

## A SALVAGE EXCAVATION AT 'EIN EZ-ZEITUNA IN NAHAL 'IRON

DON GLICK

### INTRODUCTION

From June to November 1993<sup>1</sup> a salvage excavation was conducted at 'Ein ez-Zeituna (map ref. NIG 21255-90/71430-80, OIG 16255-90/21430-80), following the discovery of the site during the widening of the Nahal 'Iron road the previous year.<sup>2</sup> The site is located along the southeastern slope of the Menashe Heights, in an area of abundant water provided by several nearby springs. It is situated at the bottom of the wadi, adjacent to the northern side of the modern road, at a point where the valley narrows and the slopes on either side become quite steep (Fig. 1).

During the course of the excavation, an area approximately 15 × 120 m was exposed, revealing the remains of a single-period settlement dating from the second century CE.

A monumental two-story peristyle building was uncovered, flanked on the east by what is possibly a row of shops and on the west by additional architectural remains (Plan 1). All of the units were oriented north-south and shared

a common front facing south. Each of these elements will be discussed below in detail.

### THE PERISTYLE BUILDING

The western half of the site was occupied by a nearly square peristyle building (Plan 2). Due to constraints regarding the duration of the project and the area mandated for examination, we were only able to fully excavate the structure's southern half. Several limited soundings

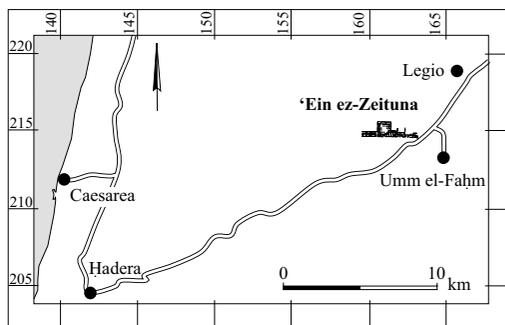
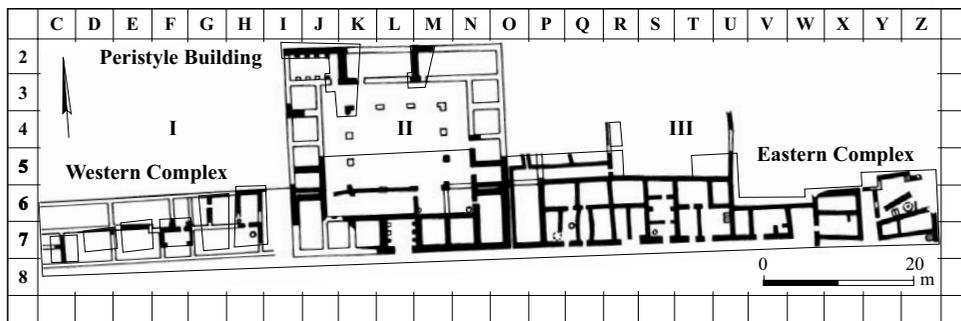
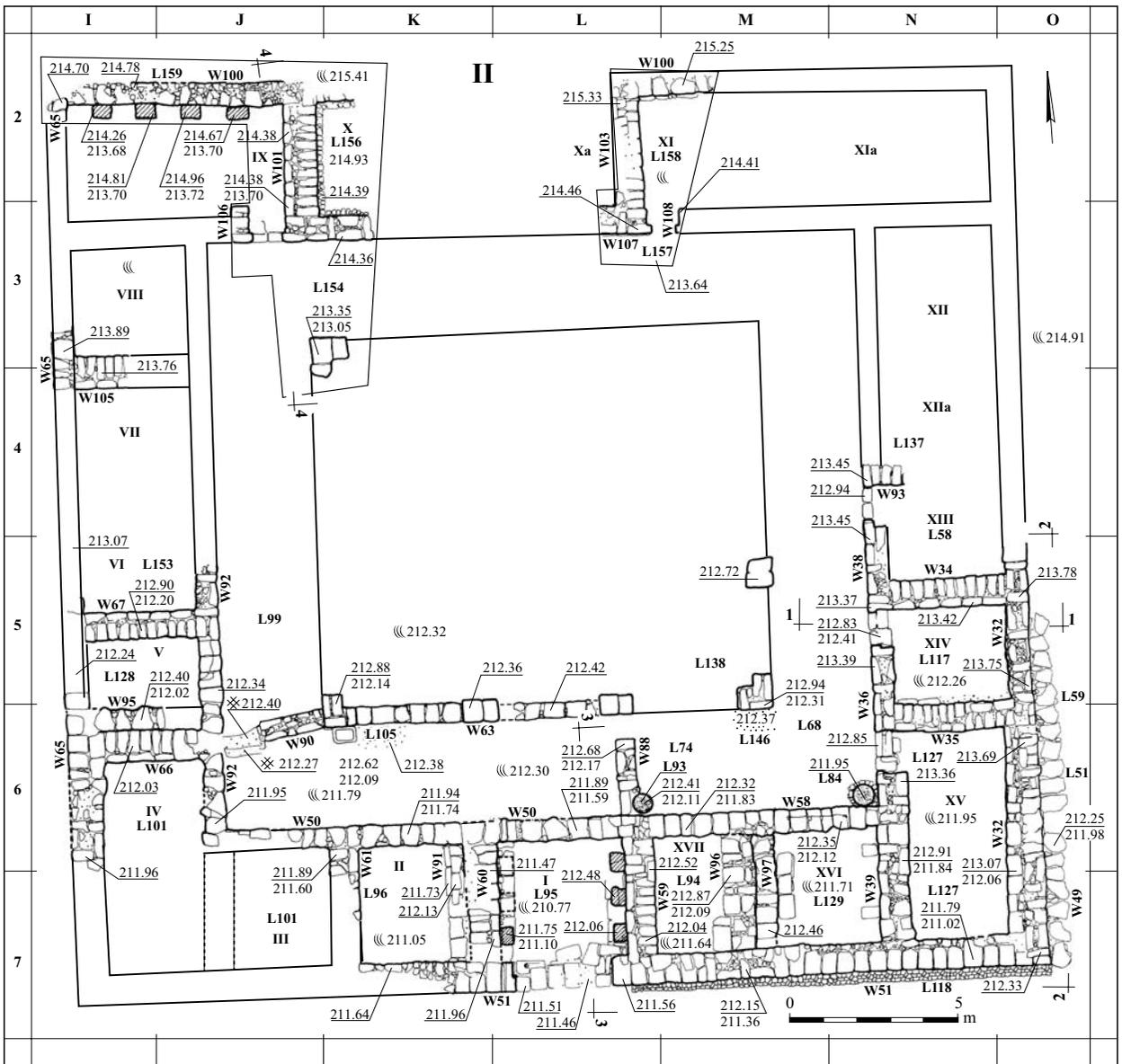


Fig. 1. Location map.



Plan 1. Schematic plan of the architectural remains.

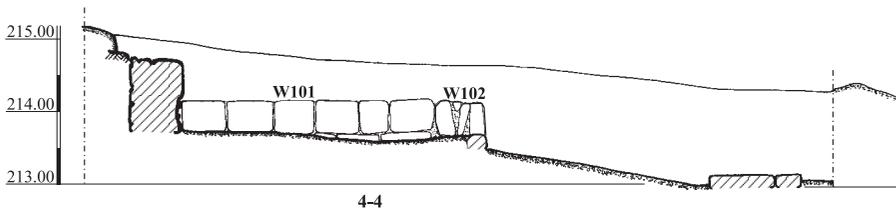
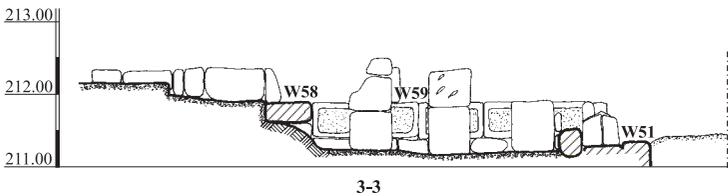
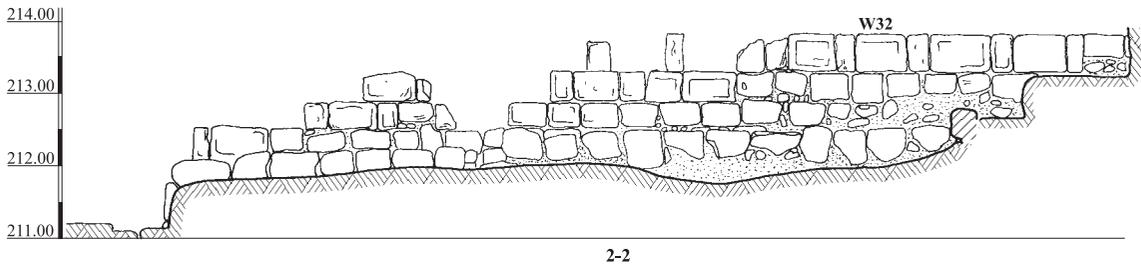
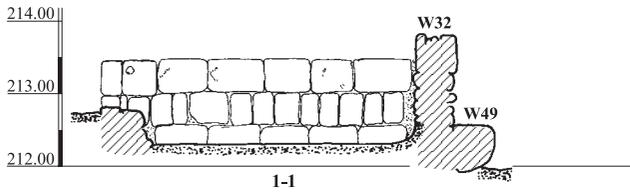


Plan 2. Peristyle building: plan and sections (on opposite page).

were conducted in the northern half of the structure in order to shed light on the building's overall character, elevations, dimensions and symmetry.

This structure, covering an area of 792 sq m, is a typical Greco-Roman peristyle building consisting of a central colonnaded courtyard, a portico and rooms (see Milson, this volume). The

building measured 27.52 m (north-south) by 28.79 m (east-west) and was constructed around an open courtyard (11.78 x 13.31 m) with a portico, 2.95 m wide, surrounding the courtyard on all four sides. A total of twenty rooms arranged around the portico were either revealed or inferred. In some places the walls were built directly upon the soft limestone (*qirtan*) bedrock; elsewhere, there is no



archaeological or architectural evidence beneath the confines of the building and only virgin soil was revealed below it.

The building's southern wall (W51) is aligned with the southern wall (W15 and W6) of the adjacent architectural complex to the east (see below, Plan 3), thus forming a continuous, common front for all of the structures found here.

#### *The Courtyard*

Three L-shaped stone piers, approximately one meter long and 0.6 m wide, were exposed in

the southeast, southwest, and northwest corners of the courtyard. A fourth was surmised in the northeast, but not excavated. Two one-meter-long plinths exposed along the courtyard's southern side were situated equidistant from the two corner piers. A 0.6 m wide wall of dressed limestone blocks (W63) was constructed between the pier in the southwestern corner and the two plinths to its east. This wall was preserved one course high (about 30 cm), probably the stylobate between the portico and the courtyard. Along the eastern side of the courtyard only a single plinth was found.

Since less than half of the courtyard was excavated, a small probe was opened in its northwest corner. The excavation and the probe allowed us to make the following reconstruction: two plinths and two L-shaped piers delineated each side of the courtyard, and the gaps between all of the plinths were filled in with low, narrow stylobates similar to W63. No paving stones were revealed in the courtyard, suggesting that its surface was an earthen floor. No additional architectural elements attesting to any specific function for the courtyard were found in the excavated area.

### *The Portico*

The southern portico and the southern halves of the eastern and western porticos were completely excavated, while a small section of the northern portico was exposed, allowing us to accurately calculate the portico's overall dimensions. All four passages of the portico were 2.95 m wide. The maximum dimensions were 17.5 × 19.1 m.

A grayish-white plaster floor level, 1–2 cm thick, was exposed abutting the southeastern pier at elevation 212.37 m above sea level (asl) in L138. Traces of the same plaster floor were revealed by the southwestern pier at elevation 212.38 in L105, in the corner formed by the southern face of W63 and the eastern side of a basalt trough. In the section beneath these plaster levels traces of an earlier, grayish-white plaster level were revealed at an elevation of 212.27 m.

Beneath the northern third of the building the hard limestone bedrock rises rather steeply to the north, thus there is a difference of over two meters in elevation between the threshold of the entrance to the building in the south (211.46 m asl) and the threshold leading into the room in the northwestern corner (213.79 m asl). The northern halves of the eastern and western porticos and the courtyard were not sufficiently excavated to fully understand the manner in which the building's architect addressed this problem. We can assume, however, that the soft bedrock surface of the courtyard was leveled,

while the northern portico was clearly built higher than the other three, with a low retaining wall built between the two northern piers to support it. Apparently it was not uncommon for a peristyle building to have one portico higher than the others, a feature referred to by Vitruvius as a "Rhodian portico" (Vitruvius, *On Architecture* VI.7.3). Several steps were probably constructed at the northern ends of the eastern and western porticos allowing access to the higher, northern portico. This solution accounts for the three quarters of a meter difference in height between the base of the northwestern pier and the threshold of the entrance to Room IX.

### *The Rooms*

The rooms in the peristyle building are numbered clockwise starting with Room I, the entrance hall, located in the middle of the building's southern wall (W51). Below is a brief description of all of the rooms exposed in the peristyle building and their salient architectural features.

*Room I* (Walls 51, 60, 50, 59).— This was the entrance hall (3.5 × 3.7 m) and sole opening leading into the peristyle building. Two door sockets, approximately 0.15 m in diameter, were revealed in the southwestern corner of W51. The outer socket, which was probably the earlier of the two, was situated in the middle of the threshold and was intended for a door 2.9 m wide, opening inward. The later socket, cut into the very northern edge of W51, served a narrower door only 2.2 m wide that also swung inward.

The inner walls (W59, W60) flanking the entrance, as well as nearly all of the interior walls of the other rooms, were built to a uniform standard with finely dressed ashlars, each measuring 0.3 × 0.6 × 0.3 m. They were set in a technique referred to as "headers against stretcher: fixed side" (Sharon 1987:26), in which headers are arranged along one face of the wall with stretchers set abutting them on the opposing face (Plan 2: Section 1–1). The walls

made in this manner were invariably 0.89–0.90 m in breadth, equal to the length and width of a standard building block. The stretchers of each course were laid on a fixed side that alternated course by course, thus bonding the courses together. The wall was further strengthened by small pebbles and mud that filled the spaces between the stones. In some places a pinkish-brown plaster was preserved, covering the walls. The stretchers were dressed with narrow margins and large, very slightly protruding bosses.

The remains of three pilasters were found attached to W59 (Fig. 2), and one of their corresponding pilasters was revealed on the southern end of W60. Each pilaster was made of ashlars measuring  $0.3 \times 0.6$  m and was set atop two parallel rows of semi-dressed limestone blocks level with the bases of W59 and W60. The pilasters were spaced 0.6 m apart, which, along with those revealed in Room IX and the

barrel vaulting and pilasters in Room XV (see below), attest to the probable existence of a second story.

The northern wall of the entrance hall (W50) was made of a single row of roughly dressed limestone blocks each c. 0.6 m wide. The top of this wall was about 0.32 m higher than the entrance threshold. This suggests that the floor of the room must have been either slightly inclined or there were originally two or three steps built against the southern face of W50 in order to overcome the difference in elevation.

