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Insgesamt gesehen liegt aber eine gute, klar gegliederte und vom Material her sehr interessante Arbeit vor. Es wird viel Vergleichsmaterial geliefert und wichtige Literatur nicht nur genannt, sondern auch sorgfältig eingearbeitet. Die Ausführungen enthalten z. T. gut beobachtete Einzelheiten, besonders hinsichtlich technologischer Aspekte. Für die Vorderasiatische Archäologie, speziell die Terrakottenforschung, aber auch für Untersuchungen, die sich mit der Entwicklung und Technologie des Wagens befassen, ist diese Arbeit von großem Wert.

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Ruth AMIRAN – Ornit ILAN, *Early Arad, The Chalcolithic and Early Bronze IB Settlements and the Early Bronze II City: Architecture and Town Planning, II. Sixth to Eighteenth Seasons of Excavations, 1971-1978, 1980-1984*. Jerusalem, The Israel Museum/The Israel Exploration Society, 1996. XIII-174 p., 7 fig., 67 pl., 30 plans (= pl. 68-97). 24,6 × 31,1. \$80.00 (member's price: \$60.00).

Twelve years is not a long time to wait for a final report to appear, especially if it accounts for thirteen seasons of excavations (1971-1978, 1980-1984). Nevertheless, this volume was long awaited because of the importance of the site, Tell 'Arad, the southernmost city known at the time of the first urbanization of Syria-Palestine.

In the Introduction (Part One, pp. 3-4) the stratigraphy and chronology of the site are outlined, together with a basic reconstruction of the climatic situation during the first quarter of the IIIrd millenium B.C., when the average rainfall allowed the rise of an urban centre based upon dry farming. A distinct climatic change has been identified during the 27th century B.C., which possibly contributed to the sudden crisis of the settlement.

Part Two (pp. 3-17) presents the scant remains of the Chalcolithic-EB I settlement (stratum V), mostly pits and deposits identified beneath more substantial structures from EB II. As regards EB IB (stratum IV), the most interesting finds were in the areas of the so-called "Sacred Precinct" and of the Palace complex, where in *locus* 4219b (square S 37) a jar bearing the *serekh* of the pharaoh Narmer provided an important reference for the chronology of early Arad (R. Amiran, "An Egyptian Jar Fragment with the Name of Narmer from Arad", *IEJ* 24 [1974] 4-12; ead., "The Narmer Jar Fragment from Arad: An Addendum", *IEJ* 26 [1976] 45-46). Since no materials associated with *loci* are published in the volume (p. xiii), pits, deposits and ephemeral structures, which constitute the bulk of strata V and IV, provide very limited evidence for interpretation (pp. 139-140).

The major goals of the excavations relate to the EB II city, which is illustrated in detail in Part III (pp. 19-138), starting from the fortifications (pp. 19-23). The 2.5 m-thick city wall was excavated in Area S (NW corner of the site), bringing to light two semicircular towers (3121, 3127), with two rectangular rooms

in between. The excavators considered them a rural facility erected along the line of defence. To the north a gateway and a semicircular tower were unearthed in Area T, in the middle of the western side. In Area N a circular tower in stratum III and a gateway guarded by a rectangular tower in stratum II were uncovered. The transformation from a semicircular to a rectangular tower possibly depends on the introduction of the gate in stratum II. A similar change occurred in Area K (tower 2679a-b), possibly indicating a characteristic development of stratum II defensive architecture. In Areas M and W further segments of the city wall were traced, so that the explored part of the fortifications amounts to 866 m (the overall extension of the city-wall is 1176 m).

Another important result of the excavations is the definition of the urban plan of Arad, starting from the network of streets (pp. 23-26). The town is crossed by two sets of streets, one radial, extending from the Water Reservoir out to the city wall, the other concentric, dividing different blocks of buildings. This urban plan has been detected in the southern half of the town, while, for topographical reasons (mainly on elevations), one has to hypothesize a somewhat different network of streets in the northern part, which slopes toward the south-west down from the eccentric Acropolis, situated in the north-east spur. One or two main streets possibly crossed the town east-west north of the Water Reservoir, tracing the easiest path to climb. The location of the Water Reservoir in the lowest point of the site would have made collecting rainfall easy, but would also have created serious problems for distributing water, so that one may surmise that the Acropolis had an autonomous water system.

The identification of a stone quarry, possibly dating to EB II at the foot of the tell, provided interesting data concerning stone cutting and architectural techniques (pp. 26-27). Since the stones used in the town are usually not dressed, the excavators conjectured that boulders and blocks cut from the quarry were used mostly for the foundations of the city wall; however, the exploitation of the quarry for building the Iron Age fortress located on top of the Acropolis (see below) may be also suggested.

