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Tel Anafa: The Second Season

The first day of summer of 1969 saw the University of Missouri expedition to Tel Anafa, Upper Galilee, back in the field for another eight weeks of digging.¹ The excellent results of the first campaign² and the promise they gave for future work were more than fulfilled.

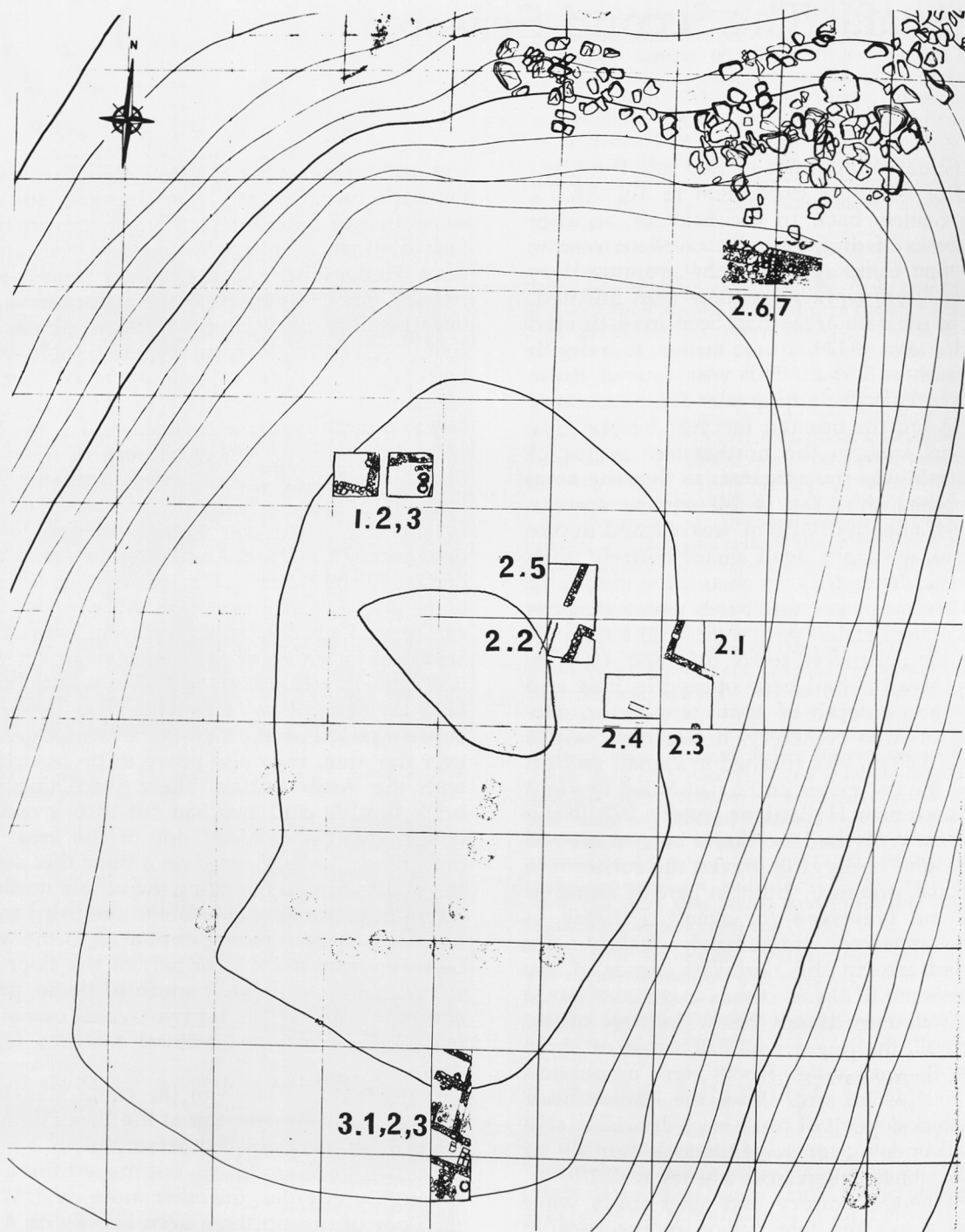
Five separate areas had been investigated in 1968, a total of 129 square meters, to a depth of as much as 3.50 m. This year, four of these areas were enlarged and greater depths reached in some squares opened the year before; one additional area, in the northeastern sector of the mound, was investigated, so that the total area opened thus far is 241 square meters. Although a depth of 3.50 m. was reached in one new area, we again dealt almost entirely with Hellenistic deposit, as much as three meters in depth in some places, and barely penetrated the debris of the Persian period (586-330 B.C.).

