AJA 98 (1994)

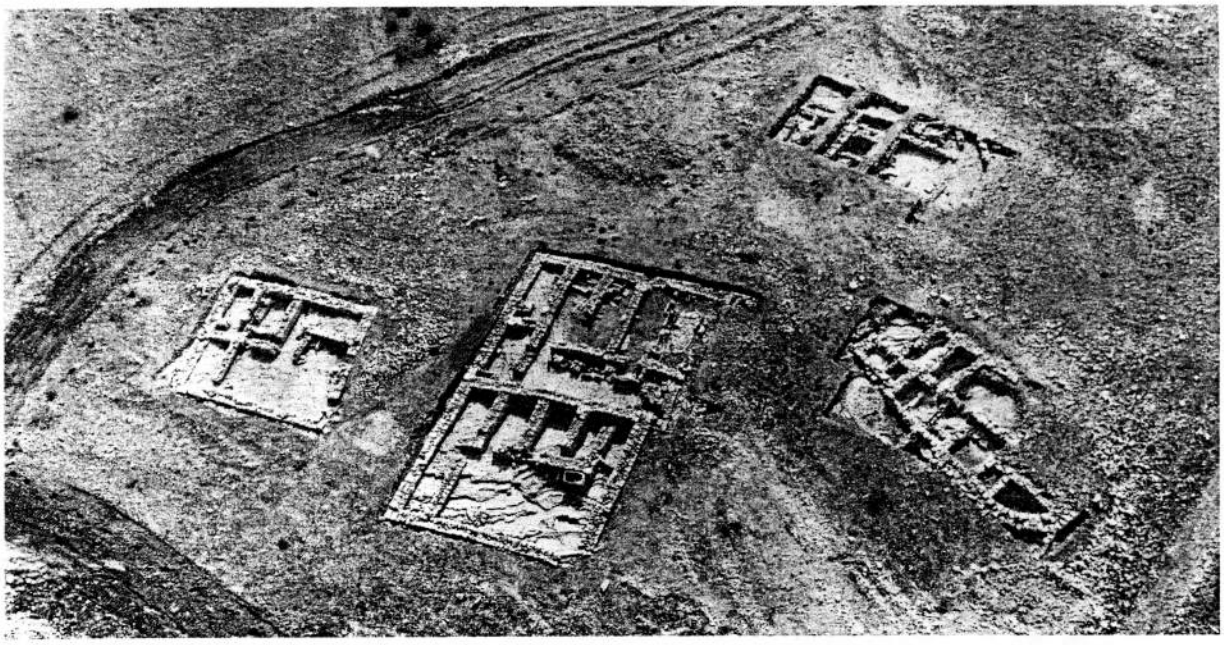

Fig. 11. 'Ein Ḥagit. Aerial view of areas A–D (left to right), looking southeast. (Courtesy Israel Antiquities Authority)

Dor. Ephraim Stern (HU) reports on the results of the 1992 and 1993 seasons at Dor:

Excavations were conducted in seven fields: B1 and B2 on the eastern side of the mound; D1, D2, and D3 on the southern side; F2 on the western side; and G in the center. The Iron I was a period of lively urban activity at Dor. Remains from this period were previously excavated in area B1; at least three occupational phases were found in 1992–1993 in areas G and D1. The earliest of these was destroyed by a violent fire in the 12th or beginning of the 11th century. The varied assemblage of pottery burned by the collapse of the mudbrick walls is strongly reminiscent of the previous (Canaanite) culture, although it may have belonged to a ruling elite of the Sikel clan of "Sea Peoples."

Remains of later Iron I strata were revealed in area G, where a residential quarter with modest houses built of either mudbrick on stone foundations or of medium-sized fieldstones was identified. These buildings collapsed at least once during the 11th century. The body of a 30–40 year old woman was found crushed under the collapse of the stone walls of one of the rooms. The houses were rebuilt along the same lines, however, and continued in use well into the Iron II period.

