

it totally unrelated to the midrash which follows in 3:7 to 4:11 or is it in some way connected to it? His treatment does not explain adequately why it is placed where it is or what role it plays in the author's overall purpose. What is the force of the $\delta\iota\acute{o}$ in 3:7? After the helpful insights on passages such as 6:13-20, I was disappointed with his discussion here.

There are a number of typographical errors. There are two lines missing near the bottom of page 85 in my copy. The "which" in note 14 on page 93 should probably be "while." And $\epsilon\lambda\epsilon\acute{o}\omega$ in note 22 on page 99 should be $\epsilon\lambda\epsilon\acute{\epsilon}\omega$.

Despite the needed improvements noted above, this is a major contribution to the study of Hebrews which should be required reading. The text is readable enough that it could be profitably used even by advanced students on the undergraduate level. This is a work which no scholar on Hebrews can afford to ignore.

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Hendrix, Ralph E., Philip R. Drey, and J. Bjørnar Storfjell. *Ancient Pottery of Transjordan: An Introduction Utilizing Published Whole Forms—Late Neolithic through Late Islamic*. Berrien Springs, Michigan: Institute of Archaeology/Horn Archaeological Museum, Andrews University, 1996. xii + 342 pp. \$18.95.

Students embarking on a study of the ancient Near East must have a pottery guide. So far they have not had the good fortune to be well provided for in this regard. For Mesopotamia, Ann Louise Perkins' *The Comparative Archaeology of Early Mesopotamia* (1949) has never really been superseded. For Palestine, Ruth Amiran's *Ancient Pottery of the Holy Land* (1969) has (too) long been standard for beginners, while L. G. Herr and W. C. Trenchard have recently provided the specialist with a valuable, though unillustrated bibliography, *The Published Pottery of Palestine* (1996).

The authors of the book under review, all archaeologists at Andrews University, with the help of a team of specialist consultants, now break new ground with a guide to the pottery of Transjordan aimed specifically at introductory-level students. Their aim was to produce a tool for pottery study—initially devised as a set of "pottery flashcards"—which would standardize pottery terminology and provide basic introductory material. An enormous amount of research using primary publications went into this, and the authors provide a measure of their effort by informing the reader of the exact number of entries in their bibliography, the number of pottery types considered, the number of sites and periods represented.

The book is divided into five chapters which build on each other. Chapter 1, "Researching Pottery Morphology," briefly describes why archaeologists collect and study pottery. To the list of contributions provided to archaeology by pottery analysis, the authors could perhaps have added data from changes over time in wares and manufacturing techniques, allowing glimpses of economic and social trends that can help interpret and be interpreted by other archaeological and written sources.

Chapter 2, "Analyzing Ancient Pottery," explains terminology, drawing techniques, and processes of analysis. This is particularly useful for beginners and will be a good reference for teachers to cite.

Chapter 3, "Standardizing Pottery Terminology," is an attempt to assign objective names to vessels. The authors introduce a new form-based paradigm (form = shape + size) in which the three basic (or "root") shapes are bowl, jar, and jug, each of which has "branch" sub-forms more closely related to the common name of the vessel and its possible function. Size criteria are based on proportions of diameter to depth rather than on absolute measurements. This chapter is quite densely written and is less of a guide for students than a manifesto aimed at pottery specialists. The authors essentially call for the use of this objective—or less subjective—terminology in specialist pottery reports; the reviewer can imagine the beginning student, at whom this book is supposedly aimed, not persisting with the detailed arguments in this chapter. It is also unfortunate that the technique-based typologies of H. J. Franken (e.g., *In Search of the Jericho Potters* [1974], among others) have not been mentioned, since they provide the beginner with an insight into what shape variations mean in manufacturing terms.

