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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION:

A BRIEF HISTORY OF 'AKKO FROM THE EARLY ISLAMIC TO THE OTTOMAN PERIODS AND A SURVEY OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH OF THE CRUSADER PERIOD

EDNA J. STERN AND ELIEZER STERN

'AKKO IN THE EARLY ISLAMIC–OTTOMAN PERIODS

This chapter presents a brief survey of 'Akko's history and archaeology, setting the stage for detailed descriptions of the archeological finds in the following chapters. We summarize the data available from a wide range of historical sources referring to 'Akko from the Early Islamic through the Ottoman periods (eighth–nineteenth centuries CE), including written documents, maps, engravings and even photographs from the late Ottoman period, based largely on the works of Schur (1990) and Pringle (2009:3–35).

The geographical location of 'Akko has always been significant in shaping the history of the city and its economic and political importance. 'Akko is situated on the Mediterranean coastal plain of northern Israel, on the northern shore of a natural sandy bay, bordered on the west by a peninsula that is part of a calcareous sandstone (*kurkar*) coastal ridge. As the bay is protected from most winter storms and provides a fair harbor, it was an important port as early as biblical times. 'Akko's harbor appears to have operated uninterrupted throughout history, and in Crusader times it was the main harbor of the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem.

The earliest settlements at 'Akko, from the Middle Bronze Age to the Persian period, were located at Tel 'Akko, about 2.5 km east of the bay. Toward the end of the Persian period, new suburbs were built to the west of the tell, in the direction of the bay. By the end of the third century BCE, the Hellenistic city of 'Akko-Ptolemais was almost entirely located on the northern shore of the bay and on the peninsula. It was a thriving commercial center throughout the Roman and Byzantine periods and up to the Arab conquest in the seventh century CE.¹ The Early Islamic, Crusader and Ottoman-period settlements were also located on the northern shore of the bay and on the peninsula.

'Akko also straddles the junction of two important ancient trade routes, the *Via Maris*, a north–south road along the Mediterranean coast, and an east–west road that connected 'Akko with Damascus. In addition, 'Akko is located in the northern part of the fertile 'Akko plain, which supplied the city with agricultural produce for its own use and for export through its port.

¹ The sources of information for the pre-Islamic periods are Dothan 1976a; 1993; Artzy and Beeri 2010.

*The Early Islamic Period*²

Byzantine 'Akko was captured by the Arabs in 636, its inhabitants killed or expelled and the city destroyed, thus bringing an end to a thousand years of prosperity. The name of the town reverted from Ptolemais to 'Akka, a slight modification of the original Semitic name, 'Akko. The first caliph of the Umayyad dynasty, Mu'awiya (661–680), renewed the use of the shipyard, built in the Byzantine period, as an arsenal. He also strengthened the town's fortifications and brought settlers from other parts of Syria, realizing the strategic importance of coastal port towns, especially that of 'Akko. Alongside Tyre, it became one of the major harbors of Syria, and was the ship-building center of the *jund* (province) of Urdunn. Later, in 861, the Abbasid Caliph al-Mutawakkil gave a special order to turn 'Akko's harbor into a major naval base, housing battleships and combat soldiers. The harbor was rebuilt by Ibn Tulun (868–884), in a similar fashion to the enclosed harbor of Tyre. He also rebuilt the city walls; however, they enclosed a far smaller area than those of the Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine city. The geographer al-Muqaddasi described the renewal of the harbor, including the use of large wooden containers filled with stones and mortar that were sunk to create a quay and breakwater, a technology that was first developed in the Roman Empire and by the late ninth century was apparently known only to one master architect from Jerusalem (Le Strange 1890:328–329; *CIAP* I:24).

In the tenth–eleventh centuries, 'Akko was ruled by the Fatimid Dynasty, which controlled the coastal region with a strong fleet based in Egypt. During that century, the Byzantine Empire tried more than once to regain control of the Holy Land, as it did in Cyprus and Antioch. After one short campaign in 975, in which 'Akko surrendered to Byzantine forces, it was quickly back in Muslim hands. The Persian scholar Nasir Khusraw visited 'Akko in 1047 and wrote a detailed description of the city, noting that it was well fortified (*CIAP* I:24–25; Pringle 2009:4–5). It did not surrender to the armies of the First Crusade that invaded the coastal plain in 1099 and captured Jerusalem. Only after the election of Baldwin I as king of Jerusalem, and the initial organization of the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem, did the Crusaders turn to 'Akko in 1103–1104.

*The Crusader Period*³

The quantity and quality of the historical materials available for the study of 'Akko during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries (contemporaneous written sources, maps, remains of material culture), as well as the variety of governmental, religious and scholarly institutions housed in the city at that time, have made our knowledge of 'Akko incomparable to that of any other Crusader city in the Latin East. The written sources include descriptions and maps of the city by historians and pilgrims, as well as legal documents such as property lists that record real-estate ownership of specific properties in the city.

² Additional sources used in this section are Le Strange 1890:328–330; Makhoully 1941:17–21; *CIAP* I:23–24.

³ The general sources used in this section are Ibn Jubayr 1952; Prawer 1971; Riley-Smith 1973:62–98; Smail 1973:73–79; Folda 1976:3–8; Jacoby 1979, 1982, 1993, 1998, 2001, 2005; Richard 1979; Boas 1999:32–34.

King Baldwin I first tried to capture 'Akko in 1103, realizing its importance as the ideal port from which to establish a lifeline connecting the Holy Land with Europe, a function that the port of Jaffa could not fulfill. This attempt failed due to the insufficient naval forces at the disposal of the Crusaders and the men and supplies of food that the Egyptian Fatimid rulers were able to continually bring into 'Akko from the sea.

In the next attempt to capture 'Akko in 1104, Baldwin besieged the city, and this time he employed the Genoese fleet to complete the seaward siege. The Egyptian ruler of 'Akko, Taher ed-Dawla al-Jiushi, realizing that this time he could not save the city, fled in the early stages of the siege. The elders remaining in the town opted to surrender to the Crusaders, but the Genoese stormed the city and butchered its citizens, violating the agreement that had been reached between the warring parties.

The Crusaders found a well-fortified city with a developed harbor and a shipyard, but with only a few domestic and public buildings and large tracts of empty land within the walls, a reality that is accurately reflected in the archaeological record of this period in the city. Thus, the Crusaders inherited a city ready for the immense building projects that were to follow in the next 200 years.

With the establishment of Frankish 'Akko in 1104, the Genoese received a third of the town, a third of the land outside the walls and a third of the port revenues, as well as additional rights in the town, by prior agreement. A decade later, the Venetians were granted the right to settle in 'Akko, and by 1124 they had received additional privileges. In 1168, the Pisans founded their own quarter in 'Akko after obtaining a charter from King Amalric of Jerusalem. These three major Italian trading centers that were established in separate quarters of the city, the Genoese to the west of the port, the Venetians to the northeast and the Pisans to the southwest, contributed greatly to its growing commercial importance (Fig. 1.1). The annexation of 'Akko added substantial revenue to the rulers of the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem from the city's port and from agricultural production in its fertile countryside, mainly the cultivation of cotton, sugar, olives and grapes. 'Akko became the kingdom's main port, and profits came from customs, sales taxes on goods that exchanged hands in the port, anchorage fees for ships, and a head tax on pilgrims who passed through the city.

