

## One Hundred Years of Foreign Research Institutes in Jordan—1921 to 2021

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### Abstract

This paper examines the history and contributions of the four current foreign research centers in Amman whose countries are Germany, France, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Their origin stories and changes over time in Jordan are considered as well as some of the respective major contributions to the study of Jordan's past and present.

**Keywords:** Overseas research centers, foreign institutes, excavation and survey, restoration projects.

### Introduction

Foreign overseas institutes in Jordan have played a multiplicity of roles in the past century in supporting heritage activities. Each one has a different origin story, and aspects of their histories and contributions are considered. All have ties with the Department of Antiquities (DoA) of Jordan as well as many other Jordanian governmental institutions and universities. Currently in Amman, four foreign international institutes exist—by nationality American, British, German, and French. Official names have changed over the years so both the current acronym and country names are referenced, except when giving background information (see abbreviation list). All four institutes have libraries that are important resources for ancient to modern studies and include the scholarly publications of their major projects and many others. Housing was part of the original arrangement, often for fellowship holders or those with institutional stipends. Traditionally the institutes have also provided support for archaeological exploration (excavation and survey) and conducted projects in their own right (including restoration and heritage initiatives) under the aegis of a Jordanian authority. In recent years, modern area studies have become an integral part of the research agendas. Over the decades, they have all coordinated lecture series (and continue to do so successfully via Zoom in the period of the pandemic) and have been involved with important conferences that highlight Jordan's past as well as present. A select few conferences and heritage projects, particularly long-term ones, are mentioned. The accumulative efforts have enhanced understanding of Jordan's past and present<sup>1</sup> and the centers

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<sup>1</sup> In this article it is not possible to provide extensive information on the sites mentioned, thus the references should be consulted. Many colleagues have generously provided information as well as articles and books and although they cannot be acknowledged properly here, they have my deep appreciation. I also note that spellings (i.e., Beidha/Bayda, Hesban/Hisban, and Jerash/Jarash and even Tell/Tall and Jebel/Jabal) may not always be consistent and diacriticals for Arabic words are not always applied.

are “an integral part of scholarly life in Jordan” (Yassine 2001, 29).

The Italian Mission was actually the first to be established in Jordan by its government in the late 1920s but there is no longer an official headquarters in the country. The Italian Archaeological Mission worked on the Citadel from 1927 to 1938 and seems to have been the first archaeological project in Jordan to receive a formal permit (Parapetti 2008; E. Corbett 2014, 110) in the period soon after the formal establishment of the Department of Antiquities in September 1923 (Drzewiecki and Drzewiecka 2017, 601). The Italian work covered much of the citadel (Northedge 1992, 17), and the standard practice of publishing preliminary reports was fulfilled but there was no comprehensive final report (Almagro 1983; Parapetti 2008, 170). Their premises were on the grounds of the Italian Hospital, which was built in 1927 by Doctor Fausto Tesio. The same space was used again from around 1991 to 2008 and called the Jordanian-Italian Institute of Archaeology (Parapetti 2008, 170-171). Royal interest in this project was demonstrated by the presence of King Abdullah I at the Amman Citadel excavations (Pi. Bikai in Kannellopoulos 1994, vii). Over the years, members of the Hashemite Royal family have been patrons of archaeology and heritage.



**Fig. 1** The Citadel in the midst of downtown Amman was the focus of virtually all the institutes in various ways over the decades from the Italian excavations in the 1920s to recent geo-physical prospecting conducted by the German Institute in 2021. With the Department of Antiquities, various projects were undertaken by specific institutes, American (1960s to 1990s), British (1970s), French École Biblique (late 1980s), and Spanish Mission (1979 to 2011). This photo from the Aerial Photographic Archive of Archaeology in the Middle East (APAAME) represents the collaborative contributions fostered by this project (see [www.apaame.org](http://www.apaame.org)). This image was captured in a helicopter flyover in October 2018 by Firas Bqa'in, the Amman Operations Manager of the British Institute, which hosted APAAME teams when in country (APAAME\_2018022\_FB-1807).

From the early 1930s, the other major Italian presence in Jordan was at the headquarters on Mt. Nebo of the Studium Biblicum Franciscanum (SBF, established in 1923) under the authority of the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land founded in 1341 (Piccirillo 1997). The late Father Michele Piccirillo (1944-2008) of the SBF was a major force in the archaeology of Jordan and established strong ties with many individuals and institutions as well as foreign institutes.<sup>2</sup> There is now an Italian Archaeological Consortium in Jordan that was launched in early 2017. It brings together Italian projects and the Italian Higher Institute for Conservation and Restoration with funding from the Italian foreign ministry (Suzanne Goussous, *The Jordan Times*, February 27, 2017).

The Spanish Mission, which in the early 1970s worked at Qusayr Amra, with the cooperation of the Spanish Embassy proposed to the DoA to do an archaeological survey of the Umayyad Palace on the Amman Citadel (A. Almagro 1980; Northedge 1994, 18). It was led by Martin Almagro and his son Antonio who also carried out a photogrammetric aerial survey over much of Jordan in fall 1978 (A. Almagro 1980). The restoration project of this initial Spanish mission of the Umayyad complex on the Citadel took place from 1979-1981 (Almagro 1982) and resumed in 1988-1990. As Ignacio Arce has informed me, it was with the first democratic government in Spain after the Franco years that specific archaeological institutes could be established in Amman, Cairo, and Athens. Thus, the Spanish mission was ready to help with the international Jerash Archaeological Project during the period from 1981 to 1983 (see below). The Mission was supported by the Heritage for Development Program of the Spanish Agency for Archaeological Research Abroad from the Ministry of Culture. Under this framework, restoration and presentation projects were undertaken at the Umayyad Palace of the Amman Citadel in 1995-1999 by Antonio Almagro and Ignacio Arce and post-1999 by Arce until 2001 (Almagro and Arce 2001a, 2001b). From 2002 to 2013 Qasr Hallabat and Hammam as Sarah were restored by Arce (Arce 2007, Arce 2016).

In December 2013, the residence of the Mission was closed down due to financial reasons, thus changing the formal status of the institute in Jordan. Obviously, the lack of concrete governmental support impacts the activities and official status. Arce has continued to engage in many projects. However there is no Spanish Mission *per se* but several Spanish archaeological projects are conducting work in Jordan, for example at Neolithic Khraisin and at Bronze Age Jabal Mutawwaq in conjunction with an Italian team.<sup>3</sup>

Many people have been involved in the establishment and subsequent sustaining of foreign institutes. Here the directors are noted as they were on the frontline of the activities and usually the representative face. However, behind them are members of boards and councils and working directly beside them are those who help with the physical running of the centers, including librarians, administrators, comptrollers, custodial staff, and general

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2 The extensive SBF excavations in Jordan are beyond the scope of this paper. However, archaeological reports were published regularly in many journals, particularly later in their journal *Liber Annus* started in 1950. Recent publications by Hungarian archaeologist Győző Vörös have synthesized the SBF work at Machaerus in their Collection Maior series (i.e., *Machaerus* I [2013], no. 53; II [2015], no. 55; III [2019] no. 56). Book launches for two of these publications took place at ACOR and these lectures can be viewed via the ACOR YouTube channel (see [www.acorjordan.org](http://www.acorjordan.org)) where the talks celebrating the work of Father Piccirillo as recorded at ACOR in fall 2018 can also be found.

3 Ignacio Arce was the director of the Spanish Archaeological Mission (*Jefe de la Misión Arqueológica Española en Jordania*) from 1999 to 2014. He kindly provided me with a precis of the history of Spanish projects in Jordan and an elaborated version merits publication.

facilitators, all essential to the wellbeing and in some cases survival of the center. There are also a legion of people hired for specific projects under the responsibility of the respective institution but these too can only be mentioned in a few instances.<sup>4</sup> Also significant for the institutes themselves and the myriad affiliated projects are the funding institutions (public and private) as well as individuals, also too numerous to mention, but important to recall as they are obviously essential. Usually there is a multiplicity of funding sources, and of course when the funding abruptly ends there are dire consequences.

Before the June war of 1967, these institutes did not exist in Amman and were created from headquarters elsewhere, namely in Jerusalem for the American, British, and German (and Spanish) institutes and from Beirut for the French. Politics within their own countries as well as in the Middle East have influenced their location, status, and functionality as well as funding support. Here the main focus is on their remit for Jordan but their involvement in other areas of Bilad as Sham is presented in a few cases as part of the broader framework. This overview is structured according to the formal creation of the extant overseas centers based on the date of establishment in Amman, namely American (1968), French (1977), British (1978), and German (1979). Prior to their creation, there was already archaeological involvement in Jordan and thus the need for such institutions was easily demonstrated.

ACOR—American Center of Oriental Research in Amman (1968-2020)

ACOR—American Center of Research (ACOR) (2020-present)

Website: [www.acorjordan.org](http://www.acorjordan.org)

IFAPO—Institut français d'Archéologie du Proche-Orient (French Archaeological Institute for the Near East) (Amman branch, 1977-2003)

IFPO—Institut français du Proche Orient (French Institute for the Near East) (2003-present)

Website: [www.ifporient.org](http://www.ifporient.org)

BIAAH—British Institute at Amman for Archaeology and History (1978-1988)

CBRL—Council for British Research in the Levant (1988-present)

BIA—British Institute in Amman (branch CBRL)

Website: [www.cbrl.ac.uk](http://www.cbrl.ac.uk)

DEIAHL—Deutsches Evangelisches Institut für Altertumswissenschaft des Heiligen Landes (German Protestant Institute for Archaeology of the Holy Land)<sup>5</sup> (1979-present)

GPIA—The German Protestant Institute for Archaeology (1979-present)

Website: [www.deiahl.de](http://www.deiahl.de)

<sup>4</sup> As I served as director of ACOR (then American Center of Oriental Research) in Amman from 2006 to 2020, this overview is in some ways written from a director's perspective. In terms of research, it was very helpful to have easy access to the *Annual of the Department of Antiquities (ADAJ)* and *Studies in the History and Archaeology of Jordan (SHAJ)* on various websites including the DoA (<http://publication.DoA.gov.jo>) and the ACOR Library page ([www.acorjordan.org](http://www.acorjordan.org)) as well as the journal *Syria* on the Ifpo website ([www.ifporient.org](http://www.ifporient.org)). Often just one preliminary report is cited and usually the one in *ADAJ*. I have endeavored to be as accurate as possible but am aware that there could be factual errors and I would welcome corrections. Sometimes the published information has discrepancies and I have tried to resolve them when I could by consulting colleagues whom I got to know in Jordan.

<sup>5</sup> The translation *Altertumswissenschaft* in the DEIAHL in English is archaeology but the German term has a wider connotation, one being ancient studies.

This review commences after World War I (1914-1918) with the creation of the Emirate of Jordan in 1921. The parent centers in Jerusalem were not able to function during that war as they were closed and their activities resumed in the 1920s with some very specific projects in Jordan, east of the Jordan River (Geraty and Willis 1986).

### **American Center of Research (ACOR)**

*Origin Story:* ACOR as established in Jordan in 1968 is the product of the American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR) created in 1900 by a consortium of learned societies and American universities.<sup>6</sup> ASOR is the oldest American research center in the Middle East for ancient Near Eastern studies (Gitin 1997, 62; Branham 2011, 73). From the outset there were close ties with the École Biblique et Archéologique Française established ten years earlier in 1890 (see below under Ifpo) (King 1983, 23-24, 56). In the 1920s, the American School also assisted the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem (see below under CBRL) (King 1983, 51, 56), and there has often been collaboration between the foreign institutes in the realm of housing and libraries and some excavations. For earlier involvement in the Middle East among various nationalities, there are many studies that give the 19th-century background for a seemingly more competitive time (e.g., Wright 1970; Silberman 1982; King 1983; Hallote 2006).

In Jerusalem various premises were rented for the American School until a permanent building was constructed and could be used starting in 1924 (fully completed in 1931). These premises on Salah ad Din Street became the headquarters of what was called the Jerusalem School. For many decades, ASOR and the Jerusalem School were considered virtually one and the same (Meyers 1997, 94; Meyers 2001, 10). The directors of the School in Jerusalem were often one-year appointments (annual directors). Two influential long-term directors were W. F. Albright (1920-1926, 1927-1929, and 1933-1936) and Nelson Glueck (1932-1933 [annual] and 1936-1940 and 1942-1947 [director]) (Gitin 1997, 62) and both conducted work in Jordan (E. Corbett 2014, 112). Clarence Fisher served as Professor of Archaeology at the School from 1925 to 1941 and during that time excavated at Jerash (see below). In his last year he was the Acting Director (1940-1941) in the midst of World War II (Meyer 2001; Blakely 2001, 128). In the period between the two World Wars, two fundamental publications were initiated—*Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research (BASOR)* in 1920 and *Biblical Archaeology (BA)* in 1938, renamed *Near Eastern Archaeology (NEA)* in 1998 to reflect changes in the field.

From the time that the ASOR Jerusalem premises were operational for fellows and students in 1924 an important component of the activities were field trips and summer programs (Blakely 2001, 128) and the former were partly inspired by the German program of the Lehrkurs designed by Gustaf Dalman (see below under GPIA) (King 1983, 26). On the field trip in 1924 in the southern Ghor, ASOR and Xenia Theological Seminary staff members discovered the walled Early Bronze town site of Bab ed Dhra, and this expedition is considered the first example of formal archaeological fieldwork done in Jordan (King 1983, 7, N. Lapp 2007, 16-17; B. MacDonald 2007, 27).

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<sup>6</sup> ASOR also undertook many name changes as it started in 1900 as the American School for Oriental Study and Research in Palestine and in 1910 was renamed the American School of Oriental Research in Jerusalem and Baghdad. It became the American Schools of Oriental Research in 1921 when it was incorporated in Washington, D.C. (Meyers 2001, 5-11). One hundred years later it was renamed the American Society of Overseas Research in 2021. It now has its headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia where ACOR shares the same premises as its US headquarters.

Given that Jerash is one of the most famous of Jordan's ancient sites, it understandably became the focus of the newly formed Department of Antiquities of Jordan. The initial departmental efforts in the 1920s were led from 1925 by the British advisor George Horsfield who lived in Jerash and he explored several areas of the site (W. F. Stinespring in Kraeling ed. 1938, 4; Harding 1959, 80). In terms of foreign involvement, the first project started as a joint excavation in 1928-1930 by Yale University and the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem (BSAJ). This came about because as of 1927-1928, it was possible for excavation permits to be obtained in Jordan (Stinespring in Kraeling ed. 1938, 4-5). The seasons of 1933-1934 were under the auspices of Yale and ASOR's Jerusalem School. In spring 1934, Carl Kraeling, then Acting Director of the American Jerusalem School, took charge and was the one to assemble the final publication with contributions by many of the project participants (Kraeling ed. 1938; Browning 1982, 76; King 1983, 121). This presentation of the excavation results demonstrated the necessity for publishing in a thorough and timely manner. Unfortunately there was a lack of publication of the prior work by Horsfield (McQuitty 1997) and there are many projects that remain poorly known but for unpublished records. For John W. Crowfoot, the Director of the BSAJ (1926-1935), the main interest was the Christian churches (J. Crowfoot 1931; Crowfoot in Kraeling ed. 1938, 171-261). Many areas of Jerash were explored as well as the site of Birketein to the north (C.C. McCown in Kraeling ed. 1938, 159-167) but the focus was primarily on the architectural features of public and religious buildings (Barghouti 1982, 218) with limited presentation of the later Islamic levels (Walmsley 2018, 244). The financing was difficult as this was the time of the Great Depression (Rostovtzeff in Kraeling ed. 1938, p. x). The headquarters on "Camp Hill" was called the ASOR excavation house by some (King 1983, 88). It is located on the hillock east of the oval forum and was built by the combined American and British expedition (Harding 1959, 79; Mortensen 2018, 181). It was located where the small archaeological museum is now situated, hence also "Museum Hill" which is actually Tall Jerash (Braemer 1987). This American-British joint project is likely to have had the first archaeological museum-style display in Jordan (Badran 2019, 623-624, n. 6 [p. 629]) and presaged the building of the Amman Citadel Museum by three decades.

A later, international project took place at the site as the Jerash Project for Excavation and Restoration, referred to as JAP (Jerash Archaeological Project) and was launched in 1981 by the Department of Antiquities with a consortium of international teams from America, Australia, Britain, France, Italy, Jordan, Poland, and Spain (Zayadine ed. 1986; Aubin 1997, 215), soon after the Jerash Festival was established in 1981. Unfortunately this multi-country effort ended in December 1983 due to an economic downturn and lack of foreign funding but was continued in a limited fashion in 1984 by the DoA with restoration being the main focus (Zayadine ed. 1989; Ostrasz and Kerhberg-Ostrasz 2020, 13, n. 6). In more recent years extensive archaeological work has been undertaken by French projects (see below under IFPO), and international projects like the Danish-Jordanian Islamic Jarash Project begun in 2002 (Walmsley 2004) and the Danish-German Jerash Northwest Quarter Project begun in 2011 (Lichtenberger and Raja 2015) among others. The initial work of the 1920s and 1930s remains foundational for research albeit with limited coverage of the Islamic periods (Walmsley 2018, 244, 247, n. 36, 253, n. 51). The contributions of so many foreign projects in this one site are paralleled at Petra.

