

Author's Foreword

This project began as a doctoral dissertation presented to the Department of Near Eastern Studies at the University of Arizona; the dissertation was based on work at Tell Halif through the 1989 field season. In the final form presented here, however, this volume incorporates much additional data from the 1992 and 1993 field seasons, which were undertaken after the completion of the dissertation.

The publication of any final excavation report is first and foremost a team effort. It takes many hands to pull together a final report, usually over a long period of time and always with a great deal of patience. I have been fortunate to be part of the Lahav Research Project, which has provided me with the necessary resources to complete this project, the publication of the Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age I pottery from Site 101 on the Halif Terrace. While thanks go to all of the members of the Lahav Project team, there are several individuals without whose help this volume would never have been completed. These include Oded Borowski, John O'Hear, and Eugene Futato, who provided guidance both in the field and in the laboratory as the work proceeded, and most especially James Hardin, whose collegial support throughout had more to do with the completion of this volume than he knows. Special thanks also goes to Dylan Karges, Technical Illustrator at the Cobb Institute of Archaeology, who did much of the drawing and produced all of the final artwork and plates for the volume. I would also like to thank Avi Navon and the members of Kibbutz Lahav, without whose generosity and support none of this material would have been excavated.

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invited me to work at Tell Halif. He has been a mentor, and without his guidance and experience I would not have been able to complete this volume. I also want to thank Seymour Gitin, the Director of the Albright Institute of Archaeological Research in Jerusalem. Sy too has been a mentor and good friend throughout this undertaking. His existential wisdom has gotten me through seeming endless months of ceramic analysis. I also want to thank the staff of the Albright Institute where, as a fellow, I carried forward much of the initial research for the dissertation. Finally, I also offer my sincerest gratitude to Alexander H. Joffe. We have spent countless hours over the years talking about problems of the fourth and third millennia B.C.E., and his insights, sense of clarity, and humor have been essential to my own understanding of the southern Levant.

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