

THE CONSORTIUM FOR THE BETHSAIDA EXCAVATIONS
PROJECT
LICENSE G-61/2013
REPORT ON THE 2013 EXCAVATION SEASON



Figure 1, Bethsaida looking south, photographed by David Silverman

Rami Arav, Kate Raphael, Carl Savage, Nicolae Roddy, Toni
Fisher, Gregory C. Jenks

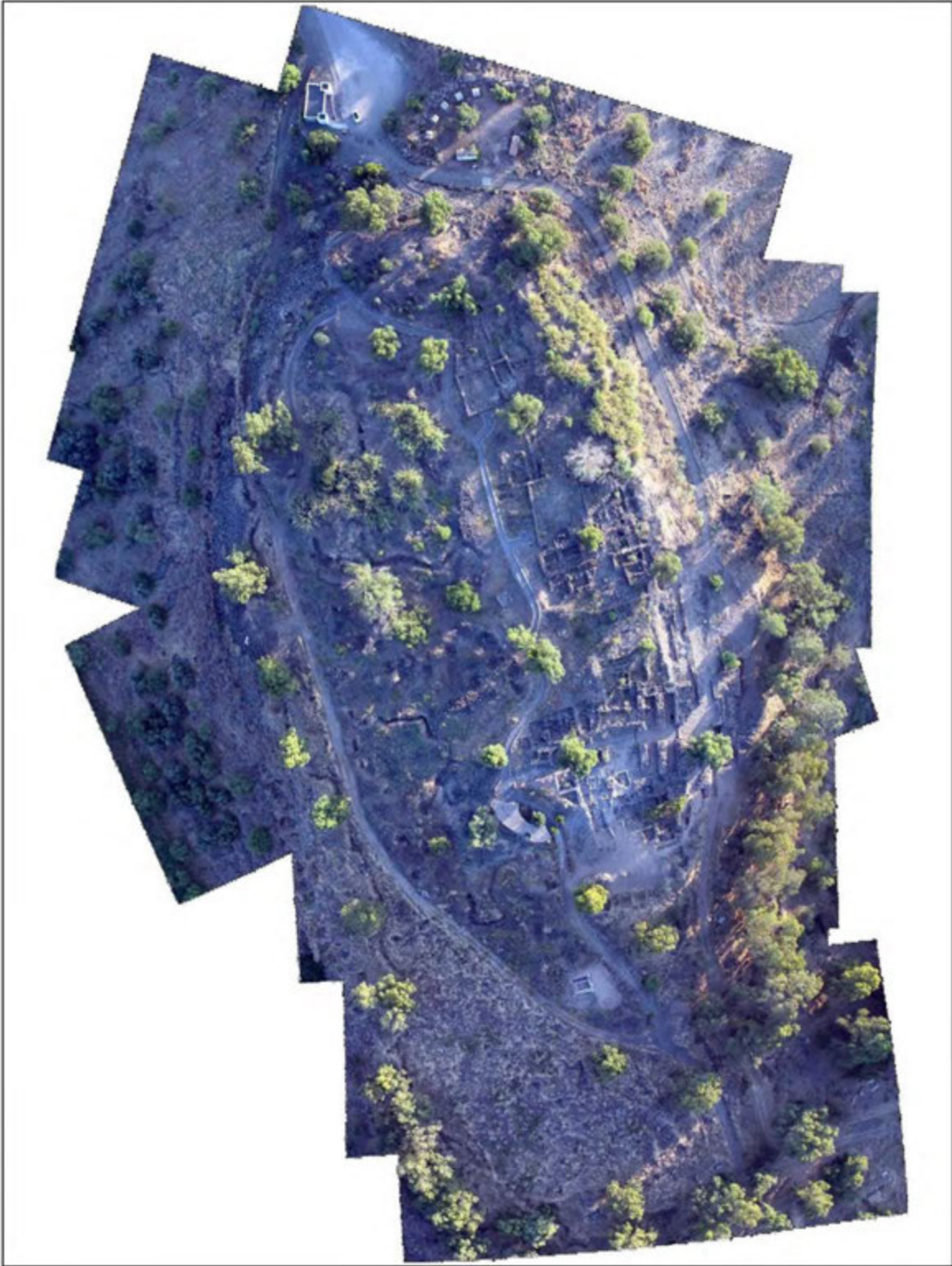


Figure 2, Bethsaida at the end of 2013 season, photographed by David Silverman, assembled by Martin Goettl



Figure 3, Bronze coin, Trajan, minted in Tiberias 108-109 CE, the legend *Tiberias* is on left, an anchor in center of the field.

The Expedition

The 2013 excavation season at Bethsaida took place between May 21 and June 28. About 120 faculty, students and volunteers participated in the excavation. The expedition was housed for the first two weeks at Kibbutz Hukok and four weeks at Kibbutz Ginosar. We are very grateful for the extraordinary hospitality that we have had in the two places.

The following faculty, students and volunteers took part in the 2013 excavation project:

Faculty (in alphabetical order)

Dr. Mark Appold, co-director, Truman State University

Dr. Rami Arav, Director of the Excavation, University of Nebraska at Omaha, Senior Fellow,
Zinnman Institute of Archaeology

Dr. Toni Fisher, Area T Supervisor, Zooarchaeologist

Dr. Richard Freund, Project Director, University of Hartford

Dr. Aaron Gale, co-director, West Virginia University

Dr. Jerome Hall, co-director, University of San Diego

Prof. Israel Hershkovitz, Physical Anthropology, Tel Aviv University

Dr. Gregory C. Jenks, co-director, Area T Supervisor, St. Francis Theological College, Brisbane
Australia

Dr. Harry Jol, Geophysics, University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire

Dr. Stefi Keim, co-director, University of Munich Germany

Prof. Dr. Heinz-Wolfgang Kuhn, co-director, University of Munich Germany

Dr. Kate Raphael, Independent Scholar, Excavations Director, Area A South Supervisor

Dr. Nicolae Roddy, co-director, Creighton University

Dr. Patrick Russell, co-director, Sacred Heart School of Theology

Dr. Carl Savage, Excavations director, Area A West Supervisor, Drew University

Dr. Janet Sypkens, Floatation sampling, University of Queensland, Australia

Dr. Miriam Bellmaker, zooarchaeology, University of Tulsa,

Staff

Dr. Donald T. Ariel, numismatist, Israel Antiquities Authority

Orna Cohen, Conservation

Maha Darawsha University of Connecticut

Ian Darnell, Land surveying and section drawing

Dr. Gloria Epps, Area Supervisor Assistant, University of Nebraska at Omaha

Christina Etzrodt, University of Nebraska at Omaha, Cartography

Charleen Green, Pottery Restoration

DreAnna Hadash, artist

Hanan Shafir, Photography

Bernard Trams, Pottery Restoration

Students from the following Institutions

Creighton University

Huntington University,

Sacred Heart School of Theology

St. Francis Theological College, Brisbane Australia

Truman State University

University of Hartford

University of Lodz Poland

University of Nebraska at Omaha

University of San Diego

West Virginia University

Consortium Members Class of 2013

College of Idaho

Drew University

Huntington University

LMU Munich

Sacred Heart School of Theology

St. Francis Theological College

University of Hartford

University of Nebraska at Omaha

University of San Diego

Wartburg College

Truman State University

The following Volunteers are acknowledged for digging at Bethsaida for five times and more.

Andrea Bakas

Meron (Mark) Barbarash

Karin Nobbs and Philippe Bestion de Camboulas

Aurelia Roddy

Kelen and Emmit Wilson

The Excavation

The excavations in 2013 were carried out in four different areas:

1. Area A South: This area is south of the Stratum V city gate.
2. Area A West: This area is located west of the Stratum V city gate.
3. Area C: This is at the northern end of the mound.
4. Area T: This area is located at the southern slopes of the mound.

A total of 48 loci were excavated in 2013. Thirty in area A South, thirteen in Area A West, five in Area T and five in Area C.

All photos except for those indicated were taken by Hanan Shafir.

All elevation numbers are negative number. Bethsaida is located below Sea Level.

Area A South

Stratum VI (c. 950 -850 BCE)

Following the discoveries of 2012 among which was a Stratum V pavement that extended between the outer and the inner city walls, an attempt was made to follow the outer city wall from a segment had previously been discovered. This wall measures 2.70 m wide and like other excavated segments of the outer city walls, it contains large stones on both faces of the wall and small to medium stones in the inner core. In coming seasons we will attempt to discover more of this outer wall (fig. 1).

In a section where the Stratum V pavement was missing, a probe was made in order to discover the remains of Stratum VI in this area. At a depth of about 1.5 m the floor of Stratum VI was hit upon. This floor slopes moderately toward the east. The highest elevation measured so far is - 172.61 m. compared to the elevation measured about a meter to the east which was only - 172.65 m.

It seems that this Stratum VI pavement is a part of the gate's courtyard. During the next excavation season we will create more probes in the vicinity of the outer city gate to see whether the pavement turns west and connects to the inner city gate of Stratum VI.



Bethsaida Area A South - 2013

Figure 4, Area A South, notice Locus 1189 the pavement of Stratum VI.



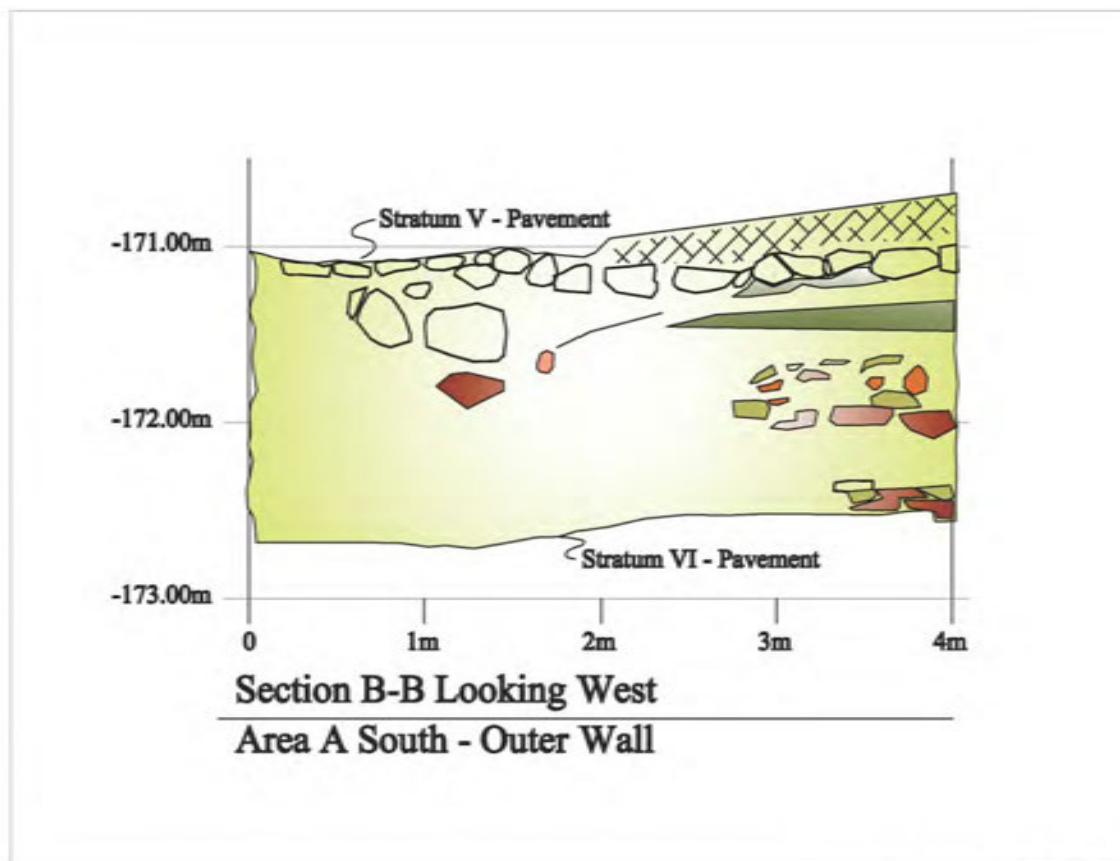
Figure 5, With the outer city wall in the foreground, the probe in the segment of the pavement from Stratum VI can be seen. Behind it are the segments of the pavement of Stratum V and then fragments of the inner city wall.



Figure 6, Locus 1189 is a pavement from Stratum VI. Above it the destruction of Stratum VI can be discerned. Notice the layers of broken bricks. The outer city wall is in the foreground.



Figure 7, A section above locus 1189 shows a massive destruction which include many broken bricks. About 70 cm above the pavement a layer of infrastructure is discernible. This suggests that perhaps an attempt to restore the stratum was made. Similar layers were discovered under the pavement in the Stratum V courtyard.