From 1936, Gerald Lankaster Harding succeeded Horsfield as the person in charge of the antiquities of Jordan, first as Chief Curator (also called Inspector) and from 1938 to 1956 as Director General. He believed the Department should encourage foreign

excavation in part in light of the limited departmental budget that he noted was critically needed for maintaining the sites (Harding 1959, 199, 204). In this period, Jordan was responsible for the West Bank and East Jerusalem (Harding 1974/76, xi; Winnett 1980, 127) so the institutes in Jerusalem were able to work in Jordan. Harding published regular updates in the *Palestine Exploration Quarterly* (PEQ) and the *Quarterly of the Department of Antiquities of Palestine*. However, as of 1951 updates were mostly included in the new *Annual of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan* (ADAJ), which he established (M. Macdonald 1980). Harding's invaluable guidebook based on his long experience in the country, *The Antiquities of Jordan*, was first published in 1959 (London and New York) and revised in 1967 with some updates reflecting changes of information and access (Dyson 1968).

It was primarily in the period that Harding was in charge that Glueck undertook his groundbreaking surveys of Jordan in the years 1932-33, 1936-40, and 1942-47 (published in four volumes of the *Annual of the American Schools of Oriental Research* [AASOR] 1934-51) (Glueck 1940, 34-49; Wright 1970, 29-31; King 1983, 97; E. Corbett 2014, 112-113). His work was a joint ASOR expedition with the Jordanian Department of Antiquities. Some 1000 sites were documented and in many cases for the first time (Gitin 1997, 416). Besides survey, Glueck undertook with Harding excavations at the Nabataean temple at Khirbet Tannur in 1937 (Glueck 1965; Wright 1970, 31) and three seasons of excavation took place at Tell Kheleifeh from 1938 to 1940 and included the participation of the Smithsonian Institution (Pratico 1993; Pratico 1997; Dever 1995).

In the late 1940s, the School in Jerusalem became intricately involved in the Dead Sea Scrolls (Wright 1970, 33; King 1983, 113-122; Blakeley 2001, 137) and were initially part of the excavations undertaken with the École Biblique and the Palestine Archaeological Museum in 1949 (Harding and Reed 1953; Harding 1959, 185-198). This major topic is not explored further here as it is an article in itself (or rather a whole library; for some of the political ramifications see E. Corbett 2014, 195, 206-207).

After 1950, ASOR's Jerusalem headquarters were in the territory under the control of the Jordanian government (Dever 1967; E. Corbett 2014, 10) and thus work was concentrated in Palestine and Jordan. In the 1950s ASOR undertook excavations at Dhiban in 1950-1956 and 1965, led by successive directors of the School, Fred Winnett, William Reed, Douglas Tushingham, and William Morton (Wright 1970, 33; King 1983, 124; Tushingham 1997). ASOR also undertook a joint expedition in 1950 with the DoA to record Safaitic inscriptions in the desert area north of H5 on the road to Iraq (Harding and Reed 1953, 5-6).

Before June 1967, the School's annual trips included much of Bilad as Sham as part of its curriculum (Meyers 2001, 23) and often expanded beyond Jordan (the norm) to Syria, Turkey, and Egypt (P. Lapp 1962b, 5). Paul Lapp was director from 1961 to 1965 after a period as annual professor and soon after the publication of his dissertation on Palestinian ceramics dating to 200 BC-AD 70 (P. Lapp 1961). He conducted field projects in Jordan—some being small teaching excavations—at Iraq al Amir (1961-1963), Bab ed Dhra (1965-1967), and Rumeith (1962, 1967) (P. Lapp 1962a; N. Lapp 1997; Meyers 2001, 25; N. Lapp 2007, 16; Barako and N. Lapp 2015).

Lapp's excavation work was interrupted in order to help the Jordanian authorities with a site development plan in 1964 to 1965 supported by the United States Agency for

International Development (USAID) (P. Lapp 1966) but that project was terminated as it was too rapid for proper archaeological management (Meyers 2001, 25; Blakely 2001, 146). USAID was established in November 1961 (Norris 2021) so at that point the agency was only a few years old and just starting to figure out its role but substantial funds had already assisted Jordan. In the subsequent 60 years, USAID has invested considerably in Jordan and provided much of the funding for major ACOR long-term archaeological and heritage project as well as for the ACOR's permanent headquarters and an endowment (Porter 2016a; 2016b). The outputs were fundamentally for improved tourism, but archaeology benefited as a result (E. Corbett 2014, 182-183).

*Early Years in Amman.* After the June 1967 war, the Arab boycott made it clear that those working in Israel could not continue to work in Arab lands (Meyers 2001, 31). The President of ASOR was G. E. Wright and under his direction it was determined that new centers should be set up in Amman and Beirut (Meyers 2001, 27). The latter never transpired, but Amman was a suitable fit given that ASOR already had affiliated current projects in Jordan at Tall Hisban, Tall es Saidiyeh, Pella, and Rumeith (G.E. Wright 1968).

The challenges of operating excavations in Jordan from the ASOR base in Jerusalem led to the founding of ACOR. John Marks, Annual Director in Jerusalem during the 1967 war, returned to the US to teach at Princeton University but remained involved in ASOR and chaired the Amman Committee that created ACOR. On that committee were both Siegfried Horn, the director of the Tell Hesban excavations, and Roger Boraas, the chief field archaeologist of that project. Marks served as the first Board President (1970-1978) of the new American Center, including during the period of the short-term annual directorships. In the beginning, the Center was called ARCA (American Center of Research in Amman). Rudolf Dornemann was the first annual director and he had previously been involved with Jordan through his role on a DoA-ASOR project on the Amman Citadel (N. Lapp 2007, 17). In 1970, the Institute was incorporated as the American Center of Oriental Research in Amman. In that same year ASOR's Jerusalem school was renamed the W. F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research (AIAR),<sup>7</sup> which was duly appropriate given it is in many ways the house that Albright built in the 1920s. The first hire for the American Center in Amman was Mohammed Adawi, who had been the assistant chef at the Jerusalem School prior to the 1967 war and he was engaged in 1968 by ASOR to be the Hesban dig cook (Porter 2008). He had a 50-year career at ACOR and retired in March 2018; he is warmly remembered by many and was honored at ACOR's 50<sup>th</sup> celebrations in Amman (Carter 2018; Porter and Carter 2019).

The Tell Hesban excavations led by Siegfried Horn of Andrews University was the first American project to return to the field after the cancelled first season of 1967, and the first actual full season took place in 1968. It was supported by a promised ASOR grant from G. E. Wright of \$5,000 for necessary equipment (Geraty 2007; Geraty in Clark et al. 2011, 3-5). Horn's interests were biblical (Horn 1982) but as the project grew it "moved beyond the text-based 'biblical archaeology' of W. F. Albright and G.E. Wright to an archaeology of biblical lands and peoples based more on scientific inquiry and empirical results" (Clark et al. 2017, 2-3). The first phase of this project ran to 1976 and as of 1974 Larry Geraty was director (a 1978 season dealt with the Hesban North Church). A regional survey was undertaken from 1973 to 1976 (Ibach 1987; B. MacDonald 2007, 28).

Activity resumed as the Madaba Plains Project (MPP) in 1984 and archaeological work

<sup>7</sup> Henceforth most of the American projects discussed will be under ACOR's aegis or affiliation. For more on the history of the Albright Institute, see <https://aiar.org>.

first commenced at Tall al 'Umayri (until 2016) and later in 1992 at Tall Jalul (ongoing). The return to Tall Hisban (new preferred spelling) in 1997 had as a major goal the investigation of the Islamic periods and was called the Hisban Cultural Heritage project (1997-2010) with community archaeology as a major component (Bates et al. 2017, 657; LaBianca and Ronza 2018). The Phase 3 (2013-present) excavations at Tall Hisban switched from the summit of the tell in order to investigate the medieval village and water systems with many specialists involved (Walker et al. 2014-2015). The Jordan Field School was also introduced (Clark et al. 2017, 2; Bates et al. 2017, 658) and included students from the University of Bonn with Bethany Walker directing the excavations (Walker et al. 2014-2015, 483, n. 1). The field school model has been maintained for the MPP projects.

The MPP is considered “one of the longest-running active archaeological expeditions in the Middle East” and is also noteworthy for “its dedicated commitment to collaborative regional research” (Harrison in Clark et al. 2011, 156). In terms of Jordan, this project was one of the first to include environmental studies, zooarchaeology, ethnoarchaeology and perhaps in 1971 even computer technology (King 1983, 193-194; Geraty in Clark et al. 2011, 5-6). A standard was set for publishing preliminary reports for each season before commencing another and many articles and final publications have been produced (Clark et al. 2011, 271-295; [www.madabaplains.org](http://www.madabaplains.org) for each site with many articles from the extensive publication record).

Another important American project of long duration is the Expedition to the Dead Sea Plain (EDSP), initiated in 1973 by Tom Schaub and Walt Rast and sponsored by ASOR. By the end of the field project in 1990, it encompassed the Early Bronze Age sites of Bab ed Dhra and Numayra (excavated 1975-1983) and Fīfa and Khanazir (1989-1990). The principal excavators published the earlier work of Paul Lapp on the Bab ed Dhra cemeteries (Schaub and Rast 1989) and their work at the town site (Rast and Schaub 2003) and another volume was concerned with the Smithsonian Institute's bioanthropological analysis of the burials (Ortner and Fröhlich 2008). The town site of Numayra has recently been published (Chesson, Schaub, and Rast 2020) and further synthetic publications are planned.

The EDSP project history and goals are included on the website created by Meredith Chesson and Morag Kersel, where it is stated that the problems addressed by the expedition included “changing settlement patterns; agricultural practices and technologies; sizes and interrelationships of the population groups of the sites during the several phases; diet and disease factors among the populations; evidence for trade contacts; and a variety of environmental problems focused on natural resources, land forms and climate” ([www.expeditiondeadseaplain.org](http://www.expeditiondeadseaplain.org); also with extensive bibliography). Graham Philip stressed that the EDSP was a “genuine regional project” that contrasted with the then more normal practice of single-site excavations and that there was a wide range of analyses (Philip 2005, 79). An on-going interactive follow up on the project entitled Follow the Pots ([www.followthepotsproject.org](http://www.followthepotsproject.org)), led by Kersel tracks the dissemination of the documented excavated archaeological material and addresses looting in the Ghor; some of her early work was supported by ACOR fellowships. For three seasons, David McCreery was the paleo-ethnobotanist (1977, 1979, 1981) for the EDSP and for the last year was also ACOR director in Amman. ACOR facilitated this project considerably over the years as it did many other projects.

From the outset, the Center in Amman (located near the Third Circle from 1969 to 1977)

had close ties with the Department of Antiquities and the University of Jordan and was asked to provide assistance of various kinds (King 1975, 81).<sup>8</sup> ACOR is now an independent affiliated institute with ASOR but in the early years was very dependent on ASOR for funds and even the initial fellowships hosted by ACOR came through ASOR (the Albright and National Endowment for the Humanities [NEH] grants). These were important as they supported the work of many scholars in their early careers who fifty years later are still involved in Jordan (Meyers 2001, 38), including ACOR directors (see [www.acorjordan.org](http://www.acorjordan.org) under Fellowships for the full Alumni Database starting with ASOR Albright fellowships for Jim Sauer [1971-1972]; Bert de Vries [1972-1973], and David McCreery [1977-1978]).

ACOR Annual Directors all undertook various archaeological missions or teaching responsibilities in their tenures at ACOR. These years entailed challenges give the uncertain finances of the institute. Their brief contracts also presented limitations in terms of stability.<sup>9</sup> All of them contributed to the *Annual of the Department of Antiquities*, mostly about specific archaeological projects, such as the excavation of Byzantine churches and the site of Tell Siran on the University of Jordan campus. Murray Nicol (Harvard Ph.D. previously working in Iran) taught new scientific methods in archaeology in his fall 1969 class for students from the Department of Antiquities and University of Jordan (Nicol 1969). He was not able to return to Jordan after 1970, as families were not allowed due to the unrest, so Bastiaan Van Elderen stayed in place while others evacuated (G.E. Wright 1971). Van Elderen in his report to ASOR noted that ACOR helped the University of Jordan develop the Institute for Archaeological Research and that his third year students there received training on excavations he led at Tall Siran (Van Elderen 1973). In the same report, he mentioned that he had the chance to meet in early 1973 with Crystal-M. Bennett and Kathleen Kenyon as they were in Amman to explore the idea of a British center (formally opened five years later) and he expressed the hope “that our two institutions will work in close cooperation to avoid overlapping and competition.” That concept has been a philosophy of the centers as they evolved.

*Long-term Directorships.* ACOR’s first long-term director was James A. Sauer (1975-81).<sup>10</sup> He had participated in the Iraq al Amir excavations in 1961 led by Paul Lapp and was the ceramicist of record (P. Lapp 1962a, 81) and so too for the Hesban project from 1971 (Sauer 1973; Geraty in Clark et al. 2001, 4). Jim Sauer was also one of the co-directors of the East Jordan Valley Survey conducted in 1975 and 1976 with Moawiyah Ibrahim (DoA) and Khair Yassine (University of Jordan) (Ibrahim et al. 1976; Yassine et al. 1988). That project documented 224 sites in the region from the Yarmouk River to the Dead Sea (B. MacDonald 2007, 28-29). Sauer also studied ceramic material for many projects, such as in the Ghor for a rescue project at the Arab Potash township complex in 1977 (McCreery 1977/78), the Central Moab survey in 1978 (Miller 1979, 51, n. 1), and a 1979 survey in the Wadi Hasa (B. MacDonald 1982, 51, n. 1). These efforts are noted as examples of the way the specific

8 In issues of the *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research (BASOR)* over these years, there are important references to the arrangements and affairs concerning the centers, and they show that the University of Jordan was keen to have teaching assistance for their programs but it had to be from Amman (i.e., J. B. Pritchard, Minutes of May 3, 1969, in *BASOR* 190 [1968], 55; G. E. Wright, “President Report, in *BASOR* 197 [1970], 5 with regard to Murray Nicol’s efforts in his short stint in Jordan).

9 The ACOR annual director/professors and their terms were Rudolph H. Dornemann (1968-1969), Murray B. Nicol (1969-1970), Bastiaan Van Elderen (1970), Siegfried H. Horn (1970-1971), Henry O. Thompson (1971-1972), Bastiaan Van Elderen (1972-1974), James A. Sauer (Fall 1974), and George Mendenhall (Spring 1975).

10 ACOR Directors have been James A. Sauer (1975-1981), David W. McCreery (1981-1988), Bert de Vries (1988-1991), Pierre M. Bikai (1991-2006), Barbara A. Porter (2006-2020), and Pearce Paul Creasman (2020-present).

expertise of the directors was often relied upon. During Sauer's directorship, he continued the practice of teaching (Bisheh 2000, 9) and tirelessly promoted archaeology in Jordan and in Syria, both through articles but also tours and public lectures in the United States (Sauer 1982; King 1983, 240, 249; Dorneman 2012). In his tenure, the three other centers were established in Amman and they were all clearly interconnected from the start in terms of providing assistance. The nature of Amman in the late 1970s was very much a small town.<sup>11</sup>

In this period many American overseas centers came under a newly chartered entity entitled the Council of American Overseas Research Institutes (CAORC, [www.caorc.org](http://www.caorc.org)), initially under the aegis of the Smithsonian and as of 1986 with its own executive director (Meyers 2001, 41-42; Porter and Pyne 2011). The primary funding for CAORC comes from the US State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA). ACOR through ASOR was a founding CAORC member. The diverse and geographically wide-ranging American overseas centers have played many roles including soft diplomacy (Kersel and Luke 2018). ASOR and CAORC have provided financial support and fellowships over the years. The major contributions from ASOR to ACOR subsided in the late 1980s as the intention was that the centers would be more self-supporting (Seeger 2001b, 49). ACOR remains part of ASOR's consortium of "overseas schools" (i.e., Amman, Jerusalem, and Nicosia with Baghdad and Damascus represented by committees). In terms of structure, ACOR remains a non-profit academic institution with its own Board of Trustees and endowments.

