

EISENBRAUNS

An Imprint of Penn State University Press



812 pages | 276 color illus. | 9 x 11 | July
ISBN 978-1-64602-264-9 | HC: \$149.95/£124.95/€144.95 sh
Copublished with the British Museum

Featured title

The Temple of Ningirsu The Culture of the Sacred in Mesopotamia

Sébastien Rey

Between 2016 and 2022, a team from the British Museum conducted excavations in the ancient Sumerian city of Girsu, the sacred center of the state of Lagash. On an archaeological mound referred to as the Mound of the Palace, or Tell A, they discovered the ground plan of the fabulous Temple of Ningirsu, built by the ruler Gudea circa 2125 BCE. Deep in the heart of the mound, the excavators also exposed the remains of a series of older Sumerian shrines dating back to Early Dynastic times (2900–2350 BCE).

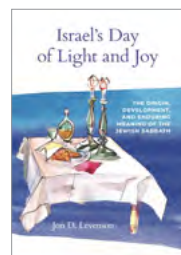
The magnificent remains of Sumerian Girsu were first investigated by groups of French archaeologists between 1877 and 1933. Digging at great speed and using the industrial-scale methods characteristic of their era, the French pioneers unearthed extraordinary buildings and treasures, but they also left behind an unhappy legacy of confusion and gaps in the archaeological record. This two-volume study not only

presents the new results of the British Museum team; it also reconsiders and recontextualizes the French reports to produce an indispensable history of the sacred complexes in Girsu over a period of nearly three thousand years. With full-color reconstructions of the principal buildings and installations, as well as many redrawn plans and sections, this lucidly written study reexamines the history of the exceptionally complete series of archaeological structures built on Tell K and Tell A from the beginning of the third millennium BCE to the fourth and third centuries BCE.

Sébastien Rey is the curator for ancient Mesopotamia at the British Museum and director of the Girsu Project in Iraq. Among his most recent publications are *For the Gods of Girsu: City-State Formation in Ancient Sumer*, *No Man's Land*, and *Thunderbird: A Temple Hymn from Ancient Sumer*.

2024

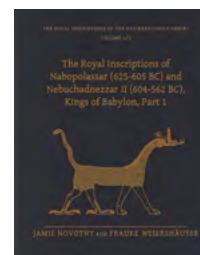
What's inside



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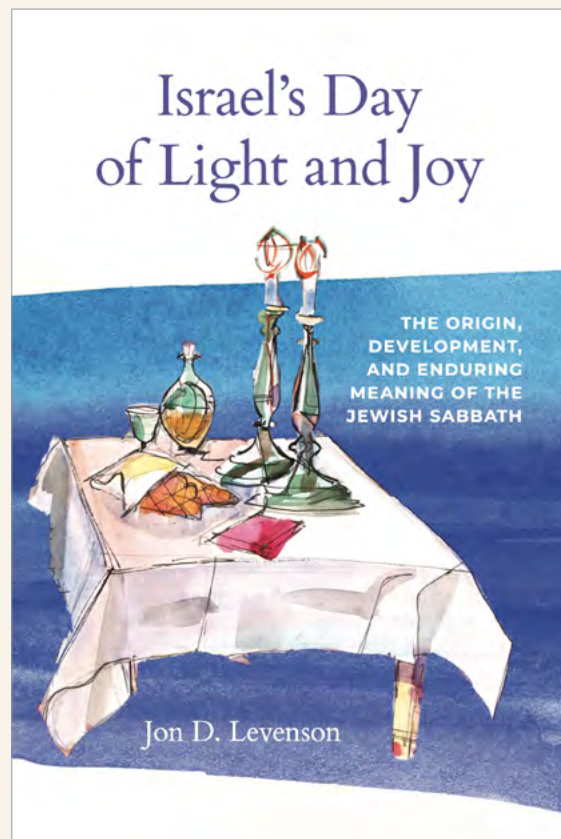


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296 pages | 6 × 9 | June
 ISBN 978-1-64602-271-7 | HC: \$74.95/€62.95/€72.95 sh
 ISBN 978-1-64602-273-1 | PB: \$24.95/€20.95/€24.95 sh

Israel's Day of Light and Joy
 The Origin, Development, and Enduring Meaning
 of the Jewish Sabbath

Jon D. Levenson

This book begins by exploring the mysterious origins of an institution so familiar that most of us never wonder where it came from—the seven-day week. Jon D. Levenson then focuses on the historical development of the Jewish Sabbath and the rich range of theological and ethical meanings it has acquired over the centuries.

