

AN INTRODUCTION TO '*ATIQOT* 100: EXCAVATIONS ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TEL YAFO (JAFFA)

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'Atiqot was first published in 1955 at the initiative of Prof. Shmuel Yevin, then director of the Department of Antiquities and Museums. The name of the journal (in Hebrew: *Antiquities*) alludes to its content and purpose: to present the results of archaeological research in Israel throughout its history. For 65 years, *'Atiqot* has been continuously committed to the publication of high-level and high-quality scientific reports of the findings retrieved from the numerous salvage excavations conducted on behalf of the Israel Antiquities Authority. All the articles published in the journal are available to researchers and the public both online and in print.

The many and varied excavation reports published to date in *'Atiqot* illuminate the remarkable advances in archaeological research over the years. It seems that the basic research questions remain the same, but the fields of research for retrieving the answers have increased exceedingly. The interdisciplinary research approaches realized by the archaeologists facilitate a reconstruction of “human culture” as an integrated system of environment, society and material culture. Also, the development of designated technological tools and the implication of diverse scientific techniques, greatly advance the archaeological research. The in-depth studies of the finds presented in *'Atiqot* are of primary importance, as the archaeological excavation is an irreversible act.

The jubilee volume *'Atiqot* 100 is dedicated to the ongoing archaeological research in Yafo (Jaffa). The volume presents the results of five salvage excavations conducted in accordance with the development needs of the modern city. These revealed the remains of the “lower city” of Yafo, located on the outskirts of the ancient mound, an area which was exploited for various purposes throughout its history: burial, agricultural and industrial activities, dwelling, and even as a battlefield. The articles presented in *'Atiqot* 100 were written by leading scholars specializing in diverse fields of knowledge—pottery vessels, glass finds, stone and flint artifacts, numismatics, metal objects, military items, physical anthropology, zooarchaeology and malacology—and cover a long time span, ranging from Middle Bronze Age II to the late Ottoman and British Mandate periods. *'Atiqot* 100 constitutes an important contribution to the archaeological research of ancient Yafo and its antiquities; it draws on the studies that preceded it and will undoubtedly form an important basis for future publications.