Judea and Samaria Research Studies
Volume 34, No. 1, 2025, pp. *65-*84
DOI: https://doi.org/10.26351/JSRS/34-1/5
ISSN: 0792-8416 (print); 2617-8737 (online)

ARIEL UNIVERSITY PRESS

Treasures from Shiloh: Identifying Gold, Mother-of-Pearl, and Faience Jewelry from the 2022 and 2023 Excavation Seasons

Frankie Snyder, Jordan McClinton, and Clayton Van Huss

Abstract

This article is a preliminary report on five gold objects believed to be from the Late Bronze Age, discovered during the 2022 and 2023 excavation seasons at Shiloh (Khirbet Seilun) by the Associates for Biblical Research (ABR) under the direction of Scott Stripling. Four of the objects originated in Area D1, supervised by Jordan McClinton; the other was found in the wet-sifting dump area by Ellen Jackson, the site's metal detectorist, and may also have originated in Area D1. Of the four gold objects from Area D1, one was discovered during excavation, one during wet-sifting, and two during metal detecting. Two other items of jewelry included in this report, also found in Area D1, are a mother-of-pearl ring pendant and a turquoise faience melon bead. The jewelry from Shiloh most closely parallels items in Late Bronze Age hoards discovered at Tell el-Ajjul and in the Lachish Fosse Temple.

Keywords: Shiloh, Khirbet Seilun, gold jewelry, hoard, Tell el-Ajjul, Lachish Fosse Temple

Frankie Snyder – Independent researcher; frankie.snyder@gmail.com
Jordan McClinton – PhD candidate, Veritas International University; jordan.mcclinton@gmail.com
Clayton Van Huss – The Bible Seminary; clayton@swrc.com

Introduction: Description of Area D1

Area D1 (Fig. 1) encompasses a broad terrace on the northeastern side of Shiloh (Khirbet Seilun). It was originally opened during Bar-Ilan University excavations under Israel Finkelstein (1981–1984) to investigate the Canaanite fortification wall that had been uncovered by the Danish excavations (1926–1963). The area consisted of two parts: a sectional trench cut through the glacis to reveal the outer portion of the fortification wall, and a broad terrace above the main wall, where Finkelstein (1993: 35) excavated 375 sq. m. Finkelstein meticulously cleared this area, excavating ten squares and leaving clean balks standing on the northern and eastern sides of each square, all of which were standing until the Associates for Biblical Research (ABR) resumed work in the area.

During the Shiloh 2022 season, the ABR team removed one of the balks left by Bar-Ilan. In addition, our team cleaned crumbled balk material to recover pottery, bones, and other objects. The main fortification wall (Wall 1) also underwent restoration.

The Shiloh 2023 season was the second consecutive season for excavation in Area D1. During the 2023 season we excavated an additional five balks and uncovered three silos, one of which our team conserved. Area D1 served as a granary in the Iron Age II, as evidenced by the number of Iron Age IIA silos excavated there.[1]

The purpose of the balk removal was twofold: First, we wanted to clarify the Area D1 chronology that Finkelstein had dated to the LB I/IIA. ABR's study of the pottery suggested that it began in the LB IB/IIA horizon and continued into the LB IIB. Finkelstein did not radiocarbon-date any of the bones, nor did he identify stratigraphy, tasks which ABR proposes to accomplish. Furthermore, wet-sifting of the Area D1 material, both the newly removed material and the previously removed material now in Finkelstein's dumps, may yield significant small finds missed in the Bar-Ilan excavations.

1 Figure 1 provides an aerial view of Area D1 with the find-spots of the jewelry items marked. Finkelstein did not produce a cross-section of his Area D, and it is premature at this point for ABR to create a cross-section for the whole of Area D1 based on the balks we have excavated thus far.

The second purpose of the balk removal was to clear a safety hazard. These 40-year-old balks are crumbling, both from weathering and from park visitors venturing out on them. The removal of the balks enhances the safety of the Ancient Shiloh park for visitors to the site.

Finkelstein suggested that Area D was a *favissa* but thought that the materials might have been moved to this location from the nearby summit. A *favissa* is a pit or underground cellar used for burying obsolete sacred utensils, offerings, and votive or cult objects. They were usually located within sacred temple precincts and often contain an abundance of finds (Mazar 1992: 254; Lacovara 2016: 415). A *favissa* served much the same purpose as a Jewish *genizah* does today.

This deposit area is roughly oval, covering an area about 150 sq. m., and consists of gray ash, stones, bones, pottery, and special objects. It varies in depth from 0.5 m around the perimeter to 1.5 m on the eastern side, closest to the MB II city wall. In the deposit, Finkelstein discovered a fragment of a female figurine, a handle with a cylinder seal impression, and a gold pendant in the approximate shape of a three-petaled flower or a fly (Finkelstein et al. 1985: 148, 166; Sass 1993: 266, Fig. 10.1:2). Concerning the area, Finkelstein concludes:

> Sometime in Late Bronze Age II, but more likely in Iron Age I, while preparing the ground for new buildings, a *favissa* of the Late Bronze Age cult place (or perhaps the cult place itself) was cleared out and thrown into pits on the slope. Shortly afterwards the Iron Age silos were cut into these dumps (Finkelstein et al. 1985: 166).

