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11-2007

## **November/December 2007 DigSight Newsletter**

Southern Adventist University

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## Biblical Coins Arrive at Museum



Gold Stater of Philip II

**T**wo new collections of artifacts arrived at the Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum this year. Peter and Carol Bechtel placed the Elizabeth Hay Bechtel collection of ancient coins and Egyptian artifacts at Southern Adventist University. The Bechtel family's hope is that this collection may

**These coins not only provide important insights into the monetary system of the ancient world, but they include some of the first portraits of well-known kings and directly tie to several important events in the Bible.**

further the educational goals of a museum whose focus is on the world of the Bible. The coins, ranging from the fifth century B.C. to the mid-first century A.D., include a gold coin from the reign of Philip II of Macedon, the father of Alexander the Great. One such event is the betrayal of Jesus Christ by Judas Iscariot. According to the New Testament, Judas agreed to hand over Jesus to the Jewish authorities

for thirty pieces of silver. The silver coins, first minted in Tyre, were later produced in Jerusalem. Experts suggest that these tetradrachms were the type of coins Judas would have received in the first century. Another highlight of the collection is a Roman coin from the reign of Nero, the emperor whom Paul faced when he went to trial in Rome. The Bechtel collection also includes a number of Egyptian scarabs, amulets, beads, and two Roman lamps.

Another major collection of over fifty artifacts will arrive on campus before the end of the year. The Georgia-Cumberland Conference has requested the museum to curate and care for a collection of pottery, Roman glass, coins, and jewelry donated to the conference ten years ago. "The collection needed to be placed in a setting where it could be protected and used most effectively," said Georgia-Cumberland Vice President Jerry Fore. "We are proud of the significant resource of the Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum and knew this was



Nero Caesar

precisely the place we were looking for." These artifacts are a valuable addition to the Museum's permanent collection. Museums expand and grow as collections are added to provide new dimensions for learning. The coins and Roman glass will be joined with the Bechtel Collection for a special exhibit opening in September 2008, entitled "Faces of Power: Ancient Coins from the Biblical World."

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### Mission Statement

"The Institute of Archaeology is an entity that fosters archaeological research, publication, and education to enhance the understanding of biblical history at Southern Adventist University, the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and the community at large."



# Museum Open House and Lecture Series Draws Visitors

**O**n November 1 the Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum hosted a museum open house and lecture series event. The open house started with Middle Eastern refreshments and a slide show of the 2007 season at Hazor, Israel. Guest speaker Prof. Alfred J. Hoerth toured the museum, as did more than one hundred visitors. Last time the Museum sponsored an event of this nature was at its grand opening three years ago.

Following the open house, Prof. Hoerth, former director and professor emeritus of archaeology at Wheaton College, delivered a lecture at the Lynn Wood Hall Chapel. The lecture, entitled “The Worlds of Abraham,” dealt with the ancient world of Abraham’s time and the setting in which this great man of the Bible lived.

According to Hoerth, “Abraham is often envisioned as a ‘pastoral nomad’ garbed in Bedouin costume and living in a world that had not yet achieved much of worth.” Hoerth’s stories and photos demonstrated that the civilizations of Abraham’s time were far more sophisticated than scholars often give them credit for. “By looking beyond kings and battles to such aspects of life as housing, dress, price index, diet (including a recipe for pigeon pot pie), and more, we can picture the world in which Abraham grew up and the length of his step of faith,” said Hoerth. “By glimpsing the Egypt he knew, we can recognize . . . a truer and fuller picture of the man.”

While on campus, Hoerth was a guest lecturer in Archaeology and the Old Testament class. Students appreciated hearing from the author of



**Professor Alfred J. Hoerth**

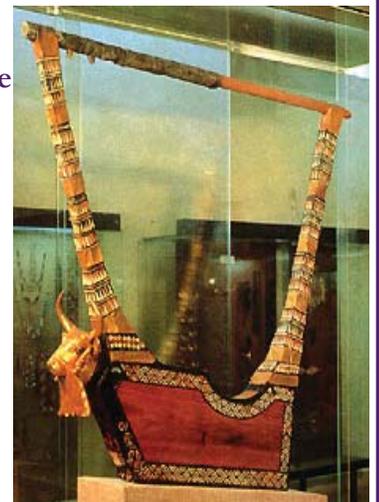
*Archaeology and the Old Testament*, which is the main textbook for the class. Hoerth is also co-author of *Bible Archaeology*. He has excavated in the Sudan, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, and Syria.

The Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum sponsors two of these lectures per academic year. Next year it plans to sponsor four. The next lecture will take place in February 2008.



## Lyre of Ur

The instrument shown here is one of the two original lyres of Ur found in 1929 and housed at the British Museum and University of Pennsylvania. The bull-headed lyre is over four thousand years old and is thought to predate the construction of the Great Pyramid. Until now, an authentic replica of this instrument has never been produced. Inspiration for this came from stone carvings on view in the Oriental Institute Museum in Chicago that show the earliest stringed instruments ever, dating from the time of Genesis itself!



Listen to the Lyre at YouTube link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LvgtAHV4mzw>.

# The Educational Mission of Museums

As we come to the end of another exciting year here at the Institute of Archaeology and Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum, we can certainly be thankful for many good things. The Archaeological Library has grown exponentially. Several new media resources have been produced with National Geographic and the Hope Channel in our efforts to provide educational materials to students and the public. Our collections, thanks to several donors, have increased by twenty percent, and we are negotiating another substantial collection that we hope to be able to report on by next year.

These new collections provide the museum with an invaluable resource – the opportunity to provide further education through special exhibits focused on specific topics of the ancient and biblical world. This past month I had the privilege of touring six different museums in New York City. Every one of the museums I visited had something in common. Each had special temporary exhibitions. The Metropolitan Museum of Art had a fantastic exhibit on “The Age of Rembrandt.” The Modern Museum of Art had an exhibition on the “50 Years of Helvetica.” The week before, I was in San Diego for professional meetings, where a special exhibit on the Dead Sea



**“Museums ... are places where both children and adults can leisurely browse to discover the past, present, and future of humanity, the natural world, and the cosmos, where the public can seek and find meaning and connection.”**

~ John H. Falk & Lynn D. Dierking, *Learning from Museums*, 2.

Scrolls attracted thousands of patrons and tourists in the area. Some of these exhibitions take advantage of the museum’s own vast collections that are rarely displayed. Others bring in theme-oriented collections from a variety of museums around the world.

Special exhibits are a key component of the mission and goals of museums. First, they provide opportunities to educate the community and public in specific areas. Second, they attract visitors who may have already seen the permanent exhibit and might think that there is nothing new to learn. Third, they provide opportunities for museums to appeal to different interests that the public might have. Finally, they often feature special guest speakers, who are experts on the exhibited materials, to speak on related subjects. All of these promote further education and outreach. At an educational institution like Southern Adventist University, special exhibits allow archaeology and art students to gain unique and valuable hands-on experience in designing and planning museum exhibits.

The new collections that have arrived at the Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum provide the opportunity for a major special exhibit in 2008, which we have entitled “Faces of Power: Ancient Coins from the Biblical World.” This exhibit will be housed in the Museum itself and will bring together art and objects from the Greco-Roman period. These artifacts include a gold stater of Philip II of Macedon, father of Alexander the Great; and a silver tetradrachm of Antioch with the bust of the Roman emperor, Nero. Most exciting are several coins that

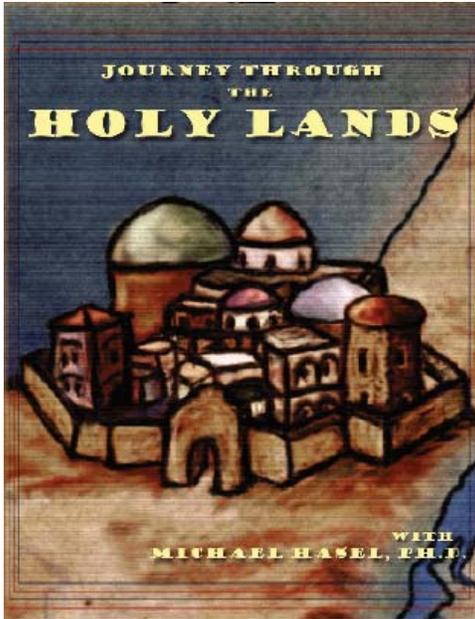
can be identified as the type received by Judas Iscariot when he was paid in silver for the betrayal of Jesus Christ (Matt 26:14-15).

