

## A NEW CLASS OF YEHUD STAMPS

by N. Avigad

A newly published seal-impression from Jericho, read by P. C. Hammond ŞGND/'WRYW (*PEQ* 1957, pp. 68 ff.) and LHGR/'WRYW respectively (*BASOR* 147, 1957, p. 37 f.), is read by the author YHWD/'WRYW. *Yebud* is the official name of Judah under the Persians, *Urio* is apparently the name of the priest in charge of the temple treasury. He identifies this *Urio* with Uriah the Priest, father of the temple treasurer Meremoth mentioned in Ezra VIII, 33 and Neh. III, 4, 21.

This seal-impression represents a new class of the well known *Yebud* stamps on jar-handles; it is a further proof that the fiscal administration of Judah after the Exile was concentrated in the hands of the temple authorities. It may be attributed approximately to the middle of the fifth century B.C.

In an additional note Y. Yadin suggests the reading [YH]WD/[B']NH on a fragmentary seal-impression found at Ramat Raḥel, thus proving the existence of another stamp bearing both the word *Yebud* and a personal name.

## THE THIRD SEASON OF EXCAVATION AT HAZOR, 1957

by Y. Yadin

The report includes the new discoveries in area A (including a Solomonic gate), in area B (the public building now cleared completely), a wall and gate in a new area G and a Canaanite Temple in a new area H. The report appears in English in the *Israel Exploration Journal*, Vol. 8, No. 1.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF 'EIN-GEDI

by Y. Aharoni

A survey of 'Ein-Gedi and its surroundings, which was carried out on the 18–24 March, 1956 led to the discovery and recording of 12 buildings and sites, dated as follows:

*Chalcolithic Period*: Remains of a large building near the spring (site 4).\*)

*Iron Age II*: Tell al-Jurn (1); foundations of a square tower near the spring (2); a fort, surrounded by a polygonal wall, erected on top of the pass of 'Ein-Gedi (9).

\*) The numbers correspond to the map of the survey, Fig 1, p. 28.

*Roman Period:* Tell al-Jurn (1); a round tower near the spring (3); a fort built on the road above the pass (6).

*Roman-Byzantine Period:* Two buildings inside Wâdi al-‘Areija (21; 22); Qasr al-‘Areija (23); a group of ca. 30 rooms built on a terrace above the Qasr al-‘Areija (24); a group of ca. 50 rooms on the plateau above ‘Ein-Gedi (Shakarât an-Najjar) (8).

In addition a cave in the Wâdi as-Sudeir, near the top of the cliff was explored, already described by G. D. Sandel. This is a large well-hidden cave. Into it was built a plastered water reservoir, fed by a hidden channel. Pottery of Iron Age I-II and of the Hellenistic and Roman periods was found there. The author considers the possibility that this is the "hiding place", referred to in the biblical stories about David (I. Sam. XXIV, 1 ff.).

### CHALCOLITHIC REMAINS AT ‘EIN-GEDI

by J. Naveh (Levi)

In connection with the survey of Y. Aharoni the author excavated part of a Chalcolithic structure, perhaps a sanctuary, measuring 30 × 20 m. and consisting of an open court, with three rectangular rooms adjoining its walls and a circular construction (diam. 4.50) in its centre. The walls are 60–70 cms. thick, with an interior filling of pebbles and clay. The excavations of the eastern room produced at a depth of 0.50 m. Chalcolithic pottery of the Beersheba type, viz. 4 cornets, 3 windowed stands, fragments of bowls and a hole-mouth jar. The clay is typically gritty, but is relatively well fired. Most sherds have a brown-red wash. The bones found include those of two kids of the straight-horned variety found at Neolithic Jericho, and a deer-horn.

### "ON THE WAY TO EPHRAT"

by M. Naor

Two solutions were offered for the discrepancy between the two topographical traditions about Rachel's tomb: (1) its being "some distance from" Bethlehem, halfway between Bethel and Hebron, and (2) the explicit notice of its being "in the territory of Benjamin at Zelzah", between Samuel's residence and Gibeah of Saul, that is, north of Jerusalem.

