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Images of Rural Activities on Mosaic Pavements in Late Antiquity in the Levant

DPhil Archaeology

Volume II

Images of Rural Activities on Mosaic Pavements in Late Antiquity in the Levant.

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Osrhoene

CAT:1

Mosaic Pavement at Sarrin

1. Location: Osrhoene, Sarrin. East of the Euphrates.

2. Discovery/Excavation: Excavations at site winter of 1982/83.

3. Context: Unknown. Four sides of peristyle uncovered decorated with six figural panels. Unsystematic excavations, nothing else known about the building to which the pavements belonged. Villa? Public Building?

4. Mosaics:

Two long figural panels decorate each end of peristyle, two small figural panels underneath on each side of each long panel to form u shape. Each group of three panels surrounded by broad u shaped border.

Nilotic Border: Runs along top edge of panels showing Heracles, Auge, Dionysiac procession and Europa and Bull. Forms u-shape. Water lilies, other aquatic plants, different species of wading bird, heron pecking turtle, dotted at intervals along length of border. At one end (above panel of Heracles and Auge): running crocodile with fish in mouth. To the right is a running man with net and rod looking over his shoulder at chasing crocodile. Along opposite side of border (above panel of Europa, Bull, and one edge of Dionysiac scene): A procession. Reclining Nile god in chariot (object in left hand), pulled by two hippopotamuses attached by garland to chariot. One hippopotamus ridden by putti. Garland pulled by two more putti in front. Putti rides crocodile, beckoning rest of procession forward. Next, simple rectangular Nilometer, putti chisels Greek numerals onto it (see 5, No. 1, below). Last is building: two stories, doorway with man entering. Represents Alexandria? (Balty, 1990, 67).

Panel of Europa and Bull: Figure of Europa sits on back of bull. A winged putto holds bull's tail. Winged putto leads bull by rope. Top right-hand corner is representation of walled city. Damaged Greek inscription names city as Sidon (see 5, No. 2).

Vine-scroll Border: Runs along top of panels showing marine Aphrodite, Artemis, Meleager and Atalanta, forms u shape. Vine branches shoot out of two jars in top corners. Scrolls contain baskets of grapes, various birds (cockerel, ducks, wading birds), animals. Scenes of vintage, hunt (man confronts leopard with spear, man fires bow and arrow). At top right-hand side, man sits on basket, plays flute.

Other Mosaics: Other figural panels. Long panel showing Artemis hunting with bow, man either side hunting: left, man with spear and leopard, right, man with spear and boar. Small panel of Meleager and Atalanta sitting together flanked by horses. Small panel of marine Aphrodite standing in shell, winged putti, tritons, fish. Long panel showing Dionysios, Ariadne, grapes, dancing, drunken procession. Small panel shows Heracles (with club, wearing animal skin), Auge on knees, winged putti.

5. Mosaic Inscriptions:

No. 1.

Greek numerals on Nilometer in Nilotic border. Above panel of Europa and the Bull.

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Greek numerals 17 (bottom), 18 (above).

(Picture: Balty, 1990)

No. 2.

Greek inscription. Panel of Europa and the Bull.

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6. Date: Unknown. Balty (1990: 83) dates on stylistic grounds to late fifth/early sixth centuries.

7. Condition: Good condition. Large area of damage to middle of panel of procession of Dionysos. All other areas intact, however, apparently extensive restoration upon removal to museum in Aleppo.

Bibliography

Balty.J., 1990. *'La Mosaique de Sarrin'*.

Dunbabin.K.M.D., 1999. *'Mosaics of the Greek and Roman World'*, 184-185.

Hachlili.R., 2009. *'Ancient Mosaic Pavements'*, 100-105.

Plan 1:

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Figure 2: Details of the vine-scroll border

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Figure 3: Details of the Nilotic border.

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Figure 4: Personification of the Nile

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All pictures from Balty, 1990.

Syria Prima

CAT:2

House of the Calendar.

1. Location: Syria Prima, Antioch, Mount Staurin.

2. Discovery/Excavation: Discovery and excavation in 1935 during the wider excavations by the University of Princeton.

3. Context: Villa with a large triclinium opening into a colonnaded portico and a pool.

4. Mosaics:

Triclinium: The pavement of the triclinium was divided into two panels, the larger panel of the calendar and a more narrow panel underneath (facing the entrance) containing the imagery of Oceanus and Thetis.

Calendar panel: The outer border consists of a wide diamond grid pattern, while the inner border is made up of geometric panels containing lozenges, squares and circles. These borders surround three sides of the panel. The fourth side is that adjoining the lower panel of Oceanus and Thetis and is separated from that panel by a plain band of tesserae. The main panel is square with a large inscribed circle. In the corners of the square are bust personifications of the Four Seasons (only two of which survive in a fragmentary state: Winter and Spring). Winter is female with a part of a wing remaining. Spring is also female and wears a blue tunic and a wreath of fruit and flowers. The circle is divided into radial panels that once contained the full length personifications of the Months. The fragments of only six of the Months remain; January, February, March, April, May and June.

Panel of Oceanus and Thetis: A marine scene with the personifications of Oceanus (reclining on a rock) and Thetis (also seated) surrounded by water filled with marine creatures (such as fish, eels and shellfish).

Other Mosaics: The portico: The pavement of the portico (from which the triclinium is reached) is divided into three panels. Two of the panels are decorated with geometric patterns, while the third contains the figure of a fisherman. The fisherman is black, wears a loincloth and carries a pole with baskets suspended from each end.

5. Mosaic Inscriptions: The only inscriptions are those from the panel of the Calendar. Greek name labels are attached to the surviving Months and Seasons. These Greek labels are those of the Macedonian Calendar of Antioch. See Levi, 1947: 36-7

6. Date: Exact date unknown. Levi states (1947: 36) that the archaeological evidence suggests a date immediately after the earthquake of A.D 115.

7. Condition: The main panel of the triclinium has suffered very heavy damage, with large areas of loss. The pavement of the portico has survives relatively intact.

Bibliography.

Levi, D., 1947. *The Mosaic Pavements of Antioch*, 36-40.

Plan 1

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Figure 1: Detail of the Calendar.

The image originally presented here cannot be made freely available via ORA because of copyright.

CAT:3

The Constantinian Villa

1. Location: Syria Prima, Antioch, Daphne.

2. Discovery/Excavation: Discovered during the excavations of the University of Princeton in 1935.

3. Context: Four rooms were uncovered belonging to the same building, thought by the excavators to be the remains of a large private villa (see Levi, 1947: 226). Some further rooms were also discovered close by and may also have belonged to this same building.

4. Mosaics:

Room 1: A large room measuring some 12.5m by 8.3m. The pavement is divided into two panels; a large square panel (containing the imagery that concerns this Thesis) and a smaller rectangular panel.

Main Square Panel: There is a wide geometric border containing a series of figural panels along its length (three panels on each side). These panels contain images of human pastoral and rural activity and various plants and animals. Six small square panels sit in the corners of the border and the corners of the border of the rectangular panel, although here the imagery is lost. These six panels contain personifications of abstract ideas. The main panel contains an octagonal pool at its centre and four trapezoidal panels on each side. The trapezoidal panels are divided from each other by full length personifications of the Four Seasons and an acanthus scroll border. These panels each contain various scenes of hunting.

Rectangular Panel: The rectangular panel is divided into ten square panels (in two rows of five) and one row of rectangular panels (five) on the western side. These panels are surrounded by a narrow running meander pattern (and the outer wide border that frames the entire mosaic pavement). The decoration of these panels alternates between geometric and figural. The figural imagery is mythological in nature and is contained within medallions set within the squares and elliptical medallions set within the rectangles. The three figural rectangular panels each contain a human figure: A dancing satyr; a maenad (very heavily damaged), Herakles (reclining, wearing a cloak and holding a club). The five square panels also contain mythological figures: The bust of a satyr; bust of a maenad, an almost entirely lost female(?) bust, female bust (also damaged) and finally a male bust, described by Levi (1947: 244) as that of Silenus.

Other Mosaics: The pavements of Rooms 2 and 4 have been almost completely destroyed. In Room 4 some figures remain engaged in wrestling and sport. The mosaic of Room 3 has a geometric design of crosses, ellipses and medallions. No evidence remains to suggest that figural imagery was contained within the medallions or ellipses.

5. Mosaic Inscriptions: Greek name labels for the six personifications of abstract ideas contained within the wide border of Room 1. Four of the inscriptions remain: See Levi, 1947: 226.

6. Date: First quarter of the fourth century. A coin of Constantine the Great was recovered from the mortar bed of the pavement of Room 1, giving the mosaics a *terminus post quem* (see Levi, 1947: 226).

7. Condition: The mosaics of Room 1 survive in relatively good condition and generally intact. There are some patches of damage to the western and eastern sides of the large square panel and areas of loss scattered across the smaller rectangular panel.

Bibliography

Levi, D., 1947. *Antioch Mosaic Pavements*, 226-56.

Plan 1

The image originally presented here cannot be made freely available via ORA because of copyright.

From Levi 1947.

Figure 1: Floor of Room 1

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Figure 2: Pastoral scenes

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Figure 3: Hunting scenes

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Figure 4: Hunting scenes

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All pictures from Levi, 1947.

CAT:4**The House of the Worcester Hunt**

1. Location: Syria Prima, Antioch, the suburb of Daphne.

2. Discovery/Excavation: Excavations began at site in 1981.

3. Context: Believed to be a villa. The pavements were uncovered without any important archaeological material to help with dating. Three rooms discovered set in a line, a large one flanked by two smaller ones.

4. Mosaics:

Pavement of the Worcester Hunt : I have discussed the imagery and composition of this pavement in great detail in Chapter 2, Part 1 and 2. A central figure stands in the centre of the pavement and leans on a staff. Around him on the four sides of the pavement hunting scenes and scenes of animal chase are taking place, organised into an inner and outer register.

The Honolulu Hunt : Also discussed in Chapter 2, Part 2. This pavement decorates one of the two smaller rooms. A row of animals are distributed along the four sides, surrounding a single animal at the centre (similar composition to the Worcester Hunt above).

Other Mosaics: The other smaller room consists of an all over vegetal design. Large heart shaped leaves are arranged in alternating directions across the pavement.

5. Mosaic Inscriptions: None survive

6. Date: Pavements of the building dated stylistically to approx. AD 520/30. See my detailed discussion in Chapter 2, Part 1.

7. Condition: Good. The pavement of the Worcester Hunt survives almost entirely intact. There are small areas of damage, concentrated mainly in at the edges of the main field and the acanthus scroll border has suffered more damage. The pavement of the Honolulu Hunt also survives in good condition, and the whole of the composition is recognisable. The pavement of the third room has small areas of damage, but is relatively complete.

Bibliography

Levi, D., 1947. *The Mosaics of Antioch*, 363-66.

Kondoleon, C., 2005. 'Mosaic of the Worcester Hunt', 228-36

Figures on the next page.

Figure 1: The pavement of the Worcester Hunt

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Figure 2: The pavement of the Honolulu Hunt.

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CAT:5**The Pavements of the Yakto Complex**

1. Location: Syria Prima, Antioch, the suburb of Daphne.

2. Discovery/Excavation: The complex was discovered in 1932, during the work by the University of Princeton.

3. Context: Unknown. There are several different levels of pavements and structures. It may be that these pavements belonged to an extensive private villa, but the archaeology is extremely complex. A good starting point for understanding the evidence is Levi (1947: 279), and then subsequent publications and discussions of the site. This entry is only concerned with the two pavements that are relevant to my discussion.

4. Mosaics: Both pavements have been discussed in minute detail in Chapter 2, Part 2 The mosaic of the Hunting Amazons: This shows three huntress (one on horseback), one of whom attacks a lion

The Pavement of Megolapsychia: A detailed and elaborate hunting pavement. A central roundel contains the bust personification of Megolapsychia (named in Greek). Two registers of imagery are oriented on the four sides of the pavement. The inner register contains scenes of animal chase and the outer various images of hunters (also named in Greek) and their prey.

Other Mosaics: A number of other figural pavements including the famous and invaluable topographical border; a running border of scenes from the daily life of the suburb of Daphne (including local architecture), where the complex is situated. This surrounds the Megolapsychia Pavement.

5. Mosaic Inscriptions: Only the Greek name labels that accompany the figures and the personification in the main field of the Pavement of Megalopsychia.

6. Date: Hunting Amazons attributed a date of the mid fourth century date by Levi (1947) and other scholars. The Pavement of Megolapsychia has been attributed a date of approx. AD. 450-75, although this date has been questioned (see my discussion in Chapter 2, Part 2).

7. Condition: Good. Both pavements have been preserved in a relatively complete state.

Bibliography

Levi, D., 1947. *The Mosaics of Antioch*, 279-283, 322-45.

Plan 1: The Pavement of Megolaphychia and its topographical border.

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Figure 1: The panel of the Hunting Amazons

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CAT:6**The Dumbarton Oaks Hunt.**

1. Location: Syria Prima, Antioch, on the slopes of Mt. Staurin.

2. Discovery/Excavation: Excavations carried out in 1938, during the excavations at Antioch of the University of Princeton.

3. Context: Thought to have come from a private villa. Unfortunately the walls of the room had been taken (quarried) at some point in the past. Only a section of the pavement itself has survived.

4. Mosaics: Dumbarton Oaks Pavement: Detailed discussion of the imagery and composition in Chapter 2, Part 2. The figure of a huntress holding a bow stands at the centre of the pavement, with a dead lion at her feet. Various other animals are dotted around. Underneath are two hunters with spears turned in opposite directions and facing an animal.

Other Mosaics: No other pavements or rooms.

5. Mosaic Inscriptions: None discovered.

6. Date: Attributed a date of approx. AD. 500/20 by a number of scholars (see my discussion in Chapter 2, Part 2).

7. Condition: The half of the pavement has been lost. The north side of the pavement has survived with part of the border. There are no other surviving associated pavements.

Bibliography

Levi, D., 1947. *The Mosaics of Antioch*, 358-9

Figure 1: Detail of the pavement

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CAT:7

Martyrium of Seleucia Pieria

1. Location: Syria Prima, Seleucia Pieria (the port of the city of Antioch).

2. Discovery/Excavation: Excavated during the campaigns of 1936 and 1938 by Princeton.

3. Context: Church: A centralised plan with an inner quatrefoil formed by colonnaded exedrae.

4. Mosaics: Mosaics covered the whole of the ambulatory that surrounded the quatrefoil, except for the area surrounding the chancel. The decoration of the ambulatory consisted of a wide band containing two series of animals opposed back-to-back. The size of the different animals does not correspond exactly with their real size (the elephant is not much bigger than a bird and some gazelle, for example). There are a range of different species of animals, including the elephant, zebra, birds and other animals.

Other Mosaics: Only scattered patches of tesserae survive in the other areas of the church.

5. Mosaic Inscriptions: None survive.

6. Date: Unknown. Donceel-Voûte (1988: 295) based on the style of the mosaics, suggested a date of the early sixth century. Levi (1947: 359-60) suggested that the construction of the church must have been before the earthquake of AD 526.

7. Condition: Fragmentary. Only the pavement of the north aisle of the ambulatory and the passage between the ambulatory and the chancel have been recovered, with large scattered patches of damage.

Bibliography

Levi, D., 1947. *The Mosaics of Antioch*, 359-63

Donceel-Voûte, P., 1988. *Les Pavements des Eglises Byzantine de Syrie et du Liban*. 290-98.

Plan and figure are on the following page.

Plan 1:

The image originally presented here cannot be made freely available via ORA because of copyright.

Figure 1: The animals in the ambulatory:

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Syria Secunda

CAT:8

The Pavement of the Grand Colonnade

1. Location: Syria Secunda, Apamea (the provincial capital).

2. Discovery/Excavation: Discovered and excavated by a Belgian team in 1932, 1936 and 1938.

3. Context: Mosaic pavement approx. 100 m long that paved one side of a portico along the main street of Apamea. This impressive pavement consists of a number of different panels showing different scenes of the countryside and rural life.

4. Mosaics: A large number of panels containing different scenes. Many of the scenes contain images of animal chase and combat. All of the scenes have naturalistic settings, to give the impression that they are taking place in the countryside. These panels include: a camel caravan; a waterwheel, hunting dog and various images of lions

5. Mosaic Inscriptions: Inscription survives that gives the date of the construction of the pavement:

Ἐψήρω[λογή- (?)]
 θη ἡ βῆρ[ις - -]
 προ(-) Ἰουλιανῶ (?)]
 τοῦ μ[εγαλοπρ(επιστάτου) (?).]
 νοβ [- - -]
 ς ἐν μ[ηνὶ Ἀρτε-]
 μισ[ίου τοῦ]
 πψ ἔ[τους vac. (?)]

6. Date: Pavement is dated by inscription (see above) to AD. 469.

7. Condition: There are large sections of loss and damage along the entire length of the pavement. See Dulière, 1974: 71, who includes a (very) long pull out plan of the entire mosaic.

Bibliography

Dulière, C., 1974. *Mosaiques des Portiques de la Grande Colonnade*.

Figure 1: Camel caravan

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Figure 2: Waterwheel

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Figure 3: Hunting dog

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CAT:9**The Pavements of the Triclinos Building**

1. Location: Syria Secunda, Apamea (the provincial capital).

2. Discovery/Excavation: Discovered in 1935, by a Belgian team of archaeologists.

3. Context: Grand residence. Possibly the residence of the provincial governor? See Chapter 2, Part 2. The building had many rooms, including a portico and a grand function room (in which the Hunting pavement is laid). See Balty, 1969: 4, for a large and full plan of the site and the various rooms so far uncovered.

4. Mosaics: Pavement of the Amazons : Depicts two mounted Amazons armed with spears hunting different big cats.

The Hunting Pavement: Very impressive and well executed pavement showing a number of different scenes of hunters in combat with wild beasts.

5. Mosaic Inscriptions: Inscription at the doorway of the room of the Hunting pavement:
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6. Date: The pavement of the Amazons has been dated stylistically to the second half of the fifth century. The inscription at the doorway of the Hunting pavement gives the date AD. 539 (see above). For a detailed discussion see Chapter 2, Part 2.

7. Condition: Good. Both pavements have been preserved in a relatively complete state.

Bibliography

Balty, J., 1969. *La Grande Mosaique de Chasse du Triclinos*.
 Dulière, C., 1968. *La Mosaique des Amazones*.

Figure 1: The Hunting Amazons

The image originally presented here cannot be made freely available via ORA because of copyright.

Figure 2: The Hunting Pavement

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CAT:10**Church at Soran**

1. Location: Syria Secunda, Soran, a village to the north of Hama and southeast of Apamea.

2. Discovery/Excavation: Discovery and excavation in 1968.

3. Context: Church: the mosaic pavements were discovered on the floors of rooms adjoining a small and simple church and possibly belong to a baptistery and its annex.

4. Mosaics:

Pavement of the larger room: The top panel: only a third of the mosaic has survived. It consists of rows of octagons and squares set into a complex geometric design of squares and diamonds. The Nilotic imagery is contained within the squares and octagons. There are fish and plants and in the surviving octagon of the third row, a sailing boat contains a cargo of four amphorae (with no crew, just the cargo). In the second, lower panel various Egyptian plants and birds (for example a duck sits on a water lily) are contained within a diamond grid design.

Border: a running pattern of heart shaped leaves and scrolls.

Other Mosaics: the pavement of the smaller room is surrounded by a wide geometric and guilloche border. The main field consists of a grid design filled with birds (including ribboned pigeons).

5. Mosaic Inscriptions: Two inscriptions.

Inscription in the pavement containing Nilotic Imagery:

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Inscription in the pavement of the smaller room:

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6. Date: Unknown. Donceel-Voûte (1988: 306), has used inscriptions contained within pavements in the wider building to attribute a date of the late fifth century.

7. Condition: Large areas of heavy damage. The two panels of the larger room have extensive areas of damage. The pavement of the smaller room also has significant loss.

Bibliography

Donceel-Voûte, P., 1988. *Les Pavements des Eglises Byzantine de Syrie et du Liban*, 301-7

Figure 1: Detail of the upper panel

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Figure 2: Detail of the lower panel

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Phoenicia Maritima

CAT:11

The Villa at Jenah.