No direct evidence of stone paving was found in either this room or in any of the other rooms excavated in the peristyle building. The existence of stone pavers in the entrance hall is suggested, however, by a gutter 5 cm wide and 7 cm deep that was cut perpendicularly through a stone of W51, just to the west of the outer door socket. This gutter was intended to drain off any accumulated water from Room I and would



Fig. 2. Room I, W59. Three sets of pilasters on the eastern side of the entrance room, looking east.

have been far more effective in doing so if the floor was indeed built of pavers as opposed to having been just an earthen surface.

*Room II* (Walls 51, 61, 50, 60).— The room measured  $3.25 \times 3.50$  m. Most of the southern and western walls were eroded.

*Room III* (Walls 65, 50, 61).— The water runoff from this part of the site drained down to the modern road via this corner of the building. Little of this room remained. We presume it measured  $3.0 \times 3.5$  m based on our reconstruction of Room IV.

*Room IV* (Walls 65, 66, 92).— The positioning of the southernmost stone surviving in Wall 92 leaves open the possibility that this wall continued south to join with W51, thus forming a rectangular room measuring  $3.0 \times 6.5$  m in size and symmetrical to Room XV.

*Room V* (Walls 66, 65, 67, 92).— The room measured  $2.7 \times 3.0$  m. A threshold 1.25 m wide was located in the northern half of W92. This room's door opened inward as did all of the other doors to the rooms of the peristyle building.

*Room VI* (Walls 67, 65, 92).— The area in which the room's northern wall is presumed to be located was not excavated.

*Room VII* (Walls 65, 105).— The area in which the room's southern and eastern walls are presumed to be located was not excavated.

*Room VIII* (Walls 105, 65, 106).— This room was not excavated. By extending the line of the southern face of W106 back to the west to intersect with the northern extension of W65 we derive a room that measured  $3.00 \times 3.35$  m.

*Room IX* (Walls 106, 65, 100, 101).— This room was in the northwestern corner of the peristyle building. The room ( $3.43 \times 6.50$  m) had a 0.9 m wide threshold leading from the northern portico into the southeastern corner

of the room. This room and the others located along the northern side of the building were not fully excavated. A probe conducted in order to expose the building's northwestern corner uncovered four pilasters attached to the southern face of W100. These pilasters are similar to those in the entrance to the building in Room I. They were made of limestone ashlar blocks measuring  $0.4 \times 0.6$  m and 0.3 m high, and were spaced equidistantly every 0.8 m along W100. A corresponding pilaster of similar dimensions was attached to the northern face of W106, exposed directly across from the easternmost pilaster on W100. A number of limestone voussoirs were also found in the partially cleared rubble.

*Room X* (Walls 100, 101, 102).— The room measured 3.3 m from north to south. The inner faces of the room's walls were lined with fieldstones approximately 0.2 m thick. The rubble was bonded together and smoothed over with grayish-white hydraulic plaster. The hydraulic plaster extended around to the western doorjamb on the northern face of W102.<sup>3</sup>

*Room Xa* (Walls 107, 103, 100).— Wall 103 was revealed approximately nine meters to the east of W101. Judging from the dimensions of the other rooms in the building and the fact that no hydraulic plaster was found on the western face of W103, one can assume there was a partition wall separating Room X from Room Xa. The room measured 3.3 m from north to south.

*Room XI* (Walls 100, 103, 108).— The western end of Room XI was exposed. The room measured 3.3 m from north to south. An 0.8 m wide threshold leading into the room is located on the eastern end of W107.

*Room XIa*.— This room was not excavated. Not enough data was available to reconstruct reliably the layout of the rooms in the building's northeastern corner. However, based on the subdivision of the other three corners it is reasonable to assume that there was one

elongated room in this corner that measured more than six meters long, running east–west, flanked to the west and south by narrower rooms.

*Room XII.*— This room was not excavated.

*Room XIIIa* (Wall 93).— This room was not excavated.

*Room XIII* (Walls 34, 38, 93, 32).— The room measured  $2.75 \times 3.35$  m. A threshold one-meter-wide led into the northwest corner of the room.

*Room XIV* (Walls 35, 36, 34, 32).— The room measured  $2.65 \times 3.35$  m. A 0.9 m wide threshold in the northern end of W36 led into the northwest corner of the room.

*Room XV* (Walls 51, 39, 35, 32).— This room ( $3.35 \times 6.36$  m) was located in the southeastern corner of the building and was fitted with a 0.9 m wide threshold located in the northern

end of W39. Two engaged pilasters, each approximately 0.6 m wide, were exposed on the western face of W32 in the southern half of the room. They were spaced 0.6 m apart with the southern of the two located 0.6 m north of the inner face of W51. The collapsed remains of four rows of stones from the barrel vault were found on the ground, with the voussoirs still arranged in the very same order as when they originally spanned the room from above (Fig. 3).

*Room XVI* (Walls 51, 97, 58, 39).— The room measured  $3.00 \times 3.43$  m. A 1.8 m wide threshold fitted with double doors was located in W58.

*Room XVII* (Walls 51, 59, 58, 97).— The room measured  $3.00 \times 3.43$  m.

We were able to discern several later, minor modifications to the plan of the building. These include the addition of W90 near the southwestern corner of the courtyard, which



Fig. 3. Four rows of collapsed voussoirs from the barrel vaulting of the ceiling in Room XV, looking south.

separated the western portico from the southern portico. Similarly, W88 was built perpendicular to W58, closing off most of the eastern half of the southern portico. A *ṭabun*, 0.7 m in diameter, was installed in the southeastern corner formed by these two walls. In Room XVII, W96 was constructed against the western face of W97. Judging from the crude building technique, the use of roughly dressed stones and a doorjamb in secondary use, we assume both of these walls probably replaced an original wall that was built using “headers against stretchers”. Wall 95 in Room V was probably built against the northern face of W66 when other changes were put into effect.

Most of the walls of the building were preserved to a height of only two to three courses (0.6–0.8 m). The structure’s southeastern quarter, at a maximum height of c. 1.3 m (W35), was best preserved. Four courses of W32, running for approximately 12.5 m, were revealed (Plan 2: Section 2–2). The bottom three courses were built of well-dressed limestone ashlar 0.3 m long and 0.5 m wide. Many of the stones placed toward the southern end of the wall had dressed margins and bosses. Those further toward the north were less finely dressed to the point of being semi-hewn rubble, but were probably buried by the slope and therefore out of view. The highest course was best preserved toward the north, with stones (0.3 × 0.7 × 0.5 m) that were slightly larger than those in the lower courses; these were also finely dressed ashlar with narrow margins and prominent bosses, arranged as headers and stretchers with a rubble core.

The southern wall (W51) of the building was equally impressive and well constructed. This wall was preserved from the structure’s southeastern corner to slightly west of the entrance. Its foundation course consisted of medium to large roughly hewn stones whose upper surface was leveled with rubble. The eastern 2.5 m of the wall was built of three limestone blocks 0.8 m long and 0.5 m high. Atop this foundation course were finely dressed ashlar measuring 0.5–0.6 m wide, 0.5 m

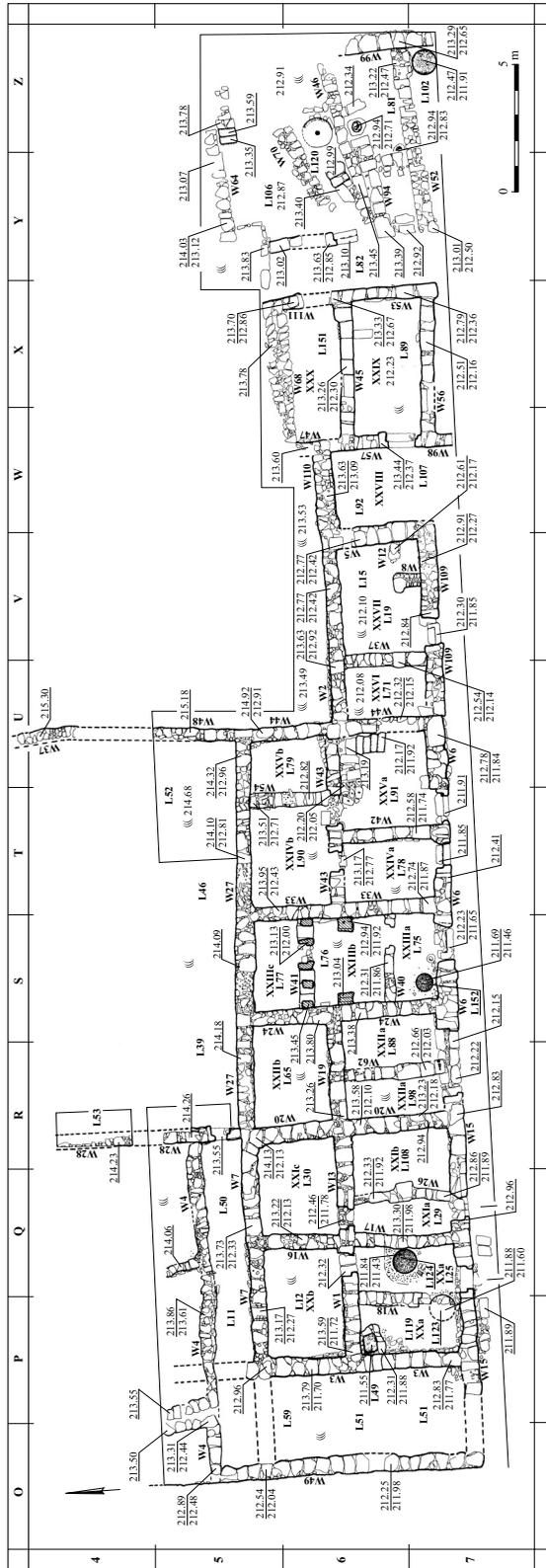
deep, and 0.3 m high. These stones were fitted together with no bonding material and formed a perfectly straight facade of uniform height over its entire length. The inner face of W51 was finished with rubble and mud. Four dressed stones with narrow margins and prominent bosses atop the long ashlar course in W51, also arranged in header-stretcher fashion, were exposed at the southern end of W97. These few carefully dressed stones along with those in the top course of W32 are the only clues regarding the appearance of the rest of the structure’s outer surfaces.

An elongated, paved area consisting of two parallel rows of tightly packed rough fieldstones (each 0.15–0.20 m wide) was revealed in L118 abutting the southern edge of the long ashlar course in W51. This paved surface was preserved from the building’s entrance eastward to the end of W51, and may have formed part of a path or road alongside the building. The southern extent of the surface was probably removed when the modern road was widened.

#### THE EASTERN ARCHITECTURAL COMPLEX

This complex (Plan 3) was located four meters east of the peristyle building. Its walls were oriented north–south and east–west, similar to those in the peristyle building. As mentioned previously, the front of the complex (W15 and W6) was aligned with the southern side of the peristyle building (W51). The back of the complex was built into the slope of the hill. The primary structure in this complex was roughly rectangular, 8.95 m wide in the west and 8.45 m wide in the east, and 25.6 m long. An alley and a terrace wall were located north of the western end of the structure. There was also a large open courtyard behind the eastern two thirds of the structure. Several additional rooms adjoined the eastern end of the building, east of which were two stone paved surfaces and several agricultural installations.

Several phases of construction were discerned within this rectangular unit. These have been



Plan 3. The eastern architectural complex.

determined by the manner in which the walls were built, a careful examination of which walls were bonded together or butted against each other, as well as the location of the thresholds. Below is the description of the rooms starting with Rooms XX and XXI in the western end of the complex. Most of the pairs of rooms consist of an outer southern room or small open courtyard, through which one passed in order to access an inner, northern room.

*Rooms XX (a, b) and XXI (a-c).*— The first construction phase of the eastern architectural complex consists of five small rooms forming a unit measuring  $8.95 \times 10.00$  m and delineated by Walls 7, 20, 15 and 3. All of these outer walls were bonded together; they were preserved to a maximum height of two meters and averaged about 0.7 m in width. They were constructed of a single row of large semi-hewn limestone boulders (the width of the wall) and large quantities of fieldstones and mud atop a foundation course. Nearly all of the dressed stones in these rooms were used for constructing the thresholds, doorjambs and windows, although some dressed stones were in secondary use elsewhere.

Room XXa ( $4 \times 4$  m) was entered via a 0.93 m wide threshold located in W15. The door in this threshold opened inward. Its northern and eastern walls were W1 and W17 respectively. The partition wall, W17, did not have a foundation course and the western end of W1 was bonded with W3. The remains of two clay *tabuns*, each one meter in diameter, were found adjacent to W15 and to W17. The western *tabun* went out of use when the room was subdivided north to south by W18. The northern doorjamb and part of the threshold that led into the western half of Room XXa were preserved in W18. There was a crudely built stone installation (c.  $0.45 \times 0.80 \times 0.75$  m) in the northwest corner of the room formed by W1 and W3. The *tabun* in the eastern side of the room was fitted with two sections of a ceramic vent pipe (8 cm in diameter, 0.41 m long) that led down at a  $30^\circ$  angle to the base at the southwestern side

of the *tabun*. A bellows was probably attached to the exposed end of the vent pipe, which was above floor level. The presence of the *tabuns* in Room XXa suggests that this enclosure was most likely an open courtyard.

Room XXb ( $3.0 \times 4.3$  m) was accessed via a 0.72 m wide doorway at the eastern end of W1 (Fig. 4). The doorjambs were built of finely dressed limestone. A rectangular posthole was located on the eastern side of the threshold and five bolt holes were cut into the western doorjamb. The room was delineated on the east by W16—a partition wall (0.55 m wide) built of small- and medium-sized fieldstones and lacking a foundation course. The lower part of a window (0.4 m wide) was located about 0.4 m west of the western doorjamb in W1. The need for a window in W1 indicates that the room had a roof, even though no direct archaeological evidence, such as roofing tiles, was found here. Traces of pinkish-brown plaster were exposed on the northern face of W1.

Room XX1a ( $1.4 \times 3.9$  m) was delineated by Walls 13, 26, 15 and 17. The room was entered via a threshold (0.8 m wide) in W15, and served as a hall through which one entered into Room XX1c. Wall 26 (c. 0.4 m wide) consisted of roughly dressed fieldstones crudely arranged in a single row without a foundation course. A square pillar of three large stones,  $0.65 \times 0.65$  m, set atop the middle of the wall probably supported the courtyard roof. At the northern end of the room was an elaborate 0.65 m wide entranceway in W13 that led into Room XX1c (Fig. 5). The threshold was built from three large roughly hewn limestone blocks. Each doorjamb was constructed from a finely dressed rectangular ashlar that supported a broader ashlar laid lengthwise as a lintel; all four stones had narrow margins and large bosses. The entrance was preserved to a height of 1.9 m and was intentionally sealed with other ashlar and roughly dressed blocks at some later phase in the building's use.

Room XX1b ( $2.55 \times 3.90$  m) was to the east of Room XX1a. A 0.65 m wide threshold was located in the southern third of W20.