Several leading scholars will speak on topics relating to the special exhibit including Dr. Jasper Gaunt, Greco-Roman curator of the Michael C. Carlos Museum at Emory University. We hope that you can be present for this exciting new exhibit scheduled to open in September 2008.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Michael H. Wood". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Director, Institute of Archaeology

# Virtual Tour of the Holy Lands Now Available



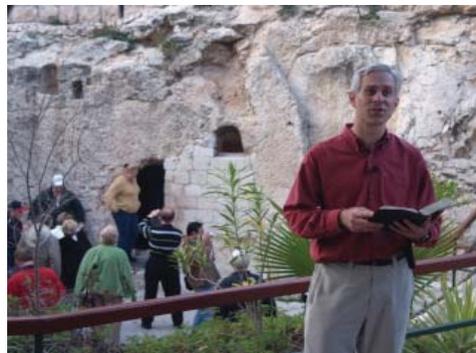
**H**ave you ever wished you could take a trip to the land of the Bible? Walk through the streets of Jerusalem? Worship on the Mount of Olives? Stand next to the Great Pyramid at Giza? Enter into the tomb of one of the oldest Pharaohs? Climb Mt. Sinai? The opportunity has come to experience the lands of the Bible in front of your own computer or television with the new "Journey through the Holy Lands with Michael G. Hasel."

In March of this year Dr. Hasel,



director of the Institute of Archaeology at Southern Adventist University, led a tour to Israel and Egypt with University President Dr. Gordon Bietz and 24 other participants. They were accompanied by Stratton Tingle and Jon-Michael Brown, a professional

film crew whose job it was to record the comments at each location they visited. Later, segments were edited, and graphics and maps were added, as well as biblical passages accompanying each location. The result is a multimedia interactive DVD that has been developed as an educational resource for schools, churches, and individuals interested in the stories of the Bible. "As we were thinking of strategies to share the exciting discoveries and insights archaeology makes for the Bible, we got the idea of producing a virtual tour where people could be on location as these connections are made," said Dr. Hasel. "The beauty of a project like this is that one can



always add more locations and comments as tours are conducted in the future."

The places visited include locations in Jerusalem, such as the Mount of Olives, Garden Tomb, Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Cardo, and the Western Wall of the Temple. Travel continues to the regions of the Dead Sea, where Jesus told the parable of the Good Samaritan, set at the Wadi Qelt and Jericho. Proceed to Qumran, where the ancient Dead Sea scrolls were found. In Egypt climb into one of the oldest pyramids and experience the huge stones used to build the pyramids at Giza. Witness ancient religion and temple architecture at Saqqara and become fascinated with



the story of the Sphinx. You will not want to miss the incredible experience of the sunrise on top of Gebel Musa, the mountain many believe was Mt. Sinai. These are just some of the amazing locations that you can experience for yourself through this interactive DVD tour of the Holy Lands. Whether in the classroom, church, or home, these inspiring locations help to bring the Bible alive.

**Yes, I would like to experience the Holy Lands!**

**For information on how to receive this interactive DVD series, please contact Justo Morales:**

**Write to:**

**Institute of Archaeology  
PO Box 370  
Collegedale, TN 37315**

**Call or email:**

**423.236.2027**

**[jmorales@southern.edu](mailto:jmorales@southern.edu)**

## New Exhibit Planned for Fall 2008

The Institute of Archaeology announces the development of a new exhibit, "Faces of Power: Ancient Coins from the Biblical World," brought about by the reception of a rare coin collection from the Bechtel family.



**Philip II of Macedon**

The value of such exhibits for the public is enormous (see Director's Page). The exhibit dating as far back as Philip II of Macedon will move through time to Nero of Rome. It will mirror our permanent collection theme, "Vessels in Time," highlighting the progression of coins through time, while sharing important stories from the Bible. On display will be examples of a widow's mite (Mark 12:38-44) and silver shekels from the time of Christ. The coins Judas Iscariot received for betraying Christ (Matt 22:14-15) will be given prominence. All of these coins not only illustrate the monetary and economic systems of the Greco-Roman world, but they also depict portraits of kings and gods. These "faces of power" were widely circulated in order to communicate through art the religio-political structures of the day.

