

IEJ Vol. 67/2 CONTENTS

- 129 SAMET, INBAL, SUSNOW, MATTHEW and YASUR-LANDAU, ASSAF: Ceramic Assemblages of MB and LB Palaces and Temples: A Comparative Study

ABSTRACT: Understanding the socio-economic importance of temples and palaces requires, in addition to an examination of their architecture, a study of the activities conducted within them. In this paper we carry out an inter- and intra-site comparison of patterns of pottery consumption in Canaanite palaces and temples during the Middle and Late Bronze Ages, in an effort to outline the socio-economic roles of these institutes. We examine three main activities that reflect these roles: the consumption of food and drink; storage; and dedication of votive, miniature vessels. We conclude that temple activities reflected in the ceramic repertoire focus on the dedication of votive vessels in the MBA and commensality in the LBA, while palaces manifest a balance between storage and food preparation and consumption, much of which is broadly similar to that of households during the Middle and Late Bronze Ages.

- 151 COGAN, MORDECHAI: Restoring the Empire: Sargon's Campaign to the West in 720/19 BCE

ABSTRACT: In the winter of 722/21 BCE, Sargon II usurped the throne in Assyria and threw the empire into upheaval. Recent additions to the corpus of Sargon's texts relating to the West point to the seriousness of the situation he faced. Only in his second year (720/19) was he able to undertake foreign military actions. The failed attempt to retake Babylon turned Sargon's campaign to the West into a matter of 'to be or not to be' for the empire. Without control of northern and southern Syria and the Mediterranean coast down to the border of Egypt, Assyria would revert to its pre-imperial stage. The western rebels, led by Yau-bi'di of Hamath, included Arpad, Šimirra, Damascus and Samaria. Following the battles in northern Syria, Sargon moved south and re-established Assyrian presence as far as Raphiah. Absent from the

reports of 720/19 BCE is reference to the kingdom of Judah, whose status vis-à-vis Assyria is the subject of much debate. Did Hezekiah rebel with the others, or did he maintain the vassal relationship with Assyria first undertaken by Ahaz? A review of the sparse sources suggests that Hezekiah pursued a policy characterized by shifts, typical of many rulers of those years, flirting with rebellion when the occasion seemed promising.

- 168 AḤITUV, SHMUEL, KLEIN, EITAN and GANOR, AMIR: The ‘Jerusalem’ Papyrus: A Seventh-Century BCE Shipping Certificate

ABSTRACT: This paper deals with a newly discovered Hebrew papyrus of the seventh century BCE from the Judaean Desert. Based on the content, this is a brief shipping certificate. The document reads: .ירשלמה. /י.י. מנערתה. נבלים. /, ‘[year X from Y daughter of Z hand/maiden of the king. From Na‘arah two jars of wine to Jerusalem’.

- 183 YEZERSKI, IRIT: The Iron Age II S-Tombs at Samaria-Sebaste, Rediscovered

ABSTRACT: During the excavations at Samaria-Sebaste (1931–1935), E.L. Sukenik found the remains of Iron Age II rock-cut tombs on the west slope of the stadium (Area S), close to the Roman city walls. The construction of the stadium would very probably have caused damage to the tombs’ ceilings and to other rock-cut features to the north of it. The tombs show a unique, unparalleled plan with collecting-pits, containing rich assemblages of pottery and other burial gifts. Kenyon dated them to her PP IV–V (c. 765–732/720 BCE). Although much information was lost, in the present article a reevaluation of the chronology of the S-tombs is made in light of modern research and excavations, mainly at Megiddo and Hazor.

- 209 DRAY, YEHOŠUA, GONEN, ILANA and BEN DAVID, CHAIM: The Synagogue of Umm el-Qanatir: Preliminary Report

ABSTRACT: Uncovered at the site of Umm el-Qanatir on the Golan Heights, an impressive spread of ashlar, the remains of a substantial building, were first described over a hundred years ago. In 2003 a project was initiated by the authors, which set out to reveal the full nature of these ruins and to reconstruct a building which seemed to have lain untouched since its collapse in antiquity. This site presented a unique opportunity to utilize groundbreaking methodologies, and thus today, 14 years later, the walls of the building's ground floor have been reassembled *in situ* to their full height. This paper outlines and discusses the methodology and research of this building, which, on the basis of the preliminary results, turns out to be one of the best preserved Byzantine synagogues in the region.

232 NAGAR, YOSSI and ARBEL, YOAV: Soldiers' Graves in Mamluk Jaffa

ABSTRACT: The skeletal remains of 48 individuals were recently found in four adjoining sites at the centre of modern Jaffa. The sites are part of a single graveyard from the Mamluk period, a time when Jaffa was largely abandoned. The representation of adult males in the excavated sample is almost exclusive, in contrast with the gender balance and age proportions in civilian cemeteries. Based on the combined analysis of historical and archaeological data, we suggest that the cemetery served guards of the Mamluk unit stationed in fortified towers overlooking the harbour, who were the only permanent inhabitants of Jaffa at that time. The presence of the guards is familiar from various textual and illustrated historical sources, but the cemetery is the first archaeological evidence to be found of their existence.

247 NOTES AND NEWS