

## Introduction

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The 2018 volume of *Archaeology in Jordan* marked the successful introduction of ACOR's new initiative to summarize recent fieldwork in Jordan, an outgrowth from 22 previous "editions" that were published in the *American Journal of Archaeology*. All prior content is freely available online. Here we move forward with the next iteration of this publication with the hope that *AJ* will remain a valuable resource to the archaeological and cultural heritage communities for comparative study throughout Jordan and the Middle East more broadly.

The volume in hand presents reports on projects that took place from January 2018 to December 2019. These are newly organized by governorate, approximately from north to south (see the map on p. iv). More than 100 contributors have provided their most recent assessments of 53 projects, including ongoing and new excavations, settlement and landscape surveys, and cultural heritage studies. These projects are multi-component both methodologically and temporally, often including both survey and excavation and investigating in a single region or site time periods ranging from the early Paleolithic to the Ottoman era. The projects encapsulated here employed increasingly sophisticated techniques of recovery, technological evaluation, and scientific investigation. They have turned up new evidence of the ingenuity and skill of the past populations of Jordan, such as the evocative Late Bronze Age ivory face mask inlay from Pella (pp. 33–36), many new classical-era sculptural finds at Jerash (pp. 41–42), and the Neolithic mother-of-pearl plaque from Wisad Pools (pp. 4–6). Some discoveries have raised new questions about behavior and belief systems, such as the approximately 75 Hellenistic pots buried upright at the town of Nebo (pp. 74–75) and the Iron Age female and equid figurines at Tall Damiyah (p. 54),

The projects are asking and addressing exciting questions, testing new approaches, and re-evaluating research priorities. Of particular interest is an increasing engagement of local communities with the restoration and presentation processes in order to achieve both their own economic sustainability and preservation of their cultural heritage. Community engagement is represented by the restoration of the Matan Heritage Village (pp. 131–133), the CBRAER program in Wadi Rum (pp. 142–143), Umm el-

Jimal (pp. 10–12), and the development of the new archaeological museum in Madaba (pp. 77–79). Several projects relate experiences with the practical concerns surrounding looting, development, or neglect: for example, salvage/rescue archaeology at Barqa (pp. 136–138), 'Ayn Ghazal (pp. 67–68), the Ghawr as-Safi Project (pp. 125–127), Khirbat Braq (pp. 113–114), Murayghat (pp. 80–82), and Khirbat Al-Balu'a (pp. 119–121); conservation, re-presentation, and publication of the Nymphaeum in Amman (pp. 65–66) and the Temple of the Winged Lions in Petra (pp. 105–107); and site recording work on the Karak Plateau (pp. 122–124). The Nymphaeum project and the TWL project, among others, have been working to advance the publication of data that has accumulated over many years.

The editors recognize that all authors wish to acknowledge the support and partnership of the Jordanian Department of Antiquities. Due to the short length of these entries, many expressions of thanks and acknowledgment are omitted for the sake of project content. During the time these field projects were undertaken, the director-general was Dr. Monther Jamhawī, succeeded by Mr. Yazid Elayyan, to whom the contributors expressed their thanks. Similarly, not all specific funding agencies mentioned by project directors are acknowledged for the sake of concision. Of course, every project relies on funding and various sources of direct and indirect support, often from their own institutions as well as from other sources. It is appropriate here to thank all who support these endeavors. Specific acknowledgements can be expected in the article- or book-length manuscripts that these projects publish elsewhere.

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