ontory indicates the continuing use of the palace through the Byzantine period. During the coming year, final planning and construction of a modern promenade for the National Park will be carried out at the palace site. Gleason's research will afford her the opportunity to play a major role in this addition to the palace's stratigraphic history.

4. Destruction of Images in Early Abbasid Palestine

Robert Schick, National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow (1996), U.S. Information Agency Islamic Studies Fellow (1995); Lecturer, Institute of Islamic Archaeology, al-Quds University, Jerusalem.

Schick's project involves a study of the archaeological evidence for the deliberate damage to images of people and animals in the mosaic floors of numerous early Christian churches in Israel and Jordan. This curious phenomenon of the Early Islamic period has long remained a puzzle. Obliteration of the images in these church mosaic floors is normally total; but the damage was often done with great care and repaired carefully, indicating that it was the Christians who did the damage. The nature of the damage is distinct from the roughly contemporary iconoclastic movement in the Byzantine Empire, where venerated icons of Christ, the Virgin Mary, and the Saints were the issue. The damage to ordinary images is similar to the Islamic opposition to artistic depictions of beings possessing the “breath of life”; that, however, raises the question of why the Christians would have adopted an Islamic view of images. In the absence of any noncontroversial literary accounts, scholars such as Vasiliev have attributed the damage to an iconoclastic edict of Yazid II in 721 A.D.

Analysis of the deliberate damage was a major chapter in Schick's 1987 Ph.D. dissertation. But recent archeological work has produced new evidence. Michele Piccirillo in 1994 uncovered a mosaic floor with images that suffered deliberate damage after 762 A.D. That date eliminates the possibility that the damage happened in the Umayyad period. Instead that early Abbasid date brings to the forefront questions about possible hardening attitudes against the Christians by the new Abbasid caliphs.

Schick's current work will grant him the opportunity to become more familiar with the cases of damage in Israel and the related question of the use and damage of images in synagogues.

5. Tell en-Nasbeh: Ceramic Dating of Strata 1 through 5

Jeffrey R. Zorn, National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow, San Jacinto, California

In his dissertation, Tell en-Nasbeh: A Re-evaluation of the Architecture and Stratigraphy of the Early Bronze Age, Iron Age, and Later Periods, Zorn proposed a new understanding of the stratigraphy and settlement history of Tell en-Nasbeh, probably biblical Mizpah of Benjamin. McCown and Wampler, authors of the 1947 report on the excavations conducted by William F. Badé from 1926 to 1935, identified only two strata at the site, each with two vague subphases, which did not truly delineate the site's architectural history. Zorn identified five strata. The model he proposed for dating this stratigraphy was based primarily on the most secure elements in the history of Mizpah; first, that there was an Iron Age I settlement; second, that there was a major effort to enhance the settlement's fortifications in the time of the Judaean King Asa in the early ninth century B.C.E.; third, that there was a measurable change in the settlement's planning due to its new role as a provincial capital after the fall of Jerusalem in 586 B.C.E.; fourth, that there was still some settlement, at least into the Hellenistic period. The resulting hypothetical dating for the stratigraphy is as follows: Stratum 5, Early Bronze I; Stratum 4, Iron Age I; Stratum 3C, tenth century B.C.E.; Stratum 3B, Asa's fortifications in the ninth century B.C.E.; Stratum 3A, subsequent rebuildings and expansions of the Stratum 3C town; Stratum 2, Babylonian to Middle Persian period; possible occupation gap; Stratum 1, remains primarily from Hellenistic to Roman period.

Zorn's work at the Albright Institute has focused on dating of the cleanest and most stratigraphically secure pottery assemblages that have been possible to identify. These include materials from sealed cisterns, rock-cut installations whose openings are cut across by later walls, dismantled walls, in situ pottery from room floors, and apparently homogenous assemblages from.unsealed cisterns.