Another significant discovery from the Iron I period in area G is an assemblage consisting of, among other items, several votive bowls and a small cult-stand. This room may have been used to practice "house cult." Rooms of a similar cultic nature were found at the Iron Age sites of Hazor, Megiddo, Lachish, and Tel Qiri [and 'Ein Ḥagit–SRW].

For recent bibliography, see *IEJ* 43 (1993) 126, n. 1; and *Studia Phoenicia* 11 (1991) 85–94.

Tel Beit Shean. In areas Q, R, and S large areas of the 12th-century city (stratum "Lower VI") were exposed by Ami Mazar (HU). This level belongs to the last phase of the Egyptian occupation at Beit Shean. Buildings 1500 and 1700, which were excavated by the Pennsylvania team, were cleaned, and parts of some new buildings were excavated. These structures belong to the time of the 20th Dynasty. Below them, however, an earlier level, still belonging to the 20th Dynasty, was found. In this level, a large building was exposed below building 1500 of the previous excavations. It was perhaps an Egyptian governmental residency. Both of these levels yielded abundant pottery in local Canaanite style as well as Egyptian-style vessels that were locally produced. Some sherds of Mycenaean IIIC ware were also found. Various objects, including seal impressions on clay bullae, provide evidence of the thriving economic and administrative activity during this period at Beit Shean, which was the main Egyptian administration center in northern Canaan. The last phase of this period was destroyed by heavy fire.

During the later part of the Iron Age I (11th century, probably stratum Upper VI), the town was rebuilt with the same layout. The population during this period appears to have been mainly Canaanite, with perhaps some "Sea Peoples." A violent destruction of the city occurred ca. 1000 B.C.

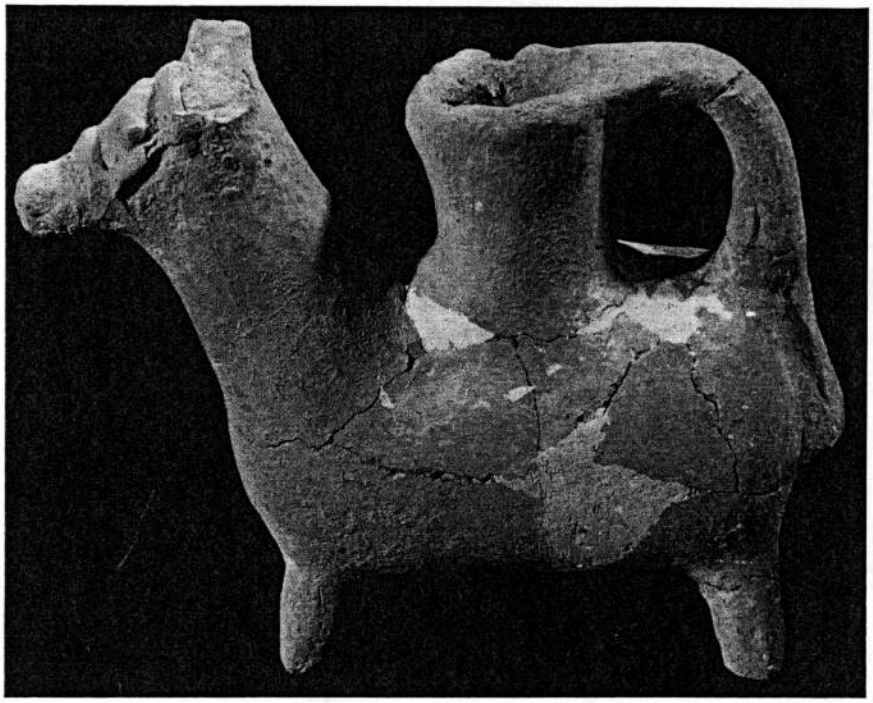

Fig. 16. Ḥorvat Rosh Zayit. Tenth-century zoomorphic jug.

In addition, a large assemblage of iron agricultural tools was found, consisting of plows (two of them weigh 2.5 kg each), sickles, axes, and a 0.75-m-long saw. The total weight of these iron tools amounts to ca. 30 kg.

