

not, however, helped by a weak chapter on Hellenistic medicine, which does not rise above thumbnail sketches of the major writers.

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EXCAVATIONS AT DOR: FINAL REPORT, AREAS A AND C. Vol. IA: INTRODUCTION AND STRATIGRAPHY; IB: THE FINDS, by Ephraim Stern, John Berg, Ayelet Gilboa, Bracha Guz-Zilberstein, Avner Raban, Renate Rosenthal-Heginbottom, and Ilan Sharon. (Qedem Reports 1-2.) IA: pp. x + 369, figs. 118, pls. 321, plans 47, sections 11; IB: pp. viii + 496, figs. 195, pls. 288. Institute of Archaeology, Hebrew University of Jerusalem; Israel Exploration Society, Jerusalem 1995. \$140. ISSN 0793-4289.

So many excavations, so few final reports: archaeologists are uncomfortably on the defensive of late. This splendid publication of two areas of Dor—excavated from 1980 to 1987 under Ephraim Stern of Hebrew University of Jerusalem—demonstrates why the enterprise is so complex and time-consuming. Biblical Dor, or Hellenistic Dora, is unequivocally the large mound of Khirbet el-Burj, situated between Caesarea Maritima and 'Akko on the Levantine coast. Finds indicate occupation from the 20th century B.C. through the third century A.D., and then again in the 12th and 13th centuries, after which it was abandoned until modern times. The location ensured a rich material culture, the duration of occupation an interwoven stratigraphic record, and the size of the site a lengthy excavation campaign. Most large sites provide the same, but few excavators cope as systematically as the Dor team did, and fewer publications acknowledge it. In this regard, the Dor final report makes an especially outstanding contribution.

Areas A and C comprise two of seven areas opened at the site; work continues in the others. These two areas, which were eventually linked, covered city walls and towers, one gate, several streets, shops, workshops, and a large residential area. Volume IA provides a summary of literary sources, previous and current excavations, a stratigraphic overview, and some terse historical conclusions that focus on political and military events (E. Stern); the various grid systems used (J. Berg); an explanation of the registration system and a lengthy presentation of the stratigraphy (I. Sharon); chronological correlations (I. Saragusti and Sharon); a locus/phase index (Sharon and E. Ben-Ari); a detailed examination of the harbor works, and related underwater finds (A. Raban); and a reprinted study of the city's coinage (Y. Meshorer). Volume IB includes amazingly broad and detailed studies of the finds: Iron Age pottery (A. Gilboa); Persian-period pottery (Stern); East Greek pottery (M. Mook and W. Coulson); Attic pottery (R. Marchese);

Hellenistic and Roman amphora handles, fine wares, and lamps (R. Rosenthal-Heginbottom); Hellenistic coarse wares (B. Guz-Zilberstein); Persian-period clay figurines and cult objects (Stern); Hellenistic terracottas (Rosenthal-Heginbottom); marble sculpture (A. Stewart); coins (Meshorer); a 26th-Dynasty scarab (B. Brandl); Iron Age and Persian-period seals (Stern); local stamped jar handles (D. Ariel, J. Gunneweg, and I. Perlman); a Phoenician inscription (J. Naveh); inscribed sling bullets (D. Gera); and Greek inscriptions (Gera and H. Cotton). The direction of Ephraim Stern, though not specified, was clearly crucial; such a publication simply does not appear without clear, determined guidance and a certain amount of cheer-leading on the side.

Areas A and C were excavated in 5-m squares that were opened and grouped into "logical areas," defined architecturally. This allowed houses, streets, and towers to be dug as units, and the stratigraphy is presented accordingly. An important discovery here was that an orthogonal, "Hippodamian" arrangement of streets and houses, established in the latter sixth century B.C., remained in use through Roman times. This continuity made stratigraphic correlations between units uncertain, since rebuilding within one insula was not necessarily reflected elsewhere. Ilan Sharon describes the innovative, precise, flexible registration system designed in response, an understanding of which is fundamental for assimilating almost every other aspect of the publication, including especially the various ceramic studies.

Sharon's two other contributions are equally vital: his painstaking, unit-by-unit explication of the areas' stratigraphy, and his and Saragusti's radically honest discussion of absolute dates. This last describes, for the first time that I know of, a rigorous, consistently applied model for dating fill deposits that not only acknowledges but accounts for two oft-ignored bugaboos: intrusive (i.e., later) and redeposited (i.e., earlier) artifacts. The model, sophisticated and sensible, first "allows" for more redepositions than intrusions, but also accounts for and weighs differently a host of factors, including the amount of restorable pottery in a deposit; the varied chronological reliability of coins, Attic pottery, lamps, and stamped jar handles; and the nature and relationship of one fill to another. This chapter explains why few or no absolute dates, or even easily transferable phase dates, appear in the various studies: every deposit has a range with fuzzy edges. It's not neat, it's occasionally frustrating (especially if one is interested in knowing exactly when a certain artifact appears, information that is sometimes difficult to determine). I applaud, nevertheless: Sharon and Saragusti communicate the complexity, ambiguity, and sheer uncertainty of field analysis without undermining its explanatory integrity.

