

Fritz, Volkmar. *An Introduction to Biblical Archaeology*. Journal for the Study of the Old Testament Supplement Series, no. 172. Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1994. 224 pp. \$19.95.

Volkmar Fritz, director of the German Institute for Archaeology of the Holy Land in Jerusalem, presents in this volume an updated translation of his 1985 introduction published in German by the Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft. It joins several other recent publications in providing a synthetic overview of developments in Syro-Palestinian archaeology (H. Weippert, *Palästina in Vorhellenistischer Zeit* [Munich: Beck, 1988]; A. Mazar, *Archaeology of the Land of the Bible* [New York: Doubleday, 1990]; A. Ben-Tor, editor, *The Archaeology of Ancient Israel* [New Haven: Yale Univ. Press, 1992]; and T. E. Levy, editor, *The Archaeology of Society in the Land of Israel* [London: Leicester Univ. Press, 1995]). The previous work of the author in directing excavations at Khirbet el-Masos and more recently Kinneret, producing fine volumes on temple architecture and the ancient city, and writing influential articles on a wide range of subjects, is making a strong impact on scholarship and may be considered as laying the groundwork for his *Introduction to Biblical Archaeology*.

The first four chapters provide the background to the research, including a brief introduction of "Definition and Purpose," an overview of the geographical and topographical issues of "The Land," a "History of Archaeological Research," and the "Methods of Excavation" that are currently employed. In Chapter 3 the differences between the Israeli and American schools are described and critiqued respectively in terms of the Reisner-Fisher and Wheeler-Kenyon methods. Chapter 4 outlines the various techniques that accompany excavations and the means by which processing and final publishing of excavated material is accomplished. This chapter is very useful for those interested in the recovery techniques used by archaeologists. A discussion of theoretical and epistemological aspects of archaeology was not addressed in the book, but might have been included in one of these chapters despite their brevity.

Chapter 5 on "Chronology" serves as the introduction to the next four chapters on the respective cultural periods. The author discusses historical and astronomical correlations between Egypt, Asia Minor, and the material culture of Syria-Palestine. With the sequence of periods and dates, Fritz provides a description of the historical events that mark their beginning and end. The subsequent chapters each describe distinct cultural periods beginning with the "Neolithic and Chalcolithic Periods" and ending with the "Hellenistic and Roman Periods." The synthesis is detailed and concise, leading the reader through sites and their architectural, material-cultural, and historical development. Fritz demonstrates a keen knowledge of architectural developments. This is augmented by detailed descriptions of continuity and discontinuity in style and form of material culture. But little attention is focused on the function of these changes and their significance in socioeconomic terms. In other words, detailed descriptions are provided of archaeological finds, but the overall portrait of connections with interacting cultures and social and ideological elements is lost in the descriptions of pottery, temple and palace design, and technology. This may be due to a separate Chapter 10 covering various ethnic groups. But the concise nature of the book provides only a few pages on the Phoenicians (185-189),

Philistines (191-193), and Arameans (194-201). The Ammonites, Moabites, and Edomites combined are treated in four and a half pages (202-206).

For the settlement of Israel, Fritz describes in Chapter 9 three current models, those of conquest (Albright), peaceful infiltration (Alt), and peasants' revolt (Mendenhall), stating that "none of these 'models' covers all the details afforded by the literature and archaeology" and calling for "some modification of the models so far employed" (137-138). But he does not refer to the current Israeli school that has revived the models of Alt and Noth. Finkelstein's standard work, *The Archaeology of the Israelite Settlement* (Jerusalem: Israel Exploration Society, 1988) is not mentioned in the footnotes. The volume might have benefited from reference to numerous monographs by textual scholars, including those of G. Ahlström, *Who Were the Israelites?* (Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1986); N. P. Lemche, *Early Israel* (Leiden: Brill, 1985); *Ancient Israel: A New History of Israelite Society* (Sheffield: JSOT, 1988); Coote and Whitelam, *The Emergence of Early Israel in Historical Perspective* (Sheffield: Almond, 1987); R. B. Coote, *Early Israel: A New Horizon* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 1990); R. Neu, *Von der Anarchie zum Staat* (Neukirchen-Vluyn: Neukirchner Verlag, 1992). These references are essential in directing the reader to current literature if not in providing an up-to-date synthesis of the problem of Israelite emergence.

Further bibliographical references in other chapters might have included important monographs such as P.R.S. Moorey's *A Century of Biblical Archaeology* (Philadelphia: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1990); P. de Miroschedji's edited volume on the Early Bronze Age, *L'Urbanisation de la Palestine à l'age du Bronze Ancien* (Oxford: British Archaeological Reports, 1989), and Palumbo's recently published dissertation, *The Early Bronze Age IV in the Southern Levant*, *Contributi e Materiali de Archeologia Orientale III* (Rome: Universita degli Studi de Roma "La Sapienza," 1990). These works represent the current state of the art for both periods. Moreover, Hübner's 1992 work in German on the Ammonites should have been included in Chapter 10.

The bibliographies for individual chapters are conveniently divided topically for further reference. This allows the reader to study particular aspects of interest. The book also provides 42 figures and 26 photographs illustrating pottery, other finds, sites, and construction techniques of various architectural elements in exceptional quality. A subject and place index would make the volume more accessible. Despite this and other caveats mentioned above, this volume provides a refreshingly concise and readable introduction that encourages reference to more extensive works listed in its bibliographies and supplemented here.

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Furcha, E. J., trans. and ed. *The Essential Carlstadt: Fifteen Tracts by Andreas Bodenstein (Carlstadt) from Karlstadt*. Classics of the Radical Reformation, no. 8. Waterloo, Ontario: Scottdale, PA: Herald Press, 1995. 449 pp. Cloth, \$49.95 U.S.; \$71.25 Can.

Andreas Bodenstein von Carlstadt (1486-1541), a Wittenberg colleague of Luther's, left Saxony, endured several years of fugitive wanderings, found