

AN IRON AGE CEMETERY AND OTHER REMAINS AT YAVNE

RAZ KLETTNER AND YOSSI NAGAR

INTRODUCTION

Three seasons of salvage excavations were carried out at Yavne, on the plain immediately north of the ancient tell (NIG 1761/6418, OIG 1261/1418; Figs. 1, 2), pending construction at the site.¹ The remains consist of several small finds from the Early and Middle Bronze Ages; one Late Bronze Age tomb; an Iron Age cemetery, in which 28 tombs and graves were excavated; and scanty remains from the Byzantine and Ottoman periods.

Yavne has a very rich history (Keel and K uchler 1982:33–37; Fischer and Taxel 2007; Kletter, Ziffer and Zwickel 2010:2–6). It is first mentioned in the Old Testament as a city on the northern border of Judah (Josh. 15:11; see Cross and Wright 1956:210–211; Aharoni 1958:27–28; Kallai 1986:123; Na'aman 1986:109; 1998:223–225). According to 2 Chr. 26:6, Yavne was conquered from the Philistines by Uziah, alongside Ashdod and Gath (Galil 1984:11; Kallai 1986:92–93; Aharoni 1987:266); several scholars have concurred with the kernel of historical truth in this narrative (Na'aman 1987:266–268; Ehrlich 1996:75–76, 153–155). During the Hellenistic through the medieval periods, Yavne was repeatedly occupied and its prosperity fluctuated. The city was the center of the Sanhedrin and the birthplace of rabbinical Judaism (Neusner 1979:17–42; Cohen 1984; Lewis 1999–2000; Grabbe 2000:120–124). Later, it was the seat of a bishop, and Arab sources refer to the city as Yubna. A Crusader fortress, called Hibelin or Ibelin, was built at Yavne in 1142 CE, and Saladin occupied the place in 1187 CE. During the Mamluk period, the tomb of Abu  urayra

was built, as well as a bridge over Na al Soreq (Nahr Rubin; Taragan 2000). The village of Yebnah existed at the site during the Ottoman period and until 1948, when its population numbered c. 4000 (Khalidi 1992:421–423; Kletter, Ziffer and Zwickel 2010:2–6).

The identification of the tell with biblical Yavne/Yavne'el, suggested in the nineteenth century, is accepted by all scholars (Robinson 1841:22–23; Gu erin 1982:49–50, *passim*). The city was mentioned as Yavne/Yamnia in sources from the Hellenistic to the Byzantine periods, and as Yubna in the Early Islamic period. The Crusader-period fortress is mentioned under various spellings, among them 'Ibelin, 'Abilin and Hibelin. Weingarten and Fischer (2000:51–54) suggested that the Crusader-period name Ibelin derived from Abella, mentioned in purchase deeds in the Theophanes archive, and that this name is derived from Har Ha-Ba'alah in Josh. 15:11 (probably the same place as Ba'alat, mentioned in Josh. 19:44). However, Har Ha-

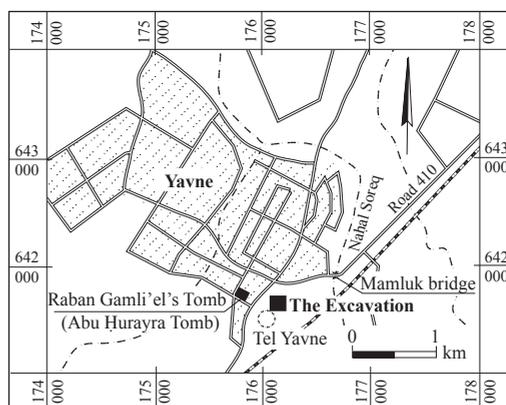


Fig. 1. Location map.



Fig. 2. Squares F–H2, looking south; in the background, Tel Yavne.

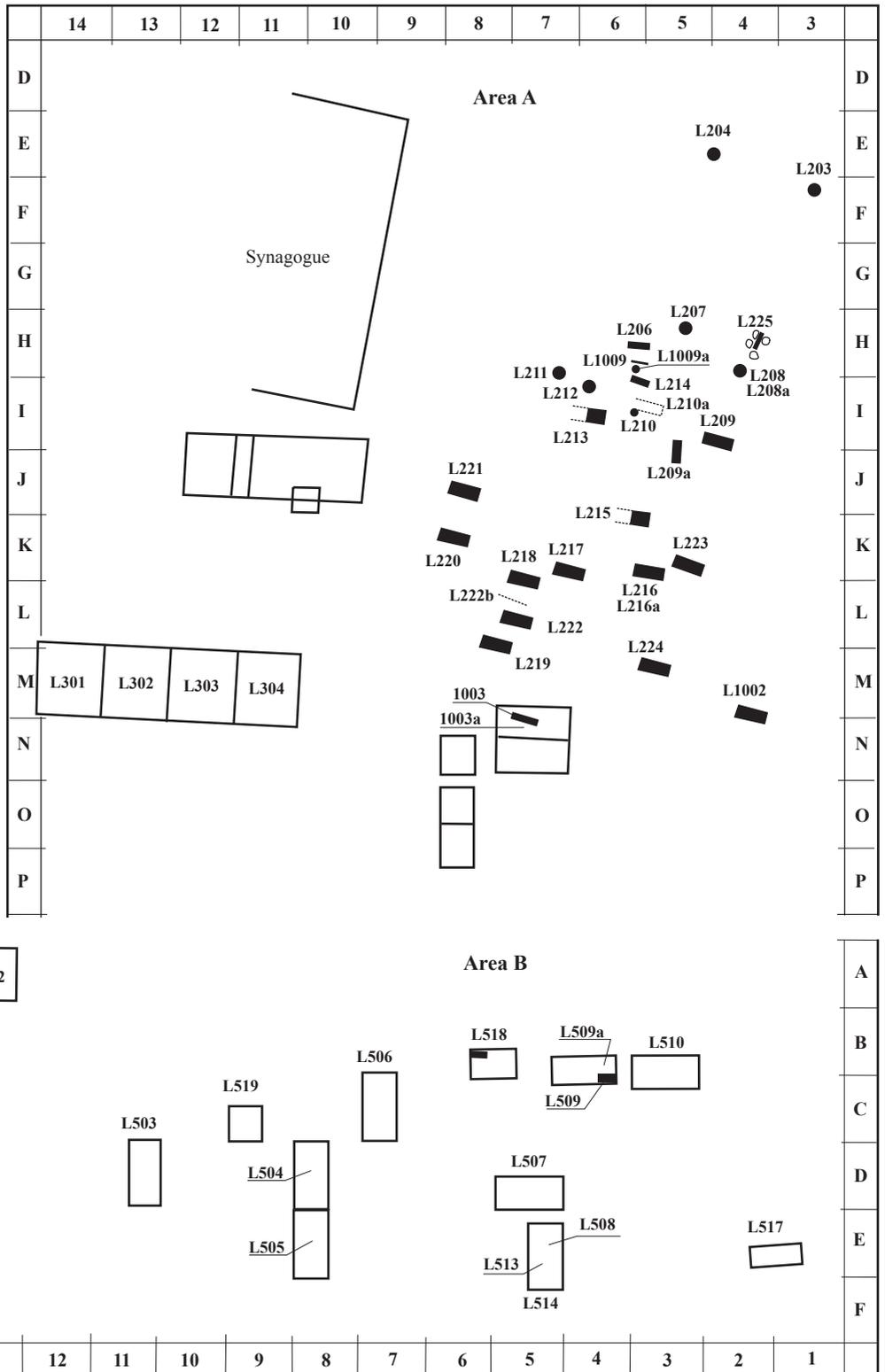
Ba'alalah is identified by Iron Age scholars as a separate location, usually regarded as a site on the el-Mughar ridge, a few kilometers to the northeast of Yavne (Mazar 1960:68, map; Na'aman 1998:224). It thus seems that the various names of Crusader-period Yavne are not related to Har Ha-Ba'alalah, but should rather be explained as linguistic variations.

A significant number of small archaeological investigations have been carried out at Yavne, although not on the tell itself.² These include excavations by Ory (unpublished; License Nos. W9/1930; W38/1951), Brosh (1965; 1966), Honigman (1978), Levi (1989–1990; 1991; 1993), Pipano (unpublished; Permit No. A-1264), Barash (2001), Eliaz (2002a; 2002b), Gorzalczany (2002), Valditzki (2004), Sion (2005), Volynsky (2009), Feldstein and Shmueli (2011) and Segal (2011). Most of

these excavations yielded remains from the Byzantine period or later, with the exception of some earlier pottery sherds (Feldstein and Shmueli 2011: Fig. 6).

THE EXCAVATION

The excavation, extending over an 80 × 90 m plot (Plan 1), took place in two areas with separate grids: the northern one (A; Sqs E–P/1–12; Loci Series 1000, 200, 300), intended for housing construction, was excavated during the first and second seasons; the southern one (B; Sqs A–G/1–15; Loci Series 500), along the route of a planned street, was excavated in the third season. A small synagogue, occupying a Late Ottoman-period building, stood in the northwestern part of Area A. Initially, nine squares were opened in Area A (I6, F2–H2, N4,



Plan 1. The cemetery and the excavated loci.



Fig. 3. Tomb 1002, looking north.

N7 and N-P8). As it soon became evident that surface sherds were few and out of context, a layer (1–2 m deep) of modern debris and sand was removed with mechanical equipment before the excavation was resumed. Three squares (F–H2) were excavated down to the *kurkar* bedrock, but only a few scattered fragments of human bones were found, all out of context. In addition, three cist tombs were unearthed: L1002 (Sq N4; Fig. 3), L1003 (Sqs N7–8) and L1009 (Sq I6). The latter two were found within two deep, mechanically dug probes that were only partially excavated. Unfortunately, the use of mechanical equipment damaged the remains surrounding these tombs (designated L1003a, L1009a), leaving their association to the tombs unclear.

It became obvious that the area was the site of an ancient cemetery. Even without being aware of this, an Ultra-Orthodox Jewish group, *Atra-Kadisha*, staged a fierce protest against the excavating at the site,³ forcing us to delay

any further excavation to a second season. This season was carefully planned, so that it could be carried out rapidly. First, mechanical equipment was used to remove the modern dumps from Area A. Then, all the burials had to be excavated in the course of a single day, in view of the expected protest. Despite these drawbacks, an attempt was made to meticulously document the two burial types that were found: cist tombs—pits lined and covered with stones, which were easy to locate and document; and burials lacking architecture (termed ‘pit graves’ for the sake of convenience), which were harder to detect.⁴ All excavated bones were examined on-site and then handed over to the Ministry of Religious Affairs for reburial.

This season also included a shallow excavation in Sqs J10–12, as well as two probes (Sqs N–O/7–9 and Sqs M–N/11–14; Loci Series 300),⁵ which yielded only a few Byzantine and Ottoman remains. Since the developer ultimately decided not to build in this

area, no further excavations were carried out here. Most of Area B, where mixed refuse pits and several Ottoman-period walls were found, was investigated to a depth of only 1 m below topsoil. However, the excavation went deeper (1.20–1.85 m below the surface) in four probes on the northern side of the planned street, where a drainage ditch was planned. Here, three burials were uncovered (L509, L510, L518).

THE BRONZE AGE REMAINS

One body sherd (not illustrated), from either the Chalcolithic period or the Early Bronze Age, was identified. A stone pendant (Fig. 4), found out of context in a pile of stones (L204), should also probably be attributed to the latter period. The pendant is made of banded agate, most probably onyx; it is V-shaped, with brown, white and yellow bands. Banded agate, found

in Egypt, southern Israel, Jordan, Anatolia and Iran, was used for beads, pendants and various other objects from the third millennium BCE onward (Moorey 1994:99–100; Golani 1996:111–112). However, V-shaped agate pendants appear mainly in Early Bronze Age contexts in Anatolia, Mesopotamia, Iran and Georgia (Rudolph 1995:35, 45). It thus seems that this pendant type is not local. Only two comparable items were found so far in Israel: one dated to the Iron Age, from Cave 4005 at Lakhish (Tufnell 1953: Pl. 67:115), and a second from an Iron Age I context at Tel Bet She'an (Golani 2009).⁶

A few MB II sherds were found out of context. They include a rim of a late MB II carinated bowl (Fig 5:1), as well as a gutter rim belonging to a cooking pot (Fig. 5:2) and a rounded rim of a storage jar (Fig. 5:3), of a general MB II date.

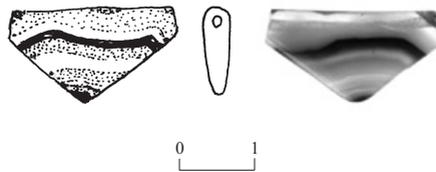


Fig. 4. A banded agate pendant (B2041, L204).