The majority of pilgrims arrived to the Holy Land by sea through the port of 'Akko, and they needed protection both inside the towns and from local Muslim peasants on the roads. Such protection was provided by the military-religious orders of the Templars and the Hospitallers, who took monastic vows and swore fealty to the king, the church and the Holy Land. Consequently, these two orders, which were established previously in Jerusalem, also founded quarters in the city of 'Akko, the Templars in the southwestern corner near the sea, and the Hospitallers further inland, near the northern city wall of the twelfth century (Fig. 1.1).

The Spanish Muslim geographer Ibn Jubayr, who arrived in 'Akko with merchants from Damascus in 1184, and later departed from the port of 'Akko on a Genoese ship carrying Christian pilgrims, vividly described 'Akko in the late twelfth century, comparing it to Constantinople in its grandeur. Ibn Jubayr wrote that 'Akko was a meeting point for ships and caravans, and for Muslim and Christian merchants from many different regions. He also commented that it was a very crowded city.

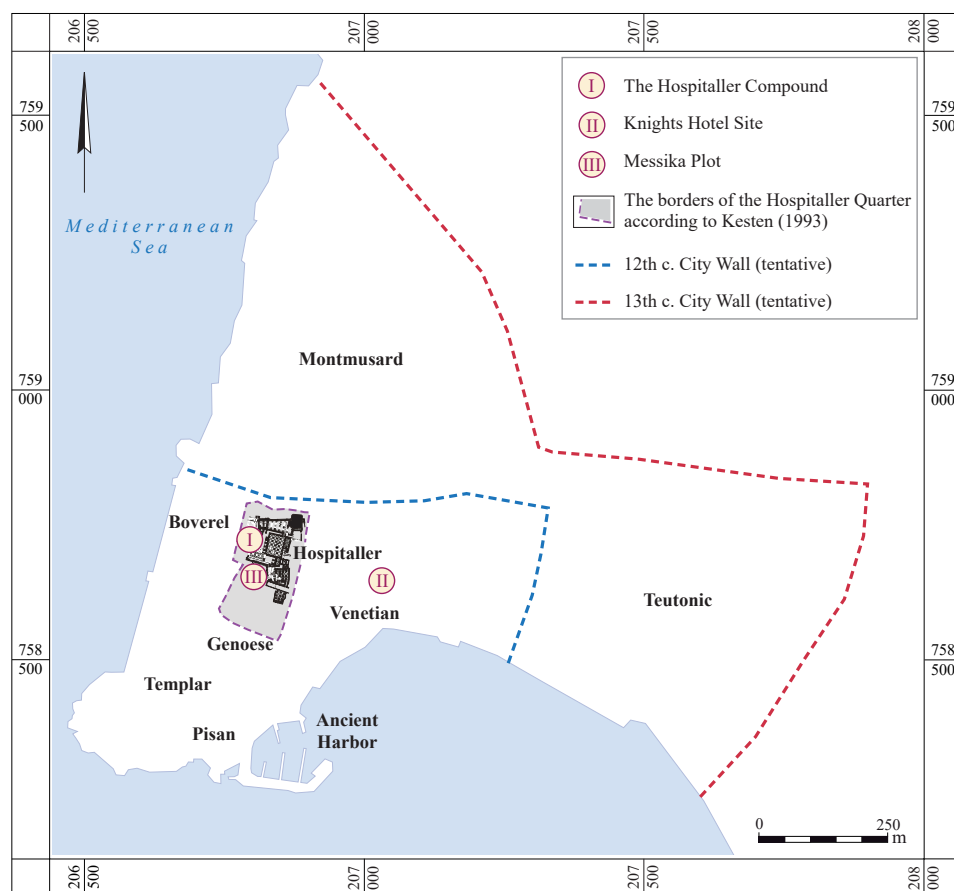


Fig. 1.1. The location of the Hospitaller Quarter and other quarters in Crusader-period 'Akko.

Only three years after Ibn Jubayr's visit, on July 4, 1187, the Crusader army was defeated by the Ayyubid forces of Salāḥ al-Dīn at the Horns of Ḥaṭṭīn and a few days later 'Akko surrendered. The Prince of Galilee, Joscelin III, who escaped the disaster at the Horns of Ḥaṭṭīn, surrendered the city in exchange for a promise that the population could leave safely and that their possessions would not be destroyed. The Ayyubid army parceled out the spoils of war, so that all the high-ranking officers received a house or other property. Three months after the surrender of 'Akko, Salāḥ al-Dīn captured Jerusalem and a few months later the entire Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem, except for Tyre, Antioch, Tripoli and a number of isolated castles, had returned to Muslim rule. The Crusader king at the time, Guy de Lusignan, accompanied by a small force of knights, marched from Tripoli to 'Akko and besieged the city in 1189. After the news of the fall of Jerusalem reached the West, the Third Crusade was launched from Europe, and reinforcements joined the forces besieging 'Akko, while the Italian fleets blockaded the port. After numerous sea and land battles and an on-and-off siege that lasted for almost two years, the Franks finally recaptured 'Akko on July 12, 1191. Richard I of England and Philip II of France, who came from Europe to assist in the siege, spearheaded its final capture.

The second Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem, founded in the wake of the Third Crusade, was much smaller than the first; it did not include Jerusalem, and consequently 'Akko became

the capital. For the next 100 years, 'Akko was the seat of the Crusader administration, of the heads of the military orders and, for most of that period, of the Patriarch of Jerusalem. Because of these functions and the thriving commerce of its port, 'Akko soon became the most important and cosmopolitan city in the Frankish realm. During this period, 'Akko played an important role in East–West trade, and became one of the main commercial hubs for both maritime and overland trade along the coast between Cilicia and Egypt, rivaling Constantinople and Alexandria. As the volume of trade increased during the thirteenth century, new urban quarters were established in 'Akko, including quarters for merchants from other commercial centers in Italy, France (Marseilles and Montpellier), Spain (Catalonia), Germany, England and Greece, among others. The religious orders of the Teutonic Knights and St. Lazarus, which were founded in the thirteenth century, also had quarters in the city. As the city gradually increased in size, the Montmusard Quarter established to the north of the twelfth-century city wall became densely inhabited (Fig. 1.1). The diverse population of 'Akko at that time included Franks, native Arabic-speaking Christians, Jews, Muslims and some Samaritans.

In the mid-thirteenth century, the king of France, Louis IX (St. Louis), arrived in the Levant as part of the Seventh Crusade. During this time, he completed the fortification of the city, which had been gradually increasing in size since 1191, and 'Akko now had inner and outer walls. The layout of the city and its fortifications in the late thirteenth century are documented in several ancient maps, such as the map commissioned by the Venetian geographer Marino Sanudo in the early fourteenth century (prepared by the Genoese cartographer Pietro Vesconte; see Chapter 16: Fig. 16.67), which displays the two fortification walls; this map names the main quarters and the principal towers and shows the layout of main streets and the locations of many institutions.

Dozens of public buildings were constructed in 'Akko in the course of the thirteenth century, including churches, courts, hostels for pilgrims and merchants, hospitals, roofed markets, baths and bakeries. Also built at this time were private houses, some of which were fortified and rose three and even four stories high. The headquarters of the military orders were among 'Akko's largest buildings. The crowded city thrived and, more than any other city of its time, formed a bridge between East and West. Its increasing wealth, brought by merchants and pilgrimage, is reflected in the archaeological record. Yet, this bout of prosperity came to an end on May 18, 1291, when the city was captured by the Mamluks.

