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Tel Anafa-1972: The Fourth Season

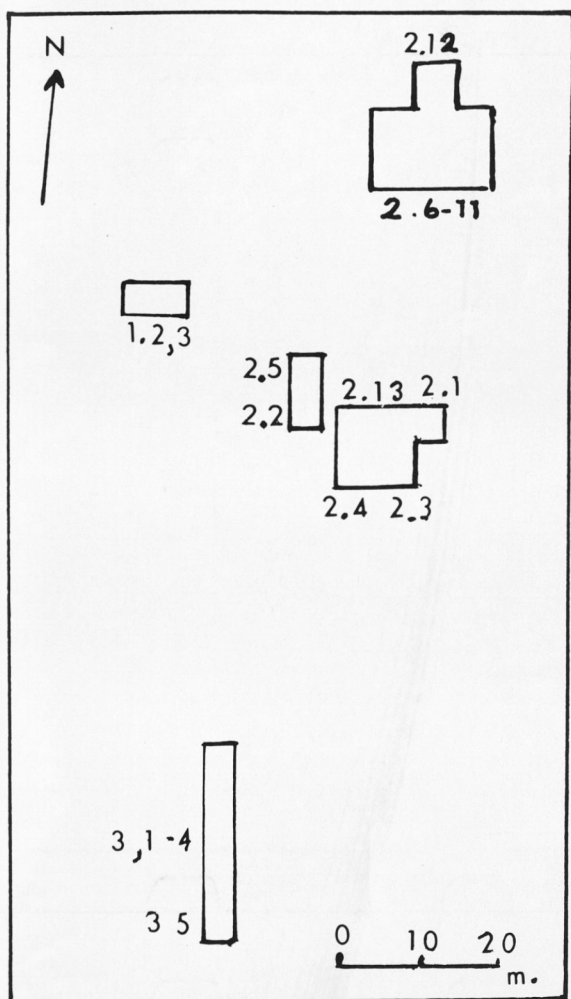
TEL ANAFA, a mound in Upper Galilee, yielded a great mass of important Late Hellenistic remains during the first three seasons of excavation (1968-1970)¹ and in 1972 presented a much enlarged range of material.² Four new squares were opened on the mound, bringing the total exposure to 429 square meters, and an attempt was made to investigate the Hellenistic town below the mounds to the east. It was, however, the deeper digging in areas previously investigated that lengthened the site's cultural sequence back to at least 2200 B.C.

The new squares were opened with specific problems in mind, and some have already answered questions raised in previous seasons. We were particularly eager to learn about the lower Hellenistic town, which we had tried in 1968 to test in an abandoned fish pond below the northwest corner of the mound. Here the water table proved too high. We hoped that the deep modern channel along the east edge of the mound, which had revealed Hellenistic debris, had sufficiently lowered the water on that side to allow excavation. Two pits, each two meters square, proved fruitless, for water flowed in at 2.50 m. below the surface, before any ancient remains appeared.

THE MASS of huge rocks on the northeast slope of the mound had long attracted our attention, and investigations here in 1969 and 1970 had revealed the north side of the Hellenistic enclosure wall of the late second century B.C. and of the large building of about 100 B.C. which replaced and encroached on it. A 4 x 5 m. square (2.12—see Plan) was opened among the rocks immediately north of it (Fig. 1). We had already noted that the fill north of the enclosure wall had little Hellenistic material, and was distinctly different from that to the south; this was now confirmed. In topsoil there was little Hellenistic pottery; the deep yellow-brown fill below contained mostly Bronze Age pottery and some Iron Age sherds, while the stony fill at a depth of 1.50 m. yielded very little pottery but many flint implements and chips. The great rocks occupied a good third of

the area at the surface, but as much as three-quarters of it 1.50 m. below. The only architecture was a stone foundation between two rocks in the south part; this seems earlier than the enclosure wall, most likely pre-Hellenistic. There were some beaten earth floors and small installations: a pot set into a clay mass, a hemispherical pit lined with stone and clay, a cup-hole cut into the top of the great southern rock (see Fig. 1). Most of a Middle Bronze I pot lay against a rock at the northwest (Fig. 2); a Late Bronze jar hugged the rock in the southeast. This is clear evidence of occupation as early as Middle Bronze I, and probably earlier in the stony fill we have begun to penetrate. Our surmise that occupation of the site began among these rocks and that the mound grew southward has thus received some support, but this is not yet confirmed, for nowhere else have we reached virgin soil.