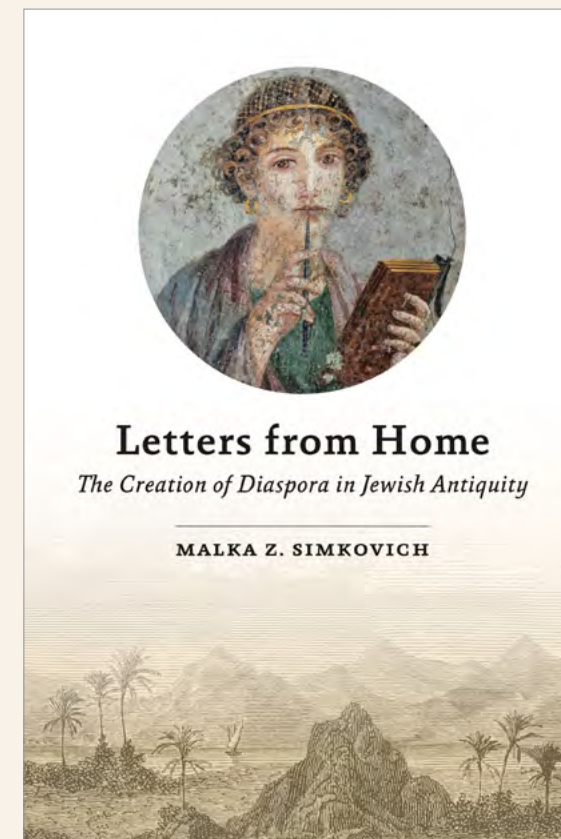
Levenson evaluates the theory that the Hebrew word *šabbāt* derives from Akkadian and that the Sabbath may have begun as a day of ill omen, only later to be reinterpreted as the joyous festival that consummates the seven-day week. He explores the quasi-magical character of the number seven in ancient Near Eastern and Mediterranean compositions and examines the revealing variation of the Sabbath commandment between the two biblical versions of the Decalogue in Exodus and Deuteronomy. He also treats sabbatical law in the Second Temple and rabbinic periods, critiquing contemporary efforts to extract a spirituality from the Sabbath that is divorced from larger questions of communal identity, normative practice, and religious affirmation. Levenson concludes by discussing modern challenges to Sabbath observance and the surprising prospects for its continuation.

Written by an eminent scholar in the field, this sophisticated inquiry bridges the gap between studies that explore the spiritual meaning of Jewish Sabbath observance and those that focus strictly on the history of the tradition. It will appeal to a wide audience of academics and lay readers.

Jon D. Levenson is Albert A. List Professor of Jewish Studies at Harvard University. Levenson's many books concentrate on the Hebrew Bible and its interpretations over the centuries, especially in rabbinic midrash, with a focus on theological matters.

“This is a masterful piece of scholarship. . . . I highly recommend it for anyone who wants to understand the historical development of the Sabbath and its continuing value in a modern culture.”

—JASON STAPLES, AUTHOR OF *Paul and the Resurrection of Israel: Jews, Former Gentiles, Israelites*



230 pages | 1 map | 6 × 9 | June
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Letters from Home
 The Creation of Diaspora in Jewish Antiquity

Malka Z. Simkovich

The announcement by the Persian king Cyrus following his conquest of Babylon in 539 BCE that exiled Judahites could return to their homeland should have been cause for celebration. Instead, it plunged them into animated debate. Only a small community returned and participated in the construction of the Second Temple in Jerusalem. By the end of the sixth century BCE, they faced a theological conundrum: Had the catastrophic punishment of exile, understood as marking God's retribution for the people's sins, come to an end?