The pottery assemblage consists of local, Phoenician, and Cypriot vessels, including many bowls, jugs, and small juglets of the Black-on-Red tradition, Bichrome ware, Cypriot White-Painted ware, and Red-Slip ware ("Akhziv ware"). In total, the fort provides one of the richest assemblages of Cypro-Phoenician wares discovered in Israel. The pottery dates the fort to the tenth–ninth centuries. Evidently the earlier fort was built around the middle of the 10th century and was destroyed slightly afterward. The later fort was completely destroyed early in the ninth century. Additional finds from the fort include two unusual vessels, a kernos (fig. 15) and a zoomorphic jug (fig. 16).

The Phoenician fort was completely abandoned, but after a brief period of time the site was reoccupied. The new settlers ignored the ruined fort and established a village whose buildings were scattered on the summit, around the stone mound of the fort. Two units of this village have been excavated in area A, one of which consists of a two-room house with a row of five stone monoliths, similar to those known at Hazor and Megiddo. Kitchen ware, identical to that from the eighth-century deposit at Hazor, was found in these buildings.

The settlers of this village based their economy to a large extent on the olive-oil industry. A large complex of oil presses was excavated in area B. At least three presses were found in a well-built four-room building, with yet another one found outside it. Taken together, these installations comprise the largest olive-oil industrial complex known from the Iron Age Galilee.

This village, like the entire Galilee, was destroyed in the 732 B.C. campaign of Tiglath Pileser III, and its inhabitants were probably deported by him. See *BAR* 19.2 (1993) 39–44, 84.

Dor. Area B1, where the outer gate to the city was exposed, and D2, where a monumental building was found, comprise the most important remains from the Iron Age II period at Tel Dor excavated by Ephraim Stern (HU). In previous seasons, two superimposed gatehouses from the Iron II were revealed: a two-chambered gate dated to the eighth–fifth centuries above a four-chambered gate (late tenth/ninth–eighth centuries). The earlier gate is attributed to the Omride dynasty and its destruction as well as the construction of the two-chambered gate to the Assyrians. It was assumed that, like most other Iron Age fortifications, these gates were associated with a separately fortified entrance ramp

and an outer gate. Remains of the surface of the ramp leading up to the two-chambered gate were exposed in the very first seasons of excavation. The exposed area of this ramp was much enlarged in 1992–1993. In addition, traces of the massive foundations of the outer gate itself and of a square (5 × 5 m) tower at the southeast corner of the ramp were revealed, together with many details of a complex system of glacis surfaces and revetments associated with these structures.

In area D2 huge walls of a monumental building were visible from the beginning of excavation, where the sea eroded the southern side of the tell. Large-scale exposure of this building began only in 1993, following the removal of the considerable overburden of later strata in previous seasons. Massive walls appeared, built partially of ashlar headers and partially of boulders. They apparently date to the tenth/ninth centuries. The building's plan is still unknown. In the late Iron Age the entire area was paved with a very thick white plaster floor, which apparently served as a courtyard. The floor was pockmarked by many pits of industrial character, dating to the seventh–fifth/fourth centuries.

Tel 'Ein Ṣippori. A first season of excavation was conducted at this site in 1993 as part of the Sepphoris Regional Project. The field director is J.P. Dessel (Bryn Mawr College). The site is located 3 km south of Roman Sepphoris alongside a natural spring that still flows strongly. The tell, presently 4–6 dunams in size, has two distinct levels, which may or may not be ancient. Excavations on both tiers produced several phases of occupation of the Iron Age, represented architecturally by what appear to be portions of four-room houses. The best-preserved phase dates to the 10th century, but the houses may have been originally built at the beginning of the Iron Age (LB II/Iron I). Fragments of several collared-rim storejars were recovered from the earlier phase. Some 30 undecorated jar stamps were found, dating to the Iron II period. The ceramic and architectural finds from all areas suggest that 'Ein Ṣippori was a small Israelite agricultural homestead of the early Iron II period but perhaps founded very early in the Iron Age.

