The Christian Mosaics of Byzantine Palestine

Towards an Interpretation

Priscilla Henderson

Volume 2

Appendix
Table of Contents

Corpus Abbreviations  i

Corpus of the Christian, Figurative Mosaics of the Holy Land  1

Illustrations

Maps 3 and 4
Maps 1 and 2 in back cover
Corpus Abbreviations

A number of the abbreviations used in the bibliographies may be found in the abbreviations to the thesis. Frequently used and specifically archaeological references are listed here.

**AASOR** - The Annual of the American Schools of Oriental Research.

**ACIAC** - Atti des congressi internazionale di archeologia cristiana or Actes des congrès internationaux d’archéologie chrétienne.

**AJA** - American Journal of Archaeology.

**Antiquity and Survival** - An International Review of Traditional Art and Culture.


**EI** - Eretz Israel. (Hebrew).

**HA** - Hadashot Arkheologist, Archaeological Newsletter, Department of Antiquities and Museums, Ministry of Education and Culture, Jerusalem. (Hebrew, English series since 1982).

**IEJ** - Israel Exploration Journal.

JÖByz - Jahrbuch der Österreichischen Byzantinistik
LA - Liber Annuus.
Levant - Journal of the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem and the British Institute at Amman for Archaeology and History.
MondBibl - Le Monde de la Bible.
Nofim - Studies of the Geography of Israel (Hebrew)
Ovadiah, Patterns - Geometric and Floral Patterns in Ancient Mosaics, Rome, 1980.
PEFQS St - Palestine Exploration Fund Quarterly Statement.
PEQ - Palestine Exploration Quarterly.
Qadmoniøt - Qadmoniot. Quarterly for the Antiquities of Eretz-Israel and Bible Lands. (Hebrew).
RAC - Rivista di archeologia cristiana.
RB - Revue Biblique.
Survey of Western Palestine - C.R. Conder and H.H. Kitchener, The Survey of Western Palestine, 1-3, London 1881-1883.1ts
Tarbiz - A Quarterly for Jewish Studies. (Hebrew).

ZDPV - Zeitschrift des Deutschen Palästina-Vereins.
Appendix

Corpus of the Christian, Figurative Mosaics of the Byzantine Holy Land

This corpus does not aspire to be a comprehensive catalogue of all the mosaics found to date in the Byzantine churches and monasteries of the Holy Land. Rather, it presents a catalogue and description of those mosaic pavements with figurative images and motifs, with illustrations for most of the entries. As far as possible the corpus has been standardized under the headings of the type of building, the location of the mosaic within the building, dimensions of the panel, associated inscriptions, date and bibliography. Where possible, descriptions of the pavements include a figure by figure identification of species of birds, kinds of animals, flowers, fruit, etc. For a number of the mosaics listed much of the required information is not available. In some cases the pavements have never been published and only passing references are available: in others, archaeological reports provide an inadequate record of the findings. Photographs, often taken under difficult conditions, do not provide a clear image of the motifs, and the inaccessibility of much of the material renders it impossible to rectify the situation, even on a field trip.

Pavements thought to be from Christian buildings are included in the corpus. The bird mosaic from Caesarea is included because it has long been considered a church pavement although new evidence suggests that the building was a villa.

Each entry follows the following format:

Site Name:

Map Reference:

Plate:

Building:
Sites are listed alphabetically. They are referenced according to the grid system of the Survey of Israel (maps 1 and 2). The map references to the sites in Jerusalem are numbered according to the drawn grid in maps 3 and 4. Because of problems of uniformity in the spelling of Hebrew and Arab place-names the major variations are given in each case, as well as the Byzantine name, where it applies. The most common spelling, as it is used in the text of the thesis, is placed first, alternatives thereafter. Where the first version varies from that on the map, the map rendering is underlined. Thus, for example, the entry for Beth Guvrin reads Beth Guvrin: Bet Guvrin: Beit Jibrin: Eleutheropolis. Where several monuments are located in or close to the same town, these are numbered separately and the distinguishing names are given as well. Thus the monuments at Beth Guvrin are also listed as Beth Guvrin: El-Muqarqash and Beth Guvrin: Mahatt el-Urdi.

Inscriptions are recorded only where they are directly associated with the mosaic. Greek inscriptions are given in full. Syriac, Georgian and Armenian inscriptions are given in translation, but not in transliteration. Where no information is available, the fact is noted. Dating is uncertain for many of the mosaics: a number of archaeological reports merely state "Byzantine period". Where this loose term is used it is taken to be within the general time span of figurative mosaic production, i.e. late fifth to early seventh century. A bibliography is included with each entry. Where
these are brief archaeological reports, such as those in "Notes and News", in the Israel Exploration Journal, or "Chronique Archéologique", in the Revue Biblique, the entry is contracted to the journal issue and page numbers only. Longer papers cite the author’s name but, in most cases, the title is omitted and only the journal reference given. Some abbreviations are listed at the front of the thesis. Frequently occurring titles are repeated in the Appendix, as are those dealing specifically with the archaeological reports of the monuments in the corpus.

Geometric patterns are not the prime consideration in this thesis, other than in cases where the spaces are filled with figurative images. Therefore, it is only in these cases that the numerical classification of geometric designs is given. With only one exception, the classification used is that of the C.N.R.S. publication, Le décor géométrique de la mosaïque romaine: répertoire graphique et descriptif des compositions linéaires et isotropes. Design No.9, p.11, does not appear in that classification. It occurs frequently on the Palestinian pavements and it is therefore classified according to Ovadiah’s Geometric and Floral Patterns.

For uniformity, the east-west orientation of the church is assumed. Unless stated otherwise, descriptions of the motifs are taken from west to east and from north to south, i.e. from left to right and from bottom to top.

1.‘Amwas: ‘Imwas: Emmaus: Nicopolis - South Church

Map Reference: 149:138, caption, Canada Park.
Plate: 1
Building: Basilical church.
Location: Area south of the church.
Dimensions: Remains of mosaic panel, approx. 2 x 8m.
Description: Fragmentary double panel.
Western Panel: Geometric pavement (235a), originally twelve medallions in six rows of two, of which only two survive. One contains an inscription, the other, a heron (damaged) and two sprigs of plants.

Eastern Panel: Geometric field (153a) forming octagons. Originally six (?), three survive. They contain:
1. A lion attacking a bull.
2. Two birds in a papyrus flower, a third standing, stalks of flowers.
3. A leopard attacking a gazelle.

Fragments: Further fragments of vine trellis found nearby.

Inscriptions: In the southeastern medallion of the west panel, a Greek inscription of four lines, damaged. It comprises the second half of an inscription, the first part of which would have been in the adjoining medallion.

\[ \text{[\text{H}ελιττών | [δ]ηλοφῶν | } \text{[Πε]λαγίων x(α) | Θωμᾶ} \]

... of the sweet brothers, Pelagius and Thomas.

Date: Sixth century.

Bibliography:
-----, *RB* (1936), pp.408-415.

2. Ascalon: Ashqelon: Ashkelon-Barnea

Map Reference: 109.121

Plate: 2

Building: Northernmost of two churches. Basilica (?).

Location: Only portions of the foundations survive, causing problems with the location of the figural mosaics. According to the excavator they are in an aisle (nave
?), Avi-Yonah and Ovadia say the north aisle, although, in his *Corpus of Churches*, Supplementum 1, Ovadia suggested the "hall". The dimensions suggest the nave although the inscription commemorates the building of a diaconicon.

**Dimensions:** 6 x 10.40m.

**Description:** At the centre of the west border, an amphora from which issues an ivy trellis, forming a border (64d) around a geometric panel, (163c but with alternating circles and squares within the octagons).

**Inscriptions:** In the centre of the field, an inscription of six lines within a rectangular panel:

```
'Ετος 602 μη(νάς) Ἄρτε(μισίου) και 8 Ἰ(νδικτώνος)
Ἐπὶ τοῦ θεοφιλ(ετάτου) και ἄγιωτ(άτου)
ἐπισκ(ήπου) Ἀναστασίου τὸ
πᾶν ἔργον τοῦ διακονικ(οῦ)
ἐκ δεμα(λών ἐκτίσθη)
καὶ ἐπιφρώθη
```

In the year 602, the month of Artemesios, the 8th indiction. In the time of the most God-beloved and most holy bishop Anastasius the whole work of the diaconicon, from its foundations, from its foundations, was made and paved with mosaic.

**Date:** According to the era of Ascalon = May, 499 A.D.

**Bibliography:**

- -----, *Guidea e Negev*, pp.145-146.
- -----, *MPI*, no.7, pp.13-14, Pls. 3-5.

3. Bahan - Khirbet Kafr Sibb: Kafr Sib

**Map Reference:** 151.195

**Plate:** No plate.

**Building:** Basilical church.
Location: Nave.
Dimensions: Nave, 6.80 x 10m.
Description: Vine trellis issuing from an amphora. Images in the roundels damaged beyond recognition.
Inscriptions: Ovadiah, *MPI*, no. 8 pp.14-15 cites three mosaic inscriptions associated with the nave mosaic. A fourth is only mentioned. A fifth is mentioned in the narthex. Meimaris lists eleven inscriptions from Bahan, although it is not stated where they were found. See *Sacred Names*, inscriptions 137, 222, 284, 391, 677, 714, 749, 1109, 1110, 1258, 1271.

1. Near the western wall, Greek inscription of one line:

   νεν... [τ]ρο ὁσον(στάτου) κ(α) β... ἰαναιλναγ' ἵπτηρωσ' [ἐ]γένετο

   ...of the most God-beloved ... was made.

2. Greek inscription of six lines in a *tabula ansata*:

   (συ) (Ἀ)γ(συ) / (τ)ὸν δ(ού)λον / ε(ὑ)ς(ε)β(έστα)τον /
   ἔμελ(έστα)τον / (συ) τ(ου) ενελε/χίμεχρ

   ... of the holy, the most pious and the most refined servant.

3. Greek inscription in ten lines, in rhomboid frame:

   (εἰς) τ(ῇ)ν / σ(ε) ξ(ε)ν(φ)ν(ν) / (σ)ου πρε(πε)ν(ε) ν ἀγίασμα /
   Κ(ύρι)ε εἰς μακ/ρότητα / ἥμερ/ρων

   Holiness befits thy house, O Lord, for evermore.

Date: 6th century A.D.

Bibliography:
mention in *MPP*, no.387.
4. Battir

*Map Reference:* 163.126

*Plate:* 3

*Building:* Monastery (?).

*Location:* Room in monastery.

*Dimensions:* 4.65 x approx. 4m.

*Description:* Geometric pavement of polychrome, interlocking lines forming a network of hexagons and four-pointed stars, interspersed with circles, squares, and rectangles. The circles contained fruit plants and shrubs, (destroyed). A citron survives. In the interstices, fruit, sprigs and lozenges. Fish in the rectangles. In the squares, four inscriptions.

*Inscriptions:* Four Greek inscriptions, each of six lines:

1. "Ὑπὲρ σωτηρίας κ(ai) ἀντιλή(μ)ψεως Ἀλυπίου τοῦ φιλ(ο)χρ(ιστο)ν
κ(ai) τῶν 2ιαφερ(ῶν)των.

   *For the salvation and succour of the Christ-loving Alypios and of his kin.*

2. Ἡποίησεν Ἀντωνις Γαλογά τῷ ἔργῳ τοῦτῳ ὑπὲρ σωτηρ-
   ρίας Γεωργίου.

   *Antonis Galoga made this work for the salvation of George.*

3. Ἐπὶ τοῦ θεωριστάτου Γεωργίου πρ(ε)βυτέρ(οι) ἐγένητο τὰ δώα.

   *In the time of the most God-loving priest George these things have been made.*

4. Σπουδῆ Ἠλευθερίου Πιστικοῦ ἐγήνετο μηνι Μαρτίου ἐν(δικτιῶν) ἐ.
By the endeavours of Iulianus Pisticus [this] was made in the month of March of the 5th year of the indiction.

Date: Proposals vary from the second half of the sixth or the seventh century, to the eighth. The former most likely.

Bibliography:
Vincent, RB, 19 (1910), pp.254-261, 2 pls. and plan.
Avi-Yonah, MPP, no,13, p.142, with other references.

5-6. Be‘er Sheva: Beersheba

Map Reference: 129.071.
Plate: No plate.
Building: Not known
Location: Various mosaic pieces of different size discovered in areas of the town. Locations unknown.
Dimensions: Not known.
Description: 5. Fragment of a geometric pavement (219f), in the surround of which a medallion containing a pair of slippers with rounded toes and buttons decorated with a St. Andrew’s cross.
6. Corner of a geometric pavement (153A). Only one hexagon survives, containing a bear, tied to a pole (?) with a red rope.
Inscription: No inscription.
Date: Sixth century (?)

7. Be‘er Sheva - New Bedouin Market

Map Reference: 129.071.
Plate: No plate.
Building: Function unknown.
Location: Room in a complex.
Dimensions: c.4.50 x 7m.

Description: Acanthus border of a geometric pavement comprising medallions containing animals. To date, eleven medallions have been recovered, including a snake, lion, leopard, giraffe, boar, fawn and a hare.

Inscription: No inscription.

Date: Sixth century (?)

Bibliography:
Avi-Yonah, MPP, Suppl. 1, no.335, p.49.
Cohen, IEJ (1968), p.130.
Bagatti, Giudea e Negev, pp.103-104.
Yeivin, A Decade of Archaeology, p.46.
Ovadiah, MPI, no. 13, p.16.


Map Reference: 147.125.

Plate: No plate.

Building: Church.

Location: Uncertain. Mosaic found to the south of building.

Dimensions: Not known.

Description: Vine trellis, forming medallions containing animals and birds. One fragment shows a gazelle.

Inscription: No inscription.

Date: Building, 5th century (?)

Bibliography:
Avi-Yonah, MPP, no.51, p.151.


Map Reference: 140.113.


Plate: 4
Building: Originally thought to be a Roman villa, now re-identified as part of a Christian complex.

Location: Room, oriented northeast to southwest.

Dimensions: 9.50 x 5m; border, approx. 1m wide.

Description: Border: A hunting scene. The narrative begins in the lower right corner and moves clockwise. In the corner a house from which a huntsman gallops, holding aloft a sistrum in his right hand. In the centre of the lower border a circular medallion containing the bust of a woman, her head covered with a veil, holding two ducklings in her robe. Beside her left shoulder, a plant; at her right, an upended waterpot, its contents flowing out. Next an elephant and an eagle. In the left-hand corner another house, then a hare, a wolf and two sheep. A shepherd, his right hand raised is next, followed by a horse, tethered to a tree and a hunter, on foot and carrying a spear, attacking an animal, now missing. The top, left-hand corner of the mosaic is missing. In the centre of the upper border a horseman with a spear, charging at a panther, The northeast corner and most of the right border are missing. The last motif, before the starting point at the house, is a hunter on foot, with a spear, confronting a bear. All the figures stand on a continuous groundline and are interspersed with plants. Lotus flowers in the lower border.

Field: The geometric field (variant of 146f, with alternate rows of large squares inscribed with octagons) comprises ten octagonal panels, each containing an animal. The octagons are separated by squares containing different geometric patterns, two of them with birds in the centre. Four circular medallions inscribed within poised squares in the central axis, four of which contain human figures. From the southwest to the northeast these contain:

1. The personification of Spring, named by inscription EAP. The bust of a girl holding, in her left hand, a cup with a bird perched on the rim. Sprigs on either side of her head.

2. Earth, E, wearing a crown of vine leaves and grain, holding fruits in her robe.
3. Summer, ΘΕΠ[Ω], holding a sickle in her right hand and a sheaf of grain in her left. Her head and part of the inscription have been excised.

4. A geometric pattern (Ovadiah’s 110).

In the octagons the animals are:

Row 1: Hunting dog; ibex.
Row 2: Sheep; tigress.
Row 3: Bear; wild boar.
Row 4: Missing; lion.
Row 5: leopard or jaguar; antelope.

Inscription: No inscription.

Date: Dated by Vincent on evidence of style, dress, etc. to the “Antonine period”, before the end of the third century. Saller’s redating to the sixth century seems more satisfactory.

Bibliography:
Vincent, RB (1922), pp.259-281, figs. and Pls. VIII-X.
Abel, RB (1924), pp.584-604, figs. 1-4, and Pls. X-XVI.
Avi-Yonah, MPP, no.23/1, pp.146-148, with early mentions.
Saller and Bagatti, Town of Nebo, p.134 and n.2.
Bagatti, LA, 22 (1972), p.120, (mention).

10. Mosaic of the Birds

Plate: 5

Building: Small chapel (room H in Abel’s plan), situated a few metres south of the above building.

Location: Floor of room, below a later geometric pavement.

Dimensions: approx. 3 x 2.25m.

Description: A rectangular panel consisting of a vine trellis with grapes and leaves, issuing from an amphora. The vine forms eight medallions in two rows of three, the westernmost row having only two roundels, the space for the third being occupied by the amphora. The animal and bird motifs are:

Row 1: Stag; amphora; stag.
Row 2: Partridge pecking at grapes; dove with spread wings, wearing a bulla on a red cord; pigeon pecking at grapes.

Row 3: crane scratching its head; pheasant pecking at grapes; duck.

In the surround at the eastern end of the mosaic, two peacocks holding a garland of three rosettes, in their beaks. Three rose sprigs above.

Inscription: Above the garland held by the peacocks, a Greek inscription of six lines which reads:

Xριστού παμβασιλῆς ἔκόσμησα τὸ μέλαθρον | Οὐδεὶς ὅδεν ψηφίστιν Ιἱουν | ἂνα μαθητῶν | τοῦτ' ἱερεὺς δισμίων | Ὀβοδιάνος ἡπιόθυμος.

