

The Nelson Glueck School of Biblical Archaeology

**Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion
Jerusalem Campus**

Activities of the 2009/10 Academic Year

Dr. David Ilan, Director

PERSONNEL CHANGES

- Two further workers retired this year; Dalia Pakman curator of the Skirball Museum and Gila Cook, the staff drafts person, responsible for creating our architectural plans and drawings. These positions will not be renewed; more of the work will be carried out on an ad hoc, contractual basis by people with proven track records.
- Our staff now stands at 2 full-time and 2 part-time employees. This is half of our workforce from 5 years ago.
- Current staff members: David Ilan, director; Rahel Ben Dov, researcher; Yifat Thareani, researcher; Levana Tsfania, administrative assistant.

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION

Tel Aroer. A manuscript of the final report is now in layout and should be printed by the end of 2010.

Tel Dan. We hope to have both the third and fourth final reports submitted for publication by year's end. These are:

Dan III, The Late Bronze Age Levels, by Rachel Ben Dov (and other contributors) and *Dan IV, The Iron Age I Levels*, by David Ilan (and other contributors).

Dan V-VII (the Israelite High Place, the Iron Age Gate, the Domestic Quarters and material culture) are currently being worked on as well. Jonathan Greer of Penn State University is writing up the animal bone assemblage and the ritual remains from the Iron Age High Place. Andrew Davis of Johns Hopkins University has submitted a further study on the High Place for publication. And Tommy Beyl of HUC – Cincinnati is writing up a treatment of the Phoenician objects. Once Rachel Ben Dov finishes her *Dan III* manuscript she will move over to the Iron Age II stratigraphy as will Yifat Thareani, once the Aroer manuscript goes to press. All told, the Dan publication series should take approximately 8 years to complete.

The following articles were published this year:

1. D. Ilan. Biblical Archaeology as Social Action – Two Case Studies, Pp. 72-83 in: *Future Directions of Biblical Archaeology* (ed. T.E. Levy). London: Equinox. 2010.
2. J. Uziel, D. Ben-Shlomo, D. Ilan, I. Shai and A.M. Maeir. Middle Bronze Age II Pottery Production in the Western Shephelah: Comparing Methods from Tel Nagila,

- Tell es-Safi/Gath, and Tel Burna. *Leiden Journal of Pottery Studies* 25 (2009): 141-162.
3. Farhi, Y., Gadot, Y., Ilan, D., Pincus, J., Taxel, I., Tsfania, L. and Bachar, S. The Givat Sher-Modi'in Community Based Excavation: Preliminary Report on the 2004-2006 Seasons. *Bulletin of the Anglo-Israel Archaeology Society* 27 (2009): 89-148.
 4. Shai, I., D. Ilan, and R. Kletter. An Aegean Fire-Stand from Tel Nagila. *Palestine Exploration Quarterly* 141,3 (2009): 160-166.
 5. Y. Gadot, D. Ilan, E. Yannai and Y. Tepper. The Middle and Late Bronze Age Burial Caves near Tel 'Ara. *Qadmoniot* 42 (No. 137, 2009): 25-30. (Hebrew).
 6. Y. Thareani. In the Service of the Empire: Local Elites and "Pax-Assyriaca" in the Negev. *Eretz-Israel* 29 (2009): 184-191. (Hebrew).

The following articles were submitted this year:

