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Cover Illustrations
Front: Sanudo Marino Map of Acre ('Akko), c. 1260–1343 (courtesy of the Eran Laor Collection at the Jewish National and University Library, Jerusalem).

Back: A Medieval European Sword Retrieved from the Sea Off-Coast Newe-Yam (Photography: Dafna Gazit)

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ABBREVIATIONS

ADAJ	*Annual of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan*
AJA	*American Journal of Archaeology*
ANSGBA	Annual of the Nelson Glueck School of Biblical Archaeology
ASOR	American Schools of Oriental Research
'Atiqot (*ES*)	*'Atiqot* (English Series)
'Atiqot (*HS*)	*'Atiqot* (Hebrew Series)
BA	*Biblical Archaeologist*
BAIAS	*Bulletin of the Anglo-Israel Archaeological Society* (*Strata BAIAS* from 2010)
BAR Int. S.	British Archaeological Reports (International Series)
BASOR	*Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research*
BCH	*Bulletin de correspondance hellénique*
BSAE	British School of Archaeology in Egypt
CRFJ	Centre de recherche français de Jérusalem
DOP	*Dumbarton Oaks Papers*
EAEHL	M. Avi-Yonah ed. *Encyclopedia of Archaeological Excavations in the Holy Land,* Jerusalem 1975–1978
ESI	*Excavations and Surveys in Israel*
GCS	Die griechischen christlichen Schrifsteller der ersten Jahrhunderte. Leipzig
HA–ESI	*Ḥadashot Arkheologiyot—Excavations and Surveys in Israel* (from 1999)
IAA Reports	Israel Antiquities Authority Reports
IEJ	*Israel Exploration Journal*
INR	*Israel Numismatic Research*
JAOS	*Journal of the American Oriental Society*
JAS	*Journal of Archaeological Science*
JIPS	*Journal of the Israel Prehistoric Society (Mitekufat Haeven)*
JRA	*Journal of Roman Archaeology*
JRS	*Journal of Roman Studies*
JSOT	*Journal for the Study of the Old Testament*
JWP	*Journal of World Prehistory*
NEA	*Near Eastern Archaeology*
NEAEHL	E. Stern and A. Lewinson-Gilboa eds. *The New Encyclopedia of Archaeological Excavations in the Holy Land* 1–4. Jerusalem 1993
OBO.SA	Orbis Biblicus et Orientalis Series Archaeologica
OIP	Oriental Institute Publications
OJA	*Oxford Journal of Archaeology*
PBSR	*Papers of the British School at Rome*
PEFQSt	*Palestine Exploration Fund Quarterly Statement*
PEQ	*Palestine Exploration Quarterly*
SCI	*Scripta Classica Israelica*
WA	*World Archaeology*
ZDPV	*Zeitschrift des deutschen Palästina-Vereins*
ZPE	*Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik*

Editorial

A wall is never just a wall; a sword is never just a sword; a shield is never just a shield; and a fighter is never just a fighter. Wars and defense systems are a cross-cultural human phenomenon and as such, warriors, soldiers and knights are portrayed as heroic figures that represent either an ideal of righteousness battling for the greater good, or the incarnation of brute force and evil. The highly evaluated status of warriors evolved from the battlefield to the public sphere, such as entertainment and ceremonial processions. In all these instances, the equipment carried by warriors served as symbols of war, battle and defense, of chivalry and threat, of power and authority.

The current volume of *'Atiqot* presents excavation reports and research articles that touch upon a variety of aspects concerning war and warfare over a period of seven millennia. Throughout history, the Southern Levant has served as a setting of conflicts between competing entities, who struggled for control of the land's limited resources: local kingdoms strove to expand territorial control, and empires engaged in power struggles, sometimes triggered by religious disputes. These battles and their lasting effects, often documented in textual and historical sources, left behind a plethora of archaeological data, mainly visible in destruction layers, the remains of defense systems, including fortification walls, towers, earthworks (i.e., ramparts and glacis) and moats, as well as weaponry made of various shapes and materials, exhibiting technological development over time. The papers published in this volume relate to the changing concepts of war and warriors, the meaning and symbolism manifested by these objects, the development of warfare throughout the ages, and the physical attributes of the objects left behind. Raw materials, chemical composition and dimensions greatly contribute to our understanding of fortifications and weapons, their function and symbolism. The papers show how advanced scientific analyses, both in the field and in the laboratories, can shed new light on how "wartifacts" were produced, used and deposited. Calculated measures were made by peoples of the past in choosing specific materials for specific purposes, in determining shapes and measurements, in order to produce the most effective form for a specific use, which can be analyzed in terms of trajectory, force and impact.

One of the most outstanding features in the archaeology of Israel is the establishment of massive fortifications, often resulting in the alteration of the natural landscape. For decades, scholars have debated over their purpose. Whereas the initial perception of these features was as defense systems aimed at protecting cities and their inhabitants from their enemies, some considered them to be features of conspicuous consumption, and others suggested that they primarily acted as symbols of power and control directed both at those residing within their confines and those threatening them from the outside. Some researchers were of the opinion that the two are not contradictory and that the defensive aspect of the fortifications was integral with their symbolism, and their symbolism was intricately related to their function.

However, the transmission of the messages of power was not limited to symbols of power over the local population. The fortification systems served as monuments of power that dominated the landscape, serving as a means of the elite to exert their control over the general population. They allowed the ruling class to boast in their ability to engage the masses in constructing these monuments. That said, these projects benefited both the ruling class and the masses, who enjoyed their protection.

The fortifications were also linked to the divinity worshipped within their precincts. For example, in a forthcoming paper, Angelika Berlejung suggests that the biblical text draws a direct link between the construction of city walls and the favor of God toward its rulers. This is manifested in texts ascribing the construction of city fortifications to righteous kings, and ignoring similar building efforts intiated by rulers who sinned. Even destroyed fortifications maintained a symbolic role as once ruined, the collapsed walls attested to the city's demise.

The excavation reports included herein present the remains of fortified sites and their regional importance, complemented by research papers that present other aspects of warfare and defense, such as the warriors' identity and social status, the landscape of battlefields, and the various weapons and war machines. All these types of evidence combined reveal heretofore hidden layers of meaning that contribute to our understanding of the broader context of war and warfare.

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