PREFACE

Over a century has passed since Petrie’s pioneer excavations at Tell el-Ḥesi in 1890 opened the horizons of archaeological research in the southern Levant. The campaign of Napoleon Bonaparte in 1798 had facilitated an increase of knowledge in Egyptian history and had, in effect, given birth to the infant discipline of Egyptology nearly a century earlier. It can certainly be said that the amount of information produced from these two areas of the world has exponentially increased over time so that we find today in the present the pressure for specialization in either Egyptology or Syro-Palestinian archaeology. Indeed, the results of such detailed attention have provided outstanding and penetrating work in particulars, increasing our understanding as a whole. Concurrently, it has led to an often unavoidable isolation from surrounding disciplines that may impact the interpretation of events as they relate to a wider understanding of sociopolitical dynamics and interaction in the ancient Near East.

The object of the present work is to suggest a procedure for integrating the various facets of Egyptian and Syro-Palestinian historical sources (military accounts, toponyms, iconography) and archaeological remains, overcoming the apparent conflict between text and tell. What follows is a study of methodological procedure in both disciplines and by necessity focuses on a “case study” for such integration: Egyptian military activity. The integration of sources results in a suggested paradigm for Egyptian military tactics which will facilitate interpretation inferences in the field.

This present study is a revised doctoral dissertation presented to the Department of Near Eastern Studies of The University of Arizona. It is impossible to mention all those who contributed to its completion, for the areas and facets that in some way augmented the process were many.

Special thanks are reserved for William G. Dever who first introduced me to fieldwork at Gezer. Since then he has been a constant source of encouragement and inspiration throughout my graduate studies and as director of my dissertation during its inception and subsequent two years of research and writing. Appreciation is also extended to other committee members who contributed significant suggestions and insights along the way: Professors Al Leonard, Jr.,
Classics; J. Edward Wright, Near Eastern Studies; Richard H. Wilkinson, Egyptology; and T. Patrick Culbert and David Killick, Anthropology.

Funding for this project was provided in part through a Samuel H. Kress Foundation Fellowship from the W. F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research, Jerusalem, in 1995-96. The kind assistance of the Albright staff—Sy Gitin, Edna Sachar, Nadia Bandak—made this year most beneficial for research, writing, learning, and building lasting friendships.

This year abroad made it possible to consult numerous specialists in both Syro-Palestinian archaeology and Egyptology. Gratitude is extended to the kind offices of Michal Artzy, University of Haifa; Jaqueline Balensi, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris; Amnon Ben-Tor, Hebrew University of Jerusalem; Stephan Bourke, Pella Project; Trude Dothan, Hebrew University of Jerusalem; Yossi Garfinkel, Hebrew University of Jerusalem; Sy Gitin, W. F. Albright Institute; James K. Hoffmeier, Wheaton College; Amihai Mazar, Hebrew University of Jerusalem; William J. Murnane, Memphis State University; Anthony J. Spalinger, University of Auckland; Lawrence E. Stager, Harvard University; Kent Weeks, The American University in Cairo; and James Weinstein, Cornell University. While I take full responsibility for the content and conclusions reached in this study, I thank these individuals for providing stimulating discussion and recent research results.

Research was conducted at a number of institutions that were most accommodating. I would like to thank the following for extending library privileges: The American University in Cairo; Andrews University; W. F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research; Arizona State Museum Library; British School of Archaeology, Jerusalem; École Biblique et Archéologique Française; Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Institute of Archaeology; Rockefeller Museum; Oriental Institute Archives, The University of Chicago; Graduate Library, The University of Michigan; and the Anthropology Library, The University of Pennsylvania.

Special thanks go to Ms. Patricia Radder, desk editor for Ancient Near East and Asian Studies and the staff at E. J. Brill for their excellent and efficient assistance in getting this volume off the press. I must also express my thanks to those who have contributed to the copy-editing work of this volume, especially Mrs. Bonnie Proctor and Professor Leona Glidden Running.
In the end, this work would never have been possible without the constant encouragement of Giselle who embarked on this journey with me not fully knowing the triumphs and sacrifices ahead. Her unwavering love and faithfulness during these years have given renewed strength and purpose.