

- 1 GARTH GILMOUR and KENNETH A. KITCHEN: Pharaoh Sety II and Egyptian Political Relations with Canaan at the End of the Late Bronze Age

ABSTRACT: The discovery at the site of Gezer of a jar handle stamped with the cartouches of Pharaoh Sety II offers an opportunity to review the reign of this minor king, who ruled in Egypt at the critical period at the very end of the Late Bronze Age. A description of the context of the jar handle in the Gezer excavations serves to introduce a review of the life of Sety II as revealed in Egyptian sources and through the corpus of objects assigned to this king. Sety's family background and particularly his career as prince and military commander under his father Merenptah expose his significant role in the campaign in Canaan by year 5 of Merenptah, as recorded in the Israel Stela and at Karnak. Upon Merenptah's death the throne was seized by a rival claimant, Amenmesse, and only after three years was Sety II able to exercise his own claim with the demise of the interloper. Sety reigned for six years, during which he continued the tradition established by his predecessors of building in Egypt and campaigning abroad, before his death led to another succession crisis featuring his unhealthy son Ramesses-Siptah, his widow Tewsoret and the shadowy chancellor Bay.

- 22 HAYAH KATZ and AVRAHAM FAUST: The Assyrian Destruction Layer at Tel 'Eton

ABSTRACT: Tel 'Eton is a large site (approximately 60 dunams) in the south-eastern Shephelah, just below the Hebron Hills. The site was densely occupied during the Iron Age II, and it appears that a large and probably planned town existed there at the time. This city was destroyed in the late eighth century BCE, like most sites in the Shephelah, and did not recover. The rich ceramic assemblage unearthed in the destruction layer is very similar to the one found at nearby Lachish (Level III), although some elements suggest that it could be a little earlier. The article discusses the assemblage and compares it to the relevant assemblages of other sites in order to assess the date of the destruction at Tel 'Eton. At the present state of knowledge, we cautiously attribute the destruction to Sennacherib's campaign.

- 54 Boaz Zissu: Excavations near Nahmanides Cave in Jerusalem and the Question of the Identification of Biblical Nob

ABSTRACT: This article presents a salvage excavation undertaken in 2001 near Nahmanides Cave, in the upper section of Kidron Valley, Jerusalem. Segments of open limestone quarries from the second–first centuries BCE were uncovered. The quarries were covered in antiquity by an earth fill, containing large quantities of pottery from the end of the Iron Age (seventh–sixth centuries BCE). The fill may have been brought here from a nearby settlement, the stones of which were dismantled and reused. The article discusses the possibility of the identification of this settlement—which no longer exists—as biblical Nob, located north of Jerusalem.

- 71 Rick Bonnie and Julian Richard: Building D1 at Magdala Revisited in the Light of Public Fountain Architecture in the Late-Hellenistic East

ABSTRACT: The small columnar Building D1 discovered at Magdala in the early 1970s was first identified by the excavators as a mini-synagogue. Although Ehud Netzer has convincingly opposed this view, arguing that the building functioned as a fountain house, some scholars challenge Netzer's identification, most notably on the basis of a doubtful comparison with a supposedly canonic type of Roman nymphaeum. Consequently, alternative interpretations for the function of this building, such as a synagogue or a latrine, continue to appear in the literature. This paper argues that the building has not been compared to the right category of public fountains. Indeed, Magdala's Building D1 presents strong similarities with contemporary examples of late-Hellenistic fountain architecture in Asia Minor and fits perfectly within the context of the long-term evolution of the so-called *stoa*-shaped fountain houses. The function of Building D1 as a fountain house, as argued by Netzer, seems very likely, particularly on the basis of comparative data from the city of Sagalassos (south-west Turkey).

- 89 Shua Amorai-Stark and Malka HersHKovitz: A Roman Ring Depicting Hermes Psychopompos from the Carmel Area

ABSTRACT: This article presents an all-silver Roman finger ring found in the Carmel area near the spring of 'En Tut, with the motif of Hermes

Psychopompos depicted on its bezel. The type of ring and the iconography, meaning, style and date of the motif are discussed.

- 101 Uzi 'Ad and Rafael Frankel: Lever-and-Drum Presses at Moshav Habonim and Horvat 'Aqav (Ramat Hanadiv)

ABSTRACT: Several rock-cut trenches uncovered at Moshav Habonim were almost certainly parts of lever-and-drum presses. Similar installations were previously published from Horvat 'Aqav; although not recognised as lever-and-drum presses, we believe they should be interpreted as such. In Israel, lever-and-weight presses first appeared in the Iron Age and continued to be used until recent times. They were the main type of press to be used in North Africa, southern France, Greece and the Crimea as well. In Italy and former Yugoslavia, however, the lever-and-weights press was unknown, and there the lever-and-drum press was used. Cato the Censor and Pliny the Elder both make reference to it, and examples have been published from southern France, Italy and former Yugoslavia. In these, the drum is held between two drum piers made either of stone or of wood (Cato's *stipes*). The lever-and-drum presses at Moshav Habonim and Horvat 'Aqav are the first to be reported from the Levant. They are also the first anywhere in which the sockets holding the drum appear on the sides of a rock-cut trench. In our opinion, knowledge of the existence of lever-and-drum presses reached the region from Europe but without details, and thus, a unique type was invented.

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