

**IN MEMORIAM:  
SIEGFRIED MITTMANN  
(12.10.1933 – 29.4.2022)**

*Zeidan Kafafi and Jens Kamlah*

Prof. Dr. Siegfried Mittmann died on April 29, 2022 in Tübingen at the age of 88. He was a very well-known scholar and researcher on the national and international scales of the Ancient Near Eastern Studies and Biblical Archaeology. He served as a Director of the Institute of Biblical Archaeology in the Faculty of Protestant Theology at Tübingen University from 1978 to 1999.

Prof. Mittmann was born in 1933 at Goldau in Westpreusia. He studied Protestant Theology and graduated in 1959. In 1960 he was appointed as an assistant at the Institute of Biblical Archaeology in Tübingen, which was established that year. He participated and followed up in building this academic unit from its beginning. In 1962 he joined the “Lehrkurs” offered by German Protestant Institute of Archaeology (DEIHL).

During the years 1963-1966 Prof. Mittmann lived with his family in Jerusalem. From Jerusalem he travelled and wandered extensively in northern Jordan and conducted an intensive archaeological survey. In 1970 he published the results of this survey in his PhD dissertation:

“Beiträge zur Siedlungs- und Territorialgeschichte des nördlichen Ostjordanlandes”. Abhandlungen des Deutschen Palästina-Vereins 83, Wiesbaden 1970.

In addition, for his habilitation which he received in 1971, he submitted a scientific study entitled “Deuteronomium 1,1-6,3 literarkritisch und traditionsgeschichtlich untersucht”; Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft 139, Berlin/New York 1975.

Both monographs, as well as numerous



scholarly articles, revealed Siegfried Mittmann to be a perceptive and resourceful researcher whose work was characterized by meticulous observations, careful analyses, and methodological thoroughness. His research method of combining archaeological studies with analyses of biblical texts has contributed significantly to our understanding of both biblical narratives and the archaeology and history of Jordan. Mittmann’s interest, however, was not only related to the biblical period, but to all periods of Jordan’s history. Of particular importance are his studies of Roman milestones and the Roman road system in Jordan.

In 1978 Siegfried Mittmann took-over from Arnulf Kuschke the Chair of Biblical Archaeology in the Faculty of Protestant Theology at Tübingen University, and he held that chair until his retirement in 1999. During this period Mittmann started an excellent scientific relationship with both national and international institutions. His sincere efforts made the Institute an international center for Biblical Archaeology.

Siegfried Mittmann gained experience in archaeological excavations in Kamid Al Lawz (Lebanon) and in Bāb Adh DHirā' (Jordan). With Paul Lapp, the excavator of Bāb Adh DHirā' at that time, an intensive cooperation connected him already since the survey in Northern Jordan. The pottery finds of the survey had been studied by Siegfried Mittmann with the help of Paul Lapp. The interest in the archaeology of Jordan led Siegfried Mittmann to his most important scientific work: the joint expedition to the Early Bronze Age site KHirbat Az Zayraqūn (1984-1994) in northern Jordan, which he conducted in cooperation with Yarmouk University represented by Mo'awiyah Ibrahim. Under the direction of Siegfried Mittmann and Mo'awiyah Ibrahim, a Jordanian-German team has excavated large parts of the Early Bronze Age city of KHirbat Az Zayraqūn, including a city wall, two city gates, a temple precinct, a palace, and an area with domestic houses. As a result of Mittmann's archaeological activities, he was appointed as a corresponding member of German Archaeological Institute in Berlin in the year 1988.

Another focus of his research was historical topography and settlement history. This is reflected among others by his research in the "Tübingen Atlas des Vorderen Orients" (TAVO), which he conducted together with Wolfgang Röllig and many other scholars at Tübingen.

Siegfried Mittmann influenced the scientific direction of the discipline of Biblical Archaeology in Germany by his involvement in two

non-university institutions: The German Protestant Institute of Archaeology in Jerusalem and 'Ammān (DEIHL) and the German Society for the Exploration of Palestine (DPV). It is thanks to his commitment that both institutes of DEIHL, the Institute in Jerusalem and the Institute in 'Ammān, have been expanded and that the Institute in 'Ammān, despite severe crises, has been preserved as an important research institute for archaeology and history of Jordan. On behalf of the DPV he was editor of the monograph series (*Abhandlungen des Deutschen Palästina-Vereins*; 1975-1999 together with Manfred Weippert) and of the journal (*Zeitschrift des Deutschen Palästina-Vereins*; 1975-1993 together with Manfred Weippert and 1994-1998 together with Dieter Vieweger).

Of Siegfried Mittmann's international activities it should be mentioned here that he organized in 1986 the third "International Conference in the History and Archaeology of Jordan" held in Tübingen. Moreover, in 1990 he was announced as an "honorary member" of the "South African Society for Semitics," which was followed in the years 1996 and 1999 by honorary awards of the universities Bloemfontein and Stellenbosch.

With the death of Prof. Dr. Siegfried Mittmann Jordan and the archaeology of Jordan lost an excellent friend and archaeologist who studied and presented the Jordanian archaeological heritage to the world. For Siegfried Mittmann we are very much thankful.