

THE LAND OF ISRAEL: CROSS-ROADS OF CIVILIZATIONS

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In Memory of Prof. Y. Yadin and Prof. Ch. Perelman

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UITGEVERIJ PEETERS

LEUVEN

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THE EXCAVATIONS AT TEL DOR

EPHRAIM STERN

THE SITE AND ITS HISTORY

Biblical Dor, the capital of the Carmel coast, appears for the first time in connection with the Israelite conquest. It was one of the cities that joined the coalition headed by Jabin, king of Hazor, in the war against Joshua (*Joshua* 11,1-2). Its king too, suffered defeat at the hands of the Israelites (*Joshua* 12,23). The Canaanite city of Dor, located in the territory of the tribe of Manasseh, was not conquered until the time of David.

In the account of Wen-Amon's journey to Byblos (circa 1100 B.C.), the port of Dor is mentioned as a town inhabited by the Tjekker, one of the Sea Peoples who invaded the eastern Mediterranean area at that time.

During the reign of Solomon, Dor became the center of his fourth administrative district; it was governed by Abinadab, the king's son-in-law (*II Kings* 4,11). In 732 B.C., Tiglath-Pileser III conquered the city along with that section of the coastal plain which belonged to the kingdom of Israel. He turned it into the capital of the Assyrian province of Duru, extending from the Carmel to Jaffa.

The Eshmunazor inscription suggests that during the Persian period Dor was ruled by the Sidonians, but there was apparently also a Greek colony at Dor at that time.

During the Hellenistic period the city became an important fortress. At the end of the second century B.C. the tyrant Zoilus ruled both Dor and Straton's Tower, until Alexander Jannaeus took both cities from him. Pompey put an end to Hasmonaeen rule in Dor and awarded the city autonomy and the right to mint coins. Its coins indicate that Zeus as well as Dorus (a son of Heracles, Dor's mythical founder), and Astarte-Aphrodite were worshipped at Dor.

A Jewish community is known to have existed in Dor at the time of Agrippa I (41-44 A.D.). In the Byzantine period the town declined, but remained a religious center, and bishops are known to have resided there from the fifth till the seventh century A.D. After that time the site was abandoned until the construction of the Crusader fortress of Merle.

According to the Greek and Latin sources, Dor is to be located between the Carmel range and Straton's Tower, later Caesarea. On the basis of these sources it is possible to locate Dor at Tell el-Burj, on the Carmel coast, which is one of the largest mounds in Israel (fig. 1).

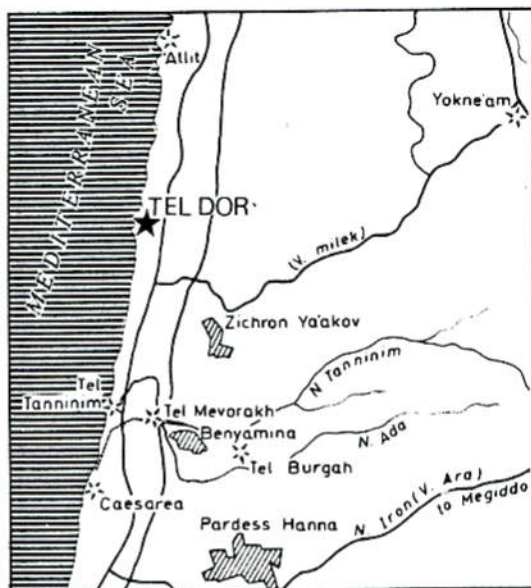


Fig. 1. — Location of Tel Dor.

THE EXCAVATIONS

The Dor project, started in 1980, is conducted on behalf of the Institute of Archaeology of the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, and the Israel Exploration Society, and is affiliated with California State University, Sacramento. The staff members are Prof. Ephraim Stern, of the Institute of Archaeology of the Hebrew University, director; Dr Renate Rosenthal, University of Goettingen; Prof. Lawrence A. Schiffman, New York University; Dr. H. Neil Richardson, professor emeritus, Boston University; Prof. Howard P. Goldfried, California State University, Sacramento. An underwater survey is carried out by the Center for Maritime Studies at Haifa University under Dr A. Raban. The expedition staff also includes: I. Sharon, assistant to the director; J. Berg, architect; B. Guz-Zilberstein and A. Gilboa, registrars.

Up to now five seasons have been concluded (1980-1984). Three areas were opened in 1980 on the eastern edge of the tell, and a fourth area (D) above the southern bay, in 1984. Below, we shall summarize the results of the excavation of these areas, from north to south, in the order C, A, C 1, B, and D (fig. 2).

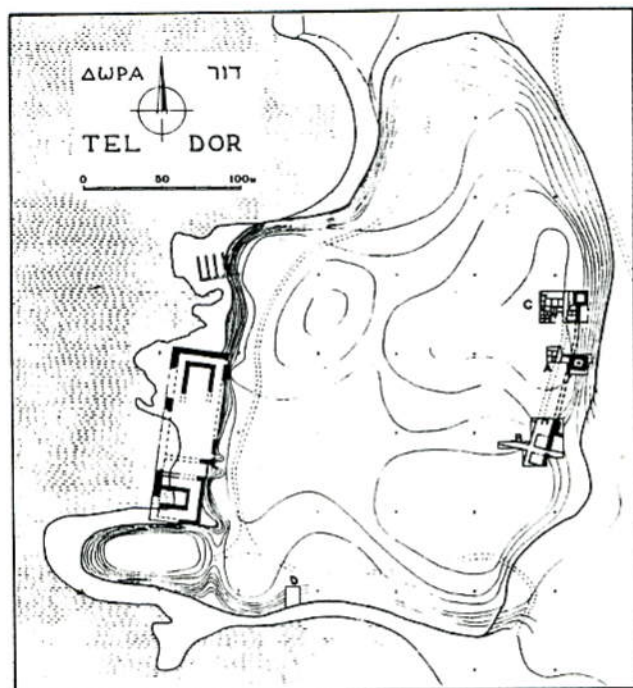


Fig. 2. — Plan of excavated Dor in the Hellenistic Age.

