

Series Editor's Preface

This volume appears as the second in a planned series of reports on the investigations of the Lahav Research Project (LRP) at Tell Halif located near Kibbutz Lahav in southern Israel. LRP research has focused widely on stratigraphic, environmental, and ethnographic problems related to the history of settlement at and around Tell Halif from prehistoric through modern times. The project was initiated in 1974 with sponsorship by the University of Nebraska at Omaha and since 1983 has received its primary support from the Cobb Institute of Archaeology at Mississippi State University. During all field seasons, efforts have also been assisted by consortia of other American academic institutions and with support in Israel from the W. F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research and the Nelson Glueck School of Biblical Archaeology, both in Jerusalem, and from the Joe Alon Center for Regional and Folklore Studies at Kibbutz Lahav. Throughout, the LRP has been affiliated with the American Schools of Oriental Research as one of its approved projects.

LRP investigations at Tell Halif have continued through three phases (I–III), embracing twelve seasons of field excavation between 1976 and 1999. A fourth phase (IV) directed by Oded Borowski under Emory University sponsorship was initiated in 2007. Through all phases, financial support by consortium institutions was supplemented by generous gifts received as private contributions from staff members, subscribers, and worker participants. Patrons and major donors are recognized in the editor's preface to *Lahav I*, and the support of all contributors and participants is acknowledged on the project's Digmaster Web site at www.cobb.msstate.edu/dig/. We are sincerely grateful to this very large group of individuals for their participation in and support of LRP work. At the same time, we also recognize that none of the project's work could have been accomplished without the help of the members of Kibbutz Lahav. With warm encouragement and much material assistance, Lahav's members provided a supportive and congenial base for the team's field research through all of the past three decades.

This second report in our LRP series focuses on materials recovered during Phase III excavations conducted in 1992, 1993, and 1999 in Field IV on the southwestern edge of the site. Phase III excavation efforts were directed by Paul F. Jacobs and Oded Borowski, aided by the field staff listed below. Along with the Cobb Institute of Archaeology and Mississippi State University, consortium support was provided by Emory University; California State University at Los Angeles; Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, Minnesota; and Rhodes College, Memphis, Tennessee. From the LRP senior staff, Joe Seger remained active in the role of overall Project Director, and Phase II specialists and consultants Jack D. Elliott (regional survey), Eugene Futato (lithics analyst), and James Doolittle and Frank Miller (remote sensing specialists) also continued participation in the field. They were joined by Susan Arter (Smithsonian Institution and subsequently at the San Diego Museum of Natural History) as zooarchaeologist, Arlene Rosen (Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Beersheba, Israel) as geoarchaeologist, and S. Homes Hogue (Mississippi State University) as biological anthropologist. Technical support was provided by Kariman E. Seger

(University of Arizona, Tucson) as photographer; Jason Greene (Mississippi State University), Dylan Karges (Mississippi State University), Nichole Lantz (Mississippi State University), Cindy Martin (Atlanta, Georgia), and Jennifer Vesser (Sarasota, Florida), as technical illustrators; and Chris Holland and John Vanderzwaag (Concepthouse, Starkville, Mississippi) as computing specialists. Lahav member Avi Navon continued to provide liaison with the kibbutz, and Amos Kloner remained as IAA consultant. Orientation to Field IV and basic field report data can be accessed on the Digmaster Web site at www.cobb.msstate.edu/dig/lahav/map.html and at www.cobb.msstate.edu/dig/LRP-1999-01/overview.html.

The special focus of this volume deals with the reconstruction of household organization during the Iron II period. Its study centers in particular on one four-room, pillared-type building located in Area F7 of Field IV and on its remains, which were sealed in a massive destruction that eclipsed the site in the late eighth century B.C.E. This study was first prepared as a Ph.D. dissertation for the Department of Near Eastern Studies at the University of Arizona (Hardin 2001) and has since been amplified and embellished by further research. Published here are the results of research deliberately designed by the author to include the complete recovery and detailed recording in the field of all artifacts and other remains within a special, refined, three-dimensional grid matrix. These data in turn established a framework for studying the formation processes active on the materials and for conducting a spatial analysis of the assemblages in the building. Along with ethnographic and ethnoarchaeological inferences, these techniques are used to identify activities, activity areas, and social organization related to the building, ultimately defining an “archaeological household” consisting of the pillared dwelling and its occupants. Finally, these conclusions are also related to reconstructions of the Iron II period household suggested by Hebrew Bible sources.

From the outset, LRP research has used field methods designed to provide for comprehensive retrieval and detailed recording of data, using a modified Wheeler-Kenyon system. Within this basic system, staff participants have been encouraged to develop special approaches with respect to materials recovery and processing as these relate to their specialties and interests, and LRP field methods and analytical processes have evolved accordingly. This was particularly the case with faunal and lithics processing, and as here and in *Lahav I*, with the nuanced treatment of ceramics. Hardin’s study in this volume demonstrates well the usefulness of materials from destruction strata for cultural and social reconstruction when approached with deliberate excavation techniques and thorough attention to the formation processes affecting the assemblages. In this, he provides a new paradigm for the recovery and reconstruction of the household and household organization in the Iron II period.

JOE D. SEGER
Cobb Institute of Archaeology
June 2007

Field IV Field Staff

During the 1992 season, LRP work was codirected by Paul F. Jacobs of Mississippi State University and Oded Borowski of Emory University. Paul Jacobs directed work in the 1993 season when Borowski was sidelined by a knee injury. Jacobs also directed the work in 1999. In all seasons, work in Field IV was also supported by the efforts of all participating research, technical, and operations staff members. For a complete listing, see the Cobb Institute's Digmaster Web site at www.cobb.msstate.edu/dig/.

1992

Field Supervisor	Oded Borowski, Emory University
Field Supervisor	Paul F. Jacobs, Mississippi State University
Area Supervisor	Keith Eades, Claremont, California
Area Supervisor	S. Homes Hogue, Mississippi State University
Area Supervisor	John Wade, Dallas, Texas

1993

Field Supervisor	Paul F. Jacobs, Mississippi State University
Assist. Field Supervisor	Keith Eades, Claremont, California
Assist. Field Supervisor	James W. Hardin, University of Arizona
Area Supervisor	Elizabeth Cox, Breckenridge, Colorado
Area Supervisor	Tom Jull, University of Arizona
Area Supervisor	Fran Mueller, Waverly, Iowa
Geoarchaeologist	Arlene Rosen, Ben Gurion University

1999

Field Supervisor	Paul F. Jacobs, Mississippi State University
Area Supervisor	Keith Eades, Claremont, California
Area Supervisor	James W. Hardin, Mississippi State University
Computer Specialist	Chris Holland, Concepthouse, Starkville, Miss.
Computer Specialist	John Vanderzwaag, Concepthouse, Starkville, Miss.