David McCreery, the second long-term director (1981-1988), as noted above, was also involved in excavations in Jordan prior to accepting the role. A Five-Year-Plan undertaken with USAID funding initiated under Sauer in 1980 led to many of ACOR's subsequent Cultural Resource Management (CRM) projects from 1987 to 1994 (McCreery and Sauer 1982; de Vries 1991b, 5; Palumbo et al. 1993, 71). The CRM team was very involved with the DoA in salvage excavations, including on the Citadel in 1987 led by Fawzi Zayadine and Joe Greene which included British Institute assistance (Zayadine et al. 1987; Greene and Amr 1992) and with the Archaeological Survey of Greater Amman (ASGA) in fall 1988 (Greene 1990, 8; Abu Dayyah et al. 1991, 361) as well as the Amman Citadel Feasibility Study in 1989-1990 led by Dornemann (1990, 3). The ultimate goal was to foster a "policy of a comprehensive long-term plan for systematic coordination between DAJ [DoA] and government agencies responsible for planning and implementing development projects" (Kana'an and Palumbo 1993, 207). The project was trying to move away from unplanned salvage projects by having an organized system in place (Abu Dayyeh et al. 1993).

The longest legacy from this CRM Project is surely the national inventory of archaeological sites that developed in the 1990s (see JADIS below; note Palumbo et al. 1993, fullest account of CRM Project). The CRM Project activities in Jordan were undertaken under three succeeding ACOR directors with many staff changes (Kana'an and Palumbo 1993, 205) and USAID renewed the funding three times (Palumbo et al. 1993, 73). One field project supported by the three directors— McCreery, de Vries, and Bikai — was at Ayla, as conducted by Donald Whitcomb for the University of Chicago starting in

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<sup>11</sup> I was able to observe ACOR firsthand in 1977 when I excavated with Khair Yassine in the Jordan Valley at Tall Mazar and hence the comment "small town" which has been reinforced by Jordanian friends. I also stayed at ACOR in 1987 at their new premises and was able to visit the British Institute, which was diagonally across the fields. This area of Tla'a Ali across from the University of Jordan still had much empty space in the 1980s.

1986 as part of an investment in heritage (Whitcomb 1990, 1994; Parker and Whitcomb 1997) at a time when the corniche area was being developed for hotels. ACOR assisted later in 2017-2018 with planned enhancements at the archaeological park at Ayla, ancient Aqaba, through USAID SCHEP (Adarbeh et al. 2020, 82-85).

The excavations at the important Neolithic site of Ain Ghazal on the highway to Zarqa took place during this time and the ACOR premises between the Fifth and Sixth circles were the base of operations for the foreign staff, including Gary Rollefson, who worked with a team under several co-directors including Zeidan Kafafi of Yarmouk University (Rollefson 1997, 36; Rollefson and Kafafi 2007). The excavation in 1983 and 1985 of two caches of Neolithic plastered statues and busts will remain a highlight of American contributions to heritage in Jordan, and ACOR was proud to support the activities. Some 1980s photos documenting the excavations and the removal of the plaster statues are included in the Brian Byrd photos available on the ACOR Photo Archive.

Much of McCreery's time was taken up with building the permanent premises in Amman on the hillside across from the University of Jordan. He worked closely with the Committee for ACOR formed in 1982 under the patronage of Prince El Hassan Bin Talal and chaired by Prince Raad Bin Zeid. Board chairman Gough Thompson (1982-1986) and many other individuals, companies, and US government grants made the construction and outfitting of the building possible. The architect was Farid Habib (Porter 2011). Later renovations in 2005 and 2019-2022 reflected the need for growth and upgrades (Creasman 2021). The fact that ACOR owns the building (the German Institute also owns its building) has made a considerable difference in periods of economic downturn and provided a stable environment.



**Fig. 2** This hillside in Tla'a Ali across from the University of Jordan in northwest Amman was the location of three foreign institutes. In the middle of the aerial photo is ACOR (purpose built and officially opened July 1986) beside the Byzantine farmhouse of Khirbet Salameh. Across the field and seen on the right side with a red roof and lovely garden is the GPIA building (purpose built and officially opened April 1982), and at the top amongst a cluster of apartment buildings on Uhud Street is the British Institute's premises rented from 2003 to spring 2022. This aerial image by Matt Dalton was taken in 2018 when he was staying at the British Institute during one of the flying missions of the Aerial Archaeology of Jordan (AAJ) project led by Bob Bewley (APAAME\_20181022\_MND-0808).

The next director Bert de Vries (1988-1991)<sup>12</sup> had worked in Jordan for many years at the northern site of Umm el Jimal as a Calvin College excavation (see [www.ummeljimal.org](http://www.ummeljimal.org)) which has been sustained since the initial 1972 survey with Sauer. Thus this project also represents a very long-term commitment to Jordan's heritage. As ACOR director, de Vries continued many of the CRM activities noted above and he initiated two practical publications, the *ACOR Newsletter* in 1988 (de Vries 1989) and the "Archaeology in Jordan" newsletter published in the *American Journal of Archaeology* (AJA) from 1991 to 2016 (Porter 2014). The latter is now an ACOR electronic newsletter (AIJ) (Green et al. 2018; Creasman et al. 2020). These venues provide easily accessible information about the work of Jordanian and foreign excavators in Jordan in the past 30 years and complement reports in the *Annual of the Department of Antiquities*. In October 1990, CASOR (ASOR Canada) was formed to support Canadian projects in the Near East ([www.casor.org](http://www.casor.org)). Several Canadian programs were well established in Jordan, and the project directors supported ACOR in the tough period of 1990-1991.

The end of de Vries's tenure coincided with the difficult time of the first Gulf War (de Vries 2008, 11-12) when ACOR had to close for a few months (de Vries 1990a; 1990b; 1991a). Each foreign institute would have reacted differently based on the dictums of their respective embassies and in this case, the US Embassy requested all fellows and staff leave the country. By March 1991, operations returned to normal and the work creating rest houses at Umm Qeis and Pella could continue (Khammash 1990). After the rest houses were officially opened in fall 1991, they enhanced the tourist experiences at both sites.

By summer 1991, the new director Pierre Bikai arrived in Amman and he and his wife, Patricia Bikai, would together lead ACOR until March 2006. Their fifteen-year tenure included many major accomplishments but the start was tough as it coincided with another financial crisis (Pi. Bikai 2008, 13). Besides significant archaeological projects noted below, in the Bikai years some named fellowships were created to support students. Already in 1989 a fellowship was set up in memory of archaeologist Jennifer Groot (Parker 2012) but in coming years, several others were initiated including one in the Bikai's name (Porter and Pyne 2011; ACOR website under Fellowships). The impact of the fellowship program has been considerable as it has introduced many North American and European students to Jordan and has supported the studies of Jordanian graduate students as well as senior scholars finishing publications (G. Corbett 2018).

During those years there was usually a summer lecture series hosted at ACOR when project directors could share their latest results (Pi. Bikai 2000, 280). Later from 2006 to 2012 (during my directorship), ACOR hosted large groups of Arabic language students from the US (Harpending 2011, Harpending 2012) so it was no longer possible to maintain that summer series. However, throughout the academic year lectures were delivered regularly (see the ACOR YouTube page for ones documented by video since fall 2015). The Arabic program from 2006 to 2012 echoed earlier emersion programs hosted at ACOR. The French Institute has had a major Arabic language training component for many years (see [www.ifporient.org](http://www.ifporient.org) and Arabic language) and the British Institute has had students from the United Kingdom come for specialized Arabic instruction. The broadening of the remit to encourage modern area

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12 Bert de Vries also served on the ACOR Board of Trustees for many years (1995-2021). His career in Jordan started in 1968 as an architect on the Tell Hesban project. He died in March 2021 and there is a moving legacy tribute on the ACOR website <https://acorjordan.org/people-legacy/bert-de-vries/>

studies is strengthened by the Arabic language commitment and fellowship support.

*Major Projects post 1990*

*Amman.* Many projects were undertaken by ACOR in the 1990s and 2000s including the Great Temple Project on the Amman Citadel from 1990 to 1993. The Roman temple (often called the Temple of Hercules) was excavated and partially restored as part of a larger tourism initiative (Najjar 1990; Russell 1991; Kanellopoulos 1994; Koutsoukou et al. 1997). In 1996, the nearby Ayyubid Tower was conserved and restored (Ostrasz 1997). Now on the ACOR website (under Initiatives and Archaeological Projects) one can see summaries of most past projects, including those in Amman at the Citadel as well as smaller endeavors led by Pierre Bikai at Khirbet Salameh, a small site adjacent to ACOR, and at the Darat Al Funun in Jabel Weibdeh (Pi. Bikai 2007, 91). The Amman Citadel has been the focus of much attention in order to prepare it for tourism. A USAID Siyaha endeavor provided new paths and signage after another comprehensive Site Conservation and Management Plan begun in 2007 and launched late in 2009 (USAID 2014, 44-47). The need for continuous upkeep is demonstrated through a new ACOR-coordinated initiative with the DoA and MOTA as supported by USAID, for a tourist path planned for the southern end of the citadel to the Roman theater in downtown Amman (Badarin et al. 2021, 1-2).

*Site documentation.* As a background to the actual physical excavation and restoration, another result of the CRM program was JADIS (Jordan Antiquities Database and Information System) launched in September 1992 (Palumbo 1992a; 1992b, 1993, 1994 [ed.]). JADIS initially provided a record of more than 8,000 sites and has since been superseded by MEGA Jordan (Middle Eastern Geodatabase for Antiquities) based on upgraded technology supported by The Getty Conservation Institute (GCI) and the World Monuments Fund (WMF) ([www.megajordan.org](http://www.megajordan.org)) which was made available in spring 2011. This international endeavor supporting the DoA maintained an initial database of more than 10,000 sites that will be ever growing (Myers and Dalgity 2012, 50) but the system also needs to be maintained with properly trained dedicated personnel.

*Madaba.* The Madaba Archaeological Park project was undertaken in coordination with MOTA and resulted in the protection of several of the Byzantine churches with mosaics and the creation of two archaeological parks (east and west) (Pi. Bikai and Pa. Bikai 1997; Pi. Bikai 2007, 88)). Pa. Bikai also inaugurated ACOR's monograph series by being one of the editors for *The Mosaics of Jordan* written by Michele Piccirillo of the Studium Biblicum Franciscanum of Mt. Nebo (Piccirillo 1993). A further example of building on past projects ACOR is seeking in 2022 to prepare a second volume of that popular publication.

*Petra.* For a new project in Petra, a grant was received from USAID in October 1991 (Russell 1992). In May 1992, excavation commenced in the center city of Petra on the north bank of the Wadi Musa, where over the next six years, a Byzantine church would be uncovered and restored for visitors and turned over in a formal ceremony to the Department of Antiquities and the Petra Park in July 1998 (Fiema et al. 2001). Now the remarkable mosaics floors can be readily seen under a protective shelter designed by Rob Shutler (Pi. Bikai and Pa. Bikai 1997, 3). The biggest surprise was the discovery of some 150 papyrus scrolls in a room off the church proper. These were excavated in December 1993 and brought to ACOR for conservation and preparation for publication in a multi-volume set that took 25 years given that the final volume was published in 2018 (Arjava et al. 2018). The publication project took much planning and dedication from international teams primarily from the United States and Finland as well as ACOR (Frösén et al. 2002; Arjava

et al. 2007, 2011, 2018; Koenen et al. 2013). From 1994 to 2002, Patricia Bikai led a project on the slope above the Petra Church with anthropologist Megan Perry and it revealed two more churches (Pa. Bikai et al. 2020). Thus ACOR fulfilled the expressed intention in the early 1990s of opening up an area for new tourist trails in Petra and at the same time provided insights into sixth century Byzantine Petra that were considerably beyond the original expectations.

When I became ACOR director in April 2006, there was the legacy of past projects and programs as well as new initiatives to consider. The first major undertaking was planning and executing with the DoA the 10<sup>th</sup> International Conference on the History and Archaeology of Jordan (ICHAJ 10) in May 2007 in Washington D.C. (Clark and Porter 2007; Al Khraysheh ed. 2009). These international conferences under the aegis of the Department of Antiquities and the patronage of Prince El Hassan Bin Talal provide the chance to reflect on Jordan's past, as has been the case from the first one in 1980 in Oxford in which ACOR director Jim Sauer was involved (see CBRL below) (Hadidi ed. 1982). For ICHAJ 10 in Washington D.C., a monograph assessing North American contributions to the archaeology of Jordan was prepared, and more than 50 insightful essays inform the topic under consideration (Levy et al. eds. 2007) from a general review of North American archaeological research (N. Lapp 2007) and another outlining the multiplicity of surveys in the country (B. MacDonald 2007) to specific projects and periods.

Patricia Bikai continued to undertake some fieldwork in Beidha after she retired from ACOR in 2006 but there was a hiatus in active ACOR field projects in the center city of Petra for a few years although ongoing maintenance work continued at the Petra Church.

*Petra Mapping Project (1997-2006).* ACOR collaborated with Talal Akasheh of Hashemite University to create a new base map of the central area of Petra using the most up-to-date technology of the time (Pi. Bikai 2007, 93). C. Kanellopoulos documented many architectural details. For this project, JICA (the Japan International Cooperation Agency) provided considerable support (Porter 2016b). This Petra Map included the discoveries made from the 1970s to 2001, including those of the three churches excavated by ACOR and a colonnade around the Qasr al Bint from French excavations (Fig. 3 covers much of the relevant area of this map from the view on high above the city center). The map was executed at a scale of 1:500 (Kanellopoulos and Akasheh 2001).<sup>13</sup> ACOR's USAID Petra Endowment supported the project.

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<sup>13</sup> This map of the Petra City center was never able to be published in popular format even though the main instigator Talal Akasheh tried to accomplish that. It has been included in several scholarly articles (and PowerPoint presentations). The credit on the map as published reads @ Chrysanthos Kanellopoulos, Hashemite University, American Center of Oriental Research (Kanellopoulos and Akasheh 2001). Based on discussions among the main parties involved in 2016, it was determined that the proper credit should be @ Talal Akasheh, Hashemite University, Chrysanthos Kanellopoulos, and the American Center of Oriental Research, Amman (Porter 2016b, 16) but that decision was never made public.



**Fig. 3** View of the center city of Petra facing west from the heights of Jabal Khubtha (recently excavated by a French-Belgian team) features the large freestanding temple of the Qasr al Bint in the distance, the site of ongoing and long-term French excavations since the late 1970s. On the opposite side of the wadi is the location of ACOR projects from 1991 to 2002 at the Petra Church (with its modern shelter), the Blue Chapel, and Ridge Church at the top of the slope. Beyond is the Nabataean Temple of the Winged Lions, where ACOR started working in 2009, leading to the TWLCRM initiative (now in publication phase). On the south side is the large Great Temple complex excavated and restored under a Brown University project led by Martha S. Joukowsky (Photo: Qeis Tweissi, March 2018)

*ACOR's USAID SCHEP.* In 2009, ACOR initiated a new project called the Temple of the Winged Lions Cultural Resource Management (TWLCRM) initiative coordinated with the DoA and assisted by the Petra Park and Petra Development & Tourism Region Authority (PDTRA). Philip Hammond of the American Expedition to Petra (AEP) had led excavations at this site from 1974 to 2005 (Hammond 2003, 223; Tuttle 2013a; Tuttle 2013b). ACOR Associate Director Christopher Tuttle initiated the project of preserving the temple complex while also building local capacity for CRM efforts (Tuttle 2012, 2; Ronza 2016; Tuttle et al. 2017). The Temple of the Winged Lions is now being prepared for an extensive publication (Green 2019; Piraud-Fournet et al. 2021, 303). The TWLCRM initiative included several innovative ideas and the concept led to a proposal submitted to USAID. In November 2014 a cooperative agreement was signed for SCHEP—Sustainable Cultural Heritage Through Engagement of Local Communities Project. A second grant ends in 2022 and the efforts of USAID SCHEP have now touched many regions of Jordan from Umm el Jimal to Aqaba (Adarbeh et al. 2020). One of the most significant undertakings to my mind is the study and preservation of the Roman-period painted hypogeum found at Bayt Ras in November 2016 (Haron et al. 2019).<sup>14</sup>

<sup>14</sup> Jihad Haron presented on the Bayt Ras Tomb Project in an ACOR lecture entitled “Heritage vs. Development: The

The Bayt Ras project is complex due to the fragile nature of the wall paintings and the necessity for careful conservation and recording of the inscriptions and intricate scenes. Fortunately, local stakeholders and international organizations came together to ensure its protection. SCHEP at the invitation of the DoA was the main coordinator (Adarbeh et al. 2020, 22-29) with Jehad Haron as the lead. The main parties involved have been the Department of Antiquities of Jordan (DoA); Istituto Superiore per la Conservazione ed il Restauro/Italy (ISCR); Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale/Italy (ISPRA), the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS); and the Institut français du Proche Orient (Ifpo), Amman (Haron et al. 2019). A few articles have also appeared in popular journals (E. Villeneuve 2019; Weiss 2020). The project has been on hold on the ground due to the pandemic but the epigraphers and documentation specialists continue their research; the original ultimate goal is to be a publication by Ifpo Press. The French epigraphers who have studied the inscriptions— Julien Aliquot, Pierre-Louis Gatier, and Jean-Baptiste Yon— have decades of experience in Jordan, as does Claude Vibert-Guigue who undertook the detailed drawings and renderings (see below under Ifpo). In my 14 years as ACOR director, there were many special times (Porter 2018) but being part of this initiative and having the chance to see the wall paintings in person is something I shall never forget. There is a presentation of SCHEP project photographs ([www.usaidschep.org](http://www.usaidschep.org) under gallery) but they primarily show the outreach efforts to schoolchildren and the community in Bayt Ras.