A second area (5.1) was opened in the east-central sector, east of Square 2.1, to test our theory³ that the richly painted and gilded stucco decoration found here, some of it on ashlar blocks, came from the collapse of the second story of a large structure. This is now certain. Across the east end of the trench runs a wall built, like other exterior walls, of both basalt field stones and limestone ashlar blocks (Fig. 3); it extends from the surface to the depth now reached, almost two meters. While in the other walls single ashlar blocks were placed at fairly regular intervals, in this wall one was used as a header through its thickness, and others of the same height were placed on both faces of the wall as stretchers, both contiguous with the same side of the header. Three levels of such groups occur in the two-meter depth of the wall dug thus far; they are never exactly one above the other. Just before this wall reaches the north baulk of the area, another abuts at right angles to it on the west; its construction is similar, with one header and stretcher group close to the east wall. A floor at a high level is associated with the topmost course of these two walls, and immediately beneath is a deep fill containing the collapsed walls of the upper story.



Plan of the excavations showing the 1972 trenches added to the earlier ones.

These seem to have fallen toward the west and south, filling the room with debris over a meter in depth—a rich harvest of architectural members and stucco decoration. Of great significance was the finding of a large basalt boulder split to give a fairly smooth face; on this is thick stucco decoration (Fig. 4) like that found last season on a large ashlar block.⁴ It is thus evident that the walls of the upper story were built both of basalt rocks and limestone blocks. The stucco found this year will help greatly in reconstructing the decorative scheme of the upper story.

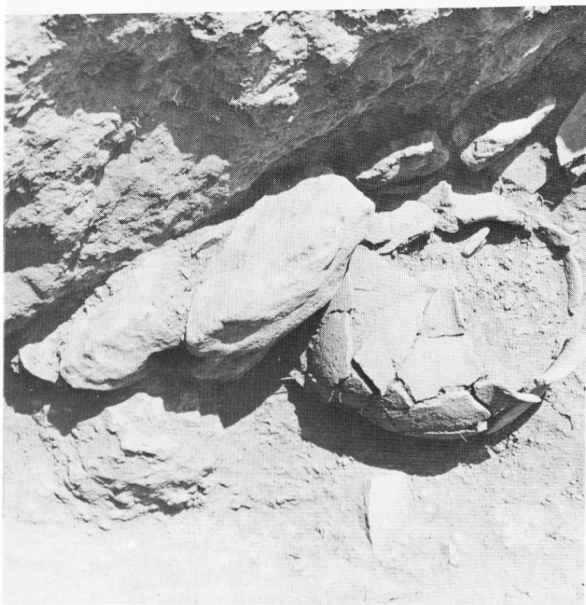
Below the fall of masonry and stucco there is a distinct layer, as much as a half-meter deep,

made up chiefly of the collapsed floors of the upper story, including thousands of tesserae from mosaics and many more large pieces of floor mosaics than found previously. The tesserae are, as before, exceptionally small and in an unusually wide range of colors, mainly stone but also some of glass. We know that in one room the mosaic had a border of three rows of large white tesserae (Fig. 5), then a zone of tiny black tesserae in which were set circles of green glass tesserae. In the center of each circle is a cross formed of a central white cube and four yellow cubes; other such crosses occur in the field. The smooth edge of these border fragments shows that the mosaic was laid after the walls had been stuccoed. Clearly, the main body of the mosaics included, besides areas of white, decorated panels depicting floral, animal or possibly even human figures.

