ʿAtiqot

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Wine Production, Trade and
Consumption in the Southern Levant

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Cover Illustration
Front: Isometric Reconstruction of the Winepress at Kefar Sirqin (Illustration: Tanya Kornfeld; see Sidi, Amit and Ad 2003: Fig. 3)
Back: Ceramic Wine Jars and Amphorae from the Byzantine Period (Photography: Clara Amit, Dafna Gazit, Irina Lidsky-Reznikov, Avshalom Karasik, Itamar Taxel)

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Abbreviations

AJA	*American Journal of Archaeology*
ASOR	American Schools of Oriental Research
'Atiqot (HS)	*Hebrew Series*
'Atiqot (ES)	*English Series*
BA	*Biblical Archaeologist*
BAIAS	*Bulletin of the Anglo-Israel Archaeological Society (Strata BAIAS* from 2010*)*
BAR	*Biblical Archaeology Review*
BAR Int. S.	British Archaeological Reports (International Series)
BASOR	*Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research*
BCH	*Bulletin de correspondance hellénique*
DOP	*Dumbarton Oaks Papers*
DSD	Dead Sea Discoveries
ESI	*Excavations and Surveys in Israel*
HA	*Hadashot Arkheologiyot* (Hebrew)
HA–ESI	*Hadashot Arkheologiyot–Excavations and Surveys in Israel* (from 1999)
IAA Reports	Israel Antiquities Authority Reports
IEJ	*Israel Exploration Journal*
IJNA	*The International Journal of Nautical Archaeology*
JANES	*Journal of the Ancient Near Eastern Society*
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*
JESHO	*Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient*
JFA	*Journal of Field Archaeology*
JGS	*Journal of Glass Studies*
JIA	*Journal of Islamic Archaeology*
JMA	*Journal of Mediterranean Archaeology*
JPOS	*Journal of the Palestine Oriental Society*
JQR	*Jewish Quarterly Review*
JRA	*Journal of Roman Archaeology*
JSJ	*Journal for the Study of Judaism*
JSOT	*Journal for the Study of the Old Testament*
JSP	*Judea & Samaria Publications*
JSRS	*Judea and Samaria Research Studies*
LA	*Liber Annuus*
NEAEHL	E. Stern and A. Lewinson-Gilboa eds. *The New Encyclopedia of Archaeological Excavations in the Holy Land 1–4.* Jerusalem 1993
NGSBA	The Nelson Glueck School of Biblical Archaeology
OIP	Oriental Institute Publications
OJA	*Oxford Journal of Archaeology*
ONS	*Oriental Numismatic Society*
PEQ	*Palestine Exploration Quarterly*
QDAP	*Quarterly of the Department of Antiquities of Palestine*
SAOC	Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization
SBF	Studium Biblicum Franciscanum
TMO	Travaux de la Maison de l'Orient

Editorial

One need not deep dive into investigation to understand the important role that wine had played—and continues to play—in social interactions, political negotiations, religious ceremonies and even in the economies of individuals, corporations and states. The frequent mentioning of wine in various documents from different periods clearly points to its significant role in ancient societies, establishing social and political relationships, and serving as a major component of commensal hospitality and feasting. As the English statesman, Francis Bacon, noted over four centuries ago, "Of all things known to mortals, wine is the most powerful and effectual for exciting and inflaming the passions of mankind, being common fuel to them all." In the Southern Levant, as well as in other regions surrounding the Mediterranean, wine was a substantial commodity that required continual production to maintain religious, political and social mechanisms. The use of wine in religious ceremonies was cross-cultural, as also noted in numerous ceremonies described in the biblical text, which indicate, *inter alia*, a consistent flow of wine in the Temple in Jerusalem. The important role of wine in temple economies and amongst religious elites, influenced their investment in vineyards, wine production and storage.

Although archaeologists would certainly be delighted to find barrels filled with ancient wine (for research purposes only, of course), this is probably an unrealistic expectation. However, although the wine had long evaporated, the material finds related to it continue to tell its story, attesting not only to the final product, but also allowing a reconstruction of the wine's entire biography, including viticulture and the installations used to transform grapes to wine, which evolved over time to maximize production. The potent liquid filled containers, some specifically produced to store wine. Wine traversed the land and sea through intertwining trade networks, anchoring in port cities with storage facilities and tax stations, eventually reaching domestic and state cellars. Wine was served in goblets and cups, made from different materials, which were uncovered in excavations; according to their findspot, they relate the context in which the wine was consumed, by whom, when and on what occasion.

Wine consumption is an ongoing social act practiced on domestic, religious and state level, and as such, it defines social status, cultural affiliation and identity. The current volume presents a varied range of studies that broadly consider wine, wine production and trade in the Southern Levant. The papers examine the technology applied to extract wine from grapes to better understand aspects related to the chain of production and the manner in which these installations and their various parts functioned, the containers in which wine was transported over land and sea and the political and economic systems influenced by it. Some of the studies are innovative in the way that they integrate new technologies to identify ancient grape species and wine residue, offering new avenues for the research of grape and wine in the future. We hope that this volume, much like the vine in Joshua 9:13, will gladden God and humans.

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