Recovering Sarepta, A Phoenician City

EXCAVATIONS AT SARAFAND, LEBANON, 1969-1974, BY THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS, PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

1978

PUBLISHED BY PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS, PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY
IN THE UNITED KINGDOM: PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS, GUILDFORD, SURREY

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TITLE PAGE: "SIGN OF TANIT" DRAWN FROM FIGURE 104.

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Preface

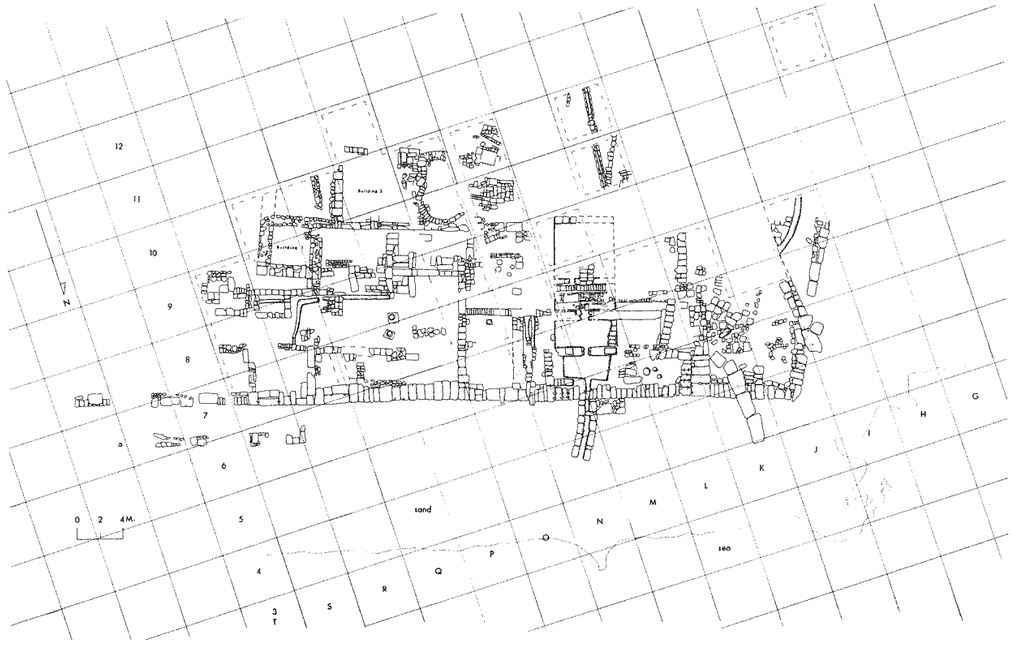
A well-informed Egyptian scribe who lived about 1200 B.C. would have known something of Phoenician geography—the names of Byblos, Beirut, Sidon, Sarepta, Tyre, for example. So, at least, it would seem from a satirical letter written on papyrus by an Egyptian official, whose name was Hori.[1]

Hori addressed some good-natured raillery to a scribal opponent whom he considered incompetent. By reciting what was patently obvious to an educated scribe and demanding an answer, the Egyptian official displayed the general ignorance of his correspondent. "Let me tell thee," he wrote sardonically, "of another strange city, named Byblos. What is it like? And its goddess? . . . Pray, instruct me about Beirut, about Sidon and Sarepta. . . . They say another town is in the sea, named Tyre-the-Port. . . ."

The report on our excavations at Sarepta presented in the following pages could be considered a belated response to the taunt of Hori: "Pray, instruct me about . . . Sarepta." A famous city in the thirteenth century B.C., it was soon to be eclipsed by Tyre and Sidon, both of which became more prosperous and prominent. Yet an occasional mention of the city in Assyrian inscriptions, the Bible, and Greek and Latin writings testifies to its survival. Beyond these scattered and sometimes cryptic references to Sarepta—valuable as they are as a general historical framework—little remains in the written record to instruct us in detail.

The record within the ruins at Sarepta has proved to be more instructive. In five working seasons since 1969, we have cut down through the accumulation of debris from more than two thousand years of the city's history, reaching finally the bedrock on which the first settlement was founded about 1600 B.C. We have cleared the sand from the quay from which Roman and Byzantine ships sailed for other Mediterranean ports; discovered streets, houses, pots, and tools; and found potters' kilns and workshops used in the very century in which the Egyptian official made his satirical remark involving Sarepta. The names of some of the people who lived there have been found incised on pottery and ivory; even the name of the city itself has appeared neatly carved in stone on a stamp seal. Mentioned also are the gods who were revered, and

[1] Translated by J. A. Wilson in James B. Pritchard, ed., *Ancient Near Eastern Texts Relating to the Old Testament*, 3rd ed., 1969, (hereafter: *ANET*[3]), pp. 475-79.



17. Grid and plan of the excavated area at the Roman port.

IV

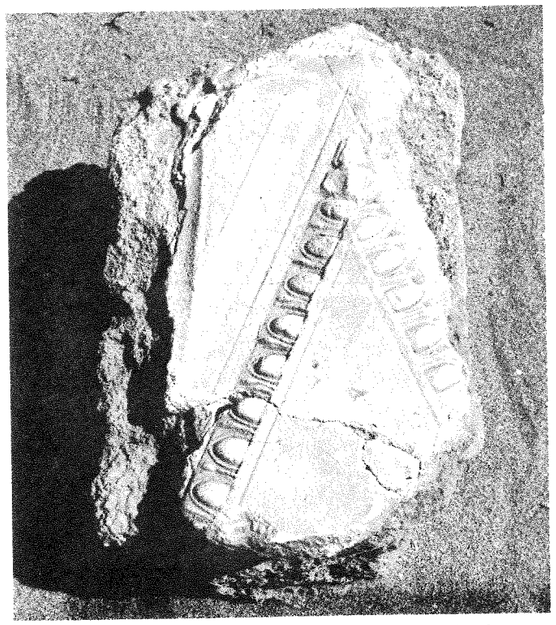
The Roman Port

The first season's work produced nothing to indicate that the Phoenicians had ever been at Sarepta. Beside the southwestern harbor at Ras esh-Shiq, where we dug for eight weeks in 1969, not a sherd of evidence was found for occupation before the Roman period. Yet we did discover that sometime in the first century A.D. seafaring successors to the Phoenicians on the Lebanon coast had constructed a quay, a system for provisioning seagoing vessels with drinking water, and warehouses for storing goods received and freight to be shipped. Moreover, during a half dozen centuries these facilities were modified, or enlarged, or added to as the traffic of the port required.