Though Dor is rich in material remains, only certain categories were well represented in areas A and C. Thus, while all of the artifact studies are detailed, well organized, and beautifully illustrated, most are little more than preliminary catalogues. A welcome exception is Guz-Zilberstein on the Hellenistic coarse wares. Area C included a large, well-stratified residential area, whose house assemblages provide the widest assortment of such pottery yet published from the Levant. This typology and chronology ought finally to replace the relevant sections of Paul Lapp's hand-

book, *Palestinian Ceramic Chronology 200 B.C.–A.D. 70* (New Haven 1961). Rosenthal-Heginbottom's treatments of the contemporary imported fine wares and lamps also provide a reliable and comprehensive replacement for those sections in Lapp, though, for some reason, fewer and less varied types occurred in areas A and C than elsewhere on the site. These studies nonetheless contain so much information that one cannot help but wish for some synthetic, interpretive discussion; the combination of discrete housing units, a continuous stratigraphic sequence, and a well-documented material assemblage beg for further analysis.

The absence of such analysis may be due in part to the highly fragmented character of the site's artifact studies. This seems to be the nature of the beast: large, long-term, multidisciplinary projects find so many different kinds of things, and every artifact type requires a specialist versed in its increasingly arcane presentation. These two volumes, moreover, treat a small percentage of the total finds from the site, perhaps rendering analysis premature. It seems, however, that the excavators did consider some data relevant to larger issues: the chapters on Persian-period pottery and Hellenistic coarse wares include a series of figures illustrating the contents of selected loci in their entirety, intended to demonstrate gradual changes in each assemblage. This is a good idea, but unfortunately a problematic one: the loci are not all-inclusive, and no mention is made of actual totals; intrusions and residual material are not identified; items dealt with in the other specialist studies are neither cross-referenced nor properly labeled; items are not "typed" according to the presentation in the accompanying chapter itself; and worst, there are no explanations. One must hope that the various specialists for each period will unite in the next series of reports to write synthetic studies, demonstrating that artifacts may speak as eloquently as historical sources, would we but take the final step of examining them as useful objects from specific contexts.

This final excavation report—detailed, comprehensive, well organized, profusely illustrated, and in parts innovative—is a gift. With its publication, Ephraim Stern and his co-authors prove how vital and fundamental archaeology is to our reconstruction of ancient life. May it inspire others to similar contributions.

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LA MUCULUFA II: EXCAVATION AND SURVEY 1988–1991. THE CASTELLUCCIAN VILLAGE AND OTHER AREAS, by Brian McConnell et al. (*Archaeologia Transatlantica* 12.) Pp. 210, pls. 69, tables 4. Art and Archaeology Publications, Collège Erasme, Louvain-la-Neuve; Center for Old World Archaeology and Art, Providence 1995. \$65.

This volume presents the results of several years of excavation at a major Castelluccian (Early Bronze Age) settlement in southern Sicily. The first installment of La

Muculufa (R.R. Holloway et al., "La Muculufa, the Early Bronze Age Sanctuary: The Early Bronze Age Village, Excavations of 1982 and 1983," *Revue des archéologues et historiens d'art de Louvain* 23 [1990] 11–67) published material from the sanctuary and the village. Together, these studies constitute the most thorough publication of a Castelluccian site in any language.

La Muculufa II is organized in two major sections, the first treating the excavation and the second presenting a catalogue of finds. A catalogue of radiocarbon dates, a concordance of finds, and a more general discussion of recent and future research on Castelluccian ceramics are presented as appendices. The description of the excavation by McConnell includes short sections on the geophysical survey undertaken in 1990 (B. Bevan), the architecture (B. McConnell and N. Peterson), and a burial excavated in 1987 (A. Riedel). The catalogue of finds, by L. Maniscalco, is supplemented by petrographic analyses of pottery from the site (M. Moore), qualitative PIXE analysis of several sherds (J. Chervinsky), and a description of Greek material found at the site (A. Rovida).

The site itself is very large (estimated at 25,000–30,000 m²), consisting of a sanctuary area at the northeastern edge of the occupied area and the village. A 300-m² area was excavated in 1988–1989, adding three huts with intact pavements to the one excavated in 1982–1983. The geophysical survey covered nearly 3,000 m² of the settlement. Interpreted in the light of a test excavation in 1991, the survey suggests that this complex settlement consisted of dozens of huts, arranged along terraces built up along the side of the hill.

The catalogue of finds presents a wide array of ceramics, stone tools, and other material from the site. The finds are all linked to their stratigraphic contexts via the concordance, and represent the most important types and forms from the site. The discussions (in the chapters by Maniscalco, Moore, and Lukesh) of the relationship between the San Ippolito style, commonly thought to be earlier, and the Naro style, generally thought to be later, are interesting, since both types were found together for the first time at La Muculufa. Moore's petrographic analyses show no significant difference between the fabrics of the two groups. The discussion demonstrates the difficulty of establishing sharp chronological and regional distinctions in Castelluccian Sicily, given the spatial interpenetration of stylistic groups and paucity of fully published assemblages from well-documented contexts.

Lukesh's chapter on style and decoration of Castelluccian pottery discusses production patterns on both intra-settlement and intercommunity levels. Starting from her identification of the "La Muculufa Master" and other groups of artists, she develops a workshop-based model for ceramic production, representing an incipient level of specialization. She defends prehistoric attribution studies as a means of reconstructing production and transmission of techniques between generations.

Assessments of La Muculufa's relationship to other Castelluccian communities and of Early Bronze Age Sicily's role in a broader Mediterranean context are complicated by the lack of other comprehensively published sites. One bowl is interpreted as a local imitation of an Early Hellenistic II type (cat. no. 121). Discussion of the relationship