

The Nelson Glueck School of Biblical Archaeology 2002-3

A Report to the President, May 2003

This year was marked by the retirement of Prof. Avraham Biran as director of the NGSBA and appointment of Dr. David Ilan as interim director on January 1, 2003. Dr. Ilan will leave his position at Tel Aviv University and be engaged on a full-time basis starting October 2003. Much of the below represents a continuation of Prof. Biran's legacy.

Publication

The following list indicates that this year has been our most productive ever in terms of publication.

- Our most important publication was that of our second final report in the Tel Dan series, *Dan II: A Chronicle of Excavations and the Late Bronze Age Mycenaean Tomb*, by Avraham Biran and Rahel Ben Dov.
- Looking at Oil Lamps in Antiquity. *Et-Mol* 160. (Malka HersHKovitz)
- A Carved Bone Plaque from Tel Dan. *Qadmoniot* 35. (Malka HersHKovitz).
- Gemstones, *Jewish Quarter Excavations in the Old City of Jerusalem*, Vol. II. (Malka HersHKovitz)
- Lamps Decorated with Human Face from the Excavations at the Jewish Quarter in Jerusalem, *Nouveaut's Lychnologiques/Lychnological News*, (Malka HersHKovitz, forthcoming)
- "Mask-like" Face Reliefs on a Painted Stand from the Sacred Precinct at Tel Dan. *Eretz Israel* 27. (Dalia Pakman)
- Death in Early Bronze Age Canaan. *Near Eastern Archaeology* vol. 66 (David Ilan, in press)
- The Middle Bronze Age. Chapter in the *New Reader of Archaeology in the Ancient Near East*, edited by William Dever and Suzanne Richard. (David Ilan, in press)

Future

- Our major focus is on continuing publication of the Tel Dan and Tel Aroer excavations. We hope to have *Dan III (The Middle and Late Bronze Age Levels)* in press in 2007. *Dan IV (The Early Iron Age Levels – Settlement of Israelite Dan)* will be ready for press in January 2008. *Dan V (The Israelite High Place)* and *Dan VI (The Iron Age II and Late Period Levels)* will go to press by January 2010, if not before.
- *Tel Aroer: An Iron Age Center in the Negev*, by Yifat Thereani, should go to press in 2007.
- A number of articles for scholarly publication on various topics are in preparation. Dalia Pakman reports nearing completion on an article on architectural ornamentation and religio-cultic symbolism in the Iron Age cult place of Tel Dan. Next year's output will double this year's.

Scholarly Discourse

The following papers were delivered by our staff:

- Dr. Ilan served as a respondent in the Symposium for Israeli Rabbinical Students on Bible and Modern Israeli Society held at the Jerusalem campus in March 2003.
- Dr. Ilan: *Egyptians at Megiddo in the First Age of Imperialism, the Early Bronze Age I*. Israel Museum, marking the opening of a new exhibition, “The Chalcolithic Noble from the Judean Desert”, in April 2003.
- Dr Ilan: *Cypriot Sea Peoples at Tel Dan in the Early Iron Age?* 2nd EuroConference SCIEEM 2000, May 28-June 1, Vienna.
- Malka Hershkowitz: *Painted Pottery in Jerusalem at the End of the Second Temple Period*. Twenty-ninth Annual Conference of Archaeology in Israel, Jerusalem.
- Rachel Ben Dov participated in the conference *Egypt and Cyprus in Antiquity*, April, Nicosia, Cyprus.
- Yuval Gadot: *Philistines and Israelites at Tel Aphek in the transition from the Late Bronze Age to the Early Iron Age*. Yom Aharoni Memorial Symposium: Sea Peoples and Philistines: the Current State of Affairs, April, 2003. Tel Aviv University.

Future

- Malka Hershkowitz will be traveling to Geneva in September to lecture on the Significance of Oil Lamps in northeast Israel in the Hellenistic and Roman Periods. She has received a cultural exchange grant from the Foreign Ministry
- Dr. Ilan, Rahel Ben Dov, Yuval Gadot and Yifat Thereani will be delivering a papers at the Thirtieth Annual Conference of Archaeology in Israel in spring 2004. Our staff will be encouraged to be a major and frequent presence at such venues.
- Two academic colloquia are being planned for next year, one concerning the complex relationship between the bible and archaeology (possibly with Yad Ben Zvi) and the other to be called *Tel Dan in Retrospect*.

Fieldwork

No major excavation was carried out last year. Nor will we be in the field this summer. The staff makes periodic visits to the Tel Dan and Aroer to clear up specific problems or to carry out targeted research that will forward upcoming publications. The most significant of these is the Tel Dan paleo-environment project being expedited by geologist Itamar Perath who will be contributing a chapter to *Dan III*.

Future: We are presently designing a research proposal that will include excavation, survey and publication, preferably at Tel Dan or another site in the Hula Valley. This time, however, we wish to emphasize local community (Kiryat Shemona, kibbutzim and moshavim, local Arab townships) and Progressive Movement participation.

Museum

- Dalia Pakman has curated a new exhibit in the Rau building called (for the time being) “Inscriptions Reveal”, displaying and explaining the ancient

inscribed materials mined from the NGSBA excavations of Tels Gezer, Dan and Aroer.