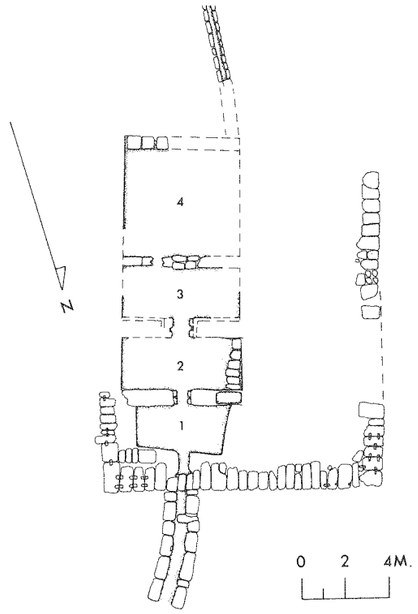
The plan of the walls that had survived at the port was complex (Fig. 17). The foundation for a new building had often been laid with stones robbed from the superstructure of an older one nearby, while the foundation of the older building, and sometimes its floor, had been left intact. The occupation and use of the area had been continuous from the building of the first walls on bedrock until the final abandonment of the site. There had been no general destruction by fire and no periods of desertion.

This sector of the city had been a public area given over to commerce. Not only were the walls built of massive, well-dressed blocks of sandstone but even the debris that covered the ruins indicated public rather than private use of the buildings. This debris contained tesserae from mosaic floors, fragments of marble, ceramic roof tiles, and designs of molded decoration in plaster (Fig. 18). Conspicuously absent were walls of the more modest materials characteristic of domestic architecture. Also absent was equipment—such as ovens, hand mills for grinding grain, and cooking pots—usually found in private houses.

In the first major period in the development of the port a rectangular quay, measuring 12.60 m. in width and at least 14.50 m. in length, had been constructed on a natural promontory so as to be accessible from the sea on three of its sides (Fig. 17, L/N-6/8; Fig. 19). Although the clamps which bound the stones of the quay together had been pried loose by looters, traces of rust in the dovetailed notches provided evidence for the use of iron for the brackets, which had probably been set in lead (Fig. 20). It was clear from small shells imbedded in the in-



18. An architectural fragment with molded decoration in plaster



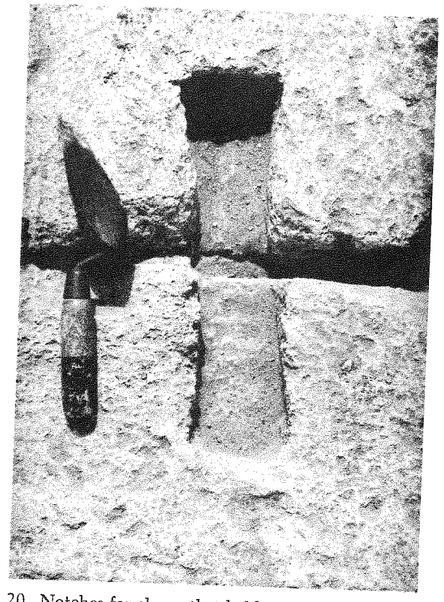
19. Plan of the first Roman quay and the four settling basins

crustation on the face of the walls next to the sea that the sea had actually extended to its base. Yet so well built was the wall directly opposite the sea that not a single stone had been dislodged from its foundation.

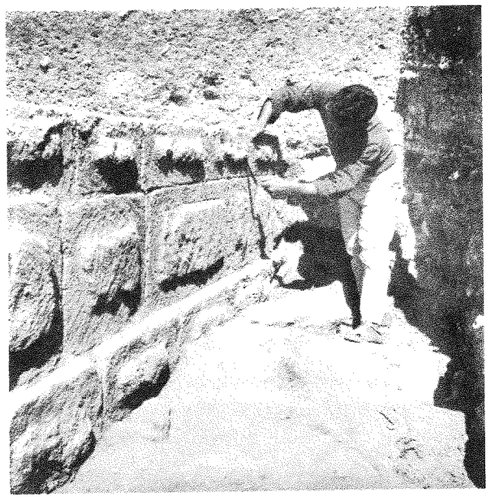
The outer faces of the blocks in the quay wall were dressed in a distinctive pattern (Fig. 21). A margin had been drafted around the four edges of the stone so as to leave a boss, or projection, in the center. A similar feature in the masonry of an important building to the east, Building 1 (Fig. 17, Q/R-9/10), suggests that it belongs to the same period of construction as that of the quay.

The first indication we had that the stone structure built on a rocky promontory that extends into the sea was a quay for ships came with the discovery of a mooring-ring (see Fig. 19) set into its east wall and securely locked to it with clamps (Fig. 22). Its location on the east, rather than on the seaward wall, where one would expect it to have been, makes it likely that an estuary had originally extended inward beside the quay. Small ships could have tied up there well protected from the waves.