Aside from the artifacts found by Finkelstein's Bar-Ilan team, Area D1 has yielded numerous unusual and valuable jewelry items during ABR's excavations, including

at least four gold objects,[2] a mother-of-pearl ring pendant, and a turquoise-colored faience melon bead, all of which we discuss in this report.

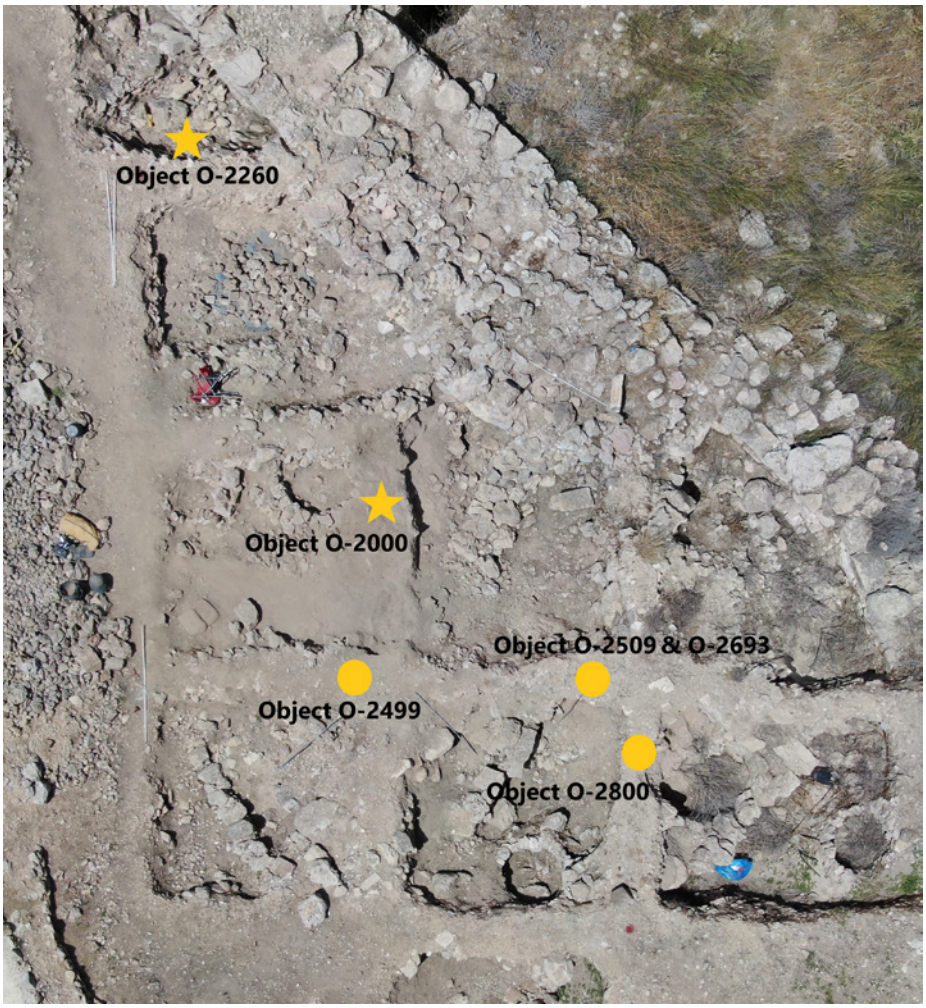

Figure 1: Shiloh – Area D1 aerial photo showing balks, excavated squares, outer Middle Bronze Age northeastern city wall, and find-spots of jewelry discussed in this report (photo: Gary Urie; graphics: Jordan McClinton)

2 Research on these gold objects is in the preliminary stages. Conservator Orna Cohen concurred with ABR's initial assessment that these objects are indeed made of gold. In the future ABR may decide to have these objects assayed to determine the purity of the gold contained in each of them, and to attempt to determine the source of the gold.

The History of Gold Jewelry in the Levant

Gold is found in its natural metallic state as small specks or nuggets in rivers or in gold-bearing veins or lodes of quartz, and is always alloyed with some silver or possibly copper or iron. As early as the third millennium BCE, these same three metals were often added to gold for aesthetic, economic, durability, or cultic reasons, each metal giving the gold a different color effect (Golani 2013: 18–19).

Egyptians viewed gold as being both magical and divine, with its symbolic power emanating from its shine and its endurance, which is associated with eternal life. Nubia (southern Egypt and northern Sudan) was the origin of much of Egypt's gold, along with deposits in the Eastern Desert of Egypt. Syria-Palestine and Mesopotamia lacked gold deposits, but they were found in abundance in the neighboring regions of Anatolia and Arabia (see 1 Kings 10; 1 Chronicles 29:4; Job 22:24 [JPS]). Biblical Ophir, a source of gold, may have been on the East African coast of the Red Sea, in the vicinity of the land of Punt (see 1 Kings 9:28, 10:11, 22:49; Psalms 45:10 [JPS]). In addition, the Phoenicians may have been responsible for bringing Spanish gold to the Levant during the Iron Age (Golani 2013: 19).

Gold was found in use in the Levant as early as the Chalcolithic period, with worked gold rings being discovered in the Nahal Qanah cave in the hills of Samaria. The gold rings from this cave demonstrate one of the very earliest attempts at refining gold, as the gold quality of the rings was increased from less than 75% gold in the rings' interior to up to 95% gold on the outer surface (Gopher and Tsuk 1996).

