Fig. 55. Tel Megiddo. Late Bronze Age city gate; looking south into the city.

In the area of the Late Bronze Age city gate on the north edge of the tell (Area AA, excavated by the University of Chicago Expedition and later covered), excavations were renewed in view of the National Parks Authority's plan to turn this gate into the main entrance to the site. The embankment set up by the Americans for rubbish disposal was removed and it was found that they had only partially excavated the gate passage. After clearance of the central part of this city gate, the passage is now visible in its entirety (Fig. 55). The gatehouse was partly built of ashlars and has been preserved to a considerable height. Three large ovens were discovered in the inner gate chambers on the stone floor attributed to the early building phase of the gate; two were exposed in the left inner chamber and one in the right inner chamber. Fragments of large pottery store jars were incorporated into the oven sides and a considerable quantity of ashes was found around the ovens. These ovens indicate that at some stage the structure no longer served as a gateway.

Tel Dor – 1992/1993

Ephraim Stern and Ilan Sharon

The twelfth and thirteenth seasons of excavations at Tel Dor (*ESI* 13:37–40) were conducted in July–August 1992 and July–August 1993 under the direction of E. Stern on behalf of the Institute of Archaeology of the Hebrew University and the Israel Exploration Society. Groups from the University of California, Berkeley, led by A. Stewart; the State University of California, led by H.P. Goldfried; and the University of Saskatchewan led by C. Foley participated in the excavations. The expedition staff included R. Rosenthal-Heginbottom, I. Sharon, J. Berg, B. Zilberstein, A. Gilboa, J. Zorn, P. Cason-Kent, R. Talman, G. Ben Adiva-Zionit, S. Stark, V. Rosen, Y. Hirschberg and R. Gross, S. Dahan (administrator) and Z. Radovan (studio photographs).

In the 1992 season work focused on five areas—Areas B1 and B2 in the east, Area G in the center of the tell, Area D1 in the southwest and Area F2 in the center of the west slope; in 1993 work continued in these areas, and Areas D2 and D3 were opened in the south of the tell (Fig. 56). The results of these excavations are presented in chronological order, from late to early.

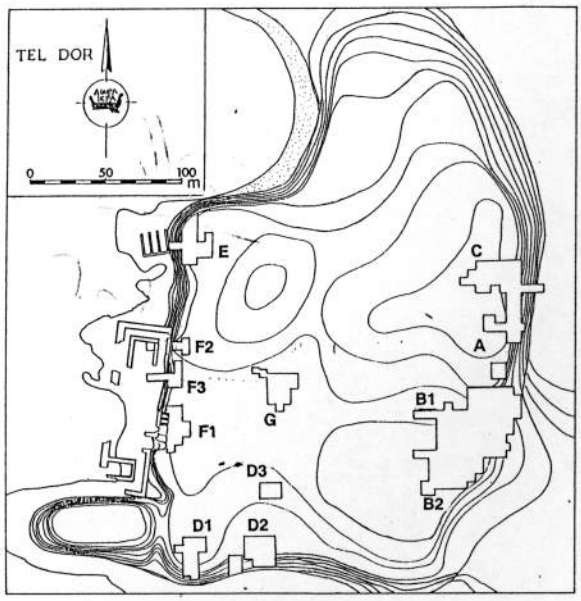

Fig. 56. Tel Dor. Excavation areas.

Byzantine Period

Area B1. When the excavation area was extended northward and eastward on the slopes of the tell, buildings were exposed of the lower city, which spread at the foot of the tell from the Roman period onward. The foundations of a large Roman ashlar-built structure attributed to the 2nd or the first half of the 3rd century CE (*ESI* 13:38) were cut by the walls of a later building. The characteristic Byzantine pottery recovered (for the first time at the site) in the ruins of this building included 'Gaza type' store jars of dark brown ware and tableware of the Late Roman Red family.

This evidence of a Byzantine phase at Dor accords with literary sources, where Dor is mentioned as the seat of a bishop in the 5th–7th centuries CE, as well as with other data indicating activity at the site in that period. These include the remains of a church excavated southeast of the tell and the indications of maritime activity in the harbor. Although in the Byzantine period most of the overseas trade must have shifted to the harbor of Caesarea and the main urban center on the tell seems to have been uninhabited after the mid-3rd century CE, a small village existed at the site. Its houses clustered around the church and spread to the east and south, as attested by the remains found intermittently at Kibbutz Naḥsholim or in its fishponds. The structure exposed in Area B1 was probably one of the outlying houses of that village.

Roman and Late Hellenistic Periods

Three strata could be distinguished in the remains of the Roman period in Areas B2, D3 and F: the first, of the 3rd century CE; the second, of the 2nd century CE; and the third, attributed to the transition from the Late Hellenistic period to the Roman period (1st century BCE–1st century CE), which continues the architectural tradition of the Hellenistic city.

Area B2. The excavation of the large courtyard-building (*ESI* 13:39) was completed. The courtyard, which was fully cleared, had a cobbled open center, surrounded on four sides by a colonnade. The center of the open courtyard was separated from the walkway under the colonnade by a partition of thin marble slabs. Slots for inserting the slabs were found in the base of a column still *in situ* and slab fragments, some of them inscribed, were recovered in this area in past seasons. The walkway was paved with crushed *kurkar* mixed with broken seashells.