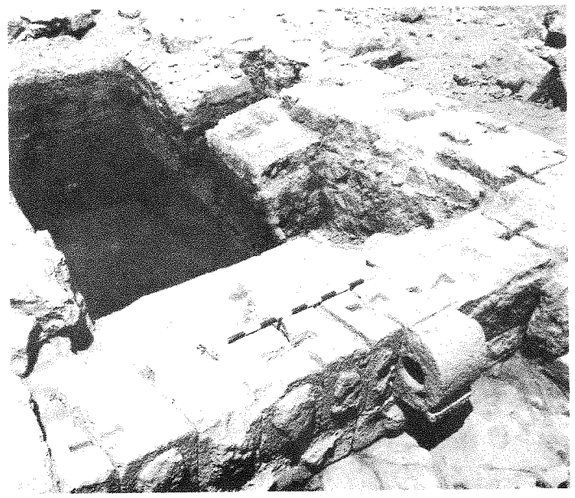
Mooring-rings had not previously been found at harbors along the eastern coast of the Mediterranean. In the West, however, they have long been known at the Emporium of Rome and at Ostia, where they may be seen within the hexagonal basin in which ships were moored in the time



20. Notches for clamp that held stones of the quay



21. Marginally drafted stones in a wall of Building 1 of the first-century port



22. Mooring-ring built into the quay of the first Roman port

of Trajan.[1] Even at such an unlikely place as on an island lying at the north end of the Dead Sea a mooring-ring has been discovered recently.[2]

The ring set in the Sarepta quay, however, has a puzzling feature. In addition to the hole, 17 cm. in diameter, bored through the block, there is a well-fashioned molding that projects from the underside of the curved ring. There can be no doubt that the design was intentional. Did the projecting ledge have a practical function, such as to make the securing of the line to the ship easier? Or was it merely a decorative detail which served to satisfy the aesthetic sense of a stonecutter working on a construction which otherwise was monotonous? The detail remains a puzzle.

There is a graphic answer to how the mooring-ring was used in Roman times. In the Torlonia Museum in Italy a bas-relief of the late second century pictures a ship tied to a ring of a quay with a heavy line (Fig. 23).[3] A gangway, of what appears to be a single plank, bridges the gap between deck and dock. A stevedore with an amphora on his shoulder, makes his way precariously across the unsteady passageway. One may suppose that a ship at Sarepta was unloaded in much the same way.

A hint as to the cargo a ship would have carried from the port is provided by an ancient edict on the subject of price-fixing. At the beginning of the fourth century A.D. the Roman Emperor Diocletian published some ceilings on prices, and among the commodities listed are some that are designated as Phoenician: honey, shoots of palm, pine-nuts, and hides.[4] All of these items would have been available in the region of Sarepta.

Besides these products the Edict of Diocletian lists as Phoenician manufactured items which were at the time, apparently, making their way to the Roman markets from the coast of the eastern Mediterranean. Among the items mentioned are: sandals, purple silk, wool, and linen, not only spun but woven and made up into shirts, dalmatics (a loose garment with very wide sleeves), wraps, veils, hoods, and handkerchiefs.

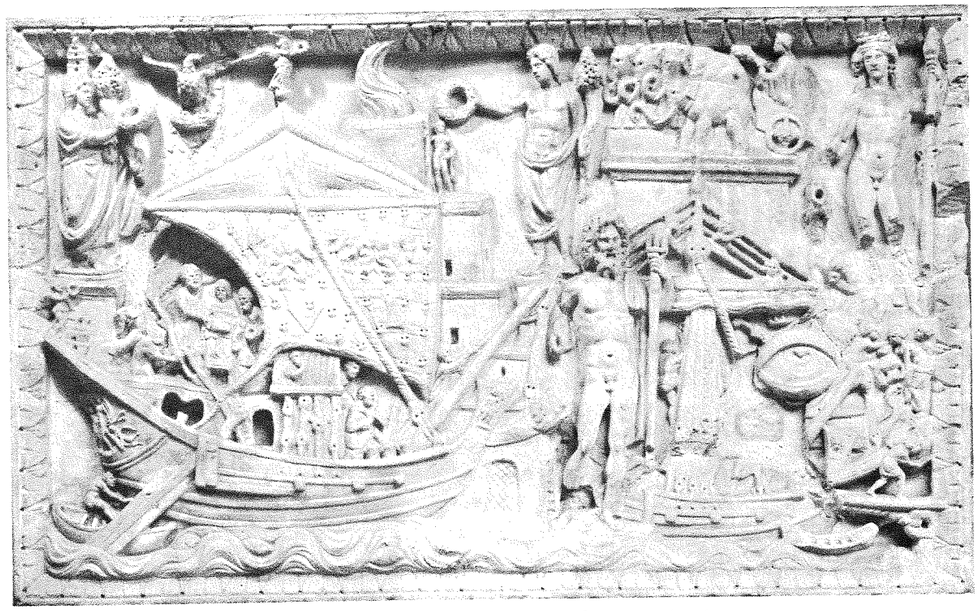
From a half century later, but still well within the period when the Sarepta port was in operation, there is extant an anonymous work with the ambitious title of

[1] For four mooring blocks at the Emporium of Rome, see E. Nash, *Pictorial Dictionary of Ancient Rome*, 1, 1968, p. 382, fig. 465. They appear within Trajan's hexagonal basin at Ostia (G. Calza, *Notizie degli Scavi di Antichità*, 1, 1925, p. 56, fig. 1).

[2] *Zeitschrift des deutschen Palästina-Vereins*, 82, 1966, pp. 139-48.

[3] R. Meiggs, *Roman Ostia*, 1960, pl. 20.

[4] J. P. Brown, *The Lebanon and Phoenicia*, 1, 1969, pp. 43-47.



23. A relief of the second century A.D. from Torlonia, depicting a ship tied to a mooring-ring

"Description of the Whole World and its Peoples."[5] The coastal cities of Byblos, Tyre, and Beirut are said to have exported linen cloth, and Sarepta specifically is mentioned in connection with the export of genuine purple, as well as the staples of grain, oil, and wine.

