



asor

UNEARTHING THE PAST SINCE 1900



ASOR Lawrence T. Geraty
Community Archaeology Endowment



*James Sauer, Lawrence Geraty, G. Ernest Wright
1974 Season, Tall Hisban (PC: Hisban Archives)*

The year 2018 will mark **50 years** since the start of the Madaba Plains Project.

The year 2018 will mark fifty years since a team of about two dozen faculty and students led by Siegfried S. Horn of Andrews University in Michigan and Roger Boraas of Uppsala College in New Jersey opened the first squares on the summit of Tall Hisban in Jordan. Field supervisors for that first season included Dewey Beegle of Wesley Theological Seminary, Phyllis Bird, then at Harvard University and later professor at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Henry Thompson, then at New York Theological Seminary, later Professor at the Unification Theological Seminary, Bastiaan Van Elderen of Calvin College in Michigan and Lawrence T. Geraty, then a doctoral student at Harvard University who served as an Associate Field Supervisor.

In their quest for biblical connections at the site, which spanned five eight week campaigns ending in 1976, the original Heshbon Expedition opened some twenty squares, in the process exposing to the elements a wide range of standing ruins spanning over three millennia. These include an enormous reservoir dating to the time of Solomon; perimeter walls and building foundations of a thriving market town from the time of the Assyrians, Babylonians and Persians; a Hellenistic citadel; a Roman acropolis and the expertly shaped masonry foundations of a public edifice, likely a temple dedicated to the cult of Serapis; the apse, pillar foundations and partial sections of several mosaic floor panels of a Byzantine basilica; the private residence and bath of the Mamluk governor of this part of Jordan during the 14th century A.D.; and a fortified farmstead and scatter of farm houses and habitation caves from Ottoman Turkish times.

The scholarly achievements and legacy of the original Heshbon Expedition, and of the Madaba Plains Project which grew out of it, have been many and have been widely celebrated. Less well known, and perhaps willfully ignored, has been the damage done to the original mound by the insertion of numerous excavation squares; by the accumulation of excavation debris around the tell; and by the damage done by the elements, by domestic animals, by local school children and by antiquities thieves to the standing ruins during the years that have intervened since the original expedition.

The endowment will also serve as a model and demonstration of ways that archaeologists might partner with local communities for their mutual benefit.

The establishment of the ASOR Lawrence T. Geraty Community Archaeology Endowment, at the initiative of the American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR), will thus address a pressing need: namely, to heighten awareness and facilitate the participation of local communities in taking care of heritage sites in their backyards. To this end, earnings from the endowment will fund community-initiated projects that develop local capacity to care for and present archaeological sites. In this way present and future generations of local school children and residents as well as the Jordanian public and foreign tourists will be able to visit and enjoy the sites in perpetuity. The endowment will also serve as a model and demonstration of ways that archaeologists might partner with local communities for their mutual benefit.



*Siegfried Horn, Lawrence Geraty, and Larry Herr
1974 Season, Tall Hisban (PC: Hisban Archives)*

In the country of Jordan alone there are over 27,000 recorded archaeological sites.



Tall Jalul (PC: Constance E. Gane)

university professors and graduate students as well as lay persons with a special interest in the cultures and peoples of this region.

While most of these are very small, the number of mid-sized and larger archaeological sites that have been excavated is fast approaching 1,000. This situation is overwhelming the Jordanian Department of Antiquities, which is charged with taking care of the sites. They have neither the funding nor the personnel to keep looking after so many at-risk heritage sites. The only way forward for protecting most sites is through partnerships involving the Department of Antiquities, local residents and foreign excavators. Through appropriate funding, this is precisely the sort of partnership that the ASOR Lawrence T. Geraty Community Archaeology Endowment will provide.

The American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR), founded in 1900 and currently located at Boston University, is the preeminent organization of archaeologists, historians, linguists, and cultural heritage professionals who initiate, encourage, and support research into, and public understanding of, the cultures and history of the Near East. Its membership includes professional archaeologists,

In addition to facilitating professional development of archaeologists, archaeological field work and publishing, ASOR has recently become a major player in helping to protect the at-risk cultural heritage sites and landscape of the Near East and Wider Mediterranean. ASOR thus has the professional expertise and experience to assure that best practices are followed in all lines of archaeological work in the region, not the least where community archaeology is concerned.