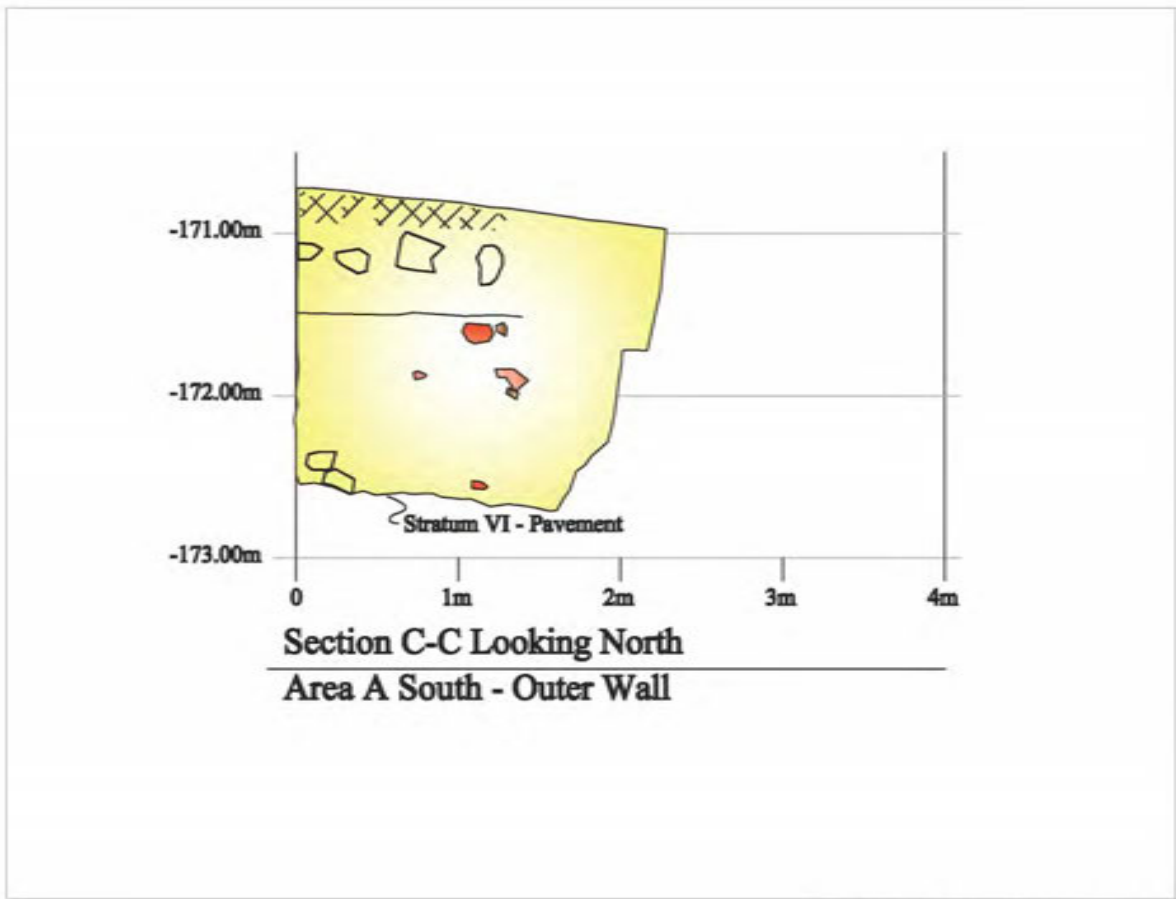


Bethsaida Section B-B 2013

Figure 8, Section B-B looking west. Notice the broken bricks.



Figure 9, Section C-C looking north. Notice the broken bricks and the possible reconstruction layer about 1.2 m above the pavement of Locus 2289.



Bethsaida Section C-C 2013

Figure 10, Section C-C, notice the layer in the section roughly an elevation of -171.50

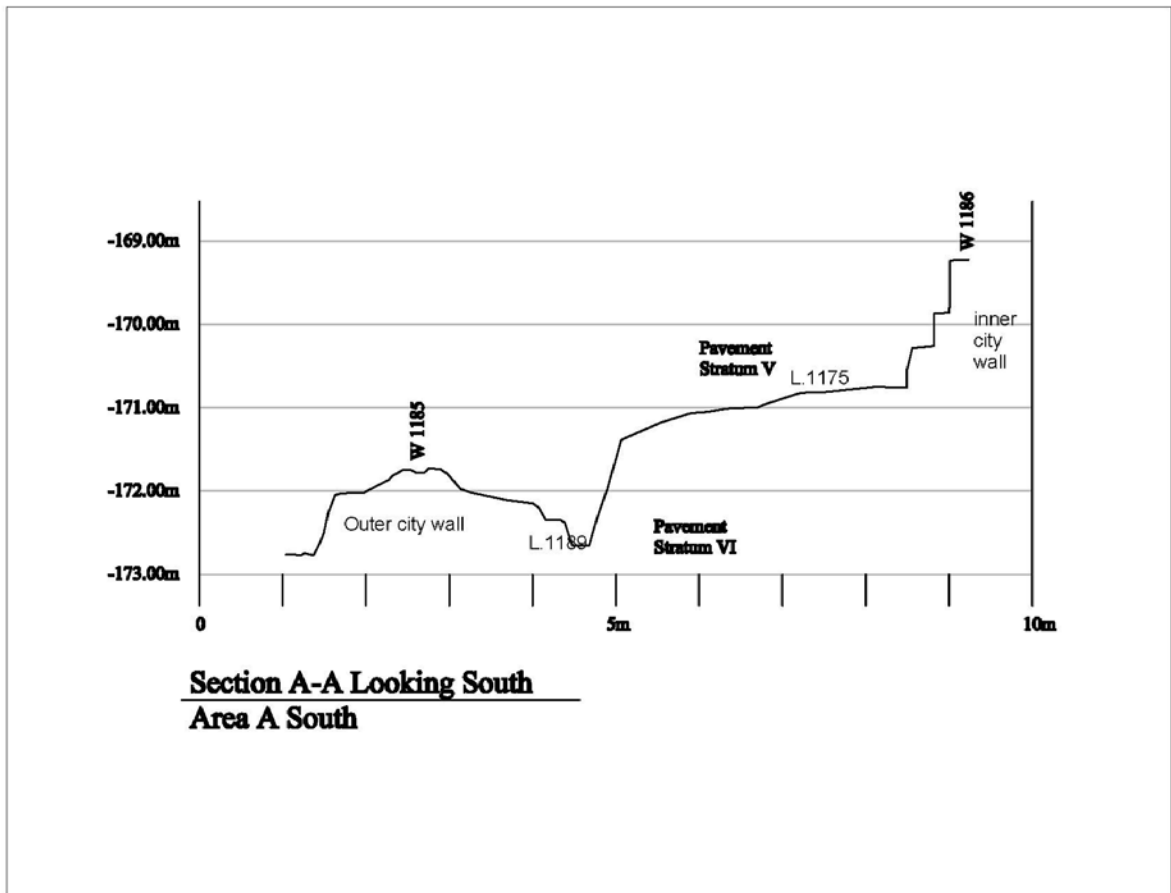


Figure 11, Stratum VI pavement, locus 1189. W1185 is the outer city wall, 2.7 m wide. Locus 1173 at left is the pavement of Stratum V.

Locus 1189 is a small area above the pavement of Stratum VI. It contains destruction debris from this stratum with some intrusion from later strata and periods. Only a very few shards of pottery were collected from this area.



Figure 12, Pottery from locus 1189 which is on top of Stratum VI pavement. Notice, the red slip and burnished shard, a ring base bowl, the decorated jug rim and two flints.



Bethsaida Section A-A 2013

Figure 13, A section through the outer and inner city walls. Notice L. 1189, the Stratum VI pavement, and L. 1175, the Stratum V pavement.

Inside the city wall of Stratum V

Loci 1178, 1186, 1190, 1191

The architecture of Stratum VI in this area is not completely clear. It seems that the area contains part of the Stratum VI city gate but a few more seasons may be needed to fully verify this and determine its nature.

Locus 1178 is located above locus 1186 and is confined by east-west running W1171 on its northern side. This wall shares a corner with W 7000 which runs north-south. Part of W 7000 extends under the city wall of Stratum V which was renovated during the early Roman period.



The finds from this locus contained Iron Age IIA shards along with Cypro-Phoenician shards.



Figure 14, Shards from locus 1178, notice the Cypro-Phoenician red slip and burnished shards.

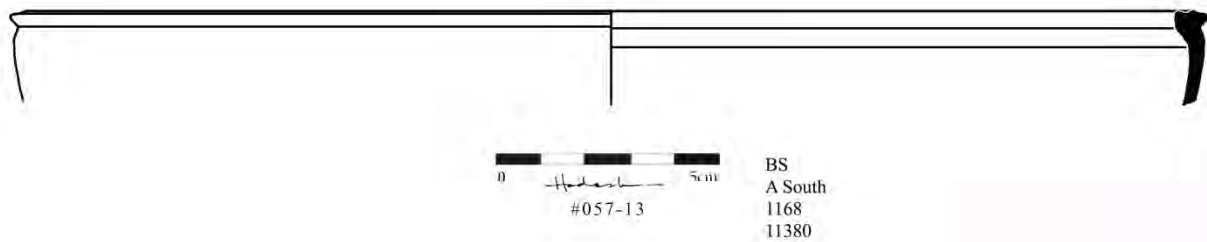
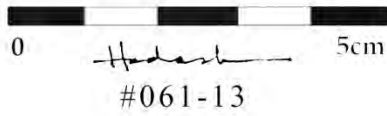
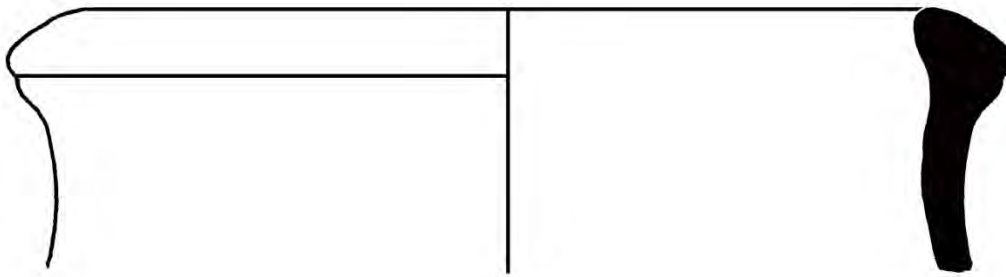
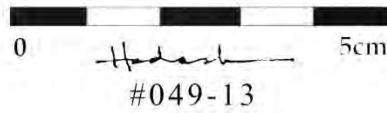
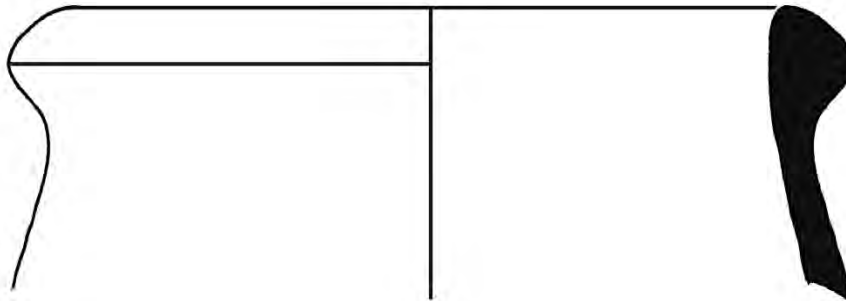


Figure 15, Bowl.



BS
A South
1178
11381

Figure 16, Iron Age IIA jar



BS
A South
1178
11381

Figure 17, Iron Age IIA jar



Figure 18, Locus 1178 shards of pottery. Notice the Cypro-Phoenician red slip and burnished shards.



Figure 19, Cypro-Phoenician red slip and burnished jug.

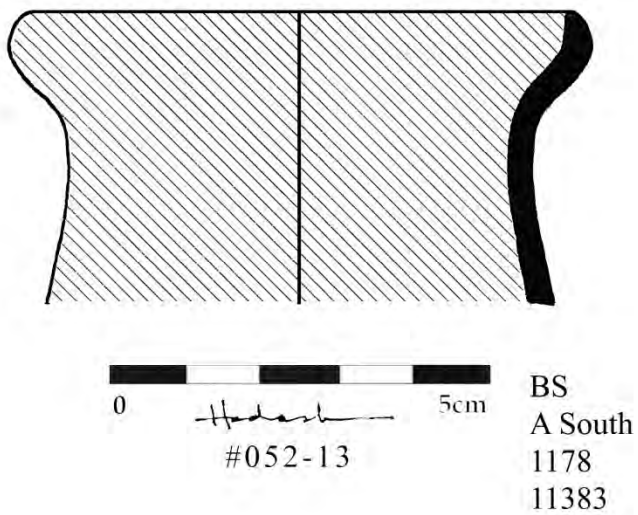


Figure 20, Locus 1178, Cypro-Phoenician red slip and burnished jug.

Locus 1186 contains crushed mud bricks, and bits of ash and charcoal. Its borders are wall 1183 and an equally large wall that partially lies in line with the Stratum V city wall that was renovated in the Roman period which we dubbed "Philip's wall". The bottom of the locus consists of a floor of crude stones. At the northern end of the locus, where the crude cobbles were missing, a probe was conducted and designated as Locus 1190.

Locus 1190 is sounding south of W 1171, in the south it borders with the remains of a floor from Stratum VI. This floor which is constructed from crude stones and dirt is about 1.5 m above and 12 m west of the floor found in the probe in Locus 1189. Perhaps the locus 1189 pavement might extend and gradually rise in the elevation to meet with this floor in locus 1190.

Pottery collected from the undisturbed Locus 1190 includes red slip and burnished vessels, bowls with red slip on the inner rim of the bowls. One outstanding discovery was a small conical blue and white hard stone that perhaps served as a seal. It was, however, found to be without any engraving.



Bethsaida Area A South - 2013



Figure 21, The city wall is in the foreground. W 1171 is a Stratum VI wall.



Figure 22, Locus 1186 reveals a crude cobbles floor. In the north of Locus 1190 are the remains of a pavement, just south of W 1171. Wall W7000 connects to it while running over the remains of an older wall.