We did not find, nor did we expect to find, any trace of the cargo which passed through the port at Sarepta. We did discover, however, that at Sarepta ships could be provisioned with drinking water, an essential for any long journey, like that from Sarepta to Puteoli, for example (cf. p. 43).

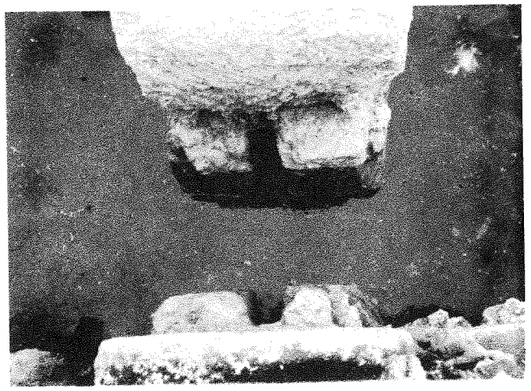
Half the area of the quay we have described was occupied by rock-cut basins. The first to be discovered was a tank, 2 by 4.25 m., hewn from the rock, directly behind the north well of the quay (Fig. 19.1). As workmen cleaned it they first encountered moist soil, then mud (Fig. 24). As they went deeper the workmen had to dip out the debris with buckets as they stood knee-deep in the slush. Pottery and other artifacts had to be virtually strained out. Finally at the end of a working day they reached the rock bottom, which was but .28 m. below the present level of the sea.

By the next morning the basin was again half filled with water and the Sisyphean task had to be repeated. It was not clear at the time whether the water had seeped in

[5] *Ibid.*, p. 48.

24. Cleaning the mud from the filtering basin next to the sea

from crevices in the rock floor or had flowed in through a passageway which led to the sea. The narrow opening between the basin and the sea had vertical notches cut at each side, obviously slots into which a sluice gate had been seated (Fig. 25) By raising or removing the barrier the basin could have been emptied through a stone channel or culvert that extended for about 5 m. seaward.



25. Cuttings in the rock which provided a seat for a sluice gate between two basins

In the south wall of the basin there appeared another opening opposite to that in the wall on the sea side. This opening, too, had a similar fitting of grooves cut into the sides for securing a sluice gate. It was not surprising, therefore, to find a second basin (Fig. 19.2) cut from the live rock immediately behind the first. When it, in turn, was completely cleared to the bottom, which was approximately at the same level of the first, there appeared once again a passageway with its gate opening southward. Behind the second basin was yet a third (Fig. 19.3) and it too had a passageway with its gate leading to the fourth element of the construction, a large tank approximately twice the size of Basin 3.

There remained no trace of the gates which had been secured by the vertical grooves in the walls of the passageways between the interconnected basins. However, during the excavation of the submerged channel complex at Kenchreai, the eastern port of ancient Corinth, Joseph W. Shaw did find sections of gates *in situ* within grooves cut in the passageways between a series of basins.[6] Both stone slabs and wooden boards had been used. It is reasonable to assume that either or both materials had been used at Sarepta as removable barriers.

Altogether there were four rectangular basins cut into the rock on which the quay had been built, connected by three gates to control the flow of water from one to the other and equipped with a fourth gate to the sea. From the orientation of the plan for the quay it was evident that the system of contiguous basins had either been constructed as an integral part of the port or that the port had been built to incorporate the water system within it. The quay and the tanks belonged together.

[6] *American Journal of Archaeology*, 71, 1967, p. 225.

26. Three steps leading from the wharf into the dipping basin for filling amphorae with fresh water

The function of the basins was not as evident as their plan. Could they have been fish tanks, which are described in such detail by Columella (see p. 65)? But these had channels to provide a constant circulation of sea water; ours did not. Unless the level of the Mediterranean had changed in two thousand years—a possibility of course—the sea could not have filled the basins, the bottoms of which were at approximately the same level as the sea at high tide. There was a possibility that these puzzling containers could have served the dye industry, for which Sarepta and other cities on the coast had been famous. But there were no dye stains on the walls, no discarded *murex* shells.

Eventually, some decisive pieces of evidence appeared. In cleaning the surface of the north side of the quay we encountered three steps leading down to a small tank, .60 by .80 m., which had been hewn from the live rock (Fig. 26). A hole in the wall that separated it from Basin 1 would have allowed water to fill it. When the remains of four amphorae were found crushed on the lowest of the three steps we were persuaded that the small tank was indeed a dipping basin from which sailors who called at the port filled their amphorae with drinking water.

With the discovery of this feature the entire picture came into focus. The four connected basins had been constructed to remove the sediment from surface water and make it potable. A section of the conduit which had brought the water from the hills to the first basin (Fig. 19.4) indicated that the system held fresh and not sea water (Fig. 27). In Basin 4 some of the sediment sank to the bottom, as the clearer liquid passed over the top of the sluice gate to the next basin, where further settling took place. After three such treatments the water collected in the basin beside the quay, available to ships. Periodically the sluice gates could be removed and the entire system flushed of its muddy sediment; the process could then be started over again. A simple device, but useful.

It was difficult to determine precisely the date for the construction of the water system. There were diagonal striations from the tools with which the basins had been cut from the live rock, but as yet there is not enough evidence for the kinds of tools used in the Roman period to make use of the marks they left for dating. The filling within the basins could have been laid down several centuries after the time of construction and first use. And, if our theory about the periodical cleaning of the sediment is correct, most of the residue from the early periods of use would long since have been flushed out to sea.