Fig. 5 ▶

No.	Vessel	Basket	Locus	Description
1	Bowl	10013	1002	Gray-red ware
2	Cooking pot	5055/11	502	Dark brown-black ware, many large white grits
3	Storage jar	2100/2	210	Brown ware, gray core
4	Bowl	2251	225	Brown ware, white grits, worn
5	Juglet	2250	225	Buff-white ware, burnished
6	Juglet	2255	225	Brown-gray ware, plastic decoration
7	Juglet	2252	225	Brown-gray ware, plastic decoration
8	Juglet	2254	225	Brown-gray ware
9	Juglet	2256	225	Brown-gray ware
10	Juglet	2253	225	Brown-gray ware, plastic decoration

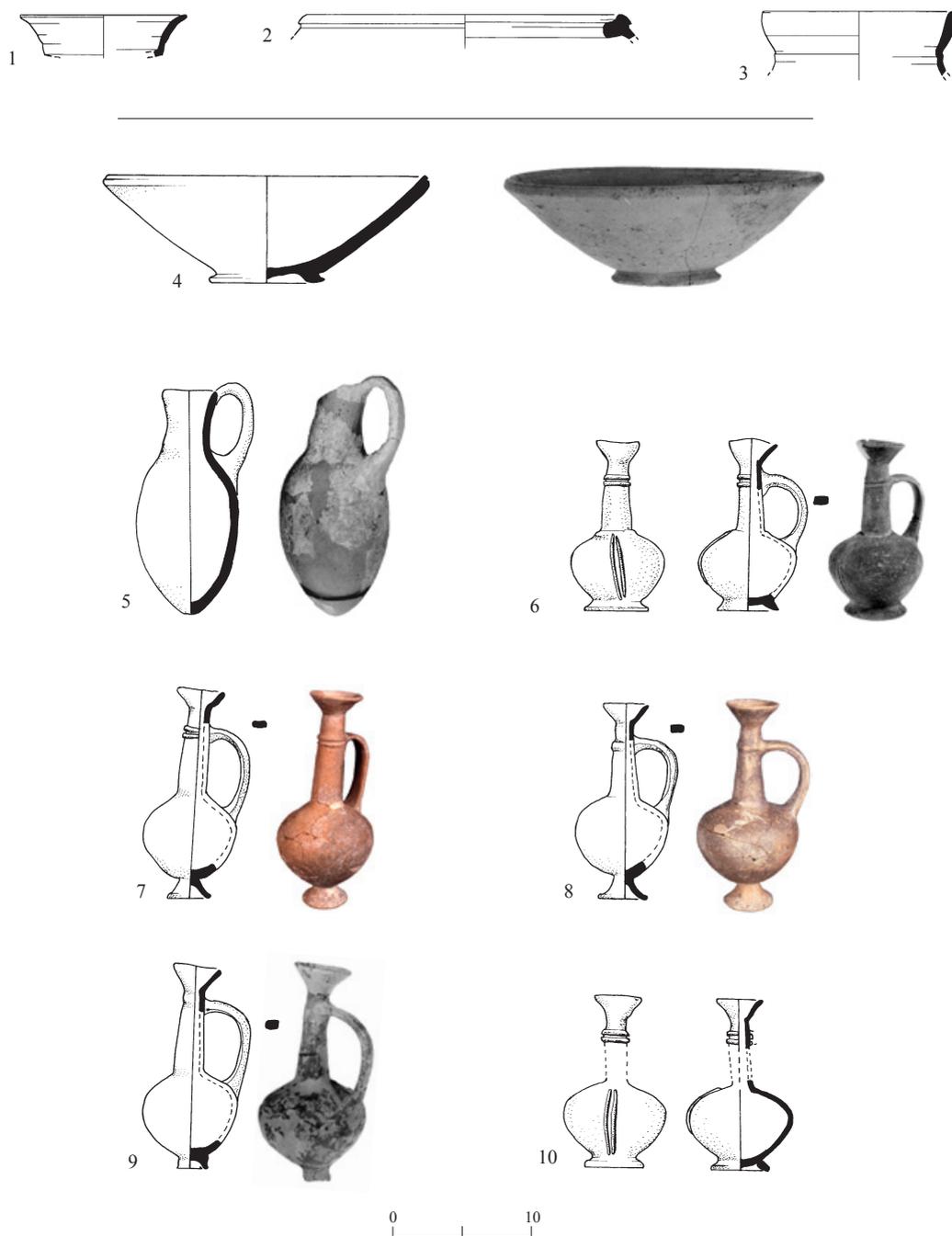


Fig. 5. Middle Bronze Age pottery (1–3) and Late Bronze Age vessels (4–10) from Tomb 225.

One Late Bronze Age burial was unearthened (L225). It was set in natural, sandy soil that covered the *kurkar* bedrock. Unfortunately, we were neither able to expose the entire burial nor document it *in situ*. It seems to have contained

an adult of unknown sex and age, lying in articulation and oriented north–south. This orientation differs from that of the Iron Age burials, which were laid along a general east–west axis (see below); we could not ascertain the

location and direction of the skull. It is unclear whether the interred was placed in a pit, but this seems likely. A group of vessels was associated with the burial. It included a partially preserved storage jar (B2250/2; not illustrated), which stood at the northern end of the burial, and a local bowl (Fig. 5:4), a Cypriot White Shaved juglet (Fig. 5:5) and five small Cypriot Base Ring I juglets (Fig. 5:6–10), which were found about one meter to the south of the storage jar. A sherd of an additional Base Ring juglet (not illustrated) was found out of context in Sq J11. The vessels, mainly the Cypriot juglets, indicate that the burial belonged to an early stage of the Late Bronze Age II (the fourteenth century BC). This is the only Late Bronze Age burial found at Yavne to date (for Late Bronze Age pit burials in the coastal plain, see Gonen 1992). A cemetery with Late Bronze Age burials oriented similarly to the Yavne burial was unearthed at nearby Palmaḥim (Yannai et al. 2013).

THE IRON AGE CEMETERY

THE BURIALS

The Iron Age cemetery comprised 18 cist tombs—pits lined with one course of dressed, local *kurkar* stones and covered with *kurkar* slabs, which in most cases did not survive—and ten burials without architecture. For the sake of convenience, the latter will be referred to as ‘pit graves’, although some were found near cist burials or were badly preserved, leaving no clear evidence of a pit. All of the burials, except for two, were oriented along a general east–west axis, and all were found

at approximately the same elevation (c. 29.5–30.0 m asl).

Cist Tombs

Of the 18 cist tombs, one was extremely damaged (L215) and three were not fully excavated (L509, L510, L518). In most, the eastern and western walls were composed of two long stones. Occasionally (e.g., L217, L220, L221), several of the stones in the long walls were set perpendicularly to the axis of the tomb and protruded outward, probably a technique that served to reinforce the walls. The tombs were originally covered with four to five stone slabs (found intact in tombs L223, L224, L518, L1003, and partially preserved in tombs L220, L509 and L1002). All the cist tombs contained the burial of single adults, with the exception of one deceased youth (L219). The interred were of both sexes, although the data on sex is very limited (Table 1). The deceased were placed in a supine position, with their head in the east, except for one, whose head was in the west (L217). There was no indication of any stratigraphic differences between the cist tombs. Measurements for the cist tombs, unless otherwise mentioned, are presented as follows: outer dimensions; inner dimensions; elevation above sea level, measured at the top of the tomb walls.

L213.— The tomb (0.9 × 2.3 m; 0.40 × 1.85 m; 30.02 m asl) was damaged, and found without its cover stones. The western part of the tomb is mostly ruined, but the preserved southwestern corner enabled us to determine its size. The tomb contained a primary burial of an adult of unknown sex. No artifacts were found.

Table 1. Age and Sex Distribution of the Skeletal Population

Sex	Age Group					Adults of Unknown Age
	Newborn–9	10–19	20–29	30–39	>40	
Males	-	-	-	-	2	1
Females	-	-	-	-	1	-
Unknown	-	5	3	1	4	9
<i>Total</i>	-	5	3	1	7	10



Fig. 6. Tomb 214 with skeletal remains, looking south.



Fig. 8. Tomb 217 early in the excavation, looking north.

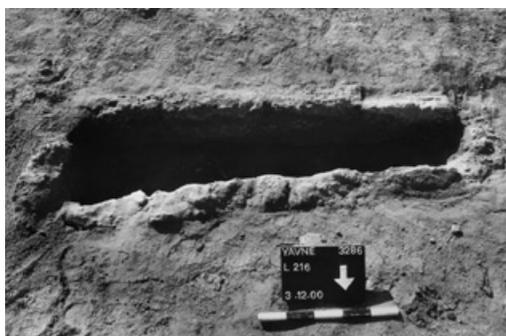


Fig. 7. Tomb 216, looking south.



Fig. 9. Tomb 217 with skeletal remains, looking west.

L214 (Fig. 6).— The tomb (0.9×2.3 m; 0.50×1.85 m; 29.76 m asl), found without its cover stones, was built of well-dressed stones. It contained a primary burial of an adult of unknown sex, over 30 years old, lying supine with the skull in the east. No artifacts were found.

L215.— Only scant remains of a cist tomb were found (29.70 m asl): two stones at its northeastern corner. The bones attributed to this tomb were found near the stones and do not necessarily belong to the original burial. No artifacts were found.

L216 (Fig. 7).— The tomb (0.70×2.05 m; 0.3 [west] – 0.4 [east] $\times 1.8$ m; 29.48 m asl), found without its cover stones, is simple but

well-built. It contained a primary burial of an adult of unknown sex, 20–30 years old, lying supine with the skull in the east. No artifacts were found.

L217 (Figs. 8, 9).— The tomb (1.0×2.4 m; 0.05×2.05 m; 29.85 m asl) was found without its cover stones. It is simple, but well-built, with two perpendicular stones in the southern wall that protruded outward. The tomb contained a primary burial of an adult of unknown sex, over 40 years old, lying supine. Unlike the other

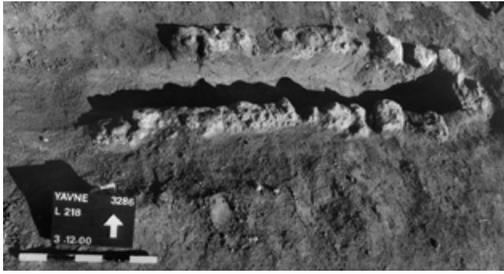


Fig. 10. Tomb L218, looking north.

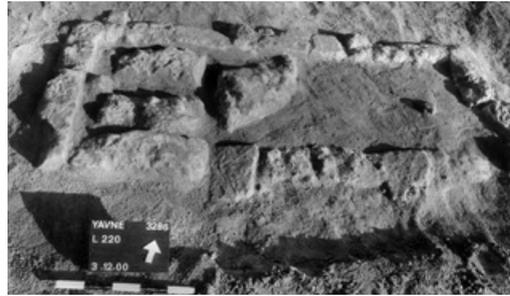
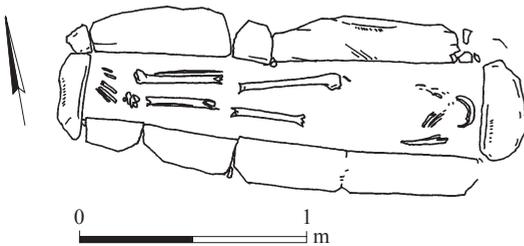


Fig. 12. Tomb 220 with the remaining cover stones, looking north.



Fig. 11. Tomb 219 with skeletal remains, looking south.



Plan 2. Tomb L219.

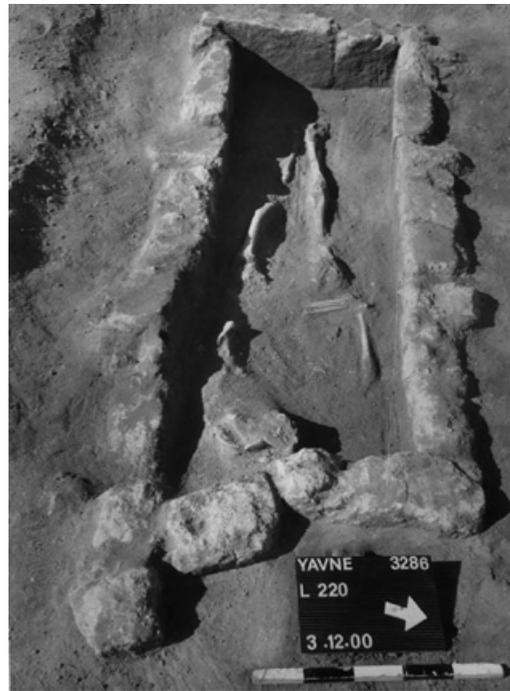


Fig. 13. Tomb 220 with skeletal remains, looking west.

burials, the skull was in the west. No artifacts were found.

L218 (Fig. 10).— The tomb (0.8×2.7 [?] m; 0.4 m wide; 29.57 m asl) was found damaged and without its cover stones. It contained a primary burial of an adult of unknown age, probably male, lying supine with the skull in the east. No artifacts were found.

L219 (Plan 2; Fig. 11).— The tomb (0.8×2.1 m; $0.33\text{--}0.40 \times 1.85$ m; 29.62 m asl) was

found without its cover stones. The rectangular stones making up the walls were well-set and regular in shape. The tomb contained a primary burial of a youth, 13–18 years old, lying supine with the skull in the east. No artifacts were found.

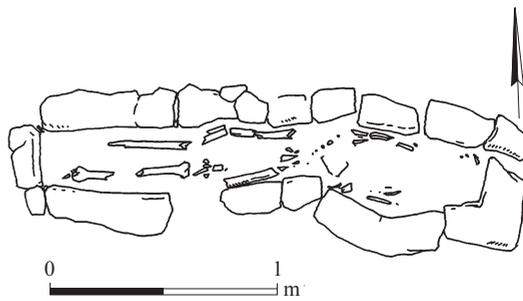
L220 (Figs. 12, 13).— The tomb (1.1×2.7 m; 0.35×2.20 m; 29.57 m asl) was found with only several of its cover stones: small stones above the western part of the tomb. The tomb was simple, but well-built. Three stones in the

northern long wall were set perpendicular to the walls, protruding outward. The tomb contained a primary burial of an adult of unknown sex, 35–45 years old, lying supine with the skull in the east. No artifacts were found.

