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# Excavations and Surveys in Israel 1982

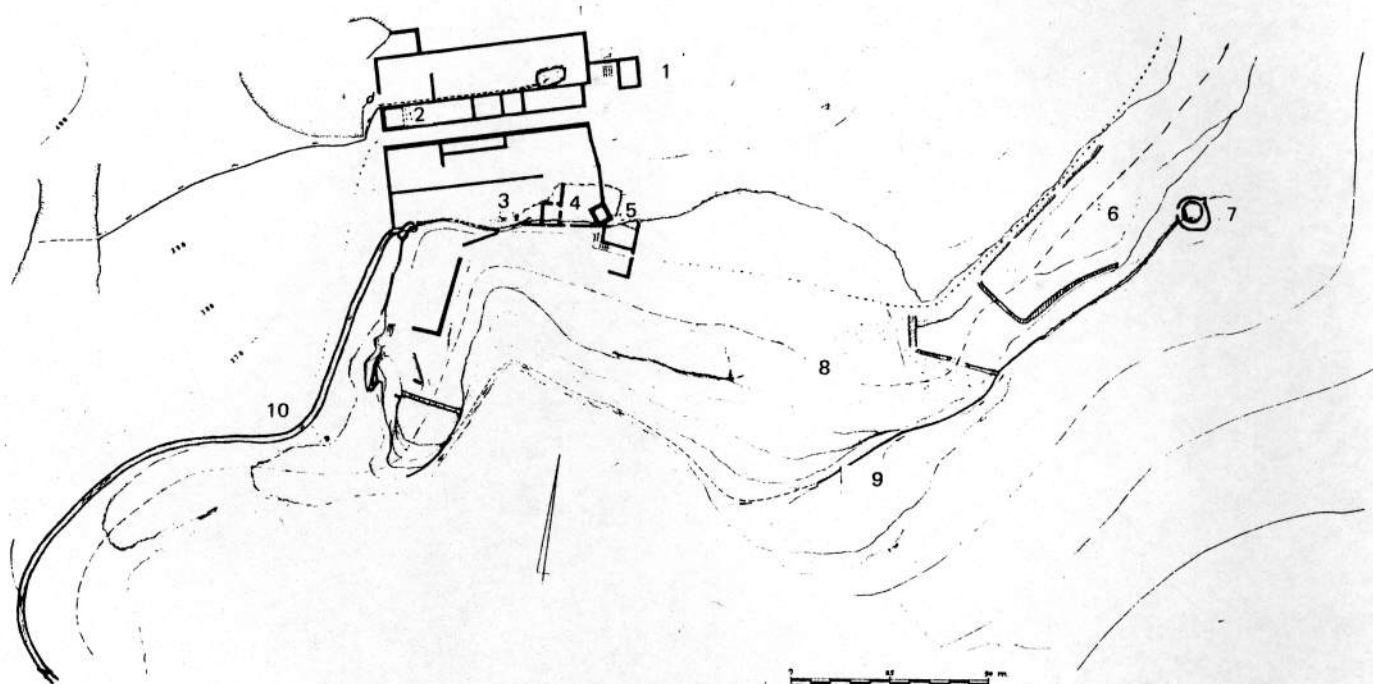
## Volume 1

DOR 81

English Edition of  
*Hadashot Arkheologiyot*  
Archaeological Newsletter of the  
Israel Department of  
Antiquities and Museums,  
Numbers 78-81

Jerusalem 1982





Khirbet ed-Deir, monastery complex and surroundings

#### LEGEND

- 1. church (?) 2. tower 3. cell
- 4. church 5. tower
- 6. Sha'ab ed-Deir 7. Bir ed-Deir
- 8. monastery garden
- 9. lower aqueduct 10. upper aqueduct.

#### TEL DOR — 1981

The second season of excavations at Tel Dor was carried out in July–August 1981 under the direction of E. Stern and the sponsorship of the Institute of Archaeology, Hebrew University and the Israel Exploration Society, in cooperation with New York University (L. Schiffman), Boston University (J.D. Purvis), California State University at Sacramento (H.P. Goldfried) and a group of volunteers under the direction of Prof. H.N. Richardson. The project was sponsored by the Harvard Semitic Museum, the Ambassador Cultural International Foundation and A.J. Hegenheimer of New York. The staff included Renate Rosenthal (Göttingen), Bracha Guz-Silberstein, I. Sharon, S. Yankelevitch, J. Levi, Rina Rubinstein, Ayelet Levinson, K. Raveh, Z. Radovan (photographer), and Bianca Lepori (architect). The project was again the training excavation of the Institute of Archaeology of the Hebrew University. Kibbutz Naḥsholim and the staff of the Pardess Hanna Agricultural School, headed by M. Gur, were most helpful.

