

PHILIP C. HAMMOND – IN MEMORIAM “THE LION OF PETRA”

Philip C. Hammond, professor of archaeology and pioneer excavator of the Nabatean capital city of Petra, devoted some fifty years of his life to archaeological research, excavation, and restoration in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. His death on February 24, 2008 marked a significant loss for the community of archaeologists, researchers, and intellectuals who love Jordan, and who commit their time and talents to press ahead in the knowledge and appreciation of that remarkable part of the Near East. Philip is survived by his wife of 15 years, Lin Hammond, to whom he was married on December 5, 1992, and who was his companion in exploration and excavation at Petra.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, on May 5, 1924, Philip Hammond was raised and educated in the New York area. As a young man he served in the U.S. Army in the European theater during World War II, participating in the allied invasion at Normandy at age 20, and earning the Bronze Star. After the war, Philip began his university studies at New Jersey's well known and idyllic “college in the woods”, graduating in 1948 with a B.A. from Brothers College and in 1951 with a B.D. from Drew Theological Seminary – both schools are now part of Drew University in Madison, New Jersey. He immediately began advanced work at the Graduate School at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, and earned his M.A. in Semitics in 1953. Philip spent 1954 and 1955 studying at the American School of Oriental Research in Jerusalem (now known as the W. F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research). During that time he also excavated with Kathleen Kenyon at Jericho (Tall as-Sultan), supervising work in the famous north trench, and assembling a colorful collection of anecdotes about the famous Dame Kenyon.

Upon returning to the United States, Philip completed his doctoral work with a dissertation entitled *A Study of Nabatean Ceramics*, earning his Ph.D. in archaeology from Yale in 1957.

Philip's university teaching career began at Lycoming College in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, as assistant professor of religion from 1957 to 1960. Throughout his career he taught courses in archaeology, anthropology, history, and biblical and religious studies, in addition to the many scholarly articles, archaeological reports, and other professional publications he produced. From Lycoming he moved on to the Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, New Jersey, as assistant professor of Old Testament from 1960 to 1966. He then accepted a position at Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts, where he was associate professor of Mediterranean archaeology from 1966 to 1969. He finally found his home in Salt Lake City at the University of Utah, where he taught for twenty five years, from 1969 to 1994, as professor of anthropology (earning status as a full professor in 1974). After retirement from Utah in 1994, Philip and his wife Lin moved to Fountain Hills, Arizona, where he remained active in academics as adjunct professor of archaeology at Arizona State University in nearby Tempe. He remained an emeritus professor of anthropology at Utah, assisting his remaining graduate students in their degree pursuits. Philip graduated numerous M.A. and Ph.D. students, some of whom followed his footsteps as archaeologists working at significant sites in Jordan and neighboring countries.

Philip's career directing archaeological expeditions in Jordan began in 1959 at Petra, when he joined with co-director Peter J. Parr of the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem in the first ever excavation of ancient private

Nabatean homes in Petra. Building upon that experience, Philip organized the American Expedition to Petra (AEP), and became its director. In 1961-62 Philip and the AEP took on a very ambitious project – the excavation of ancient Petra’s theater. Carved into the solid hillside of the outer Siq during the first century AD, the ancient Nabatean Theater featured 45 rows of seating and had a capacity to accommodate over five thousand people. Every visitor to Petra today passes by that magnificent theater, but its excavation by the AEP was just the beginning of Hammond’s legacy to the people and culture of Jordan. After 1962, however, Petra would be put on hold for an over decade while Philip worked elsewhere in the kingdom.

Philip’s interest in excavating an ancient biblical site was a natural product of his position as assistant professor of Old Testament at Princeton Theological Seminary. Like many archaeologists of his era, who taught both archaeology and biblical studies at institutes of religion, the effort to better understand the intersection of archaeological research and the study of the biblical texts motivated Philip to undertake an expedition in the West Bank area of Palestine, which was part of the Kingdom of Jordan at that time. Only one major biblical site in Jordanian territory remained unexplored, the site of ancient Hebron. Philip organized and directed the American Expedition to Hebron (AEH) which surveyed and excavated the site of biblical Hebron (Tell er-Rumeide) from 1963 to 1966. Hebron was a difficult site in terms of logistics, being located at the end of the road that led south from Jerusalem along the cis-Jordanian mountain ridge, just at the edge of the 1949 armistice line with Israel. Travel, supplies, staff, and relations with the local population were just a few of the challenges. But Hammond worked out those issues during his 1963 survey season, and was able to conduct three successful summer seasons of excavation in 1964, 1965, and 1966. The planned 1967 season was pre-empted by the June war with Israel that year, which saw the West Bank area come under Israeli control. During Hammond’s three dig seasons he opened seven areas at Tell er-Rumeide, and exposed numerous significant details of ancient Hebron’s history and material culture. Utilizing skills he had developed while excavating with Kenyon

at Jericho, Hammond devised an intricate system for discerning and recording Hebron’s complicated stratigraphy, revealing occupation levels from Early Bronze Age I and III, Middle Bronze Age II, Late Bronze Age I and II, Iron Age I and II, and the Hellenistic, Roman, and Byzantine periods.

