

JIYEH (PORPHYREON) 1975 EXCAVATION SEASON. ROGER SAIDAH'S ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS IN THE RESIDENTIAL SECTOR D.

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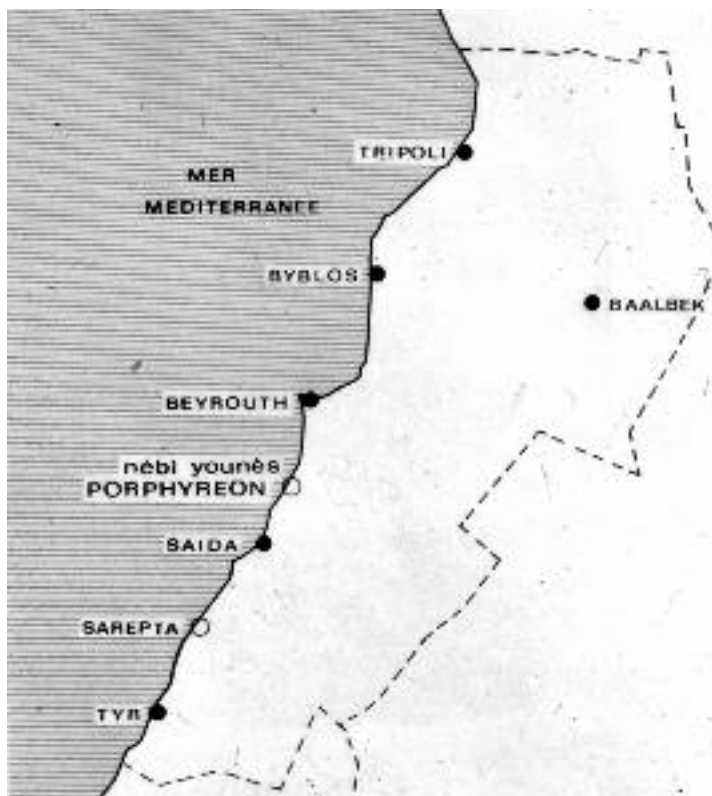
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ABSTRACT

The article aims to present unpublished information about the archaeological site at Jiyeh (ancient Porphyreon). The source material consists of R. Saidah's archival photographs and plans. R. Saidah was the head of excavations conducted in Jiyeh in 1975. As this archaeological research was never published, the presented evidence and findings provide important additional information about the history of this site. The article focuses both on reproducing R. Saidah's excavation work in Jiyeh and presenting his discoveries, especially those linked to the early Byzantine village. The archive material enables broadening our knowledge of the buildings that had been uncovered, some of which were later partially destroyed. In addition, archival photos depict some unpublished artefacts from R. Saidah's excavations, including well-preserved bronze objects.

RESEARCH HISTORY

The Jiyeh archaeological site, identified as ancient Porphyreon, is located between Beirut and Saida (fig. 1). So far, traces of settlement have been found dating back to at least the Iron Age. The youngest and best-known part of the settlement dates from the early Byzantine period. It was still in use at the beginning of the Islamic period. The site consists of sectors D and E with residential buildings, sector Q with a Christian basilica, and sector A with a necropolis that was in use at least since the Hellenistic period.¹



1 Map of Lebanon with Porphyreon's location marked (R. Saidah's archives).

2 Plan of sector D with the areas R. Saidah excavated in 1975 marked in green (drawing by M. Puzskarski).



The history of research in Jiyeh dates back to E. Renan. His work in this part of Phoenicia was primarily focused on mosaics and inscriptions². Excavations at the site were conducted again in the early 20th century. G. Contenau concentrated on excavating the mosaics adorning the floor of the Christian basilica. In 1975, between mid-July and mid-September rescue excavations were initiated in parts of the settlement that had not been studied before. This encompassed residential buildings (sector D) east of the Christian basilica³ (fig. 2). During the research conducted by R. Saidah on behalf of the Lebanese Department of Antiquities, numerous rooms and streets were uncovered. These excavations were never completed as civil war broke out in Lebanon. Before his death in 1979, the research supervisor published only one preliminary report, containing very limited information on his findings⁴. The Polish-Lebanese archaeological mission undertook further excavations at Jiyeh in 1997, continued with some interruptions until 2014. Given the lack of a final report from the excavations conducted in the 1970s, the present authors attach great significance to unpublished documentation as the main source for this article.

It is possible to reproduce the terrain as it was before the archaeological excavations thanks to R. Saidah's photographs, as well as the archival satellite images taken within the framework of the *Corona* program (figs. 3-5). They indicate that the area consisting of sector D and the neighbouring basilica were not built over by modern buildings. This was due to the presence of a large sand dune, under which the ruins of the ancient settlement were directly located. A few green bushes can be observed on the surface of the archaeological site. However, farmland and concrete houses are clearly visible on the outskirts of the dunes, filling the space between the Mediterranean coast and the mountain foothills to the east. One of the images also shows a clear but slight depression in the dune, corresponding to the location of Basilica Q (fig. 3). Such attribution is very likely due to the building having been uncovered even before R. Saidah's excavations. Sectors D and E are located to the east and north of this depression, respectively.