Area C — The Residential Quarter

In this area, almost nothing has survived of the *Byzantine* period. The first remains to be uncovered below the surface were from the *Roman* period, and belong to two phases. The upper phase, only a few centimetres below the surface, includes the scanty remains of a large and elaborate structure (or several structures), almost totally eroded to below floor level. The few sections preserved from the lower phase were mainly uncovered in the south-western corner of Area C and consist of fine masonry walls and cement and mosaic floors.

In the east, too, more walls and sections of cement floors were found which reached the line of the city-wall (see below). These remains are as

yet too scanty to permit a comprehensive reconstruction of the stratum's plan; however, there is enough to testify that they were parts of elaborate houses.

Of the *Hellenistic* strata, which also belong to several stages, we have finally cleared the plan of a residential quarter erected in strict accordance with the Hippodamic system, the closest parallel to which may perhaps be found in the city plan of Olynthus in Greece.

Before discussing the residential quarter and its remains, it should be mentioned that in the eastern section of the area, near the mound's eastern edge, an additional part of the Hellenistic city-wall has been uncovered. It proved to be a continuation of that found in Area A (see below). It was built by the same method and here too we found a square tower projecting outside and to the east of the wall. It is about 30 m north of the tower found in Area A and is somewhat smaller and not so well preserved.

The picture emerging from our investigations in Area C to date is that a long row of stores and workshops stood along the entire length of the inner face of the city-wall. In one of these rooms we found a thick layer of crushed murex shells. The doors of the shops opened on a ruler-straight street running parallel to the wall from north to south. On the opposite side of the street, whose width is about 2 m, we found the fine façade of a long, narrow residential block of buildings. The eastern doors of each unit of houses open onto the street, opposite the row of shops. The building is about 20 m wide. We also uncovered its western side, which faces another street, parallel to that on its east. This elongated block of buildings, preserved to a height of over 2 m and traced for a length of dozens of metres, was probably crossed by passages leading from one street to the other, but these seem to fall outside the areas excavated so far. Another, identical building or block of houses existed to the west of this second street. The block was divided by partition walls lengthwise as well as widthwise into smaller units or 'apartments', whose doors opened in each case onto the closest street. It is reasonable to assume that what we have discovered is the ground floor, and that above it was another storey. In one or two places we found traces of basements. It seems also that the easternmost street, between the residence and the stores, was originally roofed to provide shelter for pedestrians (fig. 3).

The structure described above was in use, according to the finds, throughout the Hellenistic period, from the beginning of the third to the first century B.C. It seems not to have been violently destroyed, at least until the days of Alexander Jannaeus, but was rebuilt from time to time.

With each reconstruction the floor was raised, resulting in as many as three Hellenistic floor levels; the openings were blocked and the walls rebuilt on a higher level. In this way, from one phase to the next, the inner divisions of the building and the function of its rooms varied; for example, in one stage, two plastered storage pools for water were added. However, none of the alterations changed the external walls. Many coins were found on the different floors, as well as stamped handles from Greek wine amphorae, especially from Rhodes and Knidos (see below), yielding reliable dates for the different stages.

Some of the floors were of crushed chalk, others of pressed clay. The outer walls of the building were constructed in the usual style of the period, mostly of well-hewn hard sandstone ashlar laid in 'headers' — a sort of small-scale version of the city-wall. The inner walls and divisions, however, were built in the typical Phoenician style of ashlar piers with a fill of rubble. In conclusion, we may state that the plan of this building is Greek, while the structural details are Phoenician.

In several locations we dug below the Hellenistic floors and came upon strata of the Persian period.

Among the large amount of pottery uncovered on the various Hellenistic floors, we found many local vessels, including storage jars, jugs, bowls, juglets, pilgrim flasks, 'frying-pans', etc. Because of the relatively precise dating of the various stages of the buildings and the richness and variety of the finds, it is to be hoped that Dor will serve in future as a valuable key for understanding the ceramic typology and the development of the pottery of this period.

A large number of imported vessels from other Mediterranean countries were also found, notably some fine amphorae from Greece, whose handles were stamped by the producers of the wine. As mentioned above, most of these stamp impressions — already numbering more than a hundred — are from the island of Rhodes, while some are from neighbouring Knidos. We have succeeded in fully reconstructing several amphorae. Many other imported vessels have been recovered, of nearly all the familiar types known throughout the Hellenistic world.

Other noteworthy artifacts found include the dozen or so satyr's heads which originally decorated the rims of the beautiful large clay braziers found in almost every room, some bearing the name of their maker, *e.g.* ΕΚΑΤΑΙΟΥ; clay figurines, mostly depicting naked female figures, or female heads; a beautiful stone incense burner, found close to the surface; many loom weights and stone spindle whorls; and faience and bone amulets executed in the usual Egypto-Phoenician style (fig. 13), amongst them a small bone pendant depicting the god Bes.

