

## IEJ Vol. 72/2: CONTENTS AND ABSTRACTS

137 JOSEPH (YOSEF) AVIRAM 1915–2022, IN MEMORIAM

140 IANIR MILEVSKI, DMITRY YEGOROV, SVETLANA TALIS, YOSSI NAGAR, ELISABETTA BOARETTO, LIORA KOLSKA HORWITZ AND PATRICIA SMITH: The Iron Age Cemetery of Tel Erani, between the Mediterranean Coastal Plain and the Shephelah

**ABSTRACT:** The site of Tel Erani in the hinterland of the coastal plain has been excavated since the 1950s by several archaeological teams. Salvage excavations at the site conducted by the Israel Antiquities Authority in 2015–2016 exposed a cemetery dating to Iron Age I–IIA that had been dug into Early Bronze Age I deposits in the southern part of the mound’s lower terrace. This article presents preliminary results of the analyses of the human remains, selected material culture finds, animal offerings recovered from the burials, and 14C dating. These data provide insights into the nature of the cemetery and its relationship with contemporary sites and contexts.

169 MORDECHAI COGAN: Binding up Samaria’s Wounds: A Critical Assessment of New Assyriological Studies on the Fall of Samaria and Its Aftermath

**ABSTRACT:** A plethora of studies on the fall of Samaria have appeared during the last two decades. Many of these have focused on the roles of Shalmaneser V and Sargon II in this event. Others have suggested new views on the amount of destruction the city suffered, as well as on the lives of the persons deported from Samaria. These studies are reviewed with an eye to their methodological propositions, occasionally showing them to be unsustainable.

189 YULIA USTINOVA, PABLO BETZER AND DANIEL VARGA: An Inscribed Sling Bullet from Iamnia (Yavneh)

**ABSTRACT:** A lead sling bullet, unearthed at Yavneh (ancient Iamnia) and dated to the second century BCE, bears an inscription ‘victory of Heracles and Hauronas.’ This is the first mention of the pair, known as the patrons of Iamnia, in their homeland. The unique invocation to the two gods allows for new insights into the religious background of warfare in Palaestina in the Hellenistic period.

204 UZI LEIBNER AND YAIR AMITZUR: A Lavish, Roman-Period Burial Cave in Tiberias

**ABSTRACT:** This article presents a lavish, Roman-period burial cave discovered in the northern necropolis of Tiberias. It consisted of three skillfully hewn rooms comprising a vestibule with wall paintings and two burial chambers with loculi.

Two ossuaries were discovered in the cave, one bearing a Greek inscription. Another Greek inscription, originally placed above one of the loculi, apparently mentioned one of the family patriarchs. Pottery vessels and oil lamps found in the cave date its use to the late first and mainly to the second century CE. The cave's opulence, and the attestation of a population that was literate in Greek, indicate that it belonged to one of the elite Jewish families of Tiberias.

- 219 MOSHE FISCHER, MATTHEW J. ADAMS, NEER LECT BEN AMI AND YOTAM TEPPER: A Fragmentary Sculpture of Victoria from the Legionary Base at Legio

**ABSTRACT:** The site of Legio in the vicinity of Tel Megiddo is one of the important Roman military strongholds and settlements of Roman Palestine. Over the last decade, large-scale excavations were conducted at the site on behalf of the Jezreel Valley Regional Project, which demonstrated that it was the location of the legionary base of the Roman II Traiana and the VI Ferrata Legions. The excavation has focused especially on the principia (headquarters) of the base, where the official Roman army rites of worship were carried out. All of this has contributed to our knowledge regarding the organization of the Roman military system in the province. A fragment of a limestone sculpture was found in 1972 at Legio and is published here, adding further information to this picture. The recent excavations at Legio provide context to its discovery.

- 236 SHULAMIT MILLER, ZEEV LEWY, NITZAN AMITAI-PREISS AND ANNA IAMIM: A Belemnitella mucronata Fossil from Early Islamic Tiberias: New Evidence of Euro-Asian Connections

**ABSTRACT:** A fossil identified as Belemnitella mucronata was discovered in excavations conducted by Y. Hirschfeld in Tiberias. The fossil originated from Upper Cretaceous chalk formations in northwestern Europe and was found inscribed with a name in Kufic Arabic script. This study analyzes the fossil, its inscription, and the stratigraphic context in which it was found, dating its deposition to the ninth or early tenth century CE. The study further assesses the possible uses of the object, as well as its significance in illuminating trade networks between the Early Islamic Levant and Viking northern Europe.

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