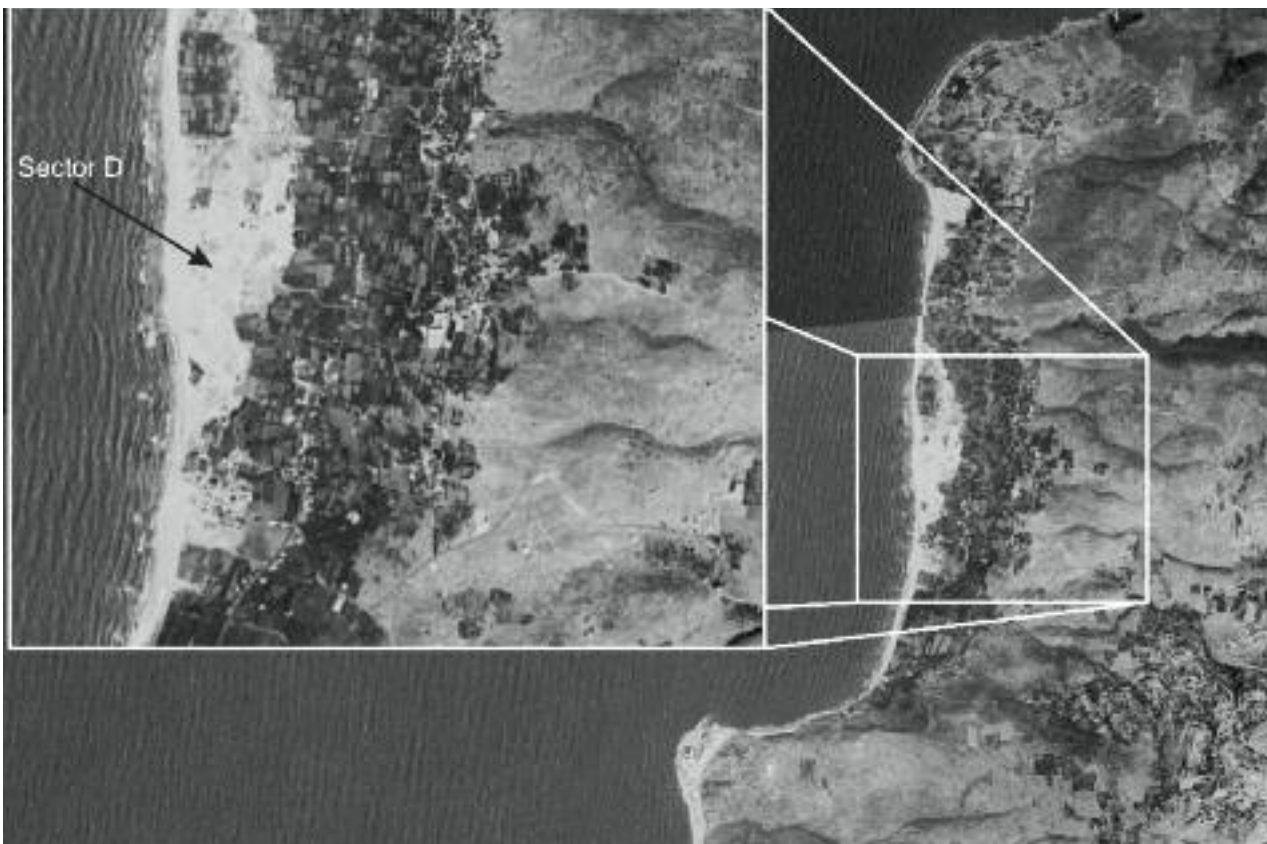


3 View of sector D and Q from the south (R. Saidah's archives).

4 View from the archaeological site of the southern part of Jiyeh (R. Saidah's archives).



5 Satellite picture of Jiyeh taken in the 1960s within the framework of the Corona project (www.corona.cast.uark.edu).



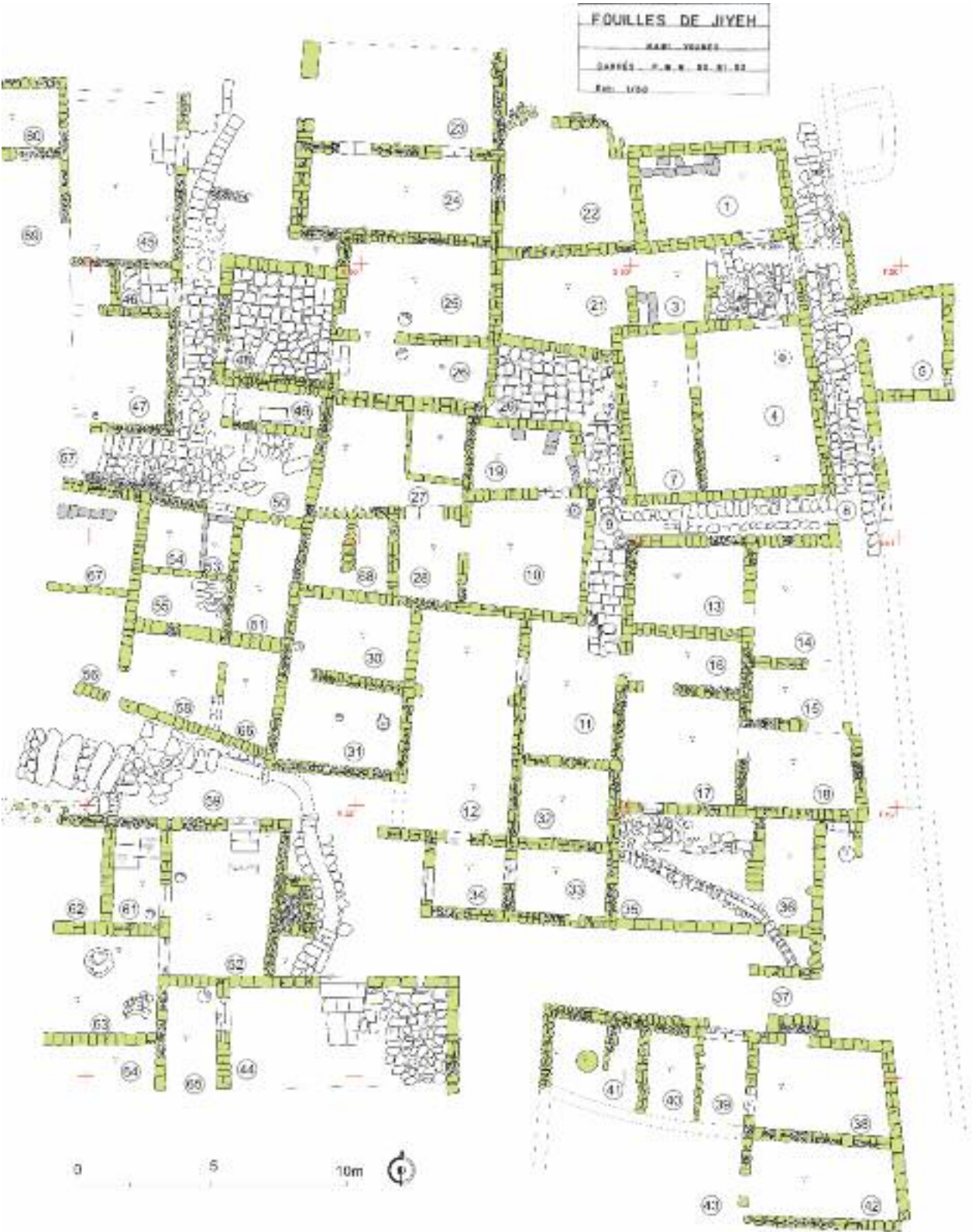
PROFILE OF THE ARCHIVES

The herein presented elements of R. Saidah's archival material consist of a selection from among the 129 available slides. Some of the slides are duplicates or the shots are extremely similar. They mostly record the layout of the terrain just before excavations and as it was when they began. 60 photographs provide documentation of the metal artefacts, wall paintings, and oil lamp moulds discovered during the excavations. Another important source of data comes in the form of a plan of the archaeological site prepared during R. Saidah's excavations after he had cleared the site (fig. 6). It shows structures and features destroyed after 1975 or which the local population at some later point in time moved elsewhere. Thus, the plan is an irreplaceable source of information.

Photographic documentation of the terrain mainly encompasses the north-eastern part of sector D (rooms and streets: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8E, 9, 10, 11, 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26, 27, 45, 46, 47, 48, 73, 81). When these were being documented, the remaining parts of the settlement were still covered with layers of sand and debris. Thus, the available photos must have been taken at an early stage in the excavation work at Jiyeh. We have been unable to establish what happened to the documentation from the research conducted later. Most of the buildings uncovered in 1975 have been marked in the Sector D plan. The discussed collection also includes some of the photographs published by R. Saidah in *Archéologia*. However, the publication also contains images of bronze items, as well as photographs of the buildings and of the archaeological site surrounding not found in the discussed archives⁵. This shows clearly that we have access to only part of the photographs taken during R. Saidah's excavations.

The 1975 plan of sector D was drawn at a scale of 1:50 with a square grid in which the sides measured 10 m (fig. 6). The structures registered inside this sector extend about 44 m from north to south and 35 m from west to east. The walls of the excavated rooms have been drawn on the plan with accuracy of an individual stones. The drawing also includes the stone pavements of the excavated streets. The floors of the rooms are only marked in a few cases, primarily when they were in the form of stone slabs. In some of the rooms, circles can be observed that symbolize ceramic vessels sunken in the floors.

6 Plan of sector D uncovered during R. Saidah's archaeological excavations (archives of the Lebanese Department of Antiquities, digitalised by M. Gwiazda).



Slight errors can be noted in the depiction of the angular arrangement of the walls. The author of the drawing in many cases portrayed the corners of the walls as meeting at straight angles. However, in fact, the corners of rooms in sector D are rarely so regular. With the exception of this detail, it should be noted that the plan is very accurate. The position and form of the entrances, the walls and staircases are all in accordance with what the Polish-Lebanese archaeological mission has recorded (fig. 2). Elevations are yet another important aspect of the plan. They provide information about the height of some walls and other structures, which are currently in much worse a state than in 1975.

