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Dan IV: The Iron Age I Settlement. The Avraham Biran Excavations (1966–1999)

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Cypriot textile dataset through a detailed technological and production-oriented analysis of the textile tools from Episkopi-Bamboula, while Artzy (Chapter 11) offers a discussion on the ceramic wares of the Middle and Late Bronze Age, concerning especially the Cypriot Bichrome ware. Chovanec and Fountzos (Chapter 12) provide a thorough review on the study of opium poppy in the Late Bronze Age Eastern Mediterranean and new insights for the Cypriot Iron Age, while London (Chapter 13) explores the benefits of an ethnoarchaeological approach in the investigation of diverse ceramic markings coupled with the technological and social world of pithos making. Turning to the theme of regional connectivity (Section V), Bergoffen (Chapter 14) uses a fragmentary White Painted Hand-made crater from Enkomi for reviewing issues of style, cross-cultural interactions, inter-media inspirations and symbolic appropriation during the early Late Cypriot. By taking a leap of about a millennium, Kushnet (Chapter 15) uses diverse statistical techniques on coinage and ceramics for revealing patterns of connectivity, trade, economy and politics among the 6th–4th century BC Cypriot city-kingdoms. Moving further forward in time, Leonard (Chapter 16) offers a stimulating article rooted in multiple data strands (surveys, written and ethnographic sources, geographical and topographical information) for locating the island's roman harbours and elucidating their maritime trade activity. The meticulous description of the exchange networks of the 20th century Cypriot carob industry, presented here as an analogy for the diverse roman trade networks, provokes the rethinking of the role of the Cypriot landscape in connectivity, mobility and prosperity.

The last two chapters (Section VI) discuss future directions for Cypriot Archaeology within the framework of past and present research. Swantek and Weir (Chapter 17) embrace Swiny's project at Sotira-Kaminoudhia and reveal their research agenda for its future, with more excavations, science-based methodologies, coupled with ethnographic work and landscape development for making the area attractive to locals and tourists. Lastly, Knapp (Chapter 18) concludes the volume by reviewing the trends of Cypriot prehistory over the last 40 years. Despite his rather festive acknowledgement of people and projects impacting the discipline, he highlights that much of the current research, regardless of its advance science-based nature, is still relatively under-theorized and 'firmly grounded in the data' (p. 237); a pattern also reflected in this volume.

Overall, despite the aforementioned diversity, the editors successfully group the articles in meaningful

sections, thus, offering multiple pathways for approaching similar concepts. The multiplicity of topics, periods, methodologies and datasets make this volume an asset for anyone working on Cypriot archaeology. The articles on Swiny's legacy (1–3) indirectly enrich the history of the discipline by revealing diverse aspects of *CAARI's* past, while the numerous review-based chapters (4, 6, 12, 18) consist of priceless sources of information on topics ranging from the Eastern Mediterranean palaeoenvironment, Cypriot surveys, the history of Cypriot prehistory and the study of opium poppies in the Eastern Mediterranean. Only a few chapters (11, 14) are aimed mainly at experts of Middle–Late Cypriot ceramics, while others use diverse methodologies and/or theoretical orientations for making new datasets available (Chapter 10), or for proposing new interpretative schemes linked to the Early Neolithic (Chapter 5), Archaic-Classical (Chapter 15), and Roman (Chapter 16) Cyprus. Finally, two Chapters (7, 9) are distinguished for applying relatively innovative theoretical schemes, one combines creative experiential approaches with traditional methodologies (Chapter 8), and a last one incorporates a stimulating ethnoarchaeological view (Chapter 13). The multivocality achieved by the editors, which successfully reflects both the essence of the title *All things Cypriot* and the work of Swiny, is unified by the initial chronological tables and maps, the exceptional editorial work in terms of citations, bibliographical entries and chapter layouts, coupled with the intelligible language and high-quality figures; making this volume a pleasant and informative read.

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Reference

Simmons, A. H., DiBenedetto, K. and Keich, L. 2018. Neolithic Kritou Marottou — Ais Giorkis, Cyprus — Living in the Uplands. *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research* 379: 171–95.

ILAN, D. 2019. **Dan IV: The Iron Age I Settlement. The Avraham Biran Excavations (1966–1999)**. Annual of the Nelson Glueck School of Biblical Archaeology 12. Cincinnati: Hebrew Union College Press. ISBN: 9780878201822. Pp. 654. Hardback \$125.

David Ilan's book is the 4th volume in the final report series of the Tel Dan excavations, directed by

Avraham Biran from 1966–1999 and by David Ilan and Yifat Thareani since 2005. It focuses on the Iron Age I archaeological evidence excavated at the site during Biran's directorship. The scope of this book is to publish the data in a more comprehensive way than has appeared, to date, in individual articles and contributions; the final publication of the results of this 30-year-long excavation will provide scholars with the contexts and artefacts for comparison and further research. It therefore addresses specialists, specifically of Late Bronze Age to Iron Age pottery in the southern Levant, who want to compare materials and chronological sequences.

