

Corpus Inscriptionum Iudaeae/Palaestinae

A multi-lingual corpus of the inscriptions
from Alexander to Muhammad

edited by

Hannah M. Cotton · Leah Di Segni · Werner Eck

Benjamin Isaac · Alla Kushnir-Stein

Haggai Misgav · Jonathan Price · Israel Roll · Ada Yardeni

with the assistance of

Marfa Heimbach and Naomi Schneider

De Gruyter

Corpus Inscriptionum Iudaeae/Palaestinae

Volume I: Jerusalem

Part 1: 1–704

edited by

Hannah M. Cotton · Leah Di Segni · Werner Eck
Benjamin Isaac · Alla Kushnir-Stein
Haggai Misgav · Jonathan Price · Israel Roll · Ada Yardeni

with contributions by

Eran Lupu

with the assistance of

Marfa Heimbach and Naomi Schneider

De Gruyter

446.-449. Burial caves at French Hill Intersection

During the construction of the French Hill road intersection in north Jerusalem, nine underground burial caves were discovered in 1992 and 1993; three were excavated, the other six being sealed behind retaining walls without being explored. The entrances of Caves 1 and 2 were sealed by stones in situ, but the caves had been disturbed in antiquity. The first, a single-chambered man-made loculus cave, contained six ossuaries in the main chamber and eight in a single loculus; of the 14, eight are decorated, three are inscribed. The second cave is also a single-chambered cave hewn out of the rock, entered by two steps, with two tiers of loculi, and contained eleven ossuaries in an upper-level loculus and five in a lower-level one; nine are decorated, one inscribed. The third cave, apparently a single-chambered loculus cave also hewn from the rock, was almost completely destroyed by the construction activity; pieces of only one plain ossuary were recovered. The pottery and other finds date the use of the first cave to the 1 c. CE, the second to the end of the 1 c. BCE or later.

446. Ossuary of Ḥananiah son of Shim'on with Hebrew and Aramaic inscriptions, 1 c. BCE-1 c. CE

Cave 1, chamber E, oss. 7: Ossuary decorated on façade with rosette metopes. Jewish script inscription (a) shallowly incised on left side, many letters (ה, י, ש) gone over more than once. Another Jewish script inscription (b) in small letters on the right front leg, beneath the ornamentation.

Meas.: h 37, w 61, d 29 cm; (a) l. 14 cm, letters 3-10 cm; (b) l. 7 cm, letters 0.5-1 cm. Pres. loc: Beth Shemesh, IAA inv. no. 1993-1615. Autopsy: November 2007.

- (a) חנניה בן שמעון
(b) חנניה בר שמעון

Translit.: (a) ḥnnyh bn šm'wn
(b) ḥnnyh br šm'wn

- (a) Ḥananiah son of Shim'on.
(b) Ḥananiah son of Shim'on.



fig. 446.1 (a)



fig. 446.2 (b)

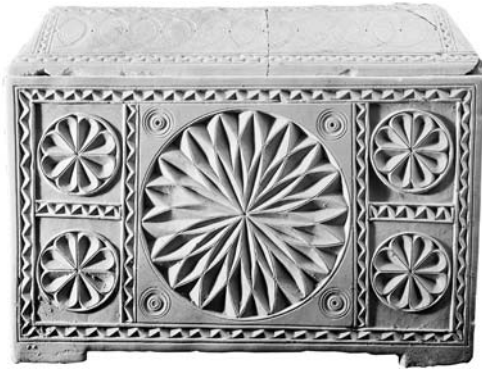


fig. 446.4 (b)



fig. 446.3 (a)

Comm.: The crude execution of the letters on the left-side inscription contrasts sharply with the high quality of the ornamentation; the small inscription on the right front leg was carved more precisely, in a way clearly intended not to interfere with the ornamentation. Unusually, inscription (a) is in Hebrew while (b) is in Aramaic. One of them (the one on the front leg?) was incised first, the second when the ossuary was moved. The ossuary contained the bones of one male, aged 40+.

Bibl.: L. Gershuny - B. Zissu, *Atiqot* 30, 1996, 45-59 (Hebr.), 128f. (ES) (ed. pr.). – Kloner - Zissu, *Necropolis* 457f.

Photo: IAA.

JJP/HM

191.-199. Dominus Flevit, chamber 437

9 ossuaries were found in a chamber (vano 437) which served as a repository for ossuaries; altogether 22 were found inviolate in the chamber, arranged in no particular order and with little regard for the visibility of inscriptions, according to the ed. pr.

192. Ossuary of Ḥananiya and Maria with Aramaic inscriptions, 1 c. BCE-1 c. CE

Limestone ossuary (oss. 107), façade ornamented with two six-petaled rosette panels separated by band with branch motif, frame with inverted triangles; traces of yellow wash, flat lid. Tiny inscriptions incised shallowly in formal Jewish

script above right rosette beneath frame (a), above and to the left of the left rosette, beneath the frame (b) and above and to the right of the left rosette, beneath the frame (c).

Meas.: h 32, w 62, d 27 cm; (a): l. 4.5 cm; (b): l. 6 cm; (c): l. 5 cm; letters 0.5-2 cm.
Pres. loc: SBF Museum, Jerusalem, inv. no. SF 7711. Autopsy: 21 January 2008.

