

INTRODUCTION

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I received my first Dr. S. Thomas Parker “I know what’s best for you” speech sometime during my first time on an archaeological dig in the summer of 1998 in Aqaba, Jordan. It was during this season, the third of five expeditions that Tom (as his friends, colleagues, and students call him) directed in Aqaba, that I decided to pursue a career in the history and archaeology of the Near East. Tom’s speech outlined the path to become a tenure-track professor in history – starting languages as soon as possible, working with him on an M.A. thesis, attending a highly ranked Ph.D. program, writing a “marketable” dissertation, and then beginning a job hunt. He urged me to pursue history rather than archaeology for a simple reason – there were more jobs available to ancient historians than to classical archaeologists. In this one speech (and several more over my career at NC State), he was able to outline my entire career. For his encouragement, advice, and assistance in pursuing my dream career, I will forever be grateful. This volume – with contributions written by the aforementioned overlapping categories of friends, colleagues, and students – is our way of saying thanks and attempting to repay Tom for everything he has done for us.

Dr. S. Thomas Parker began his studies at Trinity University in San Antonio Texas, where he obtained a B.A. in 1972. While a student there, he read the now famous article by Glenn Bowersock, “A Report on Arabia Provincia,” which was published in 1971 in the *Journal of Roman Studies*. I remember as a student when Tom recounted seeing for the first time Bowersock’s republication of an old aerial photograph of the Lejjūn fortress. Looking at the picture today, one can clearly see the potential for archaeology at the site. The legionary fortress looks beautifully ruined, with still standing, meter-high walls and the clear outlines of the curtain wall, gates,

internal buildings, and projecting towers. Bowersock hoped that his article would spur renewed interest in the region, which it surely did. Tom often noted in later years that Bowersock himself would become a big supporter of his work. In 1971, Tom also obtained his first archaeological experience at Tell el-Hesi in Israel. Over the next several years, he worked at digs at Ashkelon, Idalion in Cyprus, Tell Hesban, Umm el-Jimal, and Petra in Jordan. While at Idalion in 1974, his team had to be evacuated to a British naval base and then onto an American navy ship after Turkey invaded the island.

In 1972, he began a Ph.D. at the University of California at Los Angeles. As with all students, he took courses in all fields of ancient history. His first article, still cited today, was published in 1975 in the *Journal of Biblical Literature*, entitled, "The Decapolis Reviewed," which effectively demolished the idea that the Decapolis was a political league or confederation. Instead, Tom argued that these cities were united only by their Hellenized culture, and as such stood out amongst the various *gentes* of the region. The term Decapolis was convenient shorthand for these cities. The subject of this article about the Near East foreshadowed his later career, however, his article published in the next year, "The Objectives and Strategy of Cimon's Expedition to Cyprus" in the *American Journal of Philology*, demonstrates his successful foray into fields other than the Roman Near East.

In 1975 Tom began working on his dissertation and his first field project, the survey of the *Limes Arabicus*, which would ultimately be published as *Romans and Saracens: A History of the Arabian Frontier* (1986). By the mid-1970s, no systematic survey of the frontier of the province of Roman Arabia had ever been attempted, though previous scholars had visited individual sites. Even though the sites themselves were often clearly visible from the air and ground (like Lejjūn), most of them were undated because only a few had intact dedicatory inscriptions. This meant that some other dating method would be required to reconstruct how the frontier defenses changed over time. Ceramics would prove to be the best route for dating these sites, but until 1973, there were few studies of pottery in the region based on scientific, stratified excavations. In that year, however, James Sauer used coin-controlled contexts from Tell Hesban in Jordan to create a ceramic typology for the region. In 1975, Tom used Sauer's typology with surface pottery

collected from the legionary fortresses at Lejjūn and Udhruh near Petra. And then in 1976 he worked at Tell Hesban with Sauer, further improving his knowledge of ceramics. By August 1976, Tom felt comfortable enough with the ceramics to begin systematic survey and collection of pottery from the major military sites in the region.

Tom Parker's 1976 survey was designed to survey the entire length of the frontier in Jordan and to examine most sites that were larger than a watchtower. In total, 41 sites were examined, including the two legionary fortresses, 23 *castella*, a handful of watchtowers, two caravanserais and three non-military sites. By collecting hundreds of sherds from each location, Parker and Sauer (who did in-field readings of sherds) hoped to date each site's periods of occupation and abandonment. Although surface readings are sometimes notorious for underrepresentation of occupation, subsequent excavation of several of these sites demonstrated the basic validity of dating sites from surface ceramics. When *Romans and Saracens* was published in 1986, Tom had by then already conducted excavations at several of these sites himself, including Lejjūn. This first book was a substantial contribution to our knowledge of the development of the Roman frontier in the province of Arabia.

