

**PRELIMINARY REPORT ON A SECOND
SEASON OF EXCAVATION AT
PELLA, JORDAN**

Winter, 1980

by

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The University of Sydney¹ conducted its second season of excavation at Tabaqat Fahl (Pella) from December 27th, 1979 to March 10th, 1980 as part of the joint Sydney/Wooster expedition to Pella. The programme of work was commenced in December 1978² and is conducted in collaboration with the Department of Antiquities of Jordan. The expedition wishes to express its thanks to the Director-General, Dr Adnan Hadidi and members of the Department of Antiquities for their continued support in all aspects of the work.

A successful season saw excavations continued and expanded in Areas III and IV (fig. 1) on the main mound, where further important information was obtained on settlements of the Umayyad, Byzantine, Hellenistic

and Iron Age periods. In Area V (fig. 1), work continued on the excavation of the temple area several interesting tombs were dug high on the northern slopes of Tell Husn, Area XI (fig. 1). The tombs belonged to the late Middle Bronze and early Late Bronze Ages and give promise of further rich rewards in the area. Miss Linda Villiers, a member of the team, conducted an intensive surface survey on the hills a kilometre to the north-east of the main mound and has produced evidence of lower Palaeolithic occupation.

The Tombs - Area XI (Pl. LXXVII, 1 & Fig. 1)

Remains of four tombs were discovered high on the northern face of Tell Husn during the latest season of excavations at Pella. Three

1. The expedition was again largely financed by The Australian Research Grants Council, The Australian National Gallery and The University of Sydney. Further contributions were made by The University of Queensland, The University of New England and The Australian Institute of Archaeology, Melbourne. We wish to express our gratitude to all these bodies. The members of the expedition were: Basil Hennessy and Tony McNicoll (Directors); Alan Walmsley (Site Director); Pat Smith (Camp Director/Draughtsman); Liz Roberts (Cataloguing); Jon Hosking (Photography); Ian Edwards (Ceramic Technologist and Supervisor); John Tidmarsh (Expedition

Medico/Supervisor); Sue Balderstone (Architect); Annie Searight-Macdonald (Conservator); Karina Kelly, Peta Seaton, Jill Tidmarsh, Tim Potts (Supervisors); Dr Ghazi Bisheh and Mr Sultan Shraideh, Mr Mohammed Darwish (Department of Antiquities Representatives and Supervisors) with Mr Badri Madi as the "all-essential" foreman. Miss Linda Villiers with her representative, Mr Sami Abaddi, have been working on an adjacent Lower Palaeolithic site from the Pella headquarters.

2. See reports forthcoming in the *ADAJ*, Vol. XXIV (in press) and *BASOR* 239.

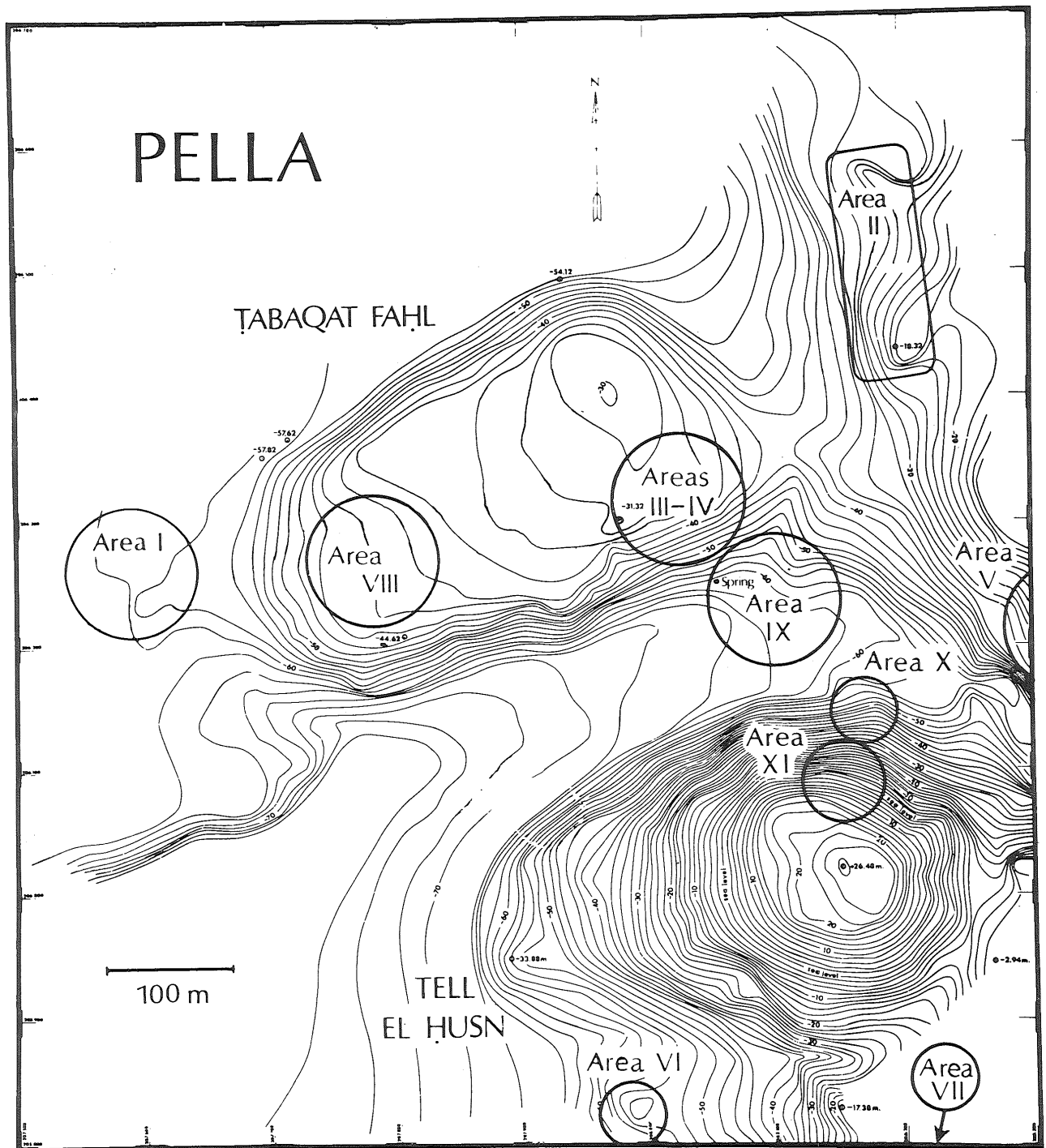


Fig. 1 Tabaqat Fahl (Pella). Site Plan.

of the tombs belonged to the latter part of the Middle Bronze Age. The fourth, a tomb with side chamber, contained material of the early years of the Late Bronze Age.

Two of the tombs, 18 (XI. 1), 19 (XI. 2), were represented by a mere half metre of the rear of the original chambers; the rest having washed down the steep slope of Tell Husn over the course of the past 3500 years. Ten metres to the east, tombs 20-22 (XI. 3-5) were in somewhat better condition, though again they had suffered badly from erosion, and the burials and offerings had been churned by frequent flooding of the chambers.

In the case of tombs 18 and 19 there could be no certainty that all of the finds were part of the original deposits as some of the vessels could quite easily be wash from eroded tombs higher up the slope. The surface soils of Husn are full of such vessels. The groups, however, do appear to be homogeneous. About 10% of the floor area of tomb 20 had similarly disappeared down the side of the hill; the remainder of the deposit appeared to be intact. Above the Late Bronze Age I deposit were vessels of Middle Bronze Age IIC, washed down from tomb 22 immediately above tomb 20. Tomb 21, a small side chamber from tomb 20, was robbed thoroughly, overnight, during the course of the excavation.

In this brief report only the major finds from the groups are published.

Tomb 18 (XI.1) (Fig.2)

Approximately half a square metre of the rear of the chamber remained. The finds ap-

peared to be in place on the floor of the chamber.

Finds

1. Fragment of face vase, M.B. buff. Very finely mixed clay with medium and tiny grits, fired orange-buff with thin grey inner face. Lightly polished creamy-buff slip inside and out. Modelled features with details picked out with added plastic ornament and incision. Thin, matt purple-brown paint to delimit area of face and in band around carination. Rim dia. 17.1 cms.
2. Dipper juglet. Sandy, gritty clay, fired buff on outer face. Lightly burnished wet slurry. Max. ht 19.3 cms; max. width 7.5 cms.
3. Miniature cylinder juglet. Finely mixed clay, sandy with many medium and tiny grits, fired light grey. Lightly burnished wet slurry. Max. ht 6.6 cms; max. width 4.4 cms.
4. Piriform jar. Clay as no. 3 but fired buff throughout. Thin, lightly burnished creamy slip. Decoration in matt purple-brown paint. Max. ht 12.5 cms; max. width 10.8 cms.
5. Lamp. Well mixed clay, sandy, with a great many medium and small grits, fired buff to orange-buff. Wet slurry. Max. ht 3.9 cms; max. width 12.8 cms.
6. Bronze toggle pin. Max. length 17.0 cms
7. Bronze toggle pin. Max. length 17.0 cms.
8. Bronze toggle pin. Remaining length 10.3 cms.
9. Pale green glass bead. Max. width 1.8 cms.

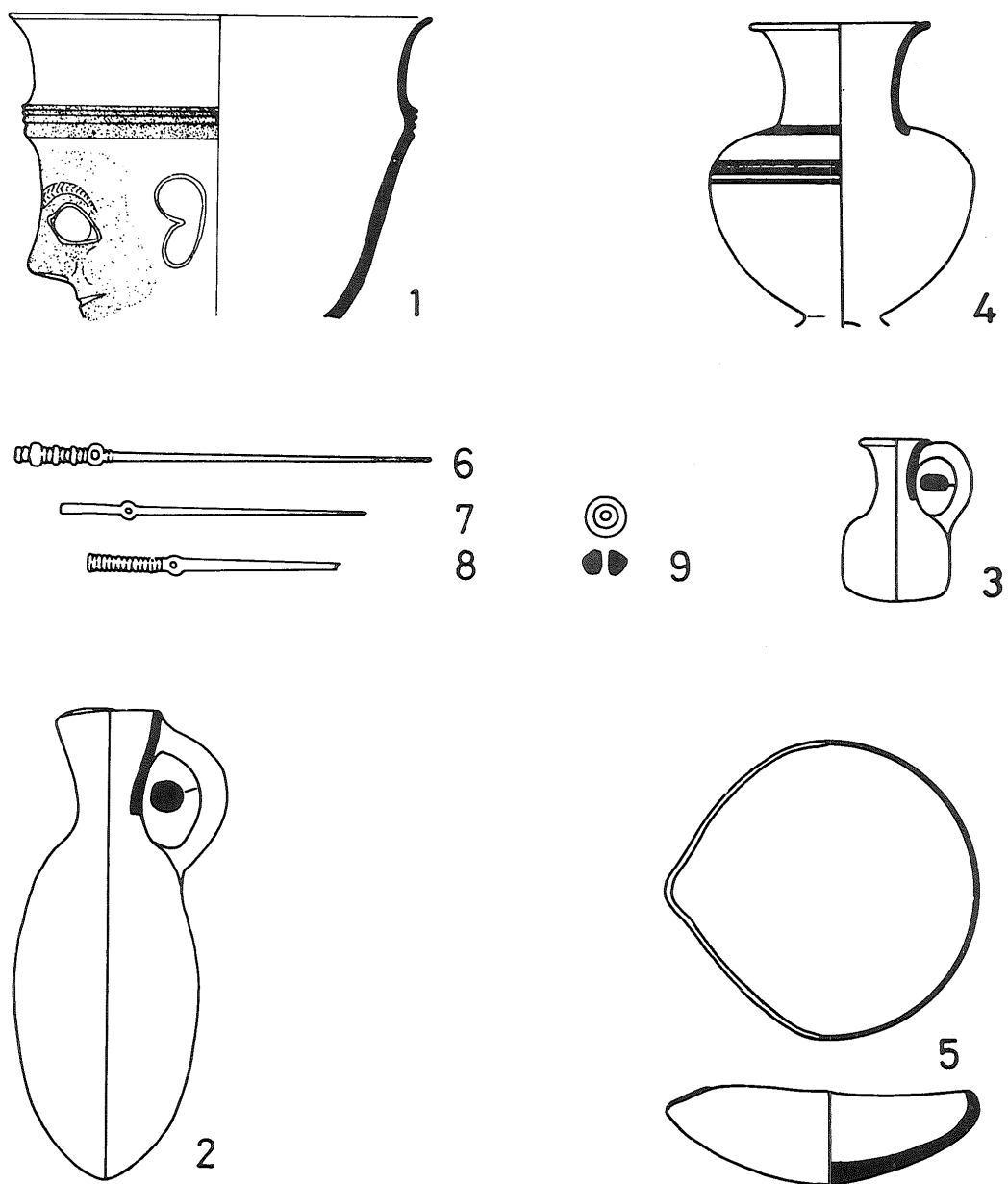


Fig. 2 Pella Tomb 18. Objects (scale 1:3).

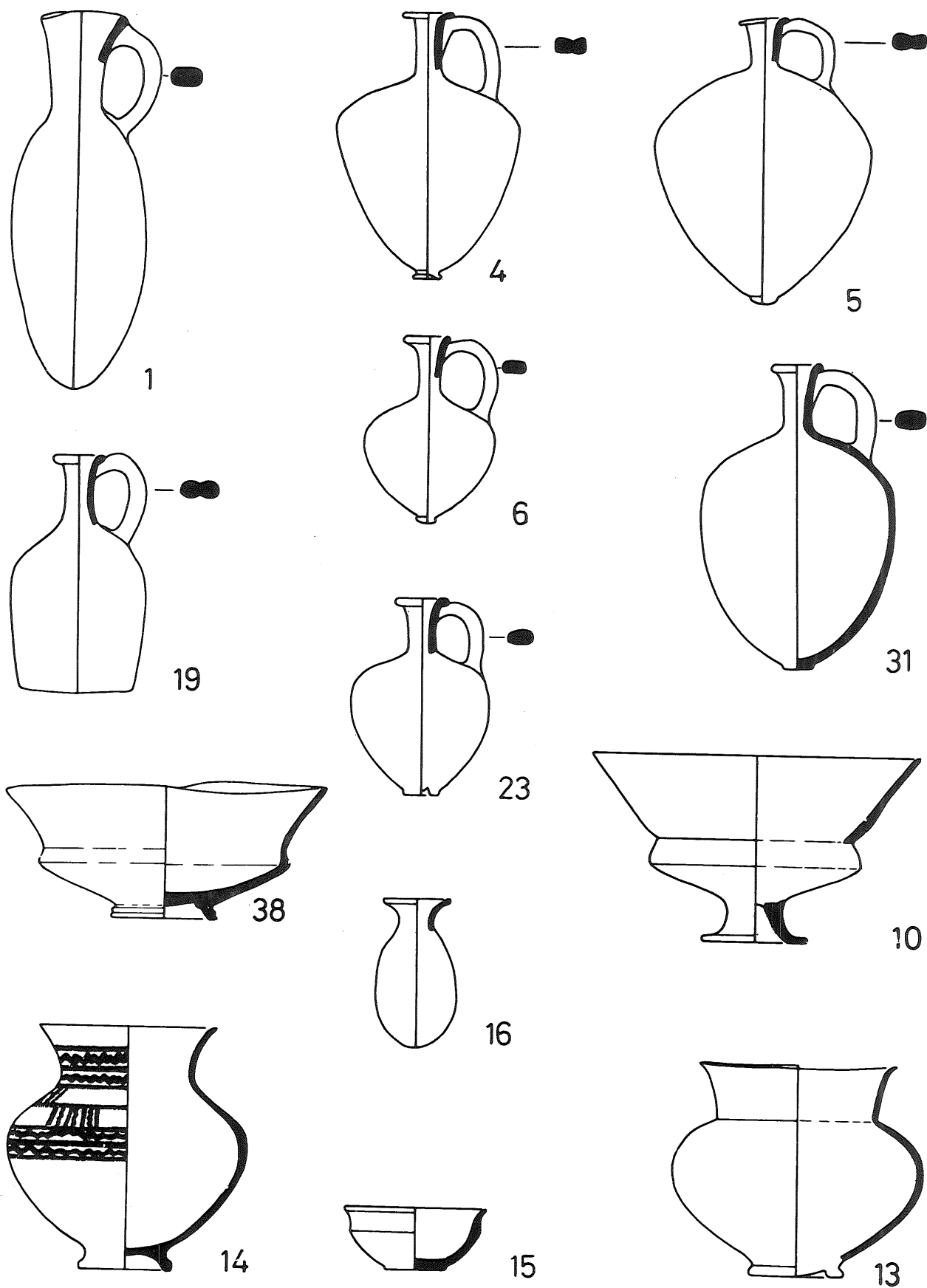


Fig. 3 Pella Tomb 19. Selected types (scale 1:3).

