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the western facade of the gate, showed that the fieldstone wall ran up to the brick facade without narrowing the entrance. Thus those wishing to enter the gate and reach the steps going down into the city had to deviate slightly northwards.

The work was mainly concentrated in Structure 6156, which was erected in Late Bronze I and where some years ago a female pottery mask was found. Fragmentary walls and Israelite pottery were also found in this area. Eight meters of the south wall including a pier, and 9.00 m of the east wall have now been exposed. The walls (width 0.90 m) are built of large fieldstones and are still standing to a height of 1.50 m. The eastern part of the structure is paved with large basalt stones and the rest with packed earth, plaster, pebbles and ashes (courtyard?). A bronze javelin- or spearhead was found among the ashes. A round stone installation, of which three courses have been partly preserved, was found to be built partly near the western edge of the paved area and partly on it. A stone mold for casting scepters or mace-heads was found here. At the end of the Late Bronze II or in the early Iron Age pits containing pottery were dug into the structure.

Walls, stone floors, ovens and pottery of the Israelite II period were also found. The occupation of this area came to an end with the end of the Israelite period, in the 7th century BCE.

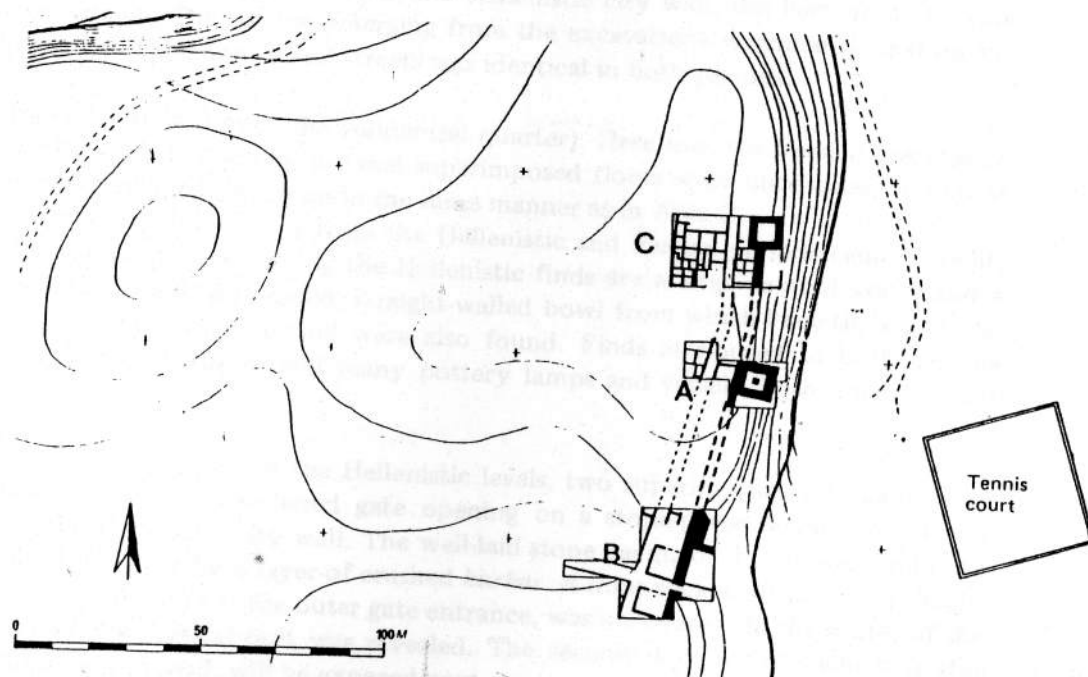
Area M (center of site). Stratum I: The latest finds in this area belong to three phases from the end of the Iron Age. Stratum II: Another section of the paved square was exposed. The deposits on this pavement contained pottery of the late 8th—early 7th centuries BCE, but the pavement was probably laid in the 8th century, perhaps even early in that century. Stratum III is represented by a wall and an associated floor of packed earth and pebbles. Many animal bones and sherds of the 9th—8th centuries were found on this floor. Additional walls and floors were uncovered which also belong to this stratum. Only pottery levels have survived in Stratum IV. Stratum V (thickness 0.80 m) includes a floor of packed earth, plaster and ashes, burnt beams, collapsed burnt bricks and pottery of the mid-11th century BCE. Stratum VI is characterized by pits, one of which (8185) was discovered under the floor, covered partly by a flat stone. The stone-lined pit (depth 2.50 m) contained bones, fragments of pithoi and other vessels of the early Iron Age as well as Late and Middle Bronze II sherds. It may well be that this pit was originally a tomb, which was reused in the early Iron Age as a store. A Middle Bronze IIC juglet was found next to one of the walls at the bottom of the pit. A floor bearing Late Bronze Age pottery uncovered in the northern squares of Area M represents Stratum VII. Early Bronze Age strata have also begun to appear.

