

Excavations at Khirbet Safra and the Report on the Oven from House B.2

It has been five years since Andrews University started excavating Khirbet Safra in Jordan under the supervision of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan. Archaeological excavations in modern-day Jordan have increased in recent decades, providing invaluable information about ancient societies. That is especially the case with the Iron Age I. Our knowledge about that period has been updated with recent research and Khirbet Safra is one of many newly opened sites that has shared light on the subject. Although the preliminary results of the excavations have just started to get published, the authors wanted to present the current results of the excavations to promote the site among the Croatian public and interested readers. That is why this paper will bring an update on the Khirbet Safra excavations but also it will provide a preliminary report on the oven that was found in House B.2. A short analysis of the taboon type oven and its contextual analogies will bring forth a better understanding of household activities in the Iron Age I in the southern Levant.

Introduction

During the 2021 season at Khirbet Safra, the work continued within the House discovered in 2018.¹ Layouts of the house were known from the previous season in 2019, so in the 2021 season excavators focused more on defining the interior of the dwelling. Most of the bulks from the previous two seasons were removed, which provided a better understanding of the interior, specifically the number of rooms and the communication, meaning the entryways, or the doorways to the specific rooms. During the last week of excavation, an installation was found while clearing the north bulk of the B5 square.² The position and the form point to a *taboon* type oven. The importance of this find is in providing a clearer understanding of the domestic activities in dwelling B.2. To have a better understanding of these activities, this paper will further provide insight into household architecture spanning from its beginning in the Bronze Age to the development of the so-called four-room house that was typical for Iron Age I period in the southern Levant.

¹ GREGOR *et al.* 2021a, also Field B photo of the house from 2018 see in GREGOR *et al.* 2021, fig .5.

² GREGOR *et al.* 2021a, Safra archives/Field notes.

History of Khirbet Safra excavations and finds to date

Andrews University has a long history of involvement and excavations in modern-day Jordan.³ In 2017 while the team was involved in excavating Tall Jalul, they were offered by the Department of Antiquities of Jordan (DOAJ) to do a surface survey of Khirbet Safra.⁴ This is a 2.6-acre site located southwest of Madaba in Jordan⁵ (Fig. 1. *Map*).

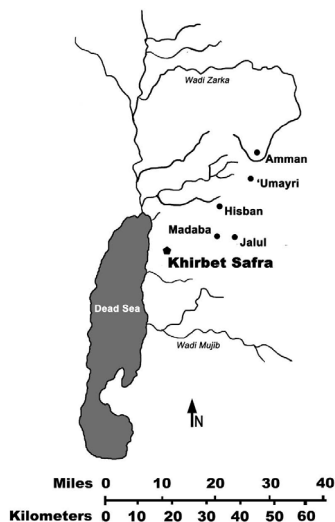


Fig. 1. Map

³ For the history of excavations, most of which included sites under the Madaba Plains Project and the background information on Andrews University's involvement in Jordan see GANE *et al.* 2010; GREGOR 2009, GREGOR & GREGOR 2009, 2010; GREGOR *et al.* 2011, 2012, 2017; HERR *et al.* 1994, 1996, 1997; YOUNKER *et al.* 1993, 1996, 1997, 2007, 2009; YOUNKER, GANE, SHQOUR 2007; YOUNKER & MERLING 2000; YOUNKER & SHQOUR 2008.

⁴ GREGOR *et al.* 2021:539. It is interesting to note that during the archaeological survey conducted in the summer of 2017, based on the preliminary study the collected ceramics represented the horizon of Iron Age II A and B occupational periods. However, from the 2018 season the earliest phase represents a significant Iron Age I occupational period. It is plausible that little or no evidence of Iron Age I ceramics was found in the 2017 survey because the material was covered and sealed by a major destruction layer in Iron Age II. This result is typical of walking surveys, cf. FAUST & KATZ 2012, and SHAI & UZIEL 2014.

⁵ Excavation at Khirbet Safra went electronic for the first time for the Andrews university team. The locus sheets from the Madaba Plains Project Field Manual were converted into a completely digital format by Robert Bates, using File Maker Pro software and run in the field on the File Maker Go app, on iPads, in each square. The data were backed up wirelessly via airdrop from the iPads to a laptop computer at the end of each day in the field. Daily progress shots, photos of pottery readings, and artifacts were taken on the iPad camera, embedded into the locus sheets, and stored on the device. GPS was used for the geospatial information. Top plans were produced either on the Touch Draw app or manually on graph paper and then scanned to the iPad, cf. GREGOR *et al.* 2021: 546.

The first and second seasons of excavations at Khirbet Safra were conducted in 2018 and 2019.⁶ They were directed by Paul Z. Gregor, Paul Ray, and Constance Gane of Andrews University from the USA.⁷ In 2018, in three of the four excavated fields, the casemate wall system was exposed. In each field, the walls were freestanding and built directly upon bedrock, which was uneven, with several various-shaped crevices. These crevices were filled with a densely packed, sterile, red-bricky-like material, lacking material culture.⁸ In each field, there are rooms adjacent to the casemate wall system. In fields B, C, and D entryways have been found in the inner wall, connecting rooms on either side. The initial construction of the casemate wall system has been dated to the early Iron Age I in each field⁹ (Fig. 2. *Safra topo*).

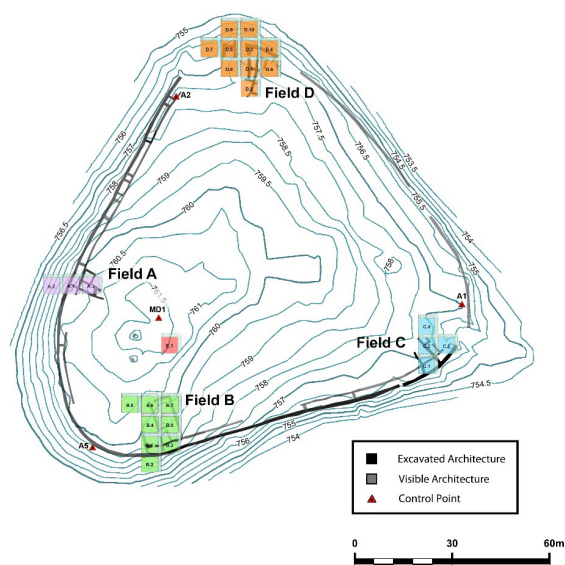


Fig. 2. *Safra topo*

⁶ During the first season of excavation, a total of 240 objects were discovered, 133 of which were related to agricultural activities. In addition, 20 textile objects and only seven related to warfare activities were uncovered. Based on the objects, it is likely that the site of Khirbet Safra represents a typical domestic settlement, with an emphasis on farming activities, which of course, doesn't exclude the possibility that during at least part of the year, the occupants were also tending sheep and goats, cf. GREGOR *et al.* 2021: 544-546. The excavations in 2019 also mainly yielded objects related to agricultural and domestic functions. Of the 205 objects discovered in 2019, most (112) were related to agricultural activities, 28 were textile objects, seventeen items of jewellery, ten recreational, and only one related to warfare (a sling stone). In addition, two possible mercantile weights and a half of a cylinder seal were found, cf. GREGOR *et al.* 2019.