Chapter 4, "Summarizing Ancient Chronology," provides a brief historical background for each archaeological period. It makes the important point that archaeological periodization for Transjordan has been adopted from Palestine (Cisjordan). Since political and historical events in Palestine had little relevance to Transjordan, effort is now being expended on establishing a local Transjordan-based periodization. The authors cite current work on rearranging the Islamic periods according to material culture rather than political or religious events, but this is just as relevant for other periods, including the Iron Age, where the detailed subdivisions borrowed from Palestine are inapplicable to (all) Transjordan on current evidence. This appears to be acknowledged on pp. 65-66, and yet these detailed Iron Age subperiods are tabulated on p. 59. The authors may have missed an opportunity here to make the point firmly about the differences between Palestine and Transjordan, which are still not widely appreciated. It might also have been useful to mention that Middle and Late Bronze Age pottery has so far not been found south of the Wadi Hasa, which has implications for the nature of human occupation in that area.

The suggestion that Iron IIB ends *ca.* 600 BC, the approximate date that Ammon, Moab, and Edom became vassal states of Babylon, is fraught with difficulties. These states *may* have been incorporated into the Neo-Babylonian empire (direct rule, *not* vassaldom) but the evidence is not conclusive; in any case there is no evidence that the material culture changed at that point, making it difficult to substantiate a change of archaeological period.

There are several references to drastic falls in population within the Islamic periods, but this is not yet conclusively proved and may simply turn out to be (1) a drop in *settled* occupation, not in population, or (2) a reflection of the still incomplete understanding of Islamic pottery typology and chronology.

Chapter 5, "Characterizing Archaeological Periods," forms the bulk of the book, and describes pottery from Late Neolithic (Pottery Neolithic) to Late Islamic (up to AD 1516), with subdivisions. Each period or subperiod is arranged by introduction, technique, surface treatment, and forms, which in addition to

bowls, jars, and jugs include miscellaneous forms, e.g. lamps, and lids. The work provides illustrations of 469 whole form or reconstructed whole-form pottery examples; the descriptions in the captions inevitably vary in detail depending on the published source—sometimes there is no description at all.

Not surprisingly, specialists on particular periods will find something to quibble about. Although it can be argued that an introductory manual cannot cover every detail, nevertheless the omission of certain points occasionally produces a misleading picture. Page 159 correctly states that Iron I potters used tournettes rather than the proper wheel, but in fact this had already started in the Late Bronze Age (cf. H. J. Franken, *Excavations at Tell Deir 'Alla: The Late Bronze Age Sanctuary* [Louvain 1992], 149). This is important, as it probably constitutes evidence of a change from a mass to a small market for pottery and so reflects wider socioeconomic developments.

On p. 172 the authors repeat the widespread view that real Assyrian pottery was imported into Transjordan in the late Iron Age. The jury is still out on this point: there is certainly plenty of local pottery influenced by Assyrian types, but so far no pottery has been published from Transjordan which is unequivocally Assyrian in origin. Again this reflects an important wider point concerning the nature of the Assyrian presence—if any—in Transjordan.

The only period for which regional subcultures within Transjordan are individually addressed is Iron II-III, where there are separate entries for Ammon, Moab, and Edom, preceded by a general entry. The inattentive reader may not realize that the general and individual entries must be read in conjunction, otherwise some confusion might arise. For example, under Edomite culture (201) the only entry for ware is handmade Negev ware, but the standard wares are covered earlier on pp. 171-172.

There follows a Glossary of selected archaeological and ceramic terms, which is quite systematic and useful. Finally, there is a Bibliography and an Index, mostly of sites, periods, and pottery types and techniques.

The book is generally well laid out, easy to use, and a convenient size. It is ideal for students, with the important proviso—acknowledged by the authors—that it is a supplement to a class or field instruction in pottery. In his Foreword, R. W. Younker recalls his youthful awe of magical identifications by pottery specialists and stresses that this book cannot be a replacement for years of study and *handling*, especially of sherds, which look quite different from whole forms. It is important for students—and specialists—to acknowledge that even with such expertise there can still be uncertainties, and even an expert cannot—or should not—always be certain about identifications, especially of survey sherds in little-known areas. We are only just beginning to appreciate the full extent of regional variation, sometimes over very small distances, in Transjordanian ceramics. The only way, even for specialists, to gain experience of the full range of regional pottery will be through (international) handling seminars. This book will become an essential primary reference, but the highest praise will be to own a copy dog-eared from the dust of countless handled sherds.