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ONOMASTICON OF IUDAEA · PALAESTINA AND ARABIA  
IN THE GREEK AND LATIN SOURCES

VOLUME II, PART 1

AALAC MONS – ARABIA, CHAPTER 4

In memory of Hans (Zvi) Kroch and Prof. Michael Avi-Yonah,  
creators of the Holyland Model of Jerusalem  
in the Second Temple Period

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ONOMASTICON OF  
IUDAEA · PALAESTINA  
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IN GREEK AND LATIN SOURCES

*by*

Leah Di Segni and Yoram Tsafir  
with Judith Green

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AALAC MONS – ARABIA, CHAPTER 4

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## PREFACE TO VOLUME II

Professor Yoram Tsafir, who worked on the *Onomasticon* for almost 50 years, for most of that time as its director, passed away on 22 November 2015, just a few days after the first copies of Volume I came off the press. Though it was far from being his only project, the *Onomasticon* had lived with and by Yoram Tsafir for the better part of his life as a scholar, and his joy in holding this first of many volumes in his hands was inexpressible. Fate decreed that he should not see the second, present volume, whose complete proofs he had just finished inspecting. He had intended to add a brief preface, but he did not have time to complete it. We hope the following remarks will fulfill his intention.

Volume II includes toponyms starting with the letter A. This letter is significantly richer in toponyms than any other letter of the alphabet, and it also includes **Arabia**, the largest single entry in the *Onomasticon* (except for Jerusalem). The composition of Volumes I and II lasted many years, as did the tiresome end process of editing, proofreading, typesetting, indexing and printing. With regard to critical editions of sources and the Research Bibliography for Volume II, the material has been updated, respectively, to 2011 (editions) and 2012 (research). New editions and scholarly publications, as well as necessary corrections, will be included as *addenda* and *corrigenda* in the subsequent volumes.

A description of the *Onomasticon's* history, its geographical and chronological scope and its structure, along with guidelines for its use, appear in the Introduction to Volume I, which serves as a companion to the present volume and all those to come. Volume I also includes the Bibliographical Abbreviations and the annotated list of Primary Sources cited throughout the series, as well as the full texts of a number of long passages excerpted in the alphabetical entries of the subsequent volumes, such as descriptions of entire regions and complete lists of participants in Church councils. Readers who have leafed through Volume I will only fully realize the significance and scope of the *Onomasticon* project as they begin using the present volume and those to follow. We believe that the alphabetical volumes of the *Onomasticon* are destined to be instruments of prime importance for any research on the history, archaeology and historical geography of this region.

We wish again to thank the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, and particularly the members of its Council and staff who were involved in the preparation of this volume, including the Chairpersons of its Publications Committee, the late Prof. Hayim Tadmor, Prof. Yohanan Friedmann and now Prof. Yosef Kaplan; and the present and former staff members of the Academy's Publications Department: Tali Amir, its Director and Chief Editor, former Chief Editor Zofia Lasman, and Yehuda Greenbaum, who oversaw the book's production. Deborah Greniman, Senior Editor of English-Language Publications, edited this volume with devotion over the

course of several years and supervised its publication. Our thanks to Tikva Blaukopf for expertly proofreading the entire volume in three languages and compiling the Indexes. Thanks also to Esther Malka Grodzinski of Renana Typesetting for her care in typesetting Volumes I and II.

We thank the Copyright and Permissions Department of Harvard University Press and Ms. Scarlett R. Huffman for their generous permission to use extracts from the translations published in the Loeb Classical Library (LCL) and to modify them slightly where needed for the purposes of this publication. Shulamit Miller checked and evaluated the relevant translations to determine the extent of their dependence on those editions. We also thank the following authors and institutions: Hannah Cotton, for allowing us to use her translations of some of the Judaeen Desert papyri; the Israel Exploration Society, for the use of the late Naphthali Lewis' translations of some of the Bar Kokhba letters; the American Center for Oriental Research in Amman, its Director, Barbara Porter, and the translators for permission to use their translations of the Petra Papyri; Cornelia Horn, Robert Phenix, the Society of Biblical Literature and its Director, R. Buller, for permission to use their translation from the Syriac of the Life of Peter the Iberian; Sebastian Brock for the use of his translation from the Syriac of the Letter attributed to Cyril of Jerusalem; James C. VanderKam and Peeters Publishers for the use of his translation of the Ethiopic version of the Book of Jubilees; and the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago for the use of J.E. Dean's translation of Epiphanius' treatise on *Weights and Measures*.

The comparative chart of the Israel Cassini Soldner Grid (ICS, also known as the Old Israel Grid [OIG]), the Israel Transverse Mercator Grid (ITM, also known as the New Israel Grid [NIG]), the United Transverse Mercator Grid (UTM) and the World Geodetic System (WGS 84), used to create the individual charts in each volume, was prepared by Uri Offenbacher. Tamar Sofer, cartographer of the Department of Geography of the Hebrew University, made the map showing the sites in this volume.

We are grateful to the generous financial supporters of the Onomasticon project whose names appear opposite the title page, without whom these volumes could not have been published.

Leah Di Segni

Judith Green

Jerusalem, January 2016