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Maria Gabriella Micale

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REFERENCES

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- 1 The issue no. 2 of 2019, entitled "Perspectives on the Treaty Framework of Deuteronomy", hosts this contribution on images and history of religion in Palestine/Israel. The Authors present a project, which bears the same title as the article and is hosted by the Institute of Old Testament Studies at the University of Bern. At the time of this publication the Authors assert that the project was nearly concluded. However, the article's exposition seems to rely more on the original project proposal itself than on concluding remarks. The project's objective envisions the collection of images and iconographic motives through the cataloguing of 300 objects dated between 539 and 63 BCE. Based on this catalogue, the Authors intend to analyze circulation, persistence or non-reception phenomena for the images of the traditional religious symbolic system in Palestine/Israel in this period and through the centuries of the Hellenizing process. A fundamental methodological presupposition is that, according to the Authors, in this period, as well as in earlier ones, art represents religious conceptions and that profane art does not exist.

- 2 The Authors also assert that "images are still underrepresented in the study of antiquity and of religion" in the Southern Levant. They retrace a very detailed and useful history of scholarship, explaining at the same time, and with vivid examples, to what extent this kind of research has been lacking in the text-centered historical literature on the region and to what extent relevant publications, especially those dealing with the history of religion, could have been augmented by the knowledge of specific iconographic motives, of the history of their transmission/adoption and of their possible eventual shifts in meanings.
 - 3 The methodological principle of contextualizing motifs is fundamental for the presented project and admittedly relies on the school of Othmar Keel, reflecting a reception of Erwin Panowsky's iconology. As part of the project itself, the Authors also mention an international symposium that was held at the University of Bern in 2017 on "Images in Transition" between southern Levant, the Near East and Greece. Publications of the project's results and the symposium will be certainly welcome.
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AUTHORS

MARIA GABRIELLA MICALE

Freie Universität Berlin