ʿAtiqot 96, 2019

Settlement Remains from the Iron Age, Hellenistic, Roman–Byzantine and Early Islamic Periods on the Ancient Tell of Rosh Pinna (Jaʿuna)

Yosef Stepansky

Introduction

In the summer of 2002 and spring of 2003, excavations were conducted in Rosh Pinna in the Upper Galilee (map. ref 250305/764030; Fig. 1), in preparation for a planned

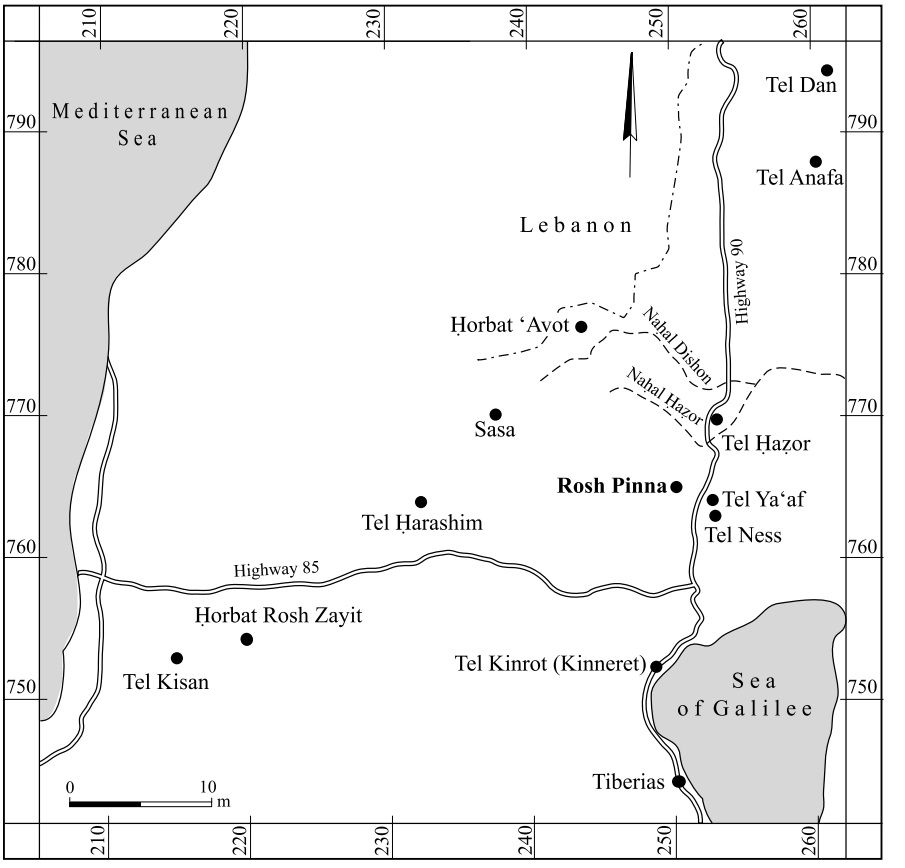

Fig. 1. Location map of the site within Upper Galilee, showing sites mentioned in this report.

thoroughfare along the route of the old "boulevard" leading up to the offices of the Society for the Preservation of Old Rosh Pinna (formerly the administration center of the nineteenth century Jewish settlement).[1] The excavations covered an area of c. 100 sq m on the western

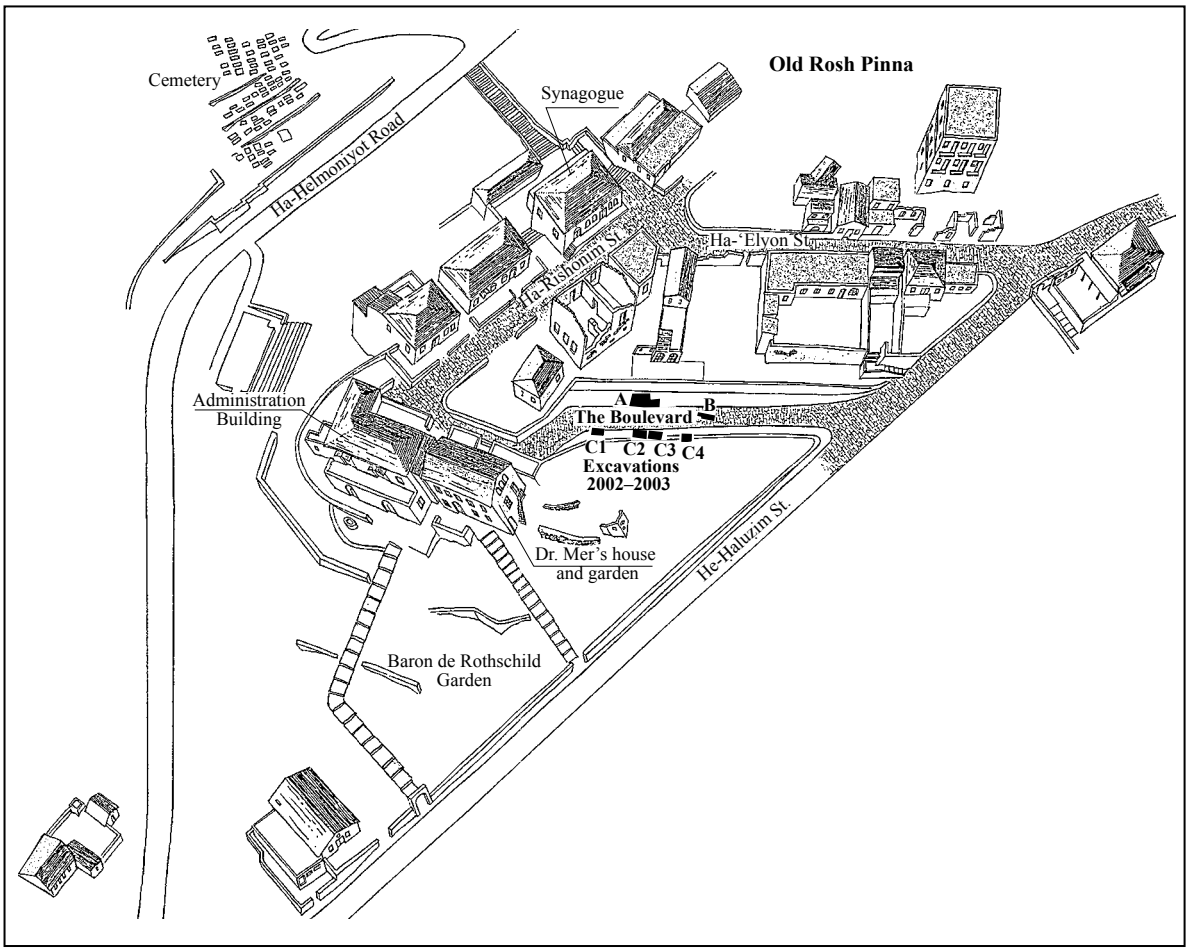

Fig. 2. Isometric representation of the Old Rosh Pinna town center, showing the location of the excavations (after the brochure *Rosh Pinna, Mother of Settlements in the Galilee*, The Society for the Preservation of Old Rosh Pinna).

[1] The excavations were conducted by the author on behalf of the IAA (Permit Nos. A-3645, A-3836), and were funded by the Government Tourist Corporation, with additional support by the Jewish National Fund and the Rosh Pinna Local Council. Participants in the excavation and in the treatment and study of the finds were Yossi Ya'akobi (administration), Leea Porat (pottery restoration), Hagit Tahan-Rosen (drawing of finds), Anastasia Shapiro (petrographic examination of plaster examples); Elisabetta Boaretto (radiometric dating), Lena Koperschmidt (metal cleaning), Danny Syon (numismatics), Gerald Finkielsztejn (Rhodian stamp identification), Vadim Essman, Viatcheslav Pirsky and Avraham Hajian (surveying and drawing of plans), and Yossi Broide and Avner Hilman (precautional safety on-site construction). Site photographs were taken by Tsila Sagiv and the author; photographs of the finds, by Howard Smithline. My thanks to all. My special appreciation to Nimrod Getzov and Yardenna Alexandre for sharing their time and expertise in consultations on stratigraphic and ceramic matters. This final report was edited by Edwin van den Brink and

and eastern margins of the boulevard (Areas A–C; Fig. 2). For preliminary reports, see Stepansky 2008b; 2008c.

The ancient site of Rosh Pinna covers an area of c. 100 dunam (c. 25 acres). It is situated on a limestone spur, 400–500 m asl, that inclines toward the southeast above springs located in the seasonal streambed of Naḥal Rosh Pinna to its west (Fig. 3). The elevated upper

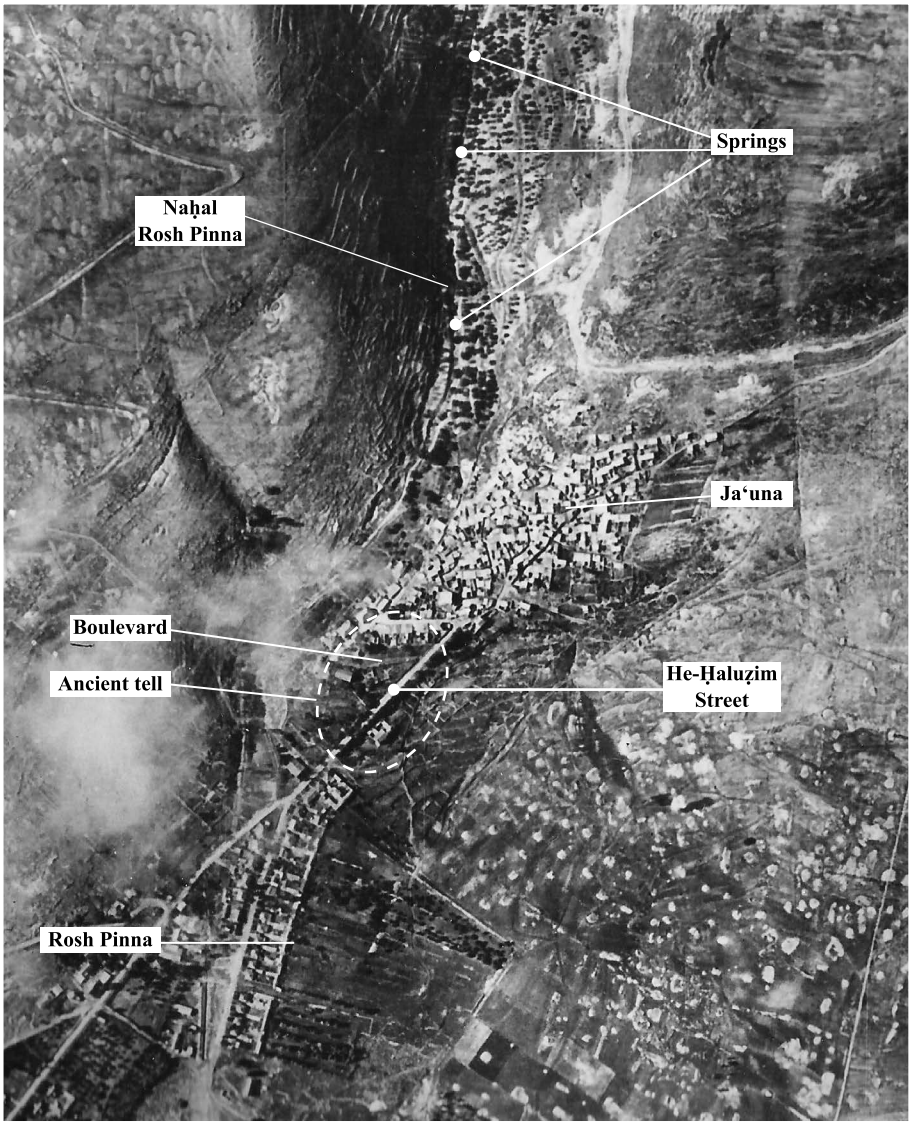

Fig. 3. Aerial view of Ja‘una and Rosh Pinna, 1945; the contour of the ancient tell has been outlined (courtesy of the IAA archives).

Aviva Schwarzfeld. Thanks are due also to Shimon Alexander and Nadav Keller, former directors of The Society for the Preservation of Rosh Pinna, for their constant help and support; and to Mordechai Schwartz, Engineer Zion Iloz and Shlomi Hameiri for their technical assistance. The head of the local council, Avihu Rasky, showed great interest in the project and gave much-needed overall support during both excavation seasons.

portion of the site was settled, probably continuously, from the Roman period until 1948; today it is covered by the ruins of the Arab village of Ja'una (Fig. 3).[2]

A major reason for the site's continuous prosperity is its advantageous location near a permanent water source, overlooking the valley and its fields below. Another likely asset was its strategic position near the historic crossroad located below Rosh Pinna to the east, where the road to Damascus turned east toward the Gesher Benot Ya'akov crossing, on its way up to the Golan Heights (Stepansky 1999:36–37, 113, 123; 2008a:277).

History of Research

In 1889, Gottlieb Schumacher reported remains of an ancient structure in the lower, eastern part of the village, which he identified as a bathhouse carved in bedrock (Schumacher 1889:74–75). Today, two modern water reservoirs have obliterated all traces of these remains (map ref. 25020/76405). At the time of the British Mandate, antiquities inspector Na'im Makhouly mentioned Roman potsherds that he noticed on the site.[3]

The village was surveyed in 1966 by a team led by Avraham Ronen on behalf of the former Israel Department of Antiquities and Museums (IDAM; IAA archives, Ja'une/Rosh Pinna File) and once again in the 1980s during the Upper Galilee Survey, directed by Rafael Frankel (Frankel et al. 2001:44, Site 373). In addition, Zvi Ilan and the author conducted an independent survey in the mid-1980s; we concluded that some of the architectural elements found dispersed over the site and its environs most likely originated from an ancient synagogue. The existence of a synagogue on the site already had been surmised in the past (Hüttenmeister and Reeg 1977, I:377), and it has been suggested that it once must have stood on a prominent rise (map ref. 25015/76415; Ilan 1991:60).

All the above surveyors reported the presence of structural remains and potsherds dating from the Roman period onward; the only reference to pre-Roman remains was by Zvi Gal (1990:124), who—in the 1980s—noticed Iron Age I sherds on the surface (see n. 2).

In 1991, the site was surveyed once more, this time by the Eastern Galilee Survey, led by the author, as part of the Rosh Pinna Survey map sponsored by the Israel Antiquities Authority (Stepansky 2012: Site 187). The survey results show that a large tell covering

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[2] The spelling of Rosh Pinna/Ja'una is according to *Reshumot—Yalkut Ha-Pirsumim* (the Official Register of the State of Israel) 3783 22/7/1990, its first declaration as an antiquity site. The site has been mistakenly labeled Ja'uni in numerous publications (e.g., Schumacher 1889:74 [Ja'uni] and Tsafrir, Di Segni and Green 1994:216 [Kh. Jeouni]). Zvi Gal proposed a connection between the name Ja'uni and the family name of Guni Ben Naftali mentioned in Numbers 26:48 (Gal 1990:124). It should be noted, however, that the name of the village appears in Ottoman and British Mandate sources as Ja'una or Ja'auneh rather than Ja'uni (Grootkerk 2000:128–129). Ja'uni seems to be a recent rendering of the original Arabic name, probably under the influence of the deliberately similar-sounding Hebrew name given in 1878 to the initial Jewish settlement—Ge Oni (i.e., The Valley of my Strength); that name was changed by the settlers of Rosh Pinna in 1882.

[3] However, later on in the 1940s, he suggested annulling this findspot as an antiquity site because of lack of archaeological remains (IAA archives, Mandate File No. 74, Ja'une).

an area of c. 40 dunam (c. 10 acres; Fig. 3) is situated within the area of the early modern Jewish settlement of Rosh Pinna, located just east of Ja'una. Potsherds dating from all archaeological periods save the Late Bronze Age were collected from the tell area, starting possibly with the Chalcolithic period[4] and certainly from the Early Bronze Age I. The large number of Iron Age sherds, including a fragmentary Iron Age II figurine of a female holding a tambourine (Fig. 17:6), suggests a flourishing settlement here during that period (Stepansky 1999:44, Site 65; 2012: Site 187).

The Excavations

Areas A and B were excavated in 2002 along the western side of the boulevard; Area C, consisting of a row of four separate squares, was excavated in the spring of 2003 along its eastern side (Fig. 2; Plan 1).

The main architectural and material remains found in Area A (excavated area c. 3 × 10 m; Plan 2) date from Iron I and II, including a 0.5–0.6 m thick destruction layer attributed to Iron IIA. A segment of a massive wall, probably part of a public or governmental building, dates from the Hellenistic period, while another wall segment dates to the Late Roman–Byzantine periods.

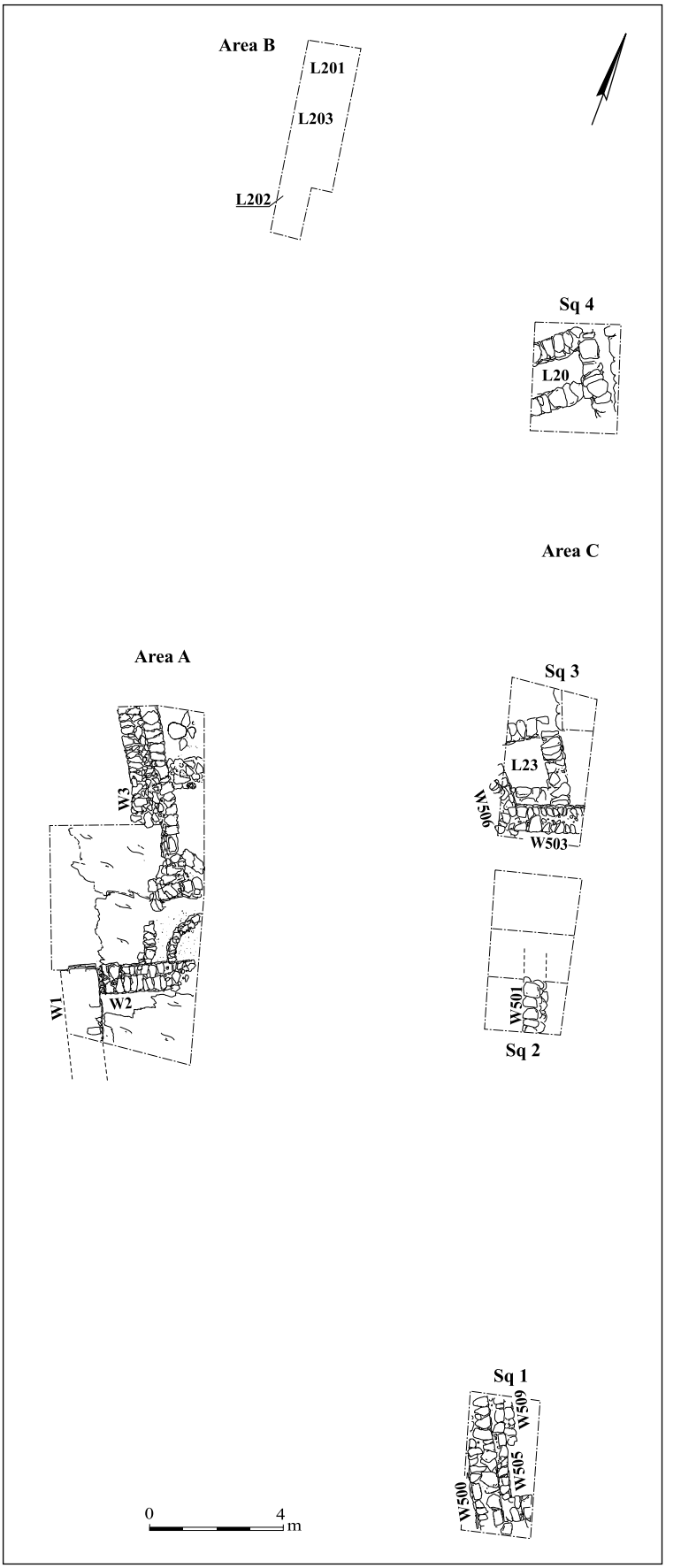
In Area B (15 m north of Area A; 1.5 × 5.5 m), partial remains of a large, plastered installation dating from the Early Roman period were exposed.

