

HERODIUM

The Grand Memorial for the Builder King



<http://herodium.org/home>

The Herodium Expedition
(in Memory of Ehud Netzer)
The Institute of Archaeology
THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM



Herodium is one of the most important and unique building complexes built by Herod King of Judea during the first century BCE, and was considered among the most important buildings of the ancient world. The site, which was intended to commemorate the architect's life and work, was planned as a massive complex of palaces (the largest in the Roman world at the time), incorporating an imposing palace-fortress on the hilltop, an administrative area and a splendid recreation center at its foot, and a royal theater and mausoleum on its slope. On the approach of Herod's death, the hill was converted into a massive burial monument of epic proportions, a large artificial hill visible from afar.



Prof. **Ehud Netzer** established the Hebrew University Institute of Archaeology expedition to Herodium in 1972, at the beginning of his extensive research at Herodium, and since then it has focused on historical and archaeological research of the site. The project's activities and findings have been published in many different platforms, for both the academic and general public. Apart from its varied research goals, the expedition has concentrated since its establishment on development of the site for tourism. One of the important foci of the project during the last few years has been the comprehensive academic publication of the project's findings since its inception.



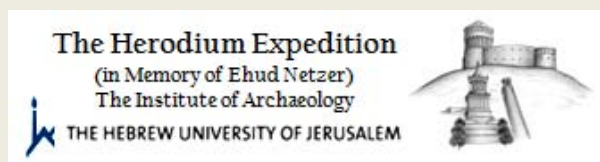
Funding for the Publication of Prof. Ehud Netzer's Finds and Research at Herodium

As you probably well know, the late Prof. Ehud Netzer devoted his professional life as an archaeologist to the study of the architecture of Herod the Builder. Some of his most impressive excavated finds are those from Herodium, a hill and palace complex south-east of Jerusalem. During the decades of his research at the site, under the auspices of the Archaeological Institute of the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Prof. Netzer had uncovered an impressive royal architectural complex at the foot of the hill. The dramatic unearthing, in 2007, of Herod's tomb and the adjoining royal theater on the hill's slope marked the climax of Prof. Netzer's career.

Sadly, Prof. Netzer lost his life at Herodium in 2010 while directing the removal of artifacts from the site for the Herod exhibit which attracted some half a million visitors to the Israel Museum in 2013. That rare exhibit, with Herodium as its focus, became a tribute to his work.

Excavating, however, is only part of the scientific work of the archaeologist. The bulk of the work is in the publication of the finds without which all the knowledge gained will be obliterated. We, the members of Ehud Netzer's Expedition Team, have undertaken the task of publishing the finds from Herodium in a scientific series entitled: *HERODIUM—Final Reports of the 1972-2010 Excavations Directed by Ehud Netzer*. It will include five volumes representing the finds according to architectural units at the site in this order: Herod's Tomb Precinct (publ. 2015); Lower Herodium; the Royal Theater; the Royal Box with its wall decorations; and the Mountain Palace-Fortress at the top of the hill. Each volume will include a stratigraphical analysis and architectural discussion of the unit, reports presenting the material culture (ceramic, glass, numismatics, epigraphy, bones, etc.), and various accompanying articles.

A generous funding was provided for Volume I, Herod's Tomb Precinct, and the book (546 pages with numerous illustrations) came to light in 2015. An estimated \$700,000 is needed to complete the concurrent research and publication of the other manuscripts, projected over a two/three-year period per volume, as detailed on the following pages; \$120,000 has already been raised.



It is imperative that publication be undertaken soon, while the team, which is expert in the material, having worked closely with Prof. Netzer, is still available for finalizing and writing the research.

Your contribution will help to preserve a unique scientific, cultural and heritage knowledge base which will be invaluable to researchers and laymen in the future.

