HEBREW AND PALESTINIAN INSCRIPTIONS
Old Testament 82400
Fall 2005

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I. Texts:

S. Ahituv, *Handbook of Ancient Hebrew Inscriptions* [limited availability]
S. L. Gogel, *A Grammar of Epigraphic Hebrew*
Drinkard, *Handbook for Hebrew Inscriptions Seminar* [available from the professor]

II. Course Description:

A study of Hebrew and Palestinian inscriptions, especially pre-exilic, to compare the orthography, epigraphy, grammar and syntax with Masoretic Hebrew.

III. Course Objectives:

1. To gain knowledge of the basic epigraphy, orthography, grammar and syntax of Hebrew and Palestinian inscriptions.

2. To be able to read the inscriptions studied in their script from photographs or drawings, and explain their basic grammar.

3. To compare the orthography, grammar and syntax of the inscriptions with that of Masoretic Hebrew.

4. To apply the results of inscriptional study to textual criticism of the Old Testament, and to the interpretation of relevant passages.

5. To become acquainted with and use the basic literature of Hebrew and Palestinian inscriptions.
6. To demonstrate the capacity to do basic research in primary and secondary sources using the methods and resources introduced in the seminar.

7. To gain an appreciation of the relevance of Hebrew and Palestinian inscriptions for the study of Hebrew and the practice of ministry.

IV. Course Requirements:

1. Regular attendance and leadership in class discussion.

2. By the second week of the class, students should know the script of the Proto-Sinaitic/Proto-Canaanite inscriptions and that of Phoenician/Old Hebrew (which is basically the same as Old Aramaic, Moabite and Edomite).

3. Preparation of a bibliography for the study of inscriptions. This bibliography should include the primary publication of major inscriptions, works that provide collections of inscriptions, and articles about inscriptions. Each student should bring a thorough bibliography of their topics to the fourth meeting of class to distribute to all students.

4. Research papers on the topics listed below. Each student will prepare 2 major papers during the course of the semester detailing a study of the epigraphy (form and style of the characters), orthography (spelling characteristics, use of final and medial vowel letters), and grammar and syntax of a group of inscriptions. These papers will guide our classroom discussions. Each paper should be ca. 25-30 pages in length, and following the form of the Seminary Style Manual. Papers are due in boxes or on desks by 10:00 A.M. Thursday morning before class presentation the following Monday.

V. Special Needs.

“In order to ensure full class participation, any student with a disabling condition requiring special accommodations (e.g., tape recorders, special adaptive equipment, special note-taking or test-taking needs) is strongly encouraged to contact the professor at the beginning of the course.”
VI. Tentative Course Sessions and Topics:

Week 1. Introduction to the Seminar. Methods and Interests, Paper Assignments. Procedure for study and presentation of reports. Reading passages of unpointed Hebrew. Canaanite/Phoenician/Pre-exilic Hebrew script. (August 15)

Week 2. Practice with Canaanite/Phoenician Script, Ductus. “What’s Wrong with Unprovenanced Inscriptions?” Dr. Drinkard leads discussion. (August 22)

Weeks 3-14 Dates and topics:

Topic 1. Proto-Sinaitic, Proto-Canaanite, Canaanite Inscriptions (1 presentation)
   [Serabit el-Khadem, Beth Shemesh, Isbet Sartah, Incised Arrows, Lachish, etc] Dr. Drinkard leads discussion. (August 29)

September 5 Labor Day—No Class

Topic 2. Early Phoenician Inscriptions (3 presentations)
   [Azarbaal, Ahiram, Elibaal, Nora, Yehimilk, Shipitbaal] Drinkard (September 12)
   [Cyprus, Malta, Seville, Kilamuwa] Dong Gun Lee (September 12)
BIBLIOGRAPHIES DUE

   [Azitawada, Arslan Tash, Pyrgia, Eshmunezer] Liz Robar (September 19)

Topic 3. Early Aramaic Inscriptions (3 presentations)
   [Melqart, Zakir, Tel Dan] Seth Rodriquez (September 19)

First Reading Days September 26

   [Panamuwa, Barrakab] Josh Wilson (October 3)
   [Sefire, Nerab] John Flanagan (October 3)
   [Tell Fakhariyeh] Nancy Woods (October 10)

