

Free Public Lecture

Petrie Oration:

Samaria's Ostraca House: Making Sense of a Complicated Context



Dr. Ron Tappy

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George Andrew Reisner counted the Israelite ostraca (potsherds with writing) among the most important finds ever recovered by the Harvard Expedition to Samaria (1908–1910). But the precise provenance of these historic inscriptions has remained murky at best. To date, the most incisive and intuitive statement on their archaeological context comes from an unpublished dissertation written at Harvard University in 1966. This lecture will examine the depositional history of the Ostraca House and its immediate surroundings in an attempt to clarify the date of the contexts from which excavators recovered the inscriptions. The discussion will draw on unpublished materials contained in Reisner's Field Diary (Vols I–VII) and, to a lesser extent, Fisher's private Journal (Vols I–II).

In addition to his teaching responsibilities, Prof Tappy is also director of the Kelso Museum of Near Eastern Archaeology located at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and the project director and principal investigator of The Zeitah Excavations, an archaeological field project at Tel Zayit, Israel. He Tappy received a MATS degree *summa cum laude* from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and his AM and Ph.D. (with distinction) from Harvard University.

Thursday 7 May, 2015, 5.00pm (refreshments from 4.30pm)
Australian Institute of Archaeology, Terrace Way, McLeod

(La Trobe University, Building EC/TER 11, Melways 873-4, No Parking Restrictions after 4.45pm)

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