

RJ Hall

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**Subject:** FW: TeHEP UPDATE 25 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

**25 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 Home Team:

When we awoke this morning it was raining, so we shifted quickly to plan B, which was to work with pottery. We still had quite a bit to put through primary 'reading', and we still had numerous intact vessels to clean with muriatic acid solution. It's always necessary (and fun) to clean the calcite deposits off the vessels in order to reveal the slips, burnishing, and painted decoration. Once they're prepared in this manner, then Mike can get proper photographs of them.



CLEANING INTACT VESSELS WITH MURIATIC ACID SOLUTION

I also got word this morning that our order of bags (for making sandbags) was finally on its way down from Amman. We started working on this several weeks ago, and it's just now coming to fruition. Anyway, tomorrow, weather permitting, we'll be making sandbags and placing them along our balks in order to protect them from collapse, especially during the off season. I'm very happy to have this going on during our last couple of days on the site so we can finish it in plenty of time.



CLEANING A SMALL JUGLET WITH MURIATIC SOLUTION



CLEAN AT LAST!

We'll also have some excavation going on tomorrow under Carl's direction. He's well into the Chalcolithic Period in square LA.28P, and it's quite a delicate operation that we must

finish before we leave, or at least go as far as we can. Then we'll probably backfill what remains in order to protect it until next season. Of course, there's always the danger that 'night diggers' will come in at some point and destroy some of these more delicate architectural features. This will continue happen until someone donates enough money for us to purchase the site. Then it can be properly controlled and maintained. Until then, the site will continue to be damaged by periodic illegal digging and looting.

At this point we're shifting into finalizing drawings, paperwork, and into the writing of the mandatory end-of-season reports required by the DoA. This all has to be completed by the weekend when we'll take the reports and all of our season finds to the DoA before we depart for the USA and ENCHILADAS back in New Mexico!

This is also the most expensive week of the dig, with the final payments to the DoA for all of our Jordanian staff, site guard, and myriad other smaller items. So, thanks for your continuing prayers and support. Let's bring it home!

Digging the Bible,

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

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

**You can make donations to TeHEP at the TSU shopping website: [www.shop.tsu.edu.us](http://www.shop.tsu.edu.us).**

**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](http://www.tallelhammam.com).**