

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY SOUTH
OF WADI MUJIB :
GLUECK'S SITES REVISITED**

by
J. Maxwell Miller

The plateau between Wadi Mūjib and Wadi Ḥesa has received relatively little attention from archaeologists, in spite of the fact that it is exceedingly rich in surface artifactual remains. There are several reasons for this: (1) The area is somewhat isolated geographically and was not well policed during the nineteenth century when most other parts of Palestine were being mapped explored systematically for archaeological remains. (2) During the present century archaeologists have tended to concentrate on the excavation of *tells*, and there are few of these between the Wadi Mūjib and Wadi Ḥesa. (3) Scholars have relied heavily on Nelson Glueck's assessment of the archaeological remains in southern Transjordan, based on the survey which he conducted during 1933-38. Glueck himself expressed the opinion that further archaeological exploration south of Wadi Mūjib would produce diminishing returns:

It may be emphasized that despite the large number of sites visited from August 1936 on in Edom and Moab in the attempt to complete the survey of these areas, the possibilities of discovery of still additional ancient sites there have definitely not been exhausted. Some sites will inevitably have been missed; others are so deeply buried under the debris of modern settlements as to defy all surface examination. ... On the whole, however, the writer is confident that not very many ancient sites in Edom and Moab, whose ruins have not been completely obliterated, remain undiscovered. (1939: XXIII). During the past few years, however,

scholars have become increasingly aware that, while Glueck's very significant contribution to Palestinian archaeology is not to be depreciated, his survey of the Transjordan was superficial in places and some of his widely accepted conclusions based on that survey must be reconsidered: (1) Recent surveys in northern Transjordan (Mittmann, 1963-66) and immediately east of the Jordan itself (Ibrahim Sauer and Yassine, 1975) indicate that Glueck missed many ancient sites. (2) The descriptions of earlier travellers who explored south of Wadi Mūjib (e.g. Musil) suggest that he missed a number of sites there as well. (3) The results of recent excavations immediately north of Wadi Mūjib (Dhībān, 1950-56) and south of Wadi Ḥesa (Umm el Biyarah, 1958-68; Tawilan, 1968-70; Buseirah, 1971-72) have not supported Glueck's conclusion that southern Transjordan was resettled during the thirteenth century B. C. after an occupational gap which had lasted throughout the Middle and Late Bronze Ages. Specifically, the excavations at these sites failed to produce clear indications of occupation prior to approximately the ninth century B. C.

Village life disappeared almost entirely from the area between Wadi Mūjib and Wadi Ḥesa during the period of Ottoman rule, so that the surface archaeological remains were easily observable. Seetzen and Burckhardt encountered only four settlements when they passed through in 1805 and 1812 respectively (i.e., Kerak, el 'Irāq, Kathrābā, and Khanzīra). The situation had changed very little when Glueck made his survey during the 1930's. But recent government programs designed to

induce the Bedouin to settle down are bringing about a rapid change. New villages have begun to spring up all over the plateau, especially since the 1950's and generally these new villages are reappearing on the very sites occupied during earlier times. Consequently the ancient ruins are being robbed for building stones and rendered less accessible for archaeological investigation.

Primarily for these two reasons - Glueck's survey and conclusions seem increasingly inadequate, and the ancient sites themselves are becoming increasingly less accessible - - Emory University in association with the American Center for Oriental Research and the Department of Antiquities has undertaken a new archaeological survey of the plateau between Wadi Mūjib and the Kerak-Qaṭṭana road (i.e., central Moab during ancient times). The first season was conducted between July 20- August 30, 1978. The survey team was housed at the Kerak Rest House and consisted of James R. Kautz, J. Maxwell Miller, Jack M. Pinkerton and Mike R. Pinkerton. James A. Sauer, Director of ACOR, initiated applications for the necessary permits and clearances before the survey team arrived in Jordan, and read the pottery on weekends. Sami S. Rabadī, representing the Department of Antiquities, played a crucial role explaining the presence of the survey team to the local people and gathering information regarding the names and locations of ancient sites. Charles Cashion joined the expedition for two weeks as surveyor, using a recently developed surveying and distance measuring device (3820 Distance Meter) loaned for the expeditions by Hewlett-Packard Instruments Company.

Much of the credit for the success of this first season must go to persons who were not directly involved in the field work. Dr. Adnan Hadidi, Director General of the Depart-

ment of Antiquities, gave the project his personal attention and full support. Funds were provided by the Near East Engineering Co., the Pinkerton and Laws Co., the Day's Inn Foundation and Mr. Drew R. Fuller, all matched by a grant from the Franklin Foundation. Drafting materials and work space were provided in Amman by the Heery International architectural firm. Special mention should be made of the friendliness and cooperation of the local inhabitants of the area being surveyed. We found these people extremely hospitable and, when we explained what we were about, eager to provide us with information regarding the locations of ancient sites and place names.

