



LECTURE



A camel in fields of flowers on the dress of a Bedouin woman from southern Jordan (1930s)

Monday, 28 November 2011

Twixt Sand and Sown: the Population Dynamics of Southern Jordan between Byzantium and the Mamluks - a New GIS Project

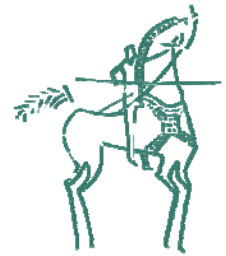
Dr Claudine Dauphin & Dr Mohamed Ben Jeddou

6:00 pm at the British Institute in Amman (CBRL)
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Abstract: From the twilight of Byzantine rule to the Mamluks, covering a large semi-arid zone from the Mediterranean coast of Southern Palestine to the vast expanses of desert of Southern Jordan, *Provincia Palaestina Tertia* (Third Palestine) was the scene of various modes of interaction between agriculturalists and nomads between the late sixth and sixteenth centuries: infiltration, semi-sedentarisation, sedentarisation, reversal to nomadism, and temporary settling for the servicing of pilgrims on the *Dharb al-Hajj*. Using Geographical Information Systems (GIS) as a new tool to follow over eight centuries the fluctuations of the 'Man-Environment' and 'Nomadism-Sedentarism' relationships, an exciting geo-spatial approach applied to Landscape Archaeology is put forward for the first time in this lecture, in order to capture the diachronic population dynamics of Southern Jordan, to detect and trace changes at play in the landscape of arable lands and desert, and finally evaluate Man's role in these changes, as well as the consequent adaptation of local populations of *fallahin* and nomads.

About the speakers:

Claudine Dauphin considers herself a French Daughter of the Orient with a British upbringing. Born in Alexandria, raised in Amman, Baghdad, Ankara and London, she gained an MA Honours Degree in Near Eastern Archaeology (1971) and a PhD (1974) at the University of Edinburgh, and a Doctorat d'Etat ès-Lettres (1994) at Paris-I University (Sorbonne). A former Research Fellow of Somerville College, Oxford, she is presently a member of the French CNRS ('Orient et Méditerranée – Monde byzantin') in Paris, and Honorary Professor in Archaeology and Theology at the University of Wales, Trinity Saint David, Lampeter. Trained in Byzantine fieldwork in Turkey, she has focused since 1975 on excavating major sites of Byzantine Palestine, (the Shelomi/al-Bassa ecclesiastical farm, the Church at Nahariyya, the pilgrimage church of Dora/ Tanturah) and on conducting Landscape Archaeology surveys of four Roman and Byzantine settlements in *Gaulanitis*. Since 1994, she has been in charge of the archaeological site of the Bethesda (Probatika) Pools and of the Museum of the White Fathers in the French National Domain of St Anne's, Jerusalem. Her passion for Palestine since Antiquity, the changing distribution patterns of its population, its religious diversity, health, and diet, have led her to publish *La Palestine byzantine : Peuplement et Populations*, Vols I-III (BAR International Series 726, Archaeopress, Oxford, 1998), and *Eucharistic Bread or Thistles? Fact or Fiction? The Diet of the Desert Fathers in Late Antique Egypt and Palestine*, Trivium Occasional Papers 3 (University of Wales, Lampeter, 2009). Her original interest in mosaic pavements was recently renewed through co-editing *In Memoriam: Michele Piccirillo, ofm (1944-2008). Celebrating His Life and Work* (BAR International Series 2248, Archaeopress, Oxford, 2011) and *La Piscine probatique de Jésus à Saladin. Le Projet Béthesda (1994-2010)*, *Proche-Orient Chrétien* No. spécial (Jérusalem, 2011). In 2008, in collaboration with GIS expert Dr Mohamed Ben Jeddou, she launched two new projects in Jordan: CBRL-affiliated 'Agriculturalists and Nomads in Palestine III from Byzantium to Saladin: A Geographical Information Systems (GIS) Study', and 'Paths of Exile (1948-1949)'.

Mohamed Ben Jeddou gained a Diplôme d'Etudes Approfondies on 'Archaeology and Heritage' (2001) at Tunis 1 University, and a Doctorate (2006) at Nice University. Formerly in charge of the database for the Computerised Map of the Tunisian Archaeological Heritage at the Institut National du Patrimoine de Tu-

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nisie, he has participated as GIS expert in archaeological projects in Oman, Yemen, Syria, the EU-funded 'Terraced Landscapes in Alpine Regions' (Alpter), and France. Seconded to the Department of Antiquities of Jordan within the framework of the Jordanian Archaeological DataBase Information System (JADIS) by IFPO (Institut Français du Proche Orient) on behalf of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he has run training sessions in GIS for selected members of DAoJ staff in Amman (2005-2007). He is a CNRS Associate Researcher of 'Orient et Méditerranée – Monde byzantin' in Paris. His publications include *Vers une étude de la dynamique du peuplement en Tunisie de la Protohistoire jusqu'au Haut Moyen Âge, Etude comparative entre deux régions: Béja (Nord-ouest) et Qlibya (Nord-est)*, Vols 1-II, BAR International Series 1727 (Archaeopress, Oxford, 2007) and 'Colonialism and Landscape: Population dynamics and land use in Northern Tunisia under Roman and French rule', *Landscapes* 2008: 72-90.

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