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Ayelet Gilboa, Ilan Sharon, Jeffrey R. Zorn and Sveta Matskevich

EXCAVATIONS AT DOR, FINAL REPORT

VOLUME IIA

AREA G, THE LATE BRONZE AND IRON AGES:
SYNTHESIS, ARCHITECTURE AND STRATIGRAPHY

DIRECTED BY
EPHRAIM STERN 1986–2000
ILAN SHARON AND AYELET GILBOA 2002–2004

with contributions by:
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In memory of
Professor Ephraim Stern (1934–2018), Director of the Tel Dor Excavations
1980–2000
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CHAPTER 11
FRAGMENTARY REMAINS OF PHASES 5–7 IN AI/34
Jeffrey R. Zorn

Excavated by:  Michael Case (1987)
Kristin Leeson (1991)
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INTRODUCTION
This chapter discusses the remains in AI/34, primarily to the north of W9211 (although a brief synopsis of material to the south is provided). The loci south of W9211 are discussed in Chapter 10. The Iron Age remains in AI/34 may be considered some of the most disturbed material in Area G. After the abandonment of the tell, the remains of the Roman forum, including the stonework of the back wall of the eastern stoa, the pavement between the two stoas and the drains beneath them, suffered the depredations of stone robbers who criss-crossed the area with robber trenches. The Romans themselves had previously leveled the area in preparation for the construction of their forum, destroying most of the later Persian and Hellenistic remains below. Early in the Persian period, this area was dotted with not less than five pits, two at least of moderate size. This scenario is fairly typical across Area G, where reasonably well-preserved remains from the Iron Age begin to appear only in the Iron IIA. Unlike most of the rest of the area, however, AI/34 actually preserves a few scraps of what seem to be floors and walls of the Iron Age IIC (Phase 5).

Save for a small area on the southern edge of the unit, south of W9211, excavation ceased with the clearance of the two largest Phase 4 pits. The areas left sandwiched between various massive Roman constructions, which were left in place, would not have provided a coherent plan of earlier remains.

WALL AND FLOOR STAGES
Table 11.1. Walls and floors per stage and phase

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Phase and Horizon</th>
<th>Walls and Floors</th>
</tr>
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<td>vi</td>
<td>Phase 5 – Ir2b-c</td>
<td>W9684a ≡ F9754 ≡ F9818 ≡ F9798 ≡ F9810 ≡ F9768 ≡ F9793</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Phase 6 – Ir2a/Ir12</td>
<td>W9684a ≡ W9211? ≡ F9789</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>viii</td>
<td>Phase 7 – Ir1b</td>
<td>W9684b ≡ W9211</td>
</tr>
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Because the Iron Age stratigraphy in this unit is rather trivial, we dispensed with thumbnail plans. See detailed Plan 10.

WALL DESCRIPTIONS
W9211 and W9684 are described in Chapter 10, where the genealogy containing those walls is also presented.

DISCUSSION OF PHASES AND STAGES
Phase 5 (Stage vi)
W9684a ≡ F9754 ≡ F9818 ≡ F9798 ≡ F9810 ≡ F9768 ≡ F9793

Architecture, ceramics and other small finds attributable to the late Iron Age in Area G are rare. Sandwiched between later Persian pits and Roman walls and drains, a small patch of floor and associated ceramics of this period were found. These fragmentary remains are at an elevation that suggests continued use of walls first founded in Phases 8 and 9.

This is the last possible use of W9684 and, even more doubtfully, W9211. W9684a may be in use, given the height of its preservation (ca. #15.50) above the only possible Phase 5 floor. W9211 may have continued in use as well, but was robbed out to a great depth by two Phase 4 pits, so this is very uncertain.

F9754, F9818 and F9798 (#14.97–14.74; Fig. 11.1) are
the lowest, earliest and most well-preserved floor fragments, found east and north of W9085. Later resurfacings include F9810 (#15.02–14.82), F9768 (#15.22–15.18) and F9793 (#15.09–15.06; Fig. 11.2).

F9754 and its later resurfacings are at or below the base of Phase 1b W9085c and are cut by Phase 4 pit L9681 on the south, showing that the floor predates Phase 4. W9684a is preserved to a height of #15.55–15.39. While F9754 could not be traced to this wall due to the presence of pit L9681, it is at an elevation which would allow its association with the wall. As noted above, Phase 4 pits, such as L9680, L9681 and L9753, would have removed any later Phase 5 re-use of W9211. However, mudbrick and stone rubble loci (discussed below) may be the remains of a later-phase use of W9211 as well.

Other associated loci in Phase 5 are L9752, in which an Assyrianizing bowl was found (Fig. 11.3), L9798 and, possibly, mudbrick loci L9683, L9700 and L9777, as well as rubble locus L9667. It is possible that the latter three loci represent debris from the last phases of use of W9684a and W9211.

**Phase 6 (Stage vii)**

W9684a ≡ F9789 ≡ W9211

W9211 may have continued in use, but was robbed out to a great depth by two Phase 4 pits. W9684 may be associated with one floor patch (F9789).

Because excavation in AI/34 mostly ceased with the clearance of the Persian period pits of Phase 4, remains of the earlier part of the Iron Age were not cleared to any real extent and were mostly below the pits at the southern edge of the unit, in the area of W9211. Material below F9754 is attributed to Phases 6 and 7, based upon their presence above or below F9789 (see Chapter 10). F9789 (#14.58–14.55; Fig. 11.2) is a small patch of floor south of W9085 at an elevation which could have reached W9684a and W9211, assuming that the Persian pits above had indeed removed evidence for its continued later use. However, there is no way to be certain that there was no mixing of materials from above and below this floor.

Mudbrick loci at elevations between F9754 and F9789 are L9780, L9801 and, possibly, L9837. Note, however, that L9837 is north of W9085 and there is no direct connection to L9789. Attribution to Phase 6 is based purely on elevations.

**Phase 7 (Stage viii)**

W9684b ≡ W9211

Both walls are definitely in use in this phase, since W9684b abuts W9211. No floor was found. Dirt loci attributable to this phase are L9866 and L9872, which are below the elevation of F9789, although neither can be considered sealed.
Fragmentary remains of Phases 5–7 in AI/34

Fig. 11.4. Locus genealogy for AI/34. (d09Z3-1253)