*Field Project Support.* ACOR (and all institutes) have assisted myriad foreign projects (Pa. Bikai 1993, 39-83; N. Lapp 2001, 311-316). In some cases, the assistance could be for a short term but there are individuals that have been involved in Jordan for decades. One such person is S. Thomas Parker who directed the Limes Arabicus Project from 1980 to 1989 (Parker 2006), the Roman Aqaba Project from 1994 to 2002 (Parker and Smith 2014), and as of 2012, the North Ridge Project in Petra with fellow ACOR board member Megan Perry. His initial survey of the Limes Arabicus began in 1976 and in 1982, he was an NEH Fellow at ACOR. In his career in Jordan (which started with the American Expedition to Petra led by Hammond in 1975), his projects served as the training ground for many students and had a huge impact on the field of American archaeology (Ward ed. 2017).<sup>15</sup> He had an historic relationship with ACOR starting in the mid-70s, thus overlapping with all six long-term directors. The active support of projects has been a major part of the institutes in Jordan and in virtually every preliminary or final report some acknowledgment of that assistance is noted.

#### *ACOR Photo Archive Initiative*

In 2016, ACOR received its first grant to support the ACOR Research Library Photographic Archive project. The original goal was to digitize some 30,000 images

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Bayt Ras Tomb Project 2017–2019” on September 29, 2020. At that time, he was SCHEP Deputy Chief of Party and CHR Development Lead and Co-Director of the Bayt Ras Tomb Project with Nizar Al Adarbeh, then Chief of Party USAID SCHEP, and Ahmad Lash, then Head of the Loans Division and International Cooperation at the DoA. This remains the best accessible presentation (to my knowledge) on the project so far. There was also a special session at ICHAJ 14 in Florence in January 2019 in which the main components were presented by various consortium members, thus to be published in *SHAJ* 14.

<sup>15</sup> Tom Parker died in September 2021. He played many roles on the ACOR Board, such as Second Vice President, and headed the fellowship committee to which he was very dedicated (Parker 2012). On the ACOR website is an homage to Tom by Megan Perry, <https://acorjordan.org/news-and-events/remembering-the-life-of-s-thomas-parker/>

(mostly from slides) (Green 2018) but there are likely some 100,000 slides in the whole collection (Commisso 2019). Inherent in the project was hiring archival consultants as like all institutes ACOR had a tremendous amount of stored material but did not have the expertise to digitize it properly (Holland 2018). Now on the ACOR website under “Archive” is a wealth of digital imagery from multiple collections, i.e. Linda Jacobs, Rami Khouri, Paul and Nancy Lapp, and Jane Taylor. Current efforts supported by a second grant are concentrating on ACOR’s own collections, including those of past directors, such as Bert de Vries, Pierre Bikai, and myself<sup>16</sup>. The grants from the US Department of Education also have helped fund photo archival workshops, which brought together many individuals involved in collections primarily in Jordan (i.e. DoA, other institutes and universities) and were in part coordinated with the National Library (Holland 2019). The training materials from these workshops are also included on the ACOR website under Archive as a way of providing guidance to custodians at other collections where there are archives, such as the important repository at the DoA. Digitizing past photographic images and records is a concern for all of the institutes (current and past) and a massive undertaking.

**The French Institute of the Near East —Ifpo—Institut français du Proche-Orient**  
*Origin Story.* The current Ifpo was created in January 2003 and its prior incarnation in Jordan for archaeology was IFAPO—Institut français d’Archéologie du Proche-Orient (French Archaeological Institute of the Near East) founded in 1977.<sup>17</sup> Ifpo was amalgamated from three entities:

- 1) the French Institute of Arab Studies in Damascus— IFÉAD (Institut français d’études arabes) established in 1922 at the start of the French Mandate period in Syria and Lebanon;
- 2) IFAPO founded in 1977, itself a successor to the French Institute in Beirut created in 1946 after World War II and the end of the French mandate; and
- 3) the Center of Study and Research in the Contemporary Middle East—CERMOC (Centre d’Études et de Recherche sur le Moyen-Orient contemporain) first created in Lebanon in 1977 and then Jordan in 1988 ([www.ifpo.org](http://www.ifpo.org); Wikipedia 2021).

Ifpo is part of the network of French Research Institutes Abroad (IFRE) under the joint oversight of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and National Center for Scientific Research—CNRS—Centre national de la recherche scientifique.<sup>18</sup> The remit includes research programs, scientific publication and training, and the history of past civilizations. The current website ([www.ifporient.org](http://www.ifporient.org)) provides an “organigramme,” which shows the structure with the Ifpo headquarters and formal directorship in Beirut and the four branches in Jordan (Amman), Syria (Damascus and Aleppo), Palestinian territories, and Iraq (Erbil).

16 My photographic slide images were taken by me over the period of 1977 to 2005 at which point I went digital. The images relevant to the ACOR Archive collection were gifted to ACOR in March 2020 and on the website. The digital images from my time as Director (2006-2020) are also donated to ACOR and include documentation of many sites and events, such as the ICHAJ conferences in Jordan and abroad.

17 By consulting several Ifpo colleagues, the following list of heads (those responsible) in Amman has been created and as not all are noted in my text this list is provided for the background history. Heads of IFAPO Jordan (1977-2002): François Larché (1977-1982); François Villeneuve (1982-1987); Frank Braemer (1987-1989); Jacques Seigne (1989-1995); Jean-Pierre Braun (1996-2000); Dominique Leconte (2001-2002); and Jean François Salles (Sept. 2002-Dec. 2002). Heads of Ifpo Amman branch: Jean-François Salles (2003-2009); Jacques Seigne (2009-2012); Thibaud Fournet (2012-2015); Vanessa Gueno (2015-2016); Kamel Dorai (interim) (Jan-Sept. 2017); Falistin Naili (2017-2020); and Julie Bonneric (Sept. 2020-present).

18 For the governmental relationship for Ifpo see <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/scientific-diplomacy/archaeology-humanities-and-social-sciences/the-network-of-french-research-institutes-abroad-ifre/>

The branch (antennes) directors are those responsible for the local institute, administered ultimately now from Beirut but prior to 2011 for a period from Damascus. Thus, there is a wide remit within Bilad al Sham. Specific research agendas outlined cover contemporary studies; medieval and modern Arab studies; and archaeology and the history of antiquity; the latter is currently under the leadership of Dominique Pieri.

French archaeological interests in Palestine and Jordan were formally established in 1890 with the founding of the École pratique d'études bibliques (Practical School of Biblical Studies), which is considered the first permanent foreign archaeological mission in Palestine (Trimbur 2011, 95-96). It is under the authority of the Dominican order. In 1892 their publication the *Revue biblique* was established and as of 1900 a book series *Études bibliques* (Murphy-O'Connor 1997). Two Dominican priests of the École, Fathers Marie-Antonin Jaussen and Antoine-Raphael Savignac, travelled in northwest Arabia for expeditions between 1907 to 1912 and undertook major documentation projects at Madain Saleh (Parr 1997) for which they produced important publications in 1909 and 1914. In World War I, most of the French priests were expelled from Jerusalem by the Ottomans.

*1920s on.* This institute evolved into the École biblique et archéologique française de Jérusalem (EBAF, see [www.ebaf.edu](http://www.ebaf.edu)) by a 1920 resolution of the Academy of Inscriptions and Belles-Lettres in Paris. In the 1920s, EBAF undertook excavations at such Palestinian sites as Jericho and Nablus and in Syria at Aleppo. In Jordan, their attention was at Djebel ar Ramm, a Nabataean village near Aqaba (Savignac) and a Byzantine church at Ma'in near Madaba (Father Roland de Vaux) (Trimbur 2011, 101). De Vaux served as EBAF director from 1945 to 1965. During World War II, EBAF members were able to stay in Palestine and thus were in place to help with the post-war investigations at Qumran with the Department of Antiquities of Jordan in collaboration with British and American schools; de Vaux was a key figure (Trimbur 2011, 103).

Since 1967, Jean-Baptiste Humbert has been in charge of the EBAF archaeology section and has conducted excavations in Jordan at Khirbet Samra (1978-1986) following up on Savignac's 1924 discoveries of tombstones there; near Mafraq at el Fedein (1986), and the Amman Citadel for three seasons starting in 1988. The École holds significant photo archives relevant to the whole region, including Jordan, and they are under the auspices of Jean-Michel de Tarragon.

*Institute in Beirut.* As alluded to above, the real origin story for Ifpo Amman lies in the founding in 1946 of l'Institut français d'Archéologie de Beyrouth by Henri Seyrig (director 1946-1967), who had been the director general of the Antiquities Department for Syria and Lebanon (1929-1941) under the French High Commission (Will 1973, 262; Seeden 1997). He looms large in the history of the institute and provided a strong base for significant research and French outreach (Duyrat et al. 2016). Under the French leadership of the Antiquities Service, the *Revue d'art oriental et d'archéologie* entitled *Syria*, was published as of 1920 and in 1946 it became the journal for the Beirut institute (Will 1996). It includes articles on Jordan but more on Syria. The more substantial reports are conveyed in the series *Bibliothèque archéologique et historique* (BAH) initiated in 1929 (Will 1978, 182; Dentzer 2007).

A very detailed and informative account of the Beirut institute has been captured by Mathilde Gelin (2005), primarily for the period 1946 to 1977. The activities in Lebanon and Syria will not be detailed here but were extensive and included excavation, survey, and

restoration projects; a very long-term project instigated in 1935/36 was the “mission de Syrie du Nord.” In 1971, the institute took on the publication with the University of Lyon of *Inscriptions grecques et latines de la Syrie (IGLS)* that was an offshoot of this mission in north Syria (Gelin 2005, 287, 296-297, n. 129) and would later cover Jordan (see below).

French academics received fellowships as of 1946 for which they could dedicate themselves to their own research (Gelin 2005, 304, list of “pensionnaires”). The first was Ernest Will, who would later lead the Beirut institute (1973-1980) and initiate the Amman branch in 1977 (Dentzer 1997). In 1968, Jordanian archaeologist Fawzi Zayadine was the first fellowship holder from the Middle East (Gelin 2005, 285), and strong ties were formed. Foreign European researchers were able to stay in Beirut until 1975 but had to leave then due to the civil war that lasted until 1991. It was not until 1993 that a scholar (*pensionnaire*) was back in residence in Beirut; the first was Frédéric Alpi (Gelin 2005, 302), who currently represents the CNRS in the archaeology and history division. The major library (much from Seyrig’s own collection) was moved several times for protection and ended up in the French Embassy; the photography collection was partly destroyed by looters (Gelin 2005, 301-302). E. Will moved to Damascus in March 1976 and he had gone to Jordan in 1974 to investigate excavation project possibilities (Gelin 2005, 303). Because of the civil war in Lebanon, satellite centers were created, first in Amman (1977) and then Damascus (1981) (Will 1978, 178; Gelin 2005, 302). It was under Will’s directorship that excavation projects were particularly emphasized and instigated (Dentzer 1997, 1; Gelin 2005, 298).

*French Institute in Amman.* In 1976, a project was initiated at Iraq al Amir in Jordan (Will 1978, 178-181; Gelin 2005, 303) and IFAPO was formally established in Jordan in 1977. In that year, the position of *dessinateur* (draughtsperson) was created to the benefit of this branch and its activities in Jordan (Will 1979, 212). Given there were no headquarters, François Larché, the first one responsible for the Jordan operations (1977-1982), initially lived at ACOR (then near the Fifth Circle) and had an office in the French Cultural Center on Jabel Weibdeh but by fall 1978 an apartment was rented by E. Will (1979, 212). Some who came to Jordan were fulfilling part of their military service; such was the case for Claude Vibert-Guigue who came in early 1980 to serve as a draughtsman and then continued later on many projects as a civilian. He was involved in documenting some of the northern painted tombs (Barbet and Vibert-Guigue 1988, 1994). As mentioned above he is now a key member of the Bayt Ras Tomb Project.

François Villeneuve who came in fall 1980 as a field archaeologist (16 months military service as well) became the IFAPO Amman head in February 1982 and assistant director of the whole of IFAPO in summer 1982.<sup>19</sup> Frank Braemer (in charge IFAPO Amman 1987-1989) undertook survey projects, such as the Western Ajlun Survey (1985-1987) and the Jordanian Hauran (1988) (Fournet January 2022 Personal Communication). Jean-Pierre Braun (branch head 1996-2000) presented a review of most French projects on the occasion of the German Institute’s 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary (Braun 2000).

*Iraq al Amir:* With this new archaeological direction in the late 1970s, several projects were undertaken. The Qasr al Abd project at Iraq al Amir was conducted from 1976 to 1987 under the direction of Will and co-directed with Fawzi Zayadine of the DoA. François

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<sup>19</sup> The history of when certain French researchers came to Jordan and their specialized circumstances were conveyed in an email by Thibaud Fournet (personal communication Jan. 3, 2022) that also contained a summary of some of the French project history; it was based on his consultation with Ifpo colleagues. The list of the individuals responsible for the Amman center was provided in that communication.

Larché served as the architect and project researcher (1977-1987). Many areas of the site were dealt with by the French team, including survey by Villeneuve and more excavation with Jean-Marie Dentzer including the Monumental Gate. A major accomplishment was the restoration of the spectacular Hellenistic palace of Qasr al Abd ten years after the fieldwork began and a visitor center was also created (Braun 2000, 288, 291). The main final publications came out in 1991 (Will and Larché) and 2005 (Larché) in the BAH series and a useful guide as part of an IFPO series (Étienne and Salles et al. 2010) with contributions by many participants. The project was presented at the first ICHAJ in Oxford in 1980 (Will 1982; Dentzer, Villeneuve, and Larché 1982). This site had been known by travelers and excavated before by Paul Lapp but it was this sustained effort of excavation and restoration that has made it an archaeological site accessible to visitors.

*Jerash.* The next major permanent IFAPO project started in 1981 in Jerash as part of the Jerash Archaeological Project (JAP, see above) under the aegis of the DoA (Will 1983). The Temple of Zeus was designated as the main French team area and directed by Jacques Seigne as of October 1982 (Will 1983, 133; Seigne et al. 1986). After JAP ended in December 1983, the French team continued to work in Jerash under Seigne, who was the director of the mission for many years. In his last years in Jordan he focused on the inventory of finds (Kreikenbom et al. in Khalil [ed.] 2013, 9) and concentrated with the DoA for three months from February 2013 on much needed site maintenance, including the famous Oval Plaza (Harahshah and Seigne 2013) and he continues to write on aspects of the work in Jarash (Seigne 2021).

The French camp in the northern part of the site was overseen until 2011 by Gabriel Humbert, a long-term member of the mission who also provided continuity. Frank Braemer (Damascus IFAPO) excavated the Jerash tell (1985-1986) (Braemer 1987). From 1985 to 1988, a survey project from the area of Jerash to Khirbet Samra to the east was undertaken with a combination of IFAPO and EBAF team members, and many details were documented (Sapin 1998) in a landscape that has changed considerably over the intervening years. By 1990, the South Gate at Jerash was in part restored (Braun 2000, 289). There were many different aspects to the IFAPO Jerash project and Braun recaps some of them from the period he was head of IFAPO Jordan (1996-2000). He worked at the Zeus Temple while the DoA undertook restoration of part of the Upper Temple complex from 1997 to 2000. IFAPO provided archaeological and architectural analyses and plans for anastylosis and this provided the chance for training programs (Braun 2000, 288-289). There was a survey of the Jerash region focusing on quarries and linked to a field study by David Kennedy and Robert Bewley and their aerial archaeological documentation (Braun 2000, 289; Kennedy 2001).

The cryptoporticus below the Temple of Zeus complex was initially intended to be an exhibition hall for the Jerash Festival and then became a display area for the Late Hellenistic stucco fragments uncovered beneath the Roman levels. The gallery area was begun in 2000 and completed thanks in part to the Louvre Museum (Braun 2000, 288, 291). Unfortunately, it has not been made available to the public on a regular basis, and this reflects one of the challenges of foreign contributions that cannot be sustained due to lack of personnel or interest (B. Porter personal observation).

The French contributions to documenting and interpreting ancient Jerash cannot be understated. There are also to my mind two particularly fascinating discoveries illuminated

by the French mission based on past archaeological work. In 1993 in the Lower Terrace of the Zeus sanctuary, a stratum filled with burnt ceramic pieces investigated further in 2012 has proved to be the remains of a Roman-period bronze statue casting workshop (Khalil et al. [eds]. 2013). The casting pits in this sacred area were likely for objects designed for the sanctuary built in 162-163 CE (Seigne 2018, 312) and this study has benefited from an international consortium of specialists and certainly demonstrate the need and merit in revisiting materials in storerooms.