⁷ GREGOR *et al.* 2020: 83.

⁸ GREGOR *et al.* 2021: 540.

⁹ GREGOR *et al.* 2019.

Parts of squares A1 and A3 in Field A were excavated to the bedrock.¹⁰ In square A1, Early Iron Age I ceramic remains were found directly upon the bedrock. The two rooms next to the casemate walls exhibited beaten-earth surfaces with ceramics dating to Iron Age I, stone grinders, pestles, and numerous animal bones. Above this surface in both rooms, there was a mix of Iron Age I, Iron Age II and Byzantine period ceramics indicating a violent disruption.¹¹ A clearer occupational history is provided in square A3 with early Iron I ceramic imbedded in the plastered floor (A3:21). Above this level, ashy lens up to 50 cm thick covered most of the rooms, indicating a conflagration. Post-occupational debris suggests a period of abandonment.¹² Above that was a beaten earth surface that dates to the Byzantine period (A3:17). At least one of the Byzantine walls (A3:8-10, 15-16) was built atop an Iron Age I wall. Another beaten earth surface (A3:11) also dates to the Byzantine era. These surfaces and walls indicate a relatively well-established Byzantine-period occupation on this side of the site.¹³ During the 2019 and 2021 seasons Field A was not excavated.

Squares B1 and B3 were excavated in Field B during the 2018 season, while B2 was solely used only to trace the outer wall on this side of the site.¹⁴ Several layers of occupation were discovered in B1 on the inner side of the broad room of the casemate wall. Bedrock was reached in several parts of B1 as well as B3. The first occupation level B1:14, B3:9 dating to Iron Age I was above the red-bricky material used to fill the bedrock crevices to flatten the surface. This layer contained many animal bones and a few domestic and textile artifacts.¹⁵ On top of the initial use layer, a beaten-earth surface was laid during the late Iron Age I. In early Iron Age II another beaten-earth layer was laid above a fill layer (B1:7). Stone thresholds connected to both beaten-earth surfaces were found in the doorway of the inner casemate.¹⁶ Sometime in Iron Age IIB (ca 8th century BC) large portions of the outer casemate wall fell down the hill to the south of the site, probably caused by an earthquake.¹⁷ The destruction left 0.75 m of the mudbrick superstructure (B1:12; B3:5) of the inner casemate wall in the broad rooms in both B1 and B3 with smaller amounts of debris in other parts of the building (B1:4, 8;

¹⁰ Field A was supervised by Constance Gane, cf. GREGOR *et al.* 2021: 541.

¹¹ GREGOR *et al.* 2021: 541.

¹² GREGOR *et al.* 2021: 541.

¹³ GREGOR *et al.* 2021: 542.

¹⁴ Field B is supervised by Paul Ray, cf. GREGOR *et al.* 2021: 542.

¹⁵ GREGOR *et al.* 2021: 542.

¹⁶ GREGOR *et al.* 2021: 542.

¹⁷ In general, architectural elements fall in the opposite direction of plate movement during the tectonic activity, which on the east side of the Dead Sea Transform is to the north, cf. GREGOR *et al.* 2021: 542.

B3:4, 10).¹⁸ In B3, a whole juglet, two cups, and a part of a jar were found isolated in pits (B3:12 and 13) dating to the Byzantine period, suggesting some squatter activities of that period. B1:1,3 and B3:1,3 provided post-abandonment earth material accumulating ever since the last occupation in the Byzantine period, as suggested by the vessel forms found in the pits.¹⁹ In 2019 four new squares were opened in field B north of the casemate rooms discovered in the 2018 season. Also, B3, which was only partially excavated in the previous season was completed in 2019.²⁰ Bedrock was reached in parts of four of the five squares with square B7 being worked for only the last couple of days at the end of the season. In 2019 parts of the two buildings were unearthed. Building 1 was traced to the northwest from the broad room casemate structure in Square B1, throughout B4 and B6. Its eastern wall is shared with Building 2 (B:6, 14=B4:3=B6:5), but most of its western wall is still unexcavated.²¹ Building 2 was traced throughout parts of squares B3-7 in 2019. Its walls are almost completely exposed, except for a few short sections within the balks. The building is subdivided on its southwestern side by a small room (B 3:2, 14, 16=B 5:13, 8) with an entrance on the east side of the main room (B 5:26).²² The building is further subdivided by a pillar (B 5:23) and a short section of wall (B 6:9) with another entrance to the main room (B 6: 19). In both buildings were discovered use layers in the form of beaten-earth surface. The first occupational layer was located just above the red-bricky fill material in the undulations of bedrock. Throughout Iron Age I two or three additional beaten-earth surfaces were laid.²³ The middle of these occupational layers in Building 2 was apparently destroyed by a conflagration (ash layer B5:22).²⁴ Parts of a collared-rim pithos were found within this layer. The 2019 preliminary conclusions were that Building 1 was a two-room house while Building 2 was a three-room house. The presence of some late Iron Age II ceramics suggests squatter activities similar to the previous conclusion in 2018 after the four byz-

¹⁸ GREGOR *et al.* 2021: 542.

¹⁹ GREGOR *et al.* 2021: 542.

²⁰ GREGOR *et al.* 2019.

²¹ This wall was traced for a short distance (B1:11, 13=B4:17, 2) before it disappeared in the west balk of square B4, just beyond a postern or side entrance to the west (B4:18), cf. GREGOR *et al.* 2019. In the 2021 season, the balk was removed, and it cleared the wall, cf. GREGOR *et al.* 2021a.

²² GREGOR *et al.* 2019.

²³ Building 1, B1:5=B4:12 (lower) B6:10 (upper), Building 2, B3:21 (lower), B3:18=B5:21 (middle) and B 5:19=20 (upper), cf. GREGOR *et al.* 2019.