In Area C, adjacent Sqs 2 and 3 (each 2.5 × 4.5 m) are situated 8 m east of Area A; Sq 1 (2 × 4 m) lies 10 m south of Sq 2, and Sq 4 (2.5 × 3.0 m) is 7 m north of Sq 3 (Plans 3–5). Remains were discovered from Iron I (potsherds only, in Sqs 2–4); Iron II (structural remains, potsherds and other artifacts, in Sqs 2–4); the Persian and Hellenistic periods (potsherds only); the Early Roman, Late Roman and Byzantine periods (walls, in Sqs 1–3; potsherds, in all squares); and finally, the Early Islamic period (remains of a wall and potsherds, in Sq 2).

In addition to finds from the above-mentioned periods, potsherds from Early Bronze Age IB and Middle Bronze Age II were uncovered in a few loci close to bedrock in Areas A and C. These nondescript finds are not illustrated or discussed in this report. Both periods are also represented in the surface materials collected during surveying of the site (see above).

The nature of the excavation and uneven survival of the various periods dictated flexibility in our presentation of the results. Under both the Iron Age I and Iron Age II sections, the architecture and stratigraphy are described by area and square, while the pottery is presented in a general typology; each period ends with a brief chronological discussion. The Persian and Hellenistic periods are grouped together as a single section due to a certain overlapping of pottery types; only Hellenistic architectural remains were found. Under the Roman, Byzantine, Early Islamic and Mamluk(?) section, the prevalent building remains from all

[4] The provenance of a Chalcolithic basalt pillar figurine is unknown; at present, it is kept in the offices of the Society for the Preservation of Old Rosh Pinna (see Stepansky 2012: Site 187).



Plan 1. General plan of the excavation areas.

those periods are described together by area/square, whereas the pottery is divided into earlier and later material.

IRON AGE I

ARCHITECTURE AND STRATIGRAPHY

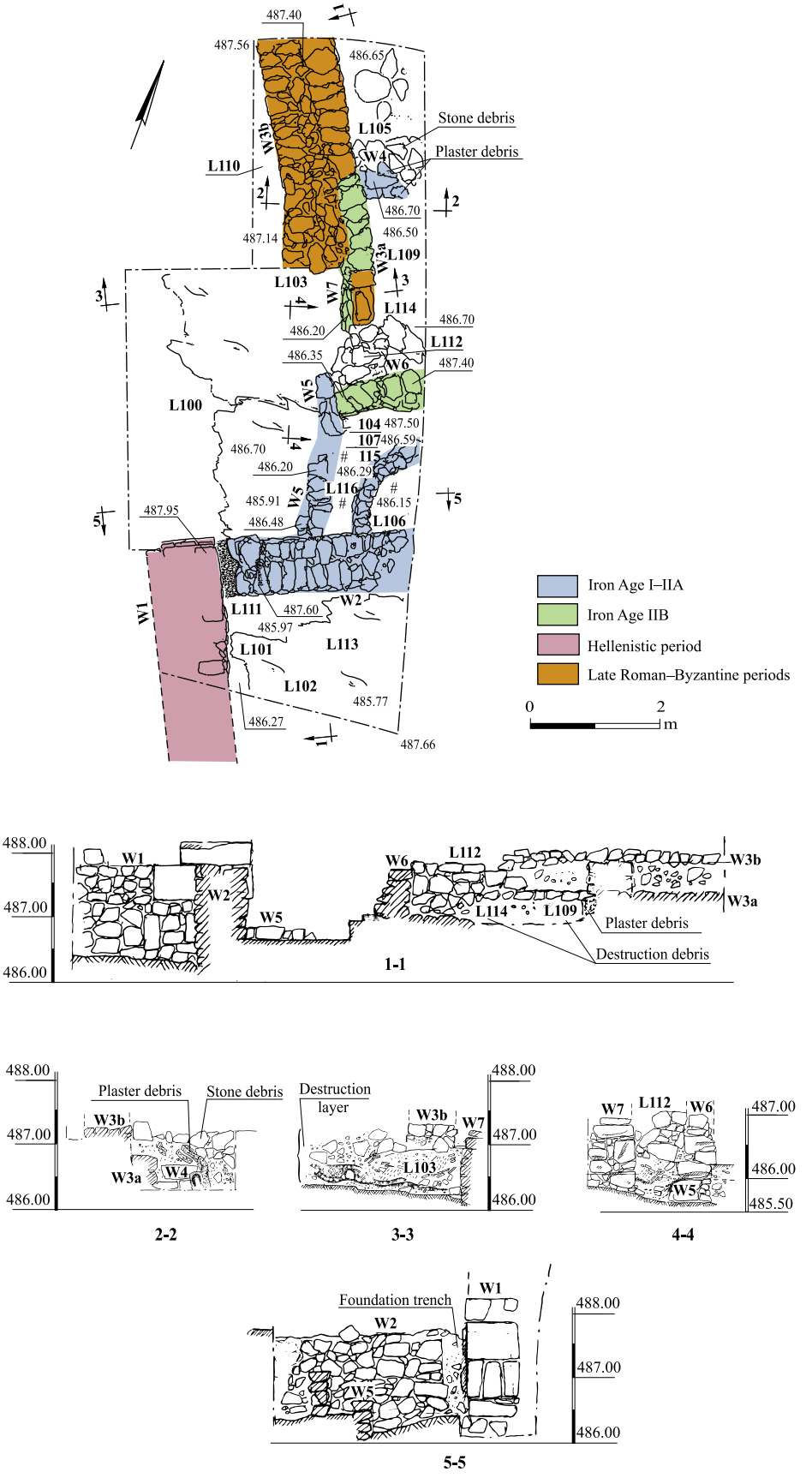
Area A (Plan 2; Figs. 4–9)

The earliest architectural remains, dating to Iron I, were excavated in Area A. These include W2 (2.2 m long, 0.6 m wide, preserved height 1.5 m; 487.60 m asl), well-constructed of two rows of limestone fieldstones, which had been founded on the bedrock surface (Figs. 4–6). The wall is truncated on the west by W1, which was constructed during the Hellenistic period (Figs. 4, 5; Plan 2: Sections 1–1, 5–5; see below). Wall 2 was faced on both sides and probably served as a partition wall of a domestic structure.

Abutting the northern face of W2 are remains of an architectural complex, including a hard-packed, earthen surface (floor?) at 486.29 m asl, a low retaining wall (W5) and a partially exposed stone-lined storage bin (L106) (Figs. 6, 7). The dirt fills (L115, L116; 486.29–486.59 m asl) above the eastern surface contained building remains, as well as fragmentary pieces of red-tinted plaster (one of which was sampled petrographically, see Shapiro, this volume: Sample No. 115-1026). It is therefore possible that W2 was originally plastered, at least on the northern side. On the other hand, these fragments may have originated in a structure that perhaps stood slightly north and west of these loci (see below, with relation to W4 and the central part of Area A).

Bin 106 (0.7 × 0.8 m) was seemingly built as a mostly freestanding structure, set at least 15 cm into the earthen surface. Its inner bottom was not reached (or discerned), so its overall height can only be approximated at 0.6–0.7 m. The outer face of the bin was probably covered with a coating of earth to stabilize the installation. Another possibility, that the bin was dug into the ground from a later level (base of L107, 486.59 m asl) and used as a stone-lined storage pit, is less feasible, as the earthen fill both above elevation 486.59 m (Loci 104, 107) and below it (Loci 115, 116) appears to be a single, c. 0.6 m thick, homogeneous layer, containing the remains of a collapsed structure and Iron I–IIA(?) pottery (see below). This layer accumulated above level 486.29, covering Bin 106 and W5, and reaching south until W2.

From within the fill covering the beaten-earth surface (Loci 115 and 116), some Iron I and possibly a few Iron IIA sherds were collected, among them, cooking-pot (Fig. 10:5, 7) and pithos (Fig. 10:12) rims and a bichrome body sherd (Fig. 16:20). Iron I sherds were also collected from the fill within Bin 106, e.g., a cooking pot (Fig. 10:2) and a jar or jug (Fig. 10:18). The fact that no later sherds were found in these relatively sealed loci (Loci 106, 115 and 116), close to the foundation level on the northern side of W2, is a strong indication that W2 was constructed during Iron I, probably at the same time as W5 and Bin 106, and corroborates the argument (see below) that these features most likely continued in use into



Plan 2. Area A, plan and sections.

Fig. 4. Area A, W2 and W1, looking west.

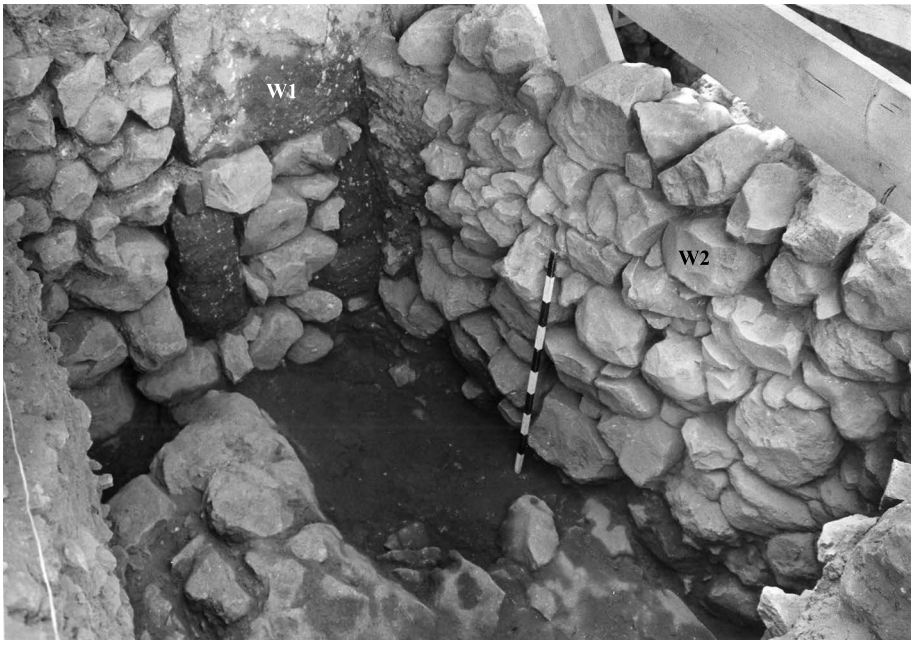


Fig. 5. Area A, W2, looking northwest.

Fig. 6. Area A, W2, retaining W5 and Storage Bin 106 of the Iron I complex, looking southwest; note Hellenistic W1 on the right.

Fig. 7. Area A, Iron I complex, looking southeast.

Iron IIA. The earthen fill against the southern face of W2 (Loci 111 and 113), on the other hand, although containing some Iron I sherds—e.g., a fragment of a Tyrian pithos (Fig. 10:13)—also contained later, intrusive sherds, including Hellenistic ones, certainly due to the building activity associated with W1.

At various places north of the floors and installations related to W2, remains of a destruction layer, including burned red brick-material, charcoal and many fragments of red-tinted plaster, were discerned, particularly in L103 (486.20–486.80 m asl) and Loci 104, 109 and 114 (all falling within the range of 486.50–487.50 m asl). This debris can be attributed to some cataclysmic Iron IIA event (see below). As this layer includes Iron I sherds (Fig. 10:1, 3, 10, 14, 15), it can be assumed that during Iron I a structure (or possibly, a continuation of the W2-related structure) with red-plastered walls stood in this vicinity. Part of this structure may be W4, a very small, fragmentary segment of a wall or possibly a stone-paved floor, of which only three stones were preserved (Fig. 8; Plan 2: Section 2–2). Wall 4, which seems to have been truncated on the west by an Iron IIB wall (W3a), was covered and sealed by the Iron IIA destruction layer (Fig. 9; see below); its construction therefore may also be attributed to Iron I. South of W4, L109, consisting of a fill of earth, stones and some destruction debris, had clearly been disturbed by a late intrusion, as it contained mixed sherds dating from Iron I to as late as the Ottoman period.

Fig. 8. Area A, W4 and plastered destruction debris, looking north.

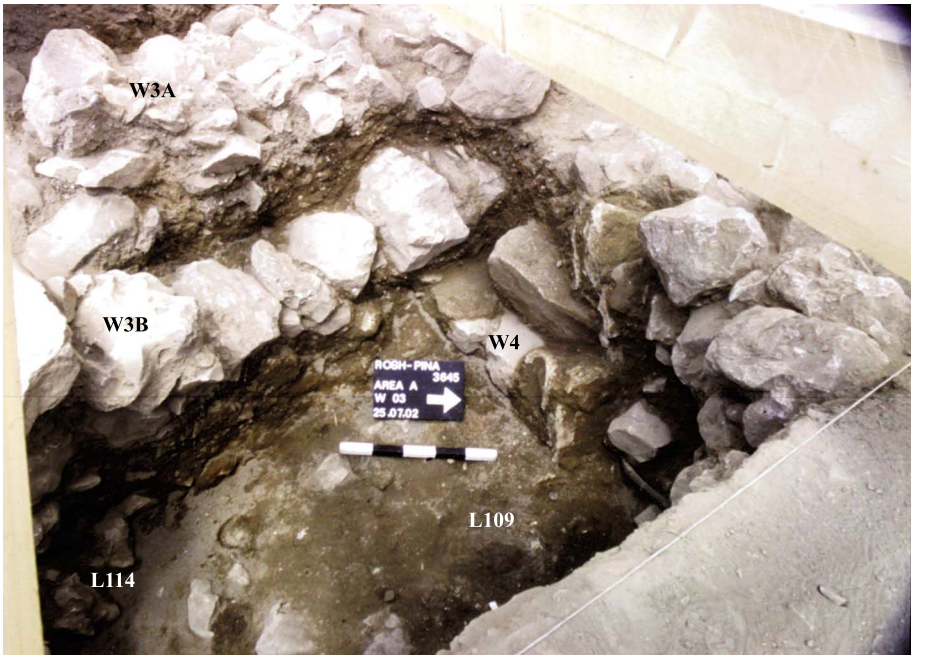


Fig. 9. Area A, Walls 3 and 4, and Loci 109 and 114, looking northwest.

Area C (Plans 3–5)

No architectural remains in Area C can be dated with certainty to Iron I. However, an appreciable quantity of sherds typical of this period, was found in the lower-level loci of Sqs 2 (L27), 3 (L23; W510–W512) and 4 (L14; L20) (Plans 4, 5; Fig. 10:4, 6, 8, 9, 11, 16, 17). Part of this Iron I material (including fragments of red-tinted plaster) is apparently debris from a red-plastered building that once stood in the vicinity of Area A, further up the slope to the west, either the direct result of a destructive Iron IIA event (discussed below), or having slid or been washed down the slope over time. Since bedrock could not be reached in any of the four squares excavated in Area C, and since some of the Iron I material (e.g., Fig. 10:4, 9, 17) was retrieved from within closed Iron II walled structures (see below for a description of Chambers 20 and 23), it is reasonable to assume that Iron I architectural remains do exist below the deepest levels reached.

Architectural Discussion

Similar Iron I stone structures, including fragments of red-painted wall plaster within an accumulated burned layer of soil and ash, were excavated at Rosh Pinna in 2006, approximately 25 m northwest of Area A (Hartal 2009). At Sasa in Upper Galilee, a strikingly similar Iron I structure, with red-dotted plastered walls, has been dated to the eleventh century BCE (Bahat 1986:86). It seems that during late Iron I, Rosh Pinna and Sasa shared the same cultural horizon, with a common building tradition within a permanent-settlement environment. This is in sharp contrast to the transient nature of Stratum XII, dated to Iron

I, at nearby Ḥaẓor (Ben-Ami 2001; 2003, 1:ix–x), even though the ceramic traditions are mostly one and the same.

Pottery (Fig. 10)

The pottery assemblage included sherds of mainly three vessel types: cooking pots, pithoi and storage jars. Notably, the S-shaped, carinated, thick-walled bowls commonly found in Iron I sites are absent. The examples collected and presented here are typical of Iron I sites in the north of the country (see Fig. 1) and in general can be compared with the collections from Ḥaẓor Strata XII–XI (Ben-Ami 2001; 2003, 1:46–49), Dan Strata VI–IV (Ilan 1999), Kinneret Strata VI–IV (Fritz 1990; Münger, Zangenburg and Pakkala 2011: Fig. 22; Fritz and Münger, forthcoming; Stepansky, forthcoming), Sasa (Stepansky, Segal and Carmi 1996), Ḥorbat 'Avot (Braun 2015) and other Galilean sites, including those that were only surveyed (Frankel et al. 2001: Fig. 3.5; Stepansky 2008a: Fig. 10)—all sharing a similar household repertoire.[5] This stands in sharp contrast to notable differences in site hierarchy, with resulting variation in architecture and layout observed at these same sites; Kinneret was an urban economic center, Sasa and Rosh Pinna were agricultural villages, while Ḥaẓor and Dan accomodated semi-nomadic 'pit' communities.

Cooking Pots (Fig. 10:1–7).— The illustrated rims are variations of the typical triangular and mostly long-tongued Iron I cooking-pot rims. The variability lies in the form and length of the rim: a vertical, short and grooved rim (Fig. 10:1), a vertical rim with short collar (Fig. 10:2, 3), an inverted, medium-long and concave rim (Fig. 10:4), an inverted, medium-long and tapered rim (Fig. 10:5), and an inverted, medium-long and concave rim (Fig. 10:6). The inverted, plain rim of Fig. 10:7 also has parallels in Iron IIA Rosh Zayit (Gal and Alexandre 2000: Figs. III.79:17, 20; III.83:5) and, therefore, may be somewhat later. Although in western Galilee the triangular-profiled rim type (especially vertical ones, like Fig. 10:2, 3) continues to be produced well into Iron II, in the eastern part of northern Israel (as at Tel Ḥaẓor and Kinneret), and also in southern Israel, it is indicative of Iron I, with few exceptions only (Frankel et al. 2001:57), and so it seems justified to attribute the Rosh Pinna sherds to Iron I. Similar assemblages of cooking pots well-assigned to Iron I have been published from the mountainous region of Upper Galilee, from Sasa (Bahat 1986:86–89, 101–104; Golani and Yogev 1996:48–49, Fig. 4; Stepansky, Segal and Carmi 1996:68–70, Fig. 8) and from Ḥorbat 'Avot (Braun 2015:22–24, Fig. 24).