Fig. 4. View from the inside of Rooms XXb and XXIc (on the right and left respectively) to the outer Rooms XXa and XXIa, looking south.



Fig. 5. The sealed entranceway in W13 leading into Room XXIc, looking north.

This doorway was sealed with fieldstones and rubble.

Room XXIc (3.0 × 3.6 m) was located north of W13. The eastern end of W13 was bonded together with W20.

*Rooms XXII (a, b), XXIII (a-c), XXIV (a,b) and XXV (a, b).*— Four sets of rooms were added to the eastern side of W20 during the second construction phase. All four sets of rooms were delineated on the north by W27, which although not bonded together with W7, abutted its eastern end and continued along the same line for an additional 15.7 m to the east. Wall 27 was c. 0.7 m wide and preserved to a height of 1.3 m, had no foundation course, and was made from large roughly dressed boulders, smaller fieldstones, and large quantities of rubble fill. Whereas an attempt had been made to arrange the larger stones in the outer walls of Rooms XX and XXI into courses, no such effort was made in W27. This may be due in part to the fact that W27 also acted as a terrace wall supporting the courtyard to the north (L39). Nevertheless, it was very solid and well built, and was preserved to a height of 1.3 m.

Wall 6 formed the southern facade of the unit. It abutted the eastern end of W15, continuing the line of that wall 15.6 m to the east. Wall 6 included a foundation course and was crudely made from large, roughly hewn limestone

blocks and smaller fieldstones and rubble. Occasionally, very large stones (at least one in excess of a meter in length) were balanced atop smaller stones with no effort to maintain a uniform width to the wall, so that its thickness ranged from 0.65 to 1.10 m. The doorjambes and thresholds were all constructed of dressed stones.

Room XXIIa (3.8 × 4.0 m) was delineated by Walls 19, 24, 6 and 20. An exceptionally broad entrance, 2.52 m wide, was built into W6. The entrance was divided by the north–south W62, a 0.45 m wide partition wall poorly made of fieldstones and ashlar in secondary use with no foundation course. It appears to be a later addition. Wall 19 was 0.6 m wide and built atop a 0.8 m wide foundation course. The northern face of this wall was mostly small fieldstones set in mud. A 0.74 m wide entranceway built from edged ashlar led to Room XXIIb in the north; the entrance was intentionally sealed with rubble and fieldstones.

Room XXIIb (3 × 4 m) was delineated by Walls 27, 24, 19 and 20.

Room XXIII was subdivided into a southern, outer courtyard (XXIIIa) and two inner rooms (XXIIIb, c), one behind the other, all of which were delineated by W24 to the west and W33 to the east. The courtyard (1.6 × 3.4 m) was delineated on the north by W40 and by W6 to the south. Only the foundation course of W6 was preserved, as well as a threshold 0.95 m wide. A clay *tabun* (diam. 0.75 m) and a limestone mortar were set into the southwest corner of the courtyard. Wall 40 (0.42 m wide), preserved one course high, was partially made of ashlar in secondary use; it had a 0.72 m wide threshold, which led into Room XXIIIb and was aligned with the entrance in W6.

Room XXIIIb (2.8 × 3.3 m) was delineated on the north by W41. Two opposing pilasters for supporting an arch, both preserved to a height of three courses, were attached to W24 and W33 midway into the room (Fig. 6). These were set



Fig. 6. Two pilasters that supported the arch in Room XXIIIb and the “window” wall (W41) in the background separating Room XXIIIb from XXIIIc, looking north.

on the bedrock and made of ashlar ( $0.45 \times 0.60$  m). This is the only instance in which there is evidence of an arch used to support the roof in the eastern architectural complex.

Room XXIIIc ( $1.90 \times 3.45$  m), the northern inner room, was separated from Room XXIIIb by W41. The wall was constructed of well-dressed ashlar 0.6 m wide and included a doorway 0.62 m wide. A pair of windows, which were flanked by ashlar ( $0.28$  m wide and  $0.66$  m high), was built into the wall to the west of the doorway. A third similar window was installed in the wall east of the doorway (see Fig. 6). The ends of W41 were bonded together with W24 and W33.

Room XXIVa ( $2.3 \times 3.6$  m) was delineated by Walls 43, 42, 6 and 33. The entrance into the room was via a  $0.9$  m wide threshold fixed in W6. Wall 33 ( $0.65$  m wide) joined W27 with W6 and was preserved to a height of three courses of slightly worked boulders with smaller fieldstones fitted between them. Wall 42 consisted of a foundation course of fieldstones and two upper courses made of slightly worked stones measuring  $0.6 \times 0.7$  m. The wall ( $0.58$  m wide) was bonded to W6 and to W43. Wall 43 to the north,  $0.55$  m wide,

was crudely constructed of ashlar in secondary use laid directly on the bedrock. At the eastern end of the wall was a sealed doorway ( $0.65$  m wide) that led into Room XXIVb and was aligned with the entrance in W6. The base of the doorjambs in W43 was approximately  $0.6$  m higher than the floor level of Room XXIVa to the south, indicating that the doorway was accessed by means of steps or a short ladder.

Room XXIVb ( $3.1 \times 3.8$  m) was delineated by Walls 27, 54, 43 and 33. Wall 54 was a partition wall ( $0.63$  m wide) consisting of three poorly preserved courses of ashlar in secondary use.

Room XXVa ( $3.8$  sq m) was delineated by Walls 43, 44, 6 and 42. A  $0.9$  m wide threshold located in W6 led into the southwestern corner of the room. Wall 44, on the east, was very poorly preserved within the room, consisting of only several fieldstones from its eastern face that were arranged north–south. The wall continues northward into Room XXVb. In the northeastern corner of the room was an  $0.8$  m wide staircase leading up to Room XXVb (Fig. 7). The staircase had five limestone steps of one finely hewn stone each, and ascended from south to north to a height of about  $1.27$  m



Fig. 7. The staircase leading from Room XXVa up to XXVb, looking northeast.

above the floor level of Room XXVa. A corner measuring  $0.8 \times 0.9$  m was built of ashlars in secondary use adjacent to the western side of the staircase. We are not certain as to its purpose, although it may conceivably have been used for supporting the ceiling. A surface ( $0.9 \times 1.0$  m) paved of small and medium size fieldstones was situated between the western base of the corner and the southern side of W43. A small triangular installation (0.3 m wide, 0.3 m deep) was fashioned in the corner from two narrow stone slabs placed on edge. The inner faces of the slabs were blackened with soot.

Room XXVb ( $2.00 \times 2.95$  m) was located at the top of the staircase and was delineated by Walls 27, 44, 43 and 54. Wall 44 (0.6 m wide) was built on the bedrock of slightly worked stones, 0.6–0.7 m in size, and small pieces of rubble fill. The northern end of the wall was bonded together with the eastern end of W27.

*Rooms XXVI and XXVII.*— Two additional rooms were built at some point against the eastern side of W44 in the eastern architectural complex. The rooms' two east–west walls were not bonded with either W6 or W44, indicating that they are a later addition to the complex.

Rooms XXVI and XXVII were delineated to the north and south by W2 and W109 respectively, and were separated by W37. The eastern wall for Room XXVII was W5, constructed from roughly hewn limestone blocks ( $0.4 \times 0.8$  m). Wall 109, continuing the same line as that of W6 to the west, had a fairly uniform width of 0.7 m and was made of two rooms of substantially smaller fieldstones (0.2–0.3 m in size). Wall 2 (0.7 m wide) consisted of large semi-hewn boulders and smaller fieldstones set on a shelf cut into the *qirton* bedrock.

Room XXVI measured  $2.0 \times 3.2$  m and Room XXVII was  $3.20 \times 4.25$  m. Two short walls (W8 and W12), perpendicular to W109 and W5, formed a small compartment in which numerous cooking vessels, jugs and copious amounts of *ṭabun* material were found.

*Rooms XXVIII, XXIX and XXX.*— These three rooms formed the easternmost part of the contiguous eastern architectural complex. Wall 110 was built up against the eastern end of W2 and continued its line to the east, but with a slight inclination to the northeast. The wall was also constructed on a shelf cut into the bedrock and served to retain the sloping terrain to its north.

Room XXVIII (Walls 5, 110, 57) was 3.2 m wide and its southern wall was not exposed.

Room XXIX (Walls 45, 53, 56, 57) measured  $2.6 \times 5.2$  m and had walls constructed primarily of large ashlars 0.7–0.8 m long in secondary use. A one-meter-wide threshold made of finely dressed stones was located in W57.

Room XXX (Walls 68, 111, 45, 47) to the north measured  $1.9 \times 5.1$  m. Wall 68, which was built of fieldstones, also served as a retaining wall for supporting the slope to the north.

*The Alley and the Northern Courtyard.*— An open area (3 m wide and 10.5 m deep) separated the eastern architectural complex from the peristyle building. With the exception of a line of boulders (W49) carefully arranged against the base of the outer eastern wall (W32) of the peristyle building, no architectural remains were found here. During the excavation numerous ashlar were removed from the area, including many stones with dressed margins and bosses, which were originally part of the peristyle building's outer wall. Consequently, we assume that when both buildings were occupied the space between them was essentially vacant.

An alley ( $1.5 \text{ m} \times 9.5 \text{ m}$ ; L11, L50) connected this open area to the northern courtyard located behind the eastern architectural complex. The alley, which ascended gently to the east, was bordered to the north by W4 (a terrace wall) and to the south by W7. On the southern end of W28 at the eastern end of the alley was a 0.4 m wide threshold for a door that opened inward into a large unpaved courtyard (L39). The courtyard measured at least 8 m deep and 15.2 m long, and was delimited by Walls 48, 27 and 28. Its northern wall was not found.

ARCHITECTURAL REMAINS AT THE EASTERN END OF THE SITE

A north–south passageway (1.8 × 6.2 m) of tamped earth separated the eastern architectural complex from other architectural remains at the eastern end of the site (see Plan 3). To the south was a large *ṭabun*, one meter in diameter, located in the corner formed by W52 and W99. North of W52 was a long narrow work area (L81), partially paved with stone slabs, which was approached via two stone steps set between the western ends of W52 and W94. Two limestone mortars, 0.3 and 0.5 m in diameter, were set into the floor of the work area slightly above floor level, with the larger of the two recessed into a niche (0.8 × 1.0 m) in the wall.

A second long narrow work area was exposed to the north, between W46 and W70. A finely dressed threshold was revealed in the west. Three stone steps led down to a stone-paved area, on which a limestone crushing stone from an oil press was found. The crushing stone was 1.2 m in diameter, 0.35 m thick, with a 15 cm hole in its center. The remains of half of a limestone crushing basin, 1.5 m in diameter and 0.6 cm high, were found c. 15 m away further up the slope to the northeast.

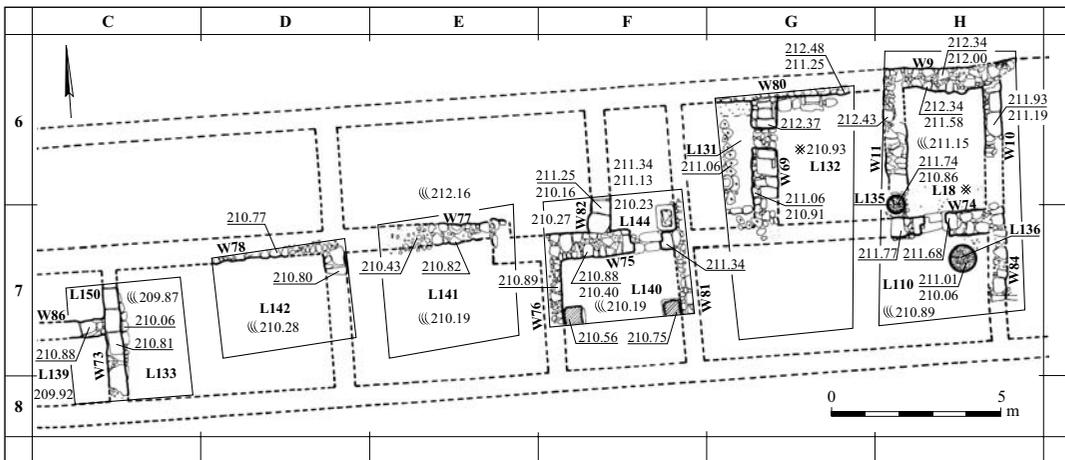
North of W70 was an open area enclosed by terrace W64. Three steps were built against the

southern face of this wall, which we assumed led up to a higher terrace that was outside the excavation area.

ARCHITECTURAL REMAINS WEST OF THE PERISTYLE BUILDING

An excavation was begun in six squares west of the peristyle building (Plan 4). Although the work was only in its initial stages when we were forced to abandon it, enough remains were exposed to allow several general conclusions regarding the architecture in this area. The walls here, like all those elsewhere in the site, were oriented along the cardinal points. They were primarily constructed of large fieldstones and rubble, with some use of ashlar, primarily for thresholds and doorjambs.

A set of pilasters attached to W76 and W81 was preserved to a height of two courses. These were made of ashlar measuring 0.5 sq m and founded on the bedrock. They supported an arch that spanned the width of the room for a distance of 2.4 m, similar to that revealed in Room XXIIIb in the eastern architectural complex. A basalt trough (0.5 × 0.8 m, 50 m deep) rested atop a base built of fieldstones in the corner formed by W81 and W75, about one meter above the floor level. We assume it could have been used by either the residents



Plan 4. The western architectural complex.

or for watering a pack animal that may have been stabled in this room. Two *tabuns*, 0.85 and 0.6 m in diameter, were exposed in Sqs H6 and H7 and indicate that these areas were probably courtyards rather than living quarters.

#### DISCUSSION

Several fairly certain assumptions can be proposed despite the relatively poorly preserved remains of the peristyle building and the paucity of small finds recovered from within it. The plan of the building was obviously well devised and designed prior to its construction, with its simplicity and symmetry suggesting that it was built from a predetermined and standard architectural plan. There is no evidence that any part of the structure's initial construction was improvised, as would appear to be the case with the other exposed architectural remains flanking either side of the building. The fact that professional builders produced this building is attested to by both the meticulous and conspicuous craftsmanship of its construction and its high-quality stone masonry.

Such a large structure built from dressed stone would have cost a considerable amount of money, which raises the question of who had the resources to commit to such a building. As to its purpose, it is fair to assume the building was not a private residence, since it was located directly alongside the road rather than further up the hill, which would have been closer to the springs and away from the traffic and commotion associated with a main highway. Furthermore, the few residential peristyle buildings exposed so far in Israel usually have annexes and wings added to them, and nothing was found in this building that indicates any degree of opulence. There is a distinct lack of amenities to this structure, which had neither the tessellated pavements nor the decorative marble one would expect to find in a country villa of this size and standard. It was built from locally available materials only.

