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The seventh season of excavations (ESI 5:24–27) at Tel Dor was conducted in July–August 1986 under the direction of E. Stern on behalf of the Hebrew University and the Israel Exploration Society, in cooperation with teams from the California State University in Sacramento, directed by H.P. Goldfried; the University of California in Berkeley, directed by A. Stewart; McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, directed by T.R. Hobbs, and an unaffiliated group directed by H.N. Richardson. The staff included R. Higginbottom-Rosenthal of Göttingen University, B.Goz-Zilberstein, A. Gilboa (registrars), J. Berg, M. Tran, V. Maestro, D. Shemuel (architects), S. Dahan, K. Raveh, I. Stern (administrators), I. Sharon, O. Cohen, D. Kaufman, A. de Groot, A. Kopzyck, L. Banks, T. Singer, S. Lumsden, J. Zorn, A. Stewart and G. Gross (field and area supervisors), L. Lanigan (photographer), A. Boaz, F. Salomon, S. Halbreich (artifact draftsmen), D. Eliyahu (restorer), L. Horowitz (zoologist), additional staff, students and volunteers. The expedition was aided by the Center for Regional and Maritime Archaeology in Kibbutz Nahsholim.

Eight areas were excavated this season (fig. 17). In Area C-1, a section was cut through the eastern fortifications of the town. In Area B-1, the point of connection of the earlier fortifications to the gate was uncovered and excavations were continued in the Iron I strata northeast of the gate complex. Two new squares were opened north of the previously excavated area. In Area B-2, exposure of the monumental Roman buildings southwest of the city gate continued and additional trial sections were dug in the two-chambered gate from the late Iron Age — Persian period and in the four-chambered gate below it, which also dates from the Iron Age.

In Area D-1, above the southern bay, excavations were deepened south of the line of the Roman–Hellenistic street, in order to clear the area for large-scale Iron Age exposure. A large Persian building was uncovered north of that street. In D-2, the expansion of the area northwards was begun.

In Area E, opened last season at the northwest corner of the mound, excavations were extended and the date of the stone-hewn dry docks at the foot of the tell was reexamined, in an attempt to identify and date the eastern wall of the dockyard. At the bottom of the slope several successive revetments of various dates were exposed, but no connection between them and the docks could be established with certainty, nor could these be dated. Therefore, the docks should be regarded for the present as undatable stratigraphically.

Two new areas were opened this year: Area F, intended to reexamine the date of the two large podium temples at the west end of the tell, and Area G, in the exact center of the tell, where the intersection of the main east–west and north–south streets of the city were projected.

Below is a review of the major results of the 1986 season, period by period.

*Middle and Late Bronze Ages.* In Area E, in the square at the bottom of the slope of the mound, the excavations reached a Middle Bronze IIC/Late Bronze IA horizon, less than 1 m above the *kurkar* bedrock. In 1981, not far from this point, Raban located Middle Bronze IIA deposits, the earliest material recorded at Dor. The remains exposed this year include the corner of a structure built of very large boulders and part of the floor of a room. The finds here contain a surprising amount of fragments of imported wares — white painted, red-on-black and monochrome — as well as fragments of faience tiles and a faience bowl.

*Iron Age I.* In Area B-1, at the east end of the excavation area, above the inside of the Middle Bronze Age rampart, Iron Age I remains have been preserved to a depth of more than one meter. Three phases of mudbrick architecture were discerned, but the difficulties of excavation at this

spot prevented a more extensive exposure. The latest phase yielded a relatively large assemblage of Cypriot pottery and is attributed to the late 11th or the first quarter of the 10th century BCE. The two earlier phases did not contain any imported vessels, but yielded decorated wares of the unburnished bichrome type. Very few Philistine sherds were recovered and it is unlikely that they represent a Philistine occupation of the site, nor was any pottery found which is associated with Israelite settlement. The small finds include a scarab, a broken iron knife and an ivory ruler incised with a bull in Mycenaean style. However, the ivory ruler may well be an heirloom or a re-deposited piece from the Late Bronze Age.