I have decorated the house of Christ, the Universal Monarch, with mosaics, the floor and the entrance, through my disciples (or: in memory of His disciples) [I] His blameless priest, Obodianos the gentle.

Date: c. 500 according to Vincent.

Bibliography:
Abel, RB (1924), pp.584-604.
Avi-Yonah, MPP, no. 23/8, pp.147-148.
Ovadiah, Corpus, no.20, p.32.

11. Beth Guvrin: Mahatt el-Urdi

Map Reference: 140.113.

Plate: 6-9

Building: Basilical church and chapel with associated rooms and court, built above a subterranean tomb chamber.

Location: The entire complex paved with mosaic. Figurative panels in the north and south aisles, diaconicon and Room II.

Dimensions: North aisle, approx. 4 x 14m; south aisle, approx. 5 x 14m; diaconicon, approx. 3.50 x 4.50m; Room II, southeast of the south aisle, 3 x 6.50m.
Description: North aisle: Geometric panel (181b) incorporating four large octagonal panels with figurative images.

Octagon 1: The westernmost octagon is completely destroyed.

Octagon 2: Jonah, resting under the gourd vine, with his name IWNAC and five small sprigs below.

Octagon 3: Two men in a sailing boat with furled sails, one man rowing.

Octagon 4: A small plant growing from an amphora, flanked by two peacocks, damaged.

In the interstices at the east end, two lobsters. In the others fish, all destroyed. The western end destroyed.

South aisle: Geometric panel (similar to 205e) forming four large octagons, surrounded by squares, containing animals and birds. Circular medallions are inscribed within the octagons. From the western end these contain:

Octagon 1: Destroyed.

Octagon 2: Boat with two rowers, one of whom leans over the side to repel a green sea-monster, a ketos. The motifs in the surrounding squares destroyed except for the two easternmost, which contain an elephant (damaged) and an ibex.

Octagon 3: A lion killing its prey (badly damaged). The two upper squares and the two lower squares each contain two birds (too mutilated to identify), flanking a lotus plant. The two squares on either side contain vases with "fountains of life" flowing from them, flanked by birds (destroyed, only the outline remains).

Octagon 4: Two peacocks holding a garland between their beaks, flanking a chalice containing fruit. Sprigs of plants on either side of their heads and below the chalice. The motifs in six of the surrounding squares have been damaged beyond recognition: the remaining two contain a horse and a bull.

Room at eastern end of south aisle - Diaconicon (?): Mosaic floor almost completely destroyed, as also the inscription inside the door. Panel appear to have had a border of interlacing circles and squares (81b), each containing a bird, animal or geometric motif.
Room 2: Room at southeast corner of the complex, at east end of court. Field of square panels containing animals and birds.

Inscriptions: The remains of an inscription inside the door of the diaconicon. Only a few letters survive, insufficient to decipher.

Date: Sixth century (?)

Bibliography:
Baramki, LA, 22 (1972), pp.130-152.
Bagatti, LA, 22 (1972), pp.120-122.
-----, Giudea e Negev, p.125 (mention).
-----, MPI, no.17, pp.18-20.

12. Beth ha-Shitta

Map Reference: 192.217.

Plate: 10

Building: Monastic farm, with two chapels and a winepress paved with mosaic.

Location: South chapel (room 9).

Dimensions: 3.60 x 4.66m.

Description: Crudely executed panel divided into 70 squares, each containing various geometric designs and, in a few cases, Greek letters. At the eastern end, an arch with a suspended lamp and a palm branch, on either side of a large rosette. Other curious motifs, some geometric, others unidentifiable.

Inscriptions: Greek letters incorporated into the squares of the main panel, some perhaps improbably interpreted as:

\[
\begin{align*}
\Pi(\nu\epsilon\mu\alpha) & \quad \text{ΒΘ(βοηθεί)}
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Μ(αρί)} & \quad \Sigma(\Gammaησού)
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{ΚΡΣ(Κύριος)} & \quad \text{Ε(Εὐσεβίω)}
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{ΙΗΧΘΣ (Ιη[σοῦς] Χ[ριστός] Θ[εοῦ Υἱός] Σ(ωτήρ))}
\end{align*}
\]

Holy Spirit Help
Date: 5th - 6th century according to Aharoni; 7th century according to Avi-Yonah.

Bibliography:
Aharoni, Yediot, 18 (1954), pp.209-215, figs. 1-2, Pls VII(2) and VIII(1-2).
IEJ, 3 (1953), p.266.
Avi-Yonah, ACIAC, 5, p.122.
Yeivin, A Decade of Archaeology, p.46.

13. Bethlehem: Bet Lehem

Map Reference: 169.123.
Plate: 11

Building: Church of the Nativity, basilica with nave and four aisles and a transept. Below the centre of the transept, the remains of an octagonal building from the Constantinian church built above the cave of the Nativity.

Location: Originally entirely paved with mosaics, lying 60cm (Avi-Yonah) or 75cm (Petrozzi) below the floor of the larger Justinianic basilica. Remaining sections in the nave and the octagon.

Dimensions: Nave, 6.80 x 16.36m; western field, 6.50 x 6.80m, eastern field (geometric), approx. 10 x 6.80m. Octagon, 3.5m² survives.

Description: Nave - western field: The central field is destroyed. Surrounded by a border, mostly destroyed, of acanthus rinceaux containing fruit: a lemon; two small flowers in the corner; a melon; two pears; a water-melon.

Octagon: The surviving section on the north side of the octagon comprises the remains of three panels:
1. Geometric floor (similar to 195d, but with the guilloche forming octagons, rather than squares, in alternate spaces. Alternate octagons are inscribed with circles). Seven
medallions survive, of which four contain birds and plants. These are, a cock pecking at a bunch of grapes; a partridge among shrubs; a bird (unidentifiable); three shrubs.

2. A triangular panel of vine trellis, with leaves and bunches of grapes.

3. Geometric field (233b) with a border of acanthus and cornucopiae, forming rinceaux which contain pomegranates; a melon; a pine cone; a bird packing at a plant.

North of the Octagon: A fragment of vine trellis, with bunches of grapes.

Inscriptions: At the east end of the nave, on either side of the steps to the bema, in the central square of a geometric panel, the inscription:

\[
\text{IX\&Y} \\
\text{Σ}
\]

\textit{Jesus Christ the Son of God, Saviour}

\textit{Date}: Originally dated to the fourth century by Harvey and Swift. Vincent and Avi-Yonah argue for the late fifth. This dating, before the Justinianic rebuilding, is more plausible.

\textit{Bibliography}:
Crowfoot, \textit{ECP}, pp.119-122.
M. Petrozzi, \textit{Bethlehem}, Jerusalem, 1971, pp.61-64.
Ovadiah, \textit{Corpus}, no.22a, pp.33-35.
------, \textit{MPI}, no. 19, pp.21-23.


\textit{Map Reference}: 168.237

\textit{Plate}: 12

\textit{Building}: Church.

\textit{Location}: Not known. Found prior to the excavation of the building.

\textit{Dimensions}: Fragment only.

\textit{Description}: A fragment of vine trellis with one medallion containing a stylized basket with grapes.

\textit{Inscription}: No inscription.
Date: 5th - 6th century.

Bibliography:
HA, 14 (1965), pp.7-8.


Map Reference: 171.123.
Plate: 13

Building: Apsidal "roof chapel" built above the cave church commemorating the Annunciation to the shepherds.

Location: Pavement of hall.

Dimensions: approx. 4 x 4.50m.

Description: Rectangular panel with elliptical east end. In the centre an amphora, from which spring two stems of a grape vine. Above the amphora and encircled by the vine, a circular medallion, with geometric infill and stylized flowers around the edge. On either side of the amphora, a branch of flowering shrub. On the left hand side, the mosaic is pierced by a circular hole, giving a view into the church below.

Inscriptions: On either side of the mosaic, below the amphora, two inscriptions, surmounted by flower buds. The right hand inscription is almost completely destroyed. That on the right, in Greek, of six lines reads:

Μνήσθητι Κ(υρι)ε / τοῦ δούλου / σου Λααζάρου / καὶ
πάσης τῆς / καρποφορίας / αὐτῶν + Ἀμήν

Remember, O Lord, your servant Laazarus and all his contributions.

Date: 5th century.

Bibliography:
Tsaferis, LA, 25 (1975), pp.5-52, plates.
-----, Qadmonior, 6, nos.3-4 (23-24), (1973), pp.120-122, plates.
-----, IEJ, 23 (1973), pp.118-119, plate.
-----, RB, 80 (1973), pp.421-422.
A number of mosaic pavements, from both Christian and Jewish buildings have been found in and around Beth Shean.

*Map Reference:* 197.212.

**16. Beth-Shean: El Hammam**

*Plate:* 14-15

*Building:* Funerary chapel.

*Location:* The upper of two superimposed pavements in the hall of the chapel and the narthex.

*Dimensions:* Irregular shaped hall; north wall, 5.95m, south wall, 5.75m x 5m. Narthex, 2.20 x 5.9m.

*Description:* Hall Mosaic: Single, large panel of vine trellis springing from a central acanthus tuft, flanked by peacocks at the entrance. Fifty-six medallions in eight rows of seven. Nine medallions destroyed.

The motifs within the trellis comprise birds, animals and fruit, vintage and hunting scenes and baskets of fruit. From west to east and from north to south these are:

**Row 1:** Basket with pink fruit; man with a basket of grapes on his back, carrying a vintager’s knife, moves towards the centre; peacock; acanthus tuft; man, partly destroyed but similar to the former, faces the opposite way; destroyed, possibly basket of fruit.

**Row 2:** Hare eating grapes; three pomegranates; chukar partridge; hare eating grapes; two birds, either crows or doves; two medallions destroyed.
Row 3: Two female pheasants; the next four medallions read as a single scene running from right to left. Two sheep are being chased by a large mastiff, urged on by a man holding a red cloak in his left hand and a club in his right. Medallion 6 and 7, a basket of apples; two watermelons, damaged.

Row 4: A man with a spear attacking a charging boar in the next roundel; motif destroyed; three men in blue loin cloths, with outstretched arms, treading grapes; the next two roundels contain a donkey, carrying a pannier of grapes, being driven by a man in a green tunic, who carries a double whip in his right hand and a basket of grapes on his left shoulder; two spur-winged plovers (?).

Row 5: A brown bear, facing right and chasing two female ibexes in the next two medallions; pheasant; basket of fruit; two partridges of an African type; guinea fowl.

Row 6: Duck; man wearing a tunic, sitting on an upturned basket and playing a pipe; an overturned basket with grapes spilling out and the hindquarters of a hare protruding from it; figure destroyed, only a human hand and foot survive; the next two roundels (partly destroyed) contain a hunter with a spear who attacks a leopard; hare eating grapes.

Row 7: Basket of figs; two cocks fighting; medallions 3 to 6 destroyed; three cone-shaped objects, similar to a motif at Bet Alfa and doubtfully identified by Sukenik as goblets.

Row 8: Stag; long-haired goat; medallions 3 to 6 destroyed; running antelope.

As well as grapes, the interstices of the vine trellis contain various kinds of fruit: apples, pomegranates, figs, pears. below the wine press, two doves.

Border: Acanthus border of varying width to accommodate the irregular size of the room. The roundels contain fruits: pomegranates, grapes, apples, pears, figs, melons, lemons, dates. In each corner an acanthus head, that at the south-east corner destroyed. The head in the north-east corner is beardless.

Narthex: Single panel bordered by a ribbon-fret border (66a) with pomegranates, apples and ivy leaves in the spaces. On the south side an extra border of 65f, with ivy leaves in the interstices. Much of the panel is destroyed. It originally contained
personifications of the twelve months, their names and the number of days in each
month written above them. Because of the spacing of the surviving figures there must
have been a central space which Avi-Yonah suggests may have contained the Sun
and Moon. The figures walk in a landscape suggested by plants which separate them
and are arranged in two groups. On the left (northern) side January to June; on the
right, July to December.

Those in the northern group are:

January: Almost entirely destroyed, but wore a long dress and sandals.
February: Only a bare leg and a fragment of garment survive.
March: Destroyed.
April: The head of a figure carrying a lamb on its shoulders is all that survives.
May: Only a fragment of the shoulder remains.
June: Destroyed.

In the southern group more remains:

July: A young man wearing a sleeveless, belted tunic, holding a large green leaf filled
with yellow and green fruit.
August: A youth wearing the same kind of garb as July. In his right hand he holds a
square fan with diagonal patterning; in his left hand a jug with two handles.
September: Also a tunic-clad young man. His right arm is bent over his head; in his
left hand he holds a double-handled jar.
October: Destroyed.
November: Wears a tunic and carries either a bundle of lime rods or a torch in his
right hand, a basket, trap or possibly a brazier in his left hand.
December: The only female figure, wearing a long, girdled robe with large sleeves, a
mantle over her head and slippers on her feet. Her right hand is concealed in her robe;
in her left she carries a mattock.
Inscriptions: All the motifs are inscribed with their Latin names and the number of days in each month. Avi-Yonah suggests that there may originally have been an inscription in the centre of the narthex panel. In the left-hand group:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ΙΑΝΟΥΑΠΙΚ</th>
<th>Φ[ΕΒΡΟΥΑΠΙΟϹ]</th>
<th>[ΜΑΡΤΙΟϹ]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ΗϹΜ [ΑΑ]</td>
<td>[ΗϹΜ ΚΗ]</td>
<td>[ΗϹΜ ΑΑ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ΑΙΠΙΑΙΟϹ</td>
<td>ΜΑΗ[ΟϹ]</td>
<td>[ΗϹΜ ΑΑ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ΖΗΜ Α</td>
<td>[ΗϹΜ ΑΑ]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the right-hand group:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ΙΟΥΑΗΟϹ</th>
<th>ΑΓΟΥϹΤΟϹ</th>
<th>ΚΕΤΕΜΒΡΗΟϹ</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ΗϹΜ ΑΑ</td>
<td>ΗϹΜ ΑΑ</td>
<td>ΗϹΜ Α</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ΟΚΤΟΒΡΗΟϹ]</td>
<td>[ΝΟΕ]ΜΒΡΗΟϹ</td>
<td>[ΗϹΜ ΑΑ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ΗϹΜ ΑΑ]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Date: Mid-sixth century.

Bibliography:
M. Avi-Yonah, "Mosaic Pavements at el-Hammam, Beisan", *QDAP*, 5 (1936), pp.11-30 and Pls. XIV-XVII.
Bagatti, *Galilea*, pp.303-304, and one photograph.
Ovadiah, *MPI*, no.27a, p.31.

17. Beth Shean: Monastery of Lady Mary: Kyria Maria

Plate: 16-19

Building: Monastery complex.

Locations: Hall, Chapel, "Room L", opening off the hall. All other rooms have mosaics of geometric patterns.

Dimensions: Hall, approx. 16 x 9.50m.
Description: Hall: The mosaic runs from south to north. Geometric pavement similar to 214a, of outlined triaxial pattern, but with tangent eight pointed stars, forming squares and octagons. In the centre of the floor a large circle with a border of 10g. In the centre of the circle a medallion with two half-length figures representing the Sun and Moon. The former is crowned with golden rays, the latter with a crescent. Both hold torches.

The outer circle is divided into twelve segments each containing the full-length figure of a man, placed with heads to centre. They personify the twelve months, identified by inscriptions with their names and the number of days in each month.

From the upper right segment and moving anti-clockwise they are:

January: Destroyed, except for the head and one shod foot.

February: Clad in a short tunic with bare feet, he carries a two-pronged rake or fork over his left shoulder, a branch in his right hand.

March: In military dress, booted and leaning on a shield, but otherwise unarmed.

April: Short tunic, bare feet, carrying a goat and a basket.

May: Bare feet, with breeches and a long cloak. Carries flowers in the folds of his cloak.

June: Wearing a short tunic and with bare feet, carries an object identified by Roussin (Imagery, p.85) as a seed box.

July: Wears a short tunic and carries a sheaf of wheat.

August: Now destroyed, but appears to have worn a long tunic and had bare feet (from the early drawing by Miss Muriel Bentwich).

September: Wearing a short tunic, carries a knife and basket and a bunch of grapes.

October: Carries a lime rod and a net (?) slung over his shoulder.

November: In a short coat and bare feet, he carries a sheaf of grain in his right hand, ? in his left.

December: In a short tunic and bare feet, he carries a basket of grain in his left hand, scattering it with his right.
Remainder of Floor: In the interstices of the geometric pattern, birds, fish, fruit, bells, baskets, jars and vases, and hanging lamps. In addition there are fifteen octagonal patterns arranged in two rows, each of three octagons, at either end of the central circle; a further three, partially cut off by the circle, lie around the edge of the calendar. Of these, thirteen contain animals, the other two human figures. These are:

Row 1: Springing lion; zebra (?); giraffe.

Row 2: Ostrich (?); hare (?) with its head in a basket (damaged); elephant (head damaged).

Row 3 (around the edge of the calendar): gazelle; dog; goat.

Row 4: Legs of a man wearing sandals (the rest destroyed); two confronted peacocks.

Row 5: boar; man on horseback shooting a bow and arrow; a hyena (?) with two arrows lodged in it (upside down).