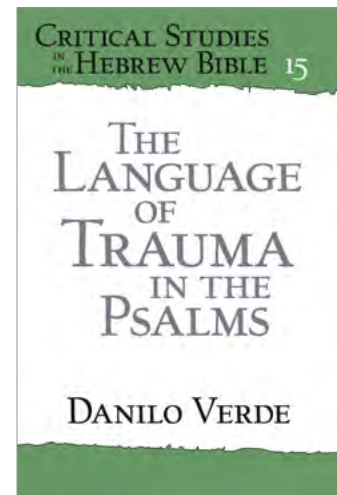
By the Hellenistic era, most Jews living in their homeland believed that life abroad signified God's wrath and rejection. Jews living outside of their homeland, however, rejected this notion. From both sides of the diasporic line, Jews wrote letters and speeches that conveyed the sense that their positions had ancient roots in Torah traditions. In this book, Malka Z. Simkovich investigates the rhetorical strategies—such as pseudepigraphy, ventriloquy, and mirroring—that Egyptian and Judean Jews incorporated into their writings about life outside the land of Israel, charting the boundary-marking push and pull that took place within Jewish letters in the Hellenistic era. Drawing on this correspondence and other contemporaneous writings, Simkovich argues that the construction of diaspora during this period—reinforced by some and negated by others—produced a tension that lay at the core of Jewish identity in the ancient world.

This book is essential reading for scholars and students of ancient Judaism and for laypersons interested in the questions of a Jewish homeland and Jewish diaspora.

Malka Z. Simkovich is Crown-Ryan Chair of Jewish Studies and Director of the Catholic-Jewish Studies program at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. She is the author of *The Making of Jewish Universalism: From Exile to Alexandria and Discovering Second Temple Literature: The Scriptures and Stories That Shaped Early Judaism*.

“An excellent and thought-provoking analysis of Hellenistic-period Jewish literature.”

—DANIEL L. SMITH-CHRISTOPHER,
Catholic Books Review



The Language of Trauma in the Psalms

Danilo Verde

Over the last few decades, the field of trauma studies has shed new light on biblical texts that deal with individual and collective catastrophe. In *The Language of Trauma in the Psalms*, Danilo Verde advances the conversation, moving beyond the emphasis on healing that prevails in most literary trauma studies.

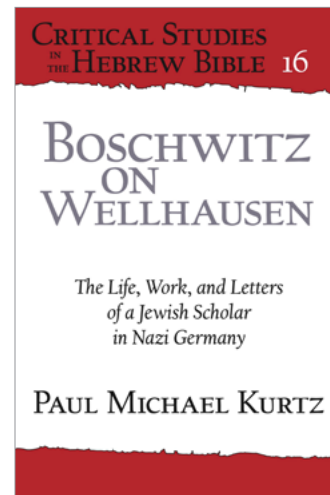
Using the lens of cognitive linguistics and combining insights from trauma studies and redaction criticism, Verde explores how

trauma is expressed linguistically in the book of Psalms, how trauma-related language was rooted in ancient Israel's external realities, and how psalms helped define Yehud's cultural trauma in the Persian period (539–331 BCE). Rather than assuming the psalmists' personal experiences are reflected in these texts, Verde focuses on the linguistic strategies used to express trauma in the Psalms, especially references to the body and highly dramatic metaphors. Current analyses often approach trauma texts as tools intended to help sufferers heal. Verde contends that many group laments in the book of Psalms were transmitted not only to heal but also to wound the community, ensuring that the pain of a previous generation was not forgotten.

The Language of Trauma in the Psalms shifts our understanding of trauma in biblical texts and will appeal to literary trauma scholars as well as those interested in ancient Israel.

Danilo Verde is Postdoctoral Researcher at the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies, KU Leuven. He is the author of *Conquered Conquerors: Love and War in the Song of Songs* and coeditor of *Networks of Metaphors in the Hebrew Bible and Cultural Hegemony, Ideological Conflicts, and Power in Second Temple Judaism*.