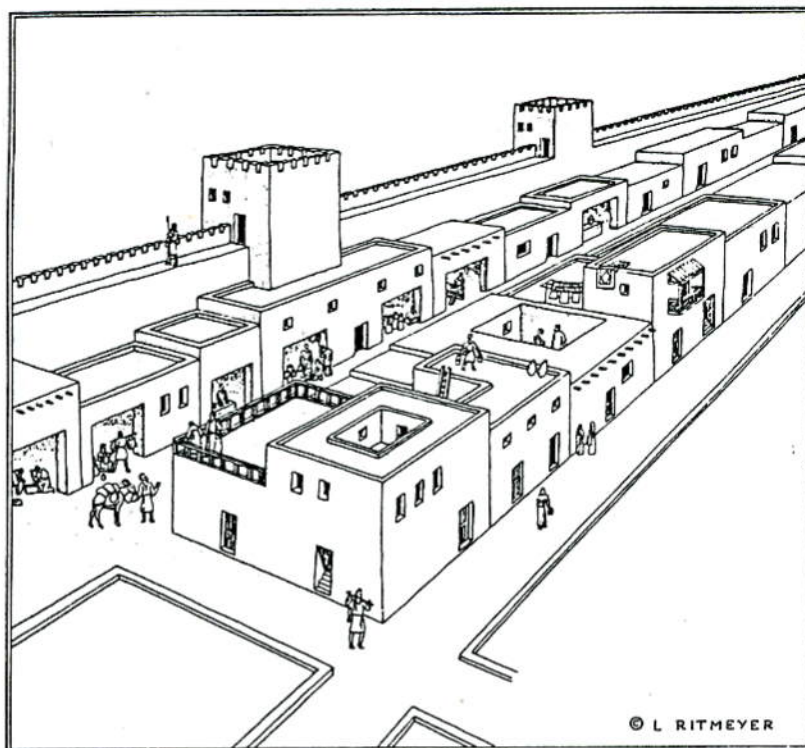


Fig. 3. — Tel Dor. Areas A and C. Isometric reconstruction of the Hellenistic fortifications and of the residential quarter.

On the western side of area C we dug through the Hellenistic levels to reach those of the *Persian* period. It became clear that most of the Hellenistic walls had been robbed and only the floors were preserved; however, in the Persian phase the walls were found standing to a considerable height. Here we were able to confirm that the orthogonal plan of the residential quarter, consisting of long, narrow structures, had its beginnings in this period. During 1983-84 we dug below the street separating the two *insulae* and below the western *insula*. It seems that during the Persian period, in contrast to the Hellenistic level, the inner space of the houses was divided into long, narrow rooms. External and internal walls were also built in the Phoenician style, with pillars of masonry and a fill of field stones in between, utilizing the local *kurkar* (hard sandstone).

The excavations *inside* the western *insula* proved again that the detailed planning of the residential quarter, including the division into

adjacent insulae, had started early in the Persian period, perhaps as early as the 6th century B.C., and continued to the early Roman period. During all of this long occupation (some 700 years) the plan of the quarter remains the same, and only the inner partition walls are changed. It was also confirmed that the quality of the builder's craftsmanship, in the classical Phoenician style, is even higher than in the Hellenistic period. Area A (below) presents a similar picture.

In the excavation of the western side of area C we removed several floor levels, and when we reached, in the deepest probe, layers of the *Iron Age*, we stopped working. The preservation of the Persian structures here is excellent. At some points the height of the walls — rebuilt several times during the Persian period and sometimes into the Hellenistic — reaches 3 m.

We intend to leave area C, with its unique preservation of Hellenistic (in the east) and Persian (in the west) structures, for visitors, and shift the excavation of lower strata to other areas.

Many local and imported pottery vessels were found in this area, and especially remarkable is the assemblage of East-Greek wares found in the lower phases.

At the eastern end of Area C, we extended the excavations into the region outside the Hellenistic city-wall. It was soon realized that the entire area is occupied by a brick construction at least 7 m wide. We believe that this is the *Iron Age* city-wall. Inside the Hellenistic city-wall we reached the Persian period levels in a narrow trench, and a similar picture to that of the western side emerged; the planning of the streets and houses was identical in both periods.

Area A — The Trial Trench

This area, located at the centre of the eastern slope of Tel Dor, was intended to be the main stratigraphic trench.

In the upper stratum, dating from the late Roman period, two sections of aqueducts, constructed of stone and plastered, were uncovered. The first crosses the centre of the eastern slope of the mound and is part of a continuous line which frequently protrudes from the surface. The second appears to extend from it and conveyed water inwards to the city, above the ancient remains. Under this stratum, the area is divided into two sections. The eastern section is completely occupied by a magnificent wall of the Hellenistic period which continued to be in use during the early Roman period; it is perhaps the most impressive fortification of this period discovered so far in Israel. The wall is built entirely of ashlar

blocks of local sandstone, and is preserved to a height of more than 2 m. A tower extends outwards for 15 m; it was also constructed of large ashlar, laid so that the end of the blocks face outwards ('headers'). It has become clear that the tower is almost square and made of *kurkar* (hard sandstone) blocks, which are well dressed and of a size similar to the stones used in the city-wall itself. An interesting feature is the central square pier made of large stones, which no doubt served to support a wooden staircase giving access to the roof (fig. 4). As far as the writer is aware, this is the earliest example of this type of staircase ever found in this country, though it is quite common in the architecture of Palestine during the Roman and Byzantine periods. Another section of the city-wall further to the south was also uncovered.

From the coins discovered in the first season and subsequently cleaned and identified, we may conclude that the whole splendid fortification system was not erected at the very beginning of the Hellenistic period, but somewhat later, for the stratum below it contained a coin of Ptolemy II Philadelphos (285-246 B.C.). It is possible, therefore, that the complex was built in the latter part of his reign or shortly afterwards, since a literary source points to the fact that in the year 219 B.C. the well-fortified city withstood the siege of Antiochus III Megas (223-187 B.C.).

The Hellenistic tower was erected above the city-wall of the Persian period which runs below the southern half of the tower. It is made of large square *limestone* blocks.

In front of the tower, towards the east, part of a late Roman waterpipe was found. A large building of the same period was erected above both the Hellenistic city-wall and the tower, after they had gone out of use.