The primary task undertaken this first season was to search out the sites which Glueck recorded in central Moab (thirty-three sites on the plateau proper) and establish their precise locations in terms of the maps available today. This turned out to be a surprisingly difficult task, in spite of the fact that most of these sites had been noted already by earlier travellers and approximately half of them appear by name on the Jordan 1:50,000 Series K 737 maps (compiled in 1960-63 from aerial photographs). Glueck simply estimated the locations of the sites which he recorded, and it became increasingly apparent as we attempted to retrace his steps that his estimates are often misleading.

Following is an annotated list of Glueck's thirty-three sites arranged in order of the numbers which he assigned them and with his spellings. An asterisk marks those which appear by name on the Series K 737 maps, and their spellings as they appear on these maps are indicated in parentheses. Palestinian grid coordinates are provided for those which do not appear on the Series K 737 maps. Page references are to Glueck's report in *AASOR IV*

(1934) unless otherwise indicated. Descriptions of the current conditions of the archaeological remains at these sites and the statistical results of our resherding them will be published later, after we are further along with these aspects of the present survey.

No 47-48* *ei-Lejjūn* (*Lajjūn*). Glueck reported four distinct ruins in the immediate vicinity of 'Ain Lajjūn : the Roman camp = his No 47, pp. 40-41): an EB site with a row of sixteen monoliths situated on a knoll above the Roman camp to the NW (pp. 44-45, plan on p. 95); a building complex immediately north of the EB site and separated from it by a deep wadi (= No 150, kh. el-Fityān, see below); and "a small ruined watchtower" approximately 1 km. E of the Roman camp (No 48, *Rujm Lejjūn*, p. 72). Both Seetzen (I, 416) and Burckhardt (373-374) reported ruins at 'Ain Lajjūn, although neither of them actually visited the place and Burckhardt misrecorded the name as "Tedoun". Doughty (I, 20) seems to have published the first description of the Roman camp, and Bliss (221-223) the first sketch plan of it. Later Vincent (437) provided a map which indicated the relative positions of the various ruins associated with 'Ain Lajjūn, along with a plan of Kh. Fityān; Brünnow and Domaszewski (II, 23-37) treated the Roman camp and a nearby platform (see Glueck 40-43) with plans, drawings and photographs; and Musil (1, 36) described the "monolith" site, recording its name as *ḥarīm el-Fārde*. This latter name corresponds to a story, also recorded by Musil, which explains that the monoliths are bridesmaids which were turned to stone.

No 110 **Bālū'ah* (Bālū'). Bālū' is visible from a

considerable distance and was mentioned in passing by several early travellers - Seetzen (I, 410, 411), Burckhardt (374), Bliss (221), etc. Tristram (139) seems to have been the first to claim an actual visit to Bālū' ; but his notes clearly are confused at this point, and one must suspect that he was at some other site altogether. Specifically, Tristram reports that, after exploring the ruins on top of Jebel Shihān his party.

...descended in a north-eastern direction by another ancient road, riding at a smart pace, and in twenty-five minutes passed through the ruins of Bal'hua, perhaps the poorest and most featureless we have seen, and all levelled with soil.

But Bālū' is not NE of Shihān, it could not have been reached in twenty-five minutes, even riding at a very smart pace; and it is one of the most impressive standing ruins on the plateau. Possibly Tristram was passing through Mis'ar, which would have fitted his description precisely and was on the way to the next site which he described, *Meḥaṭṭet el Hājji*.

The ruins at Bālū' received their first (and, only) focused attention during 1930-33, as a result of the discovery there in 1930 of the famous Bālū' Stele (see especially the study by Horsfield and Vincent which includes a plan of the site and map of the vicinity, and the analysis of the stele by Drioton). Crowfoot made a sounding at Bālū' in 1933, the same year that Glueck visited the site. Both Crowfoot, whose report appeared in *PEFQS* the following year, and Glueck (1-16, 18-19, 24-25) focused their attention on the ruins south of Wadi Qurri and

apparently underestimated the extent of the ruins north of this wadi. Crowfoot made hardly more than a passing reference to the latter, while Glueck ignored them altogether.

No 111 **Azzūr* ('Azzūr) Tristram (120) listed 'Azzūr among the ancient ruins in the Kerak district, but Musil (1,139) was the first to actually visit 'Azzūr and provide a description. Note that 'Azzūr is ESE of Bālū'; rather than NE as Glueck (56) indicates.

No 112 **Kh. Naṣīb* (Naṣīb). Tristram (120), Brünnow (I, 46) and Musil (I, 140) were aware of kh. Naṣīb, which they recorded as "N'assit" "en-Naṣīb" and "ḥ. Nṣīb" respectively.

