

APPENDIX: THE FLINT ASSEMBLAGE FROM KAFR KANNA

ALLA YAROSHEVICH

The excavations at Kafr Kanna yielded 208 flint artifacts. The assemblage appears homogeneous in terms of raw material, physical condition of the artifacts and the knapping technology employed. Virtually all items are fresh, sharp and representative of the Solelim flint outcrop, located several kilometers to the south, near Moshav Solelim. A few burnt items were found.

Debitage dominates the assemblage (N=160; 77.3%). The remainder consists of 11 tools (5.3%) and debris (17.4%), i.e., chips (N=13) and chunks (N=23). Within the category ofdebitage, flakes (N=96) dominate. The rest of thedebitage consists of primary elements (N=22), core trimming elements (CTE; N=17), blades (N=15), naturally backed knives (N=4) and cores (N=6). All six cores found in the assemblage exhibit flake scars. Three of the cores are amorphous; one has one striking platform, another has two platforms and one is on a flake.

Notably, three Canaanite blades (Fig. 1)—*fossile directeur* of the Early Bronze Age (Rosen 1997:106)—were found in the tool assemblage; one bears cortex (Fig. 1:1) and two are sickle blades (Fig. 1:1, 2). The rest of the tools can be defined as ad-hoc. This category consists of four notch/denticulates, three retouched flakes, one endscraper and one awl.



Fig. 1. Flint blades.

The rest of the tools can be defined as ad-hoc. This category consists of four notch/denticulates, three retouched flakes, one endscraper and one awl.

Virtually all the artifacts came from two loci: the exposing of Stone Surface 902 and its removal (L906). These two loci yielded 101 and 93 artifacts, respectively, including five of the six cores. Nine of the eleven tools, including the two sickle blades, were found in L906. The rest of the loci (L11, L901, L903–L905, L908) yielded one or two flint items each.

The presence of Canaanite blades and sickle blades are characteristic of the Early Bronze Age. The limited number of diagnostic items, however, prevents the attribution of the assemblage to any particular sub-phase of the Early Bronze Age. There is no indication for the production of Canaanite blades on site, a widely-known phenomenon for the Early Bronze Age period, when these items were produced in specialized locations and then traded (Rosen

1997:107). In the case of Kafr Kanna, the closest known possible location for Canaanite blade production is Har Ḥaruvim, near Yoqne‘am.

The majority of the assemblage represents items related to ad-hoc tool production, another characteristic of the Early Bronze Age flint industry (Rosen 1997:110). Tabular scrapers, also characteristic of this period (cf. Rosen 1997:109), were not identified in the assemblage. The reason for their absence may perhaps be found in the functional aspects of the site at hand, or in the limited area of the excavations. The homogeneous nature of the assemblage suggests a short term occupation, an observation supported by the site’s stratigraphy.

REFERENCE

Rosen S.A. 1997. *Lithics after the Stone Age: A Handbook of Stone Tools from the Levant*. London–New Dehli.