The results of the work in Area M correspond to those in Area B1. After the destruction of the Late Bronze Age settlement, pits were dug into the destruction levels. The destruction level of the Canaanite city should be attributed to the end of the last third of the 13th century BCE, and if so, its conquest should be placed towards the end of that century. No additional occupational level attributable to the Canaanite culture was discovered, while the pits of the new settlers reflect a semi-nomadic culture, which can be aptly called "Maḥane Dan" (the camp of Dan).

(Communicated by A. Biran)

TEL DOR — 1983

The fourth season of excavations at Tel Dor was carried out in July-August 1983 on behalf of the Institute of Archaeology of the Hebrew University and the Israel Exploration Society. The work was directed by E. Stern, in cooperation with H.P. Goldfried of the State University of



Tel Dör, excavation areas

California, Sacramento, and a group of his students, H.N. Richardson of Boston University, who also brought a group of student volunteers, and Dr. Renate Rosenthal of Göttingen University. The staff included I. Sharon and S. Yankelevich (area supervisors), J. Berg (architect), Bracha Guz-Zilberstein (registrar), A. Gilboa, O. Cohen, D. Kaufman, E. Frank and A. Kopczick (assistant area supervisors), R.W. Younker (paleontologist), Z. Radovan (photographer) and E. Dalal (draftsman). The expedition was assisted by Kibbutz Nahsholim, the Pardess Hannah Agricultural School and the Hof Hacarmel Regional Council.

This season, work continued in the three areas opened last year in the eastern part of the mound (see plan), with the aim of exposing more extensive areas of the Persian and Iron Age strata and of obtaining a clearer picture of the residential quarter and fortifications of the Persian-Hellenistic city.

Area C (residential quarter). On the west side, the excavations were deepened through the Hellenistic to the Persian levels. They revealed that most of the Hellenistic walls had been robbed and only the floors had been preserved, while in the Persian strata the walls still stood to a considerable height. This season's work again confirmed that the orthogonal plan of the residential quarter, consisting of long, narrow structures, had its beginnings in the Persian period. The street separating two such units was excavated and the facade of the second (western) unit was exposed, as well as the internal partition walls. Apparently, in the Persian period each residential unit was divided into long, narrow rooms running from front to back. The unit walls are well built in the Phoenician style, consisting of masonry pillars with a fieldstone fill in between.

At the eastern end of Area C, excavations were extended eastwards, outside the Hellenistic city wall. A brick construction 7-8 m wide was exposed, believed to be the Iron Age city wall, whose

exact dimensions are still undetermined. Inside the Hellenistic city wall, the Persian strata were reached in a narrow trench. The picture emerging from the excavations is similar to that on the west side — the planning of the houses and streets was identical in both periods.

Area A (the southern continuation of the residential quarter). Here too, the Persian levels were reached within the Hellenistic building. Several superimposed floors were uncovered, as well as the partition walls which divided the house in the same manner as in *Area C*.

In both areas an abundance of finds from the Hellenistic and Persian periods came to light, including coins. Of special interest among the Hellenistic finds are a large painted krater and a large pottery lamp consisting of a rounded, straight-walled bowl from which issue three nozzles. Two bronze censers of the Persian period were also found. Finds attributed to both periods include pottery and faience figurines and many pottery lamps and vessels, both imported and local.