Inscriptions: Two Greek inscriptions. At the main entrance (lower left), an inscription of eight lines in a tabula ansata:

+ Πι[σσορα] (?) ὑπότο τυλήμας και(αί) τελ(εί)άς
ἐν Χριστῷ ἀναπαύεις Ζοσίμου
Ἀλκινόου και(αι) σωτηρίας
και(αι) ἀντιλήμψεις Ἰωάννου
ἐνδοξ(οτάτου) ἀπὸ ἐπάρχων και(αι) Πέτρου
και(αι) Ἀναστασίου φιλοχριστον
χοιρίων και(αι) παντοτο τὸ εὐλογημένου
αὐτῶν οἴκου εὐχαίς τῶν Αγίων Ἀμήν +

+ An offering (?) on behalf of the memory and perfect rest in Christ of Zosimus, illustrious, and the preservation and succour of John, the most glorious ex-prefect, and of Peter and Anastasius, Christ-loving counts and of all their blessed house, through the prayers of the saints. Amen. +

At the northeastern entrance to room K, a Greek inscription in four lines:

+ Χριστοτελείως ὑμῶν σχέτιν και(αι) ἀντιλήμψεις γενοῦ
Κυρί(ου) Ἰωάννου ἐνδοξ(οτάτου) ἀπὸ ἐπάρχων και(αι) τούτῳ εὐλογημένῳ αὐτοῦ οἴκου εὐχαίς τῶν Αγίων Ἀμήν
+ O Christ our God, be thou our protection and succour of Lord John, most glorious ex-prefect, and of his blessed house, through the prayers of the Saints. + Amen.

At the feet of each of the personifications of the months, their Latin names in Greek characters, and the number of days in each:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Number of Days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Η’Μ</td>
<td>ΛΛ</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Η’Μ</td>
<td>ΚΗ</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Η’Μ</td>
<td>ΛΛ</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Η’Μ</td>
<td>Λ</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Η’Μ</td>
<td>ΛΛ</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Η’Μ</td>
<td>Λ</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Η’Μ</td>
<td>ΛΛ</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Η’Μ</td>
<td>ΛΛ</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Η’Μ</td>
<td>ΛΛ</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Η’Μ</td>
<td>ΛΛ</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Η’Μ</td>
<td>ΛΛ</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Η’Μ</td>
<td>ΛΛ</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Η’Μ</td>
<td>ΛΛ</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Η’Μ</td>
<td>ΛΛ</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Η’Μ</td>
<td>ΛΛ</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Η’Μ</td>
<td>ΛΛ</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Η’Μ</td>
<td>ΛΛ</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Η’Μ</td>
<td>ΛΛ</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Η’Μ</td>
<td>ΛΛ</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Η’Μ</td>
<td>ΛΛ</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Η’Μ</td>
<td>ΛΛ</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Η’Μ</td>
<td>ΛΛ</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Η’Μ</td>
<td>ΛΛ</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Η’Μ</td>
<td>ΛΛ</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chapel, Room G

Dimensions: 6 x 9.50m.

Apse: Border of 68d with small plants in the spaces.

Field: Geometric panel (235a), arranged in thirteen rows of roundels, comprising eighty-eight in all, of which all but four contain a bird. As well, in rows 2 and 3, two large medallions are superimposed onto the pattern, each containing a peacock. Identification of some of the birds is difficult, but they include eagles, ducks, beribboned birds, pheasants, wading birds, eagles with outspread wings. Most birds are oriented to the west, exceptions being the right hand bird in rows 2 and 3, five of the birds in row 4 and three in row 5. These seem to be positioned at random.
The spaces between the medallions contain rosettes, except that at the western entrance, immediately above two confronted cocks, which contains a citron.

**Inscriptions:** Two Greek inscriptions at the north-eastern and south-eastern corners of the main panel. The lower six lines of the north-eastern inscription have been relaid, in a clumsy manner. The inscription, in twelve lines reads:

\[\text{Ἐπού ἐστὶν τὸ στεφαν(ο)σταυρ(ο)ν} \]
\[ἐκ(ε)ι κείται(αι) τὸ πελλαϊχὸν τοῦ} \]
\[στόματος τοῦ μνημείου} \]
\[ἐχον χρισ(ε)ια Ἐνθὰ κατεί(θ)ι(α)α} \]
\[τὴν φιλά(χ)υστά(ν)μου ἀδελφὴν} \]
\[سياسات ἐγὼ Ἡλ(ε)ικας ἀλαχίστος} \]
\[ἐλέει Θε(ο)υ ὦ ἐ(γ)χεστος ἀν(ε)πάρ(ε)τι} \]
\[ὁ δὲ μη(ν) Μαύρ} \]
\[τετάρτη Ἰνδικται(ω)νος} \]
\[πεντε(καδ)εκάτης} \]
\[ἡμέρα δὲ ἦν ἤ τῆς Μεσ(ε)σ(ο)-} \]
\[πεντηκοστῆς]}

+Where the wreathcross is, there lies the ... (?) of the mouth of the tomb, having rings. There have I laid my Christ-loving sister, Georgia, I, Elias, by the mercy of God a most lowly recluse; now she died on the fourth day of the month of May of the fifteenth indiction, moreover it was the day of Mesopentecost.

The southeastern inscription, also in Greek is in fifteen lines. It reads:

\[\text{Π(ατρ(ο)ς xi(α) Ὕ(ε)ο(υ) xi(α) Ἄγαθος Πν(εύματος) εὐλογῶ xi(α) ἀναθε-} \]
\[ματίζω ἐκαπτόν τίνα μετ' ἐμὲ} \]
\[ξ(ω)λόντα ἢ αὐτήν ἢ τίνα τ(ω)ν αὐτῆς} \]
\[ἡ xi(α) ἐπ(α)ροντα ταυτά μου τά} \]
\[+ γράμματα +}
Where the wreath-cross is, there lies the ... (?) mouth of the tomb, having rings; and he who wishes lifts up the wreath-cross and finds the ...(?) and buries the dead. But is the Lady Mary, who founded this church, desires to be laid in this tomb - or anyone of her family at any time - I Elias, by the mercy of God a recluse, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost curse and anathematize everyone after me that hinders her or any of hers, or that takes up this my + inscription +

Date: According to the northeast inscription 10th April, 567.

Room L
Small room or parlour opening out of the north end of the main hall.

Dimensions: approx. 3.50 x 5m.

Vine trellis with two vine stems arising from a single, centrally-placed amphora inside the door. The vine forms twelve roundels, in three rows of four, each containing human figures. These are:

Row 1: A man in a short tunic leading a donkey carrying panniers; a man in a short tunic cutting a bunch of grapes into a basket standing below; a man in a short tunic standing with his left leg crossed in front of his right, leaning on a staff; (damaged), only the head and tail of a donkey remain.

Row 2: A man in a short tunic carrying a basket of grapes on his left shoulder; a man in a short tunic holding a sickle in his right hand, a bunch of grapes which he is about to cut from the vine in his left, and a basket which is hanging from a tendril of the vine; a man in a short tunic seated on a round stool, or lidded basket, playing a long, single pipe, while a large dog sits on its haunches beside him, its head turned away from the musician; all that remains are the vestiges of a wine press with the legs of a man treading the grapes.

Row 3: A man in a short tunic armed with a spear and a shield, attacking a running lioness with her two cubs; in the next two medallions (badly damaged), a man in a fluttering cloak confronts an animal of which only the hind legs can be seen, while
another man attacks it from the side; a black man, clad in a mid-calf length sarong, with a head-dress of feathers (?) leads a spotted giraffe on a leash, with his left hand, his right is outstretched.

*Interstices:*

*Row 1:* Doves on either side of the chalice; two partridges in the next spaces; a bird in each corner.

*Row 2:* Wading bird; ibis; boar (?); hare eating grapes from the vine; small bird.

*Row 3:* Bird; leopard; destroyed; unidentified animal; ibex.

*Row 4:* Pheasant (?); deer; destroyed; fox (?); beribboned parrot.

*Inscription:* In the doorway of the room, a Greek inscription of four lines:

\[
+ \text{Ἐτελ(ε)}\omega\eta σύν Θ(ε)\iota \\
\text{τὸ ἔργον ἐν χρόνος} \\
\text{Ἡλ(ε)ίου θεοφ(ιλεστάτου) πρεσβ(υτέρου) \\
[ἔγι]λειστοῦ [ἐτε...]} \\
\text{Ἱ(λ) οὐκ ἔωσ(το) σβικτονος}β
\]

The work was completed with the help of God in the time of Elias the most religious priest and recluse, in the year 6... the 2nd indiction.

*Date:* The date, judging by the indiction, is probably 568/9, a year later than the mosaic of the chapel, also donated by Elias.

*Bibliography:*


-----, *PEFQS*, 64 (1931), pp.62-68, Pls.I-IV.


18. Beth Shean: "Imhoff"

*Plate:* 20

*Building:* Monastery of seven rooms, of which four have mosaics.

*Location:* Room 6.

*Dimensions:* 3.50 x 3.70m.
Description: Geometric pavement (124f), with beribboned parrots in all the spaces.

Inscription: Near the entrance, a Greek inscription, quoting Deuteronomy 28.6:

+ Εἰρήνη ἡ εἰσοδὸς σου καὶ ἡ ἕξοδος

+Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.

Date: 5th - 6th century.

Bibliography:
RB, 67 (1960), pp.400-401, Pl. XXVIIb.
-----, Beth Shean Valley, p.189.
Ovadiah, MPI, no. 28, p.32.


Plate: 21

Building: Large villa.

Location: Room south of the court.

Dimensions: Not known.

Description: Pattern of type 125c, with flower sprigs, a bowl, beribboned parrots, heart-shaped leaves.

Inscription: No inscription.

Date: Fisher suggests fourth century; Avi-Yonah calls it a "Byzantine house".

Bibliography:

20. Beth Shi‘ar: Beit Shi‘ar: Beit Scha‘ar: Deir Sha‘ar

Map Reference: 163.117

Building: Church or chapel.

Location: Not known.

Dimensions: Room measures 15 x 8.10m.
**Description:** Described only as being similar to Umm er-Rus. This suggests a vine stem issuing from an amphora.

**Inscriptions:** Greek inscription of four lines:

\[ \text{[ "Υπέρ αὐ] τιλή [ μφαως τῶν] καρποφορῳ[ρούντων \ldots] \ldots Κάσιον κ(αί) ἵωάνιν Ζαχαρί[ς] \ldots] } \]
\[ καὶ ἵωάνιν Ἄπεσάμβου κ(αί) ἵωάνιν κ(αί) \ldots \ldots \] \( α ἐπελιўη \) \( τῷ ἐργον \) \( ἔτε(ί) \ldots \)

For the help of the benefactors ... Cassion, John, Zacharias and John Abesombos and John and ... the work was completed in the year ...

**Date:** Second half of sixth century by Germer-Durand on epigraphical grounds.

**Bibliography:**

Vincent, RB (1903), pp.612-614, plan and Fig.

Avi-Yonah, MPI, no.26, p.149, with further mentions.

Bagatti, Giudea e Negev, pp.51-54.

---

**21. Bir el-Qutt: Khirbet Siyar el-Ghanam**

**Map Reference:** 170.125.

**Plate:** No plate.

**Building:** Monastery complex, dedicated to St Theodore, or, as recorded by Procopius, of the Lazi.

**Location:** Western portico of the court.

**Dimensions:** Mosaic panel measures approx. 13.50 x 11.50m. Each square, 45cms.

**Description:** Geometric pavement of 28 squares surrounded by guilloche borders, with fourteen rows of two squares per row. Only the first two rows of squares are fully visible. The motifs are arranged the same or similar in each row, thus, western end, two chalices; next row a water vessel and an amphora. In others a basket of fruit, a round object with a stem, a stylized tree (?) and an inscription.

**Inscription:** A Georgian inscription, only three lines survive. Other than an invocation, O Saint Theodore, the rest is too fragmentary to decipher.

**Date:** Second half of the sixth century.

**Bibliography:**
22. Caesarea Maritima

Map Reference: 140.212.

Plate: 22-23

Building: Traditionally believed to be a basilica discoperta, an unroofed, funerary church, associated with a nearby cemetery, for which reason it is included here. Now suggested to be the courtyard of a villa.

Location: The pavement of the nave, if the building was a church.

Dimensions: Mosaic panel measures c.13.50 x 11.50.

Description: Border: Figurative border of running animals, feet to centre, facing in different directions. In most cases separated from each other by various fruit trees, of which only the pomegranates can definitely be identified. Each corner marked by a diagonally-placed tree. From the north-west corner, running clock-wise these are:

North Border: Corner destroyed; tree; goat; tree; boar (head destroyed), boar; tree; lion; tree; ox; tree; lioness; tree; dog with a collar.

East Border: Corner tree; mule (?); tree; stag; tree; dog; tree (destroyed); horse (damaged, only the hindquarters remain); pomegranate tree; bear; tree; boar; corner tree.

South Border: gazelle; tree; dog with a collar; (destroyed); wild animal (damaged, only the front paw remains); pomegranate tree; ox (damaged); tree; leopard; tree; two mountain goats.

West Border: Corner tree; elephant; (destroyed); lion (?), (damaged, only the hindquarters remain); tree; sheep; tree; bear chasing a horse; tree.

Field: Geometric field (similar to 236a, but with larger circles and small interloops), forming 120 medallions in 12 rows of 10, each medallion containing a bird. Available information does not allow a systematic, row by row description. At least fourteen
species can be identified. These are repeated several times, e.g. the peacock at least nine times. Included are pelicans, peacocks, flamingoes, different kinds of ducks, guinea fowls, cranes and other wading birds.

Inscription: No inscription.

Date: 6th -7th century.

Bibliography:
Leibovitch, CNI, 6, nos.2-3 (1955), pp.31ff., photo.
RB, 64 (1957), pp.259-260.
IEJ, 8 (1958), p.61.
Yeivin, Decade of Archaeology, p.46, Pl. 5.2.
Israel Ancient Mosaics, Pls.29-31.
Avi-Yonah, Antiquity and Survival, 2, nos.2-3 (1957), pp.262-272, fig.12.
-----, Encyclopedia, 1, p.282.
Bagatti, Samaria, p.191, tav.62.
Ovadiah, Corpus, no.28, pp.44-45.
-----, MPI, no62, pp.48-49.

23. Deir Mukelik

Map Reference: 183.135.

Plate: 24

Building: Laura of St. Theoctistus.

Location: Cave of the laura, oriented north-south.

Dimensions: Reported as 3.50m2.

Description: Border: No border as such, but three motifs in the surround:

Southwestern side: Two confronted doves.

Western end of the south side: Two unidentified birds confronting a fruit (citron ?), cut in half.

Field: Geometric panel of tangent interlooped circles and squares (similar to 148g but with larger interloops), forming fifteen medallions in five rows of three, each containing a motif. From south to north and west to east these are, as far as can be determined:

Row 1: Bird; basket; bird.

Row 2: Basket, bird; basket.

Row 3: Bird; (destroyed); bird.
Row 4: Basket; bird; basket.
Row 5: Bird; basket; bird.

South Entrance: Mosaic with fish, cruder work than the field.
Inscription: No inscription.
Date: 6th - 7th century.

Bibliography:
D.J. Chitty, *PEFQS* (1928), pp. 134-152, Pls. I-VII.
*RB* (1979), pp. 462-464, fig. 11 and Pl. XXVIIb.

24. 'Ein Hanniya: 'Ein el-Hanniya

Map Reference: 175.127
Plate: 25

Building: Basilical church, with atrium and narthex.
Location: Nave.
Dimensions: Not known.
Description: Field of vine trellis, issuing presumably from an amphora, now destroyed, forming thirty medallions in twelve rows of five, only fourteen survive. The animals and birds within the medallions have been destroyed and repaired with course tesserae. Remaining are:

Row 7: Left medallion, part of the beak, head and back of a bird.
Row 9: Second medallion from the left, feet and breast of a bird.
Row 10: Second medallion from left, a basket of grapes.
Inscription: No inscription.
Date: 5th - 6th century.

Bibliography:

Map Reference: 165.130.

Plate: 26

Building: Funerary (?) chapel in what may have been a monastery complex, beneath the porch of the church of St. John the Baptist.

Location: Sanctuary of the chapel.

Dimensions: 1.99 x 1.04m.

Description: Border: Acanthus scroll. The eastern border entirely destroyed, four volutes remain on the north side, three on the south and only two on the western side.

Within the medallions:

North Border: A stylized flower with a black cross in the centre; a cut pomegranate; bird (partridge ?).

South Border: Medallions 1 and 2, no motif; bird (partridge ?); stylized flower.

West Border: Stylized flower; cut melon.

Field: Rectangular panel containing a large lozenge, itself divided into nine rhombs, eight with geometric infill, the ninth with an inscription. In the corners, birds pecking at plants:

Western Corners: A peacock pecking at a bud.

Eastern Corners: Each contains two pigeons pecking at a small plant.

Inscription: A Greek inscription of four lines, inscribed in the central rhomb.

\[\chi\alpha\iota | \rho\epsilon\sigma\theta\varepsilon \theta(\varepsilon)\omicron | \mu\alpha\rho\tau\nu | \rho\epsilon\varsigma\]

Hail, martyrs of God

Date: Sixth century

Bibliography:

RB (1893), p.212.
Meisterman, La patrie de St. Jean Baptiste, Paris, 1904, pp.178-190, 196-203, colour plate and photo.
Avi-Yonah, MPI, no.71, pp.157-158, with early mentions.
S.J.Saller, Discoveries at St. John’s, ‘Ein Karim, 1941-2, Jerusalem, 1946, pp.117, 136-150, fig.24 and Pls.7-17 and 20-21.
QDAP, 11 (1945), pp.113ff.
26. El-Makr: Makr: Kafr Makkar: Kh. el-Makkar

Map Reference: 163.260.
Plate: No plate.
Building: Basilica! church dedicated to St. Barbara (according to local tradition).
Location: Not known.
Dimensions: Only fragments survive of the border of a panel. A larger geometric panel belongs to the same complex.
Description: Acanthus border with, in the volutes, a duck which turns its head to peck a leaf; a wading bird; a tigress; part of a pomegranate.
Inscription: No inscription.
Date: 5th or 6th century.