²⁴ At the time, it was noticed that the ash layer was not found in Building 1, but the ash layer was connected with other areas of the settlement, such as Fields A, C, and D that have provided evidence for fire destruction, cf. GREGOR *et al.* 2019. In the following season, further excavations will provide new insight into the discovery of the oven considered in this paper.

antine vessels were found in B3.²⁵ The 2020 season had to be postponed, but in 2021 the team continued with the work on field B focusing on clearing the balks that were left from the previous seasons.²⁶ In 2021 two balks from square 4 were removed, so the entire eastern wall of Building 1 (B3:6=14=B4:3=6:5) has been completely excavated. The western wall of the building with its postern entrance (B4:18), possibly to a narrow alleyway, has only been traced for slightly over half of its distance. Several beaten-earth surfaces were discovered in Building 1, some of them pointing to the earliest occupation dating to Early Iron Age I.²⁷ Another beaten earth surface was laid during Late Iron Age I (B1:5=B4.12=B6.10), and yet another in Iron Age II (B1:6=B4:7).²⁸ The 2021 season helped reconstruct the construction phases of Building 1 mostly due to the removal of the north balk of B4. The three bedrock terraces made the construction of Building 1 uneven, but the balk removals confirmed the multiple surfaces, especially the B4:7 surface.²⁹ In the 2021 season, removing some balks exposed additional architecture in Building 2 making its outline much clearer than Building 1.³⁰ It is subdivided on its southwest side by a small room with an entrance (B5:26) on the east side. A pillar (B5:23) further subdivides the building positioned on a bedrock shelf and then another narrow and long room, consisting of walls (B5:29=B6:9, B4:24) and entrances on the south (B4:25) and east (B6:19) that lead into the middle and main room. On the north side of this narrow room is the main entrance to Building 2 (B6:18).³¹ We can trace several beaten-earth surfaces in this building. The earliest floor was located just above the red bricky material immediately above bedrock B5:25, B5:12, B4:26=B5:27=B4:27=B5:28, B5:19=32 with additional beaten earth surface B5:11, B5:14=15=17 that was laid during the Late Iron Age I.³² In connection with the ash layer (B5:22) found in season 2019, possible evidence of fire (B7:10) was found in square B7. If so, it might be connected with the same conflagration which destroyed the first occupation in some of the site's other

²⁵ GREGOR *et al.* 2019, GREGOR *et al.* 2021: 542.

²⁶ In 2021 Field B was again supervised by Paul Ray, cf. GREGOR *et al.* 2021a.

²⁷ The earliest occupation layer B4:16, 19, 21, 26=B6:12 was located just above the red-bricky material placed in the undulations of bedrock as elsewhere on the site, cf. GREGOR *et al.* 2021a.

²⁸ GREGOR *et al.* 2021a.

²⁹ GREGOR *et al.* 2021a.

³⁰ Sharing the eastern wall (B3:6=14=B4:3=B6:5) with Building 1, it continued from the broad room casemate structure in B3 excavated in 2018. The eastern wall of Building 2 (B5:9=B7:2) has been excavated for much of its length, the remainder of which can be partially traced on the surface, cf. GREGOR *et al.* 2021a.

³¹ The main entrance is recognizable with the tumbled rocks in the 90 cm wall opening as in other areas on the Field (and site in general). Still, it was left unexcavated intentionally due to structural reasons, cf. GREGOR *et al.* 2021a.

³² GREGOR *et al.* 2021a.

areas (Fields A, C, and D).³³ During the 2021 season a structure was identified as a possible *taboon* type oven in the northern balk of square B5.³⁴ The excavation of a part of a third building to the west of Building 1 also began in 2021. The outline of this structure is difficult to determine so far. The similarity between the Building 1 and Building 2 is that there is an entrance (B8:10) on the northern side. So far, wall B8:8 on the east side of the structure has been ascertained, as well as wall B8:4.³⁵ In the small room created by this subdivision one silver earring was found.³⁶ Building 3 seems to deviate from the general patterns of Buildings 1 and 2, but it would seem to be the case due to the truncation of the triangular-shaped topography of the site. As in the other buildings, a beaten earth surface, B8:13, was found just above the bedrock B8:15 with red bricky material (B8:14) filling in the bedrock cavities. Although the excavation of the Building 3 started at the very end of the 2021 season and the whole layout has yet to be determined, the similarities with the other two buildings in the Field B can be observed with the northern entrance to the buildings and the rock tumble from earthquake destruction sometime in the Early Iron II.³⁷

On the south-eastern corner of the site, squares C1 and C2 were first excavated in 2018.³⁸ On top of the bedrock was a surface created from the red bricky material with some late Bronze Age II/Early Iron Age I transitional pottery (C1:17; C2:17, 25). This material was sealed below a destruction layer that contained a large amount of broken ceramic vessels, most of which can be dated to Iron Age I, and domestic food preparation objects, such as grinders and pounders.³⁹ A second occupational level consisted of a beaten earth floor in both squares (C1:15; C2: 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 19). At this time, both the entrance between the broad room of the casemate and the room immediately inside (C1:19=23), as well as the entrance to the northeast (C2:27), were blocked. Flat lying pottery sherds dated to the Iron Age II, a pair of bronze bangles and a roof roller were

³³ GREGOR *et al.* 2021a.

³⁴ Cf. Safra archives/Field notes. The next chapter of this paper gives a detailed description of the structure.

³⁵ The subdivision wall B8:4 was made of a single row of stones, cf. GREGOR *et al.* 2021a.

³⁶ The earring found at Field B (Safra object number S0106, cf. GREGOR *et al.* 2021a) was a lunate type earring similar to lunate earring from Tell el-Ajjul in Israel (compare fig. 5. in ILAN 2016: 142.) David Ilan has concluded that most of the lunate-type earrings were not individualized. They were used as amulets or as a mark of religious belief in a lunar deity, cf. ILAN 2016: 147-148.

³⁷ Considerable rock tumble B8:7, 11 points to the destruction of the building in the Early Iron II earthquake, similar to other two buildings, cf. GREGOR *et al.* 2021a.

³⁸ Field C was supervised by Trisha Broy, cf. GREGOR *et al.* 2021: 542.

³⁹ The destruction layer (C1:16; C2: 16, 18, 23, 24) was approximately 0.10 m thick, cf. GREGOR *et al.* 2021: 542.

found on the surface of this narrow room.⁴⁰ A series of ash layers in both squares above this surface suggested another conflagration (C1:9, 10, 11, 14; C2:4, 5, 6, 9). Above these ash layers was an abandonment layer consisting of a heavy concentration of boulders from the wall tumble.⁴¹ During the 2019 season Field C was not excavated, but the work continued in 2021 when two new squares were opened.⁴² The excavation concentrated on exposing some parts of the long and broad rooms of Building 2 and the architecture of the structures in general. Buildings were incorporated into the fortification system. The outer casemate wall C3:4 of Building 2 is 5.5 meters long, and its eastern wall C3:8=C4:4 is almost 11 meters long.⁴³ On the northwest side of this wall is a 1.15 m doorway, and the C2:3 wall is shared with Building 1.⁴⁴ So far, the excavations have exposed that Building 2 is subdivided into several rooms, one of which was further subdivided in the second phase of occupation. The interior casemate wall C3:2 creates the so-called “broad room” in the southeast part of the building. Although the broad room of Building 2 is generally rectangular in shape, the walls are slightly concave to accommodate the terrain.⁴⁵ An 80 cm doorway on the northwest end of the room leads into a long room.⁴⁶ Three walls (C2:3, C2:8, C3:2) and two pillars (C2:26) delineate another room from the surrounding areas of the building. The excavation in the 2018 season revealed a room flanked on the northeast by a wall and two pillars. During the second occupational phase, this room was subdivided by wall C2:10, and the space between the two pillars was blocked to form another wall. (C2:27).⁴⁷ The first occupation layer is consistent with the other houses on the site with its levelling fill laid on the bedrock to create an even surface. Floor C2:34, C3:10, C3:25, and C4:10 is consistently covered with a thick ash layer (C2:33, C3:9, C3:16, C3:23) that is sealed under the second floor (C2:32, C3:5, C3:15, C3:20).⁴⁸ The ash layer is rich with food preparation

⁴⁰ GREGOR *et al.* 2021: 543.