*The Mamluk Period*⁴

The Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem had been threatened by the Mamluks of Egypt and by Mongols from the north since the mid-thirteenth century. By the time of Sultan Baybars, the Mamluks had exerted their control over Syria and the Christian territories were under threat from all directions. Beginning in 1260, Baybars initiated systematic attacks against the

⁴ The general sources used in this section are Richard 1979:421–429; Arbel 1988; *CIAP* 1:26, 31–34; Amitai 2017.

Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem and the other Frankish states, capturing towns and fortresses and severely weakening their economy. Rather than responding in a unified manner, the individual lords and military orders made separate truces with the Mamluks to protect their own possessions. By the late 1280s, the Mamluks were tightening the noose, and on May 18, 1291, the Mamluk sultan, al-Ashraf Khalīl, captured ‘Akko after a 44 day siege. The king and nobles escaped to Cyprus, while many of the defenders and inhabitants of the city perished. The fall of ‘Akko crushed the final resistance of the Frankish settlers, and the remaining towns and fortresses surrendered immediately, ending Frankish rule in the Levant.

The Mamluk conquest of ‘Akko was exceptionally violent. The sultan burned the city and destroyed the fortifications and some of the buildings, as part of a strategy to deter further crusades to the Holy Land by leaving all the captured coastal cities in ruin. ‘Akko’s role as district capital was taken over by Safed (Zefat). Nonetheless, the city continued to see some level of activity even during this period of general abandonment. Despite the papal ban of trade with the Mamluks, Venetian merchants signed an agreement with the emir of Safed in 1304 that enabled them to moor in the bay of ‘Akko and to purchase cotton directly from the local peasants. Contemporary Arabic and Latin documents (Arbel 1988; Amitai 2017) indicate that the Venetian traders were eventually allowed to settle and trade in ‘Akko and its hinterland, and to bring over Christian pilgrims from Europe. These written sources also reveal that during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, the Venetian merchants stored cotton in the port and in nearby cellars, also noting that poor people survived among the ruins by hunting pigeons.

A Mamluk-period dedicatory inscription in the Burj es-Sultan tower near the port, dated to 1436/7 during the reign of Sultan Barsbay, reveals that it permanently housed a Mamluk garrison, apparently stationed to overlook the commercial activities (*CIAP* I:31–34; Amitai 2017:340–345). This inscription most likely refers to a reconstruction of a Crusader-period tower, testifying to Barsbay’s interest in the maritime activity in the port.

Descriptions of travelers from the early fifteenth century mention a ‘new ‘Akko’ (*Acre la noeuve*), located about two miles from the port, and a khan where merchants resided is mentioned for the first time in 1469 (Arbel 1988:238–240). Although still largely in ruins, ‘Akko remained a focus for foreign maritime trade, serving both as a port for export of agricultural produce originating in its rich and lucrative hinterland, and a gateway to the Holy Land.

*The Ottoman Period*⁵

‘Akko was still largely deserted in the first decades of Ottoman rule, like other major port towns in Palestine. In the Ottoman registers of that time, these port settlements, with old decaying fortifications, were referred to as villages, attesting to the dire state in which they

⁵ The general sources used in this section are Rustum 1926; Cohen 1985:163–164; 1994:30; 2002; Arbel 1988:260–261; Kark 1990; Philipp 2001:15–16, 22–27, 30–48, 80–120, 134; Kahanov et al. 2014:149–152.

were left in the Mamluk period (Cohen 1985:163–164; *CIAP* I:26). The ports were targets of Christian pirate raids that plagued the small mercantile communities residing in them. The early Ottoman-period mercantile community of ‘Akko still consisted of Venetian merchants, who were mostly replaced by French merchants arriving in the mid-sixteenth century, and by Dutch merchants arriving in the early seventeenth century. The French merchants monopolized the export trade at the port of ‘Akko until the late eighteenth century. A short-lived attempt to restore ‘Akko was undertaken by the Druze chieftain Fakhr al-Dīn in the mid-seventeenth century, which aimed mainly to revive the port as a source of income.

A real change in the state of the town only came under the Bedouin leader Dāhir al-‘Umar (1750–1775), who relocated his headquarters from Tiberias to ‘Akko, seized control of the harbor and generated large profits through the export of wheat and cotton to Europe. During his 25 year rule, Dāhir al-‘Umar repopulated ‘Akko, rebuilt its walls and turned it once again into an important regional center. Many buildings were erected over Crusader-period ruins, using their stones and often entire sections that survived above the accumulated debris and sand. The city was again prosperous, incorporating mosques, churches, caravanserais and baths, alongside residential neighborhoods. Dāhir al-‘Umar was assassinated in the year 1775 by a Turkish officer, Aḥmad Pasha al-Jazzar, who was sent to ‘Akko to suppress the Galilean rebellion against the Ottoman Empire. Al-Jazzar was subsequently made governor of the Sidon District and came to reside in ‘Akko. During his 28 year tenure, al-Jazzar extensively developed the city and its economy. In 1799, he banished the French from ‘Akko, following Napoleon’s attack, and monopolized the cotton and grain trade, allowing only the ships of Greek and Maltese merchants to enter ‘Akko’s port.

Following his death in 1804, al-Jazzar was buried in the courtyard of the mosque he built in ‘Akko. ‘Akko continued to prosper under his two successors, Suleiman Pasha (1804–1818) and ‘Abdulla Pasha (1818–1832); new buildings were erected, the city walls were further strengthened, buildings were added to the palace and some luxurious residencies with gardens were constructed outside the city walls. The export trade from ‘Akko continued, although its monopolization by the government gradually drove the European merchants to seek other ports.

‘Akko was again besieged in 1831–1832, this time by Ibrahim Pasha, acting on behalf of the Egyptian ruler Muhammad ‘Ali, as part of his endeavor to establish an independent state in the Middle East. The city was taken, beginning a nearly decade-long oppressive rule by Ibrahim Pasha that instigated several local rebellions. The Ottomans regained control of the region in 1840, with aid from the British and Austrian navies. After a massive bombardment of ‘Akko from the sea, the city was captured and Muhammad ‘Ali’s forces were driven out of Palestine. Trade was restored and the fortifications were repaired. However, ‘Akko’s development and growth were impeded by the Ottoman ban on extramural construction, stemming from military considerations. As a result, the city’s population declined and ‘Akko lost its standing as a regional center. In September 1918, it was captured by the British forces headed by General Allenby, bringing Ottoman rule to an end.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH OF CRUSADER-PERIOD 'AKKO (Fig. 1.2)

A fair proportion of Crusader-period 'Akko has been surveyed and excavated, much of the work initiated by tourist development projects. Other projects include salvage excavations resulting from growth and development inside today's Old City, as well as in the modern town outside the Ottoman-period fortifications. As most of the walled city of Crusader-period 'Akko can no longer be seen above ground today, and is known to have extended beyond the still-extant Ottoman-period fortifications (Kedar 1997), archaeological surveys and excavations are particularly important for establishing its layout. Most of the sites described below were salvage excavations on behalf of the Israel Department of Antiquities and Museums and the Archaeological Survey of Israel until 1989, and thereafter the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA), updated to 2018, unless stated otherwise (Fig. 1.2:1–55).⁶ Some of these excavations have yet to be published. We also note evidence of the warfare that took place at 'Akko during the Crusader period, in the form of concentrations of artillery balls (see Chapter 32) and the segments of the city walls of this period (Fig. 1.2).