27. Erez

Plate: 27
Building: No archaeological evidence. Said to be Christian by Rahmani.
Location: Not known.
Description: Fragment A: A man in Phrygian dress, wearing a long-sleeved tunic, short mantle fastened on the right shoulder with a brooch, long trousers and sandals, who steps towards the right, but looks back to his left. He leads a male and female tiger on leashes held in his left hand. The tigress suckles a cub. Behind the tigers, a tree with white fruit, damaged and roughly repaired. To the right of the group an elephant with lowered head, its body destroyed and roughly repaired. To the left, the legs and feet of a goat (?) and a similar cloven-footed animal sitting on its haunches, with tail raised, facing the man. Behind them another fruit tree. Further to the left again, a draped human figure of which only an outstretched arm remains.
Fragment B: Below the above panel, a second, depicting a chalice, flanked by the remains of two wading birds.

Inscription: No inscription.

Date: Second half of the 5th century.

Bibliography:
Rahmani, EI, 11 (1973), pp.263-264, Pl. LVI.
Biran, CNI, 19, nos.3-4 (1968), p.44.
Ovadiah, MPI, no.77, p.58.


Map Reference: 200.293

Plate: 28-29

Building: Basilical church, part of a monastery complex.

Location: Beneath the altar in the apse and the transepts of the church.

Dimensions: Panels, 5.50 x 6.50m.

Description: Apses: Basket containing four loaves of bread marked with crosses, flanked by two fish.

North Transept: At the western end, in each of the intercolumniations dividing the transept from the aisle, a peacock pecking at a flower. Above each peacock, three rosettes containing crosses.

The field depicts scenes of Nilotic birds and plants. These include, from west to east and north to south:

Cormorants and a swan (?) standing on a lotus; a flamingo fighting a snake; two ducks nesting in a lotus flower with another above, sipping from a flower; a purple heron pecking at a lotus flower. In the centre a heron with a merganser (?), sitting in a lotus flower. In the top range a woodcock cleaning its wings and a dove looking to the right, both on lotus flowers; above them a small stone tower; a duck sitting in a stalk of lotus flowers to the right. Next, a heron on the cone-shapes roof of a small, arcaded
"kiosk", with large oleander bushes on either side. On the right-hand side, a lotus plant with a duck sipping from a flower; above it a barnacle goose pecking at a flowering shrub and, above that, in the top right corner, the walls and gates of a city.

**South Transept:** A large panel of the same size and style as the north transept. A large area destroyed. In the lower, left corner, a white stork faces a lotus flower. Of the large, surviving area, lower left, a large bird (crane ?), a duck sits on a lotus flower and leans over the edge. To the right of this a crane sipping at a lotus bud; to the right of this again a Nilometer, marked with the Greek number from 6 to 10; on the conical roof another, unidentified (damaged) bird. In the top range two ducks sitting in a lotus bud, a heron attacking a little water snake, curled up in a lotus flower.

**North Intercolumniations:** Figurative panels appear in all the columns dividing the nave from the north aisle. From west to east these are:

1. A heron attacking a mongoose.
2. Two geese (that on the left a barnacle goose) flanking a bowl of water.
3. Two partridges flanking a plant.
4. Two grey herons; the male looks back at the female as they both peck at a shrub.
5. Two francolins holding a garland in their beaks.

**Inscriptions:** Between the eastern section of the north transept and the door of the north pastophorium, a partially preserved Greek inscription of two lines, set below a band of ivy leaves:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{To the holy place remember O Lord Saurus.}
\end{align*}
\]

To the left of the altar, a damaged Greek inscription of five lines, set into a square panel:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{To the holy place remember O Lord Saurus.}
\end{align*}
\]
+ For the memory [and] the rest of him who offered the most holy patriarch

M[ar]t[irios]...

Date: Mid-late 5th century.

Bibliography:

Mader, Biblica, 13 (1932), pp.293ff.
Avi-Yonah, MPP, nos. 72 and 344, pp.158 and Supplement 3, p.52.
-----, Encyclopedia, 2, pp.24-28.
Crowfoot, ECP, pp.73-77, 111, 122-124.
-----, The Sanctuaries of Tabgha, Jerusalem, 1981, plates.
B. Pixner, ibid., pp.33-36, plates.
Ovadiah, Corpus, no.46b, pp.56-59, with bibliography.

29. 'Evron

Map Reference: 159.266.

Plate: 30

Building: Basilical church with three rooms on the northern side and an atrium, all paved with geometric mosaics.

Location: West side of north-western room.

Dimensions: Room, 5 x 6.50m.

Description: Two confronted birds.

Inscriptions: In the north-eastern corner of the north-western room, beside a cross within a circle, a Syriac inscription of one line. In the centre of the room, a Greek inscription, damaged. No further information.

Date: 442/443, according to one of the inscriptions.

Bibliography:

'A'lon, 5-6 (1957), pp.34ff and Pl.5(1).
Avi-Yonah, Actes du 5e congrès, pp.117-120.
-----, Antiquity and Survival, 2, nos. 2-3 (1957), pp.262-272, Figs. 9-10.

Map Reference: 145.152.

Plate: 31

Building: A church, or a chapel, according to the inscription.

Location: Oratory (?)

Dimensions: Room, 4.25 x 5.25; border, 60cms. wide.

Description: Northeastern section of a larger pavement, now destroyed.

North Border: From left to right the motifs are, a bird of prey with a curved beak; a naked man wielding a stick at a buffalo, which was probably being attacked by a crocodile, now destroyed. Between the man and buffalo, a lotus plant with four flowers; another plant is behind the buffalo.

In the corner, a representation of a walled city with the inscription Ἑγύπτιος, and below it, a river with two fish.

East Border: A river with two ducks between two lotus plants with flowers; a ship with open sail, laden with wine jars, rowed by one naked man while another extends his right hand to a third man, standing nearby, between two lotus plants, his right hand raised. To the right of him a wading bird, (crane? damaged). Five fish swim in the river.

Field: Vine trellis with grapes and leaves forming roundels containing inscriptions.

Inscriptions: Below the city in the corner of the border

Ἑγύπτιος

Egypt

In the medallions of the vine trellis, the remains of two Greek inscriptions. In the left medallion:

[*Εγάλνετο τὸ πᾶν / ἔργον τοῦ εἰρυκτηρίου / ἐπί...*]
The whole work of this praying place was made in the time of ...

In the right medallion:

\[ \text{K(ωρ)}e o Θ(εός)ς τῶν δύ/[γά]μεων ποίησον ε/}

\text{λεος μετά πάντων τῶν } / \text{χαρτοφορήσαντων (και)}

\text{χαρτοφορούντων ἐν τῷ } / \text{[τό]πῳ [...π]ρεσβύτης[τής]}

Lord God of Hosts save those who have contributed and who contribute in this place

... priest(?)

Date: Second half 6th century.

Bibliography:
-----, EI, 11 (1973), pp.45-47, Pls. X-XI.
Bagatti, Samaria, p.172.
Ovadiah, MPI, no.86, p.62.

31. Hanita: Kh. Hanuta

Map Reference: 166.276.

Plate: 32-33

Building: Basilica church.

Location: Narthex.

Dimensions: Narthex, 3.20 x 12.40m.

Description: Geometric border (variation of 82c) around a background of scale pattern (219c). Superimposed on the field, a boar in front of a cypress tree and a hare eating grapes (damaged).

Inscriptions: Two Greek inscriptions each in a tabula ansata. No details.

Date: Probably 6th century.

Bibliography:
Prausnitz, Western Galilee, pp.68-69.
‘Alon, 3 (1951), p.11.
QDAP, 10 (1940), p.203.
RB, 63 (1956), p.98.
32. Hazor-Ashdod: Kh. Banaya

**Map Reference:** 124.131

**Plate:** 34

**Building:** Basilical church, with narthex and north hall.

**Location:** Figurative mosaics in the nave, north aisle and north hall.

**Dimensions:** Nave, approx. 4.75 x 13.65m

**Description:**

- **Nave:** Near the main entrance and flanking an inscription in a round medallion, two birds holding a garland that crosses beneath the inscription.

- **Field:** Vine trellis issuing from amphora at the centre of the west end, forming 21 medallions in seven rows of three. From west to east these are:
  - **Row 1:** Lion; amphora; lion.
  - **Row 2:** Mountain goat ? antelope; rabbit sitting on a basket of grapes; mountain goat.
  - **Row 3:** Dog; hind; dog.
  - **Row 4:** Leopard; destroyed; destroyed.
  - **Row 5:** Donkey or horse (damaged); destroyed; donkey or horse (damaged, only the hindquarters remain).
  - **Row 6:** All motifs destroyed.
  - **Row 7:** Crane; destroyed; crane.

In the interstices of the vine, birds pecking a grapes.

- **North Aisle:** Near the western entrance, a small tree flanked by two birds.

- **Northern Hall:** Second panel from the west, of at least five panels, above an inscription, shows two small birds flanking a cross and, to the north of the same inscription, two fish, facing each other and another cross.
Inscriptions: In the nave, near the main entrance, a Greek inscription of nine lines in a medallion:

+ X(ριστο)Ў Χάρητι / Ἑτελε(ε)ωδή τὸ πάν / ἔργον τῆς ψηφώσεως / τῇ Δαισίου τοῦ ἔξ / ἔτεος ιυδ(ικτιώνω)ς Κ(ύριος)ς (') / 

τῶν δούλων / σοῦ

+ With Christ's Grace the whole work of the mosaic paving was completed [in the month of] Daisios (= June), in the year 615 of the fifth year of the indiction. Lord remember Eglon and Maximon your servants.

At the east end of the nave a Greek inscription in six lines:

+ 'Επὶ τοῦ ἄγωντ(άτου) καὶ δοσωτ(άτου) Ἄντωνίου ἑπισχ(έπου) καὶ τοῦ διοσεβ(εστάτου) πρεσβ(υτέρου) καὶ χορηγιού καὶ τοῦ διοσεβστάτου Παύλου πρεσβ(υτέρου) καὶ ἡ γομένου ἐγένετο τὸ ἔργον τοῦτο τῆς ψηφώσεως

+ In the time of the most holy and most religious bishop Antonius and the most God-fearing priest and hegumen Paul, this work of the mosaic paving was made.

In the second panel from the west in the north hall, a Greek inscription of two lines in a rectangular frame:

+ 'Επὶ τ(οῦ) διοσεβ(εστάτου) καὶ ἀγι(ω)τ(άτου) ἡμῶν ἑπισχ(έπου) Ἄντωνίου ἡ ψηφωσίς ἐγένετο ἔξ τοῦ εἰκ σοῦ...}

+ 'Επὶ τ(οῦ) διοσεβ(εστάτου) πρεσβ(υτέρου) καὶ χωρηγιοῦ καὶ τοῦ 'Ερενίου τοῦ διοσεβ(εστάτου) πρεσβυτέρου.../καὶ τοῦ διοσεβ(εστάτου) πρεσβυτέρου...

+ In the time of our most God-fearing and most-holy bishop Antonius, the mosaic paving was made in the year 615...
+ In the time of the most God-fearing priest and country-bishop Kalapodios and the most God-fearing priest Erenios...

Date: According to the era of Ascalon = 512.

Bibliography:
Yeivin, Decade of Archaeology, p.45 (mention).
Avi-Yonah, Encyclopedia, 1, p.308.
-----, Antiquity and Survival, 2, nos.2-3 (1957), pp.262-272, fig.11.
Ovadiah, RB, 82 (1975), pp.552-557.
-----, MPI, no.93, pp.67-68.

33. Herodium - Lower City, Church 2

Map Reference: 173.119.

Plate: 35

Building: Basilical church, with internal apse and rooms along the southern side. One of three in the area.

Location: Nave and southwest chapel (baptistery).

Description: Nave: Vine trellis, mostly destroyed but originally comprising thirty-nine medallions in thirteen rows of three. The only surviving motif is a lion, in the left-hand medallion of Row 2.

Southwest Chapel: Geometric pavement (variant of 149e, but with large squares instead of circles). In each square a heart-shaped ivy leaf.

Inscription: No inscription.

Date: Sixth century

Bibliography:

34. Horvat Berachot: Hurbat Berakhot: Kh. Bureikut


Plate: 36

Building: Basilical church, probably monastic, built over a cave, later converted to allow pilgrim entry. No identification of site.
Location: The whole church paved with mosaics. Figurative mosaic in the nave.
Dimensions: c. 3.85 x 6.50m.
Description: Only the western section preserved, with the southwest corner missing.
Border: Three-dimensional spaced swastika-meander with a square in each space (42e+f) each square containing a beribboned parrot.
Field: Geometric field (153a), reconstructed to contain thirty hexagons arranged in five rows of three. Only the westernmost row survives. The infills in these, from left to right:
Row 1: Lion; buffalo eating a plant; lion.
Inscription: No inscription.
Date: Late 5th or first half of 6th century.
Bibliography:
IEJ, 26 (1976), pp.206-207.

35. Horvat Galil: Hurbat Galil: Kh. Jalil

Plate: No plate.
Building: Church.
Location: Not known.
Description: Remains of geometric pavement (of types 71e and 62 as far as can be ascertained), the medallions containing animals, birds, plants and geometric patterns.
Inscription: No inscription.
Date: 5th century.
Bibliography:
Gizov, Western Galilee, pp.52-55, photo.
Ilan, Nofim, 5 (1976), pp.54-64.
Ovadiah, MPI, no.98, p.70.

36. Horvat Hoga: Hurbat Hoga: Kh. Huj
Map Reference: 104.102.

Plate: No plate.

Building: Details not known.

Location: Near the entrance to the building.

Description: A pair of sandals.

Inscription: No inscription.

Date: "Byzantine period".

Bibliography:
Ovadiah, MPI, no.99, pp.70-71.

37. Horvat Karkara

Map Reference: 170.275.

Plate: 37

Building: Details not published.

Location: Not known.

Description: Geometric field of tangentially interlocking circles (variant of 235a with the interloops forming circles of alternating sizes), with unspecified birds in the centre of each circle.

Inscription: Greek inscription of six lines:

Ἐπὶ τοῦ ἀγωντάτου Χαὶ(αί) θεοφιλεσπάτου ἀφι.
ἐπί(σκόπου) ἡμῶν Λογγίνου Χαὶ(αί) τοῦ θεοσ-
β(εστάτου) χωρ(α)ἐπὶ(σκόπου) Πολυχρονίου Χαὶ(αί) τῶν ε-
ἵλαβ(εστάτων) περιοδε(ύτων) Γαείανου Χαὶ(αί) Δω-
ροθέου καὶ Βάσσου ἔτελ(ε)ώθη ἢ ψήφ(ως)
ἐκνεύμη(ν) Δύστρου Λ τοῦ ΓΧ Ἑτους

In the time of our most holy and most God-beloved archbishop Longinus and the most God-fearing country-bishop Polychroniūs and the most reverent visitors Gaeianos and Dorotheus and Bassus was completed the mosaic on the 30th Dystrus of the year 603.

Date: According to the era of Tyre = March, 477.
38. Hurfeish

Map Reference: 182.269.
Plate: No plate.
Building: A large hall.
Location: Not clear. Near "the margin", (entrance ?), of the panel.
Description: A pair of sandals.
Inscription: No inscription.
Date: "Byzantine period".
Bibliography:

39. Jericho, Church of Antimos

Map Reference: 192.139.
Plate: 38-39
Building: Basilical church, in the northwest section of the town.
Location: Nave, entrance to north aisle and north chapel. All the floors were probably paved with mosaic.
Dimensions: Nave, 9m long; panel at door into north aisle, 0.95 x 0.65m; other fragments.
Description: Nave: Geometric field (version of 120c), each square containing a motif, including the remains of an amphora, two wading birds and two fish, one above the other, in a single square.
Door of North Aisle: Two herons, confronting and pecking at a lotus plant.
Panel C: Location uncertain. Geometric pattern (simplified variant of 181a, with no squares in the meanders and no guilloche), containing various motifs, including a horned animal (severely damaged); a palm leaf (?); a jackal eating grapes.

Inscriptions: Two Greek inscriptions. The first, a dedicatory inscription of four lines, was never fully uncovered. It extended the whole width of the nave at the foot of the chancel steps, level with the third pair of columns. The second located in the south aisle, over a tomb:

+ Θήχη Δανιήλ
Μακαρ(ίου) (χα) Τοάν-
νου διαξόνι[ων]

+ The tomb of the deacons Daniel, Makarios and John.

Date: sixth century.

Bibliography:
Augustinovic, Gerico e dintorni, Guida, Jerusalem. 1951, pp.66-77.
Bagatti, Samaria, p.82, Tav. 25 (1-2).
Ovadiah, MPI, Addendum, no.1, p.143.

40-54. Jerusalem

Map Reference: 172.133. For reference to sites across the city refer to Map 3. For specific reference to the sites in the Old City see Map 4.

40. Jerusalem: Gethsemane: Franciscan Church of the Nations

Map Reference: Map 3, I.5.
Plate: No plate.
Building: Basilical church, on the site of the Agony in the Garden.
Location: Nave and North aisle.
Description: Nave: Some green and yellow leaves and red and yellow fruits survive.
North Aisle: Fragments of leaves, flowers or fruit, crosslets and sprigs.
Inscription: No inscription.
Date: Church dated to fourth century.
Bibliography:
Orfali, *Gethsemane*, Paris, 1924, pp.3,12,14, pls.IV-VIII, XXII.
Abel, *ACIAC*, 3 (1934), pp.49ff.
Ovadiah, *Corpus*, no.73, p.84.

