Shifting Networks and Community Identity at Tell Tayinat in the Iron I (ca. 12th to Mid 10th Century B.C.E.)

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The end of the 13th and beginning of the 12th centuries B.C.E. witnessed the demise of the great territorial states of the Bronze Age and, with them, the collapse of the extensive interregional trade networks that fueled their wealth and power. The period that follows has historically been characterized as an era of cultural devolution marked by profound social and political disruption. This report presents the preliminary results of the Tayinat Archaeological Project (TAP) investigations of Iron I (ca. 12th to mid 10th century B.C.E.) contexts at Tell Tayinat, which would emerge from this putative Dark Age as Kunulua, royal capital of the Neo-Hittite kingdom of Palastin/Patina/Unqi. In contrast to the prevailing view, the results of the TAP investigations at Early Iron Age Tayinat reveal an affluent community actively interacting with a wide spectrum of regions throughout the eastern Mediterranean. The evidence from Tayinat also highlights the distinctively local, regional character of its cultural development and the need for a more nuanced treatment of the considerable regional variability evident in the eastern Mediterranean during this formative period, a treatment that recognizes the diversity of relational networks, communities, and cultural identities being forged in the generation of a new social and economic order.1

INTRODUCTION

The factors contributing to the epochal collapse and disappearance of the territorial states that dominated the political culture of the Late Bronze Age eastern Mediterranean at the end of the 13th century B.C.E., and with them the extensive interregional networks of trade and cultural dissemination

1 The Tayinat Archaeological Project’s Early Iron Age excavations have been supported by research grants from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), the Institute for Aegean Prehistory (INSTAP), and the University of Toronto, for which we are deeply grateful. We wish also to thank the Directorate of Cultural Heritage and Museums of Turkey, which has graciously awarded the research permits necessary to conduct each of our excavation seasons, the ministry representatives who have supported our fieldwork each season, the directors and staff of the Antakya Museum, and the Tayinat landowners, in particular the Kuseyri family, who have generously permitted us to work on their land. The ceramic analysis section of this paper was partially funded by Boğaziçi University Scientific Research Fund no. 13161. An online appendix can be found under this article’s abstract on AJA Online (www.ajaonline.org).
that produced the cosmopolitan culture for which this age is known, continue to generate considerable scholarly interest. The ensuing so-called Dark Age, widely perceived as a period of cultural devolution marked by profound social and political disruption and widespread population dislocation, portrayed as the inevitable byproduct of the destructive forces that brought the preceding era to a close, draws similar investigative enthusiasm. Yet, despite this sustained attention, the complex and multivariate dynamics of this profoundly transformative period remain elusive and poorly understood.

Knapp and Manning, in a recent synthesis published in this journal, highlight the persistent ambiguity of the evidence, both documentary and archaeological, that has proliferated with this intensified scholarly attention, and they emphasize the considerable regional variability evident in this record. They caution against the temptation to invoke uniform explanatory frameworks, the quest for a grand, conclusive solution that might explain the diverse array of evidence, and instead argue for a nuanced treatment contextualized by the myriad local environments and microregions that comprise the highly varied eastern Mediterranean landscape and anchored to a robust absolute chronology calibrated ideally to at least a decadal resolution. We agree that the development of such local histories will be crucial to any successful effort to achieve a deeper and more meaningful understanding of this pivotal moment in the history of human civilization. Furthermore, we share the view that the end of the Bronze Age and transition to the Iron Age is more productively conceptualized as a formative era that witnessed the forging of new relational networks (social, economic, and political), communities, and cultural identities, part of the “birth pangs of a new social and economic order,” rather than as one defined primarily by collapse and cultural devolution.

This report seeks to contribute to this effort through a presentation of the preliminary results of the investigations by the Tayinat Archaeological Project (TAP) of contexts dating to this formative period, specifically the 12th to the mid 10th centuries B.C.E., at the site of Tell Tayinat, located in the Amuq Plain of southeastern Turkey (fig. 1[13]).

The north Orontes Valley, and particularly the Amuq Plain, forms a discrete geographical unit with a rich historical and cultural record. The urban regeneration that characterizes the Iron Age was closely associated with the resettlement of Tell Tayinat, which had been abandoned for approximately 800 years, corresponding with the ascendancy of neighboring Tell Atchana (ancient Alalakh; see fig. 1[14]) and the kingdom of Mukiš during the Middle and Late Bronze Ages. During the Iron I period, Tell Tayinat transformed from a relatively small settlement into the royal capital of an Iron Age kingdom known at various times as Palastin/Walastin, Patina, and Unqi. Given its strategic location at the intersection of several important communication corridors, the Amuq Plain formed a unique nexus of broader regional cultural influences. The Amuq Plain thus represents an ideal place to study the competing social and ethnic influences that characterized Early Iron Age society in southeastern Anatolia and the northern Levant and to examine how these shifting identities and social networks contributed to the regeneration of local communities and ultimately to the emergence of the Syro-Anatolian states of the later Iron Age.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The prevailing view of the Early Iron Age has been that it constituted a clear cultural and political break from the preceding period. Recently, however, scholars have increasingly pointed to evidence of political and cultural continuity in southeast Anatolia and northwest Syria, particularly the evidence for continued Hittite political influence in the region. In the mid 14th century B.C.E., the military campaigns of Suppiluliuma I in the southeast resulted in the decline of Mitanni and the subjugation of the kingdoms of western Syria, including Mukiš, Niye, and Nuhašše. Following these successes, Suppiluliuma implemented a series of unprecedented political changes designed to consolidate control over these newly conquered regions. This included appointing two of his sons as viceroys at two of the key strategic centers in the region. Telepinu became king and “Great Priest” at the important cult center of Aleppo (see fig. 1[19]), while Piyassili (later

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2 Knapp and Manning 2016.


FIG. 1. Map of the Amuq Plain showing the location of Tell Tayinat and other principal settlements mentioned in the text (graphic by S. Batiuk).
Šarri-Kušuh) was appointed ruler at Karkamiš (see fig. 1[5]). The two brothers appear to have maintained separate duties, with Aleppo the focus of religious and legal influence, and Karkamiš retaining political control over the region. The imposition of direct Hittite control represented a strategic move to stabilize the region and create a political buffer against the growing threats of Egypt and Assyria.

New epigraphic discoveries and reanalyses of previously discovered texts have provided evidence for the continuity of local lineages, in particular at Karkamiš, that survived the collapse of the central administration at Hattuša (see fig. 1[47]). This evidence includes two seal impressions from Lidar Höyük (see fig. 1[4]) bearing the name Kuž-Tešub, third in the line of Šarri-Kušuh and a contemporary of Suppiluliuma II, the final Hittite ruler. The same Kuž-Tešub appears to be mentioned in the genealogies of two kings of Malatya (ancient Melid; see fig. 1[2]), where he is referred to as “Great King” and “Hero of Karkamiš.” The fact that Kuž-Tešub uses the title “Great King,” previously reserved for the ruling dynasty at Hattuša, suggests that his rule survived the collapse of the Hattuša dynasty.

The discovery of the Temple of the Storm God on the Aleppo Citadel has introduced important new historical information for this period. The excavations have produced two Hieroglyphic Luwian inscriptions, tentatively dated to the 11th century B.C.E. These inscriptions contain autobiographical statements attributed to Taita, “Hero and King of Palastin,” possibly the same ruler known from inscriptions at Meharde and Sheizar (see fig. 1[28]), located near Qaṭar al-Mudiq northwest of Hama (see fig. 1[29]), although these latter inscriptions identify his kingdom as “Walastin.” Reference to Walastin also occurs on two fragmentary Hieroglyphic Luwian inscriptions from Tell Tašinat and on the recently published Arsuz Stelae. Together, these inscriptions imply the existence of an Early Iron Age kingdom known as Walastin/Palastin, centered in the Amuq Plain, encompassing an area that included Aleppo to the east, and extending southward in the Orontes Valley as far as Hama, with its capital located at Tell Tašinat. Notably, this territory is similar in extent to the combined areas of the Late Bronze Age kingdoms of Mukiš, Nīye, and Nuhāšše, as well as Aleppo. Most recently, Hawkins has proposed the existence of two Taitas, the first dating to the 11th century (Taita I), and the second to the 10th century (Taita II), suggesting that the kingdom’s southward expansion might have occurred somewhat later.

Despite the recent proliferation of historical evidence documenting continued Hittite political influence in the region, the Hittites were not the only political or ethnic group to have played a role in the development of the Early Iron Age culture of the northern Levant. There is also evidence of continued Hurrian cultural influence, reflecting the vestiges of earlier Mitanni control of the region, and new and potentially intrusive Aegean influences that have long been linked to the “Sea Peoples.” These diverse cultural influences, meanwhile, operated within a framework of longstanding indigenous cultural development extending back to the Early Bronze Age.

Early studies of the Iron I material culture of the Amuq have tended to emphasize its Aegean features, particularly in ceramic and textile production. As a result, a disconnect has emerged between, on the one hand, late Mitanni control of the region, and on the other, the apparent persistence of indigenous cultural influences dating back to the Early Bronze Age.