Tomb 19 (XI.2) (Fig.3)

A shallow niche 60 cms deep may represent the remains of a tomb chamber; but the thirty-eight vessels, piled in a heap, gave more the impression of having been washed from a tomb higher up the slope.

Finds

1. Dipper juglet. Very finely mixed clay, sandy with some small grits, fired orange-buff. Thin, burnished greyish-white slip. Max. ht 20.1 cms; max. width 7.1 cms. Nos 2, 3, 24, 25, 26, 27 similar.
4. Piriform juglet. Finely mixed clay, sandy with many small and medium grits, fired buff. Thin, burnished light brown slip. Max. ht 14.0 cms; max. width 9.6 cms.
5. Piriform juglet. Clay as no. 4 but fired grey. Thin, highly burnished brown-black slip. Max. ht 15.0 cms; max. width 11.4 cms.
6. Piriform juglet. As no. 5. Max. ht 9.9 cms; max. width 6.9 cms.
10. Carinate bowl. Finely mixed clay, sandy with many medium and small grits, fired orange to brownish-buff. Thin, smoothed slip fired orange, pink and buff in patches. Max. ht 10.5 cms; rim dia. 18.1 cms. No. 11 similar, but shallower.
13. Small jar. Very finely mixed clay, sandy with tiny grits, fired buff. Wet slurry. Max. ht 11.3 cms; rim dia. 10.5 cms.
14. Small jar. Clay as no. 13. Thin, highly burnished white to greyish white slip. Painted decoration in thick, matt reddish-brown paint. Max. ht 12.9 cms; rim dia. 9.5 cms.
15. Miniature bowl. Finely mixed clay, sandy with a great many tiny white grits, fired brownish-buff with grey inner and outer faces. Wet slurry. Max. ht 3.3 cms; rim dia. 7.5 cms.
16. Alabastron. Alabaster. Max. ht 8.0 cms; max. width 4.3 cms. Nos 17 and 18 similar.
19. Cylindrical juglet. Well mixed clay, sandy with a great many medium and tiny grits, fired buff to orange-buff. Wet slurry. Max. ht 12.7 cms; max. width 7.1 cms. No. 20 similar.
23. Piriform juglet. Finely mixed clay, sandy with many medium and small grits, fired buff. Thin, highly burnished reddish-brown slip. Max. ht 10.5 cms; max. width 7.3 cms. Nos 32 and 34 similar.
31. Piriform juglet. Finely mixed clay, sandy with many medium and tiny grits, fired uniformly dark grey. Max. ht 16.2 cms; max. width 11.3 cms. Nos 9, 21, 28, 29, 30, 33 similar.
38. Carinate bowl. Very finely mixed clay, sandy with medium and tiny grits, fired orange-buff. Wet slurry. Max. ht 7.3 cms; rim dia. 17.2 cms.

Tomb 20 (XI.3) (Figs. 4-9)

The greater part of the floor area of the chamber of tomb 20 remained. The dromos and roof of the chamber had been washed away.

There were remains of seven burials in the tomb; but the deposit was so churned that

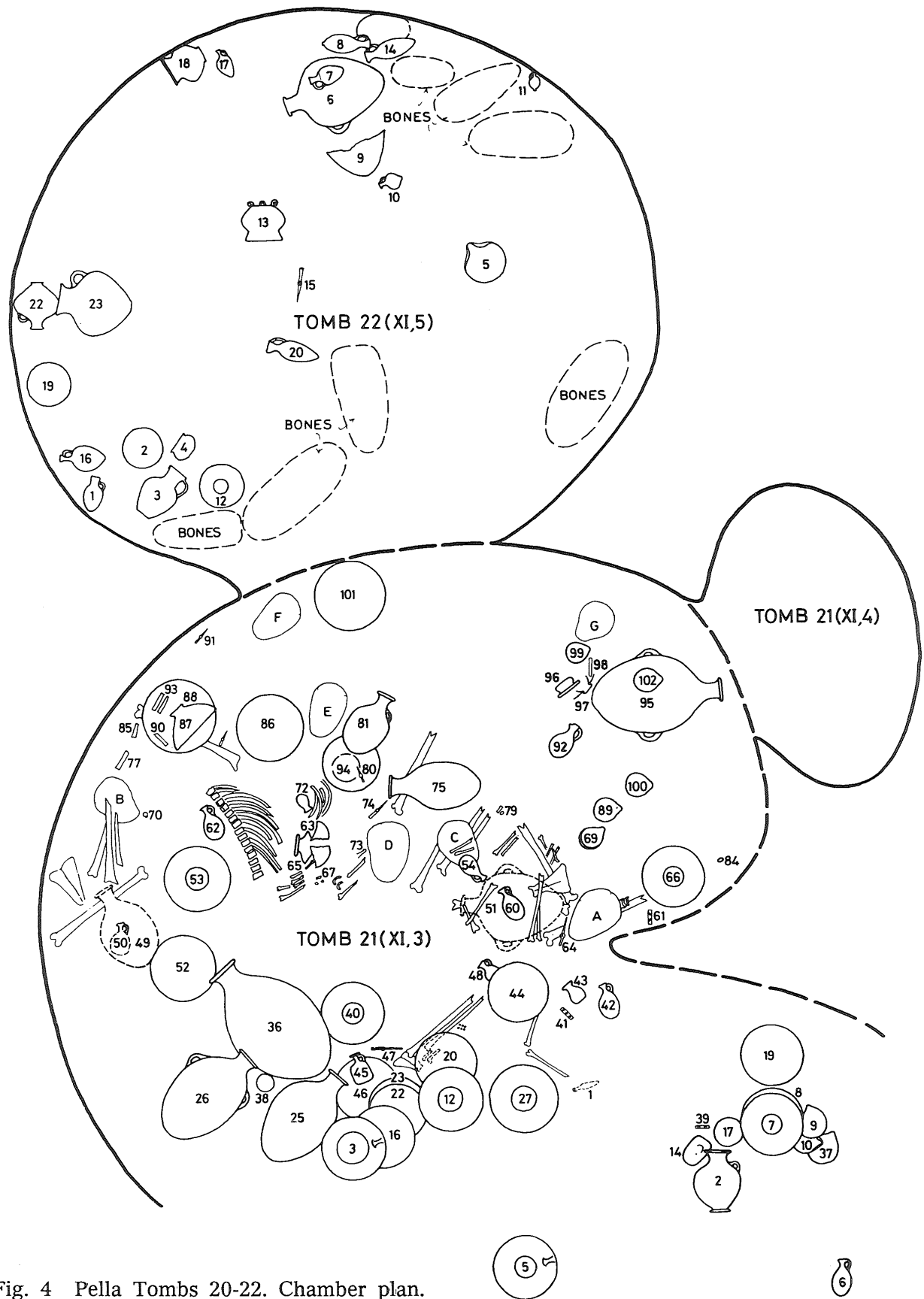
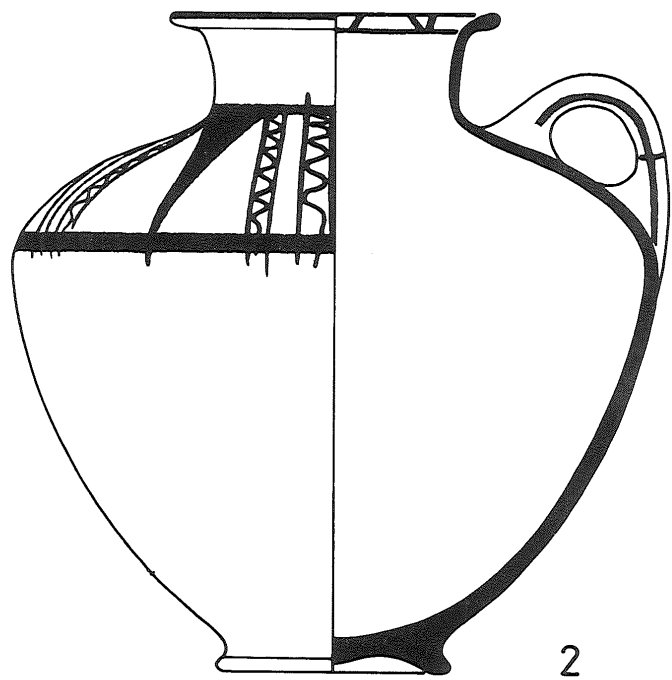
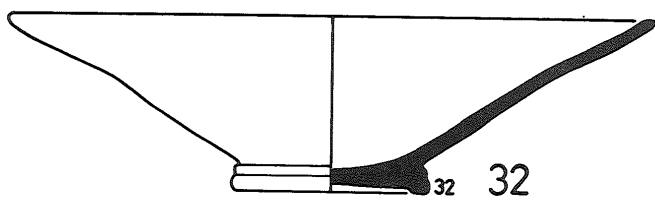


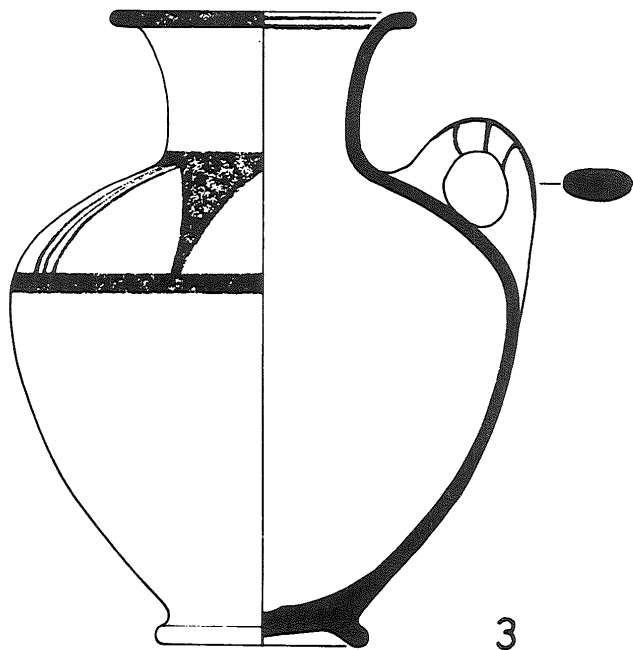
Fig. 4 Pella Tombs 20-22. Chamber plan.



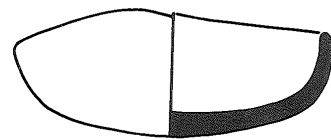
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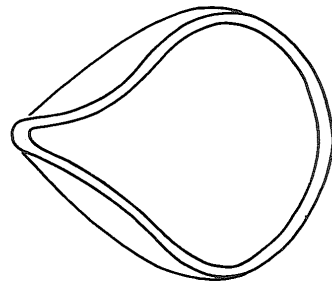
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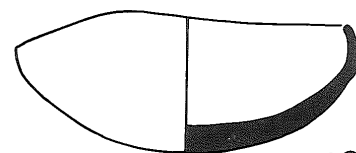
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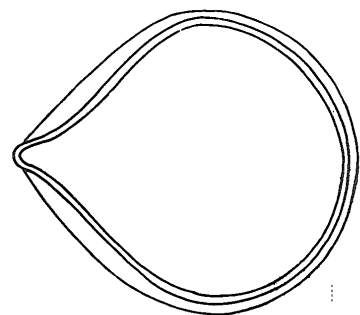
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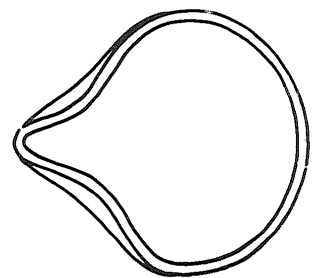
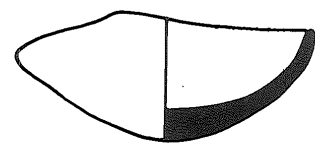


Fig. 5 Pella Tomb 20. Pottery (scale 1:3).

it must be doubtful if any were in their original position.

Tomb objects nos 1 and 51 were in an upper layer of wash, probably from the Middle Bronze Age tomb immediately above. Nos 49 and 50 were also above the main deposit but may have floated up in an earlier flooding of the tomb. No. 49 was inside no. 50.

Finds

1. Javelin (a) with tweezers (b) bronze - attached - length 4.9 cms; hollow-based javelin head with single rivet at end of shaft. Length 13.2 cms.
2. Chocolate-on-white jug. Very finely mixed clay with medium and tiny grits, fired orange-brown with thin grey inner and outer faces. An additional thin, orange-brown face on the body surface giving a sandwich effect in the section. Covered with thick, highly burnished, creamy-white slip. Slip extends over rim. Decoration in thick matt red-brown to orange-brown paint. Max. ht 26.3 cms; rim dia. 12.9 cms.
3. Chocolate-on-white jug. Very finely mixed clay with medium and tiny grits, fired orange-brown throughout. Thick, burnished creamy-white slip extending inside neck. Decoration in thick, matt purple-brown paint. Max. ht 25.2 cms; rim dia. 11.9 cms.
5. Chocolate-on-white jug. Well mixed but very gritty clay, fired orange-buff throughout. Thick, burnished creamy-white slip on outside. Decoration in thick, matt purple-brown paint. Slip and paint mostly worn off. Max. ht 29.6 cms; rim dia. 10.2 cms.
9. Lamp. Well mixed very gritty clay, fired brownish-buff. Wet slurry. Max. ht 4.9 cms; max. length 12.7 cms. Nos 29, 56 similar.
11. White Slip bowl. Very finely mixed clay with medium and tiny grits, fired creamy-buff. Thick, highly burnished milk-white slip. Max. ht 7.5 cms; rim dia. 19.8 cms. Nos 55 and 82 similar.
12. Decorated White Slip (Chocolate-on-white Ware) bowl. Very finely mixed clay with medium and tiny grits, fired buff. Thick, highly burnished milk-white slip inside and out. Decoration in matt reddish-brown paint. Max. ht 7.0 cms; rim dia. 21.2 cms. No. 87 similar.
13. Lamp. Clay and finish as no 9. Max. ht 5.4 cms; max. length 13.4 cms. Nos 10 and 20 similar.
15. Red Slip bowl. Intact. Fired buff on surface. Covered inside and out with matt, dark reddish-brown slip. Max. ht 8.3 cms; rim dia. 19.0 cms.
19. Buff Ware bowl. Intact. Well mixed but very gritty clay, fired brownish-buff. Wet slurry. Max. ht 7.3 cms; rim dia. 24.5 cms.
23. White Slip bowl. Clay and description as no. 11. Max ht 7.2 cms; rim dia. 20.0 cms.
27. White Slip bowl. Well mixed very gritty clay, fired buff throughout. Covered inside and out with a thick matt creamy-white slip. Max. ht 7.5 cms; rim dia. 25.5 cms. No. 88 similar.
32. Buff Ware bowl. Well mixed clay with a

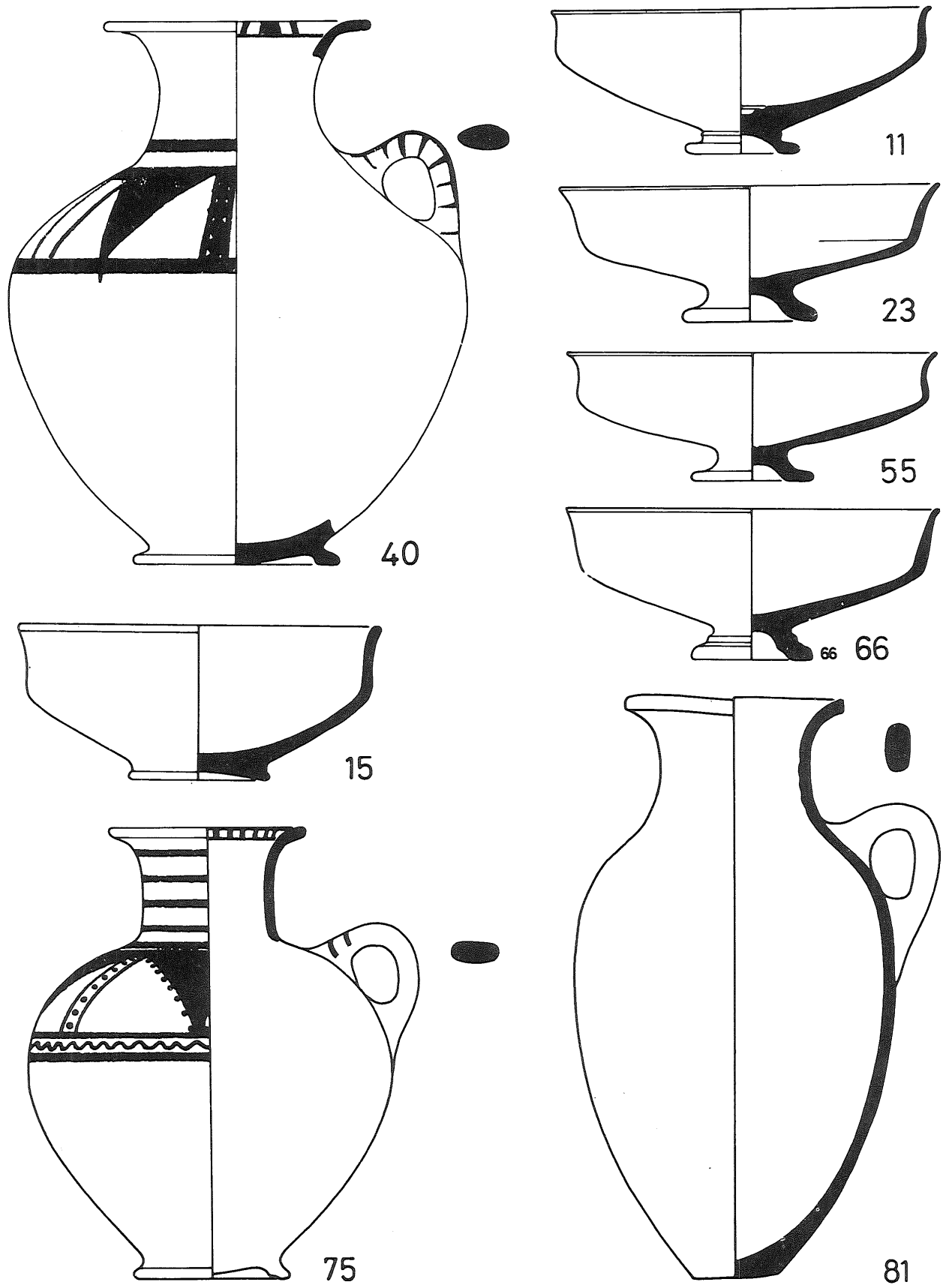


Fig. 6 Pella Tomb 20. Pottery (scale 1:3).

