

IN MEMORIAM MANFRED LINDNER (1918-2006)



A sincere friend of Jordan and a tireless explorer of Greater Petra area, Dr. Dr. Manfred Lindner left this world on October 30, 2006, at the age of 84 years. The delay to honour his memory was due to the time necessary to gather exact information on his rich C.V., on his huge bibliography and finally to obtain some photographs on his main activities in Jordan. It was finally thanks to Elizabeth Schreyer, his active assistant and his faithful companion in his exhausting expeditions that *ADAJ* was able to include his life full of events, and a selection of his bibliography (*infra*).

Manfred Lindner was born on July 22nd, 1918 in Nürnberg. He studied medicine and psychology and obtained a doctorate in both fields, hence his double title of Dr. In his home Nürnberg, Bavaria, Germany, he settled and worked as a neurologist. Very soon, he developed an interest in the Prehistory and Archaeology of his own country. He joined the Society “Nature and History” in German “Naturhistorischen Gesell-

schaft, Nürnberg”. This organization, as it was defined in its regulations “is traditionally open not only to the history of Nature, but also to the history of human culture, with a sound background in settlement archaeology. In this objective, the journal of the Society bears the title: “*Nature und Mensch*”: *Nature and Man*.

Dr. Dr. Lindner was appointed chairman of this Society in 1967, and traveled to many countries in the Middle East, in Africa, including Egypt, in Asia and in the Americas. But his main concern through the years remained for Petra and the Nabataeans.

His first visit to the Rock-City was in 1963, as a tourist. As it was expressed by his near friends, he was ‘thunderstruck’ by the natural beauty of this desert caravan-city, and organized almost annual expeditions with his friends to explore the antiquities of Petra and its most remote environs. He was granted in 1973 a license by the Department of Antiquities of Jordan to start excavations in Petra. This same year he met with Fawzi Zayadine who had completed his doctorate at Sorbonne, Paris with a dissertation on the “Rock Architecture of Petra of Oriental Origin”. They traveled from ‘Amman by the Kings’ Highway and stopped at the little village of Sela’, south of at-Ṭafilah. Dr. Lindner was met with hostile reception because of unauthorized photos. But the problem was settled very soon and he was finally welcomed by the local people.

At the suggestion of F. Zayadine, the first excavations to be financed by the Society Nature and Man were started on April 1973, on the eastern slope of Jabal al-Khubtha, opposite the small theatre of Petra, on the way to the Urn Tomb, and in the Tomb 813 in the same area.

The reasons for this choice was that the rock

of al-Khubtha was carved with the most famous facades, such as the Palace and Urn Tombs, the Sextius Florentinus tomb but especially with Tomb 813, which was identified as the tomb of 'Uneishu, minister of Shaqilat II, who assumed the regency of the Nabataean Kingdom, during the minority of her son Rabel II in 70-76AD.

The excavations proved to confirm that tomb 813 belonged to a dignitary of Petra, since a Nabataean inscription was found with the name Shaqilat and Nabatu (Zayadine, in Lindner, 1986: 299-237). In the same area, a shaft tomb was excavated by Muhammed Mrshed and yielded pottery objects and coins from the first century BC-AD, under a house (*eod.loc.251-53*). The excellent results of this first campaign enticed Dr. Lindner and his team to continue their researches in remote and somehow inaccessible area of Greater Petra (Wādī Ṣabrā, 2H30 walk south of Petra). This important caravan halt which was famous for the small theatre at the foot of Jabal al-Jathūm was visited in 1828 by the French explorers Laborde and Linant who published the first ground sketch plan of the site (Lindner 1986: 137-169 and 142, fig. 4 and 152, fig. 7).