13 Taitat Inscription 1, dated on paleographic grounds to ca. 10th–early 9th century, and a newly discovered fragment;
hand, the growing historical record, based almost exclusively on fragmentary Hieroglyphic Luwian inscriptions, which highlight ancestral connections with Late Bronze Age Hittite political institutions, and, on the other hand, the evidence for discontinuity reflected by intrusive Aegeanizing cultural elements preserved in the archaeological record.\(^{20}\) However, as we will see, the archaeological evidence from Tell Tayinat presents a considerably more complex reality, comprised of evidence for both cultural continuity and discontinuity. Recent syntheses have also begun to note historical evidence for Aegean influence in the region, most notably the recent suggestion that “Palastin” should be linked to the ethnonym of the Sea Peoples group identified as the Peleset in the Medinet Habu reliefs, generally accepted as the forebears of the biblical Philistines.\(^{21}\)

The role of the Sea Peoples in the formation of Early Iron Age society has been studied in much greater detail for Cyprus and the southern Levant than it has in the northern Levant.\(^{22}\) In Cyprus and the southern Levant, the so-called Philistine phenomenon has been variously interpreted as resulting from elite emulation, cultural diffusion, and active hybridization,\(^{23}\) or, more commonly, as the product of various migration processes.\(^{24}\) The role of the northern Levant in these discussions has only recently begun to draw more focused attention. Recent syntheses of the available evidence have varied significantly, with some emphasizing continuity and indigenous development and others arguing for sudden change and the influx of new populations, or a combination of both.\(^{25}\) Singer recently criticized the tendency of scholars working in the northern Levant, in contrast to their counterparts in the southern Levant, to emphasize evidence for gradual local indigenous development at the expense of evidence for intrusive disruption and a break with the Late Bronze Age.\(^{26}\) However, these diverging perspectives need not be considered contradictory; rather, they highlight the different developmental trajectories experienced locally in the varying regions of the eastern Mediterranean during the 12th–11th centuries and the need for regionally sensitive discussions of cultural development.\(^{27}\) The impact of the so-called Sea Peoples phenomenon need not—indeed should not—be viewed monolithically throughout the eastern Mediterranean.

That the Iron I remains at Tell Tayinat have often been cited in this debate underlines its pivotal role in reconstructing the complex development of Early Iron Age northern Levantine society.\(^{28}\)

**PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS**

Tell Tayinat was the focus of large-scale excavations by the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago as part of its Syrian-Hittite Expedition, which undertook investigations in the Amuq Plain between 1935 and 1938. Excavations at Tell Tayinat focused primarily on wide horizontal exposures of levels dating to the Iron II–III (ca. 900–600 B.C.E.; Amuq Phase O) in the West Central Area of the upper mound and secondarily on several smaller soundings conducted in other areas.\(^{29}\) These excavations produced only “traces” of the Iron I (ca. 1200–900 B.C.E.; Amuq Phase N), primarily in the form of pottery, although these traces were encountered in many of the trenches excavated on the site’s upper mound.\(^{30}\)

Very little of the Amuq Phase N material encountered by the Syrian-Hittite Expedition has been published. A published description of the Iron Age architecture included Phase N remains at Çatal Höyük (see fig. 1[15]) and Tell Judaidah (see fig. 1[16]).\(^{31}\) More recently, there has been a renewed effort to publish fully the results of the Syrian-Hittite Expedition’s

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\(^{20}\) As noted by Singer (2012, 466), who postulated a break in settlement between the earliest Iron Age settlement at Tayinat and the later Neo-Hittite kingdom.

\(^{21}\) Hawkins 2009, 2011; Y asur-Landau 2010; Strobel 2011; but see Schneider 2011, 571–72; Singer 2012, 467; Younger 2016, 127–35, for arguments against the equation of these names.

\(^{22}\) The literature is vast, but see Dothan 1982; Karageorghis 1990; Dothan and Dothan 1992; Oren 2000; Iacovou 2008; Voskos and Knapp 2008; Y asur-Landau 2010; Killebrew and Lehmann 2013; and Stern 2013, for the primary bibliography.


\(^{24}\) Among others, Dothan 1982; Stager 1995; Y asur-Landau 2010.


\(^{26}\) Singer 2012, 454 n. 13.

\(^{27}\) Gilboa 2008; Gates 2010, 65.


\(^{29}\) Braidwood and Braidwood 1960; Haines 1971.

\(^{30}\) Swift 1958, 6, 10.

\(^{31}\) Haines 1971.
excavations, including a reexamination of the Phase N Iron I material, particularly from Çatal Höyük. Unfortunately, none of the Iron I material found at Tayinat was recovered from secure contexts. Thus, while an Iron I presence at Tayinat has long been recognized, it has been neither well understood nor dated chronologically with any precision.

The earliest stratified Iron Age remains excavated at Tayinat by the Syrian-Hittite Expedition consisted of two buildings (Buildings XIII and XIV; fig. 2). Only limited exposures of these structures were achieved beneath the floors of the rooms of later monumental buildings dating to the Iron II (Building Period 2). Both buildings were assigned to Building Period 1 by the Chicago excavators and likely date to the Iron I/II transition or sometime in the late 10th–early 9th centuries B.C.E.

TAYINAT ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT INVESTIGATIONS

The Tayinat Archaeological Project was conceived within the framework of the Amuq Valley Regional Project (AVRP), which has systematically documented the archaeology of the Amuq Plain since 1995. Following preliminary field seasons in 1999–2002 that were devoted to surveying and mapping the site, targeted excavations were initiated in 2004. These investigations were expanded to full-scale excavations in 2005 and have continued on an annual basis since.

Tell Tayinat forms a large, low-lying mound 1.5 km east of the town of Demirköprü, on the north shoulder of the modern Antakya–Reyhanlı road that runs along the southern edge of the Amuq Plain. The mound sits within the flood plain of the Orontes River, on its northern bend just beyond the point where the river enters the Amuq Plain before working its way westward toward Antakya (ancient Antioch) and the Mediterranean Sea (see fig. 1). A topographic survey, conducted in 2001, revealed that the site is comprised of a principal upper mound (ca. 20 ha in size) and a sprawling lower mound now hidden by the alluvium of the Orontes floodplain. This lower mound extends from the upper mound toward the north, east, and southeast, visible in CORONA satellite imagery as a clearly discernable shadow (see fig. 2). Sherd density distributions produced from surface survey confirm the spatial parameters of the lower settlement and suggest a site size encompassing approximately 35–40 ha.

In contrast to the Syrian-Hittite Expedition’s investigations, TAP’s excavations have encountered Iron I remains in all areas that have reached pre-Iron II levels. When taken together, the composite results of both expeditions indicate a minimum site size of 10–12 ha, and possibly as large as 20 ha, for the Iron I settlement. Tayinat is thus one of the largest settlements in the eastern Mediterranean during the 12th–11th centuries B.C.E. The most substantive Iron I exposures have been achieved in Fields 1 and 4 (see fig. 2). This report will focus on the results of the TAP investigations in these two fields.

FIELD 1 INVESTIGATIONS

Field 1 is centrally located on the upper mound, at the southern edge of the Syrian-Hittite Expedition’s West Central Area, and it links the renewed TAP investigations with the work of the earlier expedition (see fig. 2). The Field 1 excavations were initiated as a two-week exploratory sounding in 2004 and expanded in 2005 to the current four 10 x 10 m squares (G4.55, G4.56, G4.65, and G4.66; fig. 3). To date, the excavations have delineated nine superimposed Field Phases (FP), with the main archaeological sequence dating to the 12th–early 10th centuries B.C.E., or the Iron I period (FPs 6–3), and the late third millennium B.C.E., or Early Bronze (EB) IVB (FPs 9–7).

Architecture and Stratigraphy

The earliest Iron Age settlement remains, represented by three subphases of FP6 (FP6c, b, and a, in chronological order; see fig. 3), lie directly atop levels dating to the late third millennium B.C.E. (Amuq Phase J). FP6 preserves several large storage silos (e.g., G4.56:153, 159, 164, 176, 237), some of which were constructed with a lining of mudbrick (e.g., G4.56:279, 288; fig. 4). Numerous smaller pits are interspersed between the large silos; a few of these contained concentrations of nonperforated, cylindrical

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35 TAP reports are published annually in Kazı Sonuçları Toplantısı.
37 Welton et al. 2011; Welton 2014.
FIG. 2. Topographic map of Tell Tayinat overlaid on a CORONA satellite image of the site, showing the principal excavation areas and a density distribution of surface pottery in the lower settlement, represented by the light-colored area to the north and east of the site (graphic by S. Batiuk).
FIG. 3. Plan of Field Phase 6 architecture and other loci in Field 1 (graphic by L. Welton).

FIG. 4. Mudbrick lining visible in storage silo G4.56:279; arrow points north (D. Lumb).
clay loomweights and other artifacts associated with textile production (e.g., G4.56:167, 196; fig. 5; see further below).

In addition, architecture dating to FP6b includes two walls that join in a dogleg pattern in the southeast corner of square G4.56 (G4.56:189, 190; see figs. 3, 6). A small, circular, pyrotechnic installation (see figs. 3, G4.56:204; 6), likely a *tannour*-type oven, was uncovered in the corner formed by these two walls. These walls likely relate to walls uncovered to the south, in square G4.66, which form the northwestern portion of a single room (G4.66:77, 117, 118, 137, 139). Inside this structure, an ephemeral beaten-earth surface with flat-lying sherds was identified (G4.66:122). Two additional possible *tannour*-type ovens at the northwest and east sides of square G4.66 were associated with this architecture (G4.66:115, 140; fig. 7, top). A further example occurs in the eastern section of G4.56 (G4.56:283, FP6c; see fig. 7, bottom), and discarded fragmentary remains of similar constructions have been found in refuse pits in the same area (G4.56:257, FP6c).

In the southern squares of Field 1 (G4.65 and G4.66), the foundations of the Iron II temple (Building II; FP2a/b)\(^\text{38}\) cut directly down to the level of FP6, leaving no remains of later Iron I phases. To the south, an Iron II passageway or street (FP2d, pre-Temple II)\(^\text{39}\) cut through the Iron I remains and directly into Early Bronze Age levels, leaving little Iron I material intact in the southern parts of these squares. However, in the eastern portion of squares G4.56 and G4.66, FP6 deposits reached greater depths than identified to the west and represent the earliest Iron I remains (FP6c) encountered to date; this phase was not preserved in the western squares (G4.55 and G4.65) of Field 1.