In Area T (strata III-II) the archaeologists identified a public complex, which because of its extension and inner organization was called "palace" (pp. 27-45; see also R. Amiran - D. Alon - C. Cohen, "A Public Building Area in the Ancient Canaanite City of Arad (Report on the Ninth and Tenth Seasons of Excavation 1974-1975)", *The Israel Museum News* 11 [1976] 35-40). It is in fact a large compound, enclosing several buildings which possibly had a public function. From the architectural point of view, the definition "palatial area" seems more convenient than "palace", due to the distribution of various functions in different units (L. Nigro, *L'architettura palaziale della Palestina nelle Età del Bronzo e del Ferro* [Contributi e Materiali di Archeologia Orientale 5; Roma 1994] 12-16, pl. 2); this also takes into account the temporary character of the urbanization of Palestine, a region where the palace, as centre of the socio-political organization, achieved a prominent role only during EB III (2600-2300 B.C.).

In stratum III the complex (pp. 27-36, pl. 85) has been investigated only partially, and its limits have been determined using stratum II evidence.

The stratum II palatial area (pp. 28-29, 36-45, pls. 86-87) is composed of several separate units — each one constituted by a broad room, a courtyard and several related installations —, combined together as a public complex by a common enclosure wall, which encompasses an area of about 950 sqm. The main unit lies in the centre and is composed of a broad double-pillared hall with benches along the

inner walls; an entrance room and a series of installations encircle this kernel. The rest of the palatial area comprises a group of rooms and open spaces located around the central unit (pp. 37-39), divided into three main wings. The Eastern Wing (pp. 39-40) is comprised of small rooms, courtyards and several facilities for food transformation and storage, such as platforms and silos. The Western Wing (pp. 40-43) presents instead a more regular arrangement, basically comprising two major units displaced along the limit of the compound. Each unit opens towards a courtyard where cooking places, platforms and grinding stones are set into the ground. The northern room has shallow benches around the walls and various small installations made of unfired clay inside for processing and storing cereals. The southern unit is composed of an antechamber, which contains two silos and a platform, and two arrayed rooms; in the second room one finds a bench, the base for a wooden post supporting the ceilings, and a stone mortar, placed exactly in the centre of the room; the third room is the largest and contains a tripartite installation along the rear wall, possibly used for a specific activity, similar to the one found at EB IVA (= EB IIIB of Palestine) Ebla (Marchetti and Nigro, "Handicraft Production, Secondary Food Transformation and Storage in the Public Building P4 at EB IVA Ebla", *Berytus* 42 [1995-96] 9-36) and to the one at EB II Tell es-Sa'idiyyeh (J. N. Tubb - P. G. Dorrell, "Tell es-Sa'idiyyeh: Interim Report on the Seventh Season of Excavations", *PEQ* 126 [1994] 59-67, fig. 9). This room also has a stone-built base for a wooden column, placed again not exactly in the centre, since it supported a horizontal post stretching from the rear wall to the entrance wall, upon a doorjamb. The asymmetrical placement of these bases depends in fact on the symmetrical location of the doors, since such posts could not be fixed over openings. Two large limestone grinding tables, set into the floor, confirm the utilization of this unit for food production. The Northern Wing (pp. 44-45) of the palatial area is subdivided into three arrayed rooms and a central platform, possibly used for drying cereals.

"Sacred Precinct" is the name given to the area of the Twin Temple (R. Amiran, "Some Observation on Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age Sanctuaries and Religion", in A. Biran [ed.], *Temples and High Places in Biblical Times: Proceedings of the Colloquium in Honor of the Centennial of Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion, Jerusalem 14-16 March 1977* [Jerusalem 1981] 47-60), which actually comprises, according to the excavators, three main religious buildings: the Great Twin Temple, the Small Twin Temple and a Single Hall Temple. The religious purpose of the Sacred Precinct has been established based upon architectural observations including comparison with several EB I-II sanctuaries (pp. 142-143; see for instance: A. Kempinski, "Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age Temples", in A. Kempinski - R. Reich [eds.], *The Architecture of Ancient Israel from the Pre-historic to the Persian Periods* [Jerusalem 1992] 53-59; H. Weippert, *Palästina in vorhellenistischer Zeit* [München 1988] 161-162, fig. 3.10). However, no artifacts are available for corroborating this interpretation and not all the comparisons made fit the case well. A main feature would be Altar 1818, a platform identical to many found in the domestic quarters (pp. 145-146), while the adjacent silo (4078) is interpreted as a "cult basin". Actually, the dimensions and plans of these buildings do not seem sufficient clues for supposing a religious function (A. Mazar, *Archaeology of the Land of the Bible - 10.000-586 B.C.E.* [New York 1992] 126). While it is hard to accept the religious interpretation of stratum II buildings, this is simply not documented for stratum III (pp. 47-53), where all the presumed cult installa-

tions are postulated on the basis of a retrospective continuity with the successive layer (pls. 88-89).

