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Spring 2008

## **Spring 2008 DigSight Newsletter**

Southern Adventist University

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# DigSight

Institute of Archaeology  
Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum

## Dever Library Arrives at Institute

**On March 6 a valuable professional library for the study of ancient Near Eastern history and biblical archaeology arrived on the campus of Southern Adventist University.**

The negotiations for the library began eight years ago when Dr. Michael G. Hasel, director of the Institute of Archaeology, received one of the largest teaching collections of ancient Near Eastern artifacts from his major professor, Dr. William G. Dever. That collection became the basis of the Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum which traces over 3,500 years of history through ceramics and other objects from Israel, Jordan, Syria, Cyprus, Egypt, Anatolia, and ancient Babylonia.

At that time, Dr. Dever discussed the possibility of his personal professional library accompanying his collection one day. Dr. Dever has been at the forefront of Near Eastern archaeology for the past 40 years. "In terms of publications in the field, no one has surpassed the 350 peer-reviewed articles and 26 books that he has produced," said Hasel. Dever lived in Israel for twelve years and directed the two American institutes of archaeology during that time. In 1975 he came to the University of Arizona where he founded the largest graduate program in Near East-

ern archaeology in North America. He is probably the foremost Near Eastern archaeologist in the country today. He has received numerous awards and several honorary doctoral degrees.

The library contains over 840 volumes and twelve major journals, including *Biblical Archaeologist*, *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research*, *Israel Exploration Journal*, *Journal of Mediterranean Archaeology*, *Near Eastern Archaeologist*, and *Tel Aviv*. The final reports of excavations long out of print include



Dr. William Dever

the Jericho, Megiddo, Lachish, Hazor, and Gezer reports among others. "These site reports give students first hand access to the

architecture, pottery, and objects found at type sites throughout the region," explains Justo Morales, Museum Coordinator. "With these resources comparative analysis with new discoveries can be made as our database for these ancient finds increase over the years." *continued in page 2 . . .*



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## 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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## Egyptologist speaks at Museum Lecture

On April 3 the Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum hosted the last museum lecture of the academic year. Egyptologist Dr. Peter J. Brand of the University of Memphis delivered a lecture entitled “the Military Campaigns of Seti I in Western Asia.” Pharaoh Seti I launched a series of aggressive military campaigns against Canaan, Syria, Libya and Nubia in the early Nineteenth Dynasty Egypt. He subsequently commemorated his war record with a panoramic series of battle scenes on the north wall of his gigantic Hypostyle Hall in the temple of Karnak in Luxor. These splendid battle scenes secured his reputation as one of Egypt’s greatest conquering pharaohs. In his lecture, Brand

examined Seti’s wars in Syria-Palestine. Seti was long credited with “restoring” or even “reconquering” Egypt’s empire in western Asia that was supposedly lost during the reign of the “heretic” pharaoh Akhenaten. This view is now rejected by Egyptologists, for the empire was never lost. What, then, did Seti I accomplish? How much of the pharaoh’s war record is ancient “hype” and how much reflected true strategic accomplishments? Brand argued that while one of Seti’s campaigns was little more than a military tour, the pharaoh also struck at Syria, far from Egypt’s borders and wrested control of important border provinces from the great Hittite Empire.

Dr. Peter J. Brand is professor of History and Egyptology at the



**Dr. Peter Brand**

University of Memphis. Dr. Brand is recognized as one of the world’s experts on the Nineteenth Dynasty and specifically on the reign of Seti I. He directs The Karnak Great Hypostyle Hall Project in Egypt where he leads a team of archaeologists to record the rapidly deteriorating reliefs and inscriptions on the temple walls. He is the author of *The Monuments of Seti I* (Brill, 2000) and has written numerous articles for journals and books.

*continued from page 1:* “This will be a tremendous resource for the Institute of Archaeology to do its work, as well as for students and visiting scholars from other institutions. We are thrilled and blessed that Dr. Dever chose to place his legacy at our institution,” said Dr. Hasel. The library, together with books from professors Kent Weeks and William Hayes will be one of the most comprehensive collections on Egyptian and Near Eastern studies in the southeastern United States.

The library is housed in Hackman Hall adjacent to the museum and the archaeological laboratory. The Library’s Grand Opening will be held in the Fall of 2008.



### iPod Nano Winner

Congratulations to Andrea Issa, winner of this year’s museum drawing. Over one hundred students visited the Lynn H. Wood Museum in March and entered for a chance to win a brand new 4GB 3rd gen iPod Nano.