[5] The Kinneret Iron I assemblage, however, is certainly more varied and 'cosmopolitan' in character than the Iron I village ware, showing eastern (proto-Aramaic), western (Cypriot/Phoenician) and northern (Syrian) influences, besides the strong, local Canaanite ceramic component of its repertoire (see, for example, Fritz 1999:109–110, Fig. 9; Fritz and Münger 2002:16–20, Abb. 7–9; Münger, Zangenberg and Pakkala 2011:82–88; Münger 2013).

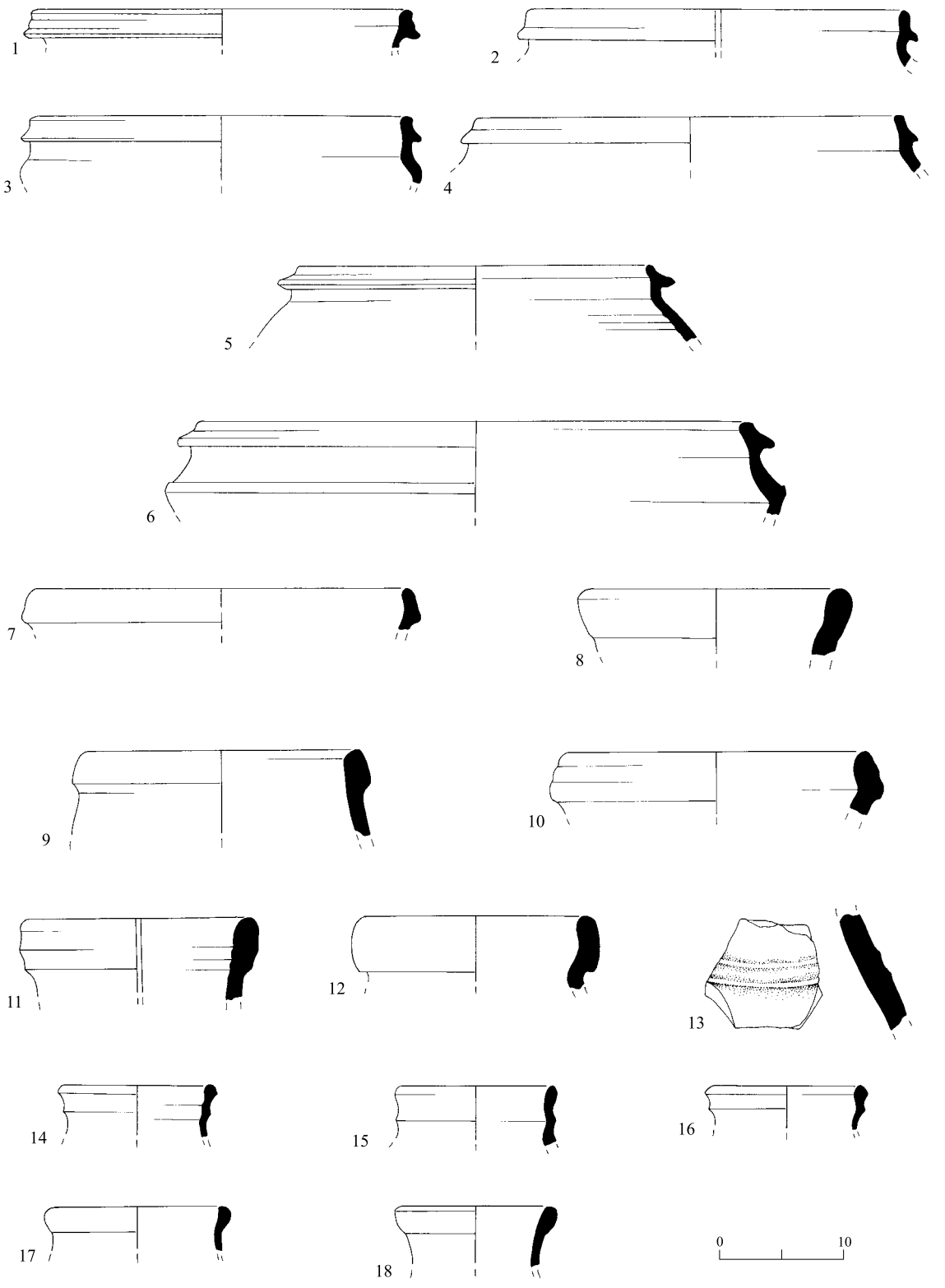


Fig. 10. Iron Age I pottery.

◂ Fig. 10

No.	Vessel	Area	Square	Locus	Reg. No.	Description	Parallels
1	Cooking pot	A		104	1011/2	Brown fabric, small grits	Ḥaẓor XII (Ben-Ami 2001: Fig. 6:8) Dan VI–V (Ilan 1999, II: Pl. 69:9)
2	Cooking pot	A		106	1030/2	Dark, reddish brown fabric, small grits	Ḥaẓor XII (Ben-Ami 2001: Fig. 6:2, 8, 9) Dan VI–V (Ilan 1999, II: Pl. 69:9)
3	Cooking pot	A		114	1035/2	Dark brown fabric, small grits	Ḥaẓor XII (Ben-Ami 2001: Fig. 6:8, 11, 12) Dan VI–V (Ilan 1999, II: Pl. 69:9)
4	Cooking pot	C	3	23	161/2	Brown fabric, small grits	Ḥaẓor XII (Ben-Ami 2001: Fig. 6:3) Dan VI–IV (Ilan 1999, II: Pl. 70:4)
5	Cooking pot	A		116	1032/1	Brown fabric, small grits; soot on ext. rim	Ḥaẓor XII (Ben-Ami 2001: Fig. 6:4) Dan VI–IV (Ilan 1999, II: Pl. 70:11)
6	Cooking pot	C	2	27	173/1	Dark, reddish brown fabric, small grits	Ḥaẓor XII (Ben-Ami 2001: Fig. 6:2, 12) Dan VI–IV (Ilan 1999, II: Pl. 70:11)
7	Cooking pot	A		115	1025/1	Brown fabric, small grits; soot on ext. rim	Iron Age I: Ḥaẓor XII (Ben-Ami 2001: Fig. 6:1) and XI (Yadin et al. 1961: Pl. CII:II) Dan VI–IV (Ilan 1999, II: Pl. 70:11). Iron Age II: Ḥ. Rosh Zayit IIa (Gal and Alexandre 2000: Figs. III.79:17, 20; III.83:5) Ḥaẓor X–IX (Ben-Tor and Ben-Ami 1998: Fig. 13:9)
8	Pithos	C	2	27	160/1	Light brown fabric, small gray and brown grits, large white grits	Frankel et al. 2001: Fig. 3.5:7 (Galilean subtype)
9	Pithos	C	3	23	161/1	Orange-brown fabric, small grits	Dan VI (Ilan 1999, II: Pl. 52:6, variation of Galilean Pithos)
10	Pithos	A		114	1035/1	Cream-colored fabric, gray grits	Frankel et al. 2001: Fig. 3.5:7 (Galilean subtype)
11	Pithos	C	4	14	122/1	Cream-colored fabric, gray and white grits	Dan V (Ilan 1999, II: Pl. 30:5, variation of Galilean Pithos)
12	Pithos	A		115	1025/2	Light brown fabric, gray and brown grits	Frankel et al. 2001: Fig. 3.5:3 (Galilean Pithos)
13	Pithos	A		113	1021	Cream-colored fabric; wavy-ridged decoration	Dan V–IVb (Ilan 1999, II: Pl. 74:1, 2, Phoenecian Pithos) Frankel et al. 2001:57 (Tyrian Pithos)
14	Jar	A		104	1009/1	Orange fabric, white grits	Ḥaẓor XII (Ben-Ami 2001: Fig. 8:11) Dan VI–IV (Ilan 1999, II: Pl. 75:4, 11)
15	Jar	A		104	1009/2	Orange-brown fabric, small grits	Ḥaẓor XII (Ben-Ami 2001: Fig. 8:14, 15) Dan VI–IV (Ilan 1999, II: Pl. 75:3)
16	Jar	C	3	W511–512	157/2	Orange-brown fabric, gray and white grits	Ḥaẓor XII (Ben-Ami 2001: Fig. 8:11) Dan VI–IV (Ilan 1999, II: Pl. 75:4, 11)
17	Jar	C	4	20	163/2	Light brown fabric, white grits	Ḥaẓor XII (Ben-Ami 2001: Fig. 8:9) Dan VI (Ilan 1999, II: Pl. 75:10)
18	Jar (jug?)	A		106	1030/1	Light brown fabric, large grits	Dan VI (Ilan 1999, II: Pls. 55:1; 75:6, store jars) Dan VI–IV (Ilan 1999, II: Pl. 76:2, jug)

Pithoi (Fig. 10:8–13).— Pithoi constitute a *fossile directeur* for Iron Age I (for an extensive discussion of Iron I pithoi from Ḥorbat ʻAvot, see Braun 2015:25–39, 48–55). The examples in Fig. 10:8–12 display a number of variations of the Galilean type (Braun 2015:50, Fig. 44) with a usually thickened, and sometimes ribbed rim, mostly made with inner indentation. This constitutes the most popular type in eastern and mountainous central Galilee, where it is present at all Iron I sites (Ilan 1999, I:81–84; Frankel et al. 2001:57, Types 27, 29, Fig. 3.5; Braun 2015:25–34, 48–52). The large variety in rim styles surely is an expression of typological, rather than chronological differences (Ben-Ami 2001:163, Fig. 7; Braun 2015:49, 54–57). A very similar collection of pithoi rims was noted also at Iron I Sasa (twelfth–eleventh centuries BCE; Stepansky, Segal and Carmi 1996: Fig. 8). Pithoi rims within the same range of variability were collected in surveys from sites in the Rosh Pinna area and provided an Iron I date (Stepansky 2008a: Fig. 10).

A single pithos body sherd with traces of a pair of wavy ridges or bands (Fig. 10:13) is of Phoenician or Tyrian type (originally deriving from Cyprus), also termed "wavy-band" (Braun 2015:52). Although seldom reported from eastern Galilee and more numerous in the mountainous upper central part of Galilee (Type 4 at Sasa—Golani and Yogev 1996:51–54, Fig. 7; "Wavy-Band" Pithoi Types A and B at Ḥorbat ʻAvot—Braun 2015:52–53, Fig. 44), this type is nonetheless present at quite a few sites in this area, especially at Dan Strata V–IV; at least one example was also discovered at Ḥaẓor (Yadin et al. 1961: Fig. CCII:19, a "wavy-band" pithos stub-base). This type is usually dated to Iron IB, not before the eleventh century BCE (Braun 2015:54–55), as may be concluded also from its presence at Tel Kisan Stratum 9c, and *ex silentio* by its absence at Dan Stratum VI.

Storage Jars (Fig. 10:14–18).— Ridged or ribbed rims of jars (Fig. 10:14–16) are quite common in all Iron Age I sites, with almost exact parallels at Ḥaẓor Stratum XII (Ben-Ami 2001:163–164) and Dan Strata VI–IV (SJ Type 2; Ilan 1999, I:85–86). These jars are the less-pronounced prototypes of the widespread Iron II storage jars with a ridged rim (see Fig. 16). Two jars with thickened, everted rims (Fig. 10:17, 18), the latter perhaps a jug rather than a jar, have a more limited geographic distribution, but are also found at Ḥaẓor Stratum XII (Ben-Ami 2001:163–164) and Dan Strata VI–IV (SJ Type 4b; Ilan 1999, I:86).

Chronology of Iron Age I

Calibrated Carbon-14 dates have been calculated from samples of organic material retrieved from several Iron I sites in Upper Galilee, including Ḥaẓor Stratum XII, Sasa (Iron I destruction layer) and Dan Strata VI–IVb. These dates fall within the range of thirteenth–eleventh centuries BCE, seemingly supporting the traditional "high chronology" for Iron I (Stepansky, Segal and Carmi 1996:71; Bruins et al. 2005; Mazar 2005:27[6]). Even those who

[6] Although most of the ^{14}C readings from the Iron I pits at Ḥaẓor are too early for dating Stratum XII and are considered residual, reflecting the building phases of the Canaanite palace in whose destruction layer the pits

adhere to this scheme, however, agree to lower the end of Iron I to the first decades of the tenth century BCE, only some 50 years earlier than the date proposed by those in favor of the 'low chronology' (e.g., Mazar 2005:21: 'Modified Conventional Chronology'; see also Mazar et al. 2005:210, 212, 250; Münger 2005:400; Herzog and Singer-Avitz 2006:164–165; Münger, Zangenberg and Pakkala 2011:87), or alternatively, to define the tenth century BCE as a transitional Iron I–II period (Ben-Ami 2003, I:xxxviii–xxxix, xliv). For the time being, an eleventh century date for the Iron I remains at Rosh Pinna may be assumed, as suggested by the dating of the later strata of Iron I Sasa (including the red-dotted plastered structure [Bahat 1986:91]; Golani and Yogev 1996:54, 56), Ḥorbat 'Avot Stratum 2 (Braun 2015:56), the transitory settlement of Ḥaẓor XII (Ben-Ami 2001:165) and the bulk of urban Kinneret Stratum V (Fritz and Münger 2002:8; Münger 2013:150). This is also compatible with our proposal for an uninterrupted continuation of this stratum into Iron II (below), applicable to many other Iron I sites in Upper Galilee as well (Ben-Ami 2003, I:xxviii–xxx).

Iron Age II

Architecture and Stratigraphy

Area A (Plan 2; Fig. 11)

Based on the ceramic evidence found in various loci pertaining to the architectural elements in Area A described above, and from the earthen fills adjacent to them (e.g., Fig. 16:10, 20), there is good reason to assume that the Iron I structures continued to be utilized during Iron IIA. Sometime during the latter period, a violently destructive event caused the collapse of at least part of this architectural complex, evidenced by a 0.5–0.6 m thick layer of accumulated debris that can be discerned in a number of places within Area A. The remains found covering segment W4 are quite dramatic in their nature. They include large fragments of red-tinted plaster in a fallen position inclined downward toward the east (Plan 2: Section 2–2; Fig. 8), suggesting that they must have originated from somewhere to their west, presumably where the main part of the original structure with plastered walls once stood. Adjacent to and south of W4, the destruction layer spilled over into L109 (from where a plaster segment was sampled petrographically; see Shapiro, this volume: Sample No. 109-1037) and L114; it can also be discerned underneath W3a, which was built over it (Plan 2: Section 1–1; Fig. 9). This destruction layer was most extensively exposed in the vicinity of L103, underlying Roman-period W3b (Plan 2: Section 3–3). The 0.6 m thick layer uncovered here included burned red-brick material and organic matter, and fragmentary pieces of plaster (see Shapiro, this volume: Sample No. 103-1005), all mixed with soil deposits (Fig. 11). Within the handful of potsherds found in this layer was an Iron IIA cooking-pot rim (Fig.

were dug (Sharon et al. 2005:74), those samples that do date to the Iron I horizon are not later than the mid-eleventh century BCE (Mazar 2005:27).

16:10). Locus 103 is, in effect, a northward continuation of the eastern end of L100, at the spot where the destruction layer was partially exposed between the later W6 and W7 (Plan 2: Section 4–4). The plaster debris appears also within L100, but for the most part, only an earthen fill covering bedrock remained in the wake of unsupervised mechanical digging prior to the excavation.

Besides Loci 103, 109 and 114, further remains of this layer (approximately 0.6 m thick, between elevations 486.20–486.80 m asl) were discovered in Loci 104, 107, 115 and 116. They include almost complete red-baked mud-brick and other brick remains found on top of the destruction layer, a thin organic deposit lining its lower part and a thick earthen debris layer forming its core. It is noteworthy that during pre-excavation trial probes and inspection activity in Area A and to its north, fragments of the red-tinted plaster were found all along the western perimeter of the boulevard, almost directly below the surface of the old road, hinting at the large size of the toppled structure. Other fragmentary remains of debris and pieces of plaster were found in Area C, Sqs 2–4 (see below), but at much lower elevations due to the steep slope, which had existed here during the Iron Age. It may be concluded, therefore, that during Iron I–IIA, a large structure with walls dressed in red-tinted plaster once stood in the vicinity of Area A and to its west. The debris of this collapsed building was found scattered over a wide area and left a lasting mark on this part of the ancient site.

Some structural elements did survive the destruction, most conspicuously W2, the Iron I wall, which was preserved to a height of 1.5 m. It is probable that its upper courses were left exposed and that they were possibly re-used later in Iron IIB, as indicated by ceramic evidence, including a cooking pot of a type usually attributed to the eighth century

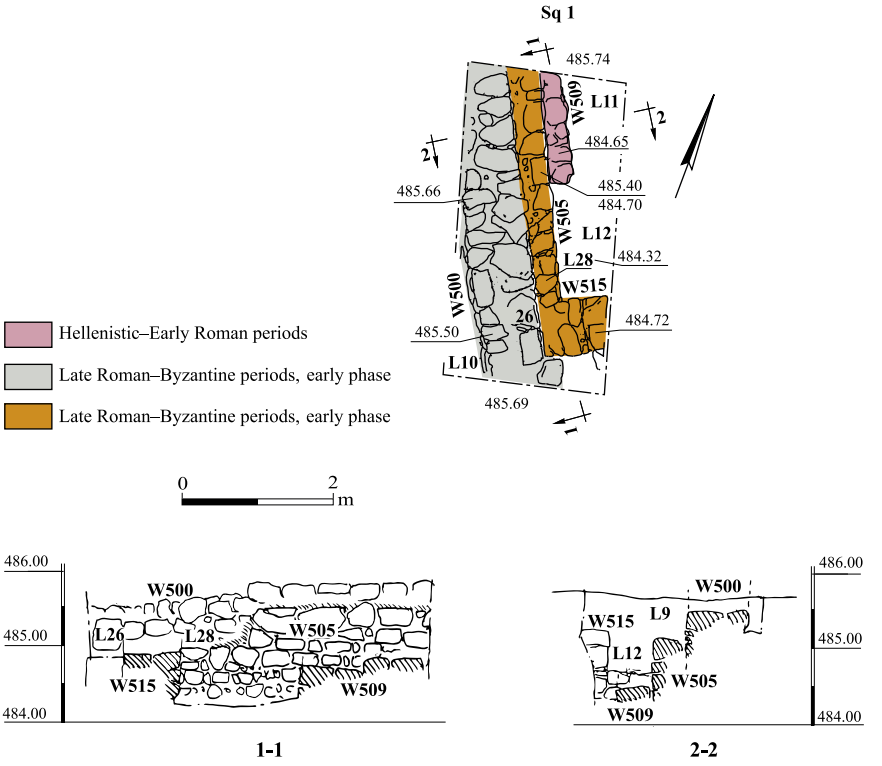
Fig. 11. Area A, Iron IIA destruction layer, L103, looking north.