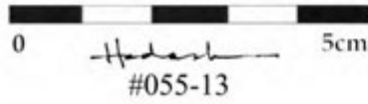
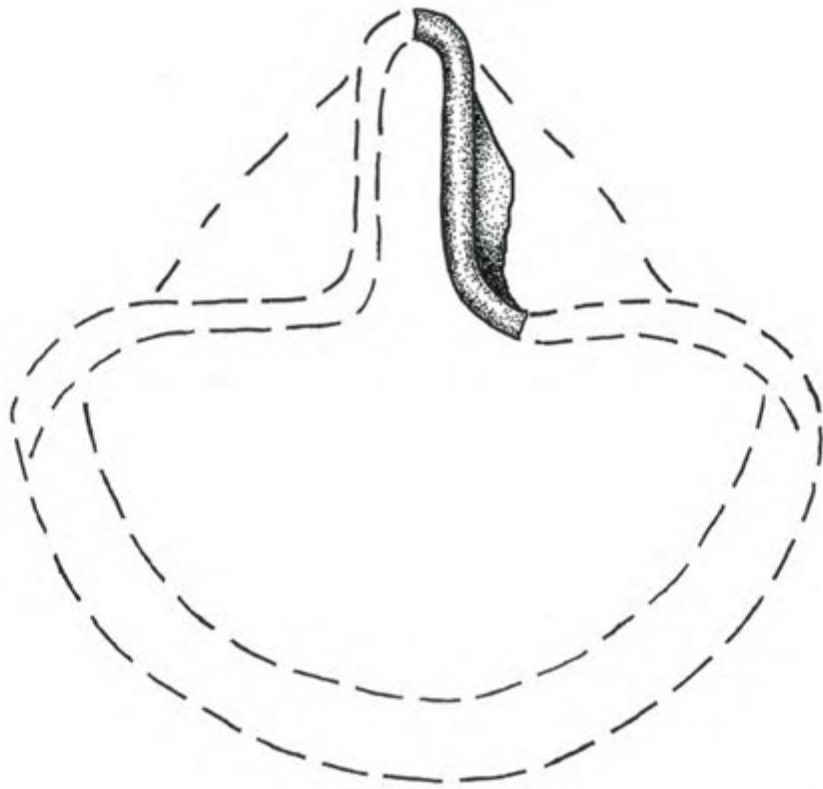
Figure 23, Locus 1186. Pottery shards from Stratum VI.



Figure 24, A shard of a large jar, decorated with shallow incisions.

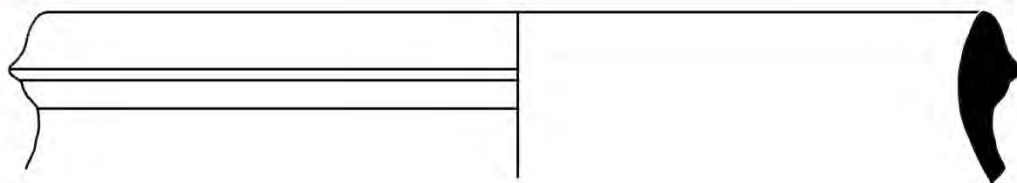


Figure 25, Shards of pottery from Stratum VI, locus 1186. Notice the red slip and burnished fragments of a Cypro-Phoenician vessel.



BS
A South
1186
11390

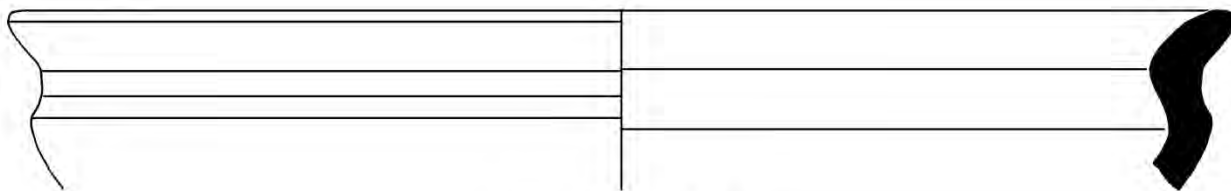
Figure 26, Iron Age IIA oil lamp, locus 1186.



#059-13

BS
A South
1186
11390

Figure 27, Iron Age IIA cooking pot, Locus 1186.



#054-13

BS
A South
1180
11402

Figure 28, Iron Age IIA deep bowl.



Figure 29, Finds from locus 1191, notice the slip over rim of bowl fragments, the links of an iron chain and the conical shaped hard stone.

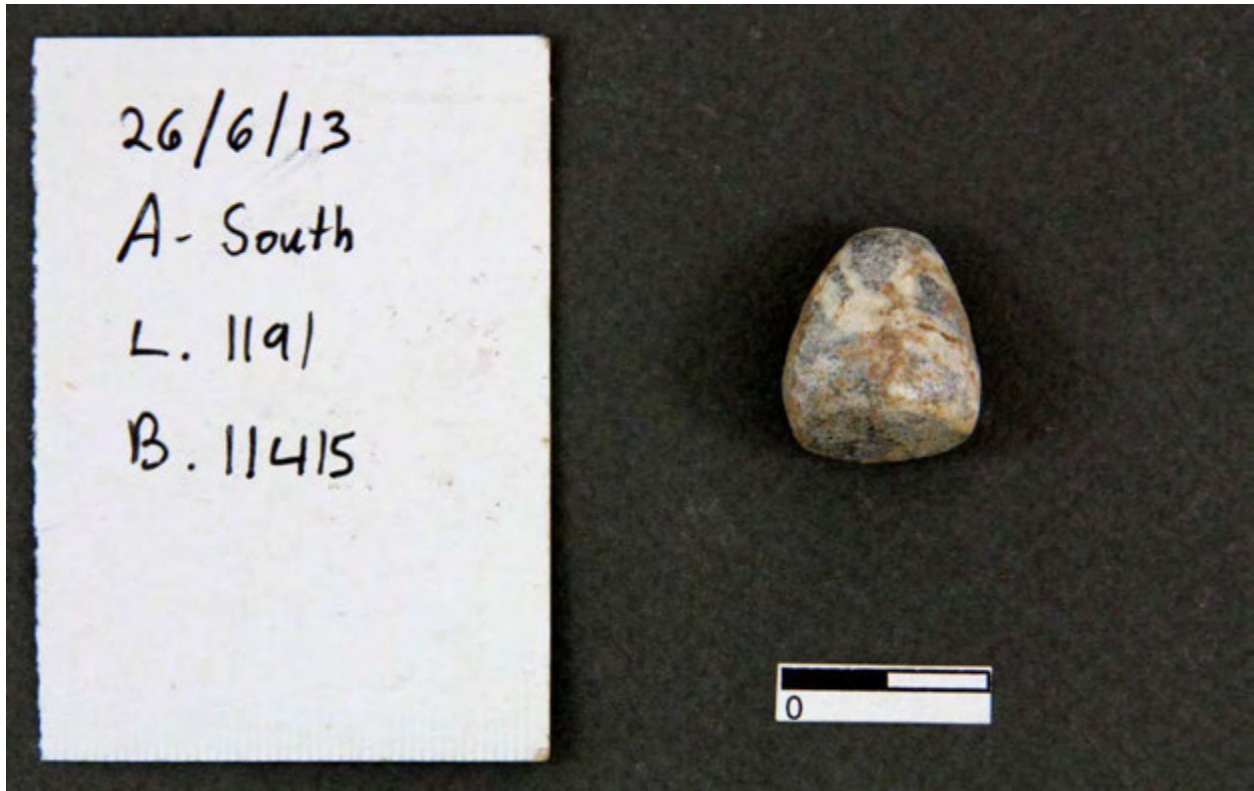
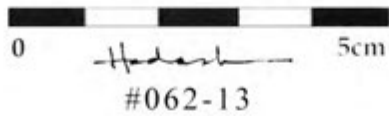


Figure 30, conical blue and white hard stone.



BS
 A South
 1191
 11415

Figure 31, Conical blue and white hard stone

Locus 1187 is located atop of the outer city wall (W1185). It was begun with the purpose of learning how the core was built. The finds are an assortment of shards of pottery from all periods that accumulated on top of the wall. However, the majority of shards were Iron Age IIA pottery.



Figure 32, Iron Age IIA pottery shards. The three shards at the bottom are from cooking pots.

Stratum V

Many interesting discoveries were made in the Stratum V excavations as more segments of the pavement located outside of the inner city wall and adjacent to the offset excavated last year were unearthed. The pavement revealed this season extends 6 X 3 m and adds to the large segment of pavement discovered in previous years. Despite the fact that this pavement is easily distinguished, the entire area was damaged by modern Syrian digging and disturbance. The pavement slopes to the east. Near the city wall it is at -170.84 m but two and a half meters to the east it slopes down to -171.8 m.



Bethsaida Area A South - 2013

Figure 33, Loci 1172, 1173 are a pavement segment outside the inner city wall.

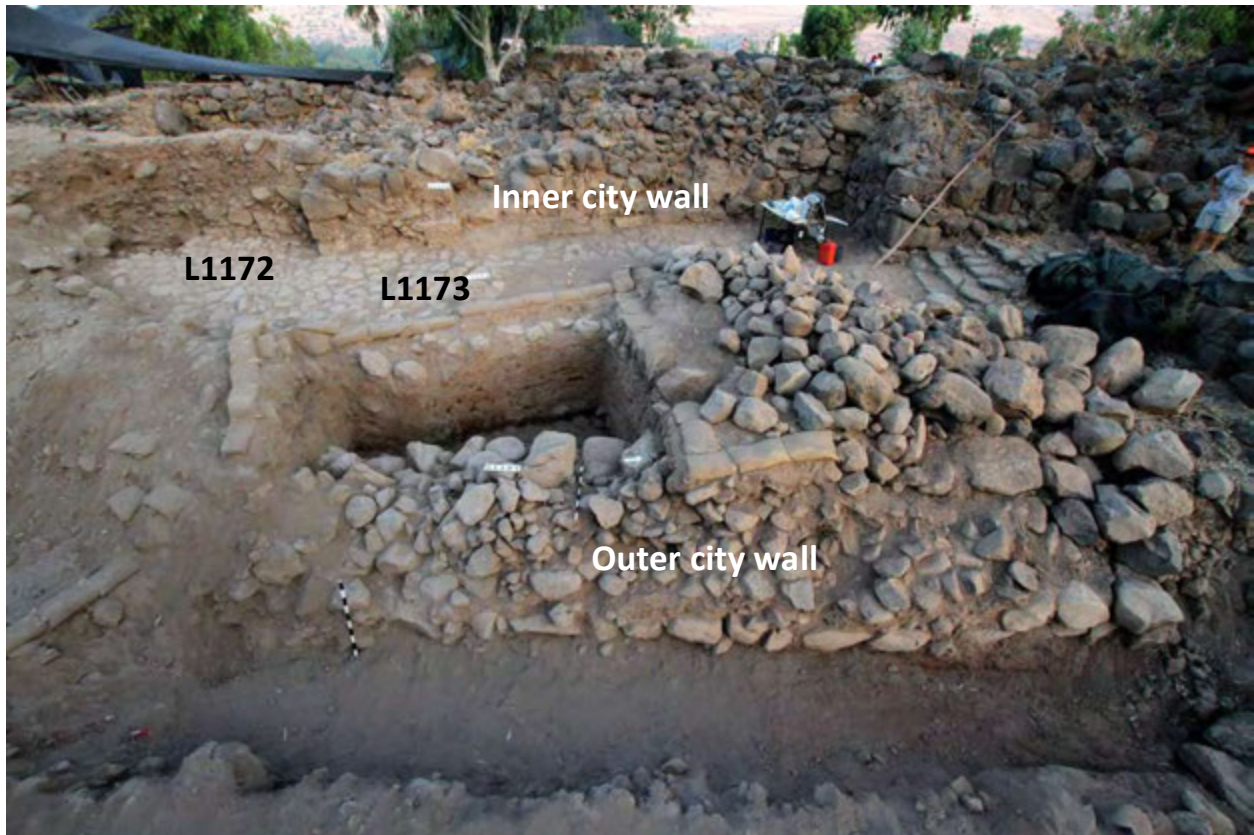


Figure 34, Loci 1172, 1173, east of the inner city wall.



Figure 35, pavement outside the inner city wall, locus 1173.



Although Locus 1173 is located on the pavement of Stratum V, the finds were an assortment of pottery from the Iron Age to the Roman period which were either washed to this place from higher elevations or were dumped outside the Roman city wall that runs on top of the Iron Age city wall.



Figure 36, Pottery from locus 1173. It is an assortment of pottery from the Iron Age to the Roman period. In the first row on the left is a North African Roman ware shard. To the right on the second row is a broken brick. In the second and third rows are Galilean bowls.

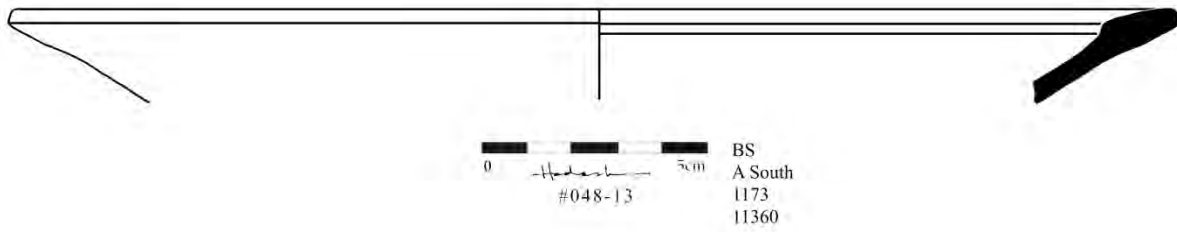


Figure 37, Galilean bowl

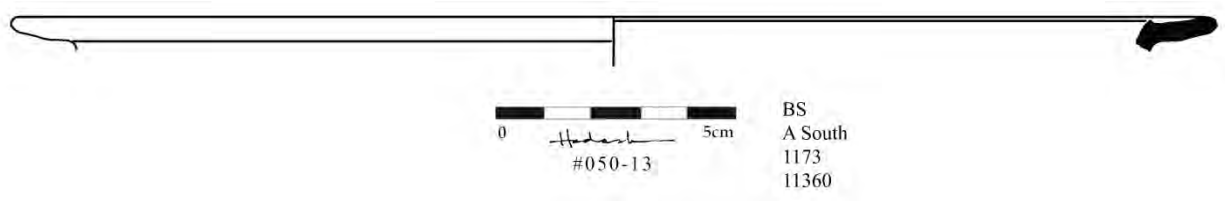


Figure 38, Casserole with everted rim, early Roman period.