1. Location: Phoenicia Maritima, close to the city of Beirut.

2. Discovery/Excavation: Uncovered and excavated in 1971.

3. Context: Villa. Large private residence with at least fourteen rooms.

4. Mosaics:

Pavement with hunting and pastoral scenes (3.95 x2.95 m): Image of the shepherd (leaning on a staff and on one leg) is at the centre of the main field. A variety of different animals are arranged around him in ten registers.

Border: filled with plants and fruit.

Other Mosaics: small vine-scroll design pavement. Ten scrolls containing birds. Animals and plants (including a basket of grapes).

Acanthus scroll border containing little hunting figures.

5. Mosaic Inscriptions: Only an inscription of two Greek letters in one of the other pavements of the building.

6. Date: Exact dates of the pavements are unknown. The pavements are from different periods and phases of construction at the site.

Chehab suggested a date of AD. 475-500 for the pavement containing the hunting and pastoral iconography and a date of AD. 500-600 for the vine-scroll design pavement. The other pavements from the villa are attributed late fifth to early sixth century dates. There seems to have been subsequent agreement with these dates (in Dauphin and Edelstein, 1993, in their discussion of the Church of Nahariya, and also Merrony, 2013: 200).

7. Condition: Large patches of damage.

Bibliography

Chehab, M., 1957. *Mosaics du Liban*, 53-79.

Merrony, M., 2013. *Socio-Economic Aspects of Late Roman Mosaic Pavements*. 199-200.

Lavin, I., 1963. 'The hunting pavements of Antioch', 270-2.

Plan 1: Taken from Chehab, 1957.

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Figure 1: The hunting images of the acanthus scroll.

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Figure 2: The pastoral imagery (the shepherd).

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Figure 3: Vine-scroll pavement

CAT:12**The Church of Khalde.**

1. Location: Phoenicia Maritima, south of Beirut.

2. Discovery/Excavation: Discovery and excavation in 1959, as part of excavations and surveys in the wider area, under the direction of Richard Liân

3. Context: Church: 32 x 23 m. Apse, nave, two aisles, narthex and two small rooms coming off the top of the south aisle and a small room at the top of the north aisle.

4. Mosaics: The church is paved throughout with detailed designed mosaic pavements. The pastoral scene is contained within the room that leads off the top of the north aisle. This pavement consists of three panels. The top and the bottom panel are very similar in composition and the choice of imagery used; both have small medallions at their centre, with four rectangular panels arranged around it. These panels contain fish and other animals. The central panel contains a large central medallion in which the shepherd/hunter stands.

The upper panel of the nave contains a pavement in which various birds, fish, boats and animals are placed inside a diamond grid design. In the top left corner, a donkey carrying a large basket; a boat with a sail and oars at the stern, a large sail boat containing cargo, oars at the stern and the inscription discussed below.

Other Mosaics: The entire church is decorated with mosaic pavements. Some are geometric, but most are filled with images of various animals, plants and birds. In the first room leading off the top of the south aisle is the representation of an architectural façade (church representation?).

5. Mosaic Inscriptions: A very brief Greek inscription has survived by the representation of a boat laden with amphorae. See Chapter 3, Part 1 for brief discussion of its possible meaning:

‘Wealth of peace’ or perhaps ‘Boat of Peace’.

6. Date: Unknown. Donceel-Voûte (1988: 370), has attributed a date at the end of the fifth century, based on the style of the pavements

7. Condition: Some areas of damage and loss, but generally the decorative scheme of the church has survived intact.

Bibliography

Donceel-Voûte, P., 1988. *Les Pavements des Eglises Byzantine de Syrie et du Liban*, 359-71

Plan 1:

The image originally presented here cannot be made freely available via ORA because of copyright.

Figure 1: Donkey and boats of the pavement of the nave.

The image originally presented here cannot be made freely available via ORA because of copyright.

Figure 2: Panel containing the shepherd/hunter

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CAT:13**Church of St. Christopher**

1. Location: Phoenicia Maritima, very close to Beirut.

2. Discovery/Excavation: The church and its pavements were uncovered in 1862.

3. Context: Church: three apses, nave, and two aisles.

4. Mosaics: The entire decorative scheme has survived intact. The pavements are very well designed and executed.

Nave: The main pavement of the nave contains a vine-scroll design pavement. The scrolls contain images of the vintage (including a screw press), the hunt and pastoral scenes.

Aisles: Both the aisles contain medallions in rows of two. Many of the medallions are filled with matching animals facing each other. The other contains personifications of the months and winds (with Greek name labels).

5. Mosaic Inscriptions: Several Greek inscriptions in the building, including the dedicatory inscription:

Γέγονεν τὸ πᾶν ἔργον τῆς ψεφόσεως τοῦ ἐνδόξου
καὶ πανσέπτου μάρτυρος ἁγίου Χριστοφόρου,
ἐπὶ τοῦ
θεοφιλεστ(άτου) Γεωργίου ἀρχιδ(ιακόνου) (καὶ)
χορεπισκ(όπου) (καὶ) ἐπὶ τοῦ θεοφιλεστ(άτου)
Κύρου διακ(όνου) καὶ ἐπιτρ(όπου) ὑπὲρ σωτηρ-
(ίας) τῶν δύο κτημάτ(ων) οἰκονό-
μων (καὶ) γεοργῶν (καὶ) τῶν τέκνων αὐτῶν (καὶ)
τῆς κλήρου (καὶ) τῶν καρ-
ποφοροῦντ(ων) ἐν χρόνοις τοῦ θεοσεβεστ(άτου)
Ζαχχαρία πρεσ-
βυτέρου ἐλαχίστου ἐν μηνὶ Δεσίου τοῦ ΨΑ ἔτους
ἰνδ(ικτιῶνος) Θ.

6. Date: AD. 575, dated in the Greek dedicatory inscription, see above.

7. Condition: Excellent condition, very little damage across the pavements.

Bibliography

Donceel-Voûte, P., 1988. *Les Pavements des Eglises Byzantine de Syrie et du Liban*, 411-20

Figure 1:

The image originally presented here cannot be made freely available via ORA because of copyright.

CAT:14**Villa at Jiye**

1. Location: Phoenicia Maritima,

2. Discovery/Excavation: Discovery and excavation in 1975.

3. Context: Thought to be from a private villa. The room in which the Nilotic panel was found measures approx. 5 x 8 m. Little remains of the rest of the structure that this room belonged to.

4. Mosaics:

Nilotic panel: Small panel that was set in the centre of a larger pavement. A male representation of the River Nile is pulled on a carriage by bears(?) and a little *putto*. Underneath two figures are in a rowing boat with a crocodile swimming beneath them. Birds and plants are interspersed across the pavement.

Other Mosaics: Remains of a border of plants and fish.

5. Mosaic Inscriptions: None

6. Date: Unknown. Ortali-Tarazi and Waliszewski (2000: 174) suggest a date of the end of the fifth century.

7. Condition: Large areas of the main field have been lost, although the Nilotic panel itself remains intact.

Bibliography

Ortali-Tarazi, R., and Waliszewski, T., 2000. 'La Mosaique du Nil découverte à Jiye', 165-75.

Figure 1 on the next page.

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Phoenicia Libanensis

CAT:15

Church of St. George at Deir al-Adas

1. Location: Phoenicia Libanensis, approx. 45 km south-west of Damascus.

2. Discovery/Excavation: Excavation began in 1959 and finished in 1960 as part of excavations and survey being carried out across the area.

3. Context: Church: Simple plan, with apse, nave and two aisles.

4. Mosaics:

Nave: Nave is in three registers containing scenes of the hunt and also the vintage. All of these scenes are set in a realistic landscape.

Wide panel at the top of the nave: Representation of a man leading a string of camels that are carrying large loads. The man is labelled in Greek 'Mouchasos the camel driver'.

Border: interlaced knots surround the main pavement of the nave. .

Other Mosaics: the pavement of the north aisle is divided into panels containing geometric decoration with inscriptions set into them.

5. Mosaic Inscriptions: The pavement of the north aisle contains four panels all of which contain inscriptions. There is also an inscription by the man leading camels in the nave (See Donceel-Voûte, 1988: 52-3 for full translations and descriptions).

One of the panels contains the date of the construction of the mosaics, AD. 722:

+ Ὑπὲρ σοτηρίας κ(αὶ) ἀφέσε-
ω(ς) ἀμαρτηῶν Πέτρου πρεσβ-
υτέρου κ(αὶ) ἡγουμένου τὸ παρὸν ἰα-
τ(ρ)ῆιον ἐπιφόθι κ(αὶ) τὸ λυπὸν τοῦ
ναοῦ τοῦ ἁγίου Γεοργίου μη(νὸς) Ἰαν-
ουαρίου Κ̅ ἰνδ(ικτιῶνος) Ε̅ ἔτους ,ΑΛΓ̅

6. Date: Dated by inscription to AD 722 (see above).

7. Condition: Much of the bottom and northern side of the pavement of the nave has been lost. Any pavements that once decorated the apse and the tops of the aisles have also been lost. There are patches of damage scattered across the remaining areas of mosaic.

Bibliography

Donceel-Voûte, P., 1988. *Les Pavements des Eglises Byzantine de Syrie et du Liban*, 45-55

Plan 1

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Figure 1, details of the pavement of the nave is on the next page.

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Palaestina Prima

CAT:16

Villa at Eleutheropolis

1. Location: Palaestina Prima, Eleutheropolis (Beth Govrin, Beit Djebriin) to the south of Bethlehem.

2. Discovery/Excavation: Discovery and excavation in 1921, L.H.Vincent.

3. Context: Pavement is thought to have belonged to a villa. The main pavement is some 9.5 x 5 m.

4. Mosaics:

Pavement: The main field of the pavement contains a series of octagons, containing animals and diamonds, containing personifications.

Border: Wide border containing pastoral and hunting scenes. These scenes are set in realistic countryside and run on from each other, giving the sense of a landscape in which all these activities are taking place at the same time.

5. Mosaic Inscriptions: Greek name labels for the personification of the main field of the pavement.

6. Date: Unknown. Versluys (2002: 229) suggest a date between AD. 400-600.

7. Condition: Large areas of heavy damage. Some sections seem to be known only from photographs from the original excavation report.

Bibliography

Vincent, L.H., 1922. 'Une Villa Greco-Romaine a Beit Djebriin'.

Versluys, M.J., 2002. *Aegyptica Romana*, 229-30.

Figure 1:

The image originally presented here cannot be made freely available via ORA because of copyright.

CAT:17**Villa at Caesarea**

1. Location: Palaestina Prima,

2. Discovery/Excavation: ? .

3. Context: Pavement is thought to be from a villa. The main pavement is some 9.5 x 5 m.

4. Mosaics: A vine-scroll design pavement. The vine scrolls shoot out from ornamental vases in the corners of the design. Few of the scrolls remain intact. The ones that survive contain images of animals and scenes of the hunt and vintage. A man and his hunting dog occupy two scrolls of the third row. In the fourth row is the partially damaged figure of a flute player. Rabbits, a leopards and birds are contained within the other scrolls.

Other Mosaics None

5. Mosaic Inscriptions: None.

6. Date: Unknown. Attributed a sixth century date. See Hachlili, 2009: 136.

7. Condition: Large patches of damage. Most of the left-hand side of the pavement was destroyed by a later wall and the bottom half has been lost.

Bibliography

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Plan: Detail of the vine-scroll pavement, is on the next page.

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Palaestina Secunda

CAT:18

Monastery of the Lady Mary

1. Location: Palaestina Secunda, Scythopolis (Beth-Shean, Beth-Shan).

2. Discovery/Excavation: University of Pennsylvania Museum began excavations at the monastery in 1930.

3. Context: Monastery, founded by a Lady Mary (see mosaic inscriptions No 3, No 4, below).

4. Mosaics

Hall A: (see also mosaic inscriptions No 1, No 2, below). The room is not symmetrical (it is an irregular oblong), 16.40 metres along the longest (east) side, 9.70 metres at its widest (the south side).

A surround of white tesserae dotted with lozenges and then a guilloche border. The main field consists of a scheme of octagons, squares and rhombi. Due to the shape of the room the scheme is irregular. At the centre of the field sits a large medallion.

Smaller rhombi and squares filled with a variety of birds, fish (including a dolphin) and fruit. Larger octagons contain a number of birds (including peacocks) and animals (including a camel, lion, gazelle and dog). In three octagons, top row (northern end) is a wild boar, a man on horseback shooting arrows and his wounded quarry. One octagon of the second row from the bottom (southern end) once contained a figure of a man (now damaged).

Large central medallion: In centre of the medallion is a circle containing two half-length personifications of the Sun and the Moon (both holding torches). The Sun is crowned with sun-rays and the Moon is crowned with a crescent.

The rest of the circle is divided into twelve compartments in a radial design. Each compartment contains a full length figure of a man. These twelve figures represent the twelve months. By the feet of each figure is the (Latin) name of each month and the number of days of each month in Greek characters (with some abbreviations) (Fitzgerald, 1939, 7). January is almost totally lost, except for the head, a foot and the identifying inscription. February holds a pitchfork/rake and is dressed in a short tunic without footwear. March is a warrior with a shield (but not armed). April carries a goat and a basket and May carries flowers in a cloak. June carries bunches of grapes. July carries a sheaf of corn. Only the head and part of the inscription remains of August. September holds a basket and also a knife (a reference to the vintage). October carries a net (?) (Fitzgerald, 1939, 7). It looks to me as though the figure of October is, in fact, using his cloak to carry something, rather than a net. November is carrying a bunch of reeds or rushes (?) in his right hand. December holds bowl of seeds in one hand and scatters them with other.

Room L: (see also mosaic inscription No 5, below) Mosaic paves a small room off the northern end of Hall A. The pavement, like Hall A, not symmetrical, being 5.30 metres at the south end and 4.60 metres at the north end. There is a narrow surround of plain tesserae with lozenges dotted at intervals and a guilloche border. The main field has a vine scroll design. There are a number of damaged patches across the pavement.

Vine branches shoot out of an amphora sitting at the bottom of the pavement (at the centre). Branches form three rows of scrolls (four to a row). In each scroll is a figure or scene. **Bottom row, left to right:** In the first scroll a man leads a donkey laden with grapes; in the next scene a man harvests grapes with knife and basket, followed by scroll containing a man leaning on a stick. The final scene on the bottom row has been damaged and only the head of a donkey remains. **Middle row, left to right:** First scene is a vintager carrying bunches of grapes; next is another vintage scene of a man cutting grapes. The third scroll shows a man sitting on a stool/basket playing a single pipe with a dog sitting on hind legs in front of him. The last scene in this row is damaged and contains the remains of a man treading grapes and possibly part of a wine press. **Top row, left to right:** A man with a spear and shield attacks an animal (lioness (?)) with two cubs). The next two vine scrolls are damaged and only the top of a man wearing a cloak (on horseback?) remains, followed by the hind quarters of a beast attacked by another man wearing a cloak. The final scroll contains a black man stripped to the waist, leading an animal. The spaces between vine scrolls are filled with birds, grapes and animals.

Other Mosaics: The pavements of the other rooms and corridors of the building are less detailed, with mostly geometric/simple vegetal decoration.

The floor of Chapel G has survived. **Main field:** thirteen rows of medallions containing small birds and two larger medallions containing peacocks, surrounded by a guilloche border.

5. Mosaic Inscriptions:

The Greek and translations used here are from Fitzgerald, 1939, pages 13 to 16.

MOSAIC INSCRIPTIONS IN THE MONASTERY

No 1

At the main entrance to the hall A; in tabula ansata.

+Πρ[οσφορά] (?) ὑπέ[ρ μν]ήμητ κ(αί) τελ(ε)ίας
 ἐν Χ(ριστ)ῷ ἀναπαύσεως Ζωσίμου
 ἰλλουστρίου, κ(αί) σωτηρίας
 κ(αί) ἀντιλήψεως Ἰωάννου
 ἐνδοξ(οτάτου) ἀπὸ ἐπάρχων, κ(αί) Πέτρου
 κ(αί) Ἀραστασίου φιλοχρίστων

Inscription continued on the next page.

κομίτων, κ(αι) παντός τοῦ εὐλογ(η)μέν(ου)
αὐτῶν οἴκου, εὐ[χαῖς τῶν Ἁγί]ων. Ἀμήν +

+An offering (?) on behalf of the memory and perfect rest in Christ of Zosimus, Illustrious, and the preservation and succour of John, the most glorious ex-prefect, and of Peter and Anastasius, Christ-loving Counts, and of all their blessed house, through the prayers of the Saints. Amen. +

. Πρ[οσφορά] ? The symbol following the cross at the beginning of the inscription, if it be not meant for a monogrammatic cross, may stand for προσφορά in the sense of a gift or benefaction for the purpose of Masses for the dead.¹ In this case the offering would be the mosaic pavement of the hall.

No 2. In the hall A, just outside the monument K, in tabula ansata.

+Χ(ριστ)έ ὁ Θε(εὸ)ς ἡμῶν, σκέπη κ(αι) ἀντίληψις
γενοῦ
κυρ(ί)ου Ἰωάννου ἐνδοξ(οτάτου) ἀπὸ ἐπάρχων
κ(αι) τοῦ
εὐλογημένου αὐτοῦ οἴκου, εὐχ(αῖ)ς τῶν Ἁγίων +
Ἀμήν

O Christ our God, be Thou the protection and succor of Lord John, most glorious ex-prefect, and of his blessed house, through the prayers of the Saints. Amen.

No 3

In room D outside the door of the chapel G, in tabula ansata.

Χ(ριστ)έ ὁ Θε(εὸ)ς Σωτῆρ τοῦ κόσμου, ἐλέησον
τὴν φιλ(ό)χ(ριστο)ν κυρ(ί)αν Μαρίαν κ(αι) τὸν
ταύτης υἱὸν Μάξ(ι)μον, κ(αι) ἀνα-
παύσον τοὺς αὐτῶν γ(ο)νεῖς,
εὐχαῖς πάντων τῶν Ἁγίων. Ἀμ(ή)ν.

O Christ, God, Saviour of the world, have mercy upon the Christ-loving Lady Mary and her son Maximus, and grant rest to their forefathers, through the prayers of all the Saints. Amen.

No 4.

In the chapel G, at the southeast corner

[+ᾠπο]ν ἐστὶν τὸ στεφαν(ο)σταυρί(ο)ν
[ἐκ(ε)ῖ κ]εῖτ(αι) τὸ πελλαῖκόν τοῦ

Inscription continued on the next page

στόματος τοῦ μνημ(ε)ίου ἔχ(ο)ν
 κρικ<ε>ία· καὶ ὁ βουλόμενος ἐπ(αί)ρει τὸ
 στεφαν(ο)σταυρί(ο)ν κ(αί) εὕρισκει τὸ πελλα-
 -ῖκόν κ(αί) θάπτει. Εἰ δὲ θελήσῃ ἡ κυρ(ι)α
 Μαρία (ἡ) τόνδε τὸν ναὸν κτ(ι)σασα
 κατατεθῆναι ἐν τ(ῶ)δε τ(ῶ) μνημ(ε)ίῳ,
 ἢ τ(ι)ς ποτε τῆς αὐτῆς γενεᾶς, ἐγὼ
 Ἑλλ(ε)ίας, ἐλέει Θε(ο)ῦ ἐ(γ)κλ(ει)στός, ἐν
 ὀνόματι
 Π(ατ)ρ(ὸ)ς κ(αί) Υ(ι)οῦ κ(αί) Ἁγίου
 Πν(εύματος) εὐλογῶ κ(αί) ἀναθε-
 ματίζω ἕκαστόν τινα μετ' ἐμέ
 κ(ω)λύοντα ἢ αὐτήν ἢ τινα τ(ῶ)ν αὐτῆς
 ἢ κ(αί) ἐπ(αί)ροντα ταῦτά μου τὰ
 + γράμματα +

Where the wreath-cross is, there lies the . . . (?)
 of the mouth of the tomb, having rings; and he
 who wishes lifts up the wreath-cross and finds
 the . . . (?) and buries the dead. But if the Lady
 Mary, who founded this church, desires to be
 laid in this tomb—or anyone of her family at any
 time—I, Elias, by the mercy of God a recluse, in
 the name of Father and of the Son and of the
 Holy Ghost curse and anathematize everyone
 after me that hinders her or any of hers, or that
 takes up this my inscription.