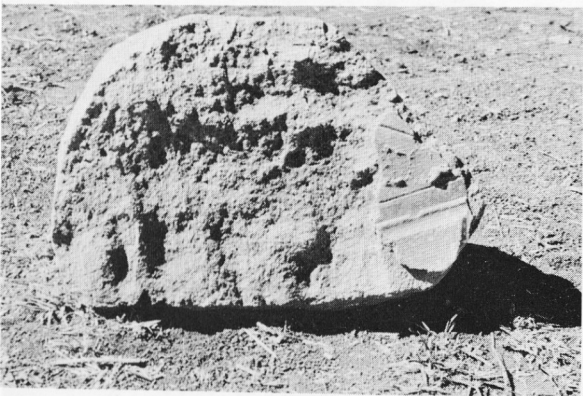
The floor debris contained many iron nails of various sizes, the only evidence preserved of the wooden construction, which must have been strong enough to support the heavy mosaics. While some ash and bits of charcoal were mixed with the remains, there is no evidence of a destructive conflagration.

Square 2.13 was opened this season in order to fill in the plan of the large building in the east-central sector; thus far only high-level walls have been disclosed. The fourth new area opened was Square 3.5, an addition to the step trench down the south side of the mound; it is discussed below.

DEEPER DIGGING in areas already worked gave us a clearer picture of the site's earlier history. In the northwest sector, Squares 1.2 and 1.3, we reached Early Hellenistic levels. In 1.2 digging was restricted to the northwest part of the trench, where a mass of fill had been left in 1969. The three main Hellenistic architectural phases again appeared, the lowest dating before 150 B.C. The Early Hellenistic fill yielded a succession of floors but no foundations. Most of the floors had hearths and were covered with burnt debris. Many had small pits, often connected with channels, some stone-lined; in these were masses of burnt organic matter. Quantities of grains and seeds were recovered by flotation and are now being analyzed. In the northwest corner a large bell-shaped pit



2. Middle Bronze I vessel found against a rock in Square 2.12, from west.



4. Split basalt boulder with stucco on one face.

3. Wall along east side of Square 5.1, seen from west.



1. Northeast sector, showing Square 2.12 in the background, Square 2.6 in the foreground



has part of its stone lining preserved for a height of one meter. Many lamps suggest that these floors belong to the third century B.C. or earlier; they yielded much pottery and metal, including an unusual fibula (Fig. 19) and the first piece of Attic black-figured pottery found at the site.

In Square 1.3 the complex of ovens continued to occupy our attention. Two superimposed pairs of ovens had been dug in 1969 and 1970,⁵ and it was clear that more were to come. Another pair and a single oven below were found in 1972—four phases in all. The floor of the single oven was made of typical oven brick laid in concentric circles. Close by, in the south baulk, three layers of other ovens are now clearly visible. The courtyard in which all these ovens stood also contained several stone-lined pits from which came a variety of interesting finds; one small enclosure at the north baulk yielded an unusual collection of pendants (see page 16 and Fig. 10). Coins and stamped amphora handles show that all this activity belongs in the second half of the second century B.C. Deeper digging has revealed the top of a heavy north-south wall, at the same level as the lowest one in 1.2, and earlier types of pottery and lamps suggest a date in the first half of the second century B.C.

In Square 2.5 the bottom of the heavy north-south wall was finally reached, showing it to be preserved for a height of over two meters. It had cut through three clearly marked floors, and just beneath its bottom was another floor, uninterrupted over the entire area. Still deeper, a heavy stone foundation has appeared in the east half of the trench. Like the heavy walls in 1.2 and 1.3, it must date either to the early second century B.C. or even to the third century, as indicated by many Early Hellenistic lamps.

To the east, in Squares 2.3 and 2.4, the jumbled mass of stone foundations, some still supporting mud-brick walls, which had been revealed earlier, were disentangled this year and seen to represent at least three sub-phases of the second Hellenistic architectural phase (ca. 150-100 B.C.); the long section of mud-brick wall described in our last report⁶ may be a fourth. Careful sectioning of this wall and its socle showed clearly the method of construction (Fig. 6): a low socle, rather flat on top, the wall made of square bricks



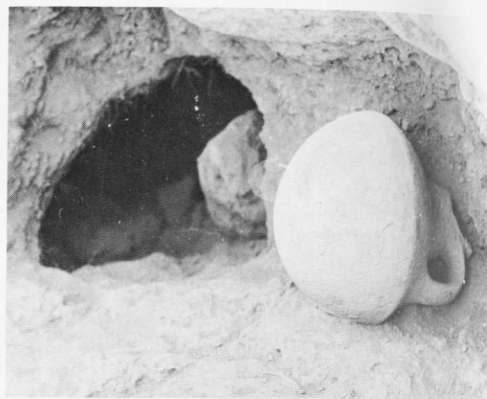
5. Fragment of mosaic floor with varicolored pattern in stone and glass. W. ca. 10 cm.