41. Jerusalem: Mount of Olives, Dominus Flevit

**Map Reference:** Map 3, I.5

**Plate:** 40

**Building:** Monastery complex.

**Location:** Oratory dedicated to St. Anna or St. Anastasia, north of the chapel.

**Dimensions:** Mosaic, 6.60 x 3.13m.

**Description:** **Field:** Geometric panel (variant of 148f, with eight loops around the circles) comprising circles arranged in twelve rows of alternately two and three medallions, each containing a motif. Only six complete rows survive, with a further six surviving in part on the left side.

**Row 1:** undistinguishable.

**Row 2:** Bunch of grapes; missing

**Row 3:** Three unidentified fruits, possibly apples; three figs or pears; missing.

**Row 4:** Unidentified, (poppy head?); missing.

**Row 5:** Long fruit, marrows (?); bunch of grapes; missing.

**Row 6:** Aubergines (?) in both roundels.

**Row 7:** Three figs; citron; two figs and three small round fruit (cherries?).

**Row 8:** Both roundels contain a heart-shaped leaf on a stem with a flower bud.

**Row 9:** Bunch of grapes; pomegranate; bunch of grapes.

**Row 10:** Pears in each roundel.

**Row 11:** Flower with leaves; melon or gourd; flower.

**Row 12:** Body of a fish; head of a fish.

**Inscription:** Greek inscription of five lines.
This holy oratory was built and decorated by Simeon, friend of Christ, and offered to Christ our Lord for the expiation of his sins and for the repose of his brothers, George the hegumen and Dometios, the friend of Christ.

Date: Early seventh century?

Bibliography:
B. Bagatti, LA, 6 (1956), pp.240-270.
J.T. Milik, RB, 67 (1960), p.554, for the inscription.
Ovadiah, Corpus, no.72, pp.83-84.
-----,MPI, no.120, p.81.

42. Jerusalem: Mount of Olives, Site of Pater Noster Church, Eleona

Map Reference: Map 3, I.5
Plate: 44

Building: Basilica! church.

Location: Not known.

Description: Fragments of mosaic.
1. Border of vine rinceaux with grapes and leaves.
2. In the pavilion of the Pater Noster Church: acanthus scroll, may be wall mosaic.

Inscription: No inscription.

Date: Church dated to c. 372. Mosaic undated.

Bibliography:
Vincent, RB, 20 (1911), p.229ff., pls.IV and VIII.
Cré, OChr, 1, ser.2 (1911), pp.121ff. and 316ff.
Avi-Yonah, MPP, no.113, 5 and 8, pp.165-166, with early mentions.

43. Jerusalem: Mount of Olives, Russian Convent of the Ascension
Map Reference: Map 3, J.5.

Plate: 41

Building: Armenian convent of Pantaleon(?)

Location: Now in the Chapel of the Head of St. John. The middle panel of three.

Dimensions: 3.50 x 3.20m.

Description: Field: Geometric pattern of interlocking circles and squares (variant of 235a) forming thirty-five medallions arranged in five rows of seven, each containing an animal, bird or fruit. The birds face each other in pairs, perhaps the male and female of the species.

Row 1: Duck; duck; wading bird; wading bird; 5-6 partridges; bunch of grapes.

Row 2: guinea fowl; guinea fowl; wading bird; wading bird; 5-6, beribboned parrots; fish in a bowl.

Row 3: Three figs; ivy leaf; dog, barking at a lamb; unidentified conical object (eggs in a cup ?); ivy leaf; three pomegranates.

Row 4: Unidentified; unidentified; pigeon; pigeon; round fruit (melon?).

Row 5: Unidentified; unidentified; heron; heron; pigeon; pigeon; three figs (?)

Inscription: Armenian inscription.

This is the monument of the Lord [=Bishop] Jacob, made on [his] request.

Date: Various ascriptions from the fifth to the tenth century. Dashian, fifth-sixth century. Vincent notes that Armenian tradition ascribes donation to a bishop of Jerusalem living ca. 614 A.D.

Bibliography:
Vincent, RB (1893), pp.241-2.
Dashian, ZDPV (1901), p.166.

44. Jerusalem: Mount of Olives, Russian Museum

Map Reference: Map 3, J.5

Plate: 42
Building: Nothing known. Funerary mosaic (?) Now in the hall of the Russian museum.

Location: Not known.

Dimensions: 6.70 x approx. 7m. Only the north-western corner survives.

Description: Field: Two panels of interlacing circles (235a), separated by a geometric strip with a square containing a sheep. In the central circle of the eastern panel, a pheasant, with a fish in the north-eastern and south-western corners; two bunches of grapes in the north-western corner. The south-eastern motif is missing. In the central circle of the western panel, a Nile duck. In the north-east corner, a fish; in the south-east corner a citron. Other motifs destroyed.

Inscription: Armenian inscription.

This is the tomb of the blessed Susanna, mother of Artavan, 18th of Hori.

Date: Before 551 according to Dashian; pre-sixth century according to Loukianoff, who argues that the pavement is not dated by year, so must predate the introduction of the Armenian calendar in 551/2 A.D.

Bibliography:
Loukianoff, Bulletin de l'Institut de l'Égypte, 13 (1930-33), pp.100-110.
Dashian, ZDPV (1901), pp.155ff, plate.
Avi-Yonah, MPP, no.118, p.169, with further bibliography.
B. Narkiss, Armenian Treasures, pp.21-22.
Ovadiah, Corpus, no.71, pp.82-3.

45. Jerusalem: Mount Zion, Church of the Augustinian Fathers of the Assumption - St. Peter in Gallicantu

Map Reference: Map 3, G.6

Plate: No plate.

Building: Funerary chapel (?)

Location: Panel in the centre of the room

Dimensions: Room 3 x 4m; Mosaic, 1.60 along the surviving edge.

Description: Field: Vine trellis arising from a single centrally placed amphora, flanked by two lions with their backs to the centre, their heads turned back to face the
amphora. Above the amphora, an eagle with a bulla around its neck. On either side of it, in the roundels, a dog hunting a gazelle.

**Surround:** White surround, containing a pair of red sandals and an inscription.

**Inscription:** A Greek inscription at lower, right corner, in the surround.

\[ \text{Εὐτύχ(ε)ι Στέφανε} \]

\[ \text{Farewell Stephan} \]

**Date:** Doubtful dating by Germer-Durand of fourth - fifth century; Vincent dates adjoining room to sixth-seventh century.

**Bibliography:**
Germer-Durand, *RB* (1914), pp.227ff, figs., plans., Pls.IV and IX.
Avi-Yonah, *MPP*, no. 125, p.170, with other early bibliography.

---

46. Jerusalem: Mount Zion, Armenian Garden, Church at Site L

**Map Reference:** Map 3, F.6

**Plate:** 44

**Building:** Triapsidal, basilical church.

**Location:** North apse.

**Description:** Remains of a quadruped (sheep ?) and a hare, facing a tree (damaged).

**Inscription:** Below the figurative panel a Greek inscription of two lines:

\[ \text{[ Ὕπ] ἐρ μνήμης καὶ καρποφορίας τ[ῶν]} \]
\[ \text{[φιλ]οχοῦστὸν ΒΑΣΙΛΟΥ ... καὶ ΒΑ[πτ. Ἡρ.]} \]

\[ \text{For a memorial and as an offering of the Christ-loving Basilo ... and Ba[ssa ?]} \]

**Date:** 5th century.

**Bibliography:**
-----, *PEQ*, 96 (1964/65), pp.16-17, Pl.IXb.
Ovadiah, *MPI*, no.122, p.83.
47. Jerusalem: Musrara (Morasha) Quarter, north of the Damascus Gate, Armenian Chapel

Map Reference: Map 3, G.4.
Plate: 45

Building: Apsidal, funerary or memorial chapel.
Location: Apse and hall.
Dimensions: Room, 6.30 x 3.90m.

Description: Field: Vine trellis springing from centralized amphora and acanthus tuft, at west end. "School of Gaza" type with marked central axis. Forty three medallions in nine rows of five; only four roundels in the two western rows. The amphora occupies the space of the lower two central roundels. The vine roundels contain:

Row 1: Duck; peacock; amphora; duck.
Row 2: Hen; partridge; upper part of amphora; partridge; rooster.
Row 3: Dove; ostrich; basket of fruit; ostrich; dove.
Row 4: Flamingo; dove; goose (?); dove; flamingo.
Row 5: Partridge; heron; chalice; heron; partridge.
Row 6: Stork; goose (?); eagle; duck; stork.
Row 7: Ostrich; dove; partridge in cage; dove; ostrich.
Row 8: Partridge; pheasant; basket of grapes; pheasant; partridge.
Row 9: Goose; heron; swallows; heron; goose.

Apse: Kantharos filled with red fruit, flanked by two partridges and sprigs of flowers. Two more birds, partly covered by the restoration of the bema, above.

Inscription: In the surround between mosaic panel and apse, an Armenian inscription in a tabula ansata, fully published by Strzygowski.

For the memory and salvation of all the Armenians whose names the Lord knows.

Date: Mid-sixth century (?).

Bibliography:
Schick, QSt (1894), p.257.
Bliss, QSt (1894), p.261, fig.
Owsebian, ZDPV (1895), pp.88ff, plate.

48. Jerusalem: Musrara (Morasha) Quarter, Orpheus Mosaic


*Plate:* 48

*Building:* Apsidal funerary chapel.

*Location:* Hall of chapel. Mosaic oriented east to west, with its lower edge towards the apse.

*Dimensions:* approx. 3.7 x 5.20m.

*Description:* Single field divided into three registers.

*Upper Register:* Youthful figure of Orpheus, wearing a chlamys and Phrygian bonnet, seated and holding an eleven-stringed cithara. Surrounded by animals, from left to right: eagle with a bulla around its neck; bear; sheep; snake; mongoose wearing a-harness; partridge; mouse or rat. Below, a centaur, a leopard skin over his left shoulder, his right hand touching his face, his left holding a club; a rabbit; Pan, his right hand outstretched, holds a syrinx under his left arm.

*Border:* Acanthus scroll border forming fourteen medallions, containing:

*South Border:* Duck; citron; galloping horse; pomegranates.

*West Border:* Partridge; stag; ibis.

*North Border:* Almonds; basket of grapes; bull; bird.

*East Border:* Beribboned dove (?); bust of a woman, crowned and wearing a bulla, holding a cornucopia; deer.

*Corners:* Four vegetal heads, those in the southwest and northeast corners bearded, the other two beardless.

*Middle Register:* Two panels paved with stone slabs, perhaps ossuary bases. Between them, a panel with the portraits of two women, haloed and wearing Byzantine court dress of dalmatic, pallium and mantle, with embroidered shoes. The
woman on the left holds a bird in her hands; the woman on the right holds a flower. Between them a pillar with a ribbon tied around it.

**Lower Register:** Wide geometric border pattern (81b) forming two circles and two squares. Within them, from left to right: A hunter with a spear facing right towards a beribboned leopard, leaping left, towards him; a lion leaping to the right towards a hunter, who faces it, also with a spear. Both hunters wear only a chlamys, floating out behind.

**Inscription:** The names of the two women appear beside them:

\[ \text{Theodosia Georgia} \]

**Date:** Varying dates suggested from the 4th to the 7th century. Probably sixth.

**Bibliography:**
- -----, *RB* (1902), pp.100-103, figs.
- Strzygowski, *ZDPV* (1901), pp.136-165, plate, 6 figs.

49. Jerusalem: Old City: Notre Dame de Spasme

**Map Reference:** Map 4, D.3

**Plate:** No plate.

**Building:** Crypt of present church.

**Location:** Near entrance (?)

**Dimensions:** Not known.

**Description:** In the surround of a fragmentary geometric pavement, a pair of red and yellow pointed sandals.

**Inscription:** No inscription.
Date: Fifth or sixth century.

Bibliography:
Avi-Yonah, MPP, no.164, p.178.

50. Jerusalem: Old City, Austrian Hospice

Map reference: Map 4, D.3.
Plate: No plate.
Building: No archaeological remains.
Location: Not known.
Dimensions: Not known.
Description: A fragment with a partridge, head destroyed.
Inscription: No inscription.
Date: Not known.
Bibliography:
Avi-Yonah, MPP, no.100, p.162.

51. Jerusalem: Old City, Casa Nova

Plate: No plate.
Building: No archaeological remains.
Description: Fragment with an unidentified bird, fish, a shellfish.
Inscription: No inscription.
Date: Date unknown.
Bibliography:
Avi-Yonah, MPP, no.103.

52. Jerusalem: Russian Quarter, Orthodox Church of the Holy Trinity

Map Reference: Map 3, F.4.
Plate: No plate.
Building: No architectural remains.

Dimensions: Estimated by Avi-Yonah to have extended over 25m. sq.

Location: Not known.

Description: Three fragments:
1. Head (?) and two lowered wings.
3. Part of a building with arches.

Inscription: Fragment 1 inscribed [xelos5.
Fragment 2 inscribed [rep lié 5.

Date: Not known.

Bibliography:
Avi-Yonah, MPP, no.130, p.171.

53. Jerusalem: Valley of the Cross, Deir el-Moussalabeh - Monastery of the Cross


Plate: 47

Building: Chapel of the monastery. Traditional site where the tree of the Cross grew.

Location: Nave.

Dimensions: Not known.

Description: Border: Acanthus scroll, mostly damaged. At the west end, the surviving medallions contain, from the left:
Destroyed; destroyed; flower, damaged; flower; fish.

Field: Geometric panel (153a). Only two octagons survive, at the western end, each containing a bird-griffin.

Inscriptions: No inscription.

Date: Fifth century (?).

Bibliography:
Kondakov, Archeologicheskoye Puteshestvye po Sirye i Palesinye, St. Petersbourg, 1904, Pls. LVI, LXVI.
Vincent-Abel, Jérusalem Nouvelle, p.943, n.1, Pl.LXXXV, 2-4.
54. St. Stephen

Map Reference: Map 3, G.3.
Plate: No plate.
Building: Church.
Location: Tomb group in a rectangular room.
Dimensions: room, 5.94 x 3.45m.
Description: Field: A diagonal grid pattern with, in the centre, a circle containing a lamb and two branches of a plant.
Inscription: No inscription.
Date: Not known.
Bibliography: Avi-Yonah, MPP, no.158, p.177.

55. Kafr Kama

Map Reference: 192.236.
Plate: 48
Building: Two adjoining apsidal chapels, dedicated to St. Thecla.
Location: Two superimposed pavements, one 20cms higher than the other, in the south chapel (baptistery ?).
Dimensions: Not known.
Description: Upper Pavement: Field: Geometric (125c), filled with crosses and one pomegranate.
Lower Pavement: A continuous border of ivy leaves and lotus or papyrus flowers running around the hall and apse. On the north side, at the entrance to the north chapel, one leaf contains a small fish with plants, another a tiny bird nesting in a
flower. On the step between the two chapels, a heron between two plants, pecking at a
flower.

**Inscriptions:** In the south chapel, a Greek inscription of four lines, at the western end
of the sanctuary, adjoining the chancel rail and level with the door into the north
chapel:

+ Προσφέρει Φλ(αβίου) Κόνωνος (και) Θεόδωρον
  διαχ(όνου) Νοννοῦ ταπ(ε)νοῦ (ivy leaf)
+ Συ(γ)χόρσον τάς άμαρτίας (τοῦ) Εὐσταδίου [π]ρ(βυτέρου)
  τοῦ ταπ(ε)νοῦ Κ(ύριον) καὶ τέχνων Ἀμήν

**The offering of Flavius Conon and of Theodore Nonnos, the humble deacon** (ivy
leaf).

+ Lord, forgive the sins of the humble presbyter Eustathios and of his children. Amen
West of the chancel rail, a further Greek inscription (damaged), between the chancel
screen and the eastern border:

("Αγιά Θέκλα β(ο)ηθ(ε)ι Αναστασίου

_Holy Thecla, help (the family?) of Anastasius._

In the body of the chapel, a Greek inscription of four lines in a _tabula ansata:_

+ Υπέρ σωτηρίας τοῦ ἄγωτάτου Εὐφρασίου ἐπισχ(όπου)/
  καὶ τοῦ ἐνδοξ(στάτου) στρατηγ(ώ)ρου
  ἐτελ(ε)ν(ώ)ή / καὶ ἐψηφ(ῶ)θη ἡ ἁγία Θέκλα χρ(όνοις)
  ἑνδ(εκατών) ὑπ' καὶ Παμφίλου ἀρχιδιαχ(όνου) /
  + Κ(ύριε) Ἰ(ησοῦ) Ἐκ(ριστε) δέξε τήν προσφοράν.
  (τοῦ) Ἀρ(ρ)ιάνου διαχ(όνου)

+ For the salvation of the most holy bishop Euphrasius and of the most illustrious
commander Theodorus, and Pamphilus, archdeacon, the holy [church of] Thecla was
completed and paved with mosaics at the time of the fifteenth indiction  
+ Lord Jesus
Christ receive the offering of Arrianus the deacon.

_Date: Second quarter of the sixth century._
Bibliography:
IEJ, 13 (1963), p.149.

56. Kafr Kanna: Cana-in-Galilee

*Map Reference*: 182.239.

*Plate*: No plate.

*Building*: Remains of rooms, north of the existing church.

*Location*: Hall 6, the upper of two superimposed floors.

*Dimensions*: Not known.

*Description*: Scale-patterned pavement, filled with pomegranates.

*Inscription*: No inscription.

*Date*: "Byzantine period".

*Bibliography*:
Ovadiah, *MPI*, no.142, p.89.

57. Kefar Nahum: Capernaum

*Map Reference*: 204.254.

*Plate*: 43-50

*Building*: Octagonal church built over the traditional site of the house of St. Peter.

*Location*: Pavement of the octagon.

*Dimensions*: Only the dimensions, 3.90 x 1.30m, of the Nilotic fragment from the large octagon are known.

