

# PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE 1979 SEASON OF THE SYDNEY-WOOSTER JOINT EXPEDITION TO PELLA<sup>1</sup>

## INTRODUCTION

by  
R.H. Smith

The site of Tabaqat Fahl (ancient Pella of the Decapolis) has been known to travellers, historians and archaeologists since early in the 19th century.<sup>2</sup> Before the present undertaking, the site has twice been investigated in recent years: two small soundings by the American School of Oriental Research in 1958<sup>3</sup> and the initial season, in 1967, of a large-scale, long-term project by The College of Wooster under Dr. Robert H. Smith. The latter undertaking had scarcely begun when the Arab-Israeli war erupted in June of that year. That war and its aftermath of disruption in the Jordan Valley prevented the immediate return of the Expedition to the field, and an initial temporary delay lengthened into more than a decade. Although this interruption was unfortunate, it had one salutary by-product: it gave the director ample time to study the findings of the 1967 season and to engage in related research, which came to fruition in his volume *Pella of the Decapolis, Volume I: The 1967 Season of The College of Wooster Expedition to Pella*, published in 1973.

By 1978 conditions at Pella had long since returned to normal, and it was financially feasible for Wooster to return to the field at Pella. This time, however, the venture was to be a joint effort with The University of Sydney as a partner and the Department of Antiquities of Jordan as an active participant in the program. Because of escalating costs of field operations and the relative isolation of Tabaqat Fahl from major urban centers which required extensive preparations for accommodations at the site, it is doubtful if the excavation of so large a site as Pella could have been undertaken in any major way except with international cooperation of this kind.

During the fall and winter of 1978 the two sponsoring institutions, with extensive financial assistance from the Department of Antiquities, had a permanent field headquarters constructed atop the large central mound of the site. The L-shaped building consisted of six spacious rooms plastered and painted cement-block construction, plus a kitchen, showers, a wash area and toilets. The southern and eastern sides of the building have a large veranda. On the other side of the courtyard outside the veranda are two storerooms, remnants of a villager's compound were refurbished and utilized as storerooms. A wall containing a wide iron gate was constructed on the eastern side of the compound. The southern end of the compound was fenced with barbed wire, the expectation being that additional construction might soon be needed along that side of the compound. The architectural design for the compound was prepared by Susan Balderstone and executed by a supervisor provided by the Department of Antiquities. The helpfulness of the Department in seeing this compound through to completion is consistent with both the high standards of the Department and the policy of encouragement of responsible foreign archaeological expeditions that the Department has promoted over the years. Although many persons in the Department rendered assistance to the Expedition in various ways, the sponsoring institutions wish to express their **appreciation** especially to Dr. Adnan Hadidi the Director General of the Department, who took a close personal interest in all details of the planning of the Expedition and its field accommodations.

Because of differing academic schedules, it was feasible for The University of Sydney to field a team during January and February, whereas the most suitable period for Wooster was mid-March through mid-May. Consequently the 1979 season consisted of two sequential sessions, the first under the directorship of Dr. J. Basil Hennessy of The University of Sydney and the second under the direction of Dr. Robert H. Smith of The College of Wooster. The teams shared the new field headquarters and jointly purchased such equipment and supplies as were needed for the field operations of the season. It is anticipated that this continued sharing of costs will continue in future seasons, thereby reducing the financial demands of the program considerably for each of the cooperating institutions.

In addition to the assistance of the Department of Antiquities, the Wooster session received two major grants which enabled it to carry out its 1979 field activities at Pella, one from the The National Geographic Society and another from The National Endowment for the Humanities, the latter being a branch of the United States Government. There were also smaller but much-appreciated financial contributions to the 1979 Wooster session.

The archaeological objective of these extensive preparations is a sprawling site on the eastern side of the northern Jordan Valley, strategically located near the intersections of a number of ancient roads. Ancient texts speak of *Pihilum* as early as *ca.* 1900 B.C., and sherds excavated in 1967 demonstrated occupation at the site going back to the Chalcolithic period. Occupation continued, apparently almost without total interruption, over several thousand years until the 8th century A.D., after which time the city declined but still did not fall into abandonment until many hundreds of years later. Its time of greatest prosperity and largest population was presumably the Byzantine period, as the many evidences of Byzantine occupation of surrounding hills indicate. Throughout its long history, Pella's existence was made viable by copious springs that burst out of the base of the mound and adjoining slopes.

Because of this long history, Pella has many areas of potential archaeological importance: the central mound, where most of the city's inhabitants clustered throughout the major portion of Pella's existence; the Wadi Jirm, a small alluvial valley that lies just south of the mound; a large natural hill called Tell el-Husn that looms two hundred feet high on the south side of the Wadi Jirm; various architectural remains scattered about the perimeter of the city; and cemeteries that ring the city.

By prior arrangement, certain areas at Pella were to be the responsibility of The University of Sydney and certain others the responsibility of The College of Wooster (Pl. I). The Australian group would commence a stratigraphic probe on the eastern side of the mound and undertake the mapping and eventual excavation of an interesting complex of buildings that lay far up the hillside to the east of the city proper, as well as explore for tombs. Wooster's areas of responsibility included the western side of the mound, where a stratigraphic excavation of major dimensions was needed, and a cluster of Roman-Byzantine ruins near the city's spring. There was also the matter of tombs. Furthermore, it was desirable to carry out some limited archaeological investigations and perhaps restoration at the West Church, where Wooster had conducted excavations in 1967.

## I. The Winter Session (Sydney)

by

Anthony McNicoll and J.B. Hennessy

The winter session lasted from December 27, 1978 through March 6, 1979. There were twenty-three members of the excavation staff, mainly from Australian universities and tertiary institutions.<sup>5</sup>

### SURFACE FINDS

During the course of the excavations, members of the expedition noted remains of all periods from the Neolithic to the Medieval. Of particular interest are the typical flaked stone blades of the Neolithic B period (Pl. XII,3), a wide selection of Ghassulian Chalcolithic ceramics and flaked and polished stone implements (Pl. XII,2), large quantities of grain wash and Early Bronze Age fabrics, some very fine slipped wares of the Middle Bronze Age, Late Bronze Age painted and plain wares, Cypriot White Slip and Base-Ring, Mycenaean sherds, Iron I and II ceramics, large quantities of Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine, Umayyad and Ayyubid ware, sgraffiato and earlier glazed fabrics.

Perhaps the outstanding surface find was a superb gold solidus of Heraclius (610-641 A.D.), picked up just above the spring outlet directly below Area IV (Pl. XII,1).

Bronze Age tombs from Smith's 1967 season and remains on the N. slopes of Tell el-Husn are the only evidence so far of the earlier burials at the site. Surface exploration also made it abundantly clear that hundreds of the later tombs of the Roman and Byzantine periods have already been looted.

## AREA III

Two 9 m. x 9 m. trenches were opened up on the SW slopes of the mound, the first of a series of trenches which are designed to give the full stratigraphical history of the site. The lower trench Area III Plot D showed evidence of wash lines only, but at the end of the season the strata appeared to be levelling out and Middle and Late Bronze Age sherds were noted.

Above IIID, Area III Plot C (hereafter IIIC) produced a closely stratified section of late Hellenistic material (see below,) overlying a deep fill (Pl. V) of the Hellenistic period, a fill which also contained Iron Age sherds.

### *Iron Age II (Pls II-III, XVI)*

Beneath the floor levels of the Hellenistic house (see below, and Pl. IV-V) a deep levelling fill butted on to the collapsed mudbrick and partly eroded floor of an earlier house (Pl. III). The earlier house was built of a 'massif' of boulders and *pise*, which is, as yet, undated. The fill was probably intended as the terrace on which the later house was built and contained sherds dating from the Late Bronze Age to the Hellenistic period.

The Iron Age II sherds of this fill agree well with the few fragments of pottery (Pl. XVI) found on the floor of the room F23. The vessels itemised below were sealed in a burnt layer (9.1) immediately on the rough flat stone pavement of the floor of the house and beneath the collapsed mudbrick (Pl. III). It should be stressed that only a small area of the room was cleared in this first season (Pl. II) and a full description of the architecture of the room must await work in future seasons.

### Pl. XVI - *Iron Age Pottery*

1. CN 20377      Lamp. Medium gritty fabric, fired beige. Diameter ca. 16.0 cms.  
Ill. ex. from IIIC 9.1 Plot object No. 84.  
Parallels: *Tell en-Naşbeh II*, pl. 71.1634. Late Middle Iron,  
8th - 7th centuries B.C.  
          : *Lachish III*, pls 75:15, 83:151. Tomb 106. 670-580 B.C.  
          : *Sahab*, pl. 35:72. 8th - 7th centuries B.C.
2. CN 20387      Jar. Medium gritty fabric, fired beige. Rim diameter 8.6 cms.  
Ill. ex. from IIIC 9.1.  
Parallels: *Tell en-Naşbeh II*, pl. 50:1963-1969.  
          700-500 B.C.  
Comments: Rim only of cooking pot?
3. CN 20437      Lamp. Coarse gritty fabric, fired beige. Diameter ca. 14.0 cms.  
Ill. ex. from IIIC 9.1 Plot object No. 85.  
Parallels: *Dhiban*, pl. 79.7. Tomb J.3. 8th but may be as late as  
6th - 5th centuries B.C.  
          : *Tell en-Naşbeh II*, pl. 71.1640. Most common from 700-500 B.C.  
Comments: Broken. Lower body and lip fragment.
4. CN 20421      Bowl. Gritty fabric, fired beige. Diameter ca. 22.0 cms.  
Ill. ex. from IIIC 9.1.  
Parallels: *Beth Shan*, fig. 67:26,28. Level IV, ca. 800-700 B.C.; pl. 47:2.  
          Secondary clay floor of N. temple.  
          : *Dhiban*, pl. 73:5, Iron II.  
          : *Tell en-Naşbeh II*, pl. 55:1253. 8th century B.C.  
Comments: Rim and upper body only.

In the present state of the excavations it is too early to suggest a firm date for the building. Stratigraphically, it is earlier than the Hellenistic building and its underlying fill, but it shouldn't be that much earlier. The two lamps recovered from the small area of floor space have a long history and perhaps continue as late as the fifth century B.C. The cooking pot and bowl rims are

similarly types with a long history and for the present it would be safer to merely suggest a date in Iron Age II.<sup>6</sup>

J.B. Hennessy

## THE HELLENISTIC DEPOSITS (Pls IV-V, XIII, XVII-XIX)

### 1. *Stratigraphy and architecture*

Stratified material of the Hellenistic period was found only in IIIC (Pl. V). In the northern half of IIIC, immediately below the remains of a Byzantine/Umayyad wall, a yellow, orange and black tumble of burnt mudbrick, scorched earth and carbonized material about 1.00 m. deep was encountered (Pl. V, 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 2.6, 2.7 and 3.1). This deposit resulted from the destruction of a building, perhaps a fairly humble house, of which only a small part was unearthed during the 1979 season. The building, as so far revealed, is late Hellenistic with two or three architectural sub-phases; judging by the number of floors and by the objects found, the occupation lasted not more than a generation or two.