No 113 **Kh. es-Sa'adūnī* (= Um Dimis on the Series K. 737 map; Pal. grid: 214840). Tristram (120) and Musil (I, 140) recorded the name as "Sahdounch" and "ḥ. es-Sa'dūnī" respectively. The site is hardly more than 1 km. NW of Naṣīb, rather than 3 kms. as Glueck (56-57) estimated. The next five sites recorded by Glueck cannot be identified with absolute certainty. The crucial part of his report reads as follows :

Two kilometres north of it (Kh. es Sa'adūnī is a small ruined site called Kh. er Rubī where a few Nabataean sherds were found and numerous pieces of mediaeval Arabic ware. Two kilometres north of Kh. er Rubī lies another indistinguishable ruin called Kh. ed-Denn, or ed-Denneh. A kilometre farther north is Kh. es-Samrā, where there are extensive ruins from the Nabataean, Byzantine, and mediaeval Arabic periods.

Characteristic sherds from all of these periods were found.

Ruins of a similar nature were found on the same straight line northward toward the Wādī el-Môjib at Kh. ed-Dribbān and at Kh. Abū Trābeh. Kh. ed-Dribbān is two kilometres north of Kh. es-Samrā, and Kh. Abū Trābeh is about five kilometres northeast of Kh. ed-Dribbān (pp. 56-57).

Glueck's Kh. es-Samrā seems to be the ruin now partially covered by the modern village Jad'at el Jubūr, also called Samrā. Correspondingly, it would make sense to equate Kh. er-Rubī with the site which appears as «Samrā» on the Series K 737 map, and ed-Denn(eh) with the complex of building remains approximately 0.5 km. further NNW. The local inhabitants today do in fact associate the names Kh. er-Rubī and ed-Denn with these two places respectively (see below). Note however that the total distance between kh. esSa'adūnī (= Um Dimis) and Kh. es-Samrā (= Jad'at el Jubūr) hardly more than 2 kms., which would mean that Glueck's estimates of the distances between all four of these sites are excessive. Glueck's Abū Trābeh clearly corresponds to the Abū Turāba on the Series K 737 map (see below), in spite of the fact that Musil (1, 138) locates "ḥ. Abū Trāba" further to the SE (near the convergence of Wadi Aheimir and Wadi Bālū'. Kh. ed-Dribbān must be sought in the vicinity of the modern village Jad'a, therefore, which is confirmed by the local inhabitants. In other words, the following identifications seem likely.

No 114 *kh. er-Rubī* (= Samrā on the series K737 map, Pal. grid : 215848). Appa-

rently Glueck was the first to record er-Rub'ī which now the local people pronounce er-Rub'īl. They explain that the place was named after a man who lived in one of the caves there many years ago

- No 115 *Kh. ed-Denn(eh)* (Pal. grid : 214851). Musil (I, 376) mentioned a ruin which he knew as "h. Denn", located SE of Shīhān across the Sultan's Highway. This corresponds with Glueck's directions and the site proposed here. Actually the name Denn(eh) refers to the general area south of Jad'at el Jubūr as well as to this particular ruin. In fact, the local people seem to prefer the name Barādān for the latter. Note that Tristram (120) and Brünnow (I, 46) knew a site which they called "el Bourdan" and "el-Burdān" respectively, and which Brünnow located in this same immediate vicinity

- No 116 *Kh. es-Samrā* (= Jad'at el Jubūr/Samrā, Pal. grid: 213860). «Samrā» refers to the black stones used for building, especially in the vicinity between Jad'at el Jubūr and Um Dimis. As in the case of Denn(eh), therefore, the name can refer either to the particular site indicated here or to the general vicinity. Tristram (139) reported a ruin called "Khirbet Sum'hra" in this area, which he described as "a mere castle, apparently of Saracenic origin, near Muhatet el Haj, the remains of a city of yet older date than the castle ..." But Tristram seems to have been confused here as he was in several other instances (e.g., as in the cases of Bālū' and Aṣṣā). Meḥaṭṭet el Hājj is situated ca. 7 kms. further to the NE and might itself be described as the remains of "a mere castle" but not as the remains of a city (see below). The

"Churbet Szōmra" listed by Seetzen (I, 394) may or may not be relevant here. Note that there is another place also called Samrā ca. 5 kms. WNW of Kerak. The modern village Jad'at el Jubūr already covers much of the remains of Kh. Samrā and is expanding rapidly. Recent excavations in preparation for construction have revealed a complex of walls, one of which forms a semi-circle not more than 4 m. across. Possibly this is an apse, since it seems to be on the east end of a larger structure and numerous tesserae were found in the area.

