Inscriptions on Ceramic Ring Stands:

Discoveries from the Early Roman Period

at Khirbet el-Maqatir, Israel

Mark A. Hassler

**Abstract**

Twenty ceramic ring-shaped stands came to light during the archaeological excavation of Khirbet el-Maqatir in the central highlands of Israel. The ring stands functioned as pedestals for round or conical-shaped vessels. Four of the twenty stands remained mostly intact and contained inscriptions. One of these stands included an inscribed word; two stands preserved an alphabetic Hebrew or Aramaic letter; and another stand contained an incision. The stands date to the early Roman period. At that time, ritually observant Jews occupied Khirbet el-Maqatir, a fortified village 16 kilometers north of Jerusalem. Khirbet el-Maqatir fell to the Romans in approximately 69 CE during the First Jewish Revolt.

**Keywords:** ring stand, pottery stand, inscription, Roman period, Khirbet el-Maqatir

Prof. **Mark A. Hassler** –The Department of Biblical Theology and Exegesis at Virginia Beach Theological Seminary in Virginia Beach, Virginia, USA

**Introduction**

Ceramic ring stands, also called pottery stands, served to stabilize round- or cone-bottom vessels in the ancient Near East. A collection of these stands was found at Khirbet el-Maqatir.

Khirbet el-Maqatir rests in the Judean hill country 16 km north of Jerusalem, immediately east of Route 60 and south of the Wadi el-Gayeh, Deir Dibwan, and Jabel Abu ʿAmar (Fig. 1; ITM 17378/14690). The sitelies east of the central ridge route along the Joppa–Amman road (Fig. 2). It arises 866–878 meters above sea level with a view of the Mount of Olives, Jordan Rift Valley, Transjordanian highlands, and Dead Sea. The remnants of et-Tell sit approximately 1 kilometer northeast.

The fieldwork transpired over 22 years (1995–2017) with an intermission during and after the Al-Aqsa Intifada (2001–2008). For the first eleven years, Bryant Wood directed the expeditions with a focus on the site's Bronze Age fortification. His successor, Scott Stripling, directed the final five years and expanded the focus to encompass the ruins of other time periods.[[1]](#footnote-1)

The project was classified as a salvage operation. The site suffered extensive vandalism in modern times, even during the excavation seasons. And recent agricultural developments altered some of the ruins. In 1999–2000 and 2013 local farmers used stones from the site to build two agricultural enclosures, preventing archaeological work in these areas.

The excavation yielded seven strata (Table 1; cf. Stripling, forthcoming). The site had four primary periods of habitation in antiquity (Byers, Stripling and Wood 2016). From the Middle Bronze III to Late Bronze I periods, theinhabitantsoccupied a small but stout military fortress (ca. 1hectare) that suffered a violent destruction (Wood 2016). After an occupational gap, a modest settlement resided at Khirbet el-Maqatir during Iron Age I–II (Seevers 2020). In the late Hellenistic and early Roman periods, ritually observant Jews established a fortified village containing at least three mikvehs(Fig. 3). The village encompassed approximately 2 hectares and included a monumental fortification tower (Hassler, Streckert and Seevers 2020). The village fell to the Roman army in approximately 69 CE during the First Jewish Revolt (Peterson and Stripling 2017:\*61). Later the Byzantines built a monastery and church atop the hill, perhaps to memorialize a special event at the site.

This article presents the ring stands discovered in the Khirbet el-Maqatir excavations. The stands and their engravings contribute to the ever-growing body of knowledge concerning these fascinating ceramic objects.

**The Ring Stands**

Twenty ring stands emerged during the excavation of Khirbet el-Maqatir (Figs. 4–5;Table 2).Stands 1–4 remained mostly intact, whereas Stands 5–20 werefragmentary.

*Physical description*. The stands maintained a consistent height (3.5–5.5 cm) and diameter (10–12 cm). However, the inner diameter of the holes fluctuated (3.6–8.0 cm). Each stand's rim diameter matched the base diameter with one exception: Stand 2(11 cm rim versus 9.9 cm base).Concerning Stand 2, the side with the shorter diameter served as the base because the inscription appeared on the side with the longer diameter.Sometimes it was difficult to determine which side functioned as the base because of the symmetry and fragmentary nature of the remnants.Perhaps one clue is the placement of the engraving: if it appeared on the rim, it could be read.All the stands had a concave-shaped interior except Stands 3 and 4, which possessed straight/vertical interior walls (each 2 cm high).The colors ranged between reds, browns, and yellows.The stands, manufactured on a pottery wheel, were thick walled with a light-grey core and small lime grits, though Stand 19 also had red grits. The clay was soft, easily scraped with a knife. The stands felt smooth and lacked irregularities.

