



DONALD WHITCOMB'S research during the current year has concentrated on his excavations at the early Islamic port of Aqaba, Jordan (see separate report). He gave a report on the season's excavations to the Explorer's Club in New York City, at the Kevorkian Center at New York University, at Yarmouk University in Irbid, Jordan, at an international conference on Islamic archaeology held in Paris in March, and for the members of the Oriental Institute in conjunction with the opening of the special exhibit entitled Aqaba — "Port of Palestine on the China Sea" (see Museum report). He also lectured on the Egyptian Coptic connections of early glazed pottery from Aqaba at the annual meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt, held in Chicago in April. He presented invited papers on Umayyad Aqaba at the Third Conference on the History of Bilad al-Sham held at the University of Jordan in Amman in October, 1987, and on the "Coptic" glazed wares from Aqaba at an international workshop on Coptic and Nubian pottery held in Warsaw in the spring. The latter discussion will appear in a forthcoming volume of the *Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt*; his article on the Fatimid period residence at Aqaba, and a general report on the excavation season, will appear in the *Annal of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan* while his discussion of the Umayyad at Aqaba will appear in the proceedings of the Bilad al-Sham



conference. He prepared a short introduction to Aqaba which was published through al-Kutba Press in Jordan to serve both as an introduction for visitors to the site and as a catalogue of the exhibit which was put together at the Oriental Institute. After several months in Chicago the exhibit returned to Jordan where it was first set up in Amman but will eventually be housed in Aqaba for the benefit of future visitors to the city.