Topic 4. Israelite & Samarian Inscriptions (1 presentation)
   [Samaria, Gezer, Nimrud Ivory, Tell Qasile, Hazor, Beth Shean] Liz Robar (October 10)

Topic 5. Moabite Inscriptions (1 presentation) Dong Gun Lee (October 17)

Topic 6. Ammonite (1 presentation)
[Amman Citadel, Amminidab, Deir Alla] **Matt Simpson (October 17)**

**Topic 7. Judahite Inscriptions ca 700 B.C.E. (2 presentations)**
- [Siloam, Silwan, Jerusalem, Ketef Hinnom, Ivory Pomegranate Widow’s Plea] **Josh Wilson (October 24)**
- [El Qom, Khirbet Beit Lei, 3 Shekels, Beer-Sheba, Judean Wilderness Cave, Kuntillet Ajrud, Wadi Murabbat] **Nancy Woods (October 24)**

**Topic 8. Judahite Inscriptions ca 630 B.C.E. (1 presentation)**
- [Mesad Hashavyahu] **John Flanagan (October 31)**


Wrap-Up, Discussion. At the scheduled Final Exam time.
SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

Albright, W.F. *Yahweh and the Gods of Canaan*


_____.*Discovering Jerusalem.*


Bartlett, J.R. *Edom and the Edomites*


Clements, Ronald E. *The World of Ancient Israel*


_____.*Conversations with a Biblical Scholar*


_____.*Symposia: Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the American Schools of Oriental Research (1900-1975)*


Dearman, J. Andrew Studies in the Mesha Stele and Moab


Dothan, Trudy. The Philistines and Their Material Culture


Drinkard, J., G. Mattingly, and M. Miller, eds., Benchmarks in Time and Culture

Driver, Geoffrey R. Semitic Writing From Pictograph to Alphabet.

Edelman, Diane V. The Fabric of History: Text, Artifact, and Israel's Past.


Hadidi, A. Studies in the History and Archaeology of Jordan (multiple volumes)

Harden, D. The Phoenicians


Jamieson-Drake, D. W. Scribes and Schools in Monarchic Judah

Kenyon, K. M. The Bible and Recent Archaeology

King, P. J. Amos, Hosea, Micah -- An Archaeological Commentary

______. Jeremiah -- An Archaeological Companion


Matthews, Victor H. and D. C. Benjamin, Social World of Ancient Israel, 1250-587 B.C.E.


Miller, J. Maxwell and John H. Hayes, A History of Ancient Israel and Judah


Moorey, P.R.S. and Peter Parr, eds., Archaeology in the Levant: Essays for Kathleen Kenyon


Naveh, Joseph. Early History of the Alphabet


Perdue, Leo G., Lawrence E. Toombs, and G. L. Johnson, Archaeology and Biblical Interpretation: Essays in Memory of D. Glen Rose


_____., ed. New Encyclopedia of Archaeological Excavations in the Holy Land


Tubb, J. Palestine in the Bronze and Iron Ages: Papers in Honour of Olga Tufnell

Wright, George Ernest. ed. The Bible and The Ancient Near East: Essays in Honor of William Foxwell Albright

Yadin, Y., Hazor (Schweich Lectures)

_____, Hazor, The Rediscovery of a Great Citadel of the Bible

_____, Jerusalem Revealed

In addition, any major research will involve consultation of the appropriate excavation reports on sites such as Samaria, Lachish, Megiddo, Hazor, Ai, Arad, Beer-Sheba, Gezer, Jerusalem, Jericho, Beth-Shan, Hesban, Shechem, Tell Beit Mirsim, just to mention a few. (These excavation reports often contain the publication of provenanced inscriptions). Major archaeological journals/annuals include, Biblical Archaeologist (BA, now Near Eastern Archaeology), Biblical Archaeology Review (BAR), Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research (BASOR) [also very helpful is the AASOR, Annual of the Am. Sch. Or. Res.], Israel Exploration Journal (IEJ), Palestine Exploration Quarterly (PEQ), Levant, Tel Aviv, Revue Biblique, Syria, Iraq, Annual of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan (ADAJ), Journal of Near Eastern Studies (JNES), Studies in the History and Archaeology of Jordan (SHAJ). In addition, journals dealing with inscriptions include: MAARAV, Semitica, Ugarit Forschungen, JANES. [This is only a preliminary list—one expectation for the student is to prepare his/her own fuller bibliography]