*Inscribed stands*. All four of the mostly preserved stands contained an inscription. The inscriptions, etched on the rim prior to firing, oriented toward the center of the vessel. Stand 1 preserved the inscribed letter ח (Fig.6).Stand 2 hadachipped rim, rendering the incision unreadable (Fig.7).Stand 3 read חוש֯or חוח֯with the final letter obscured because part of the inscription chipped off in antiquity (Fig. 8).Stand 4 contained the letter ל̇ (Fig. 9).

*Archaeological contexts*. All the ring stands were discovered in Strata 4–3b (Tables 1–2) within the perimeter of the fortified village; none of them came from the Byzantine monastery on the nearby ridge in Field C. Only one stand was recovered from a sealed locus (Stand 1). It came from a silo (or cistern) sealed with a capstone in situ. The pit was situated in a room of a domestic house. The pottery in the silo included 78 diagnostic sherds from the late Hellenistic and early Roman periods.

Stand 2 was discovered in Cavern 1, an industrial-capacity subterranean complex used for olive-oil production during the early Roman period (Fig.10; Raviv,Stripling andFarhi 2020: 3–5). In addition, four stands came from Cavern 4, a mikveh accessible by steps carved into the bedrock (Stands 4, 16–18; Fig. 11). One stand was found in the fortification tower which abutted the town's perimeter wall (Stand 14; Fig. 3).

**Discussion**

*Practical utility*.Ring stands were used to stabilize ceramic vessels that have rounded or conical-shaped bottoms, such as storage jars, cooking pots, and cooking jugs. To increase a vessel's stability, a stand could be partly buried in the ground (Bar-Nathan 2006: 225).The Khirbet el-Maqatir collection lacked evidence of burning, which may indicate that the stands did not support cooking vessels but utility vessels or table vessels (cf. Berlin 2015: 639).At Jericho stands were used in pottery kilns to stack plates during the Roman period (Brown 1971: 95–96).Most stands in Israel came from households rather than public storerooms. However, the stand discovered in the fortification tower at Khirbet el-Maqatir (Stand 14) supportsYizharHirschfeld's claim that fortification towers were used for the purpose of storage among other things(2000: 690).

*Inscribed stands*. Some ceramic stands in the southern Levant contained alphabetic inscriptions or symbolic markings. An alphabetic inscription could represent an abbreviation of some kind, the contents of the vessel it supported, or a personal name, such as the potter or owner.

Stands 1 and 4 from Khirbet el-Maqatir possessed the inscribed lettersחand ל̇, which served as abbreviations (Figs. 6, 9). Stand 1 closely parallels theה or ח on a stand-fragment excavated in the pottery workshop near the Jerusalem International Convention Center (Amit 2013: 244, Fig. 18), but the break on the Jerusalem stand obscures whether the letter stood alone or belonged to a word.

Stand 3 at Khirbet el-Maqatir readsחוש֯or חוח֯ (Fig.8), the meaning of which remains uncertain (Glassman, forthcoming). In Qoheleth 2:25חוש parallels אכל(*eat*) syntactically and means *drink* or *have enjoyment*.Therefore, it is conceivable that the stand was designated to support a vessel containing a beverage or enjoyable liquid. Alternatively, the inscription could be the personal name חושי (cf. 2 Sam 15:32). In Babylonian Aramaicחח (חחא) means *plum*, while חש (חשא) means *thyme*.

An impressive assemblage of inscribed stands came from Ron Be'eri's excavation near the Convention Center inJerusalem. The alphabetic inscriptions on the stands include the following: למצרין or למצדין or למנחן; חרדלא; יסןבנ; ?בניסון; סון [בני]; ה̇ר̇ק̇נוס̇;נר/ברר/ד [ ]; טב; אא; א, א; א; ט (three stands); ק; ?ח/ה [ ]; ? ב̇; ? ג̈; Χ (six stands); Θ (three stands);Τ (Amit 2013: 240–246, Figs. 1–30). Moreover, two of seven stands from the 1968 excavation bore inscriptions (ק and א), both brown stands with white grits (Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2005: 249–250, nos. 72–76, Fig. 21; 266, nos. 150–151). The 1949 dig yielded ten mostly intact ring stands (Hershkovitz 2005: 287–90, Fig. 3:9–11, Fig. 8), including an incised stand (290, Fig. 9).