This survey work impacted Tom's interpretation of the frontier and its enemies. In debates among fellow scholars, such as E. B. Banning, David Graf, Benjamin Isaac, and Philip Mayerson, Tom forcefully argued that the frontier military structures were positioned on the edge of agricultural production in order to supervise the migration of the nomads from the nearby desert into the sedentary regions. He argued that when there was insufficient military security on the frontier then nomadic populations represented "low-intensity" security problems, such as engaging in raiding and cattle rustling. He argued against a largely cooperative model between nomadic and sedentary populations along the frontier (though not discounting the possibility of cooperation) and against the idea that the primary mission of the Roman military was one of occupation, there to control a restive sedentary population. Instead, he argued that the deployment of the bulk of Roman military along the desert fringe implied that the perceived security threat was external, against the nomads, and not internal.

In 1980 Tom launched his first major excavation project, the *Limes Arabicus* Project, which focused on the Roman frontier east

of the Dead Sea. The main goal was to understand a major military buildup here around the turn of the fourth century and the apparent abandonment of most of the fortifications about two centuries later. This included large-scale excavation of the legionary fortress at Lejjūn and several smaller but contemporary nearby military sites (most importantly Daʿjaniya) from 1980 to 1989. Within the Lejjūn fortress itself, Parker's team excavated the *principia* or headquarters building, several barracks, a bath, a church, *horreum*, portions of the fortifications, and three structures in the extramural *vicus*. The excavations confirmed the results of the earlier surface survey, i.e., that the fortress was founded under the Tetrarchy ca. 300, likely for *legio IV Martia*. The fort was damaged in the 363 earthquake and later rebuilt to accommodate a reduced garrison before being abandoned in the mid-sixth century. A more intensive regional survey was also conducted of both the frontier zone and well as portions of the adjacent desert to learn about the nomads. The survey recorded over 500 sites dating from the Paleolithic to the Late Islamic period. Over thirty publications about this project were published, including two major reports, the first, *The Roman Frontier in Central Jordan: Interim Report on the Limes Arabicus Project, 1980–1985*, appeared in 1987, and the second in 2006, *The Roman Frontier in Central Jordan: Final Report on the Limes Arabicus Project, 1980–1989*. It is important to note that the material objects including ceramics and glass, as well as organic remains, such as faunal and botanical evidence, were extensively published. Philip Freeman concluded his review of the later volume with the following statement: “[t]he first to go and explore the frontier, he [Tom Parker] is the first to produce a comprehensive synthesis of it. And it must be read” (Freeman 2007, 591).

While directing the project at Lejjūn, Tom found time to work with Bert DeVries at Umm el-Jimal between 1977 and 1984, where Parker helped excavate a *castellum* and served as pottery specialist. In 1979–1980, he was a post-doctoral fellow at the prestigious Dumbarton Oaks Center for Byzantine Studies in Washington D.C. Dumbarton Oaks would later publish his final report of the Limes Arabicus project. While at Dumbarton Oaks he also taught at The American University before accepting a professorship at North Carolina State in 1980, where he has taught since.

After completing excavation at Lejjūn, Tom only took four years off from archaeological work. In 1993, he began surveying

the modern city of Aqaba, Jordan for remains of the Nabataean/Roman city of Aila. He was encouraged by Dr. Donald Whitcomb who had previously excavated the Islamic *misr* of Ayla from 1986–1993. Although there was a legionary base at Aila (which was never discovered), this project (the Roman Aqaba Project) was actually intended to produce new evidence relevant to the ongoing debate about the nature of the imperial Roman economy. By reconstructing the economy of an urban site known to be one of the international ports of the Roman Empire, Tom wanted to address questions about trade between the Mediterranean, the Arabian peninsula, and the Indian Ocean. He also wished to engage in larger debates between so-called “modernists” and “primitivists,” the latter for example presented by Finley in *The Ancient Economy*. Excavation at Aqaba revealed an extensive stretch of the Byzantine era city wall, two cemeteries, and several Nabataean, Roman, Byzantine, and early Islamic domestic complexes. The most important and perhaps controversial discovery was that of a putative Christian church constructed about the turn of the fourth century and destroyed in the 363 earthquake, which is yet to be fully published. Concurrent with excavation at Aila, the Roman Aqaba Project included a regional survey of Aila’s hinterland on the Jordanian side of Wadi Arabah. The survey was published in 2014 as *The Roman Aqaba Project Final Report. Volume I: The Regional Environment and the Regional Survey*. Other volumes will focus on the excavations and material culture. This research project has also published about forty articles, most authored or co-authored by Parker himself.

