

PREFACE TO VOLUME 2

No literary work takes place without a context. The three decades that span 1980–2010 witnessed three series of publications that provide the backdrop for this two-volume project. These publications took place in the fields of New Testament studies, Jewish studies, and Galilean studies.

The first of these developments was the ongoing quest of the historical Jesus. The current quest has manifested itself in three movements: the Jesus Seminar, the Context Group, and the Third Quest. Although they operate under different assumptions and use different methodologies, participants in these three groups have one thing in common. Few of them—there are exceptions—betray any knowledge of the archaeology of Galilee. We offer the current volume to the Jesus quest as a collection of data that scholars can easily access and use in their research.

The second development was the advances in the study of early Judaism that occurred during these decades. First, a new collection of Pseudepigrapha was offered in the mid-1980s. Second, all of the remaining Qumran Scrolls were released in the early 1990s. Third, the translations of much of the rabbinic literature by Jacob Neusner and his students and colleagues, published intermittently during these three decades, have made the monumental Jewish materials much more available to the English-speaking general public. Although these publication events have allowed greater access to the Jewish literature and have sparked renewed interest in Jewish Studies, the material culture of Jewish sites has remained largely unknown.

The third development that has led to this project is the rise of the Galileans, both the historians and the archaeologists. Beginning with Seán Freyne (to whom volume 1 is dedicated *in memoriam*) several historians have scoured the literature—mostly Josephus—for information about Roman Galilee. In a few instances, these historians also benefited from some of the new archaeological finds and insights that were available at that time. But archaeological work continues in the Galilee, and new data must undergird these excellent works of history. Finally, we have seen more archaeological interest in Galilee in those three decades. First in Upper Galilee and now in Lower Galilee, excavators have collected the material *realia* and, where they could do so, have attempted to connect them to and relate them to the literature. This information, scattered in essays, dig reports, and even in excavators' notes, needs to be gathered together for convenient reference. We offer the present volume to provide this service.

Because of these three developments, the editors began in 2010 to contemplate the present project. The project started in earnest in 2012, and the first submissions began to arrive in the fall of 2013. With the publication of this second volume, the project is now complete.

The reader will permit the editors a few words about this volume's importance. First, whenever we could, we asked original excavators to produce chapters on sites they dug. When that was impossible for various reasons, we enlisted knowledgeable and thorough scholars to do the task. Second, several chapters compile, for the first time and in a comprehensive way, data from various digs and surveys by many groups over a number of decades. Third, some chapters present information that precedes and anticipates arguments and evidence that will appear in the directors' final publications. The chapter on Sepphoris is simply a treasure. In addition to the two indexes at the end, we have supplemented this volume with a glossary of technical terms that appear in the chapters. The bibliographies that appear at the end of the chapters remain a gold mine.

The editors thank Scott Tunseth and Marissa Wold Uhrina of Fortress Press for their patient responses to our concerns and their excellent work in the production of these two volumes.

We again thank our spouses, Molly Fiensy and Laura Strange, for their support in the laborious work of overseeing the project.

Finally, and not at all insignificantly, we honor the thousands of volunteers over the years who have dug at various sites in Galilee. They come in almost all ages and from many occupations to sink their trowels into Galilean soil. They do it for the fun of it, out of interest in Galilean history, and just to make a contribution, but it is they who recover and record the data. The excavations could not happen without them.

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