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## Report on Research Stay in Amman JO April 20<sup>th</sup> - May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012

### **A successful research stay**

Our ten days' stay in Amman was the first of a series of six planned research stays in Jordan with the purpose of taking professional pictures of the approx. 300 Iron Age II female terracotta figurines kept in Jordanian museums, collections and storerooms. Our mission has been very successful, we established valuable contacts and entered the data of 47 figurines – whole or fragmentary – into our database.

### **Accommodation**

We were kindly hosted by the German Protestant Institute of Archaeology in the Holy Land (DEI Amman) and kept in frequent contact with both the American Center of Oriental Research (ACOR Amman), where we were invited to lunch, and the Council for British Research in the Levant (CBRL Institute Amman), where we made use of the library. In both institutes we had the opportunity to attend fascinating and intriguing evening lectures. We did not visit the French Institute for the Near East (IFPO Amman) as the Director, Jacques Seigne, was temporarily absent.

### **Equipment and support**

The Bavarian State Archaeological Collection (Archäologische Staatssammlung) in Munich and the Faculty of Protestant Theology of Strasbourg University generously provided us with professional cameras, lenses, filters, UV-lamp, tripods and other equipment. In order to have access to the objects of our research interest we had obtained two letters of permission in English and Arabic signed by the acting General Director of the Department of Antiquities, Fares Al-Hmoud. Further gracious support was received when meeting Jihad Haroun and Khalil Hamdan (Directorate of Excavations and Surveys), Huda Kilani (Museums Directorate), Qamar Fakhoury (Director of Studies and Publication), Samia Khoury, Sahar Mansour, Amer Bdour and others among the unfailingly friendly members of staff at the Department of Antiquities in Amman. Zeidan Kafafi, Moawiyah Ibrahim and Thomas Weber likewise gave us a good deal of most useful information. Last but not least on the occasion of our short visit to the French Embassy in Amman the *conseiller de coopération et d'action culturelle* Alain Aumis assured us of his assistance in any case of need.

### **Contacts and museums**

We were kindly received by the directors and curators of four museums and storerooms in Amman:

- Khairieh Amr, Ra'eda Abdalla and Kamal Nasser (The Jordan Museum)
- Nabil Khairy, Nabil Ali, Randa Kakish, Moath Mohammad al-Fuqaha and Mohannad Hani Al-Tantawi (Jordan University, Institute of Archaeology, Archaeological Museum)
- Abdelrahim ALdwikat Abu Ala'a, Zuheir al-Zeubi, Arwa Masa'adeh and Issa Madi Abu Iyad (Citadel Museum)
- Adnan Arafaiah (storerooms of the Department of Antiquities at Nuweijis).

In all of these institutions we were assigned appropriate accommodation where we could do our work and we were most impressed by the general atmosphere of cooperativeness and hospitality.

**Outcome**

The goal of our first research stay – to collect a good corpus of data on Jordanian IA II female terracotta figurines – has been accomplished. We took pictures of 47 figurines, fragmented bodies and heads. Some of them cannot be definitely identified as females, but as long as we have not yet established our typology we may not exclude them from the discussion. One figurine of the *Dea Gravida* type (1) is a Phoenician import. All in all we registered the following objects:

Institution	tridim. figurine	plaque	object with motif applic.	head	bust	body fragment
The Jordan Museum	1	1		7	5	2
Archaeological Museum of Jordan University			1	3	1	4
Citadel Museum	2	2		6	2 (1)	2
Nuweijis, storeroom of the Department of Antiquities			1	3		
ACOR (Tall ar-Rumeith material, in preparation for publication by Nancy Lapp)				1		2
<b>Total 47</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>

**Future research stay**

Our next stay in Jordan is scheduled for October 26-November 3, 2012. We will return to the Citadel Museum and to the Jordan Museum where we could not finish our work during the first stay. In addition to this we plan to take pictures of the figurines in the Jordan Valley Research Centre and Museum in Tall Deir Alla and in the Archaeological Museums of as-Salt and Madaba. On October 30 we will give an evening lecture on our project at the DEI Amman.

**Acknowledgments**

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Amman  
Nuweijis T 2666  
7,1 x 4,6 x 3,2 cm



Mazar  
Jordan University  
5,2 x 3,3 x 2,5 cm



Amman  
Citadel Museum TJ 1639  
13,7 x 5,4 x 3,8 cm



Rumeith  
Jordan Museum JM 2174  
6 x 3,4 x 3,2 cm