The author suggests to transpose the words "by Rachel's tomb" in 1 Sam. X, 2 and to read that verse as follows: "When you depart from me today you will meet two men in the territory of Benjamin at Zelzah, and they will say to you, 'The asses which you went to seek are found by Rachel's tomb'". Saul was seeking north of Jerusalem,

while others found the asses south of it. If this solution is accepted, the traditional site of Rachel's tomb would remain unchallenged.

#### NOTES ON THE NIMRUD AND PALESTINE IVORIES

by R. Giveon

In a review-article of R. D. Barnett's: *A Catalogue of the Nimrud Ivories* (London, 1957), the author discusses the Assyrian and biblical evidence for the use of ivory in furniture and incrustation (1 Kings, x, 18; Song. of Sol. v, 14; vii, 5); the connexion of the Megiddo ivory hoard with the problem of an Egyptian royal monopoly of this material; the date of the Samaria ivories (ca. 720 B.C.) and the relation between the "Syrian" and the "Phoenician" styles evident there and elsewhere.

#### GREEK INSCRIPTIONS FROM ERETZ-ISRAEL

by B. Lifshitz

- A. An oval lead label (*tessera*) discovered at Caesarea (Pl. XVII, 3) bears the inscription: Χαλική ἡμιμτία. This label, for which there is no known parallel, seems to indicate the quantity of cement in the container to which it was attached.
- B. Jewish-Greek inscriptions from Caesarea (Pl. XVII, 4):
- N. 1. Τῶπος / Ἰσιδώρου / Θεωδῶρ / ου Ἰακῶ Δω / θη Ἄζανα. The use of ω instead of ο, common in the *Koine* indicates the disappearance of the difference between short and long vowels. Theophoric Greek names such as these were very common among Jews; Ἄζανα is a well known transcription of the Hebrew *hazan*.
- N. 2. Μη(μ)όριον / διαφέρο / τᾶ κύρα / Σεβήρα κα(ι) / τῶν αὐτῆς / Μηέρω/ν καὶ Εἰσι(ά)ς. The omission of the ν (lines 2-3) is common in the *Koine*. The term μημόριον occurs frequently in Christian inscriptions from Greece and Asia Minor. In Beth She'arim it appears only once, but it is common in Jewish inscriptions from Caesarea. The writer also deals with the use of the verb διαφέρω for the indication of tomb ownership; a formula also found in inscription No. 3.
- C. A Sidonian Formula in an Inscription from Caesarea (Pl. XVII, 5) Τ(ίτε) Φλ(άουτε) Ἰερώνυμε / χρηστὲ καὶ ἄλυπε / χαῖρε, ἐτῶν κβ'. This formula is unique in Caesarea, but it is found at Jaffa, Ascalon and in Cyprus.
- D. The writer suggests that the inscription, found at Elusa, (A. Alt Die griech. Inschriften der Palaestina Tertia, N. 54) should be read Κασνίτις (= Κασνίταις) ἐπράθα and interpreted as a property mark: "The village (or tribe) of Qasn has bought".

- E. It is evident, that the name Ἀμφαίθα (M. Schwabe, *BJPES*, 5, 1938, 94–95) is formed by the adjective αἰθός with ἀμφί
- F. The three inscriptions from Beth She'arim (*IEJ*, 4, 1954, pp. 252 ff.), and relating to Aidesios of Antioch, together with the inscription of the Apamea synagogue, enable us to draw up the pedigree of the Aidesios family.
- G. The last part of the article deals with the names Σεμνοῦς and Σιζιά recently discovered in Beth She'arim.

### THREE GREEK EPITAPHS FROM TEUCHEIRA, CYRENAICA

by S. Applebaum

The author deals with three inscriptions from the west cemetery of Teucheira (Tokra). The main concentration of identifiable Jewish tombs here is to the E. of the town, but the W. Cemetery also includes a few Jewish graves. The three epitaphs concerned (SEG IX, 424, 439, 441) are in the vicinity of a fourth (ib. 440) on the city-wall, which includes Jewish names. They record the places of origin of the deceased from Didyma, Huldah, Aribah and Addidah respectively. The last three being Huldah, Kephah Haribah and El Hadida near Lod. These people, though they have Greek names, were probably Jewish mercenaries who migrated to Cyrenaica after expulsion from the neighbourhood of Modi'in in the Maccabaeian period.