Fieldwork at ancient Aila ended in 2002. For the next decade, Parker worked on an intensive study of the ceramics from the site, with a special emphasis on imported amphorae and fine wares, and edited the final publication volumes. He also began a work of synthesis, *Rome in the Middle East: Imperial Security Policy from Pompey to Heraclius, 64 B.C.–A.D. 630*, which I believe will become the standard scholarly study on the subject. This book will be a capstone of Tom’s previous work, which includes over sixty articles or book chapters on the Roman frontier in the Near East.

After a ten year hiatus from fieldwork, Tom returned to the field in 2012. After examining a legionary base and a Red Sea port, he has turned his attention to Petra, where he gained some of his earliest field experience some 27 years before. Though many archaeologists have worked at the spectacular site of Petra, they have

focused almost exclusively on its extraordinary monumental structures. In contrast, Tom and his co-director, Megan Perry, have turned their attention to Petra's non-elite population by excavating simple shaft tombs and several domestic complexes on the North Ridge. The recent discovery of two exquisite marble statues of Aphrodite and other evidence recovered in 2016 suggests that part of the site may have been an upper class dwelling, perhaps a *villa urbana*.

Throughout his career, Tom has made the mentorship of students a priority. I am just one of several students – undergraduate and masters – who have gone on to successful careers in academia. According to his c.v., Tom has chaired the committees of 19 students who have completed their M.A. degrees at NC State. In addition to these students are the hundreds who have worked on his archaeological projects and who he has supported. Many of these students, like me, were given extensive training in analyzing the material culture, especially ceramics, which archaeology discovers on a daily basis.

In addition, Tom has been very active in promoting archaeology and conservation in Jordan. He has been a Trustee of the American Center of Oriental Research in Amman, Jordan since 1987, and now serves as Second Vice-President of the Board and Chair of ACOR's Fellowship Committee. He helped to establish endowments for ACOR to fund student fellowships, to memorialize departed friends and colleagues, such as Jennifer Groot and James Sauer.

Finally, I would be remiss in not mentioning Tom's long marriage to Mary and his daughter Grace, both of whom sometimes accompanied him to Aqaba (Grace was only a toddler then).

ARTICLES

The essays collected in this volume have been written by former students and colleagues whom Tom has influenced. These contributors include a wide spectrum of influence; one of Tom's first undergraduate students, Elizabeth Pollard, is included, as well as one of his most recent M.A. advisees, Stephanie Brown. The essays in this volume are divided into four topics, all of which have been important research areas for Tom's work: survey, material and written culture, the economy, and the Roman military in the Near East.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

As Tom Parker's first original research project concerned a survey of the military frontier of Roman Jordan, it makes sense to begin the volume with three papers which focus on survey work. Burton MacDonald's contribution, "Neolithic Period (ca. 9,700–4,900 BCE) Presence in the Southern Transjordan Plateau, the Southern Ghors, Wadis Fidan and Faynan, and the East Side of Wadi Arabah," begins the collected essays both in terms of sequence but also in chronological order. MacDonald writes after conducting five archaeological surveys in the region starting in 1979. His paper argues that there was a large Neolithic presence in the survey region, which lies south of the Wadi al-Hasa and north of Ras an-Naqab. He finds a large concentration of sites from the Pre-Pottery Neolithic B period in all areas, except those surveyed in the Tafilab-Busayra area. Furthermore, he argues that by the Pre-Pottery Neolithic copper ore from Wadi Faynan was being traded to the Karak plateau for use as cosmetics.

Stephanie Brown, "A Revaluation of Iron Age Fortified Sites on the Karak Plateau," returns to the work done during the survey around the fortress at Lejjūn with a concentration on ten Iron Age sites. Most of these sites have been resurveyed in the period since the Lejjūn work, and so Brown is dealing with a wider corpus of materials than previously available. Brown argues that these sites, which in the past were associated with a unified policy of frontier defense organized by the Assyrian government, were in fact constructed at different times for different reasons. Brown argues that five of the Iron Age II sites consisted of 30 m x 30 m fortlets which were constructed by family groups for defense against a nomadic presence mentioned in historical records for Moab of this time period, and only a few of the sites may have been official settlements.

