



ACOR
أخبار أكوور

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Four Years of SCHEP—The Sustainable Cultural Heritage Through Engagement of Local Communities Project

Nizar Al Adarbeh, Jihad Haron, and Hussein Khirfan

SCHEP is a partnership between ACOR and USAID to help protect Jordan's cultural heritage resources by developing archaeological sites, as well as to support the development of the tourism sector to benefit local communities, create jobs and opportunities for professional development, and promote awareness of the value of cultural heritage throughout Jordan.

Phase one of SCHEP, from November 2014 to November 2018, saw its evolution from a pilot project into a model for sustainable preservation and management of Jordan's cultural heritage resources (CHR) with the direct involvement of local communities. The project's multifaceted efforts and many successes led to the renewal of the agreement with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) until August 2022. While it would be impossible to list all of the project's varied efforts here, or our many partners, in this article we share highlights of SCHEP's work over its first four years, with a special focus on some of the project's achievements from July to December 2018.



USAID SCHEP staff as of December 2018. Top row, from left: Abed Alfattah Ghareeb (Creative Producer & Editor), Jihad Haron (Deputy Chief of Party & CHR Development Lead), Zaid Kashour (Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist), Nizar Al Adarbeh (Chief of Party), Hussein Khirfan (Tourism Development Lead). Bottom row: Shatha Abu Aballi (Communications Officer), Balqeas Al Mohaisen (Capacity Building Coordinator), Dina Al Majali (Admin Assistant), Raneen Naimi (Awareness & Outreach Intern) (photo by Ala' Al Badareen, all other photos by A. Ghareeb and courtesy of SCHEP, unless otherwise noted)

One of SCHEP's aims is to foster a holistic approach to cultural heritage resource management by utilizing a grassroots social engagement model that emphasizes local communities as the primary stakeholders. Accordingly, SCHEP worked with various principal investigators at nine sites throughout the country over the project's first phase to conduct interventions, support the development of Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs), conduct training, and more. SCHEP's involvement at each site varied according to its specificities, in some cases supporting pre-existing projects or organizations, and in others beginning new projects in partnership with local and international organizations.



Map of SCHEP-supported sites throughout Jordan (2014–2018)

Site Development

In its first four years, SCHEP supported development projects at nine sites: Ghawr as-Safi (Karak), Busayra (Tafila), Umm al-Jimal (Mafraq), Bir Madhkur (Wadi Araba), the Temple of the Winged Lions (Petra), Bayt Ra's (Irbid), Wadi Rum, Ayla (Aqaba), and Madaba. SCHEP was faced with a daunting challenge from the beginning. Given the diversity of the areas in which the project was involved, there was no standard model that could be followed to preserve, protect, and promote the sites with the direct involvement of the surrounding communities. Although specific interventions varied from site to site, the ultimate goal was to ensure that each was able to reach its potential as a destination for education, exploration, and community building.

At Umm al-Jimal, SCHEP has worked closely with the Umm el-Jimal Archaeological Project (UJAP), under the direction of Bert de Vries. With SCHEP funding and support, the UJAP has been able to clear new paths, install interpretive panels, reconstruct the Commodus Gate, print new educational materials, and much more.

SCHEP facilitated a series of workshops and meetings between UJAP and the Department of Antiquities (DOA), leading to the formulation of a draft Site Management Plan for Umm al-Jimal. In addition, a World Heritage Monument Inscription dossier was drafted as part of this collaboration. SCHEP and its partners will

continue to work on the finalization of the Site Management Plan and the nomination dossier of Umm al-Jimal to be inscribed on the World Heritage List. The site's inclusion on the World Heritage List will raise its status as a tourist destination, drawing more visitors and supporting new economic opportunities for the community through the tourism and hospitality sectors.



DOA Acting Director General Yazid Elayan, USAID Acting Mission Director Ralph Koehring, and UJAP Director Bert de Vries gather around a new interpretive sign at a December 2018 event to mark the completion of SCHEP's collaboration with UJAP in phase one.

In terms of site management and development, SCHEP has played a significant role at the painted Roman tomb at Bayt Ra's near Irbid. Since the tomb was discovered in 2016, an international consortium was formed to oversee its management, and a series of excavation, documentation, and conservation missions have been conducted. During an eleven-day mission in September 2018, funded and supported by SCHEP and supervised by Institut français du Proche-Orient (Ifpo) with the DOA, experts conducted excavation in both rooms of the complex, conducted photogrammetry documentation of the wall paintings, and excavated, recorded, and studied the sarcophagus and the bones within. See *ACOR Newsletter 29.2* for more on SCHEP's efforts at Bayt Ra's.



Members of the SCHEP team and the Bayt Ra's international consortium, with the DOA, inside the tomb during excavation work in September 2018

Another major accomplishment at Bayt Ra's was the completion of key preventive measures, including the installation of a light metal shelter on top of the tomb entrance in order to protect the tomb and its wall paintings from environmental threats, especially humidity.

The metal cover was designed by DOA staff with SCHEP team involvement. SCHEP team members were also able to advance the presentation and interpretation of the Bayt Ra's tomb by working with a local company to produce a 3D panoramic tour of the tomb interior using Virtual Reality (VR) technology. The VR devices are available on site and at ACOR. One of the metal caravans beside the tomb entrance was transformed into a gallery equipped with a screen to present videos and graphics related to the history of the ruins and the progress of the work.