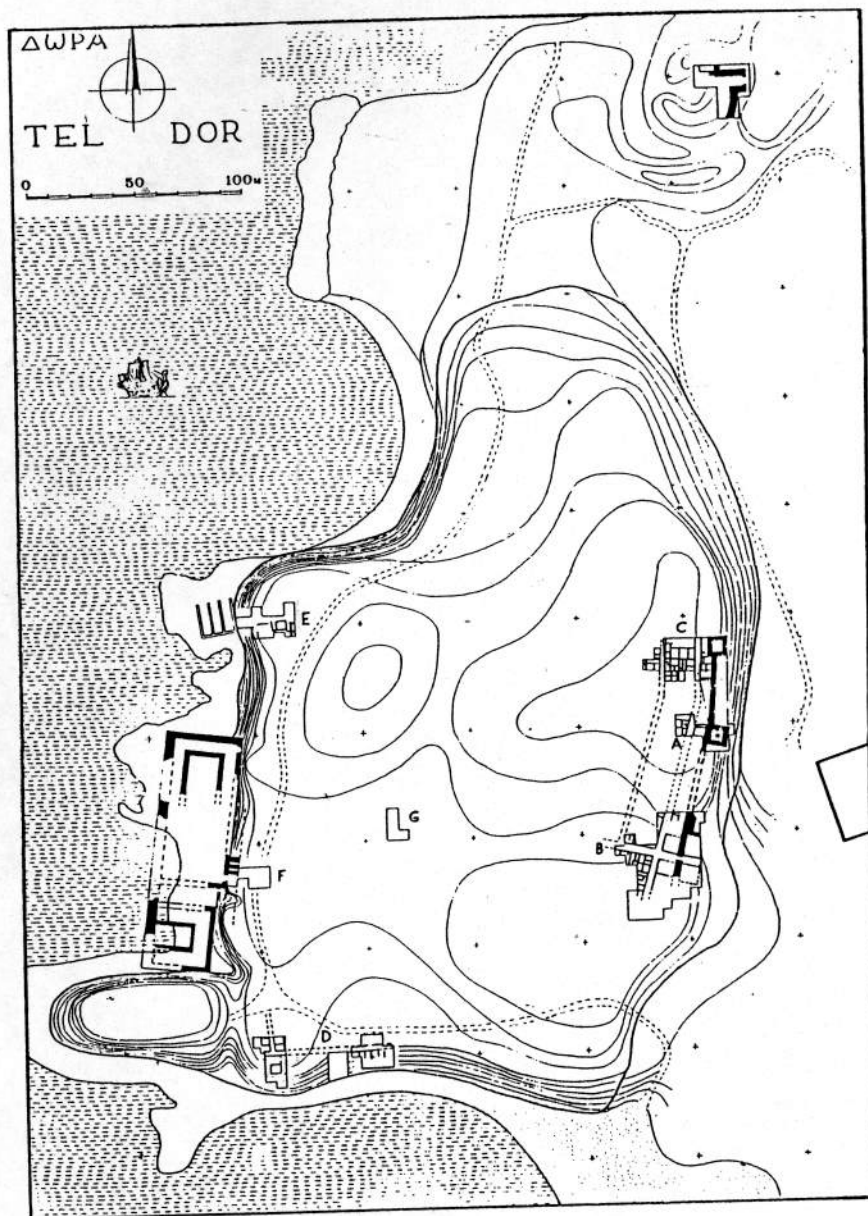


Fig. 17. Tel Dor. Plan of the tell in the Roman period

*Iron Age II.* In order to work out the stratigraphy of the eastern city fortifications, three sections were dug in Areas B-1, B-2 and C-1. The most significant find for understanding the stratigraphy was made in Area C-1. In previous seasons three Iron Age fortification systems had been uncovered in this area — a large boulder offset-inset wall with ashlar at the offset corners, a broad mudbrick wall, also built with offsets and insets (the upper mudbrick wall) and another mudbrick wall at the bottom of the slope (the lower mudbrick wall). Last season it was established that both the boulder wall (which was built in the Iron Age) and the upper mudbrick wall were later than the lower mudbrick wall. At that time it was thought that the boulder wall was later than the upper mudbrick wall, in accordance with Area B-1, where a boulder wall associated with a two-chambered gate superseded a mudbrick wall associated with a four-chambered gate. This season, part of the Late Persian/Early Hellenistic complex was removed in order to expose the boulder wall and the mudbrick wall. The excavation showed beyond any doubt that the two walls, so different in construction techniques, are in fact two sections of the same fortification system. This composite system may have been built in the late Iron Age and it correlates with the boulder wall and the two-chambered gate in Area B, while the wall correlating with the four-chambered gate is the third wall system — the lower mudbrick wall in Area C. However, the finds in Area C indicate that the destruction of the mudbrick wall is earlier than the 8th century BCE, which is the date attributed to the destruction of the four-chambered gate, if indeed it was destroyed by the Assyrians. An alternative explanation would be that the composite system in Area C corresponds to the two fortification systems and the two gates in Area B, while the lower system is earlier (10th century BCE).