The following brief description of the excavated Crusader-period remains is presented in roughly counter-clockwise order, according to three main areas: (1) the present-day Old City; (2) north of the present-day Old City; (3) east and northeast of the present-day Old City. Further details of the excavations are presented in Fig. 1.2.

Excavations in the Old City

A detailed survey of the buildings and streets of the Old City of 'Akko was carried out by Alex Kesten in the early 1960s, in which he attempted to identify buildings of the Crusader and Ottoman periods, and to reconstruct the layout of the Crusader-period quarters with the aid of ancient maps and written sources (Kesten 1962; 1993). Following this survey, 'Akko was declared an historical site earmarked for conservation. A later architectural survey of 25 Crusader-period houses in 'Akko was carried out by Adrian Boas as part of his research on domestic architecture in the Frankish Kingdom of Jerusalem (Boas 2010:262–290).

The first systematic excavations in 'Akko that uncovered Crusader-period remains, headed by Ze'ev Goldman on behalf of the Israel National Parks Authority and the Department of Antiquities, were conducted in the Hospitaller Compound between 1955 and 1964 (Fig. 1.2:1; see Chapter 7; Goldman 1966; 1994). These excavations revealed well-preserved building remains from the Crusader period, in most cases uncovered intact up to the ceiling under an approximately 12.5 m deep fill; the fill was overlain by buildings of the Ottoman period. This Compound was further excavated and restored by the IAA, beginning in the early 1990s, and the results of these excavations are fully described in Chapters 2–15.

South of the Hospitaller Compound, within the Hospitaller Quarter, remains of the Church of St. John, dating to the thirteenth century, were uncovered within the Ottoman-period government house (*serai*; Fig. 1.2:2; E. Stern 1999b:11*–12*; E. Stern and Abu-

⁶ IAA excavations conducted from 1990 onward in the Old City were financed by the Old Acre Development Company, as part of tourism-development projects or of modernizing the infrastructure of the Old City.

‘Uqsa 2010:44*–45*). *In-situ* remains of the church included remnants of the marble floor of the nave, the lower parts of marble columns and a marble chancel in the eastern part of the church. Finds on the floor consisted of thirteenth-century pottery, ceramic glazed floor tiles, pieces of glass from the stained-glass windows, and fragments of painted Gothic architectural elements. A study by Shotten-Hallel (2010) reconstructed the church based on information from these archaeological remains and a drawing of the dilapidated church by Gravier d’Ortières in 1685–1687. Her reconstruction was of a building with Gothic characteristics and a tri-apsidal plan with five bays.

Remains of another building within the Hospitaller Quarter were excavated near the Turkish bathhouse (hammam) by Danny Syon (Fig. 1.2:3; the Messika Plot, described in detail in Chapter 26). An excavation adjacent to and south of the bathhouse also uncovered remains of buildings, including a wall, floors and a cesspit (Fig. 1.2:4; Gosker 2020).

To the west of the Hospitaller Compound, within an Ottoman-period structure near the seafront, excavations uncovered a Crusader-period building in a civilian residential quarter called Boverel (Fig. 1.2:5). The building had collapsed in an intense fire, and the artifacts on the floor dated to the thirteenth century; therefore, it may have been demolished in the summer of 1291, when ‘Akko fell to the Mamluk conquerors (E.J. Stern 2010d; 2021).

A vaulted street in the Genoese Quarter was first surveyed (Fig. 1.2:6; Kedar and E. Stern 1995), and then excavated for four seasons in a joint Israeli–Italian expedition (E. Stern and Benente 2008; E.J. Stern et al. 2011; E.J. Stern, Benente and E. Stern 2017; E.J. Stern, E. Stern and Benente 2023). The northern wall of the vaulted street served as a well-fortified boundary wall of the Genoese Quarter, and included a watchtower, arrow slits and an arched gateway. The vaulted street is recorded in a document from 1249 and seems to have been a commercial street extending along the border between the Genoese Quarter and the Hospitaller Quarter to the north. Evidence of destruction during the Mamluk conquest comprised a heap of collapsed ashlar and the blocking of the gateway with reused ashlar. In the nearby Zeituni Square, excavations revealed a small, north–south underground tunnel, two walls and a well, dated to the Crusader period based on pottery and coin finds (Fig. 1.2:7; Tatcher 1998a). The location, direction and construction of the tunnel indicate that it is probably the continuation of the main sewage tunnel of the Hospitaller Compound (see Chapter 3: Plan 3.1:24; Chapter 27: Plan 27.2). Two further sections of this tunnel were tentatively identified during IAA inspection works, one c. 40 m south of Zeituni Square (Fig. 1.2:8) and the other further south, near the modern marina (Fig. 1.2:9; see also Chapter 27).

In a location now called Genoa Square, a Crusader-period wall built of dressed *kurkar* stones was exposed with floors on either side, one plastered and extending eastward, the other stone-paved and extending westward (Fig. 1.2:10). Artifacts from the thirteenth century were found beneath these floors, suggesting that the stone paving belonged to a street and the plastered surface to an open plaza in the western entrance to the residential Genoese Quarter of the Crusader period (Stern E. 1999b:12*–13*).

To the southwest, an excavation beneath the floor of an Ottoman building yielded remains of a burnt and collapsed building of the Crusader period, built of plastered ashlar walls (Fig. 1.2:11; Stern E. 2015).

