

*miqwa'ot*, only partially excavated this season, are also associated with the complex.

Area 85.3 is located along the eastern end of the residential quarter. A Roman road, first discovered in 1985 and traced to the west for over 40 m., was followed in this area for several metres to the north-east, where it terminated abruptly. Immediately beyond the road the expedition uncovered a thick plaster layer, which is all that remains of a possible large open plaza to which the roadway led. The plaster layer was found throughout this area; underneath it was a massive fill of fieldstones, small gravel and ceramics, all dating from the Herodian period. Embedded within and underneath this fill were a series of drains that directed water from the higher elevations of the site to a major drainage channel running beneath the Roman road. The drains and fill were placed directly over a major structure, of which only one room was excavated. Its exterior walls are 2 m. thick, and a large *tabun* was found in one corner of the room. The ceramic and numismatic evidence here points to a terminal phase in the late Hellenistic period, with a possible earlier phase also being present. This structure represents the best preserved Hellenistic remains yet encountered in the residential quarter.

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### Lower Dor, 1991–1992

During the construction of a series of shallow fishponds some ten years ago between the eastern slope of Tel Dor and the second *kurkar* ridge (today delineated by the line of the highway), bulldozer activity disturbed and revealed archaeological horizons. Subsequent annual drainage constantly exposed coherent architectural remains, as well as scattered concentrations of masonry and pottery.

In early July 1991, a 10 sq.cm. section of a plain tessellated floor was perceived protruding from within a thin bed of dark soil in Fishpond 1 (grid ref. 14279 22493), 150 m. east of Tel Dor's north-eastern flank. Since the archaeological character of the *hinterland* immediately east of the principal settlement is almost entirely unknown, a small-scale excavation between the end of July and early August 1991 was initiated. It uncovered an agricultural/industrial complex within a 13 × 13 m. area. A further sounding in October 1992 coincided with the drainage of an adjacent pond (Fishpond 2; grid ref. 14274 22502), which disclosed the foundations of a large building.

The fieldwork was directed by K. Raveh and S. Kingsley of the Dor Maritime Archaeology Project, within the framework of the Tel Dor project, directed by E. Stern (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem). Site plans and photographs are by S. Kingsley; B. Guz-Silberstein provided a preliminary pottery reading. Youngsters from Kibbutz Nahsholim assisted in the excavation.

#### Deposits in Fishpond 1 (Fig. 1)

*Wine-press A.* The crude mosaic that prompted the excavation proved to be the

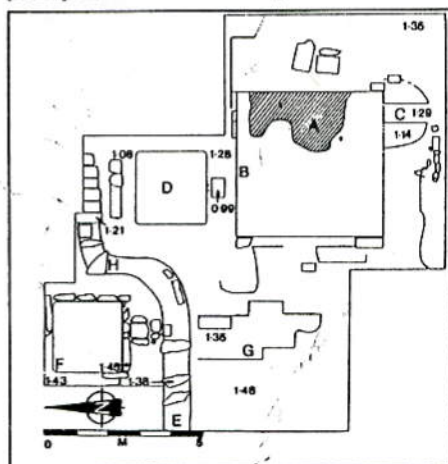


Fig. 1. Lower Dor, plan of Fishpond 1. A) wine-press A; B) wine-press A; C) pottery kiln (see Fig. 2); D) collection tank of wine-press A; E) drain; F) wine-press B; G) quarry.

edge of a  $4.6 \times 4.5$  m. treading floor of a wine-press, which slants northward along the natural bedrock gradient to facilitate the flow of grape juice. A  $3.4 \times 1.9$  m. section of the original floor surface is lined with 14–16 tesserae every 10 sq.cm. The dissimilarity in shape of the tesserae — either crudely square or rectangular — underlines the purely functional nature of the mosaic. This surface is set upon a layer of coarse, dirty brown plaster, reinforced by fragmentary sherds. White tessellated cubes are embedded randomly within a layer of smooth white plaster beneath. The entire floor was resurfaced five times.

