

Reconstruction of the MBII gate at Dan.



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had stood here. Two small rectangular rooms which flanked this apse had been repaved with plaster three times. In one of these rooms the original stone consoles which carried the roof beams were preserved. The plan of the church can be compared with that of the monastery at el-'Ubar in the Bashan and the church is indeed built in a pronounced south-Syrian style.

The church building rests on earlier structures, which were traced under the west wall of the room containing the inscription. The complex underwent several building phases, not all of which could be dated by finds. In the church itself, two building phases could be distinguished: columns were reused in the construction of the bench and a chancel screen colonnette was found under the plaster of one of the steps. Two square stone slabs incorporated in the pavement of the hall may indicate the emplacement of columns which, in an earlier phase, had supported the ceiling.

After the destruction of the church and the collapse of the roof, the structure was repaired in the Middle Ages: coarse pavements were laid and internal partition walls were erected in the hall. Later changes included raising the floor levels by about 2 m, making new openings and rebuilding the stone arches in the hall, which now carried wooden beams and a roof. Part of the courtyard was also roofed by arches carrying stone slabs.

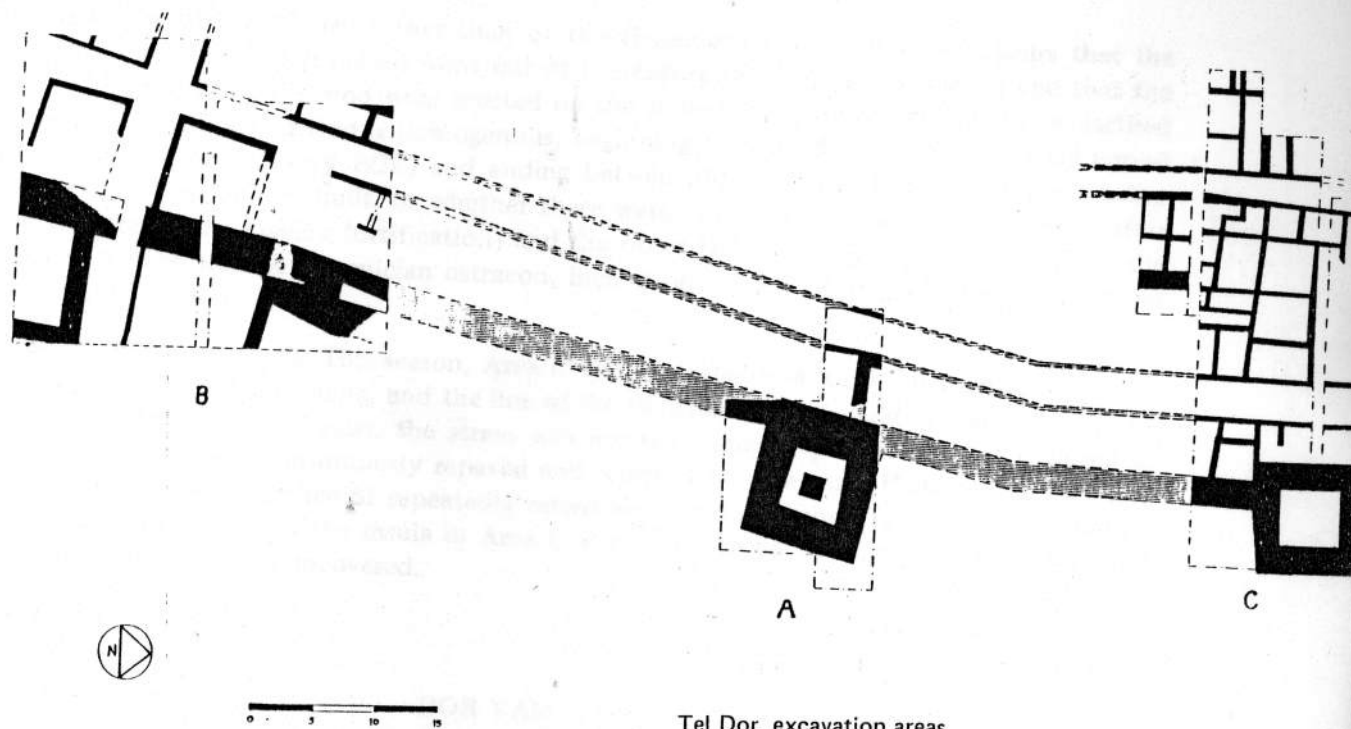
The few finds from the Byzantine period include chancel screen fragments decorated with carved crosses, burial inscriptions, three complete lamps found on the church floor below the medieval pavement and a few ribbed sherds with white-painted decoration found under the plaster floor in one of the rooms flanking the apse.

