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1.10 m high. The orthostat slabs are 0.30 m thick and together with the fieldstone masonry, the walls are at least 0.70 m wide. The chamber was paved with smaller flat basalt slabs. The joints between the orthostats and between them and the paving slabs were plastered with a thick lime plaster, which was also preserved on the doorjamb. It cannot be established how this large chamber was roofed, but it may well be that the covering beams were supported by a central masonry pillar which has not survived. The finds, which were not *in situ*, included a store jar characteristic of the region, but with loop handles, and a dagger with a thickened mid-rib. The remains of one skeleton were also collected.

(Communicated by O. Yogev)

#### DEIR MUKALLIK

Eight Greek inscriptions were discovered near Deir Mukallik (Monastery of St. Theoktistos) in Nahal Og (Wadi Mukallik) during an archaeological survey of caves conducted by the Institute of Archaeology of the Hebrew University. The survey was directed by J. Patrich, assisted by B. Arobes (surveyor) and A. Naor (mountain climber).

The inscriptions are carved into the rock about 100 m west of the monastery ruins, above a cistern on the main path leading to the monastery. The domed cistern measures 6.80 × 6.00 m on the outside and 4.50 × 4.35 m on the inside, which is oval in shape. The surface above the cistern was paved with white mosaics of which only a small piece has survived. The cistern was fed by run-off water diverted into a channel by a dam, whose remains are visible nearby. A trough is attached to the northeast corner of the cistern. A masonry platform, preserved to a height of about 0.20 m, adjoins the cliff face above the east side of the paved surface. The inscriptions, as well as many crosses and a bird, are carved on the cliff face.

The inscriptions are Christian prayers and invocations, accompanied by crosses: "Jesus the Messiah, alpha and omega"; "Jesus, help your servants . . ."; "Lord, watch over your humble servant . . ."; "O saint, help . . ."; "O Lord, help"; "Jesus the Lord". Three names are mentioned: Johannes, Partinope, Axilana. Another name, which is perhaps abbreviated, may be Zacharias or Zenos. The inscriptions were most probably deeply carved with a sharp chisel by visitors, some of them women, who came to the monastery for help and advice.

Additional inscriptions are incised on the rock with a sharp instrument, but are too worn for decipherment.

(Communicated by J. Patrich)

#### TEL DOR — 1984

The fifth season of excavations at Tel Dor was conducted during July-August 1984 on behalf of the Institute of Archaeology of the Hebrew University, Jerusalem and the Israel Exploration Society. The work was directed by E. Stern in cooperation with H.P. Goldfried of the California State University, Sacramento, H.N. Richardson of Boston University and Renate Rosenthal-Higginbottom of Göttingen University. The staff also included I. Sharon (assistant to the director), J. Berg (architect), B. Guz-Zilberstein (registrar), A. Cohen, A. Gilboa, S. Yankelevitch, M. Fleitman, D. Kaufman (field and area supervisors), L. Banks, G. Bradley, T. Williams, L.

Lanigan, A. Kopczick, J. Northrop, D. Weiss, J. Linde, B. Frank (assistant area supervisors), R. Younkers (paleontologist), D. Eliyahu (pottery restorer), S. Dahan (administrator), students of the Institute of Archaeology and volunteers. The expedition was assisted by Kibbutz Nahsholim and especially by K. Raveh and the staff of the Pardess-Hanna Agricultural School and its director, M. Gur.

This season, the areas opened in the eastern part of the tel (Area A, B, C) were extended and deepened and a new area (Area D) was opened on the southern slope of the mound, above the southern harbor area of the ancient city.

*Area C2.* Inside a large building complex, the excavation was deepened into Persian strata and in some places into the late Iron Age layers. It was determined that the detailed planning of the residential quarter, consisting of adjoining long, narrow buildings (*insulae*), began early in the Persian period (late 6th century BCE) and continued until the early Roman period. During this long occupation (about 700 years), no changes were made in the outer lines of the residential units, but only in the inner partition walls. The excavations also showed that the quality of the masonry in the Persian period, in the classical Phoenician style, was even better than that in the Hellenistic period.