No 5.

In the doorway of room L.

+ Ἐτελ(ε)ιώθη σὺν Θε(ε)ῶ
 τὸ ἔργον ἐν χρόνοις
 Ἑλλ(ε)ίου θεοφ(ιλιστάτου) πρεσβ(υτέρου)
 [ἐγ]κλ(ειστοῦ) [ἔτει . .] χ' ἰνδ(ικτιῶνος) β'

The work was completed with the help of God
 in the time of Elias the most religious priest and
 recluse, in the year 6 - -, the 2nd indiction.

6. Date: AD 567 approx. Date based upon mosaic inscriptions (see Fitzgerald, 1939, 160).

7. Condition: The building and mosaics have survived well (no evidence of deliberate damage to any mosaics).

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Starr, J., *AJP* 58, 83. 1937.

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Plan 1

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Figure 1: The calendar of Hall A

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Figure 2: Pavement of Room L

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CAT:19**Tomb/Chapel at el-Hammam**

1. Location: Palaestina Secunda, Scythopolis (el-Hammam), (Beth-Shean, Beth-Shan, Beisan).

2. Discovery/Excavation: Discovered and excavated in 1934 by Makhouly and Avi-Yonah.

3. Context: Tomb, possibly chapel consisting of a main hall (north wall 5.95m, south wall 5.75m, east, west walls 5m) and a narthex (north wall 2.20m, south wall 2m, east, west walls 5.90m).

4. Mosaics

Main Hall: Main field of the mosaic consists of vine scroll growing from the centre of the acanthus border (the side facing the entrance). In the corners of the acanthus border are images of human heads (three preserved). In corners above them are fruits and leaves. The branches of the vine form fifty-six scrolls in eight rows of seven. The vine scrolls are filled with animals (including hares, boar, ibex, sheep, big cats, and a goat), birds (including peacocks, doves, pheasants, and partridge), vintage scenes and baskets of fruit.

The mosaic is well executed and the animal/human figures are detailed and attractive. The figures filling the vine scrolls of the fourth row from the bottom are particularly well done. The first two scrolls of the fourth row show a hunter armed with a spear attacking a boar. The central scroll of this row contains the figures of three men treading grapes with their arms outstretched. Next a donkey carries grapes, followed by a man with a whip (carrying grapes on his back). In the second scroll (sixth row) a man sitting on upturned basket plays flute (the rest of the scene is lost).

Narthex: Single mosaic panel in the narthex. There is a narrow white surround, with a row of black then white tesserae.

Border: Twisting ribbon motif. **Main panel:** Personifications of the twelve months on a white background. Each month is accompanied by a Greek inscription giving the Latin name and the number of days in the particular month. Much of the panel has been lost. Avi-Yonah (1935, 22) proposed that the months were originally arranged in two groups of six, with each group in two rows. The panel was probably not continuous as July stands too far to right of centre line of panel (there was therefore a space between the two groups of months), (Avi-Yonah 1935, 22). January has been almost entirely lost; there remains only part of the dress and yellow sandals. February was largely destroyed, with part of the leg remaining. March has not survived and only the head and shoulders remain of April (carrying lamb (?)) (Avi-Yonah 1935, 23). May is almost entirely lost except for a piece of red clothing and a Greek inscription. June lost. July represented as a young man wearing a blue tunic and holding a leaf filled with fruit. August is represented as a young man wearing a green tunic and holding a red jug and a yellow object¹. September is a young man in a red tunic. His right hand holds jar onto his shoulder and his left hand holds a hen/cockerel. October lost. November is a man wearing a blue tunic and holding a bundle of sticks in his right hand, with a basket (trap) in his left. December is the only surviving month represented as woman, wearing a green dress and flowing cloak. In her left hand she carries a mattock.

¹ Avi-Yonah (1935, 24) suggested a fan.

5. Mosaic Inscriptions:

Narthex: Surviving months of mosaic of narthex are named by Greek inscriptions, also giving the number of days in each month.

No other inscriptions from site.

6. Date: Unknown. Dated by Avi-Yonah (1935, 28-30) to the mid-sixth century.

7. Condition: Vine scroll mosaic pavement of the main hall is badly damaged. The bottom right-hand corner has been lost and there is damage at the top. There is also damage to the left-hand side. Only the right-hand corner and top left-hand corner of narthex survives intact.

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Figures 1 and 2 on the next page.

Figure 1: Vine-scroll pavement

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Figure 2: Calendar

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CAT:20

The House of Kyrios Leontis

1. Location: Palaestina Secunda, Scythopolis (Beth-Shean, Beth-Shan, Beisan).

2. Discovery/Excavation: Excavations 1964.

3. Context: Exact context is unclear. Generally agreed that this building was a private house adjoining a synagogue (Zori 1966, Avi-Yonah 1975, Whitehouse 1979, Ovadiah A., and Ovadiah R., 1987). Plan: Three rooms set around a courtyard.

4. Mosaics

Hall 3: Mosaic is divided into three panels (total area: 3.20m wide by 8.50m long).

Upper panel: scene of Odysseus and the Sirens (Zori, 1966, 128). At the top right-hand corner is a boat with a young man tied to mast. To the left, below the boat is a Nereid riding an Ichthyocentaur. Below this is another boat containing two amphorae, a man stripped to the waist, fighting off a sea-monster (partly damaged) with a trident. In front of another man is a Siren playing a flute. In the centre of the panel is a Greek inscription (see 5, No 1, below).

Middle panel: Greek inscription of eight lines (see 5, No 2, below) within circle with red, black border. At the right hand of the fourth line is a *menorah* (damaged). The rest of the panel is decorated with six rows of beribboned parrots (twenty-six total), interspersed with diamonds and sprigs.

Bottom panel: Nilotic imagery. In the upper right-hand area is a male personification of the River Nile, stripped to the waist, sitting on the back of an animal². The Nile stretches out his right hand which holds a duck, his left hand holds a reed. He rests his elbow on rounded jug. Water flows from the jug and runs downward to a body of water at the bottom of the scene. In the opposing upper corner is a schematic representation of a city labelled 'Alexandria' in Greek. Next: a tower topped by a conical roof (a Nilometer), this is divided into horizontal bands and inscribed with Greek numerals running from eleven at the bottom to sixteen at the top. Below this are a city representation and a bull being attacked by an animal, most likely a crocodile. At the bottom of the panel are a boat with a man and three jars (?) with conical tops. The boat is flanked by two birds (one a heron), papyrus plants and two fish.

Other Mosaics: No other mosaics dating to same period in the building.

5. Mosaic Inscriptions: (Taken from Zori 1966, pp 132-133).

No 1. The inscriptions of two lines

Κ(ύρι)ε β(ο)ήθ(ει) Λέοντι Κλούβ(α)
Lord, help Leontis Kloubas

No 2. The inscription of eight lines

Μνήσθη/ εις αγαθόν κ(αί) (ε)ίς/ εὐλογίαν ὁ Κύρ(ιος) Λεόντις/ ὁ
Κλούβας ὅτι ὑπὲρ (menorah) σ<ω>τηρίας αὐτοῦ κ(αί) τοῦ ἀδελφοῦ
² αὐτοῦ Ἰωναθα/ ἐψήφ<ω>σεν τὰ ὄδε/ ἔξ <ι>δ<ι>ων

Be remembered for good and for praise Kyrios Leontis Kloubas because he paved this with mosaic at his own (expense) for his own salvation and that of his brother Jonathan.

No 3.

The inscription of the lower panel

Ἀλεξανδρία

6. Date: Unknown. Excavator (Zori 1966) dated mosaic (Hall 3) to middle of Fifth century.

7. Condition: Considerable part of top of mosaic from Hall 3 has been lost.

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Plan 1 and Figure 1 are on the next page.

Plan 1:

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Figure 1

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CAT:21**The House of the Nile Festival**

1. Location: Palaestina Secunda, Sepphoris (Diocasaerea). City is located approximately at the halfway point between the Sea of Galilee and the Mediterranean.

2. Discovery/Excavation: Excavations began in 1991 by Israeli team led by Netzer and Weiss.

3. Context: Exact context unclear. Generally agreed that this structure was a public building as there are no religious symbols linking it to a particular community; it is situated close to other public buildings, it is a large and richly decorated complex of rooms with no discernible domestic features. The building measures some 50m long x 35m wide and is divided into two wings by a corridor, included an open courtyard and had at least two entrances.

4. Mosaics

Hall of the Nile Festival: This room is the largest in the building, 7.6m x 6.2m. The pavement consists of a single panel that is divided into four registers (although still supposed to be read as a single large picture).

A decorative border containing a row of birds runs along the top of the pavement. A Greek inscription in the centre of this border reads '*Have success*' (Netzer and Weiss, 1994) or '*Use in good luck*', Weiss and Talgam, 2002).

In the upper register (left corner) a female personification of Egypt (Greek identifying inscription by the figure's head) is seated. She rests her right elbow on a basket filled with fruit and in her left hand holds a cornucopia overflowing with fruit. She wears a flowing robe (exposing her torso) and is crowned with a wreath of corn.

Other Mosaics: Many of the rooms in the building contained decorative mosaic pavements both geometric and figural. A wide variety of themes and iconographical categories are represented, including mythological subjects (such as a panel depicting hunting Amazons, see Netzer and Weiss, 1996: 55-3).

5. Mosaic Inscriptions: Inscriptions in Greek contained within the panel of the Nile Festival described above. Leah Di Segni (2002: 91-100) has translated and discussed in detail all of these inscriptions; the inscription at the west entrance to the building, the inscription in the upper border of the Nilotic mosaic and the identifying inscriptions in the Nilotic mosaic (all below):

6. Date: Exact date unknown. Archaeological evidence from the site (including coins embedded into the floor) has led the excavators and subsequent scholars to assign a date to the mosaics of not earlier than the beginning of the fifth century. See Weiss and Talgam, 2002: 60.

7. Condition: In good condition, although there are patches of damage dotted across the surface of the pavement, concentrated particularly on the right side of the pavement.

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Plan 1

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Figure 1: Nile festival pavement

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Figure 2: Personification.

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Figure 3: Nilometer.

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CAT:22

Diakonikon and Baptistery at Jabaliyah

1. Location: Palaestina Secunda, on the coast close to Gaza.

2. Discovery/Excavation: Discovery and excavation in 1996-7, by the Antiquities service of Gaza.

3. Context: Church: A basilica, the foundations of which are in a very poor state of preservation. A chapel (diakonikon) is attached to the building at the western side. A baptistery is also located in the complex.

4. Mosaics:

Main pavement: Shows a landscape in which several scenes are 'taking place'. These scenes include animal chase and fowling.

Border: Contains an image of a man with two goat; fruit trees and rabbits. There is also an inscription on the southern side of the panel, with the date of the construction.

Other Mosaics: In the same complex is a baptistery that contains a vine-scroll pavement. The surviving scrolls contain an elephant and a giraffe. This pavement has suffered very heavy damage. Part of a Greek inscription survives giving the date of the pavement.

5. Mosaic Inscriptions: Two inscriptions in Greek. One on the pavement of the Diakonikon and one on the pavement of the baptistery. See Humbert, 2000:121-7 for more details.

6. Date: Pavement of the Diakonikon dated by Greek inscription to AD. 451 and the pavement of the baptistery dated to AD. 549, also by Greek inscription.

7. Condition: Large areas of heavy damage. The pavement of the Diakonikon survives relatively intact, however, large sections of the pavement of the baptistery has been lost.

Bibliography

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Figure 1: Pavement of the Diakonikon

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Figure 2: Giraffe and elephant at the baptistery.

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CAT:23**Synagogue at Beth Alpha**

1. Location: Palaestina Secunda, Beth Alpha (west of Scythopolis).

2. Discovery/Excavations: Building discovered in 1928, excavations 1929 by Hebrew University, Jerusalem.

3. Context: Synagogue. Rough rectangle: 27.7m x 14.2m, projecting apse, adjoining room on the western side.

4. Mosaics

Nave: All the figural mosaics are schematic and rather eccentrically drawn.

Border: Sides vary in style. Southern, western sides: diamond panels filled with birds, fish, plants, grapes, geometric designs, with small lozenges dotted around. Eastern side: Vine scrolls containing various animals (rabbits eating grapes, birds). Northern side contains panel with inscription flanked by a horned bull and a lion.

Upper panel: Shows the Torah Shrine in the centre, topped by a gabled roof, a lantern suspended from the apex and flanked by two birds (ostriches(?), (Sukenik, 1932, 22)). Two seven branched *menorah* sit either side of the Shrine and below them are two lions. Various ritual objects shown either side of Ark (see Sukenik, 1932, 27-32, for full explanations). On either side of the scene are curtains.

Middle panel: The largest of three panels of nave depicts the Circle of the zodiac. The outer circle and inner circle are contained within a square. In the corners of the enclosing square are female personifications of the Four Seasons (heads and upper bodies shown) with wings and inscribed with Hebrew names. Spring holds a shepherd's crook and a bird pecking flowers. Summer is shown with fruit beside her. Autumn holds fruit, with a star above her head; a bird on her right wing, palm tree to the left and two two-handled jars (?) beside a palm. Winter carries a pot of olives (?), with leaves by her left wing. The outer circle contains twelve signs of zodiac in a radial design, all identified by Hebrew inscriptions. From the top (going clockwise): Gemini portrayed as twins with linked arms, Cancer as very schematic crab, Leo a lion sticking out its tongue (perhaps supposed to be roaring!) with claws sticking out of its paws. Virgo is portrayed as a woman on a throne wearing a long decorative dress. A guilloche separates Virgo from next sign, Libra who is shown as a man holding scales and standing on one (left) leg (scales obscure right leg). Scorpio is a scorpion with raised tail (sting dotted red to show poison (Sukenik, 1939, 37)); a guilloche separates next sign. Sagittarius is a man standing turned to the left and holding bow and arrow in his left hand. Capricorn is a goat with only its forelegs remaining. Aquarius is shown as a man drawing water from a well/cistern with a bucket. Another guilloche divides Aquarius from Pisces represented by two fish swimming in opposite directions. Ares is a ram with horns. Taurus is shown as a bull with long horns, humped back and divided from Gemini by guilloche. The inner circle shows Helios as a man crowned by sun-rays riding a chariot drawn by four horses and surrounded by stars and a crescent moon.

Bottom panel: Shows the sacrifice/binding of Isaac. Left to right: Two men leading a saddled horse/ass(?); a ram bound to tree branch, Abraham holding a knife in his right hand and Isaac (with bound hands) in his left, lastly an altar with flames. There appears to be a hand coming out of the top of the panel above Abraham's head (hand of God, Divine Hand motif).

Other Mosaics: Simple geometric designs.

5. Mosaic Inscriptions:

No. 1. Inscription from Avi-Yonah, 1933.

Zodiac panels: The twelve signs, each inscribed, beginning with the Ram **טלא** and continuing: Bull **שור**, Twins **תאומים** (joined together like Siamese twins), Cancer (**סרטן**), Lion (**ארייה**), Virgin (**בתולה**) (a richly decorated figure sitting on a throne), Balance (**מאזנים**) (man holding the balance), Scorpion (**עקרב**), Archer (**קשת**) (man shooting to the right), Lamb (**גדי**) (destroyed together with its inscription and restored unskilfully), Aquarius (**ודלי**) (man drawing water from well in a bucket), Fishes (**ודגים**).

In the corners of the square are four winged busts of women, richly ornamented and inscribed respectively: **תקופת ניסן** (Spring), **תקופת תמוז** (Summer), **תקופת תשרי** (Autumn), **תקופת טבת** (Winter).

No. 2. At entrance to the nave: Panel, Greek inscription. Inscription from Sukenik, 1932.

The rectangle containing the inscription measures 1.18 by 0.27 metres. The letters are from 3 to 4 cm. high. The inscription is of five lines which neither begin nor end exactly in line.

1.	M N I Σ Θ Ο Υ Σ Ι Ν Υ Τ Ε
2.	X N I T E Y K A M N O N
3.	T E Σ T Ω E P T O N T O Y
4.	T Ω M A P I A N O Σ K A I
5.	A N I N A Σ Y O Σ

The inscription may be read as follows:

Μνησθῶσιν οἱ τεχνῖται οἱ κάμνοντες τὸ ἔργον τοῦτο Μαρριανὸς καὶ Ἄννᾶς υἱός

“May the craftsmen who carried out this work, Marianos and his son Hanina,¹ be held in remembrance!”

No. 3. At entrance to the nave. Aramaic inscription.

Inscription, Sukenik 1932, translation, Avi-Yonah 1933.

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[הדין פ]סיפסה אתקבע בשתה/ . . . [ל]מלכותה דיוסטינוס מלכ[ה]/ . . . 2.
 [דאתה]טין חטייה מאת/ ד'ינרין] . . . אתנדבון כל בני/ ק[הלתה ?] . . . בי רבי/
 א . . . [דכירין] לטב כל/ ב'ני] . . . [אמ]ן.

This mosaic was laid down in the year . . . of the reign of Emperor Justinus . . . who gave a hundred dinars . . . gave all members (sons) of the community (?) . . . Rabbi . . . honoured be the memory of all sons . . . Amen.

6. Date: AD 518-527 or AD 567-578, in the reign of Emperor Justin (see 5, No. 3, above). Sukenik (1932) suggests Justin I, on historical grounds.

7. Condition: The mosaics of the western annexe, courtyard, vestibule, eastern aisle are almost entirely lost. Mosaics of the western aisle survive almost entirely. Mosaics of the nave almost complete: zodiac panel damaged in three places (small patches on left, right-hand sides, patch at bottom-centre).

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Plan 1

Plan of the synagogue showing the positions of the mosaic pavements.

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(Plan from Sukenik, 1934)

Figure 1:

The Zodiac Panel.

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(Picture from Sukenik, 1932)

Figure 2:

Panel showing Torah Shrine and Jewish Symbols.

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(Picture from Sukenik, 1932).

CAT:24

Church of the Multiplying of the Loaves and the Fishes.

1. Location: Palaestina Secunda, Heptapegon (el-Tabgha), on shore of Sea of Galilee.

2. Discovery/Excavation: Excavations begun 1932.

3. Context: Church. Slightly irregular plan: three aisles, transept, narthex, atrium, domestic rooms and inscribed apse.

4. Mosaics:

North Transept: 6.5m long, 5.5m wide. Images do not present unified landscape picture: they are dispersed across the panel with no ground lines. Top left-hand corner: a tower with a three stepped base and a conical roof. Schneider (1937: 58) believed that this tower is a representation of a gravestone of type typical to the region. Top right-hand corner: a walled city representation that has been badly damaged. Below centre: a structure with columns that support a conical roof³. Various birds scattered across pavement; duck⁴, doves, cormorant, swan, herons, flamingo attacking snake. Plants: oleander, rushes, lotus⁵.

South Transept: This pavement is much more fragmentary: most of the right-side has been lost and also part of the central section. A large area on the left-hand side and half-way down the panel has been lost. Part of a tower is preserved on the right-hand side: large cylindrical structure topped by a conical roof and divided by horizontal lines with each one bearing a Greek numeral starting at six and ending at ten (lower part of the tower has been lost). This structure is a Nilometer. Various birds (herons, cranes) and plants (water lilies, lotus) are placed across pavement.

Other Mosaics: Transept, aisles, presbytery all paved with simple geometric mosaics. Not all of these are contemporaneous (size, style of tesserae differ), all have repairs.

5. Mosaic Inscriptions: The Nilometer of the south transept pavement is inscribed with Greek numerals.

Two other inscriptions come from the transepts and concern donors:

+ὕπερ μνήμης [κ(α)]
ἀναπαύσεω[ς]
τοῦ προ(οσ)γεννηκ[ν]-
τ(ος) ὁσ(ίου) πατρ. Μ.
τ . . .

