

Preface

The fourth volume of the *Corpus Inscriptionum Iudaeae/Palaestinae* is dedicated to the inscriptions from Iudaea proper and Idumaea. The two parts (IV 1-2) contain all the inscriptions from these two areas with the exception of the ostraca. The latter have been found in this area in such huge quantities that they could not have been included here; two other volumes will be dedicated to them in the future.

The inscriptions are arranged, as in volume III, in a north to south order. The volume begins with Kefar Sirkin near Petah Tikva at the northwest end and terminates at Masada in the southeast. When more than one settlement occupies the same latitude, the inscriptions are arranged in a west to east order. This territory was divided at least since the 2nd century AD between different communities or cities, but almost nowhere is it possible to assign the inscriptions to a specific territory of an ancient community or city. Consequently, most of the material had to be associated with a modern settlement and its surrounding area, rather than with an ancient one. Inscriptions found in a single place, when numerous, are divided into groups according to content, following the practice adopted in previous volumes.

Our methods of presentation of the single inscription have not changed since the first volume; detailed explanation of our method can be found in the preface to Jerusalem I 1. The Index of Personal Names in the present volume includes, as in previous ones, the names which have already appeared in the indices of volumes already in print. We are still unable to provide a general index – whose absence has been much lamented in several reviews. A general index is indeed a legitimate desideratum, and the editors are perfectly aware of its great value – were it not offset by the more cogent and weighty considerations of time and funds. Priorities had to be considered, and the need to edit adequately as many inscriptions as possible took priority over that of producing a general index, which could do justice to a multi-lingual corpus – an endeavor which has never been attempted anywhere else before.

As in the foregoing volumes we thank the many bodies and individuals who have made the publication of this volume possible. Above all we would like to thank the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) which has continued its most generous support of the CIIP as one of its long-term projects: their financial support has now kept us going for twelve years! Moreover, at the end of 2017 the DFG has extended its support to three more years, namely till the end of 2020.

We also wish to thank the President of the Hebrew University for the Ring Fund which we received until 2015.

We would like to reiterate our special debt of gratitude to the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA), for the continuing and unwavering support of its Directorate: the late Shuka Dorfman, Israel Hasson, Uzi Dahari and Gideon Avni. And as before we would like to single out some of its personnel who have treated our project as

if it were their own mission, and without whose help and devotion we would not have been able to bring volume IV to its conclusion: Adi Ziv, Curator of the Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine Periods in the National Treasures in the IAA depot at Beth Shemesh, Yael Barschak and Noga Ze'evi of the IAA Photographic Archives und Alegre Savariego, Curator of the Rockefeller Collections and Mosaics, ArieH Rochman-Halperin, Assistant to the Head of Archives Branch, Declarations and Archival Services. Special thanks are due to Dr. Zvika Greenhut, Head of Artifacts Treatment and Conservation Department.

We would also like to thank David Mevorah, Curator of Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine Periods at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem, and his assistant Rachel Caine, Dafna Tsoran in the Archaeological Institute of the Hebrew University, Father Eugenio Alliata in the Museum Biblicum Franciscanum, Father Riccardo Lufrani in the École Biblique, Friederike Naumann-Steckner in the Römisch-Germanisches Museum Köln and last but not least Jean-Luc Chappaz and Angelo Lui in the Musées d'art et d'histoire de la Ville de Genève. Thanks are also due to Perri Livne in the Hecht Museum in Haifa.

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Once more we would like to express our great debt to our photographers, Nili and Abraham Graicer, for their unremitting work in locating, documenting and photographing inscriptions for this volume as well.

Finally we have to repeat what we expressed in the preface to volumes I to III of the CIIP: this volume could not have been published, let alone appeared on time, were it not for the utmost dedication, far beyond the call of duty, of our assistants, in Cologne and Jerusalem who have turned the Corpus into their own project. This goes above all for our research assistants in Cologne: Marfa Heimbach, Dirk Koßmann and Eva Käppel, who put together the present volume in its final form.

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