But a return to the question of KKW, here at the type site, cannot be avoided. Nor can the question of pots versus people. Clearly, the origins of the "phenomenon" are found far and away from the Sea of Galilee, in the distant Caucasus and eastern Anatolia. With a complex distribution across Anatolia and the northern Levant, where it appears in some regions and sites but not others, why and how the pots and/or the people ended up in the Jordan Valley are beyond the scope of this review. But that this was effectively the end of the line has long been known (see the summary in Novacek 2007: 597–618).

The facile assumption that every new type of ceramics indicates social upheaval and migration has long been a source of controversy in Levantine archaeology, where archaeological data have been "historicized" to conform with the discipline's textually derived master narratives (Dessel and Joffe 2000). And yet, the archaeological record indicates that not all change is local and not all new material culture is merely stylistic or diacritical. Pots do not equal people, except when they do.

Philip, for example, suggests that KKW was a signal that users wished to "opt out" of the prevailing social order (1999). Presumably this means that EB II North Canaanite Metallic Ware constituted not only a dominant ceramic style but was indicative of a formal social order, with political, economic, and other dimensions that were somehow overbearing. A clearer picture of what was being rebelled against, besides a homogeneous ceramic style with centralized production and distribution, would make this thesis more persuasive. A more detailed analysis of KKW distribution between and within sites, such as the too-often-overlooked site of Taanach (see now Ziese 2002), is also necessary before concluding that KKW represents existing people adopting new behavior.

Surely the fact that KKW comprises a significant and sometimes overwhelming majority of the EB III ceramic assemblage at sites such as Yaqush and Bet Shan, and in specific areas of Bet Yeraḥ, indicates that opting out is overstated or incorrect. What are we to make of the fact that local shapes such as holemouth jars were sometimes made in KKW, in effect the new impinging on the old in a manner reminiscent of later episodes of new "ethnic" groups? And what can we say of other sensitive indicators such as food and foodways? Was KKW then a symbol or a lifestyle? To privilege any type of pottery as a symbol of a social order may be asking too much. At the moment, it seems that at a site like Yaqush, KKW *was* the prevailing social order, while at Bet Yeraḥ it was too prevalent to be merely countercultural. And if enough people adopt a lifestyle, doesn't that constitute an "ethnic" group?

But positing migration also has many unaddressed difficulties. Newcomers would have entered a landscape with preexisting patterns of landholding, both inside and outside of settlements. Beyond the simple acquisition of land, there were also long-established economic patterns into which newcomers had to fit themselves. Were there language barriers as well? This is unlikely, given that the bearers of KKW had been traversing the Levant for centuries. How new or different were they, then? What began in the Caucasus in the fourth millennium was necessarily a very different phenomenon in the third millennium as it came to rest at the shore of the Sea of Galilee.

The reader is left waiting for Greenberg's thoughts on these and other matters in the forthcoming companion volume and in accompanying articles. To judge from his book (2002), his views will be well informed and provocative. In the meantime, we must offer him, and his collaborators, our thanks for this well-conceived, lavishly illustrated, and highly economical volume. Future generations of scholars studying the Early Bronze Age now have a much firmer basis on which to continue their research.

Alexander H. Joffe
New Rochelle, NY 10801
alexjoffe@optonline.net

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Urban and Natural Landscapes of an Ancient Syrian Capital: Settlement and Environment at Tell Mishrifeh/Qatna and in Central-Western Syria: Proceedings of the International Conference held in Udine 9–11 December 2004, edited by Daniele Morandi Bonacossi. Studi Archéologici su Qatna 1; Documents d'Archéologie Syrienne 12. Udine: Forum Editrice Universitaria Udinese, 2007. 350 pp., 171 figures, 32 tables, 3 loose-leaf color plates. Paper. €70.00. [Distributed in North America by Eisenbrauns]

Western Syria, especially east of the Ansariyeh mountain range, is not well known archaeologically. This is particularly true when you compare it to the wealth of archaeological work carried out in northeastern Syria. However, the international team working at the site of Tell Mishrifeh, ancient Qatna, is working to change this fact. Not only are they interested in reconstructing social life at Qatna through time, they are also interested in the relationship between the people of Qatna, their environment, and the surrounding regions. As a result, they are bringing together different scholars conducting work in western Syria under one publication to fill the information gap in Syrian archaeology and make it possible to read about and use current data.

