**English Abstracts of the Hebrew Section's Papers**

**Yigal Levin**

Kiriath-jearim: In Judah or in Benjamin?

The town of Kiriath-jearim, identified at Deir el-ʿAzar above the village of Abu-Ghosh, has come to scholarly attention recently, due to the renewed excavations led by Israel Finkelstein and Thomas Römer. Based on their preliminary finds and on their reading of the biblical texts, they have interpreted the Iron Age II B-C fortified compound that they have begun to expose on the summit of the site as a northern Israelite fortified compound, ‘aimed at dominating the vassal kingdom of Judah’. This paper reexamines the position of Kiriath-jearim on the border between Judah and Benjamin according to both the biblical texts and the site’s geographical location, within the context of the ongoing discussions on the biblical tribal territories, that of Benjamin in particular, the ‘ark narrative’ and other texts that mention Kiriath-jearim, and challenges the excavators’ interpretation of the character and purpose of the site during the Iron Age II.

**Keywords:** Kiriath-jearim, ark of the covenant, Judah, Israel, Benjamin, Gibeonites

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**Yair Almakiyes and Aharon Tavger**

An Iron Age II Underground Winery from Khirbet el-Hammam

A system of pits was recently discovered in Khirbet el-Hammam in northern Samaria, which apparently meets the accepted definition in the study of "Gibeon Pits". These Pits were used to store wine in the late Iron Age and early Persian period and indicate on developed agriculture in the area and on the centrality of the site. The location of these pits and identifications in the ruin of Kh. el-Hamam can shed new light on the size of the city during the Iron Age and its centrality.

**Keywords:** Gibeon Pits, Iron Age II, Kh. el-Hammam, Aruboth, Narbatha, The Northern Kingdom

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**Zeev H. Erlich (Zhabo) Erlich and Meir Rotter**

Four Samaritan Menorahs in the village of Haja in Samaria

This paper describes discovery of four ancient menorahs inscribed on stone that were discovered during a tour conducted by the authors in the village of 'Haja' in Samaria. These four "Menorahs" join another "Menorah" that was discovered in the village in the past, and was published by Yuval Peleg. This brings the number of "Menorahs" we know in this village to five. The paper analyzes the known history of the village of 'Haja', and also analyzes the rich finds of the ancient menorahs inscribed on stones in the village. Combining these two analyzes with information from the historical sources about the village and its surroundings in the Byzantine period and the early Muslim period, expands the knowledge about the village and its surroundings and the use of ancient menorahs inscribed on stones in the Roman-Byzantine period.

**Keywords:** Haja village, seven-branched menorah, Samaritan menorahs, menorahs frame

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**Gershon Bar-Cohcva**

The Process of Yusufiya's Development in the Machpela Edifice

The "Yusufiya" compound, adjacent to the north-western wall of the Machpela Edifice at Hebron, is a complex structure. Integrated within it are elements extending all the way from Roman times to our own. In 2016, sub-terranean radar mapping was carried out to pinpoint cavities and structures hidden beneath the floor. When the results of the mapping had been deciphered, it became clear that on the ground-floor below was a reservoir with arches from the Roman Period, constructed inside a karstic fissure. This reservoir played a role in the stages of the compound's construction and impacted on its shape. It appears that karstic fissures in the Machpela Field were among the factors that led to the Machpela Compound's construction at an unconventional angle. These fissures were put to use as reservoirs during the period that preceded the building's construction, and Herod planned to use them to supply water to those entering the compound.

**Keywords:** Herod, reservoir, Roman Period, Crusader Period, Mamluk Period, escape tunnel.

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**Mordechay Lash, Yossi Goldstein and Itzhaq Shai**

Archaeological research in the West Bank, 1948-1967:

Management, complexity, and Israeli involvement

The outcome of the 1948 war in Palestine resulted not only in the country's partition between the state of Israel and the Kingdom of Jordan but also in the division of its archaeological research. The Jordanian Department of Antiquities, which was responsible for administering archaeological research in the West Bank until 1967, prioritized research in the East Bank over research in the West Bank as a function of broader Jordanian government policy. The bulk of the research in the West Bank during this period was conducted by foreign institutions and researchers, who were forced to choose between researching in Israel and researching in the Arab countries, including the West Bank. Those who chose to research in Israel were denied the ability to simultaneously research and excavate in the West Bank. In this way, the choice of the foreign researchers divided them, placing them on the two different sides of the 'Green Line'.

 The excavations in the West Bank piqued the curiosity of the Israelis, who never ceased trying to acquire information about them and their findings. These efforts included secret meetings with foreign researchers, attempts to acquire the Qumran scrolls, and the secret transfer to Israel of a few findings for the sake of secret research. For many years, part of their story remained classified in archives. It is shared here for the first time.

**Keywords:** Archaeology, Judea and Samaria, West Bank, Dead Sea Scrolls, The Jordanian Department of Antiquities

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