In the northwest sector only one 4 x 4 m. trench (Area 1.2) had been opened in 1968 and dug only to a depth of about one meter, disclosing an Arab cemetery. It was here that a depth of 3.50 m. was reached in a small section in 1969; the last meter and a half failed to yield the characteristic Hellenistic pottery. While the uppermost walls had no doubt been removed in the course of digging graves, the corner of a substantial structure, built in part of squared blocks and preserved for almost a meter in height, appeared immediately below the disturbed area in the northeast corner of the square. Some of these stones may have come from a wall immediately below the base of the upper wall; the lower wall had a row of slabs against its west side. Floors were associated with both walls, and above the higher floor was a thick deposit of mud-brick debris. A still lower floor lay over an enormous tumble of massive stones, fallen from a heavy wall 1.10 m. wide. Whereas pottery and other finds were profuse above the latest floor, in the tumble there were very few objects, and the fill below

was quite different in nature, Hellenistic above the floor but devoid of the characteristic red wares in and below the tumble. There are thus four distinct architectural phases, the upper three Hellenistic and the heavy, lowest wall possibly pre-Hellenistic. In the meter below the lowest wall and tumble no architectural remains could be seen in the small area dug; there were, however, floors, brick debris, signs of burning and much coarse pottery, with only an occasional fragment of black-glazed and other fine ware. We seem clearly to be here in debris of the Persian period, and even some Iron Age pottery appears.

In the four-meter square opened to the east (Area 1.3), the Arab cemetery had also disturbed the upper 1.20 m. of deposit; seven or eight graves were cleared. A narrow, late wall running diagonally along the west side of the area probably served the cemetery as a terrace wall, its smooth face to the east. It was founded on a lower wall twice as wide, and the latter, superimposed on the mud-brick tumble general over the area, may also prove to be associated with the Arab burials. These were dug into brick tumble and two had cut into a curious double oven at the east side of the area. The mud-brick tumble rested on a floor that seems to go with a wall bounding the whole northern edge of the area and to relate to the third architectural phase in the adjacent area to the west. Some paving slabs cover part of the floor just south of the wall, while south of these, partly cut into the floor, are the two ovens, one of the most interesting architectural features found during the season.

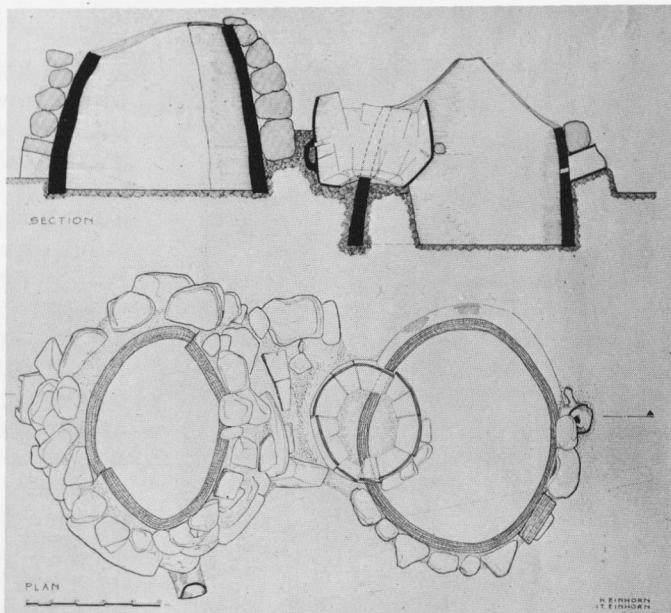
The ovens are about the same size, 0.70-0.75 m. in inner diameter at the base. Both are beehive-shaped and are preserved to a maximum height of ca. 0.70 m. but the southern one is roughly circular, the other more oval. While the floor of the northern oven is only ca. 4 cm. below the floor outside, that of the southern



Plan of the site of Tel Anafa, showing areas of excavation.