Tel Beit Shean. In the southeast corner of the mound, fragmentary remains of a 10th-century public building, perhaps a citadel, were exposed by Ami Mazar (HU). The building was destroyed by heavy fire, perhaps during the invasion of the region by Pharaoh Shishak. In area P, along the western slope of the mound, massive Iron Age II buildings of the eighth century were partially exposed. A fragmentary ink inscription on a pottery jar of the eighth century contains lists of names and quantities of commodities.

Fig. 17. Tel Beth Shemesh. Head of eighth-century figurine.

Tel Beth Shemesh. A summary of the 1992 and 1993 seasons on the tell was submitted by the project's codirectors, Shlomo Bunimovitz (Bar-Ilan University) and Zvi Lederman (BGU):

Excavations in the three main areas (A–C) opened at the northern sector of the site in previous seasons were continued and expanded. The most important finds, both in area C, were an eighth-century gate with two entryways and a large Iron Age II underground water reservoir. The remains of the gate, partly superimposed on the fortification system excavated in 1991, include parts of three piers and a well-preserved fourth pier. Unfortunately the gate's brick superstructure was not preserved. The piers are impressive in size, with some of the cornerstones weighing more than a ton. The gatehouse was constructed with built-up foundations (i.e., without foundation trenches) supported by constructional fills and "sleeper walls." Integrated

Fig. 25. Maresha. Northwest tower. (Courtesy Israel Antiquities Authority)

PERSIAN–HELLENISTIC

Dor. In area D1, part of a large Persian-period structure, used well into the Hellenistic period, was revealed in the excavations of Ephraim Stern (HU). The layout of later Hellenistic and Roman strata was influenced by and reused some walls of this structure. Half of one large hallway was exposed some years ago. In 1992–1993 the second half was excavated. One of the many finds from this building is the head of a very finely carved limestone statuette (fig. 24). Another spectacular object from this period was found in a pit in area D2. It is a bqvine scapula engraved with a depiction of boats coming into port. It bears a dedicatory inscription in the Cypro-Syllabic script. Only three Cypro-Syllabic inscriptions were previously found in Levantine sites, and the maritime scene makes a unique addition to the repertoire of Phoenician art. The object's context probably dates to the sixth century B.C., but the object itself might, on stylistic grounds, be dated earlier.

Shoham. Excavations on the southwestern shoulder of the tell (area D) were undertaken by Yonatan Nadelman (IAA) in order to determine the stratigraphical sequence of the site. Four phases dating to the Persian period were discerned, covering an earlier level from the EBA I. In the earliest Persian phase, large quantities of the coastal repertoire of Persian-period pottery were recovered, including black-glazed Greek pottery. The most important discovery in this probe, whose area extends over only 10 m², was the discovery of seven canine burials in situ. The age of the canine burials ranges from puppies to mature adults (for a recent discussion of dog burials, see P. Wapnish and B. Hesse, *BiblArch* 56 [1993] 55–80). In a later phase the wall circumventing the hill, a stone-lined pit, and a fragment of an additional wall were found.

Maresha. Continuous excavations have taken place at Maresha since 1989, under the direction of Amos Kloner (IAA). Topographically, the site is divided into the high tell and the lower city. The high tell, some 6 acres in area, was extensively excavated in 1900 by Bliss and Macalister. The lower city, measuring ca. 80 acres, consists of thousands of underground rooms, halls, pits, etc., cut into the soft limestone bedrock. Stone quarried from the underground caverns was used to construct aboveground structures.

On the tell itself, only the northwest tower (area 100) was excavated, in 1991 and 1993 (fig. 25). The tower measures 14.5 m on each side at the base; each wall is 3.5 m wide. The constructions date to the third–second centuries. The tower was constructed on the earlier remains of fortifications and structures from the Iron II and Persian periods.