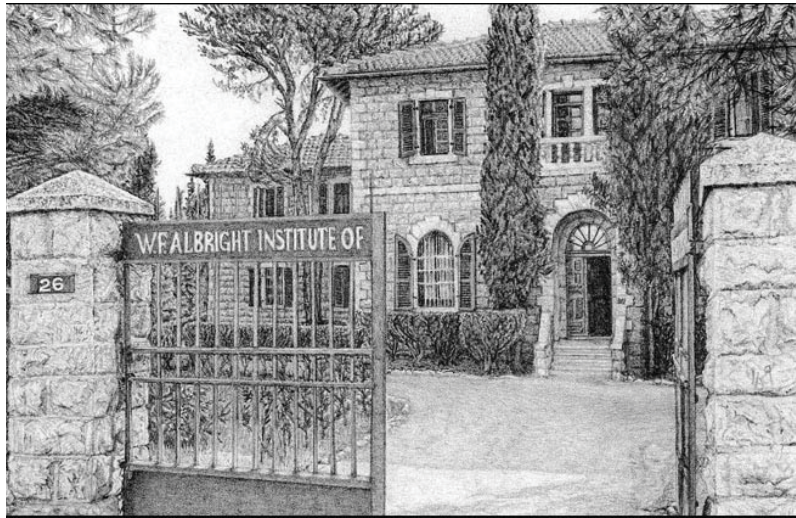
In an effort to encourage student awareness and visitation, the museum sponsors a single-entry drawing for Southern students only. Participants learn about Biblical history while entering for a chance to win a hot ticket item. The Museum is planning to have a similar drawing next year.

## Jerusalem to Southern: Bridging the Gap

I write this from Jerusalem and the W. F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research. Walking through the streets of Jerusalem today reminds me of the men and women who have lived and died honoring this city, dreaming for this city, and dedicating themselves to understanding its every facet. My repeated journeys back to this city for the past twenty-two years also have to do with the history of this country and Jerusalem as intertwined in our biblical heritage.

William F. Albright, the great Orientalist of Johns Hopkins University, first visited Jerusalem in 1919 and later became the founder of American biblical archaeology. Among his numerous awards, honorary doctorates, and medals, he was also given the title “Worthy One of Jerusalem,” the first non-Jew to receive this award. Why? The answer lies in Albright’s great mark on scholarship, leaving behind over 800 books, articles, and other publications focusing on the significance of the ancient Near East and biblical history. For Albright, the realia, those real archaeological artifacts of the past, made a tremendous mark in better understanding the Bible.

G. Ernest Wright of Harvard University, Albright’s student, successor, and contemporary would carry on that tradition by founding the journal *The Biblical Archaeologist* and establishing the excavations at Gezer that Wright’s student William G. Dever would direct. It was here, under Dever, that today’s senior generation of Syro-Palestinian archaeologists was trained. Dever became the first long-term director of the W. F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research in Jerusalem and in 1975 went on to establish the largest graduate program in North America in the field. His student and contemporary, Seymour Gitin, has continued directing the Albright Institute for the last twenty-eight years.



American archaeology in the Middle East was made possible because of these visionaries who were able to shape and influence biblical archaeology. Today that discipline has matured and grown, while at the same time, the number of American projects in the Middle East has waned. The placement of the William G Dever Near Eastern Collection and the William G. Dever personal library and slide collections passes that vision on to Southern Adventist University. These resources give opportunity for new projects and publications employing the latest research methods for a new generation. It is vital that the publishing of new materials and syntheses focusing on the integration of biblical studies and Near Eastern archaeology continue. It is for that purpose that the Institute of Archaeology and the Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum were established and exist today. We express great appreciation to Dr. Dever for choosing our institution for this great honor and responsibility.



Dr. Michael Hasel

Director, Institute of Archaeology

# Keppler's Legacy Lives On

On March 6, 2008, Dr. C. Burton Keppler died after a 14-year battle with prostate cancer. For many years Dr. Keppler and his wife Dorothy (Dottie) have been strong supporters of the Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum and the Institute of Archaeology. Dr. Keppler gave of himself in many ways, arranging for speakers for the Museum Lecture Series, engaging in fundraising activities for the institute, and serving for several years on the Institute of Archaeology Advisory Board. "He was a man full of ideas and provided valuable counsel at the critical stage when the program first began," said Dr. Hasel, Institute Director. "He would often comment on how important archaeology was for a proper understanding of the Bible and would be delighted when new discoveries were announced."