The building was situated in Naḥal 'Iron, the primary artery leading from the provincial capital of Caesarea via Legio (see Fig. 1), and

northeast toward Sepphoris and Scythopolis.<sup>4</sup> In light of the building's location one may assume it probably fulfilled an administrative or public function, either involving the imperial post, or as a *mansio* (caravansery) or *mutatio* (highway rest stop). This finds support in the presence of the adjacent eastern architectural complex, which appears to have been shops, and explains why such an elaborate building was constructed in what was a relatively isolated location far removed from any large city. Such a structure could have been commissioned by the governor or an administrative body, or initiated by a wealthy private entrepreneur.

*Mansiones* and *mutationes* were very common throughout the Roman Empire. We have the account of the anonymous Pilgrim of Bordeaux, which dates to slightly later than the building. In the account of his sojourn from Bordeaux to Jerusalem in 333 CE, he recorded the number of miles he traveled (3998 Roman miles) and listed a total of 408 rest stops along the way, an average of one every ten miles. The larger *mansiones*, depending on the terrain and the population density, were located at strategic intervals, usually 25–35 miles apart, which was the average distance of one day's travel in antiquity (Casson 1974:184). This is also the approximate distance from Caesarea to 'Ein ez-Zeituna. The *mansiones* were controlled by the central government and a traveler generally needed an official passport to use them. They offered food, lodging and a change of mounts, as well as grooms, veterinarians, cartwrights, postilions and wheelwrights, all needed in order to contend with the rigors of ancient travel. *Mutationes* were simpler hostels located between the *mansiones* and providing for the traveler's minimal needs of food, a bed, and as the name implies, a change of mounts or vehicle. They were situated along the main roads at shorter intervals of 8–10 miles. Von Hagen (1967:58) estimates that there were over 4000 *mansiones* and *mutationes* throughout the Roman Empire.

Few parallels to the building dating to the Roman period have been found in Israel.<sup>5</sup> At

Tel Dor a large courtyard building dating to the late second century CE was partially uncovered and suggested by the excavators to have been either a caravansery or a barracks (Stern, Berg and Sharon 1991:49). The structure consists of rooms flanking a 10 m wide courtyard on three sides, with the fourth side thought to have been eroded away. The central courtyard was open and paved with flagstones. Surrounding it was a 3 m wide portico with an earthen floor. The excavators believe the peristyle may have been roofed over with the supporting columns resting on the courtyard's paved surface.

The Harvard excavations at Samaria (Reisner, Fisher and Lyon 1924:180–185) uncovered part of a peristyle building (which they refer to as an atrium building) similar in plan to that at 'Ein ez-Zeituna. It measures 24.4 × 32.5 m with an open courtyard (5.45 × 6.60 m) surrounded by a 3.5 m wide portico. The floor of the portico was of beaten earth. The remains of rooms were found flanking the northern, eastern and southern porticos. The western portion of the building was not intact. The excavators date the building to the Roman period.

#### THE FINDS

Large amounts of Early Roman pottery sherds were recovered from the excavation, as well as a number of intact and restorable vessels, thus providing a diverse sampling of the ceramic assemblage used at the site. In addition, several basalt vessels, pestles, grinding stones and millstones were found. A small number of metal objects were also found, the overwhelming majority of them nails. Numerous fragments from common domestic types of glass vessels characteristic of the late first and second century CE were collected during the excavation (see Winter, this volume). Twenty-five bronze coins were also discovered (see Bijovsky, this volume). Thirteen coins of Roman Provincial issue ranging in date from the reign of Titus to that of Antoninus Pius were found in stratigraphic contexts in the peristyle building and the eastern architectural complex.

The overwhelming majority of finds were recovered from either the lower part of the debris level, consisting mainly of the ashlar and fieldstone collapse of the structures' walls, or from the layer of soil immediately below the collapse, which in light of the absence of plaster or paved surfaces, we have to assume served as the buildings' floors. In the probes conducted below the assumed earthen floor levels, which are based on their close proximity to the level of the thresholds, only sterile soil was revealed.

#### Pottery

The pottery assemblage recovered from the excavation at 'Ein ez-Zeituna is noteworthy in three respects. First, it is common, utilitarian, everyday ware that was locally produced. Nothing in this assemblage can be said to reflect any degree of opulence; rather, it represents the quality and type of ware one would expect to find in a relatively remote setting lacking any amenities or luxury that may be present in an urban site. The second point to note is the variety of vessel types in the assemblage, many of which have no parallels published to date. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, the dating of the sherds presented in the plates below is firmly secured to the mid-second century CE, a dating that is supported by the accompanying numismatic evidence and glass finds.

*Bowls* (Fig. 8:1–10).— The most common type of bowl found at 'Ein ez-Zeituna is a small, thin-walled vessel with a short incurved rim (Fig 1:1–4). Parallels to Nos. 1–3 were found at Tel Mevorakh, dated by Rosenthal (1978: Pl. 1:19) to the first century CE, and in a cave near Jericho, dated by the excavators to the Bar Kokhba period (Eshel and Zissu 1998: Pl. 3:19). Number 4 has a shallow gutter along the inner face of the rim. The rims on Nos. 5 and 6 are longer and the carination on No. 6 is more acute. Number 7 is unique among the bowl assemblage at 'Ein ez-Zeituna. The sides of this vessel are S-shaped terminating in a round, slightly everted rim. The bottom of the base is

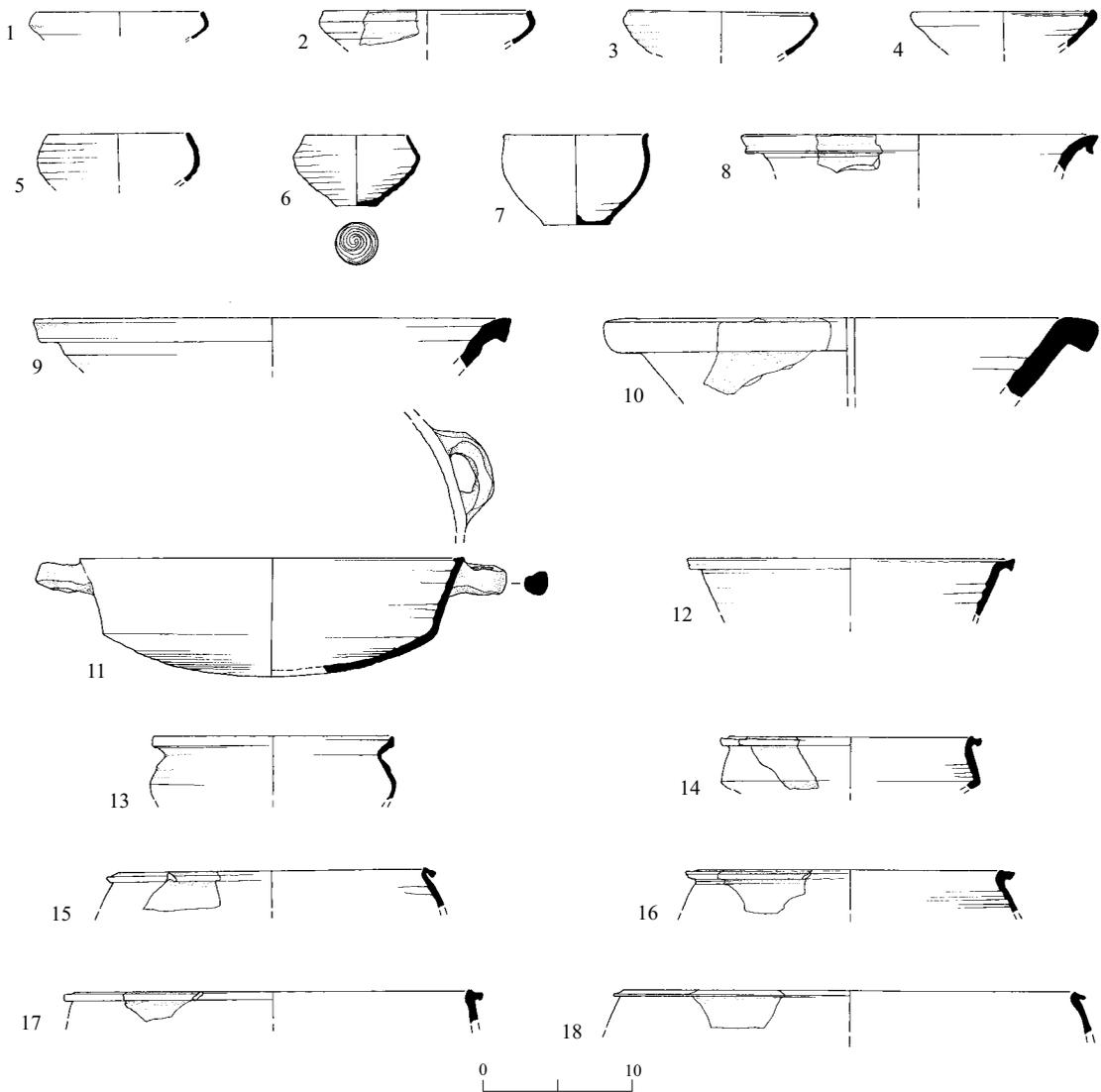


Fig. 8. Pottery.

flat and there is a conical projection rising up out of the center of the bottom of the inside of the vessel. A bowl with a very similar form, but without the conical projection, was found at Ḥorbat Qumran, which de Vaux (1953: Fig. 4:12) dated to the first century CE. Numbers 8 and 9 are everted rims with flanges from large bowls. We were unable to find any parallels for these rim profiles. Sherd No. 10 is a ledge rim from a large, thick-walled mortarium. It is flat on top and rounded on its underside,

with a slight groove where it joins the side of the vessel. A similar vessel dated by Elgavish (1977: Fig. XI:87) to the second and third centuries CE was found in Pit 319 at Shiqmona.

*Casseroles* (Fig. 8:11–18).— Number 11 has a cut rim, straight or slightly concave sides and a round bottom. It has horizontal strap handles and is made from cooking ware material. The bottom of the vessel is covered with dense

◀ Fig. 8

No.	Vessel	Reg. No.	Locus No.	Location	Description
1	Bowl	5110	28	Room XXIIb	Brownish-orange; reddish-brown core
2	Bowl	5695	120	Sq Y6	Brown; brown core
3	Bowl	5712	113	Sq E6	Reddish-brown; brownish-orange core
4	Bowl	5782	143	Room XVII	Brown; gray core
5	Bowl	5479	19	Room XXVII	Brown; brownish-orange core
6	Bowl	5487	65	Room XXIIb	Orangish-brown; brown core
7	Bowl	5708	127	Room XV	Orange; orange core
8	Bowl	5533	78	Room XXIVa	Reddish-brown; brown core
9	Bowl	5270	42	Sq O4/5 (surface)	Pinkish-orange; pinkish-orange core
10	Mortarium	5616	59	Sq O5	Sandy pinkish-brown ware; very light pinkish-brown core; small white and brown inclusions
11	Casserole	5664/1	25	Room XXA	Reddish-brown; reddish-brown core
12	Casserole	5598	99	West portico/courtyard	Reddish-brown; gray core
13	Casserole	5780	138	SE corner of courtyard	Reddish-brown; gray-black core
14	Casserole	5764	141	Sq E6/7	Reddish-brown; gray core
15	Casserole	5295	40	Sq U6/7 (surface)	Brown; black core
16	Casserole	5482	81	Sq Y6/7	
17	Casserole	5149	36	Room XXIIb (balk)	Brown; gray core
18	Casserole	5048	13	Sq H5	Brown; brown core

ribbing. Parallels, some of which appear without the handles, were found in the assemblages from Pit 319 at Shiqmona (Elgavish 1977: Pl. IV:20), Dor (Guz-Zilberstein 1995: Pl. 6.49:9) and from Tower 4 at Umm Richan (Dar, Safrai and Teper 1986: Pl. 1:18), all dating to the second century CE. Number 12 is a casserole with a ledge rim. There is a shallow groove on the top of the rim for a lid, as well as a groove on its underside. Similar vessels with a variety of ledge rims were found at Giv'at Ram in Jerusalem and date to the first and second centuries CE (Herskovitz 1987: Fig. 3:4–7). Variants were also found at Ḥorbat 'Aqav (Calderon 2000: Pl. III:51) and Tel Mevorakh (Rosenthal 1978: Fig. 2:14). The latter is dated by the associated assemblage to the first and second centuries CE. Number 13 is characterized by carinated sides and a wide upcurved rim. Parallels were found at Ḥorbat 'Eleq (Silberstein 2000: Pl. VI:3). Casserole No. 14 has an everted rim with a prominent flange that is grooved on both the top and bottom. The point of carination is the widest

diameter of the vessel. The fabric is fairly well levigated with a gray core. A variation of this vessel was found at Tel Mevorakh; according to Rosenthal (1978:15, Fig. 2:7) this form occurs in second century CE contexts.

Numbers 15–18 are all variations of the same type of casserole rim and are made from cooking ware material. They are everted and have prominent flanges with a single shallow groove on the top and bottom. Parallels for these types of casseroles were found in surveys conducted at Kibbutz Ha-Zore'a (Raban 1999: Pl. 24.2:1), Ḥorbat Zeror dated by Raban (1982:30, Pl. A:9) to the Middle Roman period, and Ḥorbat 'Akhin (Gal 1991:41, Pl. 3:7).

*Kraters* (Fig. 9:1, 2).— The rims of two vessels that might possibly have belonged to kraters were found. Number 1 is a flaring rim with a sharp tapered edge on top and a wavy thumb indented decoration around the outside. A sharp ridge protruding upward encircles the outside of the vessel where the neck joins the shoulder.

