

The most remarkable discovery from Neolithic Sabi Abyad is the "Burned Village" of the Transitional level 6, in which a staggering quantity of materials were found *in situ*. In the exposure of eight hundred square meters were eight rectilinear multi-room buildings, four circular structures ("tholoi"), and ovens. The rectilinear buildings, comprised of small cubicles, had relatively few domestic contents and appear to have served as communal storage emplacements, while the tholoi were residential in function. Most striking among the finds were the hundreds of clay stamp sealings (but no seals), a discovery of signal importance. No longer can we assume that early stamp seals were merely "amulets" without an administrative function. K. Duistermaat provides a fascinating report on these sealings, found in a select number of rooms together with other finds (e.g., tokens, figurines) in what appear to be "archival" contexts. Study of the impressions on the sealings' reverse sides revealed that they derived from portable receptacles like baskets or vessels.

Since as many as sixty-seven distinct seals were identified by their impressions, they apparently were not restricted to an elite group and therefore cannot be taken as evidence of emerging social hierarchies. However, the restriction of access implied by these control mechanisms suggests the presence of some of the earliest evidence of private property from the ancient Near East. Private ownership is often thought to be associated with the onset of sedentary agricultural life, given the labor-intensive character of agriculture: a policy of communal sharing becomes irksome if some people work harder than others, so individual households retain the fruits of their labors. It is noteworthy, however, that evidence of the marking of private property does not appear until the late Neolithic. Perhaps the Pre-Pottery Neolithic societies maintained levelling mechanisms and egalitarian ideologies that were abandoned in the Ceramic Neolithic (I. Kuijt, "Negotiating Equality through Ritual: A Consideration of Late Natufian and Pre-Pottery Neolithic A Period Mortuary Practices," *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 15.4 [1996]: 313-36). Akkermans and Duistermaat have hypothesized elsewhere that the stored property at Sabi Abyad belonged to community members temporarily absent from the site, e.g., mobile pastoralists; if this interpretation is correct, the relatively late appearance of property markers might also be associated with the growth of a mixed agricultural-pastoral economy (P. M. M. G. Akkermans and K. Duistermaat, "Of Storage and Nomads: The Sealings from Late Neolithic Sabi Abyad, Syria," *Paléorient* 22.2 [1997]: 17-44).

Chapters on figurines (P. Collet), ground stone (P. Collet and R. Spoor), other small finds (R. Spoor and P. Collet), faunal remains of the 1988 season (C. Cavallo), and botanical remains (W. van Zeist and W. Waterbolk-van Rooijen) round out this volume; a concluding chapter synthesizing the results and commenting on their significance also would have been helpful. With *Sabi Abyad: The Late Neolithic Settlement*, the exemplary

record of the Sabi Abyad expedition in speedily communicating its results is maintained, for which the project's many able participants have earned a staunch vote of thanks.

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*Phonologies of Asia and Africa (Including the Caucasus)*. Two vols. Edited by ALAN S. KAYE; with advice of PETER T. DANIELS. Winona Lake, Ind.: EISENBRAUNS, 1997. Pp. 1041 + maps. \$119.50.

The *Phonologies of Asia and Africa* is a compilation of studies of languages chosen from a region extending from central Africa to the Caucasus. Volume one includes articles on Semitic (the more extensively covered family in the collection) and other Afro-Asiatic languages. Volume two includes articles on Asian Indo-European, Turkic, and Caucasian languages, and various unrelated languages.

The approaches taken to the phonologies are not uniform. This is necessary given the wide variation in attestation and current knowledge of the languages under review. The selection includes poorly attested dead languages in a vowel-less script, such as Phoenician; better-attested dead languages in difficult scripts, such as Sumerian; well-attested and extensively studied dead languages with detailed phonetic scripts, such as Tiberian Hebrew; little-studied modern languages, such as Modern South Arabian; and well-studied modern languages, such as Hindi-Urdu. Each language, then, requires a different approach, and authors bring their expertise to each article. The juxtaposition of a variety of approaches is to the work's benefit, as it facilitates a comparison of linguistic methodologies. The wide range of these studies makes a detailed review of each article impossible, and only a small selection is discussed below.

"La phonologie des langues sudarabiques modernes," by A. Lonnet and M.-C. Simeone-Serelle (the only non-English offering), reports on important new fieldwork in this little-researched Semitic family. The Modern South Arabian languages play an important role in comparative Semitic philology, as they preserve most clearly certain Proto-Semitic features lost elsewhere: the lateral fricatives are the best known example; others include the verbal system and the consonants in the third-person pronouns. The MSA languages also play a pivotal role in the classificational debate over the extent of "South Semitic."