⁴¹ The abandonment layer (C1:1, 2, 6, 7, 8; C2:1, 2, 7) was dated by ceramics to Iron Age II, cf. GREGOR *et al.* 2021: 543.

⁴² Field C was supervised again by Trisha Broy in 2021. In addition, with two new squares opened in the season, the east balk of C2 was removed, cf. GREGOR *et al.* 2021a.

⁴³ So far, the excavated length is 10.7 meters, cf. GREGOR *et al.* 2021a.

⁴⁴ The doorway and wall C4:5 may form part of the north perimeter of Building 2, cf. GREGOR *et al.* 2021a.

⁴⁵ The walls are built on the very edge of the site, so the building's rear part is at the site's curving edge.

⁴⁶ The long room was likely an unroofed courtyard. Along the southwestern wall of this area, a *taboon* and cooking area was found, which is typical for courtyard activities, cf. GREGOR *et al.* 2021a.

⁴⁷ GREGOR *et al.* 2021a.

⁴⁸ The first use layer is dated to Iron Age I, and the latter is dated to early Iron Age II, cf. GREGOR *et al.* 2021a.

tools and small objects.⁴⁹ Portions of the second occupational surface may have been paved (C4:7).⁵⁰ Above this surface a wall tumble indicates the destruction of the building by an earthquake.⁵¹ Several walls form northeast of Building 2, most likely another building. Unfortunately, most of this “Building 3” was destroyed during the construction of the modern road that leads across the site. A small portion of the outer casemate wall on the southeast side of the building and a segment of the inner casemate wall is still present.⁵² To the northwest of this room two occupational phases discovered in other buildings were evident. The first occupational phase C3:24 and C4:12 was layered on the bedrock as in different structures. Above that phase is an ash layer, albeit not as presentable as in Building 2. The second occupational level C3:20 and C4:8 was at least partially paved and indicated by six pavers found inside the remaining portion of the doorway. Because the second occupation is so heavily disturbed in this Building, it prohibited any solid conclusions about its architectural design and nature of the building itself.⁵³

On the northernmost edge of the Khirbet Safra site, squares D1 and D2 were first excavated in 2018.⁵⁴ This area had visible wall lines with some stones larger than anything else visible on the site. The soil in field D is relatively shallow.⁵⁵ During the 2018 season, the walls of at least two buildings in square-shaped positions were excavated. They were built on top of the red brickly material (D1:6, 12; D2:5, 8, 13) which was used to level the uneven bedrock (D1:5, 9, 13; D2:7, 12).⁵⁶ In D2:8 diagnostic sherds were found on top of this fill layer dating the earliest construction to the Iron Age I. Portions of excavated rooms had flat lying early Iron Age I pottery in the first occupational layer (D1:8, 14) that was built right on the bedrock. Upon that was an ashy layer with half of a small storage jar, part of an early Iron Age I biconical jar, several grinding stones, and pounders.⁵⁷ Above

⁴⁹ A barrel bead, two stone game pieces, and a stone signet ring were found here, cf. GREGOR *et al.* 2021a.

⁵⁰ GREGOR *et al.* 2021a.

⁵¹ GREGOR *et al.* 2021a.

⁵² The outer wall remnant connects at the angle of the southern (C3:4) and eastern walls (C3:8=C4:4). Together with the surviving segment of the inner casemate wall C3:22, they form a portion of the room designated Room A. This room was heavily disturbed by the bulldozer activity during the modern road construction. Consequently, none of the occupational phases known from Buildings 1 and 2 were detected, cf. GREGOR *et al.* 2021a.

⁵³ GREGOR *et al.* 2021a.

⁵⁴ Field D was supervised by Jacob Moody, cf. GREGOR *et al.* 2021: 543.

⁵⁵ In places, it is only 0.10 m deep above the bedrock, cf. GREGOR *et al.* 2021: 543.

⁵⁶ GREGOR *et al.* 2021: 543-544.

⁵⁷ A possible incense stand was possible in the north-easternmost room of square D1, and a possible hob in the south-eastern room, but further excavation is needed to determine the function of these rooms, cf. GREGOR *et al.* 2021: 544.

the ashy layer no clear occupation layers were found.⁵⁸ In 2019 four new squares were opened and completely excavated (D3-6).⁵⁹ Their locations were chosen with the intent to help better understand the architecture in Field D. In some cases in Field D bedrock is only 10 cm below the surface. Hence, the squares were quickly excavated down to bedrock, after which the balks were removed to provide a clearer picture of the obstructed architectural details.⁶⁰ The surfaces were made of flat, hard-packed earth with some flat-lying pottery.⁶¹ In the 2019 season, the part of the city gate complex and the various walls were found. The gate is located within parts of D3 and D5, with the westernmost part of D3 representing half of the gate, while the easternmost part of D5 made up the other half. There is a clear 2.5 m break in the outer city wall (D3:14 and D5:7) and within this gap is its threshold (D3:20=D5:17). Outside of this threshold, to the north, are paving stones (D3:21 and D5:20) that have been worn smooth.⁶² Two large walls line the roadway inside the gate with benches (D3:9 and D5:16) installed up against them. The gate complex also consists of two long rooms, on the east and west, parallel to the gate entrance street.⁶³ After the break in 2020, the team continued the work in the 2021 opening of four new squares D7-D10.⁶⁴ The goals for the 2021 season were to better understand the gate complex in relation to the outside approach, the casemate defences, and the adjacent town planning. Square D7 was opened to investigate possible architecture west of the gate complex. However, most of this square was heavily damaged during modern road construction.⁶⁵ Square D8 was opened to expose the southern part of a room in the western gate chamber. For the most part, the excavation has

⁵⁸ Gregor *et al.* 2018.

⁵⁹ The portions of D3 and D4 located outside the outer wall were left unexcavated, cf. GREGOR *et al.* 2019.

⁶⁰ One complete casemate room was uncovered in 2019, covering portions of D3, D4, and D6, with the outer wall represented by D3:14=D4:2=D5:7, the inner wall (D6:7,15) and cross walls (D3:19 and D6:14). The southwest corner of another casemate room may have also been uncovered in D6 (D6:7, 14). Another small room was uncovered in the western portion of D6, cf. GREGOR *et al.* 2019.

⁶¹ All of this pottery dates to Iron Age I, cf. GREGOR *et al.* 2019.

⁶² Paving stones were probably worn smooth from long-term use. Bordering these pavement stones are two long, rectangular stones that run perpendicular to the threshold. Their exact purpose is unclear, though they seem to have narrowed the gate entrance and were perhaps used as support for something above them, cf. GREGOR *et al.* 2019.