L221 (Fig. 14).— The tomb (0.7×2.3 m; 0.35×2.00 m; 29.60 m asl) was found with only a few broken and scattered stones above the grave. Two stones in the northern wall protruded outward. The tomb contained the primary burial of an adult of unknown sex, over 20 years old, lying supine with the skull in the east. One silver ring in a very poor state of preservation was found in the tomb (Fig. 30:5).

L222 (Plan 3; Fig. 15).— The tomb (0.8×2.3 m; 0.40×2.05 m; 29.54 m asl) was found without its cover stones. The walls were constructed of irregular, small stones, perhaps representing a repair. The tomb contained the primary burial of an adult of unknown sex, 40–50 years old, with the skull in the east. A bronze triangular fibula (Fig. 30:7) was found near the legs of the deceased, at 29.45 m, the same elevation as the bones.

L223 (Plan 4; Figs. 16, 17).— The tomb (0.7×1.8 m; 0.35×1.60 m; 29.46 m asl) was found with its cover stones intact. The stones of the walls were uniform and well-set. The tomb contained a primary burial of a female, 35–45 years old, lying supine with her skull in the east. No artifacts were found.



Plan 3. Tomb L222.

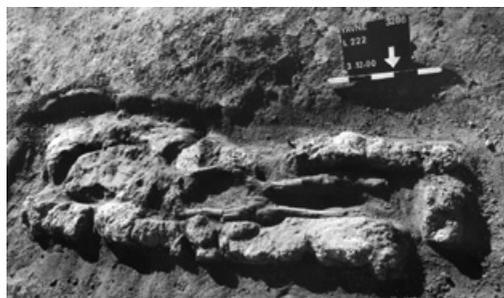
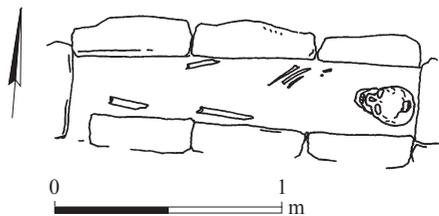


Fig. 15. Tomb 222 with skeletal remains, looking south.



Plan 4. Tomb L223.



Fig. 14. Tomb 221, looking northwest.

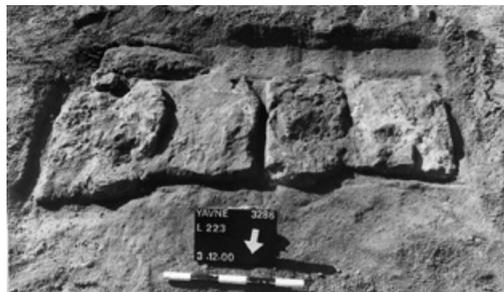


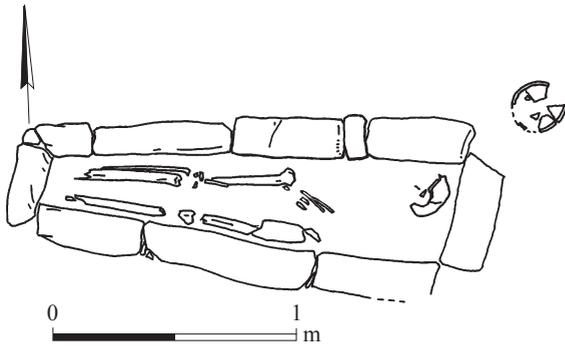
Fig. 16. Tomb 223 with the cover stones intact, looking south.



Fig. 17. Tomb 223 with skeletal remains, looking southeast.



Fig. 19. Tomb 224 with skeletal remains, looking south.



Plan 5. Tomb L224.



Fig. 20. Tomb 509, looking south.

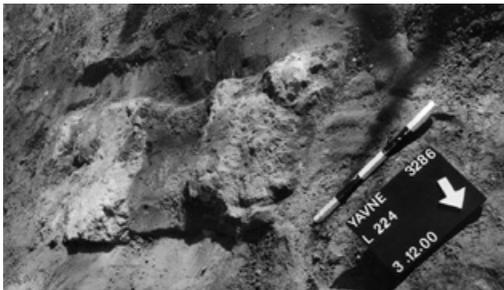


Fig. 18. Tomb 224 with the cover stones intact, looking southwest.



Fig. 21. Tomb 510, looking northeast.

L224 (Plan 5; Figs. 18, 19).— The tomb (0.80 × 2.05 m; 0.25 [west] – 0.40 m [east] × 1.70 m; 29.44 m asl) was found fully preserved, with five cover stones. Its walls were uniform and built of large stones. The tomb contained a primary burial of a male, 40–50 years old, lying supine with his skull in the east. An iron ring was found near the deceased's hand, but the finger bones did not survive (Fig. 30:3).

L509 (Fig. 20).— The tomb (at least 0.65 × 1.35 m), oriented east–west, was partially preserved, and found with only one cover stone. It was not excavated. Next to it were traces of a burial with no construction (*L509a*).

L510 (Fig. 21).— The tomb (at least 0.6 × 0.8 m), oriented east–west, was severely damaged, with no cover stones. It was not excavated.



Fig. 22. Tomb 518 with the intact cover stone and the storage jar, looking west.



Fig. 23. Tomb 518 following the removal of most of the cover stones, looking west; note the modern trench in the section to the south of the tomb.

L518 (Figs. 22, 23).— The tomb (at least 1.85 m long, 0.85 m wide) was completely preserved, with the cover stones intact. Only the eastern part of the tomb was unearthed, as it extends beyond the excavation square. A storage jar with a slightly damaged base (Fig. 29:8) was found on the easternmost cover stone. The skull was of a single adult of unknown sex, over 40 years old (based on the examination of one tooth), apparently in a primary burial. The head was in the east, but the exact burial position is unknown. The tomb's contents were not excavated.

L1002 (Fig. 24).— The tomb (at least 0.6 × 2.1 m; 0.3 m wide; 28.93 m asl) was found with two cover stones *in situ*. The tomb contained a primary burial of an adult male, 40–50 years old, lying supine with his skull in the east. No artifacts were found.



Fig. 24. Tomb 1002, looking east.

L1003 (Figs. 25, 26).— The tomb (2.1 m length; inner width: 0.3 m [west] to 0.4 m [east]; max. width of cover stones: 0.8 m; 28.80 m asl) was



Fig. 25. Tomb 1003 with the cover stones intact, looking north.



Fig. 26. Tomb 1003 with skeletal remains, looking northwest.

found intact, with five cover stones. It contained the primary burial of an adult of unknown sex, 30–40 years old, lying supine with the skull in the east. The skeleton was poorly preserved. No artifacts were found.



Fig. 27. Tomb L1009, looking southeast; to its south, a damaged storage jar belonging to Pit Grave 1009a.

L1009 (Fig. 27).— The tomb (0.85 × 1.90 m; 0.5 m wide; 30.03 m asl), unearthed in a probe dug by mechanical equipment, was found with no cover stones, and its western edge was missing. The tomb contained the primary burial of an adult of unknown sex and age, lying supine with the skull in the east. Remains of an iron ring were found on one of the fingers (Fig. 30:4).

Pit Graves

The remains of ten graves are discussed here. Of these, five clearly lacked any construction (L206, L208, L209, L209a, L509a); the other five should probably be identified as pit graves as well (L203, L216b, L222b, L1003a, L1009a). These ten graves were found in the same area and at the same elevation as the cist graves, and often immediately adjacent to them, indicating that they formed part of the same cemetery. The state of preservation of all the pit burials was poor. In some, only a few bones and non-diagnostic sherds were found (L209, L216b,

L222b, L509a); in L1003a and L1009a, only skulls were found; in one case, only pottery was found (L203); but at least in three cases, the remains clearly belonged to primary burials (L206, L208, L209a). Like the cist tombs, the better-preserved pit graves contained a single burial, and except for one burial (L206), were laid along an east–west axis; the latter burial was the only pit grave containing a deceased youth (L206).

L203.— The base of a storage jar (top: 30.10 m asl), containing several body sherds of a dipper juglet, was found in a patch of brown earth in a shallow depression in the *kurkar* bedrock. No bones were found. Nearby was a rim of a late Iron Age holemouth jar, but its relationship to the storage jar was not clear.

L206.— Remains of a primary burial of a youth of unknown sex, 13–18 years old, were found in a pocket of *hamra* that protruded above the yellow sand and the *kurkar* bedrock. Although the bones were in very poor condition, they indicate that the interred was oriented along an east–west axis, with the skull in the west (as in Tomb L217). Only a few mixed sherds were found near the bones (B2060; not illustrated), making it impossible to date this burial.

L208.— A *kurkar* stone (top: 29.80 m asl), similar to those used in the cist tombs, might have served as a burial marker. Just west of it was a primary burial of an 18–25 year-old individual, probably a female, which was apparently interred lying supine with her skull in the east. Fragments of additional bones were found (L208a), probably part of the same burial as L208. A broken lunate bronze earring (Fig. 30:1) was found in the ear hole, and a bronze bracelet was found nearby (Fig. 30:6).

L209.— Remains of a burial were found near a small, natural, east–west *kurkar* ridge (29.65 m asl). The bones were poorly preserved, apparently representing an adult lying supine with the skull in the east.



Fig. 28. Burial 509a, looking south; on the left, remains of a skull.

L209a.— The poorly preserved bones of an adult of unknown sex, 18–25 years old, were found in a primary burial, with the skull in the south (as in the Late Bronze burial [L225]; see above).

L216b.— Several unidentifiable bones were found south of Tomb L216, along with a few sherds (B2165; not illustrated), which are not necessarily related to the burial.

L222b.— Several bones (29.52 m asl) of an adult of unknown sex, 20–30 years old, were found north of Tomb 222. The few sherds found nearby (B2222; not illustrated) were not necessarily *in situ*.

L509a (Fig. 28).— Poorly preserved bones, found adjacent to the northern wall of Tomb 509, appear to have belonged to an adult of unknown sex, whose skull was set in the east. Near the skull were bronze earrings (Fig. 30:2), fragmentary remains of a triangular bronze fibula (not illustrated) and a worked bone handle (Fig. 30:8).

L1003a.— The skull of an adult of unknown sex, over 50 years old, was found just south of Tomb 1003. Although no other bones were recovered, it seems most likely that the vessels found in this area were related to this burial

rather than to that inside the adjacent cist tomb. The vessels included a bowl (Fig. 29:1) and the lower part of a storage jar (29.16 m asl; B10021; not illustrated), whose upper part was damaged when the probe was dug by the bulldozer; the jar contained a dipper juglet (Fig. 29:11).

L1009a (see Fig. 27).— A poorly preserved skull (sex and age unknown) was found south of Tomb 1009. To the southeast of the tomb were an almost complete profile of a storage jar and a small fragment of its rim (Fig. 29:7). The jar contained several sherds of what appears to have been a juglet with a pointed base (not illustrated). The rim of an Iron II holemouth jar (not illustrated) was found nearby as well, but its connection to Burial 1009a is uncertain.

Other Loci

Small fragments of human bones belonging to a deceased of unknown sex were found in several additional loci. None comprised a clear burial, and it seems that some were out of context. These loci include L207, L210 (adult, over 15 years old), L210a (young adult, 15–20 years old), L211 and L212 (both adults, age unknown), L1008 and scattered fragments in Sq H2.

THE FINDS (Figs. 29, 30)

The Iron Age cemetery revealed a small number of finds, most of which were found associated with the pit graves. The finds consist of four relatively well-preserved pottery vessels—a bowl (Fig. 29:1), two storage jars (Fig. 29:7, 8) and a juglet (Fig. 29:11)—and sherds that were found in various loci without a clear context, of which only a selection is presented here (Fig. 29:2–6, 9, 10, 12); all date to Iron II. A few later body sherds were found as well, but most of them were non-diagnostic and apparently intrusive, having fallen into the tombs when the cover stones were damaged or removed prior to the excavation. Several metal objects, mostly jewelry, and a bone handle, were also found. All the dates given for the

Iron Age follow the conventional chronology (cf. Kletter 2004:45).⁷

Pottery

Bowls (Fig. 29:1–6).— A small, rounded, red-slipped and hand-burnished bowl came from Burial 1003a (Fig. 29:1). This type of hand burnish is typical of Levels V and IV at Lakhish (Zimhoni 1997:75, 112–121, Fig. 3.5.16). Thus, the bowl is attributed to the tenth–ninth centuries BCE. Other bowl types were represented only by sherds. These include a red-slipped and burnished bowl with a grooved rim exterior (Fig. 29:2). While the shape was known in Philistia and the Shephelah since the tenth century BCE (Mazar and Panitz-Cohen 2001:37, Type BL26), the red slip and burnish are of a later date, contemporary with Strata III and II at Tel Baṭash (Mazar and Panitz-Cohen 2001:35). The carinated bowl (Fig. 29:3) is found in Levels V and IV at Lakhish (Zimhoni 1997: Fig. 3.5:2, 18, 19). The everted, shelf-like rim of the bowl in Fig. 29:4 might have belonged to a chalice of the type that appeared in the tenth and ninth centuries BCE (e.g., Lakhish Level V: Zimhoni 1997: Fig. 3.15:4), although similar rims also appear on bowls of the later Iron II, such as in Level III at Lakhish (Zimhoni 1997: Fig. 5.4:14). The larger bowls or kraters with inverted, thickened rims (Fig. 29:5, 6) belong to a common Iron II type that is found mainly in contexts dating to the eighth–seventh centuries BCE (e.g., Type BL13 from Tel Baṭash Strata III and II: Mazar and Panitz-Cohen 2001:39–40).