*Area A* (center of the eastern slope of the mound, stratigraphic trench). Inside the Hellenistic city wall, excavation of the trench continued through the last Persian stratum, represented mainly by a stone pavement and pits dug into strata of the late Israelite period, a 1.5 m-thick layer of ashes, animal bones and sherds from the late Iron Age, which included much Phoenician pottery, Cypriot wares, and an Egyptian scarab. Outside the city wall, the excavations were extended southwards and a Hellenistic tower was completely exposed. The tower is almost square and is built of *kurkar* blocks like the city wall. A central square pier built of large stones no doubt served to support a wooden staircase going up to the roof. This is the earliest example of this type of staircase, which is later quite common in local architecture. In the south, another section of the city wall was exposed, as well as an earlier forward wall, which was cut when the tower was built. The date of this wall, which stands to a considerable height, has not yet been determined.

When the coins found in the first season had been identified, it was concluded that the fortification system was not erected at the beginning of the Hellenistic period, but during or shortly after the reign of Ptolemy II Philadelphus (285–246 BCE), since a coin of this king was found in a stratum below the fortifications. In any case, they were already standing in 219 BCE, when Antiochus III besieged Dor. The tower is built on top of the Persian city wall discovered in the previous season. This year, another section of the wall was exposed, built of large, square limestone blocks. In front of the tower, part of a Byzantine water conduit was found and a large building of the same period, erected over both the Hellenistic city wall and the tower, was uncovered.

*Area C* (domestic quarter about 30 m north of *Area A*). This year excavations were extended into several rooms of the large building partly cleared last season. The stratigraphic picture seen last year was confirmed this season. In this area, almost nothing has survived of the Byzantine and Roman periods. Further remains of the large building were uncovered, consisting of ashlar walls and cement floors (baths?), mainly in the southwest corner of the excavation area. In the west, walls and cement floors were also uncovered, reaching the line of the city wall.

In the east, at the edge of the tel, an additional section of the Hellenistic city wall was exposed. About 50 m north of the tower another, smaller, square tower was uncovered, which projects from the line of the wall. The plan of the residential quarter was established and was found to have been erected in accordance with the Hippodamic system, the closest parallel being perhaps the city plan of Olynthus in Greece.

The excavations show that along the entire length of the inner face of the city wall there was a long row of shops and workshops. The shops opened on a straight street running parallel to the wall from the north to south. On the opposite side of the 2 m-wide street, the fine façade of a long, narrow, block of residential buildings was exposed. The eastern doors of each unit of houses open on the street, opposite the shops. This year, the western façade of this block of buildings was exposed, which faces another, parallel, street. This block of buildings was probably intersected by passages leading from one street to the other. Similar complexes of houses, streets and shops are also known in *Areas A* and *B*. It can be presumed that a similar block of buildings will be found on the west side of the second street.

The block was divided by partition walls lengthwise as well as crosswise into smaller units, so that each apartment opened on to the nearest street. Probably there also existed a second story, and cellars were found which had been dug into the Persian levels. The easternmost street, between the residential block and the shops, may have been roofed. According to the coin finds, this structure remained in use throughout the entire Hellenistic period, although it underwent repeated repairs. With each repair, the floor was raised, resulting in as many as three Hellenistic

floor levels. Openings were blocked and walls were rebuilt at a higher level. The internal division of the rooms and their function were changed, and at one stage, two plastered pools were built in a room.

Some of the floors were composed of crushed limestone or beaten earth. The outer walls were built, in the style of the period, of local *kurkar*. Many coins were found on the floors as well as Rhodian and Cnidian stamped handles, and can provide reliable dates for the different phases.

The ceramic material included numerous local vessels and many imported wares. Among the lamps are some rare specimens, such as a seven-wicked lamp. Other important finds include a number of bearded satyr's heads which originally decorated clay braziers, some bearing the name Hekataios, clay figurines, loom weights, and spindle whorls, as well as faience and bone amulets in Egypto-Phoenician style, among them a Bes amulet. Excavations were carried out below the Hellenistic floor in a number of places, exposing levels from the Persian period. Here the pottery was of types common in the coastal region, together with Attic imports and clay figurines.

*Area B* (the Gate Area). The excavation area was extended this season and work proceeded mainly in the new squares, though excavation also continued in some of the squares opened last season.

The remains of the Byzantine period (Stratum I) include industrial installations, mainly covered water channels, and in the southern part of the area, a whole system of plastered cisterns. In the north and east, poorly preserved structures were uncovered, one noteworthy for its fine masonry.