170 pages | 4 b&w illus. | 6 × 9 | October
ISBN 978-1-64602-290-8 | HC: \$79.95/€66.95/€77.95 sh



Boschwitz on Wellhausen

The Life, Work, and Letters of a Jewish Scholar in Nazi Germany

Paul Michael Kurtz

Julius Wellhausen was a monumental figure in the field of biblical studies, but his work has been denounced as antisemitic in recent years. This book offers a nuanced view of Wellhausen's scholarship through a critical edition and translation of one of the last doctoral dissertations by a Jew in Nazi Germany: Friedemann Philipp Boschwitz's *Julius Wellhausen: Motives and Measures of His Historiography*.

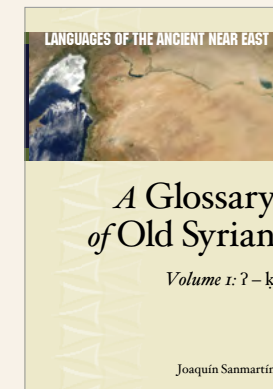
Boschwitz presents a deep, holistic analysis of Wellhausen's thought, examining his work on ancient Judaism, early Christianity, and formative Islam within the framework of comparative religion and cultural history. He also situates Wellhausen in the context of German intellectual history, tracing the influence of Johann Gottfried Herder on Wellhausen and Wellhausen on Friedrich Nietzsche.

In addition, Paul Michael Kurtz provides incisive commentary and archival materials that highlight Boschwitz's scholarly achievements and open new vistas onto Jewish intellectual history. Piecing together fragments from private letters and official documents, Kurtz shows the formidable challenges Boschwitz faced as a Jewish scholar under a discriminatory political and academic regime. The correspondence also reveals Boschwitz's rich social life and connections with major émigré thinkers such as Salo Baron, Leo Strauss, and Karl Löwith.

Boschwitz on Wellhausen brings together a fascinating wealth of published and unpublished material to tell an original story of great importance to scholars of the Hebrew Bible, the New Testament, and the Quran as well as those interested in German Judaism and modern philosophy.

Paul Michael Kurtz is Associate Research Professor of History at Ghent University. His work has appeared in *Critical Inquiry*, *History and Theory*, *Harvard Theological Review*, and *The New Cambridge Companion to Biblical Interpretation*, among other publications.

288 pages | 6 b&w illus. | 6 × 9 | December
ISBN 978-1-64602-294-6 | HC: \$99.95/£83.95/€96.95 sh



A Glossary of Old Syrian

Volume 1: ?–k

Volume 2: l–z

Joaquín Sanmartín

A Glossary of Old Syrian maps the lexicon of Old Syrian as it can be extracted and reconstructed from the (Old Akkadian) Eblaite through the Old and Middle Babylonian corpora.

Referring to a continuum of dialects spoken in the Syrian-Levantine and Syrian-Mesopotamian regions through the third and second millennia BCE, “Old Syrian” is a diachronically conservative, geographically pluricentric, and pragmatically multilayered linguistic cluster. As such, the *Glossary* pays special attention to the distribution of lexical data along diachronic, diatopic, and diastratic criteria. Given the extent and widely dispersed nature of this data, entries are supported by the most representative corpora of the Old Syrian linguistic landscape. Each entry is headed by an etymon, a kind of prelinguistic consonantal skeleton, and further information about different lexemes, their roots,



and their derivations is provided in subentries. As the lexicography of Old Syrian remains uncertain, the *Glossary* includes leading interpretative opinions alongside the most relevant Semitic material to corroborate the lexical choices it adopts. Bibliographical references are succinct and restricted, as a rule, to texts easily found in any Assyriological or Semitic library.

Intended as a reference work in support of future study, *A Glossary of Old Syrian* offers a clear view of the state of the field.

