

13.12.98

הוצאת מהספריה
מכון תאולוגיה וספרות
בית המדרש לרבנים בארץ ישראל

הוצאת מהספריה

REVELATIONS FROM MEGIDDO

The Newsletter of The Megiddo Expedition

Showdown at San Francisco

Tenth-Century Chronology Debate Rages at SBL Meeting

The Directors of the Megiddo Expedition headed to beautiful San Francisco last year for a conference sponsored by the Society of Biblical Literature. Hershel Shanks, Editor of *Biblical Archaeology Review*, chaired the main session, dedicated to the 10th-century debate. The standing-room-only session was good-naturedly described by Professor Lawrence Stager as "The San Francisco Showdown" (see Dec. 31, 1997 *Wall Street Journal*).

The debate exists as there is no absolute chronological anchor between the end of the Egyptian 20th Dynasty in the 12th century and the Assyrian campaigns in the late 8th (see Finkelstein in *Levant* 1996). The key Megiddo stratum is VA-IVB, widely believed to be Solomonic. Finkelstein argues that the Solomonic city should possibly be identified with Stratum VIA, and VA-IVB with the Omrides.

Two pillars support the prevailing chronology: 1) The theory that the Philistines were settled in the southern coastal plain of Canaan immediately after their battle with Ramses III (1175 BCE). Since excavations at multi-strata sites showed that the characteristic Philistine pottery, Bichrome, had a long life-span, it was dated to the 12th-11th centuries. Strata just



above levels with Philistine Bichrome were accordingly dated to the 10th; 2) The attribution of Megiddo Stratum IV to Solomon, based on the connection between Solomon's building activity at Megiddo, his chariot cities (mentioned in I Kings 9:15, 19), and the pillared buildings, identified as stables, uncovered at Megiddo.

Solomon's building activities in I Kings 9:15. However, Ussishkin has shown that the gate at Megiddo should be affiliated with Stratum IVA, later than Solomon's days. Further, similar gates have been found at sites of the late Iron Age II as well as sites outside the borders of the Solomonic state.

As for the "Finkelstein correction's" upper anchor, Monochrome pottery, representing the first phase of Philistine settlement, has not been found in any Egyptian stronghold. Further, the Egyptianized pottery of the southern 20th-Dynasty sites has not been found in the Monochrome



Photo by Pavel Shrago
Ariel Wapnish-Hesse (Megiddo Archaeozoologist Paula Wapnish's daughter) cleans the destruction debris of Stratum VIA (Level K-4) in Area K. Stratum VIA is the last "Canaanite" city at Megiddo.

Yadin redated the pillared buildings to Omride Stratum IVA and the Solomonic city to VA-IVB, characterized by ashlar palaces (e.g., Palace 6000, which Yadin partially excavated, and which we further exposed

this summer). Yadin's new order was based on the posited link between the gates at Megiddo, Hazor and Gezer and strata. At Ashdod and Tel Miqne the Monochrome stratum was built over the destroyed 20th-Dynasty city. Thus, Monochrome is post-Egyptian rule, i.e., late 12th century, while Bichrome, which developed from Monochrome, was in use in the 11th/early 10th centuries. Hence, the first strata to postdate Bichrome should be dated to the mid- to late 10th century.

As for the lower anchor at Me-
See Showdown, Page 2

Inside	Page
• Showdown at San Francisco	1
• Summary of the 1998 Excavation Season	2
• In the Footsteps of the Oriental Institute	4
• The Announcement of the 2000 Excavation Season, Megiddo in	
• The Gossip Corner	

REV

1436242
3
^
1998
C.2



Megiddo Expedition Directors: Israel Finkelstein, Baruch Halpern and David Ussishkin. Excavation Directors: Israel Finkelstein and David Ussishkin. Head of Academic Program and Consortium Coordinator: Baruch Halpern.