⁶³ The eastern room has been fully excavated. The portion of the western room excavated in 2019 seems to match its eastern counterpart, cf. GREGOR *et al.* 2019.

⁶⁴ In the 2021 season Field D was supervised by Talmadge Gerald, cf. GREGOR *et al.* 2021a.

⁶⁵ While the remainder of the square was excavated to bedrock, no occupational phases were found. It contained a shallow soil matrix D7:1 yielding only a small amount of pottery, cf. GREGOR *et al.* 2021a.

provided a mirror image of the eastern gate chamber, with wall D8:4 being a continuation of the wall D5:8=15 and bench D8:8 a continuation of the D5:16.⁶⁶ Both squares D9 and D10 were located outside of the gate structure and outer casemate wall in squares 3 and 5 in order to investigate potential architectural remnants on bedrock that might be connected with a hypothesized “outer gate-house”. In square 10, to the northeast of the “outer gate chamber” is a relatively smooth area of bedrock (D10:2) indicating a possible entrance from the northeast to the site over a line of flat-lying smooth pavement stones (D10:3).⁶⁷ That is connected as it seems with D9:3 and D9:4 in square D9.⁶⁸ In general, the earth matrix in Field D is extremely shallow with bedrock emerging in most cases within 10 cm below the existing ground surface. D8:7 and D10:2 are bedrock surfaces with filled cavities of hard-packed bricky material and small pebbles with flat-lying pottery dating to the Iron Age I.⁶⁹ In the 2021 season, the balks between excavated squares were removed to expose a fully excavated gate complex. There is a cave outside Field D, approximately 17 m east of the gate complex. So far, it hasn’t been probed nor excavated, but the location implies it might have been a large cistern for community water collection.

In 2021, the Safra team decided to open a new field E at the site’s central position.⁷⁰ The location of Field E was chosen because it is near the highest point of the Khirbet Safra site.⁷¹ Excavations revealed three architectural phases, all dating to Iron Age I. The earliest phase contained a long room built on bedrock.⁷² The cavities of the bedrock were filled with hard-packed clay and small cobblestones sealed against the walls creating the earliest floor (E1:27, 29, 30, 31).⁷³ At the northwest end of Room A there is a semi-oblong installation E1:17 and a plastered

⁶⁶ Although, it was hypothesized in 2019 that there was a doorway in Square D5 mirroring the one on the east side of the gate structure which was filled in a later phase, the western chamber wall (D5:8=15=D8:4) lacked clear evidence of such a doorway. While this hypothesis is still plausible it is not conclusive, cf. GREGOR *et al.* 2021a.

⁶⁷ This area is tentatively interpreted as a „threshold“, cf. GREGOR *et al.* 2021a.

⁶⁸ D9:3 and D9:4 are two row one course walls that meet at an angle with the „threshold“ in Square D10, cf. GREGOR *et al.* 2021a.

⁶⁹ GREGOR *et al.* 2021a.

⁷⁰ Field E was supervised by Robert Bates, cf. GREGOR *et al.* 2021a.

⁷¹ Besides being the highest point and relatively central, several walls were also seen above the surface, extending approximately 30 m in a north-easterly direction. It is common for such a central place at the site to hold important buildings or elite quarters, cf. GREGOR *et al.* 2021a.

⁷² Room A had walls made of two rows of partially faced, hard limestone boulders, between 0.3-0.45m x 0.2m x 0.3m in size. The walls were built on bedrock with a clay foundation. In the south wall E1:4 there are nine extant courses, in the east wall E 1:3 there are six and in the north wall E1:28 there are five courses left, cf. GREGOR *et al.* 2021a.

⁷³ Additional occupational fill was used to level the remaining floor in the southeast corner (E1:31), cf. GREGOR *et al.* 2021a.

installation E1:25 located against the north wall.⁷⁴ On the floor several artefacts were found, including three pounders, a bronze ring, a bronze mace or sceptre, a wooden spatula, and a bronze spear point.⁷⁵ During the second phase of occupation, this room was subdivided by a wall E 1:20, following a wall collapse E 1:26, leaving Room B on the east side and Room C on the west.⁷⁶ Two superimposed floors E1:21 and E1:22, with flat-lying sherds, were laid covering the E1:25 plastered installation, on top of which a semi-oblong shaped installation, E 1:24 made of small boulders 0.4m x 0.85m in size was added in the corner of the room against walls 20 and 28.⁷⁷ In the last phase, a doorway with a 0.3 x 0.6 m threshold and a possible stoop was built atop wall E1:20 with floors E1:11 and E1:12 on both sides raised to the height of the doorway. These rooms were later abandoned following a wall collapse leaving behind large boulders in the abandonment debris.⁷⁸

The taboon type oven and our current understanding of domestic activities in House B.2

According to James Hardin “the archaeological study of domestic buildings and their occupants’ practices in the Iron Age southern Levant has been given little consideration. With a few notable exceptions, scholars have mostly been focusing on monumental architectural remains such as fortifications, cultic and palatial complexes, and in-depth studies on historical sources. This trend shifted at the end of the 20th century due to the influx of archaeological data from the southern Levant domestic context. Not only is there more archaeological research in the area, but the focus of it has also shifted to domestic activities, gender roles, and cultural identities in general.”⁷⁹ The excavation at Khirbet Safra has only been going on for several seasons, but it has already provided valuable insight into Iron Age domestic architecture. With the first season of excavation focusing on the fortifications and the buildings connected with the casemate wall, the second and

⁷⁴ E1:17 is probably a bin, made of small boulders 0.15-0.2m x 0.1-0.2 m in size. In addition, along the north wall an E1:25, a plastered installation 0.4 m x 0.6 m in size with a 0.2m x 0.2 m ash-filled pit was located, cf. GREGOR *et al.* 2021a.

⁷⁵ A bronze ring is Object S0107, a bronze mace or sceptre is Object S0109, a spatula, possibly made from cedar with two letters on its reverse side is Object S0108, and it was found near the plastered installation E1:25, a bronze spear point with a bent tip is Object S0094, and it was found on the north side of the bin E1:17, cf. GREGOR *et al.* 2021a.

⁷⁶ Room B incorporating walls 3, 4, 20, and 28, is approximately 2.0 x 2.2 m in size, and the excavated portion of Room C outlined by walls 4,20 and 28 is ca 1.85 m wide, cf. GREGOR *et al.* 2021a.

⁷⁷ GREGOR *et al.* 2021a.

⁷⁸ It is evidenced in E1:8, 12-15, 18-19, cf. GREGOR *et al.* 2021a.

⁷⁹ HARDIN 2004: 72.

the third season provided an opportunity to move the focus away from the casemate wall and toward the remaining parts of the buildings. Not only the architectural layout of the buildings itself but many small finds that provide insight into the social, economic, and cultural aspect of its inhabitants' life has resurfaced. As previously mentioned, this paper is intended as an introduction to the excavations of Khirbet Safra and specifically one oven that was found in a house in Field B during the last week of the third season excavations.