New evidence was also uncovered after the removal of a section of the Hellenistic city wall in Area B-1. The foundations of a 1.5 m wide wall were uncovered between the north chamber of the two-chambered gate and the northeast chamber of the four-chambered gate below it. This indicates that the two-chambered gate (which we assume was built by the Assyrians) was not erected immediately after the destruction of the four-chambered gate, because the above-mentioned wall points to an intermediate phase. This phase may have been a short one, as no building remains can be attributed to it apart from the above-mentioned wall and another wall section uncovered in past seasons above the south half of the gate in Area B-2. These walls may represent an attempt by the local population to reuse the city wall after the Assyrian conquest and before the major reconstruction, still under Assyrian rule, a short time afterwards.

In Area B-2, work continued both inside the gate — clearing the south chamber of the two-chambered gate down to the top of the earlier gatehouse — and in front of the gate. Two massive walls were exposed in this area, one partly overlying the other and perpendicular to the two-chambered gate, and the second perpendicular to the four-chambered gate. Presumably, both gates had outer gate complexes or bastions, and the massive walls connected them with the main gates.

This season, for the first time at Dor, ashlar pier structures were uncovered in definite Iron Age contexts. As yet, it cannot be determined whether these are part of the town destroyed by the Assyrians or of that built under Assyrian rule. This discovery confirms the assumption concerning the continuity of the Phoenician tradition of ashlar architecture from the Iron Age to the Hellenistic period.

*Persian and Hellenistic Periods.* This season, the most important discovery was an intact installation for manufacturing purple dye in Area D-1. It consists of a deep pit filled to the brim with crushed murex shells and a small channel, at least partly covered, with a thick deposit of lime still containing some pigment at the bottom. 'Live' lime seems to have been used to extract the dye



from the mollusks after they had been crushed and separated from the shells. The channel presumably led to a settling vat, which has not yet been discovered, where the lime was separated from the dye.

North of the dye installation a large room was excavated — part of a public building or a mansion. Several building phases of the Persian and Hellenistic periods were distinguished. In the late phase, the roof was supported by a massive square ashlar pillar. The walls were built in a distinctive technique: the rubble walls were strengthened at intervals by single large standing ashlar blocks.

Another interesting discovery was made near the place where a concentration of Persian figurines — probably the contents of a *favissa* — had been found in the past, near the base of the Hellenistic city wall in Area B-1. When the Hellenistic wall was dismantled this season, a necklace of faience amulets and two beads of semi-precious stone came to light. Another significant small find of the period is an almost complete 'white-ground' Attic lekythos uncovered in Area C-1.

In Area G, in the center of the town, a thick fill of the Persian period was excavated without encountering any building remains. The whole area was disturbed by a large dump containing numerous intact vessels and waste of the dye industry. The Hellenistic remains were poorly preserved. The area was built up, but the remains were thoroughly destroyed by subsequent Roman building activities.

Several phases of Persian and Hellenistic structures were discerned in Area E. This seems to have been a residential area with buildings characterized by ashlar pier construction, well known from other areas in that period.

*The Roman Period* (fig. 17). In Area B-2, the large-scale exposure of the Roman quarter south of the gate continued. The plan and function of the large public building southwest of the gate piazza are still unclear. However, architectural elements found in the building and nearby indicate that it had at least two stories. Columns and capitals, of two different sizes and of debased Doric style, were crudely made of local *kurkar* and finished with plaster. The building was erected together with the gate piazza and the elaborate drainage system under it in the late 1st — early 2nd centuries CE. Both the building and the flagstone paved street east of it underwent a number of changes until they went out of use, probably no later than the mid-3rd century. This date is in keeping with the cessation of autonomous coinage in Dor and may represent the end of Dor's existence as an independent city.

