Book of Revelation. The apostle Paul’s home base during his missionary journeys, the city of Ephesus was also a major center for Christianity in the first century AD.

Walking the streets that Paul walked, visiting the sites where John witnessed, and experiencing the world of the early Christians, this summer a group of 34 people led by Elder Mark Finley, Vice-President of the General Conference, and Dr. Michael G. Hasel, Director of the Institute of Archaeology, toured Turkey and the

Seven Churches of Revelation.

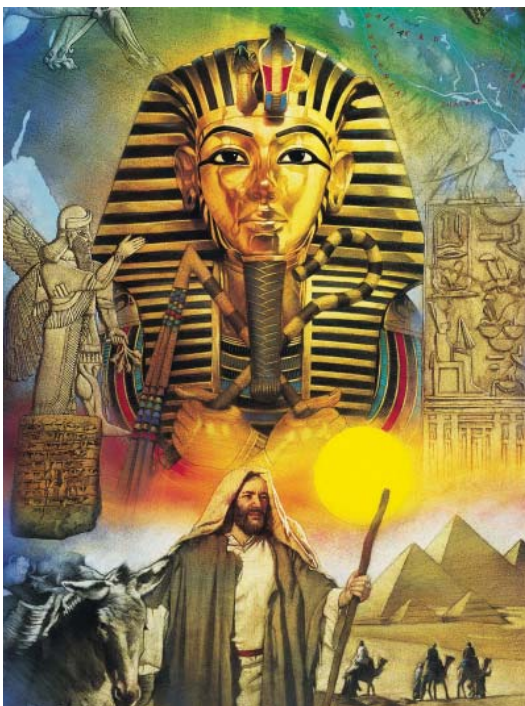
“We visited not only Ephesus, but also Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea,” said Dr. Hasel. “The tour was an enriching experience both because of the sites we saw and the connection that was made with the Bible.”

The group also traveled to the ancient Hittite capital of Hattusha which sprawls over a mountainous area of central Turkey. The Hittites were one of the greatest civilizations of ancient times and a rival to Egypt for several hundred years. The Hittites are mentioned forty-eight times in the Bible. The dramatic discovery of their language and culture has been one of the major contributions of biblical archaeology.



Other highlights of the trip included the Hagia Sophia, Istanbul’s Grand Bazaar, and an evening cruise up the Bosphorus strait.

Greene Artwork Donated to Institute



Last month Nathan Greene delivered his original painting “Digging Up the Past” to the Institute of Archaeology thanks to the generosity of a donor family.

The collage, which illustrates major architecture and artifacts mixed with images from the biblical world, demonstrates the commitment of the Institute to illuminate the Bible and educate others on the important ties between biblical history and archaeology.

“We are very grateful for this magnificent painting and

hope that it inspires students and library patrons to continue to explore into the past,” said Dr. Greg King, dean of the School of Religion.

The painting will be unveiled on November 5 during the grand opening of the new Institute of Archaeology Library where it will be displayed.



Nathan Greene

Another Season of Discoveries

The sound of picks and shovels and the delighted cries of volunteers uncovering objects of antiquity for the very first time has passed again as another season of excavation is over. This summer sites throughout the Middle East have been carefully excavated in order to uncover their richest treasures. Many imagine those treasures being gold, silver, and precious stones. In reality the treasures archaeologists seek are those that answer questions. How did people live? During what periods was this city occupied? Where are the chronological divisions that separate one city from the other? How did the city change over time? What caused those changes? What separated the elite from the average citizen? What differences in culture characterize this city from others in the vicinity? What connection does all this have to historical records and the Bible?

Throughout the land, from Philistine Ashkelon to Gath, Jerusalem to Dan, and Jericho to Rehov, these discoveries not only enlighten but bring into focus the ancient world of the Bible. Once again many discoveries out of the field each



Dr. Michael Hasel

year make the headlines and in this issue of *DigSight* we bring you the latest finds.

Take, for example, the new wall uncovered near Mt. Zion in Jerusalem. In one of the most difficult places to excavate due to modern buildings, streets, and a thriving population, archaeologists have uncovered a Byzantine wall. Even more significant, beneath it was a wall from the Second Temple period (450 BC – AD 70) that was preserved to a height of three meters. Excavator Yehiel Zelinger hopes that they will find the earlier wall below. This discovery provides a glimpse into Hasmonean architecture just before the time of Herod the Great.