In the western side of the area, within the wall, two strata from the Roman period and two phases from the Hellenistic period were distinguished; below them there are three levels of the Persian period. Because of the narrow area excavated, it was difficult to determine the nature of the Persian period structures, though it seems likely that these were dwelling houses. In most of the levels a row of rooms was built against the wall; beyond this, there was a street, and across it, the façade of a large structure. Especially noteworthy is the continuity in construction from the Persian to the Hellenistic periods. We have excavated further through a stratum of the Persian period into a thick layer dating from the late Iron Age to a depth of about 1.5 m. It proved to be a continuous thick layer composed of ashes, bones of various animals, and local, Phoenician and Cypriote pottery sherds of the late Iron Age. The most significant find is an Egyptian scarab, probably of

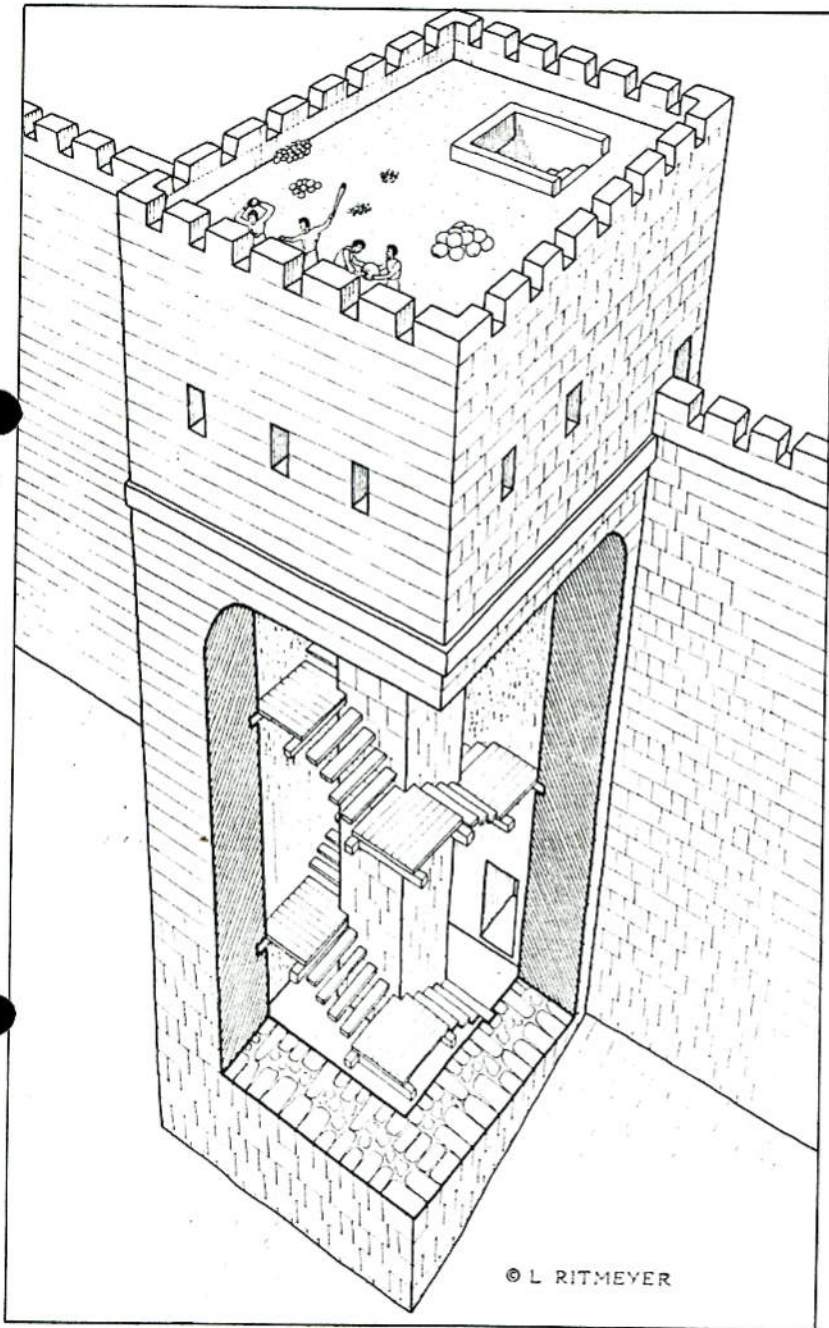


Fig. 4. — Tel Dor, Area A. Isometric reconstruction of the Hellenistic fortification tower.

the 26th Dynasty. No building remains of any kind were found and our provisional conclusion is that, in the late Iron Age, this was an industrial area.

Further west in Area A, the southern continuation of the residential quarter has been excavated in 1983-84. We also reached levels of the Hellenistic and Persian periods. Several superimposed floors were uncovered, as were some of the partition walls which divided the inner space of the house in the same manner as in Area C. Evidently, we found here another part of a residential structure, including the eastern façade of the easternmost insula, and several rooms adjoining it. Here also the position of the façade remains unchanged in all Persian and Hellenistic phases, while the inner plan of the house changes several times. Fine quality of construction in the earlier periods is observed here too. In this area, we have uncovered local, East-Greek, and Attic pottery. Some remarkable finds are clay figurines, a conical glass stamp decorated with a Phoenician style sphinx, and a complete askos — found in a pit sunk into Iron Age deposits.

Area C 1

During the campaign of 1984, we connected area A to area C along the eastern edge of the tell; this area was labelled C 1 and was entirely dedicated to check the fortification systems, which were well preserved here. So far, five different fortification lines were uncovered. The uppermost is the one built by Ptolemy II, sections of which, including square projecting towers, were found in all areas. At some points, this wall was preserved nearly to the surface. Under this wall and in front of it, a wall constructed in the Phoenician ashlar pier style was exposed. This wall is somewhat thicker than usual in residential houses (nearly 1 m), and served as the outer limit of the town. Adjoining it are several long and narrow rooms (serving as sort of casemates) reaching up to the line of the easternmost street. It is worth remarking that several of the ashlar blocks here are dressed in the typical Israelite-Phoenician irregular marginal drafting. Such masonry is found at Tyre, Dan, Hazor, Megiddo, Samaria, etc., but here it is much later (see below).

The latter structures are built on top of a very wide (2.5-3 m) solid wall, part of which had already been exposed in 1980 under the Hellenistic tower of area A, and it is also known from area B (see below). It was built of large field stones in the offset-inset tradition.

We believe that the chronology of the three upper fortification systems (from bottom upwards) is as follow (fig. 5): the lowermost offset-inset



Fig. 5. — Tel Dor, Area C1 looking eastwards (season 1984). Three superimposed fortification systems:

- a) Upper wall: Hellenistic city wall.
- b) Intermediate Persian/Hellenistic «casemates».
- c) Lower wall: Assyrian/Persian city-wall.