Two ovens in Area 1.3 from south.



Plan and section of two ovens in Area 1.3.

oven is about 20 cm. lower. Both have clay walls ca. 8-9 cm. thick at the base, thinning slightly toward the top. An unusual feature is the coating of large cobblestones around both ovens, rather than the usual large potsherds set in mud. Another unusual feature is a flue in each oven at ground level, with a small hole in the oven wall connecting with a broken-off amphora neck set in to slope down from the floor level to the hole in the oven. Stubs of the amphora handles remain and on one of these in the southern oven was a stamp that would date it between 108 B.C. and a little after 80 B.C. The flue of the northern oven is on the west, that of the southern oven on the south. It seems most likely that the two ovens were built and used together. However, at some time the southern oven was destroyed by placing a large pithos in a cutting in its north side; this was upside down with its mouth at about the level of the floor outside, about 25 cm. above the oven floor. While there were no finds of interest in the northern oven, the southern one contained a whole jug and a large stone lying on what appeared to be the collapsed top of the structure, while below this debris the fill contained

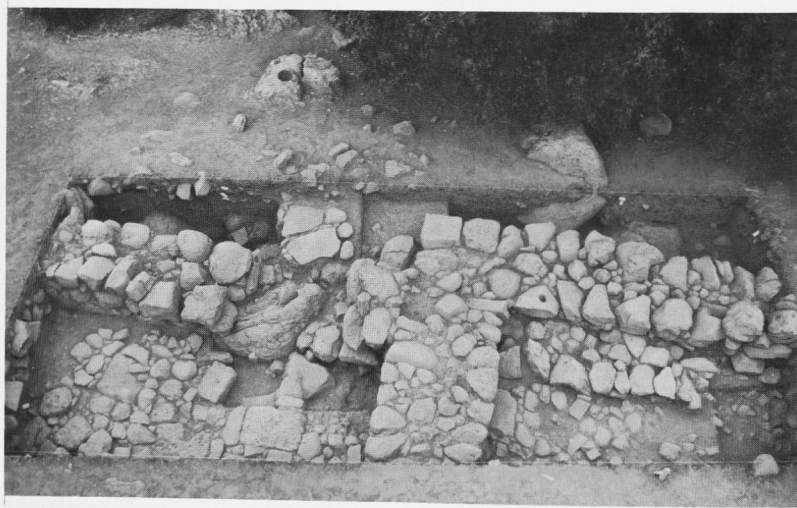
numerous fragments of amphora handles, two of them stamped and dating from the same time as that from the flue. When the pithos was removed, a small bronze jug was found standing beneath it. The whole complex is, to our knowledge, unparalleled. Its setting is a court, partially paved, with a wall on the north and one appearing in the scarp to the east, which must be investigated next season.

At the northeast corner of the mound, part way down the slope, there is a line of huge rocks running roughly east-west and extending downward in a northeast direction. Numerous trees, some very large, have taken root among the rocks. In several places "cup holes" were found cut in the upper surface of the rocks. To begin the investigation of this area two 4 m. squares (Areas 2.6, 2.7) were opened south of the southernmost rocks and when these were joined an area 4 x 9 m. was cleared. The depth dug was only about a meter. We seem here to have found the enclosure wall of the Hellenistic acropolis, which shows clearly from the air. Two architectural phases are visible, the earlier built of two rows of large stones with a fill of

smaller ones. South of this wall is a flagstone pavement sloping down from west to east, following the contour of the mound. Over this wall was placed a similar but less well constructed wall which jogged to the north just where a north-south cross-wall was built. At the inner juncture of the two walls there is coarse plaster; more such plaster occurs on the south face of the later wall. What had clearly been a roadway along a wall in the first period became two rooms of a dwelling in the second phase. North of the enclosure wall there are no signs of occupation, but here the enclosure wall runs over great outcrops of rock, partially cut to receive it, and immediately to the north are other rocks; it is now clear that these are not loose boulders but living rock. Coins and other finds south of the enclosure wall date its two phases to the late second and early first centuries B.C. respectively.

