

Book Reviews

Excavations at Dor. Final Report: Areas A and C. IA: Introduction and Stratigraphy; IB: The Finds, by Ephraim Stern. Qedem Reports 1-2. Jerusalem: Institute of Archaeology, Hebrew University of Jerusalem. 2 volumes. Vol. IA: x + 369 pp. Vol. IB: viii + 496 pp. Vols. IA-IB: 832 figures, 41 plates, 86 plans, 4 maps, 144 tables. Vol. IA: \$60.00; Vol. IB: \$80.00.

At a time when final reports seem to be an endangered species, it has become commonplace to praise any excavation that manages to produce one. This report, however, is all the more remarkable because of its thoroughness and the relative speed with which it was published. These two volumes represent the final publication of Areas A and C at Dor, a large site on the coast of Israel about 12 miles south of Haifa. Areas A and C were excavated between 1980 and 1987 as part of an ongoing project under the author's direction. The newly inaugurated *Qedem Reports*, in a larger format than the long-running *Qedem* monograph series, are designed to present the results of excavations conducted under the auspices of the Institute of Archaeology at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. These two volumes contain a total of 26 chapters by various authors. Most of the first volume (IA) is devoted to the history and stratigraphy of Areas A and C at Dor, while the second volume (IB) contains reports on the pottery, coins, and small finds, including clay figurines, sculpture, and inscriptions. Some of the chapters have been published elsewhere and are reprinted here.

Archaeologists working at sites in Israel and elsewhere in the eastern Mediterranean will appreciate the chapters on the Iron Age pottery (Ayelet Gilboa), the local pottery of the Persian period (Ephraim Stern), the imported Hellenistic and Roman pottery (Renate Rosenthal-Heginbottom), and the local Hellenistic and Roman coarse wares (Bracha Guz-Zilberstein). Perhaps the most valuable contribution, however, is the stratigraphic analysis by Ilan Sharon, who provides a clear and explicit rationale for the excavation, recording, and registration system employed at Dor. His overview of "The Method of Presentation of the Stratigraphic Analysis" is not only essential for understanding the structure of this excavation report, but it should be required reading for all students of archaeology. The same is true of his coauthored chapter, with Idit Saragusti, on the "Collation of Absolute Dates for the Persian-Roman Phases in Areas A and C," in which a mathematical model is devised to date the stratigraphic phases. In the detailed stratigraphic analysis, Sharon follows his own dictum that "one should try to explain the reasoning and chain of decisions

which led to a given interpretation" (vol. IA, p. 17). This, as he notes, contrasts with the usual excavation report, which rarely offers more than one interpretation. Clearly, a great deal of thought and planning was invested in the methodology of this excavation before field work commenced.

The presence of natural harbors made Dor an important coastal site in antiquity. The excavations in Areas A and C, both located in the middle of the eastern slope of the site, revealed a series of stratified levels dating from the Iron Age (Stratum VII) to the Roman period (Strata II-I). The Persian and Hellenistic periods, especially the years between ca. 400 and 125 B.C.E., are best represented in these areas. During the Persian period (538-332 B.C.E.), Dor was ruled by the Phoenician city of Sidon. By the first half of the fifth century B.C.E. it apparently had the kind of orthogonal Greek city plan whose invention is traditionally attributed to Hippodamus of Miletos around the mid-fifth century B.C.E. The early date of this city plan at Dor indicates that it must have originated with the Phoenicians instead, as did the distinctive construction technique employing ashlar masonry piers with a fill of fieldstones between them. In ca. 275 B.C.E., probably during the reign of Ptolemy II Philadelphus, a new fortification wall was built around the city, in a distinctive Greek style. Its sandstone blocks laid in headers and projecting square towers were clearly designed to withstand attack by the advanced siege machines of the Hellenistic period. The rebuilt houses of the residential quarter inside the walls are paralleled at other Hellenistic sites such as Olynthus. According to Stern, during this period Dor was transformed "from an Oriental city to a Hellenistic polis which was Greek in every respect" (vol. IA, p. 277). The decline of the city during the Roman period coincided with the rise of its neighbor Caesarea to the south, and by the early third century C.E. Dor was apparently abandoned for good.

