



2016 Goals of CEPU

Documentation will include, as much as possible:

- A photo of each workman from their season(s) of work, as well as updated photos where possible
- Video/Audio interviews with former/current workmen
- Interviews with workmen's family members about the impact of work on the household
- Create a basic family tree for the workmen (think more on this one-CW thinks recording family relationships between workers)

The Future of CEPU

Future goals will include:

- Development of a bilingual video and/or book on the CEPU results for a public audience
- Display of acquired media in an exhibit to accompany 'Umayri artifacts
- Formal publication of results as part of the Madaba Plains Project-Tall al-'Umayri final publications series

Madaba Plains Project Tall al-'Umayri



CEPU - A Part of the MPP

In 2012 a group of archaeologists working at 'Umayri began to explore the history of the Jordanian workmen. They were interested in the family relationships among the workmen as well as their history with the land. Most of the workmen live in the nearby village of Bunayat and represent a tradition of collaboration with the MPP since 1984.

A desire to document the scope of these historic relationships gave birth to CEPU. It is hoped that this project will capture the workmen's sense of pride in their land and heritage and promote a sense of ownership of the archaeological site.

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Community Ethnographic Project at 'Umayri

Madaba Plains Project - Tall al-'Umayri



CEPU Community Ethnographic Project at 'Umayri



The village of Bunayat in 1987



The 2012 'Umayri team

Digging began at Tall al-'Umayri in the summer of 1984 as part of the Madaba Plains Project, a consortium of American and Canadian universities. Team members come from around the world.



Jordanian workers from the nearby village of Bunayat have joined the archaeologists in their excavation each dig season. Some of them, like Amjad and Abu Issa, have become familiar faces over the years.

CEPU: A History in Jordan

In the years before construction of the Airport Highway outside Amman, the Almari family watered their sheep, goats and camels at the spring at Tall al-'Umayri. In recent years interest has developed in documenting the contributions the villagers of Bunayat, including members of the Almari family, have made to the 'Umayri project. They have dug, sifted, broken rocks, cleaned the site, and in some cases, excavated. Seasoned workmen from Bunayat have mentored new workers and volunteers alike. They have demonstrated a deep relationship with the land itself and have shown those of us from outside Jordan what 'Umayri and its modern people offer to history.

Amjad Almehti

Amjad began working at 'Umayri in 1987 and has continued to join nearly every season since.



Adel

Abu Issa's brother, Adel, first played at 'Umayri as a child in 1987. He has since become a valued member of the team. Recently he brought his daughter to the site for a visit.

Abu Issa Taha

Abu Issa first worked at 'Umayri in 1994 and over time has become the foreman for the Bunayat workmen.



Ahmad & Mohammad

At least one family has had two generations work at the site. Ahmad and Mohammad, twin brothers, worked at 'Umayri in the early 2000s. Their father also worked at the site before they were born.