

A R C H A E O L O G I C A

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Arthur Segal in Hippos (2011)  
(Photo by M. Eisenberg)

UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA  
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# CORNUCOPIA

Studies in honor of  
ARTHUR SEGAL

Edited by

MICHAEL EISENBERG and ASHER OVADIAH



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## FOREWORD

Professor Arthur Segal was born in Warsaw in 1946. He immigrated to Israel from Poland in the mid-1960s and began his studies in the Department of Archaeology at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem. Today, following a successful academic career of four decades, his friends and colleagues in Israel and elsewhere take pleasure in launching a book of articles in the Classical sphere, dedicated to him and published in the series of *Archaeologica*, by Giorgio Bretschneider Editore, Rome. And indeed, the contributors of this book are characterized by the virtue of a merry company, just as described in a Hellenistic epigram of the 3rd century BCE by an anonymous author: «... earnest converse must follow, and we must listen to each speaker in his turn; therein is the virtue of a merry company»<sup>1</sup>.

The pluralistic nature of the articles in this book, naturally titles it *Cornucopia*, expressing spiritual wealth and good luck. According to Greek mythology, the cornucopia was filled with actual flowers and fruits and given as a gift to Zeus. Our gift, however, is offered to Arthur with spiritual flowers and fruits. The studies presented in the book also express the spirit of his research work and reflect his interest and curiosity in a wide spectrum of Classical archaeology, such as town planning and architecture in the Graeco-Roman world, Roman theatres, Roman temples, Herodian art and architecture, Nabataean art and architecture, architectural decoration, and more.

The prolific nature of the articles makes them an experience that merges a spiritual touch with curiosity, «intelligible beauty» (νοητὸν κάλλος) and «a beautiful whole» (τό τε ὅλον ἔσται καλὸν αὐτοῖς), all located within the *Cornucopia*, the horn of plenty. Such perception was expressed by Plotinus, the Neoplatonist philosopher of the 3rd century CE, who contended that: «On this theory nothing single and simple but only a composite thing will have any beauty. It will be the whole which is beautiful, and the parts will not have the property of beauty by themselves, but will contribute to the beauty of the whole. But if the whole is beautiful the parts must be beautiful too; a beautiful whole can certainly not be composed of ugly parts; all the parts must have beauty» (*Ennead* I. 6. 1); and: «The stone which has been brought to beauty of form by art will appear beautiful not because it is a stone, but as a result of the form which art has put into it» (*Ennead* V. 8. 1)<sup>2</sup>. Moreover, the 18 articles by 24 scholars in the present volume represent Classical scholarship and innovative ideas.

Arthur spent most of his academic career at the University of Haifa, where he taught Classical archaeology. He was a devoted teacher and supervisor, highly appreciated by those graduate students who wrote their MA theses and PhD dissertations under his supervision, 25 in all, in varied subjects related to Classical art history and archaeology. He served as Head

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1) A. Ovadia (Ed.), *The Howard Gilman International Conferences, II, Mediterranean Cultural Interaction*, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv 2000, p. VII.

2) Plotinus, *Enneads* (trans. A. H. Armstrong, The Loeb Classical Library [Nos. 440, 444], I, V, Cambridge [Mass.]-London 1995, 1994, respectively).



of the Department of Archaeology and Head of the Zinman Institute of Archaeology, and carried out archaeological excavations, such as at the ones in Shivta and Halutza in the Negev Desert and the Hellenistic site of Sha'ar Ha-'Amakim. No doubt, Arthur's most significant long lasting field project was initiated at 2000 with the archaeological project in Hippos (Sussita), one of the cities of the Decapolis. This encompassed 12 fruitful seasons, during which remarkable and important discoveries were made in architecture, sculpture, mosaics, epigraphy, numismatics, ceramics, and more. The reins of Hippos (Sussita) were warmly handed over in 2012 to his former student, co-director and friend – Michael Eisenberg who continues the project up the present day.

Our intensive and long-term personal and academic acquaintance with Arthur has yielded over the years a very close and intimate friendship, in which his pleasantness, academic curiosity and integrity were revealed to us.

Classical art history and archaeology have received insufficient awareness, attention, and utilization in academic circles in Israel. They have been portrayed as somewhat 'marginal' scientific fields, yielded little in the way of findings, although we are in fact witnessing many impressive and remarkable discoveries in Israel and elsewhere, especially in recent decades, that shed light on Classical Antiquity and Late Antiquity. Indeed, the intensive academic activity has revived these fields and renewed awareness, enthusiasm, and understanding in regard to Classical art history and archaeology in Israel.

Professor Arthur Segal is a highly prominent representative of Classical archaeology in Israel. His friends and colleagues are honored to present him with the *Cornucopia* as a token of appreciation and regard for his long-term research work and scientific achievements; and, moreover, as an expression of our profound gratitude for his contribution to Classical studies in general and those in Israel in particular.

We wish to thank Rebecca Toueg for the English editing, Sarah Arenson for her generous contribution for the publishing of the book, the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Haifa, and Prof. Gur Alroey, Dean of the Faculty, for his kind support. We are grateful to Boris Bretschneider, Publisher of Giorgio Bretschneider, Rome, who made the publication of this book possible.

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Editors and Friends