Poorly preserved and disturbed masonry on the northern, eastern and western flanks of the floor indicates that a perimeter wall once partially enclosed it. Lacking a central socket designed to accommodate a press for squeezing residual grape-skins, a hollow niche originally built into this low wall would have received the end of a wooden beam for this purpose.

Undesirable sediment that flowed toward the collection tank accumulated in a

plastered rectangular sump, between the treading floor and vat. The rock-cut pit into which the flow of must drained was rendered impermeable by a thin plaster layer. The channel through which the juices flowed is no longer preserved.

*Wine-press B.* Another reception tank was uncovered slightly north-east of the former. A plaster-lined channel, flanked by two ashlar set on their sides, rests against the southern side of the pit. The open channel is preserved to a length of 82 cm., at which point a drain has obliterated the rest of it, as well as all traces of a treading floor. The tank's interior is coated with plaster, and the sides are surrounded by ashlar supporting the upper section of the plastered pit. After its abandonment by the late second or early third century C.E., the tank was filled with a large quantity of pottery vessels and sherds.

*Pottery kiln* (Fig. 2). Two parallel rock-cut cavities extend 1.43 m. southward from the edge of the treading floor, with straight inward sides and curved outer edges. A



Fig. 2. Foundations of Hellenistic pottery kiln beneath treading floor of wine-press A, Fishpond I.



natural bedrock platform separates the two cavities, each of which measures 0.76 m. in width. A fieldstone wall immediately south-west of this feature is probably also associated with it.

The structure's interpretation as a pottery kiln is based upon the remains of a number of well-fired rectangular mudbricks revealed within the upper level of the cavities and a thick layer of amphora sherds trapped beneath. The hard, straw-tempered red bricks appear to be remnants from the outer rounded wall of the kiln oven or superstructure. The 141 reddish-yellow sherds from within one cavity alone represent remnants from one of the last firings in the kiln. The absence of additional waste and a greater quantity of the architectural constituents of the kiln is not surprising, considering the degree of site disturbance.

The type of Hellenistic amphora fragments retrieved from the kiln (Fig. 3) are familiar from Tel Dor, Area C, where examples are known with stamped handles and date from c. 175–130 B.C.E. The remains found at the foot of the mound support the Tel Dor excavation team's findings, corroborated by neutron activation analysis, that these jars were manufactured at Dor.

**Quarry.** To the south and west of the treading floor of wine-press A, the *kurkar* bedrock is scarred with depressions, cavities and partly cut rectangular ashlar

blocks. This quarry undoubtedly served Tel Dor, and the dimensions of masonry recorded closely correspond to those of the walls of the Roman *caravanserai* building in Area B2.

**Drain.** An 8.7 m. length of drain extends from the west of the site to the east and coils between the two presses. This feature appears to be a late construction, accommodating the configuration of the wine producing complex; it either served the city of Dor during its final urban stages or the Late Roman/Byzantine settlement at the foot of the mound.

#### *Deposits in Fishpond 2 (Fig. 4)*

The temporary drainage in 1992 of another pond, 80 m. north of the first, exposed the foundations of a 9.6 m. wide building, mostly concealed beneath the berm surrounding the

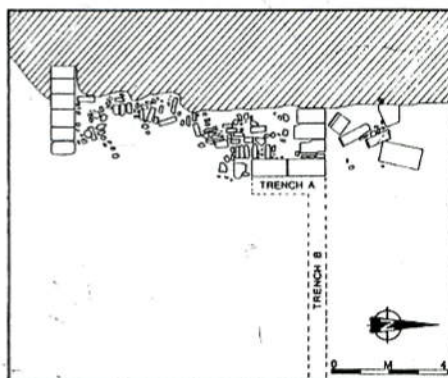


Fig. 4. Plan of structure protruding from Fishpond 2.

pond. The preserved segment of the eastern wall is fronted with large stretchers, up to 1.26 m. long, 0.59 m. wide and 0.33 m. thick; the side walls are slightly smaller. Small, slender, roughly finished blocks, set on their sides, pave the interior of the structure. A white marble pillar, 2.05 m. long and broken in two with rounded steps at both terminals, and a cornice stone lie immediately north of the building.

