

## *Author's Preface*

This book, which approaches Iron II households and the archaeological record through the study of space in an Iron II dwelling from Tell Halif in southern Israel, has its origins in my doctoral dissertation, which was presented to the Department of Near Eastern Studies at the University of Arizona in 2001. The dissertation was based on work undertaken at Tell Halif by the Lahav Research Project (LRP) during its Phase III excavations in 1992, 1993, and 1999. Presented here is an updated version of the study that includes extensive revisions and new data based on further analyses that were undertaken after the dissertation was completed.

The meticulously excavated, collected, and recorded archaeological data from Tell Halif's Field IV, especially the ceramics form the principal basis for this study and were made available to me by the staff of the LRP, in particular by Oded Borowski and Paul Jacobs (codirectors of the Phase III excavations) and by Joe D. Seger (project director). In addition to making the materials and records available, they also provided me with ongoing support and the necessary resources to complete this project.

While thanks go to all who were involved in the Phase III excavations of Field IV, a number of individuals provided special help in making the current manifestation of this research much better than it otherwise might have been. Oded Borowski and Paul Jacobs not only provided me the pick of the archaeological data from their excavations, but Jacobs's patish and trowel instruction and his tireless ceramic refitting efforts greatly facilitated the progress of the research, while Borowski helped bring to life the Iron II of southern Judah, generally, and of Tell Halif, specifically. Borowski and Avi Navon, Kibbutz Lahav's liaison for the project, introduced me to every nook and cranny of the northern Negev Desert in story and in person. In addition, Arlene Rosen's detailed analysis of microartifacts collected from the floors of the Field IV structures dramatically increased the viability of the study, as did her input into collection methods for all artifacts. J. P. Dessel provided valuable tutoring in ceramic analysis. Since 1986, my first year of participation in the LRP, Dessel has done more than he will ever realize to prepare a naïve undergrad for the rigors of graduate school and the pursuit of a scholarly career in the study of the past. His instruction has been almost as important as his friendship. Finally, the members of Kibbutz Lahav, especially the Navon and Shoshani families worked tirelessly to make Lahav a home away from home.

The shaping of my particular approach to the Halif archaeological materials largely was influenced by faculty at the University of Arizona. I am deeply grateful to William Dever, who served as my doctoral adviser and mentor and whose support and friendship has continued unabated. Along with Carol Kramer, Michael B. Schiffer, J. Edward Wright, and Norman Yoffee, he held me to task, and all were in differing ways influential in shaping the way I approached the research presented here. Other members of the faculty who supported my academic efforts include Susan Ackerman, Beth Alpert-Nakhai, Albert Leonard, Arthur Jenick, David Killick, and J. Jefferson Reid. Together they made graduate school an exciting

and stimulating experience. Just as important in this regard were my friends and fellow classmates. It is with genuine pleasure that I thank especially Kerry Adams, Gary Christopherson, Nick Kronwall, Chris Doolittle, Thomas Jull, Katharine MacKay, Stephen Nash, Mark Nupert, Steven Ortiz, William Saterno, and Barbara Teso.

After finishing my coursework at Arizona, I first began work on the Field IV materials at the W. F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research, where I was a United States Information Agency Fellow during the 1994-95 academic year. The Albright staff was wonderfully supportive, particularly Edna Sachar, Hisham Jibrin, Nawal Ibtisam Rsheid, and Nadia Bandak, and I am especially grateful to the institute's director, Sy Gitin, for his overall support and guidance. From him, I learned much regarding the nuances of Iron II ceramics.

After completing the year in Israel, I became a research associate at the Cobb Institute of Archaeology at Mississippi State University. There my dissertation research was continued and completed and this book ultimately finished. I would especially like to thank Joe Seger, director of the Cobb Institute and director of the LRP, without whose support none of this would have been possible. His guidance, counsel, patience, and especially his friendship span a time from my first archaeology class in 1985 until the present. He is responsible, or perhaps to blame, for getting me into the field in the first place (both field excavation in Israel and Syro-Palestinian archaeology in general). He is responsible in many ways for any successes I have achieved thus far in my chosen career.

Others at the Cobb Institute also were supportive, including several undergraduate students who worked dutifully on the descriptions, counts, and weights of the Lahav ceramics, as well as Administrative Secretary Kathy Elliot, who aided in formatting the manuscript. But special thanks are due to Michael Stewart for his herculean efforts in copy editing and to Dylan Karges for his exceptional work in preparing illustrations. Both worked above and beyond the call to see the volume through to completion, and I thank them most sincerely for their tireless and thorough efforts.

A special note of gratitude is also due those who read and commented on drafts of the present work: Jeffrey Blakely, Oded Borowski, Dan Cole, J. P. Dessel, John S. Holladay, Carol Meyers, and Andrew Vaughn. Their insights were keen, and their suggestions were most valuable. While time constraints limited the inclusion of some worthwhile and important recommendations, many were integrated into the finished work.

Although many colleagues have been otherwise influential in the shaping of my research, both intellectually and methodologically, I have particularly profited from the work of and association with Jeffrey Blakely, Aaron Brody, Shlomo Bunimovitz, Avraham Faust, Garth Gilmour, Timothy Harrison, John Holladay, Lynn Holt, Alex Joffee, Anne Killebrew, Zvi Lederman, Daniel Master, Carol Meyers, John O'Hear, Janet Rafferty, Walter Rast, York Rowan, Benjamin Saidel, Lawrence Stager, Ron Tappy, Jim Walter, and Ziony Zevit.

But those who have been most influential and important are my family. The debt I owe them can never be fully repaid. My parents have been unwavering in their support, beginning very early on, when they nurtured my love of learning about the past. My children Noa Katherine, Owen, and Chloe were often shorted during my numerous preoccupations or my long absences that included stints abroad, many late nights, and busy weekends. They are terrific and always make returning home a joy and adventure. This book is a tribute to them. It is, however, most specially dedicated to my wife, Orly, who has supported

me more than anyone. More often than not, she has done my share of familial responsibility as well as hers. It is with deep respect, great admiration, and much love that I dedicate this book to her.

It goes without saying that any shortcomings, mistakes, or errors in this book are my responsibility alone.

JAMES W. HARDIN  
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