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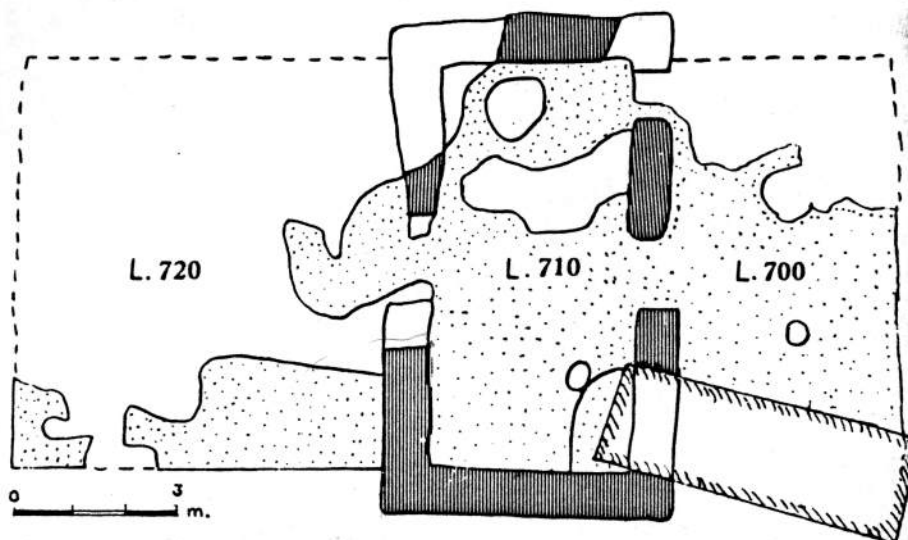


Fig. 1. Yiftah'el, plan of Structure 700. Hatched areas are walls found in the excavation; dotted areas are the plaster floor.

brick and had probably been roofed over. On its floor a large quantity of two species of pulses were found, one in a built silo, the other in a concentration on the floor. All the sediment was collected and the net weight of the seeds alone is some seven kg. The silo, the enormous quantity of seeds and its separation from the courtyards indicate that this room served as a store-room. The northern courtyard (4 × 7.5 m.) is characterized by various installations and three stone anvils, probably implying that this area was a workshop. The southern courtyard (7 × 7 m.) is in a poor state of preservation; only its eastern part was preserved. In its north-eastern corner two grinding stones were found. A grinding spot may be identified here. An open space to the north of this structure contained stone hearths in which were found many animal bones, indicating that this was a cooking area.

The building techniques used appear to be of high standard. The extensive use of plaster and the many pieces of limekiln slags which were found in the excavation area point to the manufacture of burnt lime products at the site.

Structure 730. Excavations in 1984 focused on a second rectangular plastered dwelling. Structure 730. This structure has not been completely

uncovered and its state of preservation is less good than that of Structure 700. However, it seems that Structure 730 consists of two units, one long and narrow, the other wider. This plan is similar to that of a structure at Beisamun in the Huleh Valley. In the wider unit two plaster basins were found, one built on the floor and the second sunk into the floor. Two circular pits filled with thousands of small stones badly damaged the northern part of the structure. A third structure that began to appear towards the end of the excavation may supply the reason for the damage in the eastern part of Structure 730.

(Communicated by Yosef Garfinkel)

Tel Dor, 1984*

The fifth season of excavation at Tel Dor, carried out in July–August, was directed by E. Stern on behalf of the Institute of Archaeology of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Israel Exploration Society in cooperation with H. Goldfried of the California State University

* Cf. *IEJ* 33 (1983), pp. 259–261.

Sacramento, H.N. Richardson of Boston University and Renate Rosenthal-Heginbottom of the University of Göttingen. The expedition staff also included: I. Sharon (assistant to the director), J. Berg (architect), B. Guz-Zilberstein (registrar), A. Cohen, M. Fleitman, A. Gilboa, D. Kaufman and S. Yankelevitch (field and area supervisors), L. Banks, J. Bradley, B. Frank, A. Kopeckick, L. Lanigan, J. Linde, J. Northrop, D. Weiss and S. Williams (assistant area supervisors), R. Younkers (archaeo-zoologist), D. Eliyah (pottery restorer) and S. Dahan (administrator). Some 250 students and volunteers participated in this season, which was also the study excavation of the Institute. The expedition was assisted by Kibbutz Nahsholim and its members, especially K. Raveh, and by the staff of the Pardess-Hannah Agricultural School and its director M. Gur.

This year we continued to enlarge and deepen the three areas (A-C) opened in 1980 on the eastern edge of the mound, and added a fourth area (D) above the southern bay.