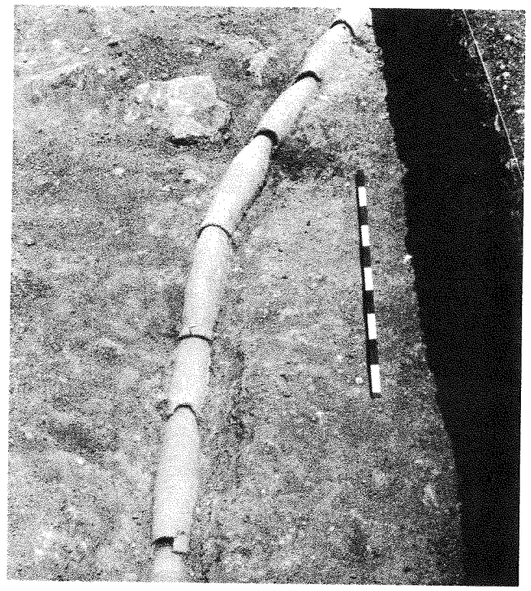
There was a clue, however, for the latest possible date for the construction. In the bottom of the seaward basin a particularly keen-eyed workman spotted a badly corroded bronze coin within the mud. When it was cleaned by electrolysis in a solution of sodium hydroxide with zinc pellets, the head of Melqart was visible on the obverse and a Greek inscription appeared on the reverse. It had been minted at Tyre in A.D. 112-113.[7]

Since the coin obviously had been dropped during the time the system was functioning or at least before the basin was filled in, the date of its construction must have been earlier. How much we cannot say. Other coins found about the site suggest a first century A.D. date for the initial use of the quay. The earliest precisely dated coin among the 98 identifiable coins discovered at the site was minted in A.D. 93-94.[8] Since it was found in the vicinity of Building 1, built of drafted masonry like that of the quay and set directly on the bedrock, a reasonable date for the earliest use of the area as a port is toward the end of the first century A.D.

The remains of two other constructions belong to the early port facility (Buildings 1 and 2 in Fig. 17). Both are built of ashlar blocks that show no previous use and their foundations are set firmly on the bedrock. While only three of the four sides of Building 1 remain, the care with which its north wall was constructed attests its im-

[7] G. F. Hill, *Catalogue of the Greek Coins of Phoenicia*, 1910, p. 267, no. 356.

[8] D. Baramki, *The Coins Exhibited in the Archaeological Museum of the American University of Beirut*, 1968, no. 100.

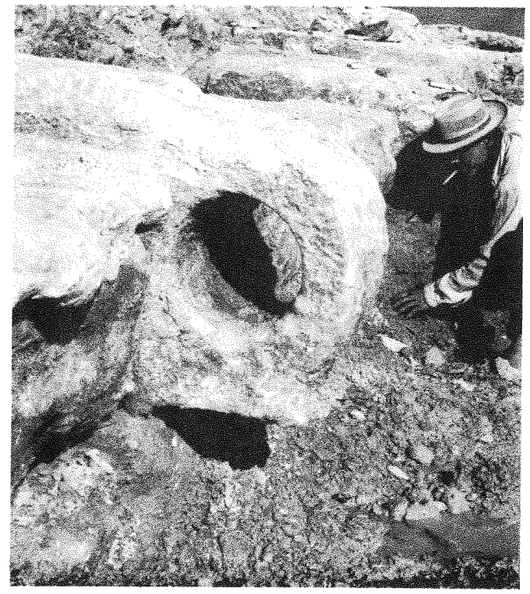


27. Section of the conduit leading from the hills to the filtering system

28. The enlarged quay, extending more than 44 m. along the shore

portance. The stones of the north wall, 1 m. wide, are marginally dressed and those of the lower course are meticulously fitted to the contours of the bedrock on which they rest (Fig. 21). Building 2, situated to the southwest of Building 1, is considerably larger. Its north wall, preserved for a distance of 10.90 m., was built in the header-and-stretcher construction and coated with a layer of hard plaster, which extended downward over a sloping abutment to the bedrock. Obviously this coating served the purpose of keeping water away from the foundation. Within the rectangular outline of the structure there appears an elliptical structure as yet unexplained. It was bonded to the stones of the north wall of the surrounding building. It seems reasonably certain that both of these monumental buildings were contemporaneous with the rectangular quay.

Eventually the modest first-century quay proved inadequate and the seaward wall was extended in a straight line to the east and to the west for a total length of more than 44 m. (Fig. 28). How much farther the new wharf ran to the east it was impossible to determine since that end had been destroyed either by stone looters or the action of the sea, or both. The builders of the enlargement had made use of massive ashlar blocks, many of them with cuttings that evidenced previous use in monumental buildings.



29. Mooring-ring of the enlarged quay, with grooves scored by lines from ships

When the earlier quay was enlarged it had been necessary to fill in the estuary that extended beside the mooring-ring. With this device no longer accessible from the sea, a new ring was built into the extended quay (Fig. 29). It was similar in design to the earlier stone—the puzzling ledge on the under side had been duplicated—but the hole was larger and displayed evidence of considerable use. On the edges of the opening well-worn grooves had been cut as the tide and wind had tightened and slackened the lines that bound the ships to land.

