

IEJ Vol. 71/2: CONTENTS AND ABSTRACTS

- 129 EHUD ARKIN SHALEV, EHUD GALILI, PAULA WAIMAN-BARAK and ASSAF YASUR-LANDAU: Rethinking the Iron Age Carmel Coast: A Coastal and Maritime Perspective

ABSTRACT: The inclusion of anchorages, harbours and shipwreck data in the analysis of settlement patterns holds unique potential when applied to the Iron Age Carmel coastline. The region was limited in resources such as arable land, metal deposits and cedar wood, but showed a wide variety of commercial maritime interfaces. This paper deals with this changing coastscape from the end of the Bronze Age to the era of Neo-Assyrian domination, highlighting socio-political and ecological aspects as drivers of change. In light of this, and supported by recent findings from underwater excavations and surveys, it is suggested that early harbours in the southern Levant should be viewed as symbols of power rather than as purely functional elements. This may have changed with the arrival of the Neo-Assyrian empire, whose role in shaping the Levantine coastline is only starting to emerge.

- 162 ISRAEL FINKELSTEIN: The Date and Function of the Samaria Ostraca

ABSTRACT: In this article I present two observations on the Samaria ostraca. The first relates to the date of the inscriptions, a large number of which were written on sherds of bowls that date to the early Iron IIB in the eighth century BCE. Others were inscribed on sherds of storage jars, possibly the narrow elongated type (known as ‘torpedo jar’), which dates to the same period. This supports an association of the ostraca with the days of Joash and Jeroboam II, or of Jeroboam II alone. The second observation deals with the function of the ostraca. A recent algorithmic study indicates that they were written by two scribes, probably at Samaria. This, the fact that a large number of the inscriptions were written on one type of bowl, and comparative material raise the possibility that the ostraca were related to offerings to a temple.

- 180 SHARYA FRIDMAN: Chalk-Stone Vessels in the Southern Golan: Archaeological, Historical and Cultural Contexts.

ABSTRACT: It has long been accepted in archaeological research that chalk (soft limestone) vessels provide evidence of the Jewish ethnic identity of a site's population. The use of these vessels has been dated mainly from the Early Roman period through the Bar-Kokhba Revolt. During several decades of archaeological surveys and excavations in the southern Golan, virtually no evidence of chalk vessels had been found, even though literary sources and the Rehov inscription attest to the presence of Jewish communities in this region in the Roman period. In a systematic survey of sites in the southern Golan with Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine remains, we recovered over 200 fragments of chalk-stone vessels from 12 sites. In a test excavation at one of these sites, evidence of chalk-stone vessel production was found, including scores of stone cores remaining from the manufacturing process. This is the first such workshop to be found in the Golan and the only one discovered beyond Judaea and the Galilee.

204 DVIR RAVIV, MICKA ULLMAN, BOAZ LANGFORD, AMOS FRUMKIN, ROI PORAT and BOAZ ZISSU: Finds from the Bar-Kokhba Revolt on the Cliffsides of Wadi Chariton (Naḥal Teqoa)

ABSTRACT: Wadi Chariton (Naḥal Teqoa), which drains the southeastern part of Bethlehem and flows through the area of Herodium to the Dead Sea, is known for its numerous karstic caves. Among them is the longest limestone cave in Israel, Chariton Cave. Since the nineteenth century, these caves have been the focus of geographical, archaeological and speleological studies. Archaeological excavations have revealed that some of the caves in this area were occupied since the Lower Paleolithic and that human activity continued through long time spans, until the present. Surprisingly, former explorations did not report finds from the Roman period in Wadi Chariton caves. This is puzzling, given the fact that Jewish rebels made extensive use of karstic caves for refuge during the two wars against Rome. Furthermore, Wadi Chariton is geographically located near the heart of Judaea and next to Herodium, an important administrative centre during the revolts and a site of battles and siege operations. In 2019 we surveyed several caves located in the cliffs along the eastern bank of Wadi Chariton. Archaeological finds retrieved from two of them, Haner Cave and

Hapitria Cave, were attributed to the Bar-Kokhba Revolt. The most outstanding find is a tetradrachm (*sele*) struck by the rebels in the third year of the revolt. Thus, archaeological remains from the Roman period are reported here for the first time, shedding light on the spatial and tactical organization of the Bar-Kokhba rebels, near their headquarters at Herodium. Earlier periods are also represented in these caves, including rich Late Chalcolithic and Intermediate Bronze Age assemblages, attesting to the importance of the area and its caves as a focus for human activity during these periods.

224 ROBERT G. HOYLAND: The Arabic Papyri from Early Islamic Nessana

ABSTRACT: This article traces the whereabouts of a small number of Arabic documents from the early Islamic period that were written on papyri excavated in Nessana (Israel). Most of the papyri unearthed at this Negev village went to the Morgan Library in New York, but these few Arabic texts remained in Jerusalem, where they were mostly forgotten until recently. Two of them are edited and translated here for the first time, and a third is republished with a revised reading.

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