In the first season of excavation in Field B at Khirbet Safra, parts of the Building 1 and Building 2 that were a part of the casemate walls system were uncovered.⁸⁰ The work on Field B in 2019 helped provide a better understanding of the layout of those buildings with Building 1 recognized as the western structure. It was traced from Square B1 in the casemate wall system through B4 and into B6, and Building 2 was outlined through Squares B3-7.⁸¹ Although the main layout of the buildings was recognizable in 2019 when the excavations reached the northern wall, and the entrance B6:20 to Building 1, the excavations on the Field continued in 2021 to gain further insight into the architectural plan and domestic activities. In the 2021 season, the focus was shifted to removing the balks to expose additional architecture.⁸²

The outline of the Building 2 after the first three seasons of excavation can be summarized as follows. The main entrance to building B6:18 is on the north side. The building is subdivided by a small room with an entrance, B5:26, on its eastern side. The building is further subdivided by a pillar, B5:23, positioned on a bedrock shelf. There is a long narrow room consisting of walls B5:29=B6:9 and B4:24 with accompanying entrances to the east B6:19 and to the south B4:25 that lead to the main room of the building.

The excavation of Building 2 is far from complete. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances in the 2022 season, the team did not excavate Field B at all. Still, future excavation should focus on the last remaining balk in Building 2, the northern balk of square B3. Then it might be possible to draw a more complete and clear picture of the architectural remains of this building.

On June 30th, 2021, an installation was found during the excavation of the northern balk of Square B5 in the large main room of Building 2 (Fig. 3. *Building 2 with the location of the oven*).

⁸⁰ GREGOR *et al.* 2021: 542.

⁸¹ Each wall of Building 2 was completely exposed in 2019 except for portions still within the unexcavated balks (B3.6, 14=B4.3=B6.5; B5.9=B7.2), cf. EMSWILER 2020: 24-25, also GREGOR *et al.* 2019.

⁸² The excavation of a part of a third building, just west of Building 1, also began in the 2021 season, cf. GREGOR *et al.* 2021a.

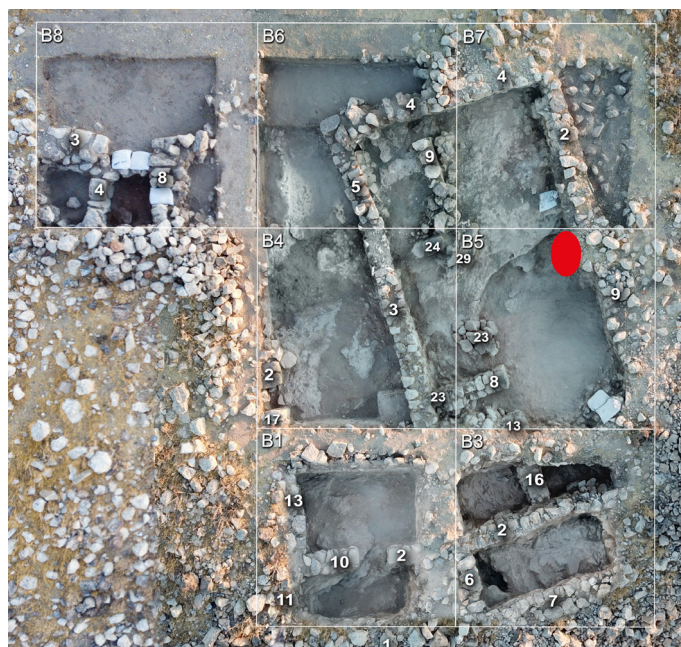


Fig. 3. Building 2 with the location of the oven

Safra installation B5:31 was designated as a probable oven by square supervisor Eva Katarina Glazer.⁸³ The locus info sheet stated that rocks in semi-circular position and pottery juts from the floor (Fig. 4. *Taboon B5.31 in loci*).



Fig. 4. *Taboon B5.31 in loci*

⁸³ Supervisor observation and inferences in the File maker go app read “five rocks aligned in half circle with some pottery sherds spiking from the earth, photo is attached”. Supervisor strategy reads “clean the earth to determine the height of the visible rocks and determine their formation and lining and take soil samples for flotation”, cf. Safra archives/Field notes.

The description of separability indicates a clear top and unclear bottom. Locus data designated the type of installation as a probable *taboon*. Its material was 90% limestone and 10% ceramic. No lining was found. The measurements of the *taboon* are 0.4 m in length, 0.2-0.3 m in width, and 0.1-0.15 m in height with a 10-degree orientation. Stratigraphy puts it under 22 and over 32. Geospatial data read location as top 758.93, bottom 758.82, east 212910, and north 117633. Pottery pail number 64, dated 6/30/21, reads 1 basket, a total of 5 ceramics, 0 of which were diagnostic. Form and reading of the pottery count Iron Age I 5 body sherds. There were 0 bones and 0 artifacts or objects found in the installation. Given the circumstances and the ash layer found in B5 square in the vicinity of the *taboon* in the previous season and the possible evidence of fire in B7 this oven was essential to investigate in detail to provide a better understanding of the events that occurred here.⁸⁴ The installation was measured and photographed, but for a better understanding of its function, soil samples were taken as well. So, *taboon* B5:31 had pail 64, object number 1 as soil type, marked origin from the locus. Soil sample location was photographed and measured at level 758.93, remarks flotation GPS 212910 east, 117633 north. These soil samples were collected in all three of the excavated fields in 2021, mostly in domestic areas and loci where there was a distinctive change of colour in the soil. In this manner, the excavation of the Khirbet Safra site combines the traditional macro-level archaeological excavation with a flotation technique that will provide insight into the micro-level activities of the daily life of the people that inhabited the site in antiquity.⁸⁵

The oven in the House B.2 is recognized as a *taboon* type oven because of its central position in the house's main room and its simple structure. The rocks are formed in a circular hoop providing an enclosure for the hearth. The hearth as a place for food preparation was used throughout antiquity long before people were settled in their houses. Its first archaeological records connecting hearts or

⁸⁴ The middle of two occupational layers B5:25 and B5:19=20, was apparently destroyed by a conflagration (ash layer B5:22), as evidenced on the eastern side of Building 2, cf. GREGOR *et al.* 2019. In addition, possible evidence of fire B7:10 was found in square B7, cf. GREGOR *et al.* 2021a.