BCE (Fig. 16:13), found in L101 near the top of W2, on its southern side. In addition, the remains of W3a (5 m long, preserved height 0.4–0.5 m), built of small and medium-sized fieldstones (Plan 2: Section 1–1; see also Fig. 9), should be consigned to post-destruction Iron II levels directly overlying the Iron IIA debris layer. In the Late Roman or Byzantine period this wall was reused and widened toward the west (W3b). Two very short and fragmentary segments of stone walls (W6 and W7), preserved to a height of 0.8 m, cut into the destruction accumulation (Plan 2: Section 4–4) and therefore, may also be consigned to a post-destruction Iron II level. Iron II sherds deriving from various isolated loci (Loci 104, 109, 112; Fig. 16:8, 11, 21), and especially the above-mentioned eighth-century cooking pot (Fig. 16:13), attest to a continued presence in this area at least until the eighth century BCE (for historical interpretations, see *Chronology*, below).

Area C

Architectural remains dating from Iron II were uncovered in Sqs 2–4, while Sq 1 yielded only a single, out-of-context Iron II potsherd.

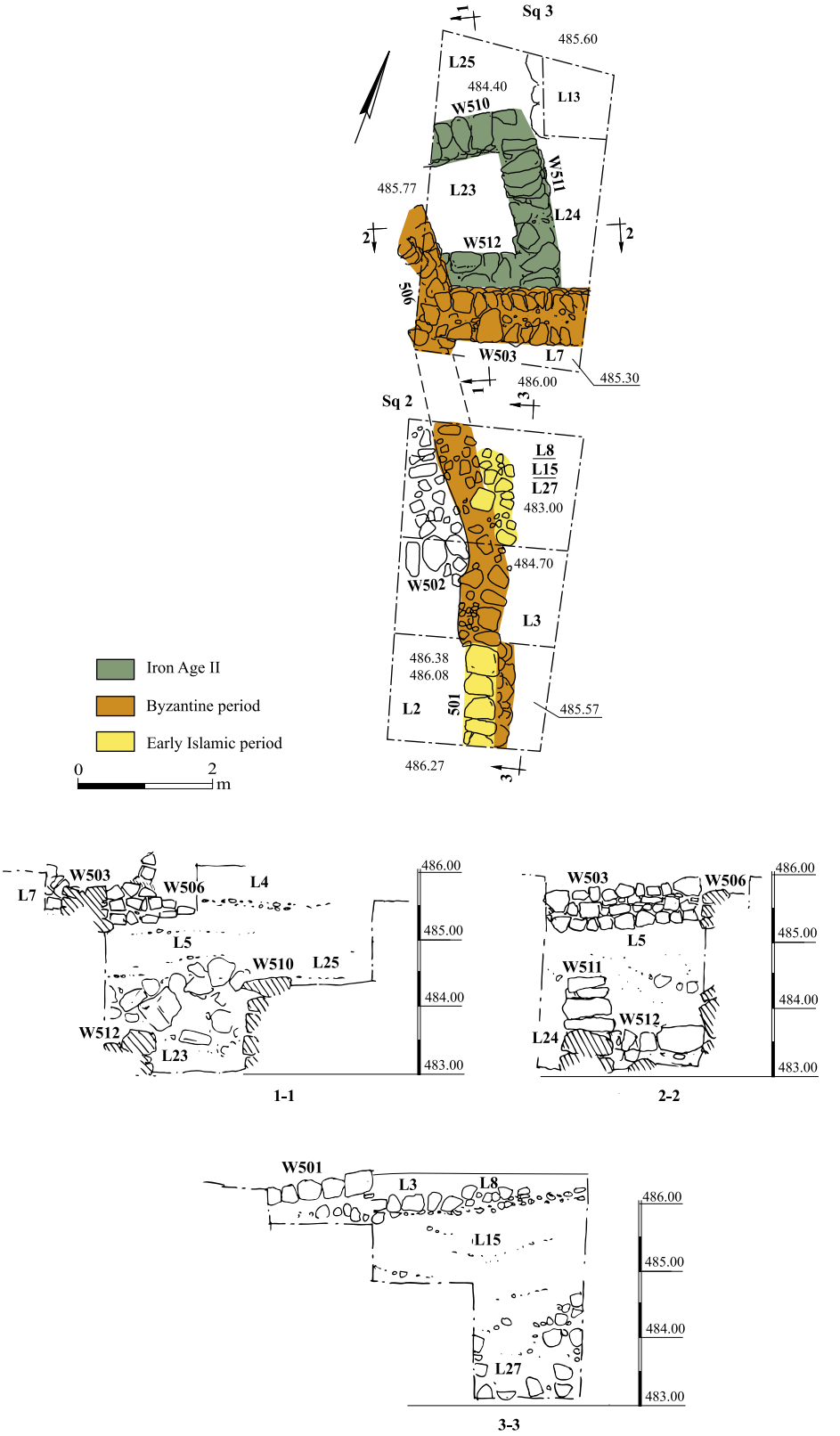
Square 1. The excavation of Sq 1 (Plan 3) reached a depth of only 1.5 m beneath the surface and did not extend beneath the dense Roman-period remains.



Plan 3. Area C, Sq 1, plan and sections.

Square 2 (Plan 4: Section 3–3; Fig. 12).— In Loci 15 and 27 of this square, the excavation continued to a depth of more than 3 m. It cut through Byzantine–Early Islamic W501 and W502 (see below). A 2.7–3.0 m deep fill (483–486 m asl), composed of earth and small and medium-sized stones, was exposed beneath their foundations (Fig. 12). In L27, at an elevation of 484.40 m asl within the fill, a 0.2–0.3 m thick layer of seemingly randomly dispersed small and medium-sized stones was discerned, representing either structural debris, or perhaps part of a stone pavement. Above this level, only post-Iron Age materials were found, including a first-century BCE coin of Alexander Jannaeus (see Syon, below: Coin No. 1), while beneath this stone layer, all finds (ceramic and stone) deriving from the 1.2 m thick deposit were dated to either Iron I (e.g., Fig 10:6, 8) or II (e.g., Figs. 16:2, 3; 17:3), including small fragments of red-tinted plaster (L27/B172). As indicated by the presence of the red-tinted plaster, this deposit seems to include debris from the Iron IIA destruction levels first identified in Area A; a fragment of plaster from here was examined petrographically (see Shapiro, this volume: Sample No. 27-172). It also appears to contain scanty residue from a post-destruction Iron II phase—in the form of the stone layer at 484.40 m asl—even though no standing architectural features have been preserved here.

Fig. 12. Area C, Sq 2, Iron I–II earth and stone fill (L27), looking west; note basalt tripod bowl fragment (Fig. 17:3) *in situ*.



Plan 4. Area C, Sqs 2 and 3, plan and sections.

Square 3 (Plan 4: Sections 1–1, 2–2; Fig. 13).— Separated from the overlying boulevard by more than 2 m of earth and stone fill, and 0.5–0.7 m beneath the foundation courses of Late Roman–Byzantine remains (W503 and W506), a small stone-walled chamber (L23) was exposed (Fig. 13). The space is enclosed by Walls 510, 511 and 512 on its northern, eastern and southern sides (inner dimensions 2.5 × 3.0 m); unfortunately, the western part of the chamber was situated outside the boundary of the excavated square. Its single-faced walls, built of medium-sized, hard limestone fieldstones, were preserved to a height of 1.4–1.5 m (5–6 courses), reaching elevations of 484.40–484.50 m asl, identical with the elevation level of the Iron Age stone debris in Sq 2, some 3 m to the south. Within the chamber, a deposit of earth and stone debris, containing Iron I and II sherds (L23, Baskets 141, 149, 161 and 164), was excavated to a depth of 483.00 m asl.

No definite floor level could be detected in Chamber 23. Since the excavation here did not reach bedrock, the upper three to four courses of W511 and W512 were dismantled in an attempt to retrieve material that could shed light on the date of their construction. Some Iron I and II sherds were found embedded in the earthen mortar between the stones, including diagnostic Iron II types, such as a cooking-pot (Fig. 16:12) and storage-jar rims (Fig. 16:19), that provide *a terminus post quem* for the construction of these walls. These walls probably form part of a cellar (or, less likely, a subterranean foundation) belonging to an Iron II building, whose collapsed remains have long since been washed away, most likely down the slope toward the east. Apparently, this building, with Chamber 23 at its base, was constructed sometime soon after the Iron IIA destructive event recorded in Area A.

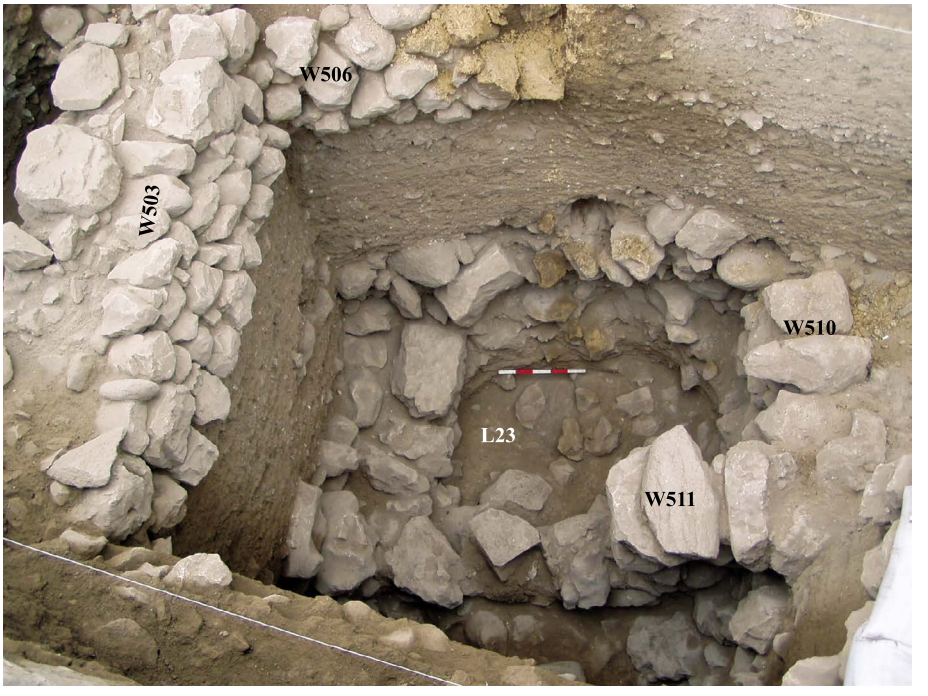
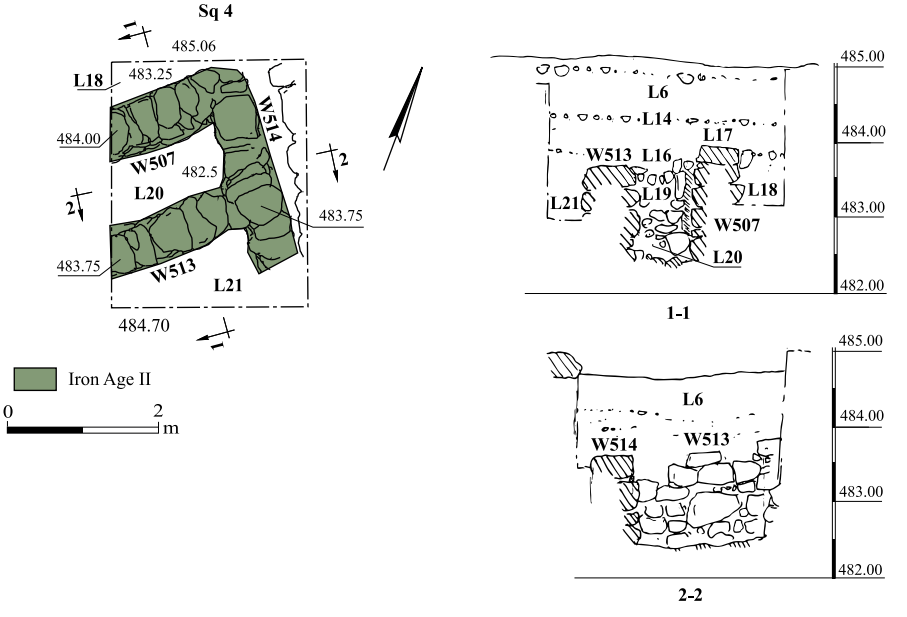


Fig. 13. Area C, Sq 3, Iron Age Chamber 23, below Roman–Byzantine Walls 503 and 506, looking west from above.

Iron Age I–II material was also retrieved from within the earth fill of L24, abutting W511 to its east. Locus 24 was excavated from 484.25 down to 483.00 m asl, once again, without reaching bedrock. No finds postdating Iron II were uncovered below elevation 484.00 m asl, while Iron II sherds were still being encountered in the lowest reaches of the locus, e.g., two jar rims (Fig. 16:17, 18). It is noteworthy that red-tinted pieces of plaster were found only in the fill below elevation level 483.50 m asl; a plaster fragment deriving from this fill was sampled petrographically (see Shapiro, this volume: Sample No. 23-24, Basket 166). All these findings strengthen our proposed dating of Chamber 23 to Iron II.

Square 4 (Plan 5; Figs. 14, 15).— As in Sq 3, Iron Age structural remains were discovered approximately 2 m below the level of the boulevard, beneath a thick earthen fill containing sherds that range from EB II to the Ottoman period. Here, also, part of a narrow (1 × 2 m) stone-walled chamber (L20) was exposed, enclosed by Walls 507, 513 and 514 on its northern, southern and eastern sides respectively. The western part of this chamber was located outside the western limits of the excavated square (Fig. 14).

Walls 507, 513 and 514 were preserved to a height of 1.0–1.5 m (3–6 courses). They are single-faced and built of medium-sized, hard limestone fieldstones, slightly larger than those used for Chamber 23 in Sq 2; most of the stones are placed as headers perpendicular to the east–west orientation of the chamber. Within the chamber, a 1.5 m thick dirt fill was excavated down to elevation 482.50 m asl; the last meter of this fill consisted of a burned deposit of fine-grained, dark brown earth. From both above (Loci 14, 16, 17) and within the burned layer of this fill (Loci 19, 20; Plan 5: Section 1–1; Fig. 15) were retrieved Iron II



Plan 5. Area C, Sq 4, plan and sections.

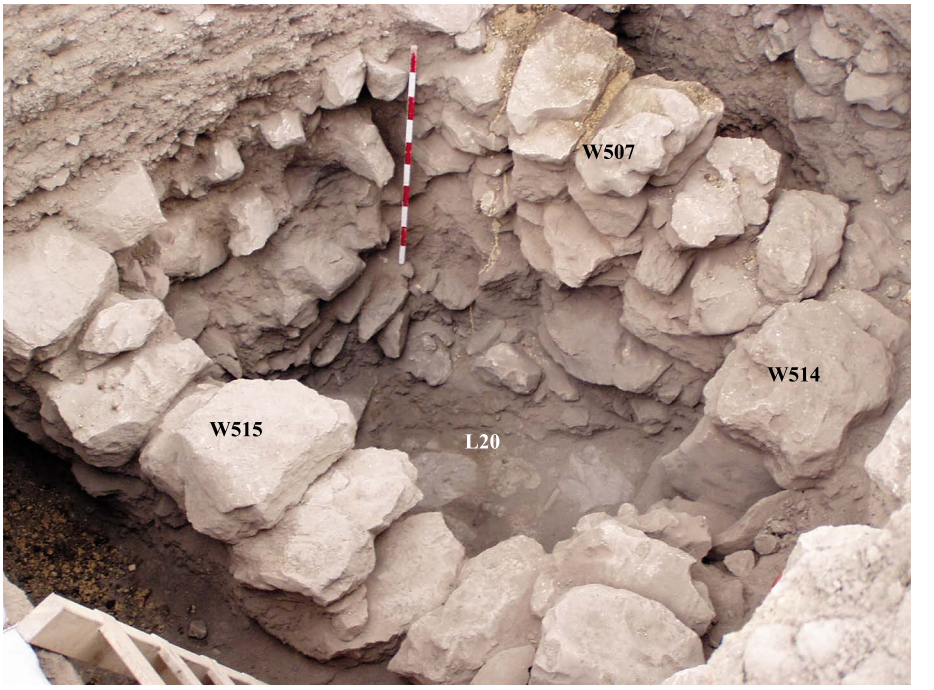


Fig. 14. Area C, Sq 4, Chamber 20, looking west from above.

Fig. 15. Area C, Sq 4, Chamber 20, Iron II finds *in situ*.

sherds (Fig. 16:1, 15, 16), including specimens of almost complete chalices (Fig. 17:1, 2) and stone artifacts, such as a stone roof-roller (Fig. 17:5) and two loaf-shaped grinding stones (not illustrated). More Iron II sherds (Fig. 16:4–6, 14) and other artifacts (Fig. 17:7) were collected from the deposits excavated on the outer sides of W513 (L21) and W507 (L18). Although no floor remains were discerned within Chamber 20, two small flat stones were partly uncovered at the lowest level reached (482.50 m asl), possibly indicating the presence of additional architectural remains below. Safety precautions, however, prevented further excavation, and bedrock could not be reached.

It is assumed that Chamber 20, like Chamber 23, was part of a cellar (or, less likely, part of the foundation) of a building that was destroyed in a conflagration, as attested by the burned earth deposits, sometime during Iron II. In contrast to Sq 3, no remains of the Iron I–IIA red-tinted plaster were found, although a few potsherds most likely dated to Iron I (e.g., Fig. 10:17) were retrieved from the lowest level excavated within Chamber 20. Iron I sherds (e.g., Fig. 10:11) were also found in the mixed loci of dirt fill above Chamber 23, but their original provenance is most likely from somewhere higher up the slope to the west of this area.

THE FINDS (Figs. 16; 17:1, 2)

Pottery

The pottery—mostly fragmentary, with only a few complete vessels after restoration—fits the well-known Iron II repertoire of northern Israel, with parallels at nearby Ḥaẓor and other sites, such as Ḥorbat Rosh Zayit (Gal and Alexandre 2000) and Tel Reḥov (Mazar 1999). Most of the material should be attributed to Iron IIA, as attested to by the hippo-jar sherds (Fig. 16:14–16) and other finds that may be compared to the Iron IIA assemblages of Ḥaẓor Strata X–IX, Ḥorbat Rosh Zayit Stratum IIA–B and Tel Reḥov Strata VI–IV. Some sherds, however, certainly date from Iron IIB, for instance, the eighth-century BCE cooking pot illustrated in Fig. 16:13 and, most probably, the juglet illustrated in Fig. 16:21.

