

Archaeology, Supp. Series no. 35, Portsmouth, Rhode Island, 1999, pp. 169-178.

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DOR (TANTURA) 2002 SEASON

The 2002 excavation season at Dor (Tantura) was one of the most fortunate seasons ever at the lagoon. A very ambitious research program was planned but, as usual, all depended on the sea, which in fact turned out to be in our favor, with only one working day lost due to unsuitable sea conditions.

Three sites were excavated during the 2002 season: *DW2*, which was excavated for the third and probably the last time; Dor *2001/1* and *2002/2* were both excavated for the first time.

The *Dor 2001/1* wreck appears to be one of the most important finds to date, containing information that promises to make a major contribution to our knowledge of ship building technology of the period and of the transition in ship construction. Following the 2002 season, at least two additional excavation seasons are planned as part of a detailed research program concentrating on this wreck with wider social and economic scopes.

The *Dor 2002/2* wreck was naturally exposed just on the shoreline. Whether these are the remains of an unfortunate modern vessel, or of an earlier one, is yet to be determined. Meanwhile the wreck served as an excellent training site for underwater archaeologists. Excavation at this site began only when the working time-frame permitted the relocation of equipment from the *DW2* site. The latter, apparently an Ottoman wreck, was only partially reopened this year, in order to answer a few specific questions. Following a week of excavation, the wreck was covered with sandbags.

This project is part of a long-term cooperation held under the auspices of the Leon Recanati Institute for Maritime Studies (RIMS), University of Haifa, with Christopher Brandon, of the Nautical Archaeology Society of Great Britain (NAS), Kurt Raveh, of the local diving club Aqua Dora, and Ya'acov Kahanov of RIMS. The expedition was financed by the generous support of Lord Jacobs from London, with further contributions from the President, the Rector, the Research Authority and the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities of the University of Haifa, to whom all we are very grateful.

Following are detailed reports from three students: Hadas Mor, who has completed her M.A. studies and is looking to-

wards her Ph.D. program, which will focus on the *2001/1* wreck; Idit Yovel and Deborah Cvikel, who are both second year M.A. students, and are responsible for the *DW2* and *2002/2* wreck reports respectively.

Ya'acov Kahanov

THE *DOR (TANTURA) 2001/1* SHIPWRECK A PRELIMINARY REPORT

A water-jet probing survey was carried out in the Tantura lagoon in November 2001 by students of the Department of Maritime Civilizations. During the work, fragments of wood of at least two different species surfaced, indicating the possibility that a wreck had been located (Fig. 1).

The wood was sent for dating to the ¹⁴C laboratories of the Weizmann Institute and the accelerator at the Swiss Fed-



Fig. 1. View of the Byzantine wreck (*Dor 2001/1*) at the end of the 2002 excavation season (Photo: N. Sheizaf)