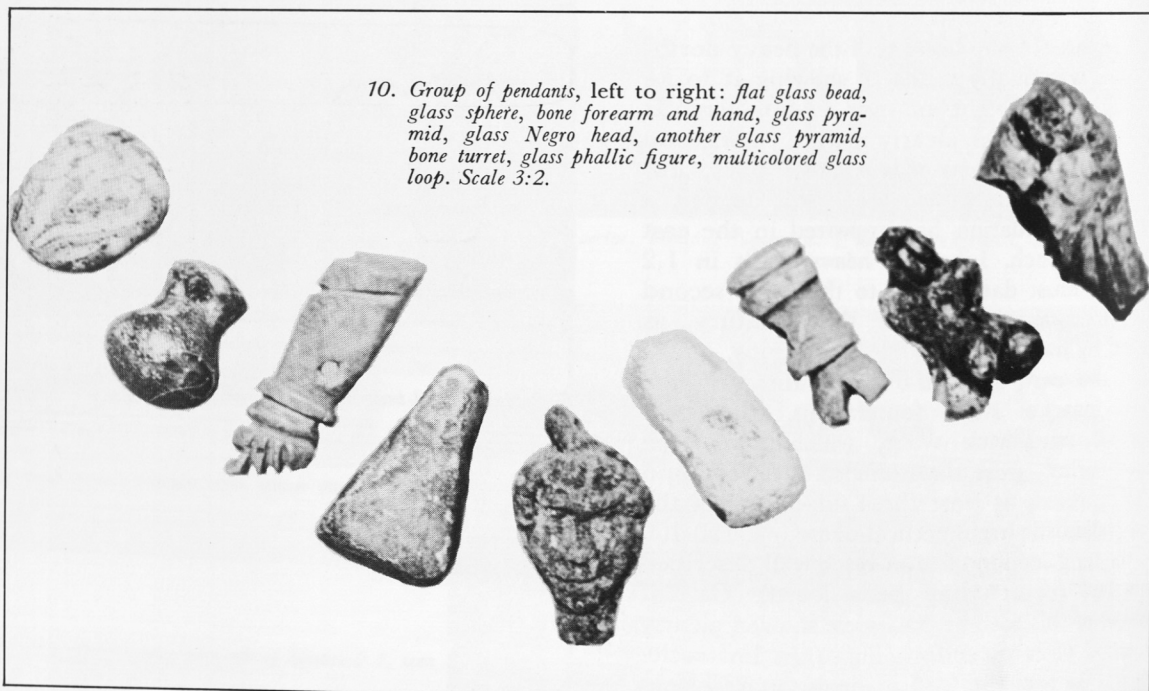
6. Section of mud-brick wall resting on stone socle.



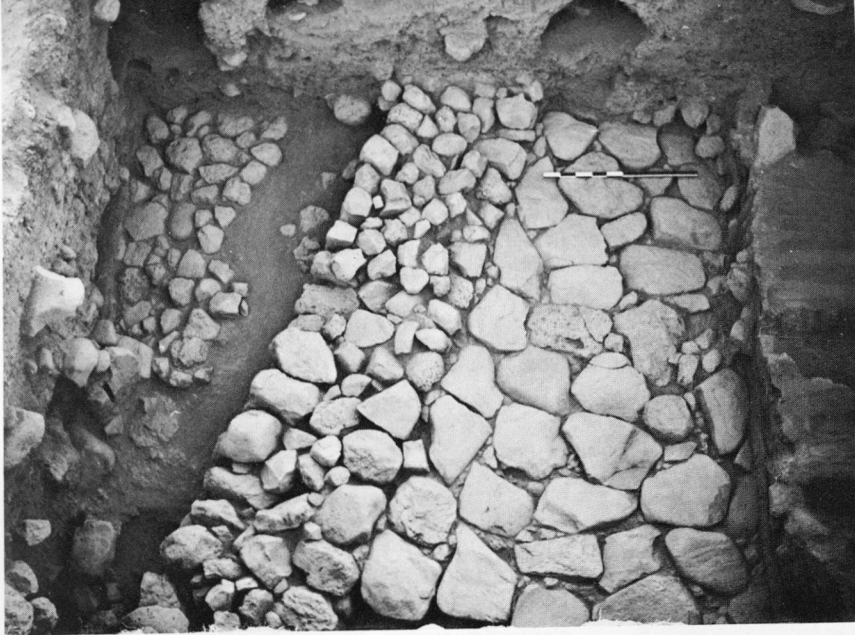
7. *Domical structure found in Square 3.4, as seen from the west.*