Showdown, from Page 1

giddo, Philistine Bichrome is absent from the Stratum VIA ceramic assemblage. Thus, VIA can hardly be dated in the 11th century. Further, the pottery of Stratum VB and monumental Stratum VA-IVB are very different. Nearly all "Canaanite" features disappear, and typical Iron Age II types are introduced. This pushes VA-IVB into the early 9th century. Moreover, the pottery assemblage from the Omride compound at Tel Jezreel is similar to that of Megiddo VA-IVB. Thus, the two sites were probably destroyed around the same time, in the mid-9th century. This traps Stratum VA-IVB into a narrow chronological slot, i.e., the first half of the 9th century.

These issues involve the nature of the United Monarchy *vis-à-vis* monumental architecture and material culture. They raise the question whether the United Monarchy was an expanding or a full-blown state; or alternatively, whether it was the northern state of Israel, after the breakdown of the United Monarchy, which was the first full-blown state.

The "Showdown" allowed adherents to the conventional wisdom and the challengers to meet and discuss the issues. Lawrence Stager of Harvard and William Dever of Arizona State defended the accepted chronology, and Ussishkin and Finkelstein argued for the new ideas. Ussishkin discussed the difficulty in reconciling the monumental palaces at Megiddo with the dearth of evidence from the United Monarchy in Jerusalem. Finkelstein presented his theory, with reference to Megiddo. The conference saw much vigorous debate among friends, but brought no verdict. We will have to wait for further excavation at the key site of the debate — Megiddo.

**Israel Finkelstein
and Jared Miller**

The 2000 excavation season is approaching, and the Megiddo Expedition is preparing. The season will be from June 11 to July 28 and will entail graduate and undergraduate credit programs. Contact Norma Franklin at franklin@post.tau.ac.il or at the Expedition address (see pg. 4), or Lynne Koppeser at: Jewish Studies Program, Pennsylvania State University, 103 Weaver Building, University Park, PA 16802, USA for more information.

The 1998 Excavation Season

The Megiddo Expedition conducted its third full season of excavation this summer from June 14 to July 31. Excavation was continued in the four areas dug in '94 and '96, and begun in two new areas.

In *Area F*, on the lower terrace to the northeast of the tell proper, we excavated another level in the occupation sequence. On the crest of the rampart (constructed in the MBII; by the LBI it was already out of use) we uncovered the remains of the unfortified LBI village, which revealed Bichrome pottery, scarabs and miniature ivory work. This was apparently the settlement which saw the approaching

The 1998 Megiddo Expedition Staff consisted of: Israel Finkelstein, David Ussishkin and Baruch Halpern (Directors); Norma Franklin (Expedition Coordinator and Area F Supervisor); Lynne Koppeser (Team Member Coordinator); Paula Wapnish (Archaeozoologist); Benjamin Sass (Small Finds); Eyal Buzaglo and Lucas Petit (Area H Supervisors); Jennifer Peersman (Area J Supervisor); Yuval Gadot (Area K Supervisor); Yulia Gottlieb and Assaf Yasur-Landau (Area K Assistants); Ann Killebrew and Gunnar Lehmann (Area L Supervisors); Eric Cline (Area L Assistant); Robert Deutsch (Area M Supervisor); Judith Dekel and Bill Kennedy (Architects); Noga Blockman and Adi Kafri (Registration); Lenna Benenson (Computer Support); Pavel Shrago (Photography); Gilead Cinamon (Administration).

Egyptian army of Thutmose III. The fact that it was unfortified fits the data uncovered by the Oriental Institute on the upper tell, but shows the difficulty in comprehending the text describing the siege of Megiddo (see "Thutmose

III and the 'Aruna Pass Survey" in *Revelations*, no. 2). The LBI settlement was deserted, not destroyed.

Area H continued to serve as the main sectional trench on the northern side of the mound, as it is immediately adjacent and related to the finds of the University of Chicago in Area AA. A better understanding of the Chicago stratigraphy in Area AA is one of the principal aims of our work in Area H.