Because of the disturbance from Iron II construction activity, remains dating to FPs 5 and later were encountered primarily in the northern two squares, G4.55 and G4.56 (figs. 8–10). Architecture in FP5b includes a mudbrick wall constructed along the northern edge of the excavation trench (G4.55:27, 29 = G4.56:33; see fig. 8). Several other poorly preserved wall segments in square G4.55 (G4.55:62–65, 77, 83, 99) show a similar orientation and are also attributed to FP5b, as are wall fragments found in G4.56 (G4.56:120, 132). These walls were associated with an accumulation of superimposed beaten-earth surfaces (G4.55:20, 75, 82, 85, 86, 96; G4.56:121). Well-constructed storage bins and silos also date to this phase (G4.55:23/24; G4.56:111/112; the latter had a dividing wall separating it into two halves; see fig. 9). Remains from FP5a are even more ephemeral and consist of secondary surfaces associated with reuse of the FP5b structures (G4.55:17, 75, 78) and additional silos and refuse pits.

FP5 was sealed by a more substantial construction layer (FP4), which included the best-preserved architectural remains from the Iron I sequence (see fig. 10). In particular, a well-preserved rectilinear structure (G4.56:23, 66–68, 31/76; see figs. 10, 11) was excavated in the western part of G4.56. The walls formed a single small room, measuring approximately 3.5 x 2 m in size. Several other significant, although fragmentary, walls also date to this phase (G4.55:15, G4.56:91 = G4.66:145; G4.56:92/96, 110, 114). All of these walls display a similar construction technique. While the earlier phases did not make significant use of foundation trenches, in FP4, deep, straight-sided foundation trenches were excavated into the surrounding soil matrix and were packed directly with mudbricks. Similar foundation trenches, although generally on a larger scale, are observed in later monumental constructions at Tayinat such as Building XIV and Building II, and at Tell Atchana (Alalakh) in the Level II “Hittite Fortress.”\(^\text{40}\) These walls were constructed entirely of mudbrick, with no stone foundations; the absence of

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\(^{38}\) Haines 1971, 53–5, 64–6, pl. 103.

\(^{39}\) See detailed description in Osborne et al. (forthcoming).

\(^{40}\) Woolley 1955, 167; Harrison 2010, 90; Akar 2013, 43.
The remains of Building XIV, originally excavated by the University of Chicago in the 1930s, are situated in Field 2, immediately to the north of Field 1. The TAP investigations of this building have not encountered any intact floors or superstructure, preventing a direct determination of the date of its construction and use. However, small islands of Iron I material are preserved between the deep foundation trenches of this building, the uppermost of which postdate the Iron I sequence in Field 1, and likely date to the mid-10th century B.C.E.

The Ceramic Assemblage

Previous publications discussing the Iron I remains from Tell Tayinat have emphasized the Aegeanizing aspects of the pottery from the site. In particular, the Ceramic Assemblage

41 Osborne et al. (forthcoming).

42 Osborne et al. (forthcoming).

43 Harrison 2010, 90–1; 2013; see, however, Manning et al. (forthcoming) for a radiocarbon model–based approach to its date.

Swift’s work on ceramic material from the University of Chicago excavations suggested that painted wares (combining local features continuing from the Bronze Age with Mycenaean influences) formed 90–95% of the assemblage of Phase N.45 However, equally or more common throughout the Iron I sequence are locally produced plain wares bearing no direct relationship to the Late Helladic IIIC tradition.46

**Plain Wares.** Iron I Plain Wares (fig. 12) at Tayinat are wheelmade and most frequently moderately coarse. Small amounts of chaff temper occur in most examples, visible both in cross-section and on the sherd surface.47 Fabric color ranges from tan to pinkish-buff, with large vessels generally displaying gray cores and smaller vessels usually fully oxidized. Plain Ware vessels typically have minimal surface treatment, usually restricted to simple smoothing of the surface. In FP6c, the bases of some plates and bowls show scraping marks (see fig. 12, nos. 1, 6, 13).

The most frequent Plain Ware forms include platters, small hemispherical bowls, larger deep bowls, and several jar or amphora forms. Platters vary widely in rim diameter, from approximately 18 cm to 45 cm, and display a variety of rim forms (see fig. 12, nos. 1–11). The earliest platters are generally smaller in diameter, with internally thickened rims (see fig. 12, nos. 1–4); stepped platters occur rarely in the earliest levels (FP6c; see fig. 12, no. 5). Large platter-bowls with inturned or thickened rims (see fig. 12, nos. 6, 7) also occur. There is a trend over time toward shallower bodies, larger diameters, simpler rounded or squared rim shapes (see fig. 12, nos. 8–11), and bases that evolve from rounded to ring base profiles. These changes herald the later Iron II platter tradition.48

The earliest forms demonstrate continuity with the Hittite Monochrome Ware (HMW) tradition of Late Bronze Age Anatolia, with parallels from highland central Anatolia49 and particularly from the terminal phases of the Hittite Empire Period.50 The forms represented at Tayinat also correspond closely with assemblages from Late Bronze Age levels at neighboring Tell Atchana (Alalakh) and Çatal Höyük, and from both Late Bronze and Iron Age levels at Tell Afis (see fig. 1[20]).51 Similar forms also occur in Late Bronze–Iron Age transitional period assemblages of sites in neighboring regions, such as at Kilise Tepe (see fig. 1[9]), Porsuk (see fig. 1[8]), Mersin-Yumuktepe (see fig. 1[10]), Tarsus-Gözlükule (see fig. 1[11]), Sirkeli Höyük (see fig. 1[7]), and Kinet Höyük (see

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45 Swift 1958, 64.
46 Ünlü 2017.
47 Chaff temper is also attested at Tarsus-Gözlüküle (Goldman 1956, 203), Kinet Höyük (Gates 2006, 307; 2013a), Çatal Höyük (Pucci 2013, 98; [forthcoming], 135), and Tell Afis (Venturi 2010, 5–6; 2013, 235).
48 Iwasaki et al. 2009; Osborne 2011; Soldi 2013; and associated bibliography therein.
50 Schoop 2003, figs. 3.1–4, 4.4–6.
51 Tell Atchana (Alalakh): Woolley 1955, pl. 109:3b, 4b, 5, 6; Horowitz 2015, fig. 7.5:6; Çatal Höyük: Pucci 2013, 92, figs. 2:1–12, 6:5, 7; (forthcoming), 135–36, fig. 43. Tell Afis: Venturi 2000, fig. 5.1–8; 2007, 247–48, figs. 48:1–14, 54:1, 2, 56:5–8, 59:1–8; 2013, fig. 7:3–11.
in the HMW tradition of highland central Anatolia, especially in the latest Hittite Empire period levels at Hattuša.\textsuperscript{53} They are also common in neighboring regions, including Kilise Tepe, Porsuk, Norşuntepe, and Arslantepe/Malatya, Tille Höyük (see fig. 1[3]), Norşuntepe (see fig. 1[1]), and Lidar Höyük in the Upper Euphrates region of southeastern Turkey.\textsuperscript{52}

Hemispherical bowls (see fig. 12, nos. 12–14) have rounded bases and simple upturned rims and have diameters of 16–20 cm; occasionally these forms have straight upper sections (see fig. 12, no. 15). Plain Ware bowls with distinct carinations also occur (see fig. 12, nos. 16, 17). Rounded hemispherical bowls occur at Tell Atchana (Alalakh) and Çatal Höyük, and in Cilicia, and at Arslantepe/Malatya, Tille Höyük (see fig. 1[3]), Norşuntepe (see fig. 1[1]), and Lidar Höyük in the Upper Euphrates region of southeastern Turkey.\textsuperscript{52}

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FIG. 10. Plan of Field Phase 4–3 architecture and other loci in Field 1 (graphic by L. Welton).

FIG. 11. Field Phase 4 mudbrick architecture in G4.56 (G4.56:23, 66–68; arrow points north; D. Lumb).
FIG. 12. Plain Ware: 1–11, platters; 12–17, bowls; 18–25, amphoras; FP6c: 1–3, 5–7, 12–17, 19; FP6b–c: 4; FP6b: 9, 10, 18, 20–2; FP6a: 8, 25; FPSb: 11; FPSa: 24; FP4: 23 (drawings by L. Welton).
Tarsus-Gözlükule, Tell Afis, and Kinet Höyük.\textsuperscript{54} Carinated bowls are less common but are found at Tell Afis.\textsuperscript{55}

In the early phases of the Iron I sequence, Plain Ware amphorae with narrow mouths and oval rims regularly occur (see fig. 12, nos. 18, 19). Later phases demonstrate a greater variety of rim types, with both rim and neck handles, and similarities to painted amphorae discussed further below (see fig. 12, nos. 20–5). Also represented are fusiform transport vessels (fig. 13). Plain Ware kraters and pithos forms vary in size and shape and include kraters with square or rounded grooved rims, biconical kraters with upturned rims, and pithoi with a variety of rim forms (fig. 14). Some of these shapes fall within the range of forms typical of the HMW tradition,\textsuperscript{56} but they are also well represented in Late Bronze and Late Bronze–Iron Age transitional period assemblages at other sites in the region, including Kilise Tepe, Mersin-Yumuktepe, Tarsus-Gözlükule, and Kinet Höyük in Cilicia, Arslantepe/Malatya and Lidar Höyük in southeastern Anatolia, and Tell Atchana (Alalakh), Tell Afis, and Ugarit (see fig. 1[23]) in the Levant.\textsuperscript{57}