Figure 39, Pottery from Locus 1173. First row Galilean bowls, third row, second and third from left are two shards of everted rim casseroles.

The outer face of the outer city wall was discovered and consisted of medium size stones.



Figure 40, Locus 1174 is the outer face of the city wall (W1175).

Stratum II & I

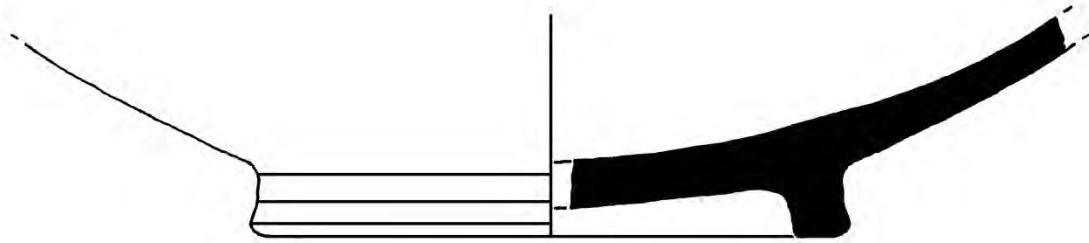
Loci 1188, 1192 and 1193 are located in square H 59, about 17 m west of the inner city wall. It contains a wall made of large boulders, running east-west which probably belongs to Stratum V. The finds are an assortment of Hellenistic, Roman and Medieval pottery shards.



Figure 41, pottery shards from locus 1188.



Figure 42, Black Athenian finishing on two shards of pottery.



H. H. H.
#046-13

BS
A South
1188
11408

Figure 43, Athenian black ware bowl.



Figure 44, Locus 1188, basalt stone weight.

Four coins were discovered in Area A South outside of the City wall. Three were Roman provincial coins and one Mamluk coin. (A report on the coins is included at the end of this report). Exceptionally well preserved was a bronze coin of Gordian III minted Nysa-Scythopolis Beth Shan in 240-241 CE found at elevation of -171.15m about 0.55m above the top of the outer city wall.



Figure 45, a coin of Gordian III, minted in Nysa-Scythopolis in 240- 241 CE.



Figure 46, A bronze coin minted by Gordian III in Nysa-Scythopolis. Nysa-Tyche seated on throne, r., holding infant Dionysus in her arms. Nysa was the wet-nurse of Dionysus. Date: 240/1 CE.

Another interesting coin, although much eroded, is a third century CE bronze coin minted in Neapolis/Shechem. The coin is somewhat unique because it shows the landscape of the city with the Mt. Gerizim temple depicted on the top of the mountain and the staircase leading from the town to the temple located lower down the hill. This staircase was not discovered until some years ago by archaeological excavations.

In the fill over the pavement of Stratum V, at an elevation of -170.49m, about 0.5m above the pavement, another third century CE bronze coin was discovered. The coin was minted in Tyre by the emperor Elgabalos during 218 – 222 CE.



Figure 47, A bronze coin of Elgabalos, minted in Tyre, 218 - 222 CE.



Figure 48, A bronze coin of Elgabalos, minted in Tyre, 218 - 222 CE. The coin depicts the temple of Astarte with six columns; three in each side, within Astarte as usual, placing her right hand on trophy, crowned by Nike on column on the right; before the temple, in exc., altar between palm-tree

Area A West

Stratum V

Area A West is located west of Stratum V city gate. In this area we expect to find the plaza behind the gate and wondered what the close by buildings might be. This area was also heavily populated during the Hellenistic and the Roman periods. Slightly north of this area was the temple dating from the Hellenistic and the Roman periods and a few private homes adjacent to the temple. However, since this was the highest area of the mound, it suffered severe disturbance in the second half of the twentieth century when a Syrian military installation crisscrossed the area that was bulldozed during its construction.

During the 2013 season we finally reached the area below this modern disturbance in squares F, G, H 56 -59. The remains of Stratum V included the following walls W1181, W1182 and W1189. Since W1181 seems to align with W1155 which is the western end of the room preceding the storage house, it would appear that these walls are part of one large architectural arrangement. All these walls are of monumental construction, built of large field stones and having a width of 1.55m.

In squares F 57, 58 a Stratum II, Hellenistic wall W1159 superimposes upon a Stratum V Iron Age IIB massive wall, W1182. Due to the modern disturbance in this area, the finds from this Stratum V location included shards of pottery from later periods.



Bethsaida - Area A West -2013

Figure 49, Area A West with wall numbers and some of the loci excavated in 2013



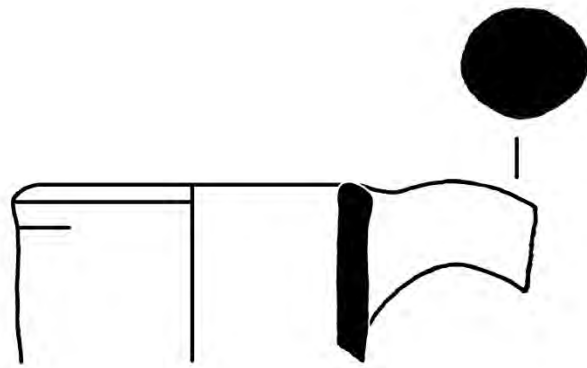
Figure 50, locus 2261, The top of wall W1182 is located under the meter stick.



Figure 51, This basket included assortment of shards ranging from Roman cooking pots and ETS to Iron Age II cooking pots and jars.



Figure 52, Finds from locus 2258 include 263 mixed pottery, shards containing Iron Age II bowls, craters, (including a hole mouth jar) and some jugs in addition to Hellenistic pottery with a Rhodian wine amphora fragment.



Hadash

#017-13

BS
A West
2258
23528

Figure 53, Iron Age IIB jug from locus 2258, located west of the city gate.



Figure 54, Shards from locus 2258 west of the city gate. Upper left, decorated shard (Late Bronze?) Iron Age II cooking pots the knob from an Iron Age IIB cooking pot lid (shown upside down)

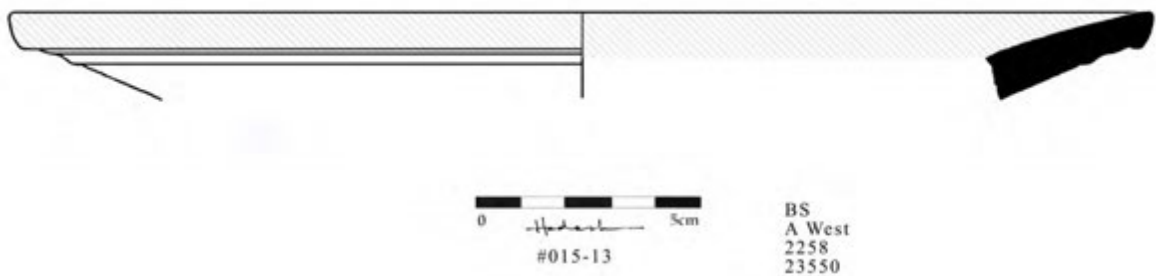
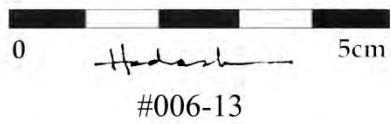
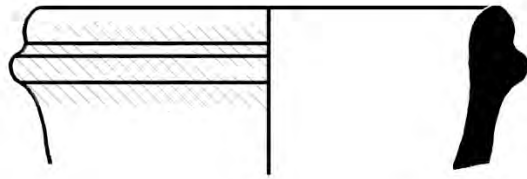


Figure 55, Iron Age IIB bowl, red slip both inside and outside on the rim



Figure 56, Iron Age IIB finds from locus 2258



BS
A West
2258
23550

Figure 57, Iron Age IIB jug

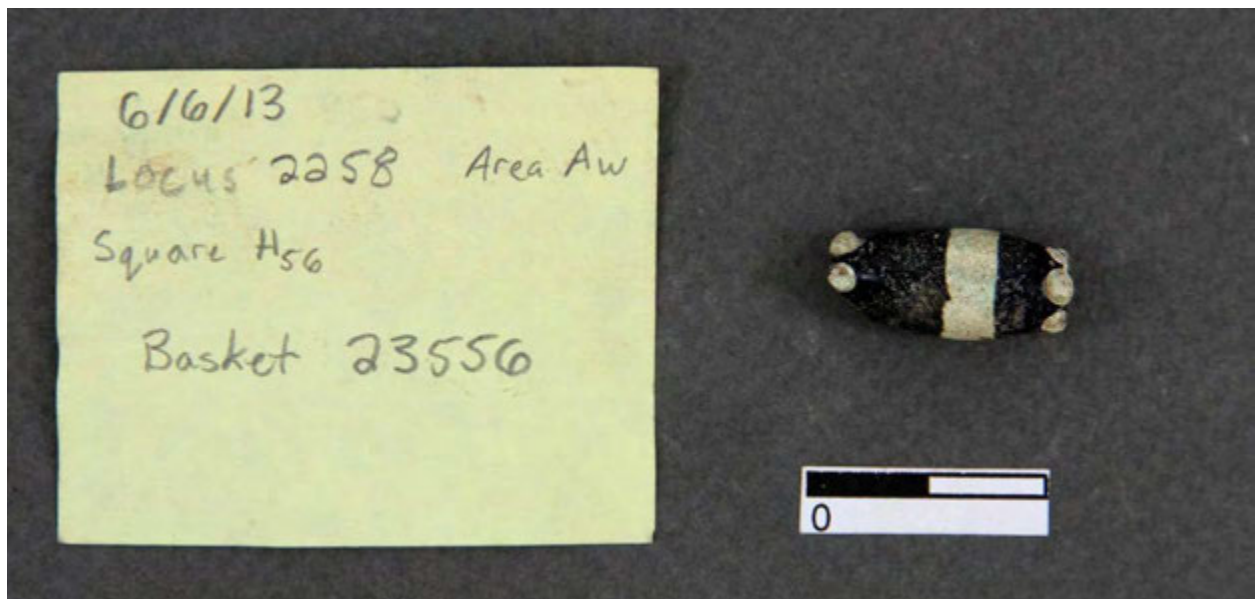


Figure 58, Phoenician glass bead



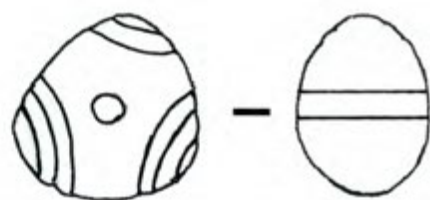
Figure 59, Iron Age IIB crater, deep bowl and a red slip shard



Figure 60, Phoenician glass bead found in Locus 2261.



Figure 61, Phoenician glass bead found in locus 2261



top scan



bottom scan

BS
A West
2261
23570



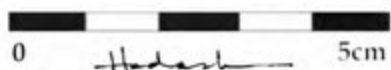
#002-13

Figure 62, Phoenician bead



scan

BS
A West
2261
23572



#004-13

Figure 63, black glass handle from Locus 2261

Stratum II

Roman coins and small finds discovered in disturbed deposits in squares G,F, 57-59 in addition to lack of relevant architecture, indicate that the structures of the Roman period in this area were severely damaged by the modern Syrian military fortifications.

The first remains of stratified architecture appear to be Hellenistic and were discovered under one and a half meters of disturbed material. This architectural fragment is a wall 1.3 m wide, built of massive field stones (W1159). This segment is part of the north-south wall that appears connected to the round structure west of the Roman temple.



Figure 64, A section in area A West, looking west, showing 1.5 m of disturbed material.

The relevant loci for this period are: 2262, 2263, 2264.

Locus 2262 was designated for removal of baulk east of Locus 2261 between W1155 and W1159. Similar to locus 2252 it consists of modern disturbance and the finds therefore represent an assortment from all periods presented at the site.

Locus 2264 contains modern disturbance. The bottom of this locus is a paved surface mixed with ashes.



Figure 65, Locus 2264 shows the modern surface before it was removed.



Figure 66, Locus 2264 after removal of modern surface, the meter stick lays on Iron Age IIB wall (W1189).

A small selection of finds from the Hellenistic to the Roman periods discovered in Area A West, are described below:



Figure 67, Amber bead from locus 2262, date unknown.