The second inscription (ill. 11.), which also belongs to this period, is above the mosaic of the left transept. Its length is 0,90 m., the height 0,29 m. and the text is as follows:

Τῶ] ἀγ(ίω) τώπω (sic!)
+Μνήσθ<ητ>: κ(ύρι)ε Σάβρου³.

The τῶ of the first line is ascertained by the remains of the frame near the Α which can only belong to an ω. The second line is somewhat damaged on top but it is possible to fill in the missing letters with certainty.

The two inscriptions show that the funds for the restoration of the church and the mosaics were contributed by various persons.

¹ Madaba, church of Elias. R B 1897, 654; Μνήσθητι καὶ τῶν προσεγγιζάντων

³ Motif is apparently well known part of sacred-idyllic Roman landscape decorative scheme, see Rostovzeff 1926.

⁴ Schneider, 1937: 60, identifies as Egyptian wild goose.

⁵ Schneider, 1937: 59, suggests Indian rather than Egyptian lotus.

6. Date: Unknown. Schneider (1937) suggested Fourth century. Avi-Yonah (1975) and Whitehouse (1979) preferred late fifth/early sixth century.

7. Condition: Damage to mosaics of north and south transepts: north more complete. Both repaired.

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Figure 1: Pavement of the right transept.

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Figure 2: Pavement of the left transept.

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CAT:25

Church at Nahariya

1. Location: Palaestina Secunda, on the coast to the north of Haifa and Ptolemais.

2. Discovery/Excavation: The site was discovered in 1964 and systematically excavated from 1972 by the Israel Department of Antiquities.

3. Context: Church: 16 x 32 m. Large trapezoidal basilica, raised central apse, nave and two aisles.

4. Mosaics:

Nave: The main field of the nave has been partially lost. What remains is of a scale pattern in white with pink and red 'hearts' in each scale.

Border: the eastern half of the wide acanthus scroll border survives. Various scenes of hunting, the vintage animal scenes and plants are contained within the scrolls. There are several figures hunting with spears; a child? catching a bird, a man leads a horse and a naked man sits on a basket playing a flute.

Other Mosaics: Geometric pavements at the tops of the aisles and part of an interlaced knot design in the apse.

5. Mosaic Inscriptions: None survive.

6. Date: Unknown. Dauphin and Edelstein (1993: 52) attribute a later sixth century date, due to similarities in the style between this pavement and those of Qabr Hiram and Jenah in the wider region.

7. Condition: Only sections of the acanthus scroll border remains and small sections at the top of the aisles and apse.

Bibliography

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Plan and figures on the next page.

Plan 1:

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Figure 1: The flute player,

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Palaestina Tertia

CAT:26

Church at Petra

1. Location: Palaestina Tertia, Petra, approx. halfway between the Dead Sea and the Gulf of Aqaba. The old Nabatean capital.

2. Discovery/Excavation: During excavation of the city, the church was discovered in spring 1990. Excavation began in 1992.

3. Context: Church: Large building Main church: three apses, nave, two aisles and a large courtyard at its western end. There are a number of rooms located along the western and northern sides of the main building.

4. Mosaics: Only the pavements of the north and south aisle survive.

North Aisle: vine-scroll design of twenty-eight rows of three scrolls. A wide range of birds, animals and figures are contained within the medallions, including; a pair of 'camel-leopards' (giraffes, fifth row from the top) and a shepherd (twenty-fifth row).

South Aisle: Two panels. The top panel consists of three rows of two medallions, with pairs of animals facing each other. The much larger bottom panel, consists of a pattern of circles, squares and cartouches, all filled with animals, figures and personifications.

For example; the fisherman is in the bottom cartouche.

Other Mosaics: None survive.

5. Mosaic Inscriptions: None contained within the remaining mosaics.

6. Date: Unknown. Waliszewski (2001: 421), suggests a sixth century date.

7. Condition: The pavements of the aisles have survived in very good condition. All the other pavements of the church have been lost, except for a small patch of the pavement of the nave. The pavement of the nave may have been laid in some areas with marble (rather than mosaic).

Bibliography

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Plan 1:

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Figure 1

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Arabia

CAT:27

The Burnt Palace.

1. Location: Arabia. Madaba, south-east of Mount Nebo.

2. Discovery/Excavation: First excavations, 1905, M.Metaxakis. Excavations, 1985, M.Piccirillo. Further excavations, 1993/94, Ghazi Bisheh.

3. Context: Large private mansion/villa. Courtyard 1, hall 2 (9.5m x 7.3m) on eastern side, Rooms 3,4,5 on northern side, Rooms 6, 7 western side (Roman street to south).

4. Mosaics:

Room 2: 9.5m x 7.3m. Border: Narrow outer border, triangles topped with circles. Wide inner border, grid pattern. Filled with flowers, fish, birds, animals.

Main Field: Acanthus scroll design, six rows of four. Filled with pastoral, hunting and animal combat scenes. Northern, south-eastern part of the panel has been lost. Metaxakis in 1905, saw the bust of a woman (now destroyed) in a scroll in the south-east corner. Piccirillo (1993, 78) suggested that this was perhaps a personification of Ge.

Room 4: Only a small part of the southern area of the pavement remains. At the threshold is a wreathed medallion containing a bust of Tyche, she wears a turreted crown and holds a spear in her right hand (object in her left hand has been lost). In south-western corner acanthus scroll is a bust of a season (damaged).

Other Mosaics: Room 3: Corridor, two panels, geometric designs. West panel: Interlaced circles, East panel: Squares formed by diagonal bands. Room 5: Geometric design, scale pattern, plaited border. Room 6: Two main square panels, divided by strip white tesserae with a lion attacking a bull in the centre. Northern square panel: Wide plaited border, geometric main field, circles, half-circles. Southern square panel: White background with tassel shapes dotted across. Room 7: Border, two strand guilloche. Main field: geometric pattern, squares.

5. Mosaic Inscriptions: None.

6. Date: Unknown. Bisheh (in Piccirillo, 1996, 28) suggests a late sixth/early seventh century date for the laying of the pavement, destruction perhaps earthquake A.D. 747/48.

7. Condition: Fire damage, leading to the abandonment of the building in Late Antiquity, also modern buildings caused damage. Northern half of pavement Hall 2 has not survived. Large central patch of damage in the southern panel, Room 6. Only fragments remain of the pavements of Rooms, 3, 4, 5.

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 Piccirillo, M., 1996. 'Archaeological Remains', 27-28.

Plan 1:

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Figure 1: Detail of the acanthus scroll pavement.

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CAT:28**The Hippolytus Hall.**

1. Location: Arabia, Madaba, south-east of Mount Nebo.

2. Discovery/Excavation: First excavations 1905. Further excavations 1982.

3. Context: Villa. Hall: 7.3m wide (eastern side), 9.5m long (east to west). Rest of the villa has been lost. Church of the Virgin built over the top at a later date.

4. Mosaics:

Hall: Main field divided into three panels.

Western Panel: Divided into a grid design. Grid filled with Nilotic elements: Flowers, birds, plants, gulls flying over water.

Central Panel: Damaged by a later wall. Shows story of Phaedra and Hippolytus. The characters are named by Greek labels. Phaedra is assisted by maids. Hippolytus is accompanied by aides and a servant looks after his horse.

Eastern Panel: Figural scene. Aphrodite sits on a throne next to Adonis (northern side of the panel). Three Graces and cupids fill the rest of the panel. A grace presents a cupid to Aphrodite. Another Grace chases a cupid that is hiding in a tree. The third Grace (southern side of the panel) chases another cupid. Finally, a girl holds basket of fruit and a partridge. All the main figures are labelled in Greek.

Border: Acanthus scroll, hunting and pastoral scenes dotted along it. In the corners: Personifications of Seasons, Spring and Autumn on the western side, Summer and Winter on the eastern side. All represented as half bust tyche, with turreted crowns.

Along eastern wall: Personifications of three cities, Rome, Gregoria and Madaba. All these personifications are represented as Tyche seated on thrones. All hold long staffs topped by a cross in their right hands. Gregoria and Madaba wear turreted crowns, Rome wears a helmet.

Entrance: Medallion containing a pair of sandals and four birds.

5. Mosaic Inscriptions: Characters in panels of the main field are labelled in Greek. No other inscriptions.

6. Date: Unknown. Early sixth century? (Piccirillo, 1993, 66).

7. Condition: Only the hall of the villa remains. Some damage was caused by later building (particularly to the central panel of the main field).

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Figure: No. 1

Eastern and central panels of the main field, acanthus border and city personifications along the eastern wall.

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(Picture: Piccirillo, 1993).

Figure: No.2

Personifications of Rome, Madaba and Gregoria, along eastern wall.

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(Picture: Piccirillo, 1993).

CAT:29**The Church of Al-Khadir.**

1. Location: Arabia, Madaba south-east of Mount Nebo.

2. Discovery/Excavation: Discovered late 19th Century, Fr Manfredi. Excavations 1966 by the German Evangelical Institute.

3. Context: Church: 32.15m x 16.1m. Nave, two side aisles, apse, presbyterium flanked by two side rooms, narthex (uncovered in 1990s).

4. Mosaics:

Nave: Main panel is divided into three panels. **Border:** surrounds all three panels.

Acanthus scrolls: corner scrolls contain foliate masks and other the scrolls contain images of hunting, pastoral and vintage scenes. Most figures were damaged by iconoclasts. East side of the border contains

a mounted hunter with a spear and a hunting dog. South side of border contains the figure of a hunter wearing a Phrygian cap.

Main field: **Western panel:** Pastoral and hunting scenes are arranged into four registers, superimposed upon background of laden fruit trees. All figures were damaged by iconoclasts. Second register, remains of hunter wearing a Phrygian cap and holding a three pronged fork, riding an elephant. **Middle panel:** Vine scroll design, thirty-two scrolls formed by eight vine branches growing out of the corners of the panel. Hunting and vintage scenes, all the figures were damaged by iconoclasts. Haphazard placement of the figures across the surface of the pavement with figures facing in different directions (upside down etc.). **Eastern panel:** Flower grid, filled with various birds, flowers, fruit, grapes.

Other Mosaics: **Aisles, Intercolumnar spaces:** Decorated with geometric and floral designs. **Narthex:** Geometric pavement with a central medallion containing a Greek inscription.

5. Mosaic Inscriptions:

None on the pavements.

6. Date: Unknown. Mid sixth century?

7. Condition: Pavements of presbyterium: the pavements of the side rooms have been lost. Heavy damage to the pavement of the apse. Human and animal figures damaged by iconoclasts (images removed, spaces filled by lime mortar) (Piccirillo, 1993, 129).

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Plan 1:

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Figure 1: Exotic figures

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CAT:30**The Church of the Map.**

1. Location: Arabia. Madaba, south-east of Mount Nebo.

2. Discovery/Excavation: Discovered in 1884. The first plan was drawn in 1891 by G.Schumacher. In 1894 a new church was built directly on top of the foundations of the ancient church and the mosaic of the map was incorporated into the floor of the new church. Survey 1896 by Deacon C.Kikyrides. Various surveys conducted through the early twentieth century. In 1965 a restoration was carried out, uncovering further evidence (of epigraphy, construction) by the German Palestine Exploration Society.

3. Context: Church: Apse, nave, raised sanctuary, narthex to west, two rooms on south-west corner.

4. Mosaics:

Mosaic of the Map: 15.7m x 5.6m. Would have occupied the eastern section of the nave/aisles of the original church. Map, showing an area extending from Egypt and the Nile Delta to the Phoenician coast and from the Mediterranean Sea to the desert. The full extent of the map of the geographical area that the map once covered is still debated (people from Madaba claimed to have seen details of Asia Minor and Syria, before the new church was built).

The inscriptions of the map are in various colours (black, red, white) and also various sizes. Larger red captions: Territory of Biblical tribes. Elsewhere the colour and size of the captions are adapted to the importance of the site and the colour of the background. Cities, buildings of map orientated towards east (as are captions). River Nile is also shown flowing from the east to the Mediterranean. Biblical quotations and places where events from the Bible occurred and shrines/churches are marked on the map. This mosaic was apparently a map of Biblical geography.

Settlements are depicted by schematic images of walled cities (varying in size according to size/importance of site). The largest cities are shown with the most architectural detail. Jerusalem (seen from bird's eye view) is shown with identifiable principle buildings (e.g.; Holy Sepulchre, city gate, Basilica of Holy Zion, possibly Nea Theotokos Church etc.). Rivers, springs and the Sea are shown. Fish swim in Nile and the Jordan. Two large boats with masts and men with pairs of oars and a male passenger each with cargo are shown sailing on the Dead Sea. Palm trees and bushes are scattered across the surface of the pavement to bring a sense of realism. Mountains and other geographical features are also depicted.

Other Mosaics: Two rooms to the south-west were originally paved with mosaics. Only one photograph remains which shows a vine-scroll pattern, grapes and a man leading a donkey. Both rooms destroyed by the building of the new church.

5. Mosaic Inscriptions:

No dedicatory inscription was discovered. The mosaic itself has 157 Greek inscriptions/captions; place names, geographical references and biblical references. For a full list with drawings, Greek transliterations and English translations, see Alliata, E., 1999. 'The Legends of the Madaba Map', 47-101, in Alliata, E., and Piccirillo, M., *The Madaba Map Centenary*. Studium Biblicum Franciscanum: Jerusalem.

6. Date: Unknown. The general consensus is mid sixth century AD. If the Nea Theotokos Church is depicted at Jerusalem in the representation, then the date of the pavement would be after AD. 542 (Piccirillo, 1993: 29).

7. Condition: Much of the mosaic of the map was lost and there are large patches of damage across what remains. Pavements of the two rooms on the south-west corner now lost.

Bibliography

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Plan 1

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Figure 1: Area of the mosaic containing the fishing boats (the Dead Sea).
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CAT:31**Chapel of the Martyr Theodore.**

1. Location: Arabia, Madaba, south-east of Mount Nebo.

2. Discovery/Excavation: Excavations at the cathedral church complex from 1960s to 1981 (Greater part of the building is still unexcavated).

3. Context: Chapel, adjoining cathedral church, off central courtyard. 16.35m x 5.1m, main hall, step up to platform (5.1m square).

4. Mosaics:

Main Hall: Border: Wide acanthus scroll design. Scrolls filled with hunting and pastoral scenes. Four corner scrolls contain eagles. **Main field:** Rectangular panel, geometric design, four circles running down centre, each flanked by two octagons. Filled with fish, birds, a man sitting on a basket playing a flute and a man with a lasso. Four corner octagons contain personifications of the Rivers of Paradise: Ghion, Fison, Euphrates, and Tigris. All the personifications are damaged: Ghion, Fison, and Euphrates lean on overflowing jars (most of the Tigris has been lost). All hold reeds. Greek dedicatory inscription (see 5, No. 1) between a pair of two handled vases.

Other Mosaics: Pavement of western platform: Four trees (one in the middle of each side). Tree on eastern side flanked by lions, western tree flanked by deer. Border: Simple running swastika design.

5. Mosaic Inscriptions:

No.1. At the western end of the main hall. Five lines. Translation, Piccirillo, 1993.

‘At the time of our most pious and most holy Bishop John, there was built from its foundations, covered by a roof, paved with mosaics and finished the most holy place of the glorious martyr Theodore in the month of September at the time of the indication in the year 457’ (A.D 562)

6. Date: A.D 562 (Greek dedicatory inscription in front of step, see 5, No.1 above).

7. Condition: Relatively good condition. Damage to western end of main hall pavement. Damage to eastern end of platform pavement.

Bibliography.

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Piccirillo, M., 1996. ‘*Archaeological Remains*’, 37-39.

Plan 1:

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Figure 1: The flute player, vintage motif.

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CAT:32

The Southwest Chapel of the Cathedral, Gerasa.

1. Location: Arabia, Gerasa (Jerash).

2. Discovery/Excavation: Excavations: 1929-1930, Yale University, British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem.

3. Context: Chapel adjoining the Cathedral. It spans the four west bays of the Cathedral. Comprises a nave and an apse (with an arched niche at the eastern end).

4. Mosaics:

Nave: Much of the pavement has been lost and the remaining area was damaged by iconoclasts. A fragmentary Greek inscription is located beyond the border of the main field, in front of the chancel (see 5, No.1, below).

Main Field: Filled by a vine scroll design, with amphora in each corner and an Acanthus head in the centre of each side. A number of scrolls remain, although all the images contained within them have been destroyed and replaced with plain tesserae. In the centre are two rectangles each containing six squares with representations of the Months. Only parts of Greek inscriptions remain (see 5, No. 2, below). The form of the representations may have been busts? The figures have been replaced with plain tesserae.

Border: Acanthus scroll design. The images in the centre of each scroll have been replaced with plain tesserae.

Other Mosaics: None.

5. Mosaic Inscriptions:

Taken from Welles, 1938, 475.

No. 1.

Mosaic in the nave of the Cathedral chapel, immediately before the chancel enclosure, in a panel 0.21 m. high and preserved to a length of 1.80 m. Oval alphabet, letters 0.07 m., interval *ca.* 0.02 m. Ph. Pl. LIX, a.

6th cent.

✠ Ἀναπαύλης μνήμην φέρει τῶν προσαγαγόντων
[-]ου καὶ Μαρ[ίας] τῆς ἀγλαῆς ψηφίδος

Translation: 'Memorial of the repose of those who have contributed...and of Mary'.

No. 2.

In another part of the same mosaic, the month names occurring each in a separate panel
Oval alphabet, letters
0.06 m.

6th cent.

[Αὐδνα]ῖ[ος]	[Περίτιος]	Δύσ[τρος]
[Ξαν]θικός	Ἀρτε[μί]σιος	Δαίσ[ιος]
[Πάνημος]	Λῶο	Γορπ[ι]αῖος
	ς	
[Ἐπερ]β[ερε]τέος	Δῖ	[Ἀπελλαῖος]
	ος	

This is the calendar used at Antioch and commonly elsewhere, the Macedonian months being equated with the Roman, Audnaeus equaling January.

6. Date: Unknown. Second quarter of the sixth century? (Crowfoot, 1938, 215).

7. Condition: Much has been lost or damaged by iconoclasts. Fragments of the main field and the border of the nave survive.

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Crowfoot, J.W., 1941. *Early Churches in Palestine*, 41-46.

Welles, C.B., 1938. The Inscriptions, 475.

Plan 1

The Cathedral complex at Gerasa.

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Figure 1: Detail of the remains of the calendar.

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CAT:33**Chapel of Elias, Maria and Soreg.**

1. Location: Arabia. Gerasa (Jerash).

2. Discovery/Excavation: 1940s, by L.Harding, Department of Antiquities, Jordan.

3. Context: Chapel. Entrance hall on the west side. A large room divided by a step into two sections (nave and a presbyterium).

4. Mosaics:

Presbyterium: Vine scroll design. Bottom centre: Palm tree flanked by peacocks. Various birds, animals (sheep, rabbit, lion, dog), a man carrying grapes, fill scrolls. Three captioned portraits: Top row (second scroll, southern end) is a portrait of Soreg holding a branch in her right hand. Second row (first scroll, southern end) is a portrait of Elias holding a censer in his right hand. Second row (first scroll, northern end) is a portrait of Maria, holding a cross.

Nave: Main Field: Inter-looped bands forming squares, side ellipses and small circles. The squares are filled with personifications of the months (most have been lost). Some of the inscriptions and parts of figures remain. The other squares are filled with a shepherd and two other male figures. The ellipses are filled with various fish, birds and flowers. **Border:** Acanthus scroll design containing scenes of the chase and various birds and animals. Foliate masks mark the corners of the border.

Other Mosaics: Entrance hall: Geometric design; a grid filled with birds and flowers, with a meander design border.

5. Mosaic Inscriptions:

The surviving Seasons and Months are labelled in Greek. The portraits of Maria, Soreg and Elias are also labelled in Greek.

1. Inscription in nave.

Transcription :

+ Κ(ύριος) φ[υλάξει τὴν εἴσοδόν] | σου κ[αὶ τὴν ἔξοδόν σου ἀ]πὸ τοῦ
νῦν ἕως τοῦ [αἰ]ῶνος.

Translation :

+ The Lord shall keep thy coming in and thy going out from now unto eternity.