The last of the survey articles is Chaim Ben-David's "The Roads Leading to Zoara in the Roman and Byzantine Periods." Ben-David's explorations around Zoara (modern Ghor es-Safi) in Jordan at the tip of the Dead Sea discovered a previously unknown well-built Roman road leading to the site from the north. In this paper, Ben-David describes the three routes now known to approach Zoara from the north – the Kathrabba Ascent, the Zoar Ascent and the Kuniyeh Ascent. These roads, along with the Peutinger Map, demonstrate that Zoara was an important transporta-

tion hub, linking the Negev, the Karak Plateau, the Wadi Arabah, and surrounding regions together.

MATERIAL AND WRITTEN CULTURE

One of Parker's lasting impacts is the number of students that he has trained in ceramics over his years at NC State and in the field. This may end up being one of his most important contributions to archaeology in the region, as this generation now has a number of qualified ceramic specialists, many of whom have worked at several different sites throughout southern Jordan. In addition to ceramics, Tom's interim and final reports have always included extensive chapters dedicated to material finds, such as glass, bone, and objects (like lamps). In addition, Tom was responsible for publishing inscriptions from Roman milestones and military installations. The four papers in this section reflect the importance of these pieces of evidence in Tom's work.

The most controversial paper to appear in this volume is the paper, "An Assessment and Re-examination of the American Expedition in Petra Excavation in the Residential Area (Area I), 1974–1977: The Early House and Related Ceramic Assemblages" by Tali Erickson-Gini and Christopher Tuttle. In 2010, Chris Tuttle began a re-evaluation of the excavation archive of the Temple of the Winged Lions which was excavated from 1973–2005, but never fully published due to the death of the primary excavators, Kenneth Russell (in 2002) and Philip Hammond (in 2008). The material published in this paper concerns Area I, the less-famous residential area near the later discovered temple. This area was of prime importance, because the material unearthed (but not published) from Area I profoundly influenced the dating sequence of the Temple of the Winged Lions (Area II). In this paper, Erickson-Gini and Tuttle argue for a revision of the dating of the Early House in Area I and the corresponding ceramic assemblages previously dated before the Roman annexation of Arabia in 106 CE to the late 2nd and early 3rd c. CE when the structure was abandoned. They argue that other areas of the excavations, such as the Painters' Workshop, corroborates these revised dates. The impact of these revisions, if accepted by scholars, would mean that structures throughout Petra and *Provincia Arabia* will also have to be re-dated. This would indicate that building, renovation, and settlement density was much higher in the post-annexation period than previously believed, put-

ting Petra and the region on similar chronological and economic terms as other major cities in the Near East, such as Jerash, Apamea, and Palmyra, which experienced building booms in the second century CE.

Continuing the theme of material objects is Eric Lapp's paper, "Exploring the Egyptian 'Frog' Lamps Unearthed at the Red Sea Port of Roman Aila (Aqaba) and the Roman Fortress of *Legio IV Martia* at el-Lejjūn, Jordan. The "Frog" lamps, named because of the use of the frog as decoration, are rarely found outside of Egypt, but three were discovered at Roman Aila and one from Lejjūn. Lapp describes how the symbol of the frog was associated with rebirth and regeneration in Dynastic Egypt, and he argues that Christians adopted this symbolism. This is proven by frog lamps found with Christian inscriptions, but none of the ones discovered at Aila or Lejjūn contain these Christian embellishments. A petrographic analysis demonstrated that they were imported from Egypt.

Janet Jones's paper, "From Opaque to Transparent: Colorless Glass and the Byzantine Revolution in Interior Lighting," begins with an introduction to the production and cultural importance of glass for the non-specialist. She focuses on five moments in the history of glass production: natural glass, the discovery of how to manufacture glass, the development of vessels made of transparent glass, glassblowing, and finally, lighting the interior of structures with clear glass. In the final section, she describes the use of glass in Byzantine era churches and then turns to a discussion of glass objects at Roman Aila. She notes that there was a large increase in the finds of interior glass from the third century CE in domestic contexts there, suggesting that the population was becoming more influenced by Greco-Roman cultural ideas. She notes that a large quantity of glass was recovered from the putative church and compares the glass corpus there with glass from churches of the sixth century at nearby sites like Jerash.