The architecture was simple (Pl. IV). Walls, approx. 0.65 m. thick, were rubble-built to a height of about 1.00 m. Above the stone-work were mudbricks measuring about 0.32 x 0.32 x 0.09 m. The foundations were of rubble of varying depths, except for the wall of the final sub-phase (Wall F4) which was simply built on the existing floor in order to divide the interior of the dwelling (i.e. the area bounded by Walls F3,25 and 2) into two. The internal floors consist of thin layers of whitish plaster or of tamped yellow or brown clay, in contrast with the thick layers of white and yellow plaster on a well-constructed basis of compacted earth and stones west of Wall F3. To judge by the pits in the western area of IIIC, this was an open courtyard. In the SW corner of the house was a doorway, of which only the threshold survives. Its masonry contrasts oddly with the rubble-built walls, for it is comprised of three neatly worked and joined ashlar blocks of limestone, each approx. 0.69 x 0.50 x 0.20 m.

Below the occupation strata was a soft fill some 2.5 m. deep (Pl. V, 1.7 - 1.24). Although a few soil changes could be discerned within it, and although the artefactual material recovered from it spanned a period of more than a millennium, the fill was clearly formed at one time. Evidently the as-yet undated 'massif' of large stones and *terre pisée* (see J.B. Hennessy above,) to the south of this fill was used as a retaining wall for the build-up of soil and rubbish, which in turn was laid down as a basis or terrace on which to construct the dwelling and courtyard.

### 2. *Artefacts and chronology*

For the purposes of this report, the Hellenistic material has been divided into two groups, A and B (Pl. XVII-XIX).

#### *Group B*

Material from the 'fill' deposits was copious even by Near Eastern standards. It ranges in date from the Late Bronze Age to the Late Hellenistic period.

Among the artefacts are large quantities of LB and IA potsherds and fragments of figurines. Three Mycenaean sherds (Pl. XIII,3) give promise of things to come.<sup>7</sup> However, for the chronology of the building on the terrace formed by the fill, the later objects provide a more precise *terminus post quem*. Notable amongst the Hellenistic artefacts are the following:

- i. A tetradrachm of Ptolemy II Philadelphus (282-246 B.C.), P 20244.<sup>8</sup>
- ii. A fragment of West Slope ware amphora of the late 3rd century B.C. (CN 20324, Pl. XIII,2). The fragment consists of a sherd of a fine pink ware with a rich black glaze and a white painted decoration of diminishing rectangles, below which is a horizontal groove with a rich red paint. Attached to the sherd is part of a twisted handle, at the base of which is plastic mask of Pan.<sup>9</sup>
- iii. An imported black and red glazed bowl with stamped palmettes and rouletting, dating to the early or mid-2nd century (Pl. XIX no. 1).<sup>10</sup>
- iv. Four stamped Rhodian jar handles of well-levigated buff ware (Pl. XIII,1), as follows:

|         |            |                |                              |              |
|---------|------------|----------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| P 20310 | IIIC 1.17  | ΕΠΙΠΑΥ/ΣΑΝΙΑ   | in incuse rectangle          | 180-150 B.C. |
| P 20338 | IIIC 1.17  | ΕΠΙΧΑΡ/ΜΟΚΛΕΥΣ | „ „                          | 280-220 B.C. |
| P 20342 | IIIC 1.19  | ΑΡΤΕΜΙ/ΔΩΡΟΥ   | „ „                          | n.d.         |
| P 20363 | IIIC 21.22 | ΔΑΜΟΚΡΑΤΕΥΣ    | around rose in incuse circle | 200-180 B.C. |

v. Lamps (P 20347 and P 20311, Pl. XVII, nos 3 and 4). Ceramic lamps with seven nozzles have been found at Samaria and the Amman citadel. The lamp with a bow spout is of a type common in Palestine in the 1st centuries B.C. and A.D., and thus presents a problem, discussed below.

vi. Local pottery. An extremely common local Hellenistic ware is what we have called 'coarse light brown ware'. It is akin to Kenyon's 'household ware' and to Weinberg's 'semifine to coarse' ware used in the locally manufactured plates of Tel Anafa. At Pella this ware can be fired drab, rosy or brown; it has more or less inclusions, and can be slipped with varying shades of red and brown as well as black. Commonly it is found in carelessly finished bowls and plates (Pl. XVIII, nos 8-14, Pl. XIX, nos 7-13) with ring or stringcut bases. In Group B vessels with ring bases appear to predominate.

Other local Hellenistic wares in both groups include well-levigated fabrics fired buff or pale grey (used for storage jars and the like); coarse terracotta coloured ware (cooking vessels); and metallic grey ware (lamps).

A notable absentee from the Group B fill pottery excavated in 1979 is Eastern Sigillata A ware. If Weinberg's recent proposal that this ware begins around 150 B.C. is correct,<sup>12</sup> we may have further evidence for the date of the fill. However, given the small area so far excavated, such an *argumentum ex silentio* may be premature.

In conclusion, the fill in IIIC appears to contain no material which must be dated later than the 2nd century. The lamp shown on Pl. XVII, no. 3, is antecedent to the kind commonly called Herodian (which Lapp dates to the years 75 B.C.-A.D. 70<sup>13</sup>). Given the occurrence of lamps with similar spouts outside in the 3rd and 2nd centuries,<sup>14</sup> and the context of our own example, we would at present be unhappy with a date later than 100 B.C.

On balance, then, it seems likely that the infilling for the terrace on which the building was placed occurred in the second half of the 2nd century.

### Group A

This group comprises the material from the occupation strata and destruction. It is less plentiful, less diverse and less diagnostic chronologically than the Group B material. Amongst the finds are the following:

- i. Three bronze coins. Unfortunately all are completely corroded, but fabric, module and weight suggest that they are pre-Hasmonean.
- ii. Lamps (Pl. XVII, nos 1 and 2). The type belongs to the 2nd - 1st century B.C.<sup>15</sup>
- iii. Local pottery. The same wares are present as those of Group B above. The Group A assemblage may be a representative selection of ceramic vessels used in a fairly humble house and its courtyard - water jars (Pl. XVIII, 1,3&4), jug (Pl. XVIII, no 2), cooking vessel (Pl. XVII,5), bowls (Pl. XVIII, nos 7-14). Fine imported wares such as those found in the 'fill' are so far completely absent.

At present it is impossible to date the pottery by analogy closer than the 2nd - 1st centuries. If, however, the absence of Hasmonian coins and the evidence of the burnt tumble overlying the late Hellenistic house are significant, it may be possible to relate the destruction of this building to the sack of Pella by Alexander Jannaeus about 83-2 B.C.<sup>16</sup>

If this hypothesis is correct, and if the suggestion that the laying down of the 'fill' occurred in the second half of the 2nd century B.C. is accepted, the Hellenistic occupation in IIIC will date roughly between 150 and 80 B.C.



Parallels: General Type - *Ancient Pottery*, Pl. 75, nos 1 - 16.  
 Comments: Clearly Iron Age in origin. However, the large number of specimens found in the 'fill' suggest that the shape may have survived into later periods.

Pl. XVIII - *Hellenistic storage vessels, jugs and bowls*

1. CN 20112 Jar, coarse metallic fabric, fired terracotta. Diameter at neck: 12 cm.  
 Ill. ex. from IIIC, 2.2 (Group A)  
 Parallels: Hadidi, A. The pottery from the Roman Forum at Amman, *ADAJ XV* (1970), Pl. III, no. 7. 200 B.C.
2. CN 20116 Jug, fine metallic fabric, fired grey. Diameter of neck: 9 cm.  
 Ill. ex. from IIIC 5.1 (Group A)  
 Comments: Relief decoration appears to be impressed in two moulds and the vessel joined at its greatest diameter.
3. CN 20069 Jar, fine well-levigated fabric, fired grey at core with pale grey surfaces. Diameter: 9 cm.  
 Ill. ex. from IIIC 1.3 (Group A)  
 Others from IIIC 1.3 (Group A)  
 Parallels: Comparable with *PCC*, 146, Type 11.2D. 175 - 100 B.C.
4. CN 20184 Jar, ware as no. 3. Diameter: 10 cm.  
 Ill. ex. from IIIC 4.1 (Group A)  
 Others from IIIA 8.2 (rubbish survival?)  
                   IIIC 1.14 (2 ex.) }  
                   1.22                    }                    (Group B)  
                   1.23                    }  
                   1.25                    }  
 Parallels: Somewhat like *PCC*, 146, Type 11.2B. 175 - 50 B.C.
5. CN 20212 Jar, fine fabric with a few white inclusions, fired buff.  
 Diameter: 12 cm.  
 Ill. ex. from IIIC 2.8 (Group B)  
 Parallels: Somewhat like *PCC* 146, Type 11.2A. 175 - 100 B.C.
6. CN 20210 Jar, ware as no. 3. Diameter: 11 cm.  
 Ill. ex. from IIIC 2.8 (Group B)  
 Others from IIIC 1.10 }  
                   1.14 }                    (Group B)  
 Parallels: Hennessy, J.B. *Excavations at Samaria-Sebaste*, (1968), *Levant II*, (1970), fig. 11, no. 15 (dark buff ware).  
                   'Lower Phase E' - Early Hellenistic.
7. CN 20058 Plate, fine fabric, fired terracotta colour. Diameter: 21 cm.  
 Ill. ex. from IIIC 1.3 (Group A)  
 Parallels: General type: *PCC*, 206-7, Type 153. 200 - 100 B.C.
8. CN 20207 Bowl, coarse gritty fabric, fired a drab light brown. Diameter: 16.5 cm.  
 Ill. ex. from IIIC 2.7 (Group A)  
 Comments: The ware of nos 8-14 is equivalent to Kenyon's 'Household Ware' (*Samaria-Sebaste III*, 265).
9. CN 20033 Bowl, ware as no. 8. String-cut base. Diameter: 9.5 cm.  
 Ill. ex. from IIIC 1.1 (Group A)

Others from IIIC 1.1 (Group A)  
 Parallels: General types for nos 9-12, PCC, 178, Type 53 H-J.  
 75-29 B.C.

10. CN 20035 Bowl, ware as no. 8, roughly made, with a string-cut base.  
 Diameter: 12 cm.  
 Ill. ex. from IIIC 1.1 (Group A)  
 Others from IIIC 1.2 ] (Group A)  
 1.3 ]
11. CN 20038 Bowl, ware as no. 8, string-cut base. Diameter: 11 cm.  
 Ill. ex. from IIIC 1.2 (Group A)  
 Others from IIIC 1.2 ] (Group A)  
 1.3 ]  
 Comments: IIIC 1.3 produced seven disc bases from this or a similar type of bowl.
12. CN 20047 Bowl, ware as no. 8, string-cut base. Diameter: 11 cm.  
 Ill. ex. from IIIC 1.3 (Group A)  
 Others from IIIC 1.3 (11 ex., Group A)  
 1.7 ]  
 2.8 (2 ex.) ] (Group B)  
 1.19 (2 ex.) ]
13. CN 20032 Bowl, ware as no. 8, string-cut base, very rough manufacture.  
 Diameter: 10.5 cm.  
 Ill. ex. from IIIC 1.1 (Group A)  
 Others from IIIC  
 1.1 (3 ex.) ]  
 1.2 ]  
 1.3 (2 ex.) ] (Group A)  
 2.6 ]  
 3.2 (with red slip)]  
 1.7/10 (with red slip) )]  
 1.7 (4 ex.) (" " " )]  
 2.8 (" " " )]  
 1.10 (" " " )] (Group B)
14. CN 20046 Bowl, ware as no. 8, string-cut base. Diameter: 7.5 cm.  
 Ill. ex. from IIIC 1.3 (Group A)  
 Parallels: PCC, 51.1 for general type. 200 B.C. - A.D. 68.

