

criticism. One of my students wrote to me that his project had collapsed in failure. He was moving on. I insisted that he had not failed if there were lessons to be learned and shared. I insisted that he return to the project and do a thorough analysis of why it had failed and write it up for the benefit of others. This, too, is part of truthing.

Ethicists and practitioners of social justice, socially involved pastors, workers and volunteers in relief and development, and even average persons who want to make a difference in the world, will find this a rewarding read.

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BRUCE CAMPBELL MOYER

Gitin, Seymour, ed. *The Ancient Pottery of Israel and Its Neighbors from the Iron Age through the Hellenistic Period*. 2 vols. Jerusalem: Israel Exploration Society, 2015. 794 pp. Hardcover. USD 240.00.

This two-volume set is the long-gestated replacement for Ruth Amiran's seminal work *The Ancient Pottery of the Holy Land*. In the preface and editor's notes, Seymour Gitin lays out the rules for the "new 'ceramic bible'" and the history of its creation (1). He mentions that there are volumes dealing with the Neolithic Period though the Late Bronze Age that are in preparation. Gitin discusses the gargantuan effort undertaken in collecting pottery drawings from hundreds of new excavations that have been carried out in the fifty years since Amiran's volume. Over 6,000 pottery drawings are included in these two volumes and each had to be redrawn for consistency, a truly monumental task. Volume One goes from the Iron Age I through the Late Iron Age IIC, covering each of the different regions on either side of the Jordan River. Volume Two looks at imports from the Mediterranean world and the pottery of the Persian and Hellenistic Periods. Two choices were made here, the first geographical/cultural and the second chronological. In terms of geography, the area being discussed was divided into eight regions (Transjordan, the Negev, Philistia, Judah, Samaria, Jezreel Valley, Northern Coastal Plain, and Galilee). The rationale for this specific division was never explained. In terms of chronology, despite (or perhaps because of) disagreement between authors, Gitin chose to use the "traditional dating published in *The New Encyclopedia of Archaeological Excavations in the Holy Land, Vols. 1-5*." I understand the reason for doing this and having some kind of consistency between the chapters was necessary.

Following the introductory section, the first volume contains the following chapters. Iron Age I: Northern Coastal Plain, Galilee, Samaria, Jezreel Valley, Judah, and Negev (Amihai Mazar); Iron Age I: Philistia (Trude Dothan and Alexander Zukerman); Iron Age I: Transjordan (Larry G. Herr); Iron Age IIA-B: Northern Coastal Plain (Gunnar Lehmann); Iron Age IIA-B: Northern Valleys and Upper Galilee (Amnon Ben-Tor and Anabel Zarzecki-Peleg); Iron Age IIA-B: Samaria (Ron E. Tappy); Iron Age IIA-B: Judah and the Negev (Ze'ev Herzog and Lily Singer-Avitz); Iron Age IIA-B: Philistia (Seymour Gitin); Iron Age IIA-B: Transjordan (Larry G. Herr); Iron Age IIC: Northern Coast, Carmel Coast, Galilee, and Jezreel Valley (Ayelet Gilboa); Iron Age IIC: Samaria (Ron E. Tappy); Iron Age IIC: Judah

(Seymour Gitin); Iron Age IIC: Northeastern Negev (Itzhaq Beit-Arieh and Liora Freud); Iron Age IIC: Philistia (Seymour Gitin); and Iron Age IIC: Transjordan (Piotr Bienkowski).

Volume two focuses on imports and later periods. The chapters in this volume are: Iron Age I–II Phoenician Pottery (Ephraim Stern); Iron Age I–II Cypriot Imports and Local Imitations (Ayelet Gilboa); Iron Age I–II: Greek Imports (Jane C. Waldbaum); Iron Age IIC Assyrian-Type Pottery (Ephraim Stern); Iron Age IB–IIC Egyptian and Egyptian-Type Pottery (Eliezer D. Oren); Persian Period (Ephraim Stern); Persian Period Imports (Renate Rosenthal-Heginbottom); Hellenistic Period (Andrea M. Berlin); and Hellenistic Period Imported Pottery (Renate Rosenthal-Heginbottom).

These volumes contain many chapters following a similar theme. There is a discussion of the general chronology of the period, the main sites, technology, and typology. Following this narrative text are sections on each of the main forms found in the period. With only slight variations, this pattern plays out in each chapter; so I will examine a few of the chapters in depth as a representation of the whole.

