

Re: Christian Origins and Archaeology

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.archaeology/2006-12/msg00628.html>

- *From:* "Tom McDonald" <kiltmac@xxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* 15 Dec 2006 16:28:06 -0800
-

Carl wrote:

Tom McDonald wrote:

...
Whoa, baby! This is starting in medias res big-time.
.
Back up to the archaeology. The first thing is to look at the thing(s) itself.
...
Ignorant. Help me repair that, piece by piece, as an archaeologist would.

Well, at least you tried Google Images.

Beautiful pictures of the Qumran sundial are found in the book 'A Day at Qumran', ed. A Roitman (Israel Museum, Jerusalem, 1997).

Note Ref 1 for Thiering's article on The Qumran sundial – excerpt

(1) M. Albani and U. Glessmer, 'Un instrument de mesures astronomiques à Qumran' Revue Biblique 104, 1, 1997, pp. 88–115. See also Pfann, S.J., 'The Writings in Esoteric Script from Qumran', in The Dead Sea Scrolls Fifty Years After their Discovery 1947–1997, eds L. H. Schiffman, E. Tov, J.C. VanderKam, Israel Exploration Society, with the Shrine of the Book, Israel Museum, Jerusalem, 2000. It was S. Pfann who first recognised the object as a sundial, but his explanation of the markings is even less convincing.

The Qumran sundial
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/qumran_origin/message/308

Then again, to be exhaustive, use KEYWORDS Thiering sundial to get all her articles commenting on the Qumran sundial in the Search Facility for the above Internet Forum I moderated for 4 years.

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I realize you want the Internet to deliver it all to you, but no can do. Perhaps I have an advantage over you because BT gave me a copy of her article and you don't have it.

It costs money – if interested, add to shopping cart.

THE QUMRAN SUNDIAL AS AN ODOMETER USING FIXED LENGTHS OF HOURS

by Dr. Barbara Thiering

<http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/brill/dsd/2002/00000009/00000003/art00003>

Excerpt from page 355 –

An Odometer Using Fixed Length of Hours

It may be argued, rather, that the object, originally a sundial, had a secondary function which did not rely on shadows, the detachable gnomon having been removed. The added marks were for the purpose of adapting it to serve as a kind of odometer for travellers, who carried the small object with them. It measured the distances walked in terms of time.

Page 362 – excerpt

If each mark on the rings of the dial stood for 800 cubits, and if there were a fixed length of hours, then a time–distance ratio is supplied, a walking rate.

Page 363 (conclusion) – excerpt

The rules for "camps" given in the context of a residence in Damascus in CD, would indicate that Damascus, understood literally, was an outlying centre to which leaders from Qumran travelled. The document composed there, CD, would have been brought back to Qumran and placed in caves. Moreover, archaeological evidence is now increasing that there were Essene centres at some distance from Qumran. The recent discovery of large numbers of Qumran–type graves at Khirbet Qazone in Nabatea(17), and of similar graves near Jerusalem itself(18), as well as of Qumran–type cisterns at El–Kharrar east of Jordan opposite Jericho(19), add to the evidence already known of related centres down the west coast of the Dead Sea. We are dealing with a network of places that looked to Qumran as their centre of organisation and leadership. It may be that one of the travelling ascetics has left behind his stone odometer

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as permanent evidence
of his fellowship with other members in different places.

(17) K.D. Politis, "Excavations at the Nabatean Cemetery at Khirbet Qazone, 1996–1997,"
ADAJ 42 (1998). See the discussion in "Who Lies Here?" BAR 25/5
(Sep/Oct 1999) 48–53.

(18) B. Zissu, "'Qumran Type' Graves in Jerusalem: Archaeological
Evidence of an Essene
Community?" DSD 5 (1998) 158–71.

(19) See the Internet article by M. Waheed,
<http://www.elmaghtas.com/xcavation/xcavation.html>.

Nope, you still don't get it. I do not give a flying crap about
Theiring's, or anyone else's, analysis of the (apparently singular)
sundial. At this point.

Tell me about the finding of the object, as I asked in my previous
post. If something isn't easily available, don't tell me I can't have
it without paying. If you know the story, or have the details of its
finding ready to hand, *you* tell the story.

I am interested in the archaeology. You say there is archaeology, but
can't seem to share any.

So far, I am not blown away.

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