

faction which was not supported by Ashdod or Gaza, were wholly dependent on Egypt for comfort and support. Egypt, the "breakable reed," stoutly met her obligations to her allies on the field of battle but was no match for the powerful Assyrian army. Ekron was to regret bitterly her decision to oppose Sennacherib. In Sennacherib's own words: "I assaulted Ekron and killed the officials and patricians who had committed the crime and hung their bodies on poles surrounding the city. The (common) citizens who were guilty of minor crimes I considered prisoners of war. The rest of them, those who were not accused of crimes and misbehavior, I released. I made Padi, their king, come from Jerusalem and set him as their lord on the throne, imposing upon him the tribute (due) me (as) overlord" (*ANET* p. 288).

Charles R. Krahmalkov
University of Michigan

Orientation in Egypt and Palestine

In "Jerusalem and Judea: Roads and Fortifications" and in the excursus "Orientation in Biblical Lands," Menashe Har-El once again demonstrates his unsurpassed expertise in biblical geography (*BA* 44 [Winter 1981]: 8-20). Of particular interest is his noting the Egyptian orientation to the south and the source of the Nile vs. the Semitic orientation to the east and the rising of the sun. It remains to be observed that the Egyptian word for "west," *ʾimm* and its derivatives, is cognate to the Hebrew word for "south," *yāmîn*. Not only are the phonetic correspondences perfect, but both of these words mean "right" and "right-hand" as well. To the Egyptian facing south, right becomes west; to the Semite facing east, right becomes south.

Gary Rendsburg
Canisius College
Buffalo, NY

Ebla Again

As your Letter to the Reader (*BA* 44.3) points out, it is indeed sad that Professors Pettinato and Matthiae have let their debate over the interpretation of the Ebla tablets take on such personal

overtones. Professor Matthiae may be understandably affronted by accusations that his evaluation of the material has been influenced by political expediency. However, with all due respect and without taking sides, he should perhaps be reminded that there is historical precedent for such expediency in the face of politically intolerant powers: the case of Galileo and his ideas concerning the nature of the solar system. In the end, Galileo did recant his ideas. Yet even today, 350 years later, his case is still not closed.

If scientific "truth" is really what both men seek, why not allow other independent parties to evaluate the tablets. While biases and prejudices probably cannot be totally eliminated, at least a less impassioned and personal appraisal may ensue.

Dr. B. J. Geldzahler
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Corrigenda

In the Spring 1981 *BA*, a credit was omitted for the superposition of the temple plan on p. 109 of the article "The Eastern Wall of the Second Temple at Jerusalem Revealed" by Asher S. Kaufman. This illustration was reproduced by courtesy of Christian News from Israel. Our apologies both to this organization and the author for our oversight.

Credit should have been given in the Summer 1981 *BA* to the valuable work of two translators of articles in that issue: Lawrence A. Wilson, Emeritus Professor of Romance Languages at Oberlin College, was responsible for the translation of Alfonso Archi's article "Further Concerning Ebla and the Bible," which previously appeared in the Italian journal *Studi Eblaiti* 2 (1980): 17-40; Oded Borowski, professor in the Department of Modern Languages and Classics at Emory University, served as the translator from Hebrew of Yigal Shiloh's report on The City of David Archaeological Project's Third Season. We regret the unconscionable delay in properly acknowledging their generous assistance.