R. Saidah's plan includes most of the buildings he uncovered, but not all of them. Sixty-nine areas (rooms and streets) were marked on the plan. However, in the course of the cleaning works carried out by the Polish-Lebanese mission, it was established that the scope of activities in 1975 must have been wider. More excavated streets and rooms were located in the northern, western, and southern parts of Sector D. However, it is impossible for us to determine with any precision the northern and southern limits of R. Saidah's excavations. The areas further to the north and to the south were completely destroyed by heavy equipment in the 1980s. Three areas (93, 98, 99) in the north-eastern part of sector D constitute an exception, as archaeological layers were encountered here linked to the destruction of buildings occurring toward the end of the early Byzantine or during the early Islamic period (fig. 2). New archaeological work in the western part of the site indicates that only some of the rooms at the back of the Christian basilica Q were explored in their entirety in 1975. R. Saidah cleared the whole of rooms 102 and 108B, but an archaeological balk was encountered in room 101, located between the two previously mentioned rooms. This was a layer of dense soil mixed with construction rubble, including glass mosaic tesserae. This layer was 1 m wide and ran along the western wall of the room and its height did not exceed 50 cm. The remaining eastern part of the room had been completely excavated. This is indicated by the presence of sand covering the floor and the lack of any archaeological artefacts. The same layer of sand covered the top of a balk left by R. Saidah. This was a modern deposit (as indicated by the finds of contemporary objects), which extended further westward, where it formed a high mound covering street 116 running from the north to the south⁶. In the course of the research of the Polish-Lebanese mission, it was found that this sand deposit was in direct contact with the partially destroyed street level. The situation is also similar in the case of area 97 above the apse of the basilica. Modern fillings covered the stairs and the heavily damaged mortared floor. However, room 90, located just east of the basilica apse, was completely covered by rubble and filled with layers formed as the settlement neared its end.

The above observations indicate that the plan prepared by R. Saidah does not take into account all the buildings he excavated. This must have been because civil war broke out in Lebanon, resulting in the interruption of the archaeological works in Jiyeh. On the other hand, the plan reveals the larger scope of the conducted excavation work than indicated by the archival photographic documentation.

R. Saidah's excavation methods in Jiyeh

The archives enable the partial reproduction of the excavation methods used in 1975 and of the terrain encountered before fieldworks started. Part of sector D was definitely covered by a 2 m thick sand dune (fig. 7). However, in all probability in other parts of the sector, the accumulation was much smaller and only reached the tops of the walls. It is possible that the south-western part of sector D was destroyed by heavy equipment before R. Saidah's excavations began ⁷. Evidence exists to support such an interpretation. Firstly, the walls in this part of Sector D are in much worse a state than elsewhere, sometimes preserved only up to the height of a single course of stones above the room's floor (see the elevations on the 1975 plan, fig. 6). Secondly, a flattened surface on the southern side of the studied area is visible in one of the archival photographs (fig. 8). To the east, there is a heap of rubble more than 1.5 m high consisting of ashlar and soil. Thus, this clearly differs from the sand dune observable in the photos showing the northern part of sector D (fig. 6). It is important to note here that the floors in the buildings from the south-western part of sector D were over 2.5 m higher than those in the north-east ⁸. Therefore, the better preservation of the walls of the rooms located at a lower level seems to be understandable.



7 View from the south of the cleared buildings by street 8E and the sand dune on the outskirts of sector D. The photo also depicts the rail tracks running along an east-west axis. Rooms 5 and 81 along with their basements are visible on the right side of the photograph (R. Saidah's archives).

8 View from the north-eastern side of sector D with the as yet uncovered southern part of the building complex and the mound on its eastern side. In the foreground, tracks and the wagon used to remove earth (R. Saidah's archives).



Tracked wagons were used during excavation work. One of the main railway lines ran from the east to the west north of rooms 1, 22 and 24 (figs. 7-8). From there, other tracks went southward. Thus, it can be concluded that in the initial phase of excavations, work was conducted on the street 8, after which they moved to the north. After clearing the row of rooms there, they moved further west, and the procedure was repeated, involving first the clearing of the rooms on the south side and then moving gradually to the north.

The sand and rubble were taken by wagon and dumped in the east at a distance of about 30 m, where a considerable depression is still observable today (fig. 9). In the course of the Polish-Lebanese research, such heaps most likely resulting from R. Saidah's excavation methods were also identified as located between sector D and the basilica, as well as to the south of room 90.



9 View from the south-western side of room 4 on the rail tracks in north-eastern part of sector D (R. Saidah's archives).

The lack of archaeological balks indicates that a division into squares was not made during the excavation. It is possible that after determining the course of the walls of individual rooms, in most cases they were explored in their entirety or temporary archaeological balks were left and then removed at a later date⁹. In light of the available photographs, it seems that the ceramic material was collected in piles that lay next to the excavated areas or it was placed in rubber buckets.

Probably due to the quick pace of the 1975 excavations, some architectural structures were partially damaged. This is especially true of certain thin partition walls located in some of the rooms. These types of structures have only been preserved fragmentarily around the balk in room 101. The walls extending further to the east were destroyed to the foundation level. This must have resulted from the inattention of the workers at Jiyeh¹⁰. A similar situation must have occurred in the case of a large cell in the north-east corner of room 27, where the ashlar from the upper row were also damaged as indicated by the single ashlar in the upper row by the eastern wall of the room (fig. 10).



10 View from the southwestern side of the cell filled with lime or gypsum in room 27. On the left side of the photo, a row of holes for floor beams is visible in the northern wall of room 26 (R. Saidah's archives).

In addition to clearing individual rooms and streets, the excavations in 1975 also included the partial exploration of the fillings of some of the sewage canals. This included the investigation of those located in street 8 (between 9 and 8E) (fig. 11), and in areas 35 and 37, 59. This was also the case for the section of the duct located below pavement level in the interconnected streets 57 and 73. In all these cases, removed slabs were frequently encountered with empty spaces underneath, while in other parts of the site the ducts had both covers and soil fillings. R. Saidah must have attempted to obtain material that would enable establishing a dating of when such hydraulic systems had stopped being used at the settlement.



11 View from the west of street 8 with an excavated water channel (R. Saidah's archives).

The field research conducted by the Polish-Lebanese archaeological mission indicates that at least two test trenches were made in 1975 under the floors of the buildings from the youngest phase in Sector D. One was opened within area 68. The borders of the dig coincide with the course of the walls in this part of the settlement. The test trench shows that the foundations of early Byzantine walls were very deep. In the eastern section, the face of a wall is visible with “Phoenician” masonry, consisting of large ashlar pillars and small unworked stones between them ¹¹. The practice of using the remnants of older walls (from the Persian and

Hellenistic periods) as foundations for younger buildings is well documented in various parts of this part of the settlement ¹².

The remnants of a stone wall running in a north-south direction were also exposed in this test trench (fig. 12). It is marked on the 1975 plan (fig. 6). Its top was at an elevation of 7.9 m asl, a metre lower than the floor of early Byzantine room 51. The construction technique involving the use of unworked stones unbound with mortar would indicate that we are dealing with a structure from the Iron Age or the Persian period ¹³. However, this hypothesis should be treated with some caution, as no finds of artefacts have been made that would enable determining the approximate time of founding the wall.



12 View from above of R. Saidah's test trench in room 68 (photo by K. Trela).

A second test trench was opened in the south-west corner of room 2. It was much smaller than the previous one, measuring about 1 m by 0.9 m, and of an unknown depth (figs. 13, 19). The pit was made after the stone pavement in the room had been documented in a drawing, after which the pavement was partially removed during the next stage of excavations¹⁴. We may assume that the purpose of the excavations in this place might have been obtaining material dating the foundation of this floor. It is also likely that R. Saidah wanted to expose the foundations of the room's southern wall in order to identify the spolia used to build it. The reused object in this case is a large round press bed placed upright and joined with the remainder of the wall using mortar¹⁵.



13 View from the north-east of rooms 2 and 4. Next to the walls of both areas, there are elements of Pompeian-type millstones. Behind one of them, there is a test trench done in 1975. The picture also shows the western wall of room 7 with a row of holes for the ceiling beams. The photo also portrays the southern wall of room 2 with a diagonal negative left after a wooden structure enabling entry to the higher storey of the building. On the north face of room 13's north wall, one can observe rectangular plastering around two small windows, which is not continued on the rest of the wall (R. Saidah's archives).



14 View from the west of the maqam al-Nabi Yunis Mosque (R. Saidah's archives).

The available archival photographs indicate that the 1975 mission had equipment enabling the taking of photographs from the air (perhaps by plane?). The photos documented extensive plans of the site, including large portions of the ancient settlement and its immediate vicinity (e.g. figs. 3, 14). It should be noted that these are only oblique images taken at relatively low heights. There are

no vertical images or at a similar such angle. Therefore, in this respect R. Saidah's documentation from Jiyeh differs significantly from documentation made during his excavations in Khan Khalde ¹⁶.