- No 117 *Kh. ed-Dribbān* (= approximately the site of the modern village Jad'a). When we inquired regarding the location of Kh. ed-Dribbān, we were directed to foundation ruins and caves situated on the eastern slopes of Jebel Shīhān. However Musil (I, 376) seems to have located "h. ed-Dribbān" (noting the alternate spelling "edh-Dhribbān" somewhat further to the east, and Glueck's account seems to imply this as well. It is surprising, on the other hand, that Glueck ignored the ruins on top of Jebel Shīhān. This latter site provides a commanding view of the whole plateau north el Qaṣr (No 1134) and exhibits architectural remains which caught the attention of virtually every other traveller in that vicinity.

The so-called "Shīhān Warrior Stele" occasionally is reported to have been discovered by de Saulcy between Shīhān and Dhībān (see, e.g., Dussand, p. 4; Tufnell, p. 161; etc.). It is difficult to imagine how this misinformation originated. Possibly the Kh. ed-Dribbān under discussion has been confused with the better known Dhībān situated north of

Wadi Mūjib, although reference to neither Kh. eḍ Ḍribbān nor Dhībān is appropriate in this context. According to de Saulcy's own account (278-280), the stele was discovered at Rujm el'abd which was located in another direction altogether from Shīhān than either Kh. eḍ Ḍribbān or Dhībān (see below, entry for No 128 Faqū').

No 18 **Kh. Abū Trābeh* (Abū Turāba). Musil (1, 138) located "h. abū Trāba" on a spur of the plateau formed by the convergence of Wadi Aheimer and Wadi Bālā. But Glueck (57) clearly had in mind the site situated ca. 4 kms. further north now partially covered by a village called Abū Trāba. The remains of one of the two building compounds which Glueck observed are almost completely covered now with modern houses. The local people insist on pronouncing the name Abū Trāba, as Musil and Glueck heard it rather than Abū Turāba, as it appears on the Series K737 map.

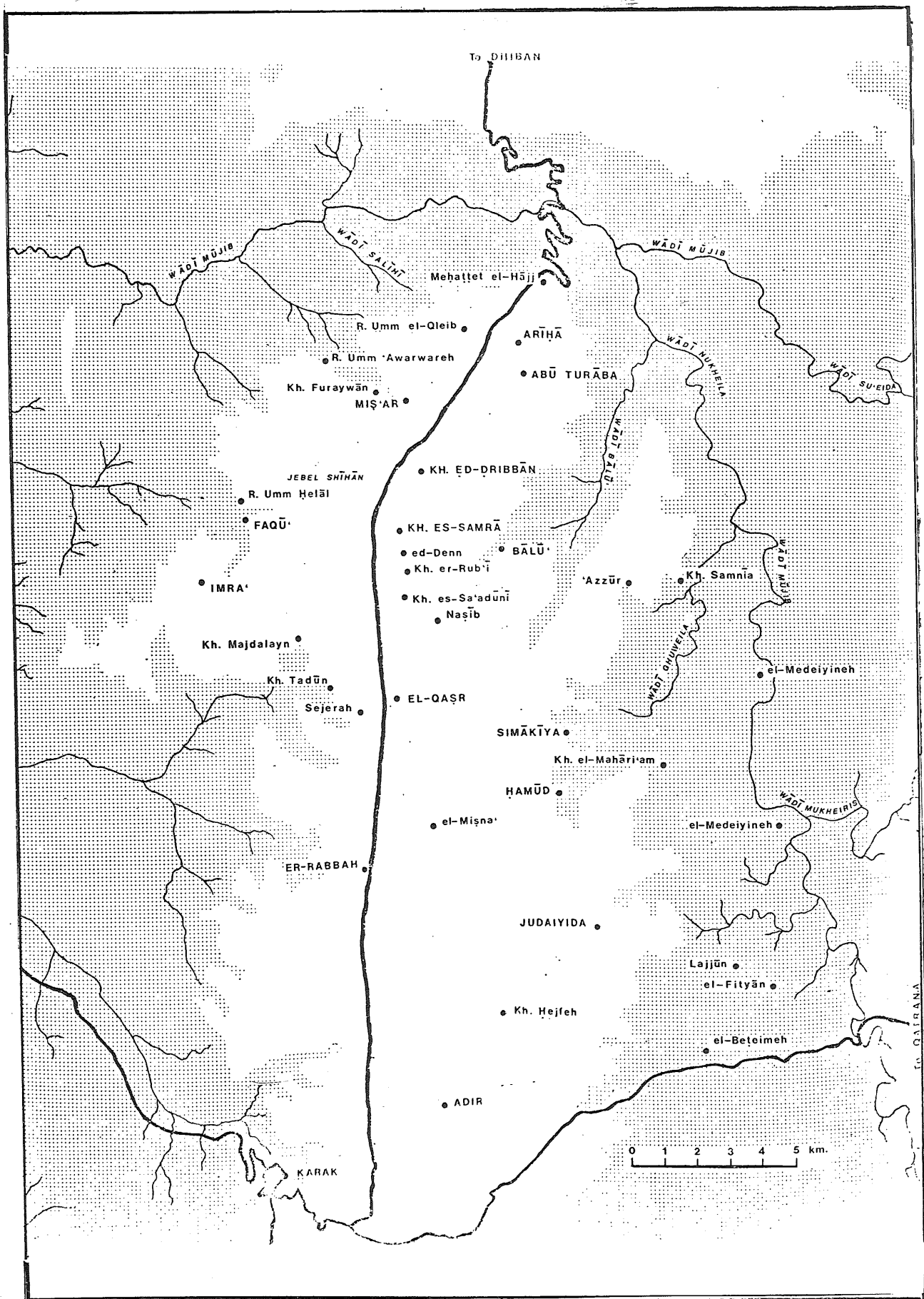
No 119 **Meḥattet el-Hājj* (pal. grid: 257937) This ruin, a large square fortress-like building situated on the northern edge of the plateau near where the old Roman road (followed by the modern road) descends into Wadi Mūjib, was well known to early travellers. Often they referred to it as Upper Meḥattet el Hājj, following Burckhardt (374-75), in order to distinguish it from lower Meḥattet el Hājj another ruin situated approximately midway down into the Wady also along the road. Glueck does not mention the latter, while the local people today reserve the name Meḥattet el Hājj for the latter site only. That is, (Lower) Meḥattet el Hājj is referred to simply as Meḥattet el Hājj nowadays, while (Upper) Meḥattet el Hājj