In 1969–1982 NahmanAvigad's team discovered at least fourteen ring stands in Jerusalem's Jewish Quarter. Four stands from the Second Temple period bear inscriptions of personal names:יני (?) (Jonny), ש … יסןבנ (son of Jason … *š*), the similar יסןבנ (son of Jason), and יוכןבנ (son of Jochen) (Eshel 2006: 395, 399–400; cf. Avigad 1983: 202).

At Gerasa two incised stands from Tomb 8 date to the first or second centuries CE: one stand reddish-brown, drab slip, 10 cm diameter, and inscribed with the Greek letter φ; the other stand red with a purple slip, 11.5 cm diameter, and incised on the inside lower edge (Fisher 1938: 563–564, Fig. 41:6, 47).

*Dating and typology*. The ring-stand corpus at Khirbet el-Maqatir dates to the early Roman period (Reuven, forthcoming). The dating is confirmed primarily by the archaeological contextsand secondarily by typology.The typological variation of ring stands in the southern Israel was minimal during the Hellenistic and Roman periods (Geva and Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2003: 189).

Two stands from Khirbet el-Maqatir possessed a straight interior wall (nos. 3 and 4), which resembled a stand from Jerusalem's Jewish Quarter(cf. Geva and Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2003: 189, 236–237, plate 6.3:18). The remainder of the Khirbet el-Maqatir collection had a concave interior wall, like those of the Jewish Quarter (Area A, Stratum 5), datingto about to 1–30 CE (cf. 189, 242–243, plate 6.6: 36–37).In addition, three reddish-brown stands from the Burnt House (Area B, Stratum 2) date to the Early Roman period through 70 CE (Geva 2010: 128, 144–145, plate 4.6: 12–14).Two brown stand-fragments supported round-bottom vessels: one of them 8.5 cm in diameter with a concave wall; the other 12.5 cm in diameter with a carinated wall (Geva and Hershkovitz 2006: 113–114, 140–141, plate 4.12:8–9). They also discovered a Hellenistic stand of the first century BCE (Geva 2014: 356, 360–361, plate 19.2:19) and a light-brown stand (Area J, Stratum 3)from the first century CE (Geva and Hershkovitz 2014: 144, 166–167, plate 3.9:12).

Also in Jerusalem, Kathleen Kenyon uncovered a grey stand, Type 65, dated 50 BCE–70 CE (Prag 2008: 28–29, Fig. 23:7; cf. Lapp 1961: 182). Yet another Jerusalem stand dates to the first century CE (Tushingham 1985: 57, 375, Fig. 23:35).The Crown Plaza excavations in Jerusalem yielded early Roman stands (Cohen-Weinberger, Levi and Beʾeri 2020, 40, fig 5:12–13); cf. p. 45, table 2, nos. 81–100).

Many other sites have yielded pottery stands.Masada yielded twenty complete stands of the M-SD3 type, averaging 3.9 cm in height and 8 cm in diameter (Bar-Nathan 2006: 225–227, plate 68: 10). At Jericho two stands with white grits came from Herodian contexts: a brown stand, 4 cm high and 14 cm in diameter, dates 31–15 BCE; whereas a grey stand, 2 cm high and 10 cm in diameter, dates 15 BCE–48 CE (Bar-Nathan 2002: 117, 269, plate 19:319–320). In addition to the two engraved stands at Gerasa, a third stand from Tomb 11 consisted of brownish ware with a drab core, 9 cm diameter, and wet smoothing (Fisher 1938: 567–568, Fig. 45:2).Beitin, 1.5 km northwest Khirbet el-Maqatir, yielded three stands dating to the Roman period (Kelso 1968: 81, 109, plate 76:4–6). Two stands were registered at Khirbet Ṭabaliya (Giv'atHamaṭos) (Kogan-Zehavi 2000: \*67–\*69, Fig. 11:9–10). Some stands at Yoqne'am were decorated with red paint. One light-brown stand possessed small white grits, while a pinkish-brown stand had a grey core (Avissar 1996, 58–59, Fig. 10.7:28–29). Stands at Ḥorvat'Eleqpossibly held cookware (Silberstein 2000: 436–438, plate 7:10–11). A gritty, red-brown stand from Kedesh in upper Galilee dates to the third or second centuries BCE (Berlin 2015: 631, table 6.1.1; 669, plate 6.1.21:8). Loffreda (1996) published one stand from Machaerus (84–85, Fig. 36:1) and four stands from Herodion (126, Fig. 56:142–45).