8. *Jug probably of Persian date (525-330 B.C.) as found in Square 3.5, from northeast.*



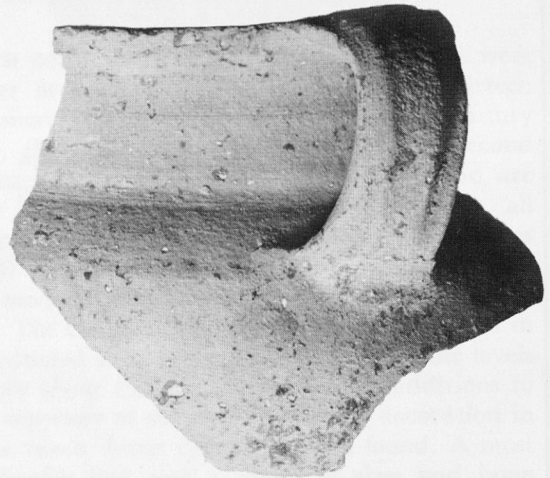
10. *Group of pendants, left to right: flat glass bead, glass sphere, bone forearm and hand, glass pyramid, glass Negro head, another glass pyramid, bone turret, glass phallic figure, multicolored glass loop. Scale 3:2.*



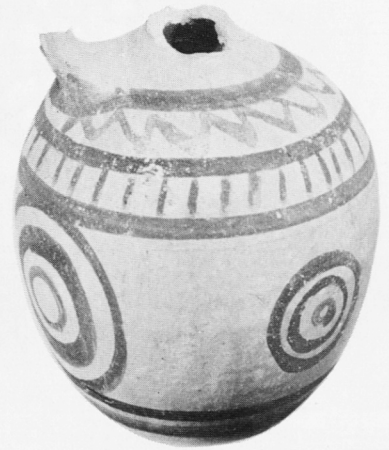
9. Square 3.5 seen from the east. At the extreme left is an early cobblestone pavement.

about 0.90 m. on a side and 0.18 m. thick. One and one-third bricks are in the width of the wall, which overlaps the socle on both faces.

Below these foundations both squares were riddled with pits, apparently dug mostly from the second-phase levels, and little earlier fill was left intact. These disturbed areas produced a great variety of pottery, dating from Middle Bronze I (2200-2000 B.C.) or even earlier, to Hellenistic. After the removal of this confused fill, a thick white plaster floor appeared, covering much of Square 2.3 and extending beyond to east and north, though destroyed by intrusions all along its western edge. An Early Iron Age pottery fragment adhering to the floor may indicate its date. When the eastern half of the floor was lifted, a second similar floor, also disturbed, was revealed beneath it in the western third of the cut. In much of the area an array of Middle Bronze IIB pottery was found; many nearly complete vessels at a similar level suggest that we may be reaching the floor of this early period (1750-1570 B.C.). On the other hand, this could be the bottom of an MB IIB pit; in either case it is obvious that a major



11. Fragment of large ceramic bowl (krater), Iron Age.



12. (above): Canaanite jar of Late Bronze Age.
14. (upper right): painted pottery juglet, Middle Bronze IIB.
15. (right): large jar, Middle Bronze I, found in situ in Square 2.12.



13. Two carinated bowls, Middle Bronze IIB, found with juglet (Fig. 14).

leveling operation preceded the laying of the first plaster floor and that here, at least, our stratigraphy is drastically telescoped.

