



JULY-2023

PRESERVATION ♦ EDUCATION ♦ RESEARCH ♦ INSPIRE

Dear Member:

We are enjoying our summer, traveling, spending time with family and friends. The Fall & Spring calendars are coming together nicely. We have lectures on the Cape Canaveral field school, Bioarchaeology, Cuban Fish Rancheros, the Key Marco Cat and Human Origins so far. If you have any lecture ideas or other things on your mind, drop me a line. See you on September 20.

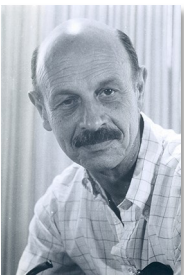
Darwin "Smitty" Smith, President
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Photo: Smitty.

Archaeologists You Should Know Yigael Sukenik (Yadin) Deciphered the Dead Sea Scrolls

By Smitty, Time Sifters Board Member. Sources: Wikipedia, Encyclopaedia Britannica, The Institute of Archaeology, and the New York Times.



Yigael Sukenik (Yadin) was born on March 20, 1917 in Jerusalem, Ottoman Palestine, to archaeologist Eleazar Sukenik and his wife Hasya

Sukenik-Feinsold, who was a teacher and women's rights activist. In 1947 he Hebraicized his name to **Yadin**, which means "he will judge."

Yadin was educated at Hebrew University where he received a Masters in 1945 and his Ph. D in 1955. He served his country as a politician, a teacher, a military hero of Israel's war of independence and an archaeologist. Yadin had a long military career. He joined the Haganah military organization at the age of 15. He served and fought from 1936-1939 during the Arab revolt in Palestine; he served in World War II; and the 1947-

1949 Palestine war for independence. He served as chief of the general staff of the Israel Defense Forces from 1949 to 1952. By age 35, he had completed his military career.

Yadin was married to Carmela (née Ruppin), who worked with him throughout his career in translating and editing his books and they had two daughters, Orly and Littal.

Upon leaving the military in 1952, he devoted himself to research and began his life's work in archaeology. In 1956 he received the *Israel Prize in Jewish studies*, for his doctoral thesis on the translation of **the Dead Sea Scrolls**. Yadin was the leader of the major archaeological



Photos: Wikipedia, the Jordan Museum, Israeli Parks.



expeditions at **Hazor** (1955-58; 1968), the **Dead Sea Caves** (1960-61), and **Masada** (1963-65).

On Nov. 29, 1947, the eve of Israel's War of Independence, Yadin's father had made a dangerous trip to Bethlehem where, for 50 pounds, he bought **three of**

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Yadin ...

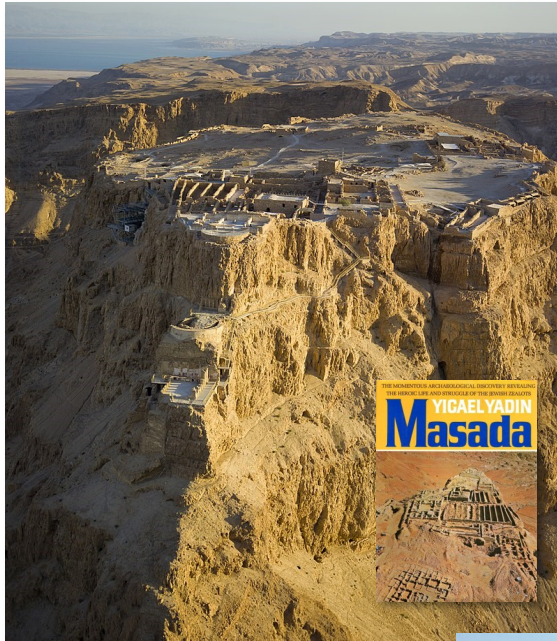
the original seven, 2,000-year-old dead sea scrolls. But war broke out in Palestine and the trail of the other scrolls was lost. In 1954, on a visit to the United States, Yadin fulfilled his father's dream by purchasing the remaining four scrolls for \$250,000. At this point he started his lifetime quest to decipher the scrolls and publish the contents for all to study.

In 1956, he directed his first excavation at the major site of **Hazor**. It was the first large-scale excavation of this kind in Israel and many of those who were to become Israel's leading archaeologists in the ensuing years participated in this and subsequent seasons (1956-1958). He returned to **Hazor** in 1968-1969 to explore further aspects of the site. He also excavated at **Megiddo** at various times during the years 1960-1971.

During 1961 and 1962, Yadin led the expeditions that examined a series of caves in the Dead Sea area. In a cave in **Nahal Hever**, letters and documents from the period of *Bar-Kokhba* were discovered. The most dramatic of these are the letters and orders issued in the name of *Shimeon bar Kosiba*, but of equal importance are the documents in Hebrew, Aramaic, Nabatean and Greek that comprise the archive of Babata.