**Conclusions**

Ring stands contribute to the ceramic profile of Levantine sites from the Iron Age. In the Southern Levant it can be difficult to distinguish late Hellenistic stands from early Roman stands by form alone, due to minimal variation. The parallels from Jerusalem and its vicinity proved pertinent for dating the stands at Khirbet el-Maqatir. The early Roman pottery collections at both sites consisted of locally made plain ware, the small finds in general overlapped extensively, and both sites were destroyed with a year of one another (ca. 69 and 70 CE). The stands from Khirbet el-Maqatir add to the ever-growing catalog of ancient alphabetic inscriptions from this period despite the uncertain reading on Stand 3.

**References**

Amit, D. 2013. Engravings and Impressions on Ring Stands from the Workshop near the International Convention Center: A Preliminary Report. InG. D. Stiebel and E. Reiner (eds.),*Carved in Stone: Collected Essays*.Jerusalem: Yitsḥaḳ Ben-Tsevi, pp. 239–248.[Hebrew].

Arubas, B. andGoldfus, H. (eds.).2005. *Excavations on the Site of the Jerusalem International Convention Center (BinyaneiHa*´*uma): A Settlement of the Late First to Second Temple Period, the Tenth Legion'sKilnworks, and a Byzantine Monastic Complex*, Vol. 1:*The Pottery and Other Small Finds*(Journal of Roman Archaeology Supplementary Series 60). Portsmouth, RI: Journal of Roman Archaeology.

Avigad, N. 1983. *Discovering Jerusalem*. Nashville: Nelson.

Avissar, M. 1996. The Hellenistic and Roman Pottery. InA. Ben-Tor, M. Avissar and Y. Portugali,*Yoqne'am*, Vol. 1:*The Late Periods*(Qedem 3). Jerusalem: Hebrew University of Jerusalem,pp. 48–59.

Bar-Nathan, R. 2002. *Hasmonean and Herodian Palaces at Jericho: Final Reports of the 1973–1987 Excavations*, Vol. 3:*The Pottery*. Jerusalem: Israel Exploration Society.

Berlin, A. M. 2015. Hellenistic Period. In S.Gitin (ed.),*The Ancient Pottery of Israel and Its Neighbors*, Vol. 2:*From the Iron Age through the Hellenistic Period*. Jerusalem: Israel Exploration Society, pp. 629–671.

Brown, P. D. C. 1971. Roman Pottery Kilns at Jericho. *Levant* 3(1): 95–96.

Byers, G. A.,Stripling, D. S. andWood, B. G. 2016. Excavations at Khirbet el-Maqatir: The 2009–2011 Seasons. *Judea and Samaria Research Studies* 25(2): \*69–\*109.

Cohen-Weinberger, A., Levi, D. andBeʾeri, R. 2020. On the Raw Materials in the Ceramic Workshops of Jerusalem Before and After 70 C.E. *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research*(383): 33–59.

Eshel, E. 2006. Hebrew and Aramaic Inscriptions from the Jewish Quarter. In H. Geva,*Jewish Quarter Excavations in the Old City of Jerusalem: Conducted by NahmanAvigad, 1969–1982; Final Report*, Vol. 3:*Area E and Other Studies*. Jerusalem: Israel Exploration Society, pp. 389–407.

Fisher, C. S. 1938. Tombs. InC. H. Kraeling (ed.),*Gerasa: City of the Decapolis. An Account Embodying the Record of a Joint Excavation Conducted by Yale University and the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem (1928–1930), and Yale University and the American Schools of Oriental Research (1930–1931, 1933–1934)*. New Haven: American Schools of Oriental Research, pp. 549–571.

Geva, H.2006. *Jewish Quarter Excavations in the Old City of Jerusalem: Conducted by NahmanAvigad, 1969–1982; Final Report*, Vol. 3:*Area E and Other Studies*. Jerusalem: Israel Exploration Society.