The structures of the Persian period are very well preserved, and the walls (sometimes also of the Hellenistic period) still stand to a height of more than 3 m. A great deal of pottery was uncovered, local as well as imported. Of special interest is the assemblage of East Greek wares found on the floors of the earlier Persian period.

*Area A* (adjoining Area C on the south). Excavations continued in an additional section of the residential quarter, going down into the Persian strata and reaching the uppermost Iron Age level. The eastern façade of the easternmost *insula* and some rooms adjoining it were uncovered. Here too it was found that the façade remained unchanged during the Persian and Hellenistic strata, while the internal plan was changed. It was also observed that the quality of the masonry was better in the earlier periods. The finds included local wares, imported Attic and East Greek pottery, clay figurines and a conical glass stamp decorated with a Phoenician-style sphinx. A pit sunk into the Iron Age deposits yielded a rare find — a complete askos.

*Area C1* (the eastern slope, between Areas C and A). The eastern fortification systems of the city were examined. So far, six fortification lines have been exposed, one above the other, with the line of the walls shifting between one and three meters.

The uppermost wall dates from the reign of Ptolemy II, parts of which, including the square projecting towers, were uncovered in all excavation areas. In Area C1 some sections of this wall are preserved almost near the surface. Under this wall and in front of it, a wall, constructed in the characteristic Phoenician style and somewhat wider than is usual in residential houses (1.0 m) was exposed. Adjoining this wall, which constitutes the outer limit of the town, several long, narrow rooms served as casemates and reached the line of the first street inside the wall. Sections of this wall were uncovered in previous seasons in Areas C and B1. It should be mentioned that several of the ashlar blocks are dressed in the Israelite-Phoenician marginal drafting characteristic of earlier periods. This wall is built on top of a solid offset-inset wall about 3 m wide. The southern part of this wide wall was exposed in previous seasons in Area A and is also known in Area B (see below).

The offset-inset wall may have been built as early as the Assyrian period and may have continued to exist in the Babylonian period. It was probably destroyed in the 4th century BCE.

by the Persians during the suppression of one of the Sidonian revolts. A two-chambered gate uncovered in Area B belongs to this wall. The "casemate" wall above it was built after the revolt and existed until the early Hellenistic period. This thin wall was not destroyed, but replaced by the massive fortifications erected by Ptolemy II.

Three more fortification lines, one on top of the other and all built of mudbrick, were uncovered under the fortifications described above. Their exact dimensions and data have not yet been determined, but in the previous season the width of one of these systems at the eastern end of Area C (probably including a wall and a glacis) was established as more than 7 m. All three fortification systems should probably be attributed to the Iron Age.

*Area B1* (northern part of Area B). The sequence of fortifications was uncovered in this area as well. The full width of the offset-inset wall (3.0 m) was exposed and it was found to be 0.5 m wider than the upper Hellenistic wall. Under these, the mudbrick Iron Age wall came to light, probably representing the latest phase. Here, as in Area C, a sloping mudbrick glacis protected its foundations.

In the western part of Area B1, work proceeded in the Iron Age strata. Last season, the uppermost phase, of the 7th–6th centuries BCE, was reached. In a pit which penetrated deep into earlier strata, an inscribed shekel weight was found. The stratum below it, in which two phases were discerned, should probably be attributed to the 9th–8th centuries BCE. A four-chambered gate also belongs to this stratum. Inside the town, on the east side, a row of rooms was uncovered, which may have been attached to the mudbrick wall. A north–south street runs along this row of rooms, and on the opposite side is another residential unit.