The comprehensive nature of this publication provides a basis for examining broader issues in depth, including the problem of identifying ethnicity in the archaeological record. The large quantities of imported Greek pottery found at Dor have led the excavation team to propose that a Greek "enclave" or "colony" existed at the site by the fifth century B.C.E. (see, for example, vol. IA, p. 3; vol. IB, pp. 132, 171). This is supported by the Greek tradition attributing the foundation of the city to Doros, son of Poseidon. However, imported Greek pottery, even in relatively large quantities, does not by itself constitute evidence for the presence of ethnic Greeks. The earliest examples of Greek pottery come from late seventh century B.C.E. levels, from which only one Attic import and a small number of East Greek pieces are represented. East Greek

imports increased during the sixth century, but Attic wares predominate in the fifth and fourth century assemblages. By the third century B.C.E., Attic imports had almost totally been replaced by cheaper Eastern imitations of pan-Hellenic fine wares. This pattern of imports is consistent with evidence from other Palestinian sites, especially along the coast (see Waldbaum and Magness 1997). The rich East Greek assemblage from Mesad Hashavyahu, where Wild Goat Ware and imported cooking pots are believed to reflect the presence of ethnic Greeks, is unparalleled in the late seventh to early sixth century levels at Dor. The fact that fine table wares (especially drinking cups) and amphoras make up nearly all the Greek imports of the sixth to fourth centuries B.C.E. at Dor is to be expected at a prosperous, commercial Mediterranean coastal city. At Dor's neighbor Caesarea, the large quantities of imported table wares (in this case, Late Roman Red Wares) and amphoras in the late Roman and Byzantine levels are interpreted as evidence for trade, not the presence of a foreign ethnic community (see for example Magness 1992). Distinctive ceramic types associated with the presence of a specific ethnic group are usually accompanied by other cultural markers, such as new styles of art and architecture, or tomb types and burial customs (Magness 1995). Though Stern cites the clay figurines from a fifth century B.C.E. pit at Dor as evidence for a temple, there are no other remains to support its identification as "Greek," especially since such *favissae* are common in Persian period Phoenicia and Palestine (vol. IB, p. 440). Even Dor's "Hippodamian" town plan is attributed by Stern to the Phoenicians. Thus, the archaeological record does not provide definite evidence for Greek presence at Dor before the end of the fourth century B.C.E. At this time non-Levantine cooking wares make their first regular appearance at Dor. From then until the Roman period, significant numbers of imported and locally produced casseroles, frying pans, and baking trays, and imported cooking pot props and braziers are represented alongside the local globular cooking pots.¹ As Berlin has noted, the type and number of cooking vessels found at a site may indicate the inhabitants' cultural heritage (Berlin 1993: 41). The traditional Palestinian globular cooking pots were designed for preparing slow-cooking dishes such as soups and lentils. Casseroles (designed for boiling meat, fish, or large vegetables), pans (used for preparing dishes like quiches), and braziers occur only in quantity at sites with Greek populations (Berlin 1993: 41–42). Surely it is not coincidence that these cooking wares appear at Dor at about the same time as the construction of the new Greek-style fortification system (ca. 275 B.C.E.) and the rebuilding of the residential quarter along clearly Hellenistic lines. Thus, the archaeological evidence points to the establishment of a Greek settlement at Dor following the conquest of Alexander the Great in 332 B.C.E.

The excavations at Dor have already contributed a great deal to our knowledge of Palestine from the Iron Age to the Roman period. The publication of these volumes will pro-

vide a basis for continuing study and discussion for years to come. We are grateful to Stern and the other contributors for making this material available to the scholarly community in such a thorough, thoughtful, and timely manner.

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NOTE

¹The terms used here to describe the imported cooking ware types follow Guz-Zilberstein's terminology, which differs somewhat from that of Berlin.

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***Biblical Dan*, by Avraham Biran. Jerusalem: Israel Exploration Society and Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion, 1994. 280 pp., 228 illustrations, 44 color plates.**

This well-illustrated book is at once a brief, vividly written popular account of the excavations of Tel Dan from 1966 until 1993 and a tantalizing, preliminary report for the professional archaeologist. For the lay reader it serves as a fascinating window into the world of the field archaeologist: the problems and decisions that he or she confronts daily; a detective-like search for clues; collaboration with the crime lab—in this case geologists, vertebrate palaeontologists, and palaeobotanists—to provide supporting expertise; and the use of intuition based on many years of experience. As such, the book serves not only as a site-specific report, but also as a companion to a good introductory book to the archaeology of the Land of Israel.

Although the book was not intended as a final, scientific report, replete with drawings and photos of the full