The gold used in the Levant during the Iron Age II was probably supplied from Egypt, where it had been plentiful during the Late Bronze Age. Smaller amounts of gold may also have been melted down from earlier items that were traded, collected, or plundered over time. Due to the remelting of gold from various sources, it is difficult to identify the primary provenance of gold objects from the ancient Near East. However, matching items within a given hoard may indicate that they were made at the same workshop or by the same goldsmith (Golani 2013: 19–20).

The *Repoussé* Metalworking Technique

Four of the gold items in ABR's Shiloh collection appear to have been manufactured by the *repoussé* metalworking technique. A thin, malleable sheet of gold was ornamented or shaped by placing it over a negative mold of wood or stone and hammering or pressing the gold into the designs with a wooden, bone, or metal tool. This technique could be used to produce duplicate pieces of jewelry of the same design (Kempinski 1992: 204; Golani 2013: 27). The method was already popular in western Asia, Egypt, and the Mediterranean by 2000 BCE (Dubin 2009: 46). An excellent example of the *repoussé* technique was found during Finkelstein's excavations at Shiloh in his Area D (= ABR Area D1). A 2×2.5 cm thin sheet-gold ornament in the shape of a three-petaled flower, or possibly a fly, was decorated with lines and dots and featured a small perforation at the top. Suggestions for its use include a pendant or a hair or garment decoration (Finkelstein 1993: 11, 396; Sass 1993: 266, Fig. 10.1:2).

Catalogue of Jewelry Items from Area D1

This catalogue contains the five gold objects found by ABR thus far in our excavations at Shiloh. It also contains two other notable pieces of jewelry found in Area D1.

Table 1: Jewelry from Area D1 at Shiloh

Obj.	Fig.	Balk (Direction)	Locus, Pail	Dimensions (mm)	Weight(g)	Description
1563*	2	?	?	11×6×3	0.82	Gold bead or tubular suspension loop from a pendant
2000	3	AW 34/35 (E–W)	L3, P8	18×14×1	0.58	Gold star pendant, complete; 10 rays radiating from raised circular center boss, 9 rays forming a star and the 10th forming a rolled-over suspension loop
2260	4	AV/AW 33 (N–S)	L2, P2	21×16×1	0.66	Gold 8-rayed star pendant, suspension loop missing
2499	5	AV/AW 35 (N–S)	L3, P3	21×10×0.25	0.57	Gold almond/spoon-shaped pendant with suspension loop, complete
2800	6	AX 35/36 (E–W)	L5, P8	15×7×2	0.92	Misshapen gold object
2509	7	AW/AX 35 (N–S)	L5, P7	31×29×2	2.42	Ring-shaped mother-of-pearl pendant, center hole D: 14 mm, incomplete
2693	8	AW/AX 35 (N–S)	L7, P12	L: 8, D: 8	0.41	Turquoise-colored faience, gadrooned circular melon bead, Beck type XXIII.A.3.a, incomplete

* Likely from Area D1

Object 1563

Cylindrical gold bead or tubular suspension loop (Fig. 2). This was the first gold item found in ABR's excavation. Unfortunately, it was recovered from a wet-sifting dump area during metal detecting, rendering the area and square of its source uncertain.[3]

Manufacturing technique: *repoussé*; object made from a thin, hammered sheet of

3 Objects 1563, 2499, and 2800 were found by metal detectorist Ellen Jackson; object 2000 by Carmillia Gülmez during excavation; object 2260 by Steven Rudd during wet-sifting; object 2509 by Stacey Tucker during excavation; and object 2593 by Frankie Snyder during wet-sifting.

gold, with five parallel embossed lines circling the cylinder, protruding outward. The gold on the ends of the circular tube of the "bead" are very smoothly cut, whereas the edge running the length of the "bead" is rather jagged, suggesting this line was broken, not cut, and this object is a slightly flattened, broken-off tubular suspension loop of a pendant instead of simply a bead.

Tubular suspension loop parallels: on Canaanite eight-rayed star pendants and fertility goddess pendants (all with embossed lines protruding inward) from Tell el-Ajjul (Petrie 1934: Pls. XIII–XIV:8–9, 14–15; Kempinski 1992: Pl. 31, Figs. 6.40–41); one of the star pendants on display at the Rockefeller Museum in Jerusalem, item 1156; Canaanite pendants, 14th–13th centuries BCE (Misch-Brandl 2010: Pl. 21).

Gold tubular bead parallels: Canaanite beads from Deir el-Balah, 13th century BCE (Kempinski 1992: Pl. 32; Misch-Brandl 2010: Pl. 22); tubular sheet-gold beads from Alalakh, 1550–1300 BCE (Maxwell-Hyslop 1971: Pl. 100:4–5).

