**English Abstracts of the Hebrew Articles**

**The Excavations at Khirbet ‘Aujah el-Foqa: The 2021­­–2022 Seasons**

David Ben-Shlomo, Michael Freikman, and Ralph K. Hawkins

The article will describe and discuss the results of the excavations at Khirbet ‘Aujah el-Foqa, a fortified Iron Age II site, during the 2021–2022 seasons. The two short excavaion seasons were held in Area B on the north side of the site and Area C opened on the northern slope. In Area B the excavation of a complete building was completed as well as several units around it. This area also yielded a destruction layer from the 8th century BCE with complete pottery vessels. In this area there is a high potential for the location of the town gate, and therefore, the area was extended. In Area C a tower on the slope of the hill outside the fortified site was excavated, located on the path leading into the site. Suprisingly, this structure is dated according tot he finds to the Middle Bronze Age IIB-C period (a period so far not attested in the site). The tower is well-built with large rubble stones and has two phases, both dated to the Middle Bronze Age. A short preliminary discussion will be presented on the significance of the finds.

**Keywords**: ‘Aujah el-Foqa, Iron Age II, southern Jordan Valley, fortified sites, Towers, Middle Bronze Age II

**The Cave of Horor: New Excavations, 2019**

Ofer Sion, Amir Ganor, Eitan Klein, Uriah Amichai, Hagay Hamer, and Haim Cohen

The article discusses the results of the new excavations at Haima (Cave of Horror) Cave during 2019–2021. The cave is located in Nahal Hever 6 km west of En Gedi in the Judean Desert. Haima Cave was identified by Y. Aharoni survey expedition, during the first survey at Nahal Hever. Among the finds from Aharoni’s excavations Chalcolithic finds and burials and finds from the early Roman period. During 2019 several an excavation took place at the cave for several days on behalf of the “Judean Desert Enterprise”. In these excavations another skeleton of a young girl was found. The article summarizes Aharoni’s and the recent excavations in the cave.

**Keywords:** Ha’ima Cave, Nahal Hever, Chalcolithic period, Roman period

**From Samaritans to Cutheans: The status of the Samaritans (“the Cutheans”) in the Classical Rabbinic literature**

Yossi Hemi

This article came to examine the status of the Samaritans, who are the "Cutheans" in the Tannaitic literature. The relationship between the Samaritans and the Jews underwent many upheavals in antiquity, and the conditional period is considered one of the formative periods in relation to the Samaritans. For centuries the Samaritans have been referred to in Jewish literature, by various nicknames, and often unflattering. The very choice of the nickname "Cutheans", and not "Samaritans" for example, sages adopted the biblical narrative (as stated in the Book of Kings in chapter 17), according to which the Samaritans are not part of the historical people of Israel, but descendants of foreign peoples brought to the land by Assyrian kings After the destruction of the Northern Kingdom. Moreover, Jewish literature is saturated with serious accusations against the Samaritans as those who plundered the land of historic Israel. On the other hand, we have seen that in almost all sources of halakhic conditions there is agreement that the Samaritans keep the mitzvos, and their status is as "Israel." This statement culminated with the statement of Rabban Shimon ben Gamliel, according to which "every mitzvah that was held by it is much more meticulous than Israel." Despite the great appreciation of the Samaritans for the observance of the mitzvos, and the religious closeness during the Tannaim period, the Classic Rabbinic still chose to perpetuate the differences between the two groups. Indeed, towards the end of the Tannaim period, the Sages attitude toward the Samaritans began to worsen, against the background of the Samaritans expansion beyond their traditional borders, and life alongside the Jews in the mixed cities. The groups, when sages chose to emphasize the foreign origin of the Samaritans on the one hand, and saturated with the struggles with the Jews on the other hand, thus refusing to accept them into the people of Israel (unlike the reds who converted).

**Keywords:** Samaritans, Cutheans, Israel, Tannaim literature, Mishnah, Tosefta

**Public Artificial Wading Pools in Judea and Samaria: Geographical and Sociological Aspects and Symbolic Meanings**

Mordechay Lash and Miriam Billig

This article surveys the development of the public artificial wading pools that have been established in Judea and Samaria since 2007 and examines physical, social, and symbolic aspects that this contemplation brings to light. The pools were built through local initiatives in response to the lack of natural springs in the environs of the settlements in which they are located. They also serve to address the complex geopolitical and security reality that excludes Jewish inhabitants from natural water sources located near areas inhabited by the Palestinian population. Since their establishment, the pools have served as a magnet for many local visitors, hikers, and tourists. Observing those visiting the pools reveals a prominent presence of women and children enjoying the sense of security around them; examining their usage is reflective of a creative and practical solution to the issue of the multi-gender bathing of the national-religious population; and contemplating the actions of the local authorities indicates that these pools serve them as a preferred means of disseminating public information and diplomacy. In addition, their symbolic meanings sharpen the insight that their design was meant to imbue them with a “biblical,” pastoral appearance, as part of the spatial conception of second generation Jewish settlers in Judea and Samaria. These trends preserve the landscape memory that was ingrained in members of the first generation in a new form and hold explicit and implicit political and ideological meanings.

**Keywords:** public wading pools, Judea and Samaria, West Bank, settlers, landscape design, multi-gender bathing