Documentation and preparation work at the site of the planned Madaba Regional Archaeological Museum, May 2016 (photo courtesy of MRAMP)

In partnership with the Madaba Regional Archaeological Museum Project (MRAMP), under the leadership of Douglas Clark, SCHEP has supported efforts to prepare the future museum site and develop conceptual plans for the museum with the input of local community members. The documentation of over 12,000 archaeological objects in the current Madaba Museum was accomplished with the participation of community members from Madaba and DOA staff members.

In Busayra, in partnership with the DOA in Tafilah and with the active engagement of local community members, SCHEP undertook significant site development interventions over the past year. These included landscaping the entrance area, fixing the entrance gate, creating a pergola with seating to serve as an assembly point, enhancing the accessibility of the site with a well-defined, marked trail, as well as installing interpretive signs and mounting metal steps leading to the Iron Age temple. SCHEP also commissioned a mural by local artists and teachers presenting the historic events in Busayra from the Iron Age to the present day.



Historical mural commissioned by SCHEP at the entrance to the archaeological site of Busayra created by local artist and architect Toqa Al Oran in 2018

In order to sustain awareness-raising efforts, SCHEP, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education (MOE) and the Busayra Secondary School for Boys, developed a three-room annex to serve as a Heritage Lab. The Heritage Lab will promote archaeological awareness programs through hands-on educational activities targeting schools at local and national levels.

In Aqaba, SCHEP partnered with the Royal Marine Conservation Society of Jordan (JREDS) to undertake an underwater survey as well as site development at the Islamic City of Ayla. SCHEP supported the creation and maintenance of interpretive signs, and an interactive map that uses GIS technology to guide visitors through ancient Ayla and the surrounding area. The archaeological site, which is partially submerged in the Red Sea, also provided the venue for a training workshop on Underwater Heritage, implemented by JREDS.

SCHEP has supported conservation and other interventions at the Tawaheen as-Sukkar (sugar mills) in Ghawr as-Safi, as well as in Petra in collaboration with the Temple of the Winged Lions Cultural Resource Management Initiative (TWLCRM). One major accomplishment of early 2018 was the installation of new interpretive site signs to help visitors understand the history and value of the TWL and imagine how it once looked. (See below Jack Green's article for more information on interventions at this site).



New signage and trails at Ghawr as-Safi where SCHEP has worked at the site of the medieval sugar mills with Dino Politis

Capacity Building

One of the goals of SCHEP from its inception was to make a lasting impact on the way that Jordan preserves, protects, and promotes its rich cultural heritage. SCHEP endeavored to be 'needs based,' that is, to impart skills that would actually be useful on the ground. As such, SCHEP aims to build the capacities of the Jordanian cultural heritage sector by providing training and new professional development opportunities for professionals and students in the heritage field.

SCHEP training courses and workshops are designed to help partners in cultural heritage become more self-sufficient and better-equipped with the knowledge and experience needed to move forward once the SCHEP grant ends. Direct cooperation with the DOA, Petra Development and Tourism Region Authority (PDTRA), Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority (ASEZA), Wadi Rum Protected Area (WRPA), and other local heritage institutions has enabled high-level capacity building programs on a wide variety of topics related to the management, conservation, presentation and marketing of cultural heritage resources.



Mohammad Dmeian Al Zalabieh demonstrates his ability to interpret Thamudic inscriptions at an event in Wadi Rum in May 2018.

One notable capacity building program took place in Wadi Rum in collaboration with the Community-Based Rock Art and Epigraphic Recording Project (CB-RAER), under the leadership of George Bevan and Kaelin Groom. Nine local students participated in a three-month course to use the Rock Art Stability Index (RASI) to evaluate large numbers of rock art panels in the park based on their relative preservation or degradation. This will allow the participants to become leaders in their own community, both in preserving this important art work as well helping to train future tour guides.

SCHEP and the CB-RAER also held an intensive three-day workshop to train local guides in rock art interpretation, including reading Thamudic script. Some 25 people participated from villages surrounding Wadi Rum. Fifteen of these young people continued their training in a three-month Rock Art Rangers program to learn about inscriptions present in the Wadi Rum Protected Area, rock art interpretation, and best practices for heritage sites.

SCHEP also provided a series of training and professional development opportunities through its partnership with MRAMP, including a three-month internship program for five architecture students from the American University of Madaba (AUM). The focus of the work was on data collection and analysis to help the museum architects from Studio Strati in Italy with their plans for an intended future museum. To ensure museum employees learn best practices in museum management, SCHEP and MRAMP conducted a number of training courses in handling and displaying objects, data entry, and a variety of other skills.



The participants in the MRAMP training on Artifact Organization and Display after receiving their certificates in Madaba, December 2018

Improving the gender equity of the heritage field in Jordan has been another focus of the SCHEP project. SCHEP's efforts have engaged women by offering better work opportunities, career and skill development, participation in international and national

conferences, leadership opportunities, strategic development, policies, procedures, and more active participation for women in high-level world heritage site management in Jordan. By providing such programs for women from a variety of backgrounds and focusing on female participation from local communities in rural areas across Jordan, as well as recent university graduates, SCHEP continuously works to further women's engagement in the cultural heritage sector at every level and to promote women's participation and leadership in the heritage sector under the hashtag #Women4Heritage.

