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*Khan el-Hillu, Lod, 2008**

The second season of excavations at Lod lasted four weeks, from 11 May to 6 June,

2008. The excavation, on behalf of the Nelson Glueck School of Archaeology of the Hebrew Union College and the Karev Foundation, was directed by Y. Gadot and

* For the results of the first season, see *Hadashot Arkheologiyot* 120, http://www.hadashot-esi.org.il/report_detail_eng.asp?id=874&mag_id=114.

T. De'adle, with the assistance of R. Lavi and K. Ras (area supervision), S. Pavel (photography), and D. Porotzki and S. Pirski (surveying). Participating in the excavation were pupils from several schools at Lod — Neve Yarak Junior High School and the Neve-Shalom, Zevulun Hammer, Sapir and Maimon primary schools.

The excavation was undertaken within the framework of a public archaeological project, intended to explore and uncover the city's past, while serving as an incentive for bringing together Lod's multi-cultural community. The conservation and rehabilitation project is directed by the 'Israel Institute for Archaeology' company, on behalf of Tel Aviv University, headed by A. Shavit, with financing provided by the Ministry of Tourism and the Government Tourism Corporation, and with assistance rendered by the various departments of the Lod Municipality and the Economic Corporation for the Development of Lod.

The Excavations (fig. 1)

The khan building includes three wings surrounding an inner court from the south, east and north. The western wing, which appears in aerial photography of the khan from 1936, was demolished during the 1950s.

Excavations were carried out in two areas: area C, the inner court, where we hoped to find architectural remains of earlier structures, buried below the court, and area D, inside the northern hall, where we hoped to gain information that would help us date the initial construction of the khan.

Area C: The Inner Courtyard

In 2007, we found that the court was covered with up to 2 m. of modern refuse. The season was followed by an extensive operation to clear the trash and expose the original floor level, using heavy machinery. We uncovered small segments of the closing western wall.