Excavations were begun in the structure opposite the courtyard building, in the southwest corner of the area, part of which had been exposed in 1987 (*ESI* 7–8:46–47). It was found that this structure belonged to a large building complex. Thus far, a low rubble-filled podium enclosed by ashlar walls has been exposed in this complex; its width is 18 m, while its length remains unknown, since its south end has not yet been excavated (Fig. 57). The

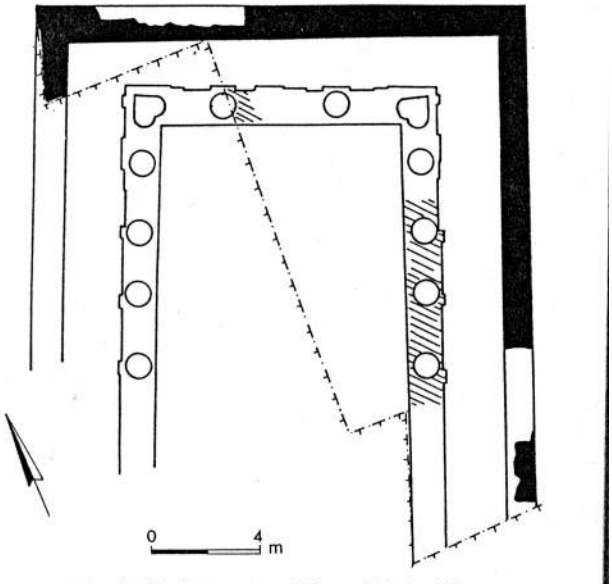

Fig. 57. Tel Dor. Area B2, public building of Roman period, plan.

podium was paved with thin marble slabs in a style reminiscent of *opus sectile*; some of these slabs were uncovered *in situ*, while others, which had not survived, left their imprints in the concrete base. Similar marks indicate that formerly the structure contained an inner colonnade at least along three sides. Broken columns, some of them heart-shaped in section that were previously found in a pile north of this building (and attributed at that time to a building further north), may in fact belong to this colonnade. The structure adjoining the courtyard seems to have been in use in the previous Roman stratum, though its plan was different.

In the proposed reconstruction, the colonnade is a peristyle enclosing a courtyard fronting a public building extending west of the excavated area (Fig. 58). This reconstruction is based on the narrow space (4 m) between the outer walls and the colonnades compared to the width of the central space (10 m) and on the apparent absence of solid stylobates under the colonnades.

Only the uppermost level of the superimposed pavements of the adjacent Roman street runs up to the peristyle's walls; therefore this structure was attributed to the Late Roman stratum, that is, to the last urban phase at Dor, in the first quarter of the 3rd century CE. The peristyle foundations rest on the stone pavement of the Early Roman street. Together with the findings in Area F (see below), the evidence shows that in the Late Roman stratum (3rd century CE) public buildings were indeed erected, in addition to the earlier Roman structures being reused.

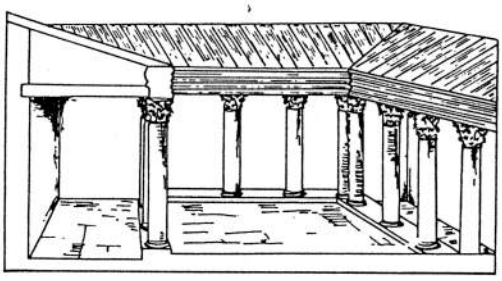

Fig. 58. Tel Dor. Area B2, restoration of peristyle and atrium.

Area D3. A large industrial installation with several large furnaces (vats?) made of semi-baked clay was uncovered, as well as numerous narrow drains. No industrial waste or ashes were found, so that its function could not be determined. Among the finds was a green jasper gem carved on both sides. A snake is represented on one side and a sign surrounded by meaningless pseudo-Phoenician letters (Fig. 59) on the other. This gem belongs to a group of Egyptian Khnubis amulets of the Roman period, which were believed to cure digestive problems. This type, of which several examples were found at Caesarea, dates from the 2nd century CE.

Fig. 59. Tel Dor. Impression of Egyptian amulet (length *c.* 1.2 cm).

Area F. Area F2 was opened north of Area F1 (*ESI* 7–8:48–49) in order to investigate the area outside the north gate of the temple precinct and the north part of the temple podium (Fig. 60). This area was thought suitable for a re-evaluation of the temple: the area northeast of the temple precinct had not

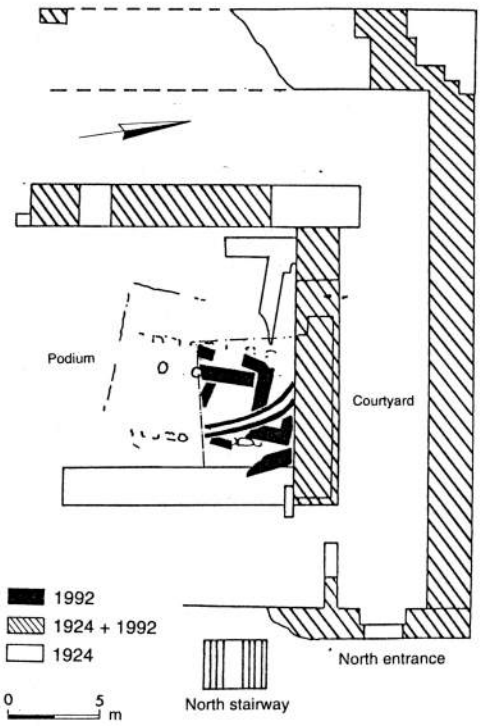

Fig. 60. Tel Dor. Area F2: north part of temple precinct, plan.

been previously excavated; the north part of the podium was untouched by the sea; and Garstang ended his excavation of this part of the podium at the level of the original temple floor.

Erosion and stone robbing since Garstang excavated the site 70 years ago left the podium in a sorry state. Only two small round hillocks remained of the north part of the podium; architectural elements left in place had tumbled to the courtyard's bottom or had disappeared; the entire north podium wall had been robbed; other walls described in Garstang's report have completely disappeared, while walls not mentioned in his report are today visible on the surface.