15 View from the north of street 8E and its backfill located at the same height as room 14 (R. Saidah's archives).

One of the photographs shows the maqam al-Nabi Yunis Mosque ¹⁷. This indicates that R. Saidah was also interested in parts of Jiyeh other than Sector D. This is confirmed by the metal items currently stored at the Museum of Beirut, which include the fixings of marble slabs most likely from Basilica Q and a fragment of the decorations from a wooden coffin from the necropolis probably situated on the northern outskirts of the settlement.

Due to the chaos resulting from the civil war, only a small part of the archaeological material from the 1975 excavations in Jiyeh is still available today ¹⁸. This primarily

comprises those items that were well preserved or those that attracted the greatest amount of interest, including a small number of ceramic vessels, 16 oil lamps, some coins, and various glass items, such as beads, bracelets, unguentaria and bottles. In addition, the museum also has some metal artefacts, mainly bronze, and – to a smaller extent – lead and iron. These include such items as fishing hooks, weighing scales, fittings for wooden objects, various vessels, door locks, weights, polycandelon and candelabrum elements ¹⁹. Particular attention should be paid to the hooks for marble plaques that probably originated from the Christian basilica and to a fragment of a lion protome, which must have been a decorative appliqué on a wooden coffin ²⁰. In addition, the museum assemblage also consists of a fragment of a column base, part of a dolphin sculpture, marble utensils, as well as everyday items made of bone.



16 View from the south-east of room 26 before it was cleared of the rubble fill. In the right bottom corner of the photograph, one can observe holes for ceiling beams in the western wall of room 7 (R. Saidah's archives).



Fig. 17 View from the east of the cleared room 10 and partially cleaned-up room 28. The remains of a partition wall can also be observed in the photo (R. Saidah's archives).



18 View from the north-west of the buildings in sector D. In the middle of the photograph, one can see room 48 and the inner face of its south wall with holes for wooden beams. At the bottom edge of the photograph, it is possible to see the gathered artefacts consisting of ceramic vessels, roof tiles, stone blocks with paintings (R. Saidah's archives).



19 View from the east of street 8E and the gutter's stone casing (R. Saidah's archives).

STRATIGRAPHY AND ARCHITECTURE

The drawings and photographic documentation from 1975 enable determining the relative chronology of some archaeological deposits and verifying some of our earlier assumptions in this regard. In 2010, the knocked-over wall located in street 8E east of rooms 14, 15 and 18 was removed, as was the rubble underneath²¹. At the time, the layer had been mistakenly interpreted as reinforcement built by R. Saidah for the walls in this part of Sector D. However, the 1975 photographs show that this was in fact a layer of rubble formed in the early Byzantine/early Islamic period that had not been explored by R. Saidah's mission (fig. 15). As a result, they did not add drawings of the walls of the buildings in this part of the settlement (fig. 6). During later Polish-Lebanese excavations, glass production waste and ceramic vessel sherds from the 4th-7th centuries were found in this spot. Thus, we can assume that the layer containing such material was formed as a result of the deposition of rubbish from the vicinity in the final period of the settlement's existence.

R. Saidah's photographic documentation also in some cases enable a recreation of the stratigraphic sequence in the excavated rooms. In the majority, a layer of rubble with crushed mortar begins just beneath the bottom of the sand dune and at the height of the crown of the surviving walls of the buildings in Sector D (fig. 16). At a height of about 1 m above floor level, layers begin containing much less stone rubble and more sediment (fig. 17). Presumably, these layers may be linked to the room's last use level or to the collapse of the ceiling preceding the destruction of the building's walls²². This second interpretation seems more likely due to the lack of soil deposits of the same

thickness on the streets excavated in Sector D, which most certainly had not been roofed (cf. fig. 15).

Although even today most of the buildings in Sector D remain well preserved, since this part of the site was dug up it has undergone a gradual process of degradation. This includes the erosion of the plaster on the walls, decaying of the upper parts of the walls and damage to the floors. Both various atmospheric factors and wild vegetation have had some impact, but there have also been frequent acts of vandalism. Therefore, the 1975 archival photographs showing the buildings immediately after they were revealed constitute a very important source of knowledge about the architecture of this archaeological site.

One of the archival photographs shows the well-preserved northern wall of room 26 along with the plastering on its southern face (fig. 10). It reached a height of at least 230 cm above floor level. A row of holes for ceiling beams is visible just below the wall's crown. More importantly, the same plaster layer used to cover the inner sides of the walls can be observed just below and just above this height. This indicates that the upper storey consisted not of a roof but of a roofed room. It was most likely accessed through atrium 48, using some sort of wooden structures. The holes for wooden beams visible in the southern part of this room may be traces of this structure (fig. 18).

A similar dense array of holes intended for ceiling beams can be observed in the photographs showing the eastern face of room 7's western wall (figs. 13, 16). In this case, the plastering has not been preserved well enough to provide any clear evidence of a room on the upper floor. However, in the northern part of the western wall and in the western part of the southern wall, it can be observed that the wall extended further up above the ceiling by at least 131 cm. Based on R. Saidah's elevation measurements, we can state that the floor of the upper storey was located at a height of 1.99 m, and thus the room below must have been such a height. The highest preserved part of this room's walls is 3.3 m above floor level. Thus, we can presume that the wall extending up higher above the wooden beams of room 7's ceiling could have been part of a roofed room located on the upper storey. Nonetheless, we cannot exclude that the upper storey had in fact not been roofed and that the wall was there to prevent access from the neighbouring streets 8 and 9 as their elevation was 1.6-1.8 m above the ground floor of room 7.

A closer look at room 7's western wall shows that there are no openings for wooden beams in the room's northern part located opposite the doorway leading to room 4. This situation was certainly dictated by structural factors. This method enabled avoiding the placement of additional strain on the lintel of the door between the two rooms.

Additional observations can be made in the context of the higher storeys relating to the building complex associated with room 7. M. Dzik in his article on the stratification of sector D architecture suggested the existence of a staircase in the south-western corner of room 2, which was

supposedly analogous to the stone staircase in room 71²³. In support of this claim of the existence of a structure that enabled passing between the levels, there is a slanting negative on the southern wall with no signs of plastering (fig. 13). However, during R. Saidah's excavations, no remnants of stone structures were encountered here. Thus, we can presume that there were some wooden stairs here, leaving no material traces apart from the negative in the plaster.

Some other elements that have been strongly damaged and are difficult to identify include the remains of vertical gutters²⁴. They drained water from the roofs of the buildings, from which they ran down to the canals beneath the streets²⁵. The remains of such installations are visible on street 8E next to the walls of rooms 2 and 5. Only the first of these was marked on the 1975 plan. This is a small casing made from small ashlar that protects a ceramic pipe running along the wall of room 2 (figs. 15, 19). Further one, the pipe reaches a secondarily used semi-circular stone used for crushing olives (orbis), which is connected to the canal under the street. The second gutter running along the wall of room 5 consisted exclusively of a ceramic tube covered with a very large amount of

mortar (fig. 20). It has been preserved to a height of several centimetres above the street level.



20 View from the north of street 8E and the remains of a gutter adjoining the wall in room 5 (on the left side of the photo) (R. Saidah's archives).

Some interesting architectural structures that have not been cleaned yet by the Polish-Lebanese mission include two rooms (5 and 81) with basements located next to street 8E (figs. 7, 21, 22). Currently, they are very damaged and buried under rubble. Only one of them is visible on the 1975 plan, while the archival photographs show that both were cleared out at the time. In both cases, holes in the walls are visible for the beams on which the upper floor was placed. This level was in both cases accessible through a door from street 8E.



21 View from the eastern side of room 5 and its basement. In the walls, one can observe holes linked to the construction of the floor on the higher storey of the building (R. Saidah's archives).



22 View from the east of room 81 and its basement. In the walls, one can observe holes linked to the construction of the floor on the higher storey of the building (R. Saidah's archives).