Jars (Fig. 29:7, 8).— One jar, with a broken base (Fig. 29:7), was defined as Type SJ15a at Tel Baṭash; it is a Phoenician type, which was common mainly in the coastal area during the seventh century BCE (Mazar and Panitz-Cohen 2001:103; see also a jar from Azor—Dothan 1961: Fig. 1). A second jar, from L1009a (Fig. 29:8), was found damaged, but the extant rim sherd shows that it belonged to a coastal type, which was found at Ashdod (Ben-Shlomo 2003: Fig. 5:9), in Tel Baṭash Strata III and II (Mazar



Fig. 29. Pottery from the Iron Age cemetery.

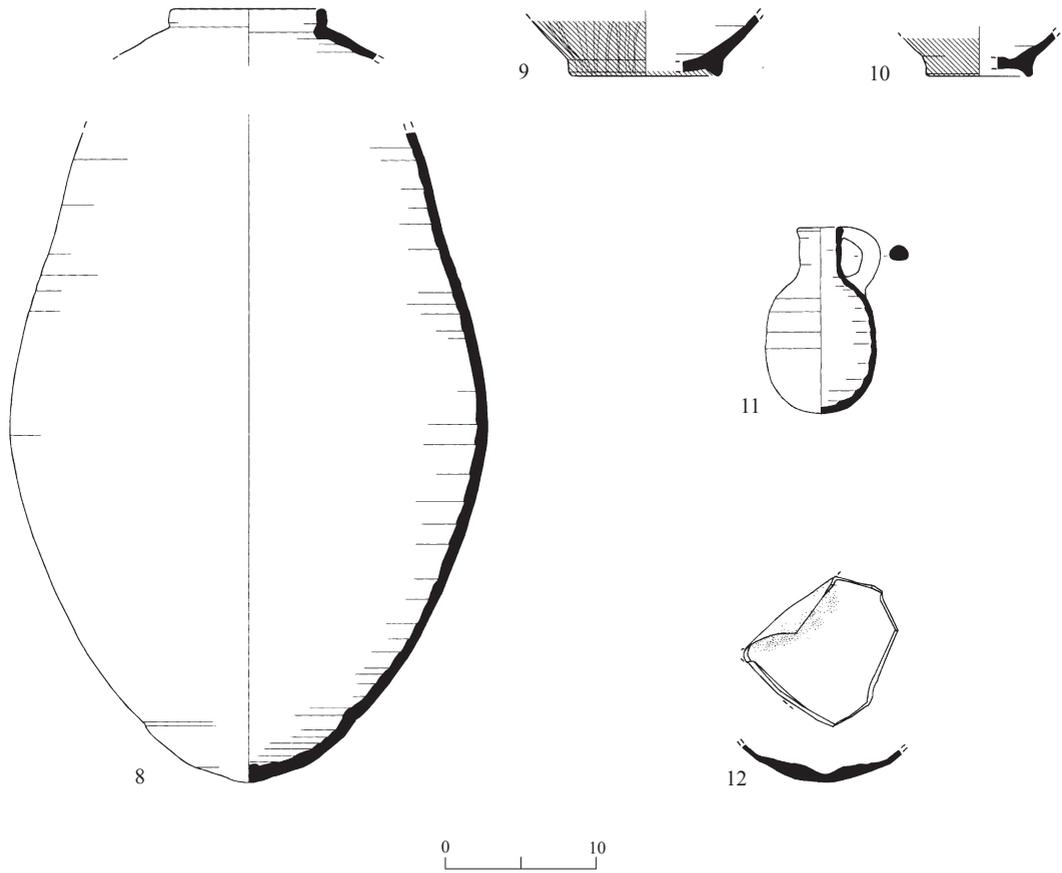


Fig. 29. (cont.)

No.	Vessel	Basket	Locus	Description
1	Bowl	10024	1003a	Burnish
2	Bowl	10005	1002	Red-brown ware, red slip and horizontal burnish on int. and ext.
3	Bowl	5053/1	511	Brown ware, red slip and burnish on int. and ext.
4	Bowl	10012/2	1009	Brown-red ware, traces of red slip and burnish on rim
5	Bowl	5038/5	509	Brown ware, gray core, many inclusions, burnish
6	Bowl	2102/2	219	Brown ware, gray core, red slip and burnish
7	Storage jar	5095	518	Light brown ware
8	Storage jar	10012	1009a	Brown-orange ware, buff ext.
9	Jug	2090/4	209	Brown-gray ware, vertical burnish on ext., worn burnish on int.
10	Jug	10005	1002	Red-brown ware, red slip and burnish on ext.
11	Juglet	10021	1003a	Pink-brown ware, white encrustation
12	Lamp	5043/3	500	Brown ware

and Panitz-Cohen 2001:97–99, Type SJ7b) and at Lakhish, mainly in Level II (Zimhoni 1997:245–247, Fig. 5.26).

Jugs (Fig. 29:9, 10).— Two red-slipped jug bases appear to have belonged to the so-called Ashdod Ware or Late Philistine Decorated Ware of Iron II (Ben-Shlomo, Shai and Maeir 2004: Figs. 1:9, 10; 3:5).

Juglet (Fig. 29:11).— A round juglet, from Burial 1003a, is a common vessel that does not indicate a specific date within Iron II.

Lamp (Fig. 29:12).— The rounded lamp base cannot be dated with precision within Iron II.

Metal Objects

Only a few metal objects were uncovered in the cemetery: two earrings, three rings, a bracelet and a fibula. Most of them were poorly preserved.

Earrings (Fig. 30:1, 2).— Although broken and poorly preserved, the bronze earring found in the skull in L208 (Fig. 30:1) seems to be a simple lunate earring. Fragments of a pair of similar bronze earrings, very poorly preserved, were found in Pit Grave 509a (Fig. 30:2). Such earrings, made of various metals, were common from the Middle Bronze Age through the Iron Age (Golani 1996; Golani and Sass 1998:63–64, Fig. 10:1, 2). Similar earrings were found in a Late Bronze Age tomb at Sahem, Jordan (Fischer 1997: Fig. 30:1–3), in an Iron I context at Khirbat Nisya (Livingston 2002: Fig. 7:10, 11) and at Tel ‘Ira Stratum VI (Beit-Arieh 1999:452, Fig. 14.7:3).

Rings (Fig. 30:3–5).— Two iron rings were found in Tombs 224 (Fig. 30:3) and 1009 (Fig. 30:4); the former was better preserved. Similar rings are known from Tel ‘Ira Stratum VI (Beit-Arieh 1999: Fig. 14.7:6) and from an Iron I context at Khirbat Nisya (Livingston 2002:26). The silver ring found in Tomb 221 (Fig. 30:5) is similar to a ring from

a Late Bronze Age tomb at Sahem, Jordan (Fischer 1997: Fig. 30:8).

Bracelets (Fig. 30:6).— A simple bronze bracelet was found in L208, supposedly from the burial. It resembles bracelets from a tomb at eṭ-Ṭaiyiba (Yannai 2002: Figs. 10:5–16; 11), from an Iron I context at Khirbat Nisya (Livingston 2002:25–26, Fig. 6) and from Cemeteries 100 and 200 at Lakhish (Tufnell 1953: Pl. 55). Another fragment of a bronze bracelet (B5302; not illustrated) was found on the surface in the area of the Loci Series 500.

Fibulae (Fig. 30:7).— The fibula found in Tomb 222 was well-preserved, with incised lines on the thickened parts. Poorly preserved fragments of another triangular bronze fibula were found in Burial 509a (B5098; not illustrated). Such fibulae, of Aegean origin, appeared in Palestine in the eighth century BCE, became common during late Iron Age II, and continued in use throughout the Persian and Hellenistic periods (Stronach 1959:195, 197–198; Herr 1997:120; Giesen 2001:215–217; Hachmann and Penner 1999:138–149; for Iron II comparisons from Lakhish Level III, see Tufnell 1953:392–393; for Persian-period comparisons from Tel Ya‘oz, see Segal, Kletter and Ziffer 2006: Fig. 19:1).

Bone Object (Fig. 30:8)

The worked bone object, possibly a handle, found near Burial 509a, is hollow, square-shaped and neatly cut at both ends. The bone is most probably a metatarsal of a cow (*Bos tauros*; identification by Liora Kolska Horwitz). Fan handles made of bone are known from Lakhish (Tufnell 1953:397–398, Pls. 41:13; 63:12–14; for a general discussion of bone handles, see Ayalon 2003:26–27, Pls. 1–3).

CONCLUSIONS

The cemetery revealed a consistent pattern of interment: cist tombs with very few if any finds, and pit graves (burials devoid of construction), often found adjacent to cist

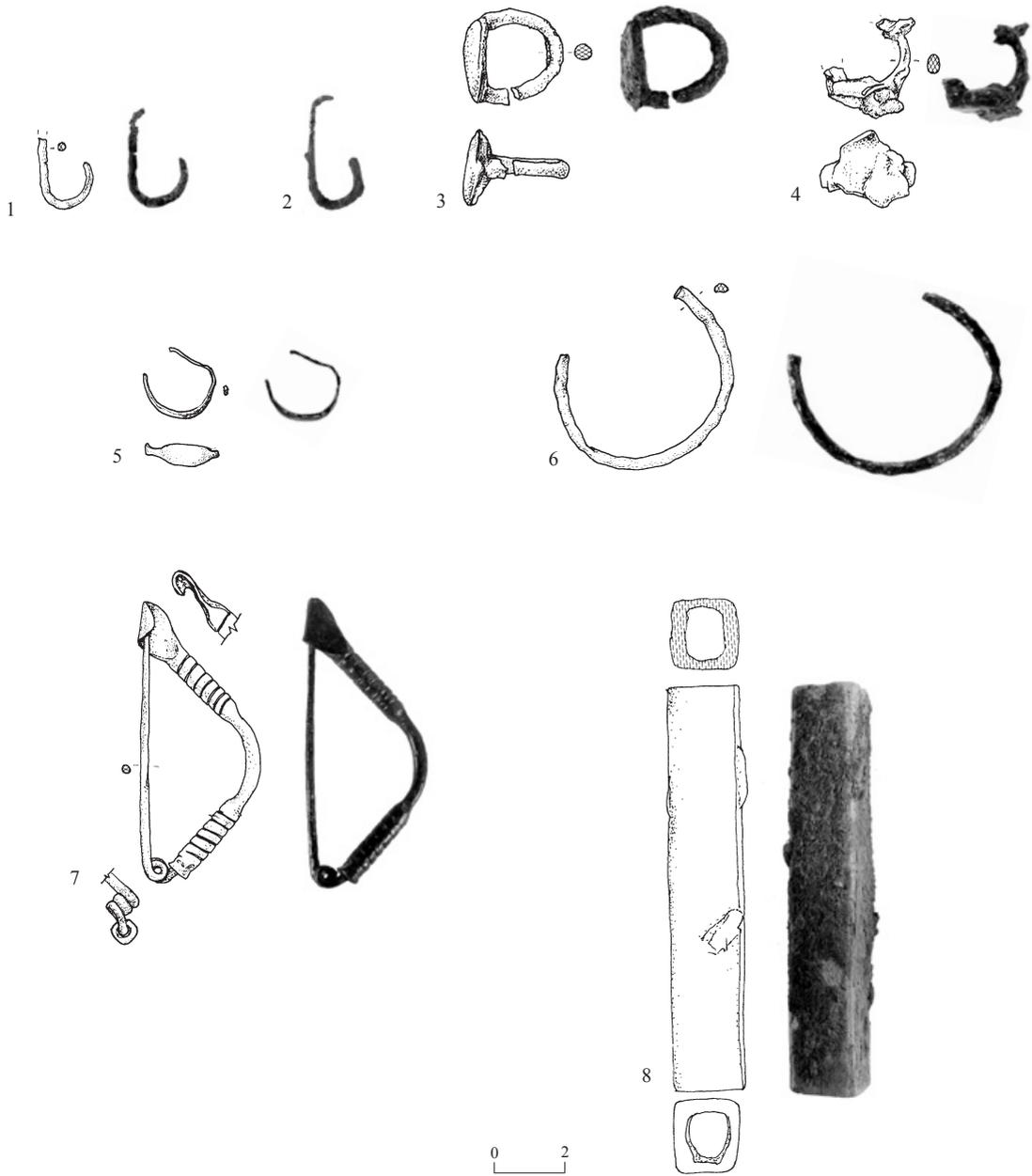


Fig. 30. Metal objects (1–7) and a bone handle (8) from the Iron Age cemetery.

No.	Object	Basket	Locus	Material
1	Earring	2081	208	Bronze
2	Earring	5097	509a	Bronze
3	Ring	2244	224	Iron
4	Ring	10022	1009	Iron

No.	Object	Basket	Locus	Material
5	Ring	2211/1	221	Silver
6	Bracelet	2082	208	Bronze
7	Fibula	2220	222	Bronze
8	Handle	5100	509a	Bone

tombs, accompanied by some finds, mainly pottery, but also jewelry and a bone artifact. All the burials were dug into the ground at a similar elevation (29.5–30.0 m asl). All the cist tombs, and probably the pit graves as well, contained individual burials. The interred—both females and males (although the data on sex is very limited)—were mostly adults, with a couple of youths over the age of 13. Most of the deceased were placed in a supine position along an east–west axis, with the head in the east. In two cases, the head was placed in the west (L206, L217). The extent of the cemetery is unknown, although in a later, brief excavation to the south and west of the synagogue, one Iron Age burial was documented (Buchennino 2006).