At the end of the 1992 season it was seen that unlike other temples of the Roman period, where the podium was built up from the contemporary surface and filled with debris, at Dor the top of the podium was at the existing settlement level. Around it, the enclosing courtyard was dug down to a lower level, with the exception of the stairway connecting the podium with the courtyard (Fig. 61a; for the courtyard, see below). As a result of this construction method, an undisturbed sequence of pre-temple strata was preserved in the podium core. Some of these were sealed by a small segment remaining of the thick plaster floor of the temple podium. These strata range in date from the Iron Age to the transition between the Hellenistic and Roman periods.

The latest pre-temple architectural element exposed is a covered drain channel. The few sherds recovered in it, as well as its construction method, indicate that it was built in the Roman period. It cuts across a wall complex associated with floor fragments, also partly sealed by the podium floor. The pottery assemblage recovered on these floors dates from the end of the Hellenistic period. These findings further support the conclusion that the temple—the podium and the ashlar walls of the enclosure—was built in the Late Roman rather than in the Hellenistic period, as Garstang had assumed.

One of the walls earlier than the temple has some strange features. Projections—supports or insets—without any structural function were attached to the plastered west face of the wall. Two niches were also uncovered in this wall, one with a simple lintel and the other with a gabled lintel. A white plaster floor running up to the wall from the east was attributed to the transitional period (1st century BCE–1st century CE), but the wall may be earlier. The special features of this wall reopen the question whether the temple was erected on top of an earlier cult structure.

The cleaning of the podium walls revealed that while the outer wall face was dry-built of large ashlars, considerable use was made of concrete on the inner, concealed, face. In some sections, the wall core consisted of a conglomerate of concrete and small stones. The appearance of the temple walls as Hellenistic-style dry masonry is thus a deliberate archaization. It was this appearance which misled Garstang.

Thus far, six building blocks bearing masons' marks have been recovered in the temple walls. All the marks consist of the Greek letter *alpha*, so that they cannot denote the order of construction. This mark may have been the quarry's batch number or size designation.

A stairway (width 3.5 m) running south–north along the enclosure wall down to the north gateway into the enclosure was partially uncovered to the east and beyond the enclosure wall, in an area not excavated by Garstang. The stairway was built in a ramp, probably dug down from the existing surface level in the Roman period, with its base at the courtyard level. The east side of the ramp was a massive retaining wall which was dismantled in antiquity, possibly when the temple was still in use. At that time, the entire excavated area east of the ramp was filled to a depth of *c.* 2 m with earth which contained a great quantity of Late Roman potsherds and which sealed the stairway.

At the east end of Area F2, in a region which had not been disturbed by the construction of the temple, the stone pavement of a street or an open piazza was exposed close to the surface. This pavement stops just short of the presumed line of the ramp's retaining wall and may have been cut by that wall. On the east, the pavement is cut by concrete foundations of a type well known from structures of the Late Roman period at Dor. These walls were presumably part of the changes in the layout of the west part of the town concurrent with the construction of the temple. Walls and floors of the Hellenistic period began to appear under these remains.

In 1993, work continued in this area and a row of squares was opened forming a trench at right angles to the temple on the east. It was found that the enclosure wall did not exist there and that the podium wall had been completely robbed, leaving only a broad robbers' trench. The floor levels of the temple were estimated according to the