This season it became clear that the general layout in the 11th–10th centuries BCE was similar to that in the 9th–8th centuries, with only minor changes. In both strata the houses were built on stone foundations with a mudbrick superstructure. A mass of sand and brick material more than a meter deep and containing Middle Bronze Age sherds was uncovered in the center of the excavated area, about 5–6 m inside the later fortification lines. This may be the top of a Middle Bronze Age rampart. Of special interest are fragments of painted Cypriot pottery of types very rare in this country found in the strata of the 11th–10th centuries BCE. Tentatively, they are attributed to the Proto White-Painted I and early Bichrome I wares.

*Area B2* (area of the gates). Eight new squares were opened in continuation of the gates of the Israelite and Persian periods.

Several installations of the Late Roman period were exposed, including several plastered reservoirs. One of these contained a stone sarcophagus reused as a basin. A water supply system uncovered last season was found to form part of an aqueduct belonging to this period.

Two massive ashlar piers, with a paved passage between them, were uncovered in the eastern part of the area, at the foot of the tel. This may be the point at which the Roman aqueduct from the Carmel range entered the city or alternatively the structure may be part of a gate later than the Roman gate. The large flagstones of the Roman gate court were exposed in the western part of the area and on its west side the façade and rooms of the monumental ashlar and cement building were uncovered. The base of a statue or monument was found on the pavement of the gate court; the well which was excavated in previous seasons was located in the center of this court.

The upper Hellenistic stratum is represented here by the continuation of the structures lying under the above mentioned monumental building. A relatively narrow street led from the gate into the town, crossing a similar street which ran north–south. Beyond this intersection shops



and workshops lined the street on both sides, probably continuing westwards in the unexcavated area towards the agora and the port. As in other parts of the site, the method of construction here was in the Phoenician style. The town plan remained the same also in the intermediate Persian-Hellenistic period (4th century BCE), which is associated with the "casemate" wall. The finds in this area include a variety of local and imported pottery of all the periods represented, as well as lamps, figurines and numerous coins.

*Area D.* This year, two small areas (D1 and D2) were opened on the southern part of the site, on the slope facing the southern bay. The areas are situated on both sides of the section excavated by Garstang in the twenties.

*Area D1*, on the west, is located near the Crusader fosse. Five squares were excavated here at the top of the slope. The Roman period is represented by well-built stone drainage channels serving a street system of which an east-west street and another street at right angles were uncovered. Between the streets were well-built houses. A similar town plan can be traced in the Hellenistic period, while only wall fragments have been exposed as yet dating from the Persian period.

*Area D2*, in the east. Here four squares were opened on the slope. Remains of the Roman, Hellenistic and Persian periods were uncovered in the two upper squares. The continuation of the street and the drain exposed in Area D1 were exposed in the two uppermost strata. Further south, on the slope, part of a spacious Roman mansion was uncovered; one of its rooms was paved with colored mosaics in geometric patterns. Here the Hellenistic stratum was in a poor state of preservation. In the Persian period, this area seems to have housed storerooms connected with the harbor and some store jars were recovered there. Only the northern part of these structures has survived, as the southern section has collapsed into the sea.

Part of a building with thick walls built of large stones came to light in the two lower excavation squares. An earlier sounding carried out by A. Raban showed that the structure was used during the Iron Age and may have been built even earlier.

Two Roman vessels found in Area D are of special interest — one is a cup in the shape of a negro's head and the other a zoomorphic vessel in the form of a sheep.

*(Communicated by E. Stern)*

#### **Dor Aqueduct**

Recently an additional section of the aqueduct was recorded east of Dor, near Bir Taṭa (map ref. 1481/2207). This section, which is built on a slope about 40 m above sea level, completes the line of the aqueduct between the water source (Bir Taṭa) and the section already recorded near the Faradis junction. B.Z. Berkovitz reported the discovery to I. Peleg, who together with I. Porath visited the site in January 1985. During this visit, another masonry section of the aqueduct was discovered on the edge of the agricultural areas of Zikhron Ya'akov. The nature of the plaster, which contains ground sherds, indicates a date not earlier than the 3rd century BCE.