is called Karakūn. The names have similar meanings - i.e., Meḥattet el Hājj means "pilgrimage station" in Arabic; Karakūn is derived from Turkish "Karakol", which means "police station". The name Karakūn apparently began to replace (Upper) Meḥattet el Hājj at approximately the turn of the century when a Turkish guardhouse was built nearby. Wilson (311) noticed the guardhouse in 1899; and Smith (374), in 1904, was the first to record Karakūn as the preferred name for the ruin. Brünnow and Domaszewski (I, 43-45) provide a detailed description of the site with a plan and photograph.

No 120 *er-Rihā* (Arīhā). Earlier readers of Burchhardt's account inferred incorrectly from the context in which he mentioned Arīhā (recorded by him as "el Ryhha", that this site was located south of Jebel Shīhān. Tristram (135) assumed this to be the case, for example, and viewed from a distance a place ca. 2 miles north of Qaṣi which he surmised to be Arīhā (possibly it was Naṣīb). Brünnow (I, 45) and Smith (373) later recognized and cleared up this misconception. Glueck (57) reported that Arīhā is 2 kms. SSE of Meḥattet el-Hājj, which again is somewhat misleading. Actually, Arīhā is situated SSW of Meḥattet el Hājj.

No 121 *Rujm Umm el-Qleib* (Pal. grid : 233920). Glueck (57-85, plan on p. 99) seems to have been the first to record this site. It is to be distinguished from a very similar ruin with the same name located ca. 3.5 km. south of Arīhā on the Wadi Suwer, pal. grid 256879.

No 122 **kh. Miṣ'ar* (Miṣ'ar). No longer referred to as a "khirbet" since a village has



emerged on the site in recent years, Miṣ'ar is ca. 3 kms. SSW of Rujm Umm Qleib. Glueck (58) estimated 7 kms. Kh. Miṣ'ar had been noted earlier by Seetzen (I, 416), Brünnow (I, 45) and Musil (I, 138).

No 123 **Freiwân* (Kh. Furaywân). "H. Frêwân" had been noted earlier by Musil (I, 137, 376), who mislocated it somewhat on his map in relation to Miṣ'ar and Jebel Shihân.

No 124 *Rujm Umm 'Awarwareh* (Pal. grid: 190914). Glueck (58) seems to have been the first to record this site, although Musil (see esp. I, 136-137) must have passed nearby on one occasion. Note that 'Awarwareh is situated ca. 2 kms. WNW of rather than 4 kms. WSW as Glueck indicated.

No 125 *Rujm Umm Helâl* (Pal. grid: 164869)

This is another site recorded for the first time by Glueck (58-59) but for which his directions are misleading. Specifically, Rujm Umm Helâl is ca. 5 kms. SSW of Rujm Umm 'Awarwareh, rather than 4 kms. west as Glueck indicated. The possibility must be considered, of course, that we ourselves misidentified Rujm Umm 'Awarwareh and Rujm Umm Helâl.