Based on the elevations, the supposed basement floor in room 5 can be reconstructed as having been located about 2 m below the level of street 8E. In turn, the floors above the ceiling beams were about 20 cm thick, which is indicated by the negatives on the walls in the form of plaster ²⁶. In addition, it can be observed that the walls of the basement had not been plastered as opposed to the walls of the rooms above. The use of basements in ancient Near Eastern architecture is not a common occurrence. However, this kind of space has been identified in the nearby village of Chhim, which was contemporaneous to Porphyreon. At this settlement, at least one basement is known to have existed underneath an olive oil press ²⁷. It is difficult to establish in the case of Jiyeh whether we are dealing with storage spaces in a building that had been used for production purposes or something else.

Yet another interesting structure in light of R. Saidah's archives would be the stairs located between street 9 and room 11 (figs. 23-24). They are currently in rather poor condition (fig. 25). However, the 1975 plan and photos enable making some very important observations. Firstly, at that time the stairs were at least 1 m longer and occupied this much more space in room 11. Based on the photos, we can state that the staircase was built on top of a layer of rubble, which indicates that the space behind the stairs could not have been in use at the time. The highest preserved step is located at a height of 1.8 m above room 11's floor and 1.7 m above the level of street 9. Based on one of the photographs, it is possible to state that the stairs were built at a time when part of street 9 was covered with sediment and stone rubble (fig. 24). All these observations indicate that as the ancient settlement slowly neared its end, the standards of cleanliness in public space became much lower on the one hand. On the other, some of the premises seemed to have no longer been in use, and the inhabitants in that part of sector D moved to higher levels of the buildings, which was linked to at least a partial resignation from the use of space on the ground floor.



23 View from the west of the northern part of room 12 and room 11 situated behind it. The remains of a staircase resting on a layer of rubble are visible in this second area (R. Saidah's archives).

Room 11 was furnished with other structures, destroyed after 1975. In the southern part of this area, there was a low thin wall running in a north-south direction (fig. 26). Holes for wooden beams were located in the western face of this room's western wall. These two elements could have been linked and formed a wide raised surface with some sort of central support or perhaps could have been part of a wooden staircase leading to a higher level. Currently, this low wall is no longer visible. It was also not included in the 1975 plan.

Another unpreserved structure can be seen in a photo depicting room 2 (fig. 27). A pool-like structure is located in its south-eastern corner. The south and east parts of the structure are also the room's load-bearing walls. The west and north parts were built using at least three rows of small ashlar. Based on R. Saidah's plan, the structure's internal dimensions can be calculated, amounting to about 0.8 m in the north-south axis and 0.38 m in the east-west axis. The fact that this structure



24 View from the north of the stairs between street 9 and room 11 (R. Saidah's archives).

partially obstructs the entrance to room 4 may indicate that it was a later addition. However, it was constructed before the pavement beneath it was covered with a layer of earth ²⁸. The structure is currently completely destroyed.

During the Polish-Lebanese excavations, a wall was encountered in room 17 made from stone ashlar unbound by mortar. Its function remains unknown, but the fact that it was not marked on the 1975 plan indicates that this structure is most probably a modern addition ²⁹. The structure ran along a north-south axis and was located in the eastern part of the room (fig. 2).

On the plan prepared for R. Saidah's archaeological excavations, various round features were marked in some rooms (fig. 6). On-site verification indicated that there were ceramic vessels submerged beneath the level of the floor in rooms 4, 10, 25, 30, 31, 47, 61, 65 ³⁰. Thus, based on the documentation, we can state that this type of installation was also located in room 26; however, vandals must have destroyed it later on.

The archives also contain information on a number of structures related to the architectural remodelling of individual rooms, which were partially or completely destroyed after 1975. Although in most cases their function remains unknown, they are important as they attest to the

introduced architectural modifications in specific areas.

1. In room 67, at a distance of about 0.55 m from the north wall, there was a row of at least 5 stone ashlars. The structure was 2.1 m long, and its maximum width was 0.54 m. At present, there are three ashlars in the western part of the room. All lie directly on the mortar floor. There were no signs of mortar having been used in the cracks between them. The described structure can only be observed on the 1975 plan (fig. 6).

2. In an area located north of room 55, a thin wall was at one point placed directly on a well-preserved floor made of mortar. It ran along a north-south axis and divided the room into two uneven parts, which R. Saidah numbered 54 (on the western side) and 53 (on the eastern side). At present, there is no trace of this structure, with the only evidence of its existence being the 1975 plan.

3. In room 19, both in the archival photographs and on the plan, two rows of ashlars can be observed next to the east and north walls, arranged directly on the floor made of mortar (fig. 28). There was an additional stone ashlar next to the northern wall. There is no certainty that we are dealing with intentionally arranged objects or, perhaps, stones that have fallen from neighbouring walls. However, taking into account the reciprocal arrangement of these ashlars and their similar height, and the stonework used in adjacent walls, this second possibility seems unlikely.

4. In the north-western corner of room 1 (fig. 29) a stone rectangular structure has been uncovered. It measured 2.94 m in its east-west axis and up to 0.8 m in its north-south axis. Its maximum preserved height amounted to 0.51 m measuring from the room's floor. This structure was added onto the north and west walls of room 1 and lay in direct contact with the plaster on the faces of the walls. It was built of various-sized stone ashlars arranged in several irregular rows. At least one of the stones had a rectangular indentation at its edge. This might have been linked to the structure's function or it is evidence that the ashlar had been used here secondarily.

The 1975 photographs and plan also enable observing a few other features.

5. Rectangular plastered areas are visible on the northern face of room 13's north wall and on the western face of the western wall (figs. 13, 27). Their presence is interesting due to the absence of any traces of plaster in the other parts of these walls. This was possibly related to the trimmings of the small windows visible on the northern wall.

6. On the plan from the archives, one can observe a stone similar to a threshold with an opening for a single-leaf door, which opens out to the south and is located on the crown of room 17's southern wall. It was probably situated 3.65 m above the room's floor. The possibility that it was associated with rooms at a higher level is dubious as there are no traces of holes in the walls

that could have been used to form a floor corresponding to such a structure. The stone could also have been a spolia element ³¹.

7. In 1997, a stone threshold was found in room 11 by its western wall. Based on archival photographs, we can now state that it was placed there toward the end of the early Byzantine or early Islamic period. This is indicated by the fact that it is partly covered by a mound of rubble, which is the base of the stairs in the northern part of the room (fig. 23) ³². This shows that some architectural elements were stored in some of the areas of the early Byzantine village.

8. In the photos of rooms 7 and 27, layers of pure lime or gypsum (fig. 10) are shown lying in cells located next to the walls. Such material was used by the residents of the ancient settlement to repair various architectural features or during the frequent reconstructions of the buildings ³³. During the excavations conducted by the Polish-Lebanese mission, these containers were found to be empty; however, traces of their original fill were visible on the surface of the walls.

9. Photographs taken after the clean-up of the rooms in sector D show that most of the floors were in very good condition (figs. 9, 17, 23, 27, 28, 29). This is important as during the Polish-Lebanese works most of them had been severely damaged by vandals and plants. This observation allows us to conclude that at the end of early Byzantine or during early Islamic period there was no drastic degradation of the house floors. The photos show no signs of burning, which could have indicated the occurrence of violent events preceding the abandonment from the village.

10. On the 1975 plan, stairs had been marked in several of the rooms, which were later destroyed by vandals. In room 45, two rows of steps next to the east wall levelled the difference between the threshold and the floor measuring about 0.5 m. The stairs in room 44 levelled the differences in heights that in this case amounted to about 0.3 m. Two rows of steps with the same function as the previous ones were at the north entrance to room 52. In this case, the difference in height between the threshold and the floor level was 0.4 m.

11. During the 2009 excavations, stone pavement was discovered in the eastern part of room 44. At the time, we interpreted this as contemporary protection of the archaeological layers exposed during R. Saidah's excavations ³⁴. However, given the presence of this structure on the 1975 plan, such an interpretation should be rejected and it should instead be considered a floor from the early Byzantine/early Islamic period associated with the stairs described above. This observation is important because of the secondary use of stone ashlar with paintings, used in the construction of this floor. This indicates that there must have been some destroyed rooms or entire buildings nearby at the moment when the floor was being constructed and could thus serve as a source of cheap building materials.