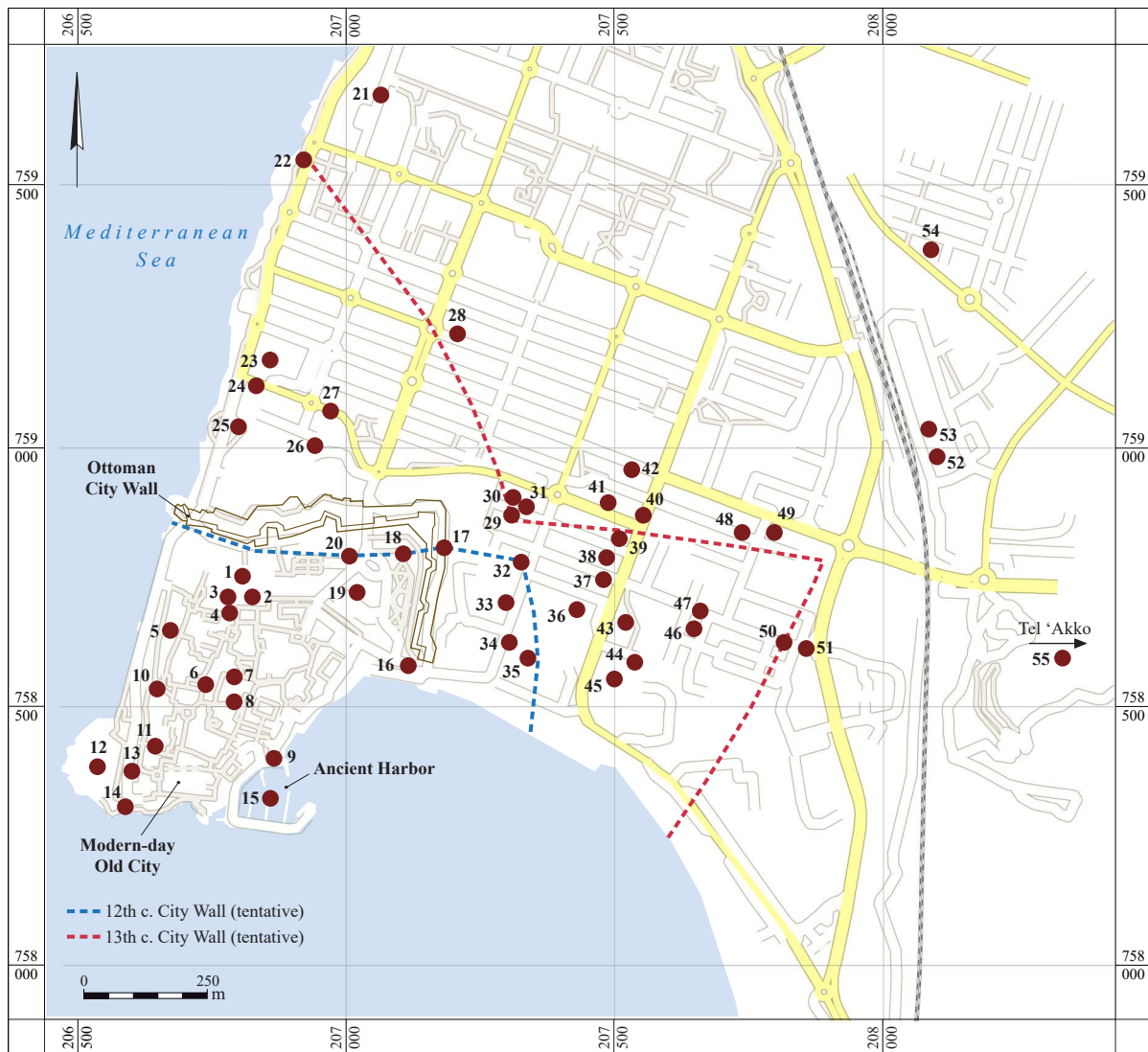


Fig. 1.2. Excavation and survey sites of the Crusader period in 'Akko.

Further south, remains uncovered in the Templar Quarter in the southwestern corner of the Old City include parts of the Templars' Castle (Fig. 1.2:12) found in an underwater survey (Sharvit and Galili 2002:10*–11*), and a subterranean east–west tunnel (Fig. 1.2:13) consisting of a wide, barrel-vaulted passageway built of carefully dressed ashlars, which may have connected the Templars' Castle on the west and the harbor of that period on the east ('Templar Tunnel'; Avissar and E. Stern 1998:14).

An impressive Crusader-period building, partly rock-hewn and partly built, was uncovered beneath the Franciscan Church of Saint John built in 1737 CE (Fig. 1.2:14; Porat 2013). The hewn part of the building included two engaged pillars and some of its walls were plastered. This building was partially destroyed at an unknown time, and its remains were incorporated into an Ottoman-period structure of a different layout.

◀ Fig. 1.2. Excavation and survey sites of the Crusader period in 'Akko.

No.	Site	Permit Nos.	Excavators/ Surveyors	Publication	Description
1.	Hospitaller Compound	G-102/1992; G-52/1993; G-34/1994; G-30/1993; G-14/1996; G-12/1997; G-14/1998; G-10/1999; G-7/2000; A-1731/1990; A-1766/1991; A-3375/2001; A-3572/2002; A-4122/2004; A-4707/2006	Z. Goldman; E. Stern and M. Avissar	Chapters 2–15, this volume; Goldman 1966; 1994	Well-preserved building remains below buildings of the Ottoman period
2	The Church of St. John	A-2411/1995; A-3830/2003	E. Stern and H. Abu-'Uqsa	E. Stern 1999b:11*–12*; Stern E. and Abu 'Uqsa 2010:44*–45*	Remnants of the marble floor of the nave, lower parts of marble columns, a marble chancel; 13th c. finds: pottery, pieces of broken glass from stained-glass windows and fragments of painted Gothic architectural elements
3	Messika Plot	A-2218/1994	D. Syon	Chapter 26, this volume	Building and water cistern
4	Hospitaller Quarter	A-8084/2017	J. Gosker	Gosker 2020	Buildings and cesspit
5	Building in Boverel Quarter	A-5408/2008	E.J. Stern	E.J. Stern 2010d, 2021	Building destroyed by fire, 13th c. finds
6	Boundary wall and vaulted street in Genoese Quarter	A-7499/2015; A-8269/2018; G-94/2007; G-25/2009	C. Varaldo, F. Benente, E.J. Stern and E. Stern	Kedar and E. Stern 1995; E. Stern and Benente 2008; E.J. Stern et al. 2011; E.J. Stern, Benente and E. Stern 2017; E.J. Stern, E Stern and Benente 2023	Vaulted street comprising the northern, well-fortified boundary wall of the Genoese Quarter, with a watchtower and an arched gateway; destruction layer from the Mamluk conquest of 'Akko
7	Sewage tunnel below Zeituni Square	A-2229/1994	A. Tatcher	Tatcher 1998a	Segment of wall, north–south underground sewage tunnel, two walls and a well
8	Sewage tunnel				Continuation of sewage tunnel No. 7
9	Sewage tunnel				Continuation of sewage tunnel Nos. 7, 8
10	Wall below Genoa Square	A-2411/1995	E. Stern	E. Stern 1999b:12*–13*	Stone-paved street and plastered plaza(?) on either side of boundary wall of the Genoese Quarter; 13th c. finds below surface
11	Building in Templar Quarter	A-7023/2014	E. Stern	E. Stern 2015	Burnt building

Fig. 1.2 (cont.). Excavation and survey sites of the Crusader period in 'Akko.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Site</i>	<i>Permit Nos.</i>	<i>Excavators/ Surveyors</i>	<i>Publication</i>	<i>Description</i>
12	Castle in Templar Quarter	G-117/1994	J. Sharvit and E. Galili	Sharvit and Galili 2002:10*–11*	The Templar Castle
13	Tunnel in Templar Quarter	G-34/1994	M. Avissar and E. Stern	Avissar and E. Stern 1998:14	Vaulted east-west subterranean passage ('Templar Tunnel')
14	Crusader building below Franciscan church	A-5672/2009	L. Porat	Porat 2013	Hewn part of a burnt building including two engaged pillars and plastered walls
15	The Crusader harbor	G-31/1993	E. Linder and A. Raban; E. Galili and Y. Sharvit; M. Artzy; D. Cvikel, Y. Kahanov and M. Artzy, Leon Recanati Institute of Marine Studies, U. of Haifa	Raban 1986; 1993; Galili et al. 2002; Cvikel, Kahanov and Artzy 2012	Underwater surveys and excavations (1964–1995); remains of sunken ships
16	Wall near Burj Kapu	A-2411/1995	E. Stern	E. Stern 1999b:10*–11*	A north–south wall associated with Byzantine- and Crusader-period pottery
17	Crusader-period city wall	A-2421/1996	E. Stern	E. Stern 1999a	A segment of the 12th c. Crusader-period city wall; 12th c. pottery
18	Crusader-period city wall	A-1275/1984	A. Druks	Druks 1985	Crusader-period city wall
19	Knights' Hotel	A-2244/1995; A-5154/2007; A-6177/2011	D. Syon and A. Tatcher; A. Abu Ḥamid	Chapters 16–25; Syon 2010; Abu Ḥamid 2019	Domestic quarter from final phase of Crusader period
20	Public building	A-5670/2009	E. Stern	E. Stern 2013	Massive public building abutting Hospitaller Compound on the east
21	Artillery balls	A-3593/2002	L. Porat	Porat 2005	Concentration of artillery balls
22	Crusader-period fortification wall	Survey; A-3939/2003	R. Frankel; A. Tatcher	Frankel 1987; Tatcher 2008	Remains of fortification wall and rock-cut foundation of a round tower
23	Market street in Montmusard Quarter	Study of aerial photographs	A. Boas	Boas 1997	Street lined with shops
24	Large buildings in Montmusard Quarter	A-5875/2010	H. Abu-'Uqsa and A. Abu Ḥamid	Abu-'Uqsa and Abu Ḥamid 2012	Foundations of two buildings and massive pillars of another building
25	Structures in Montmusard Quarter	A-832/1979	F. Vitto	Vitto 1980, 2005	Wall remains, two wells, Crusader pottery

Fig. 1.2 (cont.). Excavation and survey sites of the Crusader period in 'Akko.