Area B (the gates). Going down below the Hellenistic levels, two superimposed city gates were uncovered. The upper is a two-chambered gate opening on a stone-paved square which was partially covered by the Hellenistic city wall. The well-laid stone paving of its entrance and both chambers was exposed, overlaid by a layer of crushed *kurkar*. A door socket of smoothed basalt, belonging to one of the two doors of the outer gate entrance, was uncovered. In the center of the entrance, the socket of the vertical bolt was revealed. The second door socket, which is still covered by the Hellenistic city wall, will be exposed next season. Another stone-paved square was cleared, which led from the inner gate entrance into the town. Additional buildings were erected on the square in later phases of the Persian period. In the final phase of that period, the gate went out of use, leaving only a narrow opening from which a relatively narrow street led into the city.

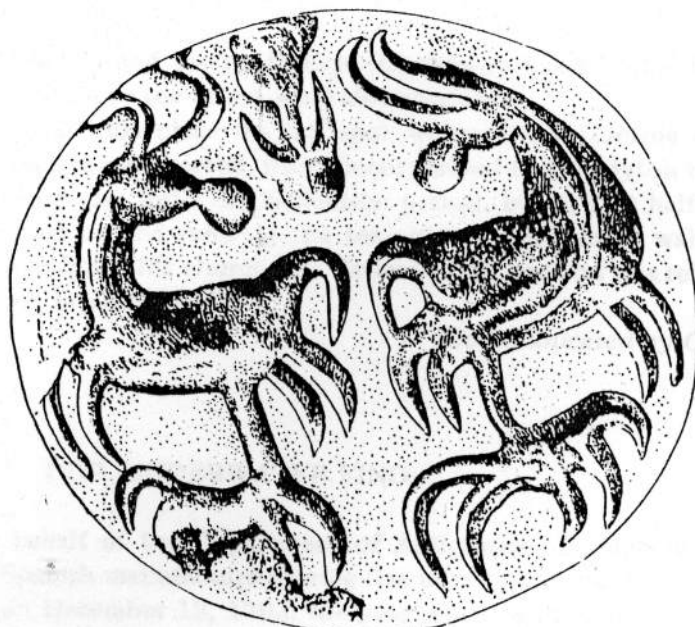
Below the two-chambered gate, the remains of a monumental four-chambered gate were partially excavated this season. The dimensions of this gate are similar to those of the four-chambered gate at Megiddo, but the gate at Dor is much more massive. One of the inner piers, which was completely exposed, is 2.5 m wide and is constructed of two huge limestone boulders probably brought from the Carmel. This seems to be our first opportunity of observing monumental Phoenician Iron Age architecture in this country. The western side of the pier, facing the city, was lined with a row of smooth orthostats of well-dressed stone. The gate chambers were filled with brick material and their openings into the gate passage were blocked by a broad stone wall. The entire stone base of the gate appears to have been built as a unit intended to carry the brick superstructure.

Below this gate, a few soundings reached a layer of the 10th century BCE.

The four-chambered gate is dated to the 9th–8th centuries BCE and its destruction by the Assyrians to 734 BCE. Only material of the Persian period was found in the two-chambered gate and it was certainly in use at the beginning of that period. However, in all probability, it was first erected in the Assyrian period and continued in use in the Babylonian and early Persian periods, so that only material from its last phase of existence was represented in the excavations.

At the western end of *Area B* the excavation of the Hellenistic–Roman street leading into the city from the contemporaneous gates continued. The continuation of this street was exposed, as well as a large stone water conduit of the Roman period. An Assyrian stamp seal was found here out of context as well as a small hoard of Roman coins in a jug.

In the northern part of *Area B* the excavations went deeper, into four phases of the Iron Age, of which the earliest dates from the 10th century BCE. This area, adjoining the gate in the north, appears to have been at that time a residential quarter. In the lower phases, a row of rooms