The second example stems from the American excavations in the 1920s in an area used to store inscribed stone objects located in the eastern end of the southern vaults of a cryptoporticus for the Temple of Artemis platform. The blocks covered over the remnants of a Byzantine-period installation that has been analyzed and reconstructed as a water-powered sawmill (Seigne 2002a; Seigne 2009). There was a formal opening ceremony in May 2010 after the large-scale reproduction in wood made in France was installed in the chamber (*Jordan Times*, May 7, 2010). This unusual feature on site is also showcased in panels in the Jarash Visitor Center which was upgraded through a USAID Siyaha grant in 2011. This Visitor Center includes other object displays and updated text panels. A small model is included in the Jordan Museum in downtown Amman. By 2013, 53 informative signs in English, French, and Arabic with content supplied by Ifpo specialists were placed around the site (USAID 2014, 50-51). The chance to provide useful and attractive information panels is a goal of most projects but is often hampered by lack of funds, as well as bureaucracy, so it is worth noting when such endeavors are successful but also to stress the need for ongoing upkeep (i.e. funds and oversight).



**Fig. 4** The renovated Jarash Visitor Center opened in 2011 with new information panels and object displays, which benefited from the expertise of Ifpo researchers and was finalized thanks to a USAID Siyaha grant. Placed in the central entrance hall are marble statues of Aphrodite and Zeus restored from pieces found during 2016-2017 excavations in the Eastern Baths by a joint Franco-Jordanian-German team led by Thomas Lepaon and Thomas Weber-Karyatokis (Photo: Barbara A. Porter, December 2019)

There have been several Jerash visitor centers over the years. The one from 2000 had a site map created by an IFAPO team (Braun 2000, 289; Braun et al. 2001; Seigne 2002b). The maps used for the more recent installations are based on a revised and updated version

undertaken by Thomas Lepaon and colleagues and it integrates past efforts with the recent work by many diverse teams in Jerash and integrates new technology (Lepaon 2011).

*Qusayr Amra.* This important Umayyad site with its elaborately painted bathhouse became a World Heritage site in 1985. In the 1970s, a Spanish team from the National Museum of Madrid cleaned the wall paintings (Bisheh 1997, 397) and a Spanish archaeological mission conducted survey and excavation (WMF 2015, 8). From 1989 to 1996 there was a joint IFAPO and DoA project to document the wall paintings and a major monograph was published in the BAH series as *Jordanian Archaeology 1* by Ghazi Bisheh and Vibert-Guigue (Vibert-Guigue and Bisheh 2007). Concurrent with this project Bisheh was Director General of Antiquities of Jordan from 1989 to 1991 and again 1994 to 1999. As an Islamic archaeologist, he brought his enthusiasm to this project that led to the further excavation and documentation of site features, restoration of the well and hydraulic system just outside the bathhouse entrance, and analyses of objects found (Bisheh et al. 1997).<sup>20</sup> With the support of the Cultural Service of the French Embassy, a new visitor center was created with information panels explaining the site history and the paintings. The architect Thierry Morin in 1995-1996 worked with the DoA to protect the site from flooding and by October 1999 there was an opening ceremony that included the other partners such as MOTA and UNESCO (Braun 2000, 291; Morin and Vibert-Guigue 2000).

Qusayr Amra came under the World Monuments Fund Watch list in 2008 as the site was endangered due to many factors. This led in 2010 to a collaborative project with the DoA, WMF, and the Italian Istituto Superiore per la Conservazione ed il Restauro (ISCR—Italian Higher Institute for Conservation and Restoration) and consultation continued with the Ifpo and others for archival materials and a site management plan was developed (WMF 2015). The French documentation and archives were important for the analysis of the site that still needs to be vigilantly monitored.

*Petra.* Petra also became a world heritage site in 1985. It has a long history of scientific exploration starting in the 1920s by the Department of Antiquities of the British Mandate period by Horsfield. The French research first focused in the center city of Petra at the large temple complex known as the Qasr al Bint. Many nineteenth and twentieth century travelers commented on this structure given that it remained standing from antiquity. Initial excavations and study of the area were undertaken by Peter Parr and G.R.H. Wright in 1959 for the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem (BSAJ) (Parr 1968; G.R.H. Wright 1968; Hammond 1997, 304) but those excavations were limited and many questions remained unanswered. Fawzi Zayadine of the DoA instigated a project with François Larché, the architect who was head of IFAPO Jordan from 1977 to 1982, and that phase ran from 1979 to 1981 (Zayadine 1982). The excavations continued in fall 1983 and spring 1984 with the intent to secure better dating evidence and to consolidate the stucco fragments (Zayadine 1985). The final report included extensive presentation of the architecture and decorative program by the two of them and Jacqueline Denzter-Feyday (Zayadine et al. 2003). A synthesis of their ideas was included in the catalogue for the special exhibit *Petra Rediscovered* (Larché and Zayadine 2003).

In 1999, IFAPO renewed fieldwork at the Qasr al Bint after a period of architectural

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<sup>20</sup> During the preparation of this article, the very sad news that Ghazi Bisheh died in Amman in January 2022 was made known. Both as Director General of Antiquities and as an independent scholar, he stayed connected to the foreign projects and centers and provided his guidance and wisdom.

documentation. The excavations were focused on the temenos and altar, which was to be restored with a grant administered through UNESCO (Braun 2000, 290). This new initiative instigated by Jean-Marie Dentzer and Jean-Louis Huot (IFAPO) was to clarify chronology and study architectural and archaeological context. In spring 1999, a sondage east of temple was conducted under the aegis of Dentzer and Zayadine with François Renel (then IFAPO-Damas) being responsible for the fieldwork operations (Augé et al. 2002). In 2007, based on soundings already made, the work concentrated on the earlier Hellenistic levels under the temenos (Mouton et al. 2008) and have uncovered fourth century BCE levels (Renel et al. 2012, 51). The French mission from 1999 to 2013 has established a sequence of phases from the 4<sup>th</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> century BCE to the period of abandonment in the 5<sup>th</sup> century CE (Renel 2013) and articulated the architectural features of the area over many phases (Augé et al. 2016). Other archaeological work in Petra has endeavored to understand the pre-Nabataean period and these recent excavations at the Qasr al Bint have provided important evidence.

The Qasr al Bint project from 2001 fell under the aegis of the mission known as “De Pétra à wadi Ramm” led by Christian Augé from 1999 to 2012. In the journal *Syria* 93 (2016), the work of the French mission at Petra at the Qasr al Bint from 1999 to 2013 was presented by several of the researchers involved (Augé et al. 2016). Considerable activity fell under this mission including the efforts in Petra of Laïla Nehmé, CNRS Paris, who conducted a comprehensive epigraphic survey built on earlier work commenced in 1969 by Jean Starcky and Parr and expanded in 1973 by Maurice Gory of IGN (Institut géographique national de France) with Zayadine (Dentzer in Nehmé 2012, 9-10; Nehmé 2012, 18-19). Nehmé with René Saupin, IGN expert, from 1988 to 1997 conducted several missions with colleagues, and later briefer ground-truthing expeditions and the first of three planned volumes has been published as the *Atlas archéologique et épigraphique de Pétra* (Nehmé 2012). She also began excavations at the Obodas Chapel in 2001 but as her attention turned to Hegra/Madain Saleh in Saudi Arabia, the Obodas Chapel project as of 2002 was under the direction of Laurent Tholbecq through 2013 (Tholbecq and Durand 2013, 205). Tholbecq also conducted a survey and mapping project of the Jabal ash Sharah from 1995 and 1998 as part of the “Early Petra” Research program (Tholbecq 2013).

The French Archaeological Mission is now headed by Tholbecq (L’Université libre de Bruxelles) and from the beginning of his tenure regular reports have been produced starting with one for the archaeological campaigns in 2012 (Tholbecq ed. 2013). In the subsequent volume, the mission activity at the Qasr al Bint from 1999 to 2013 is recapped by many contributors, including Augé, and the efforts in the 2013 season are discussed by Renel (Tholbecq ed. 2014: 19-102). The year 2013 represented the 25<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the French mission in Petra, and Tholbecq noted that it was Dentzer who in the early 1990s recast the scholarly efforts with an emphasis on spatial and global issues (Tholbecq ed. 2014, 9). The mission program as headed by Augé for the prior funding cycle (2012-2015) included cult sites in both the city center of Petra (Qasr al Bint) and those at high places, as well as the suburb of Wadi Sabra and those efforts continued (Tholbecq ed. 2017, 7).

Reflecting on the choices of the French Mission in Petra, Tholbecq pointed out that the destruction in Syria, where many French archaeologists had worked for years, led to an even greater sense of urgency to protect the past and that led to further conservation efforts at the Qasr al Bint and documentation of some of the less known areas of Petra (Tholbecq ed. 2015, 161) which are now under intense study. The joint French-Belgian project on Jabal Khubthah started in fall 2012 (Tholbecq ed. 2014; ed. 2015; ed. 2018) and resulted

in the discovery of a bath complex and many other features (Tholbecq et al. 2015), now prominently displayed since 2019 in the new Petra Museum in panels about the control of water in the city. As of fall 2014 exploration began in the area of Wadi Sabra (Fournet and Tholbecq 2015; Tholbecq et al. 2020).

In 2016, a new program for the French mission was instigated for the period 2016-2019 and the focus was on Petra itself. The formal title is *Petra: Programmes d'études hellénistiques, romaines, byzantines et médiévales. Architecture rupestre et bâtie. Architecture religieuse et funéraire, rituels, bains collectifs* (Petra: program of study of Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine, and medieval. Rock-cut and built architecture, religious and funerary architecture, ritual and baths) and concomitant with the main supporting grant from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development was an agreement with Ifpo to support the project with personnel and dissemination of the results (Tholbecq ed. 2016, 9; Tholbecq ed. 2017, 7). Under this grant, work was able to commence in spring 2018 in collaboration with Al Hussein Bin Talal University with a study of the area of Khirbet Braq, which has been under considerable threat due to looting (Tholbecq (ed.) 2018; Abudnah et al. 2020).

Fortunately, a follow-up grant for 2020-2023 was secured and another agreement with Ifpo that allowed for the continuation of the efforts, on the ground and in publication that are part of this sustained effort (Tholbecq ed. 2021, 9). There was a hiatus in excavation in 2020 but study projects prevailed due to the pandemic and excavation work continued in 2021 (Tholbecq ed. 2021, 11-12, 133). Although the French Mission in Petra is no longer an Ifpo project *per se*, it remains one in which former Ifpo researchers and architects provide their expertise. The decades of French activity in Petra relied on the in-depth knowledge of the architects and other specialists at Ifpo Amman. These positions have currently disappeared and it is a huge loss as having individuals in country who know the terrain from years of work and have built up relationships with Jordanian colleagues makes a huge difference to short and long-term research projects (Tholbecq ed. 2019: 8-9).

*Khirbet Dharih.* As work was undertaken in Petra, Villeneuve (then IFAPO Amman head) began a survey in summer 1983 at Khirbet Dharih, some 70 km. north of Petra, and excavations took place from 1984 to 2008, with Larché until 1987 and many French affiliated components and from 1991 to 2002 with Zeidoun al-Muheisen of Yarmouk University. This was an early example of a sustained Jordanian-French partnership that provided important results for understanding this site with its Nabataean sanctuary set in context of earlier and later periods (Villeneuve and al-Muheisen 2003). There was considerable overburden prior to the excavations that revealed the sanctuary, village, cemeteries, and water channels. The tombs dating to the Nabataean and Byzantine times were examined from 1984 to 1987 (Lenoble et al. 2001). There were multiple aspects to this project and several dissertations on Dharih started careers in archaeology of the region (e.g., ceramics by Caroline Durand and environmental and anthropological studies by Natalie Delhopital). Work was resumed at the site in spring 2013 (albeit not a formal Ifpo project) and concentrated on a large house, bath complex, and cavavan serai (Durand 2015; Durand et al. 2018). The French archaeological projects over the years have made this site just off the so-called King's Highway accessible to visitors who go beyond the beaten path, thanks to their efforts at restoration.

IFPO has hosted many conferences and in May 2008 the theme was "Baths and

Hammams of Jordan/Colloquium Balnéorient,” which I was privileged to attend.<sup>21</sup> Many of the papers delivered then were included in an augmented volume edited by Marie-Françoise Boussac and Thibaud Fournet and some of the projects referenced above were presented by the principal investigators for Jabal Khubthah and Wadi Sabra in Petra and Khirbet Dharih (Boussac and Fournet eds. 2015), thus providing important documentation for recent excavations. Fournet was responsible for Ifpo Amman from 2012 to 2015 and very active in Petra.

*Other Projects: Wadi Ramm.* Also under the rubric of IFAPO, in 1996 and 1997 Tholbecq undertook clearance and excavations in the Nabataean temple in Wadi Ramm that had previously been excavated by Horsfield and Savignac in the 1930s and Diana Kirkbride in 1959 (Tholbecq 1998; Braun 2000, 290). However, the main project in Wadi Ramm under the earlier French mission was the Jordanian-French Mission in Wadi Ramm under Zayadine and Saba Farès with Saudi participation (Braun 2000, 290; Augé et al. 2016). This project started in 1996 and survey, excavation, and documentation of inscriptions and petroglyphs continued under the “De Pétra à Wadi Ramm” until 2016 (see Farès in Tholbecq ed. 2013, 95-102; Farès and Norris in Tholbecq ed. 2015, 101-112; Farès and Norris 2017). Farès initiated a conference called *Man and the Desert* in 2011 and various experts involved in Wadi Ramm were assembled in Amman in November 2011 and the papers were published promptly (Farès ed. 2013) and there was a second workshop in 2014 (Farès forthcoming). One of the projects of ACOR’s USAID SCHEP grant was the Community Based Rock Art and Epigraphic Recording Project (CB-RAER) which introduced the Rock Art Stability Index (RASI) and trained a team of individuals from the community to assess the condition of the rock art in a few areas (Adarbeh et al. 2020, 76-81). The Wadi Rum Protected Area (WRPA) authority with the DoA will hopefully continue to use these tools and with the various databases (including that of Zayadine and Farès) be able to have good records of the site to monitor change over time and threats.

*Epigraphic Projects in Jordan.* Under the DoA Director Adnan Hadidi with Fawzi Zayyadine, a major project was initiated with Jean Pouilloux of the University of Lyon for Jordan to be included in the *IGLS* series (*Inscriptions grecque et latine de Syrie*) (Aliquot et al. 2016). This effort was relaunched in 2013 with sustained funds from the CNRS and Ifpo support, both logistically and for the continued publication in the BAH series as initiated in 1929. Confirmation of the DoA permits for the Franco-Jordanian project of documentation and publications took place in 2017/2018 for the period 2018-2021. The Bayt Ras Tomb Project benefits from this program. Jordan is divided regionally and various volumes are in progress and some have already been published from the initial project covering Petra and the south (Sartre 1993), the central area (Gatier 1986), and the northeast (Bader 2009). The intention is to cover the whole country. These efforts were coordinated by Pierre-Louis Gatier from 1990 to 2017 and after that by Julien Aliquot (see Aliquot in websites for Ifpo and HiSOMA [Historie et Sources des Mondes Antiques])<sup>22</sup> under the CNRS and University of Lyon. This expertise has been crucial for the full documentation within the country of Greek and Latin inscriptions.

*Recent Changes and Programs.* The current Ifpo premises below Amman’s Third Circle, a multi-storied building with library and offices and limited housing, were secured in 2013 and inaugurated in 2014. Five years later, soon before the closures of the pandemic, they were expanded in 2019 to incorporate proper space for the major Arabic program. In the

21 The original 2008 conference is noted on <http://balneorient.hypotheses.org>.

22 [www.hisoma.mom.fr/recherche-et-activites/inscriptions-grecques-et-latines](http://www.hisoma.mom.fr/recherche-et-activites/inscriptions-grecques-et-latines)

twenty years before, there had been two other building moves as in 1984 a flat in Jebel Amman was chosen between the Third and Fourth Circles (Maatouq grocery) and it was there in March 1986 that Ghazi Hijazi was the first local staff member to be hired. In 1988, another move led to shared premises with CERMOC near Third Circle (Farah Hospital). One of the activities undertaken by Ifpo was an *Archives and Informatics* program with the DoA and Nanterre University (office history per Fournet, January 2022 personal communication). Current lectures are often held at the French Cultural Institute on Jebal Weibdeh.



**Fig. 5** Ifpo Amman branch located since 2013 at 3 Ibrahim Zahri Street between Jebel Amman's Third Circle and downtown. The move to this multi-storey building took place at the time Thibaud Fournet was in charge in Amman. The palm tree is a signature landmark in front of the building (Photo by Barbara A. Porter, March 2022).