Wall may have been built as early as the Assyrian period, and was destroyed late in the Persian period — perhaps in one of the Phoenician revolts of the first half of the 4th century.

The «casemate» wall above it was built immediately thereafter and was used until the early Hellenistic period. Being inferior as a fortification, this wall was *replaced* by the massive ashlar city-wall in the days of Ptolemy II (see below).

The uppermost wall was used at least until the early Roman period.

Two additional fortification lines were found *under* the ones described above, all built of mud brick. Their exact dimensions and absolute chronology have not yet been determined, though the width of the uppermost system (which probably includes a wall and a glacis) was

found to be more than 7 m (see below). In the opinion of the writer, the two systems date from the *Iron Age*, but so far the evidence is insufficient. We intend to complete the excavation of this area in the future.

Area B — The Gate Area

This area is located to the south of areas A and C. It is divided into two sub-areas B 1 in the north and B 2 in the south.

Here, in contrast to the other two areas, we came upon many remains of the late Roman period (Stratum 1), mainly of various industrial installations composed of plastered cisterns and water channels covered with large stone slabs.

The late Roman structures were particularly abundant in the southern part of the area, where a whole system of plastered cisterns, one above the other, has been found. In the northern and eastern sections of the area, remains of poorly preserved buildings were uncovered. One of these, in the east, was made of especially fine masonry. On the whole, however, these remains were badly eroded and did not permit us to reconstruct a reasonable plan.

In the following stratum, dating also from the Roman period (Stratum II), several phases could be distinguished. Here the main road leading into town from the eastern city-gate was excavated and a stone-paved monumental causeway and wide court were uncovered. Large stone slabs were found embedded in a thick layer of hard lime cement. We also uncovered a system of small drainage channels leading from the south down into the main drainage channel built of ashlar stones, which leads east-west through and out of the city-gate (fig. 6). On top of the stone slabs of this court, we came upon some sections of black granite pillars which evidently stood along its both sides.

At the western end of Area B, we uncovered the corner of a large house, whose base is made of a solid mix of cement and stones. The width of the walls here is about 1.5-2 m.

Almost nothing has been preserved of the city-gate of the Roman period, and the area had actually been razed down to the level of the paving of the road. At the site of the gate itself, the structures were found destroyed to below the surface of that period. All that remained were two drainage channels which were originally underground. The earlier one came from the south and turned sharply to the east in front of the gate. This system probably went out of use during the Roman period and was replaced by a second system composed of a stone-built channel running

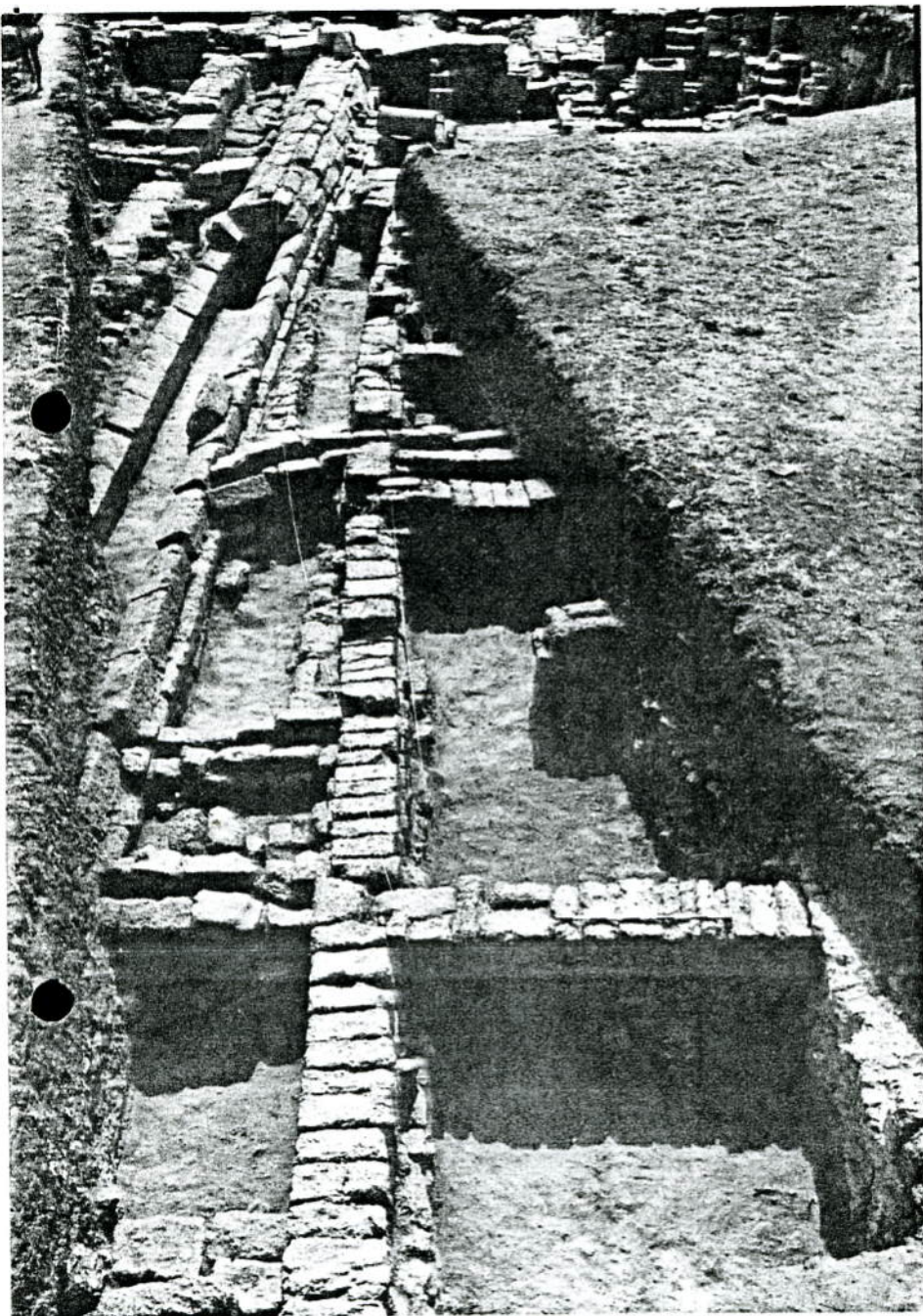


Fig. 6. — Tel Dor, Area B. Main street leading to the gate of the Hellenistic period with the Roman sewer built into its centre.

along and below the main road into the gate area and from there in a straight line to the east.