The initial assessment of the date of the cemetery, based on the early discovery of Cist Tombs 1002, 1003 and 1009, suggested a Byzantine or Early Islamic date. These tombs contained no finds, but many Byzantine sherds were found on the surface nearby. Furthermore, similar tombs are found in large Byzantine and Early Islamic cemeteries in the southern coastal plain and the Negev, such as Ḥorbat Lasan (Nahshoni and Nagar 2002), Be'er Sheva' (Sonntag 1999a; 1999b; 1999c), Ḥorbat Liqit (Laqiya; Sonntag and Zelin 2002) and Tel 'Erani (Yeivin 1961: Pl. 1). However, other factors support the dating of the entire cemetery, i.e., the cist tombs and the pit graves, to Iron II:

- 1) Both types of burials were found at the same elevation, without any evidence of cist tombs disturbing or cutting pit graves;
- 2) Almost all the burials were similarly oriented along an east–west axis;
- 3) Several pit graves were located very near and along walls of cist tombs (e.g., L509a, L1003a, L1009a).

It seems, therefore, that the burials were placed by people who were aware of the nearby tombs and did not want to disturb them. In other words, the pit graves represent the burial of additional family members next to known cist tombs in an existing community cemetery. This is also suggested by the lack of any evidence

for differences in wealth or status between the two types of burial; the pottery and the jewelry associated with the pit graves was not poorer in relation to the finds from the cist tombs.

Other factors suggested that this was not a Byzantine or Early Islamic cemetery. The first is the cemetery's demographic homogeneity: all the burials are of adults, except for two deceased between 13 and 18 years of age. In contrast, the skeletal population in the Byzantine and Early Islamic cemeteries mentioned above contained c. 25% children under the age of ten (Nagar and Sonntag 2008), although the absence of child burials in itself is not proof of an Iron Age date. Furthermore, while an east–west orientation is also characteristic of Islamic burials, the head is always placed in the west (Nagar 1999; Gorzalczany 2007).

Finally, an Iron II date is implied by the late Iron Age jar (Fig. 29:8) associated with Tomb 518. It was certainly placed there after the tomb was sealed, indicating that the tomb was earlier than, or contemporary with, the jar. Also, the fibulae from Tombs 222 and 509a fit a date in Iron II, and the same is true for the pottery from the pit graves. Hence, we date all the tombs and burials to Iron II.

Iron Age cemeteries and burials from the coastal plain are few, since such burials tend to be covered by alluvial soil. A similar Iron II cist tomb lined with *kurkar* stones is known from Azor, where the deceased, laying along an east–west axis with its head in the east, is accompanied by jars and a bowl (Tomb VI; Pipano 1984). Many other burials dating to late Iron Age I and Iron Age II at Azor were simple cist tombs built of a single course of bricks. Although constructed of bricks, many of these tombs were similar to those at Yavne in plan, orientation and burial type. The Azor burials also contain simple pit graves (Ben-Shlomo 2008; for Iron I burials and additional references, see Kletter 2002). Cist tombs were also in use during the Persian period. Such tombs, with torpedo-shaped storage jars, are known at various sites (e.g., Tell er-Ras in the western Galilee; Onn 1999). However, at

Yavne, the finds clearly indicate that the tombs belong to Iron II.

Although the number of finds is limited and their dating is tentative, it seems that the cemetery was used over a considerable length of time, spanning the whole of Iron II. Some finds are early (the tenth–ninth centuries BCE): mainly the bowl in Fig. 29:1 and possibly the Ashdod Ware fragments (Fig. 29:9, 10). Other finds point to Iron Age II (eighth–seventh centuries BCE), such as the storage jars (Fig. 29:7, 8) and the fibula (Fig. 30:7). Although parallels were found from sites in the Shephelah, such as Lakhish and Tel Baʿash, the Iron II pottery from the Yavne cemetery belongs, as a whole, to the culture of the coastal plain, and bears similarity to the assemblages from Ashdod, Tel Miqne-ʿEqrn and Tell eš-Şafi (Gitin 1997; 1998; Ortiz 2000; Shai 2000; Ben-Shlomo 2003; Kletter, Ziffer and Zwickel 2010; Maeir 2012).

LATER REMAINS

Most of the later remains, although scanty, belong to the Byzantine and Ottoman periods. In addition, a few sherds dating to the Persian, Hellenistic, Early Islamic and medieval periods were found out of context. These included several mortaria rims from the Persian period (not illustrated); the base of an imported Hellenistic bowl (Fig. 31:1); the base of an Early Islamic buff-ware glazed bowl of the ninth–tenth centuries CE (Fig. 31:2); and a sherd of a red-ware bowl, with green glaze over white slip and sgraffito lines, which dates from the Mamluk period (Fig. 31:3).

THE BYZANTINE PERIOD

The Byzantine period is represented throughout the excavation area by concentrations of sherds and refuse pits, indicating that this area was not part of the Byzantine city of Yavne, but rather an open area outside the city limits. The refuse pits included considerable concentrations of pottery, mostly fragmentary, with a few

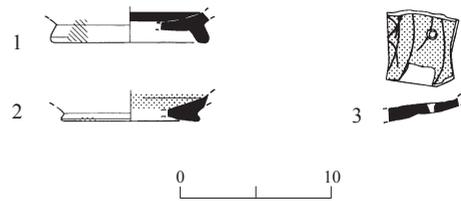


Fig. 31. Bowls from the Hellenistic (1), Islamic (2) and Mamluk (3) periods.

partially restorable vessels. Other finds in the pits included animal bones, lumps of mortar, tesserae and tesserae-production waste, as well as several stone, marble and metal items and several bronze coins. Two large pits were identified in L500 and L502. Pit 500, the largest of the two, was sealed by Ottoman-period walls, and thus was only partly excavated. It contained broken pieces of hard mortar from an unknown installation, and a large quantity of pottery, mainly storage jars and cooking vessels. Pit 502, found in a deep probe, was likewise full of pottery, mainly storage jars. A large concentration of Byzantine-period pottery was also identified in L1011 (Sqs J10–12), perhaps indicating the location of a similar pit.

The Finds

The refuse pits contained mostly pottery, but also a variety of stone and bone objects, a few iron nails (not illustrated), glass—dating mostly to the Late Roman and Byzantine periods (see Gorin-Rosen, this volume), and coins (see Syon, below). Also attributed to the Byzantine period is a bronze object (weight?) found above one of the Iron Age burials.

Pottery (Figs. 32, 33).— Most of the pottery from the refuse pits and other loci included common vessels dating to the late Byzantine period (sixth–seventh centuries CE) and possibly extending into the beginning of the Early Islamic period. Imported wares included Late Roman C (Phocaeen) bowls (Fig. 32:1–3), dated by Hayes to the sixth century CE (Hayes 1972:338, Form 3, Fig. 69; cf. Ramat Ha-

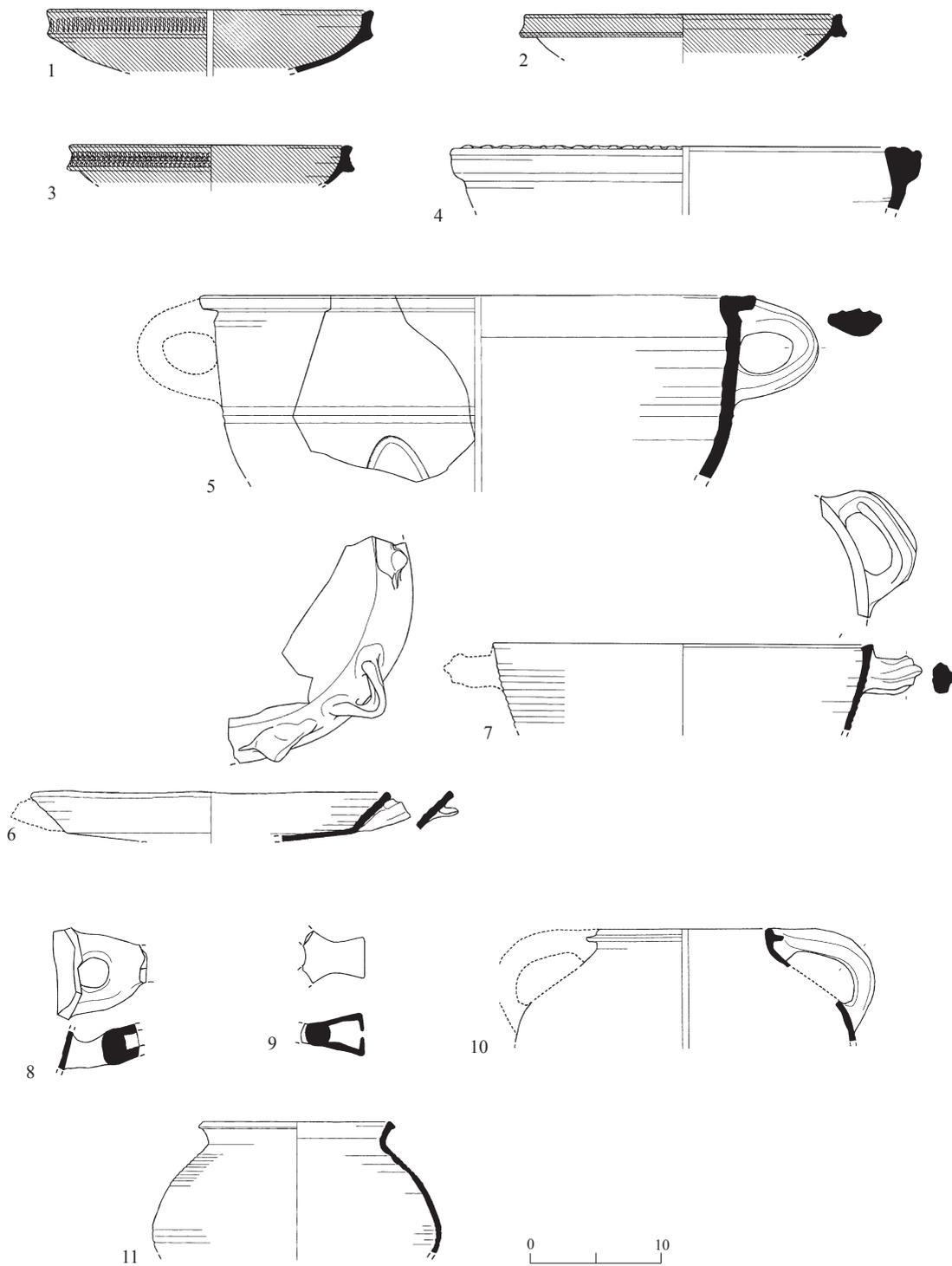


Fig. 32. Byzantine-period pottery.

◀ Fig. 32

No.	Vessel	Basket	Locus	Description
1	Bowl	5083/6	511	Brown ware, red slip, rouletted
2	Bowl	5036/5	500	Red ware, red slip, rouletted
3	Bowl	5035/2	511	Brown-pink ware, red slip
4	Krater/basin	5004/1	506	Brown-pink ware, impressed on lip
5	Krater/basin	5055/5	502	Brown ware, buff outside, combed
6	Frying pan	5073/1	512	Red, coarse ware, glazed
7	Cooking krater	5064/1	511	Dark brown-red ware
8	Frying pan	5083/2	511	Red coarse ware, blackened on surface
9	Frying pan	5062/3	502	Red coarse ware, blackened on surface
10	Cooking pot	5029/1	500	Dark red ware
11	Cooking pot	5081/2	500	Brown-red ware, slightly ribbed, buff ext.

Fig. 33 ▶

No.	Vessel	Basket	Locus	Description
1	Storage jar	5090/1	500	Brown ware
2	Storage jar	5054/3	500	Brown ware, buff ext., white-washed with some lines left without wash
3	Storage jar	5054/2	500	Gaza ware, red-brown coarse ware, gray core
4	Storage jar	5043/2	500	Gaza ware, impressed body sherd
5	Amphora	5084/1	502	Red-brown ware, yellow-buff ext.
6	Amphora	5064/5	511	Red-brown ware, yellow-buff ext.
7	Stopper	5074/2	511	Orange ware, white grits
8	Stopper	5081/5	500	Brown-gray ware; made from a tile or a heavy krater

Nadiv—Calderon 2000:112, Pl. X:61–63). The rilled-rim basin or krater (Fig. 32:4) is probably local (Magness 1993:203; Calderon 2000: Pl. IX:58, 59). Another basin (Fig. 32:5) is of the arched-rim type (Magness 1993:209).

Cooking vessels were frequent (Fig. 32:6–11). They included a frying pan (Fig. 32:6) and an open cooking krater or cooking bowl (Fig. 32:7) of common types with a wide chronological range during the Byzantine and Early Islamic periods (Magness 1993:212; Calderon 2000:108, Pls. VIII:38–45; XXIII:49). The hollow handles (Fig. 32:8, 9) belong to another type of frying pan, typical of Jerusalem and the south, dated to the sixth–seventh centuries CE (Magness 1993:213–214,

Form 2; Calderon 2000: Pl. XXIII:58). The closed cooking pot in Fig. 32:10 belongs to Magness's Form 4b (Magness 1993:219–220; Calderon 2000: Pl. XXII:34). Another closed cooking pot (Fig. 32:11) belongs to Magness's Form 4a (Magness 1993:219), but is made of very delicate ware (cf. Calderon 2000:108, Pl. VII:32).