An important workshop on prehistory in Jordan's desert regions was organized by Wael Abu-Azizeh and Mohammad Tarawneh as part of a cooperation between Ifpo and Al-Hussein Bin Talal University and it provided the opportunity in July 2011 for colleagues to discuss recent work in the burgeoning field of desert archaeology. Many papers were brought together in a timely fashion in *Syria 90* (Abu-Azizeh and Tarawneh eds. 2013). Ten years later Abu-Azizeh and Tarawneh excavated a phenomenal hunting installation in the Khashabiya Mountains in southern Jordan in fall 2021 (announced February 2022 by the DoA and an instant news sensation). This discovery speaks to the need for patience, persistence, on-the-ground knowledge, and the benefit of long-term projects, which need to be supported in order to survive.

A different type of long-term commitment dedicated to Jordan's past supported by French funds and undertaken by Ifpo researcher Myriam Ababsa is the *Atlas of Jordan* (Ababsa ed. 2013). It too represents the best example of collaboration among more than 50 individuals engaged in understanding Jordan's past and present. It is one of Ifpo's Contemporain Publications (CP32). The diversity of research interests at Ifpo is illustrated also by the conferences of 2006 and 2007 that came together as a volume on cities and nation building in Jordan (Ababsa and Daher eds. 2011; *Les Cahiers de l'Ifpo* 6, Études

contemporaines). This builds on earlier work by Jean Hannoyer and Seteney Shami (eds. 1996) based on a series of seminars from 1991 to 1993 on Amman and produced under the rubric of CERMOC (Center of Study and Research in the Contemporary Middle East) which had been set up in Amman in 1988. Many of the researchers affiliated with Ifpo deal with modern Jordan.

Julie Bonneric has been head of Ifpo Amman since fall 2020 and she organized with Valentina Vezzoli a Zoom webinar series on the Archaeology of the Middle East and North Africa from Late Antiquity to the Ottoman Period with the first part dealing with Lebanon and Jordan.<sup>23</sup> In light of Jordan's centennial year of 2021, Ifpo and the Institut français de Jordanie (IFJ) conducted a seminar series about Amman with lectures that ranged from prehistory (Zeidan Kafafi) to current political history (Ahmad Awad) conducted in person at the IFJ but fortunately also available via Zoom. Ifpo has continued their Diwan series (5<sup>th</sup> in June 2021) and there was coordination with ACOR, CBRL, and GPIA for this workshop that was focused on raising awareness about archaeology in Jordan to younger people. Joint center programs allow for wider outreach as each has a slightly different audience. Awareness programs are part of the ongoing activities of all four institutes and in the case of Ifpo, they created a special program for Francophone tour guides who are the main interlocutors for Jordan's past to tourists (Tholbecq ed. 2017: 115-116) but this remains a work in progress.

### **Council for British Research in the Levant (CBRL)—British Institute in Amman**

The institute founded in Amman in 1978 was first called the British Institute at Amman for Archaeology and History (BIAAH) and the name change took place in 1998 to CBRL with the amalgamation of the center in Jerusalem (called the Kenyon Institute in Jerusalem as of 2001) and that in Amman (known as the British Institute in Amman since 2009). The CBRL headquarters are in London at the British Academy. The Academy was founded in 1902 and serves as the UK's national academy for the humanities and social sciences; its overseas affiliated institutes are British International Research Institutes (BIRI).<sup>24</sup> The CBRL website (<https://cbrl.ac.uk>) has a robust section on the institute's history. The current CBRL director Carol Palmer has recently written an article about one hundred years of British activity in Jordan and Palestine (Palmer forthcoming) based on a paper she gave at a Humboldt colloquium organized by Hani Hajajneh of Yarmouk University in 2019.<sup>25</sup>

Formal British involvement in the study of Palestine dates to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and the establishment of the Palestine Exploration Fund (PEF) in 1865 was a major milestone (Gibson 2011, 29-30). The inception of the CBRL was the creation of the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem (BSAJ) in 1919.<sup>26</sup> It was intended to be a training ground for

23 The webinar series presentations is listed on <https://www.ifporient.org/archaeology-mena/>. On the Ifpo webpage are references to the Amman History series (April-December 2021) and the Diwan program.

24 The British Academy website ([thebritishacademy.ac.uk](http://thebritishacademy.ac.uk)) provides background on BIRI and includes the BIRI Manifesto, which gives a sense of the remit of the organization and features the eight different affiliated overseas research centers. The core funding is from the UK Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy. As a registered charity, the governing documents and annual reports are available on its website. It is a registered branch of a foreign society with the Jordanian Ministry of Culture (per CBRL website).

25 This volume is to be published in 2022 and her article is an excellent summary of British efforts in the very period under discussion. Palmer provides insights into various aspects of programs and research, and I am grateful to her for providing her article in advance of final publication.

26 The BSAJ directors based on Palmer (forthcoming) were John Garstang (1920-1926), John Winter Crowfoot (1927-1935), Philip Langstaffe Ord Guy (1935-1939), George Kirk (1940-1947), Kathleen Kenyon (1951-1966, Resident Director in Jerusalem from 1956), J. Basil Hennessy (1966-1970), and Crystal-M. Bennett (1970-1978), who then became director in Amman.

archaeologists for British Mandate Palestine, and the first director John Garstang also served as the Director of the Department of Antiquities of Palestine until 1926 (Chapman 1997). The BSAJ was involved in the initial 1920s excavations in Jerash as mentioned above with Crowfoot investigating the churches. In the 1920s the British School shared accommodations with the American School (Auld 1997, 360) and later the BSAJ library was held at the American School from the 1930s to early 1950s (Auld 1997, 360; Davis 2008, 104). Such mutual assistance between overseas 'schools' was common and much needed. Due to the troubles in Palestine in the late 1940s, the BSAJ was officially suspended and did not resume until Hashemite control in 1949 (Davis 2008, 103).

Kathleen Kenyon initiated excavations at Jericho in 1952 following on earlier work by John Garstang (1930-1936) and at that time she was Lecturer in Palestinian Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology in London (1948-1961) in a period when many British archaeologists worked in Palestine (Davis 2008, 96). Her Jericho excavations proved to be a training program for many individuals who continued to work in the region and ASOR provided assistance in many ways (Davis 2008, 107-9, 142). By 1956, Kenyon was a resident director in Jerusalem and in 1957 she reconfigured the BSAJ thanks to renewed funding from the UK government (Davis 2008, 146). Peter Parr became the first resident Secretary-Librarian. Her excavations in Jerusalem took place from 1961 to 1967 and just before the June 1967 war a proper building was secured in Sheikh Jarrah, which is now the CBRL Kenyon Institute in East Jerusalem. The impact of the June 1967 war for the BSAJ was conveyed in the report by J. B. Hennessey who served as BSAJ director from 1966 to 1970 and had conducted excavations in Jordan at Teleilat Ghassul from January to March 1967 (Hennessey 1969). The complications around the June war were considerable and the idea of an institute "outpost" in Amman was considered very desirable (Davis 2008, 204).

Kenyon served as the Chair of the Board of Trustees from 1968 until her death in 1978 (Palmer). In Kenyon's statement on the creation of the journal *Levant* in 1969, she compressed much of the past history and philosophy behind the BSAJ, including its broad remit within Bilad as Sham, as well as the difference in the nature of the new journal with the *Palestine Exploration Quarterly*, which had provided the venue for publishing for the BSAJ after its initial bulletin was discontinued due to lack of funds in 1926 (Kenyon 1969).

Crystal-M. Bennett became the BSAJ director in 1970 after Hennessey and had previously been the Secretary-Librarian (1963-1965). She had studied with Kenyon and worked with her for the last season of the Jericho excavations in 1957-1958 and in Jerusalem. She joined Peter Parr in Petra in 1958 and 1960 and that led to her excavations on Umm al Biyara, the mountain looming over Petra's city center where she conducted BSAJ fieldwork in 1960, 1963, and 1965 which started her research on the Edomites (Bienkowski 1997; Finlayson 2000, 284). She conducted excavations at Tawilan above Wadi Musa (1968-1970 and 1982) and then turned to Busayra, a major Iron Age Edomite site (1971-1974 with a later final season in 1980), (Bienkowski 1997). A short survey was conducted in the Wadis Dana and Feynan in 1971 with the benefit of aerial photography and she returned there in 1980 for soundings (Talbot 1987, 1; Balderstone n.d.).

As of 1968 the BSAJ conducted a survey of Mamluk Jerusalem that has led to multiple later publications (e.g., Auld 1997, 360; Galor and Avni 2011, xii).<sup>27</sup> This Jerusalem project

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27 The BSAJ survey and study of medieval and Ottoman Jerusalem have resulted in several major publications that came out after the Amman branch was set up and the project is a chapter in itself. For example, Pringle et al. 1986; Burgoyne

was initiated by Kenyon but Bennett as director for most of its duration oversaw this major project that documented Islamic buildings in the old city (Talbot 1987, 2; Bienkowski 1997).

From 1975 to 1979, Bennett undertook various seasons of excavations on the Amman Citadel at the request of the Jordanian Department of Antiquities in anticipation of a new archaeological museum (Bennett 1975; 1979; Bennett and Northedge 1977/78; Northedge 1992, 15-16). In 1970, she rented a house near the British Council (Talbot 1987) and in 1975 one across from the University of Jordan that became the base for the British teams (Anon. 1986; Bienkowski 1997) and it was also rented out to teams from many countries to defray the costs as money was tight. It became the initial headquarters of the newly created institute. These years turned out to be particularly difficult in terms of crossing from Jerusalem, so she sometimes could not make it to Amman as planned (Bennett and Northedge 1978, 178 [n. 2]; Rosalind Wade-Haddon, personal communication Dec. 2021).

Bennett became the first director of the British Institute at Amman for Archeology and History (BIAAH) in November 1978 (M. Macdonald 1997). She noted that it was the first independent overseas archaeological institute to be “launched by Great Britain for a number of years” and in April 1980, it became a “fully independent institute with its own governing body” (Bennett 1981, 339). She served as director until 1983 and under her watch was the First International Conference on the History and Archaeology of Jordan (ICHAJ), which took place in Oxford (March 25-31, 1980). It was under the patronage of Prince El Hassan Bin Talal, who is the official patron of the British Institute, and at the time of the Director Generalship of Adnan Hadidi. She was a major catalyst but ACOR’s Jim Sauer was also deeply involved (Baly 1981, 335; Hadidi 1981).

As Bennett died in 1987, she was not able to complete final publications (she wrote many preliminary reports), but fortunately comprehensive excavation reports were undertaken by others, who augmented them with updated information. Thus, her archaeological legacy in Jordan was concretely documented for Amman (Northedge 1992), Tawilan (Bennett and Bienkowski 1995), Busayra (Bennett and Bienkowski 2002), and Umm al Biyara (Bienkowski 2011) in monograph series tied to the British Institute in Amman.

*New Directions*; Andrew Garrard had served as the BIAAH Assistant Director and in 1983 became the director.<sup>28</sup> In the 1980s his research focused on the desert areas in the Azraq region and Wadi Jilat (Garrard and Byrd 2013). BSAJ scholar Alison Betts was working in the area of the eastern Black Desert (Betts et al. 2012). It was very much a time of burgeoning interest in the Neolithic and exploration of desert areas and kites. Palmer noted that Garrard built up an environmental laboratory and archaeo-zoological collection for the institute. Ethnographic studies were also a focus including for example Palmer’s own work on dryland farming in the north (Palmer 1998). Alison McQuitty conducted excavations at Khirbat Faris on the Karak plateau from 1988 to 1994 including when she was director for the first time (1989-1991). Those excavations have recently been published (McQuitty, Parton, and Petersen 2020).

In this period, Michael Macdonald and Geraldine King conducted an Epigraphic Survey

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and Richards 1987; and Auld and Hillenbrand eds. (2000).

28 The sequence of BIAAH directors is Crystal-M. Bennett (1978-1983), Andrew Garrard (1983-1989), Alison McQuitty (1989-1991), William Lancaster (1991-1994), Alison McQuitty (1994-1998) and for the British Institute in Amman Carol Palmer (2009-2020). CBRL directors were Alison McQuitty (1998-1999) and Bill Finlayson (1999-2018) and since 2020, Carol Palmer has served in that capacity after a restructuring.

of Ancient North Arabian inscriptions that remains the basis of ongoing research and analysis<sup>29</sup> and recent visits have focused on Safaitic inscriptions for the Badia epigraphic survey project initiated in 2018.<sup>30</sup> There were also specific excavations such as those carried out by Graham Philip (BIAAH Assistant Director 1989-1992) with Douglas Baird at Tell esh Shuna North in the Jordan Valley in the early 1990s. They were primarily interested in the Chalcolithic and Early Bronze transition and published their first report in the *Annual of the Department of Antiquities* 36 [1992]) and the next two seasons in *Levant* (24 [1993] and 26 [1994]) proving Kenyon's stated intention to make available prompt detailed archaeological reports in that journal.

William Lancaster (director 1991-1994) had been involved in Jordan for a number of years as an anthropologist studying changes in Bedouin society (Lancaster and Lancaster 1999). Palmer noted that he conducted a baseline survey in the area of the Dana Reserve, which would lead to the British Institute's major project in Wadi Faynan. Funding in 1993 allowed for the initial phase of the Wadi Faynan Project with a mapping project and a detailed photogrammetric map and then the BIAAH encouraged British universities to be part of the project (McQuitty 1998). McQuitty was part of the initial investigations and by 1994, she was again director in Amman (1994-1999). There were two major components that evolved—Bill Finlayson and Steven Mithen focused on the prehistory (Finlayson and Mithen 2007) and the Wadi Faynan Landscape Survey (WFLS) was led by Graeme Barker (Barker et al. 2007). The issue *Levant* 30 (1998) brings together the studies by multiple teams with numerous participants.

Bill Finlayson became CBRL Director in 1999. In a 2000 paper, he noted that the recent creation of the CBRL by combining the BSAJ and BIAAH reflected “changing political realities” and provided “the most efficient use of resources to cover the region” (Finlayson 2000, 283). He also noted the focus on Faynan and the considerable efforts undertaken to understand climate change and agricultural systems there (Finlayson 2000, 284). He led various archaeological projects and continued the Faynan research with Mithen between 2008 and 2010 (Mithen et al. 2018).

The Neolithic site of Beidha within the Petra Archaeological Park had been excavated by Diana Kirkbride initially as a BSAJ project (1958-1967 and 1983), and her preliminary reports were published in the *Palestine Exploration Quarterly* (Byrd 1997). In 2000, the Bayda Project was initiated with the purpose of conserving this early Neolithic site and making it understandable to the public (Finlayson et al. 2003; Finlayson et al. 2015). It was a collaborative project with the CBRL and DoA as undertaken by Finlayson, Mohammed Najjar, and Samantha Dennis and it resulted in the reconstruction of architectural structures that are now part of a proposed Neolithic Heritage Trail (Finlayson and Burtenshaw 2016-2017). Faynan is also included in this concept and sharing knowledge about the site had been enhanced by a new local museum near the entrance to the Faynan reserve and a recent useful guidebook (Mithen 2019).<sup>31</sup> Further focus on Neolithic sites in the south was undertaken with DEEPSAL (The Deep Past as a Social Asset in the Levant) project that was undertaken in 2015 and 2016 and focused on the villages of Beidha and Basta. A main

29 The Epigraphic Survey projects are now included in OCIANA (Online Corpus of the Inscriptions of Ancient North Arabia). See <http://krc.orient.ox.ac.uk/ociana/>

30 More on that can be found on <https://cbrl.ac/project-library/badia-epigraphic-survey-project/>

31 The Faynan website includes considerable information and PDFs of the guidebook as well as recent scholarly publications and even a guide to the birds of Faynan by Mithen (see [www.faynanheritage.org](http://www.faynanheritage.org)).

goal was to understand the impact of having a fragile Neolithic village in the midst of a modern one and was one of the CBRL's public archaeology initiatives (Finlayson et al. 2015; El Abed 2018).

Over the years, the British Institute has supported the work of many researchers and long-standing ties were fostered. One example (of many) is the work of David Kennedy who undertook surveys in the Hauran and of the Roman Limes (Kennedy 1982). He addressed the history and benefits of aerial archaeology at the first ICHAJ in Oxford in 1980 and noted in his published version of the talk that he had commenced an archive in 1979 at Sheffield University (Kennedy 1982, 36). In 1997, the start of many years of documenting Jordan from the air began (Kennedy 1998) in partnership with Robert Bewley, and their co-authored book *Ancient Jordan from the Air* is a CBRL publication (Kennedy and Bewley 2004). The British Institute in Amman has been the base for their flying team. The website Aerial Photographic Archive for Archaeology in the Middle East (APAAME) built up over the years since 1979 (<http://www.apaame.org>) is a major asset for archaeological and heritage efforts in Jordan, indeed the whole Middle East. Bewley and Kennedy have regularly reached out to project directors to determine what aerial photos of the sites would be helpful.