The ASOR Lawrence T. Geraty Community Archaeology Endowment will be distributed in small grants or awards as guided by ASOR's Investment and Spending Policies and will have as its initial focus community archaeology endeavors at the sites excavated by the Madaba Plains Project. Other sites in the immediate region and beyond will be able to apply for funding under the Endowment as the fund grows. The initial goal is to fund the salaries and expenses of at least two site stewards at each of the three main MPP sites, Tall Hisban, Tall al Umayri and Tall Jalul. As previously mentioned, the most important benefit of this Endowment is that it will serve as a model and demonstration of ways that archaeologists anywhere in the Near East and wider Mediterranean region and beyond might partner with local communities for their mutual benefit.

Sites that have provided such rich sources of countless stories from the past will be obliterated.

The negative consequence of failing with this undertaking is that the sites that have provided such rich sources of countless stories from the past will themselves become obliterated. If this happens, opportunities for growing tourism and thus local sources of income will vanish as well. In places such as Jordan, where tourism relies heavily on taking visitors to see and learn about archaeology and archaeological sites, the effect will be devastating to the local economy. While this may be a secondary benefit, it is essential for the major benefit of preserving the sites.



Tall al Umayri (PC: APAAME, Robert H. Bewley)

What will the Endowment fund?

The fund will provide small grants (in accordance with ASOR's Spending and Investment Policies) that will incentivize local engagement with protection, preservation and presentation of archaeological sites in Jordan, starting with MPP sites.



SELA Team

Local residents will work with the excavation leadership and/or SELA to develop proposals for community-based programs and activities. Examples might be training of site stewards; programs for outreach into the local community; programs that engage local school children in site-preservation activities; development of income generation projects involving local crafts; training in developing re-usable brochures; and training of local residents in archaeological restoration and documentation.

Project proposal budgets must include plans for matching contributions equal to 33% of the proposed projected cost. This is required as a means to establish local buy-in.

Project proposals must include evidence of local authorities having been consulted to obtain necessary permits for on-site activities and to establish stakeholder cooperation in implementation. Projects funded under the Lawrence T. Geraty Endowment should have a history of affiliation with ASOR through its Committee on Archaeological Research and Programs.

What is the initial Endowment goal?

Our initial goal is to raise \$100,000, which will allow us to launch the first on-the-ground community archaeology projects.

Annual returns on this amount will allow up to \$5000 to be awarded in local grants. The first five years of the endowment will focus on supporting community archaeology initiatives at the three MPP sites. Lessons learned over these first five years will inform future grant-giving under this Endowment, which will then be opened up to eligible projects anywhere in Jordan.

Who will implement on-site training?

The Madaba Plains Project is grateful to have as its partner SELA for vocational training and protection of cultural heritage. SELA is a non-profit based in Jordan organized by a group of five members of the Temple of Winged Lions Cultural Resources Management Initiative in Petra. It aims to raise awareness and increase the sense of ownership towards cultural heritage and to create sustainable local capacities for the protection of cultural heritage. SELA provides hands-on vocational training in conservation and restoration and is specifically geared towards women and youth.

How can you help?

Donations to the ASOR Lawrence T. Geraty Community Archaeology Endowment can be made through the American Schools for Oriental Research. For more information on how to make a donation, please visit the donation page at www.asor.org under “About” and select “Geraty Endowment” from the drop-down menu.

Donation Levels

Up to \$249	Volunteer
\$250-499	Square Supervisor
\$500-999	Field Supervisor
\$1000-2499	Chief Archaeologist
\$2500-4999	Project Director
\$5000 and above	Benefactor
\$10,000 and above	Sustainer
\$25,000 and above	Founder



Lawrence T. Geraty

Lawrence T. Geraty was born in California, the eldest son of American missionaries Thomas and Hazel Geraty. Geraty was raised in China, Burma (now Myanmar), Hong Kong, and Lebanon. His college years were spent at the Adventist University of France-Collonges, Newbold College in England, and Pacific Union College in California, graduating in 1962. He studied at Andrews University in Michigan from 1962-1965, earning a B.D. and M.A. In pursuance of a PhD from Harvard University in Massachusetts, Geraty studied in Germany and Israel, receiving his PhD from Harvard in 1972.