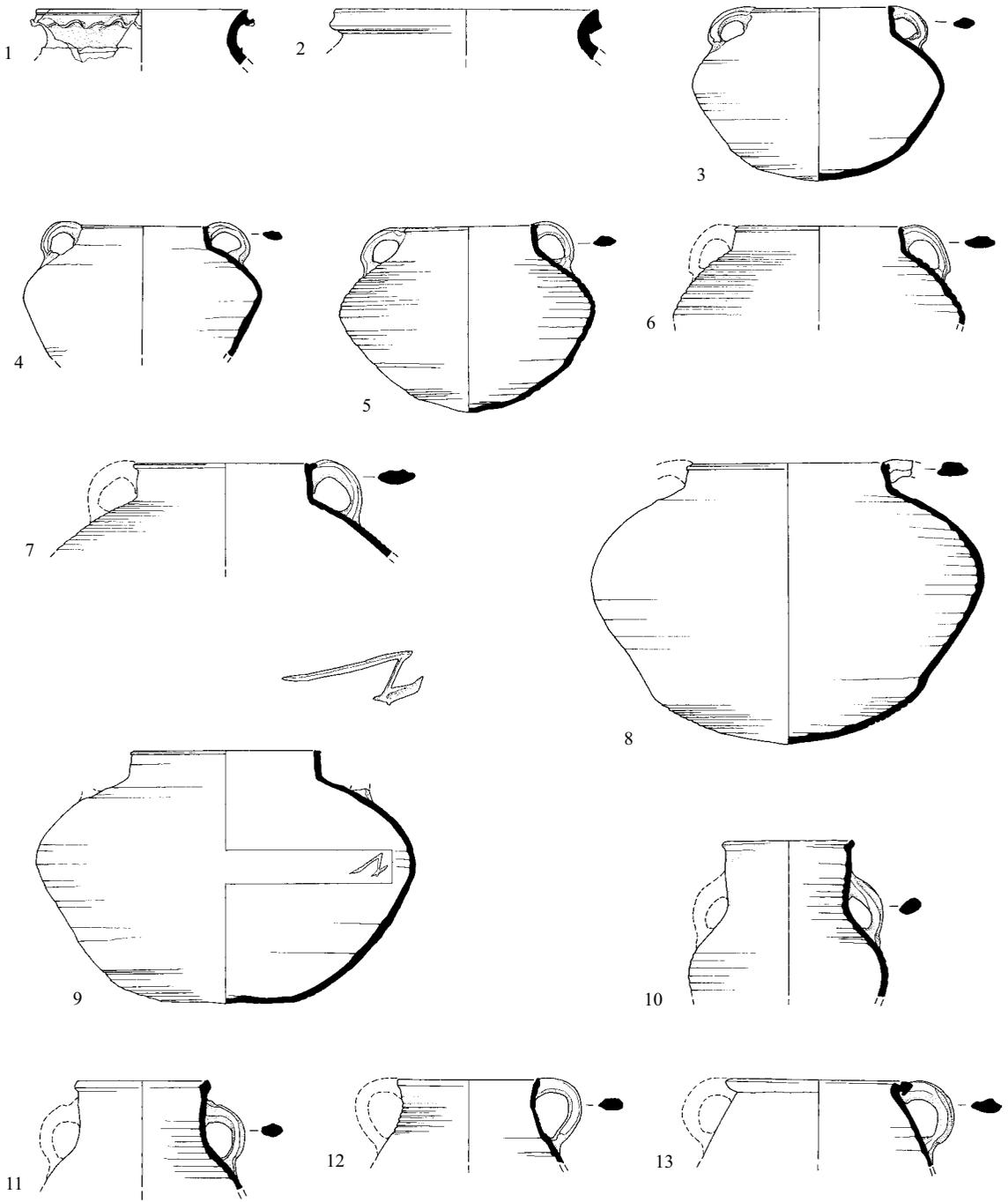


Fig. 9. Pottery.

◀ Fig. 9

No.	Vessel	Reg. No.	Locus No.	Location	Description
1	Krater	5302/1	59	Sq O4/5	Beige; red core
2	Krater	5045	12	Room XXb	Pinkish-brown; pinkish-brown core
3	Cooking pot	5395	-	S of W6 next to street	Brown
4	Cooking pot	5479	19	Room XXVII	Reddish-brown; reddish-brown core
5	Cooking pot	5439	71	Room XXVI	Orange; orange core
6	Cooking pot	5060	16	Room XXb	Reddish-brown; dark-reddish brown core
7	Cooking pot	5756	133	Sq C6/7	Reddish-brown; grayish-purple core
8	Cooking pot	5576	102	<i>Ṭabun</i> in Sq Y/Z7	Reddish-brown; reddish-brown core
9	Cooking pot	5624	89	Room XXIX	Orange; reddish-brown core
10	Cooking pot	5348	19	Room XXVII	Reddish-brown; reddish-brown core with small amount of white inclusions
11	Cooking pot	5335	34	Room XXIIb	Pinkish-brown; pinkish-brown core
12	Cooking pot	5658	95	Room I	Orange; orange core
13	Cooking pot	5302/2	59	Sq O4/5	Dark brown; dark brown core

The neck of sherd No. 2 curves acutely outward, culminating in a sharp ridge on top of the rim. The rim is triangular in section with two distinct grooves, one around its outer edge and the other where the underside of the rim joins the vessel's neck.

*Cooking Pots* (Fig. 9:3–13).— The overall assemblage of cooking pots is quite homogenous, with only subtle differences between the vessels. The pots, occurring in a variety of sizes, all have a single grooved rim. The neck is either vertical (Nos. 3, 5, 7, 9) or tapers slightly inward toward the top (Nos. 4, 6, 8). A pair of vertical loop handles rising slightly higher than the top of the rim descends to the mid-point of the shoulder. The collar is short with a sharp differentiation between the neck and shoulder. The body is squat, almost biconical in shape, with either a pointed (Nos. 3, 5, 8) or flat (No. 9) base. All of the complete cooking pots have dense ribbing toward the very bottom of the vessel; on the smaller pots the dense ribbing sometimes extends as far up as the base of the neck (Nos. 5–7). Parallels for Nos. 6 and 9 were found in the Roman tomb at 'Ar'ara in Nahal 'Iron, which the excavator dates from the second half of the first

century to the end of the second century CE (Zias 1980: Fig. 4:3, 4), and in the survey at Dhahrat el-Marshafa (M), dated by Raban to the Early Roman period (Raban 1999: Pl. 111:5).

Numbers 10 and 11 are small, narrow cooking pots with tall vertical necks, a variant from which no complete vessel was found. A pair of vertical handles is attached to the shoulder of the vessel and the neck. The rim is triangular in section with an internal gutter for a lid. The neck on No. 12 is tapered and slightly broader and shorter. A pair of handles extends from the rim down to the shoulder of the vessel.

Vessel No. 13 may be referred to as a 'cooking krater'. It has a thickened rim, the outer edge of which is triangular in section, with a gutter on the top of the rim for securing a lid as well as a gutter on the bottom side of the rim. A parallel for this type of cooking vessel was found at 'Aro'er in the Negev (Hershkovitz 1992: Pl. 4:12), dating to the end of the Second Temple period.

*Storage Jars* (Fig. 10).— Although a variety of rim types were found at the site, no complete storage vessels were recovered. The few that were partially restorable are bag-shaped with two large vertical handles attached atop the

shoulder of the jar (Nos. 9–11). All of these jars have dense ribbing extending up the body to the top of the shoulder. The necks average about 4 cm high and all except one have a sharp ridge at the base that protrudes upward and out.

The rim profiles illustrated here and described below are representative of the assemblage. Numbers 1, 2, and 9 are characterized by an outfolded, thickened rim and a slightly convex neck. Variants of No. 9 were found in a second

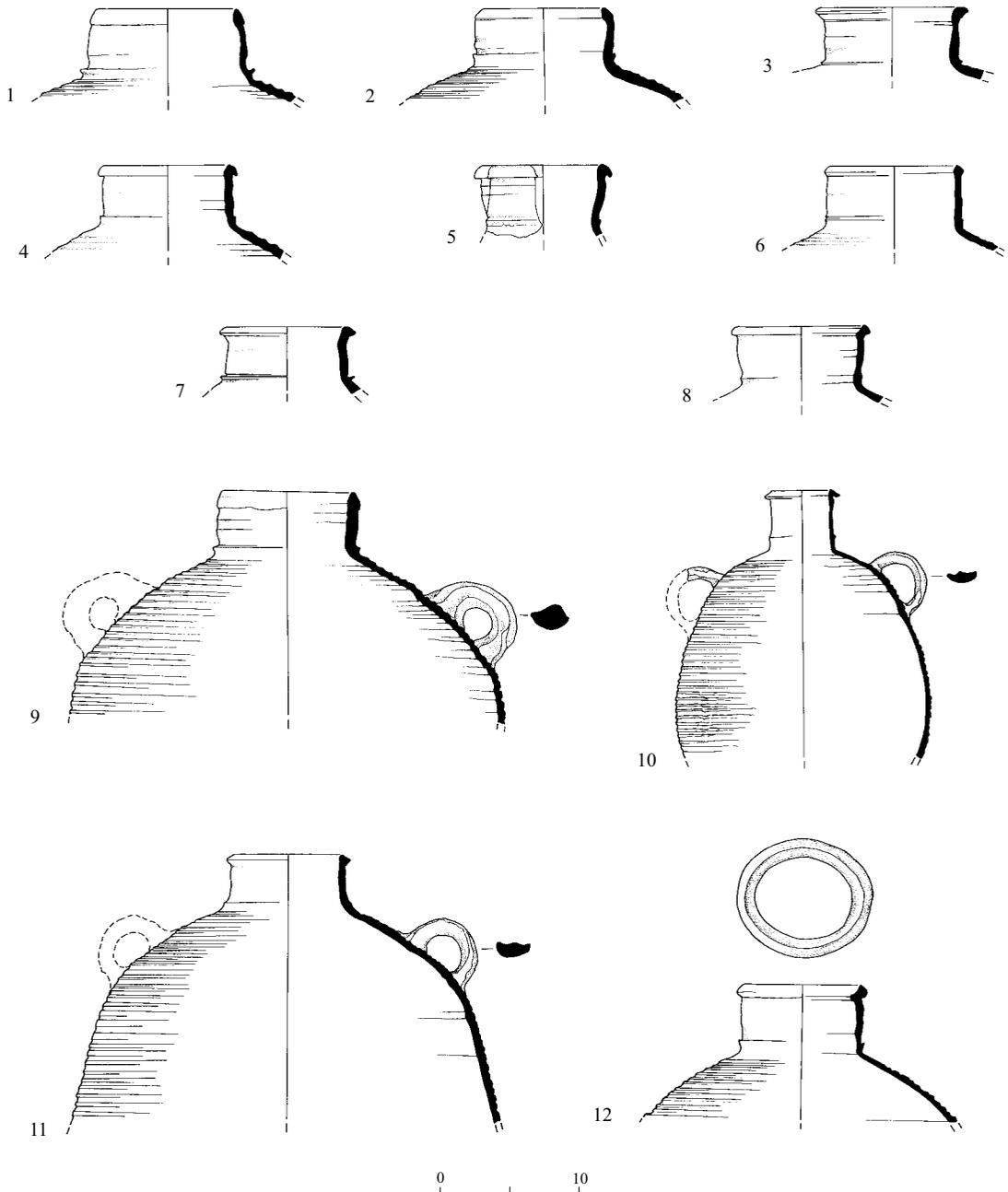


Fig. 10. Pottery: storage jars.

◀ Fig. 10

No.	Reg. No.	Locus No.	Location	Description
1	5117	25	Room XXa	Pink; orange core
2	5353	51	Sq O5/6	Orange; reddish-orange core
3	5477	65	Room XXIIb	Beige; pinkish-brown core
4	5195	48	Room XXb	Light orange; pink core
5	5605	59	Sq O5	Beige; pink core
6	5712	113	E6	Metallic; pinkish-brown; gray-black core with black inclusions
7	5676	12	Room XXb	Pinkish-beige; orange core
8	5277	42	Sq O4/5 (surface)	Brown metallic ware; gray core
9	5656	17	Alley N of Room XXB	Orange; pink core
10	5434/1	78	Room XXIVa	Orange brown; gray-black core
11	5315	40	Room XXVI	Reddish-brown; orange core with a few white inclusions
12	5761	118	S of peristyle building	Pinkish-brown metallic ware; grayish-black core

century CE context at Shiqmona (Elgavish 1977: Fig. V:31), in a fill attributed to the first–second centuries CE at Caesarea (Riley 1975: No. 17; Bar-Natan and Adato 1986:161, Fig. 2:8), and at Ḥorbat 'Eleq, dated from the late first century BCE to the mid-second century CE (Silberstein 2000: Pl. II:12). A parallel to No. 1 was found in the Promontory Palace at Caesarea Maritima, which Bar-Natan dates to the second–third centuries CE (Bar-Natan and Adato 1986:172, Fig. 2:7), and in a survey at Dhahrat el-Marshafa (M), dated by Raban (1999: Pl. 111:3) to the Early Roman period. Unlike Nos. 1 and 9, which are vertical and rather high, No. 2 is somewhat shorter and the lip of the outwardly folded rim is turned inward.

Numbers 3, 4, 5, and 10 are all characterized by varying degrees of everted, flange-shaped rims. The neck of rim No. 4 tapers slightly inward at the bottom, emphasizing the ridge below it. A parallel to No. 5 was found in the survey of Dhahrat el-Marshafa (M) (Raban 1999: Pl. 111:4). The neck on No. 10 is narrower and higher than those of the other jars in the assemblage. A parallel was found in the Cave of the Letters (Yadin 1963: Pl. 4.5), dating to the time of the Bar Kokhba Revolt.

Numbers 6 and 11 are vertical rims with triangular sections. Numbers 7, 8, and 12 are representative of the triangular storage jar rims with an internal gutter for accommodating a stopper or lid. The gutter constriction in No. 7 is minimal, whereas in the other two examples it is quite pronounced. Number 8 has a well-defined ring surrounding the base of the neck, rather than a sharp ridge protruding upward and out common to all the other rims. A parallel to No. 8 was found at Capernaum (Loffreda 1982: Pl. 85, Fig. 3:1), which the excavator dates from the second half of the first century to the first decades of the second century CE (Loffreda 1982:414), and in the survey of Dhahrat el-Marshafa (M), which Raban dates to the Early Roman period (Raban 1999: Pl. 111:2). A parallel to No. 12, dating to the first–second centuries CE, was found in Tower 4 at Umm Richan (Dar, Safrai and Teper 1986: Pl. 3:18).

