

# Tel Aviv

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# Tel Aviv

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*Cover art: MBIIA bronze spearhead found at Shuni on the northern bank of Naḥal Tanninim (courtesy of Israel Antiquities Authority, Mariana Salzberger photographer).*



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# CHALCOLITHIC SETTLEMENTS IN THE WESTERN SAMARIA FOOTHILLS

**Ram Gophna and Tsvika Tsuk**

## ***Abstract***

*This paper presents new data on the history of the Chalcolithic settlement system in western Samaria and offers a picture of the Chalcolithic occupation of the country's highlands. Pottery assemblages found in the area suggest that clay vessels were locally produced. Given the particular assemblage types it can now be assumed that they served sedentary agrarian populations.*

# NEW TYPOLOGICAL ANALYSES OF EARLY BRONZE AGE HOLEMOUTH JARS FROM TEL ARAD AND SOUTHERN SINAI

**Avshalom Karasik, Uzy Smilansky and Itzhaq Beit-Arieh**

## ***Abstract***

*A novel computerized method for the morphological typology of ceramics was applied to the assemblages of Early Bronze holemouth jars found at Tel Arad and in Southern Sinai. This analysis demonstrates, in agreement with commonly accepted conclusions, that the holemouth cooking-pots found in Arad, which were made of materials alien to the Arad environment, and the holemouth jars found in Southern Sinai cannot be differentiated by their rim morphology. Nevertheless, in contrast to the common belief that the rims of holemouth jars in Arad are all similar, independent of their petrographic composition, we show that there are small but statistically significant differences between these two groups, as well as between the locally-produced vessels from Arad and Southern Sinai.*

# SHUNI: A NEW MIDDLE BRONZE IIA DOMESTIC SITE ON THE NORTHERN BANK OF NAHAL TANNINIM

**Amir Gorzalczany**

## ***Abstract***

*According to excavations and surveys in the Sharon area, the process of re-urbanization of Eretz Israel during the early phases of the MBIIA occurred along the Coastal Plain. This meant there was a concentration of population in large, fortified cities in the Sharon Plain. During the MBIIIB there was a demographic shift: These sites were abandoned and settlement moved southwards, especially to the southern Coastal Plain and western Negev.*

*The artefacts found at Shuni Site 18, located at the southern tip of the Carmel ridge, indicate that it was a small, rural, unfortified village. As such, it may represent the first stage of a settlement wave in the northern Sharon area and fill a gap in the data about the MBIIA urbanization process there.*

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<sup>1</sup> For population estimation during the different phases of Bronze Age Eretz Israel see Broshi and Gophna 1986: 87; Gophna and Portugali 1988: 20–21; on adaptation of rural economy to urbanization processes see Falconer 1987; Falconer 1995; for terminology and phasing of the MBII period see Bagh 2000: 8–27.

# SCRATCHING THE SURFACE AT GATH: IMPLICATIONS OF THE TELL EŞ-ŞAFI/GATH SURFACE SURVEY

**Joe Uziel and Aren M. Maier**

## ***Abstract***

*A comprehensive surface survey was conducted at Tell eş-Şafi/Gath as part of the ongoing Tell eş-Şafi/Gath Archaeological Project. The site was divided into distinct topographical and/or cultural units, which were then surveyed separately. The finds from the survey enabled us to reach definitive conclusions as to the various periods represented at the site, the size and location of the settlement during various periods and the planning of present and future excavations. The data from the survey has also enabled inferences on various aspects of the site's past.*

ON ANATOLIANS, GREEKS AND EGYPTIANS IN  
'CHALDEAN' AND ACHAEMENID BABYLONIA

**Ran Zadok**

***Abstract***

*This paper evaluates mostly unpublished material concerning Anatolians (Cilicians and Carians), Greeks and Egyptians who lived in Babylonia between 592 and 368 BCE.*

# IMPERIAL ROADS ACROSS AND TRADE ROUTES BEYOND THE ROMAN PROVINCES OF *JUDAEA- PALAESTINA* AND *ARABIA*: THE STATE OF RESEARCH<sup>1</sup>

**Israel Roll**

## ***Abstract***

*The Imperial authorities of the Roman provinces of Judaea-Palaestina and Arabia gradually crisscrossed the region with an integrated network of about 2,500 miles of outstandingly engineered and constructed Roman roads. The network's longitudinal arteries extended northward to Syria and southward to Egypt and served the Imperial military and administrative traffic between the main provinces of the Roman East. The transversal roads continued eastward as overland desert tracks that crossed the Arabian peninsula. These tracks gradually evolved into international trade routes that served the multiethnic trade in Eastern commodities that were conveyed by a complex system of camel caravans. The chief artery among them extended from Southern Arabia northward along the eastern foothills of Asir and Hejaz to Petra and then to the port of Gaza. Another route stretched from Gerrha in a northwesterly direction until it reached the urban centres of the Decapolis, Bostra and Damascus, where it merged functionally with the Imperial road network of the Roman East.*



# KHIRBET EN-NAHAS, EDOM AND BIBLICAL HISTORY

**Israel Finkelstein**

## ***Abstract***

*This paper deals with a recent publication of the finds from the copper production centre of Khirbet en-Nahas (Levy et al. 2004). It argues that the site should be associated with the late Iron I and early Iron II sites of the Beersheba Valley and the Negev Highlands and thus has no bearing on the history of early Edom. It also casts doubt on the dating of the Khirbet en-Nahas fort to the 10th century BCE.*