New Archaeological Heritage Strategy

In July 2018, SCHEP organized a kick-off stakeholders' workshop for the formulation of the Jordan Archaeological Heritage Strategy (2019–2023). Under the patronage of Minister of Tourism and Antiquities H.E. Lina Annab, the DOA and other stakeholders came together to discuss strategy and to lay out a roadmap for the next four years in cultural heritage preservation and presentation. This formal gathering resulted in the agreement of the key strategic pillars, including enabling environment, site management, research and studies, and museums.

Raising Awareness

SCHEP conducted an awareness raising program in cooperation with the MOE, the DOA, and the FOAH (Friends of Archaeology & Heritage) with a focus on hands-on activities for school children. On September 15, SCHEP and FOAH organized an Archaeology Festival. Held at Al Hussein Park, the festival introduced the value of cultural heritage to more than 160 students from different schools in Amman. For the 2018 National Summer Program "BASMEH," organized by the Ministry of Education and the Crown Prince Foundation, SCHEP coordinated 15 workshops, attended by nearly 3000 students from nine schools near the SCHEP-supported sites of Bayt Ra's, Madaba, Umm al-Jimal, Ghawr as-Safi, Busayra, and Ayla.



Children participating in hands-on activities during the Archaeology Festival in Amman, September 2018

By the end of 2018, SCHEP's awareness program engaged more than 6,000 students from schools across Jordan. Students had the chance to learn more about their cultural heritage through site visits, writing Thamudic inscriptions, making mosaics, and reconstructing pottery. To this end, SCHEP decided to bring together all its awareness-related activities under the hashtag #Generations4Heritage.

Tourism and Economic Development

Building on the economic momentum generated by Jordan's growing tourism sector over recent years, SCHEP also worked to support local actors seeking to develop their own enterprises

to manage and benefit from their cultural heritage. By late 2018, SCHEP had supported the establishment of four local micro- to small-sized enterprises (MSEs) at SCHEP sites. These MSEs will manage cultural heritage resources and develop tourism products and experiences, thus attracting new visitors and providing income and employment opportunities for the local community. In Aqaba, Busayra, Ghawr as-Safi, and Umm al-Jimal, former SCHEP partners and site stewards now lead their own initiatives, thus continuing the work that SCHEP facilitated. Connecting cultural heritage to real economic opportunity invites significant and sustainable engagement from local communities as partners in preservation.



Students from the University of Jordan pick vegetables to cook as part of the agritourism experience at Safi Kitchen, an initiative supported by SCHEP.



Logos of the four SCHEP-supported community-based enterprises

Supporting the establishment of local companies is not the only way SCHEP has worked to achieve sustainable growth in tourism at its nine affiliated sites and to ensure that they are included on the national tourism map. The team has also worked with organizations like the Jordan Inbound Tour Operators Association (JITOA) and Visit Jordan to introduce tour operators to the lesser known sites and produce materials that inform curious potential visitors to what they have to offer. SCHEP has held training sessions and workshops on tourism promotion to offer local stakeholders knowledge and skills to attract more visitors to their local heritage sites.

SCHEP Extension

In November 2018, ACOR received a project extension from USAID to continue SCHEP until August 2022. This effort was spearheaded by SCHEP Chief of Party Nizar Al Adarbeh, who wrote the grant proposal in cooperation with SCHEP team members

and the SCHEP Steering Committee (Barbara Porter, Jack Green, and Nisreen Abu Al Shaikh). The focus during this next phase will include the following key areas:

- Develop Open Learning Environments that provide courses and hands-on training to provide important skills and enhance the capacity of local heritage organizations
- Build a strong Jordanian Heritage Community of Practice
- Provide start-up grants, capacity building, vocational training, product development, and marketing for sustainable tourism of Jordan’s cultural heritage resources.

Here we thank all community members and more than 50 project partners and key stakeholders from Jordan and abroad for their contributions towards the project. We look forward to sharing updates on SCHEP extension activities in future newsletters. For more information about SCHEP or to see some of our programs in action, you can see videos of our activities on YouTube (USAID SCHEP) or follow us on social media.



Logos of SCHEP’s partner organizations and projects throughout the first four years of implementation, compiled by Shatha Abu Aballi and Ala’ Al Badareen

ACOR Projects in Petra Updates

Jack Green, Associate Director and TWLCRM Initiative Director

This report summarizes work completed in 2018 at the Temple of the Winged Lions (TWL) as part of the Temple of the Winged Lions Cultural Resource Management (TWLCRM) Initiative, following the 2017 summary in *ACOR Newsletter 29.2*. Work was conducted with the collaboration and support of the Department of Antiquities (DOA) and the Petra Development and Tourism Region Authority (PDTRA) and continued from January to mid-April. A six-week season in November and December entitled “ACOR Projects in Petra” included studies and emergency conservation at TWL and the nearby Petra Church.

Work from January to April was supported by USAID SCHEP and managed by acting project managers Eman Abdessalam and Ahmad Mowasa. This work allowed the completion of the backfilling of the TWL cella, creation of an extension to the pathway in front of the cella, as well as the design, manufacture, and installation of signs and barrier posts. Seven new graphic panels, including one “augmented reality” glass sign on the Petra



colonnaded street, were installed in 2018, in addition to directional and warning signage intended to remind visitors to look after the site. A summary of the signage and pathways project, as well as the graphic content itself, is presented in an ACOR Blog.