*Description*: **Central Octagon**: Fish-scale pavement with a border of flower buds. In the centre a circle containing a frontal peacock with spread tail.

**Large Octagon**: Fragment from the western side, with a bird, possibly a hen. Also a design of Nilotic plants, of which two remain.
**Date:** Mid-fifth century.

**Bibliography:**
-----, *LA*, 18 (1968), ----.

**58-59. Khasfin: Hisfin: Haspin**

**Map Reference:** 228.250.

58. North of the village of Ramat Magshimim.

**Plate:** No plate.

**Building:** Large basilical church, one of two.

**Location:** South aisle.

**Dimensions:** 7.2m long, width not known.

**Description:** No photographs available. Apparently an orthogonal pattern of florets containing thirty-two motifs, including birds (destroyed) and baskets of fruit.

**Inscription:** Unrecorded Greek inscription of seven lines, mentions "George".

**Date:** Sixth century (?)

59. Approximately 200m east of the above church.

**Plate:** No plate.

**Building:** Monastery complex (?)

**Location:** Two mosaic pavement, one above the other in what was probably the chapel. Only parts of the upper mosaic cleared.

**Dimensions:** Not known.

**Description:** Little known. Geometric field of round medallions, in one of which a bunch of grapes.
Inscription: Not fully reported. A Greek inscription of five lines mentioning the names of donors, who gave "the House of God's Holiness" to the memory of their father. Names a priest, Thomas and mentions the *hegoumenos* of the monastery.

Date: Dated to indiction 7 = 561 or 618.

Bibliography:
HA, 56 (1975), p.3.
-----, *MPI*, no.97, p.70.

60. Khirbet 'Asida

Map Reference: 161.114

Plate: 51

Building: Basilical church.

Location: Nave.

Dimensions: Nave, 4.50 x 15.30.

Description: Field comprises vine trellis, arising from a single, centrally placed amphora, forming 33 medallions, in seven rows of three. Seventeen medallions survive. Those containing animal and bird motifs have been destroyed. Only four are recognizable and an attempt has been made to transform these into plants. The surviving motifs were:

Row 1: A lion; amphora; destroyed.

Row 2: Flamingo; destroyed; flamingo.

Row 9: A bird cage.

All the other medallions contain flowers or fruit, mainly pomegranates, growing from the vine branches. These have all been introduced at a later stage to replace the original motifs.

Inscription: No inscription.

Date: Fifth century (?)

Bibliography:
*QDAP*, 3 (1933), pp.17-19, Pls. IX-XII.
Ovadiah, Corpus, no.100, p.106.

Map Reference: 144.108.
Plate: 52-56

Building: Monastic farm with a basilical church.
Location: All church floors paved with mosaic.
Dimensions: Not known.

Description: Nave: Vine trellis springing from a single, centrally placed amphora at the western end. The vine forms two large medallions on either side of the amphora, smaller medallions for the rest of the field, making rows of five. The central section of the pavement destroyed. The amphora was flanked by two peacocks (now defaced) with birds (defaced) in the other roundels. In the centre medallion at the eastern end, a chalice from which two doves drink.

Border: Inhabited acanthus scroll, filling motifs not distinguished.

North Aisle: Geometric panel (variant of 148b, with rows of larger squares and circles alternating with rows of smaller shapes). The large spaces with animals and birds (destroyed). A large circular medallion in the centre of the aisle containing a ship (damaged). At the western entrance, a vase with handles, containing fruit, flanked by two birds of which only the right remains.

South Aisle: Only the western end remains. The same composition as the north aisle, the motifs defaced. At the western entrance, a vase with handles, containing fruit, flanked by egrets (?), of which only the left remains.

Narthex: Field destroyed, southeast corner of the vine trellis border remains. In the medallions, on the south side, a heron or egret; in the corner a basket of fruit; on the west border a running lioness; a wading bird; a hare being chased by a hound.

Inscriptions: In the central medallion of the west border of the nave, inside the entrance, a Greek inscription of six lines:
We, Azizos and Kyrikos, expressing gratitude, built the church.

A second Greek inscription of six lines in the centre of the north room:

Ἐπανάγια ὑπὲρ ἀναπαυσέως καὶ μνήμης Ἀετίου τὴν ψήφωσιν ἀνέθηκα.

I, Epanagia, set up the mosaic for the repose and memory of Aetios

Date: Sixth century.

Bibliography:
-----, Qadmoniot, 19, nos.1-2 (73-74), p.57, for the inscriptions.


Map Reference: 183.125.
Plate: 56

Building: Monastery complex, founded by St. Sabas in 492, on the site of the Herodian fortress, Hyrcania.
Location: Diaconicon (?) south of the church.
Dimensions: Not known.
Description: Mosaic largely destroyed. Fragment with a guinea fowl facing a small plant; the remains of a fish (?)
Inscription: No inscription.
Date: Late fifth, early sixth century.

Bibliography:
J.T. Milik, ibid., pp.21-27.
Ovadiah, Corpus, no.109, p.112.

63. Khirbet En-Nitla

Map Reference: 196.140, the site of Biblical Gilgal (?)
Plate: No plate.
Building: The third of five churches built one on top of the other between the fourth and the ninth centuries. This church seems to have been a small chapel with a narthex.

Location: Western entrance to the chapel.

Dimensions: Not known.

Description: A bunch of grapes flanked by two doves, crudely worked and seen upside down from the door.

Inscriptions: An inscription appears above the bird and grape motifs but oriented in the opposite direction, towards the entrance. The lettering has not been deciphered.

Some scholars consider them to be in Greek cursive script, others Latin.

Date: Between 614 and 636.

Bibliography:
Kelso, BASOR, 121 (1951), pp.6-8, figs.1-3.
Bagatti, LA, 3 (1952-1953), p.126, fig.1.
Benoit, ACIAC, 5, p.165.
-----, *MPI*, no. 159, p.95.

64. Khirbet Jabaris: Khirbet Jebris

Map Reference: 192-196.

Plate: No plate.

Building: Monastery.

Location: Fragments in a house built on the site.

Dimensions: Each approx. 1.50 x 1m.

Description: Vine trellis issuing from a vase.

Inscription: Damaged Greek inscription of four lines:

```
'Εψηφ[ωδη] [ [ψ oυ υ oχ χ oχ] αυ ~
ινδ(ικτουν) [ [(ετους)] [ ...] ιπι
τοο ((δεσφιλεσθατου oρ οσωτατου)) [Ευμε-
νλου [πρεσβυτερου] [ ...]μ]
```
Paved with mosaic [ ] of the indiction [ ] [(in the year)] [(in the time of the [most pious or most holy] [E]u[h]menios the [priest]).

Date: 6th century.

Bibliography:
Avi-Yonah, MPI (2), no.214, p.29.
HA, 47 (1973), pp.11-12.
Ovadiah, MPI, no.163, pp.96-97.

65. Khirbet Samra: Khirbet es-Samra

Map Reference: 208.236.

Plate: 57

Building: Basilical church.

Location: Border of the nave.

Dimensions: Nave, approx. 4.50m wide.

Description: Vine trellis arising from four vases, placed in the corners. In the trellis grapes and leaves and some small birds, a duck (?), a dove.

Inscriptions: In the body of the nave, two Greek inscriptions, one of four lines, the other of six:

+ Η (ε)ισόδος ύμων εν (α)ιρήνη +
η καταμίνη ύμων πολυχρόνος
τῇ τοῦ Θεοῦ χάρι
t + κυθερομένη +

+ Your coming in peace. + Your solitary stay will last for long by the governed grace of God.

+ Η (ε)ιρήνη τοῦ σωτήρος ήμῶν Χριστοῦ +
ή ύπερέχουσα παντα(χ)οῦ σέν
..... ή πᾶσ(α) σοφία πνεύματος
καὶ ἐν τῇ στῇ τῷ(ῶ)ν (πρώτων) Ἀγίων τὰς (ε)ισόδους
καὶ εἰρήνη(η) ἡξάδους ύμῶν, ν(ω) Κύρι[ε]
+ Ἀμήν +
The peace of Christ our Saviour which prevails everywhere, your ... all the wisdom of the spirit and in ... of the first Saints. your entrances and exits in peace, now O Lord, + Amen +

A third Greek inscription of four lines at the western side of the chancel:

[K](ύριος)ς πυλάξ(ε)ι τὴν (ε)κούσθη ν σου κ(αι) τὴν ἔξοδον σου

The Lord will guard your coming in and going out. (Ps.121.8)

Date: “Byzantine period”.

Bibliography:
Ovadiah, MPI, no.168, pp.98-99.

66. Khirbet Umm er-Rus

Map Reference: 151.121
Plate: 58
Building: Basilical church.
Location: Sanctuary.
Dimensions: Not known.
Description: Double vine stem with a bunch of grapes and a leaf issuing from an amphora. Above it a Greek cross. Above that again a Solomon’s knot.
Inscriptions: Inscriptions in Greek and Syriac between the arms of the cross. The Greek inscription, now destroyed, read:

Κυρ(ι)]ος Ιωάννου,

+ Of Saint John

The Syriac inscription:

Saint John, Jonas Priest

Bibliography:
Vincent, RB (1898), pp.611-615.
67. Khirbet Umm-Zaqum: Khirbet el-'Awja et Tahta: Kh. ‘Auja et Tahtani

Map Reference: 194.150.
Plate: 58~

Building: Chapel.
Location: South room.
Dimensions: Not known.

Description: Pavement of eleven circles in three rows of three, one row of two. The pattern arranged like a vine trellis, springing from a central amphora at the western end, replacing the twelfth circle. Below the amphora a branch with two pomegranates. Within the lateral circles geometric motifs. Above the amphora, in the central row, a bunch of grapes, a pigeon on a granch-and an ivy leaf.
Inscription: No inscription.
Date: 5th - 6th century.

Bibliography:
Ovadiah, MPI, no.171, p.102.

68. Kissufim

Map Reference: 092.087.
Plate: 59-60

Building: Basilical church, part of a monastery (?) dedicated to St. Elias.
Location: North aisle; north intercolumniations; western end of nave.
Dimensions: North aisle, 11 x 2.40m remains; each scene approx. 1.30 x 0.60-o.80m.
Description: North Aisle: The east end of the aisle destroyed. The remaining portion comprises scenes of hunting and animals, arranged one above the other, with a space for a tomb between panels three and four. From west to east these depict:

Panel 1: Two sheep confronting a palm (?) tree. One nibbles the leaves, the second, a plant on the ground.

Panel 2: A man wearing low boots, breeches and short, embroidered tunic, with a scabbard slung over his shoulder, swinging a sword and a carrying a large shield, fights an attacking bear, which claws at the shield.

Panel 3: A lion attacks a bull which it has brought to the ground.

Panel 4: A hound, with flying lead, pursues a hare, both of them followed by an antelope or ibex.

Panel 5: A horseman, in similar dress to the hunter in Panel 2, thrusts a spear into a leopard. A pomegranate tree behind.

Panel 6: A lioness with her cub.

Panel 7: A winged lion-griffin pursues a spotted ostrich.

Panel 8: A man milking a goat (?), (badly damaged).

Panel 9: An elephant and a giraffe (badly damaged).

North Intercolumniations:

1. Between the second and third columns, two, frontally placed women, richly dressed wearing bracelets and earrings. The one on the right also wears a diadem and is younger than her companion. The woman on the left holds a pedestal dish with a yellow bird lying on it. The woman on the right scatters coins with her right hand and holds the front of her dress with her left. inscriptions above.

2. A man leading a loaded camel. He holds the camel’s lead and a stick in his left hand, a bunch of dates (?) in his right. An inscription above.

Nave: Totally destroyed except for an inscription at the western end, flanked, on the right-hand side, by a parrot with a red, Sassanian ribbon and two lotus plants. The left-hand side destroyed.
Inscriptions: Around the tomb opening in the north aisle, a Greek inscription, badly damaged:

- [..] τοῦ ὠνίου πατρί(δις) ἡμῶν
  ζωναίνου προε[θυτέρου -] Μαρίας . Κ(υψίω)ς,
  φύλα[ξου - -] τε τήν καπο[φόρον ? -] τού 'Αμήν

Above Panel 5 a Greek inscription:

ΕΡΓΟΝ ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ

The work of Alexander

Above the women in the north intercolumniation:

ΚΑΛΕ ΨΩΡΗ Η ΚΥΡΑ ΣΙΩΤΟΥ ΨΩΡΗΣ

Translation disputed:

1. Calliora, the lady of Silto
2. In good time, Lady of Silto

Above the camel driver:

ΟΠΒΙΚΟΝ

= his name, Orbikon

In the westernmost intercolumniation on the north side, a Greek inscription in a tabula ansata, of six lines:

Καὶ τοῦτο τὸ καριέστ(ατου) ἔργον
τοῦ ἐνδόλου ἐγένετο ἐπὶ τοῦ
αὐτοῦ θεοφίλ(εστάτου) ἀββᾶ θεοδώρου
ἐλέ(ει) θεοῦ διακό(νου) μοναχ(οῦ) καὶ ἡγουμ(ένου)
ἡ ψήφωσις αὐτῆ ἐν μη(νί) Πανημίῳ(υ)
βί' τ[οῦ] ἦλιχ' ἔτους ἐνό(ικτιδόνος) αἱ'

And this beautiful work of the aisle was done in the time of the most God-beloved father, Theodoros, beloved of God, deacon, monk and hegumen. The mosaic [was completed] on the 10th of the month of Panemos in the year 638, the 11th indiction.

(According to the era of Gaza = 4th July, 578).

At the western end of the nave, inside the door, another dedicatory inscription in Greek, of seven lines:

† Ἐπὶ τοῦ ἄγιωτάτου καὶ ὀσιωτάτου
ἡμῶν ἐπισκόπου Ἡμασθέος καὶ τ(οῦ)
θεοφίλ(ε)ςτάτου θεοδώρου ἐλέει(οῦ) διακό(νου)
μοναχ(οῦ) παραμώναρ(ίου καὶ) ἡγουμένου τοῦ ἄγιον Ἡλίου ἐγενήτω ἡ ψήφωσις αὐτῆ ἐν μη(νί) λή[ου αἱ']
τοῦ ἐλχ' ἔτους ἐνό(ικτιδόνος) ὁ'
In the time of our most holy and most pious bishop Misael and of the most God-beloved Theodoros, beloved of God, deacon, monk, paramonarius and hegumen of the holy Elias, the mosaic was finished on the 11th day of the month of Loos, 636, indication 9. (According to the era of Gaza = 4th August, 576).

Date: Mosaics, 576 and 578.

Bibliography:
Cohen, IEJ, 27, no.4 (1972), pp.254-256.
-----, BibArchR, 6, no.1 (Jan/Feb 1980), pp.17-23, figs and plates.
Ovadiah, Mosaico Antico, pp.309ff.

69. Kursi: El-Koursi


Plate: 61-62

Building: Monastery complex.

Location: Mosaics in basilica, chapels and crypt. Figurative mosaics in the aisles and intercolumniations of the church. Those in the nave destroyed.

Dimensions: Aisles, approx. 3 x 18m.

Description: Geometric fields (148a but with alternating rows of larger and smaller squares). Various motifs in the larger squares. The fish and most birds have been destroyed, a hen survives. Other motifs comprise baskets of fruit, chalices, leaves and fruit including bunches of grapes, pomegranates, figs, apples, aubergines, marrows, cherries, melons and citrons, arranged in horizontal rows.

Threshold of the Northern Door: At the doorway between the north aisle and the north rooms, a rectangular panel with two pigeons flanking a basket.

Intercolumniations: The ten intercolumniations of the nave (five on either side) all contained birds or animals (all destroyed), flanking a plant.
Inscription: At the entrance of the diaconicon which was used as a baptistery, a Greek inscription of nine lines:


[+] In the time of the most God-beloved priest and hegumen Stephanos, the paving of the mosaic of the photisterion (= baptisterion) was made in the month of December of the fourth year of the indication, in the time of our most pious emperor Mauricius, who loves Christ of his first consulate+

Date: 585.

Bibliography:
Ovadiah, Mosaic Antico, p.309.
-----, MPI, no.172, p.103.

70. Ma‘ale Adumin: Ma‘ale Addummim: Khirbet Mourrassas

Map Reference: 178.131.

Plate: 63-64

Building: Large monastery complex.

Location: Much of the complex paved with mosaics. Figurative panels in the chapel, both nave and narthex, and the kitchen.

Dimensions: Not known.

Description: Narthex: Field: Fifth-century (?) narthex pavement overbuilt by the sixth-century chapel. Vine trellis arising from a single, centrally placed amphora at the western side, now comprising two rows of six medallions (the eastern row partly obliterated by the later building). Most of the bird and animal motifs destroyed. From west to east and from north to south, the surviving motifs are:
Row 1: (Destroyed); antelope; amphora; (destroyed, probably an antelope); (destroyed).

Row 2: Hare eating a bunch of grapes; pheasant; (destroyed); bird (damaged); hindquarters of an animal (hare eating grapes?).

Border: Border of interlocking circles (82f) with animal, bird and plant motifs in the roundels.

South Border: Destroyed.

West Border: Right half destroyed, except for a bird in the south-eastern corner medallion. Centre medallion unrecognizable; an eagle with a flower (?) in its beak; a sprig of a plant; a guinea fowl (?) ; a bunch of grapes; a cock in the corner.

North Border: A cock confronting the other; (destroyed); a pomegranate or melon.

Kitchen: Inside the door and facing it, a square panel, with a vine arising from an amphora, forming eight medallions in two rows of three and one of two, the amphora taking up the ninth space. In the roundels, bunches of grapes and leaves. In the roundel above the amphora, a dove.

Inscription: No inscription.

Date: Sixth century.

Bibliography:

71. Magen: Bethul: Betylion.

Map Reference: 095.078.