Area C2. In the southernmost area, C, work was carried out only in its western part (C2). We dug into the Persian strata, of which several phases were found. The excavation area was inside a long, narrow building complex west of a street which divided two residential insulae. It was determined that the detailed planning of the residential quarter was started early in the Persian period, perhaps as early as the sixth century B.C.E., and continued to the Early Roman period. During this long occupation the plan was preserved and only the inner partition walls were changed. It was also confirmed that the quality of the Persian period builders' craftsmanship, in the classical Phoenician style, was higher than in the Hellenistic period. Area A (below) presents a similar picture.

Several floor levels were removed and excavation was stopped when layers of the Iron Age were reached in the deepest probes. The preservation of the Persian period structures here is excellent; at some points the height of the walls (rebuilt several times during the Persian and Hellenistic periods) reaches 3 m. Area C, with its unique remains of Hellenistic (in the east) and Persian (in the west) structures, will be preserved, and excavation of lower strata will be carried out

in other areas. Many local and imported pottery vessels were found in this area; especially remarkable is the assemblage of East Greek wares found in the lower phases.

Area A. In this area, located south of Area C and constituting part of the same residential quarter (Fig. 1), we continued to excavate into the Persian period strata, as in Area C2, while comparing the stratigraphy of the two. Here also we stopped work after reaching the uppermost Iron Age level.

The situation here is similar to that of Area C; part of a residential structure, including the eastern façade of the easternmost insula and several rooms adjoining it were uncovered. Here too the position of the façade was unchanged in all Persian and Hellenistic phases, while the interior plan of the house was changed several times. The fine quality of construction in the earlier periods was observed.

In this area were uncovered local, East Greek and Attic pottery. Some remarkable finds are clay figurines, a conical glass stamp decorated with a Phoenician-style sphinx (Pl. 10:C) and a complete askos, found in a pit sunk into Iron Age deposits.

Area C1. This season Area A was connected with Area C along the eastern edge of the mound. This new area, designated C1, is devoted to the examination of the fortification systems, which are well preserved here. So far, six fortification lines have been uncovered (Pl. 10:B). The uppermost is that built by Ptolemy II, sections of which, including square projecting towers, were found in all areas (Fig. 1), at some points preserved nearly to the surface. Under this wall and in front of it, a wall constructed in the Phoenician ashlar pier style was exposed. This wall is somewhat thicker than is usual in residential houses (nearly 1 m.), and constituted the outer limit of the town. Adjoining it are several long, narrow rooms which served as casemates and reached the line of the easternmost street. Several of the ashlar blocks here are dressed with the typical Israelite-Phoenician irregular marginal drafting; such masonry is found at Tyre, Dan, Hazor, Megiddo and Samaria, but here it is of a much later period. The latter structures are built on top of a very wide