THE STEP TRENCH on the south slope, to which Square 3.5 was added, is now twenty-four meters long; this season the southern fourteen meters (Squares 3.3-3.5) were worked. The heavy diagonal wall of the second architectural phase, the most prominent feature in this area, was found broken off half way across Square 3.5. In dismantling the wall, two phases of construction were observed, and a well-leveled socle a little wider than the wall. With the wall removed, it was possible to clear the domical stone structure partially revealed in 1970⁷ (Fig. 7); we did not dig within it because of the weakness of the corbelled dome. The foundations for this structure penetrated masses of burnt brick debris and cut a stone foundation in its northeast section. But the domed structure had itself been partially robbed on its north side by a large pit; the outline of another pit was found farther north. These pits were later cut by two others, also dug through the burnt brick debris. Professor Richard Schieman, supervisor in this area, believes that these pits were dug from the levels of the second architectural phase and represent activity during its two sub-phases. The domical structure is then earlier, probably from before 150 B.C.; the burnt brick and the foundation cut by the domed structure are still earlier, while two stone socles at the very northern edge of 3.3 may be as early as the third century B.C.

The burnt brick debris showed individual bricks and the line of the walls, but no socles beneath. The debris lay on a thick layer of carbonized material and ash over a hard earth floor. A large wooden beam fragment appeared in a brick wall just above this floor.

While past experience had led us to expect much disturbance by animal runs in the upper levels of Square 3.5, it was greater than anticipated, and only bits of undisturbed fill remained. Between two large runs, however, lay an almost complete jug (Fig. 8) which we believe to be from the Persian period. The jumbled fill produced Late Bronze and Iron Age pottery as well. Yet beneath this, Square 3.5 produced the largest

expanse of early architecture thus far found. A socle about one meter wide runs diagonally across the width of the trench (Fig. 9) and to the north a handsome flagstone pavement covers the area; these are clearly contemporary. To the south of the socle is a cobblestone pavement which seems to have been robbed out when the foundation was dug and thus must be earlier. The period of this complex is not fixed by the fill above it except at the northern edge, where a mass of burnt brick debris lies above, separated from the pavement by a layer of unburnt fill. Thus the socle and pavements in 3.5 are at least as early as the lowest walls in 3.3 and would be either Early Hellenistic or, more probably, of the Persian period. In absolute level, the pavements in 3.5 are not so low as the white plaster floors in 2.3, which are the lowest and probably the earliest architectural feature reached thus far.

BOTH COINS and stamped amphora handles were fewer in the earlier levels; two of the thirteen amphora stamps date to the late third century B.C., the rest to the second half of the second century. Most of the thirty-four coins found are also of this time, but there are three coins, all from the uppermost levels, which have clear dates of 81 B.C. These strongly confirm our belief that the town came to an end not long after 80 B.C.

The moulded glass bowls previously found in exceptional abundance do not appear in the levels before about 150 B.C. There are few additions to the repertory of shapes and types of decoration in these bowls. Little cored glass was found. A most interesting find was a group of glass and bone pendants from 1.3 (Fig. 10), found in a late second century context. The glass pieces include a very finely moulded negro head, a phallic amulet, two pyramids, a sphere, a multicolored loop and a flat bead with threads marvered in. There are two bone pendants, one in the form of a tower and the other a forearm with clenched fist.

The fine red ware also made its first appearance about 150 B.C. and thus was much less in evidence this season. Still, there are many fine pieces and one hemispherical bowl with the name KACIAC neatly cut on the bottom of the ring base. Below the levels of the second architectural

phase we are finding what might be termed incipient red ware, with a mottled red-brown to black surface, showing no signs of dipping for the application of the slip; in fact, vases are often unslipped on the lower part of the exterior. While the ware is often identical with that of the later red ware, there is less variety in the shapes. The incurved-rim bowls, seldom found in levels dating after 150 B.C., are now frequent, both in incipient red ware and in black-glazed pottery, which is also more common in the lower levels. Among the semi-fine wares, which usually have a dull, fugitive, red-brown slip, there are crude imitations of fish-plates, a shape common in black-glazed wares. A baby feeder with a sieve top is typical of this ware. The heavy-walled, unslipped unguentaria and amphoriskoi are also rarer in lower levels.

In coarse wares, the cooking pots are noticeably deeper in earlier Hellenistic levels, and we now find complete shapes in the spatter-painted ware, which increases in quantity as we go down. There is as yet no clear indication of how far back into the Early Hellenistic period the horizontally ribbed cooking and storage vessels extend, but exterior ribbing diminishes in earlier levels.