Level H-3, excavated in '94 and '96, dates to the 8th century and is to be identified with Chicago Stratum IVA. This season we found another phase, H-4, from this same period, beneath H-3. Hence, in this domestic area, unlike other sectors of the tell, Stratum IVA consists of two phases. However, there is continuity between them, as the walls of H-3 reuse the foundations of the walls of H-4. At the end of the season we penetrated into the remains of Level H-5, which should be identified, apparently, with Stratum VA-IVB, which is one of the currently hotly disputed strata in Biblical Archaeology.

In *Area J* excavation was furthered in the vast temple compound (see "The Megiddo Temple Complex" in *Revelations*, no. 1) in an attempt to clarify the layout of the monumental Early Bronze Ib temple (Chicago Stratum XVIII, late 4th millennium).

The monumental remains of Level J-4 — the three parallel walls and the corridors between them — are unique

See 1998 Season, Page 3

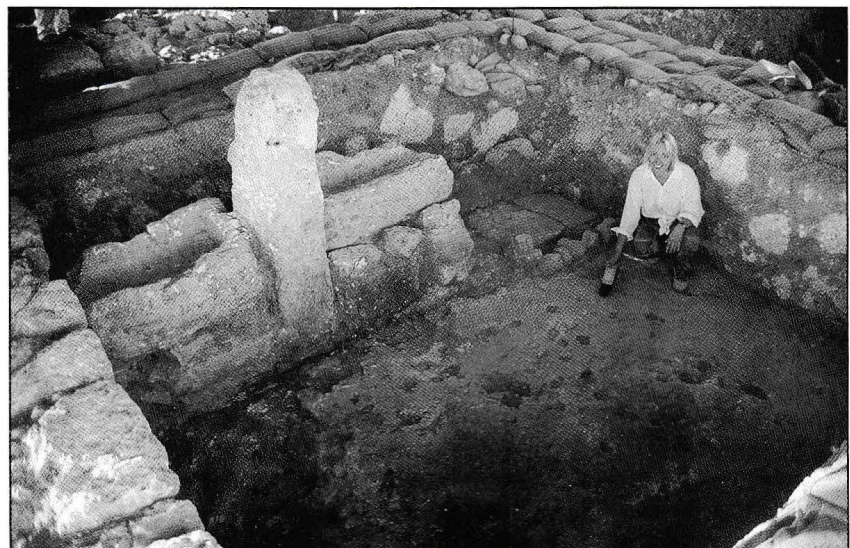


Photo by Pavel Shrago

Square Supervisor Julye Bidmead, of Vanderbilt University, points out the thick plaster floor of the Stratum IVA "stable" excavated in Area L. Note the stone troughs and pillars to the left.

1998 Season, from Page 2

in the Levant. First, they are the most monumental EB1b remains ever excavated in the region. Second, the faunal assemblage from the corridors (analyzed by Archaeozoologist Paula Wapnish) and next to the later EBIII altar is the most elaborate cult discard ever found in the Levant. Third, the size of the EB1b site, extending east of the Jenin-Haifa road, is unparalleled. This is among the best evidence yet discovered for the beginning of urban life in the fourth millennium. It tells us much about the cult practices at what must have been a regional center of sacrificial activity. This season contributed significantly to our understanding of this stratum. We believe now that the temple was on the northern side of the parallel walls, which apparently served as temenos walls.

More data has been collected on Level J-5 as well, though uncertainty about its dating continues. Directors Finkelstein and Ussishkin date it to the early EBIII (third millennium), while A. Joffe, who will publish the pottery, still prefers an EB1b/early EBII date (late fourth millennium). Both account for the Egyptianized vessels found in 1996 ("Egyptians at Early Bronze Megiddo" in *Revelations*, no. 2). If the Directors' dating prevails, it would be the first such clue for links between Canaan and Egypt in the third millennium.

Area K is also crucial to the current debate concerning the 10th century, as we reached the floors of Stratum VIA, our Level K-4. The pottery assemblage collected from the floors is expected to be extremely important for the dating of this level, and is being restored in the laboratories of Tel Aviv University. Stratum VIA is to be dated either to the 11th century (according to the prevailing chronology) or to the 10th century (if one accepts the Low Chronology). In any case, the remains of Stratum VIA indicate that Megiddo constituted a major city at the time, the last which exhibited features of "Canaanite" material culture. In subsequent strata, the typical Iron Age II pottery assemblages, with their hallmark red-burnished wares, take over.