Perhaps the most significant find in Jerusalem this summer was the seal impression (bullae) of Gedaliah, son of Pashur, servant

of Zedekiah last king of Judah (597 – 586 BC). Dr. Eilat Mazar announced that her team discovered the seal outside the palace structure she has been excavating. Gedaliah is mentioned in Jeremiah 38:1-5 as one of the enemies who wanted to have Jeremiah killed.

Discoveries like this are possible only with continued support for excavations in the Middle East. As archaeologists, student volunteers, scientists and support personnel continue their work in answering these and other questions your help is needed to keep the discipline alive and well. Consider our goals of raising funds for future excavations in the lands of the Bible.



Dr. Eilat Mazar



Director, Institute of Archaeology

ASI Sponsors Excavation

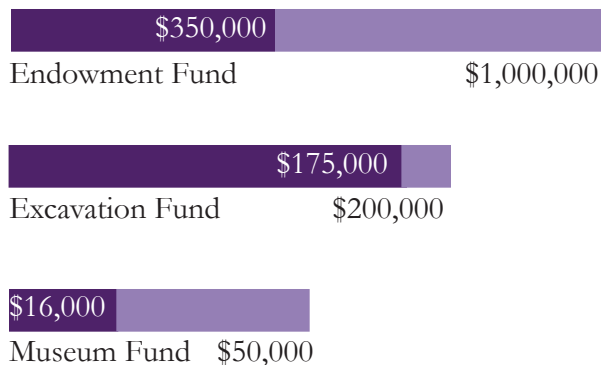
This year the Institute of Archaeology was chosen as one of forty-one recipients of funds from Adventist-Laymen Services and Industries (ASI) International. The sixty-first meeting was held in Tampa Convention Center in Florida on August 6-9. Over 2,500 people attended from all over the world, including about 500 young people. That weekend \$8,034,672 was pledged toward projects ranging from construction, evangelism, media projects, lay outreach, and archaeology. This was four times more than the previous year.

The Institute of Archaeology was allocated \$75,000 earmarked specifically toward sponsoring excavations in the Middle East. "Archaeological research in the Middle East is increasingly important as more people are asking key questions about the Bible in a very secular and skeptical world," said Dan Houghton, one of the ASI board members and former presidents. "We want to support new endeavors that bring people closer to the world of the Bible." Southern Adventist University is currently negotiating for a site and plans to begin excavations in the near future as part of its training program for students. The funds from ASI have provided strong support in making those plans feasible.

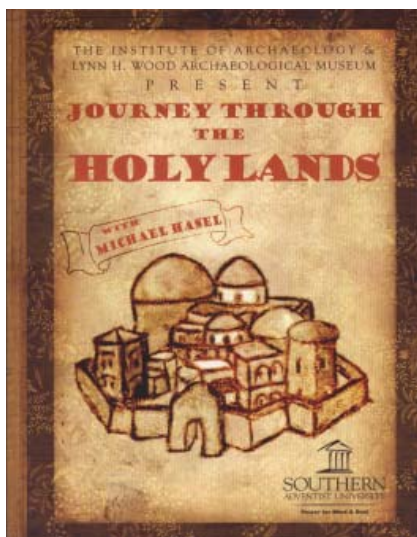


ASI Annual Meeting 2008, Tampa, FL. More than 8 million dollars was donated for ASI sponsored projects

Institute of Archaeology Development Goals



Virtual Tour of the Holy Lands Now Available



Travel in time with Southern Adventist University professor Michael Hasel as he takes you to many landmarks found in the Old and New Testaments. In Jerusalem, visit Golgotha, the city gates, the Pool of Bethesda and other holy sites that give testament to the historical relevancy of the Bible. Also travel to Mt. Sinai, the pyramids of Giza, Qumran, Masada, and other Middle Eastern treasures. Filmed on location in 2007, this is an interactive journey you won't want to miss!