(Inscription taken from Baggati and Saller, 1949)

6. Date: Unknown. Piccirillo (1993, 296) suggests mid sixth/early seventh century date.

7. Condition: The pavement of the presbyterium survives intact. The northern half and south-western edge of the pavement of the nave survives. The southern half of the pavement of the entrance hall survives.

Bibliography

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Piccirillo, M., 1993. *The Mosaics of Jordan*, 296.

Plan 1

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Figure 1: The vine-scroll pavement.

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Both pictures from Piccirillo, 1993.

CAT:34**Church of St. John the Baptist.**

1. Location: Arabia, Gerasa (Jerash).

2. Discovery/Excavation: There is a long history of excavations in the area. Systematic excavations began in 1928 by Yale University and the British School of Archaeology, Jerusalem.

3. Context: Church: 29.5m x 23.8m consisting of a circle inscribed in a square, four *exedrae* in the corners and an eastern apse. Part of an ecclesiastical complex of three churches. Central round church of St John the Baptist, flanked by the Church of St George to the south and the Church of SS Cosmas and Damianus to the north, all three opening onto a common atrium.

4. Mosaics:

Nave: Pavement of the central square field was of a vine scroll design, now almost entirely lost.

Main panel: This panel is surrounded by a broad border of swastikas and panels containing personifications of the Months and possibly also the Seasons (all damaged by iconoclasts).

Three semi-circular segments: These are located between the central panel and the border. Each segment is over 10m wide and 4m deep (at the widest part). The north segment at its centre contains an image of Alexandria as a fortified city (with a name label in Greek). To the right of this image are a palm tree and a schematic representation of the Pharos. The rest of the right-hand side has been lost. To the left is another image of a walled city⁶. Next is an arch with a hanging lamp, tree and a square building with a tower and curtains across its windows (a shrine?).⁷ Originally another register was below but does not survive. The south segment also contains the image of a walled city at its centre (although the identifying inscription is lost).⁸ The left-hand side does not survive. The right-hand side contains a genre scene of which only fragments remain and show trees and a man leading a hoofed animal, followed by another walled city (with no inscription). Only the right-hand side of the lower register survives and shows a continuous river landscape with lotus, ducks, herons, storks and fish swimming below. The third (west) segment has not survived.

Border: Surrounding segments, *exedrae*. It is composed of three bands: A crow step on the outside; a wide inhabited acanthus scroll with human figures dotted along its length (heavily damaged by iconoclasts) and a folded ribbon design on the inside.

Other Mosaics: Little survives. South-eastern *exedrae* decorated with elaborate candelabrum that are carried by dancing figures and above this (beyond the main border), two birds flank a plant.

5. Mosaic Inscriptions:

Greek dedicatory inscription that gives the date of the construction as AD 531.

See next page.

⁶ Crowfoot (1941, 129) identifies the city as Canopus, twelve miles to east of Alexandria.

⁷ Crowfoot (1941, 129) suggests this is the shrine of SS. John at Menuthis, two miles east of Canopus.

⁸ Memphis? Memphis is shown with Alexandria at the Church SS. Peter and Paul, also at Gerasa.

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6. Date: AD 531 (according to mosaic inscription, see above).

7. Condition: Mosaic of the central square field has been lost and approximately a quarter of the other mosaic pavements survive.

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Kraeling, C.H., 1938. '*Gerasa: City of the Decapolis*', 241-249, 324-333.

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Plan 1:

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Figure 1: Representation of a shrine

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Figure 2: Detail of the acanthus scroll border.

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CAT:35**Church of SS. Peter and Paul.**

1. Location: Arabia, Gerasa (Jerash).

2. Discovery/Excavation: Excavation began 1929, Yale University and British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem.

3. Context: Church. Basilica: Memorial chapel at the north-west corner, atrium at the west end, three apses at eastern end.

4. Mosaics:

Nave: Only a small central section of the main field, part of border and a patch at the eastern end survive. **Main field:** would originally have been in three panels. Central panel: representation of the Pharos of Alexandria (damaged) flanked by schematic representations of Alexandria and Memphis. Both of these representations are identified by Greek name inscriptions. Fruit trees fill the spaces between the cities. At the top of the section is a Greek inscription contained within a rectangular panel Part of the bottom of the upper panel survives: amphorae and part of a vine scroll (the panel would once have contained a vine-scroll design). The remaining south-western corner shows that the bottom panel would also have contained a vine-scroll design. **Border:** Acanthus design. **Patch at eastern end:** small traces of a fret design with a panel containing pictures of the Seasons. **Other Mosaics:** Geometric patterns decorate surviving pavements of the eastern ends of the aisles.

5. Mosaic Inscriptions:

Greek name labels for the two representations of the cities of Alexandria and Memphis.

6. Date: Unknown. Probably early/mid sixth century (Crowfoot, 1931, 28 and Piccirillo, 1993, 292).

7. Condition: Only fragments of the pavements remain: small sections at the eastern end of the aisles, a tiny area at the eastern end of the nave, a section in the middle of the nave, and the south-western corner of border of nave.

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Plan 1

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Figure 1

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CAT:36**The Church of Bishop Sergius**

1. Location: Arabia. Kastron Mefaa (Umm al-Rasas) approx. 30km south of Madaba.

2. Discovery/Excavation: Detailed excavations began 1986.

3. Context: Church: Apsed presbyterium, nave, two side aisles, sacristy at the eastern end of the northern aisle, small chapel accessed by two doors at the western end of the church. Part of a larger ecclesiastical complex (which includes the Church of St. Stephen).

4. Mosaics:

Nave: At the top of the eastern side is a Greek inscription, Psalm 87: 2. At the bottom, along the western side is a medallion containing another Greek inscription which gives the names of the donors. **Border:** Wide design of vine scrolls. Vine branches grow from cornucopias held by the personifications of the Four Seasons in the corner scrolls. Only the Season in the south-east corner is preserved, the others were damaged by iconoclasts. The figures in the scrolls have also been damaged by iconoclasts. North side of the border: wine press (screw type), a man leading a donkey carrying grapes. There are also hunting (fowling) scenes. **Main field:** a small panel at the top. The eastern side shows: hunting; fowling scenes and fruit trees. Underneath is an: acanthus scroll design with ten rows of four scrolls. All the figures in the scrolls have been mutilated by iconoclasts. Along the eastern is: a personification of the Sea (with Greek label), most of which does not survive, except the top of an oar that was being held (the personification of Sea at the Church of Apostles, Madaba, also carries oar). Along the western side in the middle scrolls is a personification of Ge (Geek label). The figure has been damaged (iconoclasts). This figure is female with a crown, earrings and arm-ring. She relines and a holds cloak filled with fruit. There follows the Portraits of benefactors (named with Greek labels), all are damaged (iconoclasts). Second row (eastern side) shows a figure named 'Ouadia' who holds a censor and stands next to the image of a church. The church is a basilica with open doors and a curtain across the doorway. Fourth row: a man carries the frame of a bed. Sixth row: a man (with no name label), holds a boy and points at the church to the left. This church is also a basilica, with an open doorway and a curtain across it. This building has a small chapel attached to the opposite end. Represents the Church of the Bishop Sergius? Although the chapel is shown at the wrong end. Other scrolls contain hunting and pastoral scenes.

Intercolumnar panels: Most have geometric designs, there are four panels to the north and four to the south. **Eastern panel, north side:** Greek inscription. **Second panel (from the east), southern side:** Two men stand in the sea, holding fishing rods and each have two fish on their hooks. There is also a boat with two oars, between the men that contains caught fish.

Other Mosaics: **Aisles:** Geometric design, squares, diamonds. **Western chapel:** Geometric designs, checker board, diamonds. **Apse:** Geometric grid, diamonds. **Presbyterium:** Border of swastikas, knots. Main field has a medallion containing a dedicatory Greek inscription, flanked by a pair of rams and fruit trees.

5. Mosaic Inscriptions: From Piccirillo, 1993: 234

The panel contains a medallion flanked by a ram and a tree on each side. The inscription in the medallion reads: "In the good times of our lord, the most holy and most blessed Bishop Sergius, the whole work of this most holy church was paved with mosaics by the priest, Procopius, in the month of Gorpiaus in the sixth indiction of the year 482 of the Province of Arabia [A.D. 587/88]."

6. Date: A.D. 587/588, according to the Greek inscription in the presbyterium)..

7. Condition: Iconoclastic damage to the figures in the nave. Much of the pavement of the southern aisle has been lost. Most of the pavements of the western chapel have been lost. Pavement of sacristy has not survived.

Bibliography

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Plan and figures on the next page.

Plan 1

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Figure 1: Vine scroll pavement of the nave

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CAT:37**Church of the Rivers**

- 1. Location:** Arabia. Kastron Mefaa (Umm al-Rasas), approx. 30 km south of Madaba.
- 2. Discovery/Excavation:** Detailed excavations from 1987, Max van Berchem foundation.
- 3. Context:** Church: Apse, presbyterium, nave, side aisles. Joined to Church of the Palm Tree.

4. Mosaics:

Nave: Border: Wide vine scroll border of which the northern and western sides have been lost. Personifications of rivers in surviving corner scrolls, but no identifying Greek labels. River (male?) in the south-west corner holds reeds in his right hand and leans on water jar. The remaining scrolls are filled with animals, plants and grapes. Three scrolls on the southern side next to the River contain: donkey, a man with a bear on rope. **Main field:** acanthus scroll design. All the figures in scrolls were damaged by iconoclasts. Scrolls along the eastern side contain: a sea monster. The other scrolls: hunting? pastoral scenes and animals. Row below this contains a sea monster. Full figure portraits (replaced with plain tesserae) of patrons with Greek name labels.

Other Mosaics: Presbyterium: Three fruit trees and two harvesting figures (damaged by iconoclasts), animal (damaged), a figure seated on a stool holds a flower in its hand (damaged by iconoclasts). **Apse:** white background, with flowers scattered across it and a pair of rams (damaged) facing each other. **Northern and southern aisles:** geometric designs. **Intercolumnar spaces:** geometric designs. At the eastern end of the northern aisle, a large medallion is situated containing a winged griffin (damaged by iconoclasts).

5. Mosaic Inscriptions:

Almost totally destroyed dedicatory inscription reading:

‘the 12 indiction year’

Piccirillo (1993: 240) believes this to be the 12 indiction year of the Bishop Sergius, and therefore the year AD 579 or 94.

6. Date: AD. 579 or AD. 594 indicated in the Greek Inscription, see above.

7. Condition: Most of the western half of the nave has been lost and there is damage to the rest of the pavement. The western half of the northern aisle does not survive and there is damage to the rest that remains. Patches of damage across the pavement of the southern aisle. There are areas of damage to the pavements of the presbyterium and apse. Most of the figures were damaged by iconoclasts in Antiquity.

Bibliography

- Bujord, J., 1992. ‘Les Eglises Geminees d’Umm er-Rasas’, 291-299.
 Piccirillo, M., 1993. ‘*The Mosaics of Jordan*’, 240-241.

Plan 1:

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CAT:38**The Church of the Lions**

1. Location: Arabia. Kastron Mefaa (Umm al Rasas), approx. 30km south-east of Madaba.

2. Discovery/Excavation:

3. Context: Church. Large, three-apses, four entrances (two in west, two in north), raised presbyterium, nave, side aisles.

4. Mosaics:

North-eastern intercolumnar space: Schematic city plan of Kastron Mefaa. Greek name label above the plan (see 5, No. 1, below). Damage to the southern edge. Shows quite a detailed plan of the city with recognisable landmarks. Main walled area, with churches, buildings and a city gate. Suburb outside the city walls: church, buildings, central space with a column topped by a cross in the centre.

Nave: Border: Wide figural border, narrow outer border of circles, arrows. Most of the pavements has been lost the remaining areas are on the eastern side and a small patch on the north-western side. Fruit trees spaced at regular intervals and human figures are between. All of the surviving figures have been damaged by iconoclasts. Enough remains to show that most were gathering fruit (carrying baskets, bags, nets?). Above the figure of the north-west corner is a Greek inscription

Main field: Acanthus scroll design, rows of three. Only the eastern scrolls remain. They are filled with figures, apparently engaged in pastoral and agricultural activities. They have been damaged by iconoclasts. Middle scroll, top row, eastern side: is a medallion containing Greek inscription (see 5, No. 3, below). Greek inscriptions above figures in middle scrolls; third, fourth rows (see 5, No. 4, 5, below).

Other Mosaics: Presbyterium: two panels. Eastern panel, guilloche border, geometric designs, bulls, bells around necks, face each other (damaged by iconoclasts). Western panel: geometric border to east, west, inner border is circles filled with, fruit, birds (some damaged). Main field, fruit trees, two gazelle, two lions. **Southern apse:** Vase, flanked by two eagles (iconoclast damage), Greek inscription is located above. **Northern apse:** Vase is flanked by two birds (iconoclast damage). **Aisles:** Geometric design. **Intercolumnar spaces:** All have geometric designs, except the north-eastern panel described above.

5. Mosaic Inscriptions: Several Greek inscriptions, the one below gives the date:

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6. Date: A.D. 574 or 589, according to Greek inscription in nave.

7. Condition: Western half of the nave pavement has not survived, large patches of damage across the remaining section. Large area of the middle of the northern aisle pavement has been lost. Damage to the eastern edge of the southern aisle. Damage to the intercolumnar spaces. Iconoclastic damage to most of the images of living creatures (including the portraits of the benefactors along the chancel screen).

Bibliography

Piccirillo.M., 1993. *'The Mosaics of Jordan'*, 236-237.

Plan 1

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CAT:39**The Church of the Priest Wa'il**

1. Location: Arabia. Kastron Mefaa (Umm al-Rasas) approx. 30 km south of Madaba.

2. Discovery/Excavation: Excavations carried out late 1980s and early 1990s.

3. Context: Small church: Apse, presbyterium, nave, two side aisles. Part of larger ecclesiastical complex.

4. Mosaics:

Nave: Border: Continuous series of white medallions on a black background. Filled with fruit, jars (in corners), flowers, grapes and birds (damaged by iconoclasts). Main field: White background, four registers with figural scenes, all the figures were damaged by iconoclasts. First, Eastern register: A man stands in the middle, arms outstretched, to receive a branch from a figure seated on a stag to the south. Two other figures, behind (to the north) the standing man, face each other and hold branches/sticks. Second register: Horse pulling a red carriage (I believe reliquary rather than carriage, see my note in Chapter 2, Part 1, 84) through flowers. Third register: Hounds pursue an animal (heavily damaged). Fourth, western register: Hunting scene, two horsemen with spears and a hunting dog, chase a beast. Greek inscription (see 5, below) in panel on the eastern side above these scenes.

Intercolumnar panels: South-western panel: Four busts of women (all damaged by iconoclasts), holding cornucopias/jars overflowing with water. Personifications of the Seasons? Or Rivers of Paradise? Each woman stands next to buildings and all are similar in detail; buildings with red roofs, curtained doorway, three towers with open windows and other small buildings. North-western panel: Nilotic scene (much lost), two boats (a naked man with hat sits in the western boat) on the water surrounded by fish and aquatic flowers (papyrus). South-eastern panel: Standing man (damaged by iconoclasts), wears a red cloak and holds a whip in his left hand. North-eastern panel: Sea monster.

Other Mosaics: Aisles: Both aisles: Continuous series of acanthus scrolls. Filled with animals, sheep, goats (all damaged by iconoclasts). Eastern ends of each aisle have a panel. Eastern panel, northern aisle: Palm tree. Eastern panel, southern aisle: Pomegranate tree. Apse: Geometric design, squares, hexagons. Presbyterium: Ribbon border. Main panel: Two zebu on the northern side face one zebu on the southern side across acanthus leaves and vine shoots.

5. Mosaic Inscriptions: Greek dedicatory inscription in the nave:
Translation Piccirillo, 1993: 242:

‘At the time of the most pious Bishop Sergius, this holy temple was built
And completed by the care of the Priest Wa'il in the month of Dios of the fifth indication
of the year 481. This is the priest and his servant’

6. Date: A.D. 586, according to Greek dedicatory inscription in nave (see 5, above).

7. Condition: Much of northern aisle pavement lost. Large areas of damage across the southern aisle. Large areas of the western side of the nave have been damaged. Images of living creatures were damaged by iconoclasts.

Bibliography

Piccirillo, M., 1993. *'The Mosaics of Jordan'*, 242-243.

Plan 1:

The image originally presented here cannot be made freely available via ORA because of copyright.

Figure 1: The fisherman

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CAT:40**Church of John and Elias**

1. Location: Arabia, Khattabiyah, to the north of Madaba and Gerasa.

2. Discovery/Excavation: Excavations carried out in 1972.

3. Context: Church: Three aisled basilica with a nave, apse, and aisles.

4. Mosaics:

Nave: Very little remains of the pavement, only part of the eastern end. A large square panel was enclosed in a guilloche, and inscribed within this square was a circle containing a geometric pattern. A vine scroll border surrounded the circle. Only part of this border remains. One of the remaining scrolls contains a donkey carrying grapes.

Other Mosaics: the mosaics of the aisles have been almost entirely lost, but part of a geometric design remains at the top of the south aisle. Part of a panel at the top of the north aisle contains a goat facing a tree.

5. Mosaic Inscriptions: Two very fragmentary inscriptions remain.

In the panel at the top of the north aisle:

‘Lord accept the offering of your servant Elias’

At the top of the pavement of the nave:

‘beloved by God, John’

6. Date: Unknown, possibly sixth century.

7. Condition: Little of the mosaic pavements remain. Only the eastern part of the nave, a panel at the top of the southern aisle and a small section of the top of the pavement of the south aisle survives.

Bibliography

Piccirillo, M., 1993. ‘*The Mosaics of Jordan*’, 244.

Plan and Figure on the next page.

Plan 1:

The image originally presented here cannot be made freely available via ORA because of copyright.

Figure 1: The donkey from the vin-scroll border of the nave.

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CAT:41**The Church of St. Stephen.**

1. Location: Arabia. Kastron Mefaa (Umm al-Rasas), approx. 30 km south of Madaba.

2. Discovery/Excavation: First description of site 1807, many subsequent descriptions/surveys. Detailed excavations began 1986.

3. Context: Church. Part of large interconnected complex: Four churches, courtyards, rooms all enclosed by a continuous wall. The Church of St. Stephen is located towards the eastern side of the complex. Apsed presbyterium, flanked by a sacristy to the south and a chapel with an apse to the north with a nave and side aisles.

4. Mosaics:

Nave: Border: Wide Nilotic scene. Shows a river with fish, birds and water flowers (lotus, lilies). Boys/putti (damaged by iconoclasts) shown fishing, hunting and sailing boats. Depictions of ten cities of Nile Delta distributed along the border, each named with a Greek label: Alexandria, Kasin, Thenesos, Tamiathis, Panau, Pilousin, Antinau, Eraklion, Kynopolis, and Pseudostomon. Schematic depictions with slight differences in architecture, size and detail (to show the relative importance and size of cities?). Main field: Vine scroll design, eleven rows of four scrolls. Vine branches grow from vine leaves in the middle of the western side of the pavement. Hunting, pastoral and vintage scenes fill the scrolls. Many of the figures have been damaged/replaced by iconoclasts. It is possible to see the outlines of some figures, e.g.; second row, eastern side, men tread grapes. Greek inscription in the panel at the eastern edge of the nave.

Intercolumnar panels: Representations of cities, all named with Greek labels. Two northern intercolumnar panels show cities located to the west of the River Jordan. North-east panel: Jerusalem, Neapolis, Sebastis, Caesarea. North-west panel: Diospolis, Eleutheropolis, Askalon, Gaza. The southern panels show seven cities east of the River Jordan. South-east panel: Kastron Mefaa (larger and more detail than other cities), Philadelphia, Madaba. South-west panel: Esbunta (Hesban), Belemunta (Ma'in), Areopolis, Charach Muba (al-Kerak).

