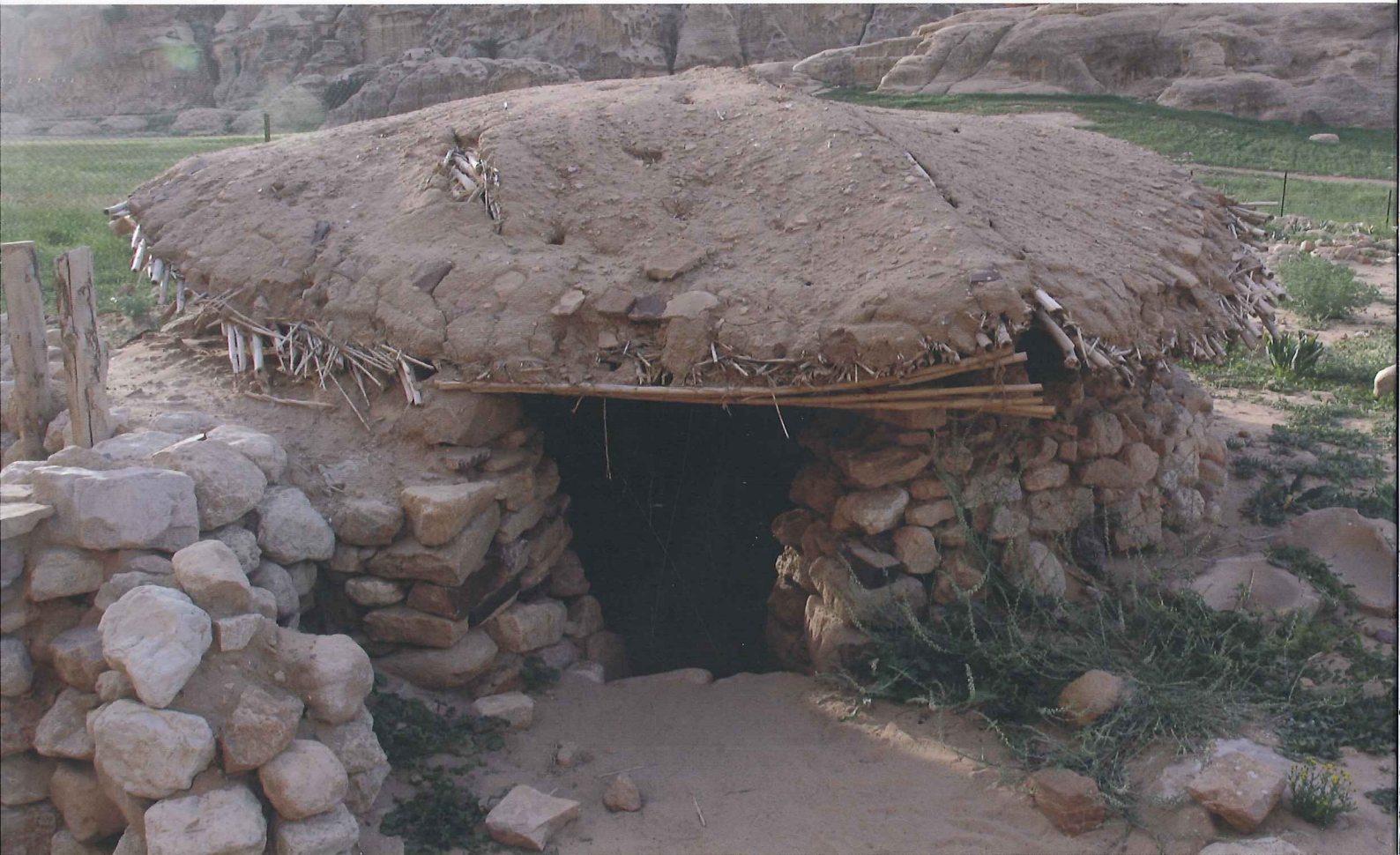


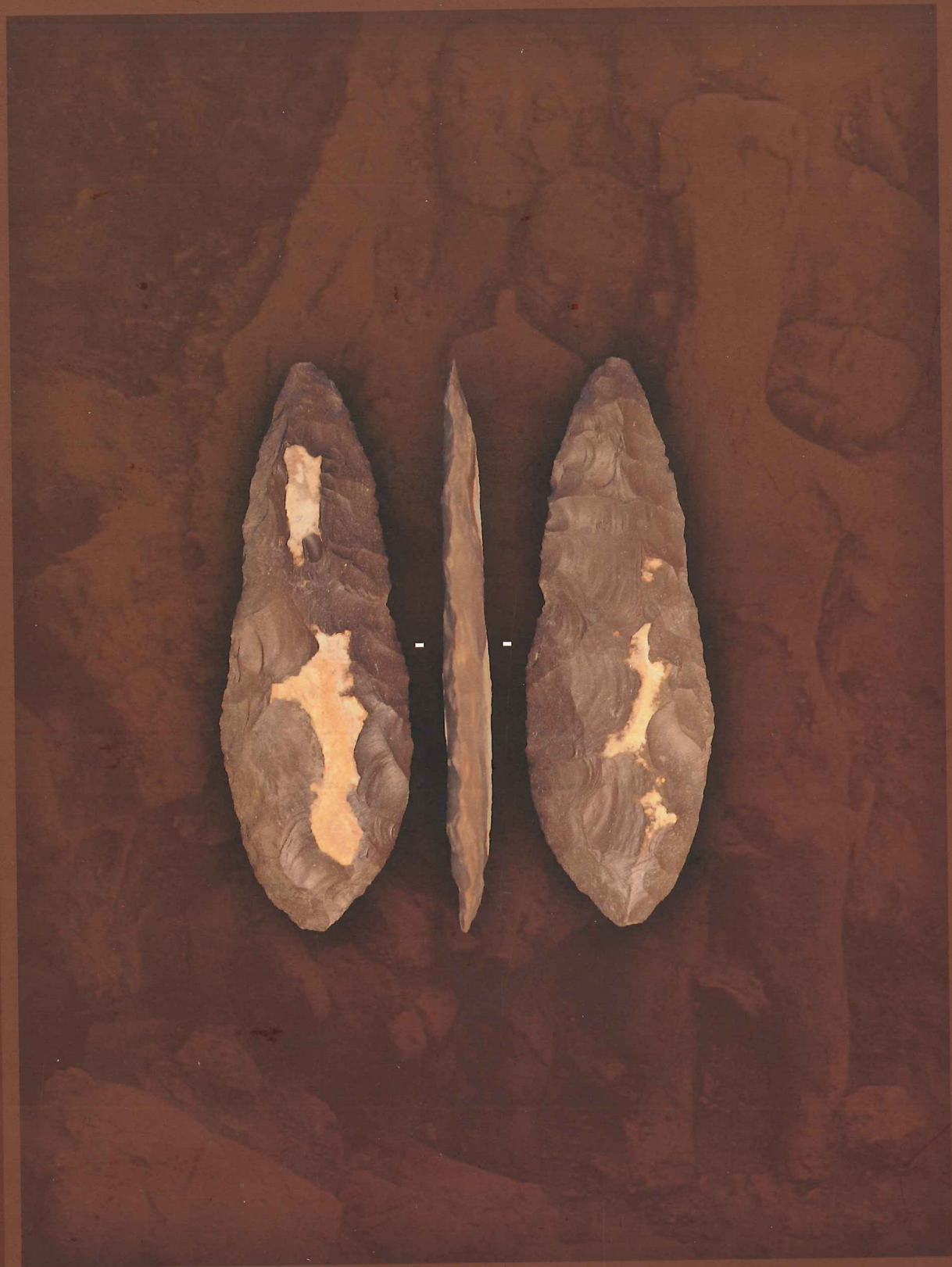


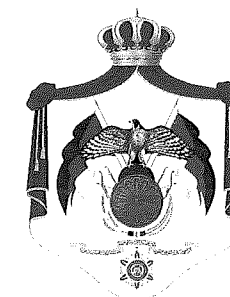
THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN
DEPARTMENT OF ANTIQUITIES

Jordan's Prehistory Past and Future Research



Amman
2014





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2014

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PREFACE

Gary O. Rollefson and Bill Finlayson

Early in the summer of 2008 Dr. Fawwaz al-Kharaysheh, then Director-General of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan, asked us to arrange for a conference of prehistorians to be held the following year in 'Amman at the Department of Antiquities facility. The purpose of the meeting was manifold: 1) to produce a snap shot view of the state of prehistoric research; 2) to assess in general what had been accomplished in the field of prehistoric archaeology over the past several decades, including issues dealing with publication and gaps in prehistoric investigation; 3) to discuss problems as seen by the archaeologists and by the staff of the Department of Antiquities, including such topics as surveys and excavation priorities, budgets, temporary and permanent storage of recovered artifacts, shipping of artifacts out of Jordan for analysis, and the relationships among Jordanian and non-Jordanian archaeologists; and 4) to develop ideas relating to the improvement of the management of Jordan's prehistoric past by the Department of Antiquities; suggestions published in this volume are those of the individual authors only and do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Department of Antiquities.

Invitations were sent to all prehistorians who had worked in Jordan within the past several decades, announcing that the meeting was scheduled for 25-28 May, 2009. One day was devoted to visits to local prehistoric sites, and a total of 37 papers, authored and co-authored by 36 archaeologists, was presented to the meeting. Almost all of the papers focused on the recent progress of research, and the majority

of the contributions presented in this volume are a reflection of this aspect of the conference.