The bag-shaped jar (Fig. 33:1, 2) was also frequent at Yavne. This type was found at various sites, such as Jerusalem (Magness 1993:225, Form 4c), Ashqelon (Nahshoni 1999:108*, Fig. 4:18) and Ramat Ha-Nadiv (Calderon 2000:104, 127–131, Pls. VI:6–13; XVII; XVIII). Gaza jars (Fig. 33:3) were the most ubiquitous vessel in the pits and are

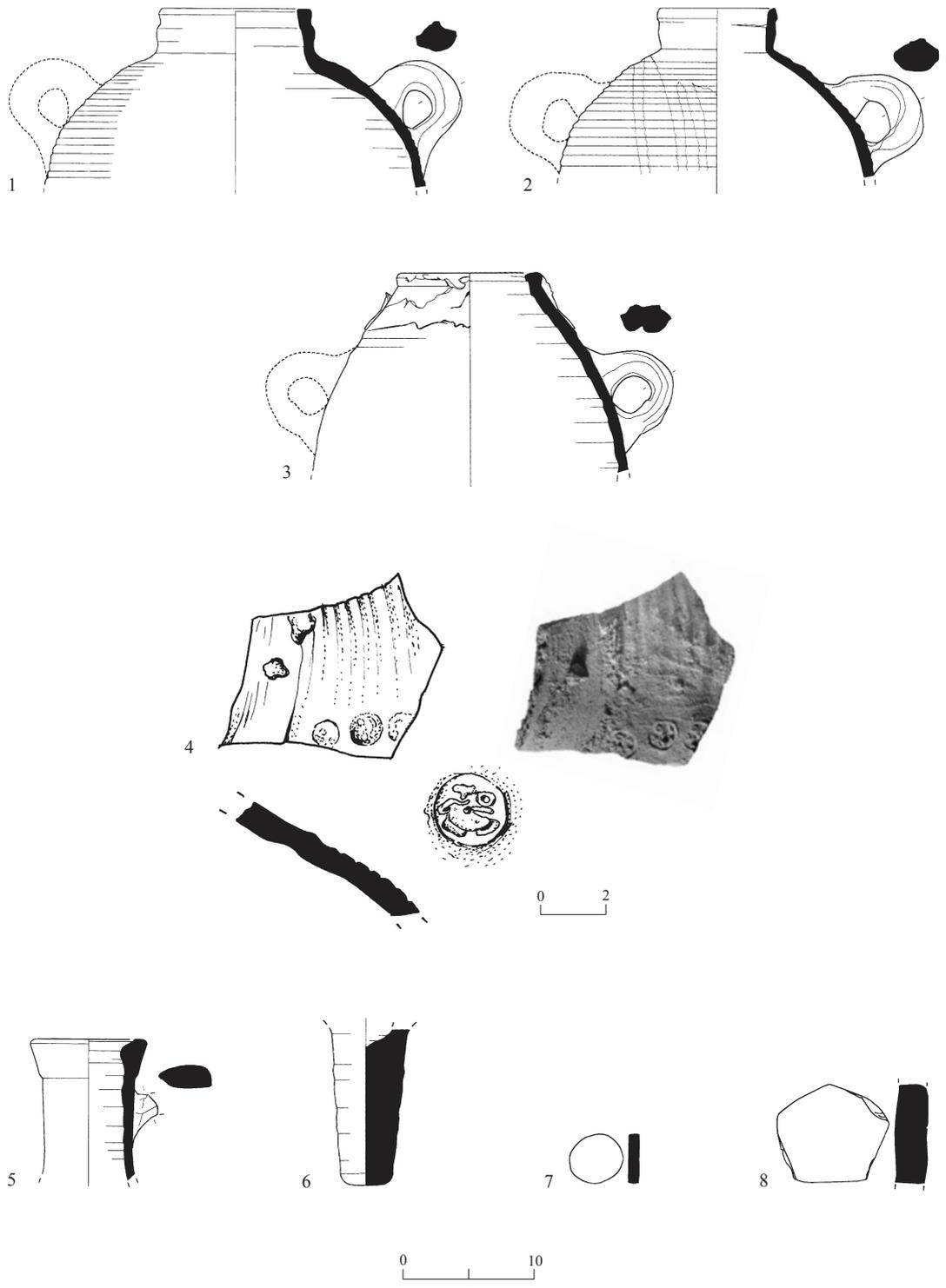


Fig. 33. Byzantine-period pottery.

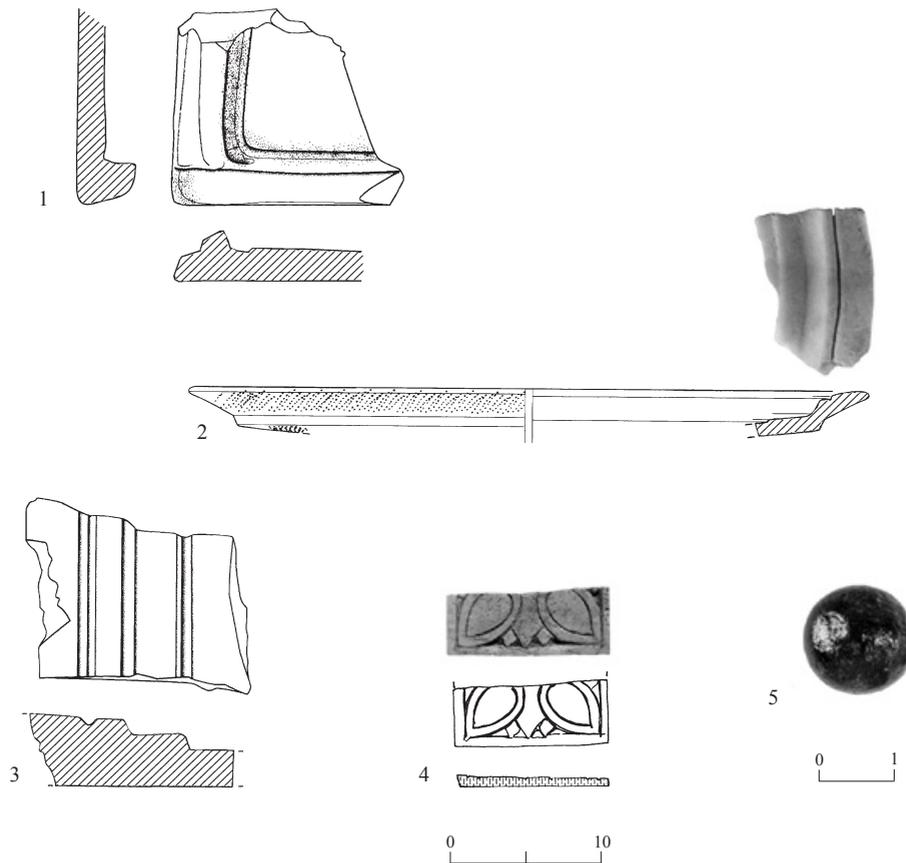


Fig. 34. Various finds from the Byzantine period.

No.	Object	Basket	Locus	Material
1	Tile	5045/1	510	Stone
2	Fragment (bowl? table?)	5092/1	500	Marble
3	Fragment (bowl? table?)	5076/1	514	Marble

No.	Object	Basket	Locus	Material
4	Inlay	3241	Surface	Bone
5	Ball (weight?)	5019	509	Bronze

similar to those found at Ashqelon (Nahshoni 1999: Fig. 5:17) and Ramat Ha-Nadiv (Calderon 2000:104, 119–127, Pls. VI:1–5; XII–XVI). One Gaza-jar body sherd bears three small, round impressions that were made prior to firing (Fig. 33:4). A few amphora fragments were found, including a rim and a base (Fig. 33:5, 6), probably imported from North Africa. Clay stoppers were also found (Fig. 33:7, 8).

The pits also contained some earlier jar types (not illustrated), such as an early type of Gaza

jar from the second century CE (B5072; L500) and a rim of a North African amphora from the fifth century CE (B5004/2; L506).

Stone Artifacts (Figs. 34:1–3; 35).— These included tile fragments (Fig. 34:1) and two marble fragments: one of a large flat vessel (Fig. 34:2), restored in the drawing as a large, shallow bowl, but more probably a fragment of a round offering table; and another possible fragment from such a table (Fig. 34:3) that

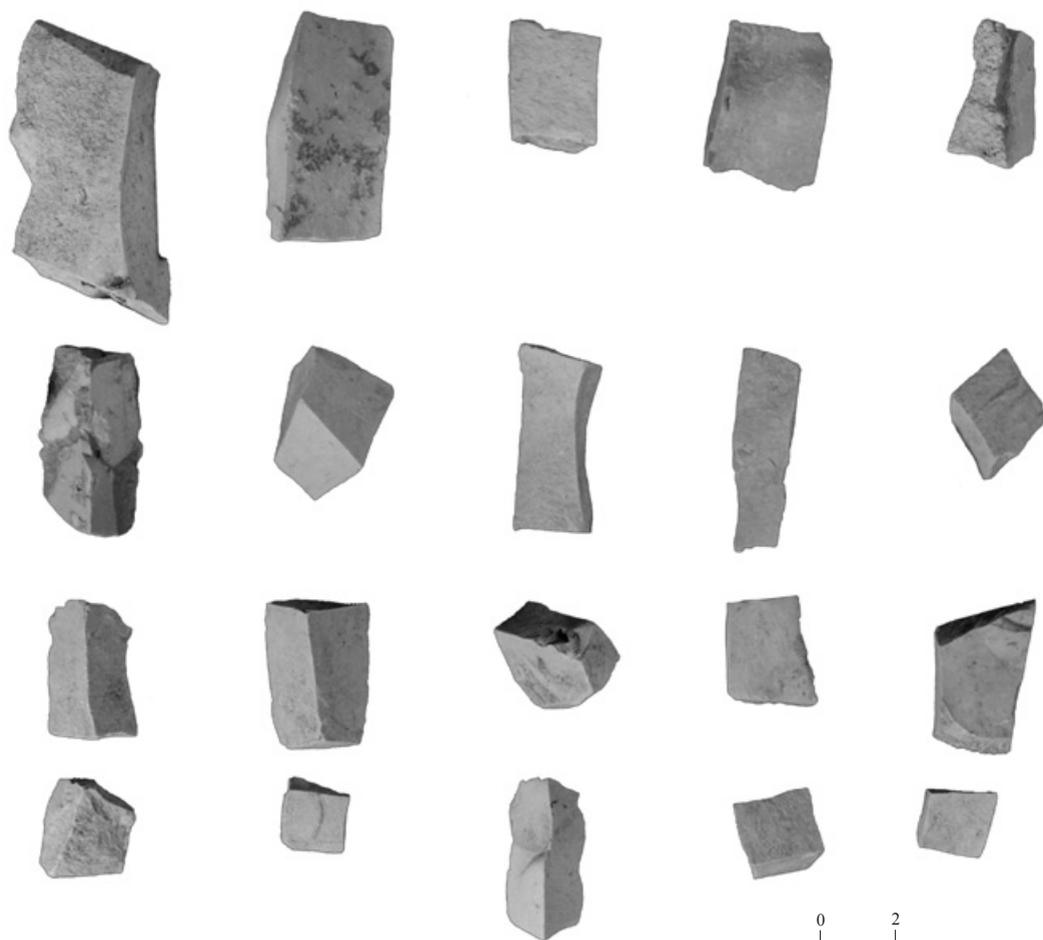


Fig. 35. Tessera-production waste (L511).

is thick and flat. A large quantity of small limestone fragments found in another pit (L511; not on Plan 1) is evidence of a tesserae industry (Fig. 35).⁸ Similar heaps of tesserae-production refuse were found at Caesarea: one heap was found in an *opus sectila* factory and a second under a floor in a first century CE palace (Yoseph Porath, pers. comm.).

Bone Inlay (Fig. 34:4).— The bone inlay fragment cannot be dated.

Metal Artifacts (Fig. 34:5).— A small, spherical bronze object (9.9 g; Fig. 34:5) was found in L509, but at a higher elevation than the burial, and apparently not related to it. It is most probably of a later date, perhaps from

the Byzantine or the Early Islamic periods. The flattened base suggests that it might have been a weight. Unfortunately, it was lost after the excavation. In addition, several iron nails (not illustrated) were found in the refuse pits.

THE OTTOMAN PERIOD

Scanty remains of an Ottoman-period house that belonged to the Arab village of Yebnah were found in the area of Loci Series 300. A small installation, possibly an oven, was found in L304. It contained a burnt layer with gray Gaza Ware sherds. Other Ottoman-period finds from this area were a fragment of a soft-limestone vessel comprising a spout—probably of a large bowl used for liquids—found near

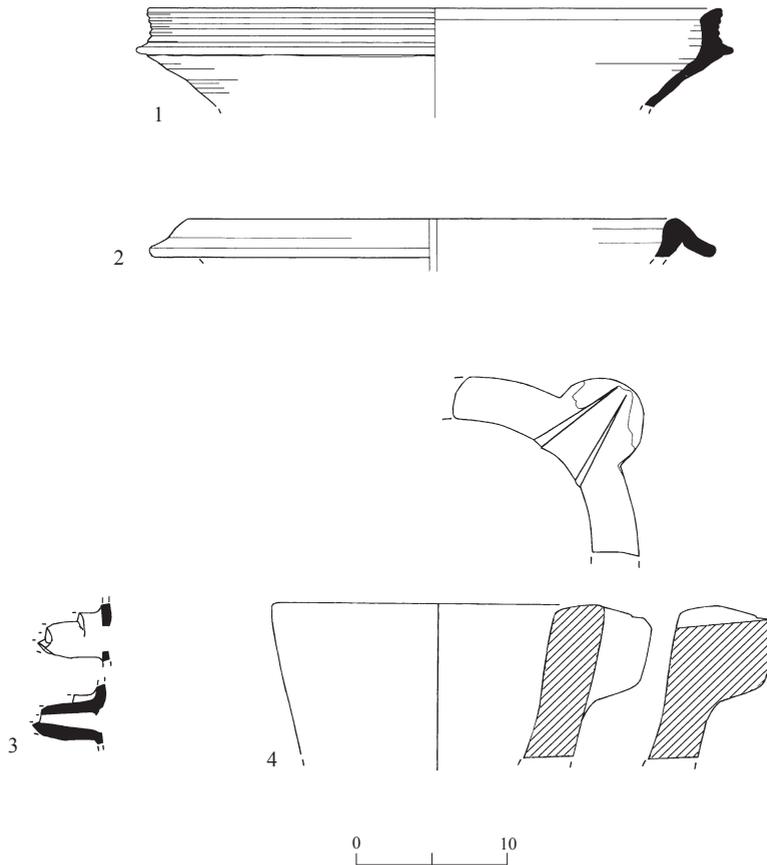


Fig. 36. Pottery (1–3) and a stone bowl (4) from the Ottoman period.

