

SPENCER, JOHN R., ROBERT A. MULLINS and AARON J. BRODY (eds.), *Material Culture Matters: Essays on the Archaeology of the Southern Levant in Honor of Seymour Gitin* (Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2014), pp. xxii + 321. \$59.50. ISBN 978-1-57506-298-3.

This collection is in fact the second Festschrift in honour of Gitin, and marks the coming to an end of his period of service as Director of the Albright Institute of Archaeological Research in Jerusalem. Contributors are principally scholars who have held fellowships at AIAR during his tenure, but some are from staff of the Tel Miqne-Ekron excavations of which he has been co-director. After a preface and two personal reminiscences by the editors, and an update to the bibliography of Gitin's work which appeared in the earlier Festschrift in 2007, there are 19 articles covering a wide chronological and topical range (from the Chalcolithic period to the twenty-first century CE, and from tombs to tobacco pipes). The following articles are included: 'The Umayyad Pottery of Palestine' (Marwan Abu Khalaf); 'Marked Jar Handles from Tel Miqne-Ekron' (David Ben-Shlomo); 'The Southwestern Border of Judah in the Ninth and Eighth Centuries B.C.E.' (Jeffrey A. Blakely, James W. Hardin and Daniel M. Master); 'Interregional Interaction in the Late Iron Age: Phoenician and Other Foreign Goods from Tell en-Nasbeh' (Aaron Brody); 'Three Middle Bronze II Burials from Tel Zahara' (Susan L. Cohen and Wiesław Więckowski); 'A Late Iron Age Cult Stand from Gezer' (Garth Gilmour); 'Tomb Raiding in Western Ramallah Province, Palestine: An Ethnographic Study' (Salah Hussein al-Houdalieh); 'Lambs to the Slaughter: Late Iron Age Cultic Orientations at Philistine Ekron' (Edward F. Maher); 'Competing Material Culture: Philistine Settlement at Tel Miqne-Ekron in the Early Iron Age' (Laura B. Mazow); 'Mother-and-Child Figurines in the Levant from the Late Bronze Age through the Persian Period' (Beth Alpert Nakhai); 'The Evolution of the Sacred Area at Tell es-Sultan/Jericho' (Hani Nur el-Din); '"Ashdod Ware" from Ekron Stratum IV: Degenerated and Late Philistine Decorated Ware' (Steven M. Ortiz); 'New Perspectives on the Chalcolithic Period in the Galilee: Investigations at the Site of Marj Rabba' (Yorke M. Rowan and Morag M. Kersel); 'An Overview of Iron Age Gaza in Light of the Archaeological Evidence' (Moain Sadeq); 'Tobacco Pipes and the Ophir Expedition to Southern Sinai: Archaeological Evidence of Tobacco Smoking among 18th- and 20th-Century Bedouin Squatters' (Benjamin Adam Sidel); 'King David in Mujir al-Din's Fifteenth-Century History of Jerusalem' (Robert Schick); 'An Iron Age II Tomb at Anata' (Hamdan Taha); 'The Ups and Downs of Settlement Patterns: Why Sites Fluctuate' (Joe Uziel, Itzhaq Shai and Deborah Cassuto); 'The Horned Stands from Tell Afis and Hazor and the "Crowns" from Nahal Mishmar' (Alexander Zukerman). Some have a closer bearing on the study of the Hebrew Bible than others, but all contribute to the claim of the deliberately ambiguous title that material culture matters.

A.H.W. CURTIS

STEC, DAVID M., *The Genizah Psalms: A Study of MS 798 of the Antonin Collection* (Études sur le judaïsme médiéval, 57; Cambridge Genizah Studies Series, 5; Leiden: Brill, 2013), pp. xxii + 176. 4 plates. €110.00/\$153.00. ISBN 978-90-04-24842-7; e-ISBN 978-90-04-24844-1; ISSN 0169-815X.

This book constitutes a comprehensive treatment of the four psalms found in Genizah manuscript Antonin 798 (St Petersburg), consisting of two folios, each with recto and

verso. The text was originally published by A. Harkavy (1902), who considered the poems to be mediaeval; then restudied by D. Flusser and S. Safrai (1982), who considered the composition to be ancient, indeed related to the Qumran corpus; and then studied yet again by E. Fleischer (1991), who argued strongly for a mediaeval provenance. S. concurs with Flusser and Safrai on the question of dating, as he takes pains to refute each of Fleischer's arguments. While he does not push the Qumran connection to the same extent, S. opines that the Genizah Psalms and the Dead Sea Scrolls 'arose in the same literary environment' (p. 145). As such, GnzPs (S.'s abbreviation) are of a kin with CD and ALD, ancient compositions known to us chiefly through mediaeval copies found in the Cairo Genizah (though for GnzPs we lack the explicit ancient testimony). This monograph includes legible images, a transcription and a translation, an exceedingly detailed line-by-line (even word-by-word) commentary, and a section entitled 'Analysis of Language'. The strongest aspect of the book is S.'s linguistic treatment, with the conclusion 'there are no linguistic features that would suggest or require a date later than the 2nd century [CE]' (p. 22). This volume deserves to be on the bookshelf of all who are interested in Psalms (especially their reception), Jewish literature of the Second Temple period, and Classical Hebrew. One can only hope that this superb treatment will serve the author to achieve his stated goal of 'making the Genizah Psalms more widely known and more accessible to scholarly scrutiny' (p. 22).

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