Plain Ware is the dominant ware type in FP6c, varying between 72% and 87% of the assemblage. It continues throughout the Iron I sequence but decreases as a proportion of the assemblage during FP6b–a, reaching its minimum frequencies in FP5. By FP3, Plain Ware again increases in frequency to form about 70% of the overall assemblage. The frequency of Plain Ware forms with close similarities to sites through-out the Anatolian world in the earliest Iron I phases at Tayinat suggests that the regional HMW potting tradition continued even after the settlement shift had occurred between Atchana and Tayinat. The persistence of the HMW potting tradition into the 12th century, following the collapse of the Hittite political and administrative center at Hattuṣa, has also been reported at other sites in the region, including Kilise Tepe, Mersin-Yumuktepe, Tarsus-Gözlükule, Tille Höyük, Arslantepe/Malatya, Karkamiş, Norṣuntepe, and Lidar Höyük.\textsuperscript{58}

Late Helladic IIIIC–Style Wares. Late Helladic (LH) IIIIC–style pottery forms a second dominant potting tradition in Field 1 between FPs 6 and 3 (fig. 15). A wide spectrum of forms, motifs, and fabrics are represented in the assemblage, which is characterized by its nonstandardized production. Compared with Plain Wares, LH IIIIC–style pottery tends to have finer fabrics, with few visible inclusions. Two fabric and paint color combinations predominate: red painted decorations on a pinkish fabric (RoP), made from an iron-rich clay, and black painted decorations on a buff or whitish fabric (BoW), composed of a more carbonaceous or marly clay.\textsuperscript{59} In the earliest phases, the former is most common. In the latest levels, a pinkish iron-rich fabric with black painted decoration also appears in smaller numbers.

Only the most salient features of the assemblage will be described here, since more thorough descriptions have been presented elsewhere.\textsuperscript{60} Shallow rounded bowls and deeper bell-shaped bowls, or skyphoi (FS 284/285),\textsuperscript{61} are the most common vessel types (see fig. 15, nos. 1–15). Although deep bowls from Tayinat are variable in form, they are typically equipped with close-set horizontal handles, usually with a painted band along the handle, and a ring base. Short or sharp rims and/or stubby handles comprise traits that may represent local developments peculiar to the Amuq.\textsuperscript{62}


\textsuperscript{55} Venturi 2007, 250, fig. 59:14.

\textsuperscript{56} Müllner-Karpe 1988, pls. 3–6, Types K2, K20–23, T8–11; Parzinger and S anz 1992, figs. 15.4.4.b, 15.4.6.b, 16.6.2.b.


\textsuperscript{59} Janeway 2017, 46, 50.


\textsuperscript{61} Furumark 1941a, 1941b.

FIG. 13. Fusiform jar G4.55:28, TT-58, FP6c: left, in situ; arrow points north (S. Batiuk); right, drawing of reconstructed jar (drawing by F. Haughey).

FIG. 14. Plain Ware kraters and pithoi; FP6c: 2, 6; FP6b: 3–5; FP6a: 1 (drawings by L. Welton).
These bowls are characterized by a relatively simple repertoire of painted motifs consisting of Wavy Line Style (see fig. 15, no. 13), linear (see fig. 15, nos. 1–3, 5, 6, 9, 14, 15), monochrome (see fig. 15, nos. 4, 12), and a limited selection of other designs, such as anti-thetic tongue or streamers (see fig. 15, nos. 7, 10) and stacked zigzags (see fig. 15, no. 11). Linear motifs are the most common motifs in the earliest phases. Deep bowls are also well represented at Çatal Höyük and Tell Judaidah and are common at coastal sites in Syria and Lebanon, such as Ras Ibn Hani (see fig. 1[24]), Tell Tweini (see fig. 1[25]), Sarepta (see fig. 1[35]), and Tell Kazel (see fig. 1[31]), and in Cilicia, appearing in large numbers at Tarsus-Gözlükule. The presence of deep bowls is also attested at inland Syrian

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sites such as Tell ‘Acharneh (see fig. 1 [27]), Hama, Tell Afis, Tell Qarqur (see fig. 1 [21]), and ‘Ain Dara (see fig. 1 [18]). Other Aegean bowl types have also been found, including shallow angular bowls (SABs, FS 295; see fig. 15, nos. 16–20) and one-handed conical bowls (FS 242; see fig. 15, nos. 21, 22). SABs in particular are well known from coastal sites such as Tarsus-Gözlükule, Kinet Höyük, Ras Ibn Hani, and Tell Kazel, and they also appear inland at sites like Çatal Höyük and Gindaris (see fig. 1 [17]). Conical bowls, on the other hand, are less widely distributed in the region but are common at Tarsus-Gözlükule.

The LH IIIC style tradition enjoyed widespread distribution in the north Orontes Valley and has been reported at up to 29 other sites by the AVRP Survey,69 distribution in the north Orontes Valley and has been in the region but are common at Tarsus-Gözlükule.68 bowls, on the other hand, are less widely distributed 

Çatal Höyük and /uni011Eind/uni0101ris (see fig. 1[17]).67 Conical bowls, on the other hand, are less widely distributed in the region but are common at Tarsus-Gözlükule.68

The LH IIIC style tradition enjoyed widespread distribution in the north Orontes Valley and has been reported at up to 29 other sites by the AVRP Survey,69 as well as at Gindaris and Tell Atchana (Alalakh).70 According to Swift, painted wares accounted for 90–95% of the total Phase N assemblage recovered by the Syrian-Hittite Expedition.71 However, this figure clearly reflects the expedition’s preoccupation with painted wares and therefore substantially overestimates its frequency in the overall assemblage, skewing assessments of its prevalence in the Tayinat Iron I ceramic repertoire.72 In fact, painted ceramics occur comparatively infrequently in FP6c, representing on average only 5% of the assemblage, and, among these painted vessels, LH IIIC–style material is extremely rare. It is only during FP6b that painted pottery in general, and Aegeanizing ceramics more specifically, begin to increase. Painted ceramics reach approximately equal or slightly higher frequencies compared to Plain Wares in FP6a and FP5, before decreasing slightly to represent approximately 15% of the assemblage in FP3.

Toward the later part of the Iron I, the north Orontes Valley witnessed the gradual eclipse of the Aegeanizing tradition and its development into local painted wares that occur along with the dominant ceramic type of the Iron II, Red Slip Burnished Ware, a trend that also has been observed elsewhere in the region. However, the absence of intact levels in the Field 1 sequence that date to the latest part of the Iron I period (Iron IC) means that this Iron I–II transition, and the disappearance of the LH IIIC–style pottery tradition at Tayinat, will not be addressed here.

Local Painted Ware. Painted pottery reflecting local or regional influences occurs along with the locally produced LH IIIC tradition as well as hybrid forms of both (figs. 16, 17).73 The fabric characteristics of Local Painted Ware are consistent with those described for both Plain Wares and LH IIIC–style pottery and vary between very fine and moderately coarse examples, often displaying light burnishing or smoothing of the outer surface. Paint most commonly ranges in color from red to brown but occasionally occurs in dark brown-black. Decorative designs are predominantly restricted to geometric motifs,74 with the most frequent patterns comprised of hatched triangles, parallel straight lines, and wavy lines framed by parallel lines. Many of the painted wares at Tayinat display a high degree of hybridization and thus simultaneously display elements of the influences of multiple traditions, a feature noted at many coastal sites during this transitional period.75

Common forms include carinated or biconical (see fig. 16, no. 1), bell-shaped (see fig. 16, no. 2), and amorphoid (see fig. 16, nos. 3, 4) kraters, other kraters whose body shape is uncertain (see fig. 16, nos. 5–7), and both rim- and neck-handled amphoras and jars (see fig. 17, nos. 1–6). Other forms, represented in smaller numbers, include trefoil-mouthed pitchers (FS 137; see fig. 17, no. 7) and mugs (see fig. 17, no. 8) as well as feeding or spouted bottles (FS 159–62)76 and pilgrim flasks (FS 186–88).

Some Local Painted Ware forms find parallels in the Anatolian and coastal Syrian Late Bronze Age–Iron I

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65 Tell ‘Acharneh: Cooper 2006, fig. 15.11. Hama: Riis 1948, figs. 89, 90. Tell Afis: Venturi 2010, fig. 11:1–3; 2013, fig. 15. Tell Qarqur: Dornemann 2003, fig. 88.5. ‘Ain Dara: Stone and Zimansky 1999, fig. 27.1.


68 Mountjoy 2005a, 83, 99–100, figs. 6, 7, 17.

69 Janeway 2017, 33; see also Verstraete and Wilkinson 2000, 188–89.


71 Swift 1958, 64.

72 Janeway 2017, 121.


76 Swift 1958, 68, fig. 25; Pucci (forthcoming, 175–76).
repertoire. The biconical krater, with a low carination (see fig. 16, no. 1), is a common Late Bronze Age Levantine form. Kraters with square or rectangular rims (see fig. 16, nos. 6, 7), which are also represented (although less frequently) in the Plain Ware assemblage, are common in Late Bronze Anatolian and coastal Syrian contexts elsewhere, in addition to being related to the LH IIIC tradition. The trefoil-mouthed pitcher (see fig. 17, no. 7) finds close parallels both in shape and decoration in the Late Bronze and Late Bronze–Iron Age transitional period levels at Kilise Tepe, Mersin-Yumuktepe, and Tarsus-Gözlükule, and in the

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77 Tell Kazel: Capet 2003, figs. 6e, 8c (Area II, Level 6). Çatal Höyük: Pucci 2013, fig. 2:16; (forthcoming), 137, 142, 145, figs. 43:6–8, 44:15. Tarsus: Korbel 1987, figs. 43,348, 351. Tille Höyük: Summers 1993, fig. 38.12. See also examples from the southern Levant: Beth Shean: Panitz-Cohen 2009, 249–50, Type JG75; Megiddo: Arie 2013, 505, Type J10; Martin 2013, 387–88, Type JG70; among others.