In the years 1963-1965 Yadin turned to the mountain palace-fortress of **Masada** and with skill, overcame the many difficulties inherent in the excavation of such a site.

With the recovery of the **Temple Scroll** soon after the Six Day War in 1967, Yadin devoted his efforts to the decipherment and publication of



1977. The diversity of matters dealt with in this scroll is great, and Yadin's ability to approach new subjects and to master them stands out.

In 1977, Yadin entered politics, was elected to the Knesset and served as Deputy Prime Minister until 1981. The English translation of the Temple Scroll appeared in the spring of 1984; in this edition attention was paid to the issues raised by attentive scholars and critics.

Yigael Yadin was an

archaeologist who excavated some of the most important sites in the region, including the **Qumran Caves, Masada, Hazor, Tel Megiddo** and caves in **Judean Desert**. He deciphered most of the **Dead Sea Scrolls, translating the contents into English.**

He passed away of a heart attack on June 28, 1984 in Hadera, Israel. He was 67. He

is buried in the military cemetery in Mount Herzl in Jerusalem.



Megiddo

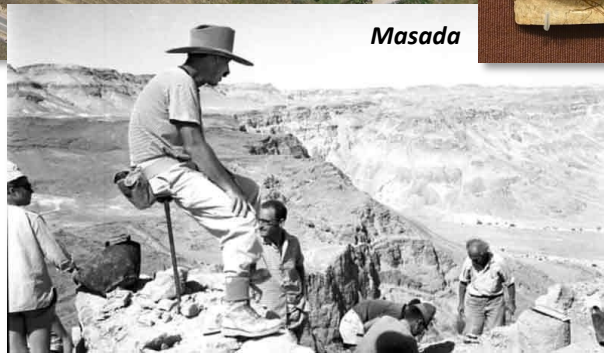


Nahal Hever



Hazor.

Photos: Wikipedia, the Jordan Museum, Israeli Parks.



Masada

this complex text. He had been called back to service in 1967 as military advisor to Prime Minister Levi Eshkol. Despite this interruption, the Hebrew edition of the **Temple Scroll** appeared in



Field School—Texas Style

Privately-owned Ranch in San Isidro, Texas

By Smitty, Time Sifters Board Member. Sources: Dr. Ed Gonzalez-Tennant, University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley

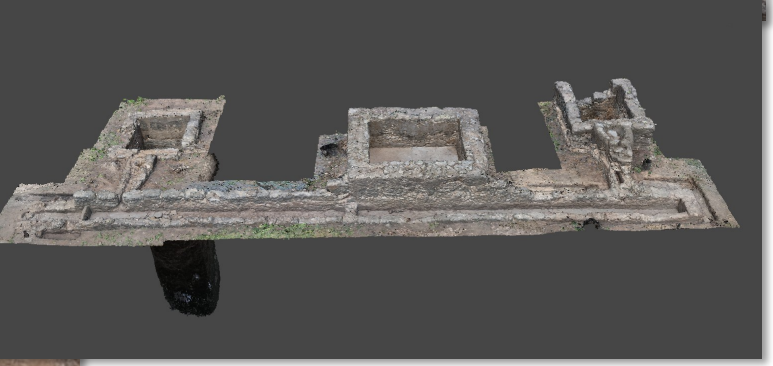
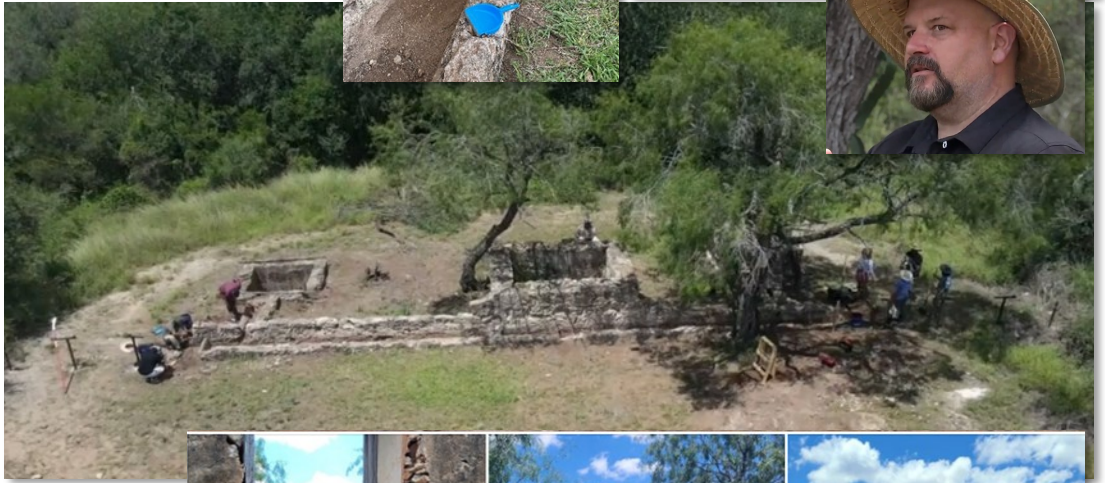
Dr. Ed Gonzalez-Tennant, who has spoken to Time Sifters many times, recently accepted a teaching position at the University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV). He sent us the following on his first Field School in Texas.