The structure of the book follows the typical format of final archaeological reports (e.g., Tel Dor Report 2018), but in this case the single author (D. Ilan) is responsible for the majority of the chapters (13), using contributions from other scholars only for very specific groups of artefacts and analyses. This is probably the result of two combined factors: (i) the documentation and excavation methods used at the time did not allow for a broad description of contexts by those who had excavated them; and ii) in 1999 the author of this volume wrote a doctoral dissertation on *Northeastern Israel in Iron Age I*, which focused mainly on the Iron Age I evidence at Tel Dan. This reviewer cannot evaluate how much of the unpublished PhD is contained in this publication; however, according to the author himself (p. 95) it did merge into this publication and established the core of the pottery chapter, thereby playing a predominant role in the book.

After a presentation on the natural environment (Chapter 1), the book proceeds with a description of Iron Age I architecture and stratigraphy (Chapter 2) identified in the different areas of the excavations: in each area the per stratum description is supported by many in-text photos, as well as a handful of drawings at the end of the chapter, or in the external folding maps. Chapters 3 to 6 deal mainly with pottery, presented according to typology (Chapter 3 local pottery; Chapter 4. Philistine, Aegean and Cypriot; Chapter 5 Phoenician painted) or archaeometric studies (Chapter 6 a–c petrographic analysis carried out by three different labs and authors on three different groups of selected pottery). The same criterion is applied to stone artefacts, which are published across four chapters, divided according to function or type of stone (Chapter 7 ground stone and natural stone objects; Chapter 8 scale weights; Chapter 9 chipped stone assemblage) or use-wear analysis (Chapter 10). Metal (Chapter 11), bone and ivory objects (Chapter 12), seals and seal impressions

(Chapter 13), various artefacts (Chapter 14) and 'figurines and ritual objects' and 'ritual contexts' (Chapters 15 and 16) complete the presentation of the artefacts. Chapters 17 and 18 deal with ecofacts (bones and archaeobotany), while Chapters 20 and 21 focus on chronology, and on a cultural reconstruction of the Iron Age I at Tel Dan. Thus, the archaeological evidence is presented following a 'traditional' method of publishing reports: it starts with the macro-scale (environment) and ends on the micro-level with artefacts and ecofacts; these are sometimes grouped according to their material (metal, bone, etc.), at other times according to their function (seals, sickle blades) or morphology (figurines). This approach remains problematic if we expect archaeology to be a scientific discipline and, consequently, present data following rigorous criteria of categorization. Nevertheless, scholars who are seeking material comparisons, and wanting to identify the stratum in which a specific type of artefact was found, will be able to do so with ease by shifting from one chapter to the other; this approach will also allow them to connect the strata numbers given per area, with the general sequence at the site (Table 2.1), and compare it with sequences from neighbouring sites (Table 2.3). This is the main productive outcome of this publication: it provides a large quantity of previously unpublished material culture from this period in a stratigraphic and chronological scheme. Aside from the C¹⁴ analyses carried out on very few examples and already published elsewhere, the criteria employed to define chronology are based on those defined by Gilboa Sharon (p. 156) and do not provide any substantial changes to a now well-established chronological framework for the Iron Age I in northern Israel.

The strong division of artefacts and ecofacts, and the very detailed separation from their archaeological contexts, may be useful to address questions of chronology, but it fails to provide a clear and comprehensive idea of a given context, and it does not allow the artefacts/ecofacts found in the primary context to be distinguished from those in secondary or tertiary contexts. This problem is perhaps related to outdated excavation methods, or a lack of sufficient documentation that often occurs with long-dormant documentations. It is probably for this reason that the author has presented one specific functional context (that of ritual), or specific functional installations (such as storage), independently from the stratigraphy and architecture sections. This has the benefit of combining architecture, artefacts and pottery, at least for these contexts, and groups together specific studies

which have already published separately (for example, the storage chapter published in 2008).

The author is perfectly aware that some data groups, such as archaeobotany, are too under-represented to be able to draw a general evaluation of the period at the site; he also admits that on occasion he has preferred to interpret ‘more’ (p. 617) of the archaeological evidence, in order to provide a general outline of the cultural features of the assemblage, even when quantitative analyses are not possible. This is particularly true in the last chapter, where Cypriot/Phoenician connections to Tel Dan in

Period VI are inferred from a small group of sherds, or the connection to the ‘Sea People sphere’ is represented by a notched boar tusk. In all, this work was a *desideratum* considering the length of Biran’s excavations and clearly essential to point out research questions that the new field excavations may be able to answer.

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