This exhibit will be the first temporary exhibit since the grand opening of the Museum in 2004. The Museum's plan is to develop a new temporary exhibit every year. This year the Advisory Board hired Justo Morales as museum coordinator to facilitate that goal. As one of only a few

programs on campus that draws community visitors to Southern Adventist University, it is the Institute's hope that new collections and temporary exhibits will maintain interest and increase visitor numbers, while providing important insights into the ancient world of the Bible through continued education.

Producing a first-class exhibit of this nature takes time and resources:

- Artwork and photographs collected or produced and graphics designed.
- Text and story line written.
- Display cases built and artifacts mounted and insured.
- Marketing materials sent out to the community and an exhibition guide published.
- Guest lecturers invited to speak on topics relating to the special exhibit.

All of these plans are to ensure that students of the University and the community are aware of this new resource for education and outreach.

**We need your help. Our goal for the Museum budget for 2008 is \$50,000. Please consider making a tax-deductible gift as together we bring the biblical world back to life, one silver or gold coin at a time!**

**You can sponsor a coin in our upcoming fall exhibit! Your donation will help with the preservation and exhibition of our new coin collections:**

- Sponsor a Coin: # \_\_\_\_\_ (\$1000/coin)  
(Receive a photo and history of your coin, plus a special mention on the donors plaque at our new exhibit.)

**I am interested in biblical archaeology and would like the opportunity to support the Institute of Archaeology in the following area(s):**

- Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Institute of Archaeology \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Burton & Dorothy Keppler Endowment for Archaeological Excavation & Publication \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

### Credit Card Information:

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Card# \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

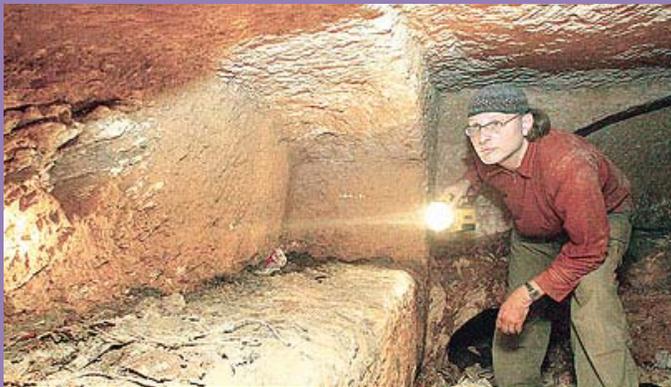
- My check is enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(payable to Southern Adventist University, designate "museum" in memo)

**Mail to:** School of Religion, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315

# Recent Sightings

## Temple Mount discovery leads to dispute in Jerusalem

Israeli archaeologists say that ancient remains from the era of Solomon's Temple were discovered last month for the first time on the holiest site for Judaism, reigniting a historical and political debate over an area that is also holy to Muslims. [click to read more](#)

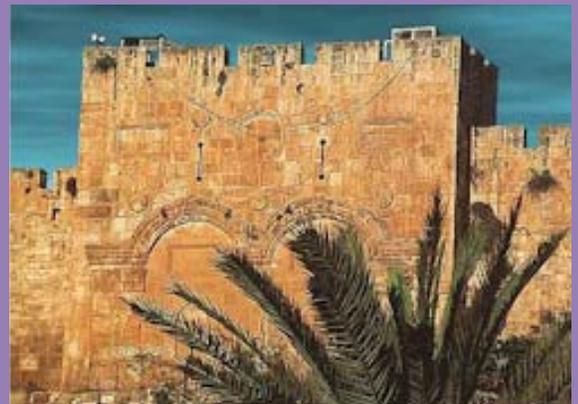


## Another take on the "Jesus tomb"

Canadian filmmaker Martin Himel produced *Archaeological Minefields* in an attempt to look at a more balanced view of the "Jesus tomb" following Simcha Jacobovici's controversial film *The Last Tomb of Jesus*. [click to read more](#)