The central section at the east side of the mound had been investigated in 1968, in two areas (2.1, 2.3) in the vicinity of the military slit trench dug in 1956, in which masses of painted and gilded stucco had been found, and in Area 2.2, somewhat to the west. To each of these a 4x5 m. area was added (2.4 and 2.5). Although

Area 2.4 lies immediately west of 2.3, and the baulk between was ultimately removed, very little stucco was found in comparison with the masses removed in 1968, possibly because of terracing operations, to be discussed below. This year again walls appeared immediately below the surface, forming a large complex with those disclosed last year. A lower complex of somewhat different plan and orientation also extends into Areas 2.1, 2.2 and 2.5. In Area 2.4 this lower complex of walls sealed off a group of large pits that occupied almost the entire area; these yielded quantities of Hellenistic pottery and a variety of other objects. The pits were cut into brick tumble and in the south-central part of Area 2.4 a considerable part of a mud-brick wall was found, thus far dug for a height of 1.20 m.; the bottom has not yet been reached. There are indications that this wall was part of a stepped terrace complex onto which the great mass of stucco debris had probably been dumped at a later date. Continued digging in Area 2.3 at the end of the season yielded more stucco and the top of a wall built of large blocks placed on end. Pits had been dug in both the Roman and Arab periods at the west side of Area 2.4.



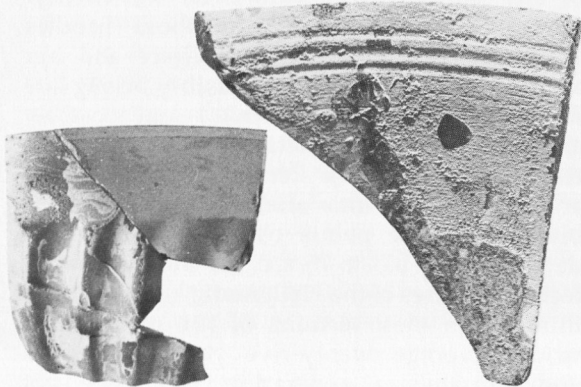
Areas 2.6 and 2.7 from south and above.

In Area 2.5 were found walls of the second large building complex mentioned in connection with Area 2.4, and with them were associated a white plaster floor. Another plaster floor lay immediately below. Lower still a beaten earth floor extended over most of the area; into it a large, flat stone had been set. Somewhat below this floor was a wall running diagonally across the trench from northeast to southwest. It is well built, with ashlar blocks at about 0.70 m. intervals; other such blocks were found in the tumble. The bottom of the wall had not yet been reached at the end of the season and a second row of ashlar blocks on end was beginning to appear. Mud-brick tumble found on either side of this wall is probably from its upper part. This third architectural phase from the top, using ashlar blocks with rubble masonry between, is now known in three areas: 1.2, 2.1 and 2.5.

The step trench at the south side of the mound, dug last year in an area 4 x 9 m. (Areas 3.1, 3.2), was this year extended to the south for another five meters (Area 3.3). Again, three distinct architectural phases were observed; below the lowest a small probe trench reached debris of the Persian period, three meters below the surface. The uppermost phase has three sub-phases, represented by successive floors, all associated with a high wall that runs east-west across the north end of the area. Remains of an oven were on the uppermost floor; a pit (stone-lined) was cut into the second floor; another oven, just beneath the first, was built on the lowest floor. The second architectural phase has two subdivisions, but its main features were a large flagstone-paved area over most of the trench and at the north a step up to a pavement of well cut limestone blocks, possibly a street bordered on the north by a house in Area 3.2. An oven rested on the floor near the eastern edge of Area 3.3. When the flagstones and earth floor were removed, another wall was found running across the northern part of 3.3, parallel to and a little south of the latest wall. South of this there was again stone paving and near the south edge of the trench a coarse pot neatly propped up by small stones. Thus



Step trench at the south side of the mound (Areas 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3) from south and above.



Above: glass cup fragment with engraved lines. Below: fragment of glass bowl with ribbed decoration.

in all phases Area 3.3 seems to have been a courtyard of a house, probably opening onto a road following the contours of the mound; to the north of the road was another house.

The architectural plan that begins to emerge shows a central area at the top of the mound with a substantial enclosure wall. Within it are some large building complexes, one at the center of the east side of the mound (Areas 2.1, 2.3, 2.4 and 2.2, 2.5). In these areas the usual house courts with ovens, so common outside the peripheral wall (Areas 3.1, 3.3) and also appearing in areas 1.2, 1.3, have not yet been found. The stucco suggests that we may expect a public building here.

