

**Donald Whitcomb** continued to spend much of his research time working on the history and archaeology of Aqaba. In addition to the 1989 field season of excavations in November and December, he had returned to Jordan in the Spring of 1989, when he showed the site to Crown Prince Hasan of Jordan. He also returned during the summer of 1990 to finalize plans for the reconstruction of the Syrian Gate (the Visitors' Orientation Center). Two papers have resulted from this recent fieldwork, a study of the history of Aqaba based on the findings from the Square Tower, and a more general study of the trade of Ayla, the latter to appear in a special volume on the Islamic archaeology of Jordan. He has begun work on a first volume of preliminary reports for the Aqaba excavations, to be titled *The Gates of Ayla*. Whitcomb has developed a new course entitled, "Late Levant: Islamic Archaeology of Syria-Palestine;" as an outgrowth of this research, he will be travelling in Syria during the coming months.