Geraty's PhD degree in Syro-Palestinian Archaeology prepared him well for a career in Near Eastern Archaeology. His fieldwork began at Tel Gezer in the summer of 1968—working with G. Ernest Wright and William Dever, among others—but received its major thrust at Tall Hisban, Jordan, biblical Heshbon. Scheduled to open in June of 1967, the Hisban project under the direction of Siegfried Horn was delayed by the Six-day War and opened one year later in July of 1968. Geraty was a field supervisor through the first three seasons at Hisban (1968, 1971, and 1973), then director for the final two seasons (1974 and 1976). In 1984 a new initiative took shape under Geraty's leadership—in collaboration with Larry Herr, Øystein LaBianca, and later Randall Younker and Douglas Clark—called the Madaba Plains Project which retroactively encompassed the Hisban project and simultaneously opened a new one at Tall al-`Umayri and Tall Jalul. His fieldwork continued at `Umayri until 2000.

Geraty's career path in education took him to the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary Old Testament Department at Andrews University, where he taught archaeology and Hebrew Bible from 1972 to 1985. From there he went into academic administration, serving as president of Atlantic Union College in Massachusetts (1985-1993) and of La Sierra University in California (1993-2007); he officially retired from the latter in 2007.

After retiring from his presidency at La Sierra, Geraty was asked to continue part time as the Executive Director of the La Sierra University Foundation, a position he continues to hold. From 2012 through the present, he has also been the Associate Director of the Center for Near Eastern Archaeology at La Sierra. In addition, he served as President of the American Schools of Oriental Research, which is headquartered in Boston, from 2002 to 2006.



*Lawrence Geraty
1974 Season, Tall Hisban (PC: Hisban Archives)*

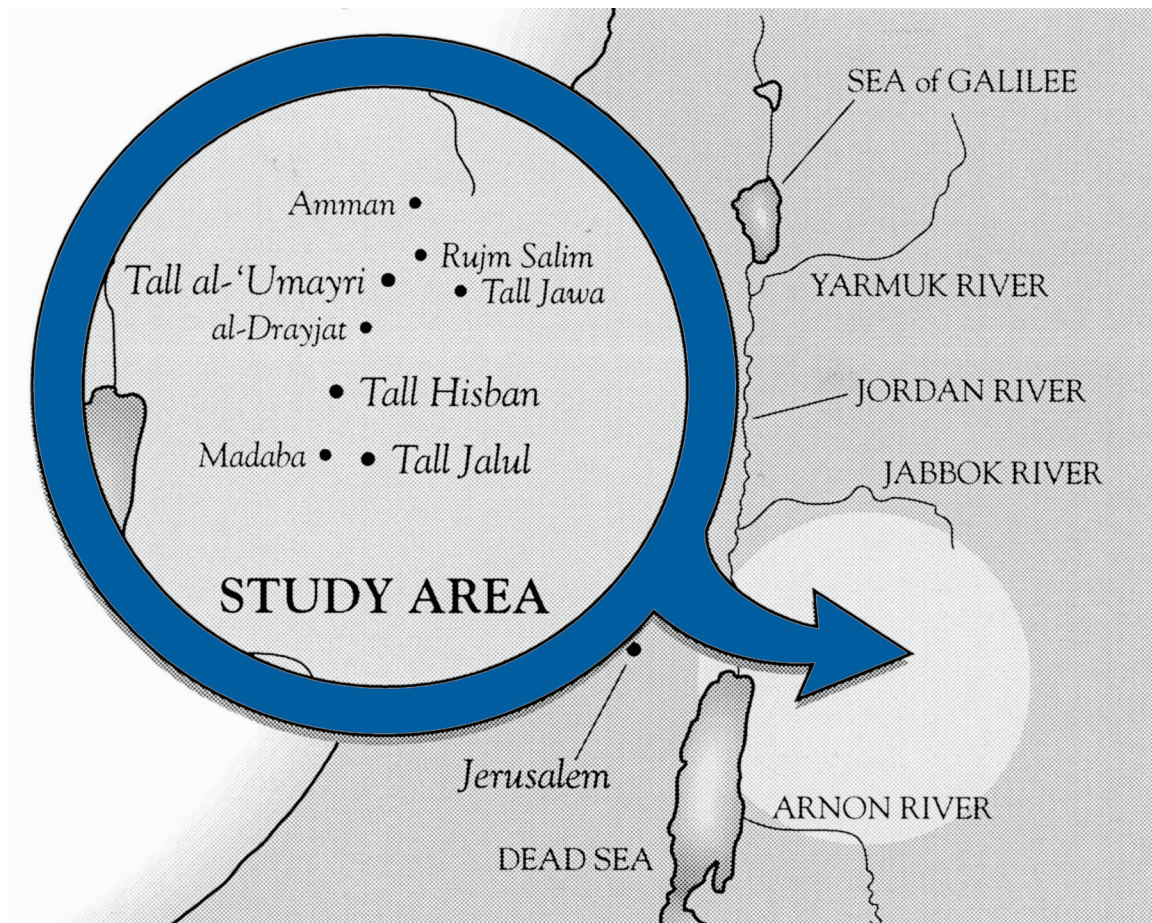
The recipient of numerous prestigious awards for his work in archaeology and academics, Geraty was a Fulbright Fellow at Hebrew University in Jerusalem in 1970 to 1971. He was also awarded the P.E. MacAllister Field Archaeology Award by the American Schools of Oriental Research and Citizen of the Year in Riverside, California in 2007. Geraty has published widely on archaeology (primarily regarding Tall Hisban and Tall al-`Umayri), ancient inscriptions, biblical studies, Adventist higher education, and important progressive causes, and has lectured around the globe in these subject areas.