Larry Herr wrote two of the three chapters on Transjordan. Of particular interest to students/scholars of the archaeology of Jordan is the chapter on the Iron Age IIA–B in Transjordan, as this is an underrepresented period in the published literature. This chapter contains a thorough summary of the sites in Jordan where Iron Age IIA–B material can be found and not much more detail, given the scarcity of pottery from settled sites in Jordan. The pottery here has many similarities with that found in Cisjordan, but one can also see how these forms continue to develop in the Iron Age IIC in Transjordan. The pottery plates are clearly marked either Iron Age IIA or Iron Age IIB, as opposed to the previous chapter on Iron Age IIA–B Philistia, where one has to go back and forth between the plates and the stratigraphy chart at the beginning of the chapter and where pottery from the two phases is often combined on the same plate. These two chapters also demonstrate the difficulty of putting together such a substantial pottery volume, as important sites are being (Ashkelon for Philistia) or have just been published (Tall Abu al-Kharaz from Transjordan) at the time this volume was being published.

Andrea Berlin's chapter on the Hellenistic Period catalogs an abundance of pottery, and more information than some other chapters. Besides discussing the pottery forms, Berlin includes sections on production centers and dating, along with providing corresponding tables. These tables are an incredibly helpful point of reference for the main sites of the period and their corresponding volumes. The Hellenistic chapters put greater emphasis on exact dating of the pottery than do the earlier chapters, since coins were more readily available in these sites and can be used as a more exact diachronic measure.

As I mentioned in the introduction, these volumes are a monumental achievement by Gitin and the various authors. Ruth Amiran's volume has lasted for fifty years and there is no reason why this new pottery series could not do the same. When the next edition is printed, however, comparative charts should be included as they would be extremely helpful. These could be

done between different geographic regions for the same time period and the same geographic regions across different time periods. Being able to visually observe changes over time and similarities and differences inter-regionally would be quite illuminating. I appreciated having the color photographs at the end, and I believe this section could be expanded online (and maybe the entire content of these volumes could be made available electronically). There is a lot of work and research being done in the analysis of pottery online, especially with the advent of 3D laser scanning and using computer programs to create highly accurate pottery drawings. These drawings could then be uploaded to the Pottery Informatics Query Database (or PIQD), where eventually all pottery drawings will be uploadable and searchable by any different metric. Perhaps these volumes should reflect this new reality in some way. At the very least, since all of the pottery drawings were re-inked for consistency, they should all be uploaded to the CRANE Project (www.crane.utoronto.ca) which is now hosting PIQD. Regardless of these minor critiques, I would highly recommend this book to anyone interested in the ancient pottery of Israel and Jordan. Students and scholars alike will benefit from having these volumes in their personal libraries.

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OWEN CHESNUT

Irons, Charles Lee. *A Syntax Guide for Readers of the Greek New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2016. 629 pp. Hardcover. USD 39.99.

Sooner or later, most religion students will face biblical language classes during their education. Learning the new alphabets, memorizing the vocabulary, and translating the biblical text into modern languages often takes extra effort for the students enrolled in these classes. Unfortunately, the reality is that the majority of the students trained in biblical languages will forget most of what they have learned. Many of them become pastors and their exegetical sermon preparation, if they preach exegetically at all, will be based on modern translations of the biblical text. Professors and publishers have realized that, over time, this will become a real problem for Christianity. Therefore, we have recently seen a plethora of tools produced and published which intend to assist a trained theologian in reading the biblical text in its original language with as few interruptions as possible. Using these tools, the hope is that theologians will be able to not only keep their hard-learned skills in biblical languages, but also to improve their knowledge of Hebrew and Greek and to read the Bible in the original languages as part of their daily professional life.

In 2016, Kregel added another valuable tool that belongs in this category. Beside the two prominent reader's editions (Richard J. Goodrich and Albert L. Lukazewski, *A Reader's Greek New Testament*, 3rd ed. [Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2015] and Barclay M. Newman and Florian Voss, *The Greek New Testament: A Reader's Edition* [Peabody: Hendrickson, 2015]), and a reader's lexicon (Michael H. Burer and Jeffrey E. Miller, *A New Reader's Lexicon of the Greek New Testament* [Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2008]), this brand-new *Syntax Guide for Readers of the Greek New Testament* will further assist readers of