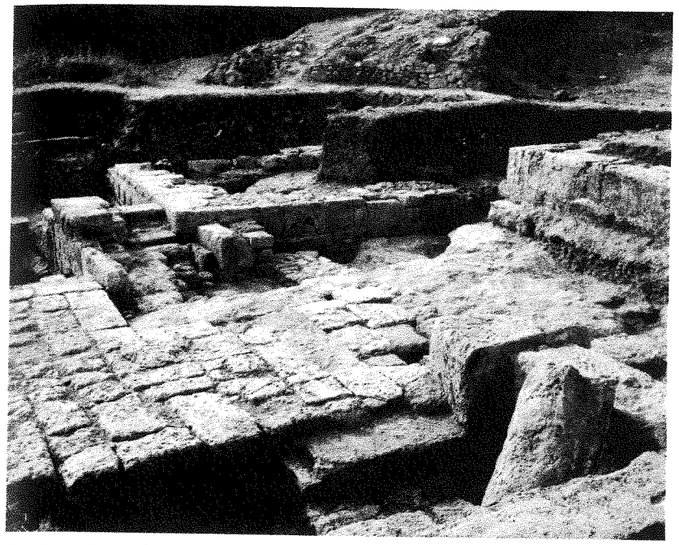
Along the eastern extension of the quay a series of rectangular rooms had been constructed of large stone blocks obviously robbed from other buildings. The largest and best preserved of the rooms measured 4 by 6.50 m. Although the floors of the rooms had generally been robbed, one pavement of stones did remain intact (Fig. 30). It would seem reasonable to interpret the remains of these rooms beside the quay as warehouses.

When did the enlargement of the port take place? One indicator for the date points to the beginning of the Byzantine period in the fourth century. Throughout the area of the excavation there were recovered 98 coins that could be identified with known mints. Every century from the first to the eleventh was represented, with the one exception of the ninth. The first three centuries were documented by only six percent of the total; but coins minted in the fourth century constituted 49 percent of all the coins found. If we assume that sailors and traders at the port were no more careful of their money in one century than in another, then the fourth century must have seen a burgeoning of commercial activity. The enlarged quay may well have provided facilities for the spurt in trade indicated by the increase in lost coins.

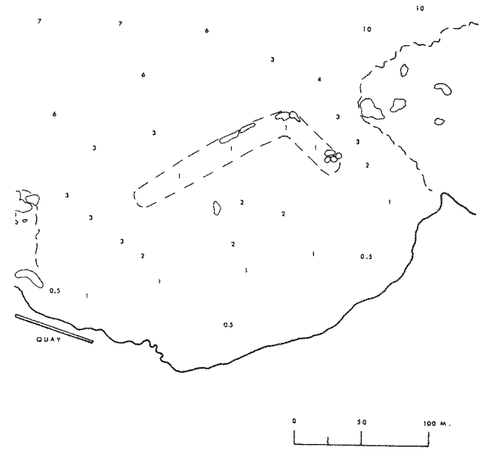
After the discovery of the quay and installations associated with it, we proceeded to map the semicircular harbor and to record the depths of water at regular intervals (Fig. 31).

It was immediately clear why the waves from heavy seas would break about 100 m. offshore and then be dissipated into foamy ripples. An L-shaped natural reef, 1 m. below the surface, acts as a natural mole to provide shelter from the open sea (Fig. 31). At each end of the reef there are channels, 3 m. deep, which would allow access for ships to the harbor and also make possible the circulation of water, an aid for keeping the harbor from silting up.

Another feature in the region of the natural harbor was man-made. It was a tank, 3.10 m. square, cut from the live rock of a promontory that reaches out a few meters into the sea at the west end of the quay (Figs. 32 and 33). Erosion had taken its toll of the seaward side of the basin, but the original plan and dimensions were clearly discernible.

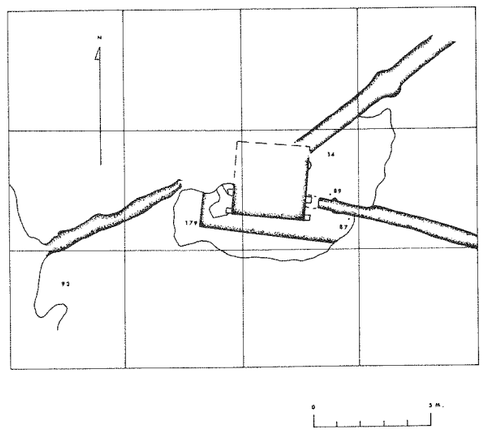


30. Paved floor of a warehouse beside the quay



31. Plan of the harbor

32. Fish tank cut from the rock of the promontory at Ras esh-Shiq



33. Plan of the fish tank with the channels to the sea

The bottom of the tank is slightly below the level of the sea, and at the top there appear notches on two sides, which could have served to secure beams that supported a covering. There are three openings in the walls of the tank; originally there had been four, one for each corner. These apertures led into channels which had been cut into the rock of the promontory for a distance of about 8 m., until they reached the sea. At low tide the canals were empty, but with the rising tide they were filled and carried sea water inward, providing a circulation of water within the confines of the basin. Twice a day the water flowed in and out.

In the first century A.D. Lucius Junius Moderatus Columella wrote a treatise on agriculture, in which he gives directions for constructing a saltwater pool for fish. His advice is as follows:

> . . . the best pond is one which is so situated that the incoming tide of the sea expels the water of the previous tide . . . for a pond most resembles the open sea if it is stirred by the winds and its water is constantly renewed. . . . The pond is either hewn in the rock, which only rarely occurs, or built of plaster on the shore. . . . If the nature of the ground permits, channels should be provided for the water on every side of the fish-pond. . . . It will be well to remember that gratings made of brass with small holes should be fixed in front of the channels through which the fish-pond pours out its waters, to prevent the fish from escaping.[9]

This description fits the tank at Sarepta so well that there can be little doubt as to the use to which it was put. One other remark Columella made is of particular interest when considering the function of this particular example. It is that fishponds are also used for growing "purple-producing shell-fish."[10] It is not impossible that the tank had the more specialized function, that of growing the *murex*, the source of the purple dye for which Sarepta was famous in Roman times.