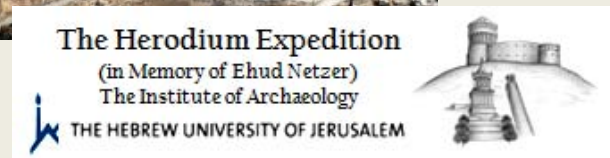
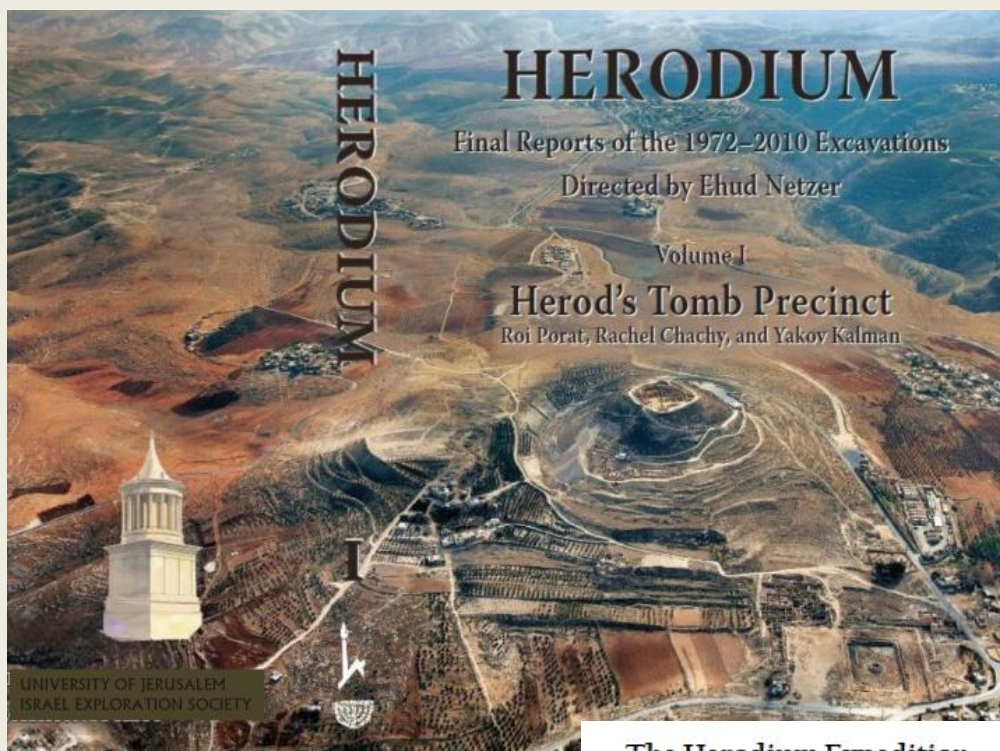
We will gladly supply any further information that you may require. Donor recognition is available and all donations are tax deductible in the USA.

Respectfully,

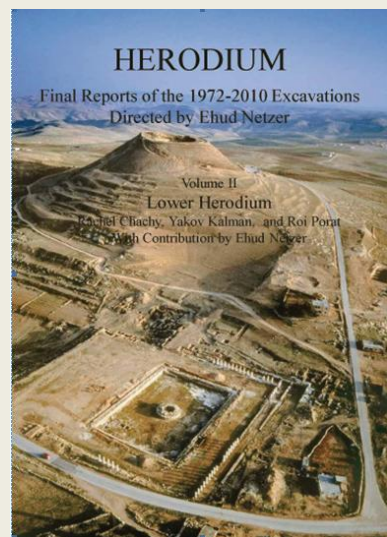
Roi Porat, Rachel Chachy, and Yakov Kalman

The Herodium Expedition Team

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HERODIUM II: LOWER HERODIUM



Josephus described Lower Herodium thus: "*At the base of the hill there are pleasure grounds built in such a way as to be worth seeing.... The surrounding plain was built up as a city second to none, with the hill serving as an acropolis for the other dwellings.*" (*Jewish Antiquities* XV, 325). "*Around the base he erected other palaces for the accommodation of his furniture and his friends. Thus in the amplitude of its resources this stronghold resembled a town, in its restricted area a simple palace*" (*The Jewish War* I, 421).

Lower Herodium, some 150 *dunam* or 37 acres at the foot of Herodium, is the biggest wing of the largest palace of its days in the Roman world. Herod was most likely involved in its planning. He incorporated in it a large palace with a luxurious recreation area including an extraordinary pool complex and Roman bathhouse. He also added an administrative center with dwellings for clerks and guests. An adjoining complex with a monumental triclinium, huge ritual bath, courtyard and promenade of sorts most probably played a major role in his own funeral. Some 400 years later, the area housed a thriving monastic Christian community, which built three churches at the site in the midst of a net of halls, rooms, and installations.