Geva, H.2010. Early Roman Pottery. In *Jewish Quarter Excavations in the Old City of Jerusalem: Conducted by NahmanAvigad, 1969–1982; Final Reports*, Vol. 4:*The Burnt House of Area B and Other Studies*. Jerusalem: Israel Exploration Society, pp. 118–153.

Geva, H.2014. Hellenistic Pottery from Area Z. In *Jewish Quarter Excavations in the Old City of Jerusalem: Conducted by NahmanAvigad, 1969–1982; Final Report*, Vol. 6:*Areas J, N, Z, and Other Studies*. Jerusalem: Israel Exploration Society, pp. 353–361.

Geva, H. and Hershkovitz, M.2006. Local Pottery of the Hellenistic and Early Roman Periods.In H. Geva,*Jewish Quarter Excavations in the Old City of Jerusalem: Conducted by NahmanAvigad, 1969–1982; Final Report*, Vol. 3:*Area E and Other Studies*. Jerusalem: Israel Exploration Society, pp. 94–143.

Geva, H. and Hershkovitz, M. 2014. Local Pottery of the Hellenistic and Early Roman Periods from Areas J and N. InH. Geva,*Jewish Quarter Excavations in the Old City of Jerusalem: Conducted by NahmanAvigad, 1969–1982; Final Report*, Vol. 6:*Areas J, N, Z, and Other Studies*. Jerusalem: Israel Exploration Society, pp. 134–175.

Geva, H. and Rosenthal-Heginbottom, R. 2003. Local Pottery from Area A. In H. Geva,*Jewish Quarter Excavations in the Old City of Jerusalem: Conducted by NahmanAvigad, 1969–1982; Final Report*, Vol. 2:*The Finds from Areas A, W and X-2*. Jerusalem: Israel Exploration Society, pp. 176–191.

Glassman, M. D. Forthcoming. Inscriptions. InS. Stripling and M. A. Hassler (eds.),*The Excavations at Khirbet el-Maqatir, Israel: 1995–2001 and 2009–2016*, Vol. 2:*The Late Hellenistic, Early Roman, and Byzantine Periods*. Oxford: Archaeopress.

Hassler, M. A., Streckert, K. A. andSeevers, B. V. 2020. A Monumental Fortification Tower and Militaria: Late Hellenistic and Early Roman Military Architecture and Equipment Discovered at Khirbet el-Maqatir, Israel.*In the Highland's Depth*10(1): \*37–\*69.

Hershkovitz, M. 2005. Pottery of the Late 1st and 2nd c. A.D. from the 1949 Excavations. In B. Arubas and H. Goldfus (eds.),*Excavations on the Site of the Jerusalem International Convention Center (BinyaneiHa*´*uma): A Settlement of the Late First to Second Temple Period, the Tenth Legion's Kilnworks, and a Byzantine Monastic Complex*, Vol. 1:*The Pottery and Other Small Finds*(Journal of Roman Archaeology Supplementary Series 60). Portsmouth, RI: Journal of Roman Archaeology, pp. 283–294.

Hirschfeld, Y.2000.*Ramat HanadivExcavations: Final Report of the 1984–1998 Seasons*.Jerusalem: Israel Exploration Society.

Kelso, J. L. 1968. *The Excavation of Bethel (1934–1960)*(Annual of the American Schools of Oriental Research 39). Cambridge: American Schools of Oriental Research.

Kogan-Zehavi, E. 2000. Settlement Remains and Tombs at Khirbet Ṭabaliya (Giv'atHamaṭos).*'Atiqot* 40: \*53–\*79 [Hebrew].

Lapp, P. W. 1961. *Palestinian Ceramic Chronology. 200 B.C.–A.D. 70*(American Schools of Oriental Research, Publications of the Jerusalem School 3). New Haven: American Schools of Oriental Research.

Loffreda, S. 1996. *La ceramica di Macheronte e dell'Herodion (90 a.C–135 d.C.)*(Studium Biblicum Franciscanum, Collectio minor 39). Jerusalem: Franciscan Printing Press.

Loffreda, S. 2006. *Masada: The YigaelYadin Excavations, 1963–1965; Final Reports*, Vol. 7:*The Pottery of Masada*(Masada Reports). Jerusalem: Israel Exploration Society.