Aisles: Both aisles contain geometric decoration (differing patterns of interlaced circles, squares, filled with fruit, flowers, grapes, birds (damaged by iconoclasts). Panels on the eastern side of each aisle: Panel, northern aisle: Full length portraits of benefactors (named in Greek), bearing gifts. The figures were damaged by iconoclasts. A building, named in Greek as Limbon (a village) is next to these figures. Panel, southern aisle: Portrait of benefactor (named in Greek). Building, named in Greek as Diblaton (a village).

Other Mosaics: Sacristy, chapel, apsed presbyterium, are all decorated with geometric designs. A panel containing Greek inscriptions (including names of benefactors) is located in front of door to northern chapel.

5. Mosaic Inscriptions: There are many fairly complex inscriptions contained within the pavements of the church (including a number from the nave). See Alliata and Piccirillo, 1994: 241-58 for full information including translation and detailed discussion.

6. Date: Presbyterium paved A.D. 756, in time of Bishop Job, according to dedicatory Greek inscriptions by altar. Date in the inscription at the eastern end of the nave was

repaired in antiquity and is difficult now to read. Inscription used to assign different dates, Balty (1998) argues that it was paved in A.D. 717/718.

7. Condition: Most of mosaics are in an excellent state of preservation. A few small patches of damage scattered across all of them. Much of the mosaic of the northern chapel has been lost. Iconoclastic damage to most of figures, animals (replaced with plain tesserae or changed into plants and geometric motifs).

Bibliography

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Alliata, E., and Piccirillo, M., (eds). 1994. '*Umm al-Rasas*', 121-165.

Piccirillo, M., 1993. '*The Mosaics of Jordan*', 238-239.

Ognibene, S., 2002. '*Umm al-Rasas: La Chiesa di Santo Stefano*', 65-90 (discussion of mosaics).

Figures start on the following page.

Figure 1: View of the pavement of the nave.

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All pictures taken from Piccirillo, 1993

Figure 2: Detail of the fruit gathering and Nilotic scenes of the borders of the nave.
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Figure 3: Detail of the main vine-scroll pavement of the nave.
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CAT:42

Church of SS. Lot and Procopius.

1. Location: Arabia, Nebo (Khirbat al-Mukhayyat). Mount Nebo, north of Madaba.

2. Discovery/Excavation: Mosaic discovered 1913. Excavations began 1935.

3. Context: Church. Rectangular (16.25m x 8.65.m) with projecting apse.

4. Mosaics:

Nave: Main field divided into two panels, both enclosed in ribbon border.

Upper panel: Vine-trellis design: twenty scrolls in six rows. Vine branches grow from acanthus leaves in four corners of panel. Scrolls contain vintage, hunting scenes, animals, birds. Bottom row: two scrolls contain man with bow and lion. Third row from bottom: first scroll (left-side), donkey carries grapes; third scroll, screw-press, grapes, two men and final scroll, man plays flute.

Lower panel: Four fruit-laden (pears, apples, pomegranates) trees, placed in four corners, meeting in middle of panel. Along sides, pairs of animals face each other. At top, two bulls face each other across flaming altar, inscription (Greek) runs below them (see 5, No. 3).

Intercolumnar Panels: Nilotic imagery. Five of six panels survive. Upper panel (left-side): representation of church in centre flanked by man in row-boat with amphorae, man with fishing rod, river along bottom with birds, fish, and water lilies. Upper panel (right-side): river with birds, fish, water lilies. Middle panel (left-side): two fantastical creatures face each other over papyrus plant, duck. Middle panel (right-side): two gazelle flank a fruit tree. Lower panel (right-side): two geese/ducks face each other over papyrus plant. **Other Mosaics:** Aisles paved with geometric designs. Presbyterium: two sheep face fruit tree.

5. Mosaic Inscriptions: (taken from Bagatti and Saller, 1949, 182-191).

No 1.

Dedicatory inscription: at eastern end of nave.

Transcription : —

✠ Ἐπὶ τοῦ ἁγιο(τάτου) κ(αὶ) [δ]σιω(τάτου) Ἰωάννου ἐ[-]πισκ(όπου)
ἐκτ[ί]σθη κ(αὶ) ἐτελ[ε]ιώθη [δ] ἅγιος τ[ό]π[ο]ς σου δι[ὰ] ✠ | Βαριχᾶ πρεσβυ-
τ[έ]ρου κ(αὶ) παραμοναρίου αὐτοῦ ἐν μηνὶ Νοεμβρίῳ χρόν[ω]ν ἕκτη[ς] ἰνδ(ικτιῶνος).
| ✠ Ὁ [Θ](εὸς) τοῦ ἁγίου Λ[ώ]τ κ(αὶ) τοῦ ἁγίου Προκοπίου πρόδεξ[αι] τ[ῆ]ν
προσφορὰν κ(αὶ) τὴν καρποφορ(ίαν) | Στεφάνου κ(αὶ) Ἡλία ἀδελφ[ῶ]ν τέκν[ων]
Κομητίσσης. ✠ Ὁ Θ(εὸς) τ[ῶ]ν ἁγί[ω]ν μαρτύρ[ω]ν πρόδεξ[αι] ✠ | τὴν
καρποφορίαν Σεργίου κ(αὶ) Προκοπίου τέκνο[ν] αὐτοῦ. ✠ Ὑπὲρ σωτηρίας
Ῥαβῆθας Ἀναστασίας | κ(αὶ) ὑπὲρ ἀναπαύσεως Ἰωάννου Ἀναστασίου κ(αὶ) ὑπὲρ
[ῶ]ν προσ[ή]ν[ε]γ[κ[α]ν· Κ(ύριος) γιν[ώ]σκ[ε]ι τ[ὰ] [δ]νόματα.

Translation : —

✠ At the time of the most holy and most saintly bishop John Your holy place was built and finished by its priest and sacristan Barichas in the month of November of the times of the sixth indiction. ✠ O God of Saint Lot and of Saint Procopius, receive the offering and the present of the brothers Stephen and Elias, the children of Cometissa. ✠ O God of the holy martyrs, receive ✠ the present of Sergius and Procopius his son. ✠ For the welfare of Rabatha (the daughter) of Anastasia and for the repose of John (the son) of Anastasius and for those who contributed; the Lord knows their names.

No 2.

Located at eastern end of southern aisle.

Transcription : —

✠ Ἅγιε Λώτ, πρόσδεξ[αι] τὴν | προσευχὴν Ῥώμης καὶ Πορφυρίας | (καὶ) Μαρίας τῶν σῶν δουλίδων.

Translation : —

✠ O St. Lot, receive the prayer of Rome and Porphyria and Mary, your servants.

No 3.

Beneath image of two bulls facing flaming altar at western end of nave.

Transcription : —

✠ Τ[ό]τ[ε] ἀνοίσουσιν [ἐ]πὶ τ[ὸ] θυσιαστήρι[όν] σου μόσχους. Κύ(ριε) [ἐ]λ[έη]σον Ἐπιφάν[ε]ια[ν] [τὴν] ταπ[ε]ιν(ήν).

Translation : —

✠ Then they shall offer calves upon Thy altar. Lord have mercy on the lowly Epiphania.

6. Date: AD 557, according to mosaic inscription (see 5, No. 1 above).

7. Condition: Mosaics well preserved. Damage at entrance to nave, some other small damaged areas.

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 Dunbabin, K.M.D., 1999. *Mosaics of the Greek and Roman World*, 198-199.
 Piccirillo, M., 1993. *The Mosaics of Jordan*, 164-165.
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Plan: No.1

Plan of the Church of SS. Lot and Procopius.

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Figure: No.1

Nave: Upper Panel. Vintage Scene.

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(Picture: Piccirillo, 1993).

CAT:43**Lower Chapel of the Priest John.**

1. Location: Arabia. Nebo (Khirbat al-Mukhayyat). Mount Nebo, north of Madaba.

2. Discovery/Excavation: Discovered after the removal of the mosaic of the Upper Chapel of Priest John. Excavations: 1985-1988.

3. Context: Chapel. Apse, presbytery, nave (10 m x 4.6 m), two small rooms/areas at western end.

4. Mosaics:

Nave: Main Field: Vine scroll design. Large two handled vase in the middle of the bottom (western edge) of the panel. Two vine branches shoot out and form three rows of three scrolls above the vase, with a scroll either side (containing lionesses). First row: a zebu; a man cuts grapes, a donkey carrying grapes. Second row: a hunting dog, stag, a man stripped to the waist with a basket of grapes. Third row: two gazelle/stags? flank a scroll containing a Greek inscription. Three line Greek dedicatory inscription along the eastern side of the main field. **Border:** is a running swastika motif. Squares containing grapes and various birds (beribboned parrots, cockerels) are inserted along the length of the border.

Presbytery: Main Field: Vase in the middle of the western edge of the panel, with two vine branches shooting out that form five scrolls. Two sheep? flank the vase, above which is a hare, a wading bird and another damaged animal. **Border:** two strand guilloche.

Other Mosaics: Room to the west of the nave: plain white floor, small three line Greek inscription in the centre.

5. Mosaic Inscriptions: Translations and discussion taken from Piccirillo, 1998.

See next page.

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6. Date: Second half of Fifth century. Greek inscription mentions Bishop Fidus of Madaba (Piccirillo, 1993, 176).

7. Condition: Presbytery floor was damaged by the later addition of four columns and the eastern side of the border has not survived. Nave: large patches of damage in south-eastern and north-western corners. Overall, the pavements have survived in good condition.

Bibliography

Piccirillo.M., 1993. *The Mosaics of Jordan*, 176-177.

Piccirillo.M., 1998. *Mount Nebo*, 223-225, 310-313.

Figure 1: The vine-scroll pavement.

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CAT:44**Upper Chapel of the Priest John**

1. Location: Arabia, Nebo (Khirbat al-Mukhayyat). Mount Nebo, north of Madaba.

2. Discovery/Excavation: Discovered 1936.

3. Context: Chapel, adjacent to Church of Amos and Kasiseus, on top of earlier Lower Chapel of Priest John. Plan: Apsed chapel, 18.5m x 5.5m.

4. Mosaics:

Nave/Hall: Main Field: Two panels: large western panel, small eastern panel. **Western panel:** Acanthus scroll design, four rows of three survive, eastern end of panel, western half lost. Hunting, agricultural, pastoral scenes fill scrolls. Centre, fourth row: Woman, knife, collects fruit. Centre, third row: man, slingshot, hunts boar. Centre, second row: Personification Ge (Greek label, see 5, below), crowned (Tyche), holds cloak filled with fruit, flanked by two men receiving/giving fruit. Centre, first row: man, sword, shield.

Eastern panel: Three line Greek dedicatory inscription (see 5, below) runs along eastern edge. Building, four columns in centre of panel. Two candlesticks between outer columns, Greek inscription (see 5, below) between inner columns. Building flanked by peacocks, fruit trees, cockerels.

Border: Surround both panels. Narrow inner border, arrows, squares, circles. Outer border: Running swastika motif, small square panels dotted along length. Panels contain birds, except central panel, eastern, northern sides, contain portraits lady (east), priest (north). Central panels' western, southern sides lost.

Other Mosaics: None survive.

6. Date: AD 565, according to Greek dedicatory inscription, see Piccirillo, 1993.

7. Condition: Pavement of Apse lost. Western end of nave/hall lost. Much damage since discovery; head of Ge lost, damage to dedicatory inscription, areas of damage across remaining mosaic.

Bibliography

Piccirillo, M., 1993. *'The Mosaics of Jordan'*, 174-175.

Piccirillo, M., 1999. *'Mount Nebo'*, 350-355.

Plan 1

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Figure 1: Detail of the pavement of the nave.

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CAT:45

Church of St. George

1. Location: Arabia, Nebo (Khirbat al-Mukhayyat). Mount Nebo, north of Madaba.

2. Excavation/Discovery: Excavations begun 1935. Further excavations begun 1967

3. Context: Church, part of a small monastery. Slightly irregular plan, roughly square, 12.1m x 12.5m approx. Apsed sanctuary, sacristy each side, nave, aisles. Entrances in north, west and south walls.

4. Mosaics:

Nave: Central panel is surrounded by wide swastika border (square panels inserted at intervals). **Border:** Panels of the eastern and the western sides: Busts of Four Seasons. Spring, Autumn (eastern side), personified as young women. Spring holds a cornucopia and Autumn is richly dressed wearing pearl earrings. Winter and Summer (western side). Winter is personified as a young man and Summer wears a turreted crown (like a Tyche). Other panels in the border contain various birds, animals, and vase.

Main Field: Four rows of three acanthus scrolls, containing scenes of the harvest and the vintage, also scenes of animal chase. Top (eastern) row: Middle scroll contains a personification of Ge, holding a cloak with fruit and flanked by scrolls containing *karpoforoi*. Directly below is a scroll containing a screw press and men crushing grapes.

To the left of this is a man playing a flute. Bottom (western) row: Two men capture a bull. **Intercolumnar Panels:** Various images including two beribboned birds flanking a bowl, an eagle, goat. One of the panels contains a dedicatory inscription (see 5. No 1, below).


Northern Aisle: Rectangular panel, vine-scroll design, two rows, three scrolls. Tree grows from a pot (it takes up the middle scrolls of both rows), flanked by two peacocks. Eastern row: A man cuts grapes and another young man *orans* is named in Greek 'John (son) of Ammonius' (see 5, No 4. below). Eastern side of panel, zebu and a lion face each other.

Other Mosaics: Pavement of southern sacristy shows two gazelle/goats(?) and a pair of doves facing a palm tree. Also contains an inscription (see 5, No 6. below). This inscription may be Christo-Palestinian Aramaic or Kufic (therefore first evidence of Arabic script in the region) (see Bagatti and Saller, 1949, 139-171). In front of the altar are a pair of birds and a ram stands by tree. The mosaics of the southern aisle and elsewhere in the building are of simple geometric designs.

5. Mosaic Inscriptions:

No 1. Dedicatory inscription in panel at eastern end of nave.


Transcription: —

Ι Α. —  Ἅγιε Γεώργιε πρόσδε[ε]ξαι | τὴν προσφορὰν καὶ τὸν κά[μα]τον τ[ῶ]ν ἀνδρ[ῶ]ν π[ῶ]ν | τῆ[ς] κ[ῶ]μη[ς] ταύτη(ς). Καὶ ὑπὲρ | σ[ω]τηρίας καὶ προσφορᾶ[ς] Στεφάνου καὶ [Ἡ]λία ἀδελφ[ῶ]ν | τ[έ]κν[ων] Κομ[η]τί(σσης).

Ι Β. — Ἐπὶ τοῦ ὀσιωτάτου | καὶ ἀγι[ω]τάτου | [Ἡ]λίου ἐπισκόπου | ἐτ[ε]λ[ε]ι[ώ]θ[η].

Ι Γ. — Ἐπὶ τοῦ θεοφ(ιλεστάτου) Ἰω[άννου] ἐπισκόπου | ἐκτίσθ(η) καὶ ἐτ[ε]λ[ε]ι[ώ]θ[η] ὁ ἄγιος τόπος | ὑπατ[ε]ί[α] Φλ(αουίου) τοῦ ἐνδ[ο]ξοτάτου ἐν μηνὶ Δί(φ) ἰ(νδικτιῶνος) δ' | ὑπὲρ σωτηρίας Ῥάββο[υ] οἰκονόμου τῆς ἀ[γ]ιωτ(άτης) ἐκ[κ]λ[η]σ(ίας) καὶ[. . .] πρε[σ]β(υτέρου) καὶ παραμοναρίου τοῦ Γ[εωργιαν]οῦ.

Translation : —

1 A. —  O St. George, accept the offering and work of the people of this village. And for the salvation of and for an office for the brothers Stephen and Elias, the sons of Cometissa.


1 B. — At the time of the most pious and most holy bishop Elias it was finished.

1 C. — At the time of the most God-beloved bishop John the holy place was built and finished, during the consulate of the most illustrious Flavius, in the month of Dios of the fourth indiction, for the salvation of Rabbos, economos of the most holy church, and of N., priest and sacristan of the church of St. George.

No 2.

Contained in a circular panel to the east of column 1.

Transcription : —

 Ἐπὲρ | σωτηρίας | Σαώλα ἀρχ[ι]διακόνου | ἀνάστασις Ἰεάνου.


Translation : —

 For the salvation of the archdeacon Saolas — the resurrection of John.


No 3.

From a rectangular panel between the bases of columns 3 and 5.

Transcription : —

Προσφορὰ Ἀμμ[ω]νίου καὶ | Ἐπιφαν[ε]ία[ς] καὶ τ[ῶν] τ[έ]κν(ων) Ἰωάννου
καὶ | Σάργου. Καὶ ὑπὲρ σωτηρίας Σα[ώ]λ(α) | Κασ[σ]ισ[έ](ου) καὶ τ[ῶν]
τ[έ]κν[ων] αὐτ(οῦ) | Μίκης Καλ[λι]ν[ε]ί[α]ς | καὶ Μαρία[ς] Καλ[λι]ν[ε]ί-
α[ς]. 

Translation : —

The offering of Ammonius and Epiphania and of their children John and Sargus. And for the salvation of Saolas Cassiseus and his children Mica Callinice and Mary Callinice. 

No 4.

Accompanies a figure in the vine-scroll panel of the northern aisle (see next page)

Transcription : —

Ἰωάν|νης Ἀμμ(ωνίου).

Translation : —

John (the son of) Ammonius.

No 5.

Round panel in front of the entrance to the northern sacristy.

Transcription : —

Ⲯⲁ ⲉϣⲱⲛ | ψηϥ[οϑⲉ]τῶν | Ναούμα καὶ Κυρι|ακο[ϣ̅] καὶ Θωμά[-]
 ὑπὲρ ἀν[α]πα[ύ]σ[εως] | Σαβ[-ε]ίν(ου) ἀδ[ε]λφ[οῦ] | Μαρτυρί[ου].

Translation : —

Ⲯⲁ [This is the] work of the tessellarii Nahum and Cyriacus and Thomas for the repose of Sabinus, the brother of Martyrius.

No 6.

In the southern sacristy to the left (Aramaic?Kufic?) and right of fruit trees.

Transcription : —

بسلام — Σαώλα.

Translation : —

In peace — Saolas.

6. Date: A.D. 535/36, according to Greek inscription in mosaic (see 5, No 1.above).

7. Condition: Has suffered considerable damage since it was uncovered. Large patches of damage are scattered across the central mosaic of the nave. Damage to the top left-hand corner of the vine scroll panel and the pavement of the northern aisle. Pavement of the north sacristy has been lost.

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- Alliata, E., and Piccirillo, M., 1998. 'Mount Nebo', 231-244, 320-329.
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 Piccirillo.M., 1993. 'The Mosaics of Jordan', 178-179.

Plan 1

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Figure 2: Scenes of the vintage and the hunt

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Figure 5. The Four Seasons. Clockwise from top; Summer, Autumn, Winter, Spring.

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CAT:46**The Church of the Deacon Thomas.**

1. Location: Arabia, Uyun Musa valley, north of Mount Nebo.

2. Discovery/Excavation: Identified 1930s, Bagatti and Saller. Excavations 1987-1988, Studium Biblicum Franciscanum.

3. Context: Church, part of a small monastery. Rectangular, 16m x 12.7m. Nave, two aisles, presbyterium flanked by two sacristies.

4. Mosaics:

Nave: Main field, vine-scroll design, 8 rows, 23 scrolls. Two vine branches shoot out from two-handled jar (flanked by leopards) on the western side to form scrolls. Scrolls contain scenes of the hunt and vintage. Three scrolls of the fourth row from the eastern end: man is leading donkey laden with grapes and man with a sickle is harvesting grapes. Top row, eastern end: a man picks pomegranates. Second row, western end, hunter named in Greek, 'Stephanos'. Border: Acanthus scrolls filled with birds, fruit, basket and cage. Foliate masks decorate the four corners.

Other Mosaics: Presbyterium: Panel framed by a guilloche. Lion faces a zebu, four fruit trees and a ram. Aisles: Geometric decoration. North aisle, medallion in front of the door contains an eagle and a Greek inscription. Intercolumnar spaces: Geometric decoration.