*Jugs and Juglets* (Fig. 11:1–8).— Number 1 has a triangular rim fashioned with a single groove. The neck of the vessel is cylindrical, flaring slightly outward toward the shoulder. A vertical strap handle that rises above the rim extends from the top of the neck to the upper part of the shoulder. The vessel is made from

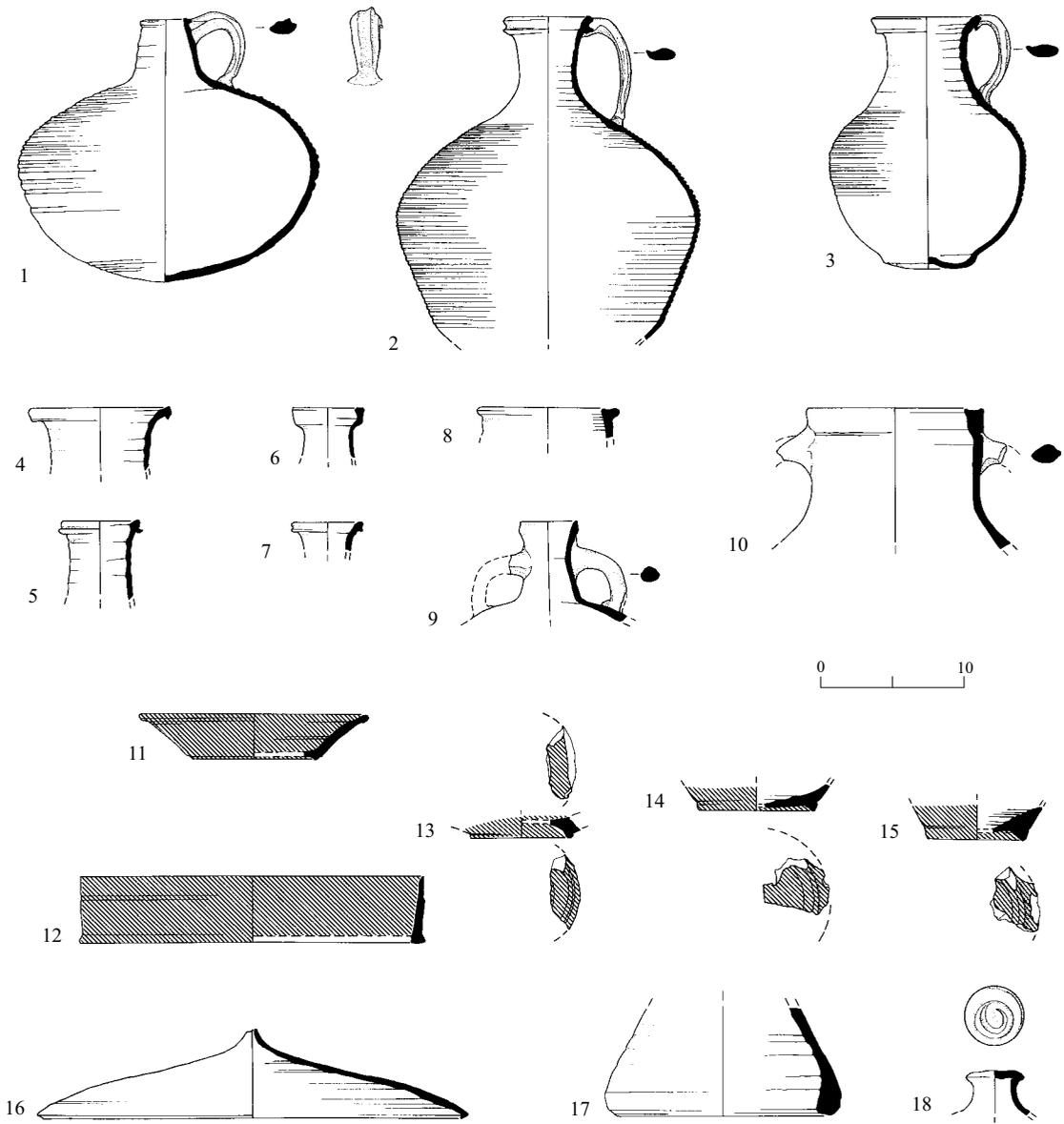


Fig. 11. Pottery.

cooking ware material and has a squat body and a pointed base. Dense ribbing covers the upper two thirds of the body as well as a portion of the base. The jug was used for heating water and is referred to in the sources as a יורה. Parallels: 'En Ha-Shofet (Tsafirir 1984:371, top row, middle), which Tsafirir dates to the second century CE; the Roman tomb at 'Ar'ara in Naḥal 'Iron (Zias 1980: Fig. 4:2), dated by the excavator from the

later half of the first century CE to the end of the second century CE; and in Tomb 4 at Jatt, which the excavators date to the Early Roman period (Porath, Yannai and Kasher 1999:38; Pl. 28:5).

Cooking jug No. 2 has a triangular-shaped rim with a protuberance on the lower part of the rim. The neck is cylindrical and narrow, and a single handle extends from the rim to the shoulder. The body is squat, almost biconical,

◀ Fig. 11

No.	Vessel	Reg. No.	Locus No.	Location	Description
1	Jug	5064/2	19	Room XXVII	Reddish-brown; reddish-brown core
2	Jug	5333	34	Room XXIIb	Orange; brownish-gray core
3	Jug	5064/1	19	Room XXVII	Reddish-brown
4	Jug	5761/2	118	S of peristyle building	Pink; pink core
5	Juglet	5540	91	Room XXVa	Reddish-orange; gray core
6	Juglet	5489	71	Room XXVI	Orange; brown core
7	Juglet	5612	99	West portico/courtyard	Orange; black core with a few white inclusions
8	Jug	5375	71	Room XXVI	Orange; orange core
9	Amphoriskos	5548	95	Room I	Orange; reddish-orange core with black grit
10	Amphora	5520	78	Room XXIVa	Pinkish-brown; pinkish-brown with some black and white grit
11	Terra Sigillata dish	5730	138	SE corner of courtyard	Brownish-orange; brownish-orange core; reddish-orange slip
12	Terra Sigillata plate	5709	128	Room V	Light brown; light brown core; reddish-brown slip
13	Terra Sigillata	5138	31	Room XXa	Well-levigated ware; beige; beige core; reddish-brown slip on both sides
14	Terra Sigillata	5075	18	Sq H5	Well-levigated ware; beige; beige core; reddish-brown slip on outside
15	Terra Sigillata	5144	31	Room XXa	Well-levigated ware; beige; beige core; reddish-brown slip on outside
16	Lid	5279	28	Room XXIIb	Reddish-brown; reddish-brown core with some white inclusions
17	Lid	5434/2	78	Room XXIVa	Pink; pink core
18	Knob	5712	113	Sq E6	Buff; buff core

resembling that of the cooking pots. Dense ribbing covers the body from just below the neck to just above the base of the vessel. The base is broken. This vessel is extremely common throughout the country in first and second century CE pottery assemblages. Parallels were found at Tel Mevorakh in an assemblage dating to the first–second centuries CE (Rosenthal 1978: Fig. 2:15–16); at Dor (Guz-Zilberstein 1995: Pl. 6.49:20); in Pit 319 at Shiqmona (Elgavish 1977: Pl. II:12), which the excavator dates to the second century CE; at Giv'at Ram, dated to the late first–early second century CE (Hershkovitz 1987: Fig. 1:19, 20); at Wadi el-Daliyeh along with material dating to the Bar Kokhba Revolt (Lapp and Lapp 1974: Pl. 28:1–3); in the Scouts Cave in the Judean

Desert, which Bar Adon dates to the time of the Bar Kokhba Revolt (Bar Adon 1961: Pl. 1:10); at 'Aro'er, where a jug was found with material dating from the second third of the first century CE to the First Revolt (Hershkovitz 1992: Pl. 4:8); and at Ḥorbat 'Aqav (Calderon 2000: Pl. III: 42).

Jug No. 3 has a triangular-shaped rim with a protruding ridge on the underside of the lip. The neck is quite broad, narrowing at its center. A strap handle extends from the rim down to the top of the vessel's shoulder. The jug is piriform shaped, and is covered with dense ribbing extending from the base of the neck to just below the middle of the body. It has an omphalos base. No exact parallels were found for this particular vessel. A variant with

a slightly different rim and base was uncovered in the 1968 excavations at Samaria-Sebaste (Hennessy 1970: Fig. 8:1) and is dated by Hennessy to the first century CE.

The jug (No. 4) and juglet rims (Nos. 5, 6) are smaller, slightly varied versions of Nos. 2 and 3. Parallels were found in the assemblages from the Bar Kokhba-period Tetradrachm Cave (Amit and Eschel 1998: Pl. 2:26, 27); Tower 4 at Umm Richan, which the excavators attribute to the second century CE (Dar, Safrai and Teper 1986: Pl. 5:7); and Pella (Smith and Day 1989: p. 98; Pl. 44:17), from the first century CE. The rim in No. 7 is characterized by a collar that is cut square along the top. Number 8 is a ledge rim from a jug that is flat on top and rounded on its outer edge.

*Amphoriskos* (Fig. 11:9).— The upper portion of an amphoriskos was found. It has a slightly tapered mouth with a rounded rim. The neck is cylindrical and there are two loop handles that extend from the middle of the neck to the shoulder of the vessel. It is made from well-levigated orange material. It lacks the twisted handles and interior seam between neck and body characteristic of flasks of the same period. A parallel was found in the Roman well at Khirbat Ibreiktas, which the excavators date from the first to mid-late third centuries CE (Kletter and Rapuano 1998:51, Fig. 4: 6).

*Amphora* (Fig. 11:10).— This fragment is the upper portion of an amphora. The neck is cylindrical, topped by an outwardly folded rim. The top of the rim has a shallow gutter. Two handles were attached to the neck just below the rim. No exact parallel was found for this vessel.

*Terra Sigillata* (Fig. 11:11–15).— A total of five Terra Sigillata sherds were recovered in the excavation. Of these, only Nos. 11 and 12 are large enough to be clearly identified. Number 11 is a dish fashioned from well-levigated, brownish-orange material with a brownish-orange core. It is treated both inside and out with a reddish-orange slip. The dish has a

rounded rim that flares outward, some slight ribbing on the inner surface and a very shallow, almost flat ring base. Hayes dates it to the first half of the second century CE (Hayes 1985:39). Parallels were found at Samaria (Crowfoot, Crowfoot and Kenyon 1957:32; Fig. 77:10), which G. Crowfoot dates to the Middle Roman period, and at Sbaita (Crowfoot 1936:25; Pl. IV: 3), which she dates to the end of the second century CE.

Item No. 12 is the vertical rim of a large pedestalled plate. It is made from well-levigated, light brown clay with a light brown core. The vessel is treated with a brownish-red slip.

Item No. 13 is the base of an open vessel, probably a bowl. It is treated both inside and out with a reddish-brown slip. Numbers 14 and 15 are bases from closed vessels and are treated on the outside only with a reddish-brown slip.

*Lids* (Fig. 11:16–18).— Numerous fragments of casserole lids were found throughout the site. These are characterized by a small cylindrical or hourglass-shaped knob affixed at the center of the lid (missing from No. 16) and a beveled edge that coincided with the beveled rim on the casserole it covered. A parallel to the lid was found in the Cave of Horror in the Judean Desert dating from the time of Bar Kokhba (Aharoni 1962: Fig. 2:10). Number 17, with a thickened, inturned rim, was probably used to cover a storage jar. Number 18 is string cut. Although this sherd may also be a vessel base, we assume it is the knob from a lid since there is no evidence of abrasion from the pressure of the vessel's weight.

*Lamps* (Fig. 12:1–4).— The lamps illustrated here are all mold-made. They all have circular reservoirs, a broken sunken discus, with or without a relief decoration, and no handle. The rim surrounding the reservoir is wide and decorated with a repeated motif. The nozzle is short with a rounded tip; volutes occur at its junction. According to Rosenthal and Sivan, the use of these lamps extends from the pre-destruction levels in first-century-CE Jerusalem

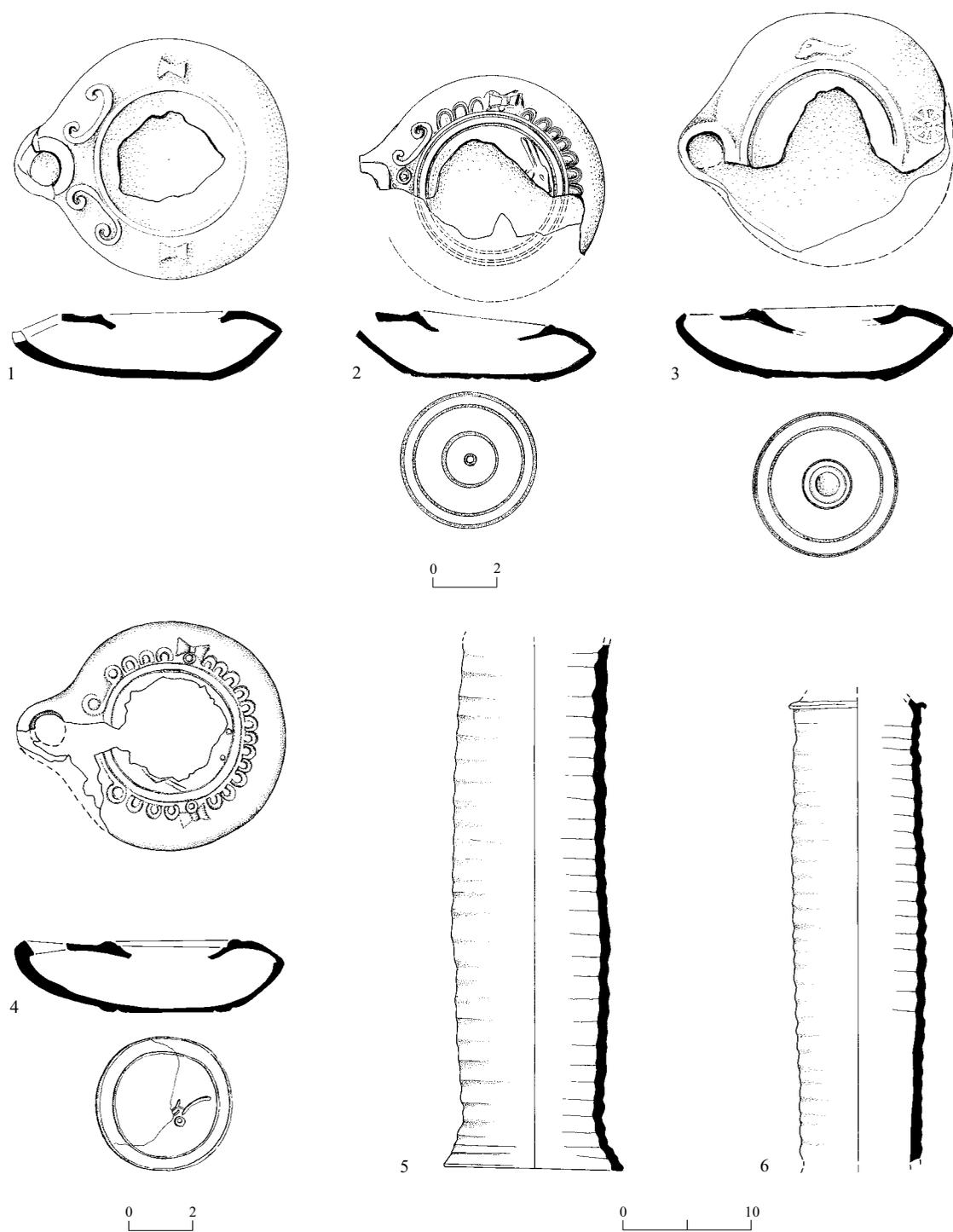


Fig. 12. Lamps (1-4) and vent pipes (5, 6).

◀ Fig. 12

No.	Object	Reg. No.	Locus No.	Location	Description
1	Lamp	5333	34	Room XXIIb	Buff; brown slip
2	Lamp	5479/2	19	Room XXVII	Pink; reddish-brown slip
3	Lamp	5426	71	Room XXVI	Pink; brown slip
4	Lamp	5767	139	Sq C6	Buff; reddish-brown slip
5	Vent pipe	5692/1	124	Room XXa	Buff; buff core
6	Vent pipe	5692/2	124	Room XXa	Buff; buff core

into the third century CE (Rosenthal and Sivan 1978:85). Kennedy dates this type of lamp to the second–third centuries CE (Kennedy 1961:75).

Number 1 is a round lamp made from buff clay treated with a brown slip. It has a plain, wide rim decorated with double axes and volutes. The base of the lamp is an imitation base-ring. Number 2 is a round lamp fashioned from pinkish clay treated with a reddish-brown slip. The rim is decorated with volutes, double axes and ovolo. The discus is adorned with what appears to be the head of a stag(?). The base of the lamp is flat and incised with four concentric circles. Number 3 is also a round lamp and is made from pinkish clay treated with a red slip. The rim is decorated with a serpent(?) and a rosette. The discus is sunken and broken. The base of the lamp is flat and incised with five concentric circles. Number 4 is a round lamp made of pinkish clay treated with a red slip. The rim is decorated with volutes, double axes and ovolo. The discus is sunken and was intentionally broken; several incised lines and two dots are all that remain of its decoration. On the bottom of the lamp are an imitation base ring and a potter's mark.

