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- 129 EILAT MAZAR, YUVAL GOREN, WAYNE HOROWITZ and TAKAYOSHI
OSHIMA: Jerusalem 2: A Fragment of a Cuneiform Tablet from the Ophel
Excavations

ABSTRACT: A tiny fragment of a cuneiform tablet was recovered in the Ophel excavations in Jerusalem in 2013. Even smaller than the fragment recovered in the 2009–2010 excavations (published in *IEJ* 60 in 2010), the fragment preserves only parts of five signs. Nevertheless, on the basis of the provenance study and an analysis of the physical tablet and sign forms, we are able to suggest a Ramesside date for the tablet and propose that this fragment, like the earlier tablet, comes from a royal letter.

- 140 MICHAEL D. PRESS: The Chronology of Philistine Figurines

ABSTRACT: This article provides new perspectives on the development of Philistine figurines over the course of the Iron Age I. It begins by surveying the major types of figurines in Philistia in this period and considering changes in the assemblage, based primarily on the stratigraphy of the major sites with significant figurine corpora (Ashdod, Ashkelon, Miqne). It then moves to a comparison of developments within Philistia to those in the Aegean and Cyprus. Again, sites with stratigraphic sequences are the most important sources of data, both on Cyprus (Enkomi, Kition, Sinda) and in the Aegean (Lefkandi, Mycenae). Of note is the fact that Philistine figurine developments parallel Cypriot and Mycenaean Greek developments through most of the twelfth century, supporting the idea of continuing contact among the three regions for several decades. Through careful consideration of comparative stratigraphy, then, figurine assemblages—despite their relatively small size—can provide an important supplementary source of data for the chronological debate regarding the Iron Age I.

- 172 ITZHAQ SHAI and JOE UZIEL: Addressing Survey Methodology in the Southern Levant: Applying Different Methods for the Survey of Tel Burna, Israel

ABSTRACT: Surveying in the southern Levant has until recently been limited to basic methods of surface artefact collection. While recent regional studies have begun to integrate other methods, surveys conducted on individual sites—particularly multi-period settlements (tels)—remain outdated. The following study presents the results of two different survey methods applied at the site of Tel Burna, Israel—surface artefact collection and test-pit surveying—and conducts a three-way comparison between the two survey methods and the excavation results, in an effort to promote survey methodology in the region and to determine the best way for surveying such sites. This will help to reduce the expense and damage caused by excavation, while providing further information on the sites, not obtainable through excavation.

- 191 ERIC MITCHELL, R. ADAM DODD and S. CAMERON COYLE: More ‘Boundary of Gezer’ Inscriptions: One New and Another Rediscovered

ABSTRACT: The article discusses two Boundary of Gezer inscriptions found in 2012. One inscription, classified as no. 4, had previously been discovered by Clermont-Ganneau but was never fully published, and had not been seen in the field since his time. The other is a newly discovered thirteenth Gezer boundary inscription; the tenth one with both תחמ גזר and ΑΑΚΙΟΥ. In an appendix, the authors also attempt to sort out the disjointed nature of the discovery, publication and attribution of the Boundary of Gezer inscriptions over time.

- 208 MORDECHAI AVIAM and DINA SHALEM: A Decorated Fragment of a Tyrian Lead Coffin from a Cemetery at Akhziv

ABSTRACT: The finding of a lead coffin fragment in the Gesher Haziv library has led to a surprising discovery: Its decoration is identical to the decoration of a complete lead coffin from Tyre and they were both made of the same mould. This is further evidence of Tyrian influence on northwestern Galilee culture in the Roman period and especially on burial customs.

- 212 MOSHE FISCHER and ITAMAR TAXEL: Yavneh-Yam in the Byzantine--Early Islamic Transition: The Archaeological Remains and Their Socio-Political Implications

ABSTRACT: Well-dated architectural and artefactual remains unearthed in recent excavations at the site of Yavneh-Yam, as well as several chance epigraphic finds, indicate that this harbour town was almost entirely abandoned by its original inhabitants during the first decades of Muslim rule, probably due to its transformation into a Muslim military stronghold (*ribāt*) towards the late seventh century CE. Considered in conjunction with archaeological and historical evidence from other locations along the Palestinian Mediterranean coast, it seems that Yavneh-Yam was one of several urban and rural coastal settlements that were partially or fully abandoned between *c.* 640–700 CE, due to various short- and long-term factors in the aftermath of the Muslim conquest.

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