Pl. XIX - Hellenistic bowls and plates (Group B)

1. CN 20416 Bowl, fine well-levigated fabric fired terracotta colour, metallic black glaze inside and outside and red glazed tondo and in foot.  
 Rouletting and five palmettes impressed in tondo. Diameter: 20 cm.  
 Ill. ex. from IIIC 1.19 (Group B)  
 Others from IIIA 8.2 (fragment)  
 Parallels: *Samaria-Sebaste III*, fig. 43, no. 4. Late Hellenistic.  
*TCHP*, fig. 117, D.5. Mid-2nd century.  
 Comments: Fragment from IIIA must be a rubbish survival in an Umayyad deposit. Pella specimen is less angular than the Samaria ex., which lacks palmettes.
2. CN 20477 Bowl, coarse fabric, fired light brown, with red slip inside and outside.



- Diameter: 12.5 cm.  
 Ill. ex. from IIIC 1.17 (Group B)  
 Others from IIIC 1.25 (Group B)  
 Parallels: General Type *PCC*, 203, Type 151 E, with slight outcurved rim. 150-107 B.C.  
 Comments: Similar to that of Pl. XVIII, nos 8-13, in ware.
3. CN 20228 Plate, fairly fine fabric, fired buff, matt black glaze inside and outside.  
 Diameter: 21 cm.  
 Ill. ex. from IIIC 1.7 (Group B)  
 Others from IIIA 8.2  
 Parallels: General type of nos 3-6: *PCC*, 206-7, Type 153.1. 200-100 B.C.  
 Comments: Ex. from IIIA is a rubbish survival.  
 Quality of the black glaze indicates local manufacture.
4. CN 20174 Bowl, ware as no. 2, matt black glaze inside and outside.  
 Diameter: 12.5 cm.  
 Ill. ex. from IIIC 1.10 (Group B)  
 Others from IIIC 1.10 (matt black glaze outside, red inside)  
 1.14  
 1.7 - 1.25 (numerous examples)
5. CN 20219 Bowl, ware as no. 2, matt red to black slip or imitation glaze inside and outside. Diameter: 15 cm.  
 Ill. ex. from IIIC 1.10 (Group B)  
 Parallels: *Samaria-Sebaste III*, fig. 37, no. 11, early 3rd century .  
*Levant II*, (1970), fig. 9, no. 5  
 (more downturned rim). 'Phase D'. Late Hellenistic.
6. CN 20229 Bowl, grey ware with matt black slip inside and outside.  
 Diameter: 16.5 cm.  
 Ill. ex. from IIIC 1.7 (Group B)  
 Parallels: *Levant II*, (1970) fig. 10, no. 25.  
*Samaria-Sebaste III*, fig. 55, no. 5.
7. CN 20227 Bowl, ware as no. 2, black slip outside and red inside.  
 Diameter: 14 cm.  
 Ill. ex. from IIIC 1.7 (Group B)  
 Others from IIIC 1.10  
 1.14 (red slip only inside and outside - 2 ex.)  
 1.25 (2 ex.)  
 and other fragments from 1.7 to 1.25.  
 Parallels: General type of nos 7-10: *PCC*, 201, Type 151.1.
8. CN 20368 Bowl, ware as no. 2. Diameter: 10 cm.  
 Ill. ex. from IIIC 1.14 (Group B)  
 Others from IIIC 1.14 (Group B)  
 9.1 (Late Iron Age)  
 Comments: The late Iron Age ex. is contamination.
9. CN 20452 Bowl, fine well-levigated fabric, fired buff with a matt red 'glaze'.  
 Diameter: 10 cm.  
 Ill. ex. from IIIC 1.19 (Group B)
10. CN 20220 Bowl, ware as no. 2 with matt black slip inside and outside.  
 Diameter: 15 cm.  
 Ill. ex. from IIIC 1.10 (Group B)

Others from IIC 1.19 (2 ex. - no slip) (Group B)

11. CN 20463 Bowl, ware as no. 2, red slip inside and outside. Diameter: 12 cm.  
Ill. ex. from IIC 1.19.
12. CN 20535 Bowl, ware as no. 2. Diameter: 15 cm.  
Ill. ex. from IIC 1.22 (Group B)  
Others from IIC 1.22 (2 ex. - Group B) and several from  
strata 1.7 to 1.25.
13. CN 20401 Bowl, ware as no. 2. Diameter: 15 cm.  
Ill. ex. from IIC 1.14.

A. McNicoll

## AREA V

### 1. *Location* (Pl. I)

East of the main mound of Tabaqat Fahl, set high on the west slopes of Jabal abu el-Khas lies a complex of ruins which comprise at least two major buildings. The larger of these two buildings is orientated east-west and sited on a level platform, which nestles into an otherwise steeply-ascending mountain slope. The location is one of the most spectacular at Pella, and faces west, across the verdant carpet of the Wadi Jirm el Moz and its ever flowing springs, to a view of the river Jordan and the Jordan Valley almost as far as the sea of Galilee.

North-east of this building and seven metres above is another small platform on which are located the ruins of the smaller second building. Remains of an approach staircase, walls and entrance doorways are visible on the surface.

Remnants of terrace walls to the north, south and west of the complex suggest that the site was enclosed by a boundary wall. Retaining walls of well-constructed masonry on the western and southern slopes indicate that the main building was surrounded by terraces and approached on its western side by a steep monumental staircase of which the rubble core is still *in situ*.

The site exhibits signs of violent destruction in the past. Piles of columns, capitals, bases and decorated lintels and architraves lie within the buildings or strewn down the surrounding slopes.

The walls of the main building on the surface (Pl. VIII) are nowhere more than two courses in height, and the east end is completely buried beneath the debris of landslides from the mountain above the site.

### 2. *Historical Descriptions*

Many of the 19th century travellers who visited Pella described these ruins and gave various interpretations to them.

S. Merrill visited the site in 1876 and described the larger building as "the remains of a church".<sup>17</sup>

Gottlieb Schumacher, who drew a comprehensive survey plan of Pella and its surroundings in 1887, denotes the site as "Temple ruin" on his plan.<sup>18</sup> He described the tumble of building stones, Corinthian capitals, cornices and columns of 21" (inches) diameter. (He must have measured the diameter of the moulded tops of the column shafts as these are the only column features that have a diameter of 21" or 53 cm.). He reckoned that the decoration and workmanship of the architectural elements was Roman, and this, together with the discovery of a Corinthian capital with a carved cross led him to describe the building as "... a temple, probably rebuilt by the Crusaders".<sup>19</sup>

Another survey of Pella was carried out by John Richmond and published in 1934. His plan shows two buildings and an enclosing boundary wall. He described the complex as a monastery and the larger building as a church which he drew with a triapsidal east end and five entrance doorways. "There are vestiges of a triapsidal east end, three doors in the west end and one on the north side."<sup>20</sup>

A larger sketch plan of the church indicates the division of aisles and nave and the triapsidal east end only with a hesitant dotted line.

He omits in his description and larger plan a doorway in the south wall, but indicates one on his survey plan. This doorway is still visible today (Pl. VIII). The east end of the building is now totally obscured by landslides, as previously mentioned. Richmond's ambiguous plans and statements make it difficult to assess what was actually visible of the east end of the building in 1933. He also notes the portico of the church as an unusual feature.

### 3. *Plan of the Excavations*

This site has been designated Area V. The intention of the present series of excavations is to examine the whole complex to discover, where possible, the building types and their chronological sequence, and to assess the possibility of an eventual reconstruction of the building remains.

A limited series of excavations were carried out to enable the numerous architectural fragments to be carefully catalogued. A sondage was made within the enclosing walls of the main building and a series of 7 m. x 7 m. squares were set out along its western extremity, each square called after a lower case letter of the alphabet (Pl. IX). Squares 'c' and 'd' were excavated and architectural elements and worked stones were given painted numbers and their positions located within the squares, e.g. c.1, c.2, c.3, etc....

All columns, capitals and bases were left *in situ*, while other numbered building stones were transported via an earthen ramp to a platform storage area located down the northern slope from the building.

### 4. *Recent occupation of the site*

Pl. VIII shows a group of three enclosures roughly constructed of conveniently available stones from the ruins, using a dry walling technique. The principal enclosure 1 was probably a house and the other enclosures a grain store and/or sheep pens. Schumacher described a number of similar *siars* or sheep enclosures built from the ruins on the main *tell* of Fahl.<sup>21</sup>

Information from local villagers described the structures as having been erected by a refugee from Ramlah in 1948. Occupation was apparently short-lived as the Jordanian government relocated the family away from the building ruins to the main village.

However, it appears that at least the main enclosure was there already in 1933 as Richmond describes... "A modern arab construction obscures the north-east corner of the church portico."<sup>22</sup> It is actually located in the north-west of "the church portico". Excavation and dismantling of enclosure 1 revealed no traces of roofing or signs of modern occupation. This could indicate that the construction was never finished or that it was occupied on a seasonal basis by nomadic herdsmen.

### 5. *Roman elements*

Excavation of squares 'c' and 'd' revealed three stylobates with four *in situ* limestone bases - some slightly displaced (Pl. IX). A floor of mudstone tiles was found *in situ* beneath the topsoil and set approximately 5 cm. below the top of the stylobates, spanning the area between them as well as areas to the north and west of the building.

Erosion has caused the destruction of any possible paving to the south and also the disappearance of the south-west corner junction of the stylobates. Here, traces of cement-lined drains are now visible on the surface. There is no continuation of the western stylobate in a northerly direction as indicated on Richmond's plan,<sup>23</sup> since the mudstone paving is unbroken.

Within the stylobates the shattered remains of large limestone columns, and three well-preserved Corinthian capitals had fallen onto the mudstone floor. The Corinthian capitals are beautifully carved in a hard grey limestone and each exhibits a different execution within the traditional design framework of acanthus leaves and volute scrolls. They are the finest capitals visible in the whole site of Pella (Pl. X, a,b,c).

A fragment of classical cornice was found on the mudstone floor and the north stylobate, beneath the south wall of enclosure 1. The cornice displays remnants of modillions, bead and reel moulding, dentil moulding, and ovolo moulding (egg and dart) (Pl. X, i).

The workmanship of the bases, columns, large capitals and cornice is probably late Roman and a geometric analysis of the elements confirms their relationship in a classical order based on

Vitruvian models (Pl. X).

In the squares excavated, elements of four complete columns (base, shaft and capital) were found.

### 6. *A Byzantine Church*

The sondage confirmed the continuation of the north and south stylobates within the rectangular building. The stylobates divide the interior of the building into three (Pl. IX). These stylobates are, however, set 10 cm. further apart and are 80 cm. above the outer stylobates which would indicate that steps should be located at the three western entrances to the building.

Traces of a robbed-out floor were revealed 8 cm. below the stylobates. All that remained was a layer of lime plaster and upstanding plaster interstices set in a pattern of rectangular paving slabs.

Bases were also found *in situ* on the stylobates, some badly shattered by the collapse of the building. These are of white marble, of the same general style as the outer limestone bases, but only just over half the height and more delicately carved (Pl. X, k) .

No columns proportionally related to these bases were found, but fragments of limestone columns, two small limestone bases and a worn white limestone Corinthian capital (Pl. X, f,h,l), found scattered in the sondage, are geometrically related to one another.

Two column fragments in square 'c' are also geometrically related to this small order, the function of which is as yet undetermined.