Bowls (Fig. 16:1–7).— Form and surface treatment of the bowls vary. Some bowls are slipped, and a few are burnished as well; specimens showing irregular hand-burnishing are relatively rare. A similar representation (up to 25%) of slipped and burnished bowls—with an almost total absence of hand-burnished specimens—was noted in the renewed 1990s excavations of Ḥaẓor Strata X–IX (Ben-Tor and Ben-Ami 1998:13; Ben-Ami 2003, I:xix; Herzog and Singer-Avitz 2006:179). Two bowls with similar thickened rims (Fig. 16:1, 2) are variants of Rosh Zayit Type B I (Gal and Alexandre 2000:34–35) and Ḥaẓor Type V (Ben-Tor and Ben-Ami 1998:17). A slipped and irregularly hand-burnished bowl with an out-turned rim and slightly carinated wall (Fig. 16:3) is reminiscent of bowl Type If2 at Ḥaẓor Strata X–IX (Ben-Ami 2003, I:115–116). It is possibly a transitional type between the shallow and carinated bowl types at Ḥaẓor X–IX (Ben-Tor and Ben-Ami 1998:18), although it may belong to the Iron II group known as "thick Samaria bowls," found at several northern

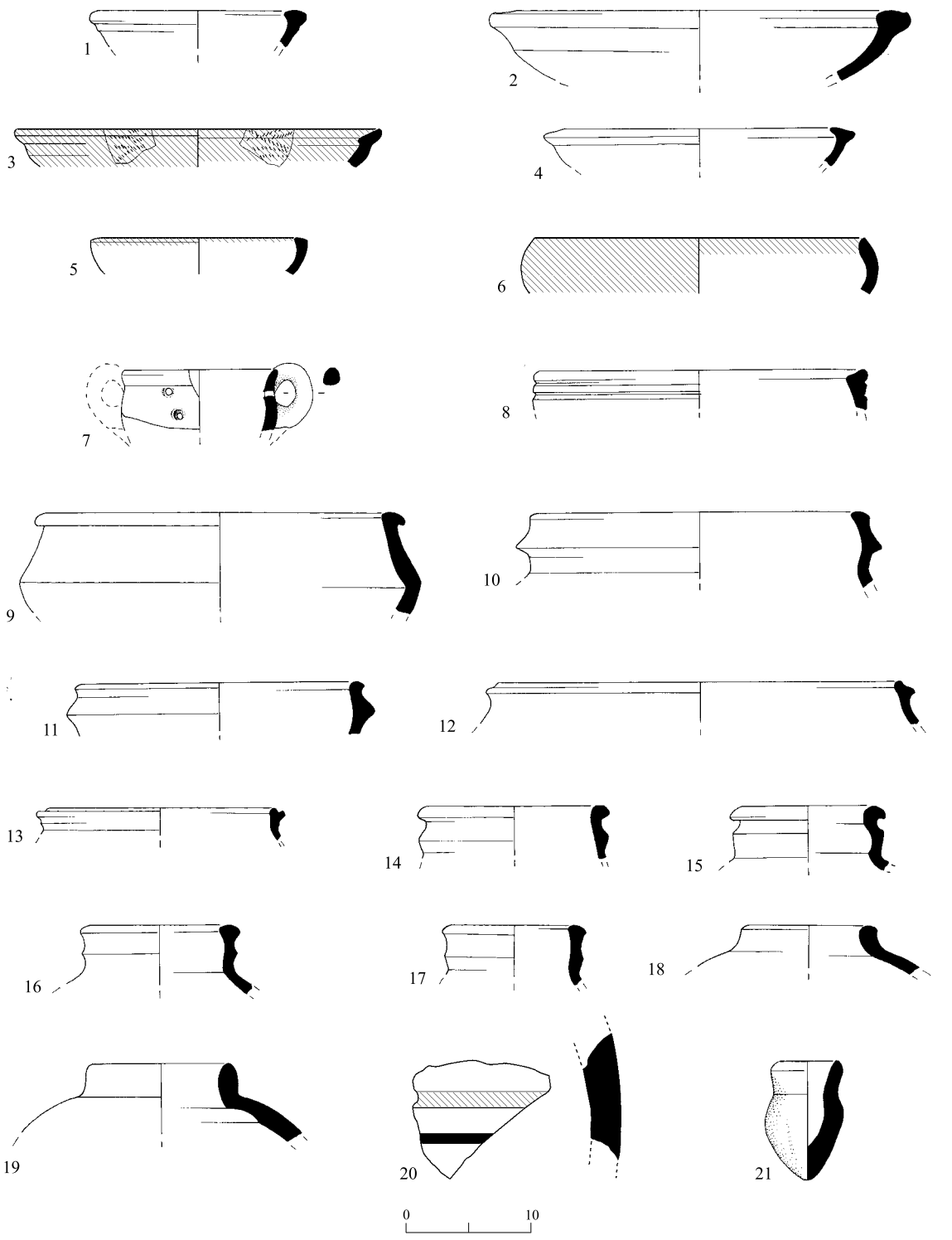


Fig. 16. Iron Age II pottery.

◂ Fig. 16

No.	Vessel	Area	Square	Locus	Reg. No.	Description	Parallels
1	Bowl	C	4	14	122/3	Light brown fabric; traces of brown slip	Ḥaẓor X–IX (Ben-Tor and Ben-Ami 1998: Fig. 11:12) Ḥ. Rosh Zayit IIa (Gal and Alexandre 2000: Fig. III.79:2)
2	Bowl	C	2	27	169/1	Light brown fabric	Ḥaẓor X–IX (Ben-Tor and Ben-Ami 1998: Fig. 11:14; Yadin et al. 1960: Fig. LII:5, 6) Ḥ. Rosh Zayit IIa (Gal and Alexandre 2000: Fig. III.82:7)
3	Bowl	C	2	27	173/2	Few white grits; red-slipped and irregular (hand) burnish	Ḥaẓor X–IX (Ben-Tor and Ben-Ami 1998: Figs. 10:22; 11:8, 9; Ben-Ami 2003, II: Fig. 20:10) Tel Reḥov V (Mazar et al. 2005: Fig. 13.23)
4	Bowl	C	4	21	154/2	Orange-brown fabric, traces of dark-red slip	Ḥaẓor X–V (Yadin et al. 1961: Fig. CLXXXII:1–7; Ben-Ami 2003, II: Fig. 20:6, 7)
5	Bowl	C	4	21	154/3	Orange-brown fabric; rim slipped reddish-brown and burnished	Ḥaẓor X–IX (Ben-Tor and Ben-Ami 1998: Fig. 10:2–6; Ben-Ami 2003, II: Fig. 36:3)
6	Bowl	C	4	21	154/4	Brown metallic ware; dark brown slip and burnish on ext. wall and int. rim	Ḥaẓor X–XI (Ben-Tor and Ben-Ami 1998: Fig. 10:24)
7	Incense burner	C	3	24	155/1	Light brown fabric, handmade, straw intrusions, few mica grits	Ḥaẓor Xb–VII (Ben-Tor and Ben-Ami 1998: Fig. 11:17) Ḥ. Rosh Zayit, Iron II (Area B; Gal and Alexandre 2000: Fig. VI.11:30)
8	Krater	A		109	1036	Dark brown fabric, small grits	Ḥaẓor X–IX (Ben-Tor and Ben-Ami 1998: Fig. 12:5)
9	Krater	C	3	24	162/1	Light brown fabric, few white grits; red slip on neck ext.	Tel Reḥov C-1, E-1 (Mazar 1999: Fig. 24:6)
10	Cooking pot	A		103	1007	Dark brown fabric, mica grits	Ḥaẓor X–IX (Ben-Tor and Ben-Ami 1998: Fig. 13:2, 3) Ḥ. Rosh Zayit IIa–b, I (Gal and Alexandre 2000: Figs. III.82:25; III.93:5; III.121:21)
11	Cooking pot	A		112	1022/1	Reddish brown fabric, white grits	Ḥaẓor X–IX (Ben-Tor and Ben-Ami 1998: Fig. 13:1–4) Ḥ. Rosh Zayit IIa (Gal and Alexandre 2000: Figs. III.83:6; III.91:1)
12	Cooking pot	C	3	W511-512	157/3	Dark reddish brown fabric, small grits	Ḥaẓor IX–VIII (Yadin et al. 1960: Figs. LII:13–15; LVII:12)

◂ **Fig. 16.** (cont.)

No.	Vessel	Area	Square	Locus	Reg. No.	Description	Parallels
13	Cooking pot	A		101	1003/1	Brown fabric, large white grits	Ḥaẓor VII–IV (Yadin et al. 1958: Figs. LII:9–11; LV:1–10; Yadin et al. 1961: Fig. CLXXX:11, 12; CLXXXIV:14
14	Jar	C	4	21	154/1	Metallic grayish brown fabric, few grits	Ḥ. Rosh Zayit IIa–I (Gal and Alexandre 1995: Fig. 2; 2000:44) Tel Reḥov V–IV (Mazar et al. 2005: Figs. 13.25:1, 5; 13.37:1) Ḥaẓor Xb (Ben-Ami 2003, II: Fig. 26:3)
15	Jar	C	4	14	119/1	Metallic light brown fabric	As No. 14
16	Jar	C	4	14	119/2	Metallic light brown fabric	As No. 14
17	Jar	C	3	24	162/2	Reddish brown fabric, white grits	Ḥaẓor Xb (Ben-Tor and Ben-Ami 1998: Fig. 14:1) Ḥ. Rosh Zayit IIa (Gal and Alexandre 2000: Figs. III.80:20; III.83:13) Tel Reḥov V (Mazar 2005: Figs. 13.25:6)
18	Jar	C	3	24	155/2	Light brown fabric	Ḥaẓor X–VIII (Yadin et. al 1960: Figs. LII:22; LIX:9; Yadin et. al 1961: Fig. CLXXII:12, 14) Ḥ. Rosh Zayit IIb–IIa (Gal and Alexandre 2000: Figs. III.76:11; III.83:14)
19	Jar	C	3	W511-512	157/1	Orange-brown fabric	Ḥaẓor Xb–VIII (Yadin et al. 1960: Fig. LII:22; Yadin et. al 1961: Figs. CLXXII:12, 14; CLXXIX:12; CCXIII:29) Ḥ. Rosh Zayit IIb–IIa (Gal and Alexandre 2000: Figs. III.74:18; III.80:24) Tel Reḥov V–IV (Mazar 2005: Figs. 13.25:9; 13.37:5)
20	Bichrome jug	A		116	1032	Orange-brown local plain fabric, red and black paint bands (unslipped and unburnished)	Ḥaẓor X–IX (Ben-Tor and Ben-Ami 1998: Fig. 15:8) Ḥ. Rosh Zayit IIb–IIa (Gal and Alexandre 2000: Figs. III.35; III.77:10; III.78:23)
21	Miniature juglet (part of composite vessel?)	A		104	1004	Orange-brown fabric, handmade and poorly fired	

Iron II sites, including Ḥazor (Amiran 1969:212; Gal and Alexandre 2000:36; Ben-Ami 2003, I:xxii). The bowl in Fig. 16:4, with a flattened triangular rim, is common throughout Iron II, while the small bowl with an inverted-cut rim (Fig. 16:5) is reminiscent of Ḥaẓor Strata X–IX Types BIb and BIc (Ben-Tor and Ben-Ami 1998:15) and of the Iron IIA Ḥ. Rosh Zayit Bowl Type B II (Gal and Alexandre 2000:35). A large, well-burnished, fine ware bowl (Fig. 16:6) is very similar to (albeit larger than) Bowl Type IV at Ḥazor Stratum X (Ben-Tor and Ben-Ami 1998: Fig. 10). The perforated bowl (Fig. 16:7) is common at Ḥazor Strata X–VII (e.g., Yadin et al. 1961: Figs. CLXXI:16; CLXXX:13; CCVIII:34), where they were coined "strainer bowls." Such vessels can more correctly be described as (cultic?) incense burners, the holes being high up in the walls, probably for the emission of smoke (Gal and Alexandre 2000:185). These bowls are found in Iron IB contexts, as at Dan ('Tripod Mug', Ilan 1999, I:77; 1999, II: Fig. 67:4), and continue into Iron II, with an exemplar uncovered at Ḥaẓor Stratum XB (Yadin et al. 1961: Fig. CLXXI:16 [defined as bowl Type VI by Ben-Tor and Ben-Ami 1998: Fig. 11:17]) being a very close parallel to the specimen from Rosh Pinna.

Kraters (Fig. 16:8, 9).— Of the few krater sherds collected, two are presented here. A rim fragment (Fig. 16:8) is probably a variation of Krater Type III at Ḥaẓor Strata X–IX (Ben-Tor and Ben-Ami 1998: Fig. 12), while Fig. 16:9 is of a type deriving from an earlier Late Bronze–Iron Age I tradition, continuing throughout Iron II.

Cooking Pots (Fig. 16:10–13).— The sherds illustrated here are of types that developed out of the elongated, triangular-rimmed Iron I cooking pots. The rims have become generally shorter and less pronounced, their thickened lips more rounded and, in the later part of Iron IIB, distinctly characterized by short, guttered, ridged or stepped rims (Ben-Tor and Ben-Ami 1998:21; Gal and Alexandre 2000:42–43, 157–158; Frankel et al. 2001:59). The two cooking pots illustrated in Fig. 16:10, 11 are variations of the common type found at Ḥaẓor Strata X–IX and at Ḥ. Rosh Zayit Strata II–I (Ben-Tor and Ben-Ami 1998:21; Gal and Alexandre 2000:40–41). The rim of Fig. 16:10, in particular, is elongated and triangular on its lower part, a characteristic of Iron I cooking pots, but thickened and rounded in its upper part, as is more typical of Iron II examples. An Iron IIA date for this fragment would therefore be most fitting, and indeed, it is one of the factors in our dating of the Iron IIA destruction layer (L103). A cooking pot fragment (Fig. 16:12) uncovered while dismantling Walls 511 and 512, provides a *terminus post quem* dating for their construction. Although it has a ridged rim of a type usually dated slightly later in Iron II (eighth century BCE), its pointed, horizontally-hooked tongue indicates a more probable ninth-century BCE date, as is attested by almost exact parallels from Ḥaẓor Stratum IX. A cooking pot (Fig. 16:13) from Area A, on the other hand, has an upturned, guttered rim, and almost certainly belongs to an eighth-century BCE vessel.

Jars (Fig. 16:14–19).— Although only rim fragments were preserved—and thus, lacking the vessel-shape information that greatly contributes toward distinguishing Iron II storage jars—these sherds are sufficiently diagnostic to be characterized as typical of the ninth century BCE, based on other Iron II sites in northern Israel. The metallic-ware sherds illustrated in Fig. 16:14–16, with pronounced ridged necks, belong to the well-researched family of hippo jars. These are a familiar component of ceramic assemblages of the tenth–early ninth centuries BCE in the eastern part of northern Israel, for instance, at Ḥorbat Rosh Zayit and Reḥov, even though relatively few examples have been found at Ḥaẓor (Alexandre 1995; Gal and Alexandre 2000:44–48; Ben-Ami 2003, I:xxii).[7] Additional rims of what may be hippo jars were also found during site surveying near Rosh Pinna (Stepansky 2008a: Fig. 14:12, 14). Although the sherds illustrated here are not of the grayish or greenish-buff fabric-color most characteristic of hippo jars (Gal and Alexandre 2000:45), they nonetheless consist of highly fired wares with a metallic ring.[8]

Among the jars of non-metallic ware, Fig. 16:17, with a less-pronounced ridged neck, is of a very common rim-type with a wide chronological range throughout Iron II (Gal and Alexandre 2000:48). Two rim/shoulder fragments, one with a plain, rounded rim (Fig. 16:18) and the other slightly narrowing at the lip (Fig. 16:19), belong to small to medium-sized necked jars, tenth–ninth-century BCE prototypes of the eighth-century torpedo jars, common at Ḥ. Rosh Zayit Stratum IIa–b and Ḥaẓor Strata X–VIII (Gal and Alexandre 2000:49).

Jug and Juglet (Fig. 16:20, 21).— An isolated sherd of a bichrome jug (Fig. 16:20) may date from (late) Iron I, but its horizontal band-decoration more likely associates it with early Iron II, comparable to similarly decorated pieces from Ḥ. Rosh Zayit Stratum IIa–b and Ḥaẓor Strata X–IX (Gal and Alexandre 2000:60; Ben-Tor and Ben-Ami 1998:28 respectively).

A miniature juglet (Fig. 16:21), only 4 cm in height, has two continuous, barely noticeable protruding lines around the wall's exterior, indicating that this juglet was originally attached to a larger, possibly cultic vessel, and did not function independently. Its overall shape is suggestive of an Iron II date.

Chalices (Fig. 17:1, 2).— The two chalices found within Chamber 20 in Sq C4 have slightly carinated bodies and everted ledge rims. One (Fig. 17:2) was found with its high pedestal and slightly carinated base intact. Although high-footed chalices are known to occur in

[7] In the past, a complete jar from Ḥaẓor Stratum Xb was defined as a hippo jar (Ben-Tor and Ben-Ami 1998:23, Fig. 14:2), but Ben-Ami has since retracted this observation and instead stresses its rarity among the Ḥaẓor Strata X–IX pottery assemblages. He does maintain, however, that at least one almost complete specimen (its rim lacking) was actually found in Stratum Xb (Ben-Ami 2003, I:xxii; 2003, II: Fig. 26:3).

[8] As these sherds were not examined petrographically, their provenance remains unknown. Future research will hopefully determine the provenance of this distinctive family. I thank Yardenna Alexandre for her assistance in studying these sherds.

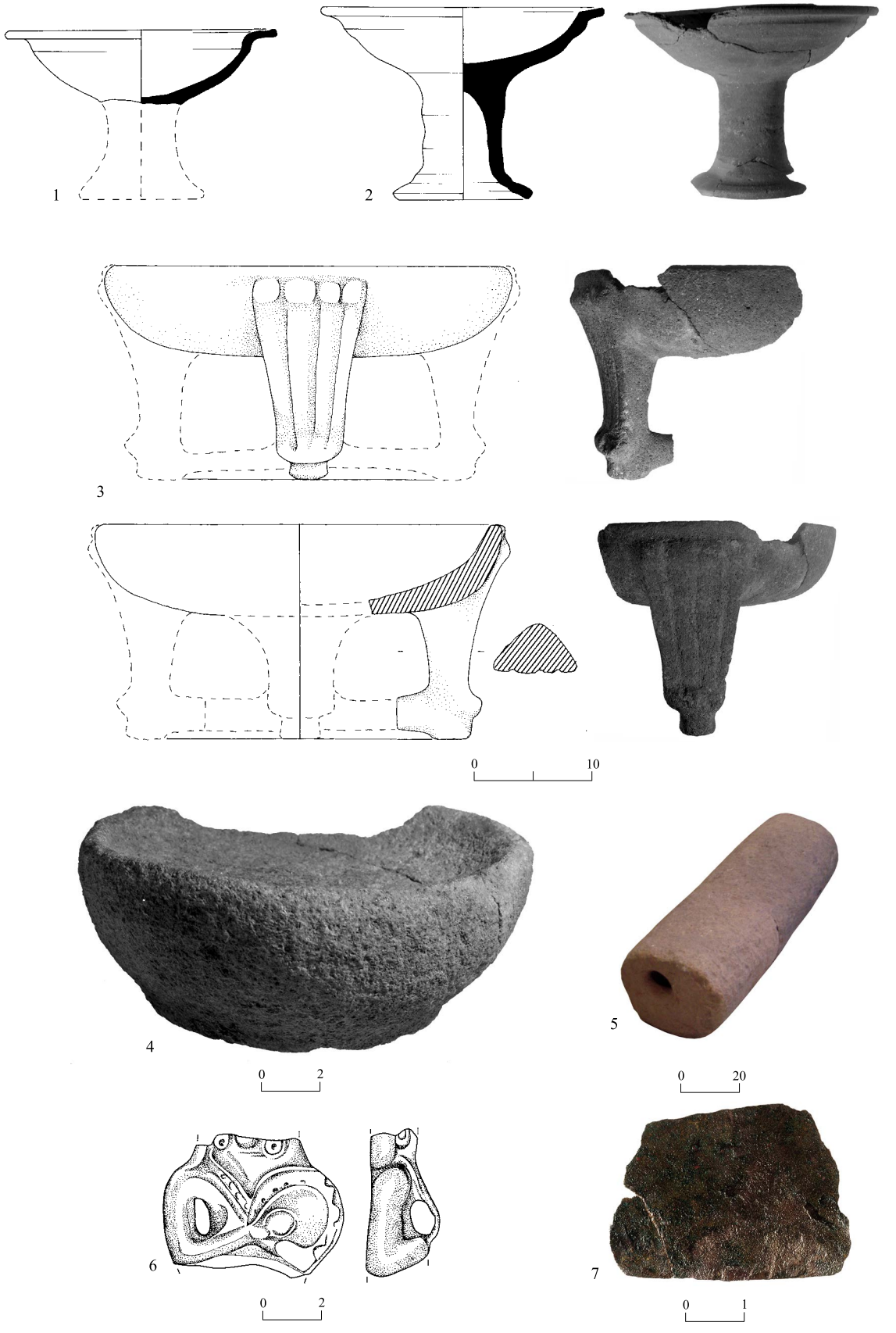


Fig. 17. Iron Age II pottery and special finds.