For the chronology of these architectural phases and the objects found within them we are dependent largely on datable coins and Rhodian stamped amphora handles. Of the sixty-two coins found in the first two seasons, forty-four of which could be identified specifically or placed in recognizable groups, one is Arabic, two (both found in topsoil) fall in the third quarter of the first century B.C., and twenty-two have a beginning date in the first quarter of the first century B.C.; seventeen have beginning dates in the second half of the second century B.C., one belongs in the first half of the second century B.C. and one in the third century B.C.; the last two were both found in contexts that must be late second or early first century B.C. The coins are either those of Seleucid kings or of city-states, largely Sidon. Of the twenty-seven Rhodian stamped amphora handles identified by Miss Virginia Grace and her assistants, only one could possibly belong late in her Period IV (180-146 B.C.), one possibly extends into Period VII (after ca. 75 B.C.) and twenty-five belong in Periods V (146-108 B.C.) and VI (108 to a little after 80 B.C.). The combined evidence points overwhelmingly to a date from 150 B.C. to 75 B.C. for the three architectural phases of the Hellenistic town revealed thus far in most sections of the mound; this would average twenty-five years per phase, approximately a generation. We have not probed sufficiently below the third phase from the top to know if there had been an earlier,

smaller, Hellenistic settlement, or whether these remains are of the Persian period with a gap separating the two settlements; that is still to be elucidated.

In our first report two characteristics of the material remains from Tel Anafa were emphasized—their Greek nature and their richness; the finds of the 1969 season bear these out. The abundance and fine quality of the table wares, both pottery and glass, and to a lesser extent of metal, is especially striking. The red-slipped pottery found in the limited area excavated forms a collection which in size, quality and variety of shapes may have no equal. The ware appears even in the lowest of the three architectural phases discussed above, and so must have been present at the site at least by 150 B.C.; it is then found in all subsequent phases to the end of the Hellenistic town. The light buff fabric of fine, pure clay is so general that one must look for a common source for most of the pieces; the few exceptions only heighten the impression of uniformity. That source can not be very far off, and the pottery from Tel Anafa lends strength to the view which has become prevalent in recent years that this ware was made in a region of Lebanon or coastal Syria; in fact, it would seem to favor a provenience not too far north of Tel Anafa itself.

The bowls and plates, which constitute most of the fine pottery, are all covered with a fine red to red-brown slip, applied by dipping from opposite sides so that there is usually a darker strip down the center where the slip is doubled. Decoration consists of rouletting and stamped palmette and rosette impressions in the tondo. There was also a small production of moulded hemispherical bowls with relief decoration on the exterior, like the so-called "Megarian" type, the fabric of which seems similar to that of the bowls and plates. These are quite distinct from the imported relief bowls, of which a considerable number of pieces have been found, largely of the characteristic East Greek wares. There is a considerable amount of semi-fine wares, slipped or partially slipped and some with painted decoration on the unslipped portion; "pie-crust" applied mouldings occur on some of these, which may



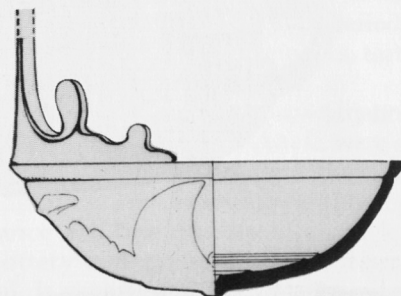
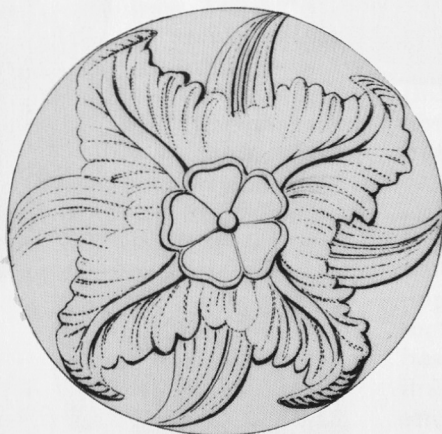
Two casseroles, amphora and jug—kitchen wares of the Hellenistic period.