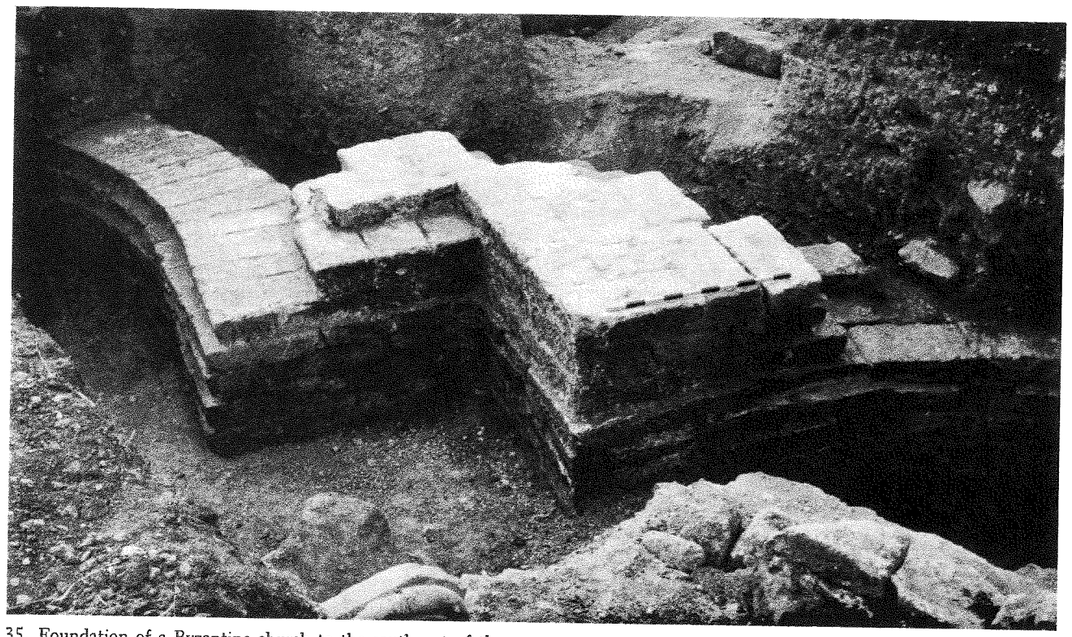
Ours is not the first example of a Roman fish tank which has come to light. At the harbor of Chersonisos, on the north coast of Crete, three of these tanks with channels leading to the sea were discovered by John Leatham and Sinclair Hood. Two more were found at Mochlos, also on the north coast, and in one of them was a fragment of stone grill, which is believed by the excavators to have been a filter that permitted the flow of water in and out while preventing the fish from escaping.

Two additional buildings within the port area provide

[9] *Lucius Junius Moderatus Columella on Agriculture*, translated by E. S. Forster and E. H. Heffner, Loeb edition, 1954, 8. 17.

[10] *Columella* 8. 16. 7.

34. The furnace of a Roman bath in the port area

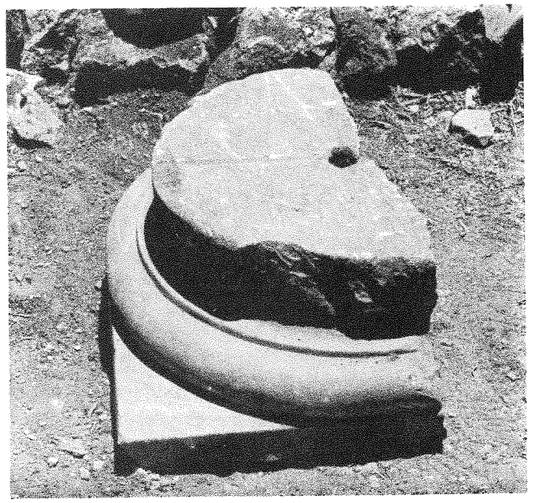


35. Foundation of a Byzantine church to the southwest of the quay

us with information about activities at Sarepta, during the Byzantine period. The first was a bath, which had been built only 15 m. back of the quay (Fig. 34). A caldarium, a steaming room with a pool of hot water, must have been particularly welcome to a sailor who had spent days cramped abroad his small craft.

The upper part of the bath had long since been destroyed. What remained was the praefurnium, the furnace for heating the water. Pillars of square and round clay disks that had once supported the floor of the bath stood to a height of *ca.* 35 cm. among the ash of the last use. The lines of an earlier building had been utilized as foundations for the hypocaust, the heating system.

It would have been surprising had we found no remains of a church in an area occupied in the Roman and Byzantine periods when Christians kept alive the tradition of Elijah's visit to Sarepta. The foundation of a church did appear at the southwest corner of the field we had rented for exploration (Fig. 35). While making a sounding 5 m. square, some 90 m. to the southwest of the west end of the quay, there emerged the foundation to a building consisting of six courses of chalk set firmly on bedrock. Nine of the stones were painted with red Greek letters—H and Θ—the quarrier's mark for identifying either the source or the position for which the stones were intended. All the superstructure had disappeared, with the exception of a



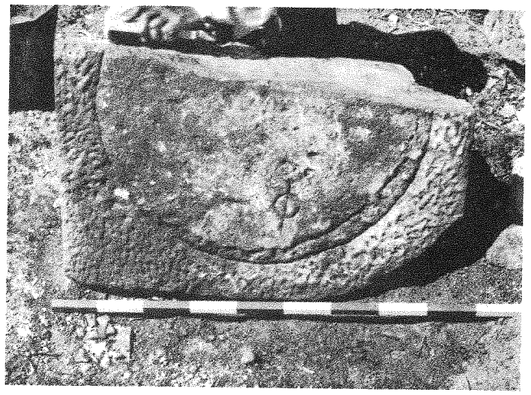
36. Marble base of a column from the church

marble base for a column (Fig. 36), on the underside of which was incised the Greek letter Φ within a circular field (Fig. 37).