No.	Site	Permit Nos.	Excavators/ Surveyors	Publication	Description
26	Two Crusader strata in Montmusard Quarter	A-5117/2007; A-5697/2009	E.J. Stern	E.J. Stern 2010a, 2010b, 2011	Domestic structures of the 12th c.; massive 13th c. building with a large cache of marble <i>spolia</i>
27	Bathhouse in Montmusard Quarter	A-2439/1996; A-2734/1997	E. Stern and H. Smithline	Smithline, E.J. Stern and E. Stern 2013	Bathhouse, 13th c. pottery
28	Farmhouse(?) outside city wall	A-5391/2008	E. Stern	E. Stern 2011	Building, plastered water channel, 13th c. pottery
29	Crusader city wall, tower and moat	A-1763/1991	M. Hartal; D. Syon	Hartal 1997; see also E.J. Stern 1997; Gorin-Rosen 1997; Syon 1997	City wall, two-story tower destroyed by fire and a moat; 13th c. finds
30	Walls	A-2165/1994	A. Tatcher	Tatcher 1998b	Two walls, 13th c. pottery
31	Crusader-period finds	A-2254/1995	D. Avshalom-Gorni	Avshalom-Gorni 1999	13th c. pottery and a coin
32	Fills	A-5505/2008	E.J. Stern	E.J. Stern 2010c	Mixed accumulations with pottery from Hellenistic to Crusader periods; perhaps fill of 12th c. moat
33	Buildings	A-5366/2008	N. Feig	Feig 2010	Buildings, 12th–early 13th c. pottery
34	Architectural elements and inscriptions	Excavation of the British Mandate period	N. Makhoul; Z. Goldman	See Rahmani 1980; Kedar 1997	Scant remains, 13th c. pottery
35	Substantial remains	A-2942/1998	A. Tatcher	Tatcher 2000a	Building, pool and well; two strata of 12th and 13th c.
36	Underground vaulted tunnel	Survey	B.Z. Kedar	Kedar 1997	Similar to Hospitaller tunnel
37	Underground tunnel and cistern	A-2113/1994	E. Stern	E. Stern 1997	Similar to Hospitaller tunnel; 13th c. pottery
38	Wall	A-2907/1998	A. Tatcher	Tatcher 2000b	Short segment of a wall, Crusader pottery
39	Crusader-period city wall and moat	B-164/1998	M. Eisenberg	Eisenberg M. 2023	East–west wall
40	Walls	A-7429/2015	N. Feig	Feig 2016	Wall segments
41	Cemetery	A-2165/1994	A. Tatcher	Tatcher 2000c:31*–32*	Simple cist graves of possible Crusader date
42	Two square pillars	A-2165/1994	A. Tatcher	Tatcher 1998b	Pillars of Crusader construction
43	Large building	1970s, no permit no.	M. Dothan	Dothan 1976b:37; see also Pringle 1997	Building destroyed by fire; Latin inscription, Crusader pottery

Fig. 1.2 (cont.). Excavation and survey sites of the Crusader period in 'Akko.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Site</i>	<i>Permit Nos.</i>	<i>Excavators/ Surveyors</i>	<i>Publication</i>	<i>Description</i>
44	Buildings	G-130/1999; G-75/2000	A.J. Boas and G.P. Melloni, Deutschen Orden in Israel; U. of Haifa	Boas and Melloni 2005, 2018	Buildings and Crusader- period finds: pottery, glass, coins
45	Monumental building	1961, no permit no.	Z. Goldman	See Kedar 1997	Well-dressed stones and sculptured elements
46	Floor and installations	A-2324/1995	E.J. Stern and M. Shalabi- Abbas	E.J. Stern and Shalabi- Abbas 1999	Plastered pools, well and cesspit, Crusader-period finds
47	Cesspit	A-4043/2003	Y. Tepper	Tepper 2019	Similar in construction to No. 46, Crusader-period finds
48	Long wall segment	A-3431/2001	A. Tatcher	Tatcher 2005	Broad foundation
49	Walls and massive pillars	A-5223/2007	E. Stern and L. Porat	E. Stern and Porat 2014	Crusader-period finds
50	Massive walls forming a corner	1970s, no permit no.	M. Dothan, U. of Haifa	Dothan 1976; see Kedar 1997	Glacis-like incline
51	Building, pottery kiln and plastered installation	1970s, no permit no.	M. Dothan, U. of Haifa	Dothan 1993	Crusader-period finds
52	Building	A-4932/2006; A-5091/2007	A. Abu Ḥamid	Abu Ḥamid 2013	13th c. floor
53	Crusader remains	B-440/2016	B. Monnickendam- Givon	Monnickendam-Givon et al. 2017	Collapsed ashlars, metal finds
54	Farmhouse(?) building	A-6619/2012	A. Abu Ḥamid	Abu Ḥamid 2020	Building, Crusader-period finds: pottery, metal, coins
55	Tel 'Akko	1970s, no permit nos.	M. Dothan	Dothan 1976b:34; 1993:23; Artzy and Beeri 2010:23*; Artzy and Quartermaine 2014:21	Crusader-period tower, building and pottery

Archaeological underwater research of 'Akko's ancient harbor (Fig. 1.2:15) was initiated by Elisha Linder in 1964 on behalf of the Undersea Exploration Society of Israel. Survey work and trial excavations were carried out in 1965, prior to construction of a new quay, as part of the Archaeological Survey of Israel. This work continued in 1966 in collaboration with a British team, including a survey of the 'Tower of Flies', an excavation of the eastern breakwater and a systematic survey of the harbor and its surroundings with a proton magnetometer (Flinder, Linder and Hall 1993). Linder and Avner Raban conducted a number of seasons of underwater excavations in the harbor (1975–1978), and a survey

in preparation for its deepening in 1983 that uncovered remains of ancient ships. Based on these surveys and excavations, Linder and Raban suggested that the Crusader-period harbor continued the harbor built in the Tulunid period (ninth century CE) and was of similar layout to Tyre's southern harbor (Raban 1986, 1993). They reconstructed a mooring area in the western part of the harbor that was closed off by a massive chain extending from the northern end of an eastern pier northward to a tower situated on the beach.

Underwater surveys were again carried out in and around the harbor by the IAA prior to its further deepening and expansion (1990–1995; Galili et al. 2002). These surveys revealed remains of sunken ships, one of which was dated by ¹⁴C analysis to the Crusader period, and Crusader-period pottery was found near the opening of the harbor's western mooring area.

An underwater excavation conducted on behalf of the University of Haifa, in the southernmost part of the harbor, recovered hundreds of pottery sherds, mostly of glazed bowls dating to the end of the twelfth and mainly to the thirteenth centuries, as well as metal finds, including nails and horseshoes, and numerous animal bones (Cvikel, Kahanov and Artzy 2012:10, 12).