In 2005 Dr. and Mrs. Keppler established the Keppler Endowment for Archaeological Excavation and Publication. Their vision was to provide permanent funding for excavations and scientific and popular publications that would enhance our understanding of the ancient Near East and the world of the Bible. Over the last four years they have contributed nearly \$350,000 to the endowment. Dr. Keppler's goal was, from the outset, to raise a minimum of one million dollars in funding to support the activities of the

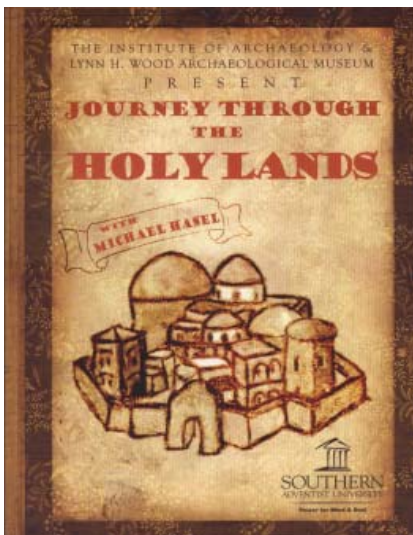
institute on an annual basis. The Keppler's knew that they would not be able to provide the full amount, but as with many other philanthropic projects, they sought to provide a beginning—to cast the vision that others might follow. Today, thanks to their vision, such a substantial fund has been established.

Their initial goal remains our goal today. We want to continue to fulfill Dr. Keppler's dream of providing a minimum one million dollar endowment for future excavation, research, and publication. You can help fulfill that dream today with your tax-deductible your gift. Thank you for making this dream a reality.

## Development Goals

Endowment Fund	\$350,000	\$1,000,000
Excavation Fund	\$105,000	\$200,000
Museum Fund	\$14,000	\$50,000

## 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

### **'Earthquake Archaeology' blends two histories** (Discovery News)

Do tomorrow's archaeologists a big favor: Always carry some change in your pocket. That way if you happen to be buried alive by an earthquake, any future researchers who unearth your bones from the quake debris can easily approximate the year of the quake. That's one way that earthquakes in parts of the ancient Roman Empire have been dated. This pioneering new field is known as archaeoseismology.

[Click here to read more](#)



### **Seti I artifacts unearthed in the Valley of the Kings** (WorldNews)

Recently the Egyptian authorities announced the unearthing of a quartzite Ushabti figure and the cartouche of King Seti I. He was the second king of the 19th Dynasty ruling for nearly ten years, from 1314-1304 BC. These artifacts were discovered inside the corridor of Seti's tomb.

[Click here to read more](#)

### **Did the Great Pyramids' builders use concrete?**

(International Herald Tribune)

It is a theory that gives indigestion to mainstream archaeologists. Namely, that some of the immense blocks of the Great Pyramids of Egypt might have been cast from synthetic material - the world's first concrete - not just carved whole from quarries and lugged into place by armies of toilers. Such an innovation would have saved millions of man-hours of grunting and heaving in construction of the enigmatic edifices on the Giza Plateau. That is a notion that would dramatically change engineering history.



[Click here to read more](#)



### **Rare silver coin found in excavations in Jerusalem** (IMFA)

This coming Thursday, before reading the Scroll of Esther, all devout Jews will contribute a sum of money, "a reminder of the half shekel" which was paid by every household in ancient times for the purpose of maintaining the Temple. Today, this sum is translated into local currency and donated to the needy. A rare ancient silver coin, of the type used to pay the half-shekel tax in ancient times, was recently discovered in an archaeological excavation that is being conducted in the Walls Around Jerusalem National Park.

[Click here to read more](#)

## Resources

### King Tut Visits Atlanta This Fall

#### Tutankhamun: The Golden King and the Great Pharaohs

Visit one of the most important Egyptian exhibitions and one of the world's greatest cultural legacies.

Nov. 15, 2008-May 22, 2009

Boisfeuillet Jones Atlanta  
Civic Center

### Summer Hours: By Appointment Only

Do you have family coming  
into town this summer?

Schedule a visit to the  
museum.

Contact Justo Morales at:  
423.236.2027 or  
jmorales@southern.edu



### Museum Lecture Series DVDs Now Available

#### 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*

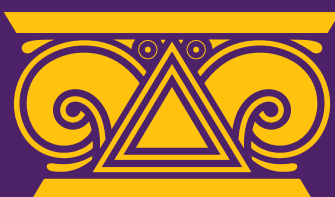
**Dr. William G. Dever:** *The Age of David and Solomon: Myth or Reality*

**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 Seti 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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