

Fabrizio Venturi

TELL AFIS

THE EXCAVATIONS OF AREAS E2-E4

PHASES V-I

THE END OF THE LATE BRONZE / IRON AGE I SEQUENCE

Stratigraphy, Pottery and Small Finds

PART 1 - TEXT



Le Lettere

Fabrizio Venturi

TELL AFIS
THE EXCAVATIONS OF AREAS E2-E4
PHASES V-I
THE END OF THE LATE BRONZE /
IRON AGE I SEQUENCE
Stratigraphy, Pottery and Small Finds

PART 1 - TEXT

Le Lettere

Contents

Foreword (S. Mazzone)	p. XIII
Acknowledgements	» XVII
I. INTRODUCTION	» 3
I.1 The environment and the morphology of the site	» 3
I.2 History of the excavations	» 3
I.3 The stratigraphy of Areas E2-E4	» 4
I.4 The Late Bronze Age and Iron Age I in the other Tell Afis excavation Areas	» 6
I.5 Methods of excavation recording and the database setting	» 7
II. THE ARCHITECTURE AND THE STRATIGRAPHY OF PHASES V-I	» 10
II.1 Phases Vc-b	» 10
II.1.1 Building A and Street C	» 10
II.1.2 Building E and Area D	» 12
II.1.3 Building B	» 13
II.1.4 The functional partition of the spaces during phases Vc-b	» 15
II.2 Phases Va2-1	» 19
II.2.1 Phase Va2	» 19
II.2.2 Phase Va1	» 20
II.2.3 The functional partition of the spaces during phases Va2-1	» 21
II.3 Phases IVd-a	» 22
II.3.1 Building A	» 22
II.3.1.1 Phase IVc	» 22
II.3.1.2 Phase IVb	» 23
II.3.1.3 Phase IVa	» 24
II.3.2 Area D	» 24
II.3.2.1 Phase IVc	» 24
II.3.2.2 Phase IVb	» 25
II.3.2.3 Phase IVa	» 25
II.3.3 Street C	» 25
II.3.3.1 Phase IVc	» 25
II.3.3.2 Phase IVb	» 26
II.3.3.3 Phase IVa	» 26
II.3.4 Building B and Area E	» 26
II.3.4.1 Phase IVd	» 26
II.3.4.2 Phase IVc	» 27
II.3.4.3 Phase IVb	» 28
II.3.4.4 Phase IVa	» 29
II.3.5 The functional partition of the spaces during phases IVd-a	» 30

II.4 Phases IIId-a.....	p. 33
II.4.1 Building A.....	» 34
II.4.1.1 Phase IIId.....	» 34
II.4.1.2 Phase IIIc.....	» 35
II.4.1.3 Phase IIIb.....	» 35
II.4.1.4 Phase IIIa.....	» 36
II.4.2 Building B and Street C.....	» 36
II.4.2.1 Phase IIId.....	» 36
II.4.2.2 Phase IIIc.....	» 37
II.4.2.3 Phases IIIb-a.....	» 37
II.4.3 Buildings E, G and Streets D, F, H.....	» 37
II.4.3.1 Phases IIId-c.....	» 37
II.4.3.2 Phases IIIb-a.....	» 38
II.4.4 The functional partition of the spaces during phases IIId-a.....	» 38
II.5 Phases IIc-a.....	» 41
II.5.1 Building A and Street D.....	» 41
II.5.2 Building L and Street H.....	» 42
II.5.3 Building N and Street M.....	» 42
II.5.4 Building Q and Street P.....	» 42
II.5.5 The functional partition of the spaces during phases IIc-a.....	» 43
II.6 Phases Ic-b.....	» 44
II.6.1 Building N and Street M.....	» 45
II.6.2 Building Q and Street P.....	» 45
II.7 Phase Ia.....	» 45
III. THE POTTERY.....	» 47
III.1 Typological classification of shapes and pottery classes.....	» 47
III.2 Phases Vc-b.....	» 61
III.2.1 Tableware.....	» 61
III.2.1.1 Eating/drinking function: plates (PL), shallow bowls (BL 1), small deep bowls (BL 2).....	» 61
III.2.1.2 Drinking function: beakers (BK 1), goblets (MJ 1).....	» 62
III.2.1.3 Mixing function: large deep bowls (BL 3), kraters (KR).....	» 63
III.2.1.4 Pouring function: juglets (MJ 2), flasks (FL), necked jars (NJ).....	» 64
III.2.1.5 Other functions: strainers (SR), perforated vessels (PV), potstands (ST).....	» 64
III.2.1.6 Painted pottery.....	» 65
III.2.2 Cooking ware: cooking pots (CP).....	» 65
III.2.3 Storage ware.....	» 67
III.2.3.1 Fusiform jars (FJ).....	» 67
III.2.3.2 Krater jars (KJ).....	» 68
III.2.3.3 Storage jars (SJ).....	» 68
III.3 Phases Va2-1.....	» 69
III.3.1 Tableware.....	» 70
III.3.1.1 Eating/drinking function: plates (PL), shallow bowls (BL 1), small deep bowls (BL 2).....	» 70
III.3.1.2 Drinking function: beakers (BK 1).....	» 71
III.3.1.3 Mixing function: kraters (KR).....	» 72
III.3.1.4 Pouring function: necked jars (NJ).....	» 72
III.3.1.5 Other functions: strainers (SR).....	» 73
III.3.2 Cooking ware: cooking pots CP).....	» 73
III.3.3 Storage ware: storage jars (SJ).....	» 73
III.4 Phases IVd-a.....	» 74

