



# Philistine Iconography: A Wealth of Style and Symbolism (Orbis Biblicus et Orientalis)

*David BenShlomo*

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English summary: The Philistines were immigrants from the Aegean region and Cyprus arriving at the southern coast of Palestine/Israel during the 12th century BCE. They created a distinct material culture in this region during the Iron Age (ca. 1.200-600 BCE). This book presents and discusses the corpus of iconographic representations of the Philistine culture. The assemblage studied includes objects in various media: decoration on pottery, figurative pottery, figurines, ivory carving, glyptics and other items. The figurative style and symbolism represented in the culture of the Philistines reflects both their bonds with their Aegean homeland and the ongoing process of interactions with the local host cultures in the southern Levant. Iconography thus provides an important set of evidence for understanding social, ethnic, religious and ideological aspects of the Philistine society and its neighbours in the East Mediterranean. German description: Die Philister waren Migranten aus der Agais und Zypern, die sich während des 12. Jahrhunderts v.Chr. an der Südküste Palastinas/Israels ansiedelten. Während der Eisenzeit (ca. 1200-600 v.Chr.) entwickelten sie eine distinktierte Kultur. David Ben-Shlomo präsentiert und diskutiert den Bestand der ikonographischen Darstellungen der Philisterkultur. Die Untersuchung schliesst verschiedenartige Objekte ein, u.a. Tonmalereien, Statuen, Eisenschnitzereien, Glyptik. Der figurliche Stil und der Symbolismus spiegelt sowohl die Rückbindung der Philisterkultur an die agaische Heimat als auch den laufenden Prozess der Interaktion mit den lokalen Gastkulturen in der südlichen Levante eindrucklich wider. Die Ikonographie liefert so ein bedeutendes Zeugnis, das die sozialen, ethnischen, religiösen und ideologischen Aspekte der Philister und ihrer Nachbarn im östlichen Mittelmeerraum besser zu verstehen hilft.

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