## TEL DOR — 1982

The third season of excavations at Tel Dor was carried out in August 1982 under the direction of E. Stern and the sponsorship of the Hebrew University and the Israel Exploration Society, with the participation of groups from New York University headed by L. Schiffman, from the University of California at Sacramento headed by H.P. Goldfried and a group of volunteers headed by H.N. Richardson. The staff included I. Sharon and S. Yankelevitch (area supervisors), D. Chen (architect), G. Berg (surveyor), Ayelet Gilboa and Bracha Guz-Silberstein (registrars), Dina Kaufman, A. Wahl, Margaret Remeta, Peggy Day and E. Frank (assistant area supervisors), S. Dahan and K. Raveh (administration), Doris Balsmeyer and Lauren Strober (draftswomen), Iris Kritsman (restorer), R. Yonkers (palaeontologist) and Z. Radovan (photographer). Students at the Institute of Archaeology of the Hebrew University participated as part of their training, as well as other students and volunteers.

The main aims of the 1982 season were to dig deeper in parts of the three areas opened in previous seasons on the eastern side of the mound in order to reveal more of the Persian and Iron Age strata and to extend the existing excavation areas so as to achieve a better understanding of the Hellenistic town plan and fortifications (see plan).

*Iron Age.* Remains of this period, mainly fortifications, have now been uncovered in three excavation areas. A section on the slope of the mound in Area C confirmed the sequence of fortifications found in Area B in the 1981 season. The brick wall uncovered in that area under the Persian fortifications was exposed this year also in Area C; because of its width (over 2.5 m) it is considered to be a city wall. The excavations in Area B revealed the monumental, though fragmentary, remains of an Iron Age gatehouse beneath the Persian and Hellenistic gates. The gatehouse is built of cyclopean limestone blocks (ca. 1.5 × 1.0 m) probably brought from Mt.



Carmel. A reconstruction based on the exposed remains indicates that the gatehouse projected inwards from the city wall 14 or 15 m and that it was at least 15 m wide, with walls 2 m or more thick. These measurements correspond to those of a four-room gatehouse, such as that in Stratum IVA at Megiddo. Two Iron Age occupation phases have been identified adjoining these fortifications, but so far their character has not been defined. This eastern part of the tell appears to have contained large public buildings and extensive open spaces. An Assyrian cylinder seal and a juglet of Assyrian type are among the important finds of this period.

*Persian period.* This season the threshold and the door socket of the Persian gateway were identified below the Hellenistic gate, slightly offset to the south, under the south gate tower of the Hellenistic fortification. Both in Areas A and B a street of the Persian period lies directly under the Hellenistic street. Another street beneath the residential insula to the west is also of the Persian period. It follows that the town plan remained the same in the Persian and Hellenistic periods and that this orthogonal town plan appears on the east coast of the Mediterranean at least as early as in the west.

A shallow pit outside the Persian city wall in Area C (disturbed by the construction of a pipe in Roman times) contained fragments of at least five Persian figurines and a concentration of red-figured sherds. Most of the figurines are western in style, in contrast to those found in 1980 in a *favissa*.

*Transition between Persian and Hellenistic periods.* Under the Hellenistic fortifications in Area C, remains of this phase have been preserved. Since there was no subsequent building here, the walls of this transitional phase, built on top of the ruins of the Persian city wall, have survived to a height of 2 m. The walls of the outer houses, on the edge of the slope, were thicker than the other walls and appear to have served as a fortification. The fill in these rooms, at least in its

lower part, was of the Persian rather than of the Hellenistic period. It now appears that the fortifications of the Persian period went out of use before the end of that period and that the houses of the transitional period were erected on the ruined city wall. It remains to be clarified whether this transitional period is homogenous, beginning towards the end of the Persian period (first half of the 4th century BCE) and ending between 285 and 220 BCE, when the massive Hellenistic fortification was built, or whether there were two separate phases, one Persian (after the destruction of the Persian fortification) and the other Hellenistic, before the erection of the Hellenistic fortification. A Phoenician ostrakon, incised on a store jar fragment, may date from this transitional phase.

