

February 2005



Number 9

# REVELATIONS FROM MEGIDDO

The Newsletter of the Megiddo Expedition

## THE 2004 SEASON

After the short 2002 season with its relatively limited number of team members—almost none of whom were from abroad—and the excavation of only two of our six areas, the 2004 season proved to be a return to (almost) normal course. The excavation ran for seven weeks, with an average of 75 people on the tell, many from abroad, and some even sponsored by their universities. We were able to dig four of our six areas, with very fruitful and exciting results.

The on-site staff included Directors Israel Finkelstein, David Ussishkin and Baruch Halpern; coordinator of the Expedition and supervisor of Area M, Norma Franklin; supervisor of Area J, Matt Adams; supervisors of Area K, Eran Arie and Assaf Netiv; supervisors of Area L, Eric Cline and Margaret Cohen; archaeozoologist Brian Hesse; registrar, Noga Blockman; computer analyst, Elena Zapatsky-Benenson; artifacts analyst, Gilad Cinamon; photographer, Pavel Shrago; surveyors, Eyal Tamir and Israel Vatkin; administrator, Guy Avivi; and assistant area supervisors Jane and Robert Grutz, Philippe Guillaume, Roslan Svartzman and Gilad Yoffe.

### Area J

In 2000, excavation in Area J exposed the temple-hall of the monumental Level J-4 (Stratum XVIII) temple, dating to the Early Bronze I (radiocarbon measurements from this building provided calibrated dates in the 31st and 30th centuries BCE). This season, in order to achieve maximal exposure of the edifice we opened six squares to the west of the uncovered portion of the temple-hall. It was clear from the begin-

ning that a single season would not suffice to reach the floor of the temple-hall. Indeed, this season was devoted mainly to the exposure of domestic remains of Level J-6 (and possibly J-5—Strata XVI and XVII respectively, which date to the Early Bronze III) extending above the temple-hall. In two places in the western part of the excavation area we reached brick material of Level J-4 at the end of the season. We will probably reach the floor of the temple-hall in the next season of excavation.

### Area K

Work here was devoted to the continuation of the excavation of Iron I and late-Late Bronze levels. In the beginning of the season we finished exposing the remains of Level K-5 (Stratum VIB) from the early Iron I and fully uncovered the more elaborate remains of Level K-6, probably of the end of the Late Bronze Age (Stratum VIIA?). It is now clear that the olive press unearthed in 2002 belongs to the latter level and is therefore contemporary with a similar installation Schumacher exposed in the Nordburg. Olive pits were found under large pressing stones in both installations. In the last weeks of the excavation we uncovered large segments of Levels K-7 and K-8 of the Late Bronze Age. They will be fully exposed in the next excavation season.

The excavation

in Area K sheds important light on the end of the Late Bronze and the transition to the Iron I at Megiddo. Level K-6 yielded a large number of restorable vessels; the area was abandoned by its inhabitants, but not put to the torch. This is in contrast to the situation in the University of Chicago's Areas AA and BB, where the Late Bronze palace and "tower" temple were destroyed by a major conflagration, leaving a thick accumulation of collapse and destruction debris. This indicates that only part of the city—mainly the public areas—was entirely destroyed by fire, while other sectors, domestic in the main, were damaged but not completely devastated. Another notable feature is the continuity in the layout of the buildings in the Late Bronze/Iron I transition. And in addition, the material culture of the Iron I (Level K-5 and the rich-in-finds Level K-4—Strata VIB and VIA respectively) shows clear signs of continuity from that of the Late Bronze Age. This has been observed in the ceramic



General view of Area K, showing remains of Levels K-5 (Iron I) and K-6 (Late Bronze?), looking south.

The Megiddo Expedition operates under the auspices of Tel Aviv University. Senior U.S. partner: Penn State University. Consortium institutions: Universities of George Washington, Loyola-Marymount, Southern California and Vanderbilt (USA); Bern (Switzerland).



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.



*Aerial view of Area L, showing Palace 6000 fully uncovered.*

tradition, metal and flint industries, etc. All this demonstrates that the transition from the Late Bronze to the Iron I at Megiddo, though not peaceful, was not accompanied by a total destruction, as has been assumed until now. The major break in the history of Megiddo came later, with the total destruction of Stratum VIA.