*Ceramic Pipes* (Fig. 12:5, 6).— A number of buff-colored ceramic pipes, two of which are displayed here, were found *in situ* in the open courtyard that is designated Room XXa. The pipes are c. 8 cm in diameter and up to 40 cm in length. One end of each section is wide and flaring (No. 5), while the other end is slightly narrower and tapered with a rounded edge and

a flange-like rim (No. 6). The tapered end of one section is inserted into the flaring end of another, thus enabling a pipe of any desired length. The sections have coarse ribbing both on the inside and out, which helps to provide a positive seal when cemented together with white plaster.

#### *Stone Objects*

A variety of stone objects (Fig. 13) was found scattered throughout the site. These include one architectural element, found in the collapse of the peristyle building and perhaps having served as a door socket, and bowls, pestles, grindstones and frame millstones, all of which were found in the architectural complexes flanking the peristyle building.

Item No. 1 is a cylindrical limestone door socket(?), 19 cm in diameter and 22 cm high. At one end of the socket is a circular depression, 6 cm in diameter and 7 cm deep; at the other end is a smaller depression, 2.5 cm in diameter and 2 cm deep. The outer surface of the cylinder is chiseled smooth.

Two tripodal basalt bowls were found. One (Fig. 13:2) is a fragment of a circular bowl measuring 23 cm in diameter and 8 cm high. The bowl is shallow and has an upright rounded rim. The other (Fig. 13:3) is an intact tripodal bowl, 14 cm square and 5 cm high. The bowl is formed by a depression (11 cm in diameter, 2 cm deep) located in the center of the square.

One complete upper stone from a basalt-frame millstone (Fig. 13:4), as well as several similar broken millstones, were recovered. The

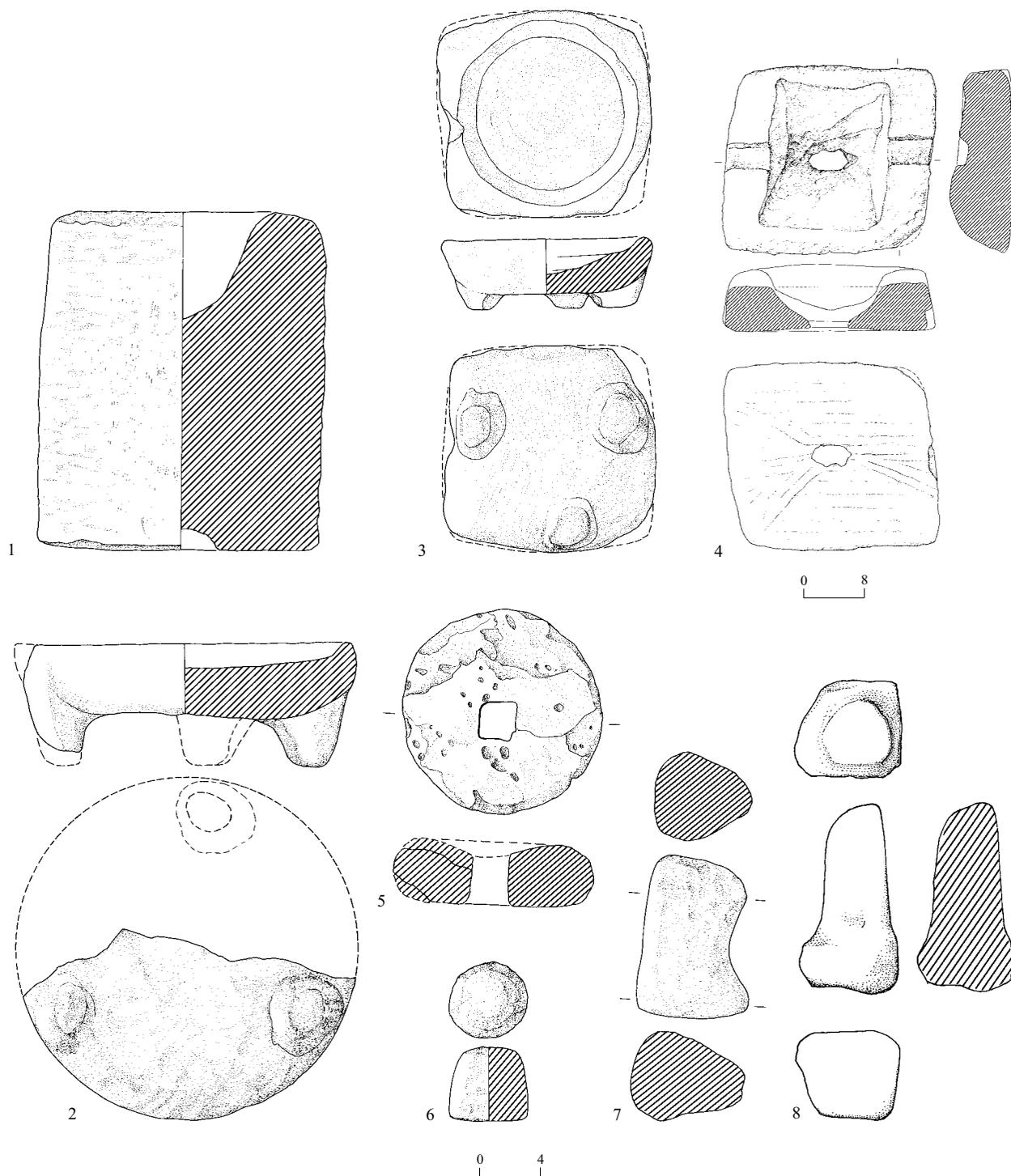


Fig. 13. Stone objects.

◀ Fig. 13

No.	Object	Reg. No.	Locus No.	Location	Description
1	Door socket	5605	58	Room XIII	Limestone
2	Tripodal bowl	5625	25	Room XXa	Basalt
3	Tripodal bowl	5777	131	Sq F/G6	Basalt
4	Frame millstone	5784	140	Sq F7	Basalt
5	Grindstone	5130	31	Room XXa	Basalt
6	Pestle	5790/1	132	Sq G6/7	Basalt
7	Pestle	5790/2	132	Sq G6/7	Basalt
8	Pestle	5495	82	Sq Y6	Limestone

complete upper stone is slightly rhomboid in shape. It has tapered outer sides and measures  $24 \times 27 \times 8$  cm. The top of the stone has a border whose opposite sides are 6 cm wide by 3 cm wide respectively. Two slots,  $3 \times 6$  cm and 1.5 cm deep, bisect the wide borders. In the center of the stone is a smooth sloping hopper-like depression,  $16 \times 19$  cm and 7 cm deep, terminating in a  $2 \times 5$  cm hole. The base of the stone is slightly convex with a series of 2 cm wide chiseled furrows emanating from the hole in the center of the stone, in a manner resembling an hourglass. Parallel furrows are incised along the rest of the base at  $45^\circ$  to the hourglass. This is the typical type of frame millstone found in numerous Early Roman sites, e.g., Ḥorbat 'Aqav (Sidi 2000:177–179, Pl. I:1, 3).

A small basalt grindstone (Fig. 13:5), 13 cm in diameter and 4 cm high, was found. One side of the disk is flat and the other is slightly concave. The edges of the stone are rounded. In the center of the stone is a 2 cm square hole.

Short and tall pestles were found at the site. The shorter variety is made from basalt, limestone or flint. Item No. 6 is a small trapezoidal basalt pestle, 5 cm in height; its diameter at its flat base is 5 cm, tapering to 4 cm in diameter at its rounded top. Number 7 is a basalt pestle, 11 cm high. The base of the pestle is slightly rounded and measures  $6 \times 8$  cm. Both the top and bottom of the pestle are fairly triangular in shape. The side of the pestle is roughed-out to conform

to the shape of a hand and facilitate grasping. Item No. 8 is a tall limestone pestle (12.5 cm high) with a trapezoidal base,  $6 \times 7$  cm, and a cylindrical shaft.

#### *Metal Objects* (Figs. 14; 15:1–6)

Figure 14:1 is a well-preserved iron plowshare (overall length 0.29 m, max. width 3.5 cm, max. thickness 3.5 cm). At one end is an open collar-shaped socket (length 11 cm, diam. 3.5 cm) that was attached to the end of a wooden ard and held in place by a nail whose hole is preserved at the end of the socket. The operative end of the share (length 18 cm, max. width 2 cm) is stake-like and rhombus in section. The bottom surface of the share is straight, its top and sides tapering to the point at the end. This share lacks the flanges or ground wrists that become common on the ploughs from the time of the *Mishnah* and *Talmud* (Naor 1989:13). Figure 14:2 is a poorly preserved iron axe blade. Figure 14:3 is a lead disk (diam. 9 cm, thickness 7 mm) with a 2 mm perforation adjacent to the edge. The disk may possibly have been used as either a weight or as a hinged lid. Figure 14:4 is a plain bronze earring with a somewhat squat circular shape and a curved profile. At the top of the earring is a delicate hook and at the bottom a termination in a thickened tail-like projection. Also found were a bronze handle(?) (Fig. 14:5), a bronze pin (Fig. 14:6), a kohl stick (Fig. 14:7), a spatula (Fig. 14:8), a cast-bronze buckle and tongue (Fig. 15:1a, b), a bronze button or tack(?)

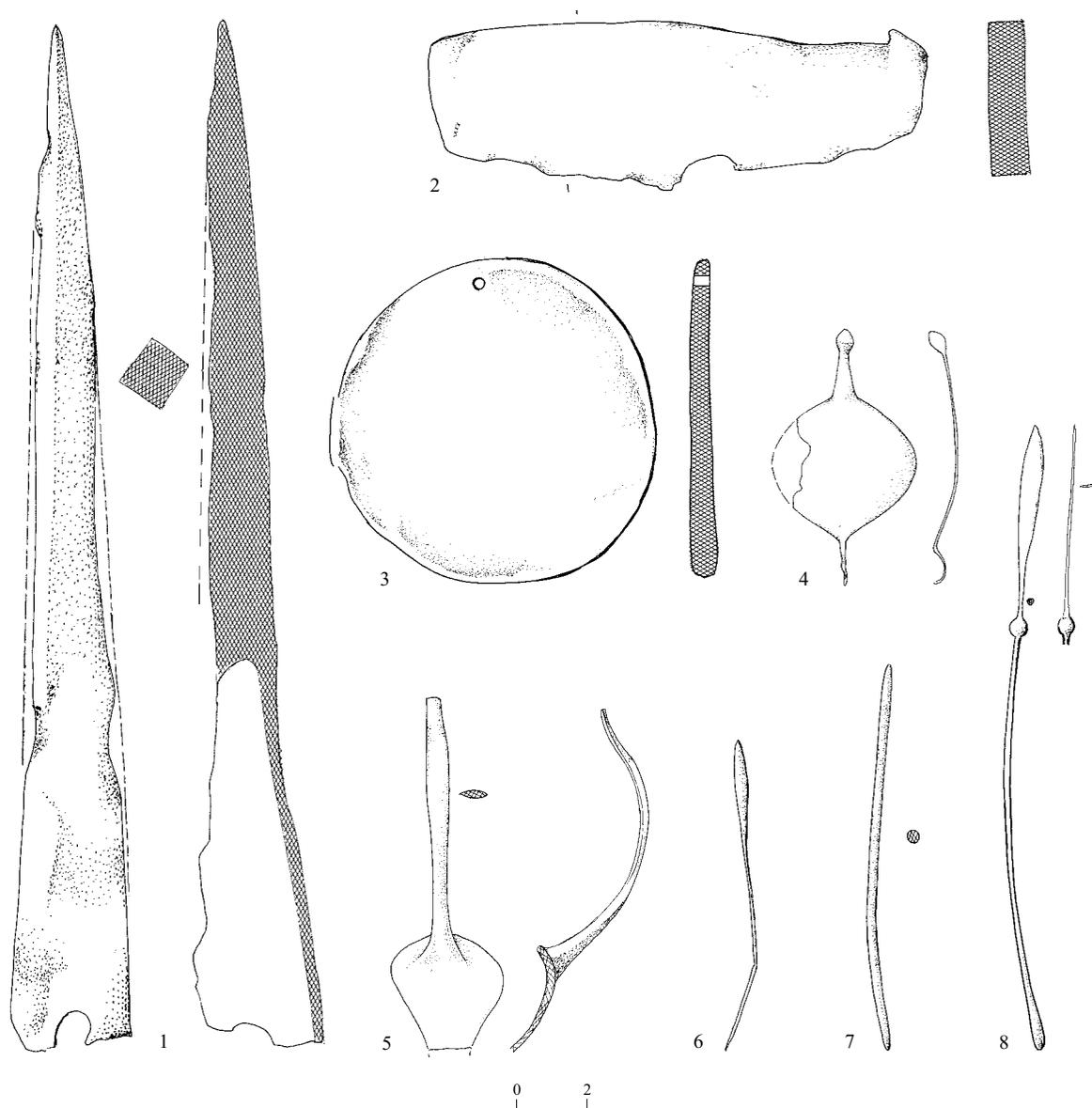


Fig. 14. Metal finds.

No.	Object	Reg. No.	Locus No.	Location	Description
1	Plow	5586	82	Sq Y6	Iron
2	Axe	5784	140	Sq F7	Iron
3	Disk	5686	95	Room I	Lead
4	Earring	5746	131	Sq F/G7	Bronze
5	Handle	5029	7	Sq P5/6	Bronze
6	Pin	5080	19	Room XXVII	Bronze
7	Kohl stick	5608	103	Sq X5	Bronze
8	Spatula	5138	31	Room XXa	Bronze

(Fig. 15:2), a bronze ring (Fig. 15:3), an iron ring (Fig. 15:4), an iron tack (Fig. 15:5) and an iron nail (Fig. 15:6).

*Miscellaneous* (Fig. 15:7, 8)

Among the miscellaneous small finds recovered was a turquoise white “melon bead” (Fig. 15:7)

of faience, with shallow ribbing. It is 1.7 cm in diameter with a 2 mm perforation through its center. In addition a black stone spindle whorl (Fig. 15:8) was found. The object is conical, 2.6 cm in diameter at its base and 1 cm high, with a 1.5 mm diameter perforation. A single line is incised around the outside of the bottom edge.