That the building had a Christian use was confirmed by the discovery of a small Corinthian capital with a cross carved in two positions normally occupied by an upper patera (the other two sides being destroyed (Pl. IX and Pl. X, e). This was probably the capital mentioned by Schumacher, or another like it - "On the buttons of one of the Corinthian capitals I found a cross carefully worked" .<sup>24</sup>

### 7. *Hexagonal Pool* (Pl. XI)

Within the portico area lying on the east-west axis of the building, a hexagonal pool was discovered (Pl. XI). The pool was filled with a yellow clay marl, and lying upside down and half buried in this fill was a squat stylized capital (Pl. X, g) The bottom of the pool contained two layers of terracotta tiles measuring 52 x 51 x 3.75 cm. The flattened end of a 13 cm. diameter lead water pipe with a rolled top flange is visible in the north-east side of the pool. The lower layer of tiles was cut for the insertion of the pipe, which was probably reduced to 9 cm. diameter once inside the pool, as indicated by the remnants of the cement bedding still visible, and turned up perpendicularly at the centre of the pool to form a fountain. No traces of a drainage point have yet been found, but half the pool fill is yet to be excavated. If the drain point was set in the surrounding ridged mudstone tiles, it may have been destroyed as three sides of the pool were badly shattered by the falling building.

The hexagonal pool, the mudstone floor and the four rough shaped stones set in the north-west corner of the stylobates all appear to be contemporary.

No traces of the finishes of the pool were discovered, apart from one triangular marble tile and a radially shaped red limestone tile. The robbed-out upper layers of terracotta tiles, the missing finishing materials for the pool, and the lead pipe broken off at its point of entry to the pool, together with the deliberate filling of the pool, indicate that the pool had fallen into disuse, been robbed of useful materials and filled before the ultimate collapse of the building.

A stepped foundation, projecting 8 cm. round the inside of the pool, may have formed a step or supported a low upstanding wall constructed of 1.8 cm. thick marble sheets, remnants of which were found in the surrounding topsoil.

Hexagonal ablution fountains and reflection pools were favourite devices used in the design of Umayyad public buildings and mosques. The Umayyad pottery found above the mudstone floor and in the pool fill confirms that the building was used and occupied during that period. Further excavation may determine the use of the building.

### 8. *Finishes of the buildings*

#### (a) *Roof*

At the time of the building's collapse it was roofed with terracotta tiles. 7.5 sq.m. of tile fragments were found in squares 'c' and 'd' and 9 sq.m. in the sondage. The tiles are flat

tegulae, slightly cambered upwards in the centre, with raised edges on both sides. These raised edges were stopped 7 cm. short of the top of the tile to facilitate the overlap of another tegula set above it. The front undersides were chamfered to ensure a close fit. The adjacent raised edges of two tegulae set side by side were spanned by a parabolic sectioned imbrex tapered in both width and length to ensure a close fit for overlapping tiles, and cemented in position.

Out of the hundreds of fragments found, two distinct types were discernable. The first is a well fired tile composed of finely textured materials which exhibits a sharp ringing tone when struck. The majority were 1.5 cm. in thickness, although a range of sections were apparent, together with many different raised edge profiles. The tiles were various shades of pink and grey. The second type of tile was of a porous nature, composed of coarsely textured materials with sections of 2.0 cm. up to 2.5 cm. and colours of grey, pink and beige. Four stamped fragments of this type displayed an indented circular stamp (tending slightly to elliptical) of diametres 2.5 cm. and 3.2 cm. A complete imbrex of the second type was 33 cm. long with a span of 10 cm. Both types were found intermingled in the ruins, which indicates that they were used together, or that batches of both types were used in close association. Many fragments of iron nails and spikes were found, one complete specimen, though broken measured 16.5 cm.

It appears from this that some form of timber roof supported terracotta tiles of a tegula and imbrex system (pan and roll type). The tiles are probably from at least two different periods of construction.

#### (b) Floor

The mudstone floor in squares 'c' and 'd' was the only floor found *in situ* but the remains of many different flooring materials were discovered.

Almost 2 sq.m. of loose tesserae were found in the sondage and 1/4 sq.m. in squares 'c' and 'd'. Tesserae were generally 14 cu.mm.; the majority are white while others are red, grey and dark green. Two fragments of plaster had small groups of embedded tesserae, one of white alone, and the other of white, grey and pink stones forming some kind of pattern or design. There must have been mosaic floors inside the main body of the building, with some areas of patterns or designs executed in coloured tesserae.

Many different kinds of floor tiles were found, but none were *in situ*. Square, rectangular and triangular magenta coloured limestone tiles had chamfered sides and rough cut bases. Square, rectangular and triangular white and grey marble tiles and fragments of red and green marble were also found.

R.H. Smith, in his 1967 excavations of the West Church<sup>25</sup> found several pavements of red limestone tiles, and white marble tiles arranged in patterns utilizing square, rectangular and triangular shapes. By analogy, the many floor tiles found by us would have formed decorative pavements of patterns similar to those discovered in the West Church during the Byzantine church phase of the building's history.

#### (c) Walls

In squares 'c' and 'd' 180 stones were catalogued, 80% of which were rough limestone blocks, some with worked faces and a few with plaster fragments adhering to them. Many fragmented blocks of calcareous tufa were found, of which 26 could be measured. There were two standard sizes of 40 x 27 x 20 cm. and 52 x 26 x 22 cm., with others varying up to 4 cm. either side of these dimensions. Two main areas of wall tumble in the sondage were composed of blocks of calcareous tufa with heavily plastered interstices. Plaster remnants on these and other limestone blocks were painted red, and loose fragments of red painted plaster were discovered in the soil.

Many fragments of white polished marble sheets were discovered, most with sections of 1.4 cm. or 1.8 cm. and one edge rounded. One piece had a fixing recess on the rear. These fragments may have been used as a dado finish to the walls on the interior of the building, possible as an upstand for the hexagonal pool, or as marble plinths. No fragments were found *in situ*.

Several orange-red tesserae were shaped in the form of lozenges, sickles, and curved leaves. These, together with two white rectangular marble fragments, were most likely

used in a wall or floor design as inset decorative pieces.

In the sondage two fragments of wall plaster exhibited white tesserae embedded but standing proud of the surrounding plaster surface, one fragment of which was painted red. These seem to be fragments of wall paintings inset with mosaic, used above dado level on the walls.

Small pieces of yellow, turquoise, green, blue and magenta glass mosaic indicate that glass mosaics may have been used above dado level as a wall or ceiling decoration.

## 9. Conclusion

The limited nature of the excavations preclude conclusive dating of the building at this stage, but sufficient architectural material has emerged to indicate three major usages for the building.

A. Stylistically the larger limestone bases, column shafts, capitals and cornice fragments are related. Geometrical analysis has confirmed that their relationships are based on Vitruvian models, and this will be discussed in greater depth when other areas containing architectural fragments are excavated.

The commanding setting, the terraced walls of well-constructed masonry and the rubble core of a monumental approach staircase suggest these elements belong to a late classical Roman Temple. The stylobates may have been part of such a temple orientated east-west, but further excavation is needed before making any definitive statement about the form of such a temple.

B. The layout of the walls on the surface with three entrances in the west wall and one in each of the north and south walls, the division of the building into three by stylobates with marble bases *in situ* indicates a Byzantine church plan with nave, side aisles and an outer portico. Although no traces to Richmond's triapsidal east end are visible, the discovery of the Corinthian capital with carved crosses on two sides confirms a Christian occupation of the site. The smaller order of limestone bases, column shafts, and bases and capitals probably belongs to this period also, and may have been used in a triforium or clearstorey level.

Using the analogies of the West Church and of other Byzantine churches, the patterned floor mosaics, marble and limestone floor tiles, as well as wall paintings and glass mosaics, would belong to the Christian period of construction.

C. The mudstone floor, the hexagonal pool and the reconstruction of the north-west corner of the stylobates are all contemporary. The evidence of pottery and the hexagonal pool indicate that the building had a major occupation during the Umayyad period. Certainly the pool had fallen into disuse before the final, violent destruction of the building, possibly by the 8th century earth-quake which destroyed the West Church and so many other sites in the Jordan Valley.

Garry Martin

## AREAS III AND IV

### A. THE Umayyad DEPOSITS (Pls VI-VII, XIV-XV and XX-XXIII)

#### 1. *The Architecture and Stratigraphy*

In Areas III and IV part of a large building was unearthed (Pls VI, XV). Since its full extent is not yet known, the numbering of the rooms is provisional. Evidently the building's final occupation dates to the Umayyad period; equally evident is its destruction by an earthquake (see below).

Although the 1979 season revealed in the main only the last phase of occupation, both stratigraphy and architecture indicate that the building is considerably older than the Umayyad period. On the evidence of two sondages in Rooms II and IV there appears to be a considerable depth of occupation below the surface reached. Furthermore there are a number of architectural alterations which indicate that the function of the building in its final state differed from

that in its initial layout.

The building was an imposing one. On top of stone foundations of as yet unknown depth, walls up to 1.00 m. wide were constructed of large blocks of stone with snecking and mud mortar to a height of 2.00-2.50 m. Some of the stones are roughly squared, especially those used in doorways and at corners, and where necessary the faces were roughly dressed. Above the stonework the upper part of the walls were built of *terre pisée* which collapsed to form a massive fill within all the rooms of the building. Given the depth of fill in the rooms away from the edge of the *tell* and the width of the walls, we suggest a ceiling height of 4.50 - 5.00 m. if the building had only one storey. If, however, there was an upper storey, the height of the ground storey ceiling would obviously have been much less. The roof was probably used as a living-cum-work area. No traces of beams to support the roof were found: either the wood decayed without trace or, more probably, the timber was retrieved for re-use elsewhere.

The layout of the building is roughly rectilinear. Many of the walls do not meet at precise right angles, perhaps because of the slope on which the building stood. As yet, it is impossible to tell whether the majority of walls is coeval, since the full stratigraphic sequence of occupation, and particularly the foundation trenches, have not yet been excavated. However, it is clear that the north-south wall which bounds the building on its west side is a later addition truncating the building in that direction. In the final phase the area west of this wall formed part of an open courtyard in which a number of domestic ovens were built.

Apart from the western wall (which may not, in fact, belong to the very latest phase), the late alterations to the building consist principally of blocked doorways and crudely built feed-bins in several rooms.

The blocking-off of doors drastically altered the character of the building. The previously extensive dwelling was broken into smaller units, none of which is as yet completely excavated. Three such units can be discerned:

1. Rooms I, II, III and IV
2. Rooms VII, VIII, X and XI
3. Rooms V, VI and IX

In the case of rooms I-IV the extreme softness of the surfaces in rooms III and IV, combined with the comparative lack of artefacts, the presence of feed-bins in room III and the discovery of several wellnigh complete articulated sheep/goat skeletons in room IV, suggests that they were used as stables or pens immediately prior to the building's abandonment. The soft surfaces may be explained as decayed organic material, straw and dung, while the skeletons may indicate that at least some of the beasts were caught in the final collapse.

Rooms I and II may have been used for human habitation, although the inconvenience of leading beasts through the living rooms seems a little extreme. Probably all four rooms formed the stables.

Given the existence of feed-bins in room X, it too may have been a stable in the final phase. Rooms VII and VIII may well have been living rooms (the two bronze bowls, one of which is illustrated in Pl. XIV, 1, were found in room VIII); in room VII there is what appears to be the base of a staircase giving access to the roof. The function of room XI is as yet uncertain. In the third unit function was not immediately evident, though the fact that in room V an earlier pavement was used as the floor of the final phase suggests that this too may have been a living room.

The stratigraphy of the Umayyad period is reasonably straightforward (Pl. VII). Only in Area III Plot A was there any later habitation: the protruding stumps of two walls were used as foundations for walls of a small, two-roomed dwelling which covered an area of less than 30 sq. m. This too was Umayyad. However, it does not appear in the stratigraphy of Pl. VII, which shows only the last phase of occupation of the large building, its destruction and some of the post-Umayyad graves. The illustrated section is taken from the east baulks of IV B and IV A, i.e. through rooms II, IV and VIII.

