ʿAtiqot

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Hoard Typology, Function and Purpose
in Ancient Societies

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'Atiqot

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Gold Coin Hoard found in a Small Ceramic Juglet, Ramla (South), Fatimid Period (Photography: Clara Amit).

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Abbreviations

ACOR	American Center of Oriental Research
ANGSBA	Annual of the Nelson Glueck School of Biblical Archaeology
ANSMN	*American Numismatic Society Museum Notes*
ARCE	American Research Center in Egypt
ASOR	American Schools of Oriental Research
BAIAS	*Bulletin of the Anglo-Israel Archaeological Society (Strata BAIAS from 2010)*
BAR Int. S.	British Archaeological Reports (International Series)
BAR British S.	British Archaeological Reports (British Series)
BASOR	*Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research*
BSAE	British School of Archaeology in Egypt
DSD	Dead Sea Discoveries
ICAANE	International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East
IEJ	*Israel Exploration Journal*
INJ	*Israel Numismatic Journal*
INR	*Israel Numismatic Research*
JAOS	*Journal of the American Oriental Society*
JAS	*Journal of Archaeological Science*
JEA	*Journal of Egyptian Archaeology*
JEMAHS	*Journal of Eastern Mediterranean Archaeology and Heritage Studies*
JMA	*Journal of Mediterranean Archaeology*
JRA	*Journal of Roman Archaeology*
JRAS	*Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*
JSOT	*Journal for the Study of the Old Testament*
JSP	*Judea & Samaria Publications*
QDAP	*Quarterly of the Department of Antiquities of Palestine*
LA	*Liber Annuus*
MA	*Mediterranean Archaeology*
NC	*The Numismatic Chronicle*
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*
PEQ	*Palestine Exploration Quarterly*
PEFA	Palestine Exploration Fund Annual
PEFQSt	*Palestine Exploration Fund Quarterly Statement*
RB	*Revue Biblique*
RN	*Revue numismatique*

RNS	Royal Numismatic Society
SBF	Studium Biblicum Franciscanum
WA	*World Archaeology*
ZDPV	*Zeitschrift des deutschen Palästina-Vereins*

Editorial

One of the most exciting archaeological discoveries—an exhilarating experience for professionals and laypersons alike—are the intentionally deposited artifacts, commonly referred to as 'hoards.' These grouped finds comprise some of the richest and well-preserved artifacts, hidden treasures that were deliberately left behind in the past.

Although the reasons for these depositions vary, there is no doubt that the concealment of certain items was a significant form of human behavior in ancient societies. The deposition of riches is also attested in ancient documents, one of the most outstanding ones being the Copper Scroll discovered in Qumran Cave 3. The text—albeit possibly fictional—recounts the hiding of treasures, deposited in various localities within different contexts: "In 'The Ruin' which is in the valley of Achor, under the steps leading to the east [at] forty half-brick cubits: [there is]a chest of silver and its vessels, a weight of seventeen talents" (Col. 1:1, following the translation published by E. Puech). This is but one example that illustrates the way objects were intentionally concealed many centuries ago, either with the intention of being recovered by the owner, or for eternal burial. In both scenarios, the intentions of the people who deposited them were not fulfilled, and the hidden artifacts were brought to light by modern-day archaeologists.

The discovery of grouped items—often intact and of remarkable quality and value—provides a unique opportunity to study not only the artifacts but also the circumstances that led to their concealment. Such discoveries illuminate the behavioral aspects of individuals and societies in extreme situations that necessitated leaving their valuable artifacts behind, whether for religious, social or economic reasons.

The reports in this volume present only a small selection of various 'hoards' retrieved during archaeological excavations, including the most common type of hoarded items—coins. In Israel, coin hoards constitute a significant percentage of the hoards found, either as a sole find or together with jewelry items. Yet the research papers included in this volume share ideas concerning not only the deposition of coins, but also of other interesting artifacts, which were deposited either as hoards, caches, a favissa, a geniza and even in mittens. And, if one is uncertain about the appropriate terminology to use when uncovering a 'hoard,' a discussion of various 'hoard' types and the associated terminology thereof is offered herein.

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