

ENGLISH SUMMARIES

Like other issues of *'Al 'Atar* this issue deals with a variety of places in Eretz Israel and matters related to the study of the land in various periods: from biblical times, through the Second Temple Period until modern times. This variety reflects primarily the interests of the writers of the articles in this issue, but at the same time the subjects covered by the Department of Eretz Israel Studies at Herzog College, under the auspices of which the journal appears.

The first article, by Haim Lachmish, is devoted to Biblical interpretation and reality, focusing on the names and presumed locations of places named Dor or 'Ein Dor. It deals in depth with a number of verses in Joshua, Judges, Samuel I and Psalms, and raises the possibility that these names refer to different locations and not to only one place.

The second article, by Yitzhak Meitlis, does not deal with a specific biblical site, but with an different issue: the Hebrew terms for directions in Eretz Israel and the surrounding countries in the biblical period. It focuses primarily on terms for the East, suggesting a similarity between the terms for directions in Eretz Israel and Egypt in ancient times, proposing new interpretations of several biblical passages, among them the building of the Tabernacle and story of the quails in Numbers.

The third article, by Yigal Tepper and Yotam Tepper, discusses "*Sulam Hazoriim*" and its location on the route of pilgrims to Jerusalem, paved during the Second Temple Period. The writers regard 'The Ladder of Tyre' as part of this system of roads, despite its location on the northern border of the land, and refer to various references to it in Talmudic and other early sources.

The two last articles in this issue are devoted to subjects that have not been researched in depth concerning the history of settlement in the *Gush Etzion* area in the last century:

The article by Arye Olman surveys for the first time systematically and in depth, on the basis of new primary sources, the history and development of the Russian settlement in the *Gush Etzion* area – Beith Sha'ar – as well as the activity of the central figure who promoted Russian settlement on this site – the Monk Lazar. This chapter in the history of *Gush Etzion* has only been

treated superficially despite its significant impact on development of the area in the first half of the twentieth century.

The article by Reuven Gafni, on *Kibbutz Kfar Etzion* in the years before the War of Independence, deals with various attempts to establish a permanent synagogue in the kibbutz, and particularly the latest initiative (in 1947) to found a synagogue in memory of Rabbi Moshe Isserles and the martyrs of Krakow, murdered in the *Shoah*. This account of the initiative describes the central figures who stood behind it, the way it was conducted and the special architectural plans for the *Kibbutz* synagogue, which were never carried out because of the War of Independence and the tragic plight of the *Kibbutz* during the war.

The Editorial Board