

QEDEM 26 (1988)

AVRAHAM NEGEV: The Architecture of Mampsis, Final Report, Vol. I: The Middle and Late Nabatean Periods

Mampsis was the smallest of the traditional six Nabatean towns in the central Negev. The extensive exposure and exceptionally good preservation of its town plan in the Nabatean period offer a unique opportunity to study the lifestyle of its inhabitants. The defenses of Nabatean Mampsis consisted of towers, at least one of which was founded in the Middle Nabatean period. Other buildings underlying the Late Nabatean structures also belong to the Middle Nabatean period. Mampsis in the Late Nabatean period was densely covered by buildings, some of which are of an unusually high standard and demonstrate characteristic features of Nabatean architecture. They presumably belonged to wealthy citizens. One of them contains unique wall frescoes which are illustrated in color. Other structures of the Late Nabatean period include a caravanserai, a bath house, a market, and a public reservoir. The sophistication of its construction makes Mampsis an isolated Nabatean architectural jewel.

216 pages Price: \$35.-

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AVRAHAM NEGEV: The Architecture of Mampsis, Final Report, Vol. II: The Late Roman and Byzantine Periods

This volume, the sequel to Qedem 26, continues the history of Mampsis. Unlike other towns in the central Negev, where ecclesiastical buildings form part of prosperous settlements built in the Late Roman-Byzantine period, at Mampsis they were imposed on a town built hundreds of years earlier. The author provides a historical discussion of the economic base of the town and addresses the problem of the early end of the town in the mid-6th century CE. Mampsis was the only Nabatean town to be surrounded by a city wall, probably built in the early 4th century. The presentation of the wall is followed by descriptions of the two Byzantine churches, the East Church and the West Church. A full numismatic report and a survey of the architectural decoration of all periods complete the volume.

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