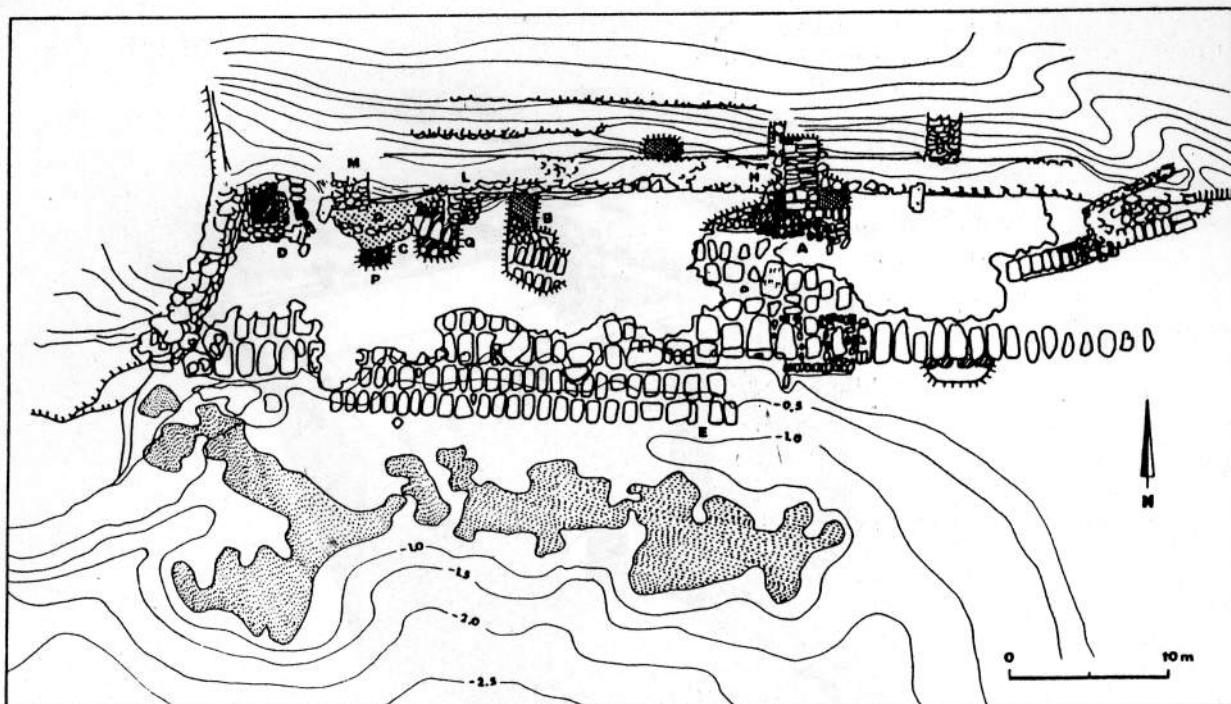
*Hellenistic and later periods.* This season, Area C was extended westward, into a part of the tell badly disturbed by stone robbing, and the line of the Hellenistic walls could be traced mainly by the robber trenches. Nevertheless, the street was located, running parallel to that exposed in previous seasons. It was continuously repaved and reused from the early Hellenistic to the late Roman period, on the evidence of repeatedly raised levels and repavings from a depth of 3 m up to the surface. The width of the insula in Area C was found to be 15 m, and parts of the next insula to the west were also uncovered.

#### DOR YAM — 1982

Several short seasons of underwater and land excavations in Dor harbor were carried out in 1982 within the framework of the Dor expedition headed by E. Stern. The work was directed by A. Raban of the Center for Maritime Studies of the University of Haifa. M. Ratner (architect), Rahel Pollak (draftswoman), students and volunteers took part in the work.

The exposure of the maritime installations from the end of the Late Bronze Age and the beginning of the Iron Age was continued and seven phases could be distinguished:

1. Quay E (see plan), which is now under water and a pavement adjoining it to the north, laid on kurkar slabs in clean sand, and running under the masonry course Q in Area B. The rectangular platform in Area A and the first stage of the well in Area D, may well belong to this phase, which is dated to the Late Bronze Age.
2. Partial flooding.
3. The masonry course Q, built in a direction different from that of the quay. North of it, there is an ashlar structure incorporating rubble and red bricks. At that time, the sea level was lower than today.
4. Partial flooding. The second stage of the well in Area D and the raised pavement in Area A should probably be attributed to this phase. Phases 3 and 4 belong to the late 13th and the early 12th centuries BCE.
5. The first stage (two courses) of the retaining wall H at the foot of the mound. The relationship between this wall and the red floor O, which seals the marine deposits and which is a few centimeters lower than the base of the wall, needs further investigation. It may well be that this phase should be divided into two stages. The earlier phase (attributed to the early 12th century BCE) would then include, in addition to the red floor, the third stage of the well and the earliest stage of the drainage channel in this area.
6. A lime floor overlying a muddy deposit in a low area east of Area D. This floor also runs under Wall L and reaches the upper half of the second course of the retaining wall H. The upper



part of this rubble wall may belong to this time period. The floor covering the drainage channel and the rubble wall which sealed off the well may also be attributed to this phase. The sherds on and below the red floor are dated to the 12th century BCE and include a fragment of a Late Cypriote III decorated jug. The well was reopened in recent times, on the evidence of the broken vessels found in it.

7. Walls M, L and the curved wall in Area D, which precede the 11th century BCE.

#### 'ENAN

A burial cave dating from Early Bronze IV (Middle Bronze I) was discovered near 'Enan (map ref. 20435/27595) during ploughing by a mechanical excavator. The discovery was reported to the Department of Antiquities and a salvage excavation was carried out in December 1982 by E. Eisenberg on behalf of the Department, with the assistance of volunteers.

The entrance to the cave was found sealed by a square stone at the bottom of a square shaft. The cave (3.2 × 5.3 m) had a domed ceiling and was divided into two chambers by a pillar opposite the entrance. Earth, which had seeped in from the shaft and stones, fallen from the ceiling, filled the cave and damaged some of the finds. Three males and one female were buried in the cave in a contracted position, as well as an infant and a child.

An exceptional number of copper objects were found in the cave. The forty-seven items include various weapons, bracelets, rings and toggle pins of several types. Of special interest is a pin 49.5 cm long. Over thirty characteristic pottery vessels were uncovered, including chalice-shaped lamps with three or four spouts and an askos resembling a Minoan vessel in shape.