Our goal in the 2008 season was to ex-

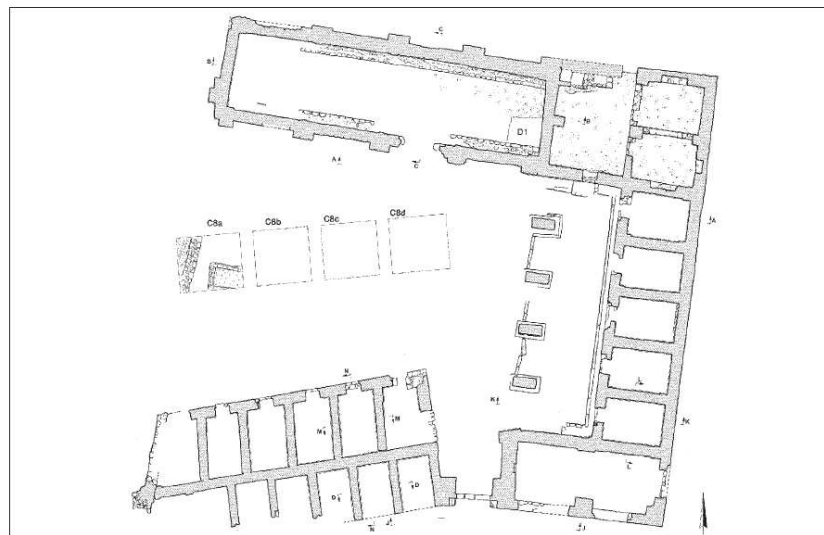


Fig. 1. Khan: plan

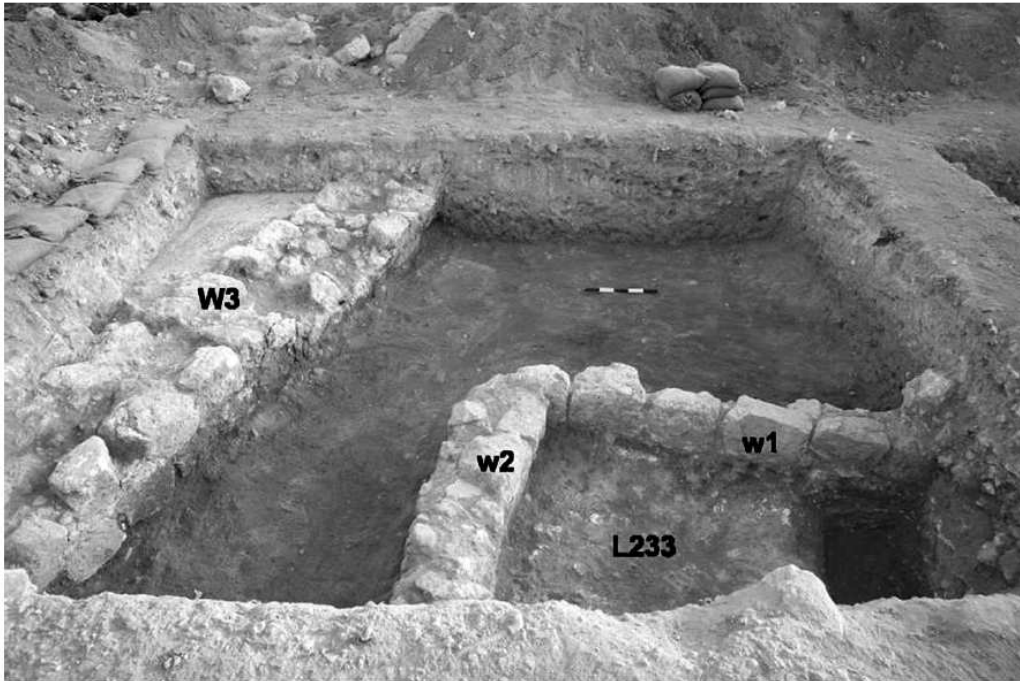


Fig. 2. Area C: the westernmost square (C8a) at the close of the excavations

amine if there were any earlier courtyard surfaces or occupation levels below these surfaces. We also wanted to recover larger segments of the western wing and investigate its relation to the wings of the khan.

A line of four excavation squares was marked out along an east–west axis at the centre of the courtyard.

The floor of the courtyard, found in all four squares, is made of packed earth, refuting our earlier assumption that the court was paved. Unfortunately, we uncovered no finds on the floor dating from the time of its use. We found only one floor dating from the nineteenth–twentieth centuries for the courtyard, in contrast to the sequence of floors found inside the northern hall, dating from the seventeenth–twentieth centuries.

A large segment of the western enclosing wall was revealed (fig. 2). An inspection of the physical connection of the enclosing wall to the southern wing (fig. 3)

revealed that the construction of the wall was earlier. Architectural features found to the west of the wall are of structures located outside or as part of the western wing of the khan.

Two earlier layers were found below the court surface. The first is a stone-built installation sunk into the ground (fig. 2). It is difficult to determine its purpose. We plan to examine the relationship between the installation and the built wings of the khan.

Below the installations we found a thick layer of earth debris mixed with pottery and animal bones. From the colour of the earth, it looks as if it was fired. Two complete jugs were found resting in the debris. In the coming season, we plan to investigate whether there is a destruction layer below the courtyard.

The Northern Hall (Area D)

The northern hall is large (7.5×24.0 m.),



Fig. 3. The western enclosing wall and the walls of the southern wing built against it

roofed with cross-vaults and reinforced by supporting pilasters on the outside. Two stone benches were found along the northern and southern walls of the hall (fig. 4). One entrance was in the middle of the southern wall, connecting the hall with the inner court. A second entrance might have existed in the northern wall, parallel to the southern entrance, but this is impossible to verify because the wall was breached at this point. A shaft-like window is located in the eastern wall. This uniquely-shaped window must have served for other purposes — perhaps as part of a manufacturing installation for some as yet unknown product — besides the need for light and fresh air.