also be an East Mediterranean product. The many amphoriskoi and fusiform unguentaria may also be placed in this category; again this year an unguentarium was found which had patterns in black, crackled paint—two rectangles on the body and a triangle on the shoulder; one found last year had a large diamond on the body. In addition there are quantities of kitchen wares: casseroles with or without covers, jars and jugs, large and small mortaria and bowls. Here must also be noted the prevalence of imported amphoras, all from Rhodes. Again this year there were many pieces of kitchen ware with painted decoration crudely applied or, rather, allowed to run down over the pot from a painted zone around the shoulder. The fabric has a heavy admixture of grog and

is fired very hard so that the pottery breaks very sharply. It is a fabric not yet well known which may prove to have been made locally.

An exceptional quantity of glass vessels was found this season as well as last. At a time when these were still being moulded, before mass production by blowing had been introduced and glass vessels were a luxury product, so much glass was in use at Tel Anafa that the first two seasons of work have produced rim fragments of over five hundred glass vessels. These are almost all bowls or cups which in general conform to three main types: conical cups, usually decorated with engraved lines near the lip on the exterior and/or interior, sometimes with circles cut on the bottom, shallow bowls similarly decorated, and hemispheri-

Left: bronze ladle with duck-head handle. Below and right: bronze ladle with acanthus decoration in relief on bowl.



cal or shallow bowls with ribs on the exterior. They range in color from green (most common) through colorless, brown, yellow, aquamarine and blue to purple; in the ribbed bowls aquamarine is the most common color, followed by green, brown, colorless, blue and purple. It is interesting that only a few bits of glass core-formed vessels were found and none of the marbled or millefiori glass known at the time; this accentuates the local character of the glass at Tel Anafa and one may conclude that it was made not too far away.³

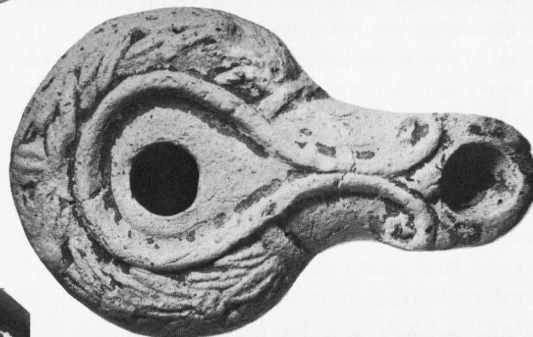
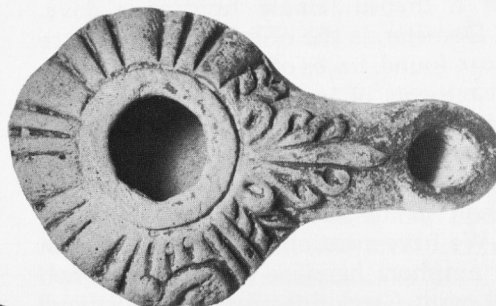
Fine metal ware found in 1969 is represented by some bronze ladles, one with a duck-head handle and another with the underside of the bowl handsomely decorated in relief with

a large rosette formed of wind-blown acanthus leaves, the folded ends standing out in high relief; this is typical of the highest quality of Greek bronzes. The bronze cup found in the southern oven in Area 1.3 has a bearded human head as a handle decoration. Many iron utensils occurred as well, the most elegant being a long, thin knife blade mounted in a handle made of a tusk. Bronze cosmetic spatulae were common, as were straight pins and fibulae, weights and a variety of tools and weapons. Only one piece of fine jewelry, a small silver ring with snake-head ends, was found in 1969.

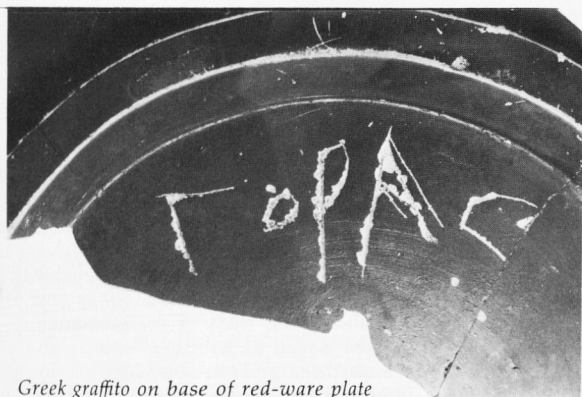
Negative evidence of interest comes from the scarcity of representations of gods or humans, very likely indicating that no sanc-



Small limestone figure of a draped female holding a dove, possibly Demeter.