### Area L

This season we concluded excavating Palace 6000 of Level L-3 (Stratum VA-IVB) and have now clarified problems related to the layout of the palace and of the set of stables built in Level L-2 (Stratum IVA) on top of it.

It is now evident that the eastern segment of the complex served as an open courtyard rather than a hall in the palace. Hence, the palace proper was square in shape and is therefore more like Palace 1723—the southern palace of the same stratum—in both shape and size. Since only the foundation levels of the palace have been preserved, it is hard to determine whether it was built in the northern *bit-hilani* design or according to a local plan. Excavation of a row of rooms in the northern part of the palace yielded a number of restorable vessels. A set of ovens exposed in one of these rooms indicates that it served as the kitchen of the edifice. There are several indications that Palace 6000 was surrounded on three sides by a courtyard. These include two elements unearthed by Yadin—the eastern ashlar wall and the western “casemates”—and an element exposed by the University of Chicago team and reinvestigated by us—a square pedestal-shaped structure made of ashlar stones to the south of the palace, which probably served

as part of the entrance into the courtyard.

The Southern Stables excavated by the University of Chicago team had a large front courtyard. The situation in the Northern Stables was not clear. The 12 northern stables are built around a specious space in which the University of Chicago team uncovered remains of a large building (labeled 434), which

they affiliated with the same layer of the stables—Stratum IVA. This has resulted in a problematic layout, with a narrow corridor separating between the front wall of the stables (with entrances into the stalls) and Building 434. Excavations of the southern part of our western stable in 2000 and sounding to the south of this stable in 2004 show that Building 434 should in fact be affiliated with Stratum III. A cobble pavement related to the building clearly overlays the remains of the stables and another cobble pavement that belongs to the stable system

was found under the floor of the building. The area between the 12 northern stables was therefore an open, cobble-paved courtyard. This large space was open in the west all the way to the city-gate, which provided easy access to the Northern Stables.

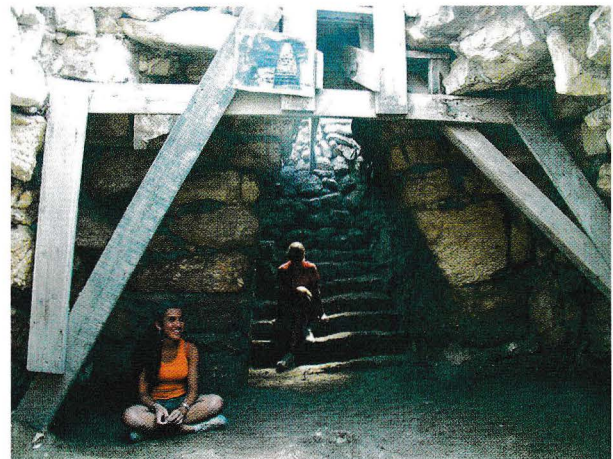
Area L excavations have currently been terminated. The Nature and Parks Authority, which commissioned it, will now concentrate on preservation and presentation to the public.

### Area M

During this season, too, Area M revealed important information regarding the Nordburg and the monumental Chamber Tomb, also known as the “Aegean Tomb”(described hereafter as “the Monument”)—both excavated by Schumacher.

We have now exposed Level M-4 (Stratum VIA) in the entire area of our excava-

tion to the east of the Schumacher trench. The most important feature of this level is a large, possibly megaron-shaped building constructed immediately to the east of the Monument, at the elevation of the top of its still-standing roof. This building was destroyed in a fierce fire. Several vessels, including two collared-rim jars, were found on its floor. Remains of another layer with fragmentary walls and patches of ashy floors, lying about 0.5 m. under the floors of Level M-4, belong, according to Finkelstein and Franklin (the area’s supervisor), to Level M-5 (Stratum VIB). Further below we exposed a well-preserved sector of the Nordburg (Level M-6 = Stratum VII), with well-plastered floors



*Area M, the “Monument,” after excavation.*

and walls still standing to a height of over one meter. Several vessels, including a “Tyrian” pithos, were found lying on the floor of one of the rooms. The floors of the Nordburg lie at about the same elevation as the upper elevation of the flight of stairs leading to the Monument. Notable among the small finds of Level M-6 was a small piece of painted plaster from the Nordburg.