Joaquín Sanmartín is Professor Emeritus at the University of Barcelona. He is the author or coauthor of multiple books and studies on Akkadian, Hurrian, and Old Syrian lexicography and grammar, including *A Dictionary of the Ugaritic Language in the Alphabetic Tradition* and *Die keilalphabetischen Texte aus Ugarit, Ras Ibn Hani und anderen Orten*.
Volume 1: 480 pages | 7 × 10 | 2019
ISBN 978-1-57506-969-2
HC: \$117.95/£98.95/€114.95 sh
Volume 2: 530 pages | 7 × 10 | July
ISBN 978-1-64602-280-9
HC: \$117.95/£98.95/€114.95 sh



A Grammar of the Hittite Language

Part 1: Reference Grammar

Part 2: Tutorial

Harry A. Hoffner Jr. and H. Craig Melchert

Since its publication in 2008, *A Grammar of the Hittite Language* has been the definitive Hittite reference and teaching tool. This new edition brings Hoffner and Melchert's essential work up to date, incorporating the dramatic progress achieved in the field over the past fifteen years.

Part 1, *Reference Grammar*, provides a thorough overview of Hittite grammar that is grounded in abundant textual examples. Heavily revised and expanded, the second edition recasts the discussion of topics to better serve the linguistically informed reader. A reorganized presentation of the synchronic facts makes them accessible to both Hittitologists and linguists interested in Hittite for historical or typological purposes.

Part 2, *Tutorial*, guides language learners through a series of graded lessons keyed to the reference



grammar with illustrative sentences for translation drawn from actual Hittite texts. The tutorial is keyed to the reference grammar and provides extensive and updated notes, a vocabulary list for each lesson, and a comprehensive glossary.

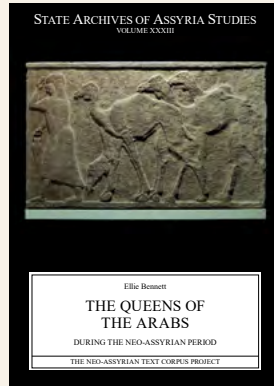
Taken together, this work remains the most comprehensive and detailed Hittite grammar ever produced.

Harry A. Hoffner Jr. was John A. Wilson Professor of Hittitology at the University of Chicago. He was the author of six books, including *The Laws of the Hittites* and *Hittite Myths*.

H. Craig Melchert is Distinguished Professor of Linguistics and A. Richard Diebold Professor of Indo-European Studies Emeritus, University of California, Los Angeles. His research centers on historical linguistics, with special emphasis on the Anatolian subfamily of Indo-European. He has written many articles and books, including *A Dictionary of the Lycian Language* and *Anatolian Historical Phonology*.

Part 1: 710 pages | 7 × 10 | September
ISBN 978-1-64602-292-2
HC: \$99.95/£83.95/€96.95 sh
Part 2: 80 pages | 7 × 10 | September
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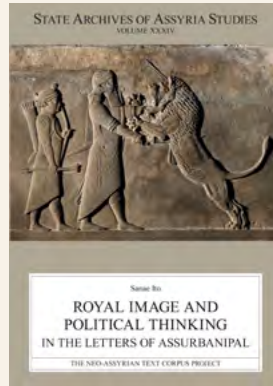
The Queens of the Arabs During the Neo-Assyrian Period

Ellie Bennett

The title “Queen of the Arabs” is applied in Neo-Assyrian texts to five women from the Arabian Peninsula. These women led armies, offered tribute, and held religious roles in their communities from 738 to approximately 651 BCE. This book discusses what the title meant to the women who carried it and to the Assyrians who wrote about them. Whereas previous scholarship has considered the Queens of the Arabs in relation to the military and economic history of the Neo-Assyrian empire, Eleanor Bennett focuses on identity, using gender theory to locate points of the women’s alterity in Assyrian sources and to analyze how Assyrian cultural norms influenced the treatment of the Queens of the Arabs. This analysis shows how Assyrian perceptions of the Queens of the Arabs, and of Arabian populations more generally, changed over time.

Ellie Bennett is an Assyriologist and a member of the Centre of Excellence in Ancient Near Eastern Empires at the University of Helsinki.