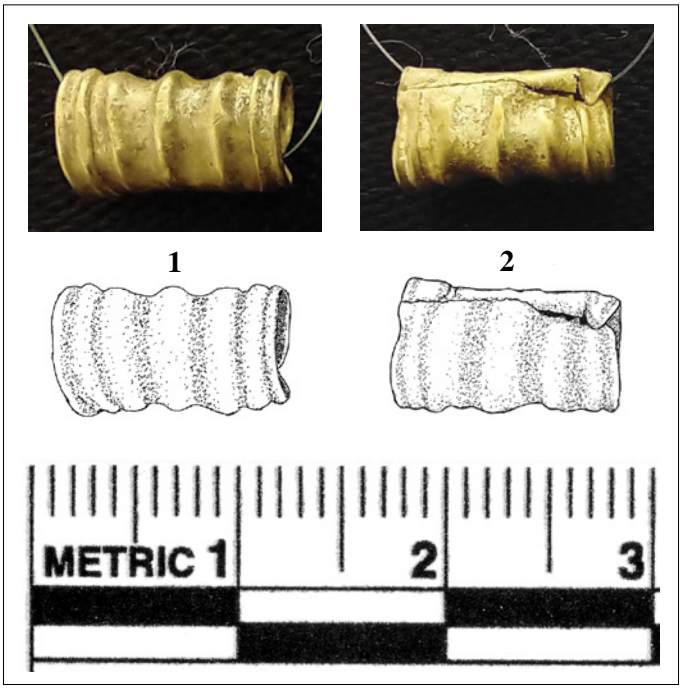

Figure 2: Shiloh – Object 1563, gold bead or suspension loop: (1) front, (2) back (photos: Gary Urie; drawings: Frankie Snyder)

Object 2000

Gold nine-rayed cut-out star pendant, plus additional ray as suspension loop (Fig. 3).

Manufacturing technique: *repoussé*; object made from a thin, plain, hammered sheet of gold with ten projections radiating from a raised circular center boss. Nine projections form the rays of the star; a tenth projection forms the rolled-over suspension loop. Several of the star's rays are broken or clipped at the tips. Once the center boss was created by impressing the back of the pendant, a fine line encircling the raised boss was added, being impressed on the front of the pendant with a fine-pointed instrument, perhaps to make the boss more prominent. Another fine line of unclear purpose extends outward from this circle between two of the rays. The overall craftsmanship of this pendant appears to be rather crude.

Parallels: There are no exact parallels, although three similar gold eight-rayed, cut-out stars, where the eighth ray also serves as a long, narrow band terminating in a rolled-over suspension loop, were found in the Fosse Temple at Lachish, dated to the Late Bronze Age. Each has a small raised, circular center boss (Tufnell et al. 1940: Pl. 26:11–12, 15; McGovern 1985: 134, no. 348, Pl. 24:348; Koch 2017: 64–65).

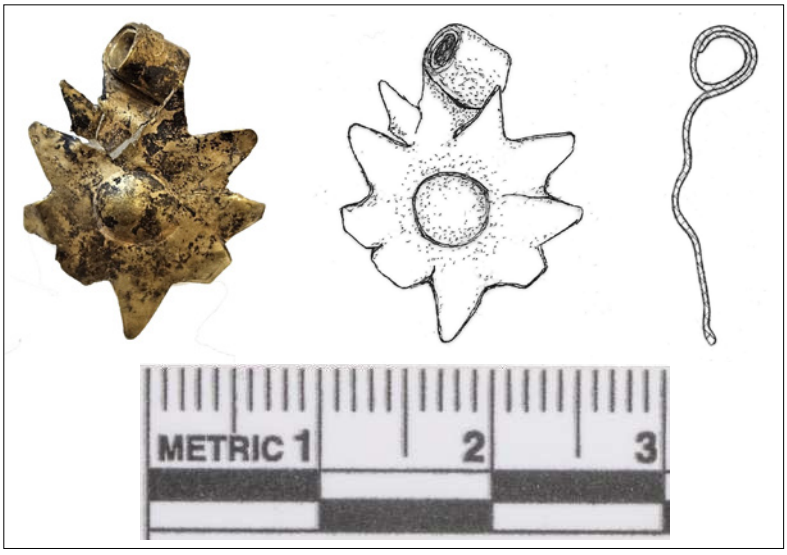

Figure 3: Shiloh – Object 2000, gold eight-rayed star pendant with suspension loop (photo: Miriam Hassid; drawing: Frankie Snyder)

Object 2260

Gold eight-rayed, cut-out star pendant without suspension loop (Fig. 4).

Manufacturing technique: *repoussé*; object made from a thin, plain, hammered sheet of gold, with eight rays radiating from a raised circular center boss and raised lines in the center of each ray. Around the circular center boss are 16 irregularly spaced tiny dots that were impressed from the front of the pendant with a fine-pointed instrument after the center boss was formed, perhaps to make the boss more prominent. Seven rays are squared-off (clipped) at the end; a suspension loop (now missing) appears to have been attached to the missing eighth ray.