Glass sign below the TWL showing augmented reality presentation of the temple in the landscape, March 2018 (photo by Eman Abdessalam)

There was a return to TWL and the Petra Church in November and December with support from the ACOR Cultural Heritage Fund. The lead conservator was Franco Sciorilli and the engineering geologist was Giuseppe Delmonaco. The senior conservation technicians were Khaled Wekhyan and Marwan Al Jamalyyah. On-the-job training participants included those from PDTRA, namely, Wajd Al Nawafleh, Hala Farajat, Taher Al Falahat, Donia Masha'aleh, Maymouna Rawajfeh, Halemah Al Nawafleh, as well as project intern Dina Mashaleh. PDTRA collaboration with the project was represented by Hasan Lawama, then director of the Cultural Resource Management division.



Left: Surveyor Qutaiba Al Dasouqi and Lead Conservator Franco Sciorilli at TWL in December 2018 (photo by Jack Green). Right: Taher Falahat and Wajd Al Nawafleh (PDTRA) conducting cleaning and preparation of TWL SW Quadrant South Wall in November 2018 (photo by Franco Sciorilli)

Upper Northeast and East walls within the SW Quadrant of TWL were cleaned and consolidated, and a parapet and covered drainage channel were created, providing greater overall stability for the site. A drainage study was also conducted as part of GIS mapping by Qutaiba Al Dasouqi, revealing the impact of natural channels on the hillside affecting the site. Among other areas of study, the leaning North Corridor Wall and Lapidarium were assessed for priority conservation needs. The Lapidarium—filled with sculpted stones from the temple—is being considered for a longer term project focused on training, documentation, conservation, and interpretation. Thanks to support from the U.S. Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation, a replacement for the glass sign in the TWL cella was installed, as it was damaged in spring 2018.

Work in the Petra Church in November and December included documentation and study of the atrium's North wall, which is currently affected by salts, likely due to poor drainage. There was also an assessment of the temporary Baptistery shelter. In addition, some small areas of detached mosaic tesserae in need of emergency repair were consolidated inside the Church by Sciorilli.

Back at ACOR, TWL Interns Safa' Joudeh and Libby Trowbridge reviewed objects from the Nabataean temple, conducting rapid photographic documentation and listing material sifted from the American Expedition to Petra (AEP) dumps at TWL, as well as finds from ACOR's excavations conducted in the SW Quadrant. With over 100 crates of largely bulk materials, including pottery sherds, stone fragments, glass, bone, plaster, etc., from the TWL-CRM Initiative alone, the project will continue into 2019.

In Memoriam: Scott Quintance (1967–2019)



Scott first came to Amman in the summer 1991 to study Arabic at the University of Jordan. In August of that year, he met Pierre and Patricia Bikai, who were just beginning their terms at ACOR, and they asked him to assist them. With the death of Ken Russell in the spring 1992, Scott became the official ACOR representative for the excavation of the Petra Church. Patricia Bikai stated that “he did a wonderful job as a member of the project and was very important to ACOR.” Scott returned to his home in Kansas in 2000 but came back to Jordan on many occasions, mainly to work with me on three archaeological survey projects—Tafila-Busayra (1999–2001), Ayl to Ras an-Naqab (2005–2007), and Shammakh to Ayl (2010–2012). Scott co-authored numerous preliminary as well as two final reports. He died on February 4, 2019 after a brave battle with Pallido Ponto Nigral Degeneration (PPND) and is survived by his father Harold, sister Anna, and partner Richard Garcia.

—Burton MacDonald, Professor Emeritus, Department of Religious Studies, St. Francis Xavier University

ACOR Photo Archive Update

Jessica Holland, Archivist



Machaerus / Mukawir, 1998. Jane Taylor collection at ACOR—one of the most popular images on the @acorarchives Instagram account

We are delighted to share that in 2018 we reached the milestone of 14,000 images online from six collections as part of our digitization project supported by a Title VI grant from the U.S. Department of Education. We are now focusing on spreading the word so that people can benefit from this valuable and growing resource. In July, the Library and Archives team ran the second Archival Methods Workshop bringing together professionals from libraries, museums, and archives across the region in a productive day of skills-sharing. The workshop focused on digitization techniques and metadata research methods. We would like to thank co-presenters Steve Meyer and Razan Ahmad and presenter Samya Khalaf Kafafi for their excellent bi-lingual contributions.

The team imparted the progress the project made over its first two years at the ASOR Annual Meeting (presented by Glenn Corbett), the Jordan School Librarians' Conference (co-presented by Jessica Holland and Samya Khalaf Kafafi), and the Qatar Digital Library at the British Library (presented by Jessica Holland). We published a photo essay celebrating the completion of the digitization of the Jane Taylor collection and highlighting the significance of her work. This and other essays on the archive and its collections are available online at www.photoarchive.acorjordan.org.