Schumacher’s Monument was empty of finds. He identified it as a tomb, based on its plan and shape and on the fact that it was constructed near (and on top of the level of) Chamber Tombs I and II (dating to the Middle Bronze III/Late Bronze I) which he unearthed in the Mittelburg. An equally appealing possibility is that the Monument served as a shrine. We could not reach agreement regarding the stratigraphy and date of the Monument. According to Finkelstein and Franklin the Monument



and the Nordburg relate to each other, that is, they both stood here in Level M-6, at the end of the Late Bronze Age. At that time the entrance to the Monument must have been through an elaborate, stepped *dromos* which has not yet been uncovered. According to this view the builders of Level M-4 recognized the location of the Monument and reused it. They blocked the *dromos*, rearranged the entrance to the Monument, and then constructed the megaron-shaped building on top.

According to Ussishkin the Monument was constructed in the days of Level M-4. It was incorporated in the ruined Nordburg and its exterior walls were supported by a constructional fill. According to this view the Monument had only one stage of construction.

The Monument started showing signs of weakening and hence we conducted, in cooperation with the Nature and Parks Authority, conservation and stabilization work without and within. On the outer side we backfilled the areas excavated

near the Monument in 1998-2000. Inside we cleaned the Monument and brought it back to the state in which it was left by Schumacher. Architect Danny Abu Hatzeira and conservator Elyakim (Kimi) Maman then stabilized the structure by reinserting small stones between its courses and supporting the large stone plates of its roof with wooden beams.

The next season in Area M will be crucial for revealing the nature and date of the Monument.

**SCHUMACHER FAMILY VISITS MEGIDDO**

As part of the preparations for the Megiddo Centennial in April 2003, expedition curator Joelle Cohen-Finkelstein contacted Martin Stoll and Liese-Lore Spring-Schumacher of Australia, the grandson and granddaughter of Gottlieb Schumacher, the first excavator of Megiddo. Both became involved in preparations for the event but were unable to attend. Instead, they sent their greetings, which were read at the ceremony (see *Revelations from Megiddo* No. 8).

One year after the Centennial, Martin's family decided to take him on a tour of Israel for his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. He was born in a Templar community in Palestine to Elfriede Theodora Elisa-

beth, Gottlieb Schumacher's youngest daughter, and the engineer Ernst-Wilhelm Stoll, one of the founders and General Director of the Neshar cement company near Haifa. The family informed the directors of the Expedition that Martin and Liese-Lore had decided to present to the State of Israel, as a token of friendship, three ancient seals that Schumacher had brought from Palestine and that have since been in the family's possession. Joelle Cohen-Finkelstein contacted the Israel Antiquities Authority and arranged for an official transfer of the seals. And it was decided to celebrate the event in a modest ceremony at Megiddo.

The Stoll family—Martin, his wife Heather, his son and daughter-in-law Timothy and Supit, together with his sister-in-law Lori Stoll and her son Paul (great grandson of Schumacher)—arrived in Israel and on April 22, 2004 visited Megiddo. There they were greeted by officials of the Nature and Parks Authority, the Israel Antiquities Authority

and the Megiddo Expedition Directors Israel Finkelstein and David Ussishkin, Coordinator Norma Franklin, Noga Blockman, and Joelle Cohen-Finkelstein, who organized the event. Also present were architect Danny Goldman of Haifa, a friend of the family, and Mrs. Sarah Carmel, widow of the late Prof. Alex Carmel, a world-renown expert on the history of the Templar communities in Palestine.

In a friendly and emotional atmosphere, the Stolls handed over the three seals to the Expedition and the Israel Antiquities Authority. Martin spoke on behalf of the family, saying: "We have come with great enthusiasm and we have traveled a very long distance ... to have the joy to make your acquaintance and to bring as a token of our friendship a small but very ancient gift, which we ask you to accept ... on behalf of the People of Israel." The Stoll family was then shown around the site and visited the different areas excavated by Schumacher, especially the spot in the southeast, where he began his excavations on April 1, 1903. The seals will be held by the Expedition for presentation in the future in the Megiddo site museum.