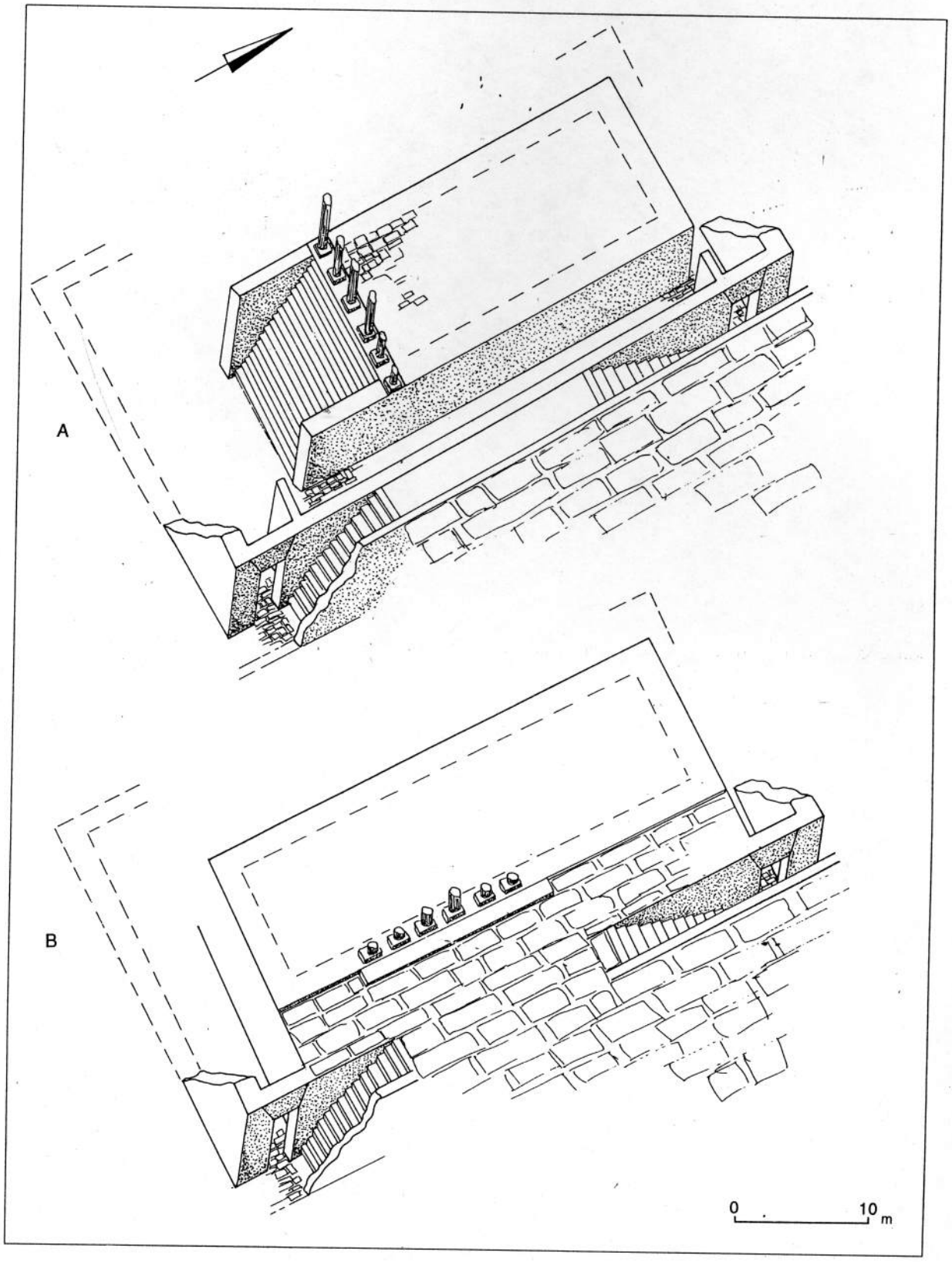

Fig. 61. Tel Dor. Area F: (a) reconstruction of temple after 1992 season;
(b) reconstruction of temple after 1993 season.

maximum height of the walls of the Persian and Hellenistic periods, which precede the temple; this probe showed that the floor level in the courtyard east of the podium was not significantly lower than that of the podium, nor of the piazza east of the sacred precinct.

This new evidence demonstrates that the temple podium adjoined the tell on the east and that it was raised above the courtyard on three sides only—north, south and west. Therefore, the main entrance into the enclosure must have been in the center of the east side. While all previous reconstructions of the temple saw it as a long prostyle building facing south (Fig. 61a), now that the relationship between the podium and the courtyard has been clarified, the temple should be reconstructed as a broadhouse building facing east (Fig. 61b).

Two small finds of the Roman period should be mentioned. One is a lead plaque representing a horseman (Fig. 62). Similar plaques were found mainly in sacred areas, e.g. at Baalbek, in water installations connected with temples, or near sacred springs. The Macedonian style of the rider's armor and harness suggests that the figure is Alexander the Great, whose worship was popular among Roman soldiers.

The second is a bone token, bearing on one side three incised towers and on the other the word *baris* (fort, tower) in Greek and the numeral seven in Greek and Latin. It can be reasonably assumed that these tokens were game pieces (and not theater tickets as has been suggested).

Fig. 62. Tel Dor. Lead plaque representing horseman (height *c.* 6.5 cm).

Fig. 63. Tel Dor. Copper plaque representing dancing girl (height c. 8 cm).

A thin copper plaque cut out in the shape of a dancing girl (Fig. 63) was found in one of the refuse heaps—originating either in the fill of the stairway ramp or the clearance of Garstang's dumps. The details of the hair, the face and the chiton folds were skillfully and delicately incised on the plaque, which probably decorated some wooden box or piece of furniture. The Hellenisic period seems to be the most reasonable date for this plaque.

Early Hellenistic and Persian Periods

Area D1. Work went on in the public building erected in the Persian period, which continued in use in the Hellenistic period (*ESI* 9:114–117). This splendid structure was built in a style reminiscent of Punic architecture. Instead of ashlar pillars, the walls were reinforced with large ashlar *diatons* which were stepped from course to course. The structure is located at the approach to the headland on which the citadel was probably built and it may have formed part of the acropolis in this period. Moreover, it determined the formation of later strata, since the Hellenistic and even the Roman buildings erected above it took into account its walls and at times reused them.

In 1992 and 1993 we finished clearing the hall, part of which had been excavated in the past, and

Fig. 64. Tel Dor. Head of limestone figurine (height *c.* 5.2 cm).

additional rooms were exposed. A very large pit uncovered under the central pillar of the hall contained a large quantity of pottery and numerous small finds of the Persian period, including the head of a limestone statuette (Fig. 64). Several superimposed *kurkar* floors uncovered around the pit were associated with the outer walls of the hall, whose foundations were much deeper than those of the pillar base. This evidence indicates that the building underwent at least two architectural phases and that in each phase the floors were raised several times.

Area D2. In the Persian period, a street crossed the area from east to west, parallel to the southern port. Commercial and industrial buildings lined the street on both sides. This area was disturbed by pits which cut the street levels. These pits were dug in the Persian period (*ESI* 13:40) and contained abundant material from a time later than the construction of the commercial quarter and the street. This material included several Phoenician figurines and 'Bes vases'. One of the pits contained many pottery fragments of the Late Persian period, as well as a faience amulet and a Phoenician ostracon listing an inventory of 'jars', though the indication of their contents did not survive. J. Naveh dated the ostracon to the Persian period.