Photo by Pavel Shrago

Assemblage of Iron Age bowls, juglets, jars and pots from Area H. The ceramics from Areas H and K are expected to shed light on the controversial dating of Megiddo's "Israelite" strata.

In terms of relative chronology, there is no doubt that the assemblage is post-Philistine Bichrome, in fact, later than most of the ensuing "degenerated" Philistine types. From the absolute chronology point of view, this evidence seems to strengthen the possibility of dating Stratum VIA later than the 11th century BCE.

The K-4 remains provide spectacular evidence for the annihilation of the city in a terrible fire, which turned the mud bricks red; hence, its nickname, the "red brick city". The cause of the destruction is unclear. The debris included large wooden beams from the roofs of the buildings, samples of which have been sent to the lab for the identification of the wood and radiocarbon dating.

Two "new" areas were opened this summer also. The first, Area L, is the location of Palace 6000, a beautiful ashlar structure partially excavated by Yadin. The excavation of the area revealed three strata. The uppermost included remains of stone-paved courtyards, dating to Chicago Stratum III, the

Assyrian city. The main feature of level two is a set of "stables", similar to those excavated by the Oriental Institute. Each unit is built of three longitudinal halls, separated by a row of stone mangers and pillars. The side

halls are paved with pebbles, the central aisles with thick plaster. There is an ongoing debate about the function of the buildings — stables, storehouses, barracks or markets. We took samples from the floors in order to try to identify chemical residues that would indicate animal waste products.

Palace 6000 no doubt belongs to Stratum VA-IVB. However, the excavations in this area should be vital to the debate about absolute chronology. The building was constructed in the *bit hilani* manner, an architectural style traditionally understood as influenced by similar northern Syrian architecture; but there, according to Finkelstein (Ussishkin disputes Finkelstein's interpretation), all known Iron Age *bit hilani* are of the 9th and 8th centuries. How they can be considered prototypes for the *bit hilani* of northern Israel in the 10th century is problematic.

The excavation of Palace 6000 was conducted in cooperation with the Israeli Parks Authority, which had asked the aid of the Megiddo Expedition in excavating the palace and preparing it for display to the public. The beautiful ashlar palace and the pillared buildings (the "stables") will be the main focus of a virtual reality presentation, which will include the installation of on-site computers. The idea is to present it to the public mainly through non-intrusive systems. This project is a result of cooperation between the Megiddo Expedition, the National Parks Authority, the 10th-century CE site of Enme, east of

See 1998 Season, Page 4



Photo by Pavel Shrago

Egyptian scarab in gold mounting from Area M, next to Schumacher's LB royal tomb.

1998 Season, from Page 3

Brussels, Belgium, and the Province of East Flanders, Belgium. The presentation project is headed by Ann Killebrew of the Megiddo Expedition.

The excavation of the palace is part of a study project of state formation in northern Israel, backed by the German Israeli Foundation for Research and Development. The project is headed by Michael Niemann (University of Rostock, Germany), who also brought a contingent to this summer's dig, and Israel Finkelstein and David Ussishkin.

Several universities sent contingents to Megiddo, including Loyola-Marymount and the University of Southern California, headed by Jessica Redford, Vanderbilt University, coordinated by Juley Bidmead and Deborah Appller, and Macquarie University, coordinated by Michael Birrell.

Finally, we began cleaning and reinvestigating the trench excavated by Gottlieb Schumacher at the beginning of this century for the German Society for Palestinian Research (Schumacher, G. 1908. *Tell el-Muesellim I*). We excavated four squares (Area M) next to the large, beautiful tomb excavated by Schumacher (found empty). The tomb, unique in this country, is probably that of a second-millennium Megiddo monarch. We were able to redate the tomb to the later phase of the LB and to redate other elements in the area to the LB, rather than the MB.