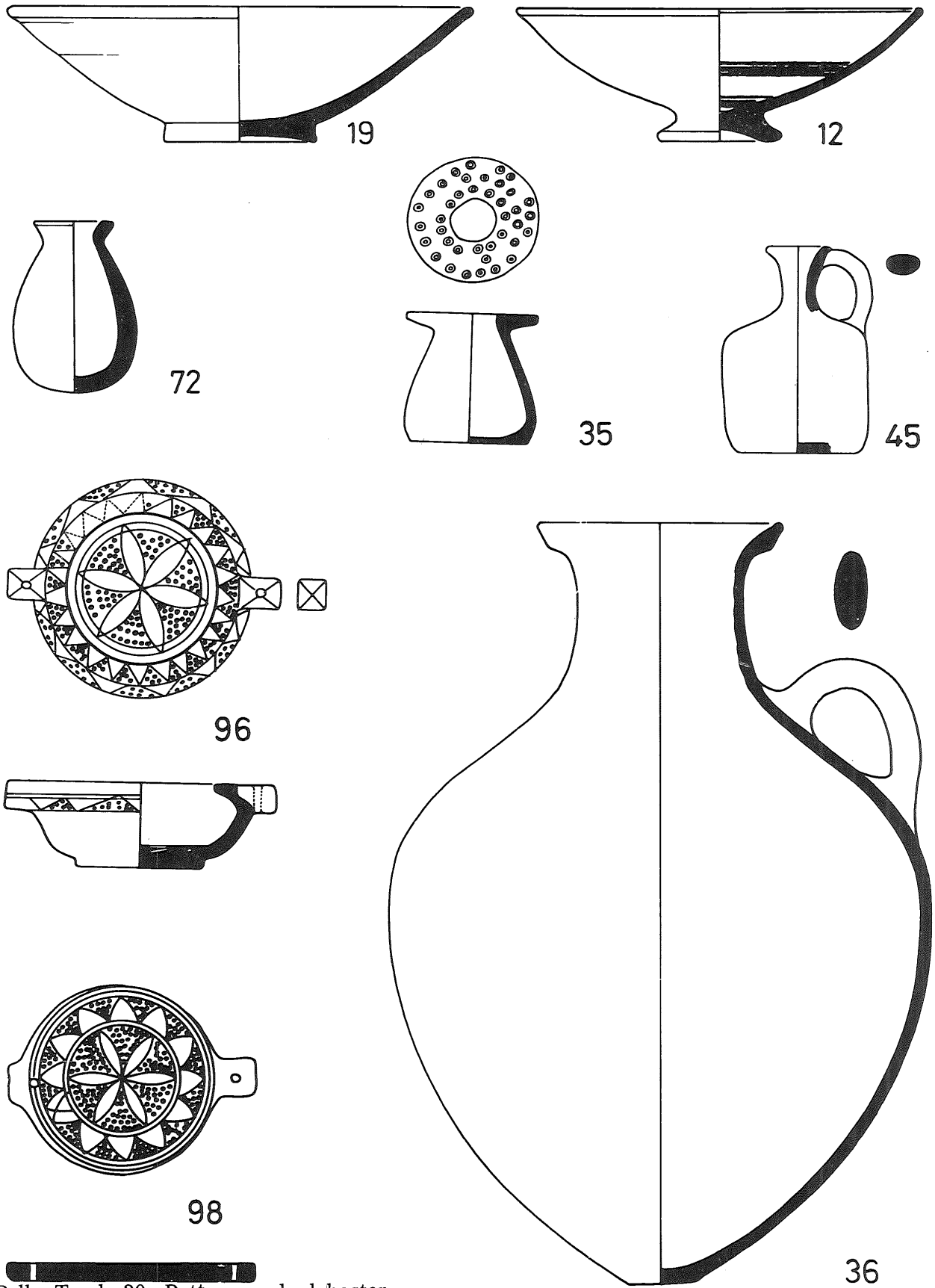


Fig. 7 Pella Tomb 20. Pottery and alabaster (scale 1:3).

- great many medium and tiny grits, fired greyish-buff with thin, buff inner and outer faces. Wet slurry. Max. ht 7.0 cms; rim dia. 25.3 cms.
35. Lamp. Well mixed but very gritty clay, fired brownish-buff. Wet slurry. Max. ht 5.1 cms; max. length 11.5 cms.
36. Large jug. Well mixed gritty clay fired brown on surface. Wet slurry. Covered outside with thick matt white slip. Max. ht 40.4 cms; rim dia. 12.8 cms.
38. Alabaster cosmetic jar. Ht. 6.7 cms; rim dia. 6.6 cms. Decorated with incised dot-filled circles.
39. Incised bone inlay fragments approx. 10.0 cms long; max. width 2.0 cms. Nos 41, 61, 68, 71, 77, 85, 90, 93 other examples of incised bone ornament.
40. Chocolate-on-white jug. Intact. Covered with thick highly burnished creamy-white slip. Decoration in matt reddish-brown paint. Max. Ht 28.6 cms; rim dia. 13.8 cms.
45. Buff Ware juglet. Cylindrical dipper juglet. Finely mixed clay with medium and tiny grits, fired buff to brown. Wet slurry. Max. ht 10.9 cms; max. width 7.6 cms.
47. Bronze toggle pin. Upper section of large bronze toggle pin; remaining length 8.0 cms.
48. Buff Ware dipper juglet. Well mixed but very gritty clay, fired buff. Wet slurry. Max. ht 12.5 cms; max. width 6.7 cms.
50. Buff Ware dipper juglet. Clay and description as no. 48 but fired brown in patches. Max. ht 13.7 cms; max. width 6.8 cms.
53. Buff Ware bowl. Well mixed but very gritty clay, fired greyish-buff with thin buff inner and outer faces. Wet slurry. Max. ht 7.3 cms; rim dia. 26.9 cms.
55. White Slip bowl. Very finely mixed clay, with medium and tiny grits, fired creamy-buff. Thick, highly burnished milk-white slip. Max. ht 6.7 cms; rim dia. 19.4 cms.
64. Bronze toggle pin - fragmentary. Remaining length 9.0 cms.
65. Bronze toggle pin. Head of heavy bronze toggle pin; remaining length 11.8 cms.
66. White Slip bowl. Very finely mixed clay, fired creamy-buff. Thick burnished creamy-white slip inside and out. Max. ht 7.9 cms; rim dia. 19.4 cms. No. 22 similar.
67. Beads (a), (b) and (c). Two small carnelian beads and one amethyst bead. Carnelian beads 0.95 cms in dia.; amethyst bead 0.8 cms.
70. Gold ring. Very thin gold foil finger ring; half only with small setting for glass bead. Approx. diameter 1.8 cms.
72. Alabastron. Alabaster cosmetic jar. Max. ht 8.9 cms; max. width 6.5 cms; rim dia. 4.2 cms.
73. Tweezers, bronze, broken. Approx. length 4.5 cms.
74. Bronze toggle pin, small, broken. Approx. length 5.5 cms.
75. Chocolate-on-white jar. Well mixed but very gritty clay, fired buff. Wet slurry. Decoration in matt reddish-brown and black paint. Max. ht 24.2 cms; rim dia. 10.3 cms.
76. Bronze toggle pin, fragments. Approx. length 13.2 cms.

79. Beads (a) and (b). (a) 1 carnelian and 1 bluish marble, 0.85 cms. (b) marble bead 1.7 cms long.
80. Toggle pin, bronze. Approx. length 6.9 cms.
81. Buff Ware jug. Intact. Very gritty clay, fired buff on surface. Wet slurry. Max. ht 30.4 cms; rim dia. 11.4 cms.
83. Toggle pin, small, gold; incised decoration. Length 3.85 cms.
84. Scarab, white with striding figure and uraeus; approx. width 2.0 cms.
86. Decorated White Slip (Chocolate-on-white Ware) bowl. Well mixed clay with many medium and tiny grits, fired buff. Covered inside and out with thick matt white slip. Decoration in thick matt red-brown paint. Max. ht 9.0 cms; rim dia. 27.1 cms.
91. Bronze toggle pin. Length 6.8 cms.
96. Alabaster cosmetic jar. Elaborate incised and black-filled floral, geometric and dot design. Max. ht 4.4 cms; max. width 14.4 cms.
98. Alabaster lid to no. 96. Elaborate incised and black-filled floral, geometric and dot design. Max. width 13.2 cms.

The group belongs to the class so well defined by Amiran³ as Chocolate-on-white. The

3. Amiran, Ruth *Ancient Pottery of the Holy Land*, Rutgers University (1970), pp. 158-160.

4. Petrie, Sir Flinders *Ancient Gaza I*, London (1931), p. 10, pl. XXXII, 55-62.

5. Guy, P. L. O. *Megiddo Tombs*, Chicago (1938), Tomb 1100 A-D, pls 45-48.

6. Oren, Eliezer, D. *The Northern Cemetery of Beth*

ceramic was initially given its name by Petrie⁴ and remains a comparatively rare fabric in Palestine and Jordan. Comparable groups have been found at Megiddo⁵ and Beth Shan.⁶ The scarab belongs to a well defined class in the late Hyksos period.⁷ A full discussion of the group must await the final publication. First impressions are that the burials belong to the middle of the sixteenth century B. C., contemporary with the first appearance in Palestine of Proto-Base Ring, Proto-White Slip and Bichrome Wheelmade Ware. Fragments of the splendid White Slip bowls have been collected on the main mound and it may be that the Chocolate-on-white Ware is a product of the area east of the River Jordan.⁸ Remains of two vessels in the robbed side chamber similar to types of the main deposit, suggest it was cut as additional space to the main chamber.

Tomb 22 (XI.5) (Figs. 4, 9, 10)

The tomb appears to have been cut in the late Middle Bronze Age period and some of the graves goods had washed into the partly eroded tomb 20 immediately below it.

Finds

1. Piriform juglet. Very finely mixed clay, sandy with many medium and tiny grits, fired greyish-buff, with orange-buff outer face. Wet slurry. Traces of lightly bur-

Shan, Leiden (1973), Tomb 42, pp. 68 ff., figs 27-34.

7. Rowe, Alan A *Catalogue of Egyptian Scarabs*, Cairo (1936), pl. VII: 279-293, pp. 74-77.

8. Smith found similar vessels in his Tomb I of the 1967 season at Pella. Smith, Robert H. *Pella of the Decapolis Volume I*, pls 46-47.

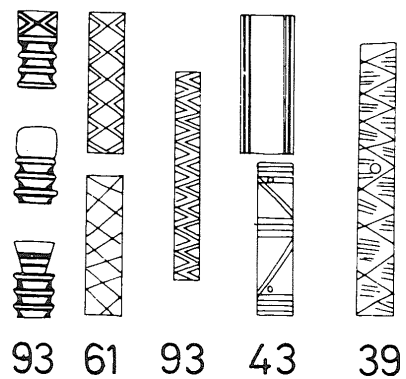
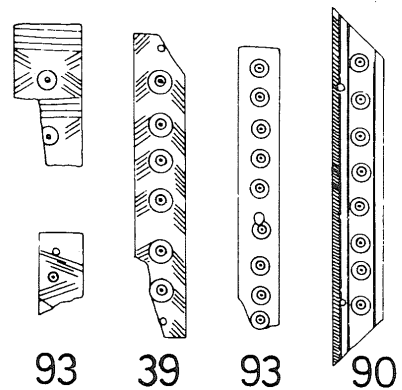
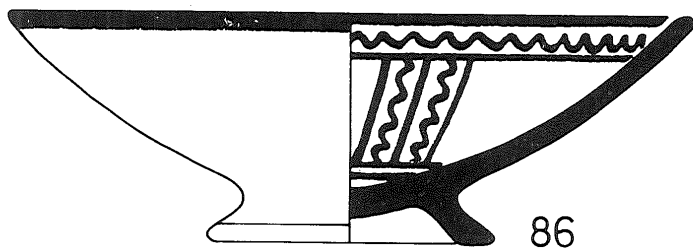
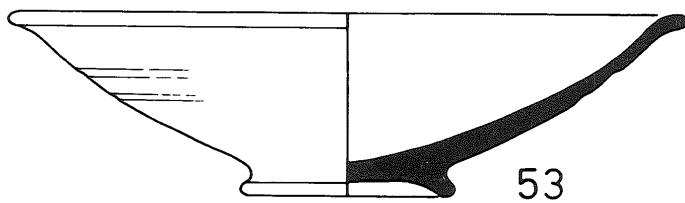
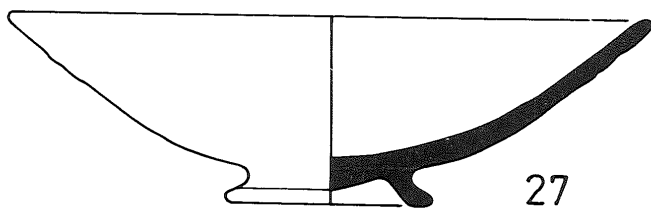
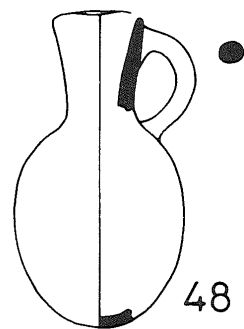
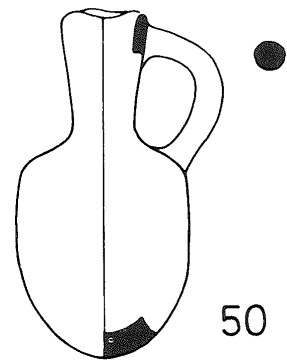
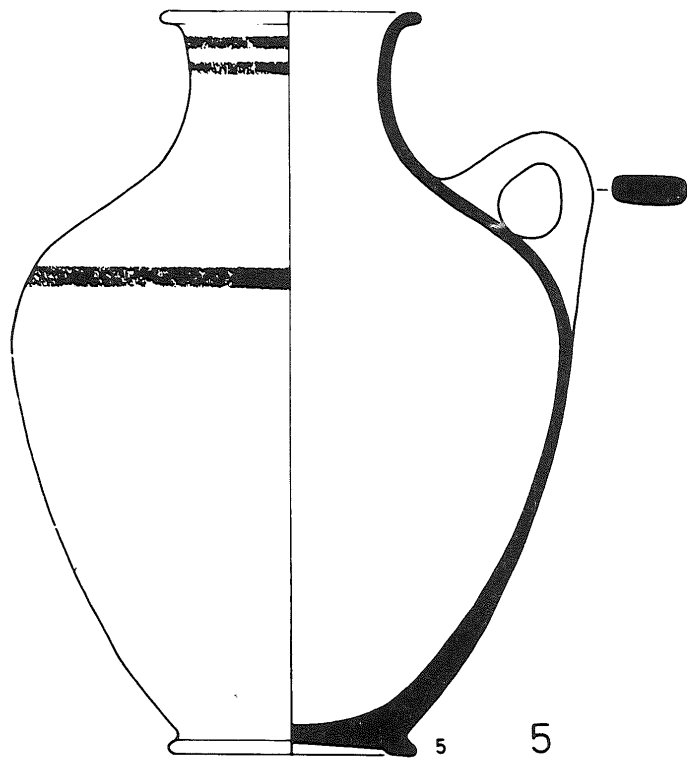


Fig. 8. Pella Tomb 20. Pottery and bone inlay (scale 1:3).