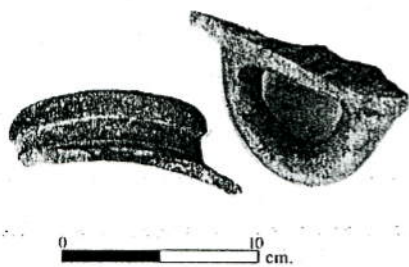


Fig. 3. Hellenistic amphora sherds from pottery kiln.

To determine the depth and nature of the foundations, a 0.6 m. wide trench (A) was cut along the outer eastern face of the wall. A well-set pavement underlying the wall, was encountered. Trench B, placed at right angles to the former cut, revealed that the pavement is at least 15 m. wide. Continued excavation was prevented by the pond's rising water-line.

The structure is oriented in the direction of the principal Roman streets in Tel Dor, Area B2. The extensive and formal nature of the paving adjacent to the building strongly indicates that the site constitutes the line of a major Roman road (the *Via Maris*) leading to the city entrance. South of the mound the road must continue very close to the shore: the line can be traced once again on the western slope of 'Napoleon Hill', 1.65 km. south of the mound. At this point the road is scarred with wheel ruts and is cut out of the *kurkar* bedrock some 25 m. east of the present sea-level. The large structure in Fishpond 2 next to the road is a likely candidate as part of an open-fronted colonnaded shop complex. If future exploration confirms this, the magnitude of Roman Dor, until now considered to be confined to the perimeters of the mound, must be reconsidered.

*Communicated by Sean A. Kingsley and Kurt Raveh*

## MEETINGS

THE TWENTIETH ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONGRESS IN ISRAEL, held on 23-24 March 1994 at Yad Ben Zvi, Jerusalem, was sponsored by the Israel Exploration Society and the Israel Antiquities Authority. The Congress opened with a symposium on 'The Structure of the Israelite Town in the Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine Periods', chaired by A. Biran. It included the following lectures: I. Sharon: Local Traditions and Hellenization at Dor: Architectural Aspects; A. Kloner: Maresha: Hellenistic 'Urban Planning'; A. Raban:

Towns and Harbours along the Coast of Palestine during the Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine Periods; and Y. Porath: Excavations at South-Western Caesarea: Urban Development.

The second session, chaired by I. Roll, consisted of the following papers: Z. Weiss: Excavations at Sepphoris, 1993; V. Tsafiris: Excavations at Banias; and G. Mazar: An Outline of the Town Planning of Byzantine Scythopolis. The third session, chaired by G. Foerster, consisted of a discussion on the subject of the symposium. Participants were I. Roll, A. Segal, J. Patrich and I. Levine.

The fourth session, chaired by Ephraim Stern, was on 'Operation *Megilla*'. The following lectures were presented: A. Drori: Operation *Megilla*; Y. Magen: Operation *Megilla*: Excavations; H. Hizmi: The Qarantal Survey; H. Eshel and B. Ziso: Findings and Documents from Two Caves at Ketef Yeriho; E. Aharenstam: Cave 38 in the Qarantal Ridge; D. Barshad and I. Shaked: M'arat ha-Lohem; Y. Baruch: The Qumran Caves; and Y. Hirschfeld and S. Riklin: Makhokh 'Elyon.

The fifth session — the first on the second day — on the Bronze and Iron Ages, was chaired by R. Cohen. It included the following lectures: Y. Stepanski: Settlement Distribution in the Northern Chorazin Highlands and its Connection to Tel Hazor in the Bronze and Iron Ages; S. Wolff: Excavations at 'En Hagit; N. Feig: Beit Safafa: Ramat Rahel's Agricultural *Hinterland*; Z. Lederman and S. Bunimovitz: Beth Shemesh: A Judaeon Border Town; and A. De Groot and Z. Greenhut: Iron Age II Settlements near Jerusalem.

The sixth session, chaired by A. Segal, was on the Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine Periods, and consisted of the following: Z. Meshel: The Origin of the Concept of Desert Fortresses; D. Amit: New Findings for the Dating of Jerusalem's Aqueducts; M. Hartal: Distribution Installations in the Banias Aqueducts; A. Zertal: A New Roman Military Formation near the Jordan Valley;