224 pages | 10 b&w illus. | 6.93 × 9.85 | May
ISBN 978-951-51-8582-2
PB: \$69.95/£58.95/€67.95 sh
State Archives of Assyria Studies Series
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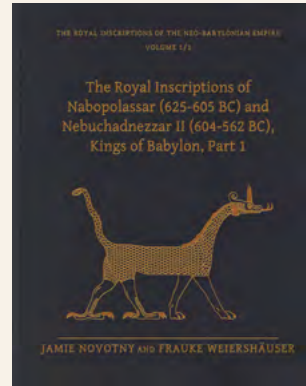
Royal Image and Political Thinking in the Letters of Assurbanipal

Sanae Ito

Assurbanipal, the last great king of the Assyrian Empire, ruled from 668 BCE until at least 630 BCE. The correspondence of Assurbanipal constitutes an essential resource for knowledge of his reign. It consists of 345 letters: 100 letters from Assurbanipal (the so-called royal letters) and 245 letters addressed to him. Assurbanipal’s royal letters deal with political, military, and diplomatic matters from the king’s point of view and in his own words. The aim of this volume is to determine the image that Assurbanipal attempted to convey in his letters and to investigate the ways in which he utilized this image to advance Assyrian policies. Most of his royal letters were written during the revolt and its aftermath. Since the most common recipients of the missives were citizens, Assurbanipal clearly considered it important to address the population at large when the revolt shook the foundations of the empire.

Sanae Ito is Assistant Professor at the University of Nagoya, Japan.

298 pages | 6.93 × 9.85 | October
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The Royal Inscriptions of Nabopolassar (625–605 BC) and Nebuchadnezzar II (604–562 BC), Kings of Babylon, Part 1

Jamie Novotny and Frauke Weiershäuser

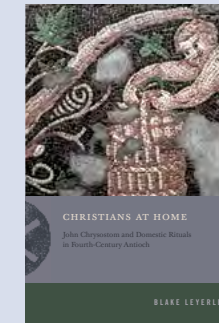
This volume presents updated, reliable editions of seventy-one historical inscriptions of the Babylonian kings Nabopolassar and Nebuchadnezzar II, including nineteen never-before-published texts. Each text edition is accompanied by an English translation, a catalog of all exemplars, a comprehensive bibliography, and commentary containing notes and technical information.

Jamie Novotny is Tenured Academic Researcher of the Alexander von Humboldt Professorship for the Ancient History of the Near and Middle East at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München.

Frauke Weiershäuser is Tenured Academic Researcher of the Alexander von Humboldt Professorship for the Ancient History of the Near and Middle East at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München.

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New and forthcoming from Penn State University Press



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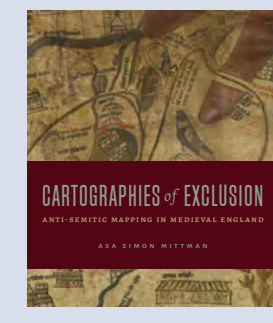
Blake Leyerle

“It is not very often that one has the privilege to read a work such as this—so well argued,

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Cartographies of Exclusion

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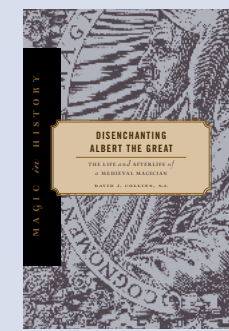
The Child Witches of Olague

Lu Ann Homza

In the early seventeenth century, thousands of children in Spain’s Navarre region claimed to have been bewitched. *The Child Witches of Olague* features the legal

depositions of self-described child witches as well as their parents and victims. With translations of Inquisition correspondence and printed pamphlets added for context, *The Child Witches of Olague* sheds new light on Navarre’s massive witch persecution and offers a portrait of witch-hunting as a horrific, contagious practice that fractured communities.

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Magic in History Sourcebooks Series



Disenchanting Albert the Great

The Life and Afterlife of a Medieval Magician

David J. Collins, S.J.

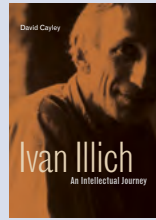
“Albertus Magnus was a great churchman and theologian. He also, as David Collins shows, took a serious interest in magic, which he thought

could explain natural processes. Albertus engaged with magic, as he explained, by reading texts but also by trying things out. As ideas about nature evolved, he played many roles in the thought of later periods, from magus to saint to rationalist. This lucid, learned, and thoughtful book is intellectual history at its best.”