Although he had hoped to return to Hebron in the post-1967 period, when Philip realized that the West Bank would not be returning to Jordanian control any time soon, he returned to his focus on Petra. He revived the American Expedition to Petra in 1973 with a project that would occupy the rest of his life – the excavation and restoration of the Temple of the Winged Lions. Other projects at Petra were undertaken as well at the same time. From 1974 to 1977 the AEP excavated a series of Nabatean private houses on the northeast slope of Wadi Musa. And winter seasons of excavation in 1981 and 1982 at Tall ash-Shuqayfiya in Egypt were also part of Philip’s legacy. But summer after summer, for twenty five excavation seasons over a span of thirty years, Philip returned to Petra with his AEP staff of experts and student volunteers to uncover and restore ever more of the Temple of the Winged Lions, making it one of the significant archaeological attractions for the increasing thousands of annual visitors to Petra, as well as perhaps the most intricately and scientifically excavated site at the Nabatean capital from the mid 1970s until the mid 1990s. In addition to the restoration of the temple itself, the AEP unearthed numerous artifacts, some of which were important enough to become quite famous, such as the sandstone “Eye Idol,” a large, rectangular, inscribed deity figurine with prominent eyes, eyebrows, nose, and lips. The “Winged Lions” name given to the temple by Philip was based on the remarkable feline decorated capitals he recovered in the edifice. The temple itself is thought to have been dedicated to the goddess Allat, but it is often referred to as the temple of al-‘Uzza. The complex consisted of the temple’s main worship hall, residential areas, and workshops, such as the marble workshop, the oil workshop, the metal workshop, the painter’s workshop, and even a souvenir workshop. The temple was apparently erected in AD 28, during the reign of the Nabatean king Aretas IV, and the whole complex was destroyed by the earthquake

of AD 363. Publications on AEP finds at Petra were prepared at regular intervals, appearing in a wide variety of journals and periodicals, and are, as a result of the expansion of the internet, widely available. Most notable of these include Philip's 1996 scientific summary report, *The Temple of the Winged Lions*, and his reports in the *Annual of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan (ADAJ)*, specifically ADAJ 32 (1988), ADAJ 38 (1994), and ADAJ 42 (1998), all on the temple, as well as ADAJ 8-9 (1964) on the theater.

In a way, the "Winged Lions" image defined Philip Hammond himself, who could be aptly described as the "Lion of Petra". Philip himself became somewhat of an iconic image over the years. In some ways a remnant of "old school" archaeology, he developed new and modern techniques for excavation that affected the way that not only he himself excavated, but also his colleagues who came to Petra to uncover other major features. His AEP dig headquarters at Nazzal's Camp became a hub of intellectual and social activity each season over the decades that Philip excavated at the temple. And his expedition staff were readily recognizable in their military style khaki shirts with embroidered AEP insignia. Hammond outfitted his staff at AEP, and earlier at AEH, in uniform garb reminiscent of the old Jordan Legion, and he himself often accessorized his own uniform with a flowing red and white checkered Jordanian Kufiyyah. His flamboyant, colorful style and swashbuckling attitude were trademarks of his approach to archaeology, which he regarded not only as scientific research, but also as the adventure of a lifetime. For him, archaeology was not just a profession, it was a passion. Philip was also the quintessential lover of Jordan and things Jordanian. He was hosted on several occasions by His Majesty the Late King Hussein, and enjoyed a personal friendship

with the Jordanian royal family. At the time of his passing, efforts were underway to grant him a Jordanian passport, a tribute to his lifetime of service and love for the country.

On a personal note, and as one of Philip's many students and Ph.D. graduates who have gone on to a career in archaeology and teaching, I am honored by the invitation to prepare this modest memorial and necrology, which in no way can really honor Philip C. Hammond in the manner he deserves. I am just one of many with whom Philip worked and joked, just one of many students with whom he has graciously shared his talents, his research, his material, and even his excavation projects, allowing us to develop, expand, publish, and grow into our own as archaeologists. In my own case, Philip opened his lab, his office, his files, and even his own treasury of memories to allow me total and complete access to all of his material from the AEH excavations at Hebron, and he seemed always more than happy to do so. I know from personal experience that he has done the same for others of my colleagues who have worked with him at Petra or who have otherwise worked with his AEP materials. He was genuine and generous to the end. I express both gratitude and satisfaction at having known him, having learned from him, and having been treated so very generously by him, as I know do my colleagues who were likewise his students and fellow archaeologists. This is dedicated to you, Philip, and to your lovely and generous wife Lin, from all of us. Farewell and rest well, Lion of Petra.

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