7. D. Ilan and Y. Gadot. Undermining the Edifice of Ethnocentric Historical Narrative in Israel with Community-Based Archaeology, in *Filtering the Past, Building the Future: Archaeology, Tradition and Politics in the Middle East*. (eds. B. J. Parker, L. Swartz Dodd and R. Boytner). University of Arizona Press.
8. Y. Rowan and D. Ilan. The Subterranean Landscape of the Southern Levant During the Chalcolithic Period, in: *Journeys into the Dark Zone: A Cross Cultural Perspective on Caves as Sacred Spaces* (ed. H. Moyes). Boulder, Colorado: University of Colorado Press.
9. D. Ilan. Household Gleanings from Iron Age I Tel Dan, in: *Household Archaeology in the Bronze and Iron Age Levant*. (eds. A. Yasur-Landau, J. Ebeling and L. Mazow).
10. D. Ilan. Early Bronze Age I Tomb 910 at Megiddo: a Reexamination, in: *Eretz Israel* 30 (Ben Tor volume), (ed. S. Zuckerman). Jerusalem: Israel Exploration Society.
11. Y. Rowan and D. Ilan. Poor Man, Rich Man, Shaman, Priest? Religious Practitioners During the Chalcolithic in the Southern Levant, in: *Beyond Belief: the Archaeology of Religion and Ritual* (Archeological Papers of the American Anthropological Association). (ed. Y. Rowan). Arlington, Virginia.
12. D. Ilan and E. Marcus. Middle Bronze Age IIA, in: *The Ancient Pottery of Israel and its Neighbors* (ed. S. Gitin). Israel Exploration Society and the Israel Antiquities Authority.
13. D. Ilan, Chapter 6: The Early Bronze Age Tombs of Megiddo - a Reappraisal, in: *The University of Chicago Excavations on the Eastern Slope of Megiddo* (E. Braun). University of Chicago, Oriental Institute Publications.
14. E. Mazar and D. Ilan. A Middle Bronze Age Tomb at Atlit. *Atiqot*.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION AND LECTURING

- David Ilan delivered two papers this year, one at the European Archaeological Society meetings at La Garda, Italy and one at the International Conference of Archaeology in the Ancient Near East in London.

- Yifat Thareani delivered four papers this year, at The Society of Biblical Literature in Lisbon; the Conference on the Ancient Incense Road in Paris; The Aharoni Memorial Symposium in Tel Aviv and one at the International Conference of Archaeology in the Ancient Near East in London.

FIELDWORK

We have significantly reduced our fieldwork in order to focus on final publication of our large research projects.

- **Modiin Community Archaeology Project.** This project, begun in 2004, is on furlough until spring 2011.
- **Tel Dan.** This project is also on furlough. There will be no excavation until 2012.
- **Lod Community Archaeology Project.** (see below in Outreach)
- **Contract Archaeology.** We provide academic oversight for Y.G. Archaeology Ltd., an archaeological contractor. Excavations this year included: Tel Arad, Yehud and Givat Eden. Our overhead charges for these small projects nets us a total of approximately \$15,000 per year.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

- David Ilan teaches a required course in the Year In Israel program: An Introduction to Biblical History. Yifat Thareani teaches at the Open University and at Ben Gurion University (where she won an award for excellence in teaching this past year).
- **Fellner Lecture Series.** In this monthly Hebrew language series local scholars present new research and discoveries. In the past year we averaged 70-90 attendees.
- **Lod Community Archaeology Project.** This work is carried out with separate funding in conjunction with the Karev Educational Project. At this point we are only providing administrative support. Last year's community archaeology project at Khan el Hilu, an Ottoman caravanserai has been expanded to include more schools and more neighborhood factions. The Morningstar Foundation is increasing its financial support.
- **Skirball Museum.** The museum is no longer open to walk-in visitors—visitors must make an appointment and, with few exceptions, only groups are accepted.
- **HUC Graduate School Summer Program in Biblical Archaeology.** Organized by the NGSBA and Dr. Nili Fox and Dr. Jason Kalman of HUC Cincinnati, the 2010 summer session was our sixth. After the initial 3 week Jerusalem study session, the 5 grad students went to excavate at Tel Gat with Bar Ilan University.
- **NGSBA website.** Our new website is up and running, in both Hebrew and English (www.ngsba.org). This was a big job. We are still filling in the gaps and updating, but there is a lot of content.

GOALS FOR THE FUTURE

- Our major goal for the future is to complete publication commitments.

- Once we have published three more volumes (*Aroer, Dan III* and *Dan IV*) we will begin organizing another season at Tel Dan to seek answers to several questions pertaining to the Iron Age publications.
- Future projects would preferably involve cooperation with sister institutions with graduate students and financial backing.
- We envision adding new material to our website, especially in the realm of video and interactive learning for students and laypeople.