Figure 68, Athenian black figure style shard of perhaps a chalice

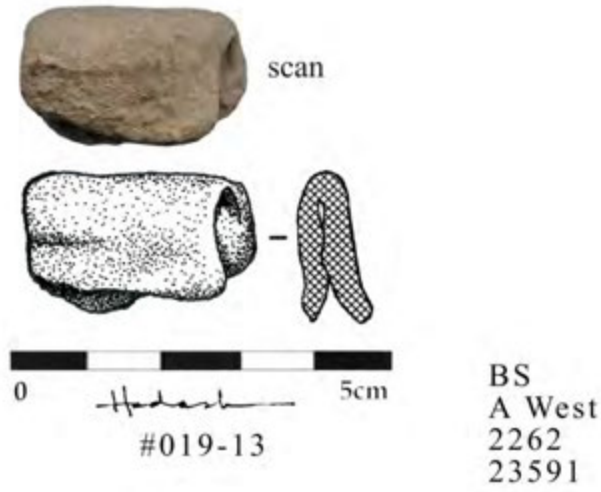


Figure 69, Lead fishing net weight

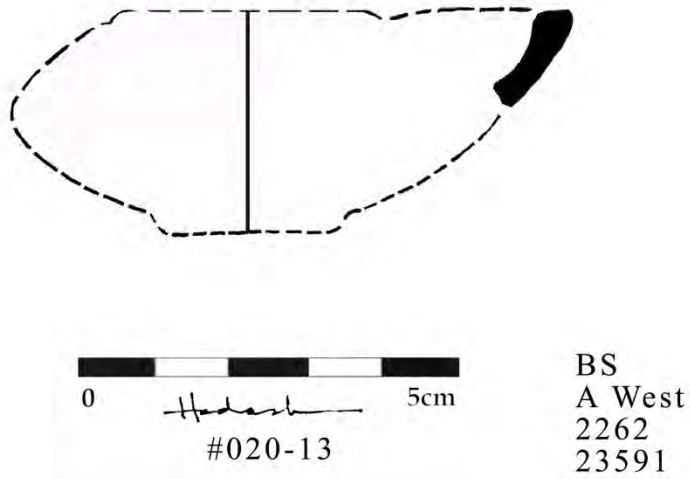


Figure 70, oil lamp



Figure 71, Finds from basket 23600 in locus 2262, the finds include a basalt bowl, grinding stone, Hellenistic Roman cooking pots, ETS, and medieval glazed shards.



Figure 72, Glass bowl

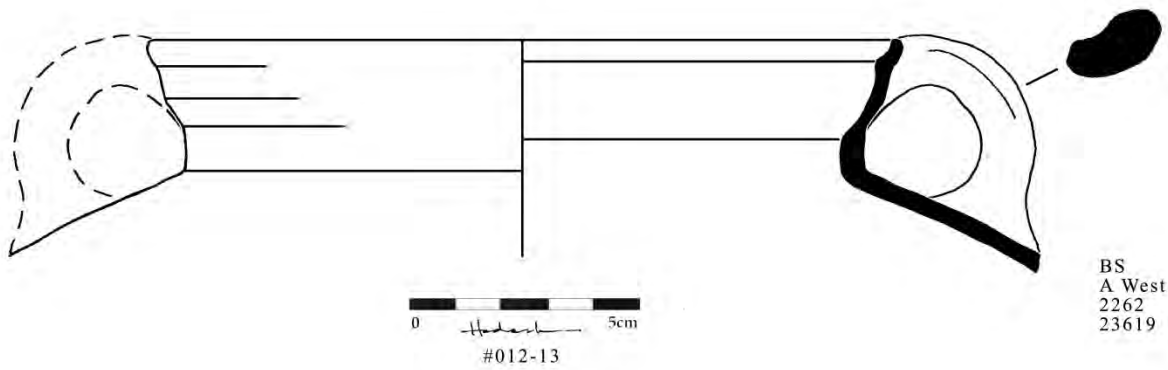


Figure 73, Cooking pot from Locus 2262



Figure 74, glass bowl rim, 2nd century CE



Figure 75, Bronze coin, Demetrius II, minted in Tyre, 145-144 BCE



Figure 76, Bronze coin of Herod the Great, type 16 in Ariel and Fontanille, *The Coins of Herod*. Eagle on the left side and cornucopia on the right with the legend *Herod Basileus*



Figure 77, Bronze ring

Locus 2263 is at the south of locus 2261 and was similarly severely damaged by modern Syrian military fortifications.

The finds are therefore an assortment of periods. Some of the outstanding finds are shown below.



Figure 78, Glass from locus 2263



Figure 79, Bronze coin, Antiochus IV, minted in Ptolemais/Acco, Date: 175-173 BCE



Figure 80, Bronze coin, Demetrius II, 144-143 BCE, mint: Tyre



Figure 81, Bronze coin of Alexander Jannaeus 80-76 BCE, mint: Jerusalem



Figure 82, Bronze coin of Alexander Jannaeus, 104-76 BCE

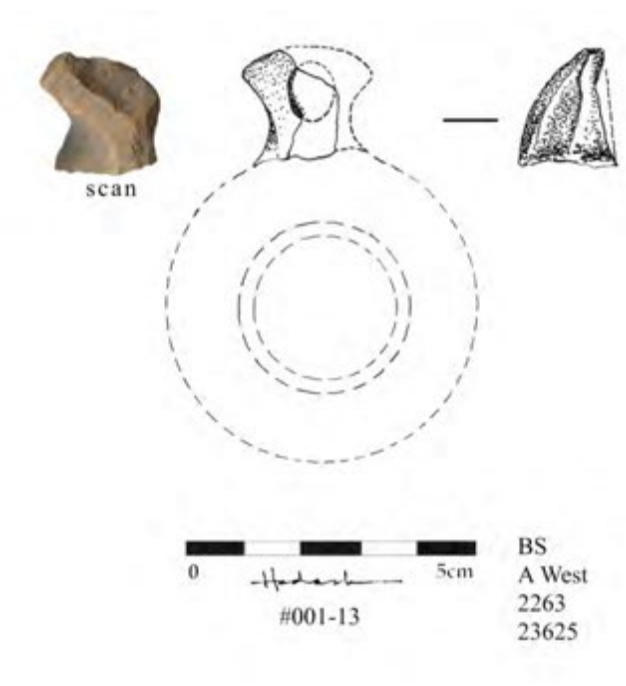


Figure 83, "Herodian" oil lamp



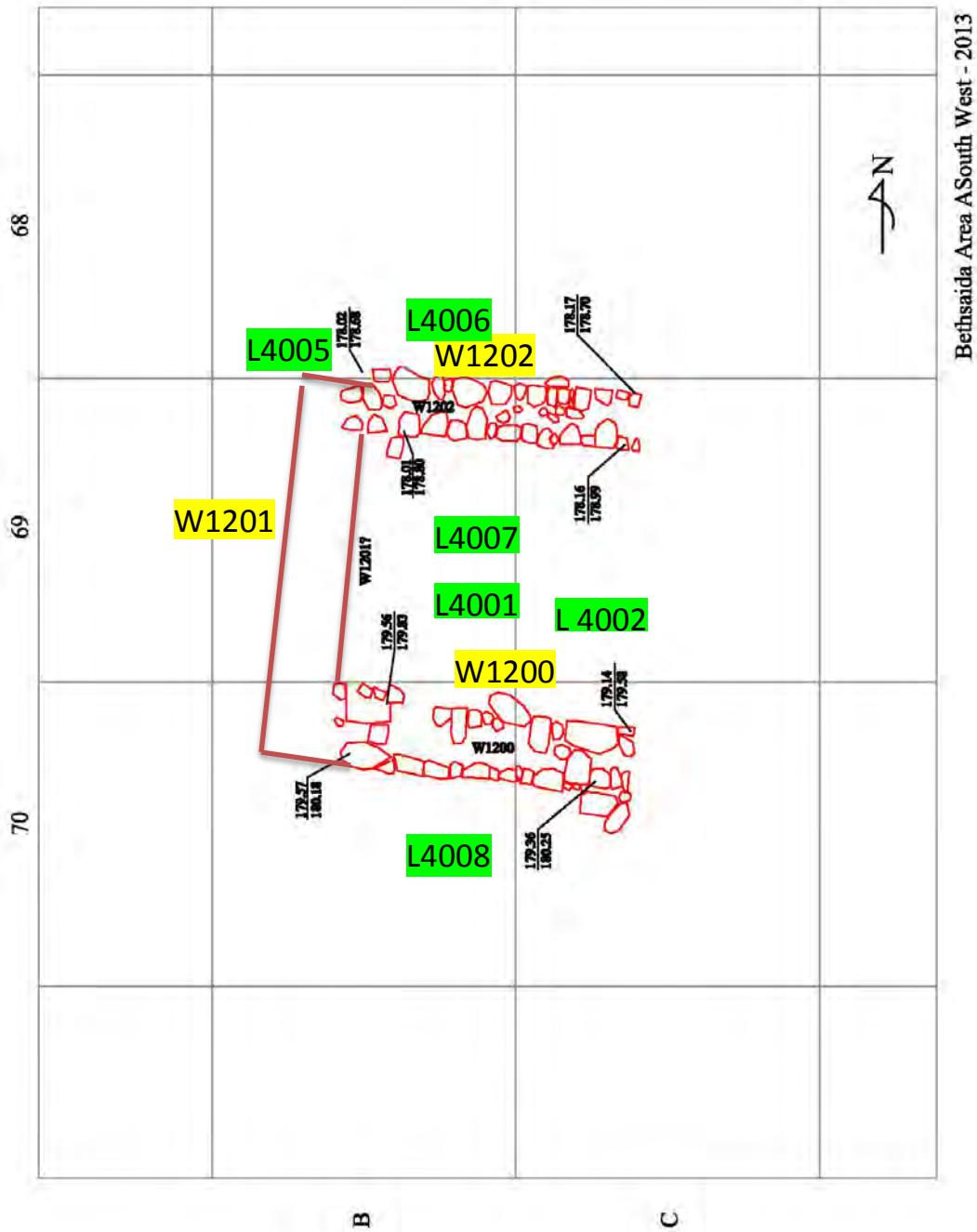
Figure 84, Bronze coin, Trajan, minted in Tiberias 108-109 CE



Figure 85, Roman provincial coin, minted in Damascus 244-253 CE

Area T

Area T is located on the southern slope of the mound, in squares B,C 69, 70. The surface in this area is -177.08m while the lowest excavated point on the dig was measured at -180.44m just 10m further south.



Bethsaida Area A South West - 2013

Figure 86, Area T



Figure 87, Area T looking west.



Figure 88, Area T looking north

AREA T 2013 Report

Area T was first opened in the 2012 with an exploratory probe of a randomly selected 5m x 5m square about 100m south of the active excavations in Area A. It is well down the slope of the tel, and at some distance from the crest of the site with its monumental remains and public architecture. The rationale for opening a new area was to seek evidence of the presence on the site of population other than the urban elite whose interests are well preserved higher up the slope.

During the 2013 season a new square (B,C, 69) was opened to the north of the square from 2012, although some time was also given to the original square during the final two weeks of the season.

Excavations in Area T during 2013 uncovered a stone wall (W1202) running parallel to a wall (W1200) discovered in the adjoining square during the 2012 season, and perhaps another wall (W1201) running between them. It seems that we have a domestic space from the Mamluk period. Finds are so far mostly Mamluk - including glazed pottery, iron nails, and a few Mamluk coins. We are yet to reach the floor level of the spaces being excavated, although we may have uncovered a stone pavement (and perhaps an ancient entrance) about halfway along W1200.

One of the highlights of the finds from Area T this season was the top portion an ancient millstone in secondary use as building material at the western end of W1202.

A brief 3D animation of Area T at the end of the 2013 season is available here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yq2DbIZ6zsE&feature=share>

Loci report

Locus 4001 is the top soil of the squares B,C 69. This locus contained pottery and coins dating from the Mamluk period.



Figure 89, Area T, locus 4001, Mamluk pottery shards, clay smoking pipes (Chibuk), glass bracelet and metals.