- (a) חנניה בר שמעון
- (b) חנניה בר שמעון
- (c) מריה ברת אגרה

Translit.: (a) and (b) ḥnnyh br šm'wn
(c) mryh brt 'grh



fig. 192.1 (a)

- (a) and (b) *Ḥananiya son of Shim'on.*
- (c) *Maria daughter of Agra.*



fig. 192.2 (b)

Comm.: Certainly inscriptions (a) and (b), and probably (c) as well, were written by the same hand. It can be reasonably assumed that Maria was the sister of Yehosef and Tuvia from this cave (nos. 193, 198) and wife of Ḥananiya; on the father's name, see comm. to no. 193. Married women were usually identified by their husbands' names, and it can be assumed that Maria was identified by her patronym because of the importance of her father, the patriarch of this tomb. Compare, e.g., "Shelamzion daughter of Gamala" and "Shelamzion wife of Yeho'ezer son of Kalon, daughter of Gamala" on the same ossuary, no. 369; also no. 504.



fig. 192.3 (c)

Bibl.: Bagatti - Milik, *Dominus Flevit I*, 18f., 56 no. 107, 96f. no. 34 (ed. pr.). – J. T. Milik, *SBF 4* 1953/54, 260-76 at 263f. no. 17; *MPAT* no. 82; Hachlili, *Funerary Customs* 244-7, 313; see bibl. no. 164.

Photo: G. Nalbandian.



fig. 192.4 (a)-(c)

99.-105. Burial-cave systems on Mount Scopus, southern slope

Two rock-hewn burial cave-systems were discovered in 1974 during construction work in the Humanities building of the Hebrew University on Mount Scopus (17316/13320). The two systems were originally made as separate family tombs but were joined in antiquity. The first, eastern complex consisted of three rooms. The first room, entered through a courtyard, had two loculi and an arcosolium on opposite walls; the second room, entered by a passage from the first, contained a central pit surrounded by ledges and three quadrosolia (two with long loculi inside) and two loculi on a lower level; the third room contained three arcosolia and two loculi, filled with 10 ossuaries plus a sarcophagus which according to the excavator was used for the collection of bones. The second, western cave complex consisted of two rooms. The first, entered through a courtyard, contained three loculi (two of which were still sealed) and niches in the walls; 17 ossuaries were found in this room. A short passage led to the second room, which was built around a central pit surrounded by ledges on two levels, with four loculi (one sealed) on the upper level and two more on a lower level; this room contained six more ossuaries. One of the upper loculi led to Cave 1. The complex had been entered and looted and left open, but many of the ossuaries were intact and some of the loculi still sealed.

Altogether, 37 ossuaries were found in the conjoined burial complexes, in addition to lids and the sarcophagus; half these boxes were ornamented, some quite richly

with original designs. The most remarkable is a hard limestone ossuary with a high roundvaulted lid and elaborately carved architectural façades on three sides, no inscription (A. Kloner, *Qadmoniot* 17, 1984, 121ff., Hebr.); Rahmani, CJO no. 482 sees in the carvings on this ossuary representations of tomb façades, possibly recalling Petra. Yet alongside the elaborate boxes were some crudely made ones as well (e.g. nos. 102, 103).

Of the inscribed boxes, three were in Greek, four in Jewish script. Noteworthy are the unusual Greek names (Iphigeneia, Karpia), the Semitic name Phasael written in Greek letters and the name Jason in Jewish script on no. 103. In addition, there are two individuals named El'azar, two named Ḥananiya and one more named Yehudan (=Yehuda), all quite common biblical Jewish names. These caves contain one of the largest groups of ossuaries found in any tomb complex. Kloner estimates that about 130 individuals were buried there. Cave 2 was excavated slightly before Cave 1, but based on the finds both were in use from the mid-first century BCE to about 70 CE.

**102. Ossuary of Ḥananiya son of Shim'on with
Hebrew inscription, 1 c. BCE-1 c. CE**

Plain limestone ossuary, roughly finished; vaulted lid. Two inscriptions in formal Jewish script, the first (a) on one of the long sides, the second (b) on the corresponding right side, incised deeper than the first.

Meas.: h 31, w 64, d 28 cm.

Findspot: Cave 2, Room 5.

Pres. loc: Beth Shemesh, IAA inv. no. 1974-1514. Autopsy: 1987.

(a) חנניה

(b) חנניה

בן שמעון

Translit.: (a) ḥnnyh

(b) ḥnnyh | bn

šm'wn

(a) Ḥananiya.

(b) Ḥananiya son of
Shim'on.

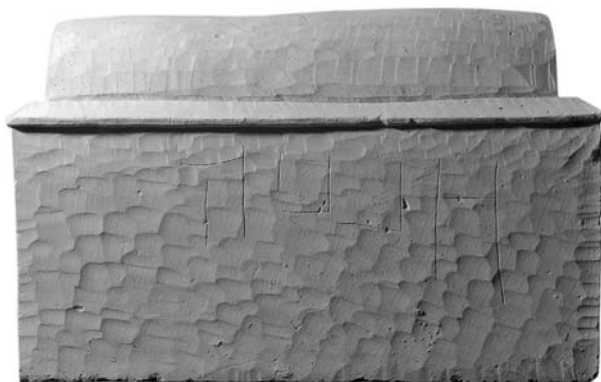


fig. 102.1 (a)



fig. 102.2 (b)

Comm.: The identical name, Ḥananiya bar Shim'on, is found in Dominus Flevit on the Mount of Olives, no. 192. According to Kloner, the long side with the inscription had been covered over with plaster in antiquity, obscuring the inscription.

Bibl.: Kloner, Burial Caves on Mount Scopus, 97ff. no. 25 (Hebr.; ed. pr.). – Rahmani, CJO no. 488; see bibl. no. 99.

Photo: IAA.