During the years of flying expeditions, Kennedy continued his interest in the Roman army and his expertise led to his writing the guidebook for the 18<sup>th</sup> Roman Frontiers/Limes Congress that took place in Jordan in September 2000. It was under the patronage of Prince El Hassan and co-hosted by the DoA and CBRL in Jordan along with the Department of Archaeology at the University of Liverpool, and there were some 200 attendees (Braun et al. 2000, 49-51; Finlayson 2000, 285). For the field trips, the guidebook was the first version of Kennedy's *The Roman Army in Jordan* (2000), since updated and reissued in 2004 by the CBRL. The official conference volume appeared in 2002 and showcased this aspect of Jordan's past (Freeman et al. 2002). One contributor was Tom Parker (2002) who on the fieldtrips would have been able to provide expertise at Qasr Bashir and Lejjun where he had excavated. Jordanian hospitality was on full display and many receptions were arranged, such as one by ACOR.<sup>32</sup> The many conferences and workshops organized by the various centers over the years as well as ICHAJ every three years have been places for important collegial academic exchanges, and each center has organized many significant conferences.

*CBRL and British Institute Amman (2000-2021).* In 2003, the British Institute rented new premises in Tla Ali on Uhud Street above the German and American centers, thus all on the hillside opposite the University of Jordan, the location specifically chosen in the 1970s and 80s. Many activities took place and some are noted above. A *CBRL Newsletter* was published from 2001 to 2005 and as of 2006, the *CBRL Bulletin* replaced it as a way of conveying activities and programs in a very comprehensive and meaningful manner. Given the direction of the Institute into more modern area studies, *Contemporary Levant* was initiated in 2016 and *Levant* remained the other main academic journal. As Finlayson noted, a considerable part of the CBRL budget goes "to make the results of our research visible, through publications and sponsorships of conferences and events" (in Watt et al. 2017, 4). Between 1990 and 2005, several important volumes were published under the rubric of British Academy Monographs in Archaeology (e.g., McKenzie 1990; Northedge 1992; Byrd 2005). Since 2004, CBRL has taken on its own monograph series to publish

32 In the *ACOR Newsletter* issues from 1991 to 2005, there was a section on activities at ACOR and in Vol. 12.2 (Winter 2000), p. 15 is the note that ACOR hosted the reception for congress participants on Sept. 8 and on Sept. 2, 2000, ACOR residents attended the opening day.

new contributions to the study of humanities and social sciences relevant to the Levant (e.g., Mithen et al. 2018) and much content is made available on their website. There is also a *Levant Supplementary Series* that included the papers of a conference in March 2007 on landscapes in transition (Finlayson and Warren eds. 2010). Given that many of the current CBRL projects (and affiliated ones) rely on continually improving technology, it was appropriate that for the World Science Forum in Jordan in 2017 the CBRL was invited to host a special session on science and archaeology.

A major initiative begun in 2015 is EAMENA (Endangered Archaeology of the Middle East and North Africa) under the leadership of Bob Bewley and now being headed by Bill Finlayson. EAMENA workshops were held in Amman in 2018 and 2019 (Palmer 2019a, 9). In recent years the CBRL has received funds from the British Council Cultural Protection Fund (CPF) and the Newton-Khalidi AHRC (Arts and Humanities Research Council) grants. The latter supported MaDiH (Mapping Digital Cultural Heritage in Jordan),<sup>33</sup> a portal for databases relevant to Jordan initiated by then CBRL Assistant Director Andrea Zerbini who was part of the EAMENA project from its inception in Oxford and participated in the Aerial Archaeology of Jordan (AAJ) project in fall 2015 (Palmer 2019b).<sup>34</sup> Future directions at the CBRL will build on the past as they do for all the foreign institutes and as of 2021, Bob Bewley serves as the Chairman, and so brings his vast experience of Jordan's past and the broader Middle East to that role. The British Institute directors (and those of other centers), particularly with long-term tenures, can provide the "knowledge of local conditions, attitudes and politics, but also practical on-the-ground connections and know-how" that make the institute 'embedded' stakeholders and better able to assist in heritage development (Burtenshaw and Palmer 2014, 23), which is now a major direction of foreign projects in Jordan

### **German Protestant Institute for Archaeology (GPIA) in Amman<sup>35</sup>**

The German Protestant Institute for Archaeology (GPIA) is the formal name in English for the Deutsches Evangelisches Institut für Altertumswissenschaft des Heiligen Landes (DEIAH) which has been a research unit of the German Archaeological Institute (DAI, Deutsches Archäologisches Institut) since 2007 (Hübner 2011, 66). It has branches in Jerusalem and Amman. The original Jerusalem center had its origins in the 1898 visit of the German Kaiser Wilhelm II to Jerusalem when the idea of a German Protestant center was conceived and by June 1900 it was confirmed by the church authorities and approved by the Kaiser in 1901 (Serr 2016a, 9). Models of learned societies in Palestine were the Palestine Exploration Fund (PEF) established 1865; the Deutscher Palästina-Verein (DPV,

33 MaDiH represented a consortium with support from the Newton-Khalidi Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Development program. For details of participants and full funding support, see <https://madih-jordan.org>

34 Andrea Zerbini died in early 2019; in his few years in Jordan he worked closely with many Jordanian and international colleagues on a variety of projects. He had looked forward to hosting friends in his native Florence for the ICHAJ 14 conference in January 2019 but that was very sadly not to be.

35 The GPIA website (<https://www.deiahl.de>) includes part of their history with photos as well as information on projects. A brochure was produced in 2014 for the German Weeks program and featured the different German institutions in Jordan and included GPIA as well as other German archaeological efforts (Kenkel and Vieweger eds. 2014). In progress now is a major study of the history of DEIAHL and its role and it has the benefit of many relevant archives, such as those of the Protestant Central Archive in Berlin, the DEI Jerusalem Archive, and the DPV and DAI as well as the Dalman Nachlass (Förder Hoff, forthcoming). This study will provide more information on the changes of the governing bodies over the institute(s) since their founding by the German Protestant churches. For example in 2009, a Development Association with board members was established (DEIAHL.de website under Support Association).

German Palestine Society) founded in 1877 (Conrad 1997); the Deutsche Orient Gesellschaft (DOG, German Orient Society) founded in 1898 as well as the French École Biblique founded in 1890, albeit with some rivalry (Hübner 2011, 60-62). The official dedication ceremony took place on November 1903.

Gustaf Dalman was already appointed as the first director in July 1902 (Hübner 2011, 61). Dalman introduced the study program (*Lehrkurs*) that remains a fundamental part of the GPIA to this day (Zobel 1981, 8-10). Under his guidance, the study program included considerable time in Jerusalem and then a strenuous tour on horseback to understand the landscape of the region (Fritz 2000) and he believed in “re-imagining the past by means of the present” (Serr 2016b, 31). The number of participants ranged over time as did the nature of their contributions. Dalman was not encouraged to excavate in Palestine so chose to conduct work in Petra from 1904/6 and 1910 over six visits (Serr 2016b, 32). He published two major books, *Petra und seine Felsheiligtümer* (1908) and *Neue Petra Forschungen* (1912). After World War I, Dalman was not able to take up his post again and in 1921, he arranged to have much of his extensive collection concerned with Palestine and his library shipped to Germany where it is now at the University of Greifswald and constitutes the Gustaf Dalman Institute founded in 1926. After his retirement in 1923, he concentrated on his monumental series *Arbeit und Sitte in Palästina* (1928-1942) and completed seven volumes (Fritz 1997).<sup>36</sup> The final volume 8 was published posthumously and edited by Julia Männchen, with an invaluable index (2008). His ethnographic interests were wide ranging.

As of 1921, the second director was Albrecht Alt, who although not in residence was able to run the *Lehrkurs* from 1924 to 1931 (Zobel 1981, 8; Fritz 2000, 45) and he himself had been a participant in 1908. From 1923 to 1931, he was also a professor at Leipzig. From 1932, the institute ceased operations. After World War II, the *Lehrkurs* resumed in 1953 under the direction of several professors including Kurt Galling, an Old Testament professor at the University of Mainz, but it was organized from Germany (Fritz 2000, 45). The institute in Jerusalem reopened in 1964 (Bienert and Fisher 1998, 4; Kenkel and Vieweger eds. 2014, 6). The director then was Martin Noth (1964-1968) who had been the editor of the *Zeitschrift des Deutschen Palästina Vereins* (ZDPV) from 1929 to 1964. That journal was a conduit for many of the DEIAHL articles.

Siegfried Mittmann conducted a survey in northern Jordan under the aegis of the DEI from 1963 to 1965 (Mittmann 1970). This led to his later excavations at Khirbet ez Zeraqun in northern Jordan from 1984 to 1999 when he was with the Biblical Archeological Institute of the University of Tübingen and he collaborated with Moawiyah Ibrahim of Yarmouk University (Ibrahim and Mittmann 1997).

In 1965, Ute Lux, who was the assistant in Jerusalem (1964-1968), turned her attention also to northern Jordan at the site of Umm Qeis and worked with the DoA on the Herakleides Baths. In the following spring (1966), she conducted archaeological work in Madaba at the Al Khader Church, documented churches in Rihab and a Roman tomb in Som near Irbid, and initiated the Umm Qeis Survey. Before the start of the June 1967 War she also excavated in the Apostles Church in Madaba and uncovered the Thalassa mosaic. She became the director of the GPIA in Jerusalem after the sudden death of Martin Noth in May 1968. From 1970-1974 she conducted archaeological work at the Church of the Redeemer in Jerusalem (Serr 2016a, 72).

36 These Dalman volumes on *Work and Customs in Palestine* are currently being translated into English by Nadia Sukhtian and Robert Schick (Dalman 2014; Dalman 2020) but they are rather hard to acquire.

Given Lux's prior work on sites in Jordan, in 1974 she persuaded the DEI to create a branch in Amman and thanks to support from the Volkswagen Foundation funds were available to support this endeavor that was launched in 1975. Land was acquired in Tla'a Ali in 1975 and construction began in 1976 but was slowed by the crisis in Lebanon (Wagner-Lux 2000). The architect was Ernst Kruger whose career had included supervising projects for the Federal Construction Authority in Berlin and after retirement the restoration of the Church of the Redeemer in Jerusalem. From 1970 to 1982, he lived in Jerusalem and Amman and part of his legacy is his collection of ceramics now housed in the building he designed in Amman (Wagner 2000, 5-6).

Wagner-Lux became the first director in Amman in 1979.<sup>37</sup> The Gadara project has been a major focus of the GPIA and under Ute Wagner-Lux (who married Max Wagner in 1975) work was resumed in 1977. The collegial sharing among the institutes is exemplified by fact that in 1976 the nearby British Institute was used as their base but by 1978 the building was completed and the *Lehrkurs* actually took place in the building (Bienert 2000, 4-5). In that year, severe rain ruined the new building, so it was restored by Abu Habib Kort, who had previously conducted the renovations of the Church of the Redeemer in Jerusalem for the DEIAHL. Thus, the official opening did not take place until April 22, 1982. The DEI also secured a new building in Jerusalem on the Auguste-Victoria-Stiftung Compound and it was officially opened on April 26, 1982 after renovations (Hübner 2011, 66). Wagner-Lux moved to Switzerland in 1982 but for the next two years she coordinated the work of Jerusalem and Amman and continued the Gadara excavations, for which Thomas Weber was a principal investigator and there were other participating German institutions.

From 1988 on the DAI funded an assistant to the director with Susanne Kerner being the first (Bienert et al. 2000: 244). The administrative structure between Amman and Jerusalem has changed over time and sometimes that had to do with financial reasons. From 1999 to 2006, the main source of funding switched from the Protestant Church to the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Hübner 2011, 66). In 2007, there was a formal cooperation between the DEI and DAI that has remained in place, hence the proper additional attribution should be a research unit of the German Archaeological Institute (DAI). This arrangement put the GPIA on a more stable financial footing.

History of German academic involvement in Jordanian archaeology was highlighted in 1990 as a hundred years old as in 1890 Gottlieb Schumacher's 1886 survey of Gadara was published (Weber 1990a, 17). Further celebrations of this milestone of German archaeology in Jordan centered around an exhibition with panels (Bienert and Fischer 1998). Sharing information through lectures and newsletters was maintained and under her directorship, Susanne Kerner (1990-1995) edited the series *The Near East in Antiquity: German contributions to the archaeology of Jordan, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt* (Vols. I-IV, 1990-1994). Vol. IV is very relevant to this essay as it was *Archaeological work of national and international institutions in Jordan* based on lectures from 1991 and 1992 at the Goethe-Institute in Amman of specific institutions, by the respective directors,

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37 The sequence of directors in Amman for the German institute is Ute Wagner Lux (1979-1982) (previously since 1968 in Jerusalem), Ernst Axel Knauf (1982-1985), Thomas Maria Weber (1985-1990), Susanne Kerner (1990-1995), Hans-Dieter Bienert (1995-2000), Roland Lamprichs (2001-2004), Jutta Häser (2004-2013), Frauke Kenkel (2013-2016), and Katharina Schmidt (2016-2022) (Bienert and Weber 1986, 61; Bienert et al. 2000, 243).

namely French (Seigne 1994), British (Lancaster 1994), American (Pi. Bikai 1994), and German (Kerner 1994). These booklets convey the diversity of the projects as well as the collaboration between colleagues from other institutes, in what was a challenging time due to the First Gulf War in early 1991. In those years there was also an annual report (*Jahrbuch*) for the DEI (1989-2009) that was restarted by Strobel having been first initiated by Dalman in 1905 and continued until 1941 (Hübner 2011, 65; [www.deiah.de](http://www.deiah.de) under publications).

In 1993, the German Technical Assistance (GTZ) launched a project to establish a center for conservation work in Petra to be led by Helge Fischer (Fischer 1997; Bienert and Fischer 1998, 4). It was the Petra Stone Preservation Project that had the intended goal to set up the Conservation and Restoration Center in Petra (CARCIP) that could have “the capacity to implement and execute conservation campaigns at a national level” (Fischer and Shaer 2000, 166). The impressive GTZ building now houses the offices of the PDTRA (the Petra Development & Tourism Region Authority) and alas the full dreams of the project were not realized. It was not a GPIA project but it merits mention as a major German heritage endeavor.

Bienert (director 1995-2001) initiated the newsletter called *Occident & Orient* (1996-2004) (available on [www.deiah.de](http://www.deiah.de)). He was director at the time of the Amman institute’s 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the acquisition of the land for the new building. Expressions of appreciation for the role played by the GPIA were documented in the celebratory newsletter (Bienert et al. 2000a). Among the numerous testimonials to the role the institute played in Jordan was the reminder that before the fall of the Berlin wall it was a rare place for those from East and West Germany to come together (Ernst-Joachim Waschke of Martin-Luther University, Halle-Wittenberg in Bienert et al. 2000a, 13).

There were many German projects and the flagship projects for the GPIA are in the region of Gadara. However other excavations undertaken by GPIA directors were at Abu Sneshleh (1990, 1992) by Kerner, at esh-Shallaf near Irbid (1998-1999) and Baja (1999) by Bienert and Vieweger, and Tall Joffiye (after 2002) by Lamprichs (Hübner 2011 65). This diversity speaks to the different research interests of the respective directors.

Even before the very beginning of the institute in Amman, Gadara (modern Umm Qeis), as already noted, was the focus of the work by Wagner-Lux and a survey was undertaken in 1974 (Wagner-Lux et al. 1979). Her later team excavations (1976-1979) revealed a major basilica (Wagner-Lux and Vriezen 1980; Hadidi 1997). Further excavations were undertaken in 1992 (Wagner-Lux et al. 1993; Vriezen et al. 2001) and 1997 (Wagner-Lux et al. 2000) but were not GPIA projects *per se* but benefitted from the institute’s ongoing support. The German efforts in Gadara have been fortunate to have a dig house on site. In summer 1986, thanks to the cooperation with the DoA, the Beit Malkawi within the Ottoman village at the top of the tell was renovated by Ammar Khammash and became the project dig house (Bienert and Weber 1998, 63). At that time, local residents were made to leave their houses on the site (Häser and Schmidt eds. 2019, 51). By November 1990, a site museum was opened in the Ottoman house Beit Rusan with support from the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in close cooperation with the GPIA. That project was also supervised by Khammash who also undertook the creation of a rest house at Umm Qeis (and Pella) funded by USAID through ACOR; it opened in September 1991 (Khammash 1990).