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American Hebraist

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Alan Mintz
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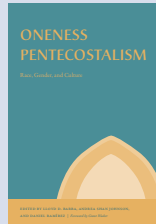
The Fruit of Her Hands

Jewish and Christian Women’s Work in Medieval Catalan Cities
Sarah Ifft Decker

“By focusing on Christian and Jewish women’s work in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, both in a regional and urban context, Ifft Decker’s book sheds new light on the history of women in the Iberian Peninsula and should be required reading for all those interested in the topic.”

—Alexandra Guerson, *Bulletin of Spanish Studies*

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ISBN 978-0-271-09331-4 | PB: \$44.95/£37.95/€43.95 sh



Oneness Pentecostalism

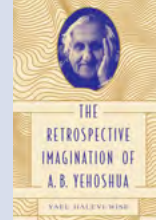
Race, Gender, and Culture
Edited by Lloyd D. Barba, Andrea Shan Johnson, and Daniel Ramirez

Foreword by Grant Wacker

“To my knowledge, no work has offered such extensive insight into the Mexican mores of the movement. *Oneness Pentecostalism* will appeal to a range of scholars, including historians, alongside those interested in how the movement’s narrative intersects the areas of theology, anthropology, and architecture.”

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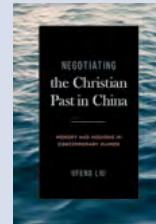
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Negotiating the Christian Past in China

Memory and Missions in Contemporary Xiamen
Jifeng Liu

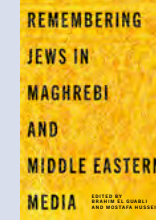
“At a time when the Chinese state is restricting access to

the official archives and to fieldwork among local Christian communities, and when the public security officials suspect any Three-Self patriotic church leaders who travel to the West [to be] infiltrators, Liu’s ethnography represents the latest, and hopefully not the last, scholarly endeavor to raise awareness about Chinese Christian experiences.”

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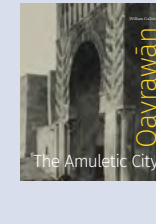
Edited by Brahim El Guabli and Mostafa Hussein

“A landmark intervention, *Remembering Jews* illuminates how the complexities of the

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Qayrawān

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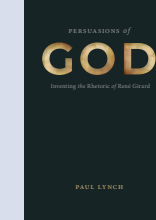
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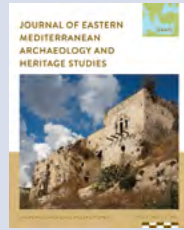
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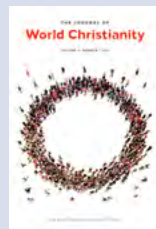
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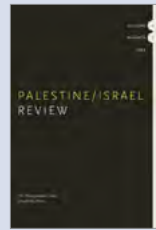
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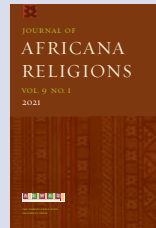
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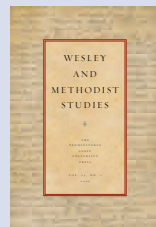
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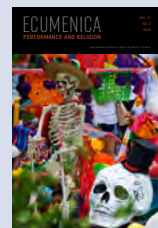
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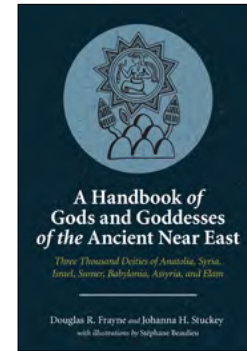
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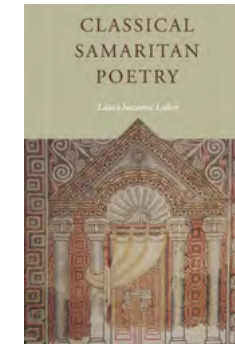
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Douglas R. Frayne was Associate Professor of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations at the University of Toronto.