Early Iron Age levels at sites in both the northern and southern Levant.\textsuperscript{79}

In Cilicia, after an emphasis on plain ware potting traditions for much of the Late Bronze Age, evidence for local painted pottery called Cilician Red Painted Ware first appears at Kilise Tepe before achieving more widespread distribution in Late Bronze (LB) IIb levels at Mersin-Yumuktepe, Tarsus-Gözlükule, and Kinet Höyük.\textsuperscript{80} In recent years, it has been suggested that these painted traditions represent revivals of earlier local pre-Hittite ceramics.\textsuperscript{81} In contrast, in the


\textsuperscript{81} Genz 2003, 187; 2005, 76, 82; Müller 2005, 111; Postgate 2007, 145–46.
Levantine coastal region and the Syrian interior, a Late Bronze Age painted tradition continues into the Iron I and appears in transitional levels at 'Ain Dara, Tell Afis, Hama, Ugarit, Ras Ibn Hani, Ras el-Bassit (see fig. 1[22]), Tell Tweni, Tell Kazel, and Tell Arqa (see fig. 1[32]).82 More locally, continuity in the painted tradition can be observed at Tell Atchana (Alalakh) and Çatal Höyük.83 This reflects the persistence of a broader Late Bronze Age painted tradition, albeit with Aegean stylistic influences, that also continues in parts of the southern Levant.84

Shell-Tempered Cooking Ware. A shell-tempered ware constitutes the main ware type used for cooking vessels in the Iron I assemblage (fig. 18). The distinguishing feature of this ware type is the heavy use of crushed shell temper in the production of large, closed, handmade vessels. Frequent motting on their exterior surfaces confirms that these vessels were used for cooking. Shell-Tempered Cooking Ware appears throughout all phases of the Iron I in Field 1 (FPs 6–3). In the earliest phases, shapes consist of closed, carinated forms, often with two handles and a tall upper portion, with a thickened oval rim (see fig. 18, nos. 1, 2, 4) or with a ridge running along the exterior of the rim (see fig. 18, nos. 3, 5, 6). Rim shapes become more variable in the later phases of Iron I (see fig. 18, no. 7), but a preference for the carinated form is generally retained throughout the period.

The use of crushed shell as a tempering agent for cooking pots has a long tradition both in the Amuq, as attested at Çatal Höyük throughout Amuq Phases M and N, and at Tell Atchana (Alalakh) from the LB I onward.85 It also appears at Tell Afis and in Cilicia, where it is encountered at Tarsus-Gözlükule from at least the LB I.86 Tayinat cooking pot forms generally continue the Late Bronze Levantine carinated cooking pot tradition. Similar continuity in cooking pot forms and ware types from the Late Bronze to the Iron Age has been observed at Tell Afis and at Çatal Höyük.87

A small number of Aegean-style cooking pots have also been found (see fig. 18, nos. 8, 9), but these account for less than 5% of the cooking ware assemblage.88 These vessels feature an ovoid body, rounded shoulder, short everted neck, simple rim, disc base, and a single loop handle from rim to shoulder; they are also shell tempered. Although common in Cyprus and the southern Levant, this cooking pot tradition does not appear to be widely distributed in the northern Levant, having thus far been identified in small numbers only at Tell Kazel and Tell Arqa.89

Gray Ware. Other ware types appear in the assemblage at Tayinat in very small quantities. The most frequent of these is Gray Ware (fig. 19). Gray Wares at Tayinat have a very fine texture and were fired in a reducing environment, resulting in a light- to medium-gray surface color and a thick, well-delineated dark gray to black core. The vessels are generally well burnished and in very rare cases display incised decoration. The most frequently attested forms include carinated bowls and cups, sometimes with high-swung handles (see fig. 19, nos. 3–5). Similar forms are found at Tell Kazel.90

Gray Ware is indigenous to northwest Anatolia, as attested at Troy (see fig. 1[46]) throughout the Late Bronze Age and well into Early Iron Age levels, following the destruction horizon of Level VIIa.91 Gray Ware has also been found in limited amounts throughout the eastern Mediterranean, primarily at coastal sites, where it typically occurs in terminal Late Bronze Age levels or post-destruction contexts.92 Recent neutron

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84 Particularly in the Jezreel and Beth Shean areas, the coastal plain, and the Shephelah; Mazar 2015, 6, 8–9. Beth Shean: Panitz-Cohen 2009, 211–18, Type KR71. Megiddo: Killbrew 2005, 119, 132, figs. 3.17, 3.31, Jug Type CA17; Arie 2013, 491, Type K2; Martin 2013, 370, Type KR70.


88 Janeway 2017, 111.


90 Badre 2006, fig. 17:10–11.


Small Finds

Many of the small finds from the Iron I levels at Tayinat relate to specialized craft production, particularly metal and textile production, and are presented collectively in discussions below devoted to those particular industries. Notable artifacts are illustrated and discussed with the aim of describing the most readily identifiable artifact types represented.

activation analysis suggests that most eastern Mediterranean examples of Gray Ware are likely to be Trojan imports, although a few examples appear to be of unknown (local?) origin.93

Many of the small finds recovered from the Iron I levels in Field 1 were associated with weaponry, both of iron and copper. The most common types of weaponry are arrowheads, which occur most frequently in the earliest phase (FP6) and are mostly of copper alloy (fig. 20, nos. 1–4), although iron examples are also present (see fig. 20, no. 5). A copper alloy spearhead (FP6; see fig. 20, no. 6) and a small number of armor scale fragments of both copper alloy and iron (see fig. 20, nos. 7, 8) were also found in Iron I levels. The armor scales are flat, with a raised longitudinal central ridge, squared at one end and rounded at the other. Armor scale pieces of this type are common in the Late Bronze and Early Iron Age Levant, including at Tell Atchana (Alalakh), Ugarit, Tell Arqa, and Hama; they also occur in Greece and Cyprus in this period.

Two iron blades (FP6b) display pseudomorphic traces of organic materials representing possible textile wrappings, and one displays traces of its wooden handle and several metal rivets still visible on both sides of the blade (see fig. 20, nos. 9, 10).

Metal artifacts associated with personal ornamentation include a variety of pins and needles (fig. 21, nos. 1–5) and a small number of copper alloy rings (see fig. 21, no. 8). Three copper alloy fibulae display an asymmetrical bow shape, with beaded decorative moldings on the body, a hooked clasp, and a spiral spring (see fig. 21, nos. 6, 7). This asymmetrical shape evolves into a more symmetrical bow shape or a somewhat triangular shape in the Iron II.

Similar examples are found in LB II–Iron I levels at Tell Kazel, Tarsus-Gözlükule, Tell Tweini, Hama, and Tell Atchana (Alalakh). A double spiral of gold wire may represent part of an earring; its central portion retains a section of intact gold sheet rolled into a tube (see fig. 21, no. 9). A small gold-foil spherical object (see fig. 21, no. 10) is similar to a collection of items uncovered in the Late Bronze Age North Palace at Ras Ibn Hani, where they were interpreted as gold veneers for nail heads. Finally, the Iron I settlement in Field 1 produced a thin strip of repoussé silver or electrum (see fig. 21, no. 11).

The Field 1 excavations produced a wide variety of beads, including examples made from shell, glass, serpentine, carnelian, frit, bone, and ceramic. A teardrop-shaped carnelian pendant (fig. 22, no. 1), commonly known as a Lotus Seed pendant, is represented to date by three examples. These pendants have numerous parallels in both shape and material at Beth Shean (see fig. 1[39]), Tel Miqne-Ekron (see fig. 1[42]), Ashdod (see fig. 1[41]), and Hama. Such pendants

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94 See Karageorghis and Masson 1975, Maran 2004 for summaries of similar finds.  
96 Stronach 1959, fig. 1.4–5.  

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98 Bounni et al. 1998, fig. 126.  
are generally considered to be Egyptianizing and are most common in the LB II–Iron I, particularly during the 19th and 20th Dynasties.

Iron I ceramic figurines from Field 1 are fragmentary and primarily zoomorphic, most commonly representing quadruped bovine or equine forms. A single anthropomorphic ceramic figurine with a cylindrical body and schematic face was recovered (see fig. 22, no. 2).

A perforated ivory object in the shape of an animal paw, likely that of a lion, possibly served as an amulet (see fig. 22, no. 3), as did a small anthropomorphic faience male figure perforated transversely just above the shoulder (see fig. 22, no. 4). Similar Egyptian or Egyptianizing faience amulets are well known from Beth Shean, Lachish (see fig. 1[45]), and Hama.\textsuperscript{100}


Glyptic remains from the Iron I levels at Tayinat are rare. A bulla from FP6c displays most of a seal impression from a circular seal that is similar to known Hittite seals and seal impressions (fig. 23). A border consisting of a series of tick marks frames a series of Hieroglyphic Luwian signs in the central circle. They include an oval sign with hatched markings that also appears on several seals from Boğazköy.\textsuperscript{101} The second sign does not clearly match any discernable Hieroglyphic Luwian sign, and the identification of both signs remains uncertain.\textsuperscript{102} Of potential chronological significance is the flat (rather than concave) profile of the impression and the small size of the central field containing the Hieroglyphic Luwian signs. These features suggest a comparatively early date (late 15th–early 14th century B.C.E.),\textsuperscript{103} indicating that this seal was likely an heirloom at the time of its deposition.