Three terracotta lamps of Hellenistic date.



Greek graffiti on base of red-ware plate



Clay sealing from Area 3.3.

tuary or temple precinct has yet been approached in the excavations. A small limestone figure of a draped female holding a dove, possibly Demeter, is the only significant piece of sculpture found; traces of color are preserved. A few fragments of terracotta figurines have appeared; these are of good quality and are probably imports from the Greek world.

Nowhere is the Greek nature of the site clearer than in the written documents found thus far. We have mentioned the twenty-seven Rhodian amphora handles and the sixty-two coins, all with Greek inscriptions of various Seleucid kings or of coastal cities. The graffiti on red-ware vases are all in Greek, not always spelled correctly. A stamp on a piece of coarse pottery reads ΠΤΟ, possibly for Ptolemais, the ancient name of Akko. Finally, there is a clay sealing (Area 3.3) that has four lines of text; the first two are Greek dates, the third probably a Greek legal term, and the fourth, still undeciphered, may prove to be Phoenician, like the number along the left edge.

With the added information gained in the

1969 campaign, one can sketch more accurately the history of Tel Anafa in the Hellenistic period. It now seems likely that a new town was founded some time after the victory of Antiochus III over the Ptolemies at nearby Paneas in 198 B.C., the beginning of firm Seleucid rule in the area. The town remained Greek until its end, which must have come during the reign of Alexander Jannaeus as a result of his campaigns against the pagan towns in the province of Gaulanitis; these he incorporated into the Hasmonaean kingdom some time before the end of his rule in 76 B.C. Though a small town, there is every evidence that it was a rich one, seat of a prince or of wealthy merchants, possibly a caravanserai on an important trade route. Only further digging can add to the picture and answer some of the many questions raised by the excavations. But already Tel Anafa has added new dimensions to the study of Hellenistic Palestine and the Greek world in the East.

SAUL S. WEINBERG

¹ The first season's work, in the spring of 1968, was reported in *MUSE, Annual of the Museum of Art and Archaeology*, University of Missouri-Columbia, 3 (1969) 16-23.

² Sponsored by the Museum of Art and Archaeology of the University of Missouri-Columbia and supported by funds supplied through the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, as well as by the University, the staff included many Missourians as well as individuals from other universities. The writer was again the director, assisted by Prof. William C. Biers of the University of Missouri staff, Mrs. Jane C. Biers and Mrs. Gladys D. Weinberg of the Museum staff, Prof. John C. Overbeck of the University of New York at Albany, and Prof. Richard Schiemann of Catawba College, North Carolina. Barbara Johnson, a graduate student at Missouri, was also a supervisor, while two other Missouri graduate students (Leslie Cornell and Robert Gordon) were trainees under the Ford Foundation program for archaeological field training. Other Ford Foundation trainees were Catherine

de Grazia and Kathryn Andrews of Columbia University, Yechiel Leavy of the University of Pennsylvania and Cymbrie Pratt of Wayne University. Architects for the excavation were Mr. and Mrs. Harold Einhorn; our artist was Jörg Schmeisser, our photographer Melvin Farris, a former Missouri University student, and our restorer Edgardo Pires-Ferreira. Volunteer workers, largely students, made up the work force. The entire expedition was housed at Kibbutz Shamir and at the Guest House of Kfar Blum, both near the site. Thanks are due to Dr. A. Biran, Director of the Department of Antiquities, and his staff for facilitating the work of the expedition in every way, to Moshe Kagan of Kibbutz Shamir, who offered constant assistance, and to the Kibbutz in general, which furnished the cooperation so necessary to the success of the work.

³ A preliminary report on the glass vessels of the first two seasons ("Hellenistic Glass from Tel Anafa in Upper Galilee," by Gladys Davidson Weinberg) appears in the *Journal of Glass Studies* 12 (1970).