The Stoll family toured Israel for two weeks, visiting the villages established by the Templars, including Martin's birth-place. The Stoll family visit, especially the Megiddo event, was filmed by Danny Goldman and then aired as a feature in the Israel Broadcasting Authority's prime-time Channel 1 Friday night news magazine.

The Megiddo Expedition and the Stolls vowed to keep in touch. Hopefully, other members of the family will visit the site and the excavation....



*Above: Martin Stoll with Directors Finkelstein and Ussishkin. Below: Martin Stoll, wife Heather and family members with the directors near the spot where Schumacher began his excavations in 1903.*



אוניברסיטת תל אביב  
ט"ו  
קמרון למכרות

**SIGNING UP**

In April 2003, in conjunction with the celebration of the Megiddo Centennial, a "first aid" program was launched, which included the posting of several directional signs and maps, as well as twelve explanatory signs at main points of interest across the mound. The signs, made of large stone plates supported on two steady square wooden legs, include informative texts in Hebrew and English, old photographs taken in the course of the early excavations at the site, isometric plans and artistic reconstructions. In most cases, biblical verses or excerpts of extra-biblical historical sources are engraved in the lower part of the stone

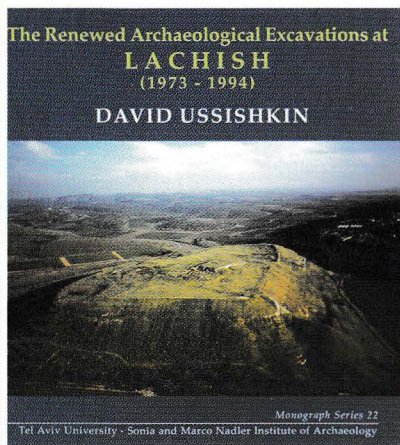
plate. These citations, which directly relate to the building presented, or which shed light on a specific aspect of Megiddo's life embodied in that structure, provide an additional dimension to the informative text and contribute to greater personal involvement by the visitor during his tour of the site. These signs are but a cornerstone in the large-scale



The new signs in Area L explaining Palace 6000 and the Northern Stables.

presentation project that we hope to implement in the coming years.

**MEGIDDO AUTHORS**



**The Renewed Archaeological Excavations at Lachish (1973-1994)**

David Ussishkin  
*Monograph Series of the Institute of Archaeology, Tel Aviv University No. 22, 2004*

This is the final report of the renewed excavations and restoration work carried out at Tel Lachish between 1973 and 1994 by the Institute of Archaeology of Tel Aviv University under the direction of David Ussishkin. The comprehensive report, published in five volumes, was edited and largely written by David Ussishkin, and contains contributions by sixty-two scholars from Israel and abroad. The report covers a wide variety of subjects—stratigraphy, architecture, chronology, inscriptions, pottery and other finds, as well as many in-depth studies on specific topics. Lachish is one of the major

biblical era sites in the Land of Israel. As such, the report will be an essential tool for anyone exploring the history and material culture of the Bronze and Iron Ages in the Levant.

**Inscribed in Clay: Provenance Study of the Amarna Letters and other Ancient Near Eastern Texts**

Yuval Goren, Israel Finkelstein and Nadav Na'aman  
*Monograph Series of the Institute of Archaeology, Tel Aviv University No. 23, 2004*

The book presents a synthesis of the results of a study which approaches the problem of locating the provenance of the Amarna Tablets from a new angle. Through mineralogical and chemical analyses of samples from over 300 tablets housed in museums in Berlin, London, Oxford and Paris, the project aimed at pin-pointing their geographic origin and clarifying the geographic his-

tory of the Ancient Near East. The introduction of this scientific technique helps to clear up the controversy over the location of the Alashiya and Tunip, opens the way to track the territorial expansion of the kingdom of Amurru, enables reconstruction of the territorial disposition of the Canaanite city-states of the Late Bronze Age and sheds light on the Egyptian administration system in Canaan.

**Jerusalem Besieged: From Ancient Canaan to Modern Israel**

Eric H. Cline  
*University of Michigan Press, 2004*

This book tells the story of 4,000 years of struggle for control of Jerusalem. No other city has been more bitterly fought over throughout its history. *Jerusalem Besieged* chronicles these struggles, sets their contexts, and demonstrates their continuing relevance to the social problems of the Middle East today.