## Excavator Claims Nehemiah's Wall Found

Dr. Eilat Mazar, one of Israel's top archaeologists, ended her presentation at the 13th Annual Conference of the Ingeborg Rennert Center for Jerusalem Studies on "New Studies on Jerusalem" with a surprise announcement. She had discovered remnants of the fifth-century B.C. wall built by Nehemiah. The account is recorded in the Old Testament book of the same name. [click to read more](#)



## Additional Links

- Archaeologists discover the world's oldest inscription in Jiroft [click here](#)
- Rice University professor debunks National Geographic translation of Gospel of Judas [click here](#)
- Facts on the ground? Keep on digging for historical truth [click here](#)
- Sick rams used as ancient bioweapons [click here](#)
- Cave may hold secrets to legend of ancient Rome [click here](#)
- Is Italy's spectacular find authentic? [click here](#)
- Remains of ancient synagogue with unique mosaic floor found in Galilee [click here](#)
- Zombie attack at Hierakonpolis [click here](#)
- Fragment of ancient parchment from Bible given to Jerusalem scholars [click here](#)
- Face-to-face with Tutankhamun [click here](#)
- How old tree rings and ancient wood are helping rewrite history [click here](#)

## Upcoming Events

### Museum Lecture Series

February (TBA)

Gabriel Barkay  
Bar-Ilan University

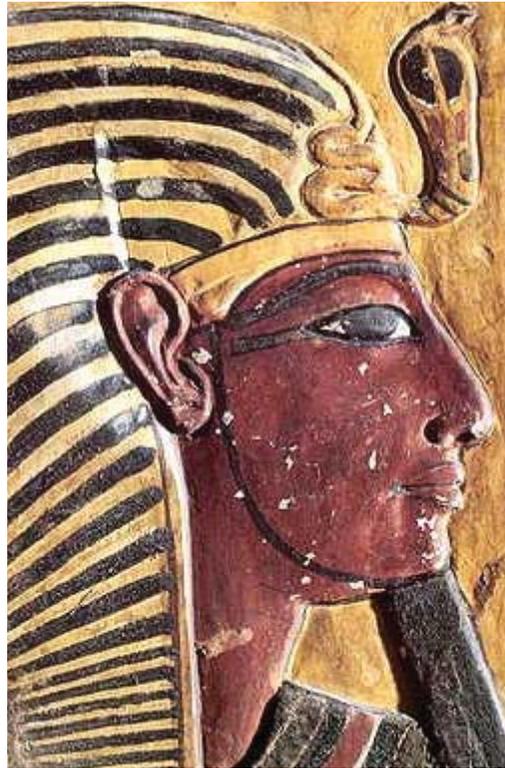
Topic: Recent research on excavated materials from the Temple Mount, Jerusalem

March 29

7p.m.

Peter J. Brand  
University of Memphis

Topic: Wars of the Egyptian king Seti I during New Kingdom Egypt in Western Asia



King Seti I

### Scholarly Meetings

American Research Center  
in Egypt

Annual Meetings  
April 25-27, 2008  
Seattle, Washington

### By Appointment Only

Do you have family coming into town over the holidays?

Show them Southern's  
archaeological museum!

Schedule a visit to the museum by calling Star Stevens at 423.236.2988 or Susan Brown at 423.236.2977

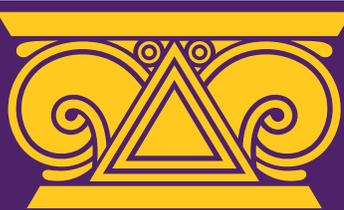
### Extended Museum Hours

The museum will be open one hour prior to the Museum Lectures. Meet our guest lecturer and enjoy a special guided tour of the museum.

### Coming Soon . . .

The Dever Library

Look for more information in the next issue of *DigSight*



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PO Box 370  
Collegedale, TN 37315  
423.236.2027  
<http://archaeology.southern.edu>

**General Editor:** Justo E. Morales  
**Content Editor:** Michael G. Hasel  
**Design & Photography:** Marcella Morales

To subscribe or unsubscribe, or for more newsletter information, please contact Justo E. Morales at 423.236.2027 or [jmorales@southern.edu](mailto:jmorales@southern.edu)