25 The remains of stairs and the heap of rubble underneath in room 11, view from the south-west (PCMA archives).



26 View from the east of room 11. There is a low wall visible in the southern part, which has since been destroyed, and holes for wooden beams are also visible in the western wall. On the western wall, it is also possible to see partially preserved red painted crosses and Greek inscriptions (R. Saidah's archives).

12. On R. Saidah's plan, two installations were marked as located on the mosaic floor in room 63. When this part of the site was revisited in 2010, no traces of them were found. Thus, the identification of these structures remains unknown, as no such items have been attested in other parts of sector D.

13. The 1975 plan allows for a precise establishment of the location of the mosaic inscription, which was plundered from room 52 in the 1990s. It was situated just opposite the entrance by the stone steps. The text was facing the entrance.

14. The archival plan shows that there were many more stone blocks at that time on the mortar floor of room 55 than those documented by the Polish-Lebanese mission (compare figs. 2 and 6). Originally, they occupied almost the entire eastern part of this room. Their function remains

unclear, but considering the relatively small width (about 0.2 m) of those that have survived to this day, we may in fact be dealing with the overturned northern wall of this room, which was also characterized by a quite small width (about 0.2 m). By summing up the height of the blocks marked on the plan, we can suppose that the northern partition wall was at least about 105 cm high. Such low-profile constructions are well known from other parts of sector D ³⁶. The possible collapse of this wall must have taken place relatively early. Such a supposition may be put forward since the ashlars were located directly on the floor.



27 View from the north of room 1 and of room 2 located behind it. There is a basin-like structure visible in the south-eastern corner of room 2 (R. Saidah's archives).

28 View from the east of room 19 and the rows of stones lying next to the northern and eastern walls (R. Saidah's archives).



29 View from the south-east of room 1 with a structure adjacent to the wall in the north-eastern corner of the room (R. Saidah's archives).



ARTEFACTS

On many of the archival photos, one can observe stone ashlar with paintings on them. They can be divided into two groups. The first contains red inscriptions written in Greek on white plaster. J.P. Rey-Coquais published the best-preserved ones from the walls of rooms 11 and 45 (fig. 26). They contained Christian formulas, probably of an apotropaic nature. However, it should be noted that the habit of painting inscriptions on the walls of buildings in sector D must have been much more common, as indicated by subsequent fragments of unpublished inscriptions (fig. 30: A-C).

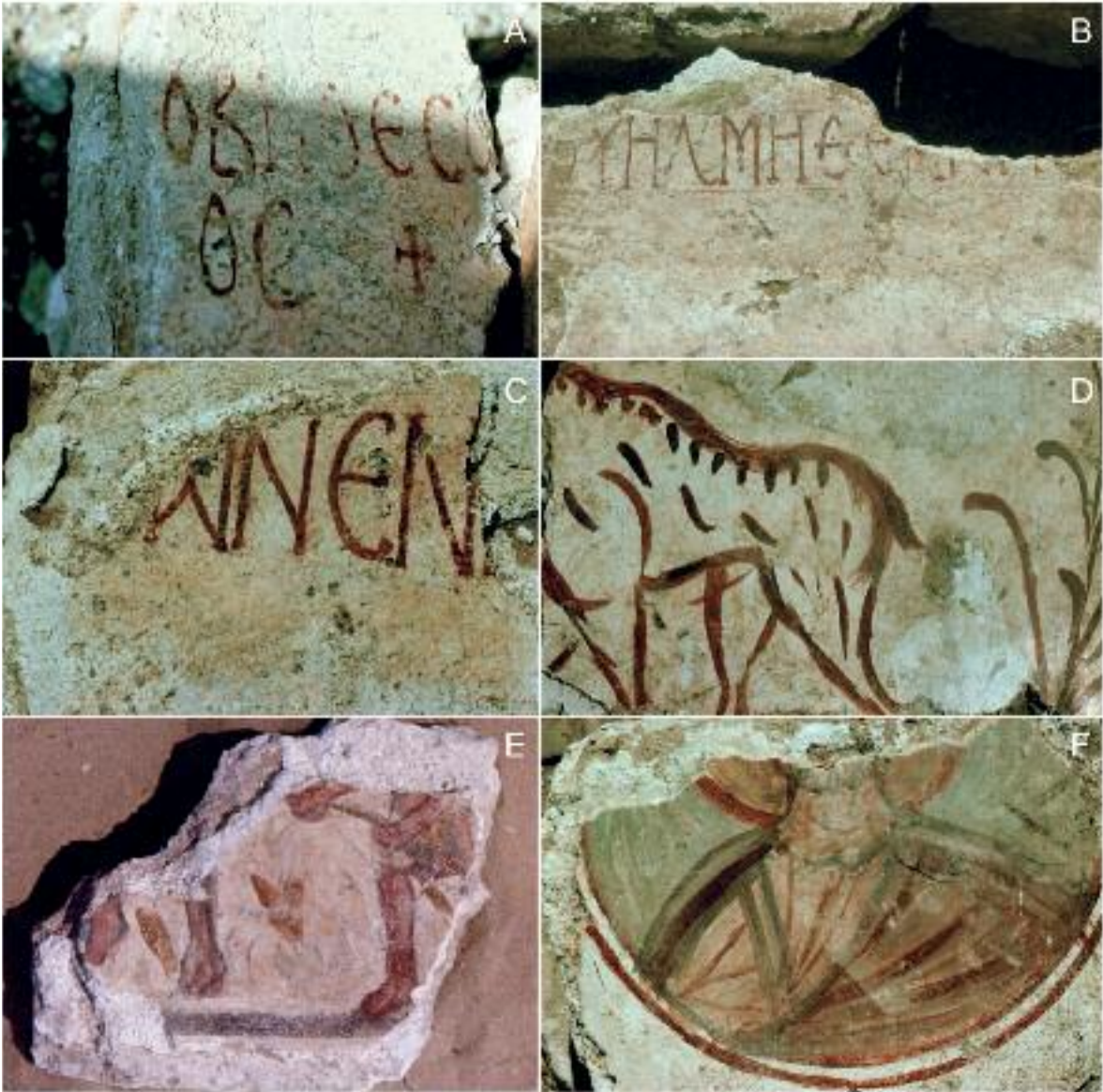
The second group is represented by floral and figural representations, among them the felid mentioned by R. Saidah (fig. 30: D), and also people working in the field or saints with halos (fig. 30: E-F). According to R. Saidah, they were supposed to have adorned the rooms on the upper floors, along with the decorated mosaics³⁸.

The photos also show moulds used for the production of ceramic oil lamps, of which one was published by R. Saidah³⁹. Until recently, we lacked information about the other mould. The photo depicts the upper part of the lamp's mould, partially damaged at the edges (fig. 31). It was used for the production of ovoid lamps typical for the early Byzantine/early Islamic periods⁴⁰. This one has an equilateral cross on its central part. A kantharos seems to be visible below, but this has not been confirmed due to the state of the lamp's surface. In addition, there were peacock images on both sides arranged antithetically flanking vessels most likely filled with round fruits (vine grapes?). Two small crosses are located underneath this central motif. This is at least the third oil lamp mould of the ovoid type found at this site, which indicates this was a developed production centre of such items during the early Byzantine or early Islamic period.⁴¹

Bronze items constitute yet another group of artefacts. Two of those depicted on the archival photographs have been published previously⁴². The rest were unknown until now. It should also be noted that none of these specimens were found among the artefacts at the Museum of Beirut. Thus, the size and exact form of these items remain unknown. For this reason, part of the interpretations presented below should be treated as hypotheses.

1. A bronze lamp with a rounded bowl and with an extended rounded nozzle (fig. 32). The bowl is covered with a hinged lid. The high handle takes the form of a cross with extended arms. The shape of the base is unknown; however, a high and narrow convexity is visible inside the bowl. Thus, it cannot be ruled out that there was a hollow here used to fix this item to a lamp stand. Artefacts of this kind are dated to the early Byzantine period (4th-7th centuries AD)⁴³.