At the eastern side of Area B and in its north, parts of large buildings from the Roman period have been uncovered. All these were similarly constructed from a solid mix of hard cement and stones. In one of the rooms at the north-eastern corner of Area B, built upon an earlier Hellenistic tower, we found parts of limestone tables, of the type now familiar from the excavations in the Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem, and a complete bronze bowl standing on three decorated feet. Also many vessels and potsherds of the Roman period, both local and imported, were found there. One of the rooms located close to the city-wall and gate served as an arsenal for the defenders, as indicated by a large accumulation of well-worked ballista stones. The stones were of different sizes and two were inscribed with Greek letters apparently giving their weight: IH (18) and KB (22).

During the 1984 season, when we enlarged area B 2 to the south and to the west, we found the continuation of a system of installations of the late Roman period. It includes several plastered pools. To one of these, a re-used sarcophagus was attached as a basin.

In the same season, two massive piers from the early Roman period have been uncovered; they were made of ashlar and cement, with a paved passage in between. It is possible that this was the point at which the Roman aqueduct from the Carmel entered the city. A second possibility is that this is part of a gate structure — later than the one found nearby, on top of the Hellenistic gate.

In the western part of the area we found the continuation of the paved Roman gate court, upon which the base of a statue or a monument was exposed and a water well at the centre of this courtyard. West of the courtyard, more parts of the monumental cement and ashlar building, which formed its façade, were exposed.

Strata III and IV in Area B are of the Hellenistic period and consist of a number of phases. The dominant structure in Stratum III is the city-wall which continues the sections uncovered in Areas A and C. At one location, the scanty remains of a defensive tower projecting to the east of the city-wall could be observed. This tower, unlike the two in Areas A and C, was badly damaged by the intensive Roman structures built above. Another structure found is a beautifully built Phoenician-style long wall with ashlar piers and rubble fill, which runs to the east of the city-wall towards the Hellenistic gate. We may conclude that this wall indicates the location of the main road leading to the gate in this period of which almost nothing has survived.

Inside the city-wall, in the western part of Area B, remains of the street running parallel to it were uncovered. This is the street discussed above in Areas A and C. Sections of residential buildings located to its west are probably also the continuation of those observed in the other areas. Thus, the residential quarter extended along the whole eastern part of the mound as far as the gate.

One of the rooms preserved under the stone pavement of the main Roman road proved to be a store room. It contained about a dozen large pithoi and jars. The building method used here was identical to that observed in Area C; walls were made of well-dressed local *kurkar* stones laid either as headers or alternating masonry piers and field stone fills. The Hellenistic finds in Area B included coins, Rhodian stamped jar handles, pottery vases, both local and imported, loom weights, spindle whorls, etc.

During the 1984 season we uncovered in B 2 the continuation of the structures by the city-gate. These are partly under the monumental building mentioned above. A relatively narrow street leads out from the gate into the town at this stage, where it intersects the first north-south street. Beyond this intersection it leads further west, in the direction of the probable position of the Agora, of the temple, and of the harbor. This street was flanked, no doubt, by shops and workshops, beyond the edge of the excavated area. Some of the constructions of this phase are in the Phoenician ashlar pier and rubble fill style, as was found in other parts of the tell.

The same plan is found also in the lower intermediate Persian/Hellenistic phase (4th century B.C.), which is associated with the 'casemate' wall (see below). Also in B 2, the gates area, we excavated below the levels of the Hellenistic period. Here we uncovered two super-imposed city-gates (fig. 7). The uppermost one is a two-chambered gate, to which a stone-paved square leads from east to west. Under a layer of hard *kurkar*, we have uncovered the carefully laid stone paving of the entrance and both chambers of the gate, which was partially covered by the Hellenistic city-wall. One socket of the outer door, made of smoothed basalt, was found intact; in the centre of the entrance was found a socket for a bolt which closed the door vertically. The second door socket is still under the Hellenistic city-wall and we hope to discover it next season. We cleared also another stone-paved square which led from the inner entrance of the gate into the town. During the later phases of the Persian period, additional buildings were erected on the square; in the final Persian phase, the entire gate went out of use, leaving only a narrow passage from which a narrow street led into the town. During the 1984

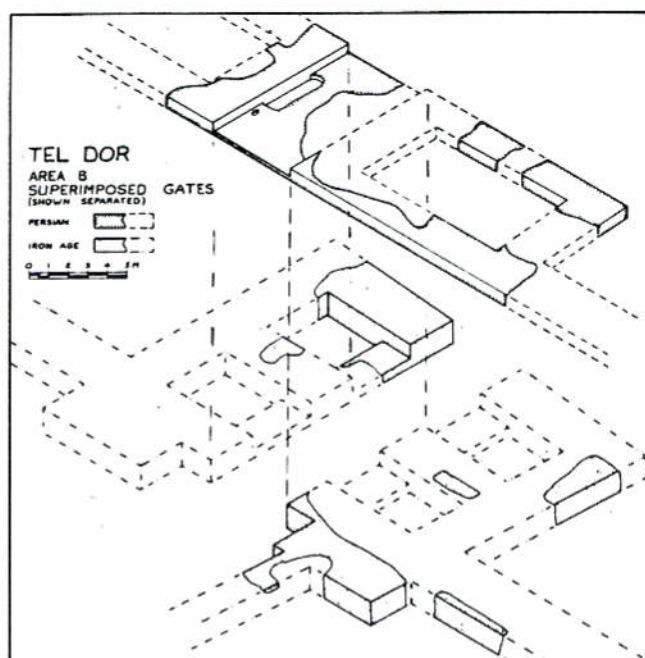


Fig. 7. — Tel Dor, Area B. City gates: Above — Persian period. Below — Iron Age.

season we exposed a long segment of the western wall belonging to the southern two-chambered gate tower and a small part of its eastern wall. We intend to complete its excavation (on both sides) in the future. Parts of a house built against this gate tower on the inside and the first north-south street beyond it were also exposed.