Cost: \$15 each (plus S&H)
S&H rates: 1-2 dvds: \$2.50
 3-4 dvds: \$5.00
 5 or more: \$10.00

Send your check or money order (made out to Southern Adventist University) to:

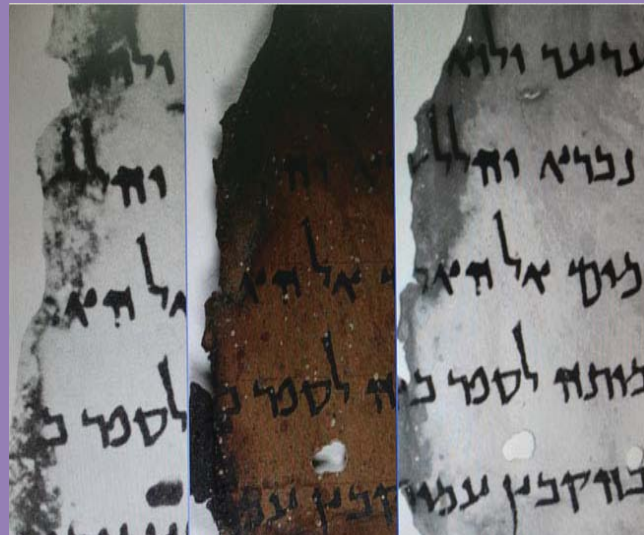
Institute of Archaeology
 Southern Adventist University
 PO Box 370
 Collegedale, TN 37315

Recent Sightings

Seal of King Zedekiah's minister found in Jerusalem dig (The Jerusalem Post)

A seal impression belonging to a minister of the Biblical King Zedekiah which dates back 2,600 years has been uncovered completely intact during an archeological dig in Jerusalem's ancient City of David. The seal impression, or bulla, with the name Gedalyahu ben Pashur, who served as minister to King Zedekiah (597-586 BCE) according to the Book of Jeremiah, was found just meters away from a separate seal impression of another of Zedekiah's ministers, which was uncovered three years ago, said Prof. Eilat Mazar who is leading the dig at the site.

[Click here to read more](#)



Israel to display the Dead Sea Scrolls on the internet (New York Times)

In a crowded laboratory painted in gray and cooled like a cave, half a dozen specialists embarked this week on a historic undertaking: digitally photographing every one of the thousands of fragments of the Dead Sea Scrolls with the aim of making the entire file available to all on the Internet . . . The 2,000-year-old scrolls, found in the late 1940s in caves near the Dead Sea east of Jerusalem, contain the earliest known copies of every book of the Hebrew Bible (missing only the Book of Esther), as well as apocryphal texts and descriptions of rituals of a Jewish sect at the time of Jesus.

[Click here to read more](#)

Wall dating to Second Temple unearthed (Jerusalem Post)

The remains of the southern wall of Jerusalem that was built by the Hasmonean kings during the time of the Second Temple have been uncovered on Mount Zion, the Antiquities Authority announced Wednesday. The 2,100-year-old wall, which was destroyed during the Great Revolt against the Romans that began in 66 CE, is located just outside the present-day walls of the Old City and abuts the Catholic cemetery built in the last century where Righteous Gentile Oskar Schindler is buried.

[Click here to read more](#)



Upcoming Events

Special Exhibit Grand Opening

October 8, 2008
5 p.m.

Come witness the power of imperial Rome and the coins that shaped Biblical history. Lecture will follow. Refreshments will be served.

Museum Lecture Series

October 8, 2008
7 p.m.

Jasper Gaunt, Ph.D
Michael C. Carlos Museum
Emory University

November 6, 2008
7 p.m.

Pamela Gaber, Ph.D
Lycoming College



Museum Hours

The museum will be closed the month of September for the installation of the temporary exhibit.

Did you miss a Museum Lecture?

DVDs are now available for purchase of the following lecture series presentations:

Dr. Thomas W. Merry: *My Experience as Commanding Officer Over Babylon and Ur in Modern Iraq*

Dr. Scott Carroll: *Gnosticism, The Gospel of Judas, and the Da Vinci Code*

Dr. William G. Dever: *The Age of David and Solomon: Myth or Reality*

Prof. Alfred J. Hoerth: *The Worlds of Abraham*

Dr. Michael G. Hasel: *Religion and Gods in Ancient Israel*

Dr. Peter J. Brand: *The Campaigns of Sesi I into Western Asia*

Cost: \$10 (tax incl., free shipping)

Send check or money order made out to Southern Adventist University to the address below.



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