But this seems unlikely. 'Awarwareh and Helâl are well known by those names to the local people, and they insist that there are no other places with such names anywhere else in the vicinity. Moreover, Glueck's directions seem to lead nowhere. Certainly they do not lead to viable candidate sites for 'Awarwareh and Helâl.

No 128 **Faqū'ah* (Faqū'). De Saulcy (280, 286, 289) visited and described Kh. Faqū' in 1851, followed by Duc de Luynes (I, 17074) in 1864, Palmer (67) in 1870, Mu-

sil (I, 373) in 1902 and Albright in 1924. Glueck (58-60) found a small cluster of houses there in 1933. This cluster has since expanded into a thriving village. Rujm el 'Abd, where de Saulcy discovered the so-called Shihân Stele and which Glueck described as "a small tumulus" near Faqū', has been dismantled in the process. When asked about Rujm el 'Abd, two elderly men of Faqū', interviewed separately and without further prompting, mentioned a "statue" having been discovered there; and both insisted that foreigners had taken the statue away while they were young. Actually, the Shihân Stele was transferred to the Louvre already in 1864 (Dussaud, p. 4).

No 129 **Mrâ'(Imra')*. Here again this site was represented only by a ruin when de Saulcy (276-277), Palmer (67) and Musil (I, 88, 374) passed through. Glueck (60, 62) encountered a small village which since has expanded considerably.

No 132 **Mejdelein* (Kh. Majdalayn). This is a large ruin recorded already by Seetzen (I, 416) and Burckhardt (389). It was visited and described by de Saulcy (290), Palmer (67, 69) Tristram (136), Musil (I, 87, 375) and Glueck (62) each in turn.

No 133 **Kh. Tadūn* (Kh. Tadūn). De Saulcy (291-293) and Musil (I, 87) provide full descriptions. The Arab inscription which de Saulcy reported is still there.

No 134 *Sejerah* (Pal. grid: 198805). Glueck's (62) estimates of the distances between Imra', Kh. Majdalayn and Sejerah are again excessive. Also, Sejerah (pronounced "Shejerah" by the local people) is SE rather than E of Tadūn. Musil (I, 87) observed a circular stone wall at this spot and a high stone basin on which one

of the local tribes occasionally sacrificed sheep. The place was known as "šağara 'Obejdallâh" in Kerak according to Musil, who also heard it called "Bejt Allah". Note that Seetzen (I, 416) listed a ruin called "Bêt âllah".

No 135 **Qaṣr Rabbah* (elQaṣr). This site was known as Beit Kerm by earlier travellers Seetzen (I, 411), Burckhardt (376), Irby and Mangles (141), Macmichael (241), de Saulcy (273-296) and de Luynes (172-73). Later travellers - - Tristram (133-34), Hill (1891, p. 212; 1896, p. 40), Bliss (217), Brünnow (I, 46-51), Smith (371) and Musil (I, 35) -- began to hear also as alternate names Kh. el Qaṣr and less often Qaṣr Rabbah. Glueck (62,66; 1939, pp. 46, 48, 107-113, etc.) recorded the name Qaṣr Rabbah only. Today Qaṣr is one of the largest villages on the Plateau. For a full description of the ruins which were visible before the modern village emerged, a plan of the Nabataean temple and early photographs, see Brünnow and Domaszewski (I, 46, 51).

No 136 **er-Rabbah* (er Rabbah). This site also was well known before Glueck's survey, and had been described in full with a plan and photograph by Brünnow and Domaszewski (I, 54-55). Irby and Mangles (141) identified it as Rabbath Moab, later Areopolis, and most of the nineteenth century travellers agreed (see esp. Smith, 370). Rabbah also is a rapidly expanding village today, secondary in size only to Kerak among the villages in this area. The Rabbah temple has been partially cleared in recent years by the Department of Antiquities.

No 137 *el-Miṣna'* (Pal. grid: 223767). Brünnow (I, 54) and Musil (I, 140) both were

aware of this site, the name of which they recorded as "el-Muṣṣena" and "h. el-Miṣna'" respectively. Brünnow clearly distinguishes between it and another ruin which he called "el-Miṣde" and listed on his map slightly further north also along the old Roman road. Although Tristram (120) listed a "Misna'" among the ancient sites in Moab, both he (132) and Smith (370-71) ignored el Miṣna and referred only to el-Miṣde (recorded as "Missdeh" and "el-Miṣdah" respectively) in connection with their journeys through the vicinity north of Rabbah. Actually Tristram's description of "Missdeh" sounds rather like Glueck's description of "el-Miṣna'" (62-63, plan on p. 102). Possibly Tristram confused the two.

No 138 **Hamūd* (Hamūd). Tristram (120) and Musil (I, 34, 139) knew this place as a ruin only. Glueck (63) found it to be "a small inhabited site". Today it is a flourishing village.