An object of outstanding interest, a decorated and inscribed bone, came from this pit. The bone was identified by L.K. Horwitz as the lower third of a bovine scapula. The decoration was shallowly incised. One side bears the representation of a galley with a duck-shaped stern leaving a harbor. The standing figure of the captain and four seated oarsmen are visible in the ship, while on the shore a priestess blesses the ship by raising a chalice; behind her another figure faces a 'tree of life'. The object belongs to the sphere of Phoenician art; its style, which imitates Egyptian art, is characteristic of the 8th–6th centuries BCE. The other side of the bone bears a dedicatory inscription in Cypro-Syllabic script, which was current in Cyprus in the 7th–1st centuries BCE. Only two other such inscriptions have been found on the east coast of the Mediterranean; both are dated to the 4th century BCE. Prof. A. Masson, who published these inscriptions, dated the Dor inscription to the 5th–4th centuries BCE.

The artistic style of the object and the date of the ship type represented on it fit neither the paleographic data nor the archaeological context in which it was found. Moreover, the use of the Cypro-Syllabic script on an object whose artistic style has no connection with Cyprus seems strange. Perhaps it can be conjectured that it formed part of the temple treasure at Dor and that it was already ancient when a pilgrim from Cyprus incised the dedicatory inscription.

Iron Age

Areas B1–2. Work continued in the complex of the Iron Age gates (Fig. 65). The complex consisted of two gatehouses: the four-chambered gate built in Iron IIA, which remained in use until the 8th century BCE; and above it, the two-chambered gate of the 8th–5th centuries BCE. The construction of the four-chambered gate may be attributed to Omri's reign and its destruction to the Assyrian conquest, while the two-chambered gate was built during the Assyrian period.

Probes dug in Area B2 south of the gates showed that in addition to the gatehouses, the fortifications consisted, as in other Iron Age sites, of a system of outer gates which included a ramp leading up to the gatehouse, an independent fortification around the ramp and an outer gatehouse at the bottom of the ramp. A complex system of embankments and retaining walls was uncovered outside the gate. In recent seasons, Area B1 was extended northward and eastward in order to investigate the ramp leading to the four-chambered gate and to locate the outer gate which probably stood at the bottom of the ramp.

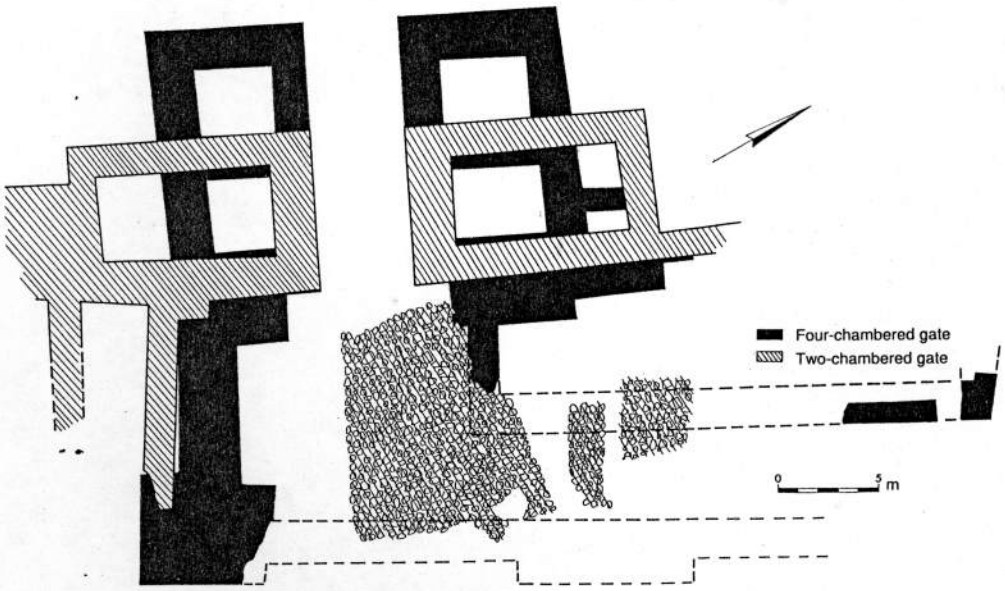

Fig. 65. Tel Dor. Areas B1–2; plan of Iron Age gates.

In the north of the area exposure of the road leading to the two-chambered gate continued. The south part of the road is paved with cobbles and the north part with beaten earth. Pottery found on the pavement is attributed to the Persian period, that is, to the last use of the two-chambered gate. The pavement was set directly on the sand fill which was laid against the four-chambered gate's foundations. The builders of the two-chambered gate probably removed all evidence of the earlier roadway.

Two walls of especially large stones forming a corner were exposed at the north end of the road pavement. These walls, which are founded on a sand fill, probably belong to the outer gatehouse built at the north end of the ramp leading to the four-chambered gate. At this corner, where the walls have been preserved one course high, a hollow was exposed, in which the gate or the hinge of one of the chamber doors had turned. A concentration of imported Late Bronze Age pottery was recovered from the sand fill *c.* 0.3 m below the wall bases. It included 'White-Painted' and 'Base-Ring' I and II wares, as well as Mycenean imports.

The excavation east of the gates showed that the wall of large ashlar headers, part of which continued under the wall extending eastward from the two-chambered gate, formed part of a fortification system connected with the four-chambered gate. The wall, which includes at least one inset, ends at a square corner tower (5 × 5 m). The outer tower face was built of large ashlar headers, like the wall. In size and in quality of the stone work, these ashlars are superior to the stones used in the two-chambered system. On the inside, the tower was constructed of large boulders. Iron Age pottery was recovered between the boulders and in the fill covering them. The existence of this corner tower further supports the analogy between the gates of Dor and those of Megiddo and Lachish. At all three sites, the outer courtyard of the late gate was surrounded by casemates, while the courtyard of the early gate had a solid offset-inset wall with a massive corner tower.

