

An Early Bronze Age Ib Ritual Bowl from Tel Megiddo East

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ABSTRACT: A large, shallow bowl with two handles and three projections attached to its center was found at the Early Bronze Age Ib site of Tel Megiddo East during the excavations conducted by the Jezreel Valley Regional Project. The near-complete condition of the bowl enabled the accurate identification of additional fragments of comparable vessels found at the site itself, as well as at Tel Megiddo and contemporaneous sites across northern Israel. It is proposed that the attachments were designed to mimic bull horns, a trait that aligns with the prevalent bovine symbolism in the religious and cultural expressions of the Early Bronze Age in the Southern Levant. It is postulated that the manufacturing and utilization of these vessels held ritually significant implications during an era of escalating complexity, correlating with the region's initial attempts at small-scale urban development.

A Carved Ivory Head from Jerusalem: Its Role in the City's Status and Iconographic Repertoire in Iron Age II

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ABSTRACT: A fragmentary ivory carving depicting a woman's head, discovered recently on the eastern slope of the Southeastern Ridge of Jerusalem, is the first example of a carved ivory component bearing an anthropomorphic representation in a late Iron Age context at the site. This artifact offers new insights into the Iron Age iconographic repertoire and social preferences, placing the city within a broader, inter-regional network. The head is interpreted particularly in relation to regional and local female representations, such as the clay Judahite Pillar Figurines. The ivory head enhances our understanding of the influx of luxury goods to Jerusalem and the involvement of local elites in this phenomenon during the late Iron Age.

Tell Qasile in the Persian Period

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ABSTRACT: This article deals with the remains from the Persian period at Tell Qasile on the northern bank of the Yarkon River, comprising a single building on the summit of the mound and a unique square well at its foot. The pottery from the well, selected pottery from the mound, and several special artifacts are discussed, including a seal impression on an amphora handle with Semitic letters and imported vessels from the eastern Aegean or western Anatolia and Cilicia. The remains are interpreted as belonging to an administrative complex or a center of an agricultural estate operating mainly in the fourth century BCE. The historical background and regional context of this limited occupation are discussed.

A Limestone Statuette Fragment from Tell Qasile and the Persian-Period Cypriot Statuary in the Southern Levant

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ABSTRACT: This article examines a limestone statuette fragment discovered at Tell Qasile. Identified as a Cypriot statuette of Persian-period date, the fragment contributes to the growing corpus of Cypriot statuary uncovered in the southern Levant. Following its description and identification, the fragment is discussed within a broader framework of Cypriot limestone statuary, which flourished on the island, especially in the Cypro-Achaic and Cypro-Classical periods. A comprehensive review of the 42 Cypriot statues and statuettes found in modern Israel to date relates to geographic distribution, date, archaeological contexts, craftsmanship, size, mobility, trade, Cypriot identity, and the local meaning assigned to these foreign objects.

A Greek Female Dancer across the Mediterranean: An Attic Black-Figure Fragment from Tell Qasile

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ABSTRACT: Excavations at Tell Qasile yielded only a few fragments of Attic or Atticizing pottery. The only fragment with painted decoration in the black-figure technique preserved female figures in dancing postures. This article will offer iconographic and stylistic arguments for the date of the fragment and the vase to which it may have belonged. This process will allow us to restore the figures and explore their possible iconographic connotations. The fragment will also be related to the evidence for imported Attic pottery of this period in the wider Levantine region, leading to an assessment of its possible significance in the context of the Persian-period building at Tell Qasile.

A Philological Note on Josephus' Phrase

διὰ σπηλαίων βασιλικῶν (*J.W.* 5.147)

Anthony Giambrone

ABSTRACT: Josephus' phrase διὰ σπηλαίων βασιλικῶν in *Jewish War* 5.147 is important for understanding the course run by the Third Wall and the location of the "Tombs of the Kings" in Jerusalem. This article scrutinizes a recent dispute about the translation of the phrase, adding new epigraphical evidence and philological precision to the current discussion and refining the semantic analysis of the original passage.

Holey Sherds: Pierced Jars from an Early Islamic-Period Shipwreck

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ABSTRACT: The Ma'agan Mikhael B shipwreck is the remains of a 25-m-long merchantman that plied the Mediterranean during the late seventh–early eighth

centuries CE, namely in the Umayyad period. The shipwreck was excavated underwater for eight seasons, revealing remarkably well-preserved hull components and notable discoveries, such as the masthead fitting, rigging elements, bricks, ballast stones, glassware, baskets, matting, food remains, animal bones, and pottery items. Among the latter were eight unused pierced jars of Egyptian origin and unknown function. This article presents a typological analysis of the jars, comparing them with similar jars discovered in Egypt and the Middle East, and examines their function in light of archaeological and ethnographic data.