



SEYMOUR (SY) GITIN

*DOROT DIRECTOR OF THE ALBRIGHT INSTITUTE
AND PROFESSOR OF ARCHAEOLOGY*

Professor Gitin has been the Director of the W. F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research in Jerusalem since 1980 (Dorot Director since 1994), as well as

Professor of Archaeology since 1979. The Albright Institute is the successor in Jerusalem to the American Schools of Oriental Research founded in 1900. Under his leadership, the Institute has developed a widely-acclaimed internationally recognized fellowship program in ancient Near Eastern studies. Gitin has excavated in Israel at Tell Gezer, Jebel Qa'aqir and Tel Dor. His involvement with the Tell Gezer excavations led to the publication of his Ph.D. dissertation, *A Ceramic Typology of the Late Iron II, Persian, and Hellenistic Periods at Tell Gezer*, a seminal work on pottery typology. In 1981, he and Trude Dothan of the Hebrew University launched the Tel Miqne-Ekron Excavation and Publications Project, involving 14 excavation seasons and an extensive publications program (including eight published volumes and nine currently in press or in preparation).

Gitin's more than 150 publications and numerous lectures on his research on the late Philistine period at Ekron and beyond have dramatically changed our perception of the history of the Philistines. Of special significance is his study of the Ekron Royal Dedicatory Inscription, one of the most significant archaeological finds of the last century. Gitin also directs an international research project on "The Neo-Assyrian Empire in the Seventh Century BC: A Study of the Interactions between Center and Periphery," which deals with the interconnections between the nation-states of the Levant in the Iron Age II. He is also the Editor of the forthcoming three-volume work, *The Ancient Pottery of Israel and its Neighbors from the Neolithic through the Hellenistic Period*. It is an encyclopedic work slated to become the archaeologists' "ceramic bible" for the region, jointly sponsored by the Israel Exploration Society, the Albright Institute, the Israel Antiquities Authority, and the American Schools of Oriental Research. He has been the recipient of 44 fellowships, awards and honorary degrees, including the Israel Museum's Percia Schimmel Award for Distinguished Contributions to Archaeology of Ancient Israel.

EKRON OF THE PHILISTINES

FROM SEA PEOPLES TO OLIVE OIL INDUSTRIALISTS

The excavations of Ekron radically changed the traditional perception of the Philistines, a tribe of the Sea Peoples who migrated from the Aegean in the 12th century BCE. They settled along the southern coast of modern day Israel, became the chief antagonists of ancient Israel, and after 200 years were assimilated into one of the major ethnic groups like the Canaanites, Israelites, or Phoenicians. The Ekron Excavations have produced dramatic new evidence documenting Philistine history for an additional 400 years until the destruction wrought by the campaign of the Neo-Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar in 604 BCE. It was in the last phase, during the 7th century, that Ekron achieved the zenith of its physical and economic growth, when it became the largest olive oil industrial center known in antiquity. Among the major finds of the period was the Ekron Royal Dedicatory Inscription, one of the three most important documents outside the Dead Sea Scrolls discovered in the 20th century in Israel. The excavations also provided an answer to one of the enigmatic questions involving the Philistines, why they eventually disappeared from the pages of history.