Geraty has two younger siblings, Ronald Geraty from Marblehead, MA, and Kathleen Geraty who lives in Arrowbear, CA. Larry and his wife, Gillian Keough, have two adult children. His daughter, Julie Piller, is a social worker and lives with her husband, two daughters and a son, in Lafayette, CO. His son, Brent, is General Counsel for the University of Redlands and lives in Redlands, CA, with his wife, Shannon, and their son and daughter.

Combining his global upbringing and PhD degree with extensive engagement in the archaeology of the ancient Near East and a diplomatic, facilitating approach toward and on behalf of his colleagues, Geraty has practiced and modeled informed discourse and genuinely hospitable generosity. It is fitting that an endowment for the funding of community archaeology be named after him.

Madaba Plains Project (MPP)

The Madaba Plains Project studies the cultures that over time inhabited the highland plateau of Jordan located between the cities of Madaba and Amman. Tall Hisban, Tall al-Umayri and Tall Jalul are three archaeological sites currently being excavated by the Madaba Plains Project, a research endeavor which began in 1968 at Hisban.



MPP Principal Investigators



Lawrence Geraty
Founding Director
(Hisban, Umayri, Jalul)
La Sierra University
(Ph.D. Harvard University, 1972)



Maria Elena Ronza
Co-director (Hisban)
Hisban Cultural Association and SELA
(M.A. University of Jordan, 2003)



Larry Herr
Founding Director
(Hisban, Umayri)
Burman University
(Ph.D. Harvard University, 1977)



Kent Bramlet
Co-director (Umayri)
La Sierra University
(Ph.D. University of Toronto, 2009)



Øystein LaBianca
Founding Director
(Hisban, Umayri, Survey)
Andrews University
(Ph.D. Brandeis University, 1987)



Constance Gane
Co-director (Jalul)
Andrews University
(Ph.D. University of California
Berkeley, 2012)



Douglas Clark
Founding Director
(Hisban, Umayri)
La Sierra University
(Ph.D, Vanderbilt University, 1984)



Paul Gregor
Co-director (Jalul)
Andrews University
(Ph.D. Andrews University, 1996)



Randall Younker
Founding Director (Jalul)
Andrews University
(Ph.D University of Arizona, 1997)



Paul Ray
Co-director (Jalul)
Andrews University
(Ph.D. Andrews University, 2000)



Bethany Walker
Co-director (Hisban)
University of Bonn
(Ph.D. University of Toronto, 1998)

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