Parallels: A virtually identical gold eight-rayed, cut-out star pendant with a raised circular center boss, raised lines in the center of each ray, and squared-off rays, also missing its suspension loop, was found at the Fosse Temple at Lachish. The temple dates to the Late Bronze Age (ca. 1450–1200 BCE; Tufnell et al. 1940: 66, Pl. 26:14; McGovern 1985: 134, no. 347, Pl. 24:347; Koch 2017: 64–65, 75). At Tell el-Ajjul, a Canaanite gold eight-rayed, cut-out star pendant was found among a hoard (1299) of jewelry in a broken pot (Petrie 1934: 6, Pls. XIII–XIV:15; Kempinski 1992: Pl. 31, Fig. 6.41) and is now on display at the Rockefeller Museum in Jerusalem (item 1156). A similar Canaanite gold eight-rayed, cut-out star pendant, from the same Tell el-Ajjul hoard, with one broken ray tip (Petrie 1934: Pls. XIII–XIV:14; Maxwell-Hyslop 1971: 141, Pl. 111), is on display at the British Museum (item 130766). A third gold eight-rayed, cut-out star pendant from Tell el-Ajjul, where the eighth ray may also have served as the now-missing suspension loop, has a raised circular center boss, a raised embossed line down the middle of each ray, and a depressed embossed line between each pair of rays, but has less sophisticated craftsmanship than the two previously mentioned star pendants (Petrie 1934: Pls. XIII–XIV:13). Another gold eight-rayed, cut-out star pendant from the same Tell el-Ajjul hoard, where the eighth ray may also have served as the now-missing suspension loop, has a flat center encircled by a narrow, plain gold wire and then by a narrow, twisted gold wire. The ray tips are squared-off, not pointed, and there is a raised embossed line down the middle of each ray, with 5–7 irregularly spaced tiny

dots impressed with a fine-pointed instrument along both sides of each ray, but this one, too, has less sophisticated craftsmanship than first two star pendants described above (Petrie 1934: Pls. XIII–XIV:36). Petrie (1934: 6) dated the hoard in the broken pot to the early part of the Egyptian 16th Dynasty (ca. 1650–1590 BCE), hence, the Middle Bronze Age. However, later research by McGovern (1985: 76–77) dates all the Tell el-Ajjul gold star pendants to the Late Bronze Age (LB IA).[4] An unfinished gold cut-out star pendant from Ugarit (Ras Shamra) with rays rectangular in shape, not pointed, and with a rolled-over suspension loop, is on display at the Damascus Museum (item 23.343; Maxwell-Hyslop 1971: 141). A flat, circular gold sheet without embossing but with an extension for a loop, like that at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem (Misch-Brandl 2010: Fig. 21, upper left, Canaanite, 14th–13th centuries BCE), may have been used to produce a star pendant such as this.

Figure 4: Shiloh – Object 2260, gold eight-rayed star pendant
(photo: Miriam Hassid; drawing: Frankie Snyder)

4 Excellent photographs of many of the jewelry items from the Tell el-Ajjul hoards are available on the Israel Antiquities Authority's "National Treasures" website (https://www.iaa.org.il/en/).

Object 2499

Gold almond/spoon-shaped pendant with suspension loop (Fig. 5).

Manufacturing technique: *repoussé*; object made from a thin, plain, hammered sheet of gold with a suspension loop curving to the back, suggesting that the embossed area of the "almond/spoon" faces outward.

Parallels: Two similar almond-shaped gold "leaves, united by twisted stems," forming a pendant, were found in the Tell el-Ajjul hoards (Petrie 1934: 8, Pl. XX:144). Another Canaanite pendant consisting of two interconnected, almond-shaped gold leaves was found underwater in the cargo of a Late Bronze Age shipwreck off the coast of Yavneh-Yam (Golani and Galili 2015: Figs. 2b, 5). Similar gold bivalve shell-shaped pendants were discovered in Dahshur, Egypt, in the de Morgan excavations in 1894–1895, Middle Kingdom, ca. 1878–1805 BCE.[5] Twenty-eight similar gold almond-shaped pendants with granulated edging were uncovered in Kalḫu (Nimrud), Assyria, 13th century BCE (Damerji and Kamil 1999). A suspension loop similar to this one was attached to the back of a Canaanite gold pendant found at Tell el-Ajjul (Kempinski 1992: Pl. 31, lower left). A flat, circular gold sheet without embossing but with an extension for a loop, like that at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem (Misch-Brandl 2010: Fig. 21, upper left, Canaanite, 14th–13th centuries BCE), may have been used to produce jewelry such as this.

5 Metropolitan Museum of Art, accession 26.7.1309–1312, https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/545728

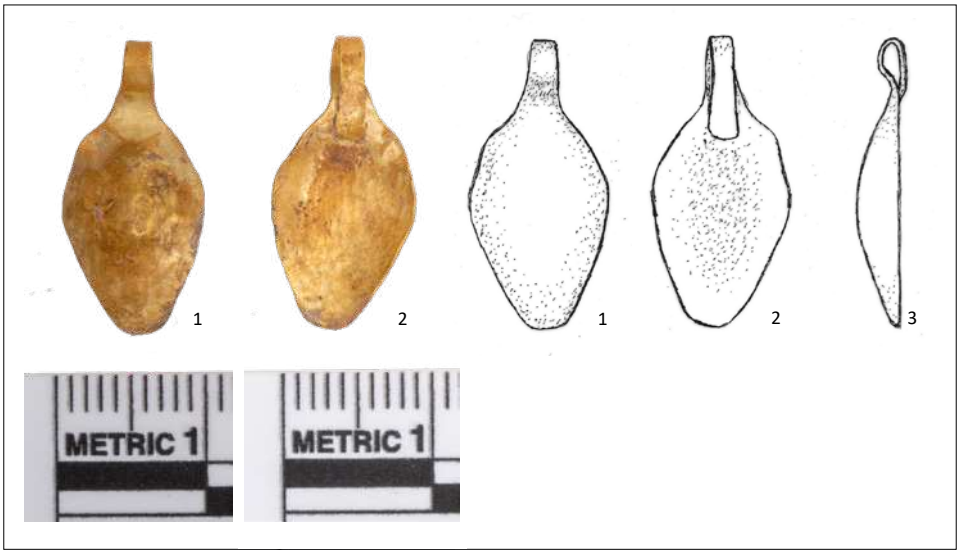

Figure 5: Shiloh – Object 2499, gold almond/spoon-shaped pendant with suspension loop: (1) front, (2) back, (3) side
(photos: Gary Urie; drawings: Frankie Snyder)