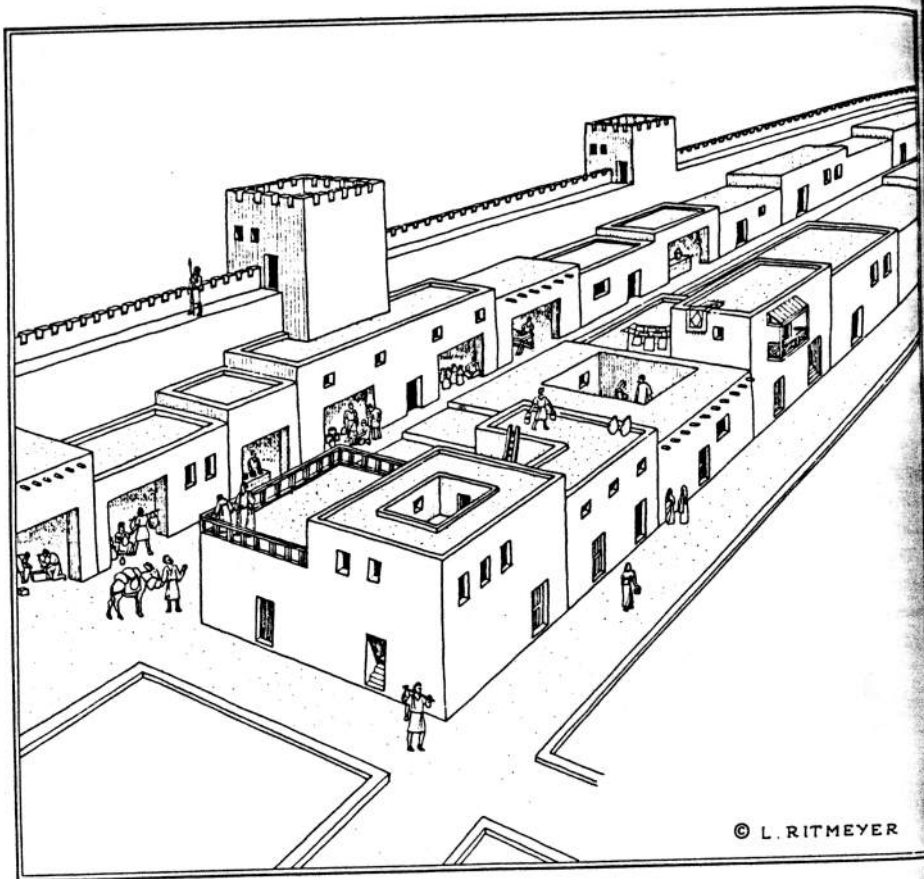


Fig. 1. Tel Dor, Hellenistic fortifications and residential quarter, Areas A and C.

(2.5–3 m.) solid wall, part of which had already been exposed in Area A under the Hellenistic tower in 1980; it is also known from Area B (see below). It was built of large field stones in the offset-inset style.

We believe that the chronology of the three uppermost fortification systems (from the bottom upwards) is as follows. The lowest offset-inset wall may have been built as early as the Assyrian period, and was destroyed late in the Persian period, perhaps in one of the Phoenician revolts of the first half of the fourth century. The 'casemate' wall above it was built immediately thereafter, and was used until the early Hellenistic period. Since it was not a very effective fortification, this wall was replaced by the massive ashlar city-wall in the days of Ptolemy II.

This uppermost wall was used at least until the Early Roman period.

Three additional fortification lines were found under those described above, all built of mud brick. Their exact dimensions and absolute chronology have not yet been determined, though the width of the uppermost system (which probably includes a wall and glacis) was found to be more than 7 m. In our opinion all three systems are from the Iron Age, but so far the evidence is insufficient for precise dating.

Area B1. Field B is divided into two areas. In the northern one (B1) we concentrated this season on two problems. In the east, we examined the fortifications. Here we found the sequence

described above: the uppermost Hellenistic wall was removed to expose the 'casemate wall' and the full width of the stone socle of the offset-inset wall. Its width here is over 3 m., some 0.5 m. wider than the Hellenistic wall. Under these the mud-brick Iron Age wall was discovered. Here, as in Area C1, a mud-brick glacis attached to the outer face of the wall protects its foundations. As we already know from previous seasons of the existence of several strata of the Iron Age II-III inside the town, it is hoped that several stages will be found in the fortifications to match these.

In the western part of Area B1, we dug deeper into strata of the Early Iron Age. Last season we removed the uppermost Iron Age phase (probably seventh-sixth centuries B.C.E.), of which only some pits and installations were preserved. Some of these pits, dug deep into older deposits, were not cleared until this season. In one of these were found typical pottery and an inscribed shekel weight. A lower stratum (also largely removed last year) with two sub-phases may date from the ninth-eighth centuries; to it belong the four-chamber gate (see below) and the mud-brick wall. Inside the town some degree of planning may be discerned. In the east is a row of rooms, which may have been attached to the city-wall. Opposite a narrow alley, running north-south, is an additional residential unit.

The second main effort in Area B1 this year was in exposing the town of the eleventh and tenth centuries. It seems that the general layout in this phase is similar to that of the ninth-eighth centuries. The houses of both strata are generally built with stone foundations and mud-brick superstructure.

Towards the end of the season, it was determined that in the centre of the excavated area, some 5-6 m. inside the later fortification lines, is a deep fill (at this stage deeper than 1 m.) of sand and brick material, containing MB potsherds (and the tooth of a hippopotamus). We may have reached here the top of an MB rampart, but this can only be proved by further excavation.

In the strata of the eleventh-tenth centuries were found several fragments of painted Cypriote pottery, of types very rare in this country. We believe that they may be of the Proto White Painted I and early Bichrome I wares (Pl. 10:D); this, however, will be verified by experts.

Area B2. In this area we opened eight new units against the western and southern edge of the previously excavated area in order to reach the part of the town which lies inside the Israelite gate and to expose the southern half of the Iron Age four-chamber gate and the two-chamber gate above it, which were partly exposed in previous seasons. The picture here is complicated by the presence of monumental structures of the Hellenistic and Roman periods.