5. Mosaic Inscriptions:

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On the network in the south nave, at the level of the door that opens onto the courtyard on the south, there has been superimposed a medallion with a crowned border with the representation of a full frontal spread-winged eagle with its head turned to the east and having on either side the letters Α and Ω of the Greek alphabet. In the lower part, at the eagle's feet, there is a short dedicatory inscription: Θωμᾶ διακ(όνου): "(Offering of) Deacon Thomas," which has given the name to the church.

6. Date: Unknown. Early/mid sixth century? (Piccirillo, 1998, 342).

7. Condition: Well preserved. Damage to the south nave, near the third pilaster. Damage to the border at the western end of the nave.

Bibliography

Piccirillo, M., 1993. *'The Mosaics of Jordan'*, 186-188.

Piccirillo, M., 1998. *'Mount Nebo'*, 250-257, 330-343.

Figure 1: Pavement of the nave

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CAT:47

The Lower Church of Kaianus.

1. Location: Arabia, Uyun Musa, north of Mount Nebo.

2. Discovery/Excavation: Excavations: 1984-1986.

3. Context: Church: 13m x 11.5m, presbytery, nave, side aisles.

4. Mosaics:

Nave: Divided into two rectangular panels. Eastern panel: Contains Greek inscription in medallion of complex interwoven circles design. Western panel: Vine scrolls, two rows of two. Upper scrolls, vintage scenes, man cutting grapes, man leading donkey laden with grapes. Lower scrolls, dog attacking gazelle, goat with man (only head of man remains).

Border: Acanthus scrolls, black background. Various animals contained in scrolls of northern, eastern sides (sheep, fawn, zebu, dog). Scrolls of western side contained dedicatory Greek inscriptions (see below), only two remain.

Other Mosaics: Presbytery: Rectangular panel, grid of small flowers, spaces created filled with larger flowers. Border of interwoven circles. Tiny patch of flower grid design in northern aisle remains.

5. Mosaic Inscriptions: (Translations from Piccirillo, 1993: 189).

Contained within two medallions in the nave:

‘Oh Lord accept the offering of the most pious Obed, archdeacon
And of Salaman. These mosaicists did (the work)’

‘By the care of Salaman, deacon and economy, the church
Was paved (with) mosaics as a gift of Papion, the most pious deacon’

From the eastern panel of the nave:

‘This most holy church was (paved with) mosaics at the
Time of the Bishop Cyrus’

6. Date: Early sixth century. Greek inscription: paved during time of Bishop Cyrus of Madaba.

7. Condition: Large areas of damage. Southern side of border of nave lost. Pavements of aisles lost. Western side, southern side of presbytery lost. Areas of damage across all pavements.

Bibliography

Piccirillo, M., 1993. *The Mosaics of Jordan*, 189.

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Figure 1 is on the next page.

Figure 3: Detail of the pavement of the nave.

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CAT:48

The Upper Church of Kaianus.

1. Location: Arabia, Uyun Musa, north of Mount Nebo.

2. Discovery/Excavation: Excavated 1984-1986.

3. Context: Church. Built on-top of Lower Church of Kaianus, same plan, same size: 13m x 11.5m, presbytery, nave, side aisles.

4. Mosaics:

Nave: Dived into two panels, larger eastern panel, and western panel. Eastern panel: Grid of small flowers, spaces created were filled with larger flowers. Larger central medallion, heavily damaged and the remains of an intertwining square design. Western panel: Portraits of benefactors. Southern side: a young man named in Greek as Fidus. Next is a man carrying grapes, named in Greek as John. Finally, a man with a bow and a sword, leading a camel (no Greek name label). Border: Three strand guilloche. Greek inscription along top of the border on the western side of the nave.

Other Mosaics: Presbytery: Geometric design: Octagon design enclosed by a swastika meander. North Aisle: Remains of a man on a horse. South Aisle: Dived into two panels: geometric designs and a diamond, grid patterns. Intercolumnar panels: Middle panel, northern side, second and forth panels, southern side contained Greek inscriptions.

5. Mosaic Inscriptions:

Greek name labels for several of the figures represented. Also a number of panels containing the names of donors. See Piccirillo, 1993: 191 for details and translations.

6. Date: Unknown. Second half of sixth century? (Piccirillo, 1998, 356)

7. Condition: Extensive damage. Much of the main field of the nave has been lost. Half of the area of the presbytery has also been lost. North aisle, the northern side was lost. Southern aisle has not survived.

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Piccirillo, M., and Alliata, E., 1998. *'Mount Nebo'*, 356-358.

Figure 1: Pavement of the nave.

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CAT:49**The Old Diakonikon of the Memorial of Moses, Mount Nebo.**

1. Location: Arabia, Mount Nebo, approx. 9 km west of Madaba.

2. Discovery/Excavation: Excavations began in 1933, under the direction of Fr. S.Saller. Excavations at the site are ongoing.

3. Context: Baptistry on the eastern side of a chapel at the large sanctuary of the Memorial of Moses. 12.68m x 6.4m.

4. Mosaics:

Nave: The main pavement is arranged in registers. Top register shows two scenes of hunting taking place between fruit trees. The second register shows two mounted hunters spearing big game (again in a setting of fruit trees). The third register depicts a shepherd and his flock amongst olive trees. The final register shows a procession of exotic figures leading exotic animals through the countryside. I have discussed all of these scenes in great detail in Chapter 2, Parts 1, 2 and 3.

Other Mosaics: All the other panels in the chapel are decorated with geometric designs.

5. Mosaic Inscriptions: Two inscriptions, one of which gives the date of the pavements construction (from Piccirillo, 1993: 146):

“By divine grace, at the time of our father and bishop, Elias, beloved by God, the holy diakonikon of God was rebuilt and adorned with the basin of regeneration it contains and with the splendid *ciborium*, by the good offices of Elias, *egumen* and priest, under the consulate of the Flavii Lampadius and Orestes, in the month of August, in the ninth indiction of the year 425 of the Province [of Arabia = A.D. 530], for the salvation of Muselius, advocate, and Sergia, his wife, and for the salvation of Philadelphus, advocate, and of all their kinfolk. Amen, Lord.”

6. Date: AD 530, according to inscription in the nave.

7. Condition: Very good condition, the pavement survives in almost perfect condition.

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Piccirillo, M., 1993. *The Mosaics of Jordan*, 144-51.

Plan 1:

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Figure 1: Detail of pastoral scenes and olive trees

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Figure 2: Main pavement

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CAT:50

Church of St John at Adeitha

1. Location: Arabia, Adeitha (Khirbat al-Samra, Hatita) 17 Km northeast of modern city of Zarqa, southeast of Gerasa.

2. Discovery/Excavation: Excavations began at the site in 1981.

3. Context: Church: 17.25m x 14.7m, has regular, simple plan: apse, three aisles.

4. Mosaics:

Nave: Two representations of walled cities remain. Both have polygonal crenulated city walls, crenulated towers and an arched gate between the two towers at the front. Inside the walls are buildings with red and black tiled roofs. Domed structures are also shown. Each dome is covered by black tiles and topped by a cross. Small fragments of a vine-like plant is preserved. Just beneath the representations of the two cities are the remains of an image of an amphora.

Other Mosaics: Pavements of side aisles are plain white tesserae.

5. Mosaic Inscriptions: Dedicatory inscription in the nave.

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6. Date: AD 639, according to inscription in the nave. Mosaics were laid during a renovation of the church.

7. Condition: Large areas of damage across mosaic of nave. It appears sections were ripped up at some point, possibly by iconoclasts (Piccirillo, 1993: 304).

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Plan 1

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CAT:51**The Chapel of Suwayfiyah.**

1. Location: Arabia. Suwayfiyah (Swafieh) on outskirts of Philadelphia (Amman).

2. Discovery/Excavation: Excavated 1970.

3. Context: Chapel: Rectangular nave, projecting apse.

4. Mosaics:

Nave: 9.5 m x 5 m. Rectangular main field. Main field: Vine scroll design. Two vine branches shoot out of an amphora in the middle of the western edge of the panel. Six rows of vine scrolls (southern half of the pavement has been lost). Lion in a scroll next to amphora. Second row: Donkey carrying grapes is being led by a man. Third row: Man leads a camel laden with stone? Forth row: Goat-herd and his goat. Fifth row: Hunter (bow and arrow) next to his horse. Bunches of grapes decorate all scrolls. Border: Acanthus scroll. Foliate heads in corners. Scrolls filled with a variety of birds (guinea-hen, duck) and animals (dog, wild boar, deer, hare, bull). Outside the border, the western end: two pheasants flank a fruit tree. Part of a two line Greek inscription runs along the top of the eastern border. Small patches remain of the surrounding mosaic: diamonds, floret crosses.

Other Mosaics: None survive.

5. Mosaic Inscriptions:

No. 1. Eastern edge of nave mosaic, Greek, two lines.

Translation (Van Elderen, 1970, 25)

‘
In the time of the holy Thomas, bishop.....of the holy church, with zeal and labours’

6. Date: Sixth Century?

7. Condition: Only northern half of main panel of the nave survives.

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Van Elderen, B., 1970. ‘The Byzantine Church at Swafieh’, 25-27.

Plan 1:

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Figure 1: Detail of the vine-scroll pavement and acanthus scroll border.
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Figure 2: Pastoral scene
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CAT:52

Church of St. Kyriakos at al-Quwaysmah

1. Location: Arabia, approx. 3 km south of Philadelphia (Amman).

2. Discovery/Excavation: Site was partially excavated in 1982.

3. Context: Church: simple plan of a nave, two aisles and an apse.

4. Mosaics:

Nave: The pavement survives in relatively complete form. The main field consists of a geometric design, with a design of interlaced bands, intersecting spindles and circles.

Border: Is an acanthus scroll design, with foliate masks in the corners. There is some damage to the scrolls on the southern side. The scrolls are filled with pastoral, hunting and vintage scenes. On the northern side a shepherd leans on his staff and is followed by his flock. At the western end of the northern side, a flute player sits on a basket. In the middle of the eastern side a hunter with a spear confront a wild animal. Many of the figures have suffered some damage from iconoclasts.

Other Mosaics: A small section of the northern aisle remains, with a geometric design. Part of the mosaic of the apse remains showing part of an inscription placed between two eagles.

5. Mosaic Inscriptions: Three inscriptions one in the apse, another at the top of the pavement of the nave and one at the bottom.

Two inscriptions of the nave (from Piccirillo, 1993: 268)

A *tabula ansata* with a seven-line dedicatory inscription is at the eastern side of the field. The donor of the church was one Stephen, an army official. The inscription reads: "For the salvation, peace and long life of our master, Stephen, the tribune, and of Your servant Matriona and of her sons. Bless them, O Lord, with a spiritual blessing through the heavenly vows of Saint Kyriakos. Amen. Lord help Your servant Magnus and his consort." •494•

Opposite from the first, that is, to the west side of the field, a second inscription reads: "At the time of the priest, Maximus, the holy place was renovated. Lord forgive his sins. Amen."

6. Date: Unknown. Later alterations may suggest that this original building was no later than sixth century in date (see Piccirillo, 1993: 268, for a brief discussion)

7. Condition: The nave survives intact with small areas of damage. The pavement of the south aisle has been entirely lost. Sections of the mosaic of the apse and the mosaic of the northern aisle have survived.

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Piccirillo.M., 1993. 'The Mosaics of Jordan', 268.

Plan 1:

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Figure 1: Flute player and hunter.

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CAT:53**The Church on the Acropolis**

1. Location: Arabia. Ma'in, west of Madaba.

2. Discovery/Excavations: Discovered 1934. Studied 1937, Fr. Savignac, Fr. De Vaux.

3. Context: Church. Modern buildings partially cover the site. Nave (16.5 m x 9.5 m), small room to north, step to a presbyterium?

4. Mosaics:

Nave: Outer Border: Wide, geographical. Series of buildings alternating with laden fruit trees. Buildings are schematic, differ architecturally from each other. Each building has Greek toponym. Eleven buildings remain (originally it would have been many more), toponyms identify them as villages and cities on east and west banks of the River Jordan. Three survive on the south side; Nikopolis, Eleutheropolis, Askalon. Three on the west side; Maiumas, Gaza, Odroa. Five on the north side; Charach Muba, Areopolis, Gadoron, Esbunta, Belemunta. Narrow border of lilies separate the main outer from main inner border. Inner Border: Acanthus scroll design. Only isolated patches remain. Southern side: Beast pierced by a spear (damaged by iconoclasts). Narrow geometric border separates the main inner border from the main field. Main field: Bands of geometric decoration form circles and octagons These were once filled with figures. They have been damaged or replaced by iconoclasts. One octagon: rabbit replaced by flowers (the ears still remain). **Other mosaics:** Northern room: Guilloche border. Eastern panel: Greek inscription (see 5, below). Remains of ox (tree placed over it by iconoclasts), fruit tree, vase with vine shoots, the rest of the scene has been lost. Originally an ox and a lion flanking a tree. Western panel: Only the top of a medallion and a vase survive.

5. Mosaic Inscriptions: A number of Greek inscriptions survive, including the dedicatory inscription, below (from Piccirillo, 1993: 201).

Greek inscription at the top of the nave pavement:

‘This is the door of the Lord: the just shall enter through it
the third indication of the year 614 (AD 719/20)
 The Lord has loved the gate of Zion more than the tents of Jacob’

6. Date: A.D. 719/20 according to Greek inscription in nave.

7. Condition: Most of eastern side of nave lost. Isolated patches of geographical border remain on the western side. A small area of the main field has been preserved (with some heavy damage) on western side. A small area of the pavement in the north-eastern part of the northern room survives with iconoclastic damage to the figures.

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Figure 1: Detail of the architectural border

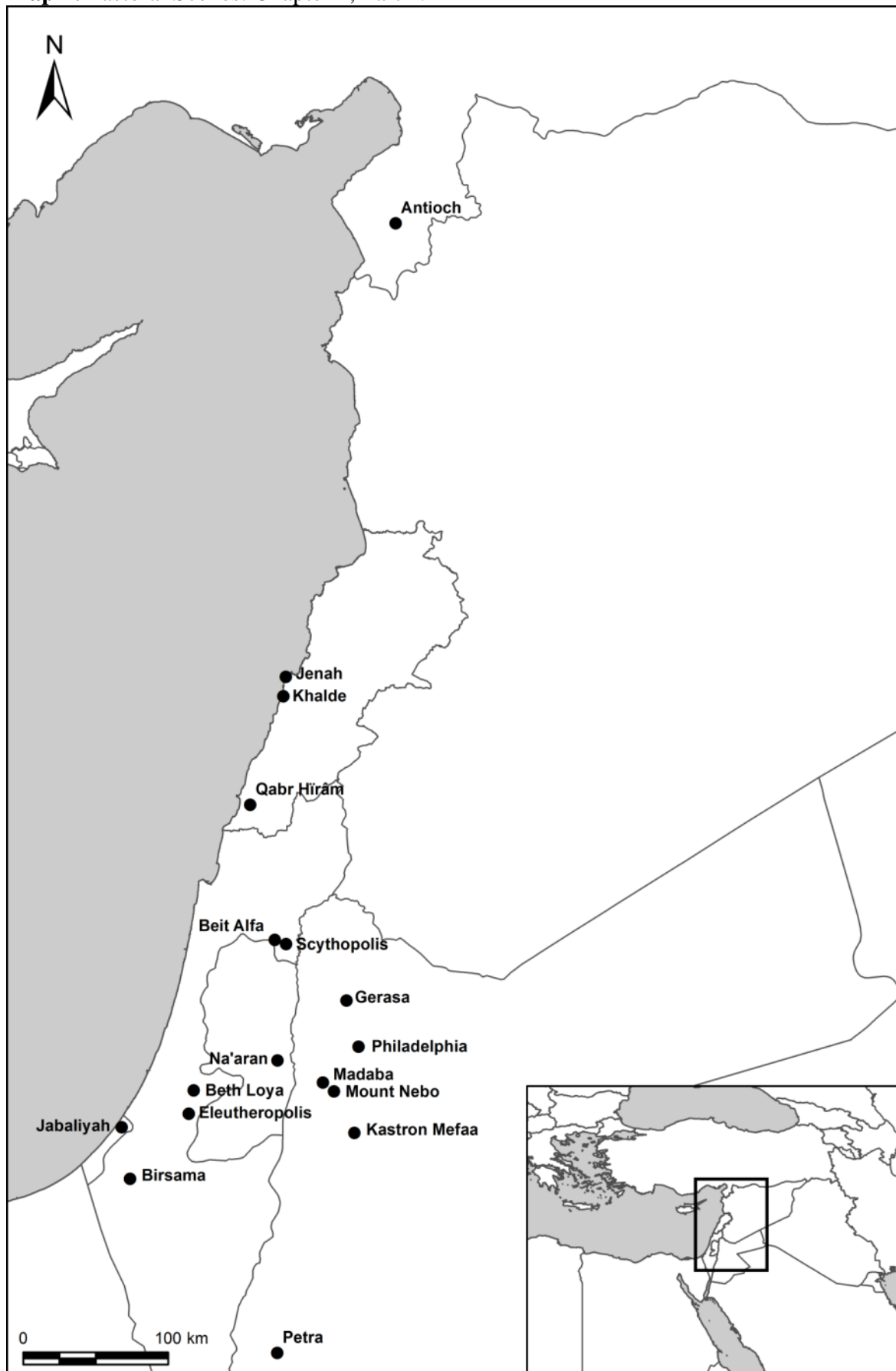
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Plan 1

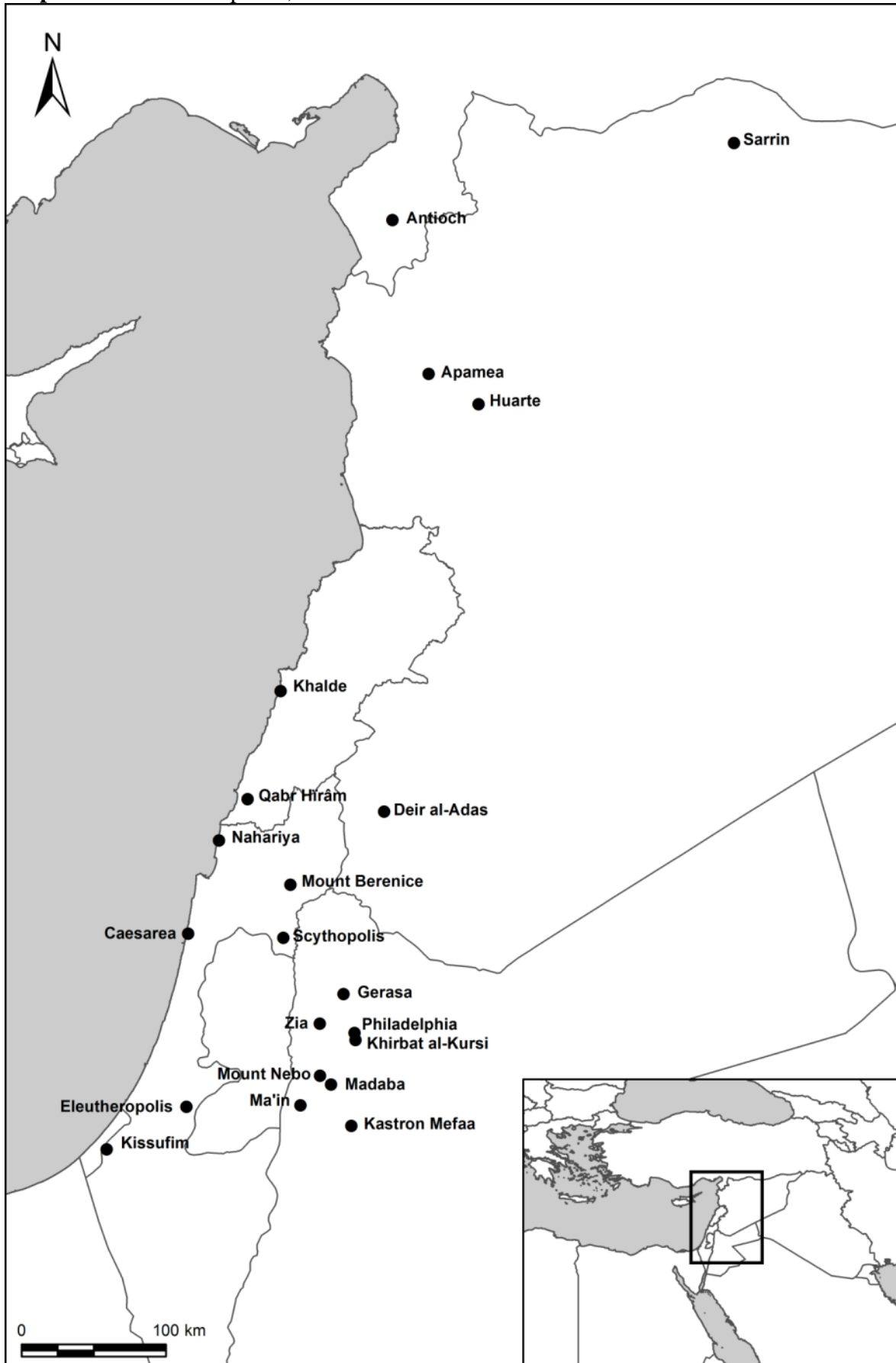
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Maps 1-9