- nished black slip. Max. ht 9.4 cms; max. width 6.8 cms. Nos 10 and 11 similar.
2. Buff Ware dish. Finely mixed clay with many medium and tiny grits, fired brownish-buff. Wet slurry. Max. ht 3.9 cms; rim dia. 15.7 cms.
 3. Buff Ware jug. Very finely mixed clay with medium and tiny grits, fired buff. Wet slurry. Max. ht 23.1 cms; width 15.3 cms; rim dia. 8.3 cms.
 4. Small Red Slip jar. Very finely mixed clay with a few medium and tiny grits, fired buff throughout. Covered on outside with thin, matt red slip. Max. ht 7.5 cms; rim dia. 9.0 cms.
 5. Middle Bronze lamp. Well mixed but very gritty clay, fired buff to brownish-buff. Wet slurry. Max. ht 6.5 cms; max. length 16.7 cms.
 7. Dipper juglet. Intact. Fired orange-buff on surface. Wet slurry. Max. ht 14.3 cms; max. width 7.4 cms.
 8. Dipper juglet. Intact. Gritty clay, fired buff on surface. Wet slurry. Max. ht 19.3 cms; max. width 7.6 cms. Nos 14 and 20 similar.
 12. Shallow bowl. Intact. Fired buff on surface, with thick highly burnished creamy-buff slip. Max. ht 4.5 cms; rim dia. 17.3 cms.
 13. Jar on tripod feet. Intact. Fired buff on surface. Wet slurry, smoothed. Max. ht 15.7 cms; rim dia. 15.1 cms.
 16. Juglet. Very finely mixed clay, fired buff to orange-buff, burnished wet slurry. Max. ht 18.7 cms; max. width 10.7 cms.
 17. Piriform juglet. Finely mixed clay with medium and tiny grits, fired buff throughout. Burnished wet slurry. Max. ht 12.5 cms; max. width 7.6 cms.
 18. Piriform jar. Very finely mixed sandy clay with tiny grits, fired buff throughout. Burnished wet slurry. Max. ht 15.3 cms; rim dia. 12.1 cms.
 19. Carinate bowl. Very finely mixed sandy clay with a few medium and many tiny grits, fired buff throughout. Smoothed, wet slurry. Max. ht 6.1 cms; rim dia. 17.0 cms.
 21. Buff Ware bowl. Intact. Gritty clay, fired buff on surface. Wet slurry. Max. ht 7.9 cms; rim dia. 13.5 cms.
 22. Buff Ware jug. Intact. Many medium and tiny grits, fired buff on surface. Smoothed wet slurry. Max. ht 20.2 cms; rim dia. 5.5 cms.

The group also probably included nos 1, 49, 50 and 51 of the upper wash above tomb 20. The deposit appears to be slightly earlier than that of tomb 20.

The Iron Age - Area III

The Iron Age deposits in Area III Plot C were excavated further this season with encouraging results. Unfortunately, however, erosion has taken a heavy toll on this side of the *tell* and what is left of these levels in the area covered by the plot represents only a small proportion of their original extent. They have been completely destroyed in the northern sector of the plot (where a sharp wash gully was filled during the Hellenistic period) and to the east and south (where Umayyad and later

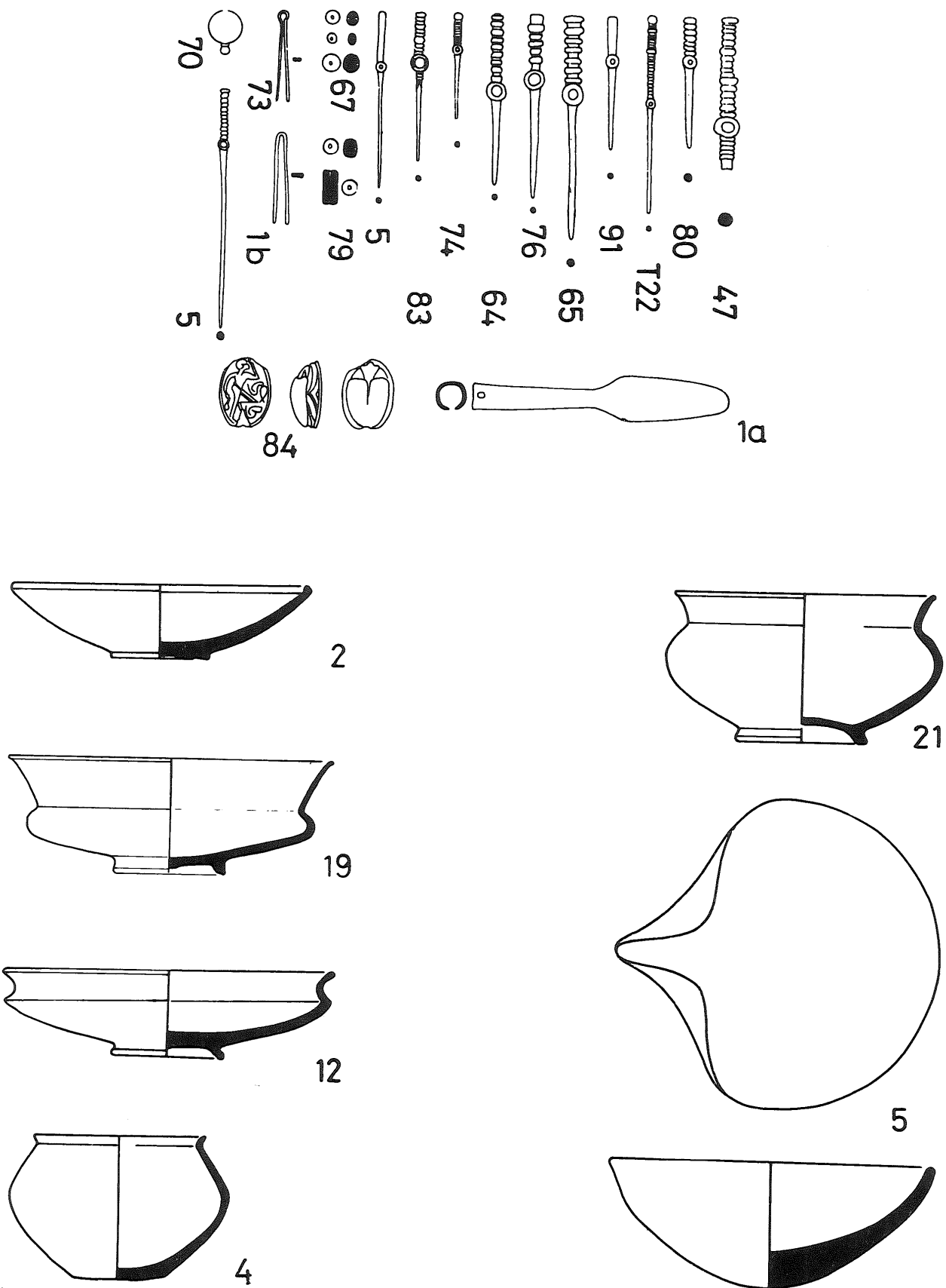


Fig. 9 Upper: Pella Tomb 20. Small finds (scale 1:3).
 Lower: Pella Tomb 22. Pottery (scale 1:3).

wash has had a similarly devastating effect). The original architectural situation is, consequently, rather difficult to reconstruct with any confidence.

In the first season of excavation the area to the east of wall F14 was not excavated below the level of the top of that wall. When this material was removed a largely unpaved surface (presumably an outside area) was exposed corresponding roughly in level to the paved floor inside the house. A bowl (fig. 14.2) placed over a small lamp (fig. 14.3) was found on this surface right up against the eastern face of wall F14.

To the north this area was bounded by a rough stone wall (W1) running approximately east-west. It is constructed of a single row of undressed stones. Its western end abutts wall F14; there is no extant return at its eastern end, although this again may be due to subsequent erosion. A doorway approximately mid-way along provided access to an area to the north, no traces of which have survived the Hellenistic wash gully. Plan fig. 11 shows the stone-paved house with the additions brought to light this season. This represents the full extent of the architectural remains of this phase which have survived.

When wall F14 was removed, four intact bowl-and-lamp deposits were discovered under the lowest course (some slightly off-set to the west). Another was discovered under the stone paving where it enters the western baulk (Group 5). They were deposited as follows:

Group 1: lamp (PO 115) in bowl (PO 116), both upright.

Group 2: bowl (PO 117) inverted over upright lamp (PO 118).

Group 3: bowl (PO 119) inverted over upright lamp (PO 120) in upright bowl (PO 123).

Group 4: bowl (PO 121) inverted over upright lamp (PO 122).

Group 5: bowl (PO 124) inverted over upright lamp (PO 125).

Similar groups have been found at other Palestinian sites, especially Gezer.⁹ Macalister, who found them mostly in his "Third and Fourth Semitic levels", interpreted these deposits as foundation offerings since they were most often placed beside the lowest stone of a wall or under a threshold. This is consistent with our groups 1 to 4.

Beneath the outside surface east of wall F14 lay a group of broken pots surrounded by burnt destruction debris. These include three virtually complete ovoid, two-handled storage jars (fig. 13.4) and an intact one-handled flask (fig. 14.1). The jars seem to have been broken *in situ*. The surface upon which they lay consisted simply of packed earth and showed no evidence of any significant build-up. Neither this surface, nor the series of closely stratified deposits which have been excavated below the stone paved house (to a depth of about 0.5m.

9. Macalister *Gezer II*, pp. 434-47, fig. 516; *idem*.

The Exploration of Palestine, p. 151, fig. 82.3;

Dever *et al Gezer I* p. 23, pls. 9, 28. 12-14.

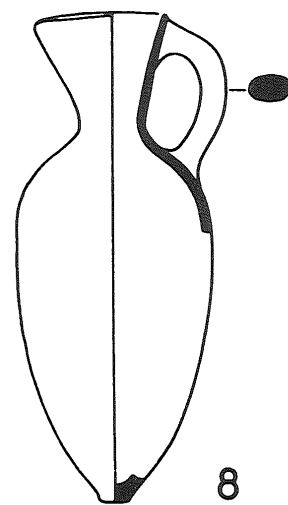
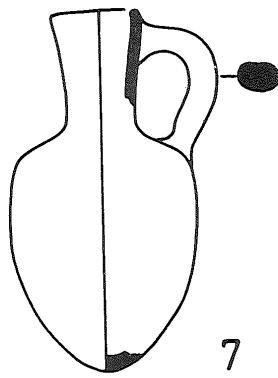
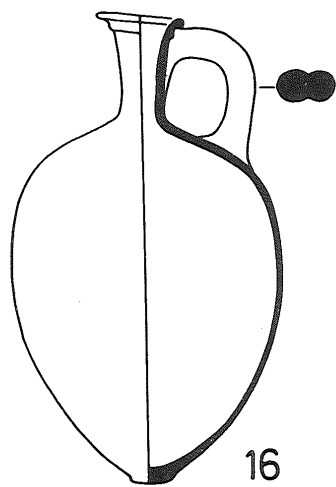
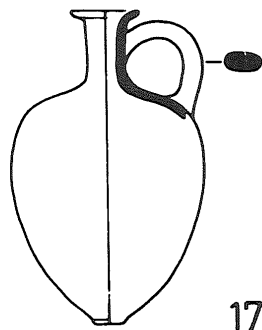
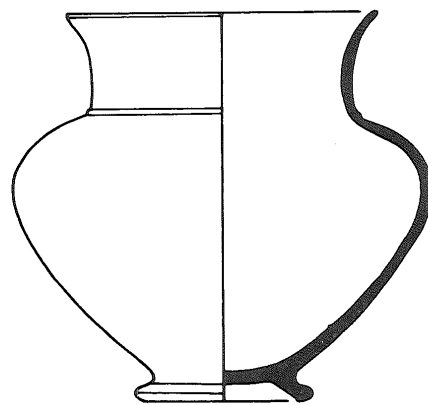
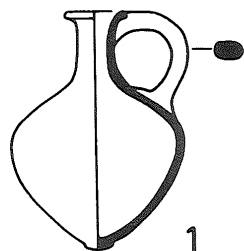
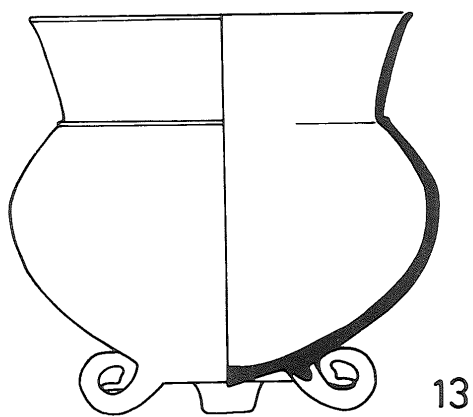
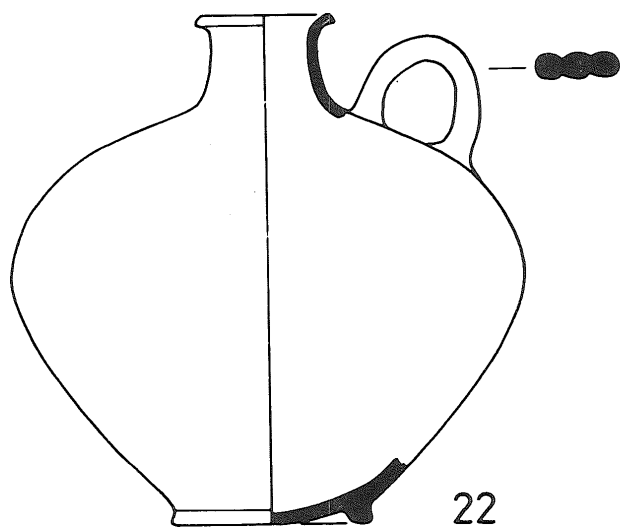
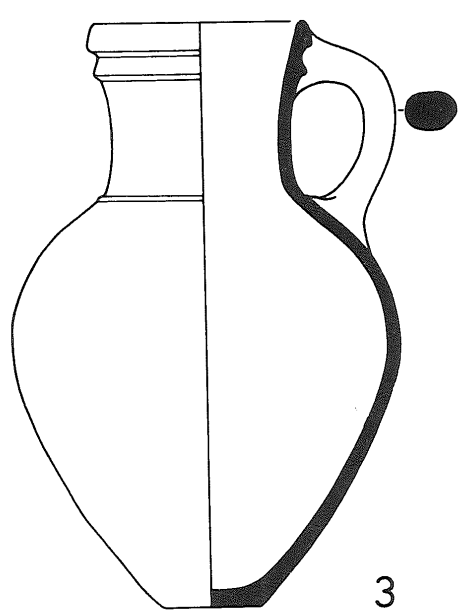


Fig. 10 Pella Tomb 22. Pottery (1:3).

below that floor) can as yet be associated with any significant architectural remains. Again we must contend with the possibility of erosion.

An earlier architectural stratum is represented further to the east by the junction of two stone walls (walls 4 and 5; see plan fig. 11; the wall stump F24 in the western baulk may also belong to this phase.) These are wider and of somewhat better construction than walls 1 and F14 but, once again, very little of them has survived and it is impossible to be sure of the nature or original extent of the structure. From stratigraphical evidence it is clear that it had fallen completely out of use and was already reduced to its present state by the time the stone-paved house was constructed and the surface south of W1 laid. The lack of any significant build-up on what remains of its floor suggests, however, that the interval between construction, destruction and levelling for the next phase (the stone-paved house) was not great.

When walls 4 and 5 were removed it was found that they were, in fact, wider rebuildings at a higher level of two earlier, narrower walls on the same alignment (walls 7 and 8). By the end of the season signs of other stone constructions were beginning to appear towards the centre of the plot. Their precise date and significance will have to await further excavation.