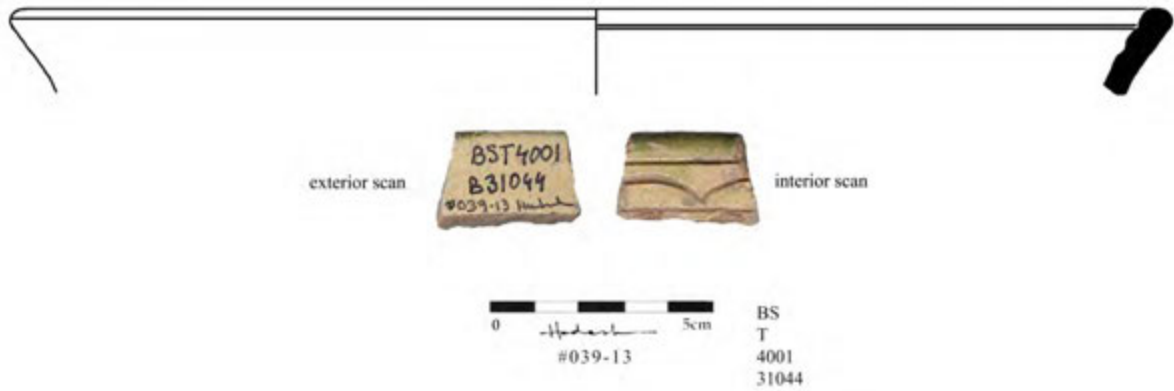


Figure 90, Area T, Mamluk glazed bowl

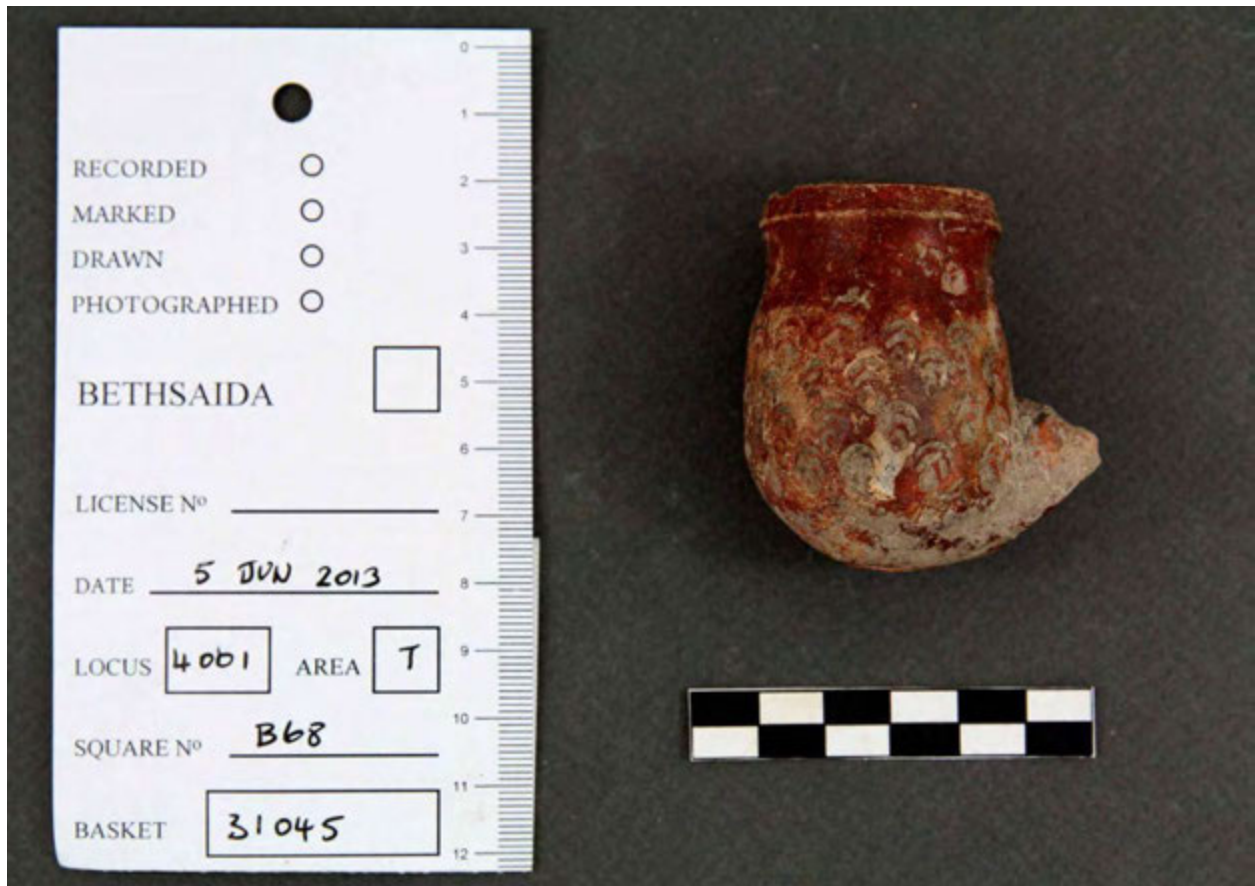


Figure 91, Area T, smoking clay pipe Chibuk



Figure 92, Area T, dark glass bottle with white decoration



Figure 93, Area T, a dark glass with white decoration, a handle of a bottle?

Once W 1202 was identified locus 4001 was closed and two new loci opened, L 4002 at the south of W1202 and locus 4003 north of this wall. The finds continue to be Mamluk pottery shards, and coins.



Figure 94, Area T, locus 4002, Mamluk pottery and clay pipes



Figure 95, Area T, Locus 4003, located north of W1202 and contains medieval glazed pottery.

Locus 4005 is located in the northwest of the square and includes Mamluk glazed pottery and coins. Locus 4006 is located under L4005 and contains a fragment of a bi-conical shape Roman millstone in a secondary use in wall W1202. Similar millstones were discovered in Early Roman sites. However, the architecture, coins and small finds indicate that the occupation is a rural Mamluk village.



Figure 96, Finds from Area T, Locus 4005, the finds include Mamluk glazed pottery and glass.

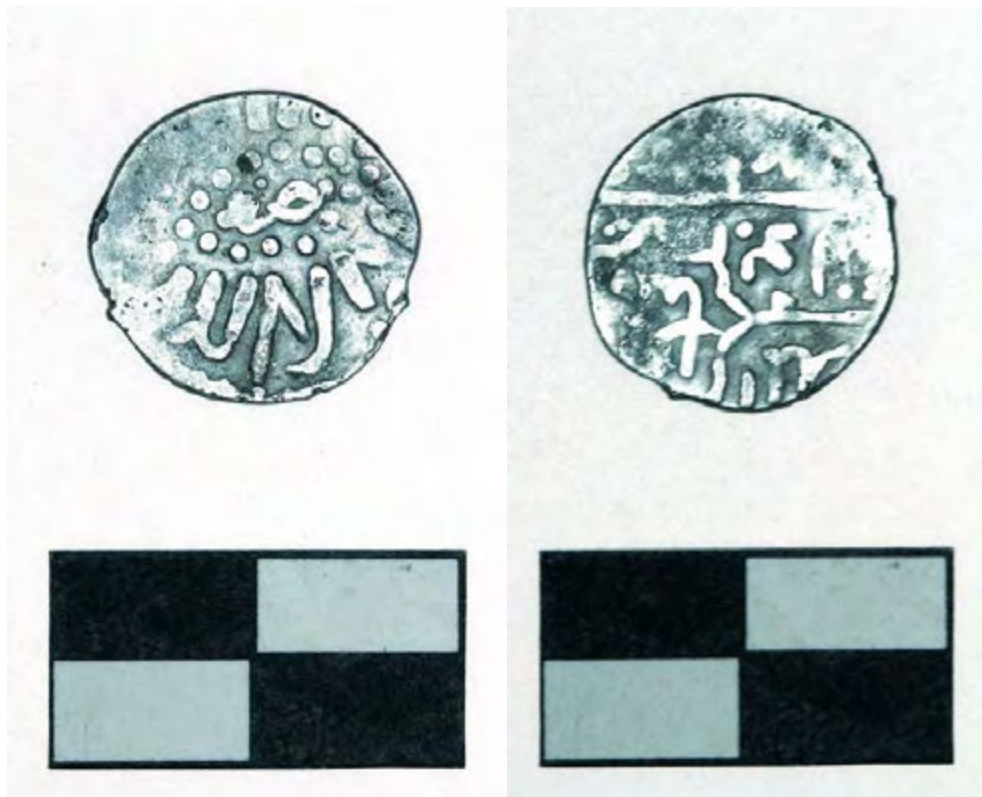


Figure 97, A Mamluk silver coin



Figure 98, Area T, Locus 4005, Mamluk coin



Figure 99, Area T, Locus 4006, under the meter stick, a fragment of a b-conical millstone in secondary use within a Mamluk structure.



Figure 100, Area T, locus 4006, medieval glazed pottery

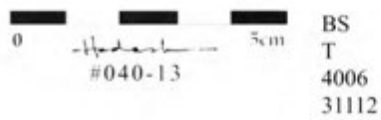


Figure 101, Area T, Locus 4006, medieval bowl

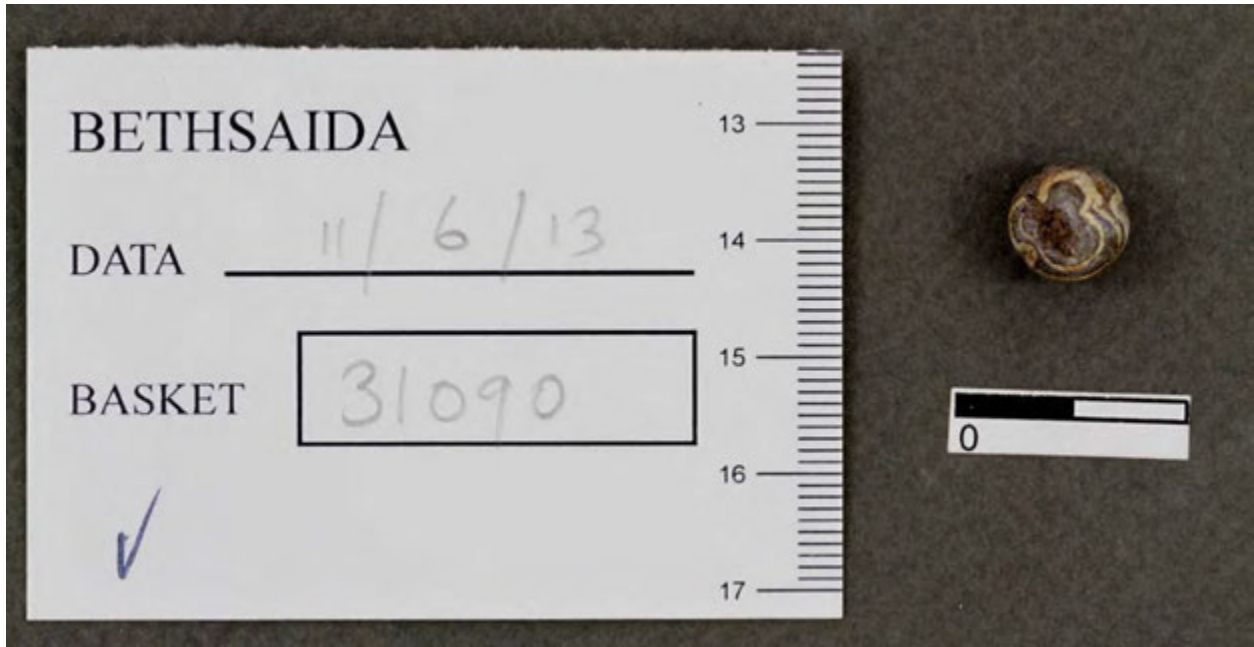


Figure 102, Area T, Locus 4006, a glass bead



Figure 103, Area T, locus 4006, Faience bead



Figure 104, Area T, Locus 4006, projectile



Figure 105. Area T, Locus 4006, Lead fishing net weight

After the debris in L4002 was removed, the locus number was changed to L4007. This locus extends south of W1202 to the southern baulk.



Figure 106, Area T, Locus 4007, carnelian bead



Figure 107, Area T, locus 4007, Mamluk coin



Figure 108, Area T, Locus 4007, a shard of pottery, perhaps a fragment of an inscription and an iron chisel

Locus 4008 is located in squares B,C 70. First excavated in 2012 when wall 1200 was discovered. Work continued in 2013. Mamluk finds continue to appear.



Figure 109, Area T, locus 4008, Mamuk coin



Figure 110, Area T, locus 4007, green stone bead



Figure 111, Area T, locus 4008, Mamluk period shards of pottery

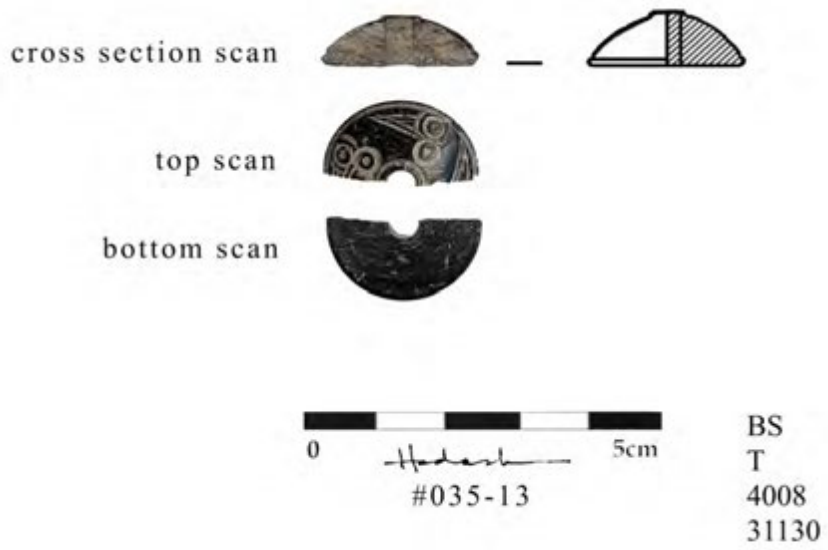


Figure 112, Area T, Locus 4008, spindle whorl



Figure 113, Area T, Locus 4008, glass bracelet



Figure 114, Area T, Locus 4008, Mamluk glazed shard and a metal object

Area C

Area C is located at the north section of the mound. Five loci were excavated in 2013. All loci are the early phases of Stratum II of Bethsaida (Early Hellenistic to the Early Roman periods).

Locus	Grid
5733	A29
5734	C29
5735	ZZ28
5736	D29
5737	ZZ28



Figure 115, Area C



Figure 116, Area C, Locus 5733, Fibula

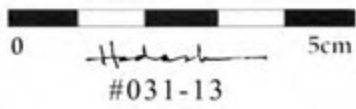
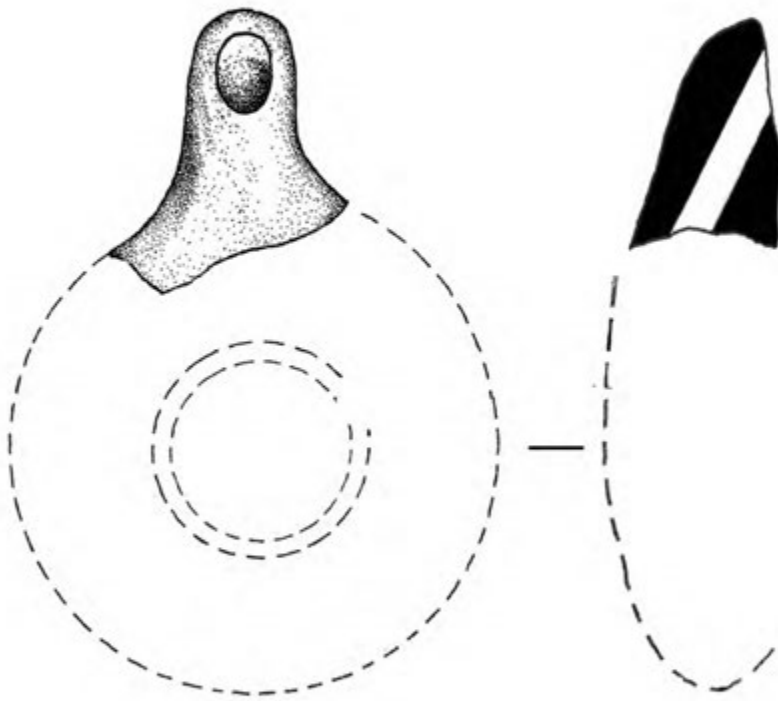
Locus 5734 is located south of W219, remains of a floor were found but in this stage it is difficult to determine the nature of this locus. The finds are primarily second century BCE Hellenistic.