III.4.1 Tableware	p. 74
III.4.1.1 Eating/drinking function: shallow bowls (BL 1), small deep bowls (BL 2)	» 75
III.4.1.2 Drinking function: beakers, cups, mugs (BK 1-3)	» 79
III.4.1.3 Mixing function: large deep bowls (BL 3), kraters (KR)	» 80
III.4.1.4 Pouring function: juglets (MJ 2), flasks (FL), spouted jugs (SP), necked jars (NJ)	» 82
III.4.1.5 Other functions: perforated vessels (PV), potstands (ST)	» 84
III.4.2 Cooking ware: cooking pots (CP)	» 84
III.4.3 Storage ware: storage jars (SJ)	» 86
III.5 Phases IIIId-a	» 87
III.5.1 Tableware	» 87
III.5.1.1 Eating/drinking function: shallow bowls (BL 1), small deep bowls (BL 2)	» 87
III.5.1.2 Drinking function: beakers, cups, mugs (BK 1-3), goblets (MJ 1)	» 88
III.5.1.3 Mixing function: large deep bowls (BL 3), kraters (KR)	» 89
III.5.1.4 Pouring function: spouted bowls (SP), juglets (MJ 2), necked jars (NJ)	» 90
III.5.1.5 Other functions: zoomorphic vessels (ZV), potstands (ST)	» 90
III.5.2 Cooking ware: cooking pots (CP)	» 92
III.5.3 Storage ware: storage jars (SJ)	» 93
III.6 Phases IIc-a	» 93
III.6.1 Tableware	» 94
III.6.1.1 Eating/drinking function: shallow bowls (BL 1), small deep bowls (BL 2), beakers (BK)	» 94
III.6.1.2 Mixing function: large deep bowls (BL 3), kraters (KR)	» 95
III.6.1.3 Pouring function: necked jars (NJ)	» 95
III.6.2 Cooking ware: cooking pots (CP)	» 95
III.6.3 Storage ware: storage jars (SJ)	» 96
III.7 Phases Ic-b	» 96
III.8 Iron Age I pottery decoration. Phases Va-Icb	» 98
III.8.1 Monochrome and bichrome decorations	» 98
III.8.2 Geometric motifs	» 99
III.8.3 Figurative motifs	» 106
III.9 Phase Ia	» 108
III.9.1 The pottery in context	» 108
III.9.2 The pottery of phase Ia; general considerations	» 111
III.9.2.1 Shapes	» 111
III.9.2.2 Bichrome ware	» 112
III.9.2.3 Red slip ware	» 113
III.10 Pottery evolution at Tell Afis between phases V and I and relative chronology	» 114
IV. THE SMALL FINDS	» 119
IV.1 Ornaments and fastenings	» 121
IV.1.1 Fibulae	» 121
IV.1.2 Pins	» 121
IV.1.3 Bracelets, anklets and rings	» 122
IV.1.4 Pendants	» 123
IV.1.5 Beads and buttons	» 123
IV.2 Cosmetics	» 125
IV.2.1 Kohl boxes	» 125
IV.2.2 Pyxides	» 125
IV.2.3 Tweezers	» 126
IV.3 Drinking tools (filters)	» 126