Peterson, B. andStripling, S. 2017. Kh. el-Maqatir: A Fortified Settlement of the Late Second Temple Period on the Benjamin Plateau. *In The Highland's Depth* 7: \*61–\*91.

Prag, K. 2008. *Excavations by K.M. Kenyon in Jerusalem, 1961–1967*, Vol. 5:*Discoveries in Hellenistic to Ottoman Jerusalem*(Levant Supplementary Series 7). Oxford: Oxbow.

Reuven, P. Forthcoming. Ceramic Vessels. In S. Stripling and M. A. Hassler (eds.),*The Excavations at Khirbet el-Maqatir, Israel: 1995–2001 and 2009–2016*, Vol. 2:*The Late Hellenistic, Early Roman, and Byzantine Periods*. Oxford: Archaeopress.

Raviv, D.,Stripling, S. andFarhi, Y. 2020. The Hiding Complex at Khirbet el-Maqatir: Eastern Bethel Hills. *Near East Archaeological Society Bulletin* 65:1–23.

Rosenthal-Heginbottom, R. 2005. The 1968 Excavations.In B. Arubas and H. Goldfus (eds.),*Excavations on the Site of the Jerusalem International Convention Center (BinyaneiHa*´*uma): A Settlement of the Late First to Second Temple Period, the Tenth Legion's Kilnworks, and a Byzantine Monastic Complex*, Vol. 1:*The Pottery and Other Small Finds*(Journal of Roman Archaeology Supplementary Series 60). Portsmouth, RI: Journal of Roman Archaeology,pp. 229–282.

Seevers, B. 2020. A Village from the Israelite Settlement: The Iron Age Remains at Khirbet el-Maqatir. *Near East Archaeolgoical Society Bulletin* 65:25–42.

Silberstein, N. 2000. Hellenistic and Roman Pottery. InY. Hirschfeld,*Ramat HanadivExcavations: Final Report of the 1984–1998 Seasons*. Jerusalem: Israel Exploration Society, pp. 420–469.

Stripling, S. Forthcoming. Stratigraphy and Occupational History. InS. Striplingand M. A. Hassler (eds.),*The Excavations at Khirbet el-Maqatir, Israel: 1995–2001 and 2009–2016*, Vol. 2:*The Late Hellenistic, Early Roman, and Byzantine Periods*. Oxford: Archaeopress.

Stripling, S. and Hassler, M. 2018. The "Problem" of Ai in Joshua 7–8: Solved after Nearly Forty Years of Excavation in the West Bank of Israel.*Bible and Spade* 31(2): 40–44.

Tushingham, A. D. 1985. *Excavations in Jerusalem, 1961–1967*, Vol. 1. Toronto: Royal Ontario Museum.

Wood, B. G. 2016. Locating 'Ai: Excavations at Kh. el-Maqatir, 1995–2000 and 2009–2014. *In the Highland's Depth* 6: \*17–\*49.

**Table 1:** Stratification at Khirbet el-Maqatir

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Stratum | Period | Date (approximate) |
| 7 | Middle Bronze IIIA–Late Bronze IB | 1650–1406 BCE |
|  | Abandonment phase | 1406–1187 BCE |
| 6 | Iron Age I–IIB | 1187–701 BCE |
|  | Abandonment phase | 586–290 BCE |
| 5 | Early Hellenistic | 290–100 BCE |
| 4 | Late Hellenistic and Early Roman | 100–31 BCE |
| 3c | Earthquake to Herod Archelaus | 31 BCE–10 CE |
| 3b | Early Roman | 10–69 CE |
| 3a | Intra-revolt and Bar Kokhba | 71–135 CE |
|  | Abandonment phase | 135–370 CE |
| 2b | Early Byzantine | 370–485 CE |
| 2a | Late Byzantine | 485–636 CE |
| 1 | Early Islamic | 636–749 CE |

