

KAMID AL-LAWZ کامد اللوز

THE PHOENICIANS' ROUTE

مسار الفينيقيين

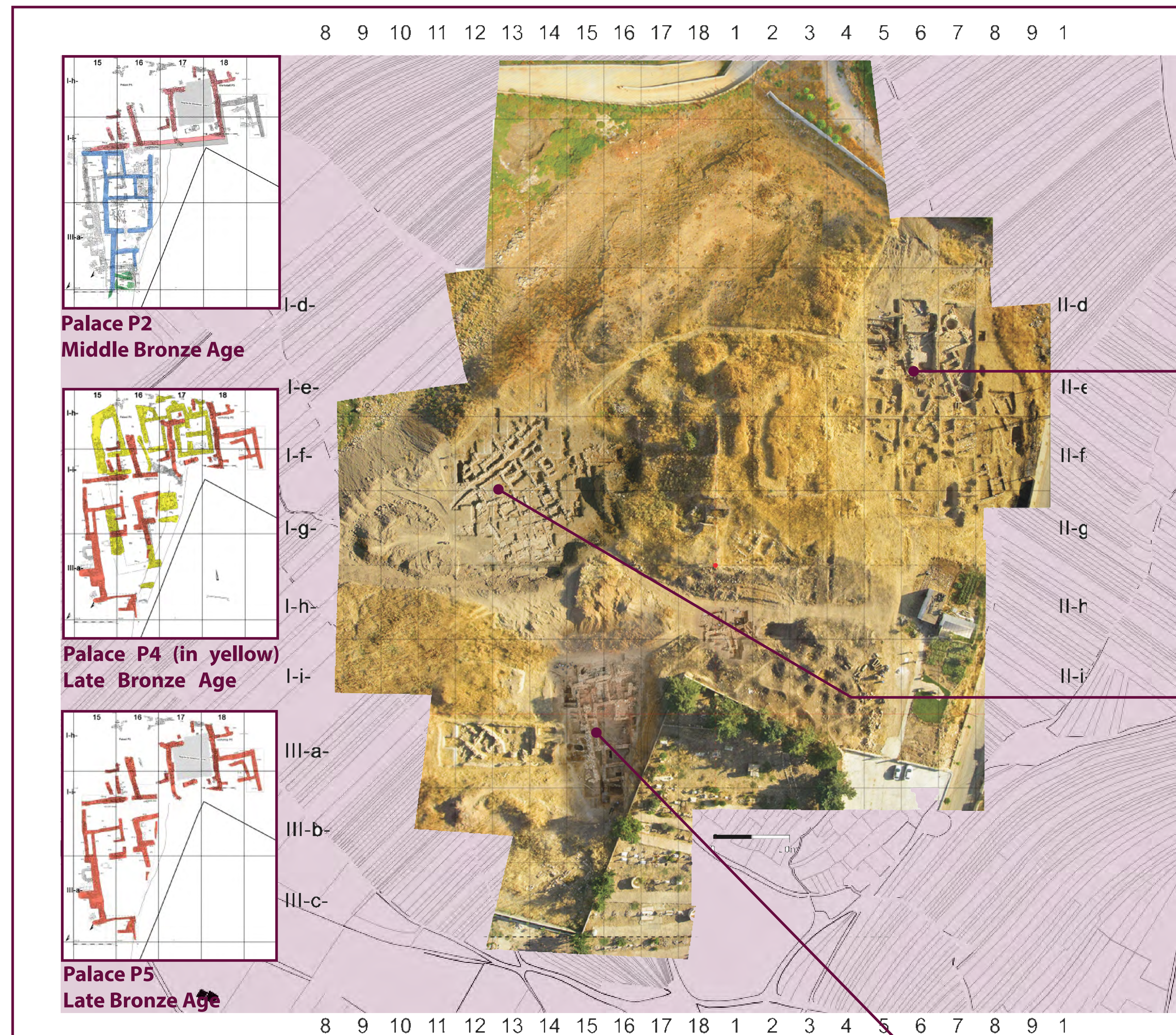
INTRODUCTION

The region that is today Lebanon, a region with a long history of international contacts and global commercial relationships and well-known worldwide for exceedingly successful trading confederacy - the Phoenicians - who put ancient Europe in touch with the skilled handicrafts of the Ancient Near Eastern societies. The involvement of this area in "global" exchange and trade relations dates to prehistoric times has been verified by surveys and excavations carried out throughout the country, including the excavation campaigns in Kamid Al-Lawz in the Beqaa plain.

Tell Kamid Al-Lawz: One of the largest and highest tells in the Beqaa, it was excavated and studied by German archaeologists between the mid-1950's and the early 1980's. The tell at Kamid Al-Lawz turned out to be of great importance, because buried at this one site were occupation levels that began 7000 years ago with Neolithic or Stone Age people and continued through the Persian Period in the fourth century B.C.



HISTORICAL MAPPING



Residential Area

House II is constructed of stone walls, which seems to be built at least in some parts with moulded bricks (not found in site but in the destruction rubble). The roof was made of roofing tiles and are decorated with finger enlargements or undecorated, others are vaulted and undecorated.

Pottery of Cypriot and Greek origin points out the integration of the inhabitants of Kumidi and presents the extent of external relations.

Temple Area

Palace and Administrative Area

Burnt MBA Palace Courtyard (P2)

Houses in Temple Area

The living area in the vicinity of the temple (2010)

The grave pit in building A, level 2.