New contributions of this article include a more detailed dialectology, in which the limits of Mehri, Harsusi, Bathari,

Hobyot, Jibbali, and Soqotri are defined, and the determination (p. 348) that *ħ*, a lateral fricative, is an emphatic and not merely a voiced unemphatic consonant, as T. M. Johnstone earlier claimed ("The Modern South Arabian Languages," *Afroasiatic Linguistics* 1.5 [1975]: 7). Lonnet and Simeone-Serelle also confirm that the emphatic consonants of MSA are glottalized rather than pharyngealized, placing MSA with Ethiopic, against Arabic; this supports the conclusion that Proto-Semitic emphatics were glottalized ejectives. (See, for example, A. Dolgopolsky, "Emphatic Consonants in Semitic," *Israel Oriental Studies* 7 [1977]: 1–13.)

The phonology of Israeli Hebrew is analyzed by S. Bolozky (vol. 1, pp. 287–312). The study of Israeli Hebrew has always been plagued by an excessive reliance on diachronic comparison with the classical forms of the language, particularly Tiberian Biblical Hebrew. This is all the more unfortunate considering the unique evolution of Israeli Hebrew: it is the only language which emerged by means other than parent-to-child transmission or creolization, and it is the only successfully introduced language with artificial origins. Synchronic study of Israeli Hebrew should therefore not be mixed with the existing varieties of diachronic comparison. Bolozky's article, while touching occasionally on diachronic comparisons to Biblical Hebrew, takes a much more synchronic approach than most similar studies. For example, Bolozky describes the important finding that most so-called segolates, nouns of the form *CVVCVC*, do not have *CVCC* alternants and so should not be analyzed as underlyingly monovocalic nouns with an epenthetic second vowel (p. 299). Bolozky's article suffers only from excessive attention to secondary language registers, such as stress on words used in children's chanting (pp. 290–91) and in games (p. 300).

Most discussion of nuances in the phonology of Tiberian Biblical Hebrew rests on internal structural arguments or on diachronic comparison with other languages. "Tiberian Hebrew Phonology" (vol. 1, pp. 85–114) by G. Khan is a major contribution toward the discussion, as it adduces evidence not internal to the system, namely analyses of the orthography and phonology made by contemporaneous or nearly contemporaneous Masoretic and grammatical texts, transcriptions into Arabic, and Hebrew letters used for transcribing other languages. For example, Khan establishes that the emphatics were velarized or uvularized rather than ejectives, that *q* was a uvular, that schwa was usually [a], and that *r* had two allophones, uvular [R]/[ʁ] and linguo-alveolar [r]. While much of this evidence has been discussed before, it has not been gathered together and given such a precise and coherent phonological interpretation. Never before has the phonetic basis for transliteration of the Hebrew orthography been as strong. It must be recalled, however (see p. 85), that the Tiberian orthographic system was intended to represent the reading tradition of one late-first-millennium community; this reading tradition does not represent the "correct" nor the original pronunciation of Biblical Hebrew.

"Modern and Classical Mandaic Phonology" employs the generative approach found in J. L. Malone's earlier studies on Mandaic, Tiberian Hebrew, and other languages. (See, for example, *Tiberian Hebrew Phonology* [Winona Lake, Ind.: Eisenbrauns, 1993].) Although Malone states that "the phonology fragments . . . have been largely presented in conservative conventional format" (p. 157), the format is in fact quite different from the conventional methodology and terminology as found, for example, in the remaining pages of *Phonologies of Asia and Africa*. Because of these differences, Malone's generative studies are important to synchronic linguistics. To make the work accessible to most linguists, however, it would have been preferable if Malone had in fact presented it in "conservative conventional format" to the extent possible, and if he had clearly explained his methodology and terminology in areas where they necessarily differ from the conventional approaches.

While the work under review has many valuable articles, few researchers will use it as a whole, as the languages discussed show insufficient regularity in their distribution for a complete comparative survey of any genetic or geographical family. Still, it serves as an excellent guide to many phonologies, often with newly researched data. A. S. Kaye is to be thanked for bringing together the work of scholars in disparate language families and linguistic methodologies, thus facilitating comparisons that would not otherwise be possible.

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*Hausa and the Chadic Language Family: A Bibliography.* By PAUL NEWMAN. African Linguistic Bibliographies, vol. 6. Köln: RÜDIGER KÖPPE VERLAG, 1996. Pp. xix + 152.

This bibliography, consisting of 1,821 items, is impressive. It represents decades of research by the compiler, Paul Newman, on Hausa (with forty to fifty million speakers, the first or second language in Nigeria, Niger, Ghana, Togo, and the Sudan) and many more of the approximately one hundred twenty-five Chadic languages. In this regard, it is important to keep in mind that more has been published about Hausa than all of the other Chadic languages combined. It is therefore a welcome addition to the African Linguistics Bibliographies Series, edited by Franz Rottland and Rainer Vossen, two of Germany's better known specialists in African linguistics.

Newman has done an excellent job in conserving space, while at the same time making this effort user-friendly. For example, there are an astonishing three pages of abbreviations just for the periodicals in which the items listed were published,