\textsuperscript{101} Güterbock 1967, 2, nos. 172, 188, 196.
\textsuperscript{102} Depending on the impression’s orientation, the first sign should probably be identified as L.409 (Laroche 1960, 216; M. Weeden, pers. comm. 2018).
\textsuperscript{103} Herbordt 2006, 102.
Textile Industry

Excavations in Field 1 have produced more than 200 nonperforated, cylindrical clay loomweights (fig. 24, nos. 1–5). Often described as spool weights, these distinctive indicators of textile production are commonly found in LH IIIC levels at sites throughout the Aegean, most notably at Mycenae and Tiryns. More recently, they have been recognized in Early Iron Age levels at an increasing number of sites in the Levant, inland Syria, and southern Anatolia, generally in association with Aegeanizing pottery. Their exact time and place of origin is still unclear, but they seem to spread rapidly throughout the eastern Mediterranean in the early 12th century B.C.E.

Tayinat’s Iron I loomweights occur in a variety of sizes, but two size ranges predominate: a smaller size averaging 7–8 cm in length and weighing approximately 170–180 g, and a larger size averaging 10–12 cm in length and 550–560 g in weight. Generally speaking, larger, heavier loomweights give way to smaller, lighter examples from the earlier to the later phases of the Iron I, likely indicating a change in the functionality of these objects and suggesting a shift over time from heavier, coarser fabrics to lighter, finer fabrics. Two general shapes typically occur, though variation is common: cylindrical forms with straight sides and rounded ends, and hourglass-shaped forms with a tapered mid-section and flattened ends, sometimes with a small indentation in one or both ends. Morphological developments over time are difficult to discern, with both types occurring in all FPs.

Although most examples were found individually, many Field 1 loomweights were found in caches deposited in pits, occurring exclusively in FP6. Cylindrical loomweights become less common toward the end of the Iron I, although they continue to appear during the Iron II, when they occur along with a new type of perforated stone loomweight that eventually replaces them in the Iron III.

To date, 73 spindlewhorls have been recovered from Iron I contexts in Field 1. This total represents two main categories: primary use objects, deliberately fashioned for spinning (50 examples), and perforated sherd-discs made from reused potsherds (23 examples). Among the first group, examples occur in both clay (see fig. 24, nos. 6–8) and stone (see fig. 24, nos. 9–12). Morphologically, there is a distinct preference for conical shapes (see fig. 24, nos. 8, 9, 11), although round and biconical forms were also popular (see fig. 24, nos. 6, 7, 10). Occasionally, stone spindlewhorls exhibit finely carved decoration (see fig. 24, no. 11), with patterns including semicircles, concentric rings, and rosettes. Bone spatulas (see fig. 24, no. 13) and awls (see fig. 24, no. 14) complete the repertoire of textile tools.

Zooarchaeological Remains

The TAP excavations have recovered more than 141,000 fragments of faunal bone, of which nearly 33,000 have been analyzed. The faunal remains assigned to the Iron I make up a total sample of 14,122 fragments, or roughly 40% of the total analyzed sample. All excavated soil is dry-sifted using quarter-inch mesh screens, and faunal remains recovered from the heavy fraction of floated soil samples have been included in the analysis when available. Bone identification is made with reference to standard zooarchaeological manuals of comparative osteology.

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105 Rahmstorf 2003, 397, 400–2; 2008, 59–73.
109 This depositional pattern appears reasonably common, with loomweight caches also observed at Tiryns and Lefkandi (Evely 2006; Rahmstorf 2008, 2011) and in Phase O contexts at Çatal Höyük (Haines 1971, pl. 16B).
110 Cecchini 2000, 217.
Aging and measurements of individual elements are also based on standard methods.\textsuperscript{112}

The raw data from all field phases is presented in table 1 in the online appendix (on AJA Online).\textsuperscript{113}

\textsuperscript{112} Silver 1963; von den Dreisch 1976; Payne 1985.

\textsuperscript{113} FP6 loci analyzed are from FP6b–a; no material from FP6c has yet been analyzed. FP3 is unusual in that one locus (G4.55:10) contained more than 500 fragments of bones from very small mammals representing more than 50 individual rodents and small carnivores. It is likely that they represent the remains of several owl pellets and are thus not reflective of any aspect of the actual Iron I economy of the site. As such, analysis was conducted both including these fragments (“raw” data) and excluding them (“adjusted” data). References to species proportions are based on “adjusted” data unless otherwise noted.
phases, while turtle/tortoise and amphibian appear in similar amounts, except in FP4, which may be due to this phase’s small sample size. Unidentifiable fragments form a significant component of the assemblage in all phases, varying between about 25% and 45% of the sample. Cut marks appear in frequencies of less than 1%, reaching their highest levels in FP5, where they appear on 0.9% of fragments in the sample. Thermal alteration is visible in 1.5–3.3% of fragments, depending on the field phase.

Large mammals (all species larger than ovicaprids) make up a relatively small fraction of the finds in all phases, with four identifiable species present. The proportion of the total sample represented by large mammals is lowest in FP6 (8.4%) and highest in FP3 (14.6%). However, they consistently represent 21–22% of identifiable mammal remains. In all phases except FP4, small amounts of red deer (Cervus elaphus) attest to the continuation of large game animal hunting, at least as a small portion of the animal economy. A small number of fragments of equid bone (likely donkey) were also identified in all phases. Pig is consistently present and was at its highest in FP6, at 1.5% of the sample. A single fragment of camel (Camelus sp.) in FP3 represents the earliest evidence of this species at Tayinat to date. A single fragment of bear (Ursus arctos) was also found in FP3.

Medium-sized mammals comprise most of the mammalian finds in all phases, varying between about 30% and 55% of the total sample, and 73–77% of identifiable mammal remains. Medium-sized game animals are represented most frequently by Gazella sp., appearing in frequencies of less than 1% in all phases except FP4. Fallow deer (Dama dama) is also represented by one fragment in FP5. Ratios of Capra to Ovis indicate that throughout the Iron I, goats appear in equal or greater numbers than sheep. This ratio is highest in FP6, where it reaches 2.4:1. Sample sizes of ageable bone and teeth for ovicaprids were large enough to analyze mortality in all phases except FP4. All phases demonstrate a pattern that suggests a herding and culling strategy that emphasized secondary products over meat production. This is particularly notable in FP5, where 25% mortality was reached at 9 months of age, 50% mortality at 22.5 months, and 75% mortality at 40.5 months. The low value for the 25% mortality level is suggestive of dairy production, while the significant number of individuals older than 48 months suggests that wool and/or hair production also played a significant role.

The remainder of the mammalian bone includes small amounts of rabbit or hare and canid bone (<1% in all phases). A single fragment of beaver (Castor fiber) was identified in FP3, while one fragment of cat (Felis sp.) was identified in FP5. Small and very small mammals also appear in low frequencies in all phases with the exception of FP3, which shows abnormally high percentages of very small mammal bone (see n. 113 above). The elevated numbers of rodents (mice, voles) and very small carnivores (ferrets, weasels) are likely due to the presence of owl pellets in the sample.

Tayinat’s Iron I sample is remarkably consistent in its species distribution, particularly from FPs 5–3. The most notable changes are those that occur between FP6 and FP5. There is a decrease in the amount of pig bone after FP6, possibly reflecting a dietary shift in the population at the site. At the same time, there is a considerable increase in Ovis aries, while Capra hircus remains are found in correspondingly high proportions. While the ratio of goat to sheep is unusually high at Tayinat (typically around 1:1), during FP6 it is dramatically higher than normal and may represent significantly different herding practices from those typically observed at the site during the Early Bronze or later Iron Age. The greater ratio of goat to sheep is unusual compared with other sites in the area, where sheep tend to outnumber goat.114 Fish are also found in higher than normal quantities for the Iron Age during this earliest phase. The relative amount of fish represented during this phase is more reminiscent of the Early Bronze Age patterns than of later Iron Age phases.115

Significant differences can be observed between the Iron I remains and earlier finds from the EB IV. FP6 displays an increase in pig compared with FP7, but values are more comparable to those seen during the preceding FP8 (both FP7 and FP8 are EB IVB).116 This value is lower than that observed for many Late

114 Late Bronze Age Ugarit: Vila 2008, 170–71; Late Bronze Age Tell Atchana: Çakırlar and Rossel 2010, table 12.1; Late Bronze–Iron I Tell Atfis: Wilkens 1998, table 2. Other sites are less conclusive, with similar numbers of identified sheep and goat; Tell Tweini: Linseele 2010, table 1; Kinet Höyük: Ikram 2003, fig. 2.
115 Welton et al. 2011, figs. 14, 15.
116 Welton et al. 2011, figs. 14, 15.
Bronze–Iron I sites in the region.\textsuperscript{117} Furthermore, in contrast to other sites, where pig consumption appears to increase from the Late Bronze to the Iron I, this represents a substantial decrease from the published amounts of pig represented in Late Bronze Age levels at Tell Atchana (Alalakh), where pig forms more than 17% of the faunal assemblage.\textsuperscript{118} There is also an increase in fish compared with FP7, but again values are more in keeping with those seen for FP8.\textsuperscript{119}

**Archaeobotanical Remains**

TAP has conducted systematic recovery and analysis of archaeobotanical samples since excavations began in 2004, with more than 1,000 soil samples floated and processed to date.\textsuperscript{120}

The heavy fraction is sorted in the field, allowing for any charred material that did not float to be collected, as well as microfauna, diagnostic pottery sherds, and other occasional small finds. Sixty-seven Iron I samples have been analyzed from Field 1, yielding a total of 6,237 seed and fruit remains, classified according to 120 analytical categories. Archaeobotanical results from Tell Atchana (Alalakh)\textsuperscript{121} have been amalgamated with the present study to facilitate analysis of diachronic changes in crop and wild plant assemblages during the transition from the Late Bronze to the Iron Age. Crop remains from the two sites were analyzed according to their ubiquity scores and percentages. Redundancy analysis (RDA) was performed with Canoco 5 statistical analysis software to test for temporal variations among the wild plant assemblages at both sites.\textsuperscript{122}


\textsuperscript{118} Çakırlar and Rossel 2010, table 12.1. Pig increases from Late Bronze to Iron Age at Kinet Höyük, Tell Afis, and Gindärıs, for example; Vogler 1997; Wilkens 1998; Ikram 2003.