◂ **Fig. 17**

No.	Object	Area	Square	Locus	Reg. No.	Description	Parallels
1	Chalice	C	4	20	146/1	Reddish brown ware, small grits	Dan V (Ilan 1999, II: Fig. 64:1) Tel Reḥov VI–IV (Mazar et al. 2005: Figs. 13.18:7; 13.23:7; 13.35:9) Tel Gat-Ḥefer II (Alexandre, Covello-Paran and Gal 2003: Fig. 16:2)
2	Chalice	C	4	20	146/2	Reddish brown ware, small grits	As No. 1
3	Tripod bowl	C	2	27	170	Fine-grained basalt; leg ornamented with incised lines and protrusion	Ḥ. Rosh Zayit IIa (Gal 1994: Figs. 1, 2; Gal and Alexandre 2000: Figs. III.115:8, 9) Ḥaẓor VI–V (Yadin et al. 1960: Fig. LXXVII:1; Yadin et al. 1961: Fig. CLXXXIX:29)
4	Mortar	A	-	103	1001	Basalt; H 7 cm, diam. 15 cm, depth 1.5 cm	Ḥ. Rosh Zayit IIa–b (Gal and Alexandre 2000: Figs. III.115:4; III.116:1)
5	Roof-roller	C	4	20	140	Limestone; L 55 cm, diam. 18 cm, sidehole diam. 5 cm, 3 cm deep	
6	Figurine	Surface			20-26 04/1/105	Terracotta	Ḥaẓor X, VIII (Yadin et al. 1960: Fig. LXXVI:12–13) Tel ʻIra (Beck 1990:87)
7	Scale of armor(?)	C	4	18	125	Bronze; 3 × 4 cm, 0.1 cm thick	Fritz and Münger 2002: Abb. 10:1

Iron I contexts in the Galilee, e.g., at Dan (Ilan 1999, I:72) and at Kinneret (Fritz and Münger 2002: Fig. 7:4, 5; Münger, Zangenberg and Pakkala 2011:84, Fig. 22), our vessels most probably date from Iron II, in accordance with the majority of the potsherds found in L20. They are similar to specimens found in the past at other Iron II sites (Amiran 1969: Pl. 68) and more recently, at Tel Reḥov Strata VI–IV (Mazar et al. 2005:220, 225, 238).

Special Finds (Fig. 17:3–7)

Basalt Bowl on a Tripod (Fig. 17:3).— Although only one leg of the vessel was retrieved, it is certainly part of an elaborately carved tripod bowl made of fine-grained basalt. This type of bowl has a framework of three legs that are joined at the base by interconnecting horizontal bars; the legs are decorated on their outer faces with incised lines, possibly depicting lion's paws. This type has been well-studied, with Iron II examples appearing at Ḥ. Rosh Zayit and few other sites, including Ḥaẓor. Gal (1994; Gal and Alexandre 2000:124–125) proposed that the origin of these bowls is to be found in the Cypriot bronze tripods of the thirteenth–eleventh centuries BCE. These stone tripod bowls eventually become a characteristic of Iron Age Phoenician material culture and art, and gradually spread throughout Israel and the Levant during Iron II.

Mortar (Fig. 17:4).— Plain basalt mortars are a basic type, frequently found at many sites and common in different periods. Our example features rounded sides and a shallow concavity. Its retrieval from the Iron IIA destruction layer (L103) dates it to either Iron I or early Iron II. Parallels from both periods may be found at Iron I Kinneret Stratum V (Fritz and Münger 2002: Fig. 10:6) and Iron IIA Ḥ. Rosh Zayit Stratum II (Gal and Alexandre 2000:123).

Roof Roller (Fig. 17:5).— This limestone item, found broken in two parts in a secure Iron II context (L20; see Fig. 15), is a rare, early example of a tool used throughout the ages for pressing and smoothing earthen roofs. Its presence at the site indicates that the roofs of buildings in Iron Age Rosh Pinna were constructed of wooden beams covered with packed layers of earth.

Terracotta Figurine (Fig. 17:6).— This figurine has been included in the assemblage of Iron II special artifacts, even though it was a surface find, discovered in the early 1990s in the vicinity of the present excavation site (Stepansky 2008a: Fig. 14:21; 2012: Site 187, Fig. 16). Although its head, neck and legs are missing, the central part can easily be identified as part of a molded figurine holding a round object or disk, probably a tambourine (Beck 1990:87). Such figurines, usually depicting a female, and in rare cases a hermaphrodite, are widespread amongst Iron II–III sites (tenth–seventh centuries BCE) throughout the region and on both sides of the Jordan river. They are commonly perceived as being connected to religious rituals or beliefs (Beck 1990), but their mass production and wide distribution may point to other factors behind their popularity (Horowitz 2001).

Besides specimens found at Ḥaẓor, additional figurines of this type, as yet unpublished, have been discovered in Upper Galilee, at Tel Nuseiba (Eisenberg 1981:6) and at Ḥorbat Tuleil, near Yesud Ha-Ma'ala in the Ḥula Valley (Idan Shaked, pers. comm.).

Metal Artifact (Fig. 17:7).— A small piece of metal sheeting, possibly made of bronze, was found in an Iron Age fill (Area C; Sq 4, L18) adjacent to Chamber 20. Perhaps it is a piece of scale armor, such as was found in late Iron II Lakhish (Ussishkin 1982:55–56), although none of the other Iron Age finds indicate military activity at the site. Its attribution to Iron II is based on its close proximity to Chamber 20.

Chronology of Iron Age II

Dating the destruction layer of Area A to Iron IIA was facilitated by a single radiocarbon reading of a charcoal specimen from within the destruction debris (RTT No. 4799; L114, Basket 1029; 486.70 m asl): 2721 +/- 38 year BP (δ13C‰ PDB: -22.8); Calibrated age in calendar years: 920–830 BCE (68% probability); 930–800 BCE (93.2% probability); 1000–820 BCE (100% probability).[9]

While the limitations imposed by the very nature of the calibration curve in the late tenth and ninth centuries BCE do not allow for a narrower date range (Mazar 2005:22), a late tenth–last third of the ninth-century BCE date for the Iron IIA destruction layer in Area A can be assumed. If the destruction took place early in this time span (i.e., before the mid-ninth century), leaving a mid-ninth century date for the Iron II remains of Area C, it would be compatible with Mazar's (2005:21) Modified Conventional Chronology (MCC), which proposes a long duration for Iron IIA (c. 980–840/830 BCE). According to this chronological scheme, the termination of the later Iron II phase in Area C (represented by the burned earth layer discerned in Sq 4) could perhaps relate to Hazael's campaign during the decade of 830–820 BCE, while, at least in Area A, the site continued to be settled during the eighth century BCE (as described above). However, the radiocarbon results do allow for another scenario: that the Iron IIA destruction layer in Area A was due to Hazael's rampage of the Galilee, with the Iron II post-destruction remains in Areas A and C being of late-ninth and eighth-century BCE date. This interpretation of the finds would be compatible with both the Low Chronology (LC) scheme for the Iron Age (Finkelstein 1999; 2005) and the revised, three-phased scheme that conjectures a very lengthy time span for the Iron IIA, from the second half of the tenth century until the end of the ninth century BCE, with the transition to Iron IIB at c. 800 BCE (Herzog and Singer-Avitz 2006:186). If the latter scenario applies,

[9] The charcoal sample was analyzed by Elizabetta Boaretto, using the Accelerator Mass Spectrometry method in the Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory of the Weizmann Institute of Science, Reḥovot. The calibrated age in calendrical years was obtained with the help of the calibration tables in Stuiver et al. 1998 by means of the 1999 version OxCal v. 3.3 of Bronk Ramsey, using the 10-year terrestrial calibration curve.

then the final termination of the Iron II settlement in both areas may perhaps be related to the 733/732 BCE Assyrian campaign of Tiglath-Pileser III.

However, we should also stress that although certain evidence for one or more devastating conflagrations at the site during the Iron Age does exist, there is no conclusive proof that their origins are rooted in conquest by hostile forces. Fires caused accidentally or by some kind of cataclysmic event such as an earthquake (e.g., the earthquake of c. 750 BCE, which destroyed Stratum VI at Ḥaẓor and other sites across the country; Austin, Franz and Frost 2000)[10] would equally well provide a reasonable explanation for the presence of these conflagration layers. In any event, a more decisive and exact chronological setting for the Iron Age phases of Rosh Pinna can be obtained only through further research at the site.

THE PERSIAN AND HELLENISTIC PERIODS

Pottery of the Persian and Hellenistic periods was found sporadically in all three excavated areas (Fig. 18). No structural remains, however, could be assigned to the Persian period; Hellenistic architecture was uncovered only in Area A.

ARCHITECTURE AND STRATIGRAPHY

Area A

In a test trench, dug mechanically prior to the excavation, the outer face of a wall was noticed in the western cross-section of the boulevard. Excavations in Area A revealed a 2 m long and 0.7–0.8 m wide segment of a well-built wall (W1), oriented southeast–northwest and preserved to a height of almost 2 m (Plan 2: Sections 1–1, 5–5; Figs. 4, 6). The exposed portion of W1 is built partly of large ashlars laid in header-and-stretcher fashion and partly of fieldstone. The limestone ashlar blocks are roughly dressed, but traces of slight, marginal drafting and a thin central 'rusticated' boss are still visible on the facing of two of the stones (Figs. 4, 6). Wall 1 seems to have been part of a monumental, public building that extended westward, into an area today covered by houses of the late nineteenth-century CE Jewish settlement.[11]

[10] It would be tempting to relate the Rosh Pinna destruction level of Area A, whose remains were discovered inclined diagonally eastward, to the seismic event of c. 750 BCE that is recorded at other sites, especially Ḥaẓor, where a similar inclination of Stratum VI walls was attributed to that event (Austin, Franz and Frost 2000:658). However, as described above, the ^{14}C and ceramic evidence gathered from Area A does not allow lowering the dating of that destruction into the eighth century BCE. Hartal's excavation, which uncovered remains of this destruction level as well, also points to an earlier date, closer to Iron I (Hartal 2009).

[11] It is probably this very building that was referred to as the 'Jewish Synagogue' ('Kenisat el-Yehud') in the tradition of the local Arab inhabitants of Ja'una. The Jewish settlers of Rosh Pinna related to this tradition by selecting a nearby site for construction of the modern synagogue of their settlement, some 50 m above (southwest of) the excavation area.

The excavation of L101, abutting W1 to its east, revealed that the construction of the Hellenistic-period wall must have truncated W2 of Iron I, and certainly destroyed any other Iron Age building remains that once stood there. Indeed, the survival and preservation of W2 so close to W1 attests to the fact that, at the time when the Hellenistic building was in use, almost all of the preserved courses of W1 that were uncovered in Area A (including the well-cut stones with marginal dressing opposite the truncated end of W2), were actually part of a subterranean foundation. Apparently, the upper course of W1, which rose above the highest point of W2, was above ground. Fortunately, an absolute *terminus post quem* date of 171/169 BCE for the wall's construction could be established by the presence of a Rhodian stamped amphora handle at the bottom of L101, in the earthen fill of the foundation trench adjacent to the lowest course of W1 (Fig. 18:8; see Finkielsztejn, this volume). Thus, we may safely conjecture a mid-second century BCE date for the construction of W1.

Although only a very short segment of the wall was exposed, it no doubt exemplifies a Hellenistic-Phoenician building technique of alternating segments of ashlar blocks and fieldstones, termed "ashlar piers in rubble walls" by Sharon (1987: Fig. 2, Types D-1 and D-3; 27–28). This isolated ashlar pier in W1 is built of alternating headers and stretchers, a 'braid' pattern reminiscent of Sharon's Type C3, with interlocking adjacent units, found in intermediate Persian–Hellenistic contexts at Tel Dor (Sharon 1987: Figs. 2:C3 and 6). The limestone ashlar stones of W1 are seemingly roughly drafted—an impression perhaps created by the effects of erosion over time, but possibly also because they were designated for the foundation courses; nonetheless, they are relatively well-dressed, certainly when compared to the natural fieldstones of the earlier Iron Age walls (W2, W3a, W4, W5) and in W1 itself. Slight marginal drafting with a thin 'rusticated' central boss is a trait popular in late-Hellenistic ashlar architecture (Sharon 1987:37). Walls of similar construction were dated to the late Hellenistic period (c. 125 BCE) at Tel Anafa in the Ḥula Valley (Herbert 1994:14, 18).

THE POTTERY (Fig. 18)

Persian Period

Most diagnostic of the Persian period are two mortaria (Fig. 18:1, 2) with thick ring-rims. These bowls are common in all Persian-period sites, classified by Stern (1982:96) as Bowl Type 5 and dated to the sixth–fourth centuries BCE. The jar illustrated in Fig. 18:3 is similar to the jars found at Ḥaẓor Stratum II, and both mortaria bowls and the jar are comparable to similar ones found during site surveying in the vicinity of Rosh Pinna (Stepansky 1999: Pl. IX). A pithos (Fig. 18:4) belongs to the Galilean Coarse Ware family, common only in Upper Galilee during the Persian and Hellenistic periods (Frankel et al. 2001:61–62).

Hellenistic Period

The Hellenistic jar rim illustrated in Fig. 18:5 probably belongs to a bag-shaped jar, most common at Tel Dor (Stern 1995:311, jar type JR1a), while Fig. 18:6 could be a jar, or a

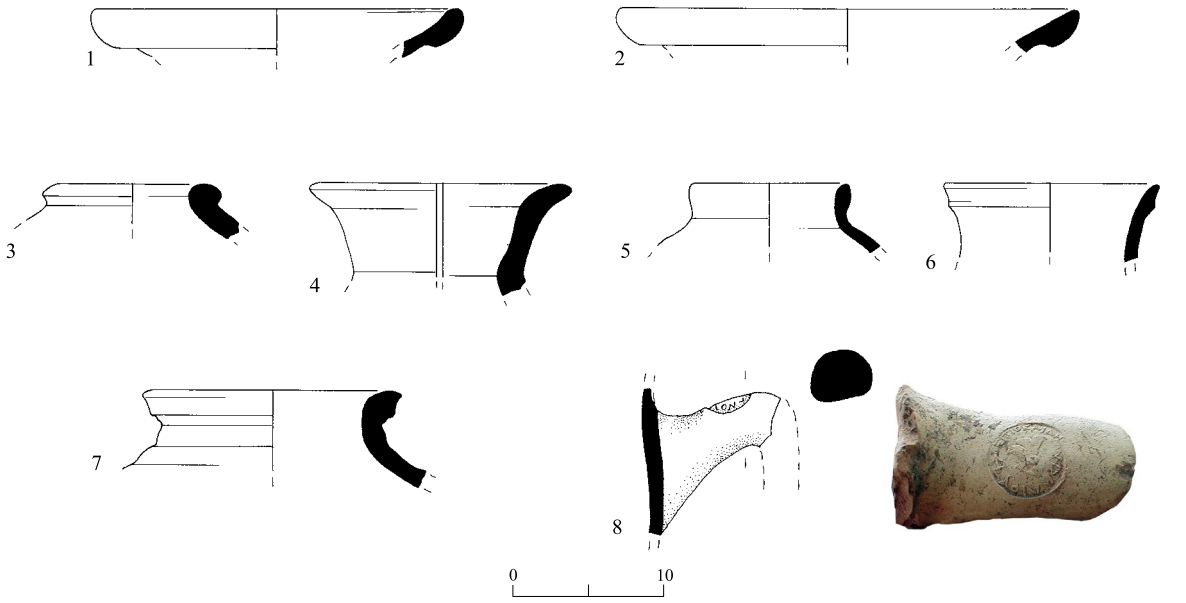


Fig. 18. Persian and Hellenistic-period pottery.

No.	Vessel	Area	Square	Locus	Reg. No.	Description	Parallels (Date)
1	Mortarium	C	4	6	106	Light brown fabric, gray grits	Ḥaẓor II (Yadin et al. 1961: Pl. CCLVII:7) (Persian)
2	Mortarium	C	3	5	137	Light brown fabric, gray grits	Ḥaẓor II (Yadin et al. 1961: Pl. CCLVII:5) (Persian)
3	Jar	C	4	14	122/2	Orange-brown fabric, white grits	Ḥaẓor II (Yadin et al. 1961: Pl. CCLVII:19, 20) Stepansky 1999: Pl. IX:7 (Persian)
4	Pithos	A		200	2001	Coarse ware, pinkish light-brown fabric, gray and white grits	Frankel et al. 2001: Fig. 3.8 (Persian or Hellenistic)
5	Jar	A		101	1003/2	Metallic light brown (pink-tinted rim) fabric	Tel Dor (Stern 1995: Fig. 6.35:6, 10) (Hellenistic)
6	Jug/Jar	A		101	1012	Light brown fabric, gray grits	Tel Anafa 2B (110–80 BCE.; Berlin 1997b: Pl. 53:PW459) (Hellenistic)
7	Pithos (Ituraean)	C	4	14	119/3	Metallic orange fabric; dark brown slip	Hartal 2002: Fig. 26:2 (Hellenistic)
8	Stamped amphora handle (Rhodian)	A		101	1010	Yellowish white ware, gray grits	See Finkielsztejn, this volume (Hellenistic, 171/169 BCE)

jug—possibly of the Hellenistic Utility Jug type found at Tel Anafa in the Ḥula Valley. A pithos fragment (Fig. 18:7) is most reminiscent of the Golan Ituraean type of pithos with ridged rim, dated to the second century BCE (Hartal 2002:93). It should be noted, however, that the Rosh Pinna example is made of well-fired metallic ware. The Rhodian amphora handle (Fig. 18:8), found near the foundations of W1, features an unusual stamp (see Finkielsztejn, this volume).