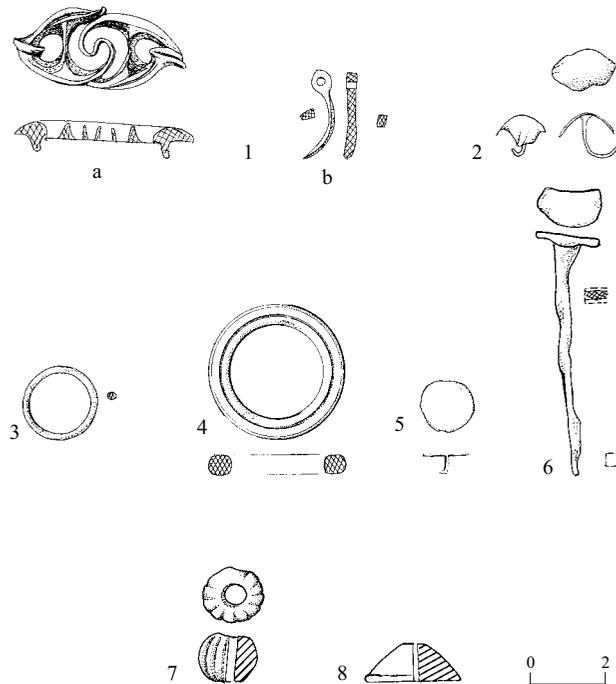


Fig. 15. Metal (1–6) and miscellaneous (7, 8) finds.

No.	Object	Reg. No.	Locus No.	Location	Description
1a	Buckle	5451	70	Sq M5	Bronze
1b	Buckle tongue	5451	70	Sq M5	Bronze
2	Button or tack	5632	89	Room XXIX	Bronze
3	Ring	5333	34	Room XXIIb	Bronze
4	Ring	5202	39	Sq R5 (courtyard N of W27)	Iron
5	Tack	5580	43	Sq O6	Iron
6	Nail	5466	37	Sq R6/7	Iron
7	Bead	5626	108	Room XXIb	Faience; turquoise white
8	Spindle whorl	5780	138	SE corner of courtyard	Stone; black

## CONCLUSION

The extensive architectural remains exposed at 'Ein ez-Zeituna are probably those of a *mansio* situated alongside the main road leading from Caesarea via Legio to the Lower Galilee and the Jordan Valley. The site was occupied during a single period that dates to the end of the first and the second centuries CE and is contemporary with the increase in Roman administrative and military activity in Palestine. The site seems to

have been abandoned rather than destroyed, as there is no evidence of any destruction level or conflagration. Our general impression is that the site was deserted when it no longer served its original function and was subsequently dismantled for its stones, which were probably put into secondary use elsewhere. The extensive collapse of ashlar and large fieldstones atop the occupation level probably resulted from any one of the numerous earthquakes to have struck the Lower Galilee in the ensuing centuries.

## List of Loci

Locus No.	Square	Room	Description	Elevations (+200 meters)
1	V6		Surface level	14.07–13.35
2	P6		Surface level (including L14)	14.25–13.38
3	P5		Surface level	14.68–13.75
4	H6/7		Surface level (including L110)	13.06–11.16
5		XXVII	Collapse	13.62–12.64
6	H6		Collapse S of W9 (including L13)	12.76–10.99
7		XXb	Collapse (including Loci 16, 48)	13.94–12.32
8	U/V6		Foundation trench for W2 (N side of wall)	13.35–13.14
9	P5		Collapse (N of W4)	13.75–13.12
10	P6	XXa	Collapse (Consolidated with L25)	-
11	P5	Alley	Collapse (western half of alley between W4 and W7)	13.75–12.56
12		XXb	Occupation level	12.32–11.94
13	H6		Collapse S of W9 (consolidated with L6)	-
14	P5/6		Removal of balk: surface level (consolidated with L2)	-
15		XXVII	Collapse (consolidated with L19) down to virgin soil	-
16	P5/6	XXb	Removal of balk: collapse (consolidated with L7)	-
17	P6	E–W alleyway N of W7	Probe beneath L11; virgin soil	13.19–12.09
18	H6	Inside Walls 9, 10, 11, 74	Occupation level	11.32–10.99
19		XXVII	Collapse (including L15) to virgin soil	12.61–12.15
20	P6/7		Removal of balk: surface level (consolidated with L22)	-
21	V6, W6	XXVIII	Collapse	12.93–12.45
22	From P6/7 southwards		Surface level (including L20)	13.77–12.91
23	Q6/7		Surface level	13.65–13.01

## List of Loci (cont.)

Locus No.	Square	Room	Description	Elevations (+200 meters)
24	V7 S of W109		Collapse down to top of paving stones	12.89–12.23
25		XXa	Collapse (including Loci 10 and 45)	13.71–11.89
26		XXIc	Surface level	13.79–12.75
27	R6 and balk between R5/6		Surface level	14.25–13.19
28		XXIc	Collapse	13.09–12.32
29		XXIa	Collapse	13.94–11.89
30		XXIc	Occupation level (including L33)	12.32–12.15
31		XXa	Occupation level	11.98–11.63
32	N half of R6 and balk R5/6		Collapse	13.39–13.24
33		XXIc	Occupation level (consolidated with L30)	-
34		XXIIb	Collapse	13.54–12.37
35	S half of R6		Surface level (consolidated with L37)	-
36	Balks Q/R6 and Q/R7		Removal of balk: surface level	14.25–13.11
37	S half of R6 and R7		Surface level (including L35)	13.68–12.52
38	Q5 and balks P/Q5 and Q/R5		Surface level	14.60–13.56
39	E of W28, N of W27, W of W48		Surface level (including Loci 46 and 52)	14.60–13.38
40	U6/7		Surface level	14.15–12.24
41			Cancelled	
42	O5, N and S balks		Surface level	14.68–13.32
43	S half of O5 and all of O6/7		Collapse (including L51)	13.92–11.96
44	S5/6/7		Surface level south of W27	14.05–12.99
45	P/Q7	XXa	Removal of N-S balk: collapse (consolidated with L25)	-
46	E of W28, N of W27, W of W48		Surface level (consolidated into L39)	-
47	S of W27 through T6/7, E and W balks		Surface level	14.15–12.83
48		XXb	Collapse (consolidated into L7)	-
49		XXa	Installation	-
50	Q5	Alley	Collapse (eastern half of alley between W4, W7, W28)	14.11–13.32
51	O5/6		Collapse (consolidated into L43)	-
52	E of W28, N of W27, W of W48		Surface level (consolidated into L39)	-
53	R4		Surface level	15.04–13.80
54	S two-thirds of S4		Surface level	15.17–14.49
55	N5		Surface level	14.36–13.87
56	N6/7		Surface level	13.63–11.83

## List of Loci (cont.)

Locus No.	Square	Room	Description	Elevations (+200 meters)
57	S6/7		Surface level	13.99–12.08
58	N5/6		Collapse	13.87–13.32
59	O4/5		Collapse (between W32 and W3)	13.87–12.15
60		XV	Collapse	13.87–12.58
61	U6/7		Collapse	13.46–12.36
62		XIV	Collapse	13.53–12.87
63	S of W27 in S6/7, T6/7		Collapse	13.37–12.46
64	R5/6/7 –S5/6/7		Collapse (removal of balk)	14.05–12.96
65		XXIIb	Occupation level	12.37–12.21
66		E portico of courtyard	Collapse	13.53–12.74
67	N6/7 W of W39		Surface level (consolidated into L68)	-
68	M6/7, N6/7		Surface level (including L67)	13.63–10.93
69	W6/7		Surface level	14.07–12.82
70	M5/6 and balk L/M5		Surface level	14.07–12.80
71		XXVI	Occupation level	12.36–12.09
72	X6/7		Surface level	13.94–12.91
73	Y6/7, Z6/7		Surface level	13.99–13.12
74	L6/7		Surface level	13.43–11.98
75		XXIIIa	Collapse	12.31–11.68
76		XXIIIb	Collapse	12.31–12.08
77		XXIIIc	Collapse	13.14–12.59
78		XXIVa	Collapse	12.91–11.80
79		XXVb	Collapse	13.60–12.74
80	Y6		Collapse	13.50–12.90
81	Z6		Collapse	13.23–12.76
82		XXX	Collapse	13.32–12.36
83		XXIX	Collapse	13.32–12.35
84	N6	SE corner of portico	<i>Tabun</i>	12.58–11.95
85	T3/4, U3/4		Surface level	15.52–14.73
86	K6/7		Surface level	13.43–11.44
87	U5		Surface level	14.15–14.03
88		XXIIa	Collapse	12.81–11.74
89		XXIX	Occupation level	12.35–12.03
90		XXIVb	Occupation level	12.77–12.58
91		XXVa	Occupation level	11.91–11.78
92		XXVIII	Occupation level	12.66–12.42
93	L6	S portico	<i>Tabun</i>	12.41–12.11
94		XVII	Collapse	12.62–11.62
95		I	Collapse	12.62–11.52
96		II	Occupation level	12.22–11.63

## List of Loci (cont.)

Locus No.	Square	Room	Description	Elevations (+200 meters)
97	Y5/6		Surface level	13.99–13.56
98		XXIIa	Collapse	12.66–11.90
99	15, J5, K5		Surface level	12.98–12.36
100	W5		Surface level	15.38–13.68
101	16/7, J6/7		Surface level	12.05–11.89
102	Z7		<i>Ṭabun</i>	12.47–11.91
103	X5		Surface level	14.26–13.66
104		XVI	Collapse	12.56–12.19
105		S portico S of W63	Occupation level (plaster floor)	12.37–12.28
106	Y5/6, Z5/6		Collapse	13.45–12.94
107		XXVIII	Probe beneath L92	12.44–12.12
108		XXIb	Collapse	-
109		Near SE pillar in courtyard	Collapse	12.95–12.70
110	H7		Surface level (consolidated with L4)	-
111	G6/7		Surface level	12.50–11.24
112	F7		Surface level	12.04–10.77
113	E7		Surface level	11.97–10.56
114		XXIIIb	Probe beneath L76, virgin soil	12.08–11.85
115	D7		Surface level	11.67–10.46
116	C7		Surface level	11.38–10.26
117		XIV	Occupation level	12.87–12.54
118	S of W51 in L7, M7, N7		Collapse	11.73–10.95
119		XXa	Occupation level	11.94–11.61
120	Y6, Z6		Occupation level	13.12–12.78
121		Between XXIa and XXIc	Blocked entrance in W19	12.36–11.19
122		I	Probe beneath L95, virgin soil	11.54–10.82
123		XXa	<i>Ṭabun</i>	11.91–11.76
124		XXa	<i>Ṭabun</i>	12.25–11.42
125		V	Collapse	12.83–12.16
126		XIV	Probe beneath L117, virgin soil	12.52–12.33
127		XV	Occupation level	12.44–11.91
128		V	Occupation level	12.16–12.02
129		XVI	Probe beneath L104	12.18–11.71
130	G6		Collapse	12.45–12.20
131	F6/7, G6/7		Collapse	12.38–10.86
132	G6/7		Collapse	12.38–11.21
133	C7/8		Collapse	10.41–9.79
134	N4/5		Surface level	14.19–13.45
135	H6		<i>Ṭabun</i>	11.47–10.86
136	H7		<i>Ṭabun</i>	11.01–10.06

## List of Loci (cont.)

Locus No.	Square	Room	Description	Elevations (+200 meters)
137		XII	Collapse	13.45–12.94
138	M5/6	SE atrium and E end of S portico	Occupation level (down to plaster floor)	12.70–12.37
139	C7/8		Collapse	10.81–9.87
140	F7/8		Collapse	10.88–10.19
141	E7		Collapse	10.56–10.19
142	D7		Collapse	10.77–10.28
143		XVII	Dismantling S end of W96	12.76–11.95
144	F6/7		Collapse	10.86–10.16
145	F6/7		Collapse	11.76–10.27
146	M6		Probe beneath L138 (floor); virgin soil	12.30–12.15
147	L7, M7, N7		Removal of plaster surface in L118	10.95–10.85
148	N7		Probe below surface in L118	10.85–10.65
149	K3/4	Presumed N portico and NW corner of atrium	Surface	14.06–13.51
150	I/J2	NW corner of building (IX)	Surface	15.85–15.03
151		IX	Collapse	15.03–13.79
152		XXIIIa	<i>Tabun</i>	11.69–11.46
153		VI (tops of Walls 67, 92)	Surface	13.07–12.90
154		N portico and NW corner of courtyard	Collapse	13.51–13.05
155	K2/3		Surface	15.76–15.31
156		X	Collapse	15.31–14.36
157	L2/3, M2/3		Surface	15.75–15.25
158		XXIc	Probe below L65	12.21–11.59
159	I3/4	Tops of Walls 65, 105	Surface	13.95–13.76
160		W end of XI	Collapse	15.25–13.96
161		N portico south of W107	Collapse	15.25–13.64

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> The excavation (Permit Nos. A-1949 and A-2022), carried out on behalf of the Israel Antiquities Authority and financed by the Department of Public Works, was directed by the author with the assistance of Ayala Leibowitz, David Milson and Edwin C.M. van den Brink (area supervisors); Israel Vatkin, Pavel Gertopsky, Vadim Essman and

David Milson (surveyors and draftsmen); Yeshe Drey (metal detection); and Leor Ya'akov-Jam (administrator). Tsila Sagiv of the IAA and the author took the field photographs. Erella Tsarfaty carried out the pottery restoration. The following assisted in the treatment of the finds: Yael Gorin-Rosen and Tamar Winter (glass), Gabriela Bijovsky

(numismatics), Ella Altmark (metal) and Tsila Sagiv (studio photography). I wish to thank Yossi Levy, Anat Ginsburg, Lilly Gershuny, Eli Yannai and David Milson for their many helpful suggestions and assistance both during and after the excavation. I especially wish to express my appreciation to Marva Baluka, Yehudah Rapuano and Jon Seligman for their valuable comments regarding the ceramic finds.

<sup>2</sup> Although the antiquities at this site only came to the attention of the IAA during the autumn of 1992, development work was conducted here sometime in the 1940s or 1950s, when a 10 inch iron water pipe was buried approximately one meter below the surface. The pipe traversed the entire length of the site (120 m), severing the upper part of most of the north-south walls located in the southern half of the complex.

<sup>3</sup> Unfortunately, this room was only partly excavated. The excavation exposed the tops of the walls and did not reach floor level. A plausible explanation for the presence of the waterproofing may be that the room served as a water holding tank. The northern side of the building is the side closest to the springs, located several hundred meters to the northwest and

from which flowing water could easily have been conveyed in a conduit. The rooms adjoining the northern portico are all higher than the level of the courtyard and the water could have been drawn by a gravity feed down into the courtyard for either domestic use or the watering of animals.

<sup>4</sup> Thomsen lists the milestones found by Schumacher in Nahal 'Iron starting from No. 233 at Legio going south toward No. 240 at Antipatris. He says that the milestone (No. 237) located at "'ain ez-zetuni" was 2.1 m high, and had an inscription that was completely eroded. For information regarding the milestones and sections of Roman road discovered at the northeastern end of Nahal 'Iron, see P. Thomsen 1917: Milestones 233-240; and Schumacher 1903:4ff.

<sup>5</sup> The peristyle buildings dating from the first century BCE to the third century CE found at Tell Judeidah, Khirbet el-Muraq and Antipatris (Hirschfeld 1995: 87-91) were substantially more complex structures than the peristyle building under discussion here, hence it would be incorrect to suggest that they are analogous to it.

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