Remains of a four-chambered gate with a tower flanking each side of its façade were discovered below the two-chambered gate. The gate was only partially excavated but its plan, which closely resembles that of the four-chambered gate of Megiddo, is clear. There is, however, a striking difference between the two; the construction of the gate at Dor is much more massive. The width of one of the inner piers, which was entirely uncovered, was 2.5 m; it was built of two huge limestone boulders probably brought from the Carmel range. The western side of the pier, facing the city, was covered by well-dressed orthostats. The chambers were filled with brick material and their openings onto the gate passage were closed by a wide wall, evidently to strengthen the construction. It seems that the entire stone base of the gate was built at one time to carry the heavy superstructure of bricks. The gate is preserved to a



Fig. 8. — Tel Dor, Area B 2. Persian period. Fragment of a figurine of a horse.



Fig. 9. — Tel Dor, Area B 2.
Neo-Assyrian cylinder seal (above) and its impression (below).

height of about 2 m. This is apparently the first known example of the monumental Phoenician architecture of the Iron Age; other such structures have not yet come to light in Phoenician centres in the eastern Mediterranean.

We may assume that the four-chambered gate was in use during the ninth and eighth centuries B.C. and was destroyed by the Assyrians at the end of the eighth century. In the two-chambered gate, only material of the Persian period was found (fig. 8) and there can be no doubt that



Fig. 10. — Tel Dor, Area B 2.

Neo-Assyrian stamp seal (left), found out of context, and its impression (right).

it was in use at the beginning of that period. It is, however, logical to assume that its construction and first use took place in the Assyrian period (figs. 9-10), and that only material of its last phase is represented. Below the four-chambered gate, we found a layer dating from the tenth century B.C. which we reached only in small sections. During the 1984 season, additional parts of the four-chambered Iron Age gate were reached. Among these are parts of its southern wall and some stones of the central pilaster on its southern half. As mentioned above, the excavation was hampered here by massive later remains.

In the northern part of Area B (B 1) we have worked through four phases of the Iron Age, the earliest of which probably dates from the tenth century B.C. This area, located close to and north of the city-gate, was at that time a residential quarter. In the lower phases, where the building remains are better preserved, one may discern a coherent plan; a line of rooms was probably attached to the city-wall and was flanked

on the west by a narrow street, on the other side of which stood additional houses (fig. 11).

In this area, many pottery vessels and sherds were recovered, some local and other imported, and a unique find in the shape of an oval Iron Age stamp seal made of an animal's horn and depicting two stags standing on mountain-tops (fig. 12).

During the 1984 season we dug deeper into strata of the Iron Age in the western side of area B 1, after removing the upper Iron Age phase dating probably from the 7th-6th centuries B.C. Only some pits and installations of this phase were preserved; some of these pits, dug deep into older deposits, were not cleared until this season. In one of these we found, apart from typical pottery, an inscribed «shekel» weight. A lower stratum, to which belong the four-chambered gate (see above) and the mud brick wall, may date to the 9th-8th centuries and has two subphases. Some degree of planning is discerned inside the town. In the east there is a row of rooms, which may have been attached to the city wall. Opposite a narrow alley, running north-south, there is an additional residential unit. More of the town plan will appear, we hope, in the future, when we enlarge the exposure of these lower strata towards the gate.

In 1984 we succeeded in uncovering the town of the 10th and 11th centuries. It seems that the general layout in this phase is similar to the one of the 9th-8th centuries. The houses of both strata are generally built with stone foundations and mud brick superstructure.

Towards the end of the 1984 season, it was determined that there is a deep fill (at this stage deeper than 1 m) made of sand and brick material, with Middle Bronze Age potsherds (and the tooth of an hippopotamus!), in the centre of the excavated area, some 5-6 m inside of the later fortification lines. We may have reached here the top of an MB rampart, but this can only be verified by further excavations.

It is worth noting the existence, in the strata of the 11th-10th centuries, of several fragments of painted Cypriote pottery of types nearly unknown in Israel. We presume that they pertain under the «Proto-White Painted I» and early «Bichrome I» families. This, however, will be examined by experts.

During the same season (1984), we also worked on the eastern side of area B 1. Here we checked again the fortifications and found the same sequence, already described. The uppermost Hellenistic wall was removed to expose the 'casemate' wall and the full width of the stone socle of the offset-inset wall of the Assyrian, Babylonian, and Persian fortifications. Its width here is over 3 m, that is some 0.5 m more than the