This edited volume, written in both English and French, is the product of an international conference on ancient Qatna and the central-western Syrian region. Daniele Morandi Bonacossi, the editor, notes in his foreword that this volume is the first in a series. While the majority of the book is a detailed examination of Tell Mishrifeh and the results of the research conducted there, six chapters are devoted to research conducted in northern and central-western Syria. It is the only recently published book that includes data from so many different parts of the region in one volume. For this reason, this book is an important resource for anyone studying ancient western Syria.

The first section of the book includes three overview chapters devoted to archaeological research conducted at Mishrifeh and its rural regions. The first chapter, by Professor Michel al-Maqdissi, describes the research objectives and results of the Syrian campaigns at Mishrifeh and the region. The second chapter, by Peter Pfälzner, presents the archaeological research on Qatna's royal palace, including the chronology, the architectural history, the techniques used to build the palace, the functional interpretation of the various rooms and features of the palace, and the royal tomb located underneath. Pfälzner does not shy away from relating the finds at Qatna to broader interpretations of architectural history and power relationships. He compares Hall C with its four columns and large basalt basin, which he identifies as a hearth, with similar halls in the palaces of Tiryns and Pylos in the Aegean. This comparison is not only to show a similarity in architectural design but to demonstrate that Qatna's hall is earlier in date than the Aegean examples (Middle Bronze II vs. Late Bronze Age) and, therefore, this type of hall originated in the Near East (p. 45). Similarly, Pfälzner compares the Palace of Zimrilim at Mari with the Royal Palace of Qatna, demonstrating a striking likeness between the architectural plan of the central parts of each palace. Qatna's dimensions are much larger than those at Mari, and Pfälzner argues that Qatna was built later (p. 38), with the intention of demonstrating superior power in the region (pp. 32–33).

The final chapter in the first section of the book is by Bonacossi, discussing the archaeological remains at Qatna from the periods prior to the foundation of the Royal Palace and those after its demise. He combines data from the 1920s excavations by Mesnil du Buisson with the current data. His assessment agrees with many other functional interpretations of contemporary sites in Syria during the periods in question. He explains that the earliest occupation at the site was during the Chalcolithic 4, but that evidence for a social elite and a centralized urban center was not found until they excavated the EB IV levels. The excavations revealed a large granary complex that was operated from the EB IVA to EB IVB (the details of the archaeobotanical remains are explained and interpreted by Peña-Chocarro and Rottoli in a later chapter). Earlier excavations by Mesnil du Buisson discovered a shaft grave containing 40 individuals that dated to the EB IVA. The objects buried with the individuals were large in number and contained high-status items, all indications that the tomb belonged to a social elite. Complementing the evidence from the excavations, Bonacossi describes a survey conducted by the Italian team around the site of Tell Mishrifeh that located 17 small settlements dating to the EB IV. Bonacossi concludes that Mishrifeh was a central place of importance that collected and redistributed agricultural produce to the settlements surrounding it in the EB IV period.

The next section of the book is a collection of chapters describing the natural environment of Tell Mishrifeh during the Bronze and Iron Ages. Chapters include studies using geoarchaeology (Cremaschi), pollen analysis (Valsecchi),

micromorphology (Trombino; Pümpin), archaeobotany (Peña-Chocarro and Rottoli; Riehl), carbon stable isotope analysis (Fiorentino and Caracuta), faunal analysis (Vila and Gourichon), palaeopathological analysis (Canci and Bartoli; Witzel and Kreutz), biomolecular analysis (Mukherjee et al.), and ceramic archaeometric analysis (Maritan, Mazzoli, and Speranza). Most of these chapters complement one another, providing a broader, more robust data set. For example, the archaeobotanical study by Peña-Chocarro and Rottoli discusses data from Operation J, highlighting the Bronze and Iron Ages in a nonpalatial context, while Riehl analyzes Operation G, highlighting the Royal Palace area during the Middle Bronze Age. Not only do these two chapters complement each other using the same types of data, but comparing the types of animals and the types of plants that were found in situ provides a more complete picture of the food consumed at Qatna. In addition, the analysis of human remains provides even more information on the diet of individuals and particular social groups.

