

PREFACE BY THE EDITOR

The principal idea for the research for this volume by Mario Martin was to study Egyptian and local imitations of Egyptian vessels to establish chronological lines from Egypt of the New Kingdom to the region of the southern Levant during the Late Bronze Age. Numerous excavations revealed such materials and often find circumstances provided Egyptian pottery dating as a good tool for creating close ties to the well-researched Egyptian chronology of that period.

The author's approach was a very systematic one. In the first part he drew up the corpus of pertinent Egyptian pottery by forms, in the second part he presented as his tools the Egyptian range of fabrics and the technology of those Egyptian products during the New Kingdom. In the third part he discussed the different sites which are important as providers of Egyptian and Egyptianizing pottery such as Beth Shean, Megiddo, Tel Dor (contribution R. Stidsing and Y. Salmon), Aphek, Tel Mor, Lachish, Ashkelon, Tell Sera^c, Tell el-^cAjjûl (contribution Karin Kopetzky), Tell el-Far^cah-S, Tell el-Sa^cidiyeh (contribution J. Green) and many other sites. All materials with

some few exceptions were closely scrutinized by the author himself who gained an unrivalled experience in the Later Bronze Age material culture. The important part is how the Egyptian material culture took hold of the Late Bronze Age Canaan and with which means. In the fourth and final part the conclusions are discussed, especially in respect to the chronology of the Late Bronze Age. The corpus of Egyptian wares and their functions are analysed and juxtaposed to Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age pottery. Unexpectedly Egypt continued to export vessels until the Early Iron Age.

This book fills a longstanding gap in research and is a welcome contribution to the chronology and the culture studies of the Late Bronze Age. We wish the author's analyses to be well received by the international scholarly community.

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