- A new vitrine displaying maceheads of the 4th-3rd millennium BCE and their functional and ideological roles will be in place by summer's end.
- The Museum was visited by: the HUC kindergartens, both the Israeli and the American Rabbinic programs, students from "Pardess" studying the Megillat Ruth, school children coming with the Society for the Preservation of Nature Youth Branch, students from the religious school of guides "Derech Eretz", students from the Hebrew University's department of the History of the People of Israel and from the Rothberg School of Overseas Students.
- Many groups came without advance notice, guided either by their teachers or their tour guides, including: the Pontifical Biblical Institute, Israel College for Biblical Studies, pre- military schools, pupils from the experimental school in Jerusalem, Ha'universita Ha'amamit, Yeshiva students with their Rabbi, students from Bezalel, members of Kibbutz Gezer and individuals from all over Israel - Ein Hod, Hebron, Hatzerim, KiryatMotzkin, Tel Aviv, Meitar - and from the four corners of the world, for instance New York, Atlanta, Texas, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Washington, Canada, France, Holland, Italy, Spain, UK, S.Africa, Korea and Japan.
- Due to lower attendance (a direct outcome of the intifadah) and the need to make budget reductions, we will be cutting back on the museum's opening days starting June 1st. It will now be open only three days a week, Sunday-Tuesday-Thursday. In order to prevent closure, Dr. Ilan has agreed to use the school's research funds to finance the museum, for the upcoming fiscal year.

Future

- Curator Dalia Pakman is preparing a program for audiovisual enhancement for educational purposes and a plan for inaugurating a changing exhibition space.
- Ms. Pakman and Dr. Ilan are in the process of canvassing educational organizations to create outreach programs involving the Skirball Museum. Tentative programing has already been achieved with the Hebrew University's Revivim Honors Program for Bible Instruction and with the University High School in Jerusalem. Further contacts will be made with the Ministry of Education's Extension Program for Teachers, The Jerusalem Municipality's Education Authority, the Kerem College, and other local schools.
- A decent program will be tested

Outreach

- The Fellner Lecture Series (in Hebrew) brought in more people than ever before—despite, or perhaps because of, the public's anxiety about terror attacks. Perhaps a stimulating, image-filled lecture is a form of therapy for some people. The Murstein Synagogue was often full to capacity.
- A magnificent Proto-Aeolian Capital from our excavations at Tel Dan is now exhibited prominently in the archaeological garden of the President of

the State of Israel. A ceremony dedicating this garden was held with many prominent archaeologists present, among which was Prof. Biran.

- In September 2002, the annual Cohodas Lecture was given by Dr. Thomas E. Levy, formerly Assistant Director of the NGSBA and now of the University of California, San Diego, who presented a tableau of his excavations at Khirbet e-Nahas, Jordan. This was followed by a reception attended by the audience, which was, as usual, gratifyingly large.
- Because of the ongoing problems of getting to the Rockefeller Museum in East Jerusalem where the main offices of the Antiquities Authority are situated, the meetings of the Israel Antiquities Authority's Archaeological Council continued to be held in our building.
- A symposium on Restoration and Preservation sponsored by the Israel Antiquities Authority was held in the Gottschalk Auditorium in March 2003.
- Gila Cook served as informant and guide to award winning children's book author, Marion Broida, on a research trip to Tel Dan. Ms. Broida is preparing a new book on the Danites.

Future

- A new website for the NGSBA is under construction. Dr. Ilan is organizing content and Tina Pham in Cincinnati will expedite design. The site should be up and running over the summer. It will include lots of photos of archaeological excavation and the processing of finds, images from our museum, contact information, a list of publications and ordering information and a detailed explanation (for lay people) of what archaeologists do at the NGSBA. It will also include an excursus discussing why archaeology is important to the worldview of Progressive Judaism.
- As noted in connection with the Skirball Museum, projects are being explored with various educational bodies: the Jerusalem municipality educational authority, the Ministry of Education, Kerem, Revivim and others.
- We are in the midst of formulating of new set of goals for the NGSBA which will better integrate the school into the Jerusalem campus and the Progressive Jewish Movement. This list of goals and specific suggestions will be circulated over the summer.
- The NGSBA will be making contact with the Progressive congregations and institutions in Israel to offer lectures and activities. A list of offerings will be distributed. To this end we would be happy to receive assistance in purchasing a portable digital projector to enable us to use Powerpoint presentations in our lectures (the Jerusalem campus is still lacking such a projector).

Departmental organization

- Goals and timetables have been formulated for the department and for each individual worker.
- New researchers have been taken on under a new paradigm: grad students and post-doc researchers with a vested interest in rapid quality publication are hired on limited contracts. It is felt that this is a more effective means

of ensuring quick publication of our extensive scholarly debts. Yifat Thereani (Ph.D candidate Tel Aviv University) is processing the Aroer material. Yuval Gadot (Ph.D 2003 Tel Aviv University) and Svetlana Matsekevich (MA 2003 Hebrew University) are preparing Iron Age II domestic areas. Ross Voss (on loan from the Harvard University Ashkelon Expedition) is working on the stratigraphy and architecture of the Israelite High Place. These are funded by the school's research funds and not by the HUC running budget.

- Svetlana Matskevich is continuing the digitizing and cataloguing of the NGSBA photo and slide collection. In general, she is our digital media consultant.
- A departmental library has been organized to allow us quick access to frequently used research materials

Future

- Dr. Ilan has been teaching a full course load in department of Archaeology at Tel Aviv University and running the NGSBA on a part-time basis. As of June he will be at the school nearly every day. As of October 2003 he will be officially working as acting director on a full-time basis.
- Ms. Hanni Hirsch, our longtime (29 years) administrator will be retiring in October
- Dr. Yorke Rowan, presently at the Smithsonian Institution, will be arriving in September and spending the 2003-2004 academic year on a Biran Fellowship to write a book already in progress (co-authored with Dr. Ilan) to be entitled *Cult, Cache and the Subterranean: Death's Dominion in the Chalcolithic of the Southern Levant*