In previous reports little mention has been made of early pottery, as not much was found. Although Persian pottery is still elusive, we have a biconical, round-bottomed jar (see Fig. 8) of pale greenish-buff clay, the fabric somewhat gritty. More certainly Persian is a fragment of a storage jar found in 2.3; its pinkish-buff fabric is typical. Iron Age fragments of cooking pots with the characteristic elongated rim, triangular in section, are common, and there is a fragmentary early krater (Fig. 11). Large amounts of Late Bronze Age pottery occur in the areas disturbed by pit digging, but there is as yet no stratified Late Bronze Age material. One Canaanite jar (Fig. 12), found close against a rock at the east side of 2.12, was *in situ*; a large baking-tray found in 2.5 clearly was not. There are fragments of bichrome ware, of imported Mycenaean ware and local imitations, of Cypriote "milk bowls" and Base-Ring ware.

The quantity of Middle Bronze Age pottery was most unexpected this season; it came mainly from the MB IIB deposit in 2.3. The predominant shape is the carinated bowl (Fig. 13), found in

many sizes; there are also open bowls with inverted rims, one with radial burnishing inside, a painted juglet with concentric circles on the body (Fig. 14) and a large jar with a vertical handle on the shoulder. Still earlier pottery from 2.3 includes typical horned knobs from MB I jars and handles with impressed decoration, both characteristic of the Northern Group of MB I pottery. While these are strays in 2.3, the large jar found in 2.12 (Fig. 15) was *in situ* (see Fig. 2); we consider it to be MB I. A ledge handle with incised decoration is indicative of the scattered Early Bronze Age pottery.

While we still found many Late Hellenistic mould-made lamps, in particular those with *erotes*, the type most common at Tel Anafa, we now have a quantity of Early Hellenistic wheel-made lamps, both imported and locally made (Fig. 16), which in Greece date mainly from the second half of the fourth century and the early third B.C. and were much imitated in Palestine in the third century. Fragments of Persian and Iron Age lamps continue to appear, but not in context.

Early Hellenistic levels have produced more terracotta figurines than the later levels, and we now have two fine heads (Fig. 17), one of a satyr, the other a Persian youth with headgear that leaves only the face exposed; another fragment of excellent quality is from a draped female figure. The lower half of an Astarte plaque was the only earlier terracotta found. Loomweights appeared in a variety of forms, generally conical or pyramidal; two of the latter bear gem impressions.

While there are many whorls of bone, as well as handles and a stylus, the most interesting bone object is a scarab with a bird in flight (a Horus falcon?) incised on the back and the seal depicting a pharaoh seated on a throne on a sacred barque and holding a crook, the insignia of office (Fig. 18). In a small depressed circle in front of his head a piece of gold leaf is preserved, while in the deeper cutting on the sides remain traces of the glaze which once covered the scarab.

Some of the finest objects found this season were again of metal, both bronze and iron. The bronze fibulae are particularly interesting, including a rare type of pincer-fibula (Fig. 19), which has the pin and bow joined with a rivet, with the claws of the pincers arranged to close before the



16. Lamps of Early Hellenistic period: left, import from Greece; right, local imitation.



18. Bone scarab, glazed and gilded. Above: incised bird in flight; below: pharaoh on sacred barque. L. 1.6 cm.



17. Terracotta heads: left, satyr; right, Persian youth.



19. Bronze fibulae. Left: pincer-type; center and right: triangular bow-types. The fibula at right has a metal core within the pin spring.

pin is fastened, thus creating pressure to keep it there. Rare in ancient Palestine, the type is known in Greece at least as early as the fourth century B.C. and it has many Roman derivatives in Europe; our example is from an Early Hellenistic context. There are also triangular-bow fibulae (Fig. 19), used in Palestine from Assyrian to Roman times; those at Tel Anafa are Early Hellenistic. A bronze finger ring has a bezel with a winged female figure in relief.