Towards the bottom (southern) end of IIIC the original deposits stop abruptly forming an almost vertical face about 5m. high. Beyond this point the stratified deposits give way to Umayyad wash which extends into and beyond IIID. This has now been removed, thus joining

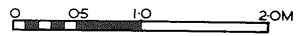
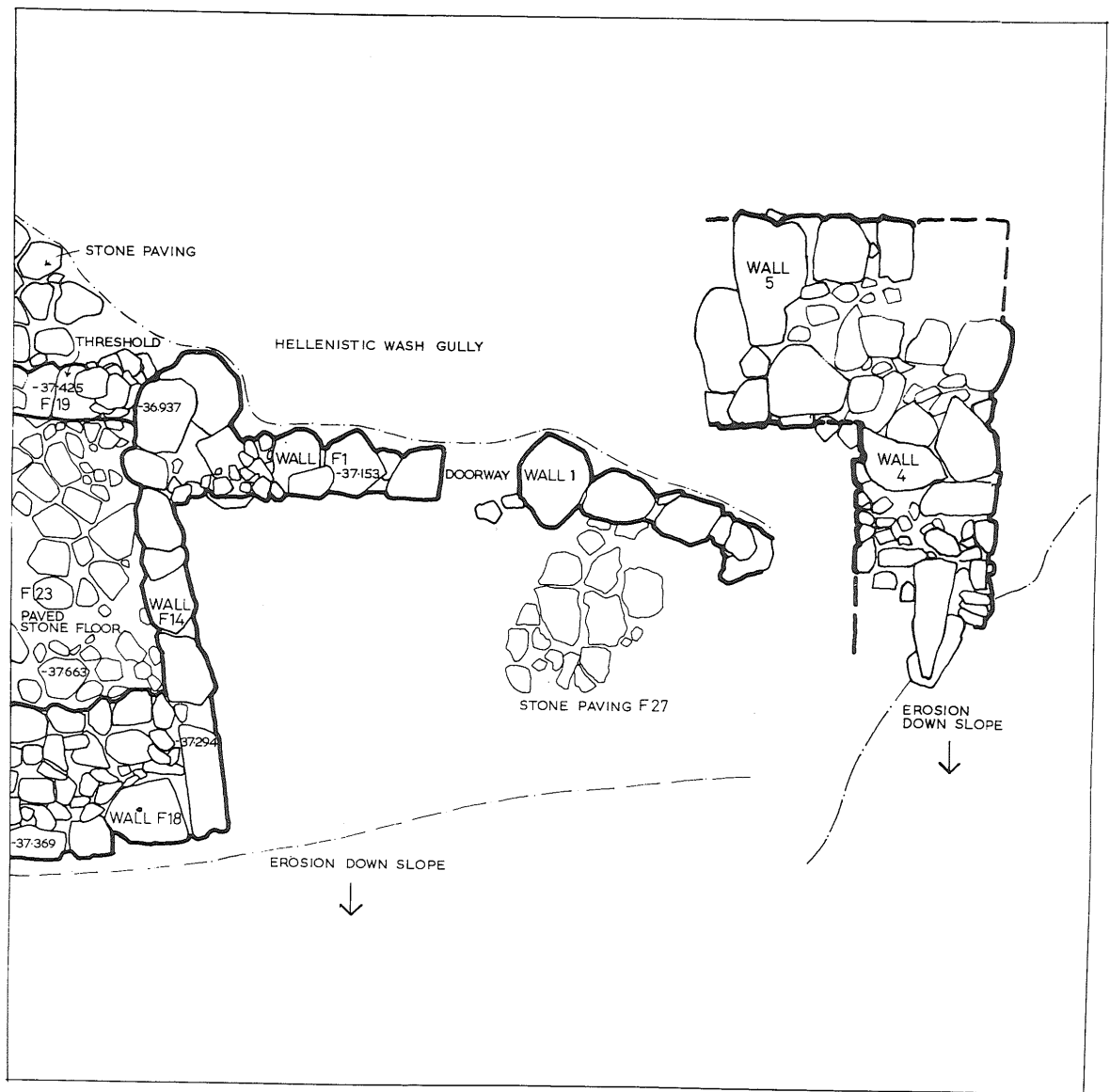
IIIC and IIID into one continuous cut.

The vertical face created by the Umayyad denudation gives us a glimpse of what we can expect to encounter in IIIC in future seasons. A massive stone wall, the full height of the gully section, protrudes mid-way along. It runs north-south and has already been picked up at the bottom of the Hellenistic wash gully. Packed against its eastern face in the section can be seen courses of mud-bricks metres high. This could well be the beginnings of a town wall.

The Pottery

We are fortunate in having so much ceramic material associated with the stone-paved house. In addition to the pottery from inside the house (see previous report), we now have the bowl-and-lamp deposits from underneath wall F14 (figs. 12; 13.1-3) as well as the group of broken pots from below the outside surface east of that wall (figs 13.4; 14.1-3), and a considerable amount of sherd material from the levels immediately below the stone paving (figs 14.4-12; 15; 16). This allows us to suggest a more secure date for its construction.

As the parallels cited below indicate, the pottery associated with our house, as well as the material from the levels immediately below it, is best dated to the very early Iron Age, i.e. the 12th century B.C. Some of the lamps (fig. 12.7, 8) and cooking pots (fig. 15.5, 9), as well as the pithos (fig. 16.1) and storage jars (fig. 13.4) would be equally at home in L.B. II. Of the characteristically Iron Age types, the various bowl forms (figs 12.1-6; 14.4-12) may be noted. A few sherds of Cypriot White Slip and Mycenaean IIIB were also recovered.



AREA III PLOT C
 PLAN OF EARLY IRON AGE REMAINS
 PELLA

Fig. 11 Pella. Plan of Early Iron Age building in Area III C.

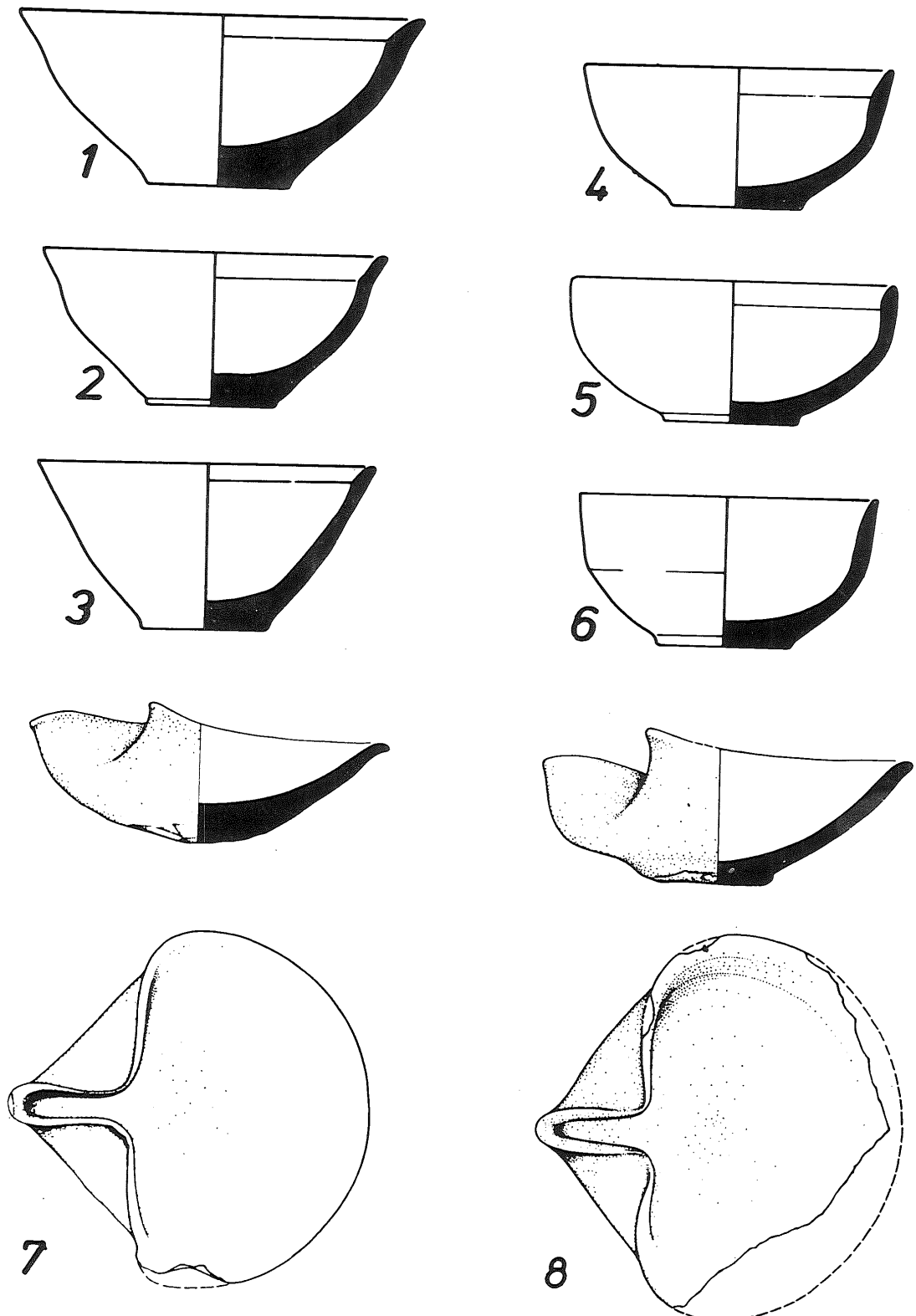


Fig. 12 Pella Area IIC. Early Iron Age Pottery
(scale 1:3).

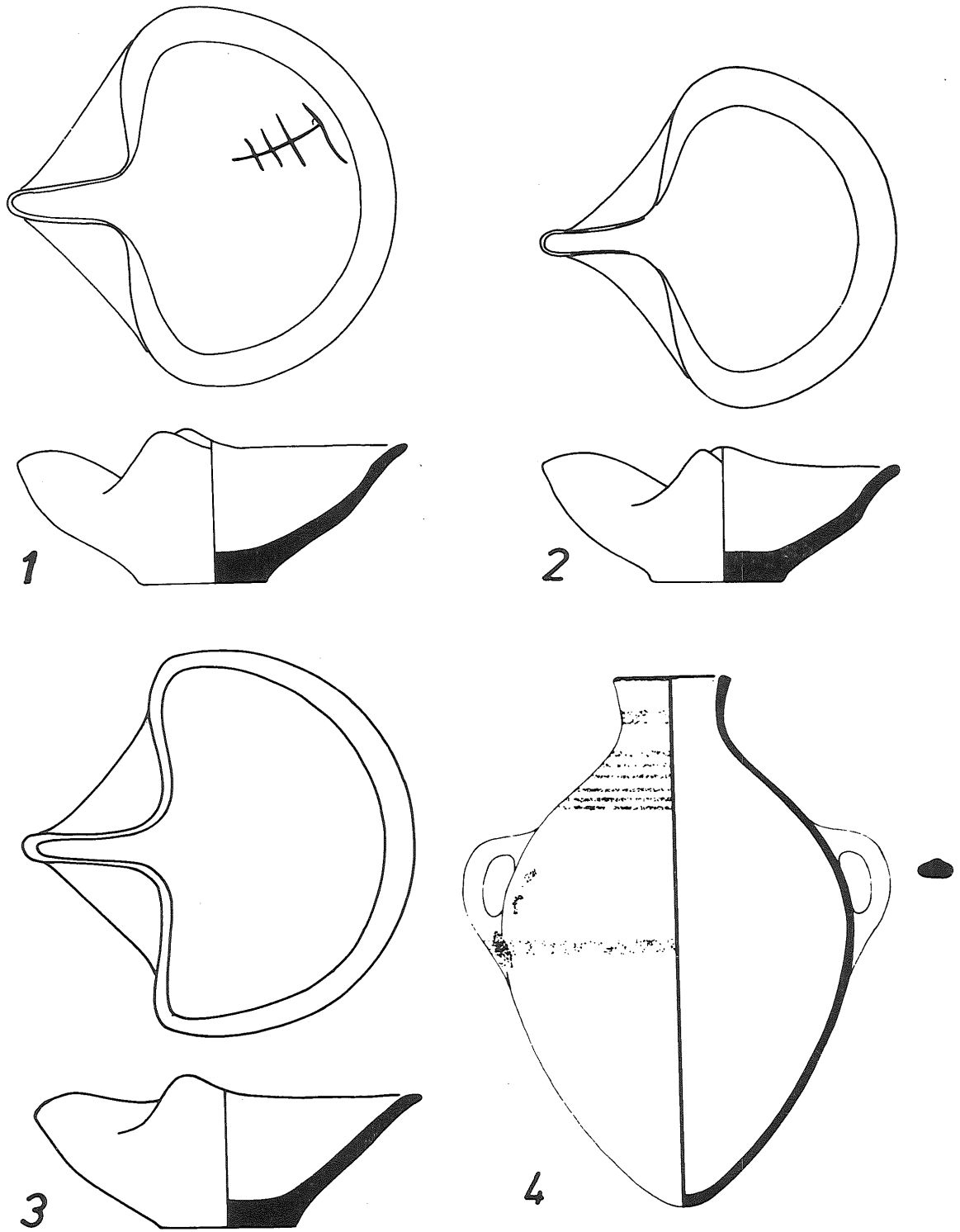


Fig. 13 Pella Area IIIC. Early Iron Age Pottery
(scale 1:3).

Iron Age Pottery (figs 12-16)

(Fig. 12)

1. Bowl. Coarse, gritty fabric, fired brownish-buff. Wet slurry. Max. ht 8.7 cms; rim dia. 19.0 cms.
Ill. ex. from IIC 13.5; Plot obj. 116.
Parallels: *Gezer II*, pls 24.22; 26.13; *The Iron Age at Beth Shan*, pl. 52.14; *Beth Shan*, pl. XLIV.5.
2. Bowl. Fine fabric with small grits, fired dark buff. Wet slurry.
Max. ht 7.1 cms; rim dia. 15.5 cms.
Ill. ex. from IIC 13.5; Plot obj. 119.
3. Bowl. Well mixed clay with many small and medium grits, fired buff. Wet slurry.
Max. ht 7.6 cms; rim dia. 16.1 cms.
Ill. ex. from IIC 13.5; Plot obj. 121.
4. Bowl. Fabric as no. 3. Max. ht 6.6 cms; rim dia. 14.6 cms. Ill. ex. from IIC 13.5; Plot obj. 117.
5. Bowl. Coarsely mixed clay, very sandy, fired buff. Wet slurry. Max. ht 6.6 cms; rim dia. 15.8 cms.
Ill. ex. from IIC 13.5; Plot obj. 124.
Parallels: *Megiddo II*, pl. 68.17 (str. VIIA), 71.22 (str. VII).
6. Bowl. Fabric as no. 2. Max. ht 7.1 cms; rim dia. 13.9 cms.
Ill. ex. from IIC 13.5; Plot obj. 123.
7. Lamp. Well mixed sandy clay, many grits, fired brownish-buff with buff core.
Ill. ex. from IIC 13.5; Plot obj. 115.
Parallels: *Taanach I*, fig. 90.2.
8. Lamp. Well mixed very gritty clay, fired buff to orange-buff. Wet slurry.
Ill. ex. from IIC 13.5; Plot obj. 118.

Parallels: *Hazor III*, pls CCLXXV.13, 14 (str. 1B), CCXCIII.12, 13 (str. 1B); *Ashdod I* fig. 34.9; *Megiddo II*, pls 62.1, 66.9-13 (str. VII).

(Fig. 13)

1. Lamp. Fabric as no. 7 (fig. 12). Max. ht 7.3 cms; max. length 18.3 cms. Interior incised with gradation markings in wet clay.
Ill. ex. from IIC 13.5; Plot obj. 120.
2. Lamp. Well mixed sandy clay, many medium and tiny grits, fired buff with grey core. Wet slurry. Max. ht 6.3 cms; max. length 16.7 cms.
Ill. ex. from IIC 13.5; Plot obj. 125.
3. Lamp. Well mixed clay, small medium grits, fired brownish-buff with buff core. Wet slurry.
Ill. ex. from IIC 13.5; Plot obj. 122.
4. Jar. Virtually complete. Well mixed clay, medium and small grits, fired orange-buff. Wet slurry. Decoration in red-brown paint.
Ill. ex. from IIC 1.15; Plot objs 97, 99.

Parallels: *Megiddo II*, pl. 60.2 (str. VIII), 73.6-8, 10 (str. VIIA-VIB); *Deir 'Alla I*, fig. 47.3; *Hazor I*, pls LXXXVI.8, 9; CIX.5; *Hazor II*, pls CXXI.7 (str. 1B), CXXXI.16 (str. 1B).

(Fig. 14)

1. Jug. Intact. Coarse, sandy, gritty clay, fired dark grey with inner brown face. Thin, matt, orange-brown slip, burnt. Wheelmade.
Ill. ex. from IIC 1.15; Plot obj. 95.
Parallels: *Megiddo II*, pls 67.14, 81.7 (str. VI); *Lachish III*, pl. 84.