We have continued the successful internship program that Carmen 'Humi' Ayoubi and Steve Meyer began in 2017. It provides training not offered elsewhere in Jordan and is essential to meeting our digitization goals. Intern Hala Al Saqqa became the Library and Archives Trainee, whilst Razan Ahmad, also a former intern, become an Archival Assistant and she has been instrumental in the training of new Digitization Interns. We look forward to 2019 when the new Project Archivist Rachael McGlensey will begin digitizing the Paul and Nancy Lapp collection with new Digitization Intern, Eslam Al Dawodieh.



Hala Al Saqqa demonstrating care of archival materials to Yarmouk University librarians at ACOR, October 2018



H.R.H. Prince El Hassan Bin Talal's visit to ACOR including demonstration of ACOR Photo Archive by Samya Khalaf Kafafi, Humi Ayoubi, and Jessica Holland, September 2018

New ACOR Assistant Director Amman—Akemi Horii



(photo by Jack Green)

Akemi Horii became the Assistant Director in Amman in August 2018. Her main responsibilities include administering the fellowship grants for CAORC and NEH. She also oversees the ACOR website and electronic communications and supervises student internships. Prior to ACOR, Akemi was a Department Coordinator of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations for the University of Chicago and a Project Coordinator for the University of Chicago Booth Business School. She worked as researcher and analyst in financial and technology sectors for several years before going to graduate school to pursue her academic passion in Middle Eastern culture.

Akemi has a BA in Anthropology from San Francisco State University, an MA in Biblical Hebrew and Greek from Graduate Theological Union, and an MPhil in Islamic Art and Archaeology from the University of Oxford. She participated in the Dhiban archaeological expedition in 2005. Akemi moved to Amman with her husband Jack Green and their daughter Ayaka in October 2017 when he became ACOR Associate Director.

ACOR in Denver at ASOR Annual Meeting

Barbara A. Porter, Director

ACOR celebrated its 50th anniversary year at the ASOR Annual meeting in November. A Thursday afternoon session chaired by ACOR Board Second Vice President Tom Parker focused on “ACOR at 50: A Retrospective and Prospective.” The five presentations were given in this sequence: Barbara Porter, “A Brief History of ACOR: Evolution and Expansion;” Gary Rollefson, “How ACOR-Affiliated Projects Have Transformed Knowledge of the Prehistory of Jordan;” Tom Parker, “ACOR’s Research Projects—A Scholarly Appraisal;” and Jack Green, “ACOR Looks to the Future in an Era of Rapid Change.” Many different themes were touched on in order to encapsulate aspects of ACOR’s role in Jordan. Bert de Vries served as the discussant and shared a colorful presentation with images of the spring flowers from Khirbet Salameh, the ruins in front of ACOR, to tie into his theme of the humanity of ACOR. The abstracts are on the ASOR webpage (www.asor.org).

A significant workshop on Friday was led by Danielle Fatkin and Kathleen Bennalack and called “What’s in a Name? Re-assessing the Oriental in the American Schools of Oriental Research.” Many ACOR Board members and senior staff attended and took part in the breakout sessions. At the ACOR Board meeting on Saturday, November 17, the potential of a change to ACOR’s name (which mirrors ASOR) was discussed. Board member Morag Kersel



ASOR Executive Director Andy Vaughn with ACOR Board President Randy Old and ACOR Director Barbara Porter at the Friday night celebration (photo by William Berkery)

was requested to write a white paper on the name change to be submitted to the full Board for discussion and resolution at the next Board meeting.

On Friday evening, ACOR co-hosted with CAARI a reception for our respective anniversaries of 50 and 40 years. The gathering was the perfect way to have the two centers honor these milestones. As always the logistical support of ASOR for such events was much appreciated. There was a sense of camaraderie that evening, and it was wonderful that Pierre and Patricia Bikai attended. They were able to connect with many friends from their ACOR time from 1991 to 2006, when Pierre served as Director and Patricia as Associate Director.

American Schools of Oriental Research The W. F. Albright Service Award 2018

Barbara A. Porter

This award honors an individual who has shown special support or made outstanding service contributions to one of the overseas centers, ACOR, AIAR, CAARI, or to one of the overseas committees—the Baghdad committee and the Damascus committee.

Barbara A. Porter, Director, American Center of Oriental Research (ACOR), Amman, Jordan, is recognized with this award for thirteen successful years of service. Barbara’s tenure has brought ACOR into the 21st century by fostering an atmosphere of openness and accessibility, joint-community ventures, and a personal focus on close mentorship and practical training, reflecting her encouragement of connections between people and projects, and her firm belief in the benefits of exchange and collaboration. Significant projects fostered under her leadership include the ACOR Conservation Cooperative (ACC), which provides support for conservation projects throughout Jordan, and the Sustainable Cultural Heritage Through Engagement of Local Communities Project (SCHEP), linking archaeological site preservation with development goals for Jordan. The latter project attracted leading Jordanian archaeologists to steer the project and instigated a substantial increase in the engagement and employment of young Jordanians. She also spearheaded the Temple of the Winged Lions in Petra preservation project, recognized with an AIA Best Practices in Site Preservation award



Barbara Porter holding her ASOR award as presented in Denver at the Annual Meeting on November 16 (photo by Jack Green)

(2015); the digitization of the photographic archive of the archaeological, cultural and natural heritage of Jordan and the wider Middle East, making it publicly accessible; and the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Award Fund, which provides funds for former fellows to attend the MESA annual meeting. Barbara’s hard work and determination has positioned ACOR as one of the most influential cultural institutions in Jordan.