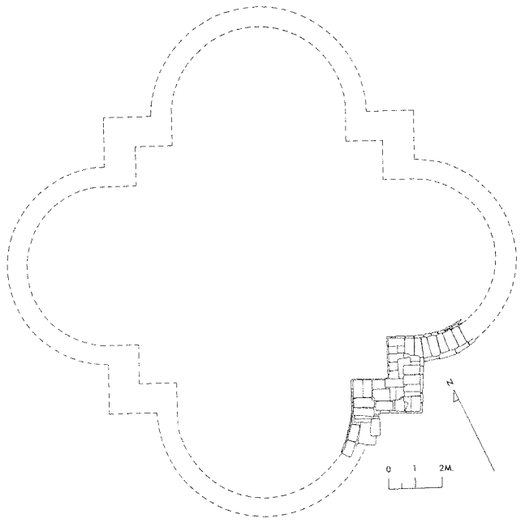
The plan of what remains of the foundation of the building consists of a corner at which two curved walls meet. If the arcs of these walls are projected to semicircles, as they have been in a reconstruction of the plan in Fig. 38, there appears half of the plan of the familiar tetraconch church of Byzantine architecture. If this symmetrical plan is completed by the addition of the opposite conchs, the reconstruction of the church measures approximately 17.5 by 19.5 m.[11]

What we have learned about Sarepta in the Roman and Byzantine periods comes from a limited sounding within what must have been a vast area of occupation. There is no evidence for any settlement beside this harbor before the first century A.D. Following the building of the earlier quay with its water system, there were, to judge from the frequency of datable coins, two major periods of development. In the fourth century there was a surge of building. The quay was greatly expanded, warehouses were built. This was done mostly with massive ashlar blocks salvaged from buildings that had fallen into ruins

[11] A triconch church was discovered in Bethany in 1881 (16.20 x 19.44 m. overall), *Oriens Christianus*, Ser. 3, 5, 1930, p. 237.



37. Greek letter incised on the underside of the column base



38. Reconstructed plan of the Byzantine church

in other parts of the city. The second largest number of coins, about one-third of the total, belongs to the sixth century, the period to which we would date the latest buildings on the site. Tentatively we would place the church, and possibly the hypocaust within the same century. After that, datable coins were scarce: only seven come from the seventh century, three from the eighth, and one each from the tenth and eleventh. Thus it appears that after the seventh century the site beside the harbor was virtually deserted, visited only occasionally.

After a season of excavations at the site of the Roman and Byzantine port we had succeeded in documenting about six centuries of Sarepta's history. To be sure the general cultures of this period are well known; but we had at least augmented the history of this coastal site and discovered some details which were unique. There remained yet another area where we might hope to find remains of the Phoenician period, and we decided to move there for a trial sounding.

V

The Phoenician Settlement

THE site picked at the start of the second season as a place to begin another search for Phoenician remains was the mound at Ras el-Qantara, some 500 m. to the northeast of the Roman harbor. It is the highest point on the shoreline at Sarafand, rising abruptly from the sea to a height of 12 m. There was the possibility, we reckoned, that this small hill was not a natural formation but the accumulation of debris from centuries of human occupation. The protected bay immediately to the north of the promontory on which the mound stood would have provided a convenient harbor. This could have been the Phoenician settlement.

The western face of the promontory had been eroded by heavy seas. In the scarp, stubs of walls and masses of Roman sherds could be seen, but nothing earlier. Scouring the surface of the fields on top of the mound for diagnostic sherds that might date its occupation, we found two handles from amphorae that had been imported from the Island of Rhodes. They could be dated to the Hellenistic period by the labels in Greek which had been stamped on them. Obviously the site had been occupied at least two centuries before the Roman port was built. Below the Hellenistic debris there might be the remains of an Iron Age settlement, but on the surface there was no evidence —not a single potsherd—to witness a Phoenician presence.

The particular field chosen for sounding was an irregularly shaped plot of about two acres (Plot 132 in Fig. 39) belonging to Mohammed Kawtarani, who had planted it with wheat some two months earlier. Negotiations for rental were amicable but prolonged since it was difficult to explain why we could not wait until the wheat was harvested. After two weeks our impatience prevailed and a contract for a three-year lease of the property was signed.

A grid with coordinates running east-west and north-south was staked out, each 5 m. square was given a letter-number designation to serve in recording the locus of finds, and the new site was called Area II. Within this large area—the grid comprised 252 squares—we selected two locations, each measuring 10 by 10 m., for testing the stratification. The first, which was labeled Sounding X

Chronology of Preliminary Reports

The following preliminary reports and news accounts of the excavations have appeared:

1969: *New York Times*, Jan. 8, 1970.

1969, 1970: "The Roman Port at Sarafand (Sarepta): Preliminary Report on the Seasons of 1969 and 1970," *Bulletin du Musée de Beyrouth*, vol. 24, 1971, pp. 39-56.

1969, 1970, 1971, 1972: "Les fouilles de Sarepta," *Bible et Terre Sainte*, no. 157, Jan. 1974, pp. 4-14.

1970: *New York Times*, Aug. 22, 1970; "The Phoenician City of Sarepta," *Archaeology*, vol. 24, 1971, pp. 61-63.

1970, 1971: "The Phoenicians in their Homeland," *Expedition*, vol. 14, 1971, pp. 14-23.

1970, 1971, 1972: *Sarepta: A Preliminary Report on the Iron Age*, Museum Monograph, Philadelphia, 1975.

1971: *New York Times*, Sept. 2, 1971.

1972: *New York Times*, Aug. 21, 1972; "The 1972 Excavations at Sarepta (Lebanon)," *Rivista di studi fenici*, vol. 1, 1973, pp. 91-92.

1974: *Washington Post*, Nov. 15, 1974.

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Index

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Pritchard, James Bennett, 1909-
Recovering Sarepta, a Phoenician city.
Includes index.
1. Sarepta, Lebanon. I. Title.
DS89.S37P74 939'.44 77-28304
ISBN 0-691-09378-4