It is noteworthy that the very small assemblage of Hellenistic pottery collected from the excavation indicates local production, but also western (coastal) and eastern connections. The presence of a Rhodian amphora provides not only a *terminus post quem* for the construction of the Hellenistic wall, but also evidence of international commerce, and indication of the importance of the site during the Hellenistic period.

The Hellenistic Period: Cultural and Historical Observations

The above-mentioned building techniques and style, along with the material culture of northern Israel in general, are widely acknowledged as a reflection of the strong Tyrian-Phoenician influence on local culture (Sharon 1987:21, 29, 37; Berlin 1997a:75) from the tenth century BCE onward, reaching its zenith in the Hellenistic period. It is noteworthy, for instance, that in addition to similar walls, the Tel Anafa excavations yielded Graeco-styled stucco decoration and semi-fine Hellenistic-Phoenician ceramic wares—the likes of which were not discovered in the relatively limited excavation area at Rosh Pinna (Herbert 1994:14, 18; Berlin 1997a:77–84). The late Hellenistic material cultural horizon in the Ḥula Valley was thus defined by Berlin as "decidedly Phoenician in character." She suggests that "[p]erhaps the quantity of Phoenician vessels found at Hula Valley sites (and especially at Tel Anafa) could reflect the desire of this region's settlers to maintain Phoenician market connections to retain a feeling of Phoenician cultural identity" (Berlin 1997a:85). It would seem that Rosh Pinna should now be included in that horizon; however, only further research will allow to define the nature of the monumental structure hinted at by W1 and determine the status of the site within the settlement hierarchy in this area of Upper Galilee during the Hellenistic period (Stepansky 2012: Archaeological Overview, Persian and Hellenistic Periods).

It may be conjectured that the site was conquered (and the monumental structure possibly destroyed) by the Hasmoneans in the late second or early first century BCE. This assumption is greatly strengthened by the discovery of a coin of Alexander Jannaeus in Area C (see Syon, below: Cat. No. 1) and of other, Jewish-related material remains of Early Roman date, such as a stone bowl and Kefar Ḥananya pottery vessels (but see below, n. 13). This accords well with the prevailing general picture of ethnic change (from paganism to Judaism) and settlement development that enveloped much of Galilee during the first century BCE (Aviam 2004:41–50).

The Roman, Byzantine, Early Islamic and Mamluk Periods

In all three areas of the excavation, architectural and/or material-culture remains from at least two or more of the above-mentioned periods were found, demonstrating settlement continuity of the site well into late Antiquity. The structural remains will be described first according to excavation area. Anticipating the discussion, it is noteworthy that in all three areas, all walls of the Roman through Early Islamic periods are oriented northwest–southeast, demonstrating a symmetric and co-axial planned building tradition in this part of the site during the first millennium CE. To this we may add that Hellenistic W1 is also oriented in this direction, and so this tradition may hark back even earlier.

Architecture and Stratigraphy

Area A (Plan 2; Fig. 19)

In either the Late Roman or the Byzantine period, Iron II W3a was partly reused as a foundation base for a newly constructed wall (W3b), which was widened to the west, directly overlying the Iron II destruction layer (Fig. 19). The total width of this Roman or Byzantine wall was 1.1 m, and it was built of small and medium-sized limestone fieldstones. The preserved segment is 4.5 m long and only one or two courses high (mainly on its upper, western side). The proposed date range for the construction of W3b is based upon a much-eroded, unidentifiable coin (Reg. No. 1018), probably Late Roman in date, which was found in the earthen fill between two stones of W3b, near its southern end, and also on the multi-period material finds that came to light throughout Area A, such as a Roman-period stone bowl (Fig. 26:7) and a Late Roman cooking pot (Fig. 26:10). An Early Islamic or even later date cannot, however, be entirely ruled out.

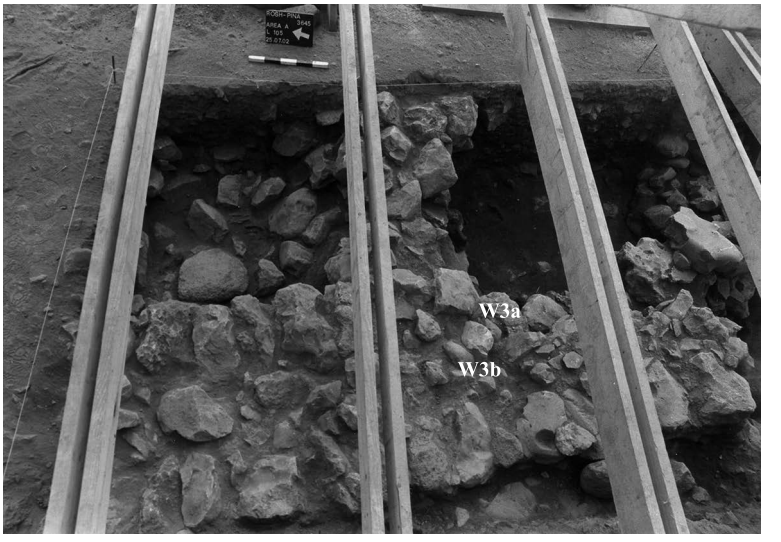


Fig. 19. Area A, W3b, looking east.

Area B (Plan 1; Fig. 20)

After the discovery of fragmentary pieces of a plastered wall in the western cross-section exposed during roadwork beneath the boulevard, a trial trench was opened in Area B, 15 m north of Area A. Since excavation directly adjacent to the already exposed wall remains was not permitted due to a perceived danger of collapse, a small sounding (1.5 × 5.5 m) was made 2.5 m to its east and excavated to a depth of 0.5–0.6 m below present surface. Although most of the area was found to have been disturbed by modern construction work (L200), further fragmentary remains of a plastered wall were uncovered directly below the present surface (L201; 0.5 × 0.7 m) in the northwestern corner of the probe (Fig. 20). Together with the wall segment exposed slightly further to the west, these remains appear to form part of one large plastered installation. An apparent pavement of small stones (L203; 0.5 × 3.0 m) was excavated to the south of L201. This also seems to have been part of the same installation complex. No further remains were discerned to its south (L202). Unfortunately, the eastern extension of this installation seems to have been eradicated, while safety precautions prevented establishing any stratigraphic connection with the remains to the west. Although the date of the potsherds retrieved from this probe range from EB I to the Ottoman period, more than half of the 60 sherds uncovered here date from Early or Mid-Roman times (Fig. 26:1, 2, 6). It is, therefore, surmised that the plastered installation was in use during the first century CE.

Fig. 20. Area B, looking northwest.

Area C

Square 1 (Plan 3; Figs. 21, 22).— A relatively dense complex of wall segments precluded any possibility of a deeper probe that may have revealed lower, Iron Age levels in Sq 1. The lowermost and earliest W509 is a three-meter-long row of small limestone fieldstones, of which only the foundation course was preserved (Figs. 21, 22). The stones at the southern end of W509 were removed during excavation and therefore, were not drawn in Plan 3. Sherds retrieved from the fill underneath provide a Hellenistic/Early Roman-period *terminus post quem* for the construction of the wall.

A four-meter-long wall segment (W500; 0.8 m wide) is double-faced and constructed of small and medium-sized limestone fieldstones (Figs. 21, 22). It is the best preserved of all the post-Hellenistic period remains found in the present excavation, even though only the uppermost extant course was fully exposed. Wall 500 is higher than W509 and therefore, clearly postdates it; based on the evidence of potsherds from loci above it and in its perimeter, such as a Roman cooking pot (Fig. 26:3) and an Early Byzantine Cypriot Red-Slipped 1 bowl (Fig. 26:12), it was most probably in use during the Late Roman and Early Byzantine periods. This well-built wall must have been part of a large structural complex whose extension was probably to the west, beneath the boulevard.

A single-faced wall (W505), exposed to a height of 0.75 m, abuts and runs adjacent to the eastern face of W500, thus widening it another 0.4 m (Figs. 21, 22). Structurally, W505 must be later than W500, but its construction still falls within the Late Roman–early Byzantine period, as indicated by a Kefar Ḥananya Form 1E bowl sherd (Fig. 26:9; cf.

Fig. 21. Area C, Sq 1, looking northwest.

Fig. 22. Area C, Sq 1, looking southwest.

Adan-Bayewitz 1993: Pl. 1E) found in a cross-section that was cut through the wall (L28). A very short east–west wall segment (W515; 0.75 wide) adjoins and forms a corner with W505, and therefore, must be contemporary with it (Fig. 21). This substantial corner is sure evidence of additional architectural remains of unknown dimensions that must have extended to the east of the excavated area.

Finally, in the northeastern corner of Sq 1, a very narrow row of small stones (W504, not shown on Plan 3, but visible in Fig. 21), found at the beginning of the excavation immediately below the present surface level (and soon after removed), must be of a much later date. It is certainly no earlier than Mamluk and may possibly be even Ottoman, as indicated by a glazed, Mamluk-period potsherd found in the underlying fill. Wall 504 is thus the latest pre-modern architectural feature discovered in the excavation at large.

Square 2 (Plan 4; Figs. 23, 24).— The only definite architectural remains were two poorly built walls (W501 and W502). Wall 501 traverses Sq 2 from south to north–northwest. Both were constructed atop a deep, earthen fill that sealed the underlying Iron Age layers. The northern sections of W501 and W502 were removed to enable further excavation.

Wall 501 (4.5 m long, 0.5 m wide) was constructed of limestone fieldstones. Two building phases were discerned for this wall: an earlier, Byzantine phase (at 485.70–486.10 m asl), is dated by the latest objects from among the finds beneath it, including two fourth-century CE coins (see Syon, below) and some Byzantine potsherds, and a later, Early Islamic phase,

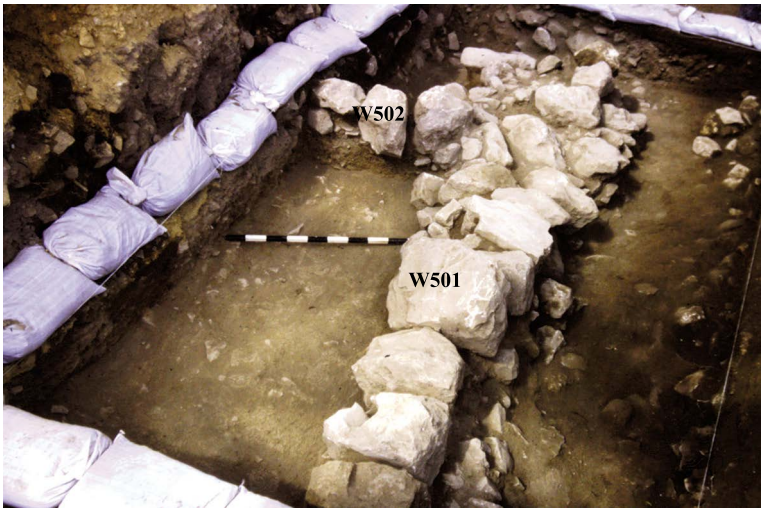


Fig. 23. Area C, Sq 2, Walls 501 and 502, looking northwest.

Fig. 24. Area C, Sq 2, Walls 501 and 502, looking southwest.

discerned in the upper course of W501 (486.10–486.38 m asl), dated based on the presence of an Early Islamic oil lamp (Fig. 26:16) between its stones. The Byzantine phase of W501 appears to continue as W506 in Sq 3.

Wall 502 (1 m long), consisting of three fieldstones in a row, was built at a right angle to W501 on its west. A Late Roman cooking-pot sherd (Fig. 26:11) found beneath it is an indication that this small wall segment was probably contemporary with the earlier phase

of W501. However, since no clear join between W501 and W502 was discernible, it is also possible that W502 may have been constructed at a later date, possibly during the Early Islamic period.

Square 3 (Plan 4; Fig. 25).— Two post-Iron Age walls were exposed. Wall 506, a two-meter-long segment, poorly constructed of small limestone fieldstones, is most likely the northern extension of W501 (earlier phase) in Sq 2 (Fig. 25). Wall 503, also made of small fieldstones, but relatively well-built and densely packed, was preserved to a height of three courses (0.7 m). It was possibly a terrace-supporting retaining wall, as its northern face slopes outward toward its base. Wall 503 does not form a definite join with W506, but rather, seems to extend slightly over the latter, and is therefore either contemporary with, or slightly postdates it. One way or the other, W503 is most likely still within the Byzantine period, in accordance with the latest datable potsherds (Byzantine) and a fourth-century CE coin (see Syon, below: Cat. No. 4) retrieved from the earthen fill (L7) on the wall's southern side.

The bases of both W503 and W506 rest on a 0.7 m thick fill sealing the Iron Age remains below (Plan 4: Sections 1–1, 2–2; see Fig. 13), indicating a long settlement gap between Iron II and the Byzantine period. It could be that any structures that existed here between the two periods had been washed down the particularly steep slope at this spot.

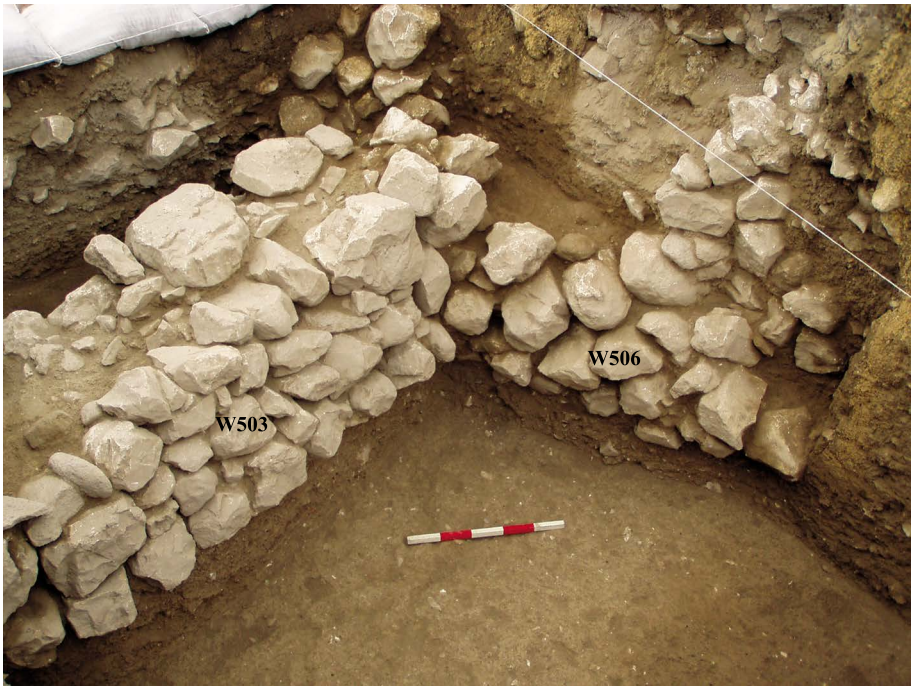


Fig. 25. Area C, Sq 3, Walls 503 and 506, looking southwest.

Square 4 (Plan 5).— But for the fragmentary remains of a late (nineteenth century?) wall, discerned but not excavated in the uppermost part of the eastern cross-section of the square, no post-Iron Age architectural remains were recorded here.

THE FINDS (Figs. 26, 27)

The Early and Middle Roman Period (first century BCE—second century CE)

The finds include well-fired early Kefar Ḥananya ware (KH; cf. Adan-Bayewitz 1993) cooking pots, barrel-shaped jars, a 'Herodian' lamp fragment and a stone bowl.

Pottery

Cooking Pots.— The cooking pot illustrated in Fig. 26:1 is a KH Form 3A type, while two other cooking pots (Fig. 26:2, 3) are of KH Form 4A. Both types are dated to the first century BCE–second century CE (Adan-Bayewitz 1993:111–119, 124–125).

Jars.— Two jar rims (Fig. 26:4, 5) belong to Early Roman barrel-shaped jars common throughout Galilee. Figure 26:4 has an internally stepped rim and a ridge at the base of the neck (Avshalom-Gorni 1998:53, Type 1.2.1), while Fig. 26:5 is of a different subtype, with an everted round rim and a high, ribbed neck (Avshalom-Gorni 1998:52–53, Type 1.1.5).

Oil Lamp.— The lamp nozzle illustrated in Fig. 26:6 is part of a knife-pared Herodian lamp, such as are common in Galilee in first- and second-century CE contexts (Abu-Uqsa 2002:157; Aviam 2002:136, 139).

Stone Vessels

Limestone Bowl (Fig. 26:7).— This base fragment of a bowl is readily identified as belonging to a group of diagnostic Early Roman stone vessels, characteristic of Jewish population centers in Palestine in the first century CE. These vessels were considered immune to impurity, and thus, were valuable to Jews who upheld the *halachic* ritual purity laws, especially in the era before the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem in 70 CE. The diffusion of stone bowls, as reflected in surveys conducted in the eastern Upper Galilee, is an important indicator for delimiting the eastern and northern extent of Jewish settlement in this area during the Early Roman period (Shaked and Avshalom-Gorni 2004:31; Stepansky 2012: Introduction—Archaeological Overview, Roman Period). This bowl, as well as others found in Galilee, may have originated in the Lower Galilee, where a manufacturing site of stone vessels from this period has been discovered (Gal 1991).