While iron implements and weapons were not so common as in previous seasons, a number of new types were found: a razor, a large grappling hook, a buckle with attachment plate, a fragmentary pair of shears and an unusual hook and ring with a nail through it. There is also a key like that found in 1968,⁸ as well as chisels, points, a large variety of nails, a fine curved knife with a long tang and a large dagger which may preserve a considerable part of the scabbard. In quantity and variety, the iron objects from Tel Anafa can claim to be of first importance among Hellenistic sites.

¹Results of the first three campaigns are published mainly in *Muse* 3 (1969) 16-23; 4 (1970) 15-24; 5 (1971) 8-16. A combined report, "Tel Anafa: The Hellenistic Town," appeared in the *Israel Exploration Journal* 21 (1971) 86-109.

²As before, the excavations were under the sponsorship of the Museum of Art and Archaeology of the University of Missouri-Columbia, with a Foreign Currency Grant from the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., supplemented by dollar funds from the Museum. The writer was again Director, assisted by Dr. Gladys D. Weinberg; Miss Barbara Johnson served as Assistant Field Director and also supervised one section. Most of the field supervisors were veterans of one or more campaigns: Mrs. Shirley Patterson, Miss Helen Caldwell, Professor Richard Schiemann, Leslie Cornell and Robert Gordon; new members of the staff were Dr. Sharon Herbert and David Morrison. These were assisted in the field by Mrs. Noor Mulder-Hymans, Miss Barbara Wittman, Carl Berkowitz, Jack Blanks, David Groenfeldt and Klaas Smelik. Seven of the supervisors and assistants were Ford Foundation Trainees. The technical staff was also comprised largely of veterans: Mrs. Irene Travlou Einhorn and Harold Einhorn—architects, Miss Gail Cook—draughtswoman, Aaron Levin—photographer, Edgardo Pires-Ferreira—chief conservator, assisted for six weeks by Miss Krystyna Spirydowicz and for four weeks by Robert Haber. Misses Sharon Applebaum and Carol Golden mended pottery throughout the season in our workrooms in Ratisbonne

IT IS THE EARLY HELLENISTIC TOWN at Tel Anafa, as distinct from that dating after 150 B.C., which looms large in the account of the recent season. Clearly, before the two main architectural phases of the later town, there were several earlier phases belonging to the first half of the second century and to the third. In most cases we are only beginning to reveal walls of these earlier stages, but more abundant pottery and lamps of Early Hellenistic date give us an idea of the strength of this period at Tel Anafa. By contrast, the still earlier Persian period (586-330 B.C.) has remained singularly elusive, more so than the Iron Age (1200-586 B.C.) and the Late Bronze Age (1570-1200 B.C.) For the last the evidence is becoming ever more solid, while for the Middle Bronze Age (2200-1570 B.C.) we now have unexpectedly substantial remains. Even earlier occupation of the site is hinted, as Tel Anafa repeatedly surprises and enlightens while the excavations continue.

SAUL S. WEINBERG

University of Missouri-Columbia

Monastery, Jerusalem. The work force was made up of some sixty volunteers, mostly students, including a majority from the United States (several from the University of Missouri) but also a number from eight other countries. The expedition was housed in the Youth Hostel at Tel Hai. For many favors we are particularly indebted to the Director of the Hostel, Mr. Michael Koppel, and to his wife for the delicious food that enhanced the morale of the expedition.

Our work was again greatly facilitated by the Israel Department of Antiquities and Museums, with whose permission we excavate, and our thanks go to its Director, Dr. Avraham Biran, and his staff. Mr. Moshe Kagan of Kibbutz Shamir was again our local sponsor and the kibbutz continued to offer us various services. We wish also to express our indebtedness for assistance to Dr. William G. Dever, Director of the Albright Institute for Archaeological Research in Jerusalem. Dr. Y. Meshorer of the Israel Museum again generously identified the coins, and the stamped amphora handles are being read by Miss Virginia Grace of the staff of the American Excavations in the Athenian Agora.

³*Muse* 5 (1971) 10; see also *I.E.J.* 21 (1971) 93.

⁴*Muse* 5 (1971) 10; color plate on back cover.

⁵*Muse* 4 (1970) 15-17; 5 (1971) 9.

⁶*Muse* 5 (1971) 10.

⁷*Muse* 5 (1971) 11.

⁸*Muse* 3 (1969) 22.