2. Probably a bronze bell with a rounded crown, a profiled mantle and partly chipped bottom edges (fig. 33). Similar forms of this kind originating from other sites are dated to the 3rd-6th centuries AD⁴⁴.



30 A selection of unpublished fragments of paintings with Greek inscriptions and figural representations (R. Saidah's archives).



31 Mould for the production of ovoid-type oil lamps (R. Saidah's archives).

3. Two objects in the form of bars marked with transverse notches and ending in round rings (fig. 34). Knobs are visible at the spots where these two elements come together. Due to the limited amount of information, identifying the artefacts can be difficult. It is possible that we are dealing with the broken arms of a radial polycandelon. In this case, the rings at the ends of the bars would be openings for glass lamps ⁴⁵.

4. An elongated thin object with a disc at the tapered end with a perpendicular ear (fig. 34). The other end is bent onto a bronze rod. Most likely, this was part of the lock in the form of a hasp to a wooden box ⁴⁶.



32 Bronze oil lamp (R. Saidah's archives).

Items found in one of the private estates near the archaeological site constitute a separate group of artefacts⁴⁷. This assemblage consists only of stone objects, most of which were most certainly linked to sector D. This identification is based on the presence of these artefacts on R. Saidah's plan and photographs.

A. The lower part of a Pompeian-type basalt mill⁴⁸ [inv. no. JY 32-SF-13] (fig. 35: A). The item's diameter amounts to 80 cm and it is at least 66 cm high. Curved hollows are visible on its upper surface. At the top of the item, there is a square opening with a depth of 7 cm and a width of 5 cm. The structure has been preserved in its entirety, currently broken into two parts⁴⁹. It is visible in the archival photographs of room 4, where it is located next to the room's western wall (fig. 13)⁵⁰. Due to the lack of basalt rock deposits in the area, we can state that the item was an import.

B. The upper part of a Pompeian-type basalt mill [inv. no. JY 32-SF-13] (fig. 35: B). The lower part of the item is buried in the ground, so its exact height is unknown – it was at least 47 cm. The mill's diameter amounted to about 76 cm. The item was marked on the 1975 plan in the south-western part of room 2 (fig. 6). It is also visible in archival photographs, where it rests on a layer of earth that covers the room's original floor (figs. 13, 19). Most probably, the two items – this one and the above-discussed object - originally formed a whole, which may be indicated by the similar sizes and by the fact that they were found in neighbouring rooms.

C. A limestone basin with a partly sloping bottom and a hole in one of the shorter sides [inv. no. JY 37-SF-13] (fig. 35: C). It is 53 cm long, 41 cm wide, and 30 cm high, while its maximum depth amounts to 16 cm. The function of the object remains unclear. The basin is visible in one of the archival photographs, in which it is shown standing on the floor in the northern part of room 4. Based on this documentation, we can state that one of the reservoir's walls was destroyed after the feature was excavated.



33 Most probably a bronze bell (R. Saidah's archives).

D. A limestone basin with a partly sloping bottom [inv. no. JY 36-SF-13] (fig. 35: D). It is 47 cm long, 44 cm wide, 25 cm high and up to 16 cm deep. One of the walls has been partially destroyed. Considering the analogy of the previous object, it can be assumed that it had a hole in the wall. The item was not depicted on the available documentation from R. Saidah's excavations.

E. A limestone basin with a flat bottom [inv. no. JY 35-SF-13] (fig. 35: E). It is 57 cm long, 44 cm wide, 24 cm high and 14.5 cm deep. The inner walls have been heavily eroded and one of the shorter sides almost completely destroyed. The object was not depicted on the available documentation from R. Saidah's excavations.

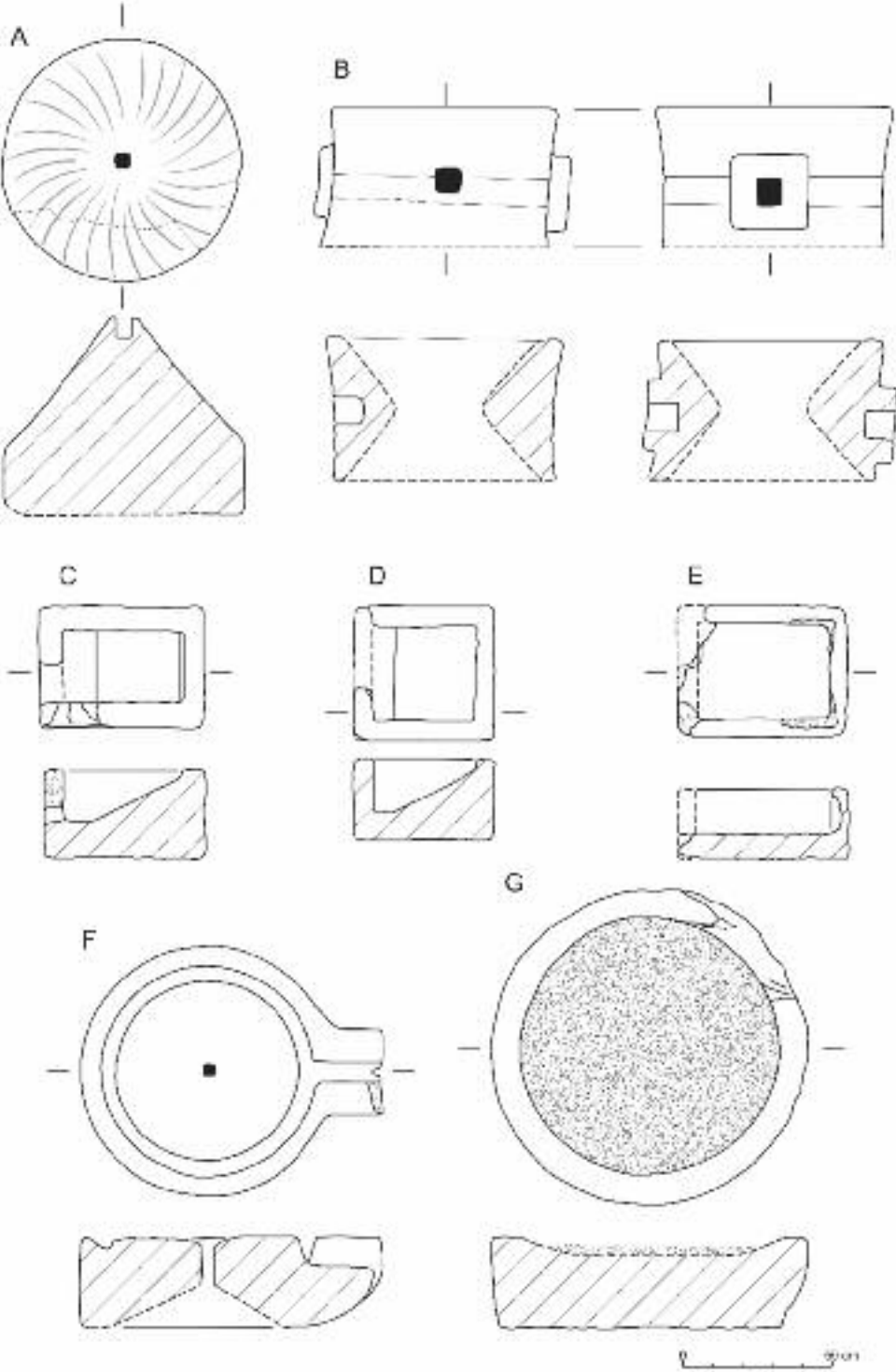
F. Limestone round oil press bed [inv. no. JY 33-SF-13] (fig. 35: F). The structure's diameter amounts to ca. 82 cm and it is 29 cm high. There is an opening in the middle with a diameter of 4 cm, which expanded toward the bottom. Its presence may indicate that at some point it ceased to fulfil its original function. Based on the 1975 plan, it can be said that the item was found in the eastern part of room 31. The space was occupied by a tank containing lime or gypsum during its last phase of use. It is therefore doubtful that this press element was used here.