Figure 117, Area T, Locus 5734, the finds are mostly Hellenistic from the second century BCE and include shards of a black Athenian vessel, two ungentaria, jars, jugs and bowls.

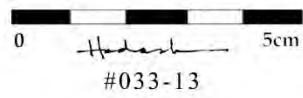
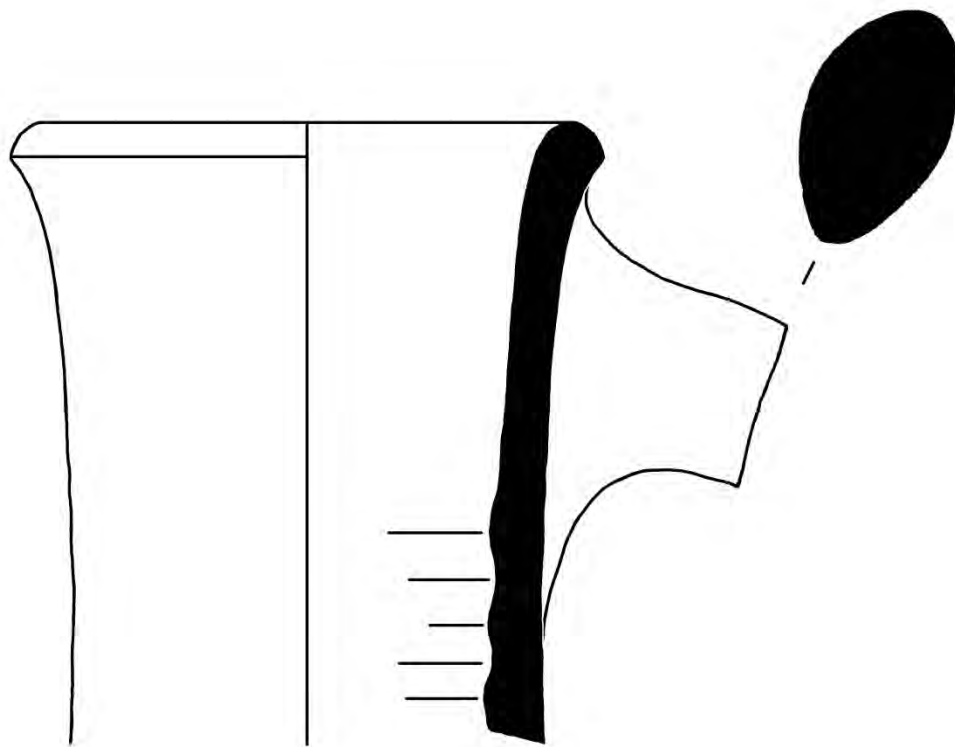


Figure 118, Area C, Locus 5734. Pottery shards of Hellenistic jars



BS
C
5734
21942

Figure 119, Area C, Locus 5734, Hellenistic oil lamp



BS
C
5734
21948

Figure 120, Area C, Locus 5734, Hellenistic tall neck jar



Figure 121, Area C, Locus 5734, from top to bottom, a stopper, Cooking pot, ungentarium

Locus 5736 is a pack hard floor south of wall 219. Excavations in this locus revealed a nozzle of an Athenian black glazed oil lamp.



Figure 122, Area C, Locus 5734, a nozzle of an Athenian black glazed oil lamp from the Hellenistic period.

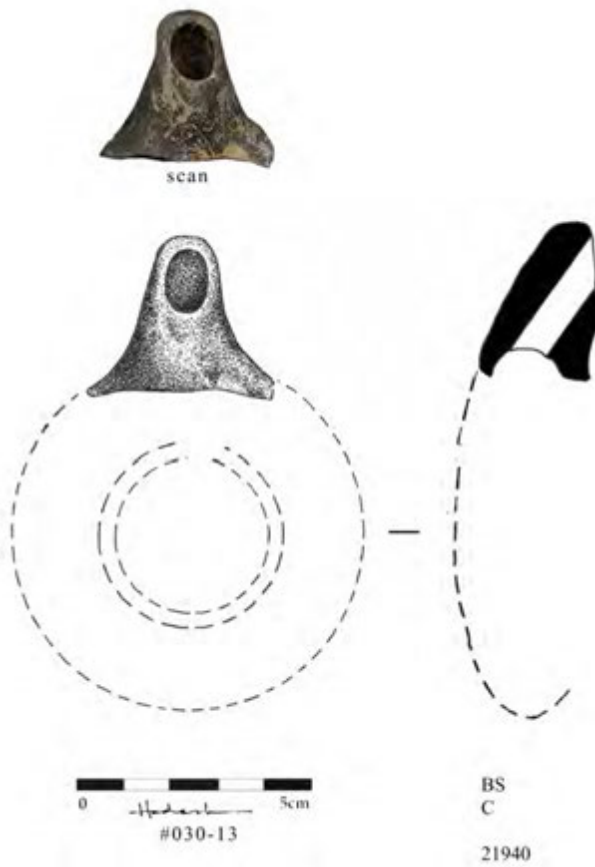


Figure 123, Area C, Locus 5736, Athenian black glazed oil lamp.

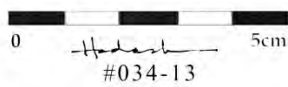
Locus 5737 is located at the eastern end of W671. The wall continues to curve towards the south and perhaps confines a paved plaza.



Figure 124, Area C, locus 5737, remains of a floor next to wall W671

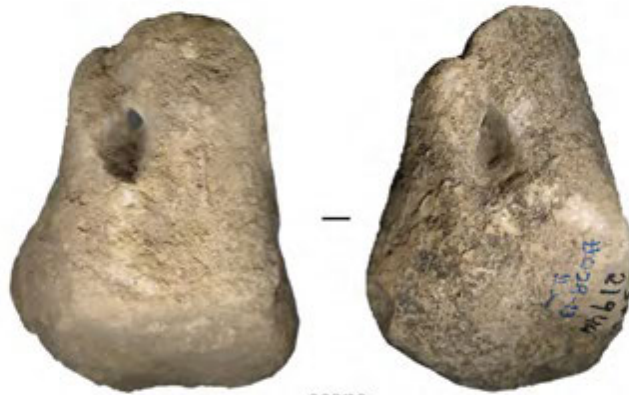
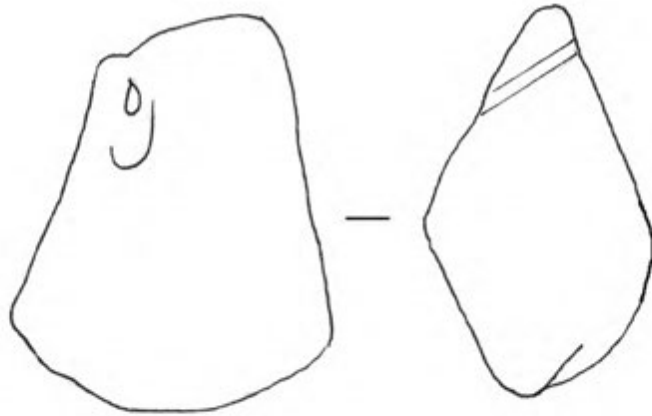


Figure 125, Area C, finds from Locus 5737, shards of jars, ETS small hemispherical bowl, oil lamp and basalt bowl with a grinding stone. (They were not found together).

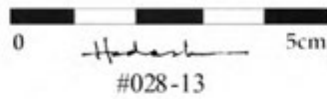


BS
C
5737
21946

Figure 126, Area C, ETS bowl

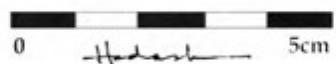
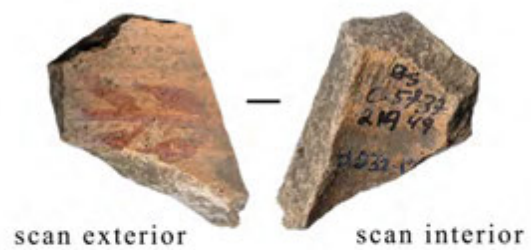


scans



BS
C
5737
21946

Figure 127, Area C. Stone weight



0 Haderb 5cm

#032-13

BS
C
5737
21949

Figure 128, Area C, decorated shard



Figure 129, Area C, Hellenistic decorated shard of pottery



Figure 130, Area C, Locus 5737, Hellenistic oil lamp



Figure 131, Area C, Locus 5737, decorated bottom of a Hellenistic bowl, (rose? Lily?)



Figure 132, Area C, Locus 5737, bronze coin, Antiochus III, minted in Ptolemais/Acco 198 – 187 BCE

The following is Dr. Jenks' report on his Bethsaida Excavations coin project 2013. The better preserved coins are presented in the pictures above.

2013 BETHSAIDA COIN REPORT

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During the period March–June 2013, I used a period of sabbatical leave in Israel to work on the recording and description of the 523 coins recovered so far from the Bethsaida excavations. Working closely with the project numismatist, Dr. T. Donald Ariel (who is also head of the IAA coin department), I reviewed the records for all these coins, but especially focused on the 139 coins found between 2001 and 2012 as descriptions of these coins had never been published.

This work was completed and an initial report was presented to the Bethsaida session at the international meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, University of St Andrews, Scotland (7–11 July 2013). That report is available online <http://www.academia.edu/3988826/2001-2012_Bethsaida_Coin_Report> and provides a base for further work on all the coins from Bethsaida, including the twenty-nine (29) coins recovered in the 2013 season.

The long term goal is to migrate the information into the new database for the Bethsaida project, and to include for each coin high resolution digital images as well as PDFs of all related literature. The end result will be a rich research tool for Consortium members and other interested researchers.

Twenty-nine (29) coins were recovered during the 2013 season. A preliminary listing is provided here in date order.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Basket</i>	<i>Locus</i>	<i>Grid</i>	<i>Area</i>
21/05/13	11311	1169	L60	A South
4/06/13	11350	1171	L60	A South
7/06/13	31060	4005	B68	T
10/06/13	31068	4005	B68	T
11/06/13	31094	4006	B68	T
14/06/13	31108	4006	B68	T
19/06/13	21923	5735	Z28	C
19/06/13	31124	4008	B70	T
20/06/13	11390	1185	M58	A South
21/06/13	21295	5734	C29	C
24/06/13	23611	2263	F59	A West
24/06/13	23612	2262	G58	A West
24/06/13	23613	2263	F59	A West
24/06/13	31144	4007	B69	T

25/06/13	21941	5734	C29	C
25/06/13	23623	2263	F59	A West
26/06/13	23628	2262	G58	A West
26/06/13	23631	2263	F59	A West
27/06/13	11422	1180	J60	A South
27/06/13	21950	5737	Z28	C
27/06/13	23636	2263	F59	A West
27/06/13	23637	2263	F59	A West
27/06/13	23638	2263	F59	A West
27/06/13	23640	2263	F59	A West
27/06/13	23641	2263	F59	A West (not a coin)
27/06/13	31163	4008	B70	T
28/06/13	23647	2262	G58	A West
28/06/13	23649	2263	F59	A West
28/06/13	31170	4007	B69	T
??/06/13	?????	?????	???	C

When listed by Area, the 2013 coins may be described as follows:

A South 4 coins 3 Roman, 1 Islamic

A West 12 coins 3 Seleucid, 4 Hasmonean, 1 Herodian, 3 Roman Provincial, 1 unidentified

Area C 4 (5) coins 2 Seleucid, 1 Ptolemaic, 1 (2) Modern Syrian

Area T 8 coins 7 Islamic, 1 unidentified

It is worth noting that we do not yet have formal identifications of the 7 Islamic coins recovered from Area T this year, but Ariel Berman has provided us with a brief verbal description of these coins based on

photographs. At least some of these coins are from the period of Salah al-Din, or shortly thereafter. This is consistent with the two (2) Islamic coins recovered from Area T during the 2012 season, both of which have been identified as coins of Salah al-Din:

[13] 138739 | B31013 | L4000 | B/C70 | Area T

Al-Nasir Yusuf Salah al-Din, Sultanate of Egypt, Ayyubid Dynasty, Bronze, AH 585 (=1189 CE)

Weight: 5.71 g

Diameter: 24 mm

Axis:

Obv design: (center:) almalik / alnasir (margin illegible)

Rev design: (centre:) yusuf / bin-ayub

Literature: Cf. Balog 1980: 93, No 145

[14] 138740 | B31016 | L4000 | B/C70 | Area T

Al-Nasir Yusuf Salah al-Din, Sultanate of Egypt, Ayyubid Dynasty, Bronze, AH 589 (=1193 CE)

Weight: 5.39 g

Diameter: 23 mm x 25 mm

Axis:

Obv design: (center:) almalik / alnasir (margin missing)

Rev design: (centre:) yusuf / bin-ayub (margin illegible)

Literature: Cf. Balog 1980: 93, No 148

Detailed descriptions of the 29 coins recovered during the 2013 season follow.

11 December 2013

This report is also available online at:

http://www.academia.edu/5524798/2013_Bethsaida_Coin_Report

2013 Season (29 coins)

When reading these descriptions please keep in mind that—after as much as 2,000 years (or more) in the ground—the coins from Bethsaida, which are mostly bronze coins, are rarely in good condition. Descriptions of the design are derived from the comparative literature and may not be well preserved on the specific coin. On the other hand, descriptions of the legends will indicate the extent to which any inscriptions are visible on the particular coin from Bethsaida.

Letters in inscriptions with underscore indicate a letter that is not sufficiently clear for a confident reading. The proposal is conjectural to some extent.