Object 2800

Misshapen gold object (Fig. 6). One end of this object is more cylindrical, tapering from thicker in the center to thinner at one end; the other end of the object is flattened, with several tiny holes that appear almost like filigree work. Although the partially melted-down gold might suggest that this object was awaiting recasting, goldsmithing tools have not yet been found at Shiloh. Similarly, silver objects, including spiral rings, bent sheets, cut ingots, and broken jewelry, were discovered in the Bar-Ilan excavations at Shiloh, but no silversmithing tools were found, nor were the silver objects located in the context of a workshop, suggesting that the hacksilver may have been used as currency (Finkelstein and Brandl 1985: 21, Figs. 5–7; Eshel et al. 2023: 9, Table 1, Figs. 2A–B).

Parallels: In addition to the gold jewelry found by Petrie in the Tell el-Ajjul hoard, there were nondescript pieces referred to simply as "scraps of gold" and "fragments" (Petrie 1934: 8–9, Pls. XIX–XX:135–136, 166).

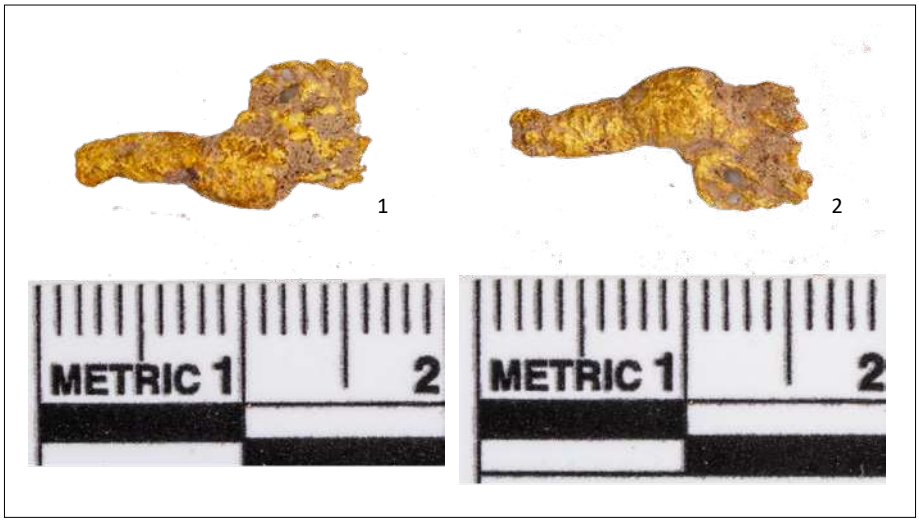

Figure 6: Shiloh – Object 2800, misshapen gold object: (1) front, (2) back (photos: Gary Urie)

Object 2509

Ring-shaped mother-of-pearl pendant (Fig. 7). This circular mother-of-pearl ring may have functioned as a pendant, hair ornament, or clothing decoration. Mother-of-pearl (nacre) is the hard, smooth, pearly layer on the inside of some seashells, such as abalones and certain oysters, and is what makes up the outer coating of pearls. Shells of *Pinctada margaritifera* (black-lipped pearl oyster) were especially prized for their lustrous nacre lining, which had aesthetic or religious/cultic properties associated with it (Dubin 2009: 298–299; Golani 2013: 42). The use of ring pendants cut from mother-of-pearl for ornamentation dates back to 4000–3800 BCE in early western Asia and the Mediterranean region (Dubin 2009: 366, "A Timeline of Bead History," chart items #209, #211).

Parallels: A similar mother-of-pearl ring possibly used as a pendant, hair ornament, or clothing decoration was found in the Bar-Ilan excavations of Shiloh in Area D, Locus 1404, Square N33, in a mixed context (Finkelstein 1993: 396; Sass 1993: 268, Fig. 10.1:7, reg. 14066). Another "ring cut out of pearl shell" was discovered by Petrie (1934: 9, Pl. XXI:222 [MB II–LB]) in the Tell el-Ajjul Canaanite hoard.

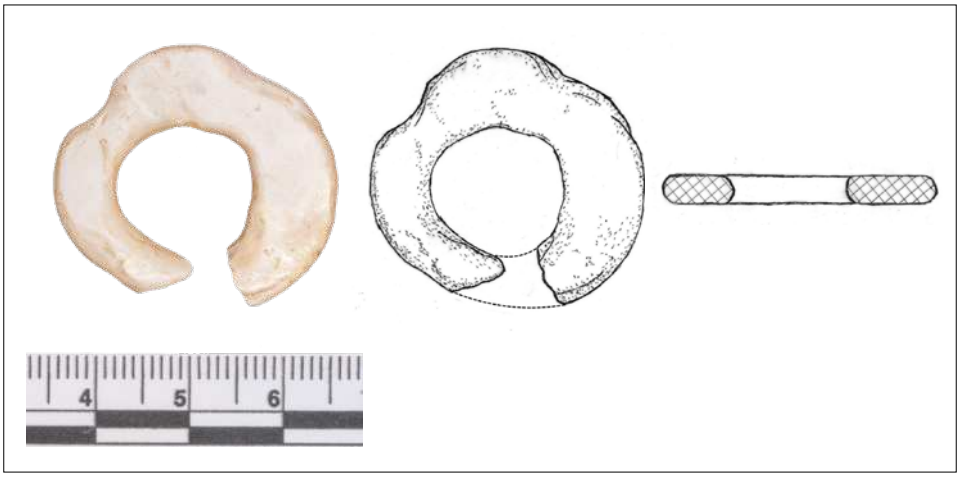

Figure 7: Shiloh – Object 2509, ring-shaped mother-of-pearl pendant
(photo: Gary Urie; drawing: Frankie Snyder)