The "Sacred Precinct" of stratum II is barely distinguishable from the palatial area, as its main units are broad rooms with bench-lined walls, encircled by courtyards with several working installations and facilities. It contains two large halls, one flanking the other (1894, 1831), with a pair of stone bases for wooden posts sustaining the roof (initially interpreted as pillar-bases, and then considered "cult massebah"). An auxiliary room, placed in front of the two (4796+4791), has a mortar set into the floor. Hall 1831 is subdivided into two small storerooms (1884, 1844). Two further rectangular rooms have been interpreted as a couple of small shrines. Each room has a 0,35 m high platform ("altar") in the facing courtyard, pointing to some kind of work (possibly food transformation) performed there. The main building in the area however is actually a broad hall (4830+4831), which has monumental dimensions (4.7×11.0 m) and may thus be considered a major dwelling or a public hall.

The quarter in between the Western Gate and the palatial area has been considered a market area (pp. 63-73), because of the open spaces and sparse dwellings. Again stratum III has been partly reconstructed on the basis of stratum II data (pls. 85-86). The function of market seems quite evident for a quarter located inside a city-gate; however the absence of storeroom buildings partially challenges this interpretation.

In Areas K (pp. 73-83, pls. 90-91), T-North (pp. 84-93, pls. 92-93) and T-East (pp. 93-101, pl. 86) parts of the domestic quarters have been uncovered. In Area K houses consist of a major double pillared hall, often with benches along the inner walls, and a series of subsidiary rooms and facilities (platforms, fireplaces and silos) arranged approximately in a circle in front of the entrance of the main hall; each house thus has its own courtyard for domestic activities. Dwellings in Area T-North and T-East have an average dimension smaller than the house of Area K, thus hinting, according to the excavators, at a social differentiation between classes of inhabitants.

Limited structures identified in Area T, especially in front of the Western Gate and between it and the "Sacred Precinct" (pp. 101-105, pls. 94-95), have been attributed to stratum I, the final phase when Arad underwent a dramatic contraction, with the settled area reduced to the strip immediately inside the citywalls. No public buildings are still in use in this period and the general reduction of the site is epitomized by the partial blocking of the Western Gate (pl. 11:1).

A fundamental feature of early Arad is the Water Reservoir, the most ancient device of such a kind known in Palestine. The lowest area on the eastern side of the town is occupied by a shallow basin encircled by buildings, which apparently form a continuous ring around the reservoir, and are hypothetically blocked on the east by a dam (pp. 105-127, pls. 96-97). Two major buildings are placed on the north side of the water basin. The first is a massive construction, called the Water Citadel, which has a rectangular plan divided into five narrow rooms. The fact that no entrances have been identified, since the floors have not been preserved, indicates that the plan shows the foundation level. The walls' width suggests that the building was a tower or a defensive structure. The second building is triangular in plan, and is comprised of a large hall (5347) and two auxiliary rooms opening on two courtyards paved with cobblestones. Considering the dimensions and the skillful building technique the excavators interpreted it as the "Water Commissioner's

House". No significant differences have been pointed out between strata III and II in this area, although due to the gradient the distinction between the two strata is not clear (there are no archaeological sections published in the volume).

The chapter on the Water Reservoir is followed by a scientific report on the water supply at early Arab by A. Yair and R. Garti (pp. 127-138), which shows how fundamental it was for the inhabitants of the town to exploit the collection of rain water, since there are no springs in the region and no rock-cut cisterns were used at the time.

Part Four (pp. 139-147) is a summary intended as the interpretation of the evidence presented in Part One-Three; however, since it is very synthetic, the relationship between the data provided by the excavations and their interpretation is not discussed. It often jumps to general historical conclusions without having cited the direct evidence supporting these conclusions.

The excavations have shown the existence of a significant Chalcolithic settlement (stratum V), whose limits could not be determined, but which belongs to the Beer-sheba cultural *facies*.