No.	Vessel	Basket	Locus	Description
1	Bowl	10004/3	1004	Gray ware
2	Bowl	5001/9	501	Gray ware
3	Jug	50632/2	512	Gray ware
4	Stone bowl	3001	303	Soft white limestone

topsoil (Fig. 36:4) and a small iron axe (L303, B3002; not illustrated) that dates to the late Ottoman period, possibly to the early twentieth century CE.

Remains of a wall (W2) and other scanty architectural remains, probably of an Ottoman dwelling as well, were documented in L500 and L501 (Fig. 37). No floors were found. Gray Gaza Ware bowls (Fig. 36:1, 2) and a jug spout

(Fig. 36:3), as well as fragments of Marseille tiles, were found in nearby fills. Traces of an installation were found in Sqs E–F5, in the area of Loci Series 500. It included crude walls built of small stones, and numerous pieces of mortar that contained many non-diagnostic body sherds of ribbed jars. The purpose and date of this installation are not clear. A similar wall of unclear date was found in Sqs E1–2.



Fig. 37. Ottoman-period walls, looking southwest.

THE COINS
Danny Syon

Of twelve coins found in the excavations, three were unidentifiable to any degree. The rest indicate an almost uninterrupted occupation at the site from the Late Roman through the Mamluk periods. Most of the coins come from unsealed loci, and thus can not serve to date the different elements at the site. Of the coins, only two deserve special notice. One is an Arab-Byzantine coin minted at Yubna (No. 6). As far as I am aware, this is the first such coin to come from a controlled excavation at Yavne itself.⁹ The other is a Crusader-period *obole* (No. 8), which was preserved in rather good condition. Whereas the larger denomination, the *denier*, of the same design, is very common in Israel, the *obole* is far less frequent.

Catalogue

1. Reg. No. 5078, L511, IAA 102856.
Late Roman, 364–375 CE.

Obv.: [...]S PF[AVG] Bust r.
Rev.: [GLORIA ROMANORVM] Emperor standing r., dragging captive.
Æ, ♁, 1.50 g, 14 mm.
Cf. *LRBC* II: No. 2653 (Antioch).

2. Reg. No. 5089, L512, IAA 102857.
Valentinian II(?), 383–387 CE. Western mint?
Obv.: DN VALE[...] Bust r., partly off-flan.
Rev.: [VICTORIA AVGGG]? Victory standing l.
Æ, †, 1.34 g, 12 mm.
Cf. *LRBC* II: No. 778 (Rome).

3. Reg. No. 5058, L510, IAA 102858.
Anastasius I to Justinian I, 517–538 CE.
Obv.: Illegible, closed legend. Bust r.
Rev.: **M**. To l. and r. crosses; above oblit., below A or Δ
Æ *folles*, ↓, 14.75 g, 30 mm.

4. Reg. No. 5080, L512, IAA 102859.
Justinian I, Antioch, 537–538 CE.

Obv.: DN IVS[TINI]-ANVS PL AVC (*sic*) Bust r., cuirassed.

Rev.: **M**. Above cross, to l. and r. stars, below oblit. In exergue: ΘΥΠΟΛ

Æ *folles*, ⚡, 13.68 g, 29 mm.

MIB I: No. 131.

Billon *obole*, ⚡, 0.43 g, 13 mm.

Cf. Metcalf 1995: Pl. 10:165–167.



5. Reg. No. 5037, L502, IAA 102860.

Byzantine, 6th c. CE, Alexandria(?).

Obv.: Oblit. inscription. Head r.

Rev.: **I+B**. In exergue: ΑΛΕΞ

Æ *dodecanummia*, ⚡, 1.66 g, 13 mm. Imitation?



9. Reg. No. 5046, L507, IAA 102864.

al-Salih 'Imad al-Din Ismail, Cairo, 1344/5 CE.

Obv.: اسمعيل \ السلطان الملك \ الصالح

Rev.: ضرب \ بالقاهر ... خمس ...

Æ *fals*, ⚡, 2.47 g, 17 mm. Double strike.

Balog 1964:172, No. 285.



6. Reg. No. 5026, L510, IAA 102861.

Arab-Byzantine, late 7th c. CE, Yubna.

Obv.: Standing Caliph.

Rev.: **m**. to l. بيني in retrograde.

Æ, ⚡, 3.045 g, 20 mm.

Qedar 1988–1989: Type F.

7. Reg. No. 5023, L508, IAA 102862.

Umayyad, Ramle, c. 720–750 CE.

Obv.: لا اله \ الا الله \ وحده

Rev.: Around: [ه]ذا الف[الس]...

In center: محمد \ رسول الله

Æ *fals*, ⚡, 3.68 g, 24 mm.

Cf. *SNAT* 1993: Nos. 45–57.



8. Reg. No. 5048, L505, IAA 102863.

Baldwin III(?), 1143–1163(?), Jerusalem(?).

Obv.: REX BALDVINVS Cross pattée.

Rev.: +DE IERUSALEM Tower of David.

CONCLUSIONS

The importance of the excavation lies in the documentation of significant early remains, especially from the Iron Age. The large and dense Iron II cemetery is the first significant archaeological evidence from the Philistine city of Yavne. A later excavation, undertaken in 2002, c. 200 m north of Tel Yavne, yielded by-far more dramatic evidence from the Iron II site: a *favissa* dated roughly to the ninth–eighth centuries BCE, with many cultic objects, including the largest number of cultic stands ever found in Israel/Palestine (Kletter 2003; Kletter and Ziffer 2003; Kletter, Ziffer and Zwickel 2006; 2010). These finds indicate that during the tenth–eighth centuries BCE, Yavne was indeed a Philistine city, at least from a material-culture perspective. However, archaeology alone cannot prove the ethnicity of Yavne's Iron II inhabitants (Kletter 2006).¹⁰ The later finds from the Byzantine through the Ottoman periods, albeit meager, fit the historical sources, which show that Yavne was occupied throughout all these periods.

NOTES

¹ The excavations at Yavne (IAA Site 819/0) were carried out on behalf of the IAA and the Friedman Hachshuri Building Co. The first two seasons of excavation (Permit No. A-3286) took place in September and December 2000; the third season (Permit No. A-3396) was undertaken in April 2001. We wish to thank Larisa Jak, Diego Barkan, Amir Gorzalczy, Aviva Buchennino, Chen Eliaz and Moshe Ajami (area supervisors); Hanita Zion-Cinammon (GPS survey); Yehuda Rahamim and Haim Lavi (administration); Tsila Sagiv (photography); Avi Hajian, Vadim Essman and Viatcheslav Pirskey (surveying); Yosef Bukengolz (pottery restoration); Yelena Kupersmidt (metal conservation); Marina Shuiskaya (drawings); Yael Gorin-Rosen (glass finds), Danny Syon (numismatics), Amir Golani (jewelry) and Liora Kolska Horwitz (archaeozoology). Alon de Groot and Peter Gendelman assisted in identifying the pottery, and Eli Yannai and David Ben-Shlomo kindly allowed us to refer to unpublished pottery from Palmaḥim and Azor. The Yavne and Rehovot police departments protected the excavators at work. Yossi Levi and Edna Ayash joined in excavating L1003, and coordinated the necessary arrangements with the police, the municipality and the developers. We thank Nava Panitz-Cohen and Dafnah Strauss for editing the manuscript. We warmly thank the workers from Yeruḥam, Ashqelon, Rahat, Qiryat Mal'akhi, Sederot and East Jerusalem, who made the excavation possible.

² Since 2005, an excavation funded by Foundation Stone has taken place on the tell, but to the best of our knowledge no results have been published. During the 2005 season, remains of the Crusader fortress and the pre-1948 Arab village were unearthed at the top of the tell.

³ Ultra-Orthodox opposition to excavations in cemeteries is common, but the protest against this excavation was particularly fierce, even though the protesters were unaware that we were excavating a cemetery. The heated opposition was related to the importance of Yavne during the Roman and Byzantine periods, when it was the seat of the Sanhedrin and a center of Jewish spiritual life.

⁴ Planning an excavation of numerous burials in a single day called for somewhat unorthodox procedures, and involved 60 workers and a dozen archaeologists and experts. Each spot suspected as a burial was defined as a locus prior to excavation, and numbered from L200 on. Each archaeologist supervised the excavation of 4 or 5 such loci. Files with a cache of loci and basket numbers for each burial or spot were prepared ahead of time, complete with locus forms and basket lists. Based on the excavation of L1003 and L1009, we assumed that the tombs were not rich in finds, so ten baskets were allocated to each locus (e.g., B2000–B2009 for L200, B2010–B2019 for L201, and so forth). Where a locus seemed to include more than one burial, as in the case of a cist grave and an adjacent pit grave, loci numbers were designated by adding the letters a or b (e.g., L216 for the cist burial and L216b for the nearby burial without construction). A page marked in bold letters with the excavation permit number and locus number was prepared and pegged to the earth near each locus, enabling supervisors, photographers and surveyors to proceed with their work independently and efficiently.

⁵ These squares were designated L301–L304.

⁶ We wish to thank Amir Golani for identifying this pendant and providing the relevant references.

⁷ This report was first written before the final Lakhish report was published. The Lakhish report includes two chapters by Orna Zimhoni on the Iron Age II pottery (Zimhoni 2004). The text of these chapters follows her earlier publication (Zimhoni 1997; and see Zimhoni 2004:1643, n. 1). Thus, although we have updated the bibliography, we decided to leave the references to Zimhoni's earlier publication (1997).

⁸ This identification was corroborated by Ronny Reich, who examined the fragments.

⁹ This coin, as well as a list of other Yubna coins found in controlled excavations, is now mentioned in Goodwin 2005:118, n.10.

¹⁰ There are various views concerning Philistine ethnicity (e.g., Lemche 2012; Maeir, Hitchcock and Horwitz 2013), but this subject deserves a separate discussion.

REFERENCES

- Aharoni Y. 1958. The Northern Boundary of Judah. *PEQ* 90:27–31.
- Aharoni Y. 1987. *Eretz-Israel in Biblical Times: A Geographical History*. Jerusalem (Hebrew).
- Ayalon E. 2003. *The Assemblage of Bone and Ivory Artifacts from Caesarea Maritima, Israel: 1st–13th Centuries CE*. Ph.D. diss. Bar Ilan University. Ramat Gan (Hebrew; English summary, pp. I–IV).
- Balog P. 1964. *The Coinage of the Mamlūk Sultans of Egypt and Syria* (Numismatic Studies 12). New York.
- Barash I. 2001. Tel Yavné. *HA–ESI* 113:101*.
- Beit-Arieh I. 1999. *Tel ‘Ira: A Stronghold in the Biblical Negev* (Tel Aviv University Institute of Archaeology Monograph Series 15). Tel Aviv.
- Ben-Shlomo D. 2003. The Iron Age Sequence of Tel Ashdod: A Rejoinder to ‘Ashdod Revisited’ by I. Finkelstein and L. Singer-Avitz. *Tel Aviv* 30:83–107.
- Ben-Shlomo D. 2008. The Cemetery of Azor and Early Iron Age Burial Practices. *Levant* 40:29–54.
- Ben-Shlomo D., Shai I. and Maeir A.M. 2004. Late Philistine Decorated Ware (‘Ashdod Ware’): Typology, Chronology and Production Centers. *BASOR* 335:1–35.
- Brosh M. 1965. Tombs on the Rehovot–Yavneh Road. *HA* 15:8–9.
- Brosh M. 1966. Gold Jewels in a Tomb near Yavneh. *HA* 20:18.
- Buchennino A. 2006. Yavne. *HA–ESI* 118 (January 8). http://www.hadashot-esi.org.il/report_detail_eng.asp?id=293&mag_id=111 (accessed July 11, 2013).
- Calderon R. 2000. Roman and Byzantine Pottery. In Y. Hirschfeld. *Ramat Hanadiv Excavations: Final Report of the 1984–1998 Seasons*. Jerusalem. Pp. 91–165.
- Cohen S.J.D. 1984. The Significance of Yavneh: Pharisees, Rabbis and the End of Jewish Sectarianism. *HUCA* 55:27–53.
- Cross F.M. and Wright G.E. 1956. The Boundary and Province Lists of the Kingdom of Judah. *Journal of Biblical Literature* 75:202–226.
- Dothan M. 1961. An Inscribed Jar from Azor. *‘Atiqot (ES)* 3:181–184.
- Ehrlich C.S. 1996. *The Philistines in Transition: A History from ca. 1000–730 B.C.E* (Studies in the History and Culture of the Ancient Near East X). Leiden–New York–Köln.
- Eliasz C. 2002a. Tel Yavné (East; A). *HA–ESI* 114:115*.
- Eliasz C. 2002b. Tel Yavné (East; B). *HA–ESI* 114:116*.
- Feldstein A. and Shmueli O. 2011. Tel Yavne. *HA–ESI* 123 (July 10). http://www.hadashot-esi.org.il/report_detail_eng.asp?id=1735&mag_id=118 (accessed May 22, 2013).
- Fischer M. and Taxel I. 2007. Ancient Yavneh: Its History and Archaeology. *Tel Aviv* 34:204–284.
- Fischer P.M. 1997. *A Late Bronze to Early Iron Age Tomb at Sahem, Jordan* (Abhandlungen des deutschen Palästina-Vereins 21). Wiesbaden.
- Galil G. 1984. The Land of Dan. *Tarbiz* 54:1–19 (Hebrew; English summary, pp. I–II).
- Giesen K. 2001. *Zyprische Fibeln: Typologie und Chronologie* (Studies in Mediterranean Archaeology and Literature Pocket-Book 161). Jönsered.
- Gitin S. 1997. The Neo-Assyrian Empire and Its Western Periphery: The Levant, with a Focus on Philistine Ekron. In S. Parpola and R.M. Whiting eds. *Assyria 1995 (Proceedings of the 10th Anniversary Symposium of the Neo-Assyrian Text Corpus Project, Helsinki, September 7–11, 1995)*. Helsinki. Pp. 77–103.
- Gitin S. 1998. Philistia in Transition: The Tenth Century BCE and Beyond. In S. Gitin, A. Mazar and E. Stern eds. *Mediterranean Peoples in Transition: Thirteenth to Early Tenth Centuries BCE*. Jerusalem. Pp. 162–183.
- Golani A. 1996. *The Jewelry and the Jeweler’s Craft at Tel Miqne-Ekron during the Iron Age*. M.A. Thesis. The Hebrew University. Jerusalem.
- Golani A. 2009. Metallic and Non-Metallic Jewelry. In N. Panitz-Cohen and A. Mazar eds. *Excavations at Tel Beth-Shean 1989–1996 III: The 13th–11th Century BCE Strata in Areas N and S*. Jerusalem. Pp. 612–633.
- Golani A. and Sass B. 1998. Three Seventh-Century B.C.E. Hoards of Silver Jewelry from Tel Miqne-Ekron. *BASOR* 311:57–81.
- Gonen R. 1992. *Burial Patterns and Cultural Diversity in Late Bronze Age Canaan* (ASOR Dissertation Series 7). Winona Lake.
- Goodwin T. 2005. *Arab-Byzantine Coinage* (Studies in the Khalili Collection IV). London–New York.
- Gorin-Rosen Y. This volume. Glass Vessels from Yavne.
- Gorzalczyk A. 2002. Tel Yavné. *HA–ESI* 114:72*.
- Gorzalczyk A. 2007. The Kefar Saba Cemetery and Differences in Orientation of Late Islamic Burials from Israel/Palestine. *Levant* 39:71–79.
- Grabbe L.L. 2000. *Judaic Religion in the Second Temple Period: Belief and Practice from Exile to Yavneh*. London.
- Guérin V. 1982. *A Geographical, Historical and Archaeological Description of the Land of Israel*