The final day was devoted to the discussion of the management of prehistoric research and heritage. Various major themes came out of this discussion, including: the need to continue to encourage better research collaboration between Jordanian and international research teams; a better recognition of the importance of Jordanian prehistory; the continuing need for survey; more training in prehistory and its research techniques for Department of Antiquities staff; a need for better compliance with Department of Antiquities regulations by projects, combined with greater clarity on regulations from the Department of Antiquities; the development of an agreed strategy concerning excavation, where sites under threat could be prioritized; an improvement in storage of prehistoric material, clarification of the needs of conservation and display of prehistoric sites, with an assumed default position of backfilling excavation trenches unless a conservation and display plan has been agreed and is ready for implementation; and the development of improved liaison with local communities to help foster a sense that prehistoric archaeology is part of every Jordanian's heritage.

The results of the more than six hours devoted to a lively exchange of opinions and ideas was far too broad and involved to cover in this volume, but certainly there was a great deal of spirited and supportive dialogue about Jordan's "prehistoric future," which appears to enjoy a solid foundation and enthusiastic interest.

Various suggestions were made concerning the establishment of a board or steering committee under the Department of Antiquities leadership in order to provide whatever support the Department might need.

There was a unanimous expression of gratitude by the prehistorians towards the Department of Antiquities for all the assistance and support proffered by the Department.

On behalf of the participants in the conference, we would like to express our thanks to the following institutions for making the meeting possible: The Department of Antiquities, the American Center of Oriental Research (ACOR), the Council for British Research in the Levant (CBRL), the German Protestant Institute of Archaeology, and l'Institut Français du Proche-Orient (IFPO).

Palaeolithic and Epipalaeolithic