The predominant feature of the section is the mass of dull yellow, orange and grey clayey soil overlying all the surfaces. Since no mud bricks or mud brick fragments were found in this deposit it appears highly probable that this mass is comprised basically of 'melted' *terre pisée* of the upper walls and of roof mud, brought down by the collapse of the building. This interpretation is strengthened by the existence in some rooms of irregular lines which were observed to

slope downwards away from the walls to the centre of the room. We interpret these as traces of the faces of collapsed walls.

Absence of burning within the collapsed *pisé* and evidence that the whole building was destroyed at one time points to an earthquake as the agent of destruction.

A.G. Walmsley

## 2. Artefacts and chronology

The bulk of the artefacts found in the building came from within the collapsed *pisé*. Presumably there were shelves, niches and/or hooks and nails in the walls to house or to support the objects.

Among numerous finds the following may be noted:

- i) Objects of bronze and iron. One of the former is a lamp holder, likened by Basil Hennessy to a clutch-plate suspended by three chains! - evidently phial-shaped glass lamps were slotted into the holes in the plate. Examples of such lamp-holders can still be seen in the Umayyad Mosque at Damascus. Among the iron objects are large quantities of nails, of which concentrations were found in room III by door 'd' and in room IV.
- ii) Glass vessels, including the intact juglet found within the *pisé* tumble in room IV (P 20110, Area IV Plot A 1.7 - translucent, green-tinged glass juglet - 13 cm. high, Pl. XIV,2) - scarcely the sort of thing to keep in the stables! It had probably fallen into room IV in the collapse of the building, either from the roof or from room V.
- iii) Coins. Most of the coins which we recovered came from the collapse deposits of the large building. The majority are 4th or 5th century minims, which were probably puddled into the *pisé* when the building was being constructed; they provide us with no more than a rough *terminus post quem* for the construction of the building. More critical are the following:

(a) Post-reform Byzantine *folles* of the 6th century, P 20045, P 20202, P 20266, P 20341, P 20418.<sup>26</sup>

(b) A post-reform Byzantine *follis* of the reign of Heraclius (610-641),<sup>27</sup> P 20076.

(c) Post-reform Umayyad *fulūs*, P 20005 and P 20013 (c. 700-750 A.D.).<sup>28</sup> (a) and (b) are probably contemporary with the building, while (c) may possibly postdate it.

- iv) Pottery. A number of lamps of Umayyad types<sup>29</sup> were recovered in stratigraphical contexts.

For the rest, we have limited our selection of illustrated forms mainly to the larger fragments and whole vessels. A notable exception is the bowls (Pl. XX, nos 1-5). During the cataloguing of shapes and wares, Lady Wheeler noted the curious paucity of bowls as against other vessels: not only are there few specimens, but a number of the forms used are Late Roman red ware types or variants (Pl. XX, nos 3-5<sup>30</sup>). The inhabitants of Pella in the period under consideration either ate their food from communal pots or trays or else used wooden bowls, of which we have so far found no trace.

Among the ware and decoration found in the large building in 1979<sup>31</sup> are the following:

- (a) Putty coloured ware with single-point incisions (Pl. XX, nos 1-2). The ware and shape (although not the decoration) find parallels in Sauer's 'buff white ware cups' at Heshbon; the ware is related to the Khirbet Mefjer ware, and the ware and decoration to sherds at Khirbet Kerak. These last lack clear chronological definition, unlike the Heshbon cups which are Umayyad.<sup>32</sup>
- (b) Grey combed ware and grey 'cut-ware' (Pl. XXIII, nos 6-7) Sauer comments that combed ware rarely occurs at Heshbon outside the Umayyad deposits. However, at Pella in Area 1, Smith found a combed ware bowl very similar to our P 20001 (not ill.) in a Byzantine context.<sup>33</sup> He notes that the collars on rims of Byzantine specimens tend to be absent from Umayyad examples (as our Pl. XXIII, no 7). Since we found several specimens of the form with the collar (albeit lacking combed decoration) in Umayyad deposits, we are inclined to think that the collar may endure throughout the 7th century, if



not into the 8th.

- (c) Pink ware with white painted wavy lines (Pl. XX, nos 6-8). Smith comments that this ware appears to be 'particularly Umayyad'.<sup>34</sup> In our experience the ware is confined to jugs, juglets and small jars.
- (d) Perhaps related to the above is the buff-cream ware with red paint (no examples illustrated). At Pella in 1979 the Sydney session recovered a number of sherds of this ware, but no complete forms. Sauer uses the evidence from Heshbon to propose a pre-Umayyad/Umayyad date for this red-painted ware<sup>35</sup>, rather than the broad Byzantine-Umayyad dating proposed by earlier writers.
- (e) Dark grey ware with white painted lines. This ware, commonly found in bag-shaped jars (Pl. XXI, no. 4) was present in quantity throughout the larger building. It was evidently a popular Umayyad ware: although at Khirbet Kerak it occurred in deposits reckoned to be Byzantine, at Pella Smith found that it does not occur much before 650 A.D.<sup>36</sup>
- (f) Coarse chaff-tempered ware. This is Smith's 'roofing tile ware', which he found predominantly in Byzantine strata, fired grey or brown.<sup>37</sup> Our specimen (Pl. XXIII, no 4) is red with a self-slip. Given its context (topsoil) and the absence of complete forms from the Umayyad strata, it is possible that the illustrated sherd will turn out to be a Byzantine form.
- (g) Coarse gritty terracotta coloured ware. This is common in open and closed cooking vessels ('casseroles' - Pl. XXIII, nos 3,5; 'cooking pots' Pl. XX II, nos 2 and 5 and Pl. XX, nos 9-10). Finer examples such as Pl. XXII, no. 3 are basically similar ware. Such vessels and wares appear to have a long life. The ware is also found in storage jars (Pls XXI, 2 and 5).
- (h) Various other finer wares appear to have been used in cooking vessels - e.g. the portable *tabūn* (Pl. XXIII, no. 1) in fine grey ware, and the closed cooking vessels (Pl. XXII, nos 1 and 4) in fine biscuit and putty coloured ware respectively. These may be related to the putty coloured ware of the Khirbet Mefjer type (above (a)).

Concerning the chronology, then, three points may be made. Firstly, given that the 1979 Sydney session reached only the end phase of occupation of the large building in Areas III and IV, it would be rash to commit ourselves to a firm dating for the material recovered from this phase. However, with this caveat in mind, it may be pointed out that our pottery shows a marked resemblance to the material found by Smith in the Umayyad stratum of Area I, which he dates 650-750 A.D.<sup>38</sup> But whether the destruction of the Area III-IV building should be attributed to the earthquake of 746 A.D. or to an earlier earthquake is, at present, impossible to say. The third point to be made is a much more limited one. Certain of the wares found at Pella are absent from the contemporary deposits at Heshbon. The most obvious explanation for this anomaly is that certain wares existed in some regions, but not in others, as Sauer has pointed out à propos of the red painted ware.<sup>39</sup>

Pl. XX - *Bowls and small painted jugs and jars from the final phase of the Area III-IV building and from its collapse*

- 1. CN 20132 Bowl, incised well-levigated fabric, putty coloured. Diameter: 18 cm.  
Ill. ex. from IVC 3.1 (Room X)
- 2. CN 20246 Bowl, incised ware as no. 1. Diameter: 16.5 cm.  
Ill. ex. from IVA 1.7 (Tumble)
- 3. CN 20425 Bowl, coarse gritty fabric, fired terracotta colour. Diameter: 25 cm.  
Ill. ex. from IIIB 1.2 (Room XI)  
Others from IIID 1.7
- 4. CN 20245 Bowl, ware as no. 3. Diameter: 24 cm.  
Ill. ex. from IIIB 4.1
- 5. CN 20108 Bowl, ware as no. 3. Diameter: 21 cm.

- Ill. ex. from IVA 1.7 (Tumble)  
Others from IIIA 5.1 (Room VIII)  
IIID 1.7
6. CN 20127 Juglet, fairly finely-levigated fabric, fired pink, white painted decoration. Diameter of neck: 3 cm.  
Ill. ex. from IVA 1.7 (Tumble)  
IIIA 6.11 (Room IX)  
IVA 1.7 (Tumble)  
IVC 4.1 (Room X)
7. CN 20153 Jar, ware and paint as no. 6. Diameter of neck: 5.5 cm.  
Ill. ex. from IVA 1.7 (Tumble)
8. CN 20129 Jar, ware and paint as no. 6. Diameter of neck: 7 cm.  
Ill. ex. from IVA 1.7 (Tumble)  
Others from IIIA 3.4 (Room V)
9. CN 20125 Jar, coarse gritty fabric, fired terracotta colour. Diameter: 13 cm.  
Ill. ex. from IIIB 1.2 (Room XI)  
Others from  
IIIA 3.2 (Room V)      IIIA 8.1 (Room IX)  
3.4 (Room V)      IIID 1.7  
4.3 (Room VI)      IVC 3.3 (Room X)  
6.11 (Room IX)      IVD 1.3
10. CN 20013 Jar, ware as no. 9. Diameter: 14 cm.  
Ill. ex. from IIIA 2.1 (Topsoil)  
Others from IIIA 8.1 (Room IX)  
IVC 4.1 (Room X)

Pl. XXI - *Storage vessels from the final phase of the Area III/IV building and from its collapse*

1. CN 20140 Storage jar, well-levigated fabric, fired dark grey.  
Diameter of neck: 28.5 cm.  
Ill. ex. from IVA 6.1 (Room IV)  
Comments: The four handles are irregularly spaced around the shoulder. Combed decoration.
2. CN 20350 Storage jar, coarse gritty fabric, fired terracotta colour  
Diameter of neck: 10 cm.  
Ill. ex. from IIIB 3.3
3. CN 20190 Lid, well-levigated fabric, buff colour. Diameter: 9 cm.  
Ill. ex. from IVB 3.1 (Room II)  
Others from IVB/IVD baulk 2.1
4. CN 20007 Storage jar, coarse gritty terracotta coloured fabric with brown slip outside and white painted decoration.  
Diameter of neck: 8.25 cm.  
Ill. ex. from IVA 1.7 (Tumble)  
Others from  
IIA 3.1  
IIIA 2.2 (Room IX)      IV 4.1 (Room IV)

|                    |                            |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| IIID 1.1 (Topsoil) | IVC 3.2 (Room X)           |
| IVA 1.7 (Tumble)   | IVD 1.1 (Topsoil)          |
| IVB 3.1 (Room II)  | IVA/IVB Baulk B3 (Room IV) |

5. CN 20150 Storage jar, coarse gritty fabric, fired terracotta colour.  
Diameter: 11.5 cm.  
Ill. ex. from IVA 1.7 (Tumble)

Pl. XXII - *Jars/Cooking vessels from the final phase of the Area III/IV building and from its collapse*

1. CN 20202 Jar, fine medium fabric, biscuit coloured, fired self colour.  
Diameter: 13.5 cm.  
Ill. ex. from IVC 3.3 (Room X)  
Others from IVC 4.1 (Room X - slightly grittier ware)  
IVC 6.1 " " "  
IVE 1.2
2. CN 20043 Jar, coarse gritty fabric, fired terracotta colour. Diameter: 9.5 cm.  
Ill. ex. from IVA 1.7 (Room VII)  
Comments: Probably used for cooking.
3. CN 20051 Jar, well, levigated fabric, fired putty colour. Diameter: 10.5 cm.  
Ill. ex. from IVB 3.1 (Room II)  
Comments: Possibly a cooking vessel.
4. CN 20065 Jar, fairly fine well-levigated fabric, fired hard terracotta.  
Diameter: 8.25 cm.  
Ill. ex. from IVB 1.4 (Room II)
5. CN 20078 Jar, coarse gritty fabric, fired terracotta. Diameter: 13.5 cm.  
Ill. ex. from IVB 3.1 (Room II)  
Comments: Probably used for cooking.