**Table 2:** Ring stands from Khirbet el-Maqatir

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Reg. no. | Field | Stratum | Square | Locus | Diameter | Hole diam. | Height | Paste color | Inscription |
| 1 | 3283a | A | 3b | O22 | 7 | 10.5 | 4.5 | 4.8 | Light red | ח |
| 2 | 1832b | A | 3c–b | CAV1 | 33 | 9.9 & 11.0 | 3.6 | 4.3 | Yellowish red | Illegible |
| 3 | 1855c | A | 4 | O23 | 15 | 11.1 | 4.0 | 4.9 | Pink | חוש֯ orחוח֯ |
| 4 | 1884d | B | 3c–b | CAV4 | 3 | 12.0 | 6.0 | 4.5 | Pink | ל̇ |
| 5 | 3282 | B | 3c–b | L34 | 1 | 11 | 6.0 | … | Yellowish red |  |
| 6 | 3279 | B | 3c–b | P22 | 1 | 11 | 5.0 | … | Reddish yellow |  |
| 7 | 3278 | B | 4 | R24 | 1 | 10 | … | … | Reddish yellow |  |
| 8 | 2153 | B | 4 | Q24 | 4 | 10.5 | 4.5 | 4.2 | Reddish yellow |  |
| 9 | 3287 | G | 3c–b | Q21 | 1 | … | 5 | … | Light red |  |
| 10 | 2827 | B | 3c–b | Q25 | 7 | 10 | 5 | 3.5 | Very pale brown |  |
| 11 | 3300 | A | 4 | N23 | 3 | … | 4.5 | … | Reddish yellow |  |
| 12 | 3104 | B | 3c–b | R24 | 4 | … | 5 | … | Pink |  |
| 13 | 3284 | B | 4 | N23 | 0 | 11 | 5 | 4.8 | Reddish yellow |  |
| 14 | 3285 | I | 3b | X23 | 1 | 11 | 5 | … | Yellowish brown |  |
| 15 | 3286 | B | 4 | L26 | 5 | 11 | 8 | 5.0 | Red |  |
| 16 | 3288 | B | 3c–b | CAV4 | 1 | 11 | 4.5 | … | Light red |  |
| 17 | 3289 | B | 3c–b | CAV4 | 1 | 10 | 7.5 | 5.5 | Pink |  |
| 18 | 3292 | B | 3c–b | CAV4 | 1 | 11 | 4.5 | … | Reddish yellow |  |
| 19 | 3293 | B | 4 | P23 | 9 | … | 5 | … | Very pale brown |  |
| 20 | 3297 | A | 3c–b | O28 | 4 | 10 | 4.5 | … | Reddish yellow |  |

aK045310 bK044518 cK044519 dK044520

**Figure 1:** Location of Khirbet el-Maqatir (altered from Beitzel 2009: map 27)

**Figure2:** Ruins of Khirbet el-Maqatir (*center left*), looking north, 2016 (Photo: D. Silverman)

**Figure 3:** Plan of the first-century village at Khirbet el-Maqatir (Drawing: L. Ritmeyer)

**Figure 4:** Ring stands from Khirbet el-Maqatir (Photo: M. Luddeni)

**Figure 5:** Ceramic stands from Khirbet el-Maqatir (Drawings: Mannie Goodman;Graphics: Anna de Vincenz)

**Figure6:**Stand 1 with inscribed letterח (Photo: M. Luddeni)

**Figure7:**Stand 2 with partially preserved engraving (Photo: M. Hassler)

**Figure8:**Stand 3 with inscribed three-letter word (Photo: M. Luddeni)

**Figure9:**Stand 4 with inscribed letterל̇ (Photo: M. Luddeni)

**Figure 10:** Reconstruction of Caverns 1–3, a subterranean complex(Drawing: L. Ritmeyer)

**Figure 11:**Cavern 4, a mikveh containing four ring stands (Photo: M. Luddeni)

1. Selected preliminary reports includethe following: Hassler, Streckert and Seevers 2020; Raviv, Stripling and Farhi 2020; Seevers 2020; Stripling and Hassler 2018; Peterson and Stripling 2017;Byers, Stripling and Wood 2016; and Wood 2016.Excavation directors: Bryant Wood (1995–2013) and Scott Stripling (2013–2017). Wood’s license numbers by year: 0719 (1995), 0744 (1996), 0769 (1997), 0806 (1998), 0842 (1999), 0896 (2000), 1163 (2009), 1188 (2010), 1217 (2011), 1223 (2012), and 1248 (2013). Stripling's license numbers by year: 1248 (2013), 1275 (2014), 1303 (2015), and 1327 (2016–2017).The ABR excavation functioned under the auspices of the staff officer of the Archaeology Department of the Civil Administrationin Judea and Samaria.The project was sponsored by the Associates for Biblical Research, a research organization founded in 1969 by the late archaeologist David Livingston. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)