

Part c. At the west side (preserved fragment: c. 1.50 x 3.60 m.). Border: cornucopiae and acanthus leaves forming almost closed medallions which contain various depictions. Among them it is possible to identify four-petalled rosettes, pomegranate, bird and grapes. Field: A19 composed of bands of B2 and B7-8. Of the squares (only two are preserved), one contains J4, and the other three-dimensional cubes (K3).

The geometric patterns consist of 230-260 cubes in 10 x 10 cm. In the animal and plant pictures the cubes are even smaller, and in the picture of the cock there are 450-500 cubes in 10 x 10 cm. 15 different shades.

At the east side of the Octagon. Fragment D. (For photo, see QDAP, V (1936), Pl. XLIII). - Border: A1, B7-8, B12, B7-8, guilloche.

Fragment of paving north of the Octagon. Fragment F (Photos 90-91). - Border: A1, B3, B2, A1. Field: vine-trellis with bunches of grapes forming round medallions.

3 colours in the border - black, red, white (the colours in the field are not recorded).

Courtyard. Fragment η (Photo 87). - Fragment outside the church to the west. White paving with guilloche of B2.

Date: These mosaics are not very different in character from many other floors of a later date. Harvey and Swift date them to the fourth century (Constantinian period), but Vincent and Avi-Yonah disagree and attribute them to the fifth century.

- Bibl.:*
1. W. Harvey, *Structural Survey of the Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem*, London-Oxford, 1935.
 2. E.T. Richmond, QDAP, V (1936), 75-81; Pls. XXXV-XLVIII.
 3. Harvey, PEFQSt, 69 (1936), 28-33; Pls. I-IV.
 4. L.H. Vincent, RB, XLV (1936), 408-415, 544-574; Fig. 10; Pls. II-III, VII-XI, XVI(3-5).
 5. *Idem*, RB, XLVI (1937), 93-121; Pls. XII-XVI.
 6. B. Bagatti, *Gli antichi Edifici Sacri di Betlemme*, Gerusalemme, 1952, 249.
 7. E.H. Swift, AJA, 40 (1936), 397-402.
 8. M. Avi-Yonah, *apud*: M. Avi-Yonah (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Archaeological Excavations in the Holy Land*, I, Jerusalem, 1975, 203, s.v. 'Bethlehem'.

20. A Chapel North of the Franciscan Monastery at Bethlehem

Excavated by S.J. Saller on behalf of the SBF in 1962.

A mosaic pavement decorated with scattered florets. In the centre a round medallion (1.40 m. in diameter) in which is a Greek inscription in thirteen lines poorly preserved.

25 cubes in 10 x 10 cm.

The inscription - 100 cubes in 10 x 10 cm.

3 colours - red, white, black.

Date: Byzantine period.

Bibl.: S.J. Saller, LA, XXII (1972), 153-168; Figs. 4-9.

21. Bethlehem-in-Galilee (Plate XIX)

Map ref. 168.238.

Church discovered in 1964, excavated by A. Ovadiah on behalf of the Israel Department of Antiquities and Museums in 1965.

Only part of the pavement of the southern aisle has been preserved, measuring 1-1.85 x 7 m. The pavement was divided into two carpets.

Western carpet. - Border: A1, B13. Field: octagons, diamonds (D), triangles and circles filled with G2, I8 and flowers.

Eastern carpet. - Border: A1, Field: squares of type A8.

100 cubes in 10 x 10 cm.

4 colours - white, red, black, yellow.

A coloured mosaic fragment was unearthed before the excavations which most probably belongs to the church. Border: A1. Field: vine-trellis forming round medallions. One of them contains a stylised basket with grapes. The other medallions were not preserved.

Date: Vth - VIth centuries C.E.

- Bibl.:* 1. HA, 11 (1964), 10.
2. HA, 14 (1965), 7-8.
-

22.-25. Beth Sahur: Shepherds' Field: Campo dei Pastori: Keniset er-Raw'at

Map ref. 171.123.

Surveyed and partly excavated by V. Corbo on behalf of the SBF in 1952-53; re-excavated by V. Tzaferis on behalf of the Israel Department of Antiquities and Museums in 1972.

The remains revealed at the site belong to a series of five major structures: I. "The Sacred Natural Cave"; II. *The Cave Church*; III. *The Roof Chapel*; IV. *The Basilica*; V. *The Monastery Church*. The four earlier stages had coloured mosaic pavements.

22. "The Sacred Natural Cave"

A rock-cut cave or a natural cave. The mosaic pavement was laid directly upon the natural rock surface which had previously been leveled out. A great part of the mosaic pavement has been preserved (a patch of about 6 x 7 m.) in fairly good condition. It consists of an unbordered area decorated in an asymmetrical manner. The central motif is a circle within a square filled by an eight-pointed star which is formed by two diagonal squares, and in its centre are two interlaced loops (I4). A similar motif, surrounded by diamonds, appears again more to the south. In between the two motifs is a set of crosses designed in black on a red background.

Date: Second half of the IVth century C.E.

23. The Cave Church

Built entirely inside of the preexisting cave. It includes a narthex to the west, a hall and an apse at the east.

Narthex. - A fragment was found decorated with a border of A1, and the field with scales - J3. 3 colours - black, red, white.

Hall. - Only very small fragments have been found; they are decorated with pattern J1.

3 colours - black, red, white.

Date: Vth century C.E.