Pl. XXIII - *Cooking vessels, storage bowls and portable oven from the final phase of the Area III/IV building and from its collapse*

1. CN 20309 Portable oven, well-levigated fabric, fired grey. Fire-blackened on outside bottom. Max. diameter: 34.5 cm.  
Ill. ex. from IVA 1.7 (Room IV)
2. CN 20062 Lid, coarse gritty fabric, fired terracotta colour. Diameter: 24 cm.  
Ill. ex. from IVB 3.1 (Room II)  
Others from  
IIIA 3.2 (Room V)  
3.8 (Room V)  
4.2 (Room VI)  
5.3 (Room VIII)  
6.1 (Room IX)  
6.3 (Room IX - 4 ex.)  
8.1 (Room IX)  
IIIB 1.2 (Room XI)  
IVB 3.1 (Room II - 2 ex.)  
IVC 3.2 (Room II - 2 ex.)  
IVD 1.3  
IVB/IVD baulk  
Comments: This coarse terracotta ware is the cooking vessel ware *par excellence*.

3. CN 20055      Cooking vessel. Diameter: 24 cm.  
 Ill. ex. from IVB 3.1 (Room II)  
 Others from
- |                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| IIA 3.1               | IIID 1.7 (4 ex.) |
| IIIA 3.2 (Room V)     | 2.3              |
| 6.1 (Room IX)         | IVC 3.2 (Room X) |
| 6.3 (Room IX - 2 ex.) | 4.1              |
| IIIB 1.2 ( Room XI)   | IVD 1.3 (3 .ex.) |
| 3.3                   | 1.4 (2 ex.)      |
| IIID 1.3              | IVE 1.1          |
| 1.4 (2 ex.)           | IVD/IVE baulk    |
| 1.6 (2 ex.)           | IVB 2.2          |
4. CN 20085      Storage bowl, coarse chaff-tempered fabric, fired red with red self slip. Diameter: 45 cm.  
 Ill. ex. from IVC 1.1 (Topsoil)  
 Comments: Many sherds of this coarse ware apparently used for storage bowls, were found. The form may be Byzantine.
5. CN 20051A    Cooking vessel, ware as no. 2. Diameter: 21 cm.  
 Ill. ex. from IVA 1.7 (Tumble)
6. CN 20050      Storage bowl, ware as no. 7. Diameter: 31.5 cm.  
 Ill. ex. from IVA 1.7 (Tumble)  
 Others from
- |                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| IIIA 3.2 (Room V) | IVA 3.1 (Room III) |
| IIID 1.5          | IVB 1.1 (Topsoil)  |
| 1.7               | 3.1 (Room H)       |
| 2.1 ('chiselled') | 1.4 ('chiselled')  |
- Comments: Unless stated otherwise, the examples listed are undecorated.
7. CN 20008      Storage bowl, well-levigated fabric, fired dark grey. Diameter: 43.5 cm.  
 Ill. ex. from IVA 1.7 (Tumble)

## B. THE POST-UMAYYAD DEPOSITS (Pl. VII)

In the post-Umayyad period a large part of the area excavated was used as a cemetery. Although burials were found in all the Area III and IV trenches with the exception of those on the steep southern slope of the *tell*, the graves were undoubtedly most dense in IIIA and IIIB. Characteristically, the post-Umayyad graves were shallow (0.50 - 1.00 m. deep), cut from the topsoil. The corpses were sometimes covered with a rough canopy of stones. All were oriented east-west; in general the bodies were buried on their backs or right sides with their heads turned towards Mecca, i.e. to the south. The condition of the bones of the skeletons was, without exception, poor. People of both sexes and all ages from neonates to mature individuals were represented. Personal adornments of bronze and stone rings, earrings and bead necklaces - were found in some graves.

The date of the graves is not altogether certain. However, several produced painted pottery of the kind usually classified as Ayyubid or Mameluke. From none of the graves came sgraffiato pottery of the type associated with the 13th and 14th centuries. In lieu of more precise information, therefore, we assume that these burials date to the 10th - 12th centuries.

A. McNicoll

## AREA II

### *The Tombs (Pls XIV, XXIV)*

Thirteen small trenches were opened up in Areas II, VI, and elsewhere in a search for tombs. Six of these trenches provided evidence of looted tombs; three trenches provided evidence of the initial cutting of tombs which had been abandoned because of the poor rock; three were blank and only in one area did the expedition partially excavate an intact tomb of the late Roman period. The tomb was initially recognised and partially excavated by representatives of the Department of Antiquities from Irbid in 1973. Hikmet Ta'ani, one of the Department representatives in the 1978/9 season at Pella, had found the entrance to the tomb in 1973 but the entire roof had collapsed soon after digging commenced. When the expedition commenced work on the site, the dromos was partially exposed and the door frame and blocking door clearly visible. The rock in the area is very poor and during the first season it was only possible to clear half the tomb, and a great quantity of loose rock overhang will have to be cleared before the other half of the tomb can be opened up in the next season.

The burials so far uncovered within this tomb are clearly of the 4th century A.D.,<sup>40</sup> but the tomb gives evidence of having been disturbed in antiquity and the full story of its occupation will not be clear until it is fully excavated.

The whole of the chamber area was covered by a heavy rock fall from the roof whilst there had been considerable modern wash into the grave loculus at the southern end of the tomb.

Beneath the rock fall there was a thick layer of heavy brown clay and silt showing two major periods of wash which had risen above the tops of the cut graves before the roof collapsed. Most of the finds came from within this wash (Pl. XXIV).

Only one of the three graves opened was still covered with the original capping stones, the other two at the southern end of the tomb had been looted and the broken capping stones were piled into the graves.

The one intact grave produced little in the way of finds but was stuffed with thirty-four skeletons, mostly adult, but some of them young children. The bones are still to be studied. The general impression was of little order, as though the bodies had been hurriedly dumped in, in many cases, after considerable decomposition had set in. A few poor bronze trinkets, a couple of lamps and a double glass bottle were the only grave goods. The lamps were the same as those found in the silt wash in the body of the tomb, late 4th century A.D. The mass burial suggests a plague or some natural disaster.

The vessels illustrated in Pl. XXIV are a selection of the major types from the tomb. A full description and analysis of the tomb's contents must await the completion of the excavation in the area.

J.B Hennessy

## II. The Spring Session (Wooster)

by

Robert Houston Smith

The spring session commenced on March 17 and ended May 17. The staff consisted of twenty-one persons, mostly from the United States.<sup>41</sup> A local labor force of 65 to 80 men was hired, some 15 of which were paid by the Department of Antiquities specifically for work carried out in the West Church.

## AREA VIII (The West Cut)

The stratigraphic probe into the western side of the mound began as a series of 5 x 5 m. plots in a north-south row with balks of 1 m. It was hoped that at least one of the plots might intersect a major east-west street of Pella in Roman-Byzantine times. By halfway through the session the trench had been extended to 39 m., and in some places was approaching a depth of 2

m. Portions of three large, massively built adjoining houses were encountered as a part of the uppermost stratum (Pl. XXV). Pottery and coins dated these houses to the latter part of the Byzantine period, with continued utilization during much of the Umayyad period. The most interesting of the three structures was a large house that had a central courtyard with a veranda; the chambers of the house were arranged around the veranda (Pl. XXVI). The roof of the veranda had been supported by stone piers, and both the veranda and the (presumably unroofed) courtyard were paved with siltstone. The walls of the houses were all about 1 m. thick, probably in order to cool the interior during the summer's heat. In locus 108 a large storage jar of probable Late Byzantine date was found *in situ*, embedded in stones and cement, its base let into the packed-earth surface in the room (Pl. XXXVII). In loci 104 and 105, the potsherds found just above the floors was pure Umayyad; otherwise the debris that filled all three houses was mixed, consisting of sherds ranging in date from Middle Bronze II through Umayyad, with a preponderance of Late Byzantine wares.

Although it may be assumed, on the basis of the similarity of the latest ceramics in this stratum to pottery found in 1967 in the West Church, that these buildings were destroyed in the earthquake of ca. A.D. 746, there can be no doubt but that the buildings had ceased to be occupied by that time. Apart from the single large jar, which was apparently too massive to be moved, all household items had been removed from the buildings before the devastating earthquake. The potsherds found amid the debris filling the chambers was random fill rather than restorable vessels.

The sought-for street finally appeared at the southern end of the long trench. It consisted simply of packed earth, which at the threshold level of the Byzantine-Umayyad structures contained some irregular spots of low-grade cement. On its north side the street was bounded by parts of two of the late houses; on the south by a wall (Wall 21) which was presumed to belong to a similar house. From that wall came a drain made of mud bricks and covered with flat rubble stones. Below the Byzantine-Umayyad level there were, within a little over 1 m. of deposits, a succession of street levels: Byzantine, Roman and finally Late Hellenistic. In addition to a useful ceramic corpus, the Late Hellenistic level yielded a small group of loom weights and other small remains of everyday life (Pl. XXVIII). When the Late Hellenistic level was reached, excavation was halted until the next season.

There was ample evidence of the Late Hellenistic period throughout the entire length of the West Cut. It was found that the Byzantine-Umayyad houses had been constructed directly on top of Hellenistic-Roman levels. There was a thin layer of Early Roman date at the northern end of the trench; otherwise the Byzantine occupation lay directly above Late Hellenistic levels. Wall 11, at the northern end of the West Cut, though of low quality and probably a late replacement for the original north wall of the veranda, held back a large Late Hellenistic dump that contained thousands of potsherds, predominantly fragments of large jars. These jars were, for the most part, of local drab-colored wares without any ribbing; there were, however, a number of fragments of imported wine jars of the Rhodian type, and several stamped handles were recovered (Pl. XXXVII).

The Late Hellenistic stratum proved to lie quite close beneath the Byzantine-Umayyad houses; after only a relatively thin layer of mixed Byzantine and Hellenistic-Roman remains, pure Late Hellenistic pottery was found in all loci. The soil of this stratum was a distinctive orange-brown to gray-brown indicative of conflagration, and many of the potsherds in the stratum showed signs of burning. The few legible coins recovered from these levels, cleaned and identified after the end of the season, gave a narrow range of time for this stratum: approximately the last third of the second century B.C. down to the reign of Alexander Jannaeus of Palestine (represented by a single coin). Hence the statement of Josephus that Pella was destroyed by the Jews under Alexander Jannaeus is given strong archaeological support. The *terminus ante quem* for the corpus of artifacts found in this stratum is thus 83/82 B.C. Included prominently in this corpus is Eastern Sigillati A and thick, molded glass vessels of hemispherical shape. When the pottery of this stratum is fully published it will afford an important datum-point for other Transjordanian and Palestinian ceramics.