In 2007, we conducted a small trial dig next to the southern opening. We then exposed the door's threshold and foundation. Dateable material, mainly pottery sherds found in the earth fill next to the entrance, suggested that the hall had been

built during the eighteenth century — a surprising result, as our assumption was that this wing was Mamluk.

This season, in order to test these results, we decided to open another trial pit (2.0×2.5 m.), in the south-eastern corner of the hall, just below the shaft-shaped window. The finds brought to light by the trial dig are instructive for an understanding of the hall's use over the past three centuries.

A sequence of five living surfaces was found, one on top of the other (fig. 5). All the floors abutted the southern wall of the hall — clear proof that they are contemporary with the wall. The floors are made of hard packed earth. Most bore only broken pieces of pottery and many animal bones. The large number of floors found one on top of the other testifies to the hall's long period of use, in the course of which floors were repaired and raised.

On the earliest floor we also found ash



Fig. 4. The northern hall before excavations (view to the east)



Fig. 5. The excavated square inside the northern hall, at the end of the excavation season

and other signs of fire and heat. This suggests a local destruction, but larger exposure is necessary to reach definite conclusions.

An examination of the material from the floors reveals that it all dates from the seventeenth–nineteenth centuries CE. The results verify our 2007 conclusions: that the northern hall of the khan was built in the eighteenth century CE at the earliest.

It is noteworthy that the stone bench built against the southern wall of the hall covered the earlier floors, with only the last floor abutting it. Clearly, this bench was added at a very late stage during the twentieth century.

YUVAL GADOT AND TAUFİK DEĞADLE

OBITUARIES

ELISHA LINDER, the founder of the research and education in marine archaeology in Israel, passed away peacefully in his kibbutz, Maʿagan Mikhael, on June 7, 2009, at the age of 85.

Even during his graduate studies, Elisha Linder developed a profound interest in maritime archaeology, which led him to establish, in 1961, the Undersea Exploration Society of Israel. With that society, he initiated archaeological surveys of ancient maritime sites in Israel, such as Achziv, Akko, Athlit, Dor, Caesarea, Jaffa and Ashkelon along the Mediterranean coast, as well as Gezirath Faraʿun and several other shipwreck sites in the Red Sea and in the Sea of Galilee. He was the founder and editor of the *Journal of the Underwater Exploration Society*.

In 1971, after receiving his Ph.D. from Brandeis University in 1970, he joined the academic staff of the University of Haifa, founded the Department of the History of

Maritime Civilizations, and concurrently — with generous donations and the active support of Jacob Recanati — he founded the Leon Recanati Center for Maritime Studies.

Early in his academic activity, Elisha Linder realised that the research and investigations of evidence for maritime material culture should be multidisciplinary, and that experts in maritime archaeology and maritime history should cooperate closely with marine geologists, marine biologists and physical oceanographers to retrieve reliable information from the sea floor. Consequently, he developed the academic curriculum of maritime civilizations to be multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary and he recruited for the Department of Maritime Civilizations not only archaeologists and historians, but also biologists and geologists. These scholars cooperated closely in their teaching, in their tuition of graduate students, and in their active research. Furthermore, Elisha Linder insisted that all theses written in the department should be multidisciplinary, requiring at least two advisors in complementary fields of expertise. In this composite approach, he preceded his generation in his vision of the development of these fields of science.

Elisha Linder was deeply interested in the Phoenician, Hellenistic and contemporary shipping enterprises, and led in-depth investigations of two outstanding finds in this field. The first was the 1980 discovery of a battering ram off Athlit, attributed to a Hellenistic galley that has not yet been discovered. Large rams were known from ancient paintings to be mounted on the bows of the warships of the ancient Mediterranean, but the weight of the Athlit ram — 465 kg. — and the high quality of the bronze from which it was cast exceeded all expectations. The ram is exhibited at the National Maritime