

PUBLICATIONS OF THE ISRAEL ACADEMY  
OF SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

SECTION OF HUMANITIES

---

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

VOLUME III  
BAARAS – BYCOYCA

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

and with thanks to the following institutions and individuals, without whose  
support these volumes would not have been published:

The Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

The Institute of Archaeology, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

The Israel Science Foundation

The Cherni Family and the Holyland Tourism Company

Yoel and Stella Carasso

Joy Ungerleider and the Dorot Foundation

Melvin and Lolita Goldstein

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

*by*

Leah Di Segni and Yoram Tsafrir  
with Chaim Ben David and Judith Green

VOLUME III

BAARAS – BYCOYCA

THE ISRAEL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

JERUSALEM 2025

Copy editor: Deborah Greniman  
Production: Yehuda Greenbaum

ISBN 978-965-208-238-1

©

The Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, 2025  
Typeset by Raphaël Freeman MISTD, Renana Typesetting  
Printed in Israel at Caspit Press Ltd., Jerusalem

## CONTENTS

|  |      |
|--|------|
| Preface to Volume III  | 3    |
| Bibliographical Abbreviations                                      | 5    |
| Sigla and Abbreviations  | 19   |
| Additions and Revisions to the Primary Sources                     | 21   |
| Baaras – Bycoyca   | 33   |
| BIBLIOGRAPHY AND MAPS  |      |
| Research Bibliography  | 1055 |
| Comparative Chart of Map Coordinates, <i>by Chaim Ben-David</i>    | 1113 |
| Maps of Sites, <i>by Chaim Ben-David (drawings: Ruhama Bonfil)</i> | 1121 |

## PREFACE TO VOLUME III

I began working on this third volume of the *Onomasticon of Iudaea · Palaestina in the Greek and Latin Sources* while still busy with the final, seemingly endless phases of preparing Volume II for publication. Sadly, this time I was working alone, stunned by the responsibility of bearing on my shoulders the weight of this monumental project, initiated by pioneering scholar Michael Avi-Yonah and carried forward by my beloved mentor Yoram Tsafrir, who passed away in November 2015.

However, though any errors in this volume are solely my own, I was not truly alone. The guiding lines of Volume III remain those set down by Yoram, which we elaborated together in Volumes I and II, except for the technical detail that this volume is being published in electronic format rather than on paper. I had only to put flesh on the bones of a well-formed skeleton, provided even with a soul. And in this, too, I had help: Judith Green assisted with collecting the texts and some of the translations, and Prof. Chaim Ben David served as a critical reader of the archaeological discussions. Some entries had the benefit of Prof. Maurice Sartre's expertise, including his as yet unpublished readings of several inscriptions, with permission to use them. Last but not least, our incomparable editor, Deborah Greniman, did more than her editorial duty by asking questions that opened my eyes to pitfalls I had not noticed. She also counterbalanced my somewhat hubristic demand that the translations be as literal as possible, to allow readers with some Greek or Latin to follow the original texts, by endeavouring to ensure that said translations would not offend honest English.

The *Onomasticon* is a collection of the toponyms known from ancient Greek and Latin sources for places within the boundaries of the historical land of Israel and the Roman province of Arabia, from the Hellenistic period to Late Antiquity. Like Volume II, which assembled all the toponyms beginning with the letter A, this volume contains all those beginning with the letter B, in alphabetical order. Each entry includes the relevant Greek or Latin texts in chronological order, accompanied by their English translations and, where pertinent, by a critical apparatus and/or a philological or historical comment. Some supplementary texts, in languages other than Greek or Latin, or later than the mid-seventh century, are added where relevant. The collection of texts for each toponym is followed by a discussion of the identification of its site, brief historical notes, a survey of archaeological finds and a research bibliography. The entries are preceded by a list of additions and revisions to the Primary Sources listed in Volume I, including sources not used in the previous volumes and new editions of sources cited from older editions in Volumes I and II, and followed by the full Research Bibliography of the secondary sources adduced in the entries. The volume concludes with a comparative chart of map coordinates and twelve maps, prepared by Prof. Chaim Ben David with the assistance of Ofer Stein.

A description of the *Onomasticon's* history, its geographical and chronological

scope and its structure, along with guidelines for its use, may be found 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 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.

I wish 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 members of the Academy's Committee for the *Onomasticon* project, Prof. Margalit Finkelberg, Prof. Emanuel Tov and Prof. Maren Niehoff, the Director of the Academy, Galia Finzi, and again Senior Editor of English-Language Publications Deborah Greniman, who edited this volume and has been with the *Onomasticon* through hell and high water with unflinching determination and loyalty.

I am indebted as well to the Institute of Archaeology of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and in particular to Ms. Ruhama Bonfil, who drew the maps prepared by Prof. Chaim Ben David. The volume has also benefitted from the careful work of Sofia Andreeva and Meir Fishburn, who proofread, respectively, the Greek and Latin texts and the English text, and of Raphaël Freeman of Renana Typesetting.

I thank again the Permissions Department of Harvard University Press for its 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. I also thank the following authors and institutions: the Israel Exploration Society, for the use of the late Naphtali Lewis's translations of some of the Bar Kokhba letters; the American Center for Oriental Research in Amman, its former Director, Barbara Porter, and the translators for permission to use their translations of the Petra Papyri; Cornelia Horn, Robert Phenix Jr., the Society of Biblical Literature Press and its Director, Bob 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* (today no longer in copyright).

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  
with Judith Green and Chaim Ben David  
October 2022