The architectural remains associated with the Late Hellenistic stratum were difficult to interpret. As the plan (Pl. XXV) shows, half of the long trench was taken up by walls or (as was often the case) rubblestone cobbling, the function of much of which was by no means clear. Walls 17 and 20 continued well down into the Late Hellenistic stratum, but it is not yet certain that the walls are of that later date. It may be that the builders of the Byzantine-Umayyad

structures dug through the accumulated Hellenistic debris in preparation for their own buildings, and that they filled in around their walls with soil containing Late Hellenistic potsherds. If this was indeed the case, then it cannot be expected that there be discernable foundation trenches. The question of the architectural remains that date from the Late Hellenistic phase in this area is one that will be given careful attention next season.

The West Cut thus yielded important archaeological information during the 1979 Woosten session. The uppermost stratum had relatively well preserved buildings of Late Byzantine and Umayyad times, while the Late Hellenistic stratum produced a narrowly datable, abundant corpus of potsherds and other artifacts. It is quite significant that the Sydney team, excavating on the eastern side of the mound, found very much the same kind of archaeological remains, as their report indicates. The two groups of evidence thus tend strongly to support one another.

## AREA IX (The Civic Complex)

The Wooster contingent made a start in 1979 on the group of classical ruins lying on a small salient that extends from the southeastern lower corner of the mound into the Wadi Jirm, close to the spring of Pella. Even before excavation one could see a number of large column drums, smaller columns, bases, cornices and other architectural members lying as an earthquake had tumbled them down. Although some lines of walls were visible at several places, the present state of the ruins made impossible any coherent plan based only on visible remains.

Excavation began near the center of this cluster of ruins, where the flatness of the present surface tended to suggest that some kind of floor might lie beneath the debris. A group of 5 x 5 m. plots was laid out and the difficult work of excavating amid the tumbled stones began. All architectural stones were numbered and recorded on a plan, both those on the surface prior to excavation and ones uncovered during excavation. When possible, these stones were moved to storage spots some distance from the area of excavation, so that there would be room in which excavation could take place.

It soon became apparent that the place chosen for excavation was not, contrary to the expectations of many earlier visitors to Pella, a temple, but a courtyard with a colonnade on at least three sides (the fourth side not yet having been exposed). Found amid the debris above the courtyard were some Mamluk potsherds that indicated brief occupation of a part of the area centuries after regular occupation had ceased. Below this late occupation were sherds, and occasionally almost intact vessels, of Umayyad date (Pl. XXX), similar to those which had been found in 1967 in the West Church debris. Presumably, then, the earthquake of ca. A.D. 746 had been the cause of the final destruction and abandonment of this area, as elsewhere at the site. Clearly the courtyard and adjoining buildings no longer served their earlier purpose by the time of the earthquake.

As more of the architectural members of the colonnade were exposed, it became apparent that the courtyard had undergone considerable reconstruction during the Byzantine period, probably after earlier earth tremors had damaged it severely. Byzantine craftsmen may have replaced some of the columns with ones from elsewhere at the site. Two particularly crucial bases which they used to support a rebuilt Roman arch at the western end of the courtyard were entirely unlike in appearance; indeed, one of them was not a column base at all, but a pedestal for an altar or statue. Probably this work took place at a time when the courtyard and its adjacent buildings had been converted into an ecclesiastical complex, if one may judge from a rude inscription seen by Schumacher in the Nineteenth Century and still lying amid the Civic Complex ruins, which specifies that a particular place in the complex was "reserved for the elders" of the church.

Deep soundings made between key walls of the courtyard platform confirmed, through ceramics found, the extensive nature of the Byzantine rebuilding of the complex, but at the same time gave clear indication that the complex had had its origin, or at least a major phase of construction, in the Roman period, probably in the First Century A.D. It was at that time that the portico had been constructed, and quite possibly all of the structures that stood on the north, west and south of the courtyard; fuller information will be forthcoming in future seasons.

A wide, short flight of steps led from the western side of the courtyard to a large chamber that was found to be completely robbed or eroded away; only massive support-walls remained

(Pl. XXXI). This chamber had been entered through a huge doorway that stood between two widely spaced columns that had been surmounted by a shallow arch executed in simple Roman architectural style, consisting of thirteen well dressed stones, all of which lay close to the place from which they had fallen in the Eighth Century. It is hoped that, as the original positions of the column bases of the courtyard become more clearly known through excavation, the supporting columns and the stones of this arch can be reset in their original positions.

The temple, if indeed that is what it was, presumably was to the north of the courtyard. It is here that the large column drums lay prior to excavation. Toward the end of the 1979 field operations excavation proceeded into this location, where two bases belonging with the large drums were exposed, along with a much-damaged capital (Pl. XXXII). The two bases can hardly be in their original positions, but only further excavation can hope to reveal their original functions or locations. Close by are a number of smaller columns with Ionic capitals, which may prove to be connected with a temple or other structure. At present it cannot be said that any temple has yet been located.

As the Wooster session progressed I directed that work commence amid the tumbled stones that lie south of the courtyard, where the ruins drop off toward the Wadi Jirm. Here visitors in earlier decades noticed traces of some sort of semicircular architectural structure which they assumed was a Roman theater. Although only a single crew could, for the most part, be assigned to work in this location, a long, curving wall did indeed begin to appear. In due course the remnant of a semicircular vaulted passageway was exposed, and further inside was found a well dressed stone molding. By the end of field operations for the season, no seats had yet been discovered. At present the purpose of the building is still unexplained, for it is quite small for a theater and considerably too large for an odeon. Next season work will continue in this intriguing structure, where it is possible that significant architectural remains will be found approximately 2 m. below the present bed of the Wadi Jirm.

One of the deep soundings made during the 1979 work in this complex was in a small triangular space between the portico of the courtyard and the semicircular building. Near the surface, in a disused plastered drainage channel, a very well preserved female skeleton was discovered (Pl. XXXIII). The body had been buried on its right side, facing Mecca. The only artifacts interred with the corpse were a few beads and heavy bronze bracelets, one of the latter of which had fragments of cloth adhering to it. Nearby was situated a small, shallow, cylindrical footbath built into the floor; its flat bottom and sides were tiled with coarse white limestone tesserae. The bath had been constructed above a mosaic paving executed in coloured limestone tesserae, which parallels from other sites indicate dated from about the Sixth Century A.D. Beside this small room was an arch containing but a single course of stones; the function of the arch was not discovered, even though the sounding probed several meters deep. Byzantine sherds and considerable quantities of discarded decorative marble and limestone pieces, the latter presumably from the remodeling of nearby buildings, were found in the sounding (Pl. XXXIV).

During the recording week scheduled for the end of the Wooster session, after all excavation had ceased, several of the columns of the courtyard were reset in the places where they had stood during the structure's final phase of use (Pl. XXXV). This task was accomplished with the help of a large mobile crane provided by the Department of Antiquities. In order to make room for more extensive excavations next season, seven drums of one of the large columns were reset on the base from which they fell, and three drums were replaced on the adjoining base. This work, and some of that done in the colonnade, must be regarded as temporary, pending further archaeological investigations in the Civic Complex. If the Department can continue to offer material assistance in the work of restoration at Pella, more of the fallen architectural elements of the Civic Complex can be restored in seasons to come.

#### AREA I (The West Church)

The College's 1967 excavations in the West Church had provided enough information for a provisional history of that large structure to be given. Although some archaeological questions remained, the primary need in this area was for further clearing and ultimate restoration of some parts of the building. Many of the columns that had once stood in the atrium were



visible amid the soil that had accumulated over the centuries. Several courses of the wall between the atrium and the church still lay as they had fallen in the final earthquake in the mid-Eighth Century. Because we were not budgeted for restoration, I requested of Dr. Hadidi that the Department of Antiquities pay the wages of ten to twenty labourers who would clear the atrium of debris. Dr. Hadidi graciously agreed, and by the end of the spring session most of the south half of the atrium had been cleared to the level of the paving. Much of the paving had, however, been removed after the church had fallen into disuse.

The task of clearing away the debris proved to be more difficult than I had anticipated, for the reason that during the second half of the Seventh Century the atrium had undergone extensive alteration. The massive wall had been razed on the south, and in the southern colonnade builders had constructed a series of rooms of small, reused stones. These late walls, found tumbled down amid the soil, made the removal of soil difficult. Fortunately we had Wooster's old Ford tractor, a survival of the 1967 field operations, to help with stone-removal.

We found nothing during these activities to alter the history of the West Church that I proposed in *Pella I*. The late chambers in the south portico had already been abandoned at the time of the earthquake of A.D. 746, for all that was found amid the debris there, and elsewhere in the clearing operations, was early Umayyad pottery and occasional clusters of discarded pottery dating from about A.D. 725.

A sounding was carried out near the center of the atrium, where the paving was missing. The uppermost meter of earth was almost sterile, but then a productive layer of wash containing Middle Bronze II through Late Bronze I pottery was encountered. Although almost entirely horizontal across the 5 x 5 m. square, this stratum dropped off sharply on the eastern side of the sounding. A meandering, shapeless pocket of the same range of pottery went down into the soil more than a meter. It was hoped at first that this pit was the filled entrance shaft to an LB tomb, but eventually the vein of MB-LB pottery terminated. Interestingly enough, this pocket showed no evidence whatever of being an occupation spot. The artifacts beneath the MB-LB stratum of the sounding proved to be much earlier than anything previously excavated at the site, dating back as far as *ca.* 5000 B.C., but also ranging forward into EB III times. Most of the early pottery was simple; none of it was painted, and only a very few sherds had incised or impressed patterns on the surface. Like the stratum above it, this early stratum showed no stratigraphy within the soil of the stratum, and no sign of domestic utilization of the spot. Many worked flints were found, but only a few of these were intact, fine-quality specimens. All of the ceramics, stone and bone found in this early habitation-spot must be studied in detail before fuller interpretation can be given.

During the final week of the session, while the Department's crane was still at Pella, three of the columns on the east side of the atrium were reset to the positions they had occupied before the final collapse of the structure (Pl. XXXVI). The three columns had been found lying close to their bases, with their capitals beside them. There can be no reasonable doubt about their positions while the church was still being used by Byzantine Christians. Next season, if the Department can once again extend its cooperation, we shall try to complete the clearing of the atrium, to reset other columns, and to reset as many courses of the east wall of the atrium as possible. In subsequent seasons we may be able to devote some attention to the interior of the church, where some archaeological questions remain to be answered.

### AREA VIII (The South Cemetery)

The crew assigned the task of finding tombs first probed a location on the lower slopes of Tell el-Husn, close to the Wadi Jirm. There one could see, on the steep hillside, the remnants of several walls, one of which showed the stubs of doorways. Recalling that one of the coins of Pella shows, at about that spot, small buildings that might be mausoleums, the crew commenced operations there. What they found proved to be not a Roman mausoleum but a Byzantine house. The archaeological information about the structure went into field records as Area X, but then the spot was abandoned, since we did not wish to undertake excavation in a Byzantine residential area at that time.

The crew moved to a more promising location far to the south at the site, past Tell el-Husn and behind yet another large hill, where there is a narrow, steep canyon. The crest of the hill had been occupied in Roman and Byzantine times, as occasional potsherds lying on the surface

indicated. There were a few signs that the slope might have been used for tombs, but the only way to find out was to dig. Starting at one small opening in the hillside that looked as if it might be the eroded top of a tomb-chamber, the crew probed horizontally into compacted soil seeking a cliff. This they eventually found, but there were no tombs.

The next probe, made only a short distance away, exposed a cutting in the rock that proved, when the excavators came upon clusters of bones, to be a tomb. Encouraged, they probed deeper and found other burials, and a few objects; among these were some small beads and a bit of twisted gold foil that looked as if it had been ripped from a cadaver by a robber and then lost by him amid the dust.