[] *indicates text not visible but conjectural*

[...] *legend is visible but illegible*

| *indicates a line break on the coin*

— *indicates a gap between letters*

Cf. *indicates that the literature cited is not the same coin but a similar coin*

[01] 143556 | B11311 | L1169 | Grid | Area A South

Elagabalus, Tyre, Bronze, 218–222 CE after suppression of the colony

Weight: 12.49 g

Diameter: 27 mm

Axis: 12

Obv legend: [IMP CAES M]AY ANT—ON!N[US AVG]

Obv design: Bust of Elagabalus r., laureate, wearing paludamentum and cuirass; around, inscr.

Rev legend: T—VPI—OPV—M

Rev design: Temple of Astarte with six columns; within Astarte as usual, placing r. on trophy, crowned by Nike on column on r.; before the temple, in exc., altar between palm-tree (on r.) and murex-shell (on l.); around, T VRI ORV M

Literature: Cf. *BMC Phoen*: 276, No 404

[02] 143567 | B31060 | L4005 | B68 | Area T

Coin, Not yet identified (Islamic), Silver

Weight:

Diameter:

[03] 143568 | B11350 | L1171 | Grid | Area A South

Gordian III, Nysa-Scythopolis, Bronze, 240/241 CE

Weight: 11.88 g

Diameter: 25 mm

Axis: 12

Obv legend: AVT [KM ANT] ΓΟΡΔΙΑΝΟC CEB

Obv design: Draped and cuirassed bust of Gordian III r., seen from rear, laureate.

Rev legend: NVC CKV — ΘΟ[ΙΕΡΑ]C

Rev design: Nysa-Tyche seated on throne, r., holding infant Dionysus in her arms. In exurge, date ΔΤ (304 = 240/1 CE).

Literature: Cf. Barkay 2003: 224, No 79; *CHL* I: 185, No 54

[04] 143569 | B11389 | L1185 | Grid | Area A South

Severus Alexander, Shechem(?), Bronze, 222–235 CE

Weight: 8.44 g

Diameter: 20 mm

Axis: 12

Obv legend: [...]

Obv design: Draped and curiaised bust of Severus Alexander r., laureate.

Rev design: View of Mt Gerizim; below in front, a colonnade with two arched entrances; the l. one leads to a stairway on l., flanked by a series of shrines or altars on the slope; the stairway leads to a temple seen in three-quarter view; another roadway flanked by trees lead from the colonnade to an altar on top of the hill to the r.

Literature: Cf. *CHL* 1: 56, No 129.

[05] 143570 | B23612 | L2262 | Grid | Area A West

Autonomous, Tyre, Bronze, 147–148 CE

Weight: 4.26 g

Diameter: 15 mm

Axis: 12

Obv legend:

Obv design: Bust of Tyche r., wearing turreted crown, veil, and earring; behind, palm-branch; border of dots.

Rev legend: [monogram] ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛ[Ε]Ω[Σ] ΙΕΠΑΣ

Rev design: Palm-tree with two bunches of fruit; across field, date; around, from l. upwards, inscr.; border of dots.

Literature: Cf. *BMC Phoen*: 266, No 352

[06] 143571 | B23628 | L2262 | Grid | Area A West

Demetrius II, Tyre, Bronze, 145/144 BCE

Weight: 2.12 g

Diameter: 14 mm

Axis: 12

Obv design: Diademed head of Demetrius II r., diadem ends falling straight behind, dotted border.

Rev legend: [ΒΑΣΙΛ]ΕΩΣ — [ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΥ]

Rev design: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ (curving) on r., ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΥ (curving) on l., palm tree, dotted border.

Literature: SC II: 304, No 1970.2

[07] 143572 | B23647 | L2262 | Grid | Area

Herod, Jerusalem, Bronze, 37–4 BCE

Weight: 0.68 g

Diameter: 12 mm

Axis: 4

Obv legend: (on l.) ΒΑΣΙΛ (on r.) ΗΡΩΔ

Obv design: One cornucopiae;

Rev design: Eagle standing r.; in l. field, pellet.

Literature: *TJC* 224, No 66. Cf. Ariel & Fontanille. 2012: Pl 84, 019

[08] 143573 | B23611 | L2263 | Grid | Area A West

Antiochus IV, Aka-Ptolemais, Bronze, 175–173/72 BCE

Weight: 2.33 g

Diameter: 14 mm

Axis: 12

Obv design: Laureate head of Apollo r., dotted border.

Rev legend: [Β]ΑΣΙΛ[ΕΩΣ / ANTIOXOY]

Rev design: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ on r., ANTIOXOY on l., Apollo seated l. on omphalos, testing arrow and resting hand on grounded bow.

Literature: SC II: 91, No 1478

[09] 143574 | B23613 | L2263 | Grid | Area A West

Coin, Hasmonean, Jerusalem, Bronze, 134–37 BCE

Weight: 1.67 g

Diameter: 13 mm

[10] 143575 | B23623 | L2263 | Grid | Area A West

Alexander Jannaeus, Jerusalem, Bronze, 80/79 BCE

Weight: 0.32 g

Diameter: 10 mm

Axis:

Obv legend:

Obv design: Anchor surrounded by a circle, around it, inscription: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΩΣ ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ; flanking the anchor, date: L KE (year 25 = 80/79 BCE).

Rev design: Eight-pointed star surrounded by border of dots; around, Aramaic inscription:

כה שנת מלכ אלכסנדרוס שנת כה [mlk' alksndrws snt kh] (The King Alexander year 25).

Literature: *TJC*: 210, L8

[11] 143576 | B23631 | L2263 | Grid | Area A West

Alexander Jannaeus, Jerusalem, Bronze, 104–76 BCE

Weight: 1.93g

Diameter: 13 mm

Axis: 12

Obv legend:

יהונ

תן הכ ג

דול וחב

ר' יהו

ם

(Yehonatan the high priest and the council of the Jews)

Obv design: Paleo-Hebrew inscription in wreath.

Rev design: Double cornucopiae with pomegranate between the horns.

Literature: *TJC*: 214, Q22; Kaufman 1995: 78, A47.

[12] 143577 | B23636 | L2263 | Grid | Area A West

Coin, Hasmonean, Jerusalem, Bronze, 134–37 BCE

Weight: 1.67 g

Diameter: 12 mm x 14 mm

[13] 143578 | B23637 | L2263 | Grid | Area A West

Demetrius II, Tyre, Bronze, 144/143 BCE

Weight: 1.64 g

Diameter: 13 mm

Axis: 12

Obv legend:

Obv design: Diademed head of Demetrius II r., diadem ends falling straight behind, dotted border.

Rev legend: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ — ΔΗΜΗΤΡ[ΙΟΥ]

Rev design: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ (curving) on r., ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΥ (curving) on l., palm tree, dotted border.

Literature: *SC II*: 304, No 1970.3

[14] 143579 | B23640 | L2263 | Grid | Area A West

Roman provincial, Damascus, Bronze, 244–253 CE

Weight: 6.45 g

Diameter: 23 mm

Axis: 5?

Obv legend: [...]

Obv design: Bust r.

Rev legend: [...]

Rev design: The Tyche of Damascus, draped and turreted, seated l. on rock; r. hand outstretched holding short club (?) with fillets attached, at feet, river-god (Chrysoroas) swimming; in field l., ram's head.

Literature: Cf. Rosenberger 1978: 31, No 53 [citing *BMC Syria*: 288, No 31 and de Saulcy 50, No 2]; CNG Auction 208 (8 April 2009) Lot 209; CNG Auction 29 (29 Sept 2008) Lot 5712 (Philip I). [Philip: Q *SNG München*; Q *BMC Gal.*: 286, No 22 (bust left); Treb Gallus: Q *BMC Gal.*: 288, No 31; Q Klose & Stumpft, No 269.]

[15] 143580 | B23649 | L2263 | Grid | Area A West

Trajan, Tiberias, Bronze, 108/109 CE

Weight: 2.22 g

Diameter: 15 mm

Axis: 12

Obv legend: [AY KAI NEP] TPAI — ANO CE[ΓΕ ΔΑ]

Obv design: Head of Trajan, r., laureate.

Rev legend: TIBEP — [K]ΛAY

Rev design: Anchor; in field, date (year 90 = 108/9 CE).

Literature: *CHL I*: 71, No 7.

[16] 143581 | B21295 | L5734 | Grid | Area C

Coin, Not yet identified (Islamic), Bronze

Weight: 1.34 g

Diameter: 16 mm

[17] 143582 | B31068 | L4005 | Grid | Area T

Coin, Not yet identified (Islamic), Bronze

Weight: 3.61 g

Diameter: 21 mm

[18] 143583 | B31108 | L4006 | Grid | Area T

Coin, Not yet identified (Islamic), Bronze

Weight: 2.31 g

Diameter: 18 mm

[19] 143584 | B31144 | L4007 | Grid | Area T

Coin, Not yet identified (Islamic), Bronze

Weight: 0.93 g

Diameter: 15 mm

[20] 143585 | B31170 | L4007 | Grid | Area T

Coin, Not yet identified (Islamic), Bronze

Weight: 1.12 g

Diameter: 14 mm

[21] 143586 | B31124 | L4008 | Grid | Area T

Coin, Not yet identified (Islamic), Bronze

Weight: 5.64 g

Diameter: 22 mm

[22] 143587 | B31163 | L4008 | Grid | Area T

Coin, Not yet identified (Islamic), Bronze

Weight: 2.07 g

Diameter: 17 mm

[23] 143588 | B21925 | L5734 | Grid | Area C

Seleucid, Tyre, Bronze, 199/198–134/33 BCE

Weight: 6.19 g

Diameter: 21 mm

Axis: 12

Obv legend:

Obv design: Diademed head of Antiochus III r., with mature to elderly features and baldness at temple, dotted border.

Rev legend:

Rev design: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ above, ANTIOXOY below, stern of galley r., dotted border.

Literature: *SCI*: 410, No 1078

[24] 143589 | B21941 | L5734 | Grid | Area C

Coin, Seleucid, Bronze, 312–63 BCE

Weight: 1.30 g

Diameter: 11 mm

[25] 143590 | B21950 | L5737 | Grid | Area C

Antiochus III, Aka-Ptolemais, Bronze, 198–187 BCE

Weight: 1.92 g

Diameter: 10 mm

Axis: 12

Obv legend:

Obv design: Laureate head of Apollo, r., dotted border.

Rev legend: [...]

Rev design: Incomplete or blundered legend, Apollo standing l., testing arrow and resting hand on grounded bow.

Literature: SC I: 416, No 1096.

[26] No IAA number | B21923 | L5737 | Grid | Area C

Modern coin, Autonomous, Syria, Bronze, 1962

[27] No IAA number | Basket ??? | Found on surface | Area C (?)

Modern coin, Autonomous, Syria, Bronze, 1956

[28] No IAA number | B23638 | L2263 | Grid | Area A West

Unidentified coin

[29] No IAA number | B31094 | L4006 | Grid | Area T

Unidentified coin

[30] No IAA number | B23614 | L2263 | Grid | Area A West

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Floatation

This year we started a new project for floatation sampling. This project is conducted by Dr. Miriam Belmaker from University of Tulsa at Oklahoma, and Dr. Janet Sypkens, University of Queensland, Australia. The results of this research will be available during 2014.

Dr. Belmaker reports:

Tchernov has suggested that rodents (notably *Mus* and *Rattus*) are the best biological indicator of human sedentism (Tchernov, 1984). This theory has since been expanded to later period and rodent have since been used in early urban site to detect urban ecologies (See Weissbrod et al., 2013) and medieval sites in England which study inter site variability in use (Armitage, 1985; Sommerville, 1999).

Bethsaida provides a unique opportunity to test these novel questions of use and disuse of urban areas, rate of urban abandonment of sites and intra site use. Recently, in collaboration with Dr. Sypkens has developed a floatation system in the site for recovery of microbotanical and microvertebrate remains.

The first season in which this floatation system was used was 2013 and in this season it was mainly still in trial use. Over the next season 2014 we aim to improve the recovery and sampling method. Specifically, over the 2013 season, we discovered that it did lose a portion of the sample between the heavier and the very light fractions. Therefore, over the 2014 – 2015 seasons, there may need to be some experimentation to develop the optimum ranges to target. This may include a variety of mesh sizes and analysis of acidity of the soil.

In 2013 samples for floatation were taken from the rear of Chamber 3. One sample (1) without charred material and one (2) with charred material. These were the first processed at the site with the new set-up and these locations had ample material in case a second run was required. The next two samples were from Area A along a brick wall (3) the long edge of the wall and one (4) in the corner. The next two samples were from Area C 2208 the (5) back SE corner and the second in (6) the center of the locus (kitchen area?). Each sample was a standard 4L bucket of sediment to process.

For each sample a heavy fraction and a light fraction was obtained. The heavy fraction was sorted in the field both by Dr. Sypkens and by Dr. Belmaker and no micromammals were found. Currently, the light fraction is on loan in Australia. Once the study of microbotanical remains is completed, the remains will be transferred to The University of Tulsa for further analysis. It is estimated that the analysis of the microfaunal remains from the 2013 season will be completed by December 2014.

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See below photographs of the process:



Figure 133, the floatation device is built using a barrel with a water distribution installation.



Figure 134, water intake to the device.



Figure 135, The light material floats and runs through the funnel into three thin sifters.



Figure 136, The heavier material is collected in a cloth for research.

CONSERVATION

Conservation works during 2013 were carried on by Orna Cohen. This year the northeastern tower and the wall extending from it to the southeastern tower were conserved and partly reconstructed. We have collected stones from all size to continue this process and assembled it in some areas in Area A South, Area A West and Area C.

Small scale conservation works were carried out on walls that needed attention.



Figure 137, Conservation works has been done to support areas needed attention such as this one.