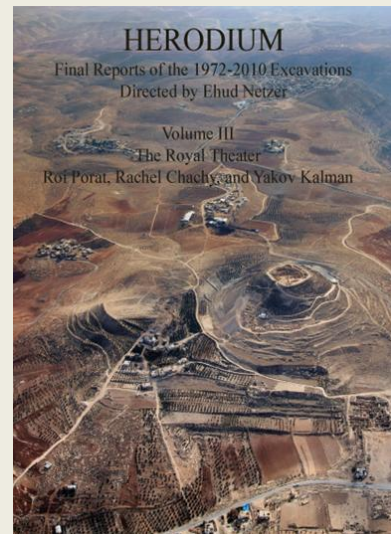
Lower Herodium forms the basis for the study of Herod's architecture. It is the longest, most extensive and complex excavation which Ehud Netzer carried out at Herodium.

This second volume in the HERODIUM series will encompass the stratigraphy, architecture and material culture of Lower Herodium, as well as related research.

Estimated cost of research and writing: \$120,000

Estimated cost of printing and binding: \$50,000

HERODIUM III: THE ROYAL THEATER



The small and elegant theater which Herod built on the Northern slope of Mount Herodium, west of the monumental stairways and the tomb precinct, was excavated by Prof. Netzer and his expedition team (which continued the dig without him after 2010) in 2008–2013. West of the theater, a large storage building was uncovered, as well as service structures and luxury dwellings.

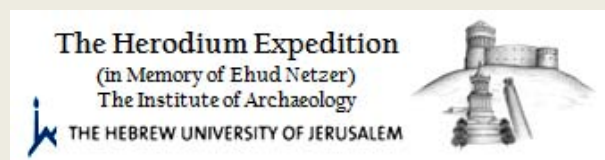
At the end of his days Herod decided to highlight his tomb by turning the hill into an artificial cone as its backdrop. The royal theater and all the other buildings on the slope were thus partly dismantled and buried, the royal box of the theater serving temporarily as a housing for construction workers.

This destructive act preserved for posterity Herod's extraordinary architecture as well as the chronology and typology of the material finds, particularly the ceramic and glass vessels of Herod's last days. The construction of the royal theater, its decoration and ultimate destruction reflect significant historical events in Herod's life and his preoccupation with the construction of his burial and commemorative site at Herodium.

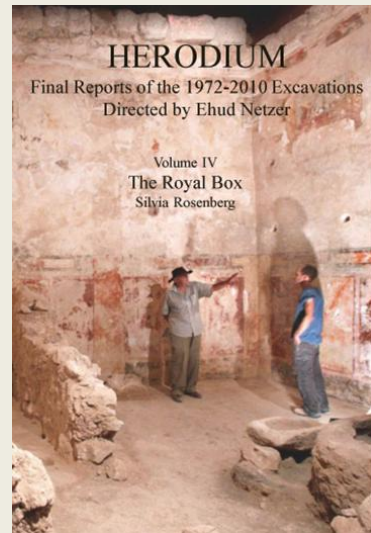
This third volume in the HERODIUM series will encompass the stratigraphy, architecture and material culture of the royal theater and its surroundings, as well as related research.

Estimated cost of research and writing: \$160,000 (\$120,000 are funded)

Estimated cost of printing and binding: \$50,000



HERODIUM IV: THE ROYAL BOX



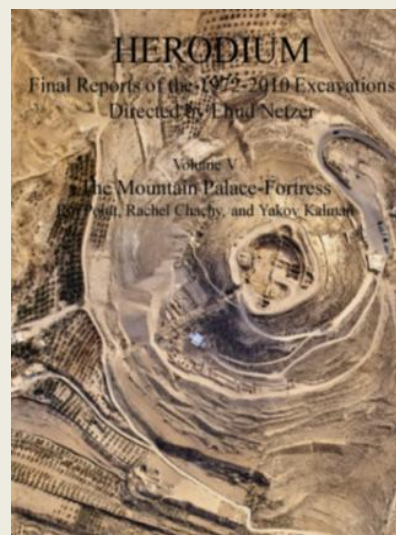
The royal box at the top of the theater is a lavishly decorated room in which Herod entertained his royal guests at Herodium. Herod may have decorated this room in honor of Marcus Agrippa, Emperor Augustus' second in command, who visited Herodium in 15 BCE. Herod employed foreign artists and artisans to produce the elaborate wall paintings and stucco reliefs. Some of the paintings are in imitation of open windows revealing nature scenes, luxurious buildings and wildlife. These wall decorations, although unusual in our region, are similar to those in the Roman world of that time. They reveal Herod's knowledge of current architectural decorative trends, his ties in the Roman world and relations within his own court.