The school is at a site that is located on a privately-owned ranch in San Isidro (Starr County). Students from across the RGV and Texas are learning field research methods such as site mapping,

excavation, photogrammetry, and artifact analysis.

Images from their first/second weeks of archaeological fieldwork at a 19th/20th century rancho in Starr County, Texas. Students learned the subtle joys of clearing vegetation, digging shovel tests, and laying out units. All while dodging thunderstorms.

Photos: UTRGV



In the News

A Large Roman Mosaic discovered in London

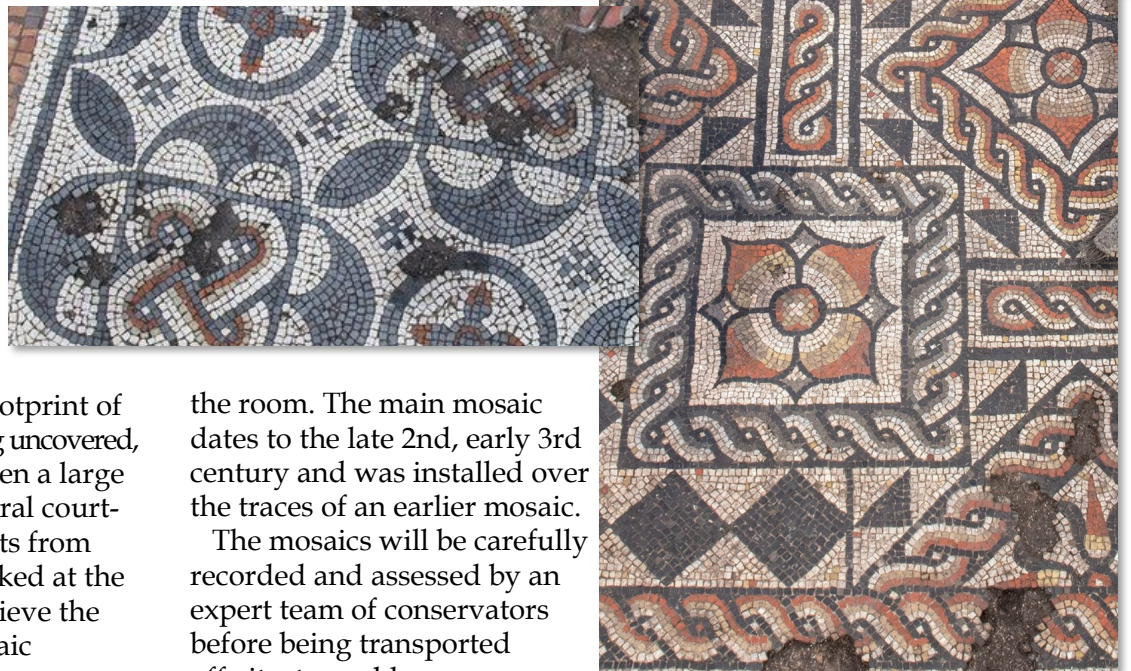
by Smitty, Time Sifters Board Member. Sources: History Blog, The Guardian and BBC News

February 22, 2022 ... Two highly decorated panels have been unearthed by a team from Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) during excavations as part of the construction of a regeneration project near the Shard in Southwark.

The **main panel** features large, colorful flowers surrounded by bands incorporating a twisted-rope design, set within a red tessellated floor. There are also geometric elements and lotus flowers in the main mosaic and a smaller nearby panel.

The floor is part of a 26 feet long room, that was likely a triclinium (a Roman dining room). The triclinium may have been part of a Roman mansion, effectively an upmarket motel offering accommodation, dining and stabling to state officials and couriers travelling to and from Londinium across the river. The footprint of the building is still being uncovered, but it appears to have been a large complex around a central courtyard. The archaeologists from MOLA, who have worked at the site for over a year, believe the room housing the mosaic contained dining couches on which people would recline to eat and drink. The walls were also richly decorated.

A **second, smaller panel** is believed to have decorated a recess in



the room. The main mosaic dates to the late 2nd, early 3rd century and was installed over the traces of an earlier mosaic.

The mosaics will be carefully recorded and assessed by an expert team of conservators before being transported off-site, to enable more detailed conservation work to take place. Future plans for the public display of the mosaics are currently being determined.

Photos: MOLA, Guardian, BBC News.

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