

Gil J. Stein

In July–August 2010, **Gil J. Stein** conducted the third field season as American co-director of the Joint Syrian-American excavations at Tell Zeidan, studying the roots of Mesopotamian urbanism in the Ubaid period at this 12.5 ha regional center in the Euphrates river valley. A fuller description of the excavations is presented in this *Annual Report*.

Gil has also continued with the work toward publication of his 1992–1997 excavations at Hacinebi, a fourth-millennium BC Uruk Mesopotamian colony in the Euphrates valley of southeast Turkey. Now that the analyses of the stratigraphy of the site are complete, Dr. Belinda Monahan has been finalizing the typology of local Anatolian and Mesopotamian Uruk

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ceramic types. Hacinebi has one of the largest stratigraphically excavated ceramic data sets currently available for this time period in the Near East. Once published, Stein hopes that the Hacinebi ceramic sequence can make a significant contribution to the understanding of Uruk Mesopotamia and the world's earliest-known colonial network.

Gil was invited to present a series of lectures and presentations over the past year. On October 6, 2010, he spoke at Harvard University on the topic "Conquest, Colonialism, and Contact: Rethinking Models of Ancient Inter-Regional Interaction." In December, he gave two lectures in Paris at the University of Paris-Nanterre and the Sorbonne (Maison de l'Orient) on the topic of "Complexity, Social Identity, and Inter-Regional Interaction in Ubaid Upper Mesopotamia." On January 26, 2011, in the Yale University Anthropology Department, Gil presented the lecture "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner? Social Identity, Mixed Marriages, and Commensal Politics in an Ancient Mesopotamian Colony." On April 13, Gil presented a lecture at the University of Chicago Interdisciplinary Archaeology Workshop titled "The Emergence of Political Leadership in Sixth-Fifth Millennium Mesopotamia: A Progress Report from Tell Zeidan, Syria."

Gil also gave a number of public outreach lectures. On March 16, he spoke at the Science Café in Evanston, Illinois, on the topic "Archaeology and the Roots of Civilization." On June 15, Gil spoke to a group from the President's Circle of the Chicago Botanic Garden on "The Archaeology of Ancient Fields and Gardens."

Gil has a book chapter in press: "Food Preparation, Social Context, and Ethnicity in a Prehistoric Mesopotamian Colony" in *The Menial Art of Cooking: Archaeological Studies of Cooking and Food Preparation*, edited by Sarah R. Graff and Enrique Rodriguez-Alegria (Boulder: University Press of Colorado).

He is currently working on the publication of preliminary reports from the first three field seasons of excavation at Tell Zeidan, Syria, and is also completing a publication that examines the Persian-period burials from his site of Hacinebi, Turkey.