Plate: 65

Building: Trapezoid basilica, dedicated to St. Kyrikos (or Cyricus). Oriented to the south instead of the east. For ease of understanding however, the terms north and south aisle will be used.

Location: Nave and aisles.

Dimensions: Nave, central panel, 2.70 x 2.50m; aisle motifs, 1.90m².
Description: Nave: Immediately inside the main door and facing it, a large cross. The entire nave was paved with mosaic in three panels, mainly geometric. The central geometric panel (148g) has mainly geometric infills. The exceptions are:
Row 3: bird; inscription (destroyed) occupying the next two spaces; bird.
Row 4: geometric; basket of fruit; bust of a man; bunch of grapes and leaves.
North Aisle: A square filled with a variant of 205c, with eight squares filled with various geometric patterns, forming a central octagon, the triangles in the four corners elongated to form lozenges. In the octagon a lion, posed in front of a tree.
South Aisle: Very similar to the north aisle, but the square separating the mosaic panels contains a circular medallion within a wreath, an inscription in the centre. A bird (dove?) in each corner.
Inscriptions: In the narthex of the church, a Greek inscription of two lines:

\[ \text{Αύτη ἡ πύλη τοῦ Κυρίου, δίκα[ιοι] | ἵσσελεύσονται ἐν αὐτῇ} \]

This is the Gate of the Lord: the just shall enter into it (Ps 117.20)

In the central nave panel, a rectangular space with a Greek inscription of three lines, badly defaced and only the ends of each line can be read.

\[ \text{'Ε[πὶ τοῦ εὔσεβεῖς (εστάτου) | Ν(- - -) (abbreviation sign) ἐ|γέ[νετο τὰ ὅδε}} \]

In (the time of) the (most pious) (.............) (these were done).

At the east end of the nave pavement, in front of the sanctuary, a Greek inscription of three lines, set in a tabula ansata:

\[ \dagger \text{Αἰλιανὸς Ζονενὸς | ἀναγνώστης εὐχαριστῶν | τῷ ἀγίῳ Κυρίκῳ, ἐψήφωσα} \]

Aelianus, the son of Zonenos the reader, thanking St. Cyricus, I paved with mosaics.

In the centre of the north aisle, a Greek inscription of six lines, set in a circular medallion:
At the time of the most holy and the most pious Petrus the bishop and Abdallos the priest all these were renovated.

Date: Sixth century.

Bibliography:
Bagatti, Giudea e Negev, p.179, fig.27, Tav. 23(5).

72. Malhata

Map Reference: Not established.
Plate: No plate.
Building: Three rooms excavated of a complex.
Location: Central room.
Dimensions: 6.5 x 5.8m.
Description: A geometric field with a single medallion containing the figure of a man holding, in his raised hands, a flower and a basket of fruit. His name is beside him. Further details not available.

Inscription: Remains of a Greek inscription of two lines, near the entrance, quoting Deuteronomy, 28.6, Blessed shall you be when you come in and blessed shall you be when you go out.
Date: Sixth century (?)

Bibliography:
HA, 80-81 (1982), pp.41-42.

73. Mamshit: Mamsis: Kurnub

Map Reference: 156.048.
Plate: 66-67

Building: West Church; basilical church, one of two in the town.

Location: Entire church paved with mosaics. Figurative panels in the nave.

Dimensions: Nave, 5 x 10m. Western panel 3.20 x c. 4.50m; the central panel, 3.20m x c. 3m; eastern panel, 3.20 x 0.80m.

Description: Border: Triple border, the centre band comprising three-dimensional swastika meander (42a) with alternate square spaces filled with fruit: pomegranates, grapes, citrons, figs, apples and carobs.

Field: The field is divided into three panels. The western panel (153a) comprises six octagons, arranged in pairs, alternating with two circles in the central axis. These contain:

Row 1: (Destroyed); bird pecking at a flower.

Row 2: Bunch of grapes (the rest destroyed).

Row 3: Geometric infill; bird (damaged).

Row 4: Basket of fruit.

Row 5: Bird; guinea fowl.

Eastern Panel: An amphora from which arises a vine trellis of four roundels, two on either side of the amphora. Across the roundels, two peacocks flanking the amphora.

Inscriptions: In the centre of the middle panel of the nave a Greek inscription of seven lines, in a medallion:

K(ύρι)ε ἵ(ω)σον
τόν δούλον
σοῦ Νιλοῦ τόν
φιλόχριστον τόν
κτίσαντα τὰ ὅ-
δὲ καὶ Κ(ύρι)ε φύλ(αξε) τό-
ν οἰκεν αὐτ(οῦ)

Lord, save your servant, the Christ-loving Nilos, the builder of this [holy place] and

Lord guard his house.
Between the eastern mosaic panel and the sanctuary steps, three other dedicatory inscriptions in Greek, unpublished, one naming the same Nilos; the second an abbot; the third translates (according to Bagatti):

*O Lord help Abraham, the son of Zenobius, the paramonarius.*

**Date:** Fifth century.

**Bibliography:**

-----, *CNI*, 17, no.4 (1966), pp.17-23, photos.
-----, *RB*, 75 (1968), pp.407-413, Pl. XLVI.
-----, *MPI*, no. 174, p.105.

74. Masada: Mezada: Es-Sabba

**Map Reference:** 183.080.

**Plate:** 68

**Building:** Chapel of a monastery.

**Location:** Northwest room, Locus 382 (diaconicon ?).

**Dimensions:** Room, given as 3.50m².

**Description:** Geometric field (233c) comprising sixteen circles in four rows of four, containing geometric patterns, a basket and fruit.

**Row 1:** (Destroyed); pomegranates; two citrus (?); rosette.

**Row 2:** Basket of eggs, marked with a cross; bunch of grapes; three fruit; figs.

**Row 3:** Triple circle; circle divided into four segments; shrub; (destroyed).

**Row 4:** Rosette; rosette; small shrub; (destroyed).

**Inscription:** No inscription.

**Date:** Fifth century.

**Bibliography:**

75. Matta

*Map Reference:* 155.124.

*Plate:* 69

*Building:* Square-apsed hall chapel.

*Location:* Hall.

*Dimensions:* Hall, c. 6 x 11.25m; mosaic, 9.30m long.

*Description:* Vine trellis, mostly destroyed. Estimated to have comprised 72 medallions arranged in twelve rows of six. Only twelve medallions along the northern edge and part of five in the next row, at the western end, survive.

Within the roundels, from west to east:

*Row 1:* Flamingo

*Row 2:* Rabbit eating grapes.

*Row 3:* Coot.

*Row 4:* Ox or buffalo (head destroyed).

*Row 5:* Dog (?), (partly destroyed).

*Row 6:* Horse in harness.

*Row 7:* Partridge.

*Row 8:* Bird, perhaps a pigeon (badly damaged).

*Row 9:* Hindquarters of a shaggy animal (mostly destroyed).

*Row 10:* Destroyed.

*Row 11:* The long tail of a blue bird (rest destroyed).

*Row 12:* (Destroyed).

In the second row from the left the only surviving motif seems to have been some kind of cat.

*Date:* Mid-sixth century.

*Bibliography:*
76. Modi‘in: Modi‘im: El-Mideh

Map Reference: 149.148.
Plate: No plate,
Building: Monastery chapel.
Location: Hall of the chapel.
Dimensions: Chapel, 6 x 10.50m.
Description: Incompletely recorded. Motifs include a vine trellis, bunches of grapes, tendrils, leaves and a bird.
Inscription: No inscription.
Date: 5th-6th century.

Bibliography:
Bagatti, Samaria, p.172.
-----, MPI, no.189, p.112.

77. Nahariya: Nahariyya

Map Reference: 158.267.
Plate: 70-72
Building: Basilical church, dedicated to St. Lazarus.
Location: Figurative mosaics in the sanctuary and as a long border around the nave.
Dimensions: Border of nave, 0.60 x 57m survives.
Description: Sanctuary: Immediately inside the western entrance to the sanctuary, two peacocks confronting a chalice filled with fruit.
Nave Border: Acanthus scroll border with 87 medallions preserved. Within the volutes, beginning from the centre of the south border and moving anti-clockwise: a cock; (destroyed); a dog; a turtle-dove; a hunter with a spear in his right hand, lunging at the motif in volute 6; (destroyed); sheep; a man playing a flute; a curled-up dog; pheasant; bull; leopard; a bird cage with open door, a pigeon beside it; two partridges; gazelle; tigress and cub; a hunter pointing his spear at the tigress; sheep or goat; part of a man's head (rest destroyed); domestic goat; man pulling the halter of a horse in the next volute; lion; hare eating grapes; a bullfinch or sparrow; apple and knife; flower; bustard; pomegranate; bird cage with door open; bird of the thrush family; ivy leaf; turtle-dove; two ivy leaves; falcon (?); boy with a lime rod, holding it towards the bird in the previous volute; leopard; hunter pointing his spear at the leopard; sheep; deer; pheasant; lion; hunter attacking the lion with his spear; dog; hare; vase; pomegranate; partridge; two prawns; (destroyed); (destroyed); almond (?); bunch of grapes; pigeon with outspread wings; bustard; (destroyed); thighs of a person (damaged); cockerel; dog; boy pulling a thorn from his foot; bull; leopard; sheep; hindparts of a bustard (damaged); (destroyed); (destroyed) only a hand remains; dog; crouching man; bear; stag; tiger; thrush (?) and a bird cage with the door open; ivy leaf; domestic goat; gazelle; bustard; man seated on an upturned cane basket; buffalo; (destroyed).

Inscription: No inscription.

Date: 5th-6th century. An inscription elsewhere in the church suggests that the building was standing in 555.

Bibliography:
RB, 81 (1974), pp.100-102, Pl.XIV.
IEJ, 26, no.2-3 (1976), pp.141-142.
-----, Archeologia, 94 (1976), pp.48-53.
-----, Une église byzantine à Nahariya, Thessaloniki, 1986.
-----, Mosaic Antico, pp.313-314, fig.11.
-----, MPI, no.194, pp.113-114.
78. 'Ozem: Khirbet Beit Mamin

*Map Reference:* 121.116.

*Plate:* 73-74

*Building:* Basilical church.

*Location:* Nave

*Dimensions:* Not known.

*Description:* At the western end, in the white surround, two lions flanking a cross. On the northern side, stylized birds and plants. Field of irregularly set, alternating small and large circles and semicircles, four of them with inscriptions.

*Inscriptions:* Not recorded. Six Greek inscriptions altogether, five in the nave, the sixth in the north aisle. These are:

1. An inscription of five lines recording the completion of the building.
2. An inscription of three lines in a semi-circle names Zonenos the Hermit.
3. Inscription of three lines in a semicircle names Neetabos the Reader.
4. A dedicatory inscription of six lines, set in the ground of the nave panel.
5. Around the cross in the western surround, the four letters, A,W and I.X. *Alpha, Omega and Iesos Christos.*

A sixth inscription in the north aisle, of seven lines set in a circle, records the names of Marcella and the Holy Virgin.

*Date:* 5th - 6th century.

*Bibliography:*
Yeivin, *A Decade of Archaeology,* p.45.
Ovadiah, *MPI,* no.199, p.117.

79. Rama: Er Rama: (Er) Rami

*Map Reference:* 184.260.

*Plate:* 75

*Building:* Church.

*Location:* Not known.
Dimensions: Not known.

Description: Vine trellis with animals in the roundels.

Inscription: No inscription.

Date: Sixth century.

Bibliography:
Tsaferis, Qadmoniot, 9, no.1 (33) (1976), p.25, mention.

80. Reshef: Apollonia

Map Reference: 131.176.

Plate: No plate.

Building: Basilical church.

Location: Nave.

Description: Geometric field (type 148g) with geometric infills, rows of small birds, a cross.

Inscription: A Greek inscription of three lines in the western section of the nave written in hexameter:

...Μαρίνος ἐτενὲς θεο/τικὸν ἀχραντὸν ἀειν ο– οὐνιοχεύχων.

Translation of this passage is difficult. Reports say only that it refers to a donor called Marinos. The verse seems to say that Marinos built the building with the guidance of the bright-eyed, undefiled Virgin. The grammar is confusing.

Date: Sixth century.

Bibliography:
HA, 3 (July, 1962), p.11.
Ovadiah, Corpus, no.155, p.155.
-----, MPI, no.2, p.11.

81. Roglit: Rogelit: Khirbet Jufra
Map Reference: 150.120.
Plate: 76
Building: Basilica! church.
Location: Nave; north aisle; south aisle.
Dimensions: Nave, c. 5 x 14m; north aisle, c. 2.50 x 14m; south aisle, c. 2.50 x 14m.
Description: Nave: Only the western section remains. Geometric pavement forming medallions. These originally contained animals, but were replaced with green leaves at a later date.
North Aisle: Only the western part preserved. Geometric field (235d). In one circle an amphora and a cross; in another a bunch of grapes.
South Aisle: Geometric design (type 205e, but with eight squares and four lozenges in the four corners) and forming central octagons. The motifs in the squares and lozenges are mainly geometric, but also include a "star of David", a citron, a lemon, a bowl of figs and the Greek letter, alpha. In a central octagon, a pomegranate tree flanked by two large, heart-shaped leaves.
Inscription: No inscriptions other than the alpha mentioned above.
Date: Fifth century.
Bibliography:
Biran, CNI, 10, nos 1-2 (1959), p.32.
RB, 67 (1960), pp.401-402, Pl. XXVIIa.
Yeivin, Decade of Archaeology, p.45, Pl. 5(3).
Avi-Yonah, Encyclopedia, 1, p.311.
Ovadiah, Corpus, no.156, pp.155-156.
-----, MPI, no.210, p.124.

82. Samaria: Shomeron: Sebastiya: Sebaste: Hakaret es-Sidr

Plate: No plate.
Building: Church.
Location: Not known.
Description: Acanthus scroll border with, in the medallions, a bird, a fruit and a man shooting an arrow at a fleeing animal.

Inscription: No inscription.

Date: Sixth century.

Bibliography:
-----, *PEFQSt.* (1932), pp.20-34, Pl.6.
-----, *ACIAC*, 3 (1934), pp.523ff.

83. Sede Nahum

Map Reference: 195.214.

Plate: 77

Building: Apsidal chapel in a monastery complex.

Location: Hall of chapel and adjoining south room.

Dimensions: Chapel, 6 x 11m.

Description: Nave: Border of ivy leaves (64d). Vine trellis field forming ten by seven rows of medallions. Many roundels destroyed. The surviving motifs are:

Row 1: Running stag; partridge in the space between the first two roundels.

Row 2: Rabbit eating grapes.

Row 3: Badly damaged, fragments with parts of animals.

Row 4: Mostly destroyed.

Row 5: Destroyed.

Row 6: Destroyed.

Row 7: Duck; donkey; bird.

Row 8: Cock; hind; duck; marten and snake.

Row 9: Two doves; duck; duck.

Row 10: Grape-picker; fox.

South Room: On the threshold, a vase with flowers, more flowers on either side. In the centre of the room, a medallion encircled by a wreath, containing fruits.

Inscription: No inscription.
Date: Sixth century.

Bibliography:
RB, 64 (1957), p.261.
Yeivin, A Decade of Archaeology, p.46.
Tzori, Beth Shean Valley, p.183, Pl. XXV(3-5).
Ovadiah, Corpus, no.160, pp.159-160.
-----, MPI, no.212, pp.125-126.

84. Shavei Zion: Shave Ziyyon

Map Reference: 158.265.
Plate: 78
Building: Basilical church.
Location: North aisle, part of the first building phase.
Dimensions: Medallion, 0.96m in diameter.
Description: A large cross set in a circular medallion. On either side, in the upper angles of the cross, a flower bud. In the lower angles of the cross, pomegranates. Below the cross, a geometrically stylized motif of two fish on either side of a mountain.
Inscription: No inscription.
Date: Fifth century. Inscriptions date the later building stage to 486.

Bibliography:
-----, Western Galilee, pp.80-82.
Leibovitch, CNI, 6, nos.3-4 (1955), p.35.
RB, 64 (1957), pp.257ff.
IEJ, 8 (1958), pp.134ff.
Yeivin, A Decade of Archaeology, p.46.
Israel Ancient Mosaics, PIs.4-5.
HA, 7 (1963), pp.16ff.
Ovadiah, Corpus, no. 161, p.161-162.
-----, MPI, no. 215, p.127.
Bagatti, Galilea, p.179, mention.
85. Shellal: En-Besor

*Map Reference:* 102.080

*Plate:* 79-80

*Building:* Basilica church.

*Location:* Nave.

*Dimensions:* Nave, 5.49 x 8.23m; field, 3.55 x 6.30m; border, 0.46m wide.

*Description: Border:* Double returned swastika-meander in lateral perspective with alternate squares (version of 42b). In the squares various motifs:

**Western Border:** Chalice; white dove with a sprig of olive leaves; suspended wreath (damaged); head of a man (mostly destroyed) with monogram on either side of his head; suspended wreath; (destroyed); amphora (drawing) with a sprig of leaves.

**North Border:** Only three motifs survive. These are figs; pomegranate; unidentified (presumably another fruit, perhaps a gourd, brown with a green band wrapped around it).

**East Border:** Three motifs survive in the centre: body of a fish; head of a fish; chalice filled with bread (?)

**South Border:** Only one motif survives: an artichoke or cardoon.

*Field:* Inhabited vine trellis, springing from a centrally placed amphora at the western end. Marked central axis of closed roundels. Lateral medallions open, each tied to the one above by a black ring. Originally forty-five medallions in nine rows of five. Twenty-five medallions survive in whole or in part, of which twenty-two motifs survive, three are damaged but can be identified. Two more known from early drawings. The surviving motifs are, from west to east, north to south:

**Row 1:** Partridge above the peacock’s tail; peacock occupying two roundels; amphora; peacock, in two roundels; grey dove above the peacock’s tail.