Several European excavators assisted in aspects of excavating Umm Qeis but one particular aspect of the GPIA project will be noted, namely the subterranean Roman-period

water tunnels. As Kerner reported, the GPIA work clarified two independent water systems, an upper and a lower tunnel (Kerner 1997, 283-287; Kerner et al. 1997; Häser 2004). This project in the 1990s had many supporters including the Gerda Henkel Foundation. More recent study of the Roman aqueduct system in the north of Jordan has shown the complexity of the system and had the benefit of recent innovations in technology (Döring 2014; Keilholz 2014; Häser 2019). The rest house above (i.e. that built by ACOR USAID funding in the early 1990s) has continued to benefit tourists but the tunnel system below seems to have been open only for a short time after Khammah provided staircases in the 1990s and I believe that few people were aware of it. A US Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP) grant (2015-2018) to Yarmouk University was intended to make part of the system accessible to visitors but once again that has proven difficult and is in part likely due to a multiplicity of stakeholders with varied agendas (Personal Observation). Easy access to this amazing tunnel system would be a credit to the ancient engineers, the modern excavators, and the heritage professionals who are involved in Umm Qeis.

*New Directions.* Jutta Häser became the GPIA director in 2004. Soon after there was a restructuring as in November 2005, Dieter Vieweger was appointed director of the institutes in both Jerusalem and Amman. He is also director of the Biblical Archaeological Institute (BAI) at the University of Wuppertal. For the GPIA, Gadara was long a flagship project as already noted as part of its origin story in Jordan. In 2001 and 2002 there was a survey by the BAI in the region and the GPIA joined forces in 2004 for a joint survey called the Gadara Region Project. Since 2005 excavations on Tall Zirā'a have been the main focus of the DEI's scientific work and were undertaken jointly by Vieweger and Häser until 2013 (Vieweger and Häser 2015). They led some 18 campaigns. From 2009 to 2011 there was a survey in Wadi al-ʿArab documenting about 200 sites (Soennecken and Leiverkus 2014). As of 2012 the processing and publication phase began and many of the planned Tall Zirā'a final reports have been published, including volume 8 on the surveys from 2001 to 2011 (Soennecken and Leiverkus 2021) and volume 9 on recent excavation seasons (Schmidt ed. 2022). The final reports are easily accessible on the project website ([www.tallziraa.de](http://www.tallziraa.de)) (Vieweger and Häser eds. 2017; Vieweger 2019; Kenkel and Hoss 2020). Vieweger and Häser also wrote about their work at an early stage in ASOR's *Near Eastern Archaeology* (Vieweger and Häser 2007).

Soon after becoming GPIA director in Amman Frauke Kenkel (2013-2016) had to organize a section about German archaeological projects in Jordan for a German week celebration in Amman in May 2014. The resulting booklet called *With trowel and hightech* (Kenkel and Vieweger eds. 2014) showcased the broad range of German projects including those of the GPIA but also others under the aegis of the DAI-Orient Department, such as the Jawa Hinterland Project (2010-2014) led by Bernd Müller-Neuhof. Like all directors in Amman, she was also responsible for the continuing *Lehrkurs*, which remains an important program for the institute, albeit an intense annual one. Later, she prepared the joint publication of one of the final Tall Zirā'a volumes (Kenkel and Hoss 2020).

Under Katharina Schmidt as director (2016-2022) a special exhibit was put on at the Jordan Museum. She and Jutta Häser curated the show and edited the popular catalogue, *Tall Zirā'a: Mirror of Jordan's History* (Häser and Schmidt eds. 2019). As the site was continuously occupied from the Early Bronze Age to the Ottoman period, it provides an important comparative stratigraphy for northern Jordan. Schmidt also edited Vol. 9 for the

Tall Zirā'a final report series that dealt with the results of the 2018 and 2019 excavation seasons and material dating from the Iron Age to early Roman period (Schmidt ed. 2022).<sup>38</sup> In recent years members of the *Lehrkurs* have been able to participate in the Tall Zira'a excavations (see [www.deiahl.de](http://www.deiahl.de), under programs "Archaeological course") thus continuing an almost 100-year old tradition established by Dalman in 1903 to provide opportunities for German scholars to have in-depth experiences in the region.

The German Archaeological Institute (DAI) project at Gadara also has a long history. It was first led by Adolf Hoffman and since 2002 is under Claudie Bührig of the Orient Department (Damascus Branch). The DAI project "Gadara/Umm Qays Hinterland Survey" initiated in 2010 explored the region but also focused on preserving ancient remains (including a stonemason apprenticeship) and presentation for cultural tourism with a school outreach component (Bührig and Andraschko eds. 2015; Bührig 2016).<sup>39</sup> Currently (even in the period of the pandemic) many different programs and projects are being undertaken at the site of Umm Qeis, including several by local community groups. German researchers have been involved in the region of Umm Qeis for some 50 years and have had the good fortune to maintain a dig house. This has helped with the logistics for all projects, including many regional surveys and the excavations in Gadara and at Tall Zira'a. Few other projects have such permanent premises (one other example is at Pella in the Jordan Valley for the Australian excavations and formerly the Belgian project at Lejjun where the dig house was designated to be a site museum post-excavation).<sup>40</sup>

Such long-term involvement in one area is becoming increasingly rare, in part due to changes in research agendas but also in funding. Coordinating efforts at Umm Qeis with the various stakeholders, including the DoA and MOTA, along with various foreign entities like UNESCO, is clearly desirable for the well-being of the site, which is a major tourist attraction for local visitors and foreigners. Currently, the GPIA is playing a role in management discussions and Schmidt is the coordinator of a cultural heritage project with UNESCO, funded by the EU, with the goals to support livelihoods through cultural heritage development and create decent job opportunities that could lead to the safeguarding of cultural heritage in the northern areas of Jordan as well as Iraq. This speaks again to the benefit of the institutes and their in-country staff who can play key roles in Jordanian heritage management.

*DOJAM: Documentation of Objects in Jordanian Archaeological Museums.* In January 2017, the GPIA and DoA started a joint cooperative project to document archaeological material in the official museums. It is part of a larger program "Protection of cultural assets in Jordan" under the management of Vieweger, as the GPIA general director. The initial four-year program (2014-2017) and its subsequent phase have been funded by the Gerda

38 In the last decade in *The Jordan Times* many archaeological projects are reported on by Saeb Rawashdeh; for example, he wrote "'House with the Loom' offers snapshot of daily Iron Age life—German Scholar" based on an interview with Schmidt and the recent excavations she was involved in (Rawashdeh, October 27, 2019, archived on the Jordan Times website).

39 Accessible via easy Internet search is Bührig and Andraschko's "Sustainable Development for Heritage and Nature Protection: A Workshop Report—Transfer and Communication of Cultural and Natural Heritage for Children and Young Adults in Gadara/Umm Qays (Jordan)" <http://regiobranding.de/sites/default/files/2.%20Bu%CC%88hrig%20-%20Andraschko.S.29-58.pdf>

40 The Belgian Committee of Excavations in Jordan was directed by Denyse Homès-Fredericq who conducted excavations at Lahun for some 20 years. A special exhibit about the site was set up in the Amman City Hall in 2002 and the plans for a future site museum in the dig house were announced (Homès-Fredericq 2006) but it was never realized. She was a force in Jordanian archaeology and compiled bibliographies and reports that at the time were a great asset before the current easy access to research materials via the Internet where more and more content is being made available.

Henkel Stiftung [Foundation] (GHS), which has supported many heritage projects in Jordan. To explain *DOJAM*, eight short videos were created from December 2017 to February 2018 and they allow the project director in Amman Jutta Häser and the team to provide insights into the many components, such as the customized IT (video no. 4) and the necessity of a digitized inventory (no. 5).<sup>41</sup> Presentations were prepared for ICHAJ in Florence in early 2019 (Häser and Beitz forthcoming) and the 12<sup>th</sup> ICAANE (International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East) in Bologna in April 2021 (Khreis, Häser, and Beitz forthcoming). Since mid-2021 Schmidt has led the next stages (Vieweger and Häser 2022, 13; Häser and Beitz 2022). This project concentrated on the holdings in the Archaeological Museum on the Citadel of Amman and has already influenced other endeavors, such as documentation work in the Madaba Archaeological Museum, which has taken place over the last few years and is led by a consortium of institutions with the goal to create a new museum (Madaba Regional Archaeological Museum). The project also has assisted the current archaeological museum in Madaba with collections management and registration (see [www.madabamuseum.org](http://www.madabamuseum.org) under exhibitions-collections). The Madaba endeavor stemmed from an ACOR USAID SCHEP grant and is now supported by a US Ambassador's Fund Grant (AFCP) for the repurposing of the current museum. These endeavors in Amman and Madaba with the DoA are urgent given the huge amount of excavated material housed in the older buildings. For Madaba, some 14,000 objects are noted and for the Amman Citadel Museum 1,500 were on display and some 8,000 in their storerooms (Häser and Beitz forthcoming). Indeed the legacy of archaeological projects of stored material is a concern for all who excavate in Jordan or are keepers of its heritage and the DoA is now the authority to use this system and it is being applied to DoA holdings in the Jordan Museum.

The next phase for the GPIA will bring on new leadership as the current director Katharina Schmidt will become the director of the Albright Institute in Jerusalem in June 2022.<sup>42</sup> This choice speaks to the internationalization of the research centers and the cross pollination that has taken place over the last century and in Amman since the 1970s.

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41 The main team members are Bernard Beitz (software engineer), Hashem Khreis (project assistant), and Ziad Aziz (conservator) The eight short videos about the DOJAM project can be found on the GHS website [https://lisa.gerdahenkel-stiftung.de/einzigartiger\\_kulturraum?nav\\_id=7406www.zitadelle-amman.de](https://lisa.gerdahenkel-stiftung.de/einzigartiger_kulturraum?nav_id=7406www.zitadelle-amman.de)

42 The Albright Board of Trustees posted the announcement and it is available on <https://mailchi.mp/aiar/introducing-the-new-director-of-the-albright-institute>



[Fig. 6 Institute directors at a reception in my ACOR Director's flat during a conference on Nabataean pottery hosted at ACOR in April 2014. From left: Thibaud Fournet (Ifpo), Frauke Kenkel (GPIA), Barbara Porter (ACOR), Carol Palmer (British Institute Amman), and Ignacio Arce (Spanish Mission). Formal and casual chances to connect with fellow directors and their colleagues as well as Jordanian heritage professionals and researchers were an important aspect of our lives. Carol Palmer is now the longest serving institute director and oversaw a move from premises near the University of Jordan to Jebel Weibdeh near the Paris Circle and French Cultural Center in March 2022 (Photo: courtesy of Barbara A. Porter, digital collection).

### Concluding Thoughts

The four institutes discussed in this article represent only a small part of the foreign activity in Jordan engaged in heritage projects. For example, Japanese support in creating the Dead Sea Panoramic Complex with its informative Museum and the outstanding Petra Museum are concrete examples of major contributions. In the future, there will likely be (and should be) more cooperative projects. The obvious benefits would be the sharing of expertise and technical skills as well as funding. A common thread for all four of the centers discussed—American, British, French, and German—is the mission to share knowledge. This is demonstrated in the offering of lectures, the organizing of conferences, and robust publication programs. There have also been a number of school outreach programs. These institutes are all engaged in various archival projects, for their records and photos (pre-digital and digital), and those efforts merit an article in their own right but can be tracked in part on their respective websites. This is a key area for sharing and open access is the direction that most are going (so too for publications). What the next century will bring is unknown, in truth, even the next decade, given how changing technology will shape projects. However, thinking about what was accomplished in the past is valuable in considering what future efforts should be.<sup>43</sup>

<sup>43</sup> The history of some of the centers in Amman is conveyed to varying degrees on their respective websites. Recent

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Is an independent scholar who lives in Washington D.C. where she moved after living in Amman for 14 years as the ACOR Director (2006-2020). Those years afforded her the chance to engage with many heritage professionals involved in Jordan and to travel around the country with its amazing array of sites. She first visited Jordan in April 1967 on a family trip from Beirut and excavated in the Jordan Valley in 1977 on a University of Jordan project. She led several archaeological tours to Jordan in the period from 1996 to 2006 and plans to continue to do so.

## **Abbreviations**

AAJ—Aerial Archaeology of Jordan

ACOR—American Center of Research (formerly American Center of Oriental Research in Amman)

AFCP—US Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation

AHRC—Arts and Humanities Research Council

AIAR—The W. F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research

AJJ—*Archaeology in Jordan*

AJA—*American Journal of Archaeology*

APAAME—Aerial Photographic Archive for Archaeology in the Middle East

ARCA—American Research Center in Amman

ASOR—American Society of Overseas Research (formerly American Schools of Oriental Research)

BASOR—*Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research*

BA—*Biblical Archaeology*

BAH—*Bibliothèque archéologique et historique*

BIA—British Institute in Amman

BIAAH—British Institute at Amman for Archaeology and History

BIRI—British International Research Institutes (associated with the British Academy)

BSAJ—British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem

CAORC—Council of American Overseas Research Centers

CASOR—ASOR Canada

CERMOC—Centre d'études et de recherche sur le Moyen-Orient contemporain (Center of Study and Research in the Contemporary Middle East)

CBRL—Council for British Research in the Levant

CNRS—Centre national de la recherche scientifique (National Center for Scientific Research), France

CPF—Cultural Protection Fund (British Council)

DAI—Deutsches Archäologisches Institut (German Archaeological Institute)

DAHA—Département d'archéologie et d'histoire Antiquité

DEIAHL—Deutsches Evangelisches Institut für Altertumswissenschaft des Heiligen Landes

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articles about the institutes include the one by Palmer (forthcoming) and one that I have written on ACOR for a secret *Festschrift* which is to appear in 2022 (not included in the bibliography). The monograph by Förder Hoff (forthcoming) on the DEIAHL will be a very thorough study. I would encourage the French Institute to designate someone to write about its history in Jordan and the broader region. Some earlier articles cited above were invaluable. Again, I thank all colleagues who provided information about the institutes with which they have been involved.

DOG—Deutsche Orient Gesellschaft (German Oriental Society)  
 DOJAM—Documentation of Objects in Jordanian Archaeological Museums  
 DVEP—Deutscher Verein zur Erforschung Palästina (German Society for the Exploration of Palestine)  
 DPV—Deutscher Palästina-Vereins (German Palestine Society)  
 EAMENA—Endangered Archaeology in the Middle East and North Africa Project  
 EBAF—École biblique et archéologique française de Jérusalem (French Biblical and Archaeological School of Jerusalem)  
 ECA—Educational and Cultural Agency (US State Department)  
 EDSP—Expedition to the Dead Sea Plain  
 GPIA—The German Protestant Institute for Archaeology (English version for DEIAHL)  
 HiSOMA—Histoire et Sources des Mondes Antiques  
 ICAANE—International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East  
 ICHAJ—International Conference on the History and Archaeology of Jordan  
 IFAPO—Institut français d'Archéologie du Proche-Orient (French Archaeological Institute of the Near East)  
 IFÉAD—Institut français d'études arabes (French Institute of Arab Studies)  
 IFJ—Institut français de Jordanie  
 IFPO—Institut français du Proche Orient (French Institute of the Near East)  
 IFRE—Instituts français de recherches à l'étranger (French Research Institutes Abroad)  
 IGLS—*Inscriptions grecques et latines de la Syrie*  
 IGN—Institut géographique national de Paris  
 ISCR—Istituto Superiore per la Conservazione ed il Restauro (Italian Higher Institute for Conservation and Restoration)  
 ISPRA—Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale (Italy)  
 JAP—Jerash Archaeological Project  
 JICA—The Japan International Cooperation Agency  
 MEGA Jordan—Middle East Geodatabase for Antiquities-Jordan  
 MOTA—Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, Jordan  
 MaDiH—Mapping Digital Cultural Heritage in Jordan  
 MAFP—Mission archéologique française de Pétra (French Archaeological Mission to Petra)  
 MPP—Madaba Plains Project  
 NEA—*Near Eastern Archaeology*  
 OCIANA—Online Corpus of the Inscriptions of Ancient North Arabia  
 PDTRA—Petra Development Tourism & Region Authority  
 RASI—Rock Art Stability Index  
 SBF—Studium Biblicum Franciscanum  
 SCHEP—Sustainable Cultural Heritage Through Engagement of Local Communities Project  
 UNESCO—United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization  
 USAID—United States Agency for International Development  
 WFLS—Wadi Faynan Landscape Survey  
 WMF—World Monuments Fund  
 WRPA—Wadi Rum Protected Area  
 ZDPV—*Zeitschrift des Deutschen Palästina-Vereins*

## مائة عام من المعاهد البحثية الأجنبية في الأردن - 1921 إلى 2021

باريلا أ. بورتير \*

### ملخص

تبحث هذه الورقة في تاريخ ومساهمات المراكز البحثية الأجنبية الأربعة الحالية في عمان والتي هي من ألمانيا وفرنسا والمملكة المتحدة والولايات المتحدة الأمريكية. وتشمل هذه الورقة قصصهم والتغييرات التي مرت بها هذه المراكز مع مرور الوقت في الأردن بالإضافة إلى عرض بعض مساهماتهم الرئيسية في دراسة ماضي الأردن وحاضره

**الكلمات الدالة:** مراكز البحوث الخارجية، المعاهد الأجنبية، التنقيب والمسح، مشاريع الترميم.

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\* المدير السابق للمركز الأمريكي للأبحاث، عمان، الأردن.  
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