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- 1 EMANUEL EISENBERG and YAEL ROTEM: The Early Bronze Age IB Pottery Assemblage from Tel Kitan, Central Jordan Valley

ABSTRACT: This article deals with the ceramic assemblage of Stratum VII at Tel Kitan, composed mainly of complete vessels found sealed under a thick destruction layer. Such a rich assemblage of complete vessels from an EB IB domestic context bears great significance, as it is unparalleled in the northern regions of the Southern Levant. The series of complete vessels from Stratum VII offers a unique opportunity to clarify the typological scheme and chronological periodisation known for the EB I and shed light on aspects of technology and organisation of ceramic production. The article aims to examine the EB IB ceramic assemblage in its geographic and chronologic context, in comparison to nearby contemporaneous sites. The results of this examination shed light on the local EB IB ceramic production, which reflects on the complex village society in the Central Jordan Valley on the cusp of urban transformation. In our view, the assemblage represents the zenith of EB I ceramic production and hence can be dated to a late phase in the EB IB.

- 34 AMIT DAGAN and DEBORAH R. CASSUTO: Ḥorvat Shim'on: A Small-Scale Eighth-Century BCE Textile Workshop in the Southern Coastal Plain

ABSTRACT: This article examines the finds from Ḥorbat Shim'on in the southern Coastal Plain near Tell eṣ-Şâfi/Gath. Salvage excavations revealed a distinctly non-domestic eighth-century BCE structure consisting of four identical areas. Analysis of the pottery indicated a strong coastal orientation alongside Judaeian influence at a time when Tell eṣ-Şâfi /Gath, just two kilometres away, exhibits a predominantly Judaeian presence, thus expanding our perception of rural activities in this region at the time. Among the rich corpus of diverse finds are *c.* 160 clay loom weights. Using criteria based on the *chaîne opératoire* of textile production, an alternative explanation is presented for the function of this unique building.

- 55 ADI ERLICH, NACHUM SAGIV and DOV GERA: The Philinos Cave in the Beth Guvrin Area

ABSTRACT: A cave with two Greek inscriptions and two wall reliefs was discovered on a hill near Kibbutz Beth Guvrin. One inscription mentions the name of Philinos; the other is a vulgar inscription attesting to homosexual intercourse between Philinos and Papias. The reliefs depict a Herm-like shaft and another unclear shape. The name and reliefs have parallels in nearby Maresha, *c.* 4 km to the south. The Philinos cave is dated to the Hellenistic period and provides evidence of the pagan nature of the area prior to its conversion from Idumaea to Judaea.

- 70 RUTH E. JACKSON-TAL: Nabataean Cultural Habits: The Glass Finds from Oboda

ABSTRACT: The Nabataeans are known as prosperous merchants during the Hellenistic and Early Roman periods. They controlled a network of inland routes, leading mainly spices and perfume, to the western and eastern parts of the Roman

Empire. This paper focuses on the study of a unique assemblage of Early Roman glass finds unearthed in a large dump in Nabataean Oboda. The uniqueness of the glass finds lies in their rarity and high quality, their varied origins and their dated context. This assemblage provides an intriguing testimony of glass vessel use among the Nabataeans at Oboda with further implications.

96 ANNA IAMIM: The Missing Building(s) at Sepphoris

ABSTRACT: This article brings together the architectural remains exposed by several archaeological expeditions on the top of the hill at Sepphoris. The available evidence suggests that the various architectural components constitute a single architectural complex, conceivably one or another of the buildings mentioned by Josephus in *Antiquities* xviii.27. The overall plans and the method of construction are presented, followed by a discussion of more specific architectural details and possible dating. Finally, a preliminary and partial reconstruction is offered, along with suggestions for future research.

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