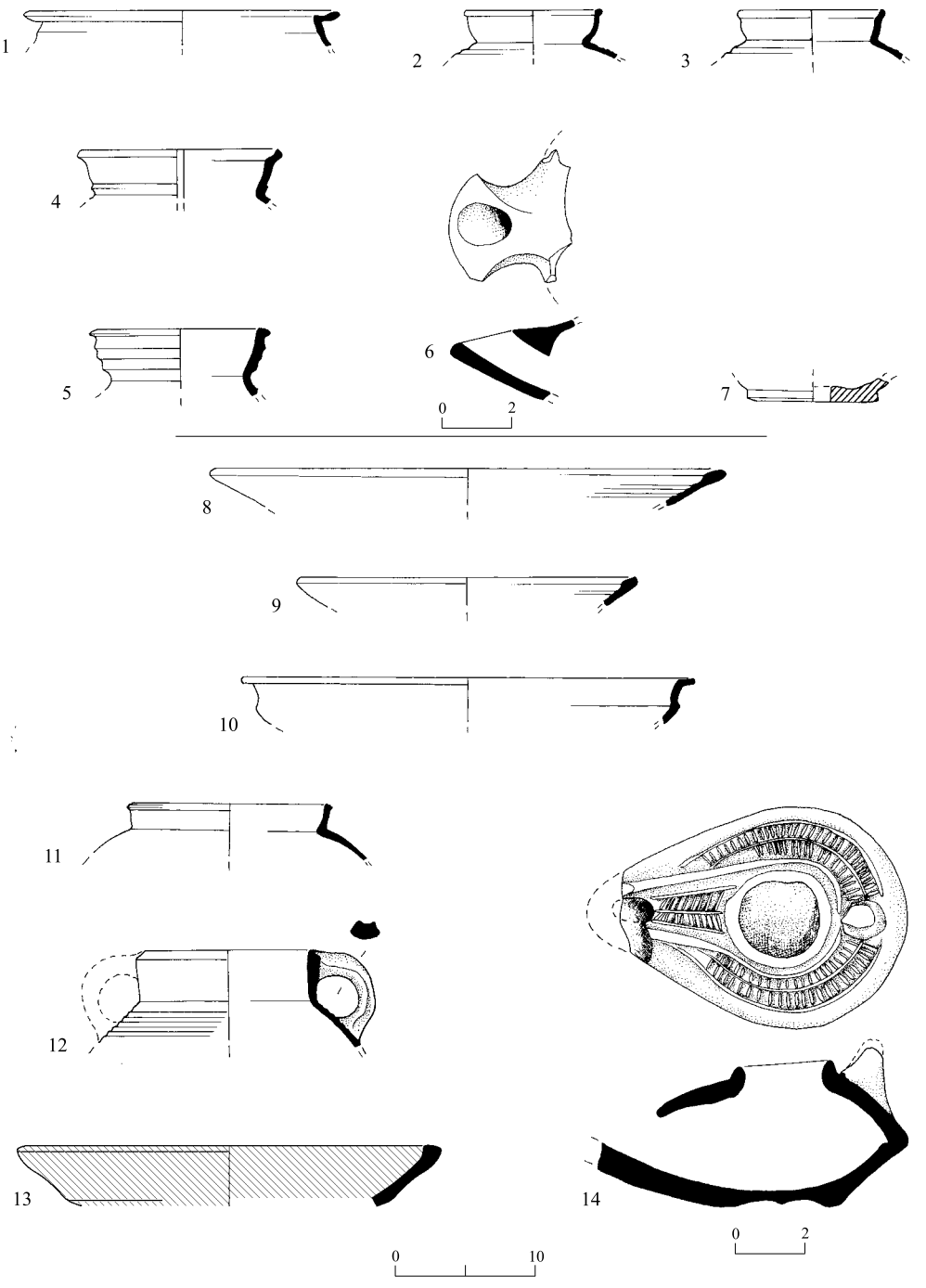


Fig. 26. Roman, Byzantine and Early Islamic-period pottery (1–6, 8–14) and stone (7) finds.

◂ **Fig. 26**

No.	Vessel	Area	Square	Locus	Reg. No.	Description[i]	Parallels (Date)
1	Cooking pot	B		200	2002/2	Dark red fabric (KH 3A)	Adan-Bayewitz 1993: Pl. 3A (Early–Middle Roman)
2	Cooking pot	B		202	2004/2	Dark orange fabric (KH 4A), soot marks on rim and neck	Adan-Bayewitz 1993: Pl. 4A (Early–Middle Roman)
3	Cooking pot	C	1	10	145	Dark orange fabric (KH 4A)	As No. 2
4	Jar	C	1	12	132/1	Light brown fabric	Avshalom-Gorni 1998: Fig. 2:9, Type 1.2.1 (Early–Middle Roman)
5	Jar	C	1	12	168/1	Reddish brown fabric	Avshalom-Gorni 1998: Fig. 2:7, Type 1.1.5 (Early–Middle Roman)
6	Oil lamp	B		200	2001/1	Orange fabric; soot marks on nozzle tip	Abu-Uqsa 2002: Fig. 7:1 Aviam 2002: Fig. 2:2, 3 (Early–Middle Roman)
7	Stone bowl	A		102	1002/2	Soft limestone	(Early Roman)
8	Bowl	C	2	15	138	Reddish brown fabric (KH 1E)	Adan-Bayewitz 1993: Pl. 1E (Late Roman–early Byzantine)
9	Bowl	C	1	28	159/1	Reddish brown fabric (KH 1E)	As No. 8
10	Cooking pot	A		102	1002/1	Dark red fabric (KH 3B)	Adan-Bayewitz 1993: Pl. 3B (Late Roman–early Byzantine)
11	Cooking pot	C	2	W502	107	Reddish brown fabric (KH 4C)	Adan-Bayewitz 1993: Pl. 4C (Late Roman–early Byzantine)
12	Cooking pot	C	2	3	109	Reddish brown fabric	Adan-Bayewitz 1993: Pl. 4E1 (early Byzantine)
13	Bowl	C	1	12	115/1	Dark orange fabric, well-fired; red-slipped and burnished on int. and ext.	Hayes 1972: Fig. 80: Form 1, No. 2 (early Byzantine)
14	Oil lamp	C	2	W501	113	Light brown fabric, nozzle charred by fire; decorated rim and channel	Rosenthal and Sivan 1978:129 (Group 1A) (late Byzantine–Early Islamic)

[i] KH = Kefar Ḥananya.

The Late Roman, Byzantine and Early Islamic(?) Periods

Pottery

The pottery assemblages include mainly KH types, as well as some imported material.

Bowls.— Two bowls (Fig. 26:8, 9), with widely everted walls and thickened rims, are of KH Form 1E, dated to the mid-third–early fifth centuries CE (Adan-Bayewitz 1993:103–109).

Cooking Pots.— Figure 26:10 is a broad, open cooking pot with carinated shoulders and an out-turned rim. It is of KH Form 3B, dated to the early second–late fourth centuries CE (Adan-Bayewitz 1993:119–124). The globular cooking pot, whose rim is flattened and has two grooves (Fig. 26:11), is of KH Form 4C, also dated to the second–fourth centuries CE (Adan-Bayewitz 1993:128–130). The cooking pot illustrated in Fig. 26:12 is a globular-shaped vessel too, probably a KH Form 4E1 dating to the fourth–early fifth centuries CE (Adan-Bayewitz 1993:132–135).

CRS Bowl.— A thick-walled bowl (Fig. 26:13) is an imported Cypriot Red Slip vessel, common during the early Byzantine period (fourth–fifth centuries CE; Hayes 1972:372–373).

Oil Lamp.— An oil lamp (Fig. 26:14), retrieved while dismantling the stones of W501, indicates a very late Byzantine or Early Islamic presence at the site. This lamp has a pointed oval body, a cone-shaped handle and is double-conical in section. Its surface is unslipped and bears a simple decoration, consisting of two concentric striped bands covering the rim and a palm-branch on the channel. As such, it may be assigned to Group 1, Variant A of Rosenthal and Sivan's typology of Islamic lamps, *en vogue* during the seventh–eighth centuries CE (Rosenthal and Sivan 1978:129–130). A similar lamp was discovered by chance in the past by a resident of Rosh Pinna and has been recorded as part of the survey finds of the site (Stepansky 2012: Site 187, Fig. 26).

Metal Finds (Fig. 27)

Two small iron objects—an arrow- or spearhead (Fig. 27:1) and a spear-butt (Fig. 27:2)—were retrieved in or around W501 in Area C, Sq 2. Both items derive from mixed loci containing Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine sherds, and therefore, could be dated to any one of these periods, and possibly even earlier. All that can be stated with certainty is that the arrow- or spearhead is not an Iron Age type, since its shape is very different from the leaf-shaped arrowheads common in Iron II (e.g., at Lakhish and Ḥorbat Rosh Zayit; Ussishkin 1982:55, Fig. 46; Gal and Alexandre 2000:128–129, Fig. III.108).

Fig. 27. Iron weapons from mixed loci in Area C, Sq 2: arrow- or spearhead (1; L8, B104) and spear-butt (2; W501, B118).

The Coins
Danny Syon

1. Reg. No. 152, L27, IAA 106110
Alexander Jannaeus, Jerusalem, 80/79 BCE or later.
Obv.: ΒΑ[ΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΛΕΞ]ΑΝΔ[ΡΟΥ] Anchor in circle.
Rev.: [שנת כה] דרוס[מלכא אלכסנ] Star with eight rays.
Æ, 1.02 g, 11 mm.
TJC: Type L1–L6

2. Reg. No. 123, L15, IAA 106111
Constantius II, 351–361 CE.
Obv.: [---] Bust of Constantius r.
Rev.: FEL[TEMP REPARATIO] Virtus spearing fallen horseman.
Æ, ↑, 1.65 g, 16 mm.
Cf. *LRBC* 2: No. 2635 (Antioch)

3. Reg. No. 131, L15, IAA 106112
Late Roman, 351–361 CE.
Obv.: [---] Bust r.
Rev.: [FEL TEMP] REPARATIO Virtus spearing fallen horseman.
Æ, →, 1.89 g, 14 mm.
Cf. *LRBC* 2: No. 2635 (Antioch)

4. Reg. No. 101, L7, IAA 106113
Late Roman, 367–375 CE.
Obv.: [---] Bust r.
Rev.: [Gloria Romanorum] Emperor advancing r., holding labarum and dragging captive.
Æ, 1.65 g, 14 mm.
Cf. *LRBC* 2: No. 2658 (Antioch)

CONCLUSIONS: ARCHAEOLOGICAL, HISTORICAL AND REGIONAL OVERVIEW

While the pottery collected during the survey of Rosh Pinna indicates an almost uninterrupted occupation sequence from as early as the Early Bronze Age I until today, with a possible gap during the Late Bronze Age (Stepansky 2012: Site 187), excavations in this part of the site have shown dense and intense settlement activities during the Iron Age in particular, but also throughout the Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine and (possibly) Early Islamic periods as well.

In Iron I, Rosh Pinna must have been a permanent and substantial settlement (see also Hartal 2009), standing in sharp contrast to the well-documented, semi-nomadic character of contemporary Ḥaẓor Stratum XII and Dan Strata VI–V. This insight, coupled with

the discovery of the nearby urban Iron I site of Kinneret, enables a fresh and different portrayal of settlement patterns and hierarchy in the eastern Galilee during this supposedly transient period. In the constellation that emerges, Kinneret functions as the main center in the region, interconnected (at least economically, although not necessarily politically) with a large hinterland spread out over the eastern part of both Lower and Upper Galilee. The eastern Galilee, designated in the Bible as the tribal territories of Zebulon and Naftali (Knauf 2000:229–231), supported a permanent and well-established network of agricultural settlements, although still lacking definite signs of urbanism (Ben-Ami 2003, I:xxvi). The system included village sites, like Sasa in the mountainous north and Rosh Pinna in the east, both exhibiting an advanced and quite impressive architectural tradition featuring well-built structures with plastered and red-painted walls. It also includes semi-nomadic, temporary habitation sites that were established well enough to encompass, for example, organized open-air cult places (Ben-Ami 2006), as revealed at Ḥaẓor Stratum XII and Dan Strata VI–V. To determine the ethnic identities of the inhabitants of those settlements (Canaanite? Israelite?) is certainly one of the challenges left for future research.

Most of the settlements, such as Sasa and Tel Ḥarashim, continued into Iron IIA as part of a protracted and gradual process, while a few sites, e.g., Ḥaẓor Stratum XII, were inhabited only after a certain hiatus in occupation (Ben-Ami 2003, I:xxviii–xxx, xxxiv–xxxv, xxxix; Herzog and Singer-Avitz 2006:180, 185). Here it may be suggested that the ephemeral, transient settlement of Ḥaẓor Stratum XII was perhaps a seasonal one, connected to the inhabitants of one of the more permanent sites in the area, such as, for instance, Rosh Pinna.

During Iron II, Rosh Pinna was part of a strong Israelite settlement system, which included the fortified sites of Ḥaẓor to its north and Tel Ya‘af and Tel Ness to its east, and other smaller sites in the vicinity (Stepansky 1999; 2008a; 2012). The evidence of violent destruction in the tenth or ninth century BCE at Rosh Pinna may have historical implications, possibly throwing light on an event recorded in the Bible, such as an Aramean raid by Ben Hadad or Hazael in the ninth century BCE. Alternatively, it might point to a hostile event unknown to us from historical sources[12] or to an accidental or natural conflagration not connected with a hostile attacking force.

In any case, the later, final demise of Iron II Israelite Rosh Pinna may be related to the 733/732 campaign of Tiglath-Pileser III, as is widely assumed with regard to destruction levels at most of the other stratified Iron II sites in Galilee, as for instance the upper city at Ḥaẓor Stratum V (Finkelstein 1999:63, 65). Another candidate may be the traumatic mid-

[12] The possibility of a late tenth-century destruction attributable to Shishak can be excluded, as his campaign apparently did not reach this far north; even if it did, it is widely believed that Shishaq did not wreak systematic and comprehensive havoc in most of the cities listed by him, including Megiddo (Herzog and Singer-Avitz 2006:185–186). In any event, the violent destruction witnessed in Iron Age IIA Rosh Pinna—if, in fact, it dates to the early part of this period, i.e., during the tenth century—is seemingly in contrast to the general scheme of socio-economic progress surmised by Herzog and Singer-Avitz (2006:183) for the early Iron IIA phase in northern Israel.

eighth-century earthquake ("Amos's Earthquake"), which was recorded in the excavation of Ḥaẓor Stratum VI and believed to have caused the destruction of that stratum (Austin, Franz and Frost 2000, and see n. 10).

During the seventh–second centuries BCE, the areas exposed in our excavation seem to have been abandoned, although the site itself was apparently not—as indicated by sherds dating from this very time span, gathered in both the excavation and in surveys.

Throughout the late Hellenistic period, Rosh Pinna seems to have been a center of some importance, with a Phoenician-style public, perhaps administrative building that has yet to be fully uncovered. At the end of this period, certain finds, including an Alexander Jannaeus coin and a limestone bowl fragment, indicate that Rosh Pinna, along with many other sites in Galilee, came under Jewish Hasmonean rule.[13] Surveys indicate that during the Roman and Byzantine periods the settlement continued on the tell and expanded beyond it to the west, encompassing the upper reaches of the limestone spur which today accommodates the ruins of Ja'una. Based on the demographics of the region, as well as on the scattered presence of monumental building elements that are typical of synagogue architecture, it can be assumed that this Jewish presence continued throughout the Roman and Byzantine periods and may well have extended into the Early Islamic period.

It seems that sometime during the Early Islamic period the area of the tell was finally abandoned, and the adjacent Arab village of Ja'una began to develop, eventually becoming the largest village in this part of the lower Ḥula Valley in the late Ottoman period (Stepansky 2012: Archaeological Overview, Ottoman Period). In the 1922 British-mandate census, 626 people were counted in the village. In 1878 a handful of Jews from Ẓefat (Safed) renewed settlement ('Ge Oni'; see n. 2) on the grounds of the ancient tell, without realizing its great antiquity. On that same spot, in 1882, begins the modern history of the Zionist settlement (Hebrew: *moshava*) of Rosh Pinna whose development has—mostly unwitting—done much damage to the archaeological remnants of its past.[14]

[13] The historic identification of Rosh Pinna is still unknown and may not have been recorded at all in pre-medieval sources. Therefore, the assumption that the ethnic character of the site was predominantly Jewish throughout the Roman and Byzantine periods is based upon its situation within the boundaries of the Jewish settlement as delineated in historical sources, and by the fact that it is surrounded by definitively Jewish sites (Ilan 1991:21). Supporting evidence is provided by monumental building elements such as are typical of synagogue architecture during the Roman–Byzantine periods, as well as by a local tradition referring to 'Kenisat el-Yehud' (see above, n. 11). Nonetheless, thus far no identifiably Jewish remains (e.g., menorah emblems such as have been found elsewhere in the vicinity) post-date the first century CE; nor does the presence of Kefar Ḥananya ware at the site necessarily prove the presence of a Jewish community, as these vessels have been found also outside the realm of Jewish Galilee. Also lacking are the substantiation of a sanctified Jewish tomb site and/or testimony of a Jewish town in medieval pilgrim literature, as are usually associated with Jewish sites in the eastern Galilee.

[14] Fortunately, a fairly large area on the slopes of the tell east of the excavated area was already demarcated by Baron Rothschild as a garden in the late nineteenth century. It is hoped that one day further research will be undertaken in this open, uninhabited area of the ancient tell. In the meantime, the 2006 excavation of Hartal (2009) above (west of) the present Area B has exposed further remains from Iron I and the Late Roman–Byzantine periods, widening our knowledge of the extent, depth and character of the ancient site.

In summary, the present town of Rosh Pinna is one of the few sites in Galilee to have witnessed a constant and possibly uninterrupted process of consecutive settlement over the last 5000 years. It is therefore to be hoped that its tell, along with the ancient village of Ja'una, will become a focal point for future research and educational projects.

APPENDIX 1. List of Loci

Area/Square	Locus	Elevations (m asl)	Description
A	100	485.91–486.70	Fill until bedrock
A	101	485.97–487.55	Fill, foundation trench of W1
A	102	486.27–487.67	Fill until bedrock
A	103	486.20–486.80	Destruction layer
A	104	486.65–487.50	Earth, stone and mudbrick fill
A	105	486.65–487.27	Stone collapse and fill
A	106	486.15–486.80	Storage bin
A	107	486.59–486.65	Fill above leveled earth (floor?)
A	108	486.65	Not excavated (W6)
A	109	486.50–487.40	Earth and stone collapse and fill
A	110	487.14–487.54	Fill west of W3
A	111	485.90–485.97	Fill until bedrock
A	112	487.30–487.50	Fill above W3
A	113	485.77–486.27	Fill until bedrock
A	114	486.70–487.30	Earth and stone collapse and fill
A	115	486.29–486.59	Fill above leveled earth (floor?)
A	116	486.29–486.59	Fill above leveled earth (floor?)
B	200	485.80–486.40	Earth and stone fill
B	201	485.65–486.07	Fragmentary plastered installation
B	202	485.80–486.44	Fill
B	203	485.65–485.80	Paved level of small stones, fill
C/1	1	485.55–485.74	Fill above W500
C/2	2	485.65–486.27	Fill between W501 and W502
C/2	3	485.65–486.27	Fill east of W501
C/3	4	485.60–486.00	Fill above W503
C/3	5	484.25–485.77	Fill north of W505
C/3	7	485.30–485.65	Fill south of W505
C/1	8	485.30–485.55	Fill east of W500
C/1	11	485.00–485.40	Fill east of W504
C/1	12	484.50–485.30	Fill east of W505 and north of W515
C/3	13	485.55	Not excavated
C/4	14	483.95–484.70	Fill above L16
C/2	15	484.73–485.65	Fill beneath W501 and W502
C/4	16	483.70–483.95	Fill above Chamber 20
C/4	17	483.80–483.95	Fill above W507
C/4	18	483.25–483.80	Fill north of W507

APPENDIX 1. (cont.).

Area/Square	Locus	Elevations (m asl)	Description
C/4	19	483.50–483.70	Fill above W514
C/4	20	482.50–483.80	Stone-built chamber
C/4	21	483.00–483.80	Fill south of W513
C/1	22	485.36–485.66	Fill between stones of W500
C/3	23	483.00–484.25	Stone-built chamber
C/3	24	483.00–484.25	Fill west of W511
C/3	25	484.40	Not excavated
C/1	26	484.72–485.52	1 × 1 m dissection of W500 and W505
C/2	27	483.00–484.73	Stone and earth fill
C/1	28	484.72–485.00	0.5 × 1.0 m dissection of W505

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