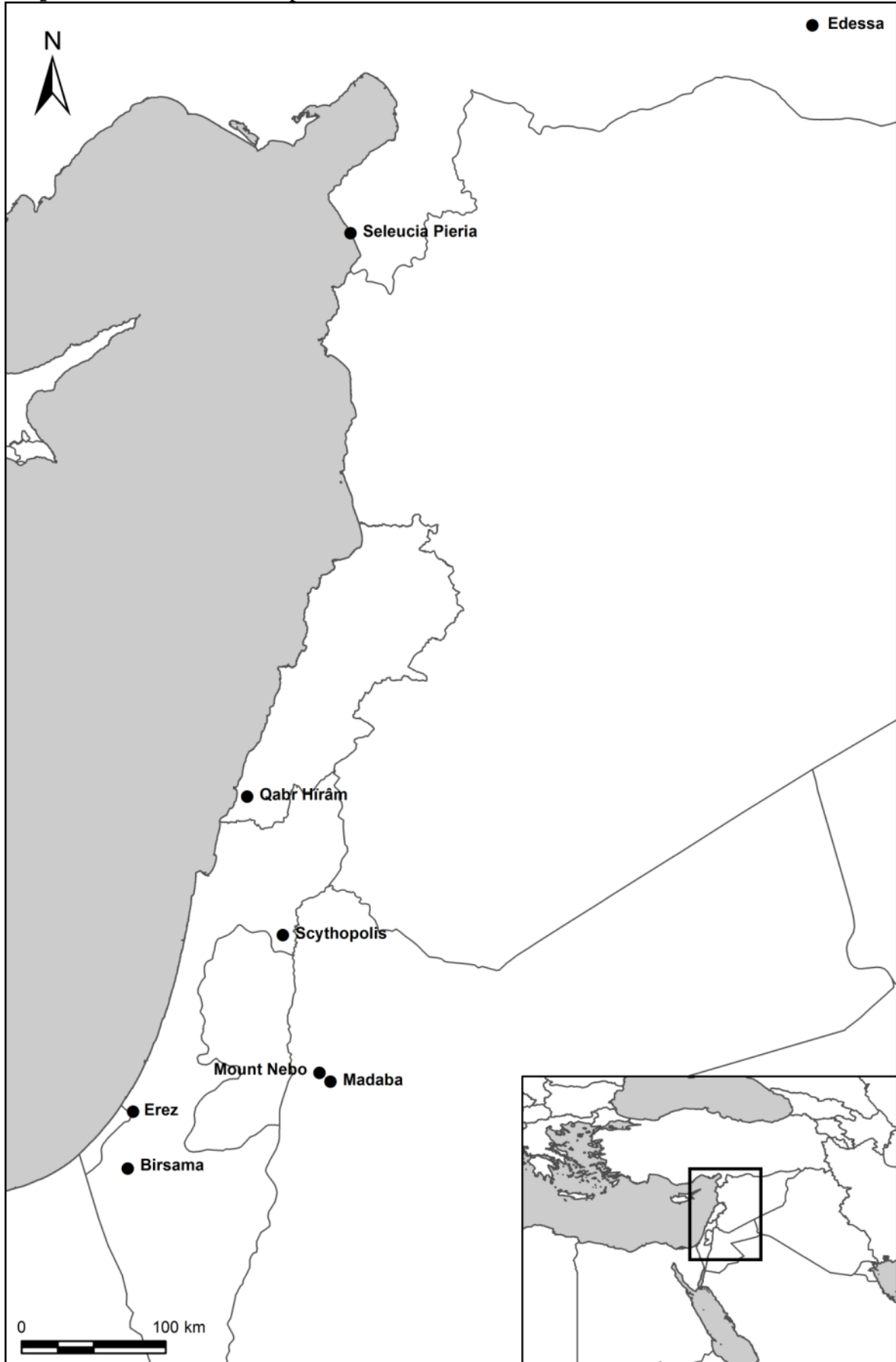
Map 1: Pastoral Scenes. Chapter 2, Part 1.



Map 2: The Hunt. Chapter 2, Part 2



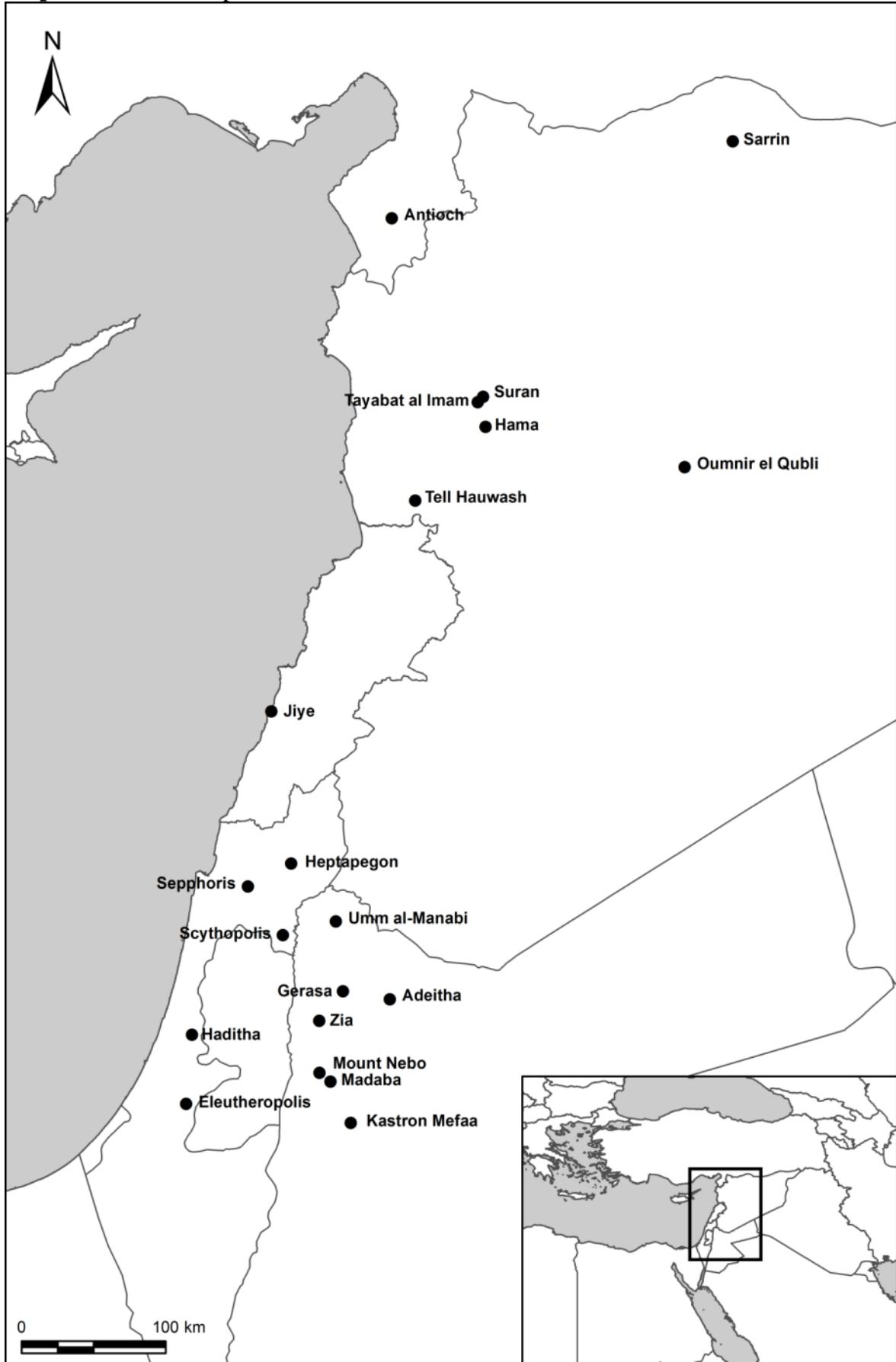
Map 3: Exotic Animals. Chapter 2, Part 3



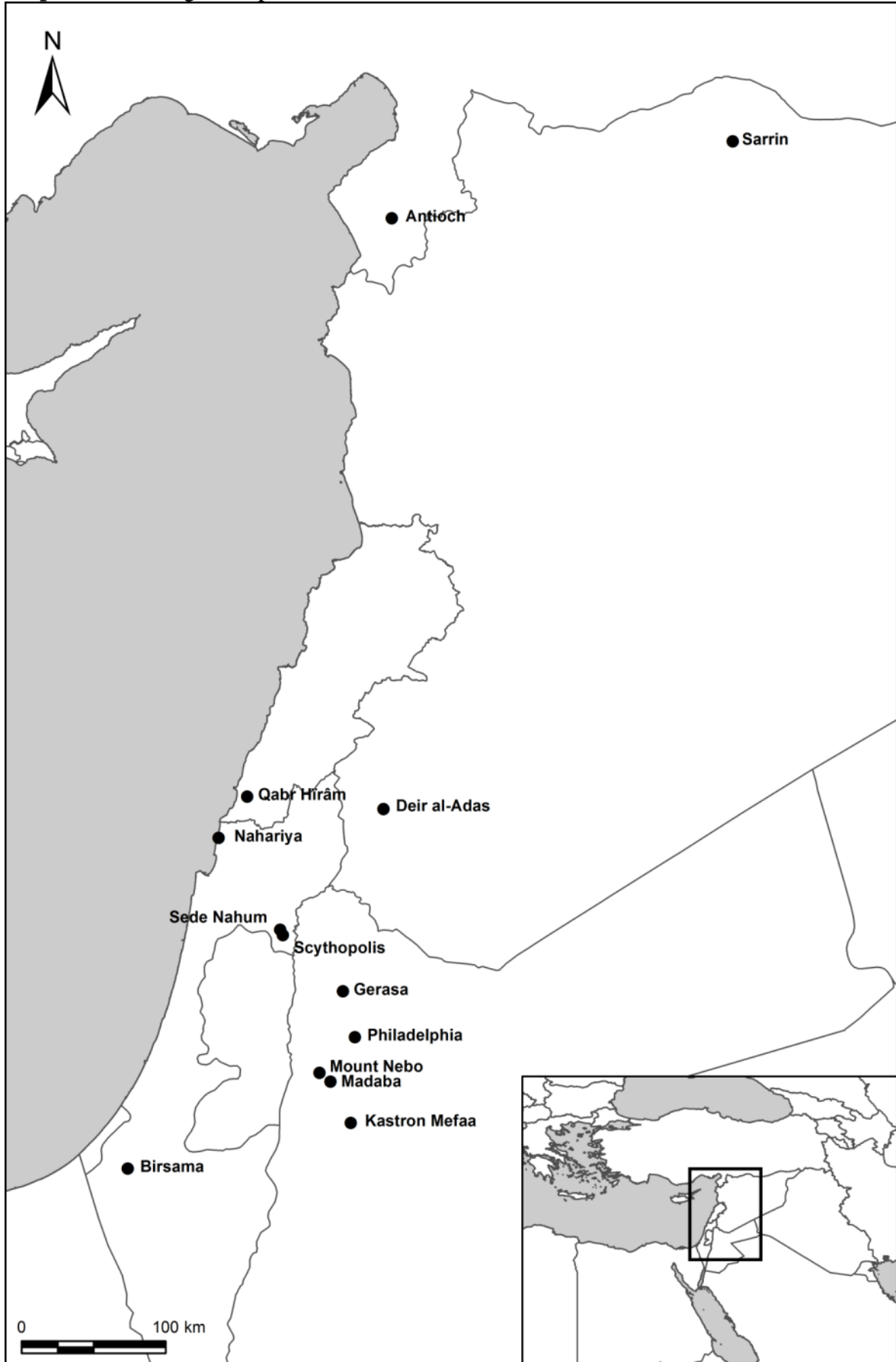
Map 4: Fishing. Chapter 3, Part1



Map 5: The Nile. Chapter 3, Part 2



Map 6: The Vintage. Chapter 4, Part 1



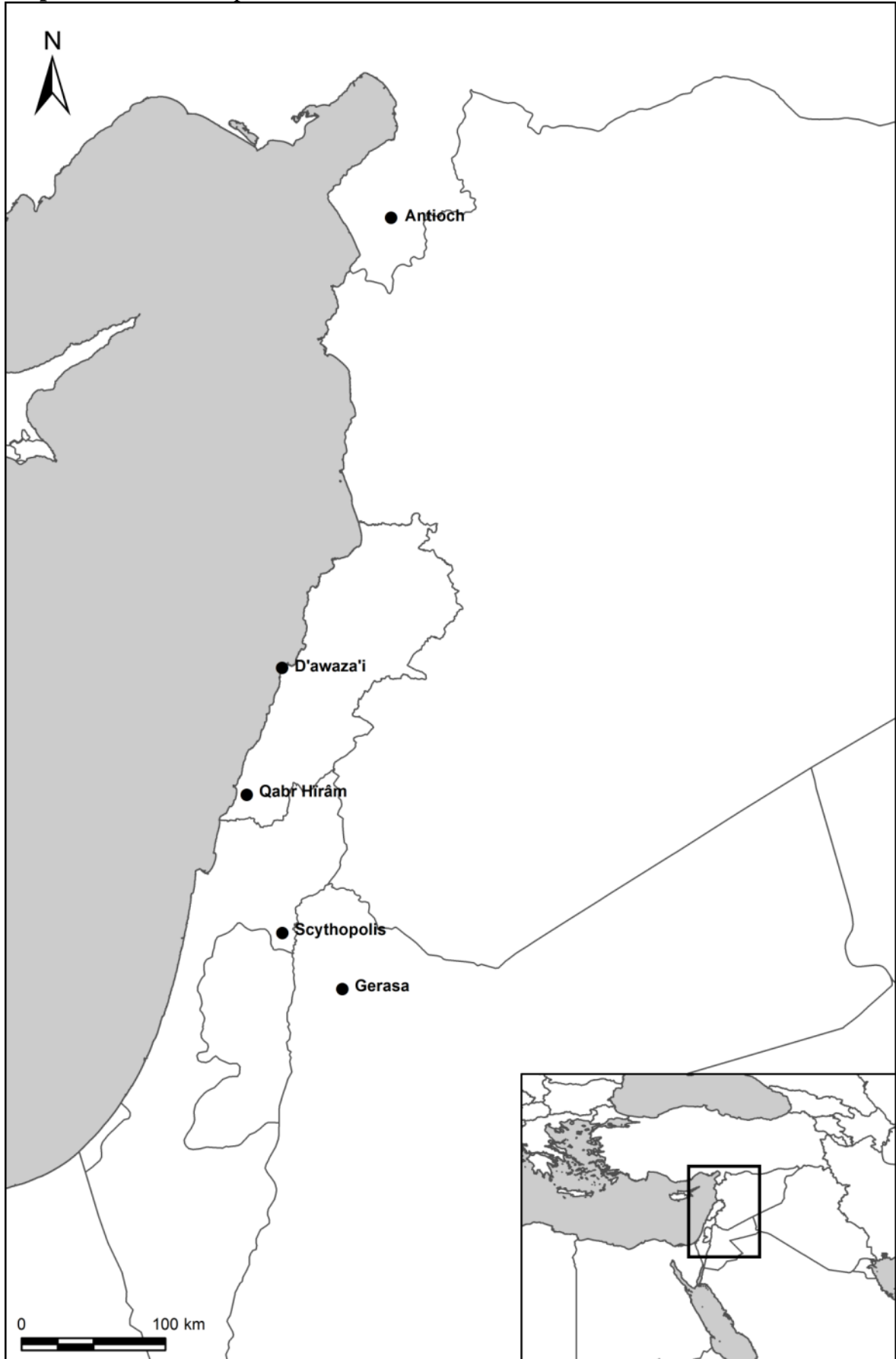
Map 7: Other Cultivation. Chapter 4, Part 2



Map 8: The Zodiac. Chapter 5, Part 1



Map 9: Calendars. Chapter 5, Part2



Figures for the Chapters.

Figure 1: The Great Palace, Constantinople

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Figure 2: Lydda/Lod

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Figure 3: Lydda/Lod

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Figure 4: St. Stephen, Birsama.

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Figure 5: Villa at
Zilten

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Figure 6: St Ellias, Kissufim.

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Figure 7: The Seasons, Deir es Sleib

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Figure 8: The House of the Amazons, Edessa.

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Figure 9: House of the Amazons, Edessa.

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Figure 10: Carthage Boar Hunt

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Figure 11: Mosaic of Dominus Iuli, North Africa.

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Figure 12: The Small Hunt, Piazza Armerina

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Figure 13: Pavement of Smirat

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Figure 14: The Great Hunt, Piazza Armerina

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The Great Hunt, continued.

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Figure 15: The panel of 'Meleager' and 'Atalanta', Apamea.

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Figure 16: Amazons of the Triclinos, Apamea.

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Figure 17: North Church at Huarte.

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Figure 18: Church at Ebus.

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Figure 19: Chapel at Khirbat al-Kursi

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Figure 20: Church at Mount Berenice

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Figure 21: Synagogue of Maiumas

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Figure 22: Abu Barakat

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Figure 23: Erez

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Figure 24: Sousse Villa

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Figure 25: Fishing pavement at Piazza Armerina

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Figure 26: Shaba-Philippolis

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Figure 27: Fishing scenes from Beth Loya

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Figure 28: Church of the Holy Martyrs, Tayibat al-Iman

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Figure 29: Detail of the border from Tell Hauwash

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Figure 30: Oumnir el Qubli

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Figure 31: Haditha

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Figure 32: Umm al Manabi

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Figure 33: Zia/Zay

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Figure 34: Border from the House of Dionysios, Sepphoris

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Figure 35: Qasr el Libr, the Nile personification.

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Figure 36: Sede Nahum

Figure 37: Ceiling at Dendera

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Figure 38: Ceiling of Bel at Palmyra

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Figure 39: Zodiac at Münster

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Figure 40: House of Kassiopeia, Palmyra

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Figure 41: Tallarus Baths, Astypalaea.

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Figure 42: Zodiac at Sparta

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Figure 43: Zodiac at Hammath Tiberias

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Figure 44: Zodiac of Yaphia

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Figure 45: Zodiac of Sepphoris

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Figure 46: Zodiac of Huseifa

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Figure 47: Zodiac, Nar'aran

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Figure 48: Susiya Zodiac

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Figure 49: Samaritan synagogue

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Beth Alpha

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Figure 50: Plans of the synagogue zodiacs

Huseifa

Hammath Tiberias

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Sepphoris

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Na'aran

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Susiya

Figure 51: Calendar at Argos

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Figure 52: Calendar at Tegea

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Figure 53: Awza'i Villa

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Bibliography

Abbreviations:

AJA: American Journal of Archaeology
BAAL: Bulletin d'Archeologie et d'Architecture Libanaises
BASOR: Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research
CahArch: Cahiers Archéologiques
DOP: Dumbarton Oaks Papers
EI: Eretz-Israel
IEJ: Israel Exploration Journal
IES: Israel Exploration Society
JRA: Journal of Roman Archaeology
PEJQ: Palestine Exploration Journal Quarterly
PEQ: Palestine Exploration Quarterly
QDAP: Quarterly of the Department of Antiquities of Palestine

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