Probes dug south of the gate structure exposed six superimposed thin lime-plaster surfaces inclined from west to east. The two lowest surfaces reach the corner tower, thereby attesting that the plaster surfaces covered a glacis associated with the four-chambered gate system. Most of the pottery found on and between the plaster surfaces (with the possible exception of the lowest) is attributed to the 8th–7th centuries BCE. Thus, all the plaster surfaces represent one constructional effort, or a repeated resurfacing for raising the glacis level within a relatively short period of time, close to the destruction of the four-chambered gate.

A homogeneous sandy constructional fill was exposed under the plaster surfaces. Under the sandy fill, which is *c.* 1 m deep, an earlier glacis associated with pottery dated to the 10th–9th centuries BCE was exposed. One of the levels of this glacis, which runs up to the corner tower of the early fortification system, was brick paved.

The continuation of the inclined wall of large boulders (*ESI* 13:39) was also exposed; this seems to be a retaining wall which is earlier than all the fortification systems known in the gate area. The pottery on both sides of this wall dates to the Iron [illegible]riod.

Area D1. The latest Iron Age stratum in the area west of the purple-dye installation of the Persian period (*ESI* 13:40) was disturbed by pits dug in that period, and only small floor fragments survived. An open space, probably a courtyard dating from Iron IIA, was uncovered under these floors. The courtyard was bordered on the west and north by fieldstone walls, and its uneven floor, which has a marked north–south tilt, was repeatedly resurfaced. The deep hollows scattered on the courtyard suggest that it was used for some type of industry. A limited trial trench under this courtyard uncovered Iron I strata.

Area D2. After the removal of the remains of the Hellenistic and Persian periods, a system of massive walls was exposed in the entire area. Some of [illegible] walls were visible before the excavations on the surface where the sea had encroached on the south slope of the tell and cut the early remains. The walls, which probably belonged to a monumental public building, were built partly of large ashlars (mainly headers), and partly of boulders. The material recovered from the fills and debris dates from the 10th–9th centuries BCE. In the late Iron Age, the entire area was paved with a thick layer of white plaster and probably formed part of a spacious courtyard. In a later period, this floor was cut by numerous pits which contained industrial waste and many potsherds.

Area D3. A stone basin, which may date from the Iron Age, was found reused in a stratum of the Roman period. The basin is decorated in relief with a design of lotus flowers in Phoenician style. It may have been an architectural element which was later turned into a basin.

Area G. Remains of a residential area attributed to Iron I and Iron IIA (11th–10th centuries BCE) were exposed over a wide area (Fig. 66). The finds attest to the special position of Dor in Iron I, when it developed a vigorous urban activity characterized by an abundance of imported wares. The finds also attest to an architectural and cultural continuity between the end of Iron I and the early part of Iron II. The absence at Dor, as at other northern coastal sites, of the special stylistic characteristics of Iron II pottery (red slip and burnish), emphasizes continuity and contributes to the difficulty of distinguishing between the assemblages of the two periods. The remains were attributed to four phases (provisionally numbered 9–6), described below from early to late.

A burnt destruction level in Phase 9 (which corresponds to Phase 12 in Area B1) is attributed to the late 12th–early 11th centuries BCE. Additional evidence of this destruction was recorded in Areas E and F. The destruction level (depth 1 m) on the floors of this phase consisted of rich orange-colored burnt bricks with pockets of black ash. The fallen limestone blocks had been calcified in the intense heat and had turned into soft, white spots of lime. This burnt layer was not identified in some of the excavated squares in Area G; it remains unclear whether it is absent in them or whether the excavation did not descend far enough.

One of the rooms in this phase was crossed by a thin brick partition (height *c.* 1 m, width *c.* 0.1 m) coated with a mixture of crushed lime and mud. Next to the partition was a small basin-like installation.

The pottery assemblage associated with this phase is characterized by Canaanite tradition, exemplified by a late variant of the Canaanite jar and a late form of the 'household jar' decorated with red bands on the shoulder.

Phase 8 is distinguished by a series of floors, of which the lowest rested directly on the debris of Phase 9 and the highest continued under the base of a wall attributed to Phase 7 (W9704). Thus far, no walls attributable to this phase have been uncovered and these surfaces may perhaps represent some sort of leveling operation in preparation for constructions in Phase 7, as was the case in Phases 11 and 10 of Area B1.

Some of the Phase 7 walls were reused in the following phase (6) and therefore only a few assemblages were attributed to Phase 7 with