*(Communicated by I. Peleg and I. Porath)*

## HORVAT EGOZ

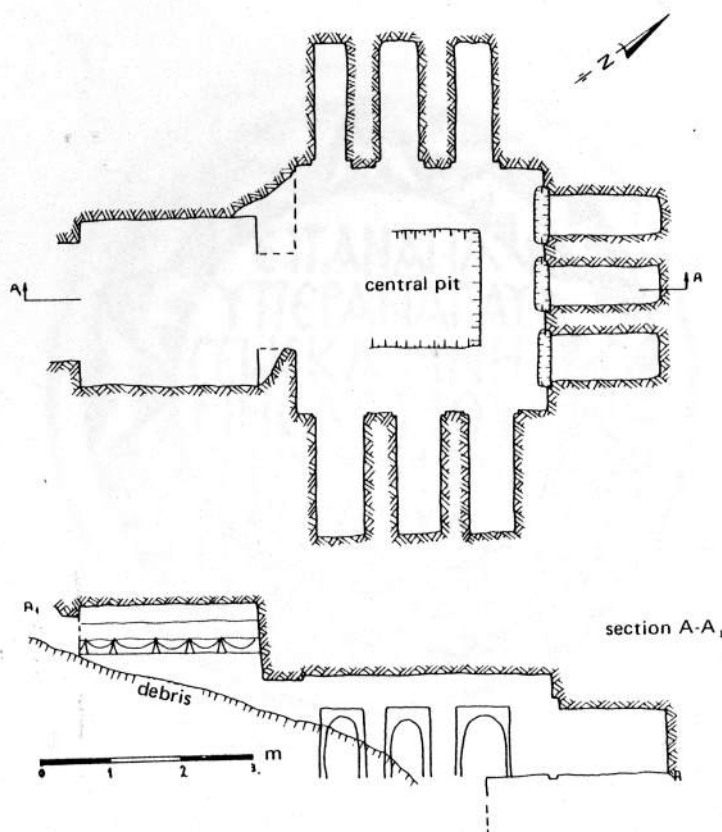
A plundered burial cave was discovered by H. Amizur of Bar-Ilan University in July 1985 at H. Egoz (map ref. 14385/10665). The cave, which dates from the 1st century CE, was surveyed and photographed on behalf of the Department of Antiquities by G. Avni and A. Dahari.

The burial cave consists of two chambers hewn into the chalky rock (see plan). A wide opening leads into a square entrance room ( $2.4 \times 2.4$  m) with a vaulted ceiling. An incised and red painted design of triangles and semicircles between two parallel lines decorates its walls.

The burial chamber ( $3.5 \times 3.5$  m) has a rectangular central pit and nine *kokhim*. A rectangular cavity in front of each *kokh* was intended for placing the stone slab which sealed the *kokh*.

The chambers of this cave were found full of washed-in soil and debris left by the tomb robbers.

(Communicated by G. Avni  
and A. Dahari)



H. Egoz, plan of burial cave

## 'EN GEDI

Soundings were carried out in the aqueduct in Nahal 'Arugot in October 1984 and March 1985 and two tombs adjoining the aqueduct were excavated on behalf of the Department of Antiquities by G. Hadas. Young members of the archaeological club in the local high school participated in the work.

The first tomb consisted of a chamber ( $3.0 \times 3.0$  m) with a central pit. The entrance (ca.  $0.5 \times 0.5$  m) was found sealed by a rectangular block with a prominent boss. Remains of wooden planks indicate the presence of wooden coffins. The finds consist of pottery (cooking pots, spindle-shaped bottles, a piriform bottle and a piriform juglet) and a bronze ladle, jug and kohl stick. The tomb was used from the mid-2nd to the mid-1st centuries BCE, when the ceiling of the tomb collapsed.

In the other tomb, most of which has not been preserved, several wooden coffins made of date palm wood were found in various states of preservation. Most of the coffins are rectangular with