**Row 2:** Sheep; (destroyed); donkey pannier of fruit, two birds above; goat; sheep.

**Row 3:** Leg of a bird; pheasant (head only); basket of reddish-brown fruit; pheasant; purple gallinule.

**Row 4:** (Destroyed); lion; chalice of water (?); tigress; hoof of an animal.
Row 5: Guinea fowl; flamingo; bird in a cage; flamingo; (destroyed).

Row 6: Hound, chasing a hare, in the next medallion; basket (contents destroyed); gazelle (see drawing); dog.

Row 7: Tail feathers and legs of a cock; rest missing.

Row 8: (Destroyed).

Row 9: (Destroyed).

Inscriptions: At the western entrance, protruding through the doorway, a Greek inscription of nine lines, too badly damaged to read.

At the eastern end of the mosaic, at the floor of the sanctuary step, a Greek inscription of four lines which reads:

\(+ \ Τάνδε τὸν νεόν δασύλει [ψηφώσετι διεκόσιον \] | μησαν ο τε όσιότ(ατος)  ἥμων ἔ[πισκοπος . . . ] | καὶ ὁ Θεοφήλ(έστατος) Γεώργιος ὁ Ἰ[πελετ] | ἐν τῷ Ἠκτε κατά [Γαζαίους ἱνθ(ικτιώνος) ι + ].\)

This temple with rich mosaics did decorate our most holy bishop ... and the most pious George, priest and paramonarius, in the year 622 according to the era of Gaza, in the 10th year of the indiction.

Date: 561/2.

Bibliography:
Lagrange, RB (1917), pp. 569-572; 1818, pp. 595ff.
Briggs, BM, 32 (1918), pp. 185-189.
Avi-Yonah, MPP, no. 306, p. 42.

86-87. Shiloh: Shillo

Map Reference: 177.162.

86. Shilo: Khirbet Seilun, The Pilgrim’s Church
Plate: 81

Building: Hall church, with two interconnecting rooms on the northern side.

Location: Mosaics throughout. Figurative mosaics in the sanctuary and running between the central columns dividing the northeast and northwest rooms.

Dimensions: Sanctuary, 4.50m deep. Panel between northern rooms, 1.78m wide.

Description: Sanctuary: Within a simple guilloche border, in the apse a field of scattered ivy leaves: west of it, across the sanctuary, a vine trellis with grapes and leaves.

Northern Rooms: Panel between the two rooms containing, in the centre, a tree with leaves and fruit, flanked by two stags, nibbling at the tree. On either side of the stags, on the western side of the column bases, two fish.

Inscription: Greek inscription of five lines in a circular medallion in the northwestern room:

\[ \text{\textquoteleft \textquoteleft \textit{Υπὲρ} ἀναπταύσεως Πορφυρίου καί Ἰακκώβου ἀλεξίφια}} \text{\textquoteright \textquoteright} \]

For the rest of Porphyrios and Jakkobos, a brother.

Date: c.500.

Bibliography:
-----, PEFQSt (1931), pp. 79-86.
Avi-Yonah, MPP, no. 301, pp.40-41, with early mentions.
-----, Encyclopedia, 4, p.1100, photo.

87. Shiloh: El Habs

Building: Basilical church.

Plate: No plate.

Location: Nave.

Dimensions: Not known.
Description: Geometric field (153a). The motifs in the hexagons all destroyed.

Inscription: No inscription.

Date: Before 500.

Bibliography:
-----, PEFQSt (1931), pp. 79-86.
Avi-Yonah, MPP, nos. 302, p.41.

88-90. Shiqmona

Two sites in the area of Shiqmona, near Haifa.

88. Shiqmona: Sha‘ar Ha- ‘Aliyah

Map Reference: 146.247.

Plate: 82

Building: Monastery (?) comprising a central hall divided into two rooms and, on either side (i.e. to north and south) a larger room.

Location: North and south rooms.

Dimensions: North Room, 5 x 8m; south room, 5 x 8m.

Description: North Room: Acanthus scroll border with different fruits, bunches of grapes, citrons etc. within the volutes. Geometric field (225d), in five rows of three, forming fifteen medallions. Each row of these contains the same, very stylized, motif.

Row 1: Four cornucopiae, each with an acanthus leaf issuing from the mouth, their base to the centre, forming a cross.

Row 2: Two birds confront a small plant with three flowers; in the two outer circles these are partridges, in the centre medallion, two doves.

Row 3: In each medallion eight palmettes grow radially towards the centre.

Row 4: In each medallion four amphorae with palmettes issuing from the mouth, their bases to the centre forming a cross.

Row 5: Destroyed.
South Room: Within a border of 91e, including, in the corners, a stylized palm tree and two pomegranates, a geometric field (244f), originally forming seven rows of four circles. Each circle contains a motif. Those surviving include pomegranates, ivy leaves, citrons, bunches of grapes, apples, rosettes and stylized trees.

Inscription: In the western room of the central hall, a Greek inscription of five lines, inscribed in a circular medallion:

+ ὁ τόπος / σῶτος τῶν / καλῶν ἡμέρων ἵστα/ιν +

This is the place of lucky days.

Date: Sixth century.

Bibliography:
Yeivin, A Decade of Archaeology, p.46.
Leibovitch, CNI, 4, nos.2-3 (1953), p.30, Pl.II.
Bagatti, Galilea, p.108.
Ovadiah, Corpus, no.165, p.165.
-----, MPI, no.220, pp.131-132.

89-90. Shiqmona: Tell Es-Samak

Map Reference: 146.248.

A number of sites with mainly geometric mosaic floors. Stylized figurative images are included in some.

89. Chapel:

Plate: No plate

Building: Chapel with two rooms on the south side.

Location: Southeast room.

Dimensions: Room, 3.50 x 5.40m.

Description: Geometric field (244f) with, in the spaces between the circles, florets forming a cross. The circles filled with geometric motifs; in one of them a spotted lily.

Inscription: No inscription.
Date: Byzantine period.

Bibliography:
QDAP, 10 (1944), p.206.
Avi-Yonah, ACJAC, 5, p.122.
Ovadiah, MPI, no.221, p.132.

90. Church

Plate: 83

Building: A complex of at least three rooms, one behind the other, though in different axes, comprising an apsidal chapel containing a reliquarium, a middle room and a western room. Two other nearby sites, Ditch 41 and Ditch 45 have similar, stylized pavements, but are not included because of uncertainty as to whether they belonged to the church or another building.

Location: All have mosaics. The south and eastern rooms have stylized, figurative panels.

Dimensions: South room, mosaic 3.15 x 6.75m; eastern room, c. 4 x 6m.

Description: Middle Room: Geometric field (variant of 148c, in which the orthogonal grid is interlaced with squares) forming eight-pointed stars and central row of cross-shaped spaces. The octagonal centres of the ten stars filled with geometric designs and rosettes. The four crosses in the central axis accentuated by motifs of fruit, three of which show four stems of fruit - pomegranates in one, citrons in the next, pomegranates in the next - arranged to form a cross. The easternmost space has four bunches of grapes hanging from each arm of the cross, a melon (?) in the centre.

In the triangular spaces around the edge, stylized palm trees.

Eastern Room: Within a border of 91e, a geometric field (244f), forming nine rows of circles, each row filled with a different motif. These are:

Row 1: Flower with two leaves.
Row 2: Ten pointed star.
Row 3: Stylized tree with a leaf on either side.
Row 4: Ten pointed star.
Row 5: Two cornucopiae, surmounted by a scalloped shell (?)

Row 6: Ten pointed star.

Row 7: Chalice surmounted by a flower and flanked by two leaves.

Row 8: Ten pointed star.

Row 9: Flower with two leaves.

Inscription: No inscription.

Date: "Byzantine period".

Bibliography:
Biran, CNI, 15, nos.2-3 (1964), p.29, photos.
RB, 75 (1968), pp.46-47.
HA, 9 (1964), pp.16-17.
Ovadiah, Corpus, no.166.
-----, MPI, no.222, p.133.

91. Suhmata

Map Reference: 178.267
Plate: 84-85
Building: Basilical church.
Location: Narthex, nave and intercolumniation.
Dimensions: Not known.
Description: Narthex: Geometric field (143a) forming octagons containing bunches of grapes and pomegranates.
Nave: Near the western entrance a panel with a small vine issuing from an amphora, flanked by birds (pheasants ?), one destroyed.
Intercolumniation: The second from the west on the northern side contains a pomegranate tree with four birds in the corners, three destroyed, the fourth a dove. Possibly a fifth bird above the tree (motif destroyed and repaired).
Inscriptions: A Greek inscription of five lines, across the full width of the nave in front of the sanctuary. In three sections, the central part in a tabula ansata. The right wing destroyed, the left fragmentary. The central inscription reads:
This most holy church of the Holy ... was beautified in the month of Loos of [the year] 680, being the [third] year of the indication.

The mosaic was made with God’s help in the time of the most holy John, archbishop, and Kyriakos, country-bishop, and in the time of our lord Stephan archpriest and administrator, and in the time of the most illustrious Marinos, count and Dios, councillors (?)

The left-hand inscription has been reconstructed:


Lord Jesus (?) help this village and bless it ... Theodoros and ... and Elias and Theodoros and John and ... and Timotheos (?) and Elias and ... deacons of the [most holy church (?)] ...
Building: Monastery complex.

Location: Five rooms have mosaics; Room 1 (chapel) has a figurative border around a geometric field (125c, without infills) and a figurative panel at the entrance.

Dimensions: Room 5 x 7m.

Description: Border of acanthus and ivy leaves, comprising 34 medallions, containing animals, birds and fruit. These include a gazelle, a rabbit, a feline, a sheep, chickens, ducks, pomegranates, olives. Tree flanked by two peacocks which face away from it.

Inscription: No inscription.

Date: End 4th - beginning 7th century (at the end of the fifth century repairs carried out to the mosaics).

Bibliography:
Tzori, Beth Shean Valley, p.190, Pl. XXVI(2-6).
-----, EI, 10 (1971), p.240, Pl. 68(3).
Biran, CNI, 14, no.2 (1963), p.11, Pl.1.
Ovadiah, Corpus, no.175, p.178.
-----, MPI, no.235, p.138.

93. Tel 'Ira: Khirbet el Gharra

Map Reference: 148.071.

Plate: No plate.

Building: Monastery.

Location: Narthex of the church.

Dimensions: Narthex, 9 x 5m.

Description: Pavement of geometric motifs with a panel showing a lion pursuing an antelope. Near the inscription, a circular medallion with an amphora flanked by two cockerels, the symbol of St. Peter (?)

Inscription: A Greek inscription of eight lines dedicating the church to St. Peter.

Date: Fifth century (?)

Bibliography:
IEJ, 32 (1982), pp.69-70.
94. Tell Tumas

Map Reference: 195.213.
Plate: No plate.
Building: Probably a church.
Location: Nave (?)
Dimensions: Not known.
Description: Vine trellis forming medallions with animal motifs including goat and a bird.
Date: Byzantine period.
Inscription: No inscription.

Bibliography:
Ovadiah, MPI, no.239, p.139.

95. Umm Jerar

Map Reference:
Plate: 87
Building: Basilical church.
Location: Sanctuary and nave. Geometric mosaics throughout rest of church.
Dimensions: Not known.
Description: Sanctuary: Panel extending the width of the nave, divided into three sections. At either end, two square panels, one above the other, containing birds:
Left Panel: Pheasant; eagle with outreap wings.
Right Panel: Nimbed phoenix seated in a chalice filled with twigs (?), (a Persian fire-altar ?); long-legged bird.
Central Panel: Three squares in the centre of interlacing circles, containing, from left to right, a peacock, basket of grapes, peacock.
Nave: Geometric pattern of sprigs, surrounded by a border of alternating circles and squares, the circles filled with geometric patterns, except for the central circle of the eastern border, which contains a chalice. The squares have profile birds, arranged processonally i.e. they face east in the lateral borders, towards the centre in the eastern border. As far as can be determined the birds include a cock, wading birds, a flamingo, beribboned parrots on either side of the central chalice.

Inscription: No inscription.

Date: Mid-sixth century (?)

Bibliography:
F.M.Drake, PEFQSt, July, 1919.

96. Yavne Yam: Hurbat Yavne Yam: Jamnia: Jamnitarum Portus

Map Reference: 121.148.

Plate: 88

Building: Complex, function not established. badly eroded by the sea.

Location: Not known.

Dimensions: Original measurements of the mosaic, c. 4 x 6m.

Description: Square panel, within double borders. In the geometric panel (variant of 205e with eight squares and four corner lozenges filled with geometric patterns), a large central octagon (badly damaged) containing the hindquarters of a running stag or deer in front of a pomegranate tree. Above and to the right of the tree, a dove with outstretched wings. At the extreme right, a plant with three red flowers.

Inscription: No inscription.

Date: Fifth century.

Bibliography:
Fig. 1 — Schizzo d’insieme del mosaico degli animali ad ‘Amwas (Palestina)

I. ‘Amwas: Drawing of the mosaic
2. Askalon-Barnea: Detail of the amphora.
3. Battir: Drawing of the mosaic
4. Beth Guvrin, El Muqarqash: Seasons mosaic
5. Beth Guvrin, El Muqarqash: Mosaic of the birds
6. Beth Guvrin, Mahatt el-Urdi: North aisle
7. Beth Guvrin, Mahatt el-Urdi: North aisle, Jonah
8. Beth Guvrin, Mahatt el-Urdi: South aisle, Octagon 2
9. Beth Guvrin, Mahatt el-Urdi: South aisle, Octagons 3 and 4
10 Beth ha-Shitta: South chapel
11. Bethlehem, Church of the Nativity: Octagon
12. Bethlehem-in-Galilee: Detail, basket of grapes
13. Beth Sahur: Roof chapel
14. Beth Shean, El-Hammam: Chapel

15. Beth Shean, El-Hammam: Narthex
16. Beth Shean, Monastery of the Lady Mary: Hall
17. Beth Shean, Monastery of the Lady Mary: Room L

18. Beth Shean, Monastery of the Lady Mary: Detail of western end of chapel
19. Beth Shean, Monastery of the Lady Mary: Chapel
20. Beth Shean, "Imhoff": Beribboned parrots
21. Beth Shean, Bishop’s house
22. Caesarea Maritima: Bird Mosaic

23. Caesarea Maritima: South border of Bird mosaic
24. Deir Mukelic: Fish at south entrance

25. 'Ein Hanniya: Nave
26. 'Ein Karim: Mosaic of the martyrs
27. Erez: Dionysiac procession
28. Et-Tabgha: North transept
29. Et-Tabgha: Detail of south transept

30. 'Evron: Northwest room
31. Haditha: Northeast border
32. Hanita: Border
33. Hanita: Hare eating grapes
34. Hazor-Ashdod: Detail of vine trellis

35. Herodium, Church 2: Nave
36. Horvat Berachot: Nave

37. Horvat Karkara: Detail of mosaic
38. Jericho, Church of Antimos: Door to north aisle

39. Jericho, Church of Antimos: Panel C, jackal eating grapes
40. Jerusalem, Dominus Flevit: Detail of the east end
41. Jerusalem, Eleona: Fragments
42. Jerusalem, Russian Convent of the Ascension

43. Jerusalem, Russian Museum
44. Jerusalem, Armenian Garden, Church at Site L: Fragment
45. Jerusalem, Armenian Chapel
46. Jerusalem, Orpheus mosaic
47. Jerusalem, Monastery of the Cross. Photograph courtesy of the Israel Department of Antiquities

48. Kafr Kama: North door
49. Capernaum: Octagon

50. Capernaum: Border
51. Khirbet 'Asida: Detail of vine trellis
52. Khirbet Beit Loya: Nave

53. Khirbet Beit Loya: Border of narthex
54. Khirbet Beit Loya: North aisle
55. Khirbet Beit Loya: South aisle
56. Khirbet el-Mird: Remains of pavement

57. Khirbet Samra: Border of nave
58. Khirbet Umm er-Rus: Sanctuary
58a. Khirbet Umm-Zaqum: South room
59. Kissufim: Section of north aisle
60. Kissufim: Donor portraits
61. Kursi: Aisle mosaic
62. Kursi: Threshold of north door
63. Ma’ale Adumin: Narthex
64. Ma’ale Adumin: Kitchen
65. Magen: Mosaics of basilica
66. Mamshit: Nave
67. Mamshit: Eastern panel
68. Masada: Northwest room
L'église vue de l'ouest : salle avec son pavement de mosaique.
70. Nahariyeh: Spinario

71. Nahariyeh: Bird liming
72. Nahariyeh: Bird and cage
73. ‘Ozem: Pavement

74. ‘Ozem: Detail of border
75. Rama: Vine trellis
76. Roulat: South aisle
77. Sede Nahum: Nave
78. Shavei Zion: North aisle
79. Shellal: Nave
80. Shellal: Bird in cage
81. Shiloh, Khirbet Seilun, Pilgrim’s church: Door between northern rooms
82. Shiqmona, Sha'ar ha-'Aliyah: North room
83. Shiqmona, Tell es-Samak: Church, middle room
84. Suhmata: Nave

85. Suhmata: North intercolumniation
86. Tell Basul: Room 1
87. Umm Jerar: Nave
88. Yavne Yam: Fragment
90. Gaza synagogue: King David
91. Gaza synagogue: Vine trellis
92. Ma'on synagogue: East end of nave
93. Gerasa, Church of Elias, Mary and Soreg: Bird in a cage
94. Gerasa, Church of Elias, Mary and Soreg: Donor portrait
95. Gerasa, Sts. Cosmas and Damian: Theodore the paramonarius