Roman Settlement

Quarries

Legend

- Palaeolithic Age 1,400,000 – 24,000 B.C.
- Neolithic Age 24,000 – 3000 B.C.
- Bronze Age 3000 – 1200 B.C.
- Phoenician Civilization (Iron Age) 1200 – 333 B.C.
- Greek - Roman Period 333 B.C. – 300 A.D.
- Byzantine Period 300 – 635 A.D.

The stone quarry was used by the stonemasons who constructed Anjar (important city built on the orders of Umayyad Caliph Al-Walid I in the early 8th century).

Today, the quarries of Kamid Al-Lawz still bear traces of writing left during this construction.

"Kumidi" is mentioned in the letters EA129, EA197 and EA198 found at Amarna in Egypt. The reading of the Amarna tablets helps to understand how articulated governance from the time of Thutmose III. Amarna letters were used as communication tools between the Pharaoh and the king of Kumidi. Most of the time the king of Kumidi sent those letters to ask for help from the Pharaoh. Sometimes the Pharaoh could not reply to those letters and were left unanswered.

DATE	LEVANT (SYRIA)	TYRE	SABRATA (LIBYA)	TELL ARH (SYRIA)	TELL KAZEL	KAMID AL-LAWZ	MIGDOL	TELL KHAYAT
1300	EB IIA	XV	H	AREA IV LEVEL 6	AREA IV LEVEL 5	VIIC	VIIA	
1200	EB IIB	G		AREA II LEVEL 6	AREA II LEVEL 5	VIIC	VIIA	13
	EB IIC							
1100	EB IIA	XIV	F	AREA IV LEVEL 4	AREA IV LEVEL 3	VIIC	VIIA	12-10
	EB IIB							
1000	EB IIA	XIII	E	VC LATE IV/1	VC LATE IV/2	VIIC	VIIA	9A-B
900	EB IIC	XII	GAP					8C7

Figurine of a lyrist, Miron 1990.

A goddess; silver sheet, covered with gold, R. Hachman, 1983, Frühe Phöniker im Libanon, Mainz, p. 41.

Stone vessel, R. Nachman, 1983, Frühe Phöniker im Libanon, Mainz, p. 49.

Roman sarcophagi.

CHRONOLOGY OF MAIN EVENTS

- 1,400,000 - 24,000 B.C. - Palaeolithic Age**
Site showed Palaeolithic material mixed with flints from aceramic, vigorous culture.
- 24,000 - 3000 B.C. - Neolithic Age**
Heavy Neolithic flints from this culture were collected, including scrapers, picks and axes along with a large amount of debris.
- 3000 - 2000 B.C. - Early Bronze Age**
Settlement activities started.
- 2000 - 1500 B.C. - Middle Bronze Age**
Construction of the first and second cities which were completely burnt before building the third city.
- 1550 - 1200 B.C. - Late Bronze Age**
• Egyptian Imperialism in Kamid Al-Lawz during the Phoenician.
• Canaanite Period: lasted about 300 years in the Levant and ended with the collapse of the third city.
- 1200 - 550 B.C. - Iron Age I/II**
Rural settlements replaced the urban structure on the site.
- 550-330 B.C. - Iron Age III**
Persian Imperialism: Expanded from modern Iran as far west as Greece, at the time the people of Kamid Al-Lawz experienced a cultural breakdown where the settlement areas of the site were transformed into a cemetery, a habitat exclusively reserved for the dead.
- 330 - 30 B.C. - Hellenistic Period**
Greeks ruled politically. Culturally, the people of Kamid Al-Lawz saw the re-establishment of a settlement and likewise the continuation of the on site cemetery but without burial gifts.
- 30 B.C. - 300 A.D. - Roman and Byzantine Period**
Almost all aspects of culture at Kamid Al-Lawz changed. New house forms, burials in stone sarcophagi, new types of pottery, metal and glass objects. Coins appeared for the first time at Kamid Al-Lawz.
- 1920 - 1943 - French Mandate**
Lot divisions.
- 1943 - Lebanese State**
Israel settlement during the War.

"Schatzhaus" of Kumidi is a building in the neighbourhood of the palace that had been used for the burial of some members of the elite of Kumidi - almost only children as well as one adult person.

Unexpectedly, African elephants were discovered among the animal bones found at Kamid Al-Lawz.

African Elephants' Bones in Kamid Al-Lawz

Bronze figurines (Metzger 1993, plate 22).

Painted pottery originally manufactured in Greece, Crete and Cyprus (Adler / Penner 2001, plates 51, 53).

Ring of Thutmose-III-gift in palace burial- Late Bronze Age.

Hellenistic inscribed pottery.

Iron Age III- Persian Period.

Child burial in decayed administrative area.

Rich Burial-Iron Age III- Persian Period.

house no. 1 III-a-12-13
house no. 2 III-b/c-14-15

The new settlers kept close connections with the Aegean, as shown by Aegean pottery and Hellenistic inscriptions.

Newsletters and Houses

The Roman House Plan

East profile of the glacis and the overlaying layers

Permanent and mobile settlers lived together on the site. No iconic buildings were set up, which means that life at the site went on without any elites, or the demands of elites did not produce substantial visibility.

EVALUATION OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND HISTORICAL BUILDINGS

Like other excavations, Kamid Al-Lawz was a tool for archaeologists to learn about the historical fabric of the surrounding region. Unfortunately, today, the site of the excavation fails to translate the historical value of the village and the regions to its visitors. The only vestige of the ancient cities remaining on site are the trace of some walls that are covered by earth. Other than what is preserved now in the National Museum in Beirut. Findings from the site were robbed by treasure hunters and never found again.