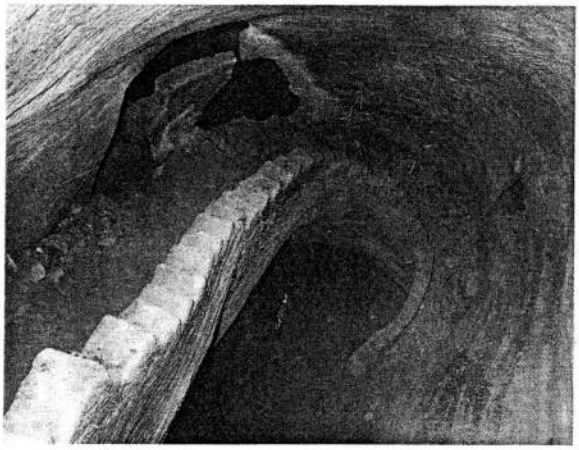

Fig. 28. Maresha. Water cistern in unit 61 (before excavation). (Courtesy Israel Antiquities Authority)

(*kokhim*). In the northern cemetery, situated some 700 m from the tell, complexes 510 and 520 were cleaned out in order to open them up to the public. In the eastern cemetery, situated ca. 300 m from the tell, the wall paintings exposed and published by Peters and Thiersch in 1905 were repainted on cement slabs and reinforced fiberglass and reinstalled in their original contexts (fig. 29).

ROMAN

Dor. Roman-period remains were excavated by Ephraim Stern (HU) in areas B2, D3, and F. Two distinct strata of the second and third centuries A.D. were revealed, along with an intermediate Late Hellenistic/Early Roman phase (first century B.C.–first century A.D.), which is architecturally a continuation of the Hellenistic city. Another attempt was made in area F to check the dating of the temple excavated by J. Garstang in 1923–1924 (which he claimed was Early Hellenistic). Excavations were carried out outside the northern gateway into the temenos, and inside the temple podium. The former revealed part of a stairway that led down from the city to the temple courtyard. The latter indicated that the podium was constructed together with the massive ashlar walls of the temple and the temenos, in the later of the two Roman strata, and that remains dating to the Roman and Late Hellenistic periods are buried inside it. One of the early walls buried under the podium has a very curious construction. It has on its outer face a revetment with a jagged façade, having no apparent constructional function, as well as two niches, one with a simple lintel, the other with a gabled lintel. Neither

