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**CONTENTS**

From the editors 1

**Articles**

The challenges facing the First Aliyah Sephardic Ottoman colonists
Yuval Ben-Bassat 3

The kibbutz and the *ma’abara* (transit camp): The case of the Upper Galilee kibbutzim and Kiryat Shmona, 1949–1953
Amir Goldstein 17

A beach of their own: The creation of the gender-segregated beach in Tel Aviv
Shayna Weiss 39

The ingathering of (non-human) exiles: The creation of the Tel Aviv Zoological Garden animal collection, 1938–1948
Elia Etkin 57

The construction of an ideological curriculum: The study of *Emunah* in the Har Hamor Yeshiva
Ilan Fuchs 75

**Book Reviews**

The Guardians: The League of Nations and the Crisis of Empire
by Susan Pederson
Bernard Wasserstein 93

Defining Neighbors: Religion, Race, and the Early Zionist-Arab Encounter
by Jonathan Gribetz
Meir Hatina 98

An Unpromising Land: Jewish Migration to Palestine in the Early Twentieth Century
By Gur Alroey
Rebecca Kobrin 102

Palestine in Turmoil: The Struggle for Sovereignty, 1933–1939
by Monty Noam Penkower
Neil Caplan 103

Israeli Peacemaking since 1967: Factors behind the Breakthroughs and Failures
by Galia Golan
Mordechai Bar-On 107

Carnival in Tel Aviv: Purim and the Celebration of Urban Zionism
by Hizky Shoham
Nina Spiegel 112
Abstracts

Yuval Ben-Bassat
The case of the tiny Jewish colony of Har-Tuv, which was founded by Ottoman Jews who immigrated to Palestine in 1895 from Bulgaria, sheds light on Ottoman policies vis-à-vis settlement activity by Sephardic Jews in Palestine at a time when there were concerted efforts to limit the Jewish national activity there. The latter was mainly carried out by non-Ottoman Ashkenazi Jews who immigrated to Palestine from eastern Europe. As the only colony established during the First Aliyah by Sephardic Jews, and also due to its geographical isolation, Har-Tuv was detached from the processes taking place within the other Jewish colonies and the New Yishuv. At the same time, Har-Tuv’s founders had a long tradition of living under Ottoman rule and were on good terms with the local Ottoman authorities in Palestine. This was often useful when the colony had problems with its Arab neighbors, and on several occasions Har-Tuv even served as an intermediary between the Arab rural population and the government.

Amir Goldstein
This article examines the relations between the kibbutzim of the Upper Galilee and the Khalsa (Kiryat Shmona) transit camp in its early years. This test case represents a microcosm of the encounter between veteran pioneers and new immigrants, between Ashkenazim and Mizrahim, between those who regarded themselves as the avant-garde of the Labor Zionist movement and new immigrants whose fate symbolized the mass aliyaht. The kibbutzim played a decisive role in the establishment of Kiryat Shmona. Their sense of responsibility, compassion, and their genuine desire to help develop social and communal services were no less powerful than their trend towards isolation. However, the kibbutz members’ orientalist views undermined their ability to attain their objectives. Faced with what they perceived as the paternalistic approach of the kibbutzim, the inhabitants of the transit camp, especially the Yemenite immigrants, refused to submit to the powerful pressure exerted upon them to abandon their traditional Jewish culture and manifested their loyalty to their own values.

Shayna Weiss
This article examines the struggle for gender-segregated sea bathing in Tel Aviv from the first calls for gender segregation in the 1920s until 1966, when the city of Tel Aviv established a beach for men and women to swim separately. The most effective demands for gender segregation were framed in a civic and not religious discourse. Rather than claiming that gender-segregated swimming was against Jewish values, the ultra-Orthodox party Agudat Yisrael effectively argued that a lack of separate swimming violated their rights as taxpayers who had the right to bathe in the sea just as any other Israeli citizen.

Elia Etkin
This article examines the formation of the animal collection at the Tel Aviv zoological garden. Using Michel Foucault’s concept of heterotopia, the article analyzes the images and practices of animal importation. It shows that in spite of the importance of Zionist enthusiasm in driving the establishment of the Tel Aviv zoo, and the attribution
of Zionist vocabulary to animals living in it, its significance cannot be reduced to Zionist ideology and practice. The zoo’s animal collection was the product of the specific historical, colonial-imperial circumstances formed under the British Mandate. The gathering of the animals reflects the indispensable British contribution to the development of cultural endeavors in Palestine, and the coexistence of British and Zionist aspirations.

Ilan Fuchs
Beginning in 1997, the Har Hamor yeshiva, a leading Jerusalem-based institute for Torah learning, has become the center of a unique stream of thought in religious Zionist philosophy. This article examines how religious Zionist yeshivas have developed an educational curriculum that translates theological beliefs and values into political action. The article seeks to evaluate to what extent this ideology and curriculum will be able to survive in a political reality in which the rift between religious and secular Zionism is constantly increasing.