Object 2693

Turquoise-colored faience melon bead (Fig. 8). Faience is an inexpensive siliceous (glassy) material that may be formed into beads, amulets, brooches, figurines, or any other shape, in almost any color, making it a synthetic precious stone. Colors range from apple-green or pale turquoise to white, though red, black, blue, and yellow varieties also exist. Faience was first developed in Mesopotamia or Egypt around 4000 BCE, perhaps to simulate turquoise and lapis lazuli. Faience beads appeared in the Levant as early as the Early Bronze Age III (EB III, ca. 2900–2600 BCE) at Tell es-Safi/Gath, a site identified as the Canaanite and later Philistine city of Gath (Eliyahu-Behar et al. 2016: Figs. 2–3). Faience is made by grinding quartz or sand crystals together with various amounts of sodium, potassium, calcium, magnesium, and copper oxide. The material is then hand-shaped or pressed into a mold and heated. During firing, the pieces harden and develop a fine glaze. The calcium silicates in the mixture are responsible for the bright colors and the glassy finish (Kempinski 1992: 201–202; Spaer 2001: 308–309; Dubin 2009: 43; Golani 2010: 117–118; 2013: 44).

Parallels: Similar melon-shaped faience beads from MB and LB contexts have been found in the Levant at Lachish (Tufnell et al. 1940: Pl. XXXV:50 [LB]); Megiddo (Guy 1938: Pl. 132:27 [MB, LB]; Loud 1948: Pl. 208:21 [MB II]); Azor (Golani 2012: Figs. 6.1.19, 21 [LB, Iron I]); Timna (Kertesz 1988: Fig. 81:72–73 [LB–Iron I]); Deir el-Balah (Dothan 1979, Tomb 118.184 [LB]); and Timnah/Tel Batash (Yahalom-Mack 2006: Pl. 49:18 [LB]); and also in Egypt (Beck 1928: Fig. 11a [18th Dynasty, ca. 1550–1298 BCE]).

Figure 8: Tel Shiloh – Object 2693, turquoise-colored faience melon bead (photos: Gary Urie)

Discussion

The personal jewelry and ornaments found in Area D1 during ABR's 2022 and 2023 seasons find their closest parallels with Canaanite jewelry, especially items from the hoards uncovered at Tell el-Ajjul and in the Fosse Temple at Lachish. Petrie (1934: 6) dated the gold cut-out star pendants from the Tell el-Ajjul hoard to the Middle Bronze Age, whereas McGovern (1985: 5) later dated these same star pendants to the Late Bronze Age IA. The gold cut-out star pendants from the Fosse Temple at Lachish date generally from the Late Bronze Age, whereas others are dated specifically to the LB IA (Tufnell et al. 1940: 66). The gold jewelry and ornaments found in Area D

(= ABR Area D1) in the Bar-Ilan excavations in the 1980s suggest these same Late Bronze dates (Sass 1993: 268), and Finkelstein dated the material in the *favissa* to the LB I/IIA. The ceramic vessels found by ABR in the balks in Area D1 where this jewelry was uncovered are predominantly from the Late Bronze Age, especially the LB IB/IIA horizon and later. Although the gold jewelry from Area D1, especially the cut-out stars, can be dated broadly to the Late Bronze Age, they could be slightly earlier or later. With the planned radiocarbon dating of material from the *favissa*, ABR hopes to refine the dating of the jewelry found in Area D1.

In addition to the valuable pieces of jewelry and personal ornamentation listed in the above catalogue, Area D1 has been replete with other, more common jewelry items from the Late Bronze Age: a tubular bone bead, a bone pendant, a bronze toggle pin (very similar to two toggle pins found in the Bar-Ilan excavations [Sass 1993: Fig. 10.1:1]), two shell pendants made from bivalve seashells, two shell pendants made from freshwater gastropod shells, and two tiny disc beads cut from seashells.

The large number of personal ornamental and jewelry items found in Area D1 compared to other areas of the site raises the question of how these artifacts made their way to what appears to be a deposit area consisting largely of gray ash, stones, bones, and pottery. Might the two gold star pendants, the almond/spoon-shaped pendant, and the small bead/tubular suspension loop once have been part of one necklace? The vast difference in the quality of craftsmanship of these gold items seems to negate this idea. Another suggestion is that these pieces of jewelry, both "valuable" and "common," might have been part of a hoard or cache that was hidden away, and that the owner hoped to return one day to retrieve it but never did. Instead, during the Iron Age IIA, when storage silos were dug in the area, the hoard was dispersed unknowingly across a broader area.