\textsuperscript{119} Welton et al. 2011, figs. 14, 15.

\textsuperscript{120} See also Capper 2012 for preliminary analysis of Tayinat archaeobotanical data.

\textsuperscript{121} Çizer 2006; Riehl 2010a; Stirn 2013.

\textsuperscript{122} RDA is a constrained form of principal components analysis that is used here to partition the variation in the species representation within chronologically defined archaeological assemblages of wild plant species along two axes in relation to the plant species whose frequencies best differentiate among the assemblages, with time as an explanatory variable.

\textsuperscript{123} For ubiquity scores from Tell Atchana, only the archaeobotanical data in Stirn 2013 has been used as this study displays better stratigraphic control over samples.

\textsuperscript{124} Riehl 2009.

\textsuperscript{125} Riehl 2009.
Flax (*Linum usitatissimum*), an important economic plant for its fiber and oil-providing seeds, appears infrequently in all phases analyzed at Tayinat. The best-preserved evidence has been recovered from Iron II–III levels, albeit always in low counts. A variety of arboricultural fruits such as grape (*Vitis vinifera*), olive (*Olea europaea*), and fig (*Ficus carica*), which are typical crops for Mediterranean environments like that of Tayinat, are a stable component of the crop assemblage. All are fairly ubiquitous at Tell Atchana and Tayinat, and it should be noted that there is no indication that cultivation of any of these crops was abandoned during the transition from the Late Bronze to the Iron Age. Indeed, these fruit-bearing trees scored their highest Iron Age values, both in proportion and ubiquity, in FP6.

Other plants that might have been part of the diet were caper (*Capparis spinosa*) and fenugreek (*Trigonella foenum-graecum*), which were only recorded in FP6. Coriander (*Coriandrum sativum*), on the other hand, first appears in FP3, with more frequent occurrences documented in Iron II–III.

Four wild taxa, including ryegrass (*Lolium*), canary grass (*Phalaris*), aggregate clovers (*Melilotus/Trifolium*), and stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*), comprise most non-crop finds at Tayinat, irrespective of period. These taxa are also frequently recorded in FP6. Coriander (*Coriandrum sativum*), on the other hand, first appears in FP3, with more frequent occurrences documented in Iron II–III.

The clustering of the remaining wild taxa during the Late Bronze–Iron Age transition provides insight into paleoenvironmental conditions in the Amuq Plain. The RDA plot (fig. 25) clearly separates both assemblages along the horizontal axis, which represents the most distinct variation found in the assemblage and accounts for 32% of the total variation. FP6 is separated most clearly from the preceding levels at Tell Atchana (Alalakh) and the succeeding phases at Tayinat. The Tayinat FP6 flora are characterized by the near-complete absence of a group of wild leguminous plants (*Prosopis farcta*, *Securigera*, *Corynilla*, *Scorpiurus*) that was common at Late Bronze Age Tell Atchana, especially in Levels 5–4. Instead, taxa indicative of moisture-laden habitats (*e.g.*, *Aeluropus* cf. *littoralis*, *Phleum*, *Cynodon dactylon*, *Scirpus maritimus*, *Eleocharis*, *Fimbrystylis annua*) predominate in Tayinat FP6. Simultaneously, plants that thrive in open vegetation, such as *Chenopodium murale*, *Cichorium*, *Hordeum* spp., *Centarea* type, and *Malva*, as well as taxa reflective of overgrazed conditions, such as *Verbascum* and *Ornithagalam/Muscari*, are fairly common during Tayinat FP6. The vertical axis in figure 25, which represents the second-most distinct variation in the plant assemblage, also further distinguishes FP6 from the later Iron I assemblages (FPs 5 and 4–3), which contain previously absent wild leguminous plants. The reincorporation of these taxa may reflect an expansion of the site’s agricultural catchment area through the cultivation of new arable fields that likely were left uncultivated during FP6.

**FIELD 4 INVESTIGATIONS**

Excavations were conducted in Field 4, located on the western edge of the mound (see fig. 2), in 2006 and 2007. Portions of five squares were excavated, but Iron I levels were limited to square G3.34. Field 4 investigations were initiated with the aim of reexamining Trench T-5 of the Syrian-Hittite Expedition, which had uncovered a section of the Iron II–III fortification system. The renewed investigations succeeded in isolating a series of earlier structures cut by the fortification wall, including the remains of a metal workshop dating to the Iron I. The complex can be divided into three rooms (fig. 26). The southern Room 1 contained a semicircular installation (G3.34:15) consisting of a mudbrick platform built on top of a layer of sherds.
bones, and stones. A layer of ash covered the installation, extended to the north and east, and ran up against the wall to the west (G3.34:17). In the northern Room 2, five ash deposits, each about 50 cm in diameter, formed an L-shaped pattern in the southwest corner of the room. In Room 3, the eastern half of which was disturbed by later building activity, several slag cakes were found in the southwest corner of the room. Significant amounts of slag, copper and iron fragments, tuyeres, and crucible fragments were recovered from each of the rooms. The workshop has been dated to the Iron I period (most likely the 11th century B.C.E.), based primarily on the associated ceramic assemblage, which is characterized by the presence of locally produced LH IIIC–style pottery.

Archaeometallurgy

Most of the finds from Field 4 are related to metallurgical production. Ten iron and 12 copper artifacts of identifiable form were found in the metal workshop, including weaponry (projectile points, armor scales), needles (fig. 27, no. 1), nails, jewelry (pins [see fig. 27, no. 2], a ring, and a fibula), and tools (see fig. 27, no. 3). Numerous unidentifiable iron and copper fragments were also recovered, and preliminary X-ray fluorescence (XRF) analysis on two fragments indicates that the copper was alloyed with high amounts of tin.132

Field 4 also produced more than 800 fragments of slag, including a number of slag cakes. XRF analysis of the slag indicates that both bronze and iron were being worked. Four of the slag samples analyzed were determined to relate to bronzeworking and two to ironworking.133 The recovered slag cakes included hearth-bottom slag cakes associated with iron smithing. Two sizes of iron slag cakes were identified: (1) approximately 6 cm diameter, 1 cm thickness, with a concavo-convex shape; and (2) greater than 10 cm diameter, 3 cm thickness, with a plano-convex shape. Additionally, a significant quantity of flake hammer

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131 For further description, see Roames 2011.
132 Roames 2011, table 1.
133 Roames 2011, table 1.
Plan of Field 4 architecture. T5 walls represent those uncovered by the Syrian-Hittite Expedition in 1938. TAP walls represent those excavated by the Tayinat Archaeological Project in 2006–2007. All Iron I walls were excavated by TAP (graphic by L. Welton).

Evidence of metallurgical production at Tayinat: 1, needle; 2, pin; 3, tool; 4, 5, tuyeres; 1, TT-762; 2, TT-772; 3, TT-494; 4, TT-465,467; 5, TT-495 (S. Harrison and A. Harrison; drawings by F. Haughey).
scale from iron smithing was recovered from Room 2. Preliminary analysis of the slag indicates that iron smithing, copper smelting, and copper alloying all occurred in the workshop and that both iron and bronze were worked in all three rooms.

Approximately 100 tuyere fragments were recovered and fall into two types based on their cross-sections: round (see fig. 27, no. 5) and square (see fig. 27, no. 4). Bore holes generally measure 0.6–1.0 cm, unless the back end is preserved, in which case the inner diameter starts at approximately 2 cm and tapers down. Outer diameters are mostly about 2.5–5 cm but can reach as much as 8 cm. Square tuyeres appear to have been favored in workshops discovered at Tell Beth-Shemesh (Israel; see fig. 1[43]) and Tell Hammeh (Jordan; see fig. 1[40]), but square tuyeres have been found along with round ones at Tell es-Safi (Israel; see fig. 1[44]). The longest preserved tuyere, at approximately 15 cm, was elbow-shaped (see fig. 27, no. 5). Refractory materials identified in Field 4 also include a variety of both crucible and furnace fragments. These groups were often difficult to distinguish, but examples of complete rims with slag adhering to their interiors were interpreted as evidence for crucibles.

These preliminary results imply the existence of a non-specialized metal workshop involved in the production of both iron and copper products. Iron smithing occurred along with the melting and mixing of copper and tin, and the variety of artifacts recovered indicates that both utilitarian and prestige goods were being made from both metals.

**DISCUSSION**

Tayinat’s Iron I sequence in Field 1 (FPs 6–3) can be anchored to a more precise absolute chronology as a result of an extensive program of radiocarbon dating (fig. 28) and can be subdivided into four discrete phases. The earliest phase coincides with FP6c. Although currently based on a single radiocarbon date, the stratigraphic, artifactual, and radiocarbon evidence suggest that FP6c should be dated to the mid 12th century B.C.E. This corresponds well with the ceramic assemblage, which demonstrates strong continuity with preceding Late Bronze Age potting traditions, particularly in the Plain Ware corpus. Similar continuity in ceramic production extending through the 12th century has also been observed at numerous other sites in the region, particularly in southeastern Anatolia. Locally produced LH IIIC–style pottery, meanwhile, is rare to almost absent in this earliest Iron I phase.