The section of the book on the natural environment includes a very fascinating and unique project the researchers call "biomolecular analysis." This type of analysis is used in nonarchaeological contexts to investigate complex biological phenomena. At Mishrifeh, the rare state of preservation of the organic remains from the royal tombs makes it possible to analyze a wide range of artifacts. These include ceramic vessels, human remains, and sediments within the tomb. Although they only discuss preliminary results in this chapter, the researchers do indicate their interest in reconstructing the rituals that were performed in the tomb when it was in use. Rituals that venerated the dead by eating and drinking with the dead are known to have occurred during the Middle Bronze Age (p. 58), but no one knows exactly what the participants ate or drank, how the rituals were performed, or whether the consumables were obtained locally or imported (p. 190). It is assumed that alcoholic beverages were a part of this ritual, but there are few examples of alcoholic beverages from archaeological contexts (p. 191). The researchers indicate that the preservation is such that they will be able to identify not only the type of beverages, but also additives used as preservatives or to enhance taste (p. 192).

The third section of the book is dedicated to archaeological surveys and excavations in central-western Syria. These include chapters on the Akkar Plain (Thalmann), Lake Qatina (Philip), the Middle Orontes (Bartl and Maqdissi), the Ghab (Fortin), south-southeast of Aleppo (Geyer et al.), and Al-Rawda (Castel). All of these chapters are important for understanding the settlement history of the region. Most of the chapters discuss recent, original research illuminating a consistent picture of the past. For example, there is consensus that settlements increase during the EB IV period (pp. 230, 239, 247, 275, 285). However, in the arid margins of Aleppo there is a drop in the number of settlements during the Middle Bronze I (p. 275), while occupation is continuous into the Middle Bronze period in the Akkar Plain, Lake Qatina, and the Middle Orontes (pp. 230, 239, 247). My own research in the northern Ghab is consistent with the results from the arid margins. The NGRS survey found that settlements increased during the EB IV and that although there was a drop in the number of sites that had distinctive MB I ceramics, the same sites that had been occupied in the EB IV were also occupied in the MB II (Graff 2006).

The fourth section of the book discusses the textual evidence from Qatna and Mari. Eidem's chapter reveals evidence on the topography of Qatna from Late Bronze Age tablets excavated by the Italian team in 2002 and 2003. Richter's article lists and explains the topographical names mentioned in the "archive of Idanda" excavated by the German team at Qatna in 2002. The chapter by Ziegler addresses the political and economic relationship between Mari and Qatna as well as other locations in central Syria. The chapter by Pappi pulls together textual and archaeological evidence to highlight the amalgam of religious practices and beliefs at Qatna due to its influences from Alalakh, Ebla, Mari, and the Amorite cities in the south. Although the epigraphic corpus is not very large from Qatna itself, these chapters illuminate political, economic, and religious relationships between Qatna and other contemporaneous places.

Finally, the last section of the book is dedicated to a synthesis of the data presented. It is not a conclusion but an attempt to bring all the ideas together, and it appears that the two chapters in this section are direct results of the conference on which this volume is based. At the end of the book, the reader also finds three color fold-out plates depicting reconstructions of the landscape of Qatna between the third and first millennia B.C. The last page of the book describes each watercolor and a synopsis of the information it depicts.

Overall, this volume is an excellent resource for western Syrian archaeological research. The only negative comment I have is that there are a significant number of typos scattered throughout the book. However, the quality of the research and the breadth of the presentations override this trivial problem.

Sarah R. Graff
University of Chicago
s-graff@uchicago.edu

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