In the eastern part of the Old City, near the Ottoman-period land gate (Burj Kapu), remains of a north–south wall built of well-dressed *kurkar* stones, 0.6 m in width, were associated with Byzantine- and Crusader-period pottery. Above this wall, Ottoman-period remains consisted of a tower with an emplacement of cannons at its apex. Underneath its compacted floor was a 6.5 m thick fill that contained sherds, fragments of glass vessels, and coins from the eighteenth–nineteenth centuries CE (Fig. 1.2:16; E. Stern 1999b:10*–11*).

A 20 m long segment of the Crusader-period city wall (width 2.5–3.0 m, preserved height 3.1 m; Fig. 1.2:17) was uncovered within the eastern moat of the Ottoman period, oriented east–west (E. Stern 1999a). A round well was constructed through the wall and hewn into bedrock, reaching below groundwater level. Pottery dates the fortifications to the twelfth century. Another segment of this wall, oriented east–west and 63.5 m long, was exposed within the northeastern part of the Ottoman-period moat (Fig. 1.2:18; Druks 1985) and seems to have continued east under the Ottoman-period wall, most likely joining the segment unearthed further east (No. 17). During the thirteenth century, this wall is known to have separated the city proper from the Montmusard Quarter (Druks 1985; Kedar 1997:162).

A large-scale excavation in the northeastern corner of the Old City—known as the Knights' Hotel (Fig. 1.2:19; detailed in Chapters 16–25; see also Syon 2010)—revealed an extensive domestic quarter undisturbed by Ottoman-period building activity. The excavation yielded a wealth of small finds clearly dated to the final phase of Crusader-period 'Akko. A small excavation slightly to the south uncovered the continuation of this domestic quarter (Abu Ḥamid 2019).

Remains of a massive public building built of large ashlar, which may have originally stood several stories high, were revealed abutting the eastern side of the Hospitaller Compound and may have been part of it (Fig. 1.2:20; E. Stern 2013).

Excavations North of the Old City

The area to the north of the present-day Old City was the site of the Crusader-period Montmusard Quarter, first inhabited as an extramural suburb in the twelfth century. After 1191, the population of the city increased beyond the existing walls, and by 1211 the Montmusard Quarter was enclosed by a moat and a wall (Pringle 2009:7). Excavations in this area have exposed mainly the foundations of Crusader-period buildings, as their superstructures were dismantled in the Ottoman period. Evidence of a Mamluk trebuchet emplacement outside the Crusader city walls—a concentration of artillery balls not associated with any architecture or pottery—was also found (Fig. 1.2:21; see Chapter 32; Porat 2005). Remains of the thirteenth-century northern fortification wall that enclosed the quarter (Fig. 1.2:22; Frankel 1987) were exposed next to a rock-cut foundation trench of a round tower located on the now-submerged edge of a coastal reef (Fig. 1.3). A later excavation retrieved thirteenth-century pottery from accumulations in the foundation trench of the tower, reinforcing the identification of the wall and tower as the northern city wall of Crusader-period ‘Akko (Tatcher 2008).

A market street of the Montmusard Quarter, lined with shops on both sides, was revealed through examination of aerial photographs taken at the beginning of the twentieth century (Fig. 1.2:23; Boas 1997). Just to the south, the foundations of two large buildings and three massive pillars belonging to another large building were uncovered (Fig. 1.2:24; Abu-‘Uqsa and Abu Ḥamid 2012). About 50 m farther south, wall remains and two wells were exposed, dated by ceramic finds to the Crusader period (Fig. 1.2:25; Vitto 1980, 2005). Slightly inland, two occupation layers of the Crusader period were revealed with mid-twelfth-century floors of domestic buildings and nearby, a massive thirteenth-century



Fig. 1.3. Remains of the thirteenth-century northern fortification wall (blue arrow) exposed next to the rock-cut foundation trench of a round tower (red arrow) located on the edge of a coastal reef, looking south (photograph by Yakov Shmidov).

building constructed after the earlier Crusader buildings had been demolished (Fig. 1.2:26), three monumental square pillars and the basement level of this later structure were preserved; and a unique cache of c. 300 marble *spolia* had been intentionally buried beneath this basement floor (E.J. Stern 2010a, 2010b, 2011).

To the north of the massive building, remains of a bathhouse (Fig. 1.2:27), which included a furnace, its firing chamber, a courtyard and the double floor of the hot room, were dated by ceramic finds to the thirteenth century (Smithline, E.J. Stern and E. Stern 2013).

Remains that seem to have been located just outside the thirteenth-century Crusader city wall, include a building, an adjacent plastered water channel and thirteenth-century pottery sherds (Fig. 1.2:28; E. Stern 2011), which may have been part of a storeroom or an isolated farmhouse.

Excavations East and Northeast of the Old City

As the walled city of Crusader-period 'Akko was larger than that of the Ottoman period, which can still be seen today, archaeological excavations play an important role in determining its layout. Impressive remains of the Crusader-period city wall, together with a two-story tower built of well-dressed ashlar and a moat, were exposed c. 170 m east of the northeastern corner of the Ottoman-period fortification wall (Fig. 1.2:29; the Courthouse Site; Hartal 1997). The tower, which was destroyed in a fierce fire, had two rooms, an entrance in its northeastern corner and a circular well shaft in the core of one of its walls. The moat was dug adjacent to the tower to its north and east, and its counterscarp was located at a distance of 13 m from the tower's eastern wall. Collapsed building stones, most probably originating from the tower, were found in the moat. The majority of the small finds retrieved in this area date to the thirteenth century, among them pottery (E.J. Stern 1997), glass (Gorin-Rosen 1997) and coins (Syon 1997). Hartal suggested that the tower and the moat were part of the outer, northern fortification line of the thirteenth-century Crusader-period city, and that the tower was destroyed by al-Ashraf Khalil in the Mamluk siege of 1291 CE, in accordance with the historical sources (Hartal 1997:21–22).

Two walls dated to the thirteenth century based on the ceramic finds were exposed c. 20 m northeast of Hartal's excavation of the fortification wall and tower (Fig. 1.2:30; Tatcher 1998b:13), while c. 50 m north of the wall and tower a few thirteenth-century pottery sherds and a coin were uncovered (Fig. 1.2:31; Avshalom-Gorni 1999). These finds reinforce Hartal's conclusion that he had exposed the outer fortification line of the Crusader period. An excavation carried out to the south of the fortification wall (Fig. 1.2:32) yielded deep fills down to 5 m below the surface, containing building stones, including a fragment of a typical Crusader-period ashlar with drafted margins, and potsherds from the Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine and Crusader periods (E.J. Stern 2010c). These thick fills may be Ottoman-period earthworks that gradually accumulated in what could have been the twelfth-century Crusader moat. Above them lay an Ottoman-period drainage pipe that may have delivered water to irrigate orchards outside the city walls, probably fed from 'Akko's main aqueduct built in 1814.

Many Crusader-period finds were recovered during infrastructure work in the area straddling Yehoshafat Street and Derekh Ha-'Arba'a (Fig. 1.2:33; Feig 2010). Remains of buildings were dated to the twelfth and early thirteenth centuries based on the pottery finds.