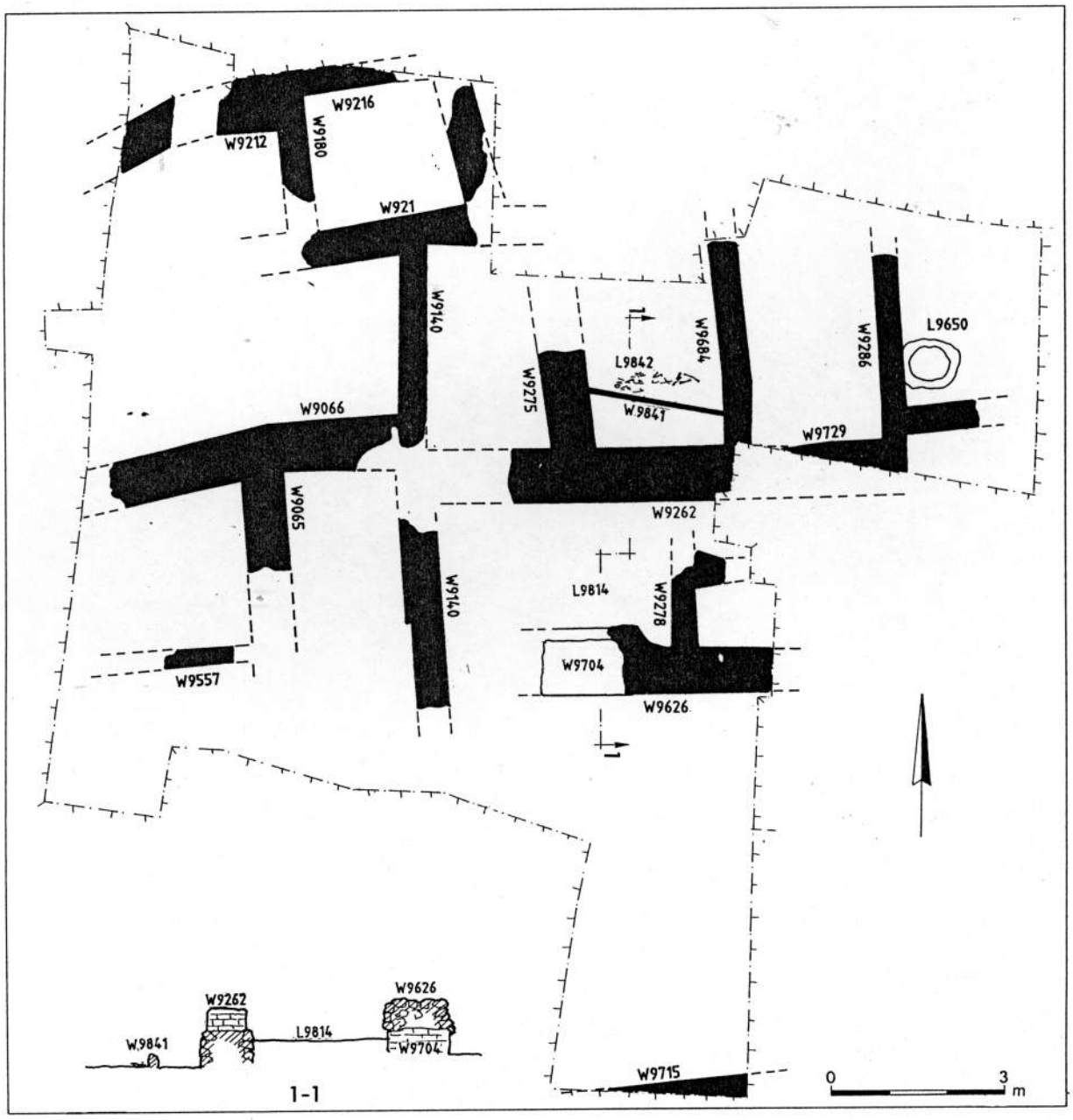

Fig. 66. Tel Dor. Area G; plan and section.

certainty. Fallen stones uncovered in the room bordered by W9262 and W9275 came from a wall of one course of medium-sized fieldstones (W9841). This wall seems to have served as a partition wall or as the side of some installation, probably in a basement used as a storeroom. The complete skeleton of a woman approximately 40 years of age, lying on her side and facing the wall, as well as about six smashed store jars, were uncovered under fallen stones on the floor next to the north face of the wall (L9842). The woman was probably killed when the wall collapsed; her left foot was broken and the skull was stove-in; her hands were raised, apparently to protect her face. Although the stratigraphic position of the collapsed wall has not been finally determined, it should probably be attributed to Phase 7. If this attribution is correct, it may be possible to connect it with the more extensive destruction of the site in late Iron I (end of Phase 9 in Area B1?), which has parallels at

other sites, such as Megiddo Stratum VIA, Tel Qasila X and Yoqne'am.

Phase 6 is represented by a building complex—probably several adjoining residential units—which is a direct continuation of building activities in Phase 7; the basement destroyed in Phase 7 was also rebuilt. In some cases, the Phase 7 walls were reused without any change, making a stratigraphic differentiation between the two phases difficult to determine. The thin walls of the rooms, built partly of brick and partly of fieldstones, rest on stone foundations. In some of the rooms at least two floor levels were distinguished. The buildings in this phase began to be used in the late 11th–early 10th centuries BCE, continuing until the late 10th and perhaps well into the 9th century BCE.

The important discovery in this area of a group of Iron Age I cult vessels should be mentioned. The group includes six small bowls (two votive), a goblet decorated with red bands, a white-slipped chalice with a red band and two horizontal handles and a small cult stand. Some of the vessels are common in other cult assemblages of this period, but the chalice and the stand are unique and the only parallels come from sites associated with the Sea Peoples. The stand (height *c.* 0.2 m) consists of a bowl standing on a fenestrated square foot decorated with figures cut out in the sides. One side of the foot has been preserved and a dancing figure is visible in the window. The other three windows also had different cut-out figures which cannot be identified. Only distant parallels to the stand can be cited: a vessel from Tel Qasila, where a window serves as background for a dancing figure and the musicians' stand from Ashdod.

Lower Dor

Kurt Raveh and Sean A. Kingsley

Following the exposure of ancient remains in the fishponds 150 m east of the foot of Tel Dor, two limited excavations were carried out in July–August 1991 and October–November 1992, as part of the Tel Dor excavation project. The work was directed by K. Raveh and S.A. Kingsley. B. Guz-Silberstein provided a preliminary pottery identification.