Conservation and Restoration of the Petra North Ridge Aphrodite Statues

Michael Morris, ACOR CAORC Fellow

Two polychromed Roman-period marble sculptures of the goddess Aphrodite were discovered outside the northern city wall of Petra in 2016 by Megan A. Perry (East Carolina University) and S. Thomas Parker (North Carolina State University). They were found in pieces and were an out-of-context surprise. After the excavation season, with the permission of the Department of Antiquities, the fragments were moved to the ACOR Conservation Lab. Mark Abbe (University of Georgia) began an extensive study on the polychromy and also conducted research into their origins. In fall 2018, my CAORC fellowship afforded me time in Amman to study the statues further and undertake conservation and restoration.



Michael Morris and Abdelelah Al Khatib discussing the two Petra North Ridge statues in the ACOR Conservation Lab in December 2018. On left Aphrodite 1 (82 x 17 x 24 cm) and on right Aphrodite 2 (73.5 x 18 x 27 cm)

These sculptures make an interesting study about early stone repair. At least two, maybe three, “conservation” interventions with iron and bronze pins are present in Aphrodite 1 and one iron pin phase for Aphrodite 2. After some 2000 years we are the first to undertake another intervention. Surprisingly, and unfortunately basic conservation practices do not seem to have changed much in all this time! Drilling holes, using cementitious mortar in conjunction with iron or bronze pins were the materials and methods then. The fractured surfaces were reworked with a point chisel leaving voids to be filled with mortar. The pins generally went quite deep, and the mortar which is still hard and intact held the pins in place and the fragments together.

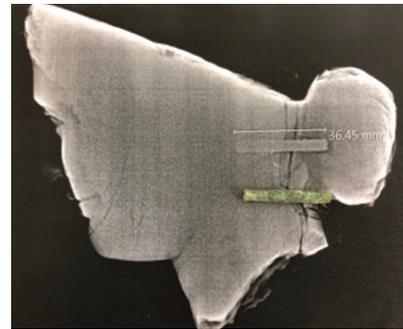
Aphrodite 1 consists of very fine tightly grained marble and was in eight fragments. She is most likely the earlier of the two figures.

Public Lectures at ACOR* (January–June 2018)

September 19–Father Rosario Pierri (Dean of the Studium Biblicum Franciscanum, Jerusalem), “In Memoriam Remarks for Father Michele Piccirillo” and Franco Sciorilli (Independent Restorer), “Thirty Years of Mosaic Restoration and Beyond”

October 16–Book Launch for *The Petra Papyri V* with presentations by Barbara A. Porter (ACOR Director), “Behind the Scenes in the Petra Papyri Publication Process,” Jaakko Frösén (University of Helsinki), “From Carbonized Papyri to the Monastery of Saint Aaron at Petra: The ‘Last Will’ of Mr. Obodianos,” and

She is missing her base with Eros, her lower left leg and left forearm and hand. In a first restoration phase the ancient conservators deployed iron pins to fasten the top of her hair to the head and then in presumably a second phase an iron pin of much better condition was fastened at her neck. In what is possibly a third phase, several bronze pins, as far as we can reconstruct, were used to fix the chignon of her hair, her arms, and her right leg. These bronze pins (and probably also the iron pins) were set in hydraulic cement analyzed by Khaled Al-Bashaireh of Yarmouk University. Marble samples were taken at the hair and neck of Aphrodite 1 and at the waist of Aphrodite 2 to be analyzed by Lorenzo Lazzarini of the University of Venice and Al-Bashaireh. Aphrodite 2 is broken in three fragments and is missing her right arm and her hair at the nape of the neck. All in all, four iron pins have survived that fixed the fractures, one



at the neck and three at the waist.

X-ray of head of Aphrodite 1 showing pin; image taken by radiologist Mohammad Ammar on November 1, 2018 as part of the conservation efforts

For modern repair and conservation of stone, holes are often drilled, many times unnecessarily, and adhesives used, often times stronger than the stone itself. However, in general we want a repair to be slightly weaker than the stone itself so that if it breaks again it will fail at the old fracture, thus not causing additional damage. Observing the ancient bronze pins in Aphrodite 1 we see what we are ideally hoping to achieve. The sculpture did break at the old fractures, thus not damaging the marble any further. This is different with the iron pins for they corroded, expanded, and fractured the marble.

Our intention in this current conservation treatment was to put the figures back together again in a way that is reversible so that the sculptures can be disassembled easily to their original fragmented state. We therefore decided not to drill new holes but to use existing ancient ones for carbon fiber pins. The ancient bronze pin, shown by x-ray, connecting the chignon of Aphrodite 1 to the back of her head is so extraordinarily stable that it was left in place. Due to the decision of not adding new holes, or enlarging old holes, we have so far not been able to stabilize and securely mount Aphrodite 1. Her “sister,” Aphrodite 2, with her base intact could be put back together easily and will be put on display soon in the new Petra Museum.