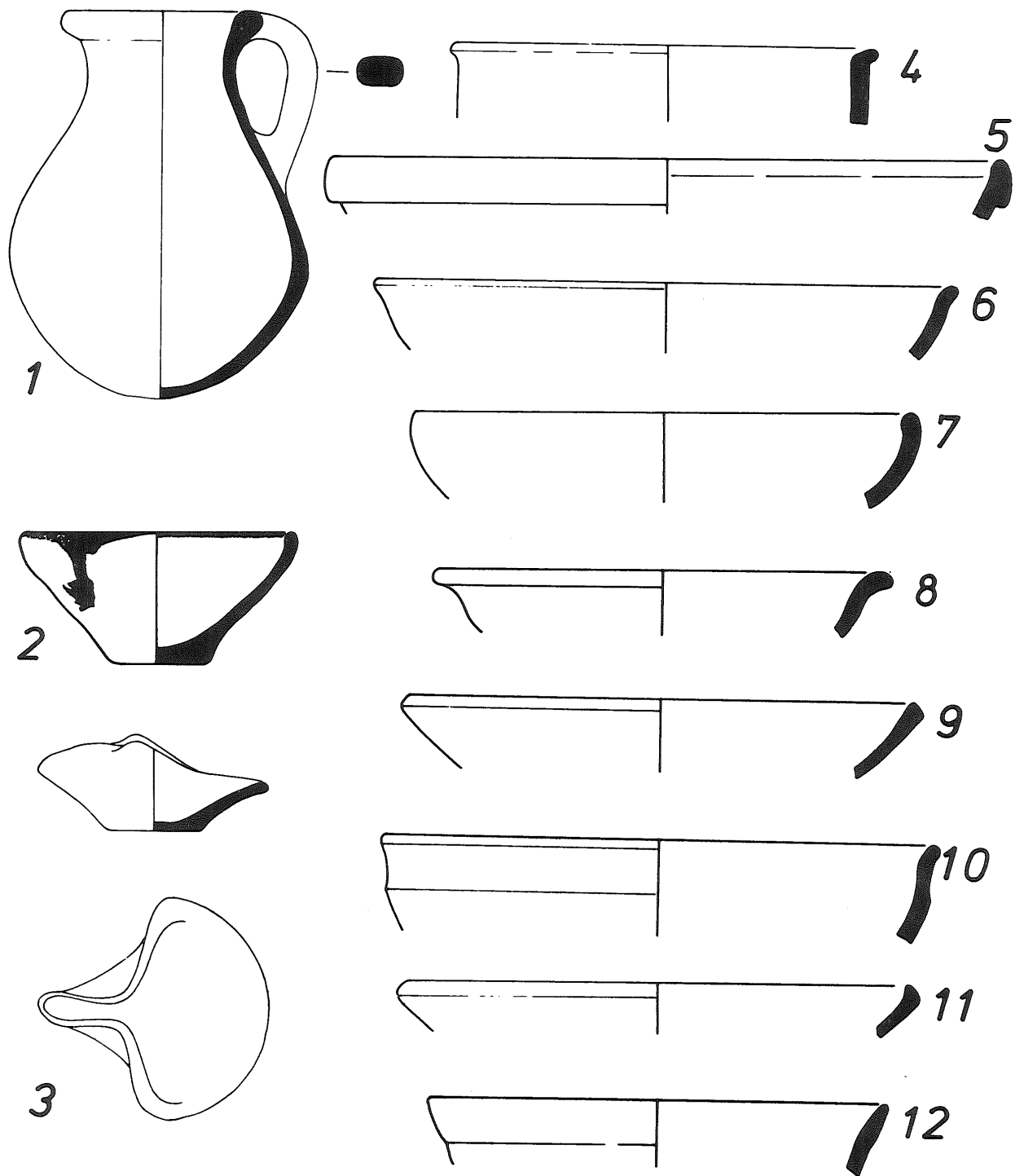


Fig. 14 Pella Area IIIIC. Early Iron Age pottery
(scale 1:3).

2. Bowl. Intact. Well mixed clay, many medium and tiny grits, fired orange-buff. Wet slurry. Red, matt decoration. Stringcut base.
Ill. ex. from IIC 1.15; Plot obj. 87.
Parallels: *Megiddo II*, pl. 68.14 (str. VII).
 3. Lamp. Almost intact. Well mixed very gritty clay, fired buff to brownish-buff. Wet slurry.
Ill. ex. from IIC 1.15; Plot obj. 88.
 4. Deep bowl. Rim. Well mixed clay, massive grits, fired orange-brown with variable buff core. Thin, matt red slip on exterior.
Ill. ex. from IIC 12.1.
Parallels: *Taanach I*, fig. 16.7; *Deir 'Alla I*, fig. 50.53 (phase B).
 5. Deep bowl. Rim. Well mixed clay, many medium and tiny grits, fired dark grey with thin brown inner and outer faces. Wet slurry.
Ill. ex. from IIC 13.3.
Parallels: *Lachish III*, pl. 80.68.
 6. Bowl. Rim. Well mixed clay, medium and tiny grits, fired buff. Stroke burnished. Wet slurry.
Ill. ex. from IIC 13.3.
Parallels: *Deir 'Alla I*, figs 45.13, 14; 46.24; *Gezer II*, pl. 27.4.
 7. Bowl. Rim. Well mixed gritty clay, fired greyish-brown with thin brown inner and outer faces. Wet slurry.
Ill. ex. from IIC 13.1.
Parallels: *Gezer I*, pls 26.11, 27.24; *Gezer II*, pl. 29.19; *Deir 'Alla I*, fig. 49.56.
 8. Bowl. Rim. Well mixed gritty clay, fired orange-buff with thick grey core. Wet slurry.
Ill. ex. from IIC 13.6.
Parallels: *Gezer II*, pl. 28.14; *Deir 'Alla I*, fig. 45.12.
 9. Bowl. Rim. Well mixed clay, many medium and tiny grits, fired buff. Wet slurry.
Ill. ex. from IIC 13.3.
Parallels: *Gezer I*, pl. 28.13; *Gezer II*, pl. 26.32; *Deir 'Alla I*, figs 46.39, 50.76.
 10. Deep bowl. Rim. Well mixed gritty clay, fired buff with variable grey core. Wet slurry.
Ill. ex. from IIC 13.3.
Parallels: *Hazor III*, pl. CLXIV.12 (str. XII); *Deir 'Alla I*, fig. 49.85; *Gezer I*, pl. 28.7; *Lachish III*, pl. 79.57.
 11. Bowl. Rim. Finely mixed clay, few medium and many tiny grits, fired brownish-buff. Matt creamy slip.
Ill. ex. from IIC 11.1A.
 12. Bowl. Rim. Well mixed clay, very gritty, fired greyish-buff. Thin buff inner and outer faces. Wet slurry.
Ill. ex. from IIC 13.6.
Parallels: *Gezer II*, pl. 26. 19.
- (Fig. 15)**
1. Chalice. Base. Coarse, very gritty clay, fired buff to brownish-buff with thick grey core. Stroke burnished red slip.
Ill. ex. from IIC 12.1.
 2. Bowl. Base. Well mixed gritty clay, fired brownish-buff. Burnished wet slurry.
Ill. ex. from IIC 12.1.

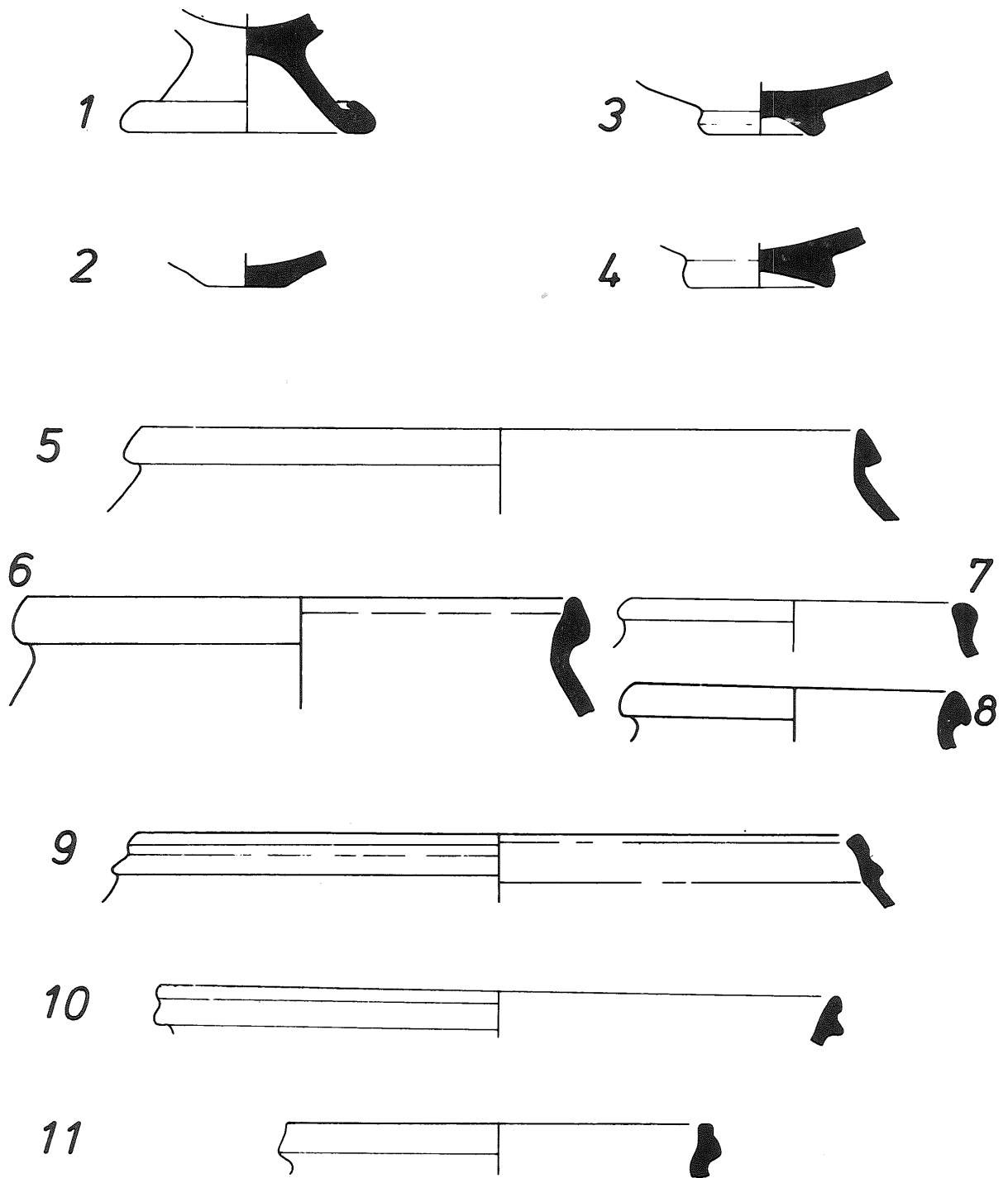


Fig. 15 Pella Area IIIIC. Early Iron Age pottery
(scale 1:3).

3. Bowl. Base. Well mixed gritty clay, fired buff to greyish-buff. Smoothed wet slurry. Ill. ex. from IIC 12.1.
 4. Bowl. Base. Clay as no. 3 but surface burnt black inside and out. Ill. ex. from IIC 12.1.
 5. Cooking pot. Rim. Well mixed gritty clay, fired brown with thick grey core. Wet slurry. Ill. ex. from IIC 13.6.
Parallels: *Taanach I*, fig. 2.2, 3; *Deir 'Alla I*, fig. 49.1, 2.
 6. Cooking pot. Rim. Coarse gritty clay, fired dark buff, thin orange inner and outer faces. Wet slurry. Ill. ex. from IIC 13.6.
Parallels: *Taanach I*, fig. 2.4; *Deir 'Alla I*, 46.1; *Gezer I*, pls 26.21, 35.21; *Gezer II*, pl. 26.5; *Megiddo II*, pl. 79.6 (str. VIA).
 7. Cooking pot. Rim. Coarse gritty clay with mica inclusions, fired brown with grey core. Wet slurry. Ill. ex. from IIC 12.1.
Parallels: *Deir 'Alla I*, fig. 49.26; *Gezer II*, pl. 29.8.
 8. Cooking pot. Rim. Well mixed gritty clay, fired buff. Burnished red slip. Ill. ex. from IIC 12.1.
Parallels: *Gezer II*, pl. 25.26.
 9. Cooking pot. Rim. Not yet catalogued. Ill. ex. from IIC 13.1.
Parallels: *Hazor III*, pl. CLXV.19; *Deir 'Alla I*, fig. 46.3; *Gezer II*, pl. 29.3.
 10. Cooking pot. Rim. Well mixed clay, many medium and tiny grits, fired buff, grey core. Wet slurry. Thick matt red slip inside and over rim. Ill. ex. from IIC 13.6.
Parallels: *Gezer II*, pl. 26.26.
 11. Cooking pot. Rim. Coarse, gritty clay, fired dark grey, thin brown inner and outer faces. Wet slurry. Ill. ex. from IIC 11.2.
Parallels: *Gezer I*, pl. 27.19; *Megiddo II*, pl. 85.14 (str. VII-VI).
- (Fig. 16)**
1. Pithos. Rim. Well mixed clay, fired dark grey. Thick matt brownish-buff slip. Ill. ex. from IIC 13.6.
Parallels: *Hazor I*, pl. LXXXVIII.11, 12; *Hazor II*, pl. CXLV. 3-5 (str. 1B); *Gezer II*, pl. 28.20.
 2. Pithos. Rim. Well mixed gritty clay, fired buff. Wet slurry. Ill. ex. from IIC 13.3.
Parallels: *Gezer I*, pl. 35.28; *Gezer II*, pl. 29.9; *Deir 'Alla I*, fig. 50.95; *Hazor III*, pl. CLXVIII.9.
 3. Jar. Rim. Well mixed gritty clay, mica inclusions, fired brownish-buff, grey core. Wet slurry. Ill. ex. from IIC 12.1.
Parallels: *Taanach I*, fig. 11.11; *Deir 'Alla I*, fig. 46.77; *Megiddo II*, pl. 73.7 (str. VIIB-VI), 82.9 (str. VIIB-VI).
 4. Jar. Rim. Well mixed clay, medium and small grits, fired buff. Smoothed wet slurry.

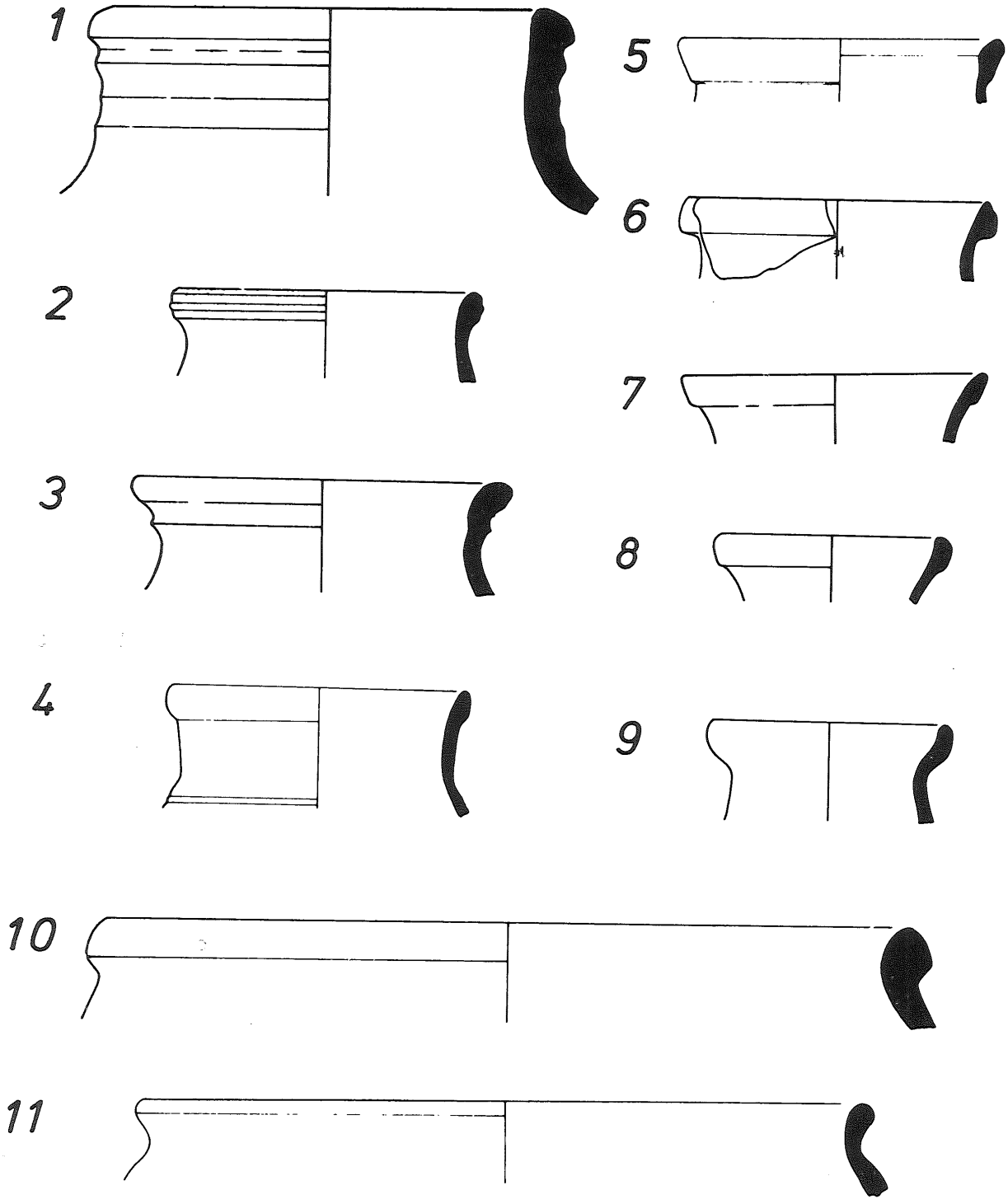


Fig. 16 Pella Area IIIIC. Early Iron Age pottery (scale 1:3).

