

RJ Hall

Subject: FW: TeHEP UPDATE 19 JANUARY 2010

Tall el-Hammam Excavation Project

Trinity Southwest University,
Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA

in a Joint Scientific Project with the

Department of Antiquities,
The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

TeHEP UPDATE

19 January 2010

An Exclusive Report for TeHEP Alumni, Financial Supporters, and Friends

[GLOSSARY OF CHRONOLOGICAL TERMS FREQUENTLY USED IN TeHEP UPDATES:

Chalcolithic Period = Copper/Stone Age, 4400-3300 BCE; EBA = Early Bronze Age, 3300-2350 BCE; IBA = Intermediate Bronze Age, 2350-2000 BCE; MBA = Middle Bronze Age, 2000-1550 BCE; LBA = Late Bronze Age, 1550-1200 BCE; IA1 = Iron Age 1, 1200-1000 BCE; IA2 = Iron Age 2, 1000-586 BCE; IA3 = Iron Age 3/Persian Period, 586-332 BCE; HP = Hellenistic/Greek Period, 332-63 BCE; ERP = Early Roman Period, 63 BCE-168 CE]

Hello All:

The weather was actually pretty nice today, but the bulk of the team still stayed back at headquarters to do work on pottery. Some did go up to Madaba for various reasons, and a few (like Leen, Qutaiba, Jeff, and Hussien) went out to the site to get some survey and other kinds of work done.



DR. C WITH EB1 JUGLET



DR. GRAVES AND GK WORK ON POTTERY FROM THE ROMAN ERA



RESTORING 5000-YEAR-OLD DOLMEN POTTERY

We worked on pottery all day virtually without any breaks. Jeff did order in some pizzas, and we walked around eating as we worked. The main thing today was to work through the material from Tomb 55 and the dolmen excavation. The dolmen pottery is now dated and numbered (11 intact; 9 mendables; about 20 other vessels represented by diagnostic sherds with some partially mendable). Now we need to wash them and put them through a muriatic acid solution bath to get the calcite off. That will reveal all the colors, burnishes, and painting. Then we'll assemble them on a black background in precisely the same configuration as they were found in the burial chamber. The dolmen vessels date from the Chalcolithic Period, EBA, and IBA. It appears that the tomb was used over a long period of time, as long as 2,000 years. That's what it looks like right now, but we'll have to see how everything reads out at the final pottery read late next week.



JEFF EMPTIES THE CONTENTS OF AN EB1 BOWL INTO A SAMPLE TRAY



SAVING THE CONTENTS OF ANOTHER EB1 JUGLET



JENNIFER TAKES YET ANOTHER SAMPLE FROM INSIDE AN EB1 JUGLET

So, we had a fun-but-tiring day, and tomorrow we're back out at the sight digging.



CARROLL TAKES A SAMPLE FROM INSIDE AN EBA JUGLET

Blessings to you all.

Digging the Bible,

Steven Collins, TeHEP Director
Dean, College of Archaeology, Trinity Southwest University

P.S. Please forward this to whomever you like!

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Donations can be mailed to: TSU; 5600 Eubank NE, Suite 130; Albuquerque, NM USA 87111.

For detailed information about the Tall el-Hammam Excavation Project, visit the official TeHEP website: www.tallelhammam.com.