ʿAtiqot

Volume 115:
Rural Life in the Southern Levant

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'Atiqot

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Cover Illustration
Front: Reconstruction of the residensial complex in the village of Naṣr ed-Din, near Tiberias (drawing: Anna Iamim; © Uzi Leibner)
Back: The Hellenistic-period farmhouse at Aderet (photography: Ora Yogev [top]; Shimon Gibson [bottom])

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Abbreviations

AA	*Archäologischer Anzeiger*
ACOR	American Center of Oriental Research
AJA	*American Journal of Archaeology*
ASOR	American Schools of Oriental Research
AJN	*American Journal of Numismatics*
'Atiqot (HS)	*Hebrew Series*
'Atiqot (ES)	*English Series*
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*
BIES	*Bulletin of the Israel Exploration Society* (Hebrew)
CRFJ	Centre de recherche français de Jérusalem
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*
IJES	*Israel Journal of Earth Sciences*
INR	*Israel Numismatic Research*
JAS	*Journal of Archaeological Science*
JEMAHS	*Journal of Eastern Mediterranean Archaeology and Heritage Studies*
JFA	*Journal of Field Archaeology*
JIA	*Journal of Islamic Archaeology*
JIPS	*Journal of the Israel Prehistoric Society (Mitekufat Haeven)*
JJS	*Journal of Jewish Studies*
JMA	*Journal of Mediterranean Archaeology*
JRA	*Journal of Roman Archaeology*
JRS	*Journal of Roman Studies*
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*
NC	*The Numismatic Chronicle*
NEA	*Near Eastern Archaeology*
NGSBA	The Nelson Glueck School of Biblical Archaeology
OBO.SA	Orbis Biblicus et Orientalis Series Archaeologica
OIP	Oriental Institute Publications
PEFA	Palestine Exploration Fund Annual
PEQ	*Palestine Exploration Quarterly*
RB	*Revue Biblique*
RNS	Royal Numismatic Society
SBF	Studium Biblicum Franciscanum
WA	*World Archaeology*
ZDPV	*Zeitschrift des deutschen Palästina-Vereins*

Editorial

> Moreover, Lab'ayu, who used to take our towns is dead, but now another Lab'ayu is 'Abdi-Ḥeba, and he seizes our towns

This testimony, given almost 3400 years ago by Šwardata, ruler of Gath, illustrates the power struggle of the local rulers of the urban centers for control of towns and villages. This is but one attestation, in one moment in time, indicating the importance of the rural hinterland to the urban centers in the Southern Levant, with the rural hinterland often governing the most important resources available to the urban population, providing their sustenance and one of the most critical key resources in ancient society—manpower. The reciprocal relationship between towns/villages and the urban centers prevailed whether the city ruled over its rural hinterland, or if the towns/villages were governed by an independent rural network. The urban centers were crucial to the survival of the small towns and villages, both in terms of providing security and economic stability. Usually, the growth of urban centers and their rural hinterland came hand in hand, indicating the complex relations between core and periphery, often coupled with interchanging forms of dependency.

Rural sites dotted the landscape of the Southern Levant long before any city rose to prominence. Each community settled in a different geographical locality, exploiting the land and its resources for their upkeep. The archaeology of rural sites and communities therefore provides insights into daily life outside the urban sphere, tracing sustenance strategies, regional trade networks, production potential and political hegemony, as well as an understanding of how people related to their surroundings.

The current *'Atiqot* volume focuses on the investigation of various aspects of rural life in the Southern Levant. The volume includes excavation reports presenting detailed analyses of finds from rural sites in various geographic regions and periods, alongside research papers that explore different aspects, such as social structure, rural complexity, economy and production, as reflected in the archaeological record. These studies place the ancient rural settlements and societies in the spotlight—a position usually reserved for city centers, which have often been the focus of archaeological research.

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