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**BADÈ, WILLIAM FREDERIC** (1871–1936), professor of Old Testament literature and Semitic languages and excavator of the site of Tell en-Nasbeh northwest of Jerusalem (1926, 1927, 1929, 1932, and 1935). Badè taught at the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California, from 1902 until his death. Although not trained as an archaeologist, Badè carried out his excavation at Tell en-Nasbeh based on the highest standards of his day. He cleared about two thirds of the site, intending to test its identification with biblical Mizpah of Benjamin, which is now generally accepted. The method he employed was the so-called Reisner-Fisher method, dividing the tell into 10-meter squares and excavating in strips. Following the excavation, the strips were filled in. Badè kept meticulous records, including plans, photographs, and descriptions of about twenty-three-thousand artifacts, all of them drawn to scale. Badè's fieldwork ranks above the contemporary excavations at Beth-Shemesh and Beth-Shean, and below those at Megiddo and Tell Beit Mirsim.

Badè died after the final season at Tell en-Nasbeh so that the excavation's final report was prepared by his colleague, Chester C. McCown, and chief recorder, Joseph C. Wampler (1947). Badè's publication of the site is generally limited to preliminary reports of the early campaigns and short articles on specific finds.

Although many excavators before him had written brief summaries of their methodologies as prefaces or appendices to their reports, Badè's *A Manual of Excavation in the Near East* was the first volume written as an independent account of the work of an excavation and the development of its methodology. Today, the Badè Institute of Biblical Archaeology in Berkeley houses a museum whose displays of Tell en-Nasbeh materials illuminate daily life in the ancient Israel.

[See also Nasbeh, Tell en-]

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**BADIAT ASH-SHAM**, the steppe lands of south-eastern Syria, eastern Jordan, and western Iraq. Rainfall in this region is insufficient for agriculture; as a result, the lands were, and still are, primarily used by nomadic herders, visited by hunters, and crossed by traders.

The region is divided into two distinct environmental zones, the *harra*, a rough, rock-strewn basaltic region, and the *hamad*, open, gravel-covered limestone plains. Water is scarce but there are three major oases, a number of wells, and also areas where water is held in pools for some months after the winter rains. The main oases are at al-Kowm in the north, Palmyra in central Syria, and al-Azraq in eastern Jordan.

The Badiat ash-Sham was used sporadically throughout the prehistoric periods. Paleolithic sites have been found around the oases, buried under several meters of later deposition. Kebaran camp sites (c. 15,000–10,000 BCE) are also found near major water sources. In the Natufian period (c. 10,000–9,500 BCE), when settlements in the verdant areas were becoming larger and more permanent, sites with stone huts and heavy grinding tools were established on the edges of the region, in areas where the rainfall was highest.

In the early Neolithic period (c. 8500–6000 BCE), the area was used by hunter-gatherers. Toward the end of that period, the groups developed sophisticated hunting techniques, using stone or brushwood enclosures to trap large herds of game. In the late Neolithic period (c. 6000–5000 BCE) sheep and goat herding were introduced to the region. Sheep and goat were already being kept as domesticated animals in villages of the verdant zone, but this expansion into the steppe marked the beginning of a pastoral nomadic way of life that has always been the economic mainstay of the peoples of the *badia*. [See Sheep and Goats; Pastoral Nomadism.] In the Chalcolithic and Early Bronze periods (fourth–third millennia BCE), villages were established on the western margins of the steppe, specifically in the Hauran region. By the beginning of the second millennium BCE, a series of fortified settlements and stations grew up on the more verdant fringes of the *badia*. Although the archaeological record for the early historic periods is still limited, these sites form a background to more extensive evidence from textual sources, particularly the archives of the Royal Palace at Mari on the Middle Euphrates River. In the early second