New Nabataean Funerary and Cultic Structures from Hawara (Humayma, Jordan)

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Abstract

Nabataean Hawara (Roman Hauarra, modern Humayma), the largest ancient settlement in Jordan’s Hisma Desert, was founded in the first century BC by a Nabataean prince at a water-rich site on the trade routes between Petra and the Red Sea and southern Arabia. The sandstone hills and ridges bordering Hawara have been the focus of several ground surveys conducted by the Humayma Excavation Project. These include a survey of the rock-cut tombs conducted in 1992 and 1993 (by Oleson and Somogyi–Csizmazia) and a survey of petroglyphs and quarries in 2014 (led by Reeves). Reeves subsequently requested that the photographers of APAAME (Aerial Photographic Archive for Archaeology in the Middle East) take aerial images of the 2014 survey area to assist in contextualizing the ground work. The resulting images (taken in 2016 and 2017) included not just the area requested but also other parts of the site, including areas containing rock-cut tombs. Careful analysis of these images, in conjunction with the ground survey results, revealed the presence of previously unknown funerary and cultic structures that likely date to the Nabataean period. These include monumental chamber tombs (similar to façade tombs) and possible ritual feasting areas (triclinia, bichlinia, stibadia). Although these structures have not yet been excavated, the contextual information provided by the aerial photos contributes important new information about life and cult in this important Nabataean community.
Archaeology of Jordan III

10:40am-12:45pm
Friday, 18 November, 2022

IN THIS SESSION

Excavating the Iron II Temple Courtyard and Staircase Areas in Ataruz: The 2017-19 and 2022 Fieldwork Seasons

The 2022 BRAP Excavation Season at Khirbat al-Balu’a in Central Jordan

Sacred Time at Home Part I: The Figurines from Tall Jalul Field G

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The Making of a Roman City. Refuse, Recycling, and Rebuilding in Petra's Domestic Complexes

Umm al-Jimal’s Churches in Context: Religion and Society, 300–800 CE

SESSION DETAILS

Archaeology of Jordan II (Virtual) (Arabic interpretation available)

1:00-2:00pm
Thursday, 20 October, 2022

IN THIS SESSION

The Corpus of Stamp Seals from the Southern Levant: New Data for the Glyptic Profile of Jordan during the Bronze and Iron Ages

Nelson Glueck’s 1938–1940 Excavations at Tell el-Kheleifeh, Jordan: A Further Reappraisal–Qurayyah Painted Ware (Glueck’s “Midianite Pottery”)

"Moabite Painted Ware“ from Iron Age Tall Madaba. An Assessment of the Chronology, Typology, and Style

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The Making of a Roman City. Refuse, Recycling, and Rebuilding in Petra's Domestic Complexes