An occupational gap of at least two centuries precedes the establishment of the Early Bronze IB village (stratum IV), dated on the basis of pottery comparisons to 3200-3000 B.C. To the last stage of this phase belongs the jar fragment bearing the *serekh* of the pharaoh Narmer (who possibly reigned ca. 3050-3000 B.C.), a keystone for the chronology of the site (p. 4). The proto-urban character of the settlement is indicated by the contemporary habitation of caves and stone-built houses and the scarce density of its population. The excavators stress that the pottery of stratum IV gradually develops into that of stratum III: it testifies a certain continuity between the EB IB village and the EB II town. However, the origin of the first urban settlement (stratum III) is still an open question, since the excavations have provided very little and sparse data concerning the stratum III city. The lack of archaeological and architectural sections in the report, perhaps due to the limited depth of the deposits at Arad, does not allow a clear identification of strata and related structures. As far as it is published, EB II Arad is thus mainly the stratum II city.

The summary points out that even though "only" 12% of the town has been unearthed, the distinguishing features of this early urban society have been fully revealed. Public structures — such as the city-walls, the Water Reservoir and possibly the public granaries —, the social and functional subdivision into quarters, and the unity of architectural plans and techniques, all indicate the existence of a public institution which ruled over a town with 2000-3000 inhabitants. The doubtful identification of a "Sacred Precinct", and the more convincing discovery of a palatial area, have revealed one of the possible seats of power, although the Acropolis might also be a good candidate for the ideological centre of the town. Unfortunately, it has not yet been excavated down to EB layers, since it is occupied by an Israelite fortress (Z. Herzog et al., "The Israelite Fortress at Arad", *BASOR* 254 [1984] 1-34). A detailed analysis of domestic architecture, describing the pillared broad-room houses and their internal equipment, is the main contribution of Part Four (pp. 143-147), testifying to the high level of standardization, a typical achievement of the first Palestinian urban society reached by the inhabitants of Arad.

The last paragraph is concerned with the destruction of the stratum III town, which was set on fire around 2800 B.C., and with the final abandonment of the site, possibly again due to a violent overthrow, that occurred around 2650 B.C. The latter needed a coherent explanation, since it is a quite isolated phenomenon in

comparison with the contemporary flourishing of Palestinian first urbanization. Though stressing the important role played by climatic changes, the report does not deal with the difficult matter of the political and economic influence of Egypt both on the rise and on the sudden crisis of the Arad urban achievement (A. Kempinski, "Early Bronze Age Urbanization of Palestine: Some Topics in a Debate", *IEJ* 33 [1983] 235-241; R. Amiran, "The Fall of the Early Bronze Age II City of Arad", *IEJ* 36 [1986] 74-76).

The reconstruction of the early history of Arad, on the one hand, shows that it is an extraordinary example of successful adaptation of the urban model to extreme climatic conditions; on the other, its short life testifies how ephemeral was first urbanization in Palestine (L. Nigro, *L'architettura palaziale* 416), a region which in the IIIrd millennium B.C. was still deeply rooted in a rural economy based on village agriculture (G. Palumbo, *The Early Bronze Age IV in the Southern Levant: Settlements Patterns, Economy and Material Culture of a "Dark Age"* [Contributi e Materiali di Archeologia Orientale 3; Roma 1990] 128-129).

Due to an unclear subdivision of chapters into paragraphs, the organization of the text is at times confusing. For instance, in Part Three, the description of the so-called palace is arranged as follows: the main paragraph is entitled *The Palace*; an *Introduction* follows, which comprises paragraphs *Stratum III* and *Stratum II*; then the text continues again with *Stratum III* and *Stratum II* in detail (pp. 27-45). Stratigraphic features and architectural remains are presented strictly by *loci* (a *locus* is an excavation unit which includes archaeological deposits, structures, but also arbitrary soundings, here called "probes"; *loci* are listed at the end of the volume). Since no organizing principle of paragraphs is evident (for instance by numbers), the readers must accustom themselves to editorial styles (bold, italic, etc.) to identify the exact level of analysis of each section.

In conclusion, this final report is of the utmost importance for the study of early urban society in Palestine, though Tell 'Arad, because of its location and history, probably represents a rather unique site. Hence, this archaeological report is a fundamental contribution to the knowledge of Palestinian EB II public and private architecture. A more complete evaluation of the archaeological outcomes will surely be possible with the appearance of the volume that is announced about the finds (R. Amiran - O. Ilan - M. Sebban, *Early Arad III: Finds of the 6th-18th Seasons (1971-1978, 1980-1984)*, Jerusalem, *in press*).

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Elizabeth CARTER, *Excavations at Anshan (Tal-e Malyan): The Middle Elamite Period*. Malyan Excavations Reports, 2. University Museum Monograph, 82. Philadelphia, The University Museum, 1996. xviii-137 p., 47 separate figures, 24 plates. 21,8 x 28,6.

In den Jahren 1971 bis 1978 konnten von amerikanischen Archäologen unter Leitung von William M. Summer Ausgrabungen in Tall-e Malyan durchgeführt

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