

LAWRENCE E. STAGER has completed a lengthy manuscript on the ecology of highland villages in Palestine during the twelfth and eleventh centuries B.C. and its implications for Israelite origins. This will be a chapter in Joseph Callaway's *Art and Biblical History*. He is now finishing a study of pier-and-rubble masonry, tracing its origins to tenth-century Phoenicia, its diffusion through Phoenician-Punic colonies in the western Mediterranean, and its later adaptation by Roman-Byzantine architects in North Africa. He believes that this peculiar construction technique was used to provide non-rigid structures more resistant to earthquakes. Mr. Stager hopes to publish the final report on the Carthage excavations in two large volumes: *Punic Religion* (with much

of the work devoted to the excavations in the Tophet) and *Carthaginian Trade* (utilizing mainly data from the excavations in the Commercial Port).