⁸⁵ Soil samples were collected from carefully selected stratigraphic contexts throughout the presumed domestic areas. It is believed that these samples, when run through the flotation tanks under controlled conditions, should provide archaeobotanical evidence for which laboratory analysis will likely yield added insight into the micro-level activities of the daily life of the ancient inhabitants. All these samples were run through a flotation tank and then sent to the laboratory of Annette Hansen in the Netherlands for botanical analysis and species identification. Due to the pandemic, Annette could not be physically present on the site, but she has provided logistical support via email. Financial support for this part of the project was provided by a Faculty Research Grant from Andrews University, cf. GREGOR *et al.* 2021a. On the topic of flotation, the results had not yet been reported to the authors at the time this paper was being prepared for publication.

ovens with domestic structures, i.e. houses, can be traced to the Bronze Age. The Early Bronze Age I was the first urbanization period in the southern Levant.⁸⁶ The urbanization process played a significant role in the evolution of domestic settlements. Houses were now built in blocks emphasizing simple habitat: a living room and a court.⁸⁷ Houses are the most common architectural form encountered and one of the most neglected in terms of fieldwork or interpretation.⁸⁸ During the Bronze Age some typical house models were developed in the region. Because of the different research interests, various scholars observed the architectural composition of the houses to determine mainly the ethnicity of its inhabitants. For an extended period, the so-called “Arad house” was considered an absolute model for Bronze Age dwellings.⁸⁹ Because most Arad houses were essentially several units gathered around a court, this model was always compared to the nomadic population. It is not uncommon to use compared to ethnoarchaeology, when written sources are unavailable, or when dealing with domestic activities.⁹⁰ During the Middle and Late Bronze Ages, domestic space specialization was visible.⁹¹ Each building in the large urban centres tended to house only one function, such as living, storage, or animals. Typically, the architectural requirements are living

⁸⁶ More on the urbanization process and the development of the civilization based on the dynamic between cities and villages and nomadic populations see GLAZER 2012, 2016, and 2019.

⁸⁷ SEBAG 2005: 222.

⁸⁸ Because archaeologists typically deal with fractional remains, sound models for reconstruction and interpretation are paramount to their work. Despite frequent indications of a second story (e.g., stairways, two distinct levels of cultural deposits within a particular room or building, evidence for second-floor surfacing, lack of suitable living quarters on the ground floor), archaeologists seldom recover more than the ground-floor plan of any building. It thus becomes important to explore other avenues of knowledge to determine, for model building, the spatial and functional requirements or potentials of a “typical house”, cf. HOLLADAY 1997: 94-95.

⁸⁹ This model was proposed by Ruth Amiran. The main characteristics of this model were a shape with a broad room, an entry located in the middle of a long side, and a sunken floor, cf. JOFFE 1993: 71.

⁹⁰ The relationships between house shapes and sizes, settlement patterns, and dominant modes of production have been advanced by anthropological research. Rectangular houses are associated with a large community, full-time sedentism, and intensive agriculture. On the other hand, round structures are often located in the open and designed to house one or at most two persons, cf. HUNTER-ANDERSON 1977: 314.

⁹¹ Numerous domestic structures dating to Late Bronze Age have been excavated, but many have been poorly preserved, or the publications are inadequate. For further discussion of Late Bronze Age houses and domestic activities, see DAVIAU 1993: 219-436 and HOLLADAY 1997: 94-114. Holladay points out that most houses have a functional plan but not necessarily a fixed architectural form in the densely packed, long-lived urban environment. Late Bronze and presumably earlier urban houses are typically multistoried, with no living quarters on their ground floors. The differential deposition of delicate objects in the debris of collapsed strongly indicates that domestic quarters were on the second (or higher) floors. These insights can help in understanding the ill-defined plans, cf. HOLLADAY 1997: 104.

space, kitchen space, storage space for household goods and foods, and young animals. Courtyards are considered essential, although many of their functions can be taken over by the roof.⁹² In the Late Bronze Age, a pillared structure interpreted as a domestic house makes its appearance, for example, Building 315 at Tel Batash.⁹³ Such pillared structures are considered precursors to the Iron Age I four-room house, a domestic structure that became ubiquitous in the Iron Age southern Levant.

Following the deteriorating economic and social conditions in the Late Bronze Age over the course of two centuries, dozens of new settlements appeared. The archaeological record seldom documents such large-scale change and regional diversity as demonstrated during the transition from the Late Bronze to Iron Ages. The resulting settlement and material culture patterns created new cultural and social boundaries that defined the Iron Age in the southern Levant.⁹⁴ These newly established 12th and 11th century BC villages are characterized by modest numbers of domestic structures, usually a version of the four-room pillared house.⁹⁵ Research of the excavated Iron I sites focused more on the site distribution and settlement patterns. That is why there seem to be more settlements in Israel and Palestine than in Jordan. It is also the main reason there is an idea that the archaeological exploration in Transjordan has been less intensive and systematic.⁹⁶ Nevertheless, there has been enough research in Transjordan to recognize that there is a trend of continuation of Late Bronze to Iron Age I sites in the northern region, such as Tell es-Sa'idiyeh, Tell Deir'Alla, and Tel Mazar, and more evidence of

⁹² HOLLADAY 1997:95.

⁹³ Building 315 in Stratum VII at Tel Batash consists of two rows of pillars that support a ceiling, cf. MAZAR 1997: 58-88, 252-254. Similar structures can be found at Lachish, cf. USSISHKIN 1983: 113 and Tel Harasim, cf. GIVON 1993.

⁹⁴ The archaeology of Iron Age I is traditionally associated with the emergence of ancient Israel. It was the main incentive for concentrating most fieldwork in modern-day Israel and Palestine, but other reasons were also noticed. For more on the subject, see FINKELSTEIN 1988, FINKELSTEIN & NA'AMAN 1994, and DEVER 2003.

⁹⁵ These domestic structures can be characterized as a version of the three- or four-room pillared houses in a settlement with few, if any, public structures or fortifications, a proliferation of silos, the appearance of cisterns and agricultural terraces, and, most notably, a minimal repertoire of utilitarian ceramic containers that continue the tradition of Late Bronze Age pottery shapes, cf. KILLEBREW 2005: 156-157.

⁹⁶ Some authors ascribe the fragmentary nature of the material in Transjordan to the less intensive and systematic excavations, cf. KILLEBREW 2005: 165. but as was already mentioned, research was often focused on the incentives for ancient Israel. Nelson Glueck noticed the dramatic increase in new Iron Age settlements in Transjordan, which he described as waves of migrations and invasions of semi Beduins, see GLUECK 1971: 153. Archaeological research indicates some continuity between Late Bronze and Iron I in some areas. Still, for example, in the Moab region, there is a significant appearance of new sites during Iron Age I, cf. HERR & NAJJAR 2001: 323.

the newly established settlements in the central region, or biblical Moab region.⁹⁷ In the context of domestic architecture, some houses were arranged in rows or blocks, and public buildings were uncovered at some of the sites, but the basic domestic structure of the Iron Age I was the three- or four-room pillared house.⁹⁸ City walls protected some large cities, and there are several fortresses in Moab, for example, the one at Khirbet al-Mudayna al-'Aliya, but the fortifications were in no way typical of the Iron Age I.⁹⁹

Based on our current research at Khirbet Safra, the settlement was first established in Iron Age I, which fits perfectly with the current understanding of the Moab settlement patterns. It was also well fortified, which further provides evidence for the settlement's characteristics of the region. Concerning domestic architecture, it is too early to define the exact typology of the houses. Still, Building B.2 is reminiscent of Building 400 at Khirbet al-Mudayna al-'Aliya.¹⁰⁰ The house fits well in a three-or- four-room house type typical of the period. It also fits in the general idea of domestic households where each nuclear family requires its living room, in which it lives, works, eats, entertains, and sleeps.¹⁰¹ Living rooms are usually characterized by a central hearth, and kitchens often have plastered hearths, but they are not necessarily synonymous with oven locations.¹⁰² Hopefully, the future analysis of the micro samples gathered from the flotation at installation B5.31, recognized as a *taboon*, will provide a better understanding of its true nature and purpose.¹⁰³

⁹⁷ BLOCH-SMITH & NAKHAI, 1999: 107-114.