The second phase coincides with FP6b, which marks the appearance and expanding production of local LH IIIC–style pottery, and should be dated to the late 12th–early 11th centuries B.C.E.; this phase also witnessed the earliest structural remains in Field 1. A similar introduction and proliferation of locally produced Aegeanizing materials have been observed at other Levantine sites. It is also during this phase that evidence of textile production becomes more frequent in Field 1. The third phase, represented by FPs 6a–5, dates to the 11th century B.C.E. and corresponds to the peak of local production of Aegeanizing pottery. The metal workshop in Field 4 most likely dates to this phase.

The fourth phase, represented by FPs 4–3, extends from the late 11th through the early to mid 10th centuries B.C.E. and is characterized by a gradual decline in the presence of Aegean-style pottery and the appearance in small quantities of ceramic traditions that will later characterize the Iron II. The terminal phase of the Iron I (Iron IC, mid to late 10th century B.C.E.) is not represented in the Field 1 sequence, having been presumably removed during the later Iron II building activities associated with the construction of Temple II. Thus far, the TAP excavations have encountered

134 Veldhuijzen 2009.
136 Similar bent tuyeres are known from the Late Bronze–Iron I southern Levant and Late Bronze Age Cyprus at Poli- tiko-Phorades; Hein et al. 2007, 143, fig. 4; Eliyahu-Behar et al. 2012b, 1274, fig. 35.4.
137 For primary radiocarbon data, see Manning et al. (forthcoming).

140 E.g., mineral-tempered cooking ware, which becomes more common in the Iron II period, appears in small quantities in FP3 contexts. Red-Slipped and Burnished Ware, a diagnostic feature of the Iron II–III, also appears in a rudimentary form in very small quantities in FP3.

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only traces of this phase, primarily in Field 2 to the north, between the foundations of Building XIV.

The four-phase Iron I sequence delineated in Field 1 correlates well with sequences uncovered at other sites in the region (fig. 29). In the Amuq Plain, for example, the Syrian-Hittite Expedition’s excavations at Çatal Höyük identified four architectural phases dating to the Iron I, best preserved in Area I (Levels 10–7), but also encountered in Area II (Levels 11–9), and in very limited exposures in Areas III–VI.141 The excavations at Tell Judaidah (squares D–F 7–10) identified three discrete phases, Levels 11–9. 142 Elsewhere in the region, Tell Afis has produced three major Iron I strata, some of which can be further subdivided. These include Phase Va, a transitional period that dates to the early 12th century B.C.E.; Phase IV, which can be further delineated into three subphases; and Phase III, with four subphases.143 In contrast to the Tayinat sequence, however, the Iron I levels at Afis form part of a continuous sequence spanning the LB II/Early Iron Age transition and continuing through to the Iron IC. Stratified sequences spanning the LB II–Iron I have also been excavated at Ras el-Bassit and Ras Ibn Hani, and at Tell Kazel,144 with the Early Iron I levels at the latter two sites producing significant quantities of LH IIIC pottery.

The emerging view of Early Iron Age northern Levantine settlement points to the existence of a transitional period dating to the early to mid 12th century B.C.E. This transitional phase is represented by Tayinat FP6c, Tell Afis Phase Va, Tarsus-Gözlükule LB IIB,

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141 Haines 1971, 5, 13–14, 17–24; Pucci 2013, 97–9; (forthcoming, 27–34, 71–80, 95–8, 118–25); in Pucci (forthcoming), Area I, Level 10 = Amuq Phase N Beginning; Area I, Level 9–8 = Amuq Phase N Middle; and Area I, Level7 = Amuq Phase N Late (see fig. 29).


Kilise Tepe Level IIa, Kinet Höyük Level 13.2, Sarepta Stratum F, and the transitional Late Bronze/Iron I phases at Ras Ibn Hani (Southern Complex, Lower Level). This phase may immediately postdate the transitional LB II/Iron I assemblages represented at the coastal sites of Tell Kazel (Areas IV:5 upper and II:6 upper), Tell Arqa (sublevel II A), and Sarepta (Stratum G1). The succeeding Iron I levels at Tell Kazel (Areas IV:4–3 and II:5) may be partially contemporary with this transitional phase in the early to mid 12th century B.C.E.

Assemblages comparable to those observed at Tayinat in its second and third phases (FPs 6b–5) occur at Tell Afis (Phase IV–III), Tarsus (LB IIIB), Kilise Tepe (Level IIC), Sarepta (Stratum E), Ras el-Bassit, and Ras Ibn Hani (Northern Complex, Lower Level; Upper Level). Tell Kazel (Areas I:5 and IV:4–3), Tell Tweini (Levels VIIA–B), and Kinet Höyük (Level 12) are also likely contemporary with these second and third Iron I phases. Assemblages corresponding to the fourth phase of the Iron I at Tayinat, as represented by FPs 4–3, appear less widely known but may be represented at Tell Afis (Phase III) and Ras Ibn Hani (Upper Levels of both the Southern and Northern Complexes), and at least partially contemporary assemblages occur at Tell Tweini (Level VIIIB), Sarepta (the earlier part of Stratum D), and Kilise Tepe (Level IIe).


CONCLUSION

In a wide-ranging article about “the Philistines in the north,” Singer suggested that scholars studying the Early Iron Age northern Levant, unlike their colleagues to the south, are more “susceptible to interpretations emphasizing gradual local developments, rather than sudden changes.”¹⁵⁰ In light of his preference for the traditional Sea Peoples migration hypothesis,¹⁵¹ Singer’s observation amounts to a criticism of interpretations that emphasize continuity and local development. Yet, in both regions, there exists compelling evidence for both continuity and change. Much of this difference in emphasis must be attributed to the diverging scholarly traditions of these two regions and the intellectual histories that have shaped their respective interpretive paradigms. However, rather than a weakness, we would argue that these divergent approaches have the ability to highlight differences in regional trajectories, breaking down an otherwise monolithic cultural phenomenon into more nuanced representations that more accurately reflect the remarkable variability that characterized local experiences.¹⁵²

Scholarly assessments of Early Iron Age Tayinat mirror this diversity of interpretations. Characterizations of its material culture have consistently emphasized its intrusive, nonlocal nature,¹⁵³ while discussions of the textual evidence have highlighted the region’s political continuity, from the period of Late Bronze Age Hittite imperial control to the Neo-Hittite rump states of the Iron Age.¹⁵⁴ Yet the diverse spectrum of cultural links observed in Tayinat’s Early Iron Age levels clearly reflect a considerably more complex and more ambiguous cultural reality than has previously been acknowledged.

The ceramic assemblage and small finds in the Iron I levels at Tayinat collectively indicate continuity with preceding Late Bronze Age craft traditions while simultaneously signaling the introduction of new cultural innovations (e.g., LH IIIC–style pottery and spool-shaped loomweights used for warp-weighted textile production). As we have seen, the LH IIIC–style pottery draws its best parallels from Cypriot and northern Levantine coastal sites.¹⁵⁵ Likewise, the evidence for textile production, in particular the cylindrical loomweights of unbaked clay, shows wide-ranging parallels throughout the eastern Mediterranean. Gray Wares are further indicative of geographically diverse connections in the eastern Mediterranean, possibly extending as far as northwestern Anatolia. Other potting traditions, meanwhile, such as the Plain Wares and some Local Painted Wares have closer parallels to the north and west, at sites such as Tarsus-Gözlükule and Kilise Tepe, and throughout large areas of southeastern Anatolia. These traditions suggest close cultural connections with the former Hittite world and the continuation of earlier ceramic industries. Cooking wares, notably, also provide strong evidence (in both form and fabric) of continuity with local potting traditions from the preceding Late Bronze Age, as do the associated cooking installations. Conversely, the presence of Aegean-style cooking jugs, albeit limited in number thus far, hint at the simultaneous presence of nonlocal culinary practices.

Perhaps the most significant evidence of change was the shift of the central settlement from Tell Atchana (Alalakh), capital of the Late Bronze Age kingdom of Mukiš, to Tell Tayinat in the early 12th century B.C.E. Tayinat’s estimated size during this period (between 12 and 20 ha) would have made it one of the largest sites in the eastern Mediterranean during the Early Iron Age. Despite the limited extent of the Iron I settlement excavated thus far, the considerable size of the site, the evidence of functional differentiation (e.g., domestic vs. industrial), the remarkable diversity and range of material culture, and the presence of luxury raw materials such as gold, ivory, and carnelian, collectively point to a prosperous settlement with extensive interregional connections. The pottery and small finds confirm this view, demonstrating that Tayinat lay at the confluence of multiple cultural spheres, ranging from Cilicia and southeastern Anatolia to the north, inland Syria to the east, the Levantine coast to the south, and the Aegean world to the west.

¹⁵⁰ Singer 2012, 454 n. 13.
¹⁵¹ Singer 2012, 456.
¹⁵³ Harrison 2009b; Gates 2010, 65.
¹⁵⁴ Harrison 2009b; Gates 2010, 65.
Far from experiencing a period of cultural devolution and isolation, Early Iron Age Tayinat was engaged in wide-ranging cultural and economic interaction. These interactions fueled the growth of a vibrant community and contributed collectively to the distinctively local, and unique, cultural expression manifested at Tayinat during this period. This cultural and socioeconomic vibrancy would ultimately culminate in the royal city of Kunulua, capital of the Neo-Hittite kingdom of Patina, with its signature architectural and sculptural monuments.

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