Antti Arjava (Finnish Cultural Foundation), “The People of Petra Reflected in the Papyri”

November 7, 2018–Konstantinos D. Politis (Hellenic Society for Near Eastern Studies), “The Origins of the Sugar Industry in Jordan: Latest results of the Ghawr as-Sāfi Project,” an ACOR-USAID SCHEP Lecture

* Available as ACOR Video Lectures on www.acorjordan.org and YouTube

ACOR 2019–2020 Fellowship Awardees Announcement

National Endowment for the Humanities Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship

Dylan Rogers (American School of Classical Studies at Athens) Sensing Water: Public Water Displays of the Roman Empire

ACOR-CAORC Post-Doctoral Fellowship

Najib Hourani (Anthropology, Michigan State University) Urban Reconstruction in Syria: Toward a Positive Peace?

José Ciro Martínez (Politics, Trinity College, University of Cambridge) The Politics of Bread: Performing the State in Hashemite Jordan

Konstantinos D. Politis (Hellenic Society for Near Eastern Studies) Khirbet Qazone: A Nabataean to Early Christian Community on the South-Eastern Dead Sea Littoral

Christine Sargent (Economics, Drew University) Medicine, Technology, and Uncertainty: Navigating Pre-Natal Diagnosis in Jordan

TWL Publication Fellow

Pauline Piraud-Fournet, University of Paris IV-Sorbonne

ACOR-CAORC Pre-Doctoral Fellowship

Kyle Craig (Anthropology, Northwestern University) “This City is So Empty”: Street Art, Youth, and Urban Futures in Amman, Jordan

Melissa Scott (Ethnomusicology, University of California, Berkeley) Sounding Place: Classical Arab Music and Humanitarian Sentiment in Jordan

William Tamplin (Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University) Apocalypticism in the Modern Jordanian Novel

Jennifer C. Groot Memorial Fellowship

Lara Curasev (Archaeology and Heritage Studies, Wilfred Laurier University) Town of Nebo Archaeological Project

Sarah Dengler (Graduate Student, Anthropology, University of Idaho) The Dhiban Excavation and Development Project

Andressa Leitzke (Graduate Student, Accountancy and Archaeology, La Sierra University) The Balu’a Regional Archaeological Project

Darcy Stubbs (History, Classics and Archaeology, Calvin College) Umm el-Jimal

Pierre and Patricia Bikai Fellowship

Betty Adams (Graduate Student, Near Eastern Archaeology, La Sierra University) Cosmetic Adornment during the Iron Age in the Southern Levant; Balu’a Regional Archaeology Project

Julia Maczuga (Graduate Student, Islamic Archaeology, University of Bonn) Islamic Graffiti

Bert and Sally de Vries Fellowship

Adriano Odello (Anthropology, University of California, Santa Cruz) Epipaleolithic Foragers of Azraq Project at Kharaneh IV

Harrell Family Fellowship

Aseel Najib (Graduate Student, Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies, Columbia University) The Land Tax: Between Politics and Law in Early Islamic History

Kenneth W. Russell Memorial Fellowship

Craig Harvey (Graduate Student, Roman Archaeology, University of Michigan) Humayma Excavation Project

Burton MacDonald and Rosemarie Sampson Fellowship

Jeremy Beller (Graduate Student, Archaeology, University of Victoria) Azraq Marshes Archaeological and Paleoecological Project

ACOR Jordanian Graduate Student Scholarship

Dana ElFarraj (Graduate Student, Urban Planning and Studies, Jordan University of Science and Technology) Impact of Enhanced Tourism at the Umm el-Jimal Archaeological Site on the Socio-Economic Development of the Local Community

Mais Haddad (Graduate Student, Architecture, The University of Jordan) A Paradigm for Ecclesiastical Architecture in Jordan: Comparative Study of Three Churches at Umm el Jimal

Rawan Al Rabadi (Graduate Student, Conservation and Management of Cultural Resources Yarmouk University) Conservation of Textile Icon of Epitaphion Thron/Coffin of Christ from Baptism (Al-Maghtas) Museum

Arzaq Abu Eid (Graduate Student, Anthropology, Yarmouk University) Pottery Alleviation Strategies in Jordan

Frederick-Wenger Jordanian Educational Fellowship

Obada Al Farajat (Graduate Student, Tourism Management, Al-Hussein Bin Talal University) Tourism Management in World Heritage Site: Petra as a Case Study

Abbad Diraneyya (Undergraduate Student, The University of Jordan, English Language & Literature) University Study

James A. Sauer Fellowship

Bilal AlBoorini (Graduate Student, Department of Conservation and Management of Cultural Resources, Yarmouk University) A Proposed Master’s Dissertation in Conservation and Restoration of Lead Coffin from the Store of Jerash Archaeological Site

ACOR Jordanian Travel Scholarship for ASOR Annual Meeting in San Diego

Mohammad Alaziezeh (University of Jordan, Aqaba) “Preservation versus Use: A Comparison of Tourism Stakeholders’ Value Perceptions toward the Petra World Heritage Site”

Mohammad Al-Shebli (Department of Antiquities) “The Conservation Project of al Qatranah—Restoration of the Ottoman Fort, Rehabilitation of the Ancient Water System, and New Insights on its Historical Urban Context”

Fellows in Residence (July—December 2018)

CAORC Post-Doctoral Fellows

Jennifer Olmsted, Economics, Drew University; Gender, Displacement, and Economics

Michael Morris, Independent Conservator; The Conservation and Restoration of the Petra North Ridge Aphrodites (see p. 9)

