

structed. The underground rooms are oval in shape and vary in size from 2.5 to 4.5 m. in diameter, with ceilings over 2 m. high. In five of these rooms, large stone-built support walls were found along the southern sides.

As seen in Fig. 1, the subterranean rooms are connected by narrow tunnels, traversed by crawling on all fours from chamber to chamber. In Subterranean System I, two main phases of use could be identified: the earlier consisted of three rooms constructed in BP III, and the later included nine rooms built during BP II. Samples of carbonized botanical remains have been submitted to the Oxford University Accelerator Dating Unit, and these dates should provide the most accurate temporal reconstruction for the use of these rooms.

A number of important small finds were made in Subterranean Room 9 in the system mentioned above. These include an ivory vial-shaped object, 12.5 cm. long and 3.8 cm. wide. The interior was carefully drilled out and the exterior decorated with incised herring-bone patterns. Also found in this room was a large *Lumbis* shell bracelet with inlaid beads.

To summarize, there is clear evidence for a fairly long occupation at Shiqmim (according to calibrated radiocarbon dates) spans at least the period from 4200–3800 B.C.E. This includes three well-documented main architectural building phases. While one complete complex of underground rooms was found in 1989, a second complex was found in Square N/13, where Subterranean Room 8 was excavated but left unfinished due to the danger of collapse (Pl. 24:B). The Phase III excavations at Shiqmim are planned for 1993.

*(Communicated by Thomas E. Levy
and David Alon)*

OBITUARY

JACOB KAPLAN, who was for many decades in charge of antiquities for the Tel Aviv municipality

and was associated with the Department of Antiquities and Museums and with the Israel Exploration Society, passed away on 14 April 1989. He was born in Bialystok, Poland, in 1910 and was brought by his parents to Jaffa at the age of four. He studied at the Commercial High School in Tel Aviv and then completed a degree in engineering at the Technion in Haifa. In 1936 he joined the archaeological expedition to Sheikh Ibreik (Beth She'arim), headed by Benjamin Maisler (Mazar), and worked there for three seasons as an engineer and draughtsman. It was there that his interest in archaeology started and developed into a lifetime career; he was awarded the Ph.D. by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 1954.

In 1948 he turned once again to archaeological work, joining B. Mazar at the excavations of Tell Qasile. He became aware at that time of the destruction of previously unknown archaeological remains by the expansion northward of Tel Aviv, and in January 1950 began the archaeological research of Tel Aviv and the Yarkon basin which was to become his life's work. He also excavated the mound of Jaffa and initiated the Museum of Antiquities of Tel Aviv–Jaffa, whose Director he was for many years. In this period many street names became synonymous with archaeological sites — Rehov ha-Bashan, Rehov Jabotinsky, Giv'at Beth ha-Mitbahayim and Wadi Rabah. Kaplan also turned to sites further afield in his research on the sources of the early Chalcolithic culture and the extent of its spread; hence his excavations at Tel Batash in the Soreq Valley and at the foot of Tel Abel-Beth Maacah. His study of the fortifications of Jaffa brought him to excavate the earthen ramparts of the Bronze and Iron Ages at both Yavneh Yam and Ashdod Yam, leading to a general study of the fortifications of the Middle Bronze Age and their sources. He also contributed to the study of the historical geography of the Jewish and Samaritan settlement of the coastal area during the Roman-Byzantine periods and to the history of construction in Ramla during the Islamic period.

Jacob Kaplan is survived by his wife, the archaeologist Haya Ritter Kaplan, who was a devoted helpmate. He left a rich archaeological legacy, part of which remains to be published.