

“LATE BRONZE AGE MADABA AND THE TRANSITION TO THE IRON AGE”

Near Eastern Archaeological Society Annual Meetings, San Francisco, 1997

**Timothy P. Harrison
Oriental Institute
1155 E. 58th Street
Chicago, IL, 60637
harrison@midway.uchicago.edu**

ABSTRACT

Mounting archaeological data has begun to supplement the documentary record for the Late Bronze and Early Iron Ages in the Highlands of central Jordan. Ongoing excavations at Tell Madaba present an opportunity to review the current state of our knowledge, and to identify patterns of land use and settlement. The evidence indicates a shift from a cultural landscape characterized by small settled communities confined to the transit corridors that facilitated long distance trade through the region during the Late Bronze Age, to a dispersed configuration comprised of numerous new agricultural settlements that emerged scattered across the highland terrain with the onset of the Early Iron period. This paper will examine the archaeological evidence from Madaba, assess its role in the events surrounding this dynamic transition, and suggest directions for future research.