A section of a white tesselated floor was visible protruding from the soil in one of the fishponds (Fig. 67). Subsequent excavations revealed several

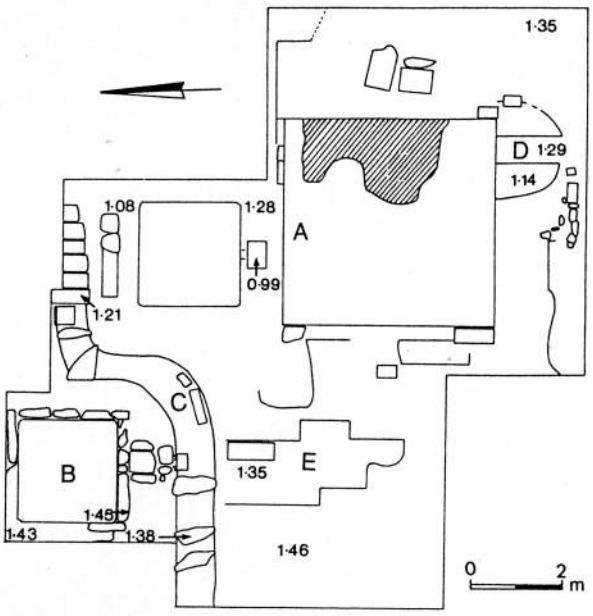

Fig. 67. Lower Dor. Plan.

phases of industrial and agricultural installations, including two Roman wine presses, a drain, a quarry and a Hellenistic, amphora-producing pottery kiln. Building foundations were uncovered in the second pool, *c.* 80 m from the first.

Wine Presses. A wine press excavated in the southeast of the area included a northward sloping treading floor (4.5 × 4.6 m; Fig. 67:A) paved with randomly laid, square and rectangular tesserae. The mosaic (partially preserved) rested on a thick (2.8 cm) bed of coarse brown plaster mixed with sherds which, in turn, lay on a thin (6 cm) layer of white plaster with randomly embedded white tesserae. The treading floor was resurfaced five times, either with plaster or with mosaics. Poorly preserved masonry remains uncovered north, east and west of the treading floor indicate that originally it had been enclosed by a wall. A niche in the wall probably held a wooden beam used to press residual grape-skins. A sedimentation vat (0.42 × 0.63 m, depth 0.29 m) and a collecting vat (*c.* 2.24 m each side) coated with hydraulic plaster were hewn in a row north of the treading floor. The channel which connected this floor with the settling tank has not been preserved.

The plastered collecting vat of a second wine press (Fig. 67:B) was uncovered to the northwest. Its lower part (2.14 × 2.18 m) was hewn into the rock, while the upper part was built of ashlars, some of which have survived. A plaster-lined

channel (width 0.56 m, preserved length 0.82 m), flanked by ashlars set on their sides, led to the vat from the south. The construction of a drain obliterated the rest of the channel and the other units of the wine press (Fig. 67:C).

The Drain. The rock-cut drain (Fig. 67:C), of which 8.7 m were exposed, crosses the excavation area from west to east. It winds between the collecting vats of the wine presses and seems to be a later construction which served the final urban stages at Tel Dor or a little later. The west part of the drain was covered with roughly hewn boulders, and the east part with closely set rectangular ashlars.

Pottery Kiln (Fig. 67:D). The base of the partially excavated kiln includes two parallel, oval-sectioned cuts (2.10 × 2.86 m) separated by a low bedrock platform. Some well-fired mudbricks had fallen from the kiln sides onto the base (Fig. 68). A fieldstone wall exposed southwest of the cuts probably also formed part of the kiln. The absence of kiln waste can be attributed to the frequent disturbances in this part of the site.

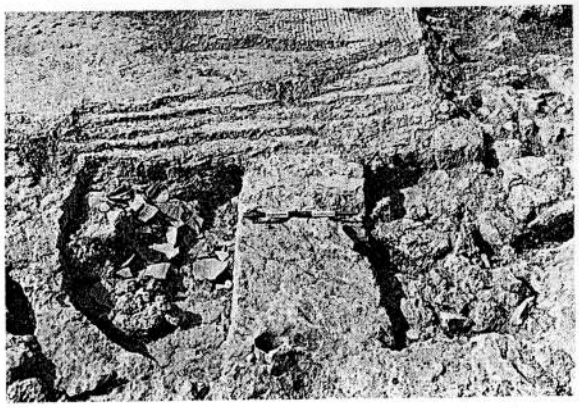

Fig. 68. Lower Dor. Pottery kiln.

Many fragments of Hellenistic amphoras recovered in the cuts were of a type familiar from the tell, where they were found with stamped handles dated to 175–130 BCE, especially to the later part of that span of time. This evidence, complemented by neutron activation analysis, indicates that the amphoras found on the tell were indeed of local manufacture.

Quarry (Fig. 67:E). Remains of a quarry where rectangular *kurkar* ashlars (*c.* 0.4 × 1.0 m) were produced were recorded south and west of the treading floor. Undoubtedly, this quarry supplied building stones to Dor, probably in the Roman period, as attested by the stones in the walls of one of the structures (caravanserai?) in Area B2 on the tell, whose measurements corresponded to the quarrying marks.

Structure. Parts of the foundations of a 9.6 m wide building and floor remains were exposed. The east wall (façade?) is built of ashlar stretchers (0.59 × 1.26 m, thickness 0.33 m), while the side walls are of smaller ashlars laid as headers. The floor was paved with thin, small, roughly finished blocks set on their sides, laid directly on the soil without any bedding. A broken white marble pillar, stepped at both ends, and a stone cornice were found north of the structure.

Trial trenches were dug along the outer face of the east wall of the structure and at right angles to that wall. A well-laid pavement of building blocks (0.35 × 0.50 m) with rounded corners was uncovered along 15 m. The pavement, which continues under the east wall, may belong to a major road leading to the tell in the 2nd or early 3rd centuries CE.