- Ill. ex. from IIC 13.6.
- Parallels: *Deir 'Alla I*, fig. 47.2; *Gezer II*, pl. 28.21-23, 25.
5. Jar. Rim. Not catalogued as yet.
Ill. ex. from IIC 11.1A.
Parallels: *Taanach I*, fig. 15.8; *Gezer II*, pls 24.13, 25.8.
6. Jar. Rim. Not catalogued as yet.
Ill. ex. from IIC 12.1.
Parallels: *Taanach I*, fig. 3.1.
7. Jar. Rim. Well mixed gritty clay, mica inclusions, fired dark grey, brownish-buff outer face. Wet slurry.
Ill. ex. from IIC 11.1.
Parallels: *Taanach I*, fig. 6.4-6; *Gezer II*, pls 24.15, 16, 28.25.
8. Jar. Rim. Well mixed gritty clay, fired buff. Wet slurry.
Ill. ex. from IIC 11.1.
Parallels: *Taanach I*, figs 1.4, 4.7; *Hazor III*, Pl. CLXVIII. 18 (str. XII); *Gezer II*, Pl. 27.11.
9. Jar. Rim. Finely mixed clay, medium and tiny grits, fired pinkish-buff. Smoothed wet slurry.
Ill. ex. from IIC 12.1.
Parallels: *Taanach I*, fig. 3.4; *Hazor III*, pl. CLXVIII.18 (str. XII); *The Iron Age at Beth Shan*, fig. 51.15 (lev. VI); *Gezer II*, pl. 26.8.
10. Krater. Rim. Coarsely mixed gritty clay, fired dark grey, thin brownish inner and outer faces. Wet slurry.
Ill. ex. from IIC 13.3.

Parallels: *Deir 'Alla I*, figs 46.5-10, 49.17-21, 25; *Megiddo II*, pl. 66.1 (str. VIIB); *The Iron Age at Beth Shan*, fig. 54.2 (lev. VI).

11. Krater. Rim. Finely mixed clay, many medium and tiny grits, fired greyish-to brownish-buff. Wet slurry. Sherd burnt.
Ill. ex. from IIC 11.2.

Parallels: *Gezer II*, pl. 28.11, 12.

The Hellenistic Deposits - Area III

The Hellenistic strata excavated during the second Sydney session relate directly to those of the first season (*ADAJ XXIV*, 1980). In Area III Plot C more of the 'fill' beneath the late Hellenistic building was removed, but in it there was nothing to compare with the interesting Group B material of the previous year.

More enlightening were the excavations in IIB, despite the fact that they were severely limited by the Byzantine/Islamic walls earmarked for preservation. In this Plot, the northward continuation of the east wall of the Hellenistic building was located, together with a short length of the north wall. It is probable, therefore, that we are dealing here with a small rectangular dwelling measuring roughly 9.00 x 5.50 m. (fig. 17), built in the 2nd century and destroyed in the early 1st century (see below,) The three exterior walls unearthed have rubble foundations approx. 0.65 m. wide; this stonework rises above the floor level up to as much as one metre to form a socle. Above the socle a few sun-dried mud bricks survived *in situ*; these and a number of fallen bricks measure about 0.37 x 0.18 x 0.09 m., in contrast to the examples recorded last year.

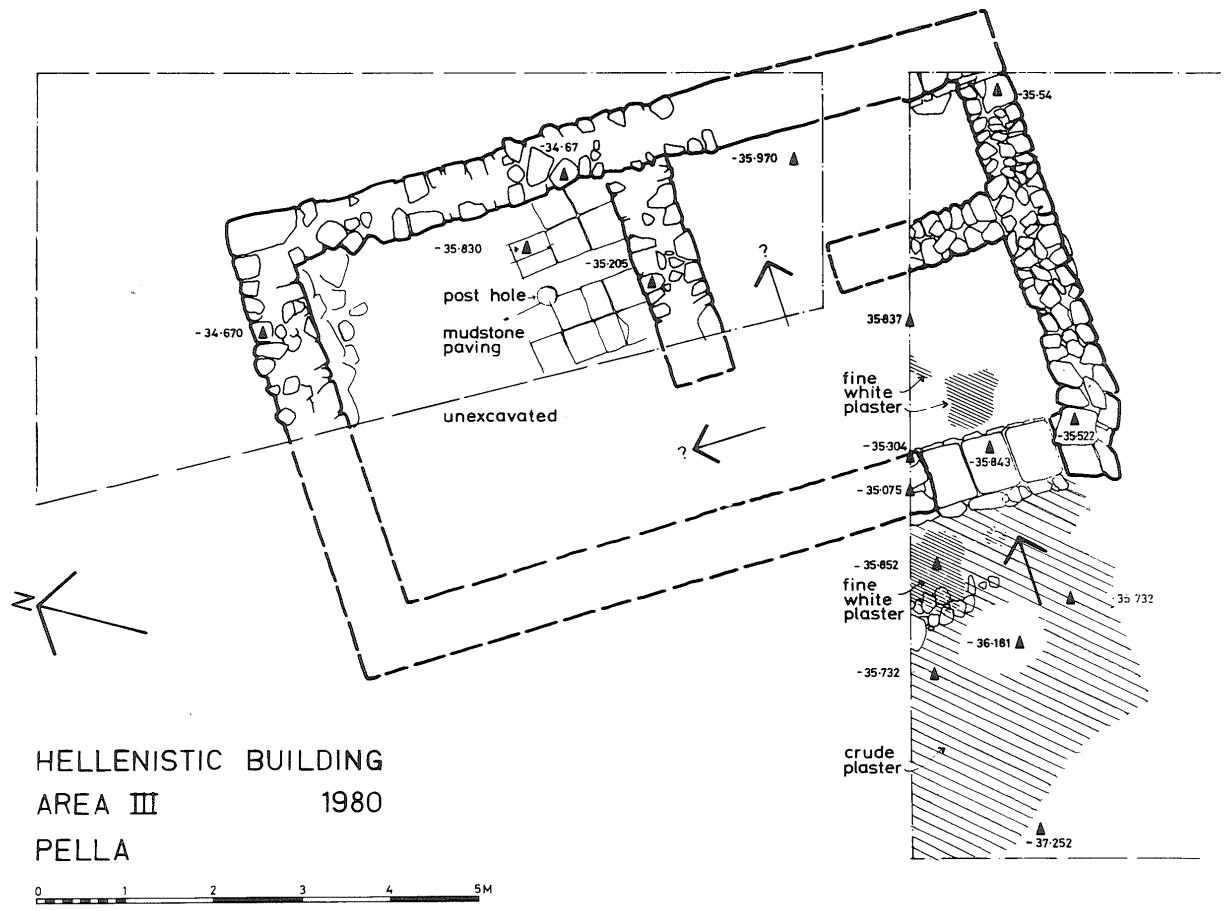


Fig. 17 Pella. Hellenistic building, Area III.

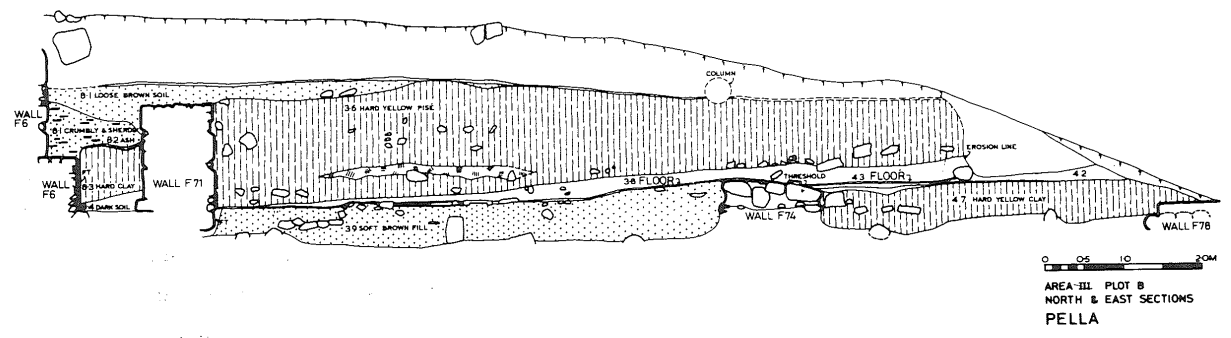


Fig. 18 Pella Area IIIB. North and East Sections.

Of the three walls, that on the east side had by far the most solid foundations, reaching to a depth of nearly 2.00 m. Probably the house stood on the edge of a terrace where the mound fell away to the east.

The interior of the house is divided by two walls. One, butting on the east wall at right angles, is probably part of the original plan, since it was sturdily built and had a fine mud plaster face on the north side. Evidently the house originally consisted of an inner and an outer room. The second internal wall is a late addition which divides the outer room into two.

It is probable that the outer room served a different function from the inner one, since the latter is paved with mud-stone tiles, whereas the former has a whitish plaster floor, suggesting that it shared a common function with the plastered courtyard to the west. Most probably the outer room was used for cooking and the inner for sleeping.

Finds from the deposits overlying the surfaces within the house are few, but there is some chronologically interesting material. Among the sherds are several fragments of Eastern Sigillata A vessels - bowls and shallow bowls or plates. There are also two coins worth mentioning. In a spongy grey deposit overlying the mud-stone floor was found a bronze coin with jugate heads of the Dioscuri on the obverse and a cornucopiae on the reverse. Although marginally smaller than any listed by Kadman, it obviously belongs to the late Hellenistic series from Akko-Ptolemais dating from

pre-132 to 110/109.¹⁰ A second coin found within the destruction level of the house is Hasmonean of the type with Hebrew in wreath on the obverse, and double cornucopiae and poppy on the reverse.¹¹ We would expect that this is a coin of Alexander Jannaeus rather than of one of his successors, but the legend is too damaged to be certain. At any rate, these two little coins do provide further modest support for the proposal put forward last year that the house was built in the second half of the 2nd century B.C. and was destroyed in the sack of 83/2 B.C.

The Late Roman Deposit - Area III

In Area III Plot B above the Hellenistic remains (*supra*, p. 290) we unearthed architecture and artefacts of the Late Roman period. Because of the limited area excavated, the function of the Late Roman walls remains unclear, as does the relationship between them and the walls of the building in Areas III and IV discussed in our first report (*ADAJ XXIV*, 1980). Our initial impression is, however, that these walls in IIIB constituted part of the original house which survived in modified form until the mid-eighth century.

There can be little doubt about the date of construction and initial occupation. Setting aside the ceramics which have yet to be analysed but which include several sherds of African Red Slip ware, initial identification of thirty-two stratified bronze coins from the tumble, occupation debris and floors relating to the walls under discussion (fig. 18, deposits 3.7-3.11 and

10. L. Kadman *The Coins of Akko Ptolemais*, Jerusalem 1961, (*Corpus Nummorum Palaestinsium IV*), pp. 94-100, pl. II-III.

11. Type as G. F. Hill *Catalogue of the Greek Coins of Palestine*, London 1914, p. 202 f., Pl. XXII, 17 f.

4.2-4.7) gives the following breakdown:-

Ptolemaic	1
Seleucid?	1
Hasmonean?	1
Roman Probus (276-282 A.D.)	1
Constans (337-350 A.D.)	1
Valentinian II (375-392 A.D.)	1
Uncertain 4th or 5th cent.	23
Obliterated	3

Two of the uncertain are Constantinian, and the latest precisely identified coin, an Æ of Valentinian II, comes from the pisé tumble 3.7. In all likelihood, then, the walls were erected during the 4th century.

The architecture can be briefly described (Pl. LXXVII, 2). The walls, approx. 0.90 m. wide, are built of tooled faced limestone blocks: those at corners are ashlar, but the others are generally irregular. Snecking is used only to a limited extent, in contrast to the later Byzantine and Early Islamic walls. Within the walls is a simple earth fill. The foundations, though shallow (e. g. 0.25 m.), are carefully constructed of cobble stones. Two doorways located in the N-S wall were 1.50 m. and 1.10 m. wide, and had raised stone-built thresholds. The upper walls were constructed mainly of pisé, with a subsidiary use of mud-bricks. No roof material was identified, though fallen plaster within 3.7 may have come from a ceiling.

The floor 3.8 is comprised of a single thickness of weak whitish plaster and grey ash. By the doorway flagstones prevented wear and tear. In contrast to locus 3 the plaster of locus 4 was refurbished several times, as can be seen in the section fig. 18.

The Tetrastyle Temple And Church - Area V

1. LATE CLASSICAL

Excavation of the portico of the temple in Area V (ADAJ XXIV, 1980) was suspended until the columns found during the 1979 season could be re-erected. At the time of writing this work is being carried out by Mr Brian Bowen, Architectural Conservator of the Department of Antiquities.

2. BYZANTINE

Further excavations carried out inside the east church confirmed its tripartite basilical shape. However, the eastern limit of the building has not yet been reached.

Elements of the church's construction are now clearer, though many questions remain unanswered. The principal problem facing us is that most of the church's furnishings were evidently removed before the final collapse of the building.

The outer walls are built of limestone blocks with worked faces, apparently decreasing in size higher up the walls. Many of the blocks were evidently re-used, presumably robbed from the preceding temple, and mortar and snecking stones are extensively used.

The interior faces of the external walls were plastered with a hard pink plaster, patches of which remained *in situ* at the foot of the wall. Whether this plaster covered most of the wall in the final phase is not clear; however, it appears that at some stage a row of dowel-holes c. 0.75 m. above the floor in the north wall supported a dado or panels of marble, a

fragment of which was found *in situ* adhering to a bronze dowel.

In addition to the pink plaster numerous fragments of a finer painted plaster were found, including some still attached to fallen blocks. Designs so far identified are geometric and curvilinear; among the colours are red, yellow, blue, green and brown, and black, white and grey.

Sparing use may also have been made of wall mosaics. In the tumble small tesserae were found attached to white plaster: the colours so far found are red, gold and green, black and white. These small tesserae contrast with the larger coarser red, blue-grey and white tesserae which possibly covered sectors of the floor.

The nave and aisles were divided by colonnades of smooth-shafted fine limestone columns with a variety of Corinthian capitals and Attic bases. Each colonnade was set on a line of neatly worked blocks which forms the continuation of the north and south stylobate of the tetrastyle temple. The nature of the superstructure of the church is still unclear.

The floor of the church had been almost wholly robbed out, but the excavation of the aisles revealed the reticulated pattern left in the grey plaster by the red sandstone and white marble tiles measuring approx. 0.22 x 0.22 m. (Pl. LXXVIII). A small number remained *in situ*. In the nave, however, the marks in the plaster revealed that rectangular tiles, evidently of marble, were used.

12. "Preliminary Report of the First Season of Excavations at Pella" in *ADAJ* XXIV, 1980 (in press).

13. Limited clearing work was also done in Room 9

Small finds from the church were few. Of the three coins found, one is Hasmonean, and the other two are an Æ 4 of Leo (457-474 A.D.) and a follis of Justin II (565-578 B.C.).

The Area Excavations - Area IV

1. INTRODUCTION

At the east end of the flat-topped main mound of Tabaqat Fahl, an investigation of upper occupation levels over a wide area was continued from last season.¹² A major result of this year's excavations is its contribution to the understanding of continued settlement at Fahl subsequent to the widespread desolation of the site, conjectured to have been caused by the 746 A.D. earthquake. Further exploration in the areas first opened in 1979, unfortunately limited this year by the appalling weather, managed to detail in one section the earlier form and use of the 1979 building. This we shall look at first.

2. THE 1979 "BYZANTINE-UMAYYAD BUILDING" AND IVD

a) Excavations and Stratigraphy

Of the area in 1979, only Plot IVD was further explored in the 1980 season. The excessive wet prevented any further work on the floors within the building, this being left over to 1981.¹³

The east and south baulks were re-established to recommence excavation of IVD located in the courtyard to the west of the 1979 building.¹⁴ Clearing of the surface reached

(numbers now converted to Arabic from Roman) IIIA, to reach the floor levels.

14 Preliminary Report, *ADAJ* XXIV, 1980.

last year exposed a number of burnt patches, probably from *tabuns*, and an open, stone-lined drain. This ran westwards into the courtyard from the base of the long north-south wall that delineates the western extent of the building. Both north and west of the building the surface slopes from east to west, so it seems likely that the drain was constructed as an after-thought to remove water from the base of the north-south wall.

It was hoped that at this stage further excavation would offer some explanation about the wall stub projecting into IVD from the west baulk, and how the building and its long north-south wall related to this. Removal of the drain and its associated surface exposed a pebbly surface underneath along with an eastern continuation of the wall stub.

