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- 1 PETER FABIAN, NAAMA SCHEFTELOWITZ and ISAAC GILEAD: Horvat Qarqar South: Report on a Chalcolithic Cemetery near Qiryat Gat, Israel

ABSTRACT: This is a report on a salvage excavation conducted between December 2005 and February 2006 at the Chalcolithic site of Horvat Qarqar South, c. 3 km southeast of Qiryat Gat. The site consists of approximately 60 second burial caves, of which 25 were excavated. We present the structure, contents and organization of the five best-preserved burial caves, including a comprehensive analysis of the ossuaries and offering vessels associated with them. The ¹⁴C dates suggest that the cemetery was used during the late Ghassulian, at approximately 4,000 BCE cal. It is estimated that hundreds of individuals were buried at the cemetery. Also discussed are the typology of ossuaries and offering vessels, their intra- and inter-cemetery variability and its implications.

- 31 HAROLD LIEBOWITZ and LESLIE D. INMAN: A Note on a Bull Protome from Tel Yin 'am in the Eastern Lower Galilee

ABSTRACT: A unique ceramic Early Bronze I bull protome was found in a cultic context at Tel Yin'am in the eastern Lower Galilee. In this article we compare the protome with the small, yet important, assemblage of EB ivory, bone, stone and ceramic protomes known from elsewhere in the Levant. We systematize the assemblage based on the material from which the artifacts were fashioned and with their associated stylistic features. Though not all found in cultic contexts, they ultimately derive from a cultic milieu. The Tel Yin'am example is important both because it was found in a clear cultic context and because it is the earliest example in the assemblage.

- 37 HOO-GOO KANG: The Dating of the Pottery Assemblage of Khirbet Qeiyafa: An Archaeological, Quantitative and Typological Discussion

ABSTRACT: The dating of the site of Khirbet Qeiyafa by its excavators to the early Iron Age IIA (Garfinkel and Ganor 2009) has generated considerable interest, especially among Tel Aviv University scholars (Finkelstein and Piasezky 2010; Singer-Avitz 2010). This paper is a response to Singer-Avitz's recently published argument (2012). On the basis of archaeological, quantitative and typological considerations, it is suggested that the site's original dating to the early Iron Age IIA should be maintained.

- 50 ELIE HADDAD, AVROHOM S. TENDLER, AMIT SHADMAN, HAGIT TORGE and GILAD ITACH: An Administrative Building from the Persian Period East of Rosh ha-‘Ayin

ABSTRACT: Large-scale salvage excavations undertaken by the Israel Antiquities Authority in the low hills between western Samaria and the Coastal Plain, east of Rosh ha-‘Ayin, uncovered a building composed of three wings separated by two courtyards. We identify the structure as an administrative building. The construction of the building is dated to the fifth or fourth century BCE—the Persian period. In the beginning of the third century—the early Hellenistic period—the building was abandoned in an orderly fashion. The plan of the building follows an architectural tradition of administrative buildings from Assyria and Persia which was adopted by local governors in the Land of Israel during the Persian period. The building is located in a region that was settled in the Persian period with villages and farmsteads and is in close proximity to the Aphek pass. In this paper we present the finds from the building, support its identification as an administrative building and discuss its function within the region during the Persian period.

- 69 CAROLINE SAUVAGE: A Maritime Ceremony to Aphrodite/Astarte: A Note on the Dor Scapula

ABSTRACT: This article proposes a reinterpretation of the scene engraved on the Dor scapula through a new reading of its iconography. It argues for a Cypriot origin of the object and for the identification of the scene as the representation of a ritual to the Great Goddess, celebrated before the departure of a Cypriot ship. The paper demonstrates that two scenes of a ritual aimed at securing her protection over navigation are depicted. The first scene corresponds to a celebration—perhaps by a priest—in a sacred place, a temple or an open-air sanctuary. The second scene takes place on the shore while the ship is departing and involves the recitation of a prayer or the singing of a hymn accompanied by the sound of a lyre.

- 90 PETER ZILBERG: A New Edition of the Tel Keisan Cuneiform Tablet

ABSTRACT: This article presents a new edition for the Tell Keisan cuneiform fragment and offers new readings to some of the personal names appearing in it. The fragment is part of a small corpus of cuneiform texts from the Neo-Assyrian period found in modern-day Israel. Small and fragmentary as this corpus may seem, it may serve as an important source for understanding many aspects of the Assyrian presence in the southern Levant.

96 MORDECHAI COGAN: When Was Gezer Captured by Tiglath-pileser III?

ABSTRACT: Several dates for the fall of Gezer to the Assyrian army during its three-year campaign to Syria-Palestine (734–732 BCE) are current in historical studies. The judgement that 732 is inferrable from the placement of the depiction of Gezer’s capture above a cuneiform text reporting battles in that year is shown to be an erroneous deduction. A more likely date is 734, the year of the military actions in Philistia.

100 ETAN AYALON: Twin-Screw Olive-Oil Presses from Israel

ABSTRACT: Numerous stone bases of ancient direct-pressure olive-oil presses have been found in Israel, especially in the eastern Galilee and the Golan Heights. The wooden parts, however, have deteriorated. Ethno-archaeological data, i.e., traditional presses still used in local communities in the twentieth century, enable us to reconstruct the shape and mode of operation of the ancient installations. The existence of rare wooden twin-screw presses about one hundred years old raises the possibility that similar installations operated in antiquity and that certain stone press-bases of the Roman-Byzantine period in fact belonged to twin-screw presses.

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