References

Beck, H. C. 1928. *Classification and Nomenclature of Beads and Pendants*. Oxford: Society for Antiquaries of London.

Damerji, M. S. and Kamil, A. 1999. *Gräber Assyrischer Königinnen aus Nimrud*. Mainz: Verlag des Romisch-Germanischen Zentralmuseums.

Dothan, T. 1979. *Excavations at the Cemetery of Deir el-Balah* (Qedem 10). Jerusalem: Institute of Archaeology, Hebrew University.

Dubin, L. S. 2009. *The History of Beads: From 100,000 B.C. to the Present* (revised ed.). New York: Abrams.

Eliyahu-Behar, A., Albaz, S., Shai, I., Maeir, A. M., and Greenfield, H. J. 2016. Faience Beads from Early Bronze Age Contexts at Tell es-Safi/Gath, Israel. *Journal of Archaeological Science – Reports* 7: 609–613.

Eshel, T., Gilboa, A., Tirosh, O., Erel, Y., and Yahalom-Mack, N. 2023. The Earliest Silver Currency Hoards in the Southern Levant: Metal Trade in the Transition from the Middle to the Late Bronze Age. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 149: 1–15.

Finkelstein, I. (ed.). 1993. *Shiloh: The Archaeology of a Biblical Site*. Tel Aviv: Institute of Archaeology, Tel Aviv University.

Finkelstein, I. and Brandl, B. 1985. A Group of Metal Objects from Shiloh. *Israel Museum Journal* 4: 17–26.

Finkelstein, I., Bunimovitz, S., Lederman, Z., Hellwig, S., and Sadeh, M. 1985. Excavations at Shiloh 1981–1984: Preliminary Report. *Tel Aviv* 12(2): 123–180.

Golani, A. 2010. The Beads from Tomb 80 in the ʿEn Esur Cemetery. *ʿAtiqot* 64: 115–119.

Golani, A. 2012. The Non-Metallic Jewelry. In D. Ben-Shlomo (ed.), *The Azor Cemetery: Moshe Dothan's Excavations, 1958 and 1960* (IAA Reports 50). Jerusalem: Israel Antiquities Authority, pp. 165–174.

Golani, A. 2013. *Jewelry from the Iron Age II Levant*. Fribourg: Academic Press.

Golani, A. and Galili, E. 2015. A Late Bronze Age Canaanite Merchant's Hoard of Gold Artifacts and Hematite Weights from the Yavneh-Yam Anchorage, Israel. *Journal of Ancient Egyptian Interconnections* 7(2): 16–29.

Gopher, A. and Tsuk, T. (eds.) 1996. *The Nahal Qanah Cave: Earliest Gold in the Southern Levant* (Monograph Series of the Institute of Archaeology of Tel Aviv University 12). Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv University, Institute of Archaeology.

Guy, P. L. O. 1938. *Megiddo Tombs*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Kempinski, A. 1992. The Middle Bronze Age. In A. Ben-Tor (ed.), *The Archaeology of Ancient Israel* (trans. R. Greenberg). New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, pp. 159–210.

Kertesz, G. 1988. Beads and Pendants. In B. Rothenberg, *The Egyptian Mining Temple at Timna*. London: Institute for Archaeo-Metallurgical Studies, pp. 203–211, 312–315.

Koch, I. 2017. Revisiting the Fosse Temple at Tel Lachish. *Journal of Ancient Near Eastern Religions* 17: 64–75.

Lacovara, P. 2016. *The World of Ancient Egypt: A Daily Life Encyclopedia*. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood.

Loud, G. 1948. *Megiddo II: Seasons of 1935–39*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Maxwell-Hyslop, K. R. 1971. *Western Asiatic Jewellery c. 3000–612 B.C*. London: Methuen.

Mazar, A. 1992. *Archaeology of the Land of the Bible: 10,000–586 BCE*. New York: Doubleday.

McGovern, P. E. 1985. *Late Bronze Palestinian Pendants: Innovation in a Cosmopolitan Age*. Sheffield: JSOT.

Misch-Brandl, O. 2010. The Land of Canaan: 3500–1200 BCE. In M. Dayagi-Mendels and S. Rozenberg (eds.), *Chronicles of the Land: Archaeology in the Israel Museum, Jerusalem*. Jerusalem: Israel Museum, pp. 36–61.

Petrie, F. 1934. *Ancient Gaza IV: Tell el-Ajjul*. London: British School of Archaeology in Egypt.

Sass, B. 1993. Personal Accessories and Ornaments. In I. Finkelstein (ed.), *Shiloh: The Archaeology of a Biblical Site*. Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv University, Institute of Archaeology, pp. 266–268.

Spaer, M. 2001. *Ancient Glass in the Israel Museum: Beads and Other Small Objects*. Jerusalem: Israel Museum.

Tufnell, O., Inge, C. H., and Harding, L. 1940. *Lachish* (*Tell ed-Duweir*) *II: The Fosse Temple* (Wellcome-Marston Archaeological Research Expedition to the Near East Publications, 2). London: Oxford University Press.

Yahalom-Mack, N. 2006. Various Small Objects. In N. Panitz-Cohen and A. Mazar, *Timnah (Tel Batash) III: The Finds from the Second Millennium BCE* (Qedem 45). Jerusalem: Institute of Archaeology, Hebrew University, pp. 255–266.