G. A round limestone basin, possibly a crushing basin with a flat bottom surface (mola olearia) [inv. no. JY 34-SF-13] (fig. 35: G). Its identification remains uncertain as the inner part is now filled with earth. As a result, it is impossible to verify whether there was place for a crushing stone. The item's diameter amounts to about 107 cm and it is 31 cm high. It was not listed in R. Saidah's available documentation. However, given the fact that it was placed together with other artefacts stolen from sector D, it can be assumed that it had the same origin.



34 On the left side of the picture, probably two parts of a polycandelon. On the right side of the picture, probably part of a lock in the form of a hasp to a wooden chest (R. Saidah's archives).

35 Stone artefacts found near the archaeological site. A, B – part of a Pompeian-type mill; C-E – limestone basins; F – a press bed; G – probably a crushing basin (drawing by M. Makowska, digitalised by M. Gwiazda).



CONCLUSION

The above review of archival documentation from R. Saidah's excavations in Jiyeh has enabled a partial reproduction of his excavation methods and fieldwork activity. These included records of mostly the youngest levels in the settlement, and – more precisely – part of its residential district. However, it should be noted that the 1975 archaeological mission also tried to identify older settlement levels under the floors of early Byzantine buildings. This is indicated by at least one large trench, which uncovered earlier architectural structures. Archival photographs have allowed us to enrich our knowledge of the architectural remnants in the residential quarter in Sector D. The documentation provides information about walls and floors that were in much better condition than they are now. As a result, we know more about the techniques of ceiling construction and the form of the gutters used to drain water from the roofs of the houses down to the streets. These archival photographs extend our knowledge of the objects found during excavations, including providing information about the production, daily life and art of the inhabitants of Porphyreon. Also, without R. Saidah's plans and photographs, it would not have been possible to identify the origins of some of the artefacts found in the vicinity of the archaeological site.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to thank C. Doumet-Serhal for granting access to the archival photographs from R. Saidah's excavations. The presented research would not have been possible without the help of R. Solecki, who scanned the archival photographs in 2014.

- 1 For more on the site itself and its history, see Waliszewski, Gwiazda, 2015.
- 2 E. Renan, 1864, p. 509-514.
- 3 G. Contenau, 1914, p. 295-305.
- 4 R. Saidah, 1977.
- 5 R. Saidah, 1977, p. 38, fig. 1; p.39, fig. 4; p. 40, fig.1, 2; p. 41, fig. 5; p. 42, fig. 1; p. 43, fig. 4.
- 6 For more on this mound and its genesis, see T. Waliszewski, M. Gwiazda, 2013, p. 328-340.
- 7 R. Saidah's research at Jiyeh mainly consisted of rescue operations resulting from the destruction of sector D buildings incurred by the local population, R. Saidah, 1977, p. 39.
- 8 See T. Waliszewski, M. Gwiazda, 2013, p. 331, 332.
- 9 This interpretation is supported by the example from room 101. *Supra*.
- 10 T. Waliszewski, M. Gwiazda, 2013, p. 330.
- 11 J. Elayi, 1988.
- 12 M. Gwiazda, T. Waliszewski, 2014, p. 52.
- 13 On the forms of Iron Age walls in Jiyeh, see T. Waliszewski, M. Gwiazda, 2015, p. 334, fig. 4.
- 14 A cobblestone pavement is visible in the south-west corner of room 2 on the site plan from 1975 (fig. 6).
- 15 The other side of this press was cleared during 2009 excavation season in the room 4.
- 16 See vertical images of archaeological site in Khan Khalde in: R. Saidah, 1975, fig. on p. 56.
- 17 On the mosque, see S. Garreau Forrest, 2012, p. 58.
- 18 Analyses of the various categories of artefacts from R. Saidah's excavations are currently being prepared for publication in the *Bulletin d'archéologie et d'architecture libanaises*. I would like to thank the staff of the Museum in Beirut for granting me access to these artefacts.
- 19 In his article on the inscriptions from Jiyeh, J.-P. Rey-Coquais also mentioned the rich stash of bronze liturgical items (candelabra, lamps, thuribles and ciboria) found in room 12 (J.-P. Rey-Coquais, 1982, p. 399). Part of the listed items currently located in the Museum in Beirut must have been part of this assemblage.
- 20 On the bronze fastenings from Jiyeh, see M. Gwiazda, 2014, p. 131, fig. 4; on the lion protome, see M. Gwiazda, 2013, p. 60, fig. 11.
- 21 M. Gwiazda, 2011-2012, p. 35, 36.
- 22 So far, the Polish-Lebanese mission has had very limited possibilities of documenting the original accumulation in the rooms in Sector D due to the fact that most of the them were already explored by R. Saidah. For information on some such layers, see T. Waliszewski, M. Gwiazda, 2013, p. 330. The results of the excavations in rooms 90 and 99 conducted during 2014 excavation season, in which we are dealing with an undisturbed stratigraphic sequence, have not as yet been published.
- 23 See M. Dzik, 2015, p. 483, 486.
- 24 Such an installation was mentioned in R. Saidah, 1977, p. 40.
- 25 For more on gutters and the sewage system, see M. Gwiazda, T. Waliszewski, 2014, p. 332, 325, 326.
- 26 A 20-cm thick floor of the room on the upper storey was discovered in situ in sector E in 2013; for more on the subject, see M. Gwiazda, T. Waliszewski, 2014, p. 45.
- 27 T. Waliszewski, 2000, p. 243, 244.
- 28 See below for more information on the layer of earth on the pavement of room 2.
- 29 See below on the modifications to the buildings marked on the 1975 plan.
- 30 T. Waliszewski, K. Juchniewicz, M. Gwiazda, 2012, p. 439, 440.
- 31 The Polish-Lebanese excavations were not able to find the object.
- 32 Cf. *supra*.
- 33 For more on this subject, see M. Gwiazda, T. Waliszewski, 2014, p. 39.
- 34 T. Waliszewski, K. Juchniewicz, M. Gwiazda, 2012, 434-435, fig. 10.
- 35 This inscription has thus far not been published. It most probably contained the date of the floor's foundation written down in Greek. I would like to thank Prof. T. Derda for his comments on the issue.

- 36 M. Gwiazda, T. Makowska, *Waliszewski*, 2014, p. 41, fn. 13.
- 37 J.-P. Rey-Coquais, 1982, p. 399-402, fig. 3-10.
- 38 R. Saidah, 1977, p. 40-42. For more on these same paintings based on R. Saidah's archival photographs, see J. Burdajewicz's article in previous volume.
- 39 R. Saidah, 1977, p. 41.
- 40 T. Waliszewski, 2011.
- 41 M. Gwiazda, 2011-2012, p. 35, fig. 5.
- 42 A chalice with a lid and a thurible, cf. R. Saidah, 1977, p. 40, 41.
- 43 R. Rosenthal, R. Sivan, 1978, p. 161, cat. no. 665, E. Mazar, 2003, p.26-28, pl. I.2.2. See also a similar kind of bronze oil lamps with openings for lamp stands from Beirut: L. Zuheiri, 1998-1999, 147-149, fig. 1-3.
- 44 Z. Yevin, G. Finkielsztejn, A. Zemer, 1999, p. 53; p. 18, p. 261, fig. 5, 6.
- 45 See possible analogies: K. Weitzmann, 1977, p. 94, 95, D. Papanikola-Bakirtzi, 2002, p. 283, fig. 296, R. Mikati, D. Perring, 2006, p. 48, fig. 2, H. Boustany, 2012, p. 158, p. 297, J. Strzygowski, 1904, p. 297, 298, fig. 335.
- 46 For analogies from other archaeological sites, see H. Goldman, 1950, 392, fig. 265.78, A. Negev, 1997, p. 209, pl. 4.26, E. Mazar, 2003, p. 21, pl. I.1, p. 137, N. Dieudonné-Glad, M. Feugère, M. Ōnal, 2013, fig. 70, pl. 24.
- 47 These objects were discovered and documented in 2013 by the present author and M.
- 48 On this type of mills in Syro-Palestine, see D. Peacock, D. Williams, 2014.
- 49 Verbal information received from the item's current owner.
- 50 This item is probably mentioned in R. Saidah, 1977, p. 41.

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