



**MINZAR TERRA SANTA
CAPHARNAUM**

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To
Dr. A. BIRAN
Director Dept. of Antiquities
Jerusalem

CAPHARNAUM, VIII Season of Excavations.

The eighth season of excavations at Capharnaum took place from May 10 to July 22, 1972. Our goal was to explore the area on the northern side of the Synagogue in order to gain additional data concerning the stratigraphic relationship between that building and the rest of the town.

The main results were already published in our Liber Annuus 22 (1972) 204-235, and they were the subject of long discussions between us and the most outstanding scholars of Palestinian archaeology who visited our dig.

The urban area of Insula V was inhabited from the Late Roman to the end of the Byzantine period. The same is true of Insula IV on the east side of the Synagogue, while the oldest remains of the town are to be found in the Insula Sacra, Insulae II and III, that is to say on the south side of the Synagogue. Early Roman pottery and stone vessels did appear in at least two loci (nn. 130, 132) of Insula V, but they antedate the layout of the private buildings, at least in room 132. The houses of Insula V are fairly unpretentious and poor. Walls are constructed with undressed basalt stones, fastened with mud and small pebbles. Only in the outer walls of rooms 107-111 facing the main street n. 113, good mortar was employed.

There are several facts suggesting that the Synagogue was built after the layout of Insula V : (1) the southern wall of structure n.130 continues under the foundations of n. 143: (2) the north-eastern

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