The final article in this section, "A Nabataean Inscription from Bir Madkhur With an Excursus on Basileophoric Names and the Nabataean Dynastic Cult," by David Graf and Andrew Smith II publishes for the first time a Nabataean inscription discovered in 2014 at the site of Bir Madkhur, located on the route from Petra to the Negev. The inscription is quite short, consisting of just the end of a name and part of a patronym, dating likely to the third century CE. The patronym is restored to read 'BD-'BDT, making it a Naba-

taean basileophoric name. The paper continues with a discussion of the use of basileophoric names in the Nabataean realm and the Nabataean ruler cult. Graf and Smith argue, against some previous interpretations, that there is ample evidence of the incorporation of a Hellenistic-style ruler cult in the Nabataean realm.

MILITARY

From Parker's original survey of the frontier in Jordan to his forthcoming book on the history the Roman frontier in the Near East, the Roman military has been one of the most important features of his research. The three papers in this section honor Tom's interest in this subject.

"Following the Roman Paymaster" by John Betlyon investigates how paying the military in precious metal coins impacted the local economy. Sixty percent of the coins along the military frontier originated at the imperial mints in Alexandria and Antioch. He argues that the majority of the coins found at Aila were "Early Byzantine," which is striking compared to Berenike on the Egyptian Red Sea coast, where the majority of coins are earlier. Betlyon focuses on four types of coins – "*SOLI INVICTO*," "*GLORIA EXERCITVS*," "*PCONST*," and "*FEL TEMP REPARATIO*" – as exemplars of military pay. Half of the coins found in the Ez-Zantur villa in Petra were of the "*FEL TEMP REPARATIO*" type and must have originated with the Roman military presence nearby, likely from Udhruh.

John Oleson's paper, "The Modular Planning of Roman Fortifications in the Near East: Principles and Process," argues that military sites in the Near East were planned and constructed based on ratios of the Roman foot of 0.296 m (*pes monetalis*, plural *pedes monetales*, abbreviated as *pm*). Oleson begins the paper by discussing his own research at the Trajanic auxiliary fort at Humayma. The rectangular plan of the fort measured 500 x 700 *pm* and the nearby reservoir measured 100 x 50 x 10 *pm*. Buildings within the fort also seem to conform to a modular plan based on measurements of *pm*. In this paper, Oleson tests his hypothesis about modular building with dozens of Roman-constructed sites in the Near East and found that the proportion of 1:1 is most common while that of 3:2 is second most common. Less common proportions were 4:3, 5:4, 9:8, and 16:11. He concludes that authors Polybius and Pseudo-

Hyginus are generally reliable about Roman camp design when compared to actual, built structures.

The last paper in this section, Zbigniew Fiema's "The Military Presence in Petra during the Roman-Byzantine Period," seeks to understand the Roman garrison of Petra. Fiema emphasizes the role of the military in providing security and enforcing peace within populations centers, a contrast to Tom's emphasis on the military as guardians of the frontier and rural zones. Fiema begins by comparing Petra to Bostra, where the *III Cyrenaica* legion was based. He notes that the competition between these two cities for imperial honorifics was intense, but that Petra's status remained substantial higher, owing to its use of the honorific *metropolis*. He then explores the relatively poor information about military units in Petra in the early Roman period, concluding that the only evidence of units stationed in Petra before the fourth century were detachments from the *III Cyrenaica*. He concludes the paper by looking at unrest – owing to Christian-pagan conflict and the changing status of Petra, first as locals began to take control of security, and then as Petra became a place for the banishment of ecclesiastics and common criminals.

ECONOMY

As discussed above, after excavating at Lejjūn, Parker turned his attention to the Red Sea port at Aila (modern Aqaba, Jordan), where he was particularly interested in understanding the volume and nature of trade flowing through the port. I have already discussed that Parker opposes "primitivist" views of the economy in favor of more expansive trade throughout the empire. Kenneth Holum's piece, "The Economy of Caesarea Palaestinae in Late Antiquity: Structure and Scale," presents a different view of the economy by focusing on one of the largest and most important cities in the *Palaestina* region. Holum argues that the economy of Caesarea can be better explained using a Finley model of the economy than a more trade-intensive model. He argues that the elites of the city were much more interested in wealth in order to increase their own prestige and to enhance their status rather than in creating additional wealth, as in more modern economies. In order to make this argument, Holum discusses land tenure and attitudes towards land owning by the elites in sixth century Caesarea. He argues that the elites poured the resources of the surrounding territory into sus-

taining their urban spaces, demonstrating the feasibility of the Finley model of the ancient city as a consumer, rather than producer. Holum finishes by noting that not all ancient cities were similar and that other cities, such as Aila and Palmyra, may not conform to the Finley model.

