sheer bulk of written data from either Egypt or Mesopotamia and even these great corpora have their gaps. So, scarce wonder if problems arise in tracking Semitic words in Egyptian to languages (and mere dialects) so limitedly attested. The sixth and final section under Part 2 reaches beyond the official time limits of the book, as here Hoch essays an evaluation of the whole history of the system of group writing, from Old Kingdom origins, through the richer material of the Middle Kingdom, into the New Kingdom and beyond. His limited treatment of the Middle Kingdom material is of value, and his overall history sound as far as it goes. It is at this point that the self-imposed limits of both this book and the other three named earlier (Ahuvit, Schneider, and Sivan and Cochavi-Rainey) begin to impinge on the subject. For values of sign groups, one needs all the data—common words, place names, personal names—and in Hittite, etc., non-Semitic as well as Semitic. The Hittite treaty of Ramesses II and Hattusil III in particular is of special value, having been composed at leisure in the official chancelleries (unlike names at the Battle of Qadesh, hastily gathered after a battle, errors of hearing and all); and the Aegean names edited by Edel. This is a drawback that will still have to be remedied in the future, vis-à-vis Ahuvit, Schneider, and Hoch alike. But that did not enter into the brief of Hoch's book.

It but remains to congratulate Hoch on a superb piece of work, a work of reference that all—we will treasure, use, and enjoy for decades to come. In my opinion, the three most outstanding highlights in the history of this particular field of study are Burchardt's work of 85 years ago (which has so well stood the test of time), Albright's typically stimulating monograph of 1934, and now this splendid and superlative treatment of exactly 60 years later. Well done!

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1992 West-Semitic Vocabulary in Egyptian Script of the 14th to the 10th Centuries B.C.E. Beer-Sheva VI. Beer-Sheva: Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.


The material in this volume was compiled by Larry Herr and implemented as a computer database by Warren Trenchard. It is a bibliography of publications that in some form or another publish drawings and/or photographs of pottery primarily excavated from the Mediterranean coast to the Eastern Desert and the Gulf of Aqaba to the Galilee. It also includes some coverage of material from Lebanon, Cyprus, the Hejaz, and Egypt (including Sinai). The chronological limits are from the beginning of pottery production in the Neolithic to the Ottoman period. Pottery dates are those of the original publication (if published after 1935), or are based on Herr's own attributions.
(a table of periods and dates would have been helpful). The data are organized hierarchically in the following order: chronologic period, publication level (primary publications, secondary discussions, popular accounts), region, site, author, and date. The coverage is comprehensive up to 1993/1994 and includes 4500 entries, including many of the smaller sites (the version on diskette currently adds another 147 entries to the published list). No attempt is made to differentiate publications that are key presentations or discussions of significant deposits or assemblages. When a single publication covers a variety of sites or regions it is designated "multi-site" or "multi-region." With a little thought and labor it is possible to pull together a very thorough bibliography.

However, as the author himself admits (p. 13), the volume is only one of many possible manipulations of the database. For example, to compile a list of all the publications by one author requires the reader to work through the volume one page at a time and write down or type in each reference; no easy task. At the end of his introduction Herr alerts the reader that the database file on which the volume is based is also available (for $50.00). It is this computer readable and searchable file that represents a giant step forward in useful tools for the archaeologist.

Computer-savvy archaeologists know that modern database programs (e.g., Access, Paradox) can import and export files in what is known as "ASCII delimited" format. The file I received was in this format. I was able to import this file into Paradox in less than five minutes, and it was at that point that the real power inherent in Herr's efforts became apparent. Each record in the database contains ten fields: author, date, bibliographical data, publication level, contributor (i.e., who supplied the reference), general region (Cis- or Transjordan), zone, specific region, site name, and period reference (e.g., EB I, Hel). Once loaded into a database it is possible to sort and select records by any number of criteria. For example, one could quickly determine all publications referring to pottery from Megiddo published after 1950; or, one could compile a quick list of all the publications of one archaeologist on a particular site. The user has the option of creating a hardcopy format within his/her database program for printing out the list, or sending it to a file for editing by a word processor.

One problem with the database is that there is only one bibliographic citation for each publication, no matter how many pottery periods are published in it. The earliest period published is given first, later periods follow in the same field. Databases sort records based on the strict sequence of characters in the selected field. Essentially all sites that contain Early Bronze Age pottery will be grouped together, no matter how many subsequent periods might be represented at the site. Depending on the capability of the user's database, it may be possible to "select" all records that contain a specific period reference; but it will still not be possible to create a complete database sorted on these periods. It would probably take 1 to 2 weeks to work through the database and duplicate or edit the records of sites with multiple period references so that each record contains only a single period reference.

Herr and Trenchard are still to be congratulated and thanked for their efforts. There will no doubt be quibbles about whether a particular site belongs in this region or that, or whether a particular vessel form continues into a particular subperiod, but this does nothing to hide the tremendous usefulness of the work. In my opinion the diskette should come with the book as a package, priced at $10–$15 over the current price for the book alone. Many scholars already have the ability to work with the ASCII delimited file, or have colleagues who can help them; and they will find this the most useful part of the package. Scholars without a background in computers will still find the book helpful. ASOR and Scholars Press are responsible for the publication of the book and I strongly encourage them to work with Herr and Trenchard to edit the database so as to make it completely searchable based on period reference, and to make the resulting diskette available with the book at a reasonable price.

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This book brings together a series of papers presented at a session with the same title at the XIII International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences, held in Mexico City in July–August 1993. Included in this volume are a series of case studies on early urban societies in the Old and New Worlds. Old World cases include the site of Arslan Tepe, located in the Malatya plain of highland southeastern Turkey (Marcella Frangipane), Egypt (Kathryn Bard), and the site of Wangchenggang, a third-millennium walled site on the Yellow River basin of north China (Walburga Wiesheu). New World case studies include Teotihuacan (Linda Manzanilla) in the Valley of Mexico; the Valley of Oaxaca, also in highland Mexico (Arthur Joyce); the site of Oxxintop in Yucatan (Miguel Rivera Dorado); the site of Huari in the Ayacucho valley of Highland Peru (William Isbell); and the Tiwanaco state, centered in the Lake Titicaca area of southern Peru and Bolivia (individual papers by David Browman and James Edwards Mathews). Separate chapters written by Manzanilla introduce and conclude the volume.

While I find much to be enthusiastic about in several of the volume's individual papers (below), I am afraid that the volume as a whole is less than the sum of its parts. The problem is that there is no common organizing prin-