



Review

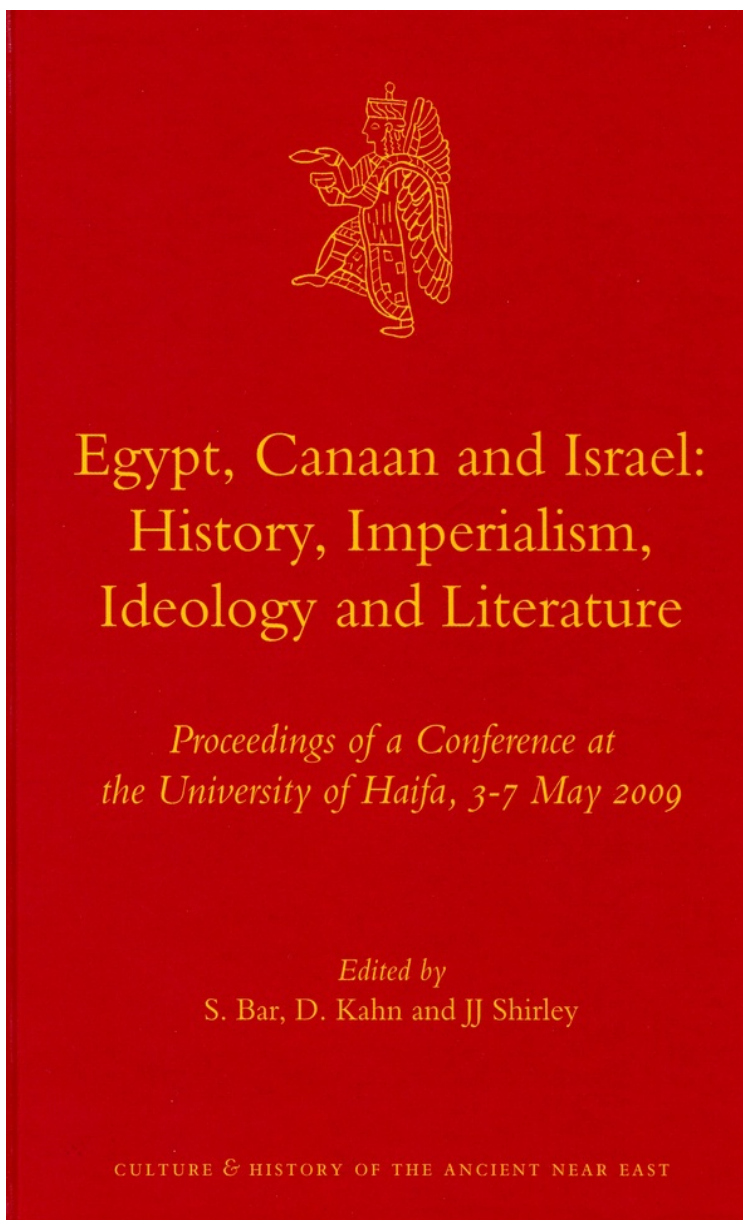
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EGYPT, CANAAN AND ISRAEL: HISTORY, IMPERIALISM, IDEOLOGY AND LITERATURE

Proceedings of a Conference at the University of Haifa, May 3-7, 2009.

Brill 2011. ISBN13: 9789004194939. 370 pp.

This volume brings together fifteen papers from the proceedings of the conference “Egypt, Canaan and Israel: History, Imperialism, Ideology and Literature” held at the University of Haifa, 3-7 May 2009. The volume opens with an introduction by Professor Dan’el Kahn followed by the conference program and a selection of images from the various conference events. The program shows that for the conference the papers were organized thematically, and very broadly speaking, their progression was chronological, ranging from the question of border delineation during the Middle Kingdom to Ptolemaic endeavors in the Levant. Between these chronological *termini*, thematic sections such as “Tale and Hymn” and “History and Archaeology” were also positioned. In the printed volume, however, 15 of the 24 presented papers are published and appear alphabetically, by author,



with the contributions being as follows:

- Shirly Ben-Dor Evian, “Shishak’s Karnak Relief – More Than Just Name-Rings”
- Daphna Ben-Tor, “Egyptian-Canaanite Relations in the Middle and Late Bronze Ages as Reflected by Scarabs”
- Susanne Binder, “Joseph’s Rewarding and Investiture (Genesis 41:41-43) and the Gold of Honour in New Kingdom Egypt”
- M. Hasel, “The Battle of Kadesh: Identifying New Kingdom Politics, Places, and Peoples in Canaan and Syria”
- James K. Hoffmeier, “David’s Triumph Over Goliath: 1 Samuel 17:54 and Ancient Near Eastern Analogues”
- Susan Tower Hollis, “Two Hymns as Praise Poems, Royal Ideology, and History in Ancient Israel and Ancient Egypt: A Comparative Reflection”
- Dan’el Kahn, “One Step Forward, Two Steps Backward: The Relations

Between Amenhotep III, King of Egypt and Tushratta, King of Mitanni”

- Amihai Mazar, “The Egyptian Garrison Town at Beth-Shean”
- Kerry Muhlestein, “Levantine Thinking in Egypt”
- Marcus Müller, “View to a Kill: Egypt’s Grand Strategy in her Northern Empire”
- Boyo Ockinga, “Hatshepsut’s Appointment as Crown Prince and the Egyptian Background to Isaiah 9:5”
- Bernd U. Schipper, “Egyptian Imperialism after the New Kingdom: The 26th Dynasty and the Southern Levant”
- J.J. Shirley, “What’s in a Title? Military and Civil Officials in the Egyptian 18th Dynasty Military Sphere”
- Carola Vogel, “This Far and Not a Step Further! The Ideological Concept of Ancient Egyptian Boundary Stelae”
- Adam Zertal, “The Arunah Pass”

This alphabetical arrangement, by author, might be said to lose something of the logical grouping employed in the conference program, but as all the papers actually presented are not included in the proceedings it would appear that some sections would not have been properly represented if the thematic arrangement had been followed. In any event, it is not difficult to gain a sense of what material is covered by scanning the list of contributions, and the alphabetical arrangement certainly aids quick reference to a given paper.

The included papers are all worthwhile, and a good number bring fresh perspectives and insightful analysis to their subjects. The range of subjects covered and material addressed is also impressive as between them the contributors control large swaths

of Biblical, Egyptian and Ancient Near Eastern material and textual culture. The publisher’s description of the book states that it includes “... the latest discussions about the political, military, cultural, economic, ideological, literary and administrative relations between Egypt, Canaan and Israel during the Second and First Millennia BC incorporating texts, art, and archaeology.” This is actually a fair summary and underscores the value of the breadth of the proceedings. Each chapter is well documented with footnotes and a final section with abbreviations and (in some case quite extensive) bibliography.

But praising the breadth and frequently very good bibliographic documentation displayed by this volume does not give credit to one of the most salient aspect of *Egypt, Canaan and Israel*. This collection of papers contains several studies which point - either directly or indirectly - toward potentially profitable avenues for future research. Such papers lie at the heart of proceedings such as these and represent a substantial part of their value.

The volume is carefully edited and well produced. Design and layout are good, the illustrations are generally clearly reproduced, and the typeface is clear and easy to read. The book is not inexpensive at \$176, but it contains a veritable wealth of good information and insights from scholars conducting research in the area of interconnections between Egypt, Canaan and Israel. The volume is highly recommended for historians, archeologists and others working in the field of Ancient Near Eastern Studies in general, and it is indispensable for anyone interested in connections between Egypt and Canaan/Israel.

JAIEI Editorial Staff