

TEL AVIV

Journal of the Institute of Archaeology of Tel Aviv University

Volume 30 Number 1 2003

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Published by

THE EMERY AND CLAIRE YASS PUBLICATIONS IN ARCHAEOLOGY

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THE INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY, TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY

THE FINAL DESTRUCTION OF BETH SHEMESH AND THE *PAX ASSYRIACA* IN THE JUDEAN SHEPHELAH

Shlomo Bunimovitz and Zvi Lederman

Abstract

Judah and Philistia suffered different fates following Sennacherib's campaign in 701 BCE. While the Philistine coast and hinterland flourished under Assyrian rule, the Shephela of Judah was devastated and depopulated. New data unearthed at the renewed excavations at Tel Beth Shemesh illuminate the fate of the Shephelah of Judah during the 7th century BCE—the era of the pax Assyriaca in the Levant.

THE CACHE OF EGYPTIANIZED VESSELS FROM MEGIDDO: A STRATIGRAPHICAL UPDATE

Israel Finkelstein and David Ussishkin

Abstract

The article presents an updated description of the Early Bronze I finds in Area J at Megiddo, in view of the results of the 1998 and 2000 seasons. Specifically, it discusses the layout of the Level J-4 (EB IB) monumental temple, the circumstances of its abandonment and a phase of renewal of activity at the ruined temple in Level J-4a (also dating to the EB IB). The cache of Egyptianized pottery found in Area J in 1996 was dated by Finkelstein and Ussishkin, on stratigraphical grounds, most likely to the EB III (Level J-5), and by Joffe, on typological grounds, most likely to the EB IB (Level J-4). The 1998–2000 seasons provided additional stratigraphic evidence for its attribution to Level J-4a, the last phase of the EB IB temple.

THE EGYPTIANIZED POTTERY VESSELS OF EARLY BRONZE AGE MEGIDDO

Ornit Ilan and Yuval Goren

Abstract

The renewed excavations of the Early Bronze cultic compound (Area J) at Tel Megiddo revealed a cache of 16 Egyptian-looking vessels, dated either to the EB I or the EB III. This discovery calls to mind the Egyptian-looking jar unearthed on the eastern slope of the tel by the Oriental Institute team some 70 years ago. The typological and technological study of this vessel, in the context of the new find, supplies additional support for dating the cache to the EB IB.

A LION-HUNT SCARAB AND OTHER
EGYPTIAN OBJECTS FROM THE LATE BRONZE
FORTRESS AT JAFFA

Deborah Sweeney

Abstract

This article presents four Egyptian finds from recent excavations at Jaffa: an Amenhotep III lion-hunt scarab and medium-sized scarab, a faience amulet of the god Bes and a fragment of a faience vessel.

EGYPTIAN STAMP-SEAL AMULETS AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR THE CHRONOLOGY OF THE EARLY IRON AGE*

Stefan Münger

Abstract

The paper introduces a clearly definable group of Egyptian stamp-seal amulets that provides a new, non-biblical anchor for the absolute chronology of Palestine in the Iron Age. The items in this group—found in large numbers in the Egyptian Delta, Palestine, and Cyprus—were probably produced in the Delta in the time of Pharaohs Siamun and Sheshonq I, in the mid-10th century BCE. In Palestine they appear for the first time in the temporal horizon represented by strata such as Arad XII and Megiddo VI. Accordingly, it is suggested that the date of material remains traditionally attributed to the United Monarchy in Israel should be lowered by ca. 50 years.

THE IRON AGE SEQUENCE OF TEL ASHDOD:
A REJOINDER TO 'ASHDOD REVISITED' BY
I. FINKELSTEIN AND L. SINGER-AVITZ

David Ben-Shlomo

Abstract

In a recent issue of Tel Aviv, Finkelstein and Singer-Avitz (2001) presented a revised interpretation of the Tel Ashdod excavation results. Several of their conclusions could have far-reaching implications, particularly with regard to chronology. However, these conclusions derive in many cases from either limited or negative data, and at times the archaeological facts are disregarded. The soon-to-be-published new data from Ashdod were also not taken into account. On the basis of both the archaeological and textual evidence, the Iron Age sequence at Tel Ashdod is far more reasonably interpreted as a continuous occupation without any gaps and, therefore, the original stratigraphy and dating suggested by the excavators should be retained.

PRE-LMLK JARS: A NEW CLASS OF IRON AGE IIA STORAGE JARS

Itzhack Shai and Aren M. Maeir

Abstract

The lmlk jars are among the best-known ceramic types of the Iron Age II in Judah and have been widely discussed in archaeological, historical and biblical studies. During the last decade or so, excavations at several sites (primarily in the Judean Shephelah) have brought to light the existence of a precursor to these jars—the ‘pre-lmlk jars’. This paper defines and reviews this new class of jars, beginning with its appearance in the recently uncovered Temporary Stratum 4 (late 9th/early 8th centuries BCE) at Tell eṣ-Ṣafī/Gath. Like the lmlk jars, it seems that the pre-lmlk jars were produced somewhere in the Judean Shephelah. In fact, they may have been produced at the same workshop(s) as the lmlk and ‘Rosette’ Jars, which were manufactured under royal Judean supervision. As such, this multi-generational pottery production tradition sheds light on the long-term economic and production patterns of the Judean kingdom.

ON THE ASSYRIAN PRESENCE AT RAMAT RAḤEL

Ronny Reich

Abstract

This article highlights architectural remains exposed at Ramat Raḥel that could support suggestions concerning an Assyrian presence at the site.

A LATE BYZANTINE POTTERY WORKSHOP AT KHIRBET BARAQA

Yuval Gadot and Yotam Tepper

Abstract

This article presents the results of the authors' excavations at Khirbet Baraqa, where they uncovered a Late Byzantine pottery workshop. The article discusses this industrial installation and how it reflects on the geo-economic system of the southern Coastal Plain in the Late Byzantine period.