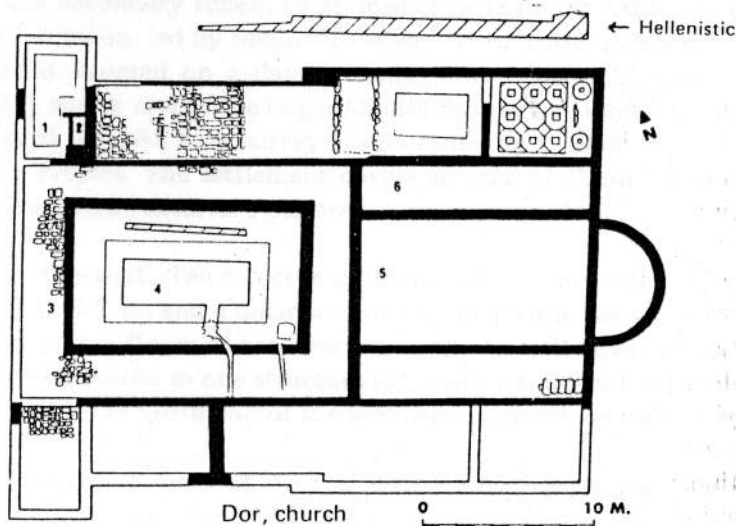
Stamp seal from Tel Dor

attached to the city wall can be discerned, bordered on the west by a street and additional houses. Many pottery vessels were recovered in this area, both local and imported. Of special interest is a stamp seal made of an animal's horn, depicting two ibexes standing on mountain tops with their heads turned backwards (see drawing).

(Communicated by E. Stern)

DOR, BYZANTINE CHURCH

A third season of excavations in the church at Dor was carried out in September-October 1983 by Claudine Dauphin on behalf of the Department of Antiquities, assisted by J.-C. Poutiers.



This season the west wall of the church complex was traced (see plan). A tower (1), measuring 3.30 X 6.00 m on the inside, and paved with coarse white mosaics, was excavated in the northwest corner, as well as the base of a staircase (2). The atrium (3), which was completely exposed, consists of a peristyle court: four roofed arcades with plastered floors enclose a central space paved with stone slabs. A cistern (4) extends under the central space and its walls serve as founda-

tions for the peristyle. The nave (5) and the north aisle (6) were exposed in the church. Two plastered floors, one about 0.25 m above the other, were also uncovered.

Originally there was a rock-cut cult place on the spot where the Byzantine cistern was eventually dug. Later, a Greek temple was erected, which incorporated in the adyton the rock-cut cult place and which continued in use until the Hellenistic period. In the first half of the 4th century CE, a church was erected on the ruins of the temple, some of whose walls served as foundations for the new construction. This church was destroyed by fire and was rebuilt on the same plan in the later 4th or early 5th century CE.

(Communicated by C. Dauphin)

DOR, UNDERWATER FIND

During an inspection dive on behalf of the Department of Antiquities off Tantura in January 1983, a bronze mortar gun of Spanish manufacture bearing five inscriptions was brought up from the sea. The mortar was cast on December 12, 1793, the year when Spain went to war against France because of the execution of Louis XVI. Perhaps the mortar was captured as war booty by the French, and was brought to our coast at the end of the eighteenth century by Napoleon's army.

(Communicated by S. Wachsmann and K. Raveh)

HORVAT 'EN ZIQ

Salvage excavations were undertaken intermittently during March-May 1984 on behalf of the Department of Antiquities at H. 'En Ziq. The work was directed by R. Cohen, District Archaeologist, Southern District, assisted by Y. Israel, Y. Lender, M. Heimann, B. Steltzer and D. Nahlieli. I. Watkin, V. Shor, Nelly Steltzer and Rahel Graf were responsible for the surveying. Pupils at the secondary school of Midreshet Sede Boqer, led by A. Katzir, and at the "Denmark" school in Jerusalem, led by Shulamit Cohen, participated in the work.

The site is situated on a flat elongated hilltop near the south bank of Nahal Ziq (map ref. 1363/0238) and is one of the larger Middle Bronze I settlements in the Negev hill country. It was first surveyed in 1983 by a survey team headed by D. Nahlieli and Y. Israel, as part of the Negev Emergency Project. The settlement covers an area of about 20 dunams and contains about two hundred rounded structures. Four areas were excavated.

Area A, on the west. Ten structures (diam. 2.5–5.0 m) were exposed, with walls standing to a height of 0.5–0.7 m, and a pillar supporting the roof in the center. A few Middle Bronze I sherds were found on the floors of hard-packed earth. A small bowl, a cooking pot with spout, a jug and a store jar were found in one structure (22), while a juglet was found in another (13). Two graves were exposed at the north end of the area, one of which contained five skeletons and some beads.

Area B, in the north, west of Area A. Twenty-five structures were investigated, including a unit consisting of three structures (57, 58, 62) around a common courtyard, each 5.0 m in diameter, and a pillar in the center. Installations and hearths were found near the entrance, while grinding