

IEJ Vol. 71/1: CONTENTS AND ABSTRACTS

- 1 VERED ESHED and SHAY BAR: Infant Burial Customs at the Chalcolithic Site of Fazael 2, Israel

ABSTRACT: Excavation at the Chalcolithic site of Fazael 2 in the Jordan Valley in 2013 revealed a third infant burial, in addition to the two previous burials excavated at the site in 2006. This burial, uncovered at the northwestern corner of a rectangular structure in the courtyard of the complex, was primary, found in articulation on a sherd below the floor, and was covered by another large sherd. Infant burials with the body placed on a sherd and covered by another sherd are known from other sites dated from the Pottery Neolithic/ Early Chalcolithic period to the Early Bronze Age I. This burial practice is discussed below in relation to other infant and fetus burial practices during this timespan in the southern Levant.

- 15 ALEXANDRA WRATHALL, ODED LIPSCHITS and YUVAL GADOT: Beyond the Southern Horizon: The Early Iron IIB Shephelite Ceramic Repertoire

ABSTRACT: The recent excavation and publication of material from a number of sites in the Shephelah, Hill Country, Beersheba-Arad Valley and Sinai have prompted a reevaluation of the ceramic horizon of the Iron Age IIB (*c.* late ninth and eighth century BCE) in Judah. In this article we report on the discovery of a ceramic assemblage situated within a short-term refuse pit at Tel Azekah, which has further contributed to this growing corpus of material. A typological assessment of these material remains suggests a new ceramic peg for the region — one that rests between the existing pegs of Tell eš-Šafi/Gath Stratum A3 (*c.* late ninth century BCE) and Lachish Level III (*c.* late eighth century BCE), and aligns with material from Tel Beth Shemesh Level 3 (*c.* late ninth–early/mid-eighth century BCE). The identification of such a ceramic horizon provides the opportunity to elevate the current chronological resolution of the Iron IIB ceramic horizon into ‘early’ and ‘late’.

- 43 YIGAL LEVIN: Was Kiriath-jearim in Judah or in Benjamin?

ABSTRACT: The town of Kiriath-jearim, identified at Deir el-‘Azar above the

village of Abu Ghosh, has come to scholarly attention recently due to the renewed excavations led by I. Finkelstein and T. Römer. Based on their preliminary finds and on their reading of the biblical texts, they have interpreted the Iron Age IIB–C fortified compound that they have begun to expose on the summit of the site as a northern Israelite fortified compound, ‘aimed at dominating the vassal kingdom of Judah’. This paper reexamines the position of Kiriath-jearim on the border between Judah and Benjamin according to both the biblical texts and the site’s geographical location, within the context of the ongoing discussions on the biblical tribal territories, that of Benjamin in particular, the ‘ark narrative’ and other texts that mention Kiriath-jearim, and challenges the excavators’ interpretation of the character and purpose of the site during the Iron Age II.

- 64 YINON SHIVTIEL, DANNY SYON and ANDREA M. BERLIN: A Hellenistic Pottery Assemblage from A Cliff Shelter in Western Upper Galilee

ABSTRACT: A unique assemblage, comprising ten Phoenician storage jars, three rare imported amphorae, two juglets, one cooking pot and one saucer, was discovered in a small cave in northern Israel, accessible today only with the aid of ropes. The cave apparently served as supply cache for a small group of people hiding in a nearby cluster of caves. The date of the vessels converges around 145–138 BCE, a time of intense military activity in Palestine, involving mainly Seleukids and Ptolemies. We speculate that those who hid in the cave were trying to escape local disturbances, shockwaves of the larger events.

- 87 BENYAMIN STORCHAN: A Roman Shoe Brooch from a Beit Nattif Lamp Workshop at Kh. Shumeila

ABSTRACT: Recent archaeological excavations at Kh. Shumeila, in the Judaeian Shephelah, uncovered remains of a *villa rustica* (rural estate). The villa, dated to the Late Roman period, consisted of a domestic wing with an industrial area dedicated to the production of terracotta oil lamps. The lamp workshop at Kh. Shumeila produced an array of Beit Nattif type lamps that are a hallmark of the Late Roman material culture of Judaea. This article presents a single enamelled shoe-shaped brooch found during excavations. Brooch wearing was a common practice throughout the entire Roman Empire. In contrast to simple pins that

were worn for functionality, elaborate decorated brooches made of expensive materials served as important status symbols. Shoe brooches are a unique elaborate type of brooch, commonly found in the northwestern provenances of the Roman Empire. The Kh. Shumeila shoe brooch is the only one to have been discovered far outside the normal distribution in the eastern provenances. The brooch may have reached Judaea as part of a garrisoned Roman soldier's non-combat outfit or may have belonged to a settled veteran who wore it as a symbol of status.

- 101 OHAD ABUDRAHAM: Duplicate Jewish Lamellae from Late Antiquity: Wolfe NA 1 and Getty Museum 80.AM.55.2

ABSTRACT: This article comprises a new edition of a Jewish silver lamella from the Wolfe Family Collection (Wolfe NA 1). The lamella contains a duplicate version of a published silver lamella from the J. Paul Getty Museum (80.AM.55.2). Internal evidences indicate that the parallel sources were written by the same hand. The presence of almost exact replicas written for different clients proves that at a certain point in Syria in late antiquity there was a professional Jewish magician who worked from a pre-set model. Both amulets include a list of 31 angels. This number is now explained as a reflection of the numerical value of the theophoric element

- 109 HAIM COHEN, MICHAL ARTZY and IDDO KATZ: A Glass Pendant from Tel Kursi

ABSTRACT: During 2017, the third season of excavations at Kursi Beach, a yellow/amber glass disc-shaped pendant was found in Area D, at Tel Kursi. The pendant bears a stamped design on one side, showing a standing figure of the goddess Athena/Minerva, leaning on her right leg and holding a spear and a shield. This pendant is part of a group homogeneous in appearance and manufacturing technique. Although such pendants have been found throughout the Mediterranean basin, to date this is only the second pendant with this motif found in Israel.

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