

Ehud Netzer  
(Director)

## HASMONEAN AND HERODIAN PALACES AT JERICHO

Final Reports of the 1973–1987 Excavations

VOLUME V: The Finds from Jericho and Cypros

RACHEL BAR-NATHAN AND JUDIT GÄRTNER

The oasis of Jericho provided the backdrop to the grand Royal Estate and agricultural plantation established by the Hasmoneans on the northern bank of Wadi Qelt. Herod the Great developed the estate into a luxurious winter resort with extensive palaces on both banks of the wadi, including reception halls, courtyards, pools, bathhouses and exotic gardens. The building complex was completed by a hippodrome and by the palatial fortress of Cypros built on the top of a hill overlooking the oasis. After the First Revolt, a Roman villa was built upon the site of Herod's Third Palace between 70–112 CE.

The excavations of the Hasmonean and Herodian Winter Palaces at Jericho were conducted under the auspices of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem by the late Prof. Ehud Netzer during the years 1973–1987. This is the fifth volume in the series of final reports summarizing the results of the excavations. The preceding volumes presented the stratigraphy and architecture (Volumes I and II), pottery (Volume III) and the decoration of the palaces (Volume IV). The current volume, with contributions by fifteen authors, presents additional pottery assemblages and other small finds such as glass, stone, metal, inscriptions, and architectural decoration. These finds reveal similarities with finds uncovered at many other sites in Judea, especially Jerusalem.

### Contents

**Chapter 1** The Ceramic Corpus from the Roman Estate at Jericho: Late 1<sup>st</sup>–Early 2<sup>nd</sup> Centuries C.E. *Rachel Bar-Nathan and Irina Eisenstadt*; **Chapter 2** The Pottery from the Hippodrome at Jericho *Rachel Bar-Nathan and Judit Gärtner*; **Chapter 3** The Glass Finds from the Hasmonean and Herodian Palaces at Jericho *Ruth E. Jackson-Tal*; **Chapter 4** A Carnelian Gemstone from the Herodian Palaces at Jericho *Malka HersHKovitz and Shua Amorai-Stark*; **Chapter 5** The Pottery from the Palatial Fortress at Cypros *Rachel Bar-Nathan and Judit Gärtner*; **Chapter 6** The Glass Finds from the Palatial Fortress at Cypros *Ruth E. Jackson-Tal*; **Chapter 7** The Coins from the Palatial Fortress at Cypros *Nili Ahipaz*; **Chapter 8** The *Opus Sectile* Floor in a Caldarium of the Palatial Fortress at Cypros *Frankie Snyder and Assaf Avraham*; **Chapter 9** The Stone Artifacts from the Hasmonean and Herodian Palaces at Jericho and Cypros *Rachel Bar-Nathan and Judit Gärtner*; **Chapter 10** The Architectural Decoration from the Hasmonean and Herodian Palaces at Jericho and Cypros *Orit Peleg-Barkat*; **Chapter 11** The Metal Artifacts from the Hasmonean and Herodian Palaces at Jericho and Cypros *Ravit Nenner-Soriano*; **Chapter 12** The Miscellaneous Finds from the Hasmonean and Herodian Palaces at Jericho and Cypros *Ravit Nenner-Soriano*; **Chapter 13** The Military Equipment from the Hasmonean and Herodian Palaces at Jericho and Cypros *Guy D. Stiebel*; **Chapter 14** The Hebrew and Aramaic Inscriptions from the Hasmonean and Herodian Palaces at Jericho and Cypros *Esther Eshel*; **Chapter 15** The Greek and Latin Inscriptions from the Herodian Palaces at Jericho and Cypros *Avner Ecker*; **Chapter 16** The *Paradeisoi* of the Hasmonean and Herodian Palaces at Jericho *Kathryn Gleason and Rachel Bar-Nathan*

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