⁹⁸ Houses of this type were found in many areas, including the central highlands, the coastal plain, the Negev Desert, and Moab. They were distinct from Late Bronze Age housing and reflected the needs of the average family of subsistence farmers in the various regions in which they were found, cf. BLOCH-SMITH & NAKHAI 1999: 117.

⁹⁹ Fortified sites developed gradually during the course of the Iron I, increasing in number in the 11th century BC, cf. ROUTLEDGE 2000.

¹⁰⁰ EMSWILER 2020: 77-78, figures 54 and 55.

¹⁰¹ HOLLADAY 1997: 95

¹⁰² HOLLADAY 1997: 96.

¹⁰³ At the current state of research, it is unwise to search for comparable installations, but a similar situation can be observed at Tel Halif. The four-room house found at Tel Halif's Field IV exhibits many features typical of Iron Age dwellings. The house is integrated into the fortification system as part of a casemate wall, just as Building B.2 at Khirbet Safra. In one of the long rooms at Tel Halif's house, there are several installations, with area L recognized as a well-preserved *taboon* or oven, a small cooking pot, and one large bowl, cf. HARDIN 2004: 78.

Conclusion

Excavations at Khirbet Safra have been very informative about the Iron Age I in Jordan and the southern Levant in general (Table 1. *Chronology of the Iron Age*).

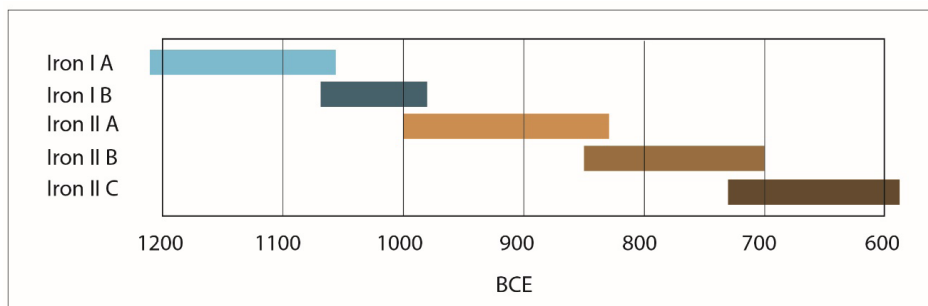


Table 1. *Chronology of the Iron Age*

There has been a long overdue concern regarding archaeological excavation in the Transjordan region, resulting in the public opinion that the region was not inhabited as densely as Israel and Palestine. Most of the reports shared their idea on the structure of these societies. Dealing with the formation of the Iron Age states, reports concluded that more field research was needed because there is some relatively common knowledge on Bronze Age cities and still predominantly insufficient data on the Iron Age I period, although this was the critical period in which the formation of the Iron Age II states occurred.

That is why it is imperative to focus on excavating still intact sites predominantly dating to the Iron Age I period. With Khirbet Safra, the first several seasons have provided the most data precisely on Iron Age I. Although the site is in its early stages of research and publishing of the material,¹⁰⁴ it is exactly why the need for presentation of the research so far has been necessary. As presented in this paper, we have good knowledge about the layout of the city gates and city walls as well as several domestic structures. This paper was also the first publication of the *taboon* from House B.2.¹⁰⁵ There is no more excuse for insufficient archaeological data from Transjordan's Iron Age I.

¹⁰⁴ The preliminary report of the 2018 season of excavations was published in 2021, cf. GREGOR *et al.* 2021.

¹⁰⁵ Based on the location of the oven in the house and the research so far we can conclude that it was the central *taboon* in House B.2. The knowledge of the domestic activities will definitely be further enhanced after additional research.

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Iskopavanja u Khirbet Safri i izvješće o ognjištu iz kuće B.2

Tijekom iskopavanja 2021. godine na lokalitetu Khirbet Safra u Jordanu otkrivena je peć okarakterizirana kao *taboon* u kući 2 na polju B. S obzirom na to da se ove godine obilježava peta godina istraživanja navedenog lokaliteta, autori su smatrali da je poželjno iznijeti dosadašnje rezultate te uz njih predstaviti i peć tipa *taboon*. Lokalitet Khirbet Safra istražuju suradnici i studenti američkog sveučilišta Andrews pod vodstvom redovitog profesora, dr. sc. Paula Gregora, a pod nadzorom Odjela za starine (Department of Antiquities) iz Jordana. U istraživačkoj ekipi redovito sudjeluje i docentica Eva Katarina Glazer s Odsjeka za povijest Fakulteta hrvatskih studija Sveučilišta u Zagrebu kao i pojedini studenti volonteri. Rezultati dosadašnjih sezona iskopavanja tek su sporadično objavljeni. Tako je tek 2021. izašlo prethodno izvješće prve aktivne sezone iskopavanja 2018. godine. Primarni cilj rada je prikazati dosadašnje rezultate istraživanja kako bi se hrvatska znanstvena javnost upoznala s ovim lokalitetom. To je izrazito važno jer je dosad postojalo uvriježeno mišljenje o slaboj istraženosti željeznog doba u biblijskom Transjordanu. U usporedbi s masovnim istraživanjima u Izraelu takav se zaključak nametao bez dubljih analiza. Zadnjih desetljeća situacija se promijenila jer je sve više sustavnih istraživanja u Jordanu. Tako se oskudna slika o razdoblju željeznog doba I počela mijenjati na bolje. Upravo su i istraživanja lokaliteta Khirbet Safra pridonijela jasnijoj slici, jer je potvrđeno da su ondje nastajala nova naselja koja su imala obrambene zidine već u željezno doba I. Ovaj je rad pritom i prvo priopćenje o peći tipa *taboon* iz kuće 2 otkopane na polju B. Iako su istraživanja još u tijeku, arhitektura je dovoljno jasna, a budući rezultati istraživanja, pogotovo analiza materijala koji je prikupljen tehnikom plutanja mikro čestica u peći *taboon*, potvrdit će njezinu stvarnu ulogu i namjenu.

Ključne riječi: *taboon*, kućno ognjište, željezno doba I, Khirbet Safra, Jordan

Keywords: *taboon*, house oven, Iron Age I, Khirbet Safra, Jordan

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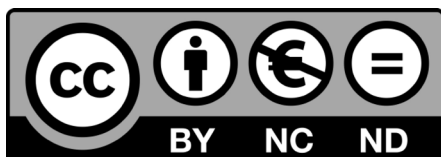
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