

Acknowledgements

Like our prehistoric ancestors, archaeologists go about their business in groups, even if usually only one of them gets to write up the results and draw some conclusions. Thus it is my privilege to thank a large number of friends and colleagues who, in one way or another, all took part in the revisiting of el-Wad.

First are two of my close colleagues, Avraham Ronen, for the way he helped me analyse the lithic material, and Daniel Kaufman, who participated in the excavation itself and was generous in sharing with me his thoughts on various aspects of the cultural material. Then, Milla Ohel, for his ever-ready assistance during the excavation, and Anna Belfer-Cohen, for helping me out on the lithic and art assemblages, as well as for the long hours she spent commenting on various chapters while they were still in manuscript. Yitzhak Hen, too, patiently read a final draft and gave me much useful advice. I am also grateful to Sylvia Chaim, for her painstaking work on the extraction of pollen and assistance with the palynological analyses, but even more for her friendship and support; to Salman Abu-Rukun, for his enthusiastic help throughout and for the significant contribution he was able to make to the study of the el-Wad Cave in the twentieth century; and to Udi Galili, for the eco-sounding profile he performed specifically for my research.

Help in various forms came from: Meirav Baron (sorting of the lithics), Alex Beck (detailed geophysical investigations), Simcha Lev-Yadun (study of wood remains, the photographing of plant formations, and many discussions on various aspects of the environment and its exploitation), Amots Dafni (botanical and ecological advice), Shimon Ilani (study of ochre remains from el-Wad and other sites and contribution to the understanding of the geological background and the sourcing of the various raw materials), Bobi Lang (dating of basalts), John Vogel, Israel Carmi and Dror Segal (^{14}C dating), Ezra Marcus and Dror Segal (useful remarks on dating).

Never too numerous to mention and to warmly thanks are all those who at various stages helped out in the excavation: Abu-Rukun Salman and his sons Ala and Talia, Alphasi Orly, Baron Meirav, Ben-Yishai David, Boytner Ran, Brimer Baruch, Effenberger Reinhard, Etzioni Yaron, Friedman Zaraza, Gershon Israel, Gibbor Iskandar, Kurtzbar Edna, Kurtzbar Ofra, Kushinski Gitit, Lamdan Modi, Levin Idan, Mala'achi Yechiel, Milshtein Shulamit, Nagar Anat, Ophir Ya'aqov, Oshri Aviram, Piatza Raul, Refael Ora, Sharvit Ya'aqov, Shitrit Yossi, Talmor Ronen, Tacher Ayelet,

Weiner Igal, Weishoff Pnina, Yanko Liora, Yankelevitz Shalom and his sons Yachin and Boaz.

Many thanks are further due to Sophy Doroshe (the archives of the Israeli Antiquities Authority) for letting me go through the old documents of the el-Wad excavations, and for the reproduction of valuable photographs; the Israel Museum for the permission to publish Natufian art objects from its archaeological collection; Arnon Soffer for the permission to reproduce geological and vegetation maps from the Atlas of Haifa and Mount Carmel; Patrick Périn (Director of the Musée des Antiquités Nationales, Saint Germain-en-Laye) and Mme Bouron (Conservateur de la Bibliothèque, Musée des Antiquités Nationales, Saint Germain-en-Laye) for allowing me to inspect the valuable unpublished material of Dorothy Garrod; Hava Lahav, for the results of her detailed Mount Carmel vegetation survey and to Yonat Magal (the GIS unit, the Israeli Nature Reserves Authority) for the organization and reproduction of the coloured vegetation map.

For their excellent work on the drawings I owe many thanks to Elizabeth Elkin, Shoshana Mansfeld, Daphna Stern, Ofra Lazar, Zaraza Friedman, Konstantin Rybalko and Ohad Zackheim. Alexander Marshack provided the splendid photographs of the art objects and Modi Lamdan kindly supplied the photograph of the cave for the back cover.

Special thanks must go to Eviatar Nevo, whose moral support especially during some of my bleaker moments proved invaluable. With his helpful suggestions throughout on how to organize my "narrative", Dick Bruggeman did much to brighten my days at the tail end of the process.

The el-Wad excavations were supported by the Israeli Nature Reserves Authority and the Zinman Institute of Archaeology, University of Haifa. Various aspects of the research were financed by the Irene Levi Sala Care Archaeological Foundation, the Faculty of Humanities and the Research Authority of the University of Haifa.

But, of course, my greatest debt of gratitude is to Itzik, Igal and Aya, for their endurance throughout this project and for their love always.