

Foreword

This issue of the *Jerusalem Journal of Archaeology* is dedicated to papers presented in the *International Conference on Epigraphy in Judah*. It was sponsored by the Roger and Susan Hertog Center for the Archaeological Study of Jerusalem and Judah at the Institute of Archaeology, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and organized by Dr. Mitka R. Golub, Dr. Aharon Tavger, and Prof. Yosef Garfinkel. The meeting took place at the auditorium of Yad Izhaq Ben-Zvi Institute in Jerusalem from Sunday to Wednesday, May 21–24, 2023.

Twenty-three scholars from Cyprus, France, Germany, Israel, Switzerland, and the United States participated in the meeting. The participants also attended the inauguration of an exhibit in the Israel Museum dedicated to the ivory comb from Lachish with the earliest known complete sentence written in the Canaanian alphabet. An additional day was dedicated to touring the ancient sites of Lachish and Arad, which produced numerous inscriptions over the years.

Some lectures were processed into articles and are presented in this issue, which was edited by Dr. Daniel Vainstub and Prof. Yosef Garfinkel. According to the journal policy, the articles underwent peer-review and style editing before publication.

The issue provides an up-to-date picture of key aspects of Judahite epigraphic research. This field is important in itself but also contributes to our understanding of the writing and the editing of the biblical text.

Daniel Vainstub and Yosef Garfinkel



Fig. 1. Part of the conference participants. Front row (left to right): Aharon Tavger, Daniel Vainstub, Anat Mendel-Geberovich, Mitka R. Golub, Nili Wazana, and Orly Goldwasser. Back Row (left to right): Eythan Levy, Uzi Avner, David Jesselson, Yosef Garfinkel, Stefan Jakob Wimmer, Christopher Rollston, Raymond F. Person, Jr., William Dever, André Lemaire, Martin Heide, Aaron Demsky, Christopher K. Eames, Haggai Misgav, and Matthieu Richelle.