### THE HYDROGRAPHY OF MOUNT CARMEL

by Dov Nir

1. *The Hydrographic Basins and Systems.* Of a total area of 232,7 km<sup>2</sup>, 176,7 km<sup>2</sup> (i.e. 76%) are drained directly to the sea on the west; the rest is drained to the Kishon. The watershed advances westwards; 10 km<sup>2</sup>, at least, of the western basin are already captured (map 1, fig. 1). Most of the valleys are perpendicular to the structural pattern; in two areas, however, there are radial drainage systems—Kerem Maharal (map 2) and Zikhron Ya'aqov (map 3), according to their "dôme"-like structures.

2. *The Evolution of the Valleys: a. The Cross-profiles.* In all the important valleys of the western basin—N. Galim, N. Oren, N. Hame'arot—there is a rupture of their versants; the upper part has a slope of 4° (fig. 2, 3; Pl. XVIII, 1), the lower has a slope of 15°–20°. The author attributes these two levels to two different evolutionary periods.

*b. The Longitudinal Profiles* (map 1). The author classifies the profiles into three families: 1) moderate profiles (0,1%–6%), consti-

tuting 59% of the valleys; 2) medium profiles (6%–13%), constituting 31% of the valleys; 3) steep valleys (above 13%) — only 5,9% of the valleys. Nearly all the steep valleys are in the eastern basin. A rupture of slope at 80–90 m. altitude is almost total.

3. *Past Fluvial "Régimes"*. The author distinguishes three types of ancient sedimentation: *a. Young Terraces*. The altitude of its surface (measured at the western mountain base) rises from south to north: 15–18 m. in N. Dalia; 28–32 m. in N. Hame'arot; 40–42 m. in N. Oren. Its thickness is one meter in N. Dalia, 2,5 m. in N. Galim (figs. 4, 5). Its length — two thirds of the length of the valleys. The components — clay and non-consolidated pebbles with a "hundredth" (centile) of 15–20 cm. (Pl. XVIII, 2).

*b. The Old Terrace*. The components — coarse pebbles consolidated into a semi-conglomerate covered by a yellowish patina; the centile of 30–35 cm. Only traces of this terrace can be observed in N. Neshar, N. Galim (Pl. XVIII, 3), N. Oren (Ib., 4, fig. 6).

*c. Alluvial Fans*. On the western flanks of the mountain, from Athlit to Haifa; slope of 4°.

4. *The Age of the Fluvial Formations*. The author suggests the following hydrographic evolution: (i) Two cardinal evolutionary phases; (ii) in the second phase — an old terrace (in analogy with Pfannenstiel-Avnimelech — Würm 1); (iii) a young terrace (in analogy with Pfannenstiel-Avnimelech — Würm 2); (iv) alluvial fans — sub-recent; (v) recent wadis.

#### MISCELLANEA

H. Boger identifies the city of refuge *Bezer* of Deut. iv, 43 and of the *Mesha* inscription with *Abu Ser* (or *Der*) north of the Arnon. — D. Leibel reads the square Hebrew letters on the coins of Jannai, published by A. Kindler (Bulletin, 19, 1–2), *Yabna* or *Yabnai*, a form of *Yohanan*, on which the Greek appellation *Jannaios* was based. — J. Kaplan reports the discovery of first century B.C. tombs near *Tell Qasile*; of a mausoleum near *Kefar Gil'adi* of the same period, while Chalcolithic and Neolithic (Yarmukian) sherds and a Neolithic statuette were discovered in a mound north of the village; at *Tell Abu Zeitun* on the Yarkon were found two Persian strata, including a potsherd inscribed *HŠWB* (Cf. Neh. xi, 15; x, 23). Below the Persian remains was an Iron Age stratum, (Middle Iron I), including a brick wall.

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ISRAEL EXPLORATION SOCIETY

This includes an account of the 13th Annual Convention, held at Haifa; various notices on publications and a corrigendum to the Masada Report on behalf of the Habonim Youth Organization.

A. Tcherikover

A. Tcherikover, Professor of Ancient History at the Hebrew University died in Jerusalem, aged 64. An obituary notice by M. Amit is devoted to his memory.