

# An Overview of the 1987 Season of Excavation and Survey in the Madaba Plains

Lawrence T. Geraty *Atlantic Union College*  
Larry G. Herr *Canadian Union College*  
Øystein S. LaBianca *Andrews University*  
Randall W. Younker *Andrews University*

## Introduction

A second season of excavation and survey at Tell el-<sup>c</sup>Umeiri, Jordan (fig. 1.1) and vicinity took place between June 18 and August 6, 1987. A team of 118 took part in the interdisciplinary project, which included excavations on the tell, surveys and soundings within a 5 km radius of the tell, processing finds in camp laboratories, and camp logistical activities (figs. 1.2-3).<sup>1</sup>

Once again the objectives of the project focused on detailing cycles of intensification and abatement in settlement and land use at Tell el-<sup>c</sup>Umeiri and its vicinity. Central to this goal was the study of the food systems employed by the inhabitants through time.<sup>2</sup> Implementation of project objectives was accomplished during the 1987 season by expanding excavation areas on the central tell and enlarging the regional survey to five teams, each with discrete objectives.

Previous work by the Madaba Plains Project during five seasons of excavation at Tell Hesban in the 1960s and 1970s and one season at Tell el-<sup>c</sup>Umeiri in 1984 has indicated that a series of five broad cycles of settlement intensification and abatement took place in the frontier region of central Transjordan.

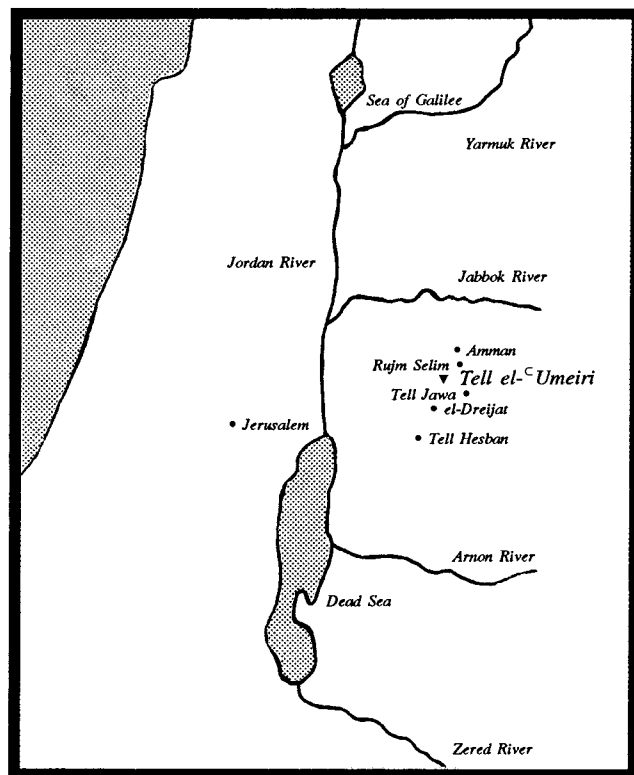


Fig. 1.1. The Madaba Plains Project area.