In this same expedition, Jabal al-Jathūm was explored and a genuine water system was discovered, photographed and planned by Dr. Lindner and his companions, at the expense of dangerous climbing (1986: 146-158). The sounding and the good photographs of architectural blocks stirred new interests in so-far neglected site. In fact, the work in this isolated station was not without real dangers: During the campaign of 1984, for instance, a furious windstorm threatened the camp and brought with it scorpions in the tents. The present writer was bitten by a scorpion in the dark midnight. Without hesitation, Dr. Lindner harried with a torch and immediately sucked the poison. This prompt decision saved trouble to a member of the team in a completely isolated area.

The concern of Dr. Lindner in the archaeology of greater Petra led his to more exciting discoveries at as-Sādah and Ba'ja: in those two remote areas, the representative of the Department of Antiquities was Suleiman Al-Farajat, the present day director of the Petra National Park. A team including Dr. 'Adnan Al-Hadidi, a former Director of Department of Antiquities, Inyazi Al-Shab'an and Fawzi Zayadine

was escorted by Major Ma'rouf Al-Bakhit, the personal attaché to HRH Prince Al-Hassan who became later the Prime Minister of Jordan. The expedition reached as-Sādah after 4 hours of difficult walk. Although we were equipped with ropes and helped with a experienced mountaineer from Austria, the climbing of as-Sādah was most painful. Nevertheless the summit of the hill was reached and an extensive zone was uncovered, with ruins going back to the Prehistoric, Edomite and Nabataean periods. Dr. Lindner arrived later on as-Sādah, with Dakhil-Allah Qabalan, a well-known Bedoul guide, with a camel and three donkeys to carry the tents and equipments (Lindner *et al.* 1988: 75-90).

The extensive ruins of as-Sādah-Umm al-'Ulā proved to be of the EBI-II periods (3200-2750BC); one complete EBI jar was discovered by Elisabeth Schreyer. The team discovered also Iron II Edomite Pottery (7th-6th BC), similar to that of Umm al-Biyāra, south of Petra together with important collections of Nabataean sherds of the 1st Century BC-AD. As-Sādah appeared as a microcosm of the Greater Petra settled areas. It is indeed regrettable that this outstanding site was not the field of more technical research by specialized archaeologists. The site of Ba'ja, north of Petra was more lucky in this respect.

It can be reached by Siq Umm al-Ḥīran, north of Siq al-Bārid and Bayḍa. This eagle nest included three antiquities sites, I-III. It was confessed by Dr. Lindner that without the help of the Bedouins, ascent and descent were more difficult (1987: 389). In reality, it was thanks to Austrian mountaineers that it was possible to reach the summit of this inaccessible rock. Suleiman Farajat participated to this dangerous expedition (Lindner and Farajat 1987: 175-185).

The climb started from a ruined house, Ba'ja I to reach by a tortuous and perilous path Ba'ja III, at the summit of the rock. In between, Ba'ja II was an outstanding PPNA site, surveyed by Gebel, H.G. (1986: 121-126). Several basalt grinding stones were collected (1986: figs. 17-18). But the most surprising discovery was the presence of an Edomite village of the Iron II period; it was first believed that Ba'ja was only a refuge rock in case of danger. But when several cisterns were discovered, with a ruined village and a natural garden with well preserved natural wild flora, it became certain that Ba'ja was

an unexpected Edomite residential zone, which would remain unknown without the adventurous expedition of Dr. Lindner.

It is not easy to express a general review of Dr. Lindner achievements: yet, we have to recognize that he was not a specialist of Semitic languages. But he was able to gather around him good specialists in every field and to give to everyone the opportunity to write in his own field. Gebel, H.G. for instance, presented a synthesis of the possible future research in the Prehistoric periods in the Greater Petra area with excellent conclusions on the Natufian in the 8th mill. BC to the Neolithic PPNB in the 6th mill. BC (Lindner 1986: 273-308)

The Islamic periods were not neglected: he published articles on the Islamic villages around Petra, such as Bayḍa where he identified the site of Hurmuz of the Crusader periods, later confirmed by the discoveries of Patricia Bikai.

Fawzi Zayadine
Suleiman Al-Farajat

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