IV.4 Weapons and cutting tools	p. 127
IV.4.1 Spearheads and arrowheads	» 127
IV.4.2 Knives and sickles	» 128
IV.4.3 Axes	» 128
IV.4.4 Celts	» 129
IV.4.5 Maceheads and butts	» 129
IV.5 Perforation tools	» 130
IV.5.1 Awls, chisels, drills and burins	» 130
IV.5.2 Hooks and spatulae	» 131
IV.5.3 Ferrules and ploughshares	» 131
IV.6 Textile tools	» 131
IV.6.1 Needles	» 131
IV.6.2 Spindles and spindle whorls	» 132
IV.6.3 Loomweights	» 133
IV.6.4 Spatulae	» 136
IV.6.5 Shuttles	» 136
IV.7 Food processing tools	» 136
IV.7.1 Mortars	» 136
IV.7.2 Pestles	» 137
IV.7.3 Querns and rubbers	» 138
IV.7.4 Stone containers	» 139
IV.8 Polishing tools	» 139
IV.8.1 Polishers and scrapers	» 139
IV.8.2 Whetstones	» 139
IV.9 Counterweights	» 140
IV.10 Percussion tools (mallets)	» 140
IV.11 Moulding tools (stone moulds)	» 141
IV.12 Measuring tools (scale weights)	» 141
IV.13 Sealing tools (stoppers)	» 141
IV.14 Fittings and furniture	» 142
IV.14.1 Inlays	» 142
IV.14.2 Finials	» 142
IV.14.3 Supports	» 143
IV.14.4 Lamps	» 143
IV.15 Figurative	» 144
IV.15.1 Figurines	» 144
IV.15.1.1 Female figurines	» 144
IV.15.1.2 Male figurines	» 145
IV.15.1.3 Animal figurines	» 146
IV.15.2 Models	» 147
IV.15.3 Molded figurines	» 147
IV.15.4 Statues	» 149
IV.15.5 Plastic decoration on vessels	» 149
IV.16 Seals	» 149
IV.16.1 Cylinder seals	» 149
IV.16.2 Stamp seals	» 150
IV.17 Worked bones	» 151

IV.17.1 Scapulae	p. 151
IV.17.2 Astragali	» 151
V. THE ¹⁴C AND MINERO-PETROGRAPHIC/GEOCHEMICAL ANALYSES.	
THE ABSOLUTE CHRONOLOGY AND PROVENANCE OF THE AREA E4 MYC. IIIC POTTERY	» 154
V.1 ¹⁴ C analyses and the absolute chronology of Area E4 and Myc. IIIC	» 154
V.1.1 Absolute chronology in the Aegean and the Eastern Mediterranean	» 154
V.1.1.1 LH IIIC chronology	» 155
V.1.1.2 LC IIIA-B chronology	» 156
V.1.1.3 The Philistine pottery and the high-middle-low chronology debate	» 156
V.1.1.4 The Northern Levant chronology	» 158
V.1.2 ¹⁴ C analyses of Tell Afis Area E4 (phases VIII, VI, V, IV)	» 159
V.1.2.1 The stratigraphy of the SE sector	» 159
V.1.2.2 Choice of samples and their stratigraphic position	» 159
V.1.2.3 Comments on the radiocarbon dating of Tell Afis samples (M. Fedi)	» 161
V.1.2.4 Discussion	» 165
V.1.2.5 The Area E4 results and their implications for the appearance of Myc. IIIC pottery in the Northern Levant	» 165
V.2 The petrographic/chemical pottery analyses and the origin of Myc. IIIC	» 168
V.2.1 Description of the corpus	» 169
V.2.2 Results and discussion (S. Raneri)	» 171
V.2.3 Conclusion	» 174
VI. TELL AFIS AND ITS HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	» 178
VI.1 Tell Afis in Late Bronze Age II, a provincial administrative center on the border of the Hittite empire (phases Vc-b)	» 178
VI.1.1 The Hittites in the Northern Levant: the historical background	» 178
VI.1.2 The Hittites in the Northern Levant: the archaeological evidence	» 181
VI.2 Winds of change at the beginning of the Iron Age (phases Va-IV). The Sea Peoples in the Northern Levant	» 186
VI.2.1 The written sources	» 188
VI.2.2 Celebrative art	» 190
VI.2.3 The urban dynamic	» 191
VI.2.4 Diffusion of Myc. IIIC and other cultural markers	» 195
VI.2.5 Tell Afis during phases Va-IV: a society in transition	» 200
VI.2.6 The settlement of the Sea Peoples in the Northern Levant: a possible scenario matching the textual, artistic and archaeological evidence	» 211
VI.3 The formation of an Iron Age I community (phases III-II): a growing urbanization between cultural integration and new cultural acquisitions	» 218
VI.4 The end of Iron Age I and the transition to Iron Age II (phases Icb-Ia). The Aramaeans at Tell Afis	» 220
VI.4.1 The emergence of the Aramaeans in the Northern Levant	» 220
VI.4.2 Tell Afis in the transition between Iron Age I and II	» 222
VI.5 Tell Afis and the chronology of the Iron Age I	» 225
VI.6 Conclusion	» 231
List of US	» 233
List of figures	» 251
List of tables	» 253
List of plates	» 254
Bibliography	» 261