- 1: *Judea (B)* (transl. from the French 1868, by H. Ben-Amram). Jerusalem (Hebrew).
- Hachmann R. and Penner S. 1999. *Kamid el-Loz 3: Der Eisenzeitliche Friedhof und seine Kulturelle Umwelt*. Bonn.
- Hayes J.W. 1972. *Late Roman Pottery*. London.
- Herr L.G. 1997. Archaeological Sources for the History of Palestine: The Iron Age II Period; Emerging Nations. *BA* 60:114–151, 154–183.
- Honigman A. 1978. Yavneh (Ma'abara). *HA* 65–66: 42–43.
- Kallai Z. 1986. *Historical Geography of the Bible*. Jerusalem–Leiden.
- Keel O. and Küchler M. 1982. *Orte und Landschaften der Bibel 2: Der Süden*. Köln.
- Khalidi W. 1992. *All That Remains: The Palestinian Villages Occupied and Depopulated by Israel in 1948*. Washington, D.C.
- Kletter R. 2002. People without Burials? The Lack of Iron I Burials in the Central Highlands of Palestine. *IEJ* 52:28–48.
- Kletter R. 2003. Kult Scherben. *Welt und Umwelt der Bible* 30/4:58–59.
- Kletter R. 2004. Chronology and United Monarchy: A Methodological Review. *ZDPV* 120:13–54.
- Kletter R. 2006. Can a Proto-Israelite Please Stand Up? Notes on the Ethnicity and Iron Age Israel and Judah. In A.M. Maeir and P. deMiroshedji eds. “*I will Speak the Riddles of Ancient Times*”: *Archaeological and Historical Studies in Honor of Amihai Mazar on the Occasion of His Sixtieth Birthday 2*. Winona Lake. Pp. 573–586.
- Kletter R. and Ziffer I. 2003. Yavné. *HA–ESI* 115:46*–47*.
- Kletter R., Ziffer I. and Zwickel W. 2006. Cult Stands of the Philistines: A Genizah from Yavneh. *NEA* 69:147–159.
- Kletter R., Ziffer I. and Zwickel W. 2010. *Yavneh I: The Excavation of the “Temple Hill” Repository Pit and the Cult Stands* (OBO.SA 30). Fribourg–Göttingen.
- Lemche N.P. 2012. Using the Concept of Ethnicity in Defining Philistine Identity in the Iron Age. *Scandinavian Journal of the Old Testament* 26/1:12–29.
- Levi Y. 1989–1990. Yavne. *ESI* 9:61.
- Levi Y. 1991. Yavne. *ESI* 10:170.
- Levi Y. 1993. Tel Yavne (South), Kiln. *ESI* 12:113.
- Lewis J.P. 1999–2000. Jamnia after Forty Years. *HUCA* 70–71:233–259.
- Livingston D. 2002. A Middle Bronze II and Iron Age I Tomb (No. 65) at Khirbet Nisya. *Atiqot* 43:17–35.
- LRBC II*: R.A.G. Carson and J.P.C. Kent. Bronze Roman Imperial Coinage of the Later Empire, A.D. 346–498. In *Late Roman Bronze Coinage A.D. 324–498*. London 1965. Pp. 41–114.
- Maeir A.M. ed. 2012. *Tell es-Safi/Gath I: The 1996–2005 Seasons* (Ägypten und Altes Testament 69). Wiesbaden.
- Maeir A.M., Hitchcock L.A. and Horwitz L.K. 2013. On the Constitution and Transformation of Philistine Identity. *OJA* 32:1–38.
- Magness J. 1993. *Jerusalem Ceramic Chronology: Circa 200–800 CE* (JSOT/ASOR Monograph Series 9). Sheffield.
- Mazar B. 1960. The Cities of the Territory of Dan. *IEJ* 10:65–77.
- Mazar A. and Panitz-Cohen N. 2001. *Timnah (Tel Baʿash) II: The Finds from the First Millennium BCE* (Qedem 42) (2 vols.). Jerusalem.
- Metcalf D.M. 1995. *Coinage of the Crusades and the Latin East in the Ashmolean Museum Oxford* (2nd ed.). London.
- MIB I*: W. Hahn. *Moneta Imperii Byzantini I: Von Anastasius I bis Justinianus I (491–565)* (Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Philosophisch-Historische Klasse, Denkschriften 109; Veröffentlichungen der Numismatischen Kommission 1). Vienna 1973.
- Moorey P.R.S. 1994. *Ancient Mesopotamian Materials and Industries: The Archaeological Evidence*. Oxford.
- Naʿaman N. 1986. *Borders and Districts in Biblical Historiography: Seven Studies in Biblical Geographic Lists* (Jerusalem Biblical Studies 4). Jerusalem.
- Naʿaman N. 1987. Pastoral Nomads in the Southwestern Periphery of the Kingdom of Judah in the 9th–8th Centuries B.C.E. *Zion* 52:261–278 (Hebrew; English summary, p. XI).
- Naʿaman N. 1998. Two Notes on the History of Ashkelon and Ekron in the late Eighth–Seventh Centuries B.C.E. *Tel Aviv* 25:219–225.
- Nagar Y. 1999. *The Anthropology of Rehovot-in-the-Negev Population as an Example of a Large Byzantine Settlement in the Negev*. Ph.D. diss. Tel Aviv University. Tel Aviv (Hebrew; English summary, pp. I–XII).
- Nagar Y. and Sonntag F. 2008. The Byzantine Period Burials in the Negev: Anthropological Description and Summary. *IEJ* 58:79–93.
- Nahshoni P. 1999. A Byzantine Site in the Migdal Neighborhood, Ashqelon. *Atiqot* 38:99*–111* (Hebrew; English summary, p. 229).
- Nahshoni P. and Nagar Y. 2002. Khirbet Lasan. *ESI* 114:118*.

- Neusner J. 1979. The Formation of Rabbinic Judaism: Yavneh (Jamnia) from A.D. 70 to 100. In W. Haase ed. *Aufstieg und Niedergang der Römischen Welt* II, 19.2. Berlin. Pp. 3–42.
- Onn A. 1999. Tombs of the Persian Period near Tell er-Ras (Loḥamé Hageta'ot, Area B). *'Atiqot* 37:45*–65*.
- Ortiz S. 2000. *The 11th/10th Century BCE Transition in the Ajalon Valley Region: New Evidence from Tel Miqne-Ekron Stratum IV*. Ph.D. diss. University of Arizona. Tucson.
- Pipano S. 1984. Azor. *ESI* 3:6–7.
- Qedar S. 1988–1989. Copper Coinage of Syria in the Seventh and Eighth Centuries A.D. *INJ* 10:27–39.
- Robinson E. 1841. *Biblical Rechearches in Palestine, Mount Sinai and Arabia Petraea: A Journal of Travels in the Year 1838* III. Boston.
- Rudolph W. 1995. *A Golden Legacy: Ancient Jewelry from the Burton Y. Berry Collection at the Indiana University Art Museum*. Bloomington, Ind.
- Segal O. 2011. Tel Yavne. *HA-ESI* 123 (July 5). http://www.hadashot-esi.org.il/report_detail_eng.asp?id=1705&mag_id=118 (accessed July 11, 2013).
- Segal O., Kletter R. and Ziffer I. 2006. A Persian-Period Building at Tel Ya'oz (Tell Ghaza). *'Atiqot* 52:1*–24* (Hebrew; English summary, p. 203).
- Shai I. 2000. *Philistia and the Judean Shephelah of Judah between the Campaign of Shishaq and the First Assyrian Campaigns to the land of Israel: An Archaeological and Historical Review*. M.A. Thesis. Bar Ilan University. Ramat Gan (Hebrew).
- Sion O. 2005. Tel Yavne. *HA-ESI* 117 (August 7). http://www.hadashot-esi.org.il/report_detail_eng.asp?id=222&mag_id=110 (accessed May 22, 2013).
- SNAT* 1993: L. Ilisch. *Sylloge Numorum Arabicorum Tübingen: Palästina IVa Bilād as-Šam* I. Tübingen 1993.
- Sonntag F. 1999a. Be'er Sheva', Ben-Zvi Street. *HA-ESI* 109:91*.
- Sonntag F. 1999b. Be'er Sheva', the Courthouse (B). *HA-ESI* 109:90*.
- Sonntag F. 1999c. Be'er Sheva', Hadassah Street. *HA-ESI* 109:91*.
- Sonntag F. and Zelin A. 2002. Ḥorbat Liqit. *HA-ESI* 114:97*–98*.
- Stronach D. 1959. The Development of the Fibula in the Near East. *Iraq* 21:180–206.
- Taragan H. 2000. Baybars and the Tomb of Abu Hurayra/Rabban Gamliel in Yavneh. *Cathedra* 97:65–84 (Hebrew; English summary, p. 180).
- Tufnell O. 1953. *Lachish (Tell ed-Duweir) III: The Iron Age* (The Wellcome Archaeological Research Expedition to the Near East Publications III) (2 vols.). London–New York–Toronto.
- Valdritzki N. 2004. Yavne. *HA-ESI* 116 (May 31). http://www.hadashot-esi.org.il/report_detail_eng.asp?id=31&mag_id=108 (accessed May 22, 2013).
- Volynsky F. 2009. Tel Yavne. *HA-ESI* 121 (June 4). http://www.hadashot-esi.org.il/report_detail_eng.asp?id=1110&mag_id=115 (accessed July 11, 2013).
- Weingarten S. and Fischer M. 2000. Iamnia–Abella–Ibelin: New Light on the Theophanes Archive. *ZDPV* 116:49–56.
- Yannai E. 2002. An Iron Age Burial Cave at Et-Taiyiba. *'Atiqot* 43:29*–56* (Hebrew; English summary, p. 255).
- Yannai E., Gophna R., Liphshitz S. and Liphshitz Y. 2013. A Late Bronze Age Cemetery on the Coast of Palmaḥim. *'Atiqot* 74:9–57.
- Yeivin S. 1961. *First Preliminary Report on the Excavations at Tell 'Gat' (Tell Sheikh Ahmad el-'Areyne), Seasons 1956–1968*. M.A. Thesis. The Hebrew University. Jerusalem (Hebrew).
- Zimhoni O. 1997. *Studies in the Iron Age Pottery of Israel: Typological, Archaeological and Chronological Aspects* (Journal of the Institute of Archaeology of Tel Aviv University, Occasional Publications 2). Tel Aviv.
- Zimhoni O. 2004. The Pottery of Levels V and IV; The Pottery of Levels III and II. In D. Ussishkin. *The Renewed Archaeological Excavations at Lachish (1973–1994) IV* (Tel Aviv University Institute of Archaeology Monograph Series 22). Tel Aviv. Pp. 1643–1906.

