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English cover: The Homo 1 Upper Paleolithic skull from Qafzeh cave, front view (Vandermeersch *et al.*).

Hebrew cover: A hematite pendant from the Chalcolithic site of Fazael 2 (Bar *et al.*).

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Editors' forward

The format of the *Journal of the Israel Prehistoric Society (JIPS)* has changed several times, since the first volume was published (1960). Prof. Avi Gopher and Prof. Steve Rosen established the last format in 1985, a format that was consistent from volume 19 through volume 42. Nowadays, with the available new technologies and the scope of the journal (with a focus on field reports and data analyses) we establish a new format with the following changes:

1. The pages are larger to better accommodate maps, plans, field photos, photos taken under the microscope, artifact drawings, *etc.*
2. The use of color is introduced into the printed version, and all PDF copies will be in color.
3. The covers include selected photos / figures from articles included in the issue.

In addition to the dedicated and successful job Steve Rosen did as a co-editor and editor for over 20 years, he established the cooperation between *JIPS* and JSTOR. The journal will soon be incorporated into the international JSTOR network and will be available through the internet to all those interested (scheduled for 2014). A moving wall of three years was set; thus, articles three years old and greater will be available to those with institutional access to JSTOR at no cost, while more recent articles will require payment.

The editors note with sadness the passing of our friend and colleague Jean Perrot. Jean was one of the pioneering scholars of Israeli prehistory. His 1968 publication “La Préhistoire Palestinienne” is an original and stimulating overview of the prehistory of our region and has long been considered a seminal contribution. Moreover, his innovative and ground-breaking studies of the Chalcolithic and Natufian provided the foundations for those who have followed in his footsteps. One of Jean’s most significant achievements was establishing in 1952 the *Mission Archéologique Française*, now called the *French Research Center in Jerusalem*. The center is renowned as a meeting place for scholars from around the world and for its research facilities. Furthermore, in 1973, Jean, together with Bernard Vandermeersch, founded *Paléorient*, the journal which is dedicated to the prehistory and protohistory of the Near East and bordering regions. Jean’s many contributions will long serve as a stimulus for continued research in the prehistory of the Levant.

Obituary

In memory of Jean Perrot 1920–2012

Jean Perrot was born in the Department of Doubs, France, on June 10, 1920 and died December 24, 2012 in Paris. He left a widow, Manijeh, and two daughters, Michèle and Danielle. Perrot studied art (1939–1942) in the National Superior School of Decorative Arts in Paris and at the Institute of Art and Archaeology of the Sorbonne (1942–1945). He obtained an Academy scholarship to study at the French School of Bible and Archeology in Jerusalem (1945-1946). In 1946 Perrot entered the CNRS as Attaché de Recherche and in 1972 was nominated Director of Research, the highest grade there.

In 1946 Perrot arrived in Palestine and started a career of archaeological field work spanning some 40 years. In 1952 Perrot founded the CNRS research unit "Prehistoric Civilizations of the Asiatic Near East" in Jerusalem and was its director until 1972. In 1973 Perrot founded the Permanent CNRS Mission no. 3 in Israel which became, in 1979, the French Research Center of Jerusalem (CRFJ), directed by Perrot until 1989.

Between 1968 and 1979 Perrot directed the French archaeological delegation in Iran, excavating Darius' royal palace complex in Suse. Perrot founded with B. Vandermeersch the journal *Paléorient*.

In 1949 he excavated, with R. Neuville, at the prehistoric site of El Khiam Terrace, in the Judean desert. That experience introduced Perrot to the study of prehistory and determined his life-long interest in that field. Perrot concentrated on the post-Palaeolithic phases, the Natufian, Neolithic and Chalcolithic periods which separate between the Stone Age and the historical civilizations. He became a world expert on those entities in the Levant. His fieldwork was influential and he developed his own system of documenting the finds unearthed in excavations, architecture as well as mobile objects.

Perrot had a deep respect for all those working with him – regardless of their rank, position or education. The only time Perrot excavated outside prehistory was when he participated in Y. Yadin's project at Hazor, where he directed excavations in Bronze Age Area F (1955–1959).

Between 1952 and 1958 Perrot explored the Beer Sheva Chalcolithic sites of Bir Safadi and Abu Matar, revealing the high cultural and artistic level of the Chalcolithic, its subterranean dwellings, the wide exchange system and the oldest metallurgy.

Perrot studied the Neolithic period in several ground breaking excavations (Abu Gosh 1950, Munhata 1961–1967 and Beisamoun 1972–1975). These projects revealed the architecture and the typology of chipped stone tools and grinding tools of the various Neolithic phases.

Between 1956 and 1975 Perrot excavated the Natufian village Mallaha-Eynan. He unearthed a village of some 50 circular houses rich in flint implements, grinding tools, animal bones and burials, including a human buried holding a young dog in the hand, which was at the time the earliest evidence for the domestication of the dog.

Perrot was an original and brave thinker with ideas which sometimes contradicted established concepts. Thus, his excavations in the Natufian village Mallaha-Eynan convinced him that a sedentary way of life came into being within a gathering-hunting subsistence pattern, still depending entirely on wild game and wild plants. This interpretation of the facts stood against the widely accepted model of the time, in which sedentary life must have depended upon food production which followed the domestication of plants and animals. Further research proved that Perrot was right concerning the wild species. Present knowledge indicates, however, that food production in wild species may have been involved in the onset of sedentism.

One other major idea of Perrot stood against accepted paradigms. Perrot refused to accord prehistoric humans with full-fledged religious feelings. Accordingly, the notion of prehistoric temples seemed to him the unfounded projection of our own interpretations. Similarly, Perrot doubted the mental ability of prehistoric humans to grasp the idea of a nether world. Consequently, Perrot doubted the reality of prehistoric grave goods and considered them as accidental occurrences.

Perrot collaborated with numerous Israeli colleagues who were granted permission to publish significant parts of his finds. A number of those colleagues have become university professors.

Perrot was the recipient of numerous awards and prizes. Chief among them are:

- Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur
- Chevalier dans l'ordre des Palmes académiques
- The Schimmel prize for the Archaeology of Bible Lands.

May he rest in peace.

Avraham Ronen

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