In the evenings, the educational program provided a number of students, undergraduate and graduate, with credit courses in various aspects of the archaeology of the Levant.

Israel Finkelstein, David Ussishkin and Baruch Halpern

Megiddo in Cyberspace

Revelations from Megiddo

3
1998
ARC



ents, ideas,
r publica-
e Editor at:
ac.il
ology of
th Revela-
ddo site):
index.html
with stylus
ach us at:
on
y
78

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE OI

In November 1997 the Directors of the Megiddo Expedition took a five-day trip to the windy city in order to study the archive of the Megiddo excavations of the 1930s conducted by the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago. Here is their summary.

We were cordially met at the University of Chicago by Oriental Institute Director Gene Gragg and given friendly and professional help by archivists John Larson and Raymond Tindel. We sorted through the large collection of fascinating photographs, including balloon pictures from the 1920s and the excavation pictures, some taken by Gordon Loud himself, Director of the excavations from 1935 to 1939. We listed all the photos we wanted. Those that were immediately relevant to the 1998 excavations we received in time for the summer's dig, while the rest will be given to us once the archive facilities have completed their current expansion.

Many of the photos have never been published, yet are vitally important for our own work; for example, pictures of the temple compound of Area J of the renewed excavations, especially those including elements which were long ago removed. We also requested some wonderful pictures of the staff from the romantic "good old days" of the excavations.

Another highlight was a chance to view the motion picture prepared by James Henry Breasted, who founded the Oriental Institute in 1919. The film is an archaeological travel documentary from the early 1930s which gives the viewer a glimpse of the great Oriental Institute expeditions in the Middle East, including Khorsabad (Dur Sharrukin, the "Fortress of Sargon", near Nineveh), Susa (the Elamite capital in southeastern Iran), Alaca Höyük (a major Hittite city in Anatolia) and, of course, Megiddo, on which the film, *The Human Adventure*, contains quite a long section. We were able to get a video copy of the old reel-to-reel film.

We then examined all the plans of

Revelations from Megiddo is published by the Megiddo Expedition. Editors-in-Chief: Israel Finkelstein, Baruch Halpern and David Ussishkin. Editor: Jared Miller.

the expedition. It was exciting to see the originals with the handwriting of the Oriental Institute excavators, such as Clarence S. Fisher, P.L.O. Guy and Gordon Loud. We asked to copy only one plan, relevant to the summer's excavations, a plan of the northeastern sector of the mound, the area in which Palace 6000 was later uncovered by Yigael Yadin of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and which we began excavating this summer.

We were also able to check the personal field diaries of R.S. Lamon and G. Loud. The narrative of the daily progress of the expedition is an important source of information. The journals have been utilized several times in past scholarship, e.g., in that by Y. Shiloh on the Iron Age gate.

Finally, we presented two lectures, the first, a well-attended presentation at Breasted Hall for faculty, students and the general public, entitled, "The Renewed Excavations of Megiddo: In the Footsteps of the Oriental Institute"; and the second, for University of Chicago students and faculty, concerned the Early Bronze cult compound in our Area J.

Israel Finkelstein, David Ussishkin and Baruch Halpern

The Gossip Corner

Alex Joffe, Area H supervisor in '96, and Rachel Hallote, Area F assistant in '96, are the proud new parents of Rose Shifra, as of 15 Oct. '98. She weighed in at 58.4 cm. (23 in.) and 3.17 kg. (7 lbs.) and has lots of black hair and a great appetite.

Congratulations to Eyal (co-supervisor in Area H) and Michal Buzaglo, who were married August 12 in Tel Aviv. Apparently, there will be grounds for more congratulations in a few months!

Michelle Burns, square supervisor in Area M, is now the Assistant Editor of the *Tel Aviv Journal of the Tel Aviv University Institute of Archaeology*.

Directors Israel Finkelstein and Baruch Halpern have both taken the 1998-99 year on sabbatical. Finkelstein is at the Sorbonne in Paris, while Halpern is at the University of Heidelberg, Germany.