This fourth volume in the HERODIUM series will encompass the unique wall decorations of the royal box, as well as related research. This volume will constitute a textbook of Roman wall decoration in our region, written by Silvia Rosenberg, expert in contemporary wall paintings and decoration.

Estimated cost of research and writing: \$160,000

Estimated cost of printing and binding: \$50,000

HERODIUM V: THE MOUNTAIN PALACE-FORTRESS



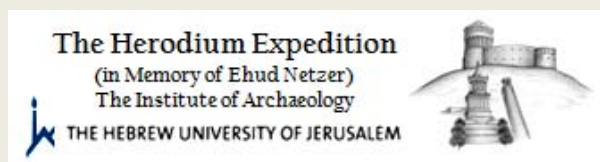
The fortress on the hill's summit is uniquely designed as a circular structure, 63 m in diameter and c. 30 m high, with four curvilinear towers divided into rooms on several levels. At a late stage, Herod had the building enveloped with soil in order to elevate the mountain and have it serve as a backdrop for his tomb — a grand memorial for the builder king. The mount thus looks like a volcano; the fortress its crater. The royal mansion at the center was built as an orthogonal building "squeezed" into the round shape, and it was divided into two equal parts, a courtyard in the east and a residential/reception wing in the west. The ascent to the fortress was via a monumental, straight stairway, as described by Josephus, from the foot of the mount to the palace. Recent excavations (2014–2015) along the upper part of this stairway revealed the repetitious change of mind of Herod: the stairway replaced an earlier one, and the impressive arched corridor at its upper part was filled quite soon after its completion. An alternative entryway into the palace is still under investigation.

Inside the mountain, a series of cisterns was carved providing the palace year-round with water. During the Jewish Revolts, the rebels prepared a subterranean guerilla network of tunnels in the depths of the mount. The remains on the summit reveal that at the end of the Second Revolt the fortress was seized by the Roman troops and partly destroyed.

This fifth volume in the HERODIUM series will encompass the unique architecture of this palace-fortress and the impressive stairway leading up to it, as well as the underground tunnel system dating to the Jewish Revolts. Related researches will be included.

Estimated cost of research and writing: \$160,000

Estimated cost of printing and binding: \$50,000



ADDITIONAL PROJECTS OF THE Herodium Expedition Team THAT NEED FUNDING

Research Excavations—Projects

General cost of a single excavation season (3 months): \$60,000

Study early stage of MPF (excavations in courtyard): \$70,000

Study Eastern Tower: \$60,000

Study western section MPF: \$80,000

Study "the additional entrance " in the southeastern part of the MPF: \$70,000

Study of the subterranean vaults of the MPF: \$120,000

Research Project of the Bar-Kokhba tunnel system: \$130,000

Stratigraphical studies Lower Herodium: \$60,000

Study of the structures to the west of the theater: \$70,000

Study of the Flat-topped Hill: \$50,000

Various Research Projects

Petrographic study of the ceramics: \$35,000

Study of the Herodian architectural decoration at Herodium: \$55,000

Study of organic remains and the gardens at Herodium: \$60,000

Study of the Imported Ware of Herodium, Jericho and Masada: \$80,000

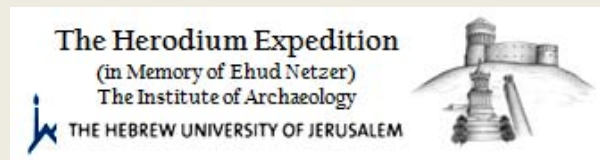
Study of the *Opus Sectile* of Herodium and other Herodian sites: \$40,000

Organization of Ehud Netzer's scientific heritage: \$50,000

Scientific book on Greater Herodium, in English and in Hebrew: \$40,000

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**The Volumes in the Series of HERODIUM – Final Reports of the
1972–2010 Excavations Directed by Ehud Netzer**



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