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MANFRED OEMING and ODED LIPSCHITS: A Triad Amulet from Tel Azekah
ABSTRACT: This article presents a highly unusual enstatite amulet discovered at Tel Azekah in 2015. It depicts two gods and a goddess, identified as the Egyptian deities Re-Horakhte, Seth and Hathor/Wadjet on the basis of their iconography and the inscription on the rear of the amulet. Though it lacks a secure archaeological context, we claim that it should be assigned to the Ramesside period on the basis of the deities depicted and mentioned in the inscription. The amulet is another indicator of the flourishing contacts between Azekah and Egypt during the twelfth century BCE.
- 150 MEIR EDREY, ERAN ARIE, HILA MAY and ASSAF YASUR-LANDAU: The Iron Age II
Tombs of Area E, Tel Achziv: Between Local Traditions and the Consolidation of the
Tyrian Polity
ABSTRACT: During the 1963 excavation season at Tel Achziv, directed by M.W. Prausnitz, three cist tombs were unearthed in Area E, on the eastern part of the mound. These tombs, built of large roughly-hewn stone blocks, previously dated to the Iron Age IB, display a rich material culture, consisting of pottery vessels, weapons, jewellery and other small finds. To date, only parts of the assemblage of these tombs have been published in preliminary publications. Here, for the first time, we consider the entirety of the tomb assemblages, including ceramic, metal and other finds, as well as tomb architecture and human remains. We maintain that the emerging picture points to a more complex narrative of the Iron Age settlement at Achziv and its population than previously thought. Rather than dating to the Iron IB, they can be related to the Iron IIA and to the existence of an elite manifesting its local identity through burial practices reflecting long-lasting coastal cultural traditions. At the same time, a new date for the resettlement of Achziv is offered and connected to processes of Tyrian consolidation of power, accompanied by the establishment of administrative control in parts of the western Galilee and the Akko Valley in the Iron Age IIA.
- 182 IRA SPAR, SAMUEL M. PALEY and ROBERT R. STIEGLITZ: A Cuneiform Contract
Fragment from Tel Mikhmoret
ABSTRACT: The discovery of an Achaemenid period slave sale cuneiform tablet at Mikhmoret and the edition presented in this study reveal the presence of Babylonians in the Levant during the sixth century BCE. The notation of a *pym* weight in the tablet is unattested in any previously published Akkadian contracts, leading to the conclusion that the text was written in the Levant and may reflect a business transaction regarding moveable property in biblical Samaria.

192 AVNER ECKER and BENEDIKT ECKHARDT: The Koinon of Kosadar in Maresha: A Hellenistic Private Association in the Levant

ABSTRACT: A late third- or early second-century BCE ostrakon discovered within the fills of a subterranean complex (no. 169) at the site of Maresha records the koinon (association) of Kosadar fining a certain person called Rhodon for the sum of no less than 40 silver drachmae. The ostrakon was discovered in the company of two other similar, albeit fragmentary, ostraca. Since the association is named by a personal name, we suggest it was a private association. Though the existence of fines is well recorded in regulations of private associations known from the Hellenistic world on stone and papyri, these are the first documents to be discovered that record the actual imposition of one. Furthermore, this is the earliest evidence for a private association in the Southern Levant, and as such constitutes a ‘missing link’ in the development of Greek-type institutions in the region.

208 SHUA AMORAI-STARK, MALKA HERSHKOVITZ, GIDEON FOERSTER, YAKOV KALMAN, RACHEL CHACHY and ROI PORAT: An Inscribed Copper-Alloy Finger Ring from Herodium Depicting a Krater

ABSTRACT: A simple copper-alloy ring dated to the first century BCE–mid-first century CE was discovered in the hilltop palace at Herodium. It depicts a krater circled by a Greek inscription, reading: ‘of Pilatus’. The article deals with the typology of ancient representations of kraters in Second Temple Jewish art and with the possibility that this ring might have belonged to Pontius Pilatus, the prefect of the Roman province of Judaea or to a person in his administration, either a Jew or a pagan.

221 ISRAEL FINKELSTEIN: Philistine Chronology: An Update

ABSTRACT: Recent findings, especially new radiocarbon dates for Late Bronze III (20th Dynasty) and early Iron I strata, shed new light on long-debated issues of Philistine chronology. The new data support the view that Monochrome pottery appeared in the late twelfth century BCE, after Egypt’s withdrawal from Canaan. Bichrome pottery appeared at the end of the twelfth century. Whether there was a very short Monochrome-only phase at several urban sites in the south, possibly associated with specialized pottery workshops, is difficult to determine with the data at hand.

232 DAVID USSISHKIN: The Date of Building 338 at Megiddo: Additional Comments

ABSTRACT: Recently Kleiman and Finkelstein (2016) published their response to my rejoinder (Ussishkin 2017) regarding the date of Building 338 in Megiddo. I continue to maintain my view that Building 338 should be assigned to Stratum VA–IVB, and present here several comments referring to the response of Kleiman and Finkelstein.

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