

## IEJ Vol. 73/1: CONTENTS AND ABSTRACTS

- 1 LILY SINGER-AVITZ: The Four-Handled Pithos: A Redefined Vessel Type in Iron Age IIC Judah and Its Role in the Olive Oil Industry

**ABSTRACT:** This paper discusses a newly defined, four-handled pithos type dating to the Iron Age IIC and found at a number of sites in Judah. Four pithoi of this type formed part of a large olive-oil press discovered at Tel Beth-Shemesh, raising the suggestion that this type of pithos was possibly associated with the olive-oil industry, in light of its distribution, date, and find contexts.

- 14 SHAWN-ZELIG ASTER AND GILAD ITACH: Dor in the Neo-Assyrian Period: A Provincial Capital without a Hinterland?

**ABSTRACT:** Discussions of whether Dor was an Assyrian provincial capital have focused on a limited group of texts and the material culture of Tel Dor. Here, we approach the issue by examining how Assyrian provinces were organized and the relationship between *kāru* (trade centres) and these provinces. This article also surveys the archaeological evidence for rural settlements in the proposed boundaries of the Dor province and shows that occupation was minimal. Without surrounding rural settlements, Dor could not have functioned as the capital of an Assyrian province. Assyria found other ways to administer areas with no sedentary rural population. In regions whose importance derived solely from trade, officials known as *rab kāri* (chief of trade) were appointed rather than placing such areas under the authority of a provincial governor.

- 34 ANDREW DANIELSON AND HEIDI FESSLER: Tall al-Khalayfi as a Test Case for Assyrian-Levantine Collaboration

**ABSTRACT:** Tall al-Khalayfi (formerly Tell el-Kheleifeh) is uniquely positioned at the nexus of the Levantine and Arabian worlds and has been identified as a fort or caravanserai along a significant trade route. The site remains poorly understood due to the early archaeological methodologies employed in its excavation and the incomplete nature of its publication. Nonetheless, numerous preliminary reports and summaries have claimed strong 'Assyrian' and 'Edomite' elements at the site. Through a targeted analysis of the architecture and material culture, this article evaluates these claims and the nature of the site as it relates to imperial Assyrian and local Edomite power networks. Tall al-Khalayfi is used as a test case to portray, at a very local level, the nature of Assyrian-Edomite collaborative behaviour along a major transit corridor, examining the interplay between imperial power and influence and local agency.

- 56 YAIR ELMAKAYES, DAVID BEN-SHLOMO AND AMOS FRUMKIN: A New Look at the Water Systems at Khirbet el-Ḥamam (Narbata)

**ABSTRACT:** Khirbet el-Ḥamam is a site in northwestern Samaria whose remains, dating from the tenth century BCE to the second century CE, indicate that it was a substantial settlement in the region. Adam Zertal, the original excavator, identified it as biblical Arubboth. This article presents an updated description of the site's Hellenistic–Roman period reservoirs, only partially described in previous research, and an analysis of the water system's strategic importance during the Roman siege of the town. In addition, an earlier, previously unknown water system is presented, which is suggested to belong to the Iron Age II town. Examining the reservoirs as strategic urban assets provides an updated perspective on the site's history.

- 73 RIVKA ELITZUR-LEIMAN, ROBERT DANIEL, DALIA MARX AND GIDEON BOHAK: A Hebrew-Greek Amulet for Nonna, Daughter of Marcellina

**ABSTRACT:** The present article consists of the edition of a Hebrew-Greek amulet inscribed on a thin sheet of silver for a certain Nonna, daughter of Marcellina. It contains a florilegium of chiefly biblical verses and uses some technical, medical terminology, some of which is gynecological.

- 88 HAGGAI OLSHANETSKY AND LEV COSIJNS: Did We Stop Throwing Away the Garbage? Negating Urban Collapse at Elusa in the Sixth Century CE

**ABSTRACT:** The settlements of the Byzantine Negev figure prominently in the current debate over the effects of the Justinianic Plague and the Late Antique Little Ice Age. A recent study claiming that the settlements were abandoned or in decline in the middle of the sixth century CE, based on radiocarbon dating of organic samples and pottery from garbage mounds in Elusa, was offered as evidence for the far-reaching effects of the plague and the climatic event. The current article aims to show that this analysis and the data it is based on are inaccurate. The current study reanalyses and contests that data and presents where and when the last garbage was disposed of before the decline and abandonment of the city. It is suggested that this occurred in the seventh century CE, claiming that the cause was neither the Justinianic Plague nor the Late Antique Little Ice Age but rather social and political upheavals following the Persian war and the Arab conquest in the first half of the seventh century CE.

- 105 R. STEVEN NOTLEY: The Toponym Khirbet el-A'raj and the Site Identification of Bethsaida-Julias

**ABSTRACT:** The origin and meaning of the Arabic toponym Khirbet el-A'raj have remained a mystery. It is of little wonder. The name has coursed through a

philological maze of Greek, Hebrew, Latin, and Arabic over a span of time from the days of the New Testament, the Byzantines, the Ottomans, and reaching into the nineteenth-century rediscovery of the Holy Land. In this study, we will trace its course with some surprising results. We will find that its beginnings lie in a well-known New Testament account that was set in Jerusalem, but that its subsequent journey north can provide evidence for an equally elusive question – the site identification of Roman period Bethsaida-Julias.

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