archaeology in an academic climate that often pays only lip service to truly multidisciplinary approaches but prefers to stay within the “safe” borders of one discipline. As is the case with all encyclopedic reference works from Oxford, the $395.00 price for the two-volume hardcover set is steep, and my guess is that most scholars and interested readers will wait for a hopefully-soonforthcoming paper edition of the set. Until then, most will access the helpful data in seminary and university libraries.

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This is the second Festschrift published in honor of Seymour Gitin. The first, “Up to the Gates of Ekron”: Essays on the Archaeology and History of the Eastern Mediterranean in Honor of Seymour Gitin (ed. S. W. Crawford, A. Ben-Tor, J. P. Dessel, W. G. Dever, A. Mazar, and J. Aviram; Jerusalem: Israel Exploration Society, 2007), contains essays by colleagues. This second volume is comprised of essays by some of the many former research fellows who benefited from the various programs at the W. F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research and Gitin’s leadership there as director.

Two opening articles consist of reminiscences by two former fellows, Aaron Brody (pp. xvi-xvii) and Robert Mullins (pp. xviii-xx), in which they both express thanks and admiration for the honoree. An update of Gitin’s bibliography is also provided (pp. xxi-xxii), which includes materials published since the 2007 Festschrift.

In the first article, M. Abu Khalaf provides a study of “The Umayyad Pottery of Palestine” (pp. 1-16), which has too often been neglected due to a preference for remains dating to biblical periods. He lists sites where Umayyad pottery has been discovered and provides a study of its type, forms, and ware. Because of the attention it brings to the formerly neglected pottery of the Umayyad period, this is a particularly significant study that sets the stage for future research. D. Ben-Shlomo’s essay studies “Marked Jar Handles from Tel Miqne-Ekron” (pp. 17-32), with a view toward elucidating the purpose and use of these pottery marks in the eastern Mediterranean. J. Blakely, J. Hardin, and D. Master examine “The Southwestern Border of Judah in the Ninth and Eighth Centuries B.C.E.” (pp. 33-51) in an attempt to reevaluate and delimit the possible southwestern boundary of the Judahite kingdom. A. Brody uses some once “lost” artifacts from Tell en-Nasbeh, housed in the archives of the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, to demonstrate “Interregional Interaction in the Late Iron Age” (pp. 53–67). S. Cohen and W. Więckowski examine “Three Middle Bronze II Burials from Tel Zahara” (pp. 69-80) which, despite their poor condition, demonstrate changing burial practices in MB I and II and also between rural and urban sites.
G. Gilmour presents a comparative analysis of “A Late Iron Age Cult Stand from Gezer” (pp. 81–93), which illuminates the function of these stands in folk religion of the period. Based on an interview with the “raiders,” S. H. al-Houdalieh’s essay, “Tomb Raiding in Western Ramallah Province, Palestine: An Ethnographic Study” (pp. 95–109), provides an analysis of the sociological, financial, and cultural elements behind this looting. In “Lambs to the Slaughter: Late Iron Age Cultic Orientations at Philistine Ekron” (pp. 111–30), E. Maher gives an account of the faunal remains from the temple complex at this Philistine site. In “Competing Material Culture: Philistine Settlement at Tel Miqne-Ekron in the Early Iron Age” (pp. 131–63), L. Mazow reports on another aspect of the same site. B. A. Nakhaï examines numerous “Mother-and-Child Figurines in the Levant from the Late Bronze Age through the Persian Period” (pp. 165–98) and provides a typology of these figurines based on their features. In “The Evolution of the Sacred Area at Tell es-Sultan/Jericho” (pp. 199–207), H. N. el-Din demonstrates the continuity of Jericho’s sacred area over time. S. Ortiz examines “‘Ashdod Ware’ from Ekron Stratum IV: Degenerated and Late Philistine Decorated Ware” (pp. 209–19), which he compares to “Ashdod Ware” found at other sites.

Based on their 2008–10 excavation seasons at Marj Rabba, Y. Rowan and M. Kersel provide “New Perspectives on the Chalcolithic Period in the Galilee” (pp. 221–37). M. Sadeq provides an “Overview of Iron Age Gaza in Light of the Archaeological Evidence” (pp. 239–53), based on work conducted at the sites of Tell el-'Ajjul, Deir el-Balah, Iblakhiyya, and Tell el-Ruqash. B. Saidel considers “Tobacco Pipes and the Ophir Expedition to Southern Sinai: Archaeological Evidence of Tobacco Smoking among 18th- and 20th-century Bedouin Squatters” (pp. 255–63). R. Schick examines “King David in Mujir al-Din’s Fifteenth-Century History of Jerusalem” (pp. 265–80) in order to explore the Islamic judge’s perception of David. In “An Iron Age II Tomb at Anata” (pp. 281–94), H. Taha presents the findings of a recent salvage excavation carried out northeast of Jerusalem, which demonstrate Iron Age occupation and burial practices. In “The Ups and Downs of Settlement Patterns: Why Sites Fluctuate” (pp. 295–308), J. Uziel, I. Shai, and D. Cassuto analyze the size fluctuations in settlements in the western Shephelah and Coastal Plain from the EBA I–IA II and suggest that these changes may be attributed to political, social, economic, and agricultural factors. The final article is a study of “The Horned Stands from Tell Afis and Hazor and the ‘Crowns’ from Nahal Mishmar” (pp. 309–21), by A. Zukerman, in which he argues for the cultic function of these items.

Several of the essays in this volume are by authors who participated in the excavations at Tel Miqne-Ekron, directed by Seymour Gitin and Trudy Dothan. These articles demonstrate Gitin’s mentoring of field archaeologists. Aside from these, the remainder of the essays vary widely in their subject matter and attest to his commitment to and influence on younger scholars who have benefited from his leadership at the Albright. *Material Culture Matters* is a worthy tribute to Sy Gitin, who has been so instrumental in fostering the work of these scholars. The volume will be an important addition to graduate school libraries, as well as the personal libraries of those working with archaeological data from the southern Levant.

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