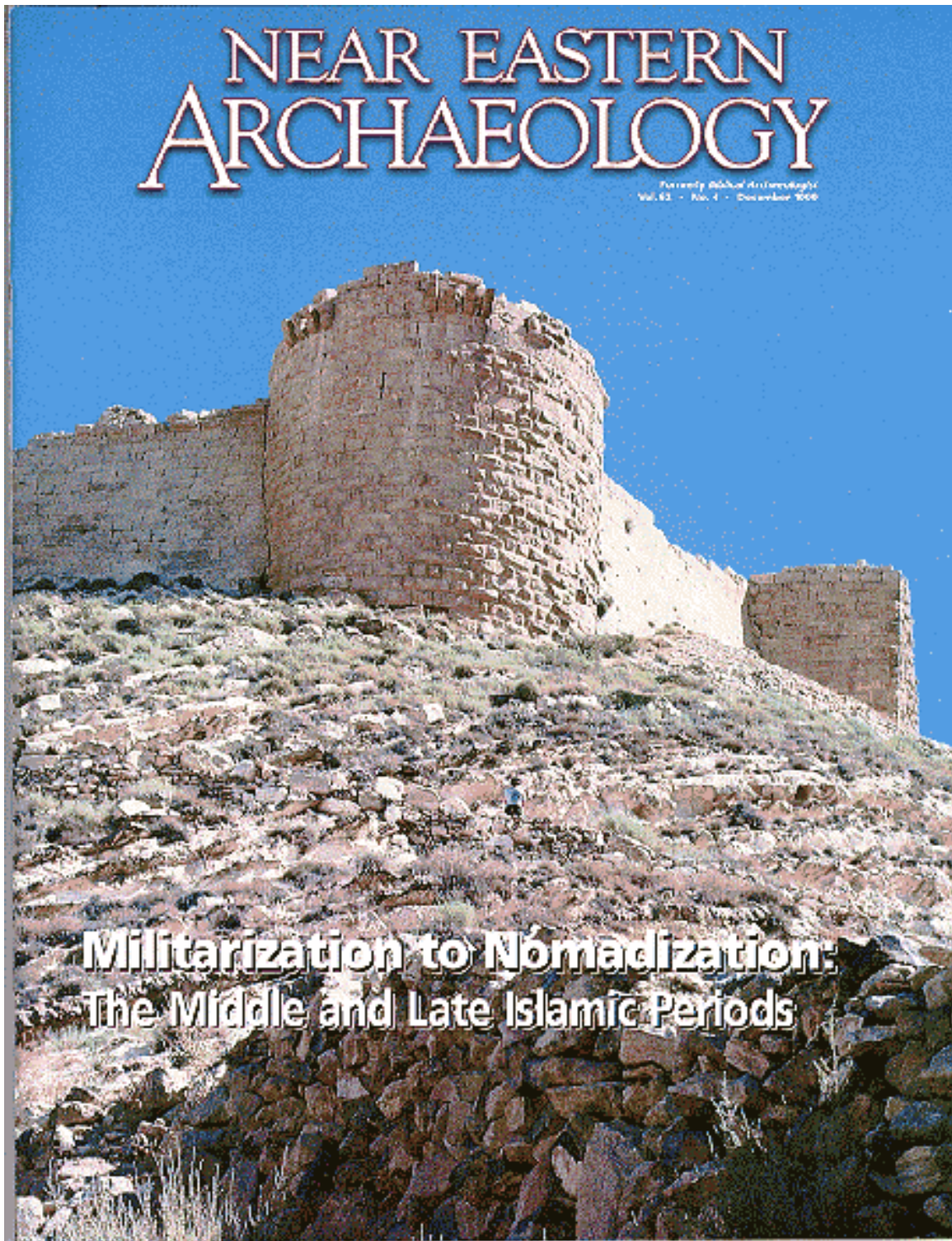


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**Militaryization to Nomadization:
The Middle and Late Islamic Periods**

On the cover: The castle Shobak, located in southern Jordan and built originally by the Franks, now bears an inscription acknowledging the Mamiuk sultan who renovated it. Shobak was successively garrisoned by the Franks, Ayyubids, Mamluks, and Ottomans. *Photo courtesy of S. Prest.*

202 Militarization to Nomadization: The Middle and Late Islamic Periods

Bethany J. Walker

"Ayyubid," "Mamluk," and "Ottoman" are the often only vaguely familiar political designations of the Middle and Late Islamic periods of Palestine. Together spanning over seven centuries, their rule of the region began under the leadership of the politically and militarily gifted Salah al-Din (d. 1193), who established the Ayyubid Dynasty, unifying the Muslim Levant and dealing with the Frankish states that had been founded by the Crusaders. Nearly a century later, a bloodless military coup brought the Mamluk Sultanate into being with its fascinating institution of importing slaves who were enculturated, educated, and trained in the military arts. The Sultanate was a novelty, representing the first time Mamluks succeeded in creating their own state. Incorporating Palestine into their Cairo-based empire, the Mamluk empire became what was then the longest living, autonomous Islamic state in Egypt, surpassed only by its successor, the Ottoman Sultanate. The Ottomans, who, like the Mamluks, were a military dynasty, swept through Palestine in 1516. In the first hundred years of their governance, some of Palestine's larger towns received Ottoman patronage. Suleiman the Magnificent stands out for the attention he showered on Jerusalem, beautifying the Dome of the Rock and repairing the town's walls and gates. Soon, however, the Ottomans lost interest in a region so distant from their capital in Anatolia. Investment gave way to neglect, and for two centuries there was little governance emanating from the central administration. Tribal sheiks rose in the vacuum, and local autonomy characterized a fairly splintered region. Ottoman resurgence in the nineteenth century imposed a stronger, more involved government and ambitious projects with international scope: the Suez Canal (1869) and the Hijaz Railway (finished in 1908), whether the interest of European powers. Britain terminated Ottoman rule at the conclusion of the first World War.

233 Animal Figures in the Basilical Building Mosaics at Roman Sepphoris, Lower Galilee, Israel

Arlene Fradkin

Animal pictorial representations appear in the floor mosaics of a large public building at the site of Sepphoris, a major city in the Galilee during the Roman period. Zoological subjects include six fish, four birds, and two mammals. Only a few of these animals, however, are represented in the archaeological faunal remains. The mosaic zoological depictions were most likely derived from pattern books as some of these subjects also appear in other Roman site mosaics in identical stylistic renderings.

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