Opposite the building, on the east side of the street, excavations continued of a row of rooms or shops. Previously, these were described as pools and some are indeed plastered and were used as pools in the last stage of their existence, but the units excavated this season were not plastered and at least some had doors facing the street.

In Area D-2 the excavation area was extended north of the street which crosses D-1 and D-2. Two Roman strata were clearly discerned. In the earlier stratum, a residential unit consisting of rooms around a colonnaded courtyard was partly uncovered. The thin walls are of ashlar construction and the plan corresponds to that of the Hellenistic houses below. This stratum was cut by the thick concrete foundations of the later Roman stratum.

The Roman remains in Area E afford a glimpse into the processes affecting the morphology of the seaward side of the mound. According to the various strata preserved on the slope of the mound, the early site extended far west of the present edge of the tell, which was created by a massive erosional episode or by large-scale earth-moving operations in the late Hellenistic or early Roman period.

In Area G, the intersection of the two main streets of the town has not yet been traced. Some

20 m below the surface, the excavation reached a pavement of large well-dressed flagstones of a Roman street, with a north-south drain running under it. The massive foundations of a structure which must have stood northwest of the intersection were also located.

The purpose of the work in Area F was to re-expose the southern entrance of the temenos area excavated by Garstang in the twenties. It appears that the area underwent a major change in orientation in the Roman period. The initial orientation, as evidenced by the buildings dated to the Persian, Hellenistic and Early Roman periods, was north by northwest, and is not in alignment with the axis of the temples. The last element to be built in this orientation is a flagstone paved street with a drain underneath, rather similar in construction and pottery assemblage to the streets in Areas A, B-2, C and D, all dated to the late 1st — early 2nd centuries CE. Soon afterwards, however, the layout was completely changed. The orientation of the new street is almost true north-south, aligned with the temenos walls. A street was built parallel to the walls of the temenos, descending in a series of steps to the gate in the temenos wall excavated by Garstang. The level of this gate is some 4 m lower than the contemporary level of the tell. In order to give access to the temenos, two terrace walls were built, parallel to the temenos wall on the other side of the street. These walls cut all the earlier strata, including the above-mentioned 2nd century street. A date in the late 2nd — early 3rd centuries should be appropriate for these building operations.

It is tempting to identify these changes in the layout of the town with the erection of the temple itself. Should this be the case, then far from being Hellenistic, as Garstang suggested in 1924, the temple may be as late as the Severan period. On the other hand, it is of course possible that the reorganization of the area in front of the temple is not concurrent with the construction of the temple itself, but merely a realignment of the streets with the already existing temenos.

*(Communicated by E. Stern and I. Sharon)*

### HORVAT 'ERAV

Another short season of excavations was carried out in May 1984 at H. 'Erav (Kh. 'Iribin), east of Kibbutz Idmit (*ESI* 1:26-27). The work was directed by Z. Ilan on behalf of the Department of Antiquities, with the participation of N. Getzov (surveyor) and students at the Regional High School of Western Galilee. M. Avissar was responsible for the identification of pottery from the Moslem period.

The excavation of the western church complex (fig. 18) was completed this season. Remains of enclosure walls uncovered to the west, the north and the south suggest that the church stood at the center of a compound, perhaps a monastery. Further support for this assumption comes from the discovery of rock-cut hermits' cells in the cliff south of the church by a survey team headed by R. Frankel. A cave situated at the top of the site may also have been inhabited by monks. North of the prayer hall of the church the eastern part of an underground structure (2.80 × 7.00 m) was uncovered. This may be a pool whose ceiling rests on arches, of which only the east arch has been preserved.

The church was probably built at the end of the Byzantine period (6th — 7th centuries CE), continued to exist in the Early Moslem period and was finally abandoned without destruction. In the Crusader period activities were resumed and a shoddy pavement was laid on a 0.45 m thick fill above the original mosaic floor. Walls built inside the church, especially between the column bases, which incorporate architectural elements from the church, should also be attributed to this