No 139 **es-Simakiyeh* (Simākīya). The situation here corresponds to that of Hamūd. What Tristram (120) and Musil (I, 34, 139) knew as a ruin and Glueck (63) observed to be a small Christian settlement is now a well established village.

No 140 *Jedeideh* (Judaiyida). Glueck (163) is the first to record this site by this name, but comparison of his report with the observations of earlier travellers suggests that this is the same place which Seetzen (I, 416) recorded as «Körriét, Brünnow (II, 41) recorded as "Hirbet el-Grâb" and Musil (I, 35, 141) recorded as "h. el-Rurâb". At the time of Glueck's visit Judaiydia still could be described as "a small, indistinguishable ruined site". Today it is a thriving village.

No 141 *el-Medeiyineh* (Pal. grid: 529767) Musil (I, 34) passed near the foot of the steep-sided knoll overlooking Wadi Mūjib on which this ruin is located and included it on his map (spelled "el-Mdejjene" and slightly out of place). Glueck (52-33, 98) provided a description with a plan. This el-Medeiyinah is to be distinguished from a strikingly similar site with the same name and situated on a very similar knoll ca. 5 kms. further north (Pal. grid: 322813). A Spanish team directed by Olávarri made a sounding at the latter site, in 1976. Apparently both el Medeiynah (South), Glueck's site, and el Medei-yineh (North), Olávarri's site, represent early Iron I fortifications.

No 142 *kh. Hejfeh* (Pal. grid: 244710) Seetzen (I, 416), Burckhardt (389) and Tristram (120) listed Hejfeh among the ruins in the Kerak district which they learned about but did not visit. Brünnow (II, 41) and Musil (I, 141) passed nearby. Glueck (63) apparently stopped there, but tells us only that it was "a small early Arabic site". Hejfeh is not identified by name on the Series K 737 map, but its position is indicated by the designation "Ruins".

No 143 **Ader (Adir)*. Adir was well known to earlier travellers -- see Seetzen (I, 414), Burckhardt (387), Layard (99), Wilson (315), Hornstein (97), Brünnow (II, 41) and Musil (I, 27-28). Albright collected sherds at Adir in 1924 and made a sounding there in 1933, the same year of Glueck's (45, 47) visit.

No 149 *el-Beteimeh* (Pal. grid: 307699). Brünnow (II/41) recorded the name "el-Btê-me" in reference to the vicinity a short distance (ca. 45 minute horse ride) SW of Lajjūn. Musil (28) and Glueck (63)

associated this name with a particular site -- apparently the small ruin in that vicinity which still today is called el Beteimeh and indicated anonymously as "Ruins" on the Series K 737 map. This means that Glueck's directions are again misleading -- i. e., the site el Beteimeh turns out to be ENE of Adir, rather than ESE and it is much nearer to Lajjūn (ca. 3 kms.) than to Adir (ca. 8 kms.). There is no viable candidate site for el Beteimeh 3 kms. ENE of Adir.

No 150 *Kh. el Fityân* (Pal. grid: 316725). Fityân appears on the gazetteer corresponding to the Series K 737 map, but not on the map itself. It was a well known site already when Glueck (47-48) visited, and had been planned by Vincent (436-439) and Brünnow and Domaszewski (II, 38-40). Also Musil (I, 141) had provided an unusually good description of the geographical surroundings. (See entry above under No 47-48 el-Lejjūn.)

These thirty-three sites recorded by Glueck represent no more than a good sampling of the ancient ruins in central Moab. Musil had already recorded at least twice that many in the same area three decades before Glueck's survey; and it is apparent from the results of our first season that there are still other sites which escaped the attention of earlier investigators altogether, including Musil. Following are two examples of sites which belong to the latter category:

Kh. el-Mahāri'am (Pal. grid: 289789). This site is called a "khirbet" with reference to the numerous configurations of stones which cover an area of approximately 0.5 sq. km. Sherds from various periods (e.g., Roman, Byzantine and Late Islamic) were found among the stone configurations, but no more than we

normally found scattered randomly throughout the countryside. From roughly the same area however, (i.e., overlapping but not corresponding exactly with the stone configurations), a total of 416 flints were collected. The absolute and relative frequencies of the major classes of these are as follows.