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Laura Suzanne Lieber is Professor of Religious Studies at Duke University. She is the author of *Jewish Aramaic Poetry from Late Antiquity: Translations and Commentaries*, *The Vocabulary of Desire: The Song of Songs in the Early Synagogue*, and *Yannaï on Genesis: An Invitation to Piyyut*.



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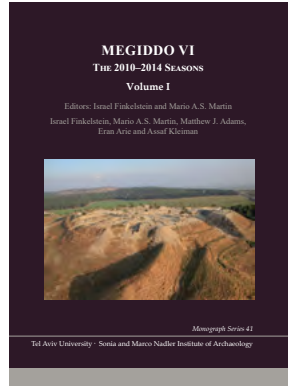
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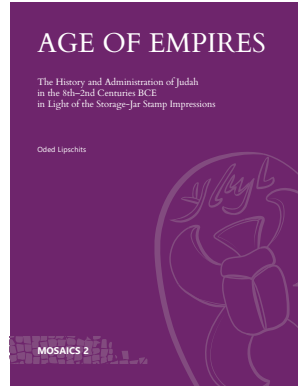
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Israel Finkelstein is Professor Emeritus of Archaeology at Tel Aviv University, a member of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, and a foreign member of the French Académie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Mario A. S. Martin is a Research Fellow at the Sonia and Marco Nadler Institute of Archaeology at Tel Aviv University and a Codirector of the Megiddo excavations. 1,924 pages | 20 color / 867 b&w illus. 8.5 × 11 | 2022

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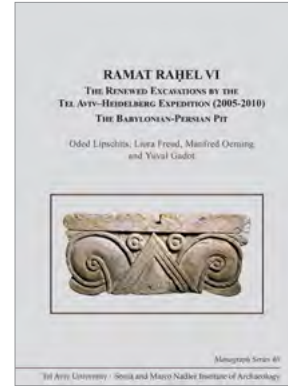
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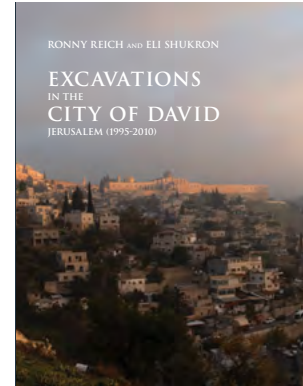
Oded Lipschits is Professor of Jewish History and Director of the Sonia and Marco Nadler Institute of Archaeology at Tel Aviv University.

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Honorable Mention—Best Dig Report Award Excavations in the City of David

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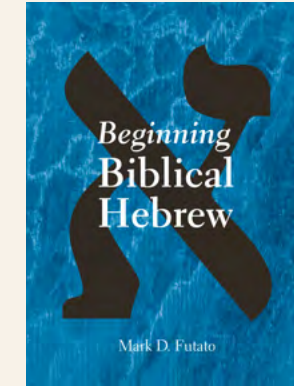
Excavations of the City of David are conducted under the auspices of the Israel Antiquities Authority. The Authority has now partnered with the Center for the Study of Ancient Jerusalem and its publication arm, the Ancient Jerusalem Publication Series, for the publication of reports that are written and designed for the scholar as well as for the general reader. *Excavations in the City of David* (APJ 1) is the first volume in this series.

Ronny Reich is Professor Emeritus of Classical Archaeology at the University of Haifa, former Codirector of the City of David Excavations (1995–2012), and Chair of the Israel Archaeological Council.

Eli Shukron is an archaeologist who has worked with the Israel Antiquities Authority and excavated the City of David in Jerusalem.

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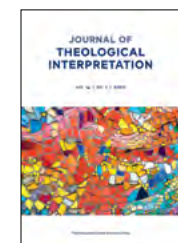
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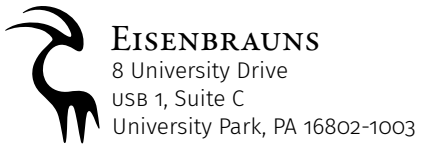
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