

IEJ Vol. 72/1: CONTENTS AND ABSTRACTS

- 1 AVRAHAM S. TENDLER AND EDWIN C.M. VAN DEN BRINK: A Pottery Neolithic Cave near Kafr Bara along Naḥal Qanah, Central Israel

ABSTRACT: Trial excavations carried out in 2019 on behalf of the Israel Antiquities Authority in the close vicinity of Kafr Bara, situated along the southern bank of Naḥal Qanah in central Israel, revealed *inter alia* a cave that had been used for non-domestic purposes during the Pottery Neolithic, Late Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age I. While the remains attributed to the latter two periods clearly indicate reuse of the cave as a burial ground, deposits associated with the former period indicate a different, initially non-domestic use of the cave, possibly of a ritualistic or cultic character. This report focuses on some of the Pottery Neolithic Yarmukian ceramic finds and their contexts. The newly probed cave underlines the validity of a broader phenomenon recently observed in several natural caves in approximately the same region that contain similar non-domestic sequences from the three periods under discussion.

- 14 ORLY GOLDWASSER: The Early Alphabetic Inscriptions Found by the Shrine of Hathor at Serabit el-Khadem: Palaeography, Materiality, and Agency

ABSTRACT: Only four Proto-Sinaitic alphabetic inscriptions, all on small portable objects, were found in the temple precinct in Serabit el-Khadem, all by the shrine of Hathor. Most of the other (around 30) Proto-Sinaitic inscriptions are rock graffiti found inside and around the mines. In the first part of the article, I present the four finds bearing the alphabetic inscriptions, offering a detailed palaeographic analysis of each inscription. The second part of the article considers the objects themselves, their forms, and their possible cultural role in the world of their users.

- 49 DAVID USSISHKIN: The Function of the Iron Age Site of Khirbet Qeiyafa

ABSTRACT: This paper argues that the Iron Age site of Khirbet Qeiyafa was a sacred cultic compound frequented by pilgrims rather than a proper fortified settlement. It is suggested that the casemate wall surrounding the site served as a compound wall demarcating the cultic precinct. These conclusions are based

on the fact that the walled site had two gates, as well as on the size of the settled area, the massiveness of the wall, and the finds associated with cult uncovered in the excavations.

- 66 CHRIS MCKINNY AND ZACHARY THOMAS: Historical Geography Gone Awry at Khirbet er-Ra'i: The Identifications of Ziklag and (Non-Biblical) Phathura/Pethor

ABSTRACT: Garfinkel, Ganor, and Keimer's ongoing excavations at Khirbet er-Ra'i have revealed a significant Iron I settlement with Philistine pottery and a small Early Iron IIA settlement. In light of this, and their analysis of the biblical sources, Garfinkel and Ganor propose that Khirbet er-Ra'i matches the historical-geographical details for Ziklag. This paper will challenge this identification and suggest a possible alternative ancient name for Khirbet er-Ra'i in light of the writings of Eusebius and existing Arabic toponyms in the vicinity.

- 89 TEHILLA LIEBERMAN, ANAT COHEN-WEINBERGER, AVRAHAM SOLOMON, MORAN HAGBI, JOE UZIEL AND AVNER ECKER: It's Not Just Another Brick in the Wall: The Ceramic Building Materials of Colonia Aelia Capitolina

ABSTRACT: Following the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 CE, the Roman presence brought with it new ceramic building materials, including bricks, roof tiles, pipes, and tubuli, usually in relation to public buildings, particularly bathhouses. Among the most well-known are the tiles bearing stamps of the Tenth Roman Legion. In the Byzantine Period, such materials were stamped with private Greek names. A group of tiles uncovered in the Wilson's Arch excavations fill the chronological gap between the legionary production and the Byzantine period and display the name of Colonia Aelia Capitolina. These were made from a different ceramic 'recipe' than the legionary tiles, indicating they were produced in a separate workshop and implying a shift in the third century CE from military production (and ownership) of public buildings to municipal initiated construction projects. These tiles support the theory that the original civic centre of Aelia Capitolina was located directly west of the Temple Mount.

- 113 YONATAN ADLER AND DENNIS MIZZI: A Roman-Era Chalk Quarry and Chalk-Vessel Workshop at 'Einot Amitai in Lower Galilee: A Preliminary Report

ABSTRACT: This is a preliminary report on the results of three seasons of excavation (2016–2018) carried out at 'Einot Amitai, located in the Lower Galilee on the western slopes of the Har Yonah neighbourhood in Nof HaGalil. The excavations uncovered remains of a Roman-era chalk quarry which

provided the raw material for an on-site workshop that produced chalk vessels. The interior of the cave contained a predominantly gravel fill comprised of ancient chippings produced as a by-product of both quarrying and stone-vessel production which took place within the cave. The fill contained close to 500 fragments of cores and vessels discarded in various stages of manufacture. The results of the present excavations provide the opportunity for novel insights into manufacturing techniques, vessel typology, and chronology. The discovery of large-scale chalk-vessel production at this site, almost certainly for local consumption, supports the understanding that a significant market demand for chalk vessels characterized the Galilee in a manner similar to the Judean heartland.