Elizabeth Ann Pollard's paper, "So dearly do we pay for our luxury and our women": Women and the Margins of the Roman World," continues with the theme of the economy in the Near East by examining the attitudes of Roman authors concerning trade with the east and products crossing these frontier as associated with uncontrollable women (be they wealthy, witchy, or whore-like) and womanly vice. Pollard's article begins with the passage of laws in the late Roman Republic against women's displays of wealth. Next she examines images of the Amazons who were thought to dwell along the Eurasian trade routes, witches such as Meroe and Medea who became associated with eastern trade, and the description of Rome as the "Whore of Babylon," wanton with precious metals and spices. She argues that these images contributed to the feminizing of long-distance trade and its products. Women's societal dislocation, their innate nature, and their physical constitution, as articulated in Roman texts, rendered these women and eastern trade as a constant source of potential pollution – and a threat to fluid boundaries that needed protection and control.

The final paper in the volume is Jennifer Ramsay's "Human Population Increase and its Effects on the Arid Landscape of Southern Jordan: An Archaeobotanical Study." In this paper, Ramsay uses botanical evidence discovered at several sites in southern Jordan – Petra, Aila, Humayma Bir Madhkur, and 'Ayn Gharandal – to argue that there is ample evidence of local agriculture in the form of cereal grains, chaff and associated weed species and agricultural structures such as field walls, terraces, water channels and check dams. This suggests that the region would have been more agriculturally productive than it appears to be today, and that increasing populations in the early centuries CE were able to produce some of their necessities, especially in the form of wheat and barley.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This volume would not exist with the important mentorship that I received from Tom Parker, and I know that everyone who contrib-

uted to this volume has a lot of gratitude for everything that he has done for them and his inspiration over the years. Each essay includes a special note of thanks to Tom.

Dr. Benjamin Dolinka, one of Tom's former M.A. students, approached me in January 2013 with the idea for this volume. Though Ben was unable to participate in its completion, his ideas and inspiration have been a guiding force in the development of this work. Ben was very helpful in soliciting papers and developing editorial guidelines. Ben also collected the archival photos of Tom. I thank him profusely for coming up with the idea of producing an edited volume in order to honor Tom.

I would also like to thank one of my former M.A. students, Timothy Granger, for helping to edit the bibliographies. Also thanks to the dozens of friends and colleagues who gave their advice and support during the development of this project. Over the years, my research has benefited greatly from my experiences at the American Center of Oriental Research in Amman. My short time there in 2014 was instrumental in rounding up the final set of papers. Thanks to all there, especially Barbara Porter and Glenn Corbett. Sarah Harpending at ACOR was kind to find and scan pictures of Tom Parker from the archive. Thanks also to the people at Gorgias Press who were willing to take on this edited volume at its most primordial stage of development. I greatly appreciate the support I have received from my institution, the University of Alabama at Birmingham, especially the Department of History, currently chaired by Colin Davis.

Finally, I give the deepest thanks to my family, especially to my wife, Melissa, who has heard me say that I needed to do "just one more thing" before sending this volume to the press more than I can count. I completed the editing of these papers thanks to a generous semester sabbatical. And for my kids – Agatha, Nico, and Ansel – I cannot imagine life without you guys.

A NOTE ABOUT PLACE NAMES

Transliterating the names of places in the Middle East into English is notoriously complicated. It is even tougher when some of the scholars, as in this volume, primarily work in a Hebrew speaking country, while others work in an Arabic speaking one. My general policy has been to allow both Hebrew and Arabic transliterations (so one might see Wadi Arava and Wadi Arabah in the articles in

this volume) when the names are relatively similar. If they were not similar, I have adopted the name which I judged to be most common. I have also changed ancient versions of names into their more common counterparts (if they exist – for example, Antioch) when possible in the articles (but not in quotations). This means that some place names will be spelled differently in articles, quotations, and bibliographies, but this seemed the best option, even if it might cause some confusion.

Final note: As this volume was going to the printer, Kenneth Holm passed away. He will be missed by many students, colleagues, and friends. His mentorship and scholarship will not be forgotten.