Another probe into the hillside was more productive. The excavators found a part of a stone door, pushed out of place by tomb robbers, and behind it an opening leading into a chamber. Inside was a simple, massive sarcophagus, half buried in fallen rock from the ceiling and soil that had washed in from the doorway. It was soon apparent that the ceiling of the tomb had originally been the floor of a tomb above it. Before long the workmen accidentally broke through the floor of the lower tomb with their picks and discovered another tomb at a lower level on the slope. The floor of that tomb, in turn, had collapsed into a tomb at a yet lower level, in which there were two sarcophagi. In this way, four tombs, one approximately above the other, were discovered.

All of the tombs were of the loculus type. Each had a rectangular chamber, on one side of which was the door and occasionally a single loculus; radiating out from the other three sides were loculi. Many of the loculi had not been used, but in those that had been used there were typical funerary offerings, all dating from the late First Century A.D. into the early third century: glass vessels of various kinds (Pl. XXIX), some small ceramic vessels (including a rare Hellenistic survival, a molded gray-ware bowl with delicate fluting (Pl. XXXVIII), found in fragmentary condition); a few lamps, some beads, a couple of gold earrings and bits of leather, wooden and floral objects placed in the sarcophagi or loculi. Most unusual was a cookpot of approximately Second Century date that contained the bones of a newborn child and two hens' eggs, the latter apparently placed unbroken into the pot. Most of the skeletal material was greatly deteriorated. Some bones had been cut through by the hoe of the robbers. Still, some dozens of skeletons were obtained for anthropological study.

The Wooster session of the 1979 season of the Joint Expedition to Pella was quite productive, and paves the way for future archaeological work at the site. Already new light is being shed on both the important transitional Byzantine-Umayyad period and the Late Hellenistic era at Pella. The discoveries in the Civic Complex have begun to open significant new possibilities for the study of civic planning at the site, and the discovery of very early artifacts deep beneath the West Church has extended our knowledge of the occupation of Pella by a millennium and a half. We can expect some continuing illumination of the city's past from the excavation of tombs, although the prospect of the discovery of major undisturbed tombs in any given season is probably slight. With the assistance of the Department of Antiquities, we hope to continue to re-erect some of the city's fallen architecture. Once again, but in new and different ways, Pella will live.

---

## NOTES

1. In this article the following abbreviations are used.

- Ancient Pottery:* Amiran, R. *Ancient Pottery of the Holy Land* (Jerusalem, 1969).  
*Beth Shan:* Rowe, A. and Fitzgerald, G.M. *Beth-Shan Excavations I-III* (Philadelphia, 1930-1940).  
*Dhiban:* Winnett, Fred V. and Reed, William, L. *The Excavations at Dibon (Dhībân) in Moab, A.A.S.O.R. XXXVI-XXXVII* (New Haven, 1957 - 1958).  
*Heshbon:* Sauer, J. *Heshbon Pottery 1971* (Michigan, 1973).  
*Khirbet Kerak:* Delougaz, P. and Haines, R.C. *A Byzantine Church at Khirbat al-Karak* (Chicago, 1960).  
*Khirbet Fahil:* Richmond, J. *Khirbet Fahil, PEFQS* 1934, 18-31.

- Lachish III:* Tufnell, O.C. and Harding, L. *Lachish (Tell ed-Duweir) III: The Iron Age* (Oxford, 1953).
- PCC:* Lapp, P.W. *Palestinian Ceramic Chronology 200 B.C. - A.D. 70* (Jerusalem, 1961).
- Pella I:* Smith, R.H. *Pella of the Decapolis I* (College of Wooster, 1973).
- Pella 1888:* Schumacher, G. *Pella* (London, 1888). Also published bound with two other surveys as *Abila, Pella and Northern Ajlun 'within the Decapolis'* (London, n.d.).
- Tarsus I:* Goldman, H. *Excavations at Gözliü Kule, Tarsus I: The Hellenistic and Roman Periods* (Princeton, 1950).
- Sahab:* Harding, G.L. An Iron Age Tomb at Sahab, *Q.D.A.P. 13* (1948), pp. 92ff.
- Samaria-Sebaste III:* Crowfoot, J.W. Crowfoot, G.M. and Kenyon, K.M. *Samaria-Sebaste III: The Objects from Samaria* (London, 1957).
- TCHP:* Thompson, H.P. Two Centuries of Hellenistic Pottery, *Hesperia III* (1934), 311-480.
- Tel Anafa:* Weinberg, S.S. Tel Anafa: The Hellenistic Town, *IEJ 21* (1971), 86-109.
- Tell en-Naşbeh II:* Wampler, J.C. *Tell en-Naşbeh II: The Pottery* (Berkeley and New Haven, 1947).

The pottery citations in this report are, of course, not complete. They are attended as a guide only.

2. For a full history of literary reference to the site see *Pella I*, Chs I-II.
3. Richardson, H.N. Kh. Fahil (Pella), *RB 67* (1960), 242-243.
4. The Sydney expedition was mainly financed by The Australian Research Grants Council, The Australian National Gallery, The University of Sydney, The Foundation for Near Eastern Archaeology, The University of New England and The Ashmolean Museum.
5. Directors Dr. A.W. McNicoll and Professor J.B. Hennessy; Assoc. Director Mr. A. Walmsley; Registrars Lady M. Wheeler and Miss E. Roberts; Camp and Site Supervisor Mrs. J.P. Smith; Site Supervisors Mr. S. Hart, Mr. J. Hosking, Miss K. Kelly, Mr. D. Petocz, Mr. T. Potts, Professor J. Still, Dr. J. Tidmarsh, Miss L. Villiers; Ceramic Technologist and Site Supervisor Mr. W. I. Edwards; Photographers Miss J. Hall and Mr. M. Lorimer; Draughtsmen Miss J. Hall and Miss P. Seaton; Architect Mr. G. Martin; Department Representatives and Site Supervisors Mr. Hikmet Ta'ani and Mr. Ghassan Ramahi; Foreman Mr. Badri Madi.
6. The material from the house floor has parallels amongs the remains from Stratum V at Tel Goren, late 7th-6th centuries B.C. Mazar, B., Dothan, Trude, Dunayevsky, I. The Excavations at Tel Goren (Tell el-Jurn) in 1961-1962, *'Atiqot V* (1966), 13ff.
7. Hankey, V. Mycenaean Pottery in the Near East *BSA 62* (1967), 123, reports the discovery at Pella of '35-50' IIIAZ and IIIB pots in tombs along with a vast number of Palestinian LBII vessels. These vessels, stored at the Jerash Museum are reported to have been destroyed in the troubles of 1971.
8. Svoronos, N. *Τὰ Νομίσματα τοῦ Κρατοῦς τῶν Πτολεμαίων*. (Athens, 1904-1908), nos 712-715 for general type.
9. Cook, R.M. *Greek Painted Pottery* (London, 1960), Pl. 56A shows a complete vessel from the Athenian Agora with identical plastic and painted decoration, dated to the first half of the 2nd century. cf. *Tarsus I*, Pl. 124, no. 95, from the Middle Hellenistic unit (3rd century and early 2nd) and *TCHP*, 274-5, D25 and D26 (mid-2nd century).  
Professor J.R. Green, who kindly examined a slide of the sherd, suggests that a date in the first quarter of the 3rd century might be appropriate in view of its quality.
10. cf. *Tel Anafa*, 103, and *TCHP*, fig. 117, D5 (shape).
11. Pausanias: Grace, V.R. *Hesperia III* (1934), 224-5, nos 36-37.  
Charmocles: Grace, V.R. Timbres amphoriques trouves a Delos, *BCH 1952*, 530.  
Artemidoros: *Ibid.*, 526.  
Damocrates: *Hesperia III* (1934), 238-9, nos 90-92 and *BCH 1952*, 526.
12. *Tel Anafa*, 101.
13. *PCC*, 193, type 82.
14. *Tarsus I*, 100-6, groups III-VI; *TCHP*, 387, D54.
15. cf. *PCC*, 194, type 83.2A.
16. Josephus *Antiquities XIII*, xv, 2-4.
17. Merrill, S. *East of the Jordan* (London, 1881), 184.
18. *Pella (1888)* Frontispiece.
19. *Pella (1888)*, 56.
20. *Khirbet Fahil*, 28.
21. *Pella (1888)*, 51.
22. *Khirbet Fahil*, 31.
23. *Khirbet Fahil*, 26.
24. *Pella (1888)*, 55.
25. *Pella I*, Ch. IV.
26. General types as in Bellinger, A.R. *Catalogue of the Byzantine Coins in the Dumbarton Oaks Collection I: Anastasius I to Maurice* (Washington, 1966). Precise identifications have not yet been made.

27. cf. Grierson, P. *Catalogue of the Byzantine Coins in the Dumbarton Oaks Collection II, 1: Phocas and Heraclius* (Washington, 1968), 109a.
28. Walker, J. *Catalogue of Muhammedan Coins in the British Museum II: Arab-Byzantine and Post-reform Umayyad* (London, 1956). The coins are both badly corroded and may prove impossible to identify precisely.
29. cf. *Pella I* Pl. 30.
30. Hayes, J.W. *Late Roman Pottery* (London, 1972), 130-1, 329, African Red Slip Ware, Form 83, and Late Roman C Ware, Form 3.
31. It must be emphasized that for none of the wares or forms found in the large building can we assert that we have a complete horizon. Any of these shapes or wares may be found in earlier desposits in future seasons.
32. *Khirbet Kerak*, 37-39, Pl. 40.
33. *Heshbon*, 41 (with refs) and fig. 3, nos 123-5; *Heshbon*, 38; *Pella I*, 224 and 231, pl. 29, no. 1195.
34. *Pella I*, 235.
35. *Heshbon*, 44-48.
36. *Khirbet Kerak*, 34; *Pella I*, 234.
37. *Pella I*, 225; Pl. 90D, nos 1204 and 1216.
38. *Pella I*, 229-230.
39. *Heshbon*, 48.
40. For comparative material see Sussman, Varda, *A Burial Cave at Kefar 'Ara, 'Atiqot XI* (1976), pp. 92ff.; Iliffe, J.H. Rock-cut Tomb at Tarshina, *Q.D.A.P. III* (1933), pp. 9ff.; A Tomb at El Bassa of c. A.D. 396, *Q.D.A.P. III* (1933), pp. 81ff.; Hussein, S.A.S. A Fourth Century A.D. Tomb, Beit Fajjar, *Q.D.A.P. IV* (1935), pp. 175 ff.; Hussein, S.A.S. and Hamilton, R.W. Shaft Tomb on the Nablus Road, Jerusalem, *Q.D.A.P. IV* (1935), pp. 170ff.; Hussein, S.A.S. A Rock-cut Tomb-Chamber at 'Ain Yabrud, *Q.A.D.P. VI* (1936), pp. 54ff.; *Pella I*, Tomb 2.
41. Dr. Richard Whitaker, Dr. Leslie Day and Ruth Rodrigues were area supervisors; working under them were six College of Wooster students: Lynne Bauer, Mary Gledhill, Harry Mergler, Eric Pearson, Donald Rice and Fawz Schoup. Also assisting in field excavation were two representatives of the Department of Antiquities, Sultan H. Shraideh and M. Omar Reshaidat. Pierre Bikai was in charge of technical operations involving architectural remains. Brian Cannon was surveyor. William Fisher was staff botanist and Ilse Koehler zoologist. Dr. Ahmad Disi of the University of Jordan served as consultant on physical anthropology. Marian Ronsheim was registrar, Karen McDiarmid photographer and Joyce McKay camp manager. Badri H. Madi was foreman and Muhammad Abu Aref was cook.