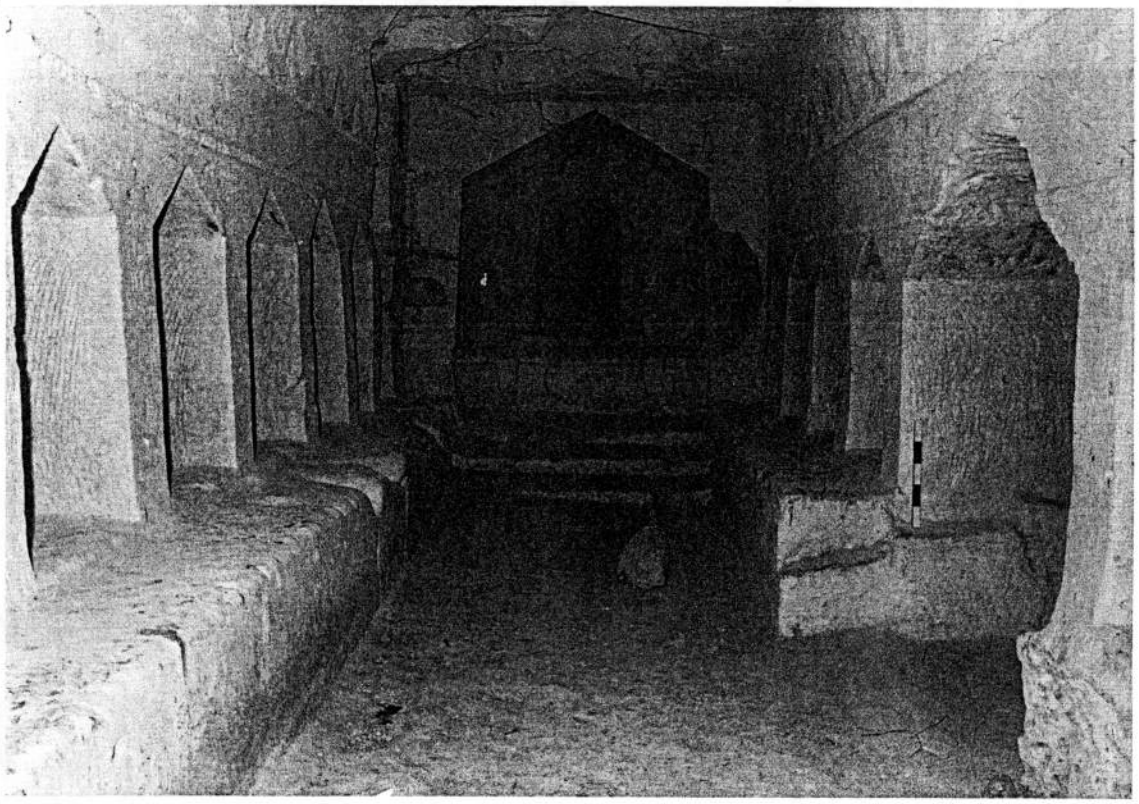

Fig. 29. Maresha. Cave I, before restoration. (Courtesy Israel Antiquities Authority)

Fig. 30. Dor. Copper plaque of a dancing girl. Height 8.2 cm.

is molded or decorated in any way, and no small objects of special significance were found nearby. Nevertheless these features raise again the possibility that the monumental Late Roman temple was built over an earlier edifice. The floor reaching the "niche wall" is dated to the Late Hellenistic/Early Roman stratum, but the construction of the wall may well be earlier.

Two small objects from area F are noteworthy. The first is a thin copper plaque cut in the shape of a dancing girl, with incised details (fig. 30). It was probably part of an inlaid box or furniture and most likely is Hellenistic in date. The second object is a lead plaque figure of a rider with spear. Such plaques are common votives found in Roman temples. The figure of the soldier, possibly depicting Alexander, may indicate some legionary cult.

Caesarea. The Combined Caesarea Expeditions (CCE), headed by Avner Raban (UH), Joseph Patrich (UH), and Kenneth Holum (University of Maryland), conducted its fifth season of excavation, both on land and under water, in 1993. Two underwater areas were explored, area K at the northwest tip of the main Herodian mole, and area TN, at the reputed dividing line between the intermediate and inner basins of Sebastos (the name of the harbor, for whose reconstruction see fig. 31). In area K, which is the site of the lighthouse, three additional wooden forms filled with three phases of hydraulic concrete (*pozollana*) were exposed (fig. 32). The most surprising find was a group of metal objects—pieces of lead sheathing, bronze ship nails, fastening bolts, etc. These finds clearly represent remnants of a wrecked merchantman that ran aground on top of the already tumbled form K/8. Several lead ingots (four of which were recovered this season) were found, all of the same form and of the same imperial foundry, marked: IMP.DOMI.CAESARIS.AVG.GER. Since Domitian acquired the title Germanicus in 83, this would date the cargo to the late 80s or early 90s of the first century—the later part of the principate of Domitian. In area TN, the seawall seems to have been robbed in antiquity. A deliberate fill of the harbor consisting of broken amphoras and some household pottery vessels, all dated to the early seventh century, was found.

Field I is the common designation for the entire area of the sand-filled inner basin of Sebastos, at present a part of the land (fig. 33). The study of the post-harbor occupational levels is the first stage in an overall plan to reopen the basin and restore its original (Herodian) form. In area I/VI, the following sequence was revealed: ca. 500, the eastern quay and the staircase leading up to the temple platform were renovated, dividing the landlocked basin into a series of freshwater pools encircled by wide promenades. Some 50–60 years later, the entire area was flooded by sea waves that embedded beach deposits. This was followed by an attempt to reconstruct some structures, including an industrial complex that contained an iron foundry. Around 600, another marine transgression caused a hiatus, which was followed by some architectural renova-