Scant remains, comprising a round room, pottery, glass, carved architectural elements and a Gothic keystone (Kedar 1997:169), dated to the twelfth–thirteenth centuries, and three inscriptions, two in Greek and one in Latin (Rahmani 1980:111–112), were uncovered during construction work in 1939 (Fig. 1.2:34). The pottery was later re-examined and dated to the thirteenth century (Kedar 1997:169, Figs. 12, 13).

Substantial remains dating to the Crusader period were uncovered on the grounds of the Israel Nautical School (Fig. 1.2:35; Tatcher 2000a). The excavation exposed two strata dating to the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. A twelfth-century building included a room of which three of the walls were preserved to a height of 3.5 m, indicating the existence of a second story; a shallow pool was installed in its floor. Associated with these remains were a well, a basalt grindstone and two piers that seem to have supported an arch. The fill of dark earth (c. 1.5 m thick) above this floor contained hundreds of sherds of ceramic vessels used in sugar production. Above this fill, continued occupation of the building, attributed to the thirteenth century, was exposed. A cesspit with a vaulted roof was constructed west of the room (Tatcher 2000a). Further to the north, excavations uncovered two segments of an underground tunnel with a vaulted ceiling that Kedar suggested should be dated to the Crusader period due to its resemblance to the underground tunnel in the Hospitaller Compound (Fig. 1.2:36; see also Chapter 27; Kedar 1997:171, Fig. 16, Plan 5). To the north, a 30 m long segment of an underground tunnel and a barrel-vaulted cistern located c. 15 m to its north, were uncovered (Fig. 1.2:37; E. Stern 1997). The tunnel, yielding Crusader-period pottery, was similar in its size and method of construction to that found in the Hospitaller Compound (see Chapter 7). Just to the north, a short segment of a Crusader-period wall was preserved to a height of 1 m and associated with Crusader pottery (Fig. 1.2:38; Tatcher 2000b).

Further to the north, a salvage excavation conducted by Michael Eisenberg on behalf of the University of Haifa, uncovered segments of the Crusader-period city wall and a moat running east–west (Fig. 1.2:39; Eisenberg 2023), and further Crusader-period wall segments were found to the northeast (Fig. 1.2:40; Feig 2016).

Nearby, perhaps on the other side of the fortification wall, a cemetery containing about 15 simple cist graves was dug into strata of the Early Roman and Byzantine periods (Fig. 1.2:41; Tatcher 2000c:31*–32*). The deceased were laid to rest on their backs with heads to the north, and no funerary gifts were found. The date of these remains is unclear, although the orientation of the bodies indicates that they were not Muslim burials; therefore, they should probably be dated to the Crusader period. To the north, two square piers preserved to a height of 2 m were uncovered (Fig. 1.2:42), ascribed by the excavator to the Crusader period on the basis of the construction method and the depth of the foundations (Tatcher 1998b:12–13).

Additional archaeological finds dating to the Crusader period were unearthed to the east of Derekh Ha-'Arba'a. In one excavation (Fig. 1.2:43), the southern end of a large building constructed of well-dressed ashlar had been destroyed by fire. Among the finds

were a glass chalice bearing a partly preserved Latin inscription, and pottery dating to the Crusader period (Dothan 1976b:37; Pringle 1997). Another excavation exposed remains of a large building, smaller buildings, floors and living surfaces with small finds, including pottery, glass and coins, dating to the Crusader period (Fig. 1.2:44; Boas and Melloni 2005, 2018). A nearby excavation by Goldman uncovered the corner of a monumental building preserved to a height of three courses that was also built of well-dressed stones and originally incorporated sculptured fragments (Fig. 1.2:45; Kedar 1997:172). Goldman believed that this building belonged to the Teutonic knights.

Remains of a beaten-earth floor from the Crusader period were discerned in the sections of a trench dug by a backhoe (Fig. 1.2:46). Below the floor level were two plastered pools, a well and a cesspit, and the small finds included pottery, glass and a stone vessel (E.J. Stern and Shalabi-Abbas 1999). In a small excavation 10 m to the north (Fig. 1.2:47), the bottom of a vaulted cesspit of similar dimensions and method of construction to the former excavation yielded Crusader-period pottery, glass and coins (see Chapter 27: Site P11; Tepper 2019).

A long segment of an east–west wall upon a broad foundation were discovered at a distance of c. 250 m to the east and dated to the thirteenth century (Fig. 1.2:48; Tatcher 2005). Nearby, four massive pillars and two walls were excavated, dated to the Crusader period based on glass and ceramic finds (Fig. 1.2:49; E. Stern and Porat 2014). The excavators suggested that this was either a bridge or a building with deep foundations, as this area may have been inundated during the Crusader period.

Further south, an impressive, 40 m long segment of a north–south wall built of well-dressed stones formed a corner with another, east–west wall, both of which were preserved to a maximum height of over 2 m and built with a glacis-like incline on both sides (Fig. 1.2:50; Dothan 1976a:207–208). Although these walls were uncovered at an appreciable distance from the Crusader-period city, Dothan suggested that they may have been part of a fortification wall of this period, in front of which was a moat. It has been suggested by Kedar (1997:175) that these remains were part of the eastern wall of the Crusader-period city that was in fact much larger than previously thought. A nearby excavation (Fig. 1.2:51) revealed a vaulted room, a plaster floor, a pottery kiln and a plastered installation dating to the Crusader period (Dothan 1993).

Two excavations to the northeast, near the modern railway station, revealed fragmentary Crusader-period remains. In one excavation, a floor of a structure dated to the thirteenth century was exposed (Fig. 1.2:52; Abu Ḥamid 2013), and nearby (Fig. 1.2:53), collapsed ashlar and many metal finds, including horseshoes, arrowheads and spears, date to the Crusader period (Monnickendam-Givon et al. 2017; pers. comm.). Some 350 m to the north, building remains yielded Crusader-period ceramics, coins and metal finds, including horseshoes and arrowheads, as well as fragments of antilia jars that may indicate the nearby presence of a well operated by a waterwheel (Fig. 1.2:54; Abu Ḥamid 2020).

During excavations at Tel ‘Akko by the University of Haifa, c. 2.5 km to the east of the bay (Fig. 1.2:55), some remains of the Crusader-period occupation were uncovered, including ceramics and a silver coin (Dothan 1976b:34; 1993:23). Massive agglomerations of collapsed Crusader masonry can be seen on the surface in the southeastern part of the

tell. Pits and a few wall foundations, possibly a Templar tower, and the lower half of another building dating to the Crusader period were exposed in the excavation of this area. The pits, which contained thirteenth-century pottery, were interpreted as planting holes for vines on the basis of historical sources (Artzy and Beeri 2010:23*; Artzy and Quartermaine 2014:21; M. Artzy, pers. comm.).

In summary, the surveys and excavations described above offer an important complement to the historical sources and provide a broader context within which to interpret the finds described in the present volumes. They have exposed segments of the twelfth-century city wall (Nos. 17, 18, 32[?]), the later, thirteenth-century northern fortifications (Nos. 22, 29, 39, 50), and Crusader remains that seem to have been located outside the Crusader city wall (Nos. 21, 28, 52–55), which may represent agricultural, industrial or military activities. All these excavations, together with the results of the excavations and studies described in the present volumes, have enabled researchers to reconstruct the layout and organization of the Crusader-period city, including its main quarters, the nature of its buildings, its material culture and the lines of its fortifications. The excavations have also revealed the grandeur and importance of this densely populated Crusader-period city, the richness and variety of its public and domestic buildings, its shops, streets and material culture.

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