<u>Class</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>(blades</u>	<u>%</u>
Flake Tools	47	11.3	(3)	(6.4)
Bifaces	5	1.2		
Chopper/chopping tools	2	0.5		
Core scaper	1	0.2		
Total tools	<u>55</u>	<u>13.2</u>	<u>(3)</u>	<u>(5.4)</u>
Cores	42	10.1	(0)	
Flakes	213	51.2	(20)	(9.4)
Chunks&debris	106	25.5	(0)	
Total lithics	<u>416</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>(23)</u>	<u>(5.5)</u>

The five bifaces (handaxes) indicate a late Acheulian or early Middle paleolithic complex, and the vast majority of the unretouched flakes are consistent with this general cultural attribution based on such features as the striking platforms and exterior scar patterns. Most of the flake implements are also suggestive of Middle Paleolithic contexts, although some of the "retouch" on several of the pieces may be due to natural agencies rather intentional shaping. Two or three of the tools indicate Upper Paleolithic or more recent cultural stages. But the small percentage of these blades (none of which exhibit platforms indicating a "punch" technique of production), the absence of pyramidal or other blade cores, and the lack of any microlithic elements, all suggest that the post-Middle Paleolithic occupations at the site were rare and sporadic. In short the lithics collected at Kh. Mahârî'am may be described as reflecting primarily late Lower and/or early Middle Paleolithic characteristics, suggesting an occupa-

tion during the initial portions of the Upper Pleistocene (ca. 80,000- 60,000 years ago).

Kh. (or Rujm) Sanîna (Pal. grid: 296844). Sanîna is a regional name, referring to a northeastern spur of the plateau between Wadi Bâlû' and Wadi Mûjeb. Kh. Sanîna is located on the northeastern rim of the spur, overlooking Wadi Ghuweila (locally pronounced "Ghweite") and consists of two separate structures situated approximately 50 m. apart. Both structures were built of field-dressed, squared stones. The larger and northernmost structure measures 20×26 m. including a courtyard or large hall on its east side. The other measures 15.6×12.0 m. and includes several rooms. Cisterns nearby provided water. The pottery collected at Kh. Sanîna indicates occupation primarily, if not exclusively, during the Nabataean-Roman period.

We are not far enough along with the process of sherding the sites in central Moab to warrant publishing a statistical report at this time. But we have made significant progress in that regard. Specifically, we collected approximately 20,000 sherds at more than thirty sites this first season and processed them as follows: (1) Nondescript body sherds were counted and discarded on the sites where they were collected. (2) Those which seemed to have any potential for dating purposes were read under Sauer's direction and assigned whenever possible to their respective periods. Those which could not be assigned to a particular period with confidence were assigned to either of two further categories: UD (= unidentified) or UDE (= unidentified, but apparently early - i. e., pre-Roman). (3) With the exception of some additional discards - - poorer examples where there was an abundance of sherds representing a particular period - - the sherds were then registered and placed in clearly identified containers

(with a copy of the Registry Book) at the Kerak Museum. The registered pottery from the survey will remain at the Kerak Museum available for general research, except for certain items which may be absent temporarily in preparation for publication. A similar procedure was followed for lithics, which were analyzed by Gary O. Rollefson.

The approximately thirty sites sherded thus far represent hardly more than a good start on this aspect of the survey, and almost all of them are situated in the northern part of the plateau (i. e., north of Qaṣr). Thus the following trends, while noticeable, must be considered extremely tentative. The Early Bronze Age, Nabataean through Byzantine, and Late Islamic (Late Mamluk, Ottoman) periods are best represented in the surface pottery collected thus far. The Late Bronze, Early Iron and Late Iron ages are well represented also, but less abundantly. Only occasional sherds have been found from the Persian, Hellenistic and Fatamid periods, and thus far none from the Neolithic period, and none which can be assigned with certainty to the Chalcolithic, Middle Bronze or Ayyubid periods. Whether these trends will continue, and if so, what they mean, remains to be seen.

Thus far we have resherded twenty-three

of Glueck's thirty-three sites listed above, with the following results. The periods which he reported as represented in the surface pottery of a particular site, we usually found represented also. But often we found other periods represented as well. And in some cases where he reported no pottery at all, we found pottery in abundance. Glueck reported no pottery at Abū Trāba, for example, and indicated that it probably was "an early Arabic site". We found an abundance of pottery, mostly Byzantine. Specially, we collected 813 sherds at Abū Trāba, including 99 diagnostic items (3 Nabataean, 92 Byzantine, 4 Late Islamic). At 'Awarwareh, where he likewise reported no pottery, we collected 864 sherds including 60 diagnostic items (20 Early Bronze, 9 Middle or Late Bronze, 2 Late Bronze, 1 Persian, 6 Nabataean, 5 Late Islamic, 17 Unidentified).

The fact that Late Bronze pottery has turned up already at least five sites (Miṣ'ar, 'Awarwareh, Bālū', Imra', Miṣna'), seems to be further indication that Glueck's "gap" hypothesis will have to be modified or dropped altogether. But surely the most important result of the survey thus far is that it calls attention to the abundance and variety of surface antiquities yet to be investigated in central Moab.

Maxwell Miller

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