Of the Late Roman period we found the continuation of a system of installations, including several plastered pools. To one of these a reused sarcophagus was attached as a basin. It is possible that a large cement structure, believed last season to be medieval, is part of an aqueduct of this time. To the Early Roman period belong two massive piers made of ashlar and cement, with a paved passage in between. This may be the point at which the Roman aqueduct, from the Carmel range enters the city; alternatively it may be part of a gate structure later than that found nearby, on top of the Hellenistic gate. In the western part of the area we found the continuation of the paved Roman gate court, on which the base of a statue or a monument was exposed. The well excavated in previous seasons is in the centre of this courtyard. West of the courtyard more parts of the monumental cement and ashlar building which formed its façade was exposed.

Of the upper Hellenistic phase, to which the city-wall belongs, we uncovered the continuation of the structures near the city-gate, which partly lie under the monumental building mentioned above. A relatively narrow street leads from the gate into the town, where it intersects the first north-south street. Beyond this it leads further west, flanked, no doubt, by shops and workshops. Some of the construction of this phase is, as in other parts of the site, in the Phoenician ashlar pier and rubble fill style. The same plan is found in the intermediate Persian/Hellenistic phase (fourth century B.C.E.) which is associated with the 'casemate' wall.

The gate passage and courtyard of the Persian period two-chamber gate had been uncovered in previous seasons. This year we exposed a long segment of the western wall of the southern gate tower and a small part of its eastern wall. Parts of a house built against this gate tower on the inside,

and the first north-south street beyond it, were also exposed. The four-chamber Iron Age gate was reached only towards the end of the season, and only a few additional sections were found. Among these are parts of its southern wall and some stones of the central pilaster on its southern half. As mentioned above, the excavation here was hampered by massive later remains.

Area D. This year we opened two small areas (D1 and D2) on the southern edge of the site, above the southern bay, which was probably the main harbour of the town. The two areas are located on both sides of the section cut by Garstang in the twenties.

Area D1 is the westernmost of the two and is located near the Crusader fosse. In the upper portion we discovered mainly structures of the Roman and Hellenistic periods. Of the Roman period only a system of drainage channels was preserved. The Hellenistic remains consist of an east-west street from which runs a north-south street; between these streets are well-built houses. Of the Persian period strata we have uncovered only parts of walls which do not as yet form a coherent plan.

Area D2 is located east of the former and closer to the bay. In the two upper (northernmost) units, we found again remains of the Roman, Hellenistic and Persian periods. In the later phases the picture is similar to that of D1 — a well-built drainage channel which passed under the continuation of the east-west street. South of the street was uncovered part of a spacious Roman residence, the floor of one of its rooms decorated with a geometric polychrome mosaic. The preservation of the Hellenistic stratum here was poor. In the Persian period the area was apparently used for storerooms rather than residences. These structures, in which many storage-jar fragments were found, may be connected with harbour activities. Only the northern part of these structures remains, as the entire southern section has collapsed into the sea.

In the two lower squares we uncovered the edge of a monumental building with a thick wall built of limestone boulders. According to a probe excavated on the seaward side of the same structure by A. Raban, this structure was used during the Iron Age and may have been built even earlier.

Artifacts found in Area D which deserve special mention are a cup in the shape of a negro's head and a zoomorphic vessel in the shape of a sheep, both of the Roman period.

(Communicated by Ephraim Stern)

*Tel Gezer, 1984**

From 3 June to 6 July excavations were conducted at Tel Gezer on behalf of the Hebrew Union College and the W.F. Albright Institute of Archaeology Research in Jerusalem. The excavations were funded principally by the University of Arizona and the National Geographic Society, with assistance from the Southeastern Baptist Seminary. W.G. Dever was director and B. Elmo Scoggin was associate director. Eight supervisory staff members from the University of Arizona were joined by some thirty volunteer workers from the Southeastern Seminary. Logistical support was generously provided by Kibbutz Gezer and by the American expedition to Lahav.

The major achievement of the 1984 season was to resolve the long-standing controversy over the date of Gezer's 'Outer Wall', assigned in the 1964-1974 excavations to the LB II but placed by others in the Iron Age II or even in the Hellenistic period. After the removal of Macalister's dumpheaps and the probing of the outer face of the bedrock, the 'Outer Wall' was revealed; it consists of some fourteen courses and stands about 6.4 m. high. It proved to have two phases. The lower three to four courses of larger boulders are clearly pre-tenth century B.C.E. This earlier wall was retrenched, probably to check its footings, in the tenth century B.C.E., when the upper ten or so courses of small and better dressed stones were added. Also at this time, an ashlar tower measuring about 2 × 3 m. was constructed, bonded into the upper wall courses. Overlying this tower, probably destroyed in the late tenth century B.C.E., were buttresses of the Iron Age II and Hellenistic period, when the connecting wall between the ashlar tower and the

* Cf. *IEJ* 24 (1974), pp. 134-135.