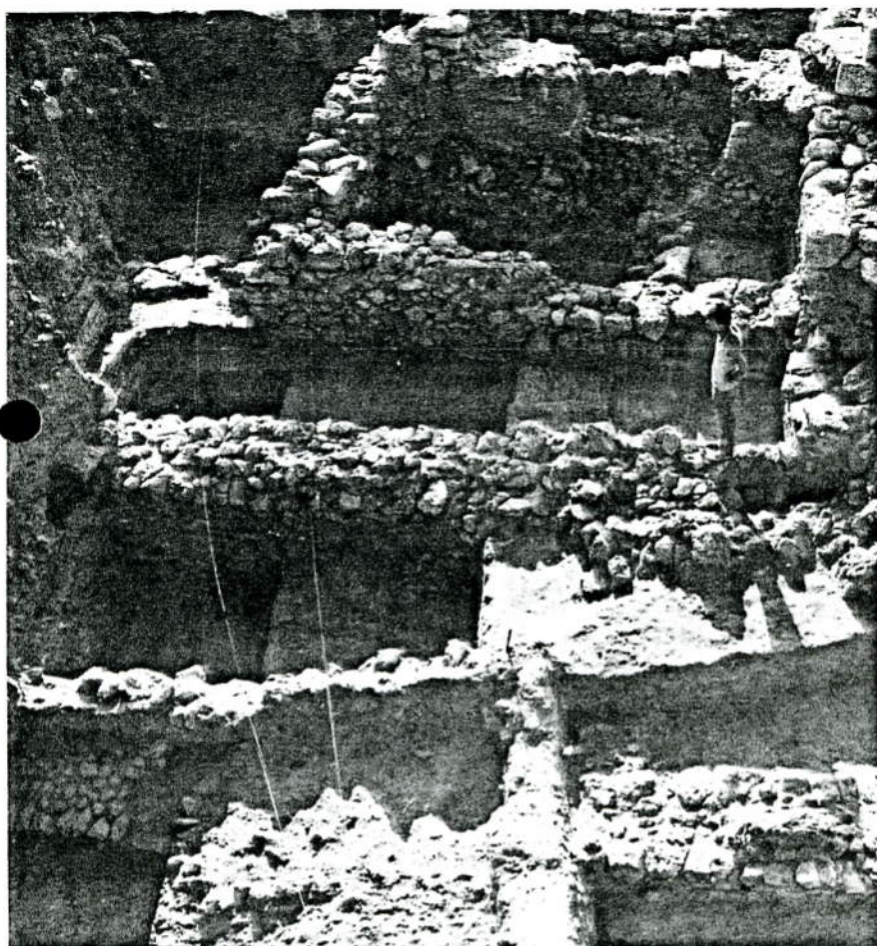


Fig. 11. — Tel Dor, Area B. Iron Age street uses.

width of the Hellenistic wall. Under all of these, the mud brick Iron Age wall was discovered. Here, as in area C 1, there is a mud brick glacis attached to the outer face of the wall to protect its foundation. As we already know from previous seasons that there are several strata of Iron Age II-III inside the town, it is to be hoped that several stages will be found also in the fortifications to match these strata.

Area D

During 1984 we opened two small areas (D 1 and D 2) on the southern edge of the site, over the southern bay, which is probably the main

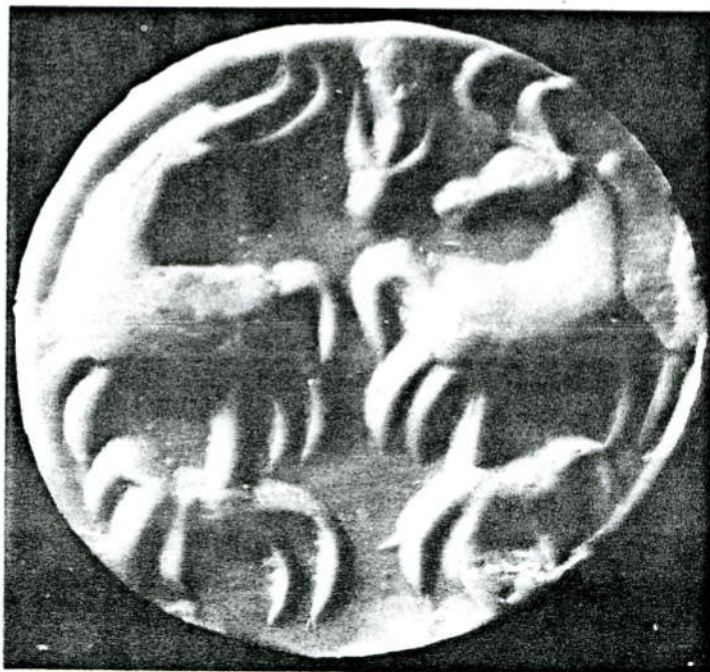


Fig. 12. — Tel Dor, Area B I.
Iron Age: Conial stamp seal, made of horn (above), and its impression (below).



Fig. 13. — Tel Dor, Area C 2. Hellenistic period :
Egyptian faience pendant representing the goddess Toeris.

harbor of the town. The two areas are located on both sides of the section cut by J. Garstang in the twenties. In the next season we intend to enlarge this field and connect the two areas.

Area D 1 is the westernmost of the two and is located near the Crusader fosse. We opened here five units — four in the flat area above the edge of the tell, and one on the slope. In the upper portion we

discovered mainly structures of the Roman and Hellenistic periods. Of the Roman period only a system of drainage channels was preserved. These were used to drain streets which have been completely eroded.

An identical plan emerges from the Hellenistic remains. We have here an east-west street from which a north-south street emerges perpendicularly. Between these streets there are well-built houses.

Of the Persian strata we have, at this stage, only parts of walls, which do not as yet form a coherent plan.

In Area D 2, which is located east of the former and closer to the bay, four units have been excavated on the slope. In the two upper (northern) units, we found again remains of the Roman, Hellenistic, and Persian periods. In the upper phases the picture here is similar to that of D 1 — a well built drainage channel which passed under the continuation of the east-west street found there. In one of the units, south of the street, we found part of a spacious Roman residence. The floor of one of the rooms was decorated with a geometric polychrome mosaic. The preservation of the Hellenistic stratum here was poor. On the other hand, it seems that the area was used in the Persian period for store-rooms rather than for residences. These structures, in which many storage jar fragments were found, may be connected with harbor activities. Only the northern part of these structures remains, as the entire southern section collapsed into the sea.

In the two lower squares we uncovered the edge of a monumental building recognizable by its thick wall of limestone boulders. According to a probe excavation made by Avner Raban on the seaward side of the same structure, the latter was used during the Iron Age and may have been built even earlier. This area needs to be further enlarged and deepened in order to explore the nature of this unique structure.

Many artifacts, mainly of the Roman and Hellenistic periods, were found in Area D. Some of the Roman ones which deserve special mention are a cup in the shape of a negro's head and a zoomorphic vessel in the shape of a sheep.

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