The initial results have been very promising. In situ storage jars of the mid-fifth century B.C.E. were identified in one of the Stratum 2 four-room houses, thus establishing beyond doubt the existence of a Babylonian to Persian period stratum, the first clear settlement remains from this phase ever identified in Israel. The date of the construction of Stratum 2 is suggested by several lines of evidence. First, sealed
cisterns that went out of use at the end of Stratum 3 so far do not seem to contain any material later than the seventh to sixth century (this same material, of course, dates the end of Stratum 3). Second, several rock-cut installations found below the walls of a large Stratum 2 courtyard building contain material from the seventh century B.C.E. Third, another four-room Stratum 2 house contained in situ remains of at least three large, holemouth, sack-shaped pithoi known from the Babylonian destruction phases in Jerusalem and Lachish. These very unwieldy storage jars were likely installed in this building at the beginning of Stratum 2 and were still in service at its end. It is hoped that future analysis of deposits from installations cut by walls of Stratum 3 will help pinpoint the initial phase of its construction. Analysis of several Early Bronze Age deposits should help determine whether the Early Bronze Age settlement is limited to EB I, or if there is a later continuation.

6. Bureaucracy of Late Bronze Age Trade in the Eastern Mediterranean

Nicole Hirschfeld, George A. Barton Fellow;
Ph.D. candidate, University of Texas–Austin

Imported objects, royal and personal archives stacked with commercial documents, and shipwrecked cargoes provide evidence for widespread contact and exchange in the Late Bronze Age eastern Mediterranean. Attempts to reconstruct the patterns and motives for this trade usually concentrate on the study of the documents and traded items themselves. One category of evidence which, though frequently noted, has not been subjected to rigorous examination, is the secondary marks with which many objects were labeled in the course of exchange. These marking systems, and the evidence they provide for the administration of trade in the Late Bronze Age, are the topic of Hirschfeld’s dissertation research.

Items including metal ingots, pottery, and tools were marked in many different ways including inscribed, stamped, or painted signs and inscriptions. In particular, traded pottery was relatively frequently marked and widely distributed; it is also more likely to have survived the ravages of time. Thus this research focuses on the vases traded between the Aegean and the eastern littoral.

Hardly any of this material has been recently and thoroughly studied. New finds have simply been noted (sometimes photographed or drawn) within the context of excavation reports; information about marked objects recovered from early excavations is often very sketchy. This project requires, above all, careful recording and examination of marked pottery from Late Bronze Age sites.

Some things are already clear: The marks on Canaanite jars are mostly very different from those found on Mycenaean and Cypriot imports. The Mycenaean imports themselves were marked in at least two different systems, one of which is related to the script used on Cyprus while the other one seems not to be. Some Canaanite jars, too, are marked with the Cypriot-based signs. But it is also clear that most jars were not marked; in fact, Late Bronze Age vases with postfiring marks of any kind are relatively rare in Israel. This is in contrast to the situation in the Middle Bronze and Iron ages. It is not yet clear what this means, but the careful study of the geographical and typological distribution of the marked vases should eventually yield some insight into organization of trade within and into Late Bronze Age Palestine.

7. Domination and Resistance: Egyptian Military Activity in the Southern Levant during the Late Bronze/Early Iron Age Transition

Michael G. Hasel, Samuel H. Kress Fellow;
Ph.D. candidate, University of Arizona

The impact of military activity on sociopolitical dynamics is widely recognized in the fields of sociology, social anthropology, and archaeology. Archaeologists in Syria–Palestine commonly associate military activity with cultural discontinuity or change by combining historical sources describing known campaigns with new archaeological data. However, the formulation of a clear methodology for such correlations is yet to be established. Archaeologists who depend primarily on secondary sources to derive these conclusions often are not aware of the nature of these sources, their genre, structure, and the semantic contexts of military terminology. Historians who work with these textual or historical issues also work largely in isolation from the archaeological evidence. Nevertheless, decisive correlations continue to be made concerning the social, cultural, and political history of the region; the chronological framework of the southern Levant; and the assessment of the archaeological record at various sites.