Jennifer C. Groot Fellow

Brittany Ellis, Anthropology, Harvard University; A Developing Field: Public Archaeology at Tall Hisban

James A. Sauer Fellow

Salama Kassem, Archaeology, University of Bonn; Technology and Provenance of Glazed Pottery from Tall Hisban during the Middle Islamic Period

Pierre and Patricia Bikai Fellow

Emily Edwards, Anthropology, East Carolina University; Hesban Skeleton Sample from the Ottoman Era



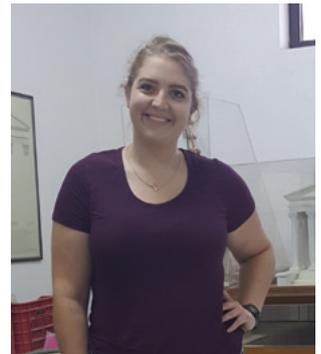
Jennifer Olmsted



Brittany Ellis (by Willem Taylor)



Salama Kassem (courtesy of same)



Emily Edwards

Donations to ACOR (July–December 2018)

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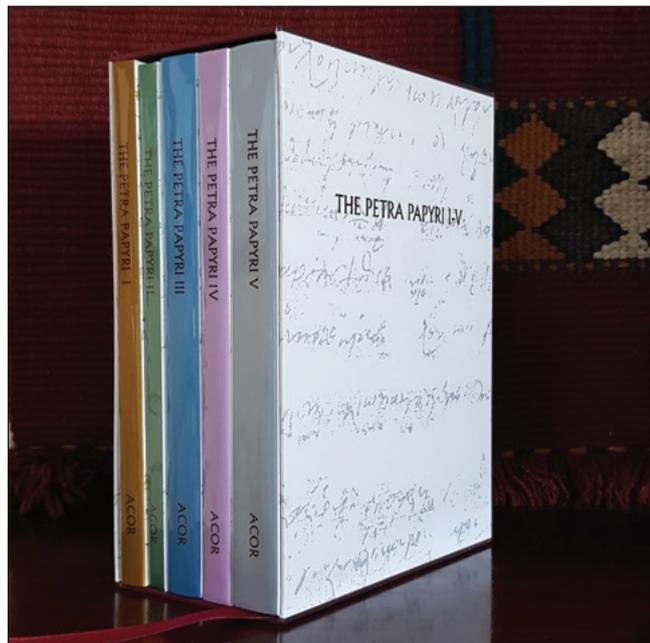
Petra Church Conservation Initiative

Donna H. Antoon; Michael Gervers; Fatma Marii; Stanley M. Maxwell and Phemie C. Maxwell; Barbara A. Porter in memory of James B. Pritchard; Bill Slivka and Lisa Citron

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Petra Papyri V Published



ACOR is pleased to announce the publication in October 2018 of *The Petra Papyri V*, edited by Antti Arjava, Jaakko Frösén, and Jorma Kaimio with multiple contributors. This is the final volume for the series that presents in total 87 of the approximately 140 carbonized scrolls discovered in the Petra Church in December 1993 during ACOR excavations. These documents shed light on sixth-century Petra and some of the people who lived there. Lectures were given in October to mark the occasion as part of ACOR's 50th anniversary program and were delivered by the two main editors—Jaakko Frösén and Antti Arjava. Barbara Porter introduced the evening with remarks on the process of printing these books. These presentations can be found on YouTube and ACOR's website, which also provides information under Publications on how to purchase these important volumes. The original design of the series was done for Volume I by Patricia M. Bikai and Marjo Lehtinen and the layout for the subsequent volumes was undertaken by Isabelle Ruben (Volumes II–V). The jacket design by Andrea Atalla was also used for the box for the complete set as created by Omar Samman of the National Press, where all volumes were printed. Many people contributed to this major undertaking and they are acknowledged in the individual volumes as well as in *The Petra Church* (ACOR, 2001), where those who supported the project by “adopting” a papyrus are also named. ACOR extends thanks to all involved.

ACOR's U.S. office has moved to a permanent address:

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Your support keeps ACOR going.
To donate to ACOR, you can mail a check to our new Alexandria office or donate via credit card on our website, www.acorjordan.org.

November 2018 Board Meeting

The ACOR Board of Trustees' fall meeting took place at the Denver Marriott Tech Center on November 17 in conjunction with the ASOR Annual Meeting. Board President Randolph B. Old presided. The evening before ACOR celebrated its 50 years in Jordan along with CAARI for its 40 years in Cyprus. CAORC Executive Director Rick Spees presented a report to the Board. At this meeting Geoff Coll was elected to the class of 2020 and Jane F. Geniesse stepped down. The Board announced that a firm will be selected to conduct the search for the next ACOR Director. The Board also affirmed its intention of studying a name change to be voted on at the next meeting in Washington, D.C. in April 2019.

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Introducing the Geraty Travel Endowment

Lawrence T. Geraty initiated a fund in December 2018 to be a future endowment that will support student travel and accommodation at ACOR as part of the Named Fellowship Endowments administered by ACOR and awarded through the ACOR Fellowship Committee. He is past president of LaSierra University and long-term Director of the Madaba Plains Project. He served for many years on the ACOR Board, including as Second Vice President.

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