In the next stratum (II), dating from the Roman period, the main road into town from the eastern gate was further excavated and parts of the monumental stone-paved road were exposed. The stone slabs were embedded in a thick cement layer, and a system of small drains ran below the pavement, leading into the main drainage channel. The Roman gate has not been preserved, but two drainage channels, which had originally been underground, were uncovered. The earlier drain turned sharply from south to east near the gate, while the later is a stone-built channel running along and below the main road into the gate area and then east. The southern side of the 10 m-wide paved road was uncovered, and fragments of black granite pillars were found on the pavement. The corner of a large house was exposed at the western area of Area B, whose base consists of a solid mass of cement and stones and whose walls are 1.5–2.0 m wide.

Parts of large buildings of similar style were uncovered in the eastern and northern part of the area. In one of the rooms, built on top of an earlier Hellenistic tower, fragments of limestone tables were found of the type known from Jerusalem, as well as a complete bronze bowl standing on three decorated feet and Roman pottery, both local and imported. One of the rooms near the city wall and gate contained numerous well-worked ballista stones. Two of the stones were marked with Greek letters giving their weight: IH (18) and KB (22).

The most important remains in the Hellenistic Strata III–IV are represented by the city wall and a projecting tower badly damaged by building activities in the Roman and Byzantine periods. Additional sections of the city wall were uncovered this year, as well as a well-built Phoenician-style wall which runs towards the gate. Remains of the street running parallel to the city wall on the inside were exposed in the western part of Area B. This is the street already encountered in Areas A and C. Residential buildings uncovered are probably also a continuation of those recorded in other areas. Under the pavement of the Roman road a storeroom was cleared which contained about a dozen large pithoi and store jars. The Hellenistic finds in Area B included coins, stamped Rhodian jar handles, local and imported pottery, loom weights, spindle whorls, etc.

In the Persian period (Stratum V) Dor was defended by a strong city wall built of very large



limestone blocks. This season it was realized that what the excavators had in previous years termed the "third fortification" was in fact part of the same Persian wall. A broad, stone-paved road connected with the Persian fortifications was discovered, leading to the site of the Hellenistic and Roman gates. The location of the Persian gate should therefore be sought below the two later gates.

Remains of houses were uncovered in the area excavated inside the city wall of the Persian period. The finds of that period comprise local pottery, imported Attic wares and clay figurines, including a Bes figurine which probably come from the large favissa discovered last year. One or two coins of this early period were also found.

Stratum VI, from the late Iron Age, was reached in the southern and southwestern parts of Area B. In most of the area, only a thick layer of ashes, animal bones, and sherds was uncovered. However, in at least one square, remains of brick walls were exposed and two building phases could be distinguished, separated by a thin layer of clean sand containing many sherds of local and imported wares dating from the Late Bronze Age.

### 'EIN EL-JERBA

The site (map ref. 1621/2268) was discovered when a drainage ditch was dug, and was excavated on behalf of the Department of Antiquities by E. Meyerhof in 1980.

Three levels were distinguished in the section of the ditch; the uppermost, mainly of Early Bronze Age I, is disturbed. Below it are remains of the Chalcolithic period, which recall the Ghasulian culture and differ from the Early Bronze Age I pottery and from the Wadi Rabbah material. The vessels are not burnished and are decorated with some incisions. The building remains in this level consist of solid foundations (0.8 m wide) and a stone-lined pit (diam. 1.6 m). The lowest level represents the Wadi Rabbah culture and contains stone foundations and bricks. It could not be determined whether there was a still earlier level.

### 'EIN QADIS (SINAI)

During the excavation of Qadesh Barne'a in the winter of 1981, a sounding and surface collection of material was undertaken at 'Ein Qadis, a Neolithic site in north Sinai, about 10 km south of Qadesh Barne'a, by S. Rosen, A.N. Goring-Morris and A. Gopher. In November 1981, material was collected in six different areas of the site (4 × 4 m) and three small soundings were made. The material which was collected dates this site to Pre-Pottery Neolithic B, and probably also to the Epipalaeolithic period. Material was collected from an area of 96 sq m, but the concentration of flint implements on the surface extends over about 1,000 sq m. It follows that this is the largest site examined and excavated up to the present in the Negev and in Sinai.

In December 1981, an area of 20 sq m was excavated. An apsidal structure was exposed (4 × 2 m), with a north-south longitudinal axis and an entrance in the southeast wall. In the center of the structure was a hearth and a grinding stone. A later installation, consisting of three upright stones, was uncovered in the north corner of the structure.

The finds are characteristic of Pre-Pottery Neolithic B and include a considerable percentage of arrowheads (Jericho points), a number of axes, burins and bifacial cores. A few shells were also found.