The new surface of hard-packed earth and pebbles extended northwards from the newly exposed section of the wall up to the south face of the wall projecting from the north baulk of IVD. On the east the surface seemed to be running under the long north-south wall, while in the north-west corner of the plot it was joined by means of a step down to a threshold and rough cobble stone paving. Most likely this surface was originally a street, flanked on its north and south sides by two parallel walls, with the step down and threshold in the north-west corner being the entrance to a narrow alleyway running northwards off the street. Of interest was the construction of a low dyke just outside the entrance to the alley to prevent water and mud entering from the higher street. This suggests we may have a number of streets, one upon the other, that eventually resulted in the need for a step.

Associated with the street was a number of other features - two or three rough feed bins and, sunk into the street surface, an inverted hollow cone section of a stone mill. These features would have hindered movement up and down the street, so may date to the end of the street's use when it no longer acted as a major thoroughfare.

b) *Architecture*

New architecture is limited to the newly exposed section of wall. The eastern half of this wall had been dismantled to its base course with enough left for two door thresholds to be in place. The one remaining course of the western half of the wall contains a blocked doorway. Undoubtedly, this wall is the original continuation of the north boundary wall of the building as found in 1979, with the long north-south wall, as suspected, being of a later construction.

c) *Finds*

The only find of note is a large coin found embedded in the street surface. A post-reform Byzantine *folles*, it is most probably of Tiberius II (578-580 A.D.).

d) *Summing up*

The removal of the Umayyad courtyard with its *tabuns* and drain greatly altered the character of IVD. The east-west street thus exposed is, on the basis of the coin, most likely Byzantine of either the late fifth or early sixth century A.D. Doorways in the flanking walls on both sides of the street gave access to houses, although at some period at least two of the doorways were blocked. By the time of the construction of the long north-south wall

(or at that time) the walls on both sides of the street were demolished.

Before the construction of the long north-south wall, the street fell into disuse as a means of thoroughfare. At this time it was used as a courtyard attached to the houses that opened onto it. Perhaps it was then that the doorways were blocked, all in all suggesting some form of social adjustment taking place, perhaps that following the Persian invasion of 614 A.D.

Postscript: The building unearthed in 1979 seems certainly to be Byzantine in origin, incorporating elements of an earlier Roman building. Its Byzantine heritage is shown by the keystone of the collapsed arch in room 10 in the 1979 building. This had been moved during the summer exposing a Maltese cross in sunk relief, the recessed background high-lighted in red paint.

3. AREA EXCAVATION INITIATED IN 1980

(Pl. LXXIX, fig. 19)¹⁵

a) Excavation and Stratigraphy

Four new plots, IVO, R, S and U (a total of 400 sq. m.), were opened up 20 metres to the north of the area begun in 1979 on a low mound similar to that first tackled last year. It was expected, therefore, that here we would uncover a house complex much the same as that excavated in 1979.

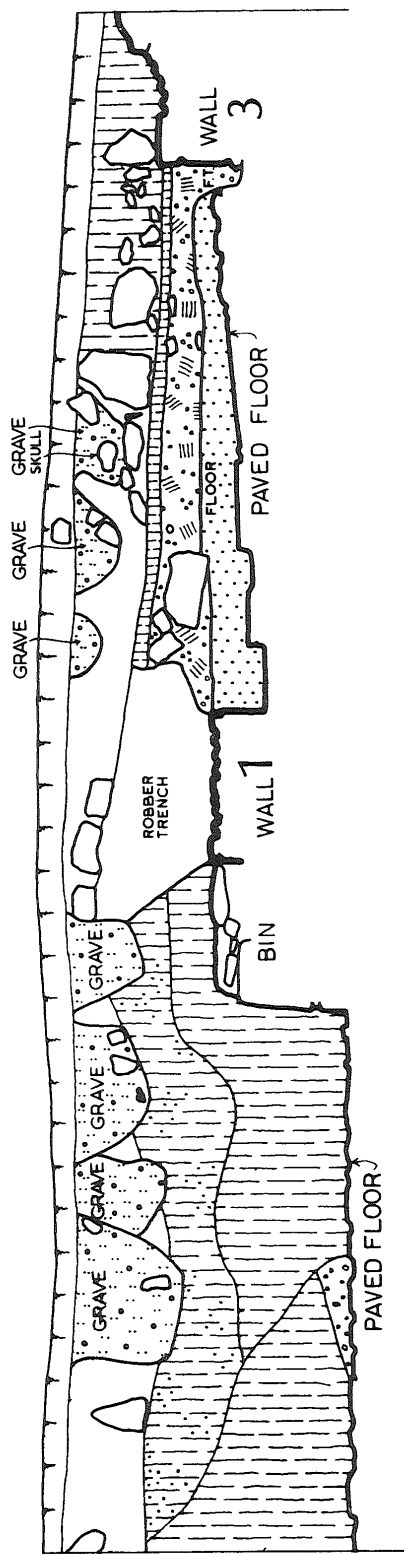
It is unfortunate that both the weather and the complexities of this new area did not

allow us to remove the baulks between the plots as last year. In two plots, IVO and IVS, excavation went as expected with both requiring the removal of up to 2 metres of collapsed *pisé* before floor levels were encountered (fig. 19). Also in both plots, as well as in IVR, initial excavation encountered a liberal sprinkling of burials up to a metre below topsoil. These usually consisted of the body placed on its right side in a pit dug from topsoil, the head pointing west and facing south. The pit was often closed with a capping of stone before backfilling. The greatest concentration of burials was to be found on the top of the mound, in IVR. A major disappointment was the extremely decayed nature of the bone; frequently the earth surrounding the skeleton was harder than the bone itself.

The nature of the thick deposit over the floor levels is best demonstrated in IVS. Here, the collapsed *pisé* from which the upper sections of the walls (perhaps) and postulated upper floor (see below under 'Architecture') were made, has been largely unaffected by later water action. Why this should be so is uncertain, except that the clay here seems particularly impervious to water, and the surface slopes rapidly to the east thereby quickly dispersing surface water. The collapse lines are readily apparent in the west section (fig. 19). The yellow clay *pisé* in a collapsed state is hard but crumbly, with fragments of a hard, mottled grey cement and flat segments of white plaster (sometimes painted) liberally sprinkled throughout the collapse. There are three major fall lines apparent, one from the south and one from the north, the latter likely from wall 1,

15. Building plans from this season's excavations have already been published and are not republished here. See A. McNicoll and A. Walmsley

"Pella/Fahl in Jordan during the Early Islamic Period" in *Proceedings of the First Congress on the Archaeology of Jordan* (in press).



AREA IV PLOT S
WEST SECTION
PELLA

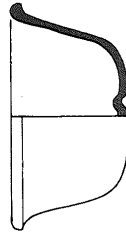


Fig. 19 Upper: Pella Area IV.S. West section.
Lower: Pella. Umayyad bowl. Area IV./O (scale 1:3).

with the third as the central deposit (loose patchy yellow-brown) that has collapsed from the west (wall in IVR).

The cobbled floor on which the collapsed *pisé* rests by the west section of IVS extends eastwards between three piers to a paved area on which, during the removal of the *pisé* collapse, two intact and one badly crushed animal skeletons were exposed. Nearby were found the now-expected feed-bins. Ilse Köhler identified the bones as those belonging to a mature horse and an approximately three year old cow. The badly crushed skeleton was probably that of a sheep.

Plot IVR has provided detailed information about occupation at Fahl subsequent to the collapse of the major building level as unearthed in IVO and IVS, and previously in the area excavations of 1979. The work of last year revealed evidence of habitation after the collapse of the Byzantine-Umayyad building in Area III Plot A, where a small, two-roomed dwelling was constructed on the protruding stumps of walls from the earlier building. Excavation in most parts of Area IV Plot R was suspended at the end of the 1980 season with clearance down to the top of the collapse deposit excavated in neighbouring IVO and IVS. In the process, detailed information was recovered on the sequence of events after the destruction of the building. Briefly, these are:

1. Collapse of the stone block and *pisé* building exposed in IVO and IVS.
2. Dismantling and robbing of stone walls and other building materials.
3. Limited rebuilding. Construction of a new

dwelling; associated continued robbing.

4. Squatter habitation in the later house; build-up of a fine silt over the floor with subsequent collapse and robbing of the house. Abandonment.

The evidence from IVO and IVS, and that of the building uncovered in 1979, points to a common cause for the widespread devastation of the solidly built stone block and *pisé* houses. In the report of last season, one of the earthquakes of the Jordan Valley was postulated as the agent of destruction and currently no better explanation can be offered; indeed, the excavations of this season would confirm this interpretation.

After the earthquake, rebuilding was undertaken on a very limited plan. In order to accomplish this, what architectural features were projecting above ground and, in some cases, what had been buried by the collapse, were utilised in the construction of a new dwelling (for a description of this building see below under 'Architecture - Late Phase'). Stratigraphically, the periods of dismantling and robbing with associated rebuilding are represented by a construction surface from which was dug a six metre long robber trench and two walls rebuilt on the wall stubs of the earlier building. One of these walls is actually partly a rebuild, and partly sunk into a foundation trench through a mud floor onto an earlier paving (fig. 19, wall 3) both of which (the floor and paving) belong to the earlier collapsed building - although why a mud floor was used in preference to a paved one is slightly mystifying. This same wall of the late phase building has constructed in its length a blocked door-

way, the doorblocking being built from the construction surface as its base course projects 30 cm. out from the wall. Construction of this wall also involved the truncation of an early period wall; in fact, because of the rough nature of the topography south of the later building, a fill was placed between the remaining wall stubs of the earlier building in order to raise the ground level and create a flat open area. On this fill two short walls were constructed to make a small annexe, one wall of which butted up against the blocked doorway. Thus the blocked doorway was sealed by both the fill and the wall; the only explanation possible for this doorway is that it was open during construction of the main section of the later period building for access to building material, after which it was closed in preference to a main westward-facing entrance. Also on the fill was laid a hard, yellow clay surface which subsequently was cut through to rob out more building stone from the earlier building, probably while the later building was still in use.

Plot IVU was opened in order to expose more of the late period building. As the floor of this building was less than 50 cm. below top soil, stratigraphy was confined to a yellow silt above the floor paving. In areas the paving had been robbed out, and the threshold is gone from one of the internal doorways. In some rooms pits were dug (or dug from topsoil?) but these have not been investigated as yet. This seems to suggest abandonment of the building to be replaced by squatter habitation and eventual collapse and robbing.

In conclusion, the stratigraphy of the area

16. Plan published in A. McNicoll and A. Walmsley "Pella/Fahl", pl. 2.

opened in 1980 indicates two periods of occupation, separated by the destruction by earthquake of the building belonging to the earlier level. There appears to be no prolonged period of abandonment between the collapse of the earlier building and the construction of the later one, so provisionally we have called these an early phase and a late phase of the same period. The early phase seems compatible with the last major period of occupation in the building exposed in 1979 and ascribed to the Umayyad period; while the late phase would follow immediately afterwards. If the earthquake which destroyed the early phase building is that of 746 A.D., the late phase would date to the early part of the 'Abbasid Period, but there is no evidence for this. Currently then, it has been decided to call these an early phase and late phase of the Early Islamic Period.

b) Architecture

1. Early phase¹⁶

The early phase building exposed in 1980 was cleared to floor levels over the two plots IVO and IVS. Paved flooring is common, with five of the eight cleared rooms having floors of rough cobble stones or mud-stone paving. The other floors were of hard packed mud, one with the faint remains of a white plaster.

The walls are of the same construction as encountered last year in Area IV. To form the two faces of a wall, roughly shaped blocks were laid back to back in irregular courses with their flattest face projecting outwards. Gaps between the courses were plugged with snecking and a bonding of yellow clay mortar, while

the internal cavities were filled with stone rubble. Overall workmanship is poorer than that found in the 1979 building; the stone blocks are smaller and noticeably uneven in shape, while greater use is made of snecking. Little can be deduced from this; probably available stone resources dictated standards as much as financial factors.

A number of new architectural features were uncovered by this year's excavations. The major room complex in IVO is noticeable for its two orthostat walls and a well preserved staircase.¹⁷ The orthostat walls consist of a series of orthostat stone blocks on a 70 cm. high base of well squared masonry. The orthostates extend for the full width of the wall and stand to a height of 60 cm. These orthostat walls can be seen as the internal subdivision of one larger room approx. 7.5 m. x 7.0 + m., as they project parallel to each other at right angles from one wall of the room, probably as far as the opposite wall although this has not been exposed as yet.¹⁸ Along their length, both orthostat walls are broken by the inclusion of a doorway, these roughly facing each other. In the corner where one of the orthostat walls connects to the solid room wall, a staircase was constructed of large squared steps on a solid stone and clay base. Starting 1.5 m. out from the solid wall, the staircase runs along the side of one of the orthostat walls before turning 90°

17. See plan and photograph in "Pella/Fahl", pls 2 and 4b.

18. On the plan published ("Pella/Fahl", pl. 2), the dividing space between the two orthostat walls is labelled as an "alley way". More likely this is the central section of a subdivided room and would have been roofed over, with an access doorway to the south opening into this part of the

in the corner to run similarly alongside the solid wall of the room towards the second orthostat wall. The full height of the staircase has not been preserved. By the second orthostat wall, it would have been about 2.0 m. above floor level, hardly an indication of ceiling height.

At Umm al Jimal, that "Pre-Islamic Christian Arabic city *par excellence*"¹⁹ along with the other basaltic cities of the southern Hauran, similar orthostat walls are described by the Princeton Expedition in buildings in a remarkable state of preservation, often to their full height of three to four stories.

In what are classified as domestic dwellings, ground floor rooms are frequently divided by one or two orthostat walls, such as at Qara'ah where, in plan, one room is very reminiscent of the orthostat room at Pella.²⁰ Butler suggests these rooms are stables, the gaps between orthostates being feed yins. In the Hauran examples, the wall is continued above the orthostates by solid stone masonry, as it probably was at Pella. Staircases in the Hauran are in keeping with Pella through their location at the junction of two walls, such as at al-Medjdel,²¹ these giving access to an upper storey, perhaps a loft associated with the stables.

Architectural features in IVS include feed bins in one room and three solid piers on the room.

19. H. C. Butler "Syria: Publications of the Princeton University Archaeological Expedition to Syria", Division II, Section A, p. 150.

20. Butler, p. 142, ill. 126.

21. Butler, p. 119, ill. 95.

step up into an adjoining room. One solid ledge bin extends the full width of the room on the north wall. This may have been a storage shelf rather than a feed bin initially, while the other bin is a crudely arranged semi-circle of stones built on the paving against one of the piers. The three aligned piers are an interesting construction. The northern one is joined to a wall, the central freestanding and the southern caught in the baulk. The space between the piers is an even 1.5 metres, constructed of well squared oblong blocks. Two were laid back to back and bonded with a grey cement mortar to form the square pier. During excavation a large number of stone blocks was removed between the piers, obviously elements from the collapsed arches originally carried upon these piers.

Again, similarities can be noted with the architecture of the southern Hauran. At al-Medijdel, in one of the house blocks, the lower storey consists of a stable located behind a large low room spanned by a row of three low arches on piers.²² Upstairs is a large arched room and long apartments; at Pella the upstairs rooms would have been executed in *pisé*. There seems little doubt, on the basis of the Hauran examples and the depth of *pisé* collapse, that at least in areas the buildings exposed at Pella were two storied with the upper floor being constructed of a yellow mud *pisé*, finished with a white plaster in better rooms and in cases also painted.

The similarities with the architecture of the southern Hauran provokes comment. In the fourth century A.D., north Palestinian architec-

ture was largely influenced by Syrian traditions. By the fifth century A.D. the impact of Aegean styles was more noticeable, particularly in cities associated with pilgrimage and trade.²³ Although this trend is applicable to church architecture in particular, the same change in fashion may equally be true of domestic architecture. At least significant sections of the buildings exposed both in 1979 and 1980 may thus be of fourth century construction, and the excavations in IIIB of this year confirm this suggestion. It seems possible the buildings have undergone a number of architectural changes since the fourth century, the last being associated with the re-use of the buildings in the Early Islamic Period.

2. Late Phase (Pl. LXXIX)

The architecture of the late phase is restricted to one dwelling.²⁴ This is a three-roomed residence, centred on a 4.75 m. x 7.0 m. reception hall with a westward facing main entrance. Two doorways in the north wall lead off from the reception hall to adjacent living rooms. All three rooms are paved with flat mudstone and limestone blocks. Walls are preserved to two courses, of double-face construction and rubble core. Blocks are small, except for the doorjambs, which are a sizeable 38 x 80 x 85 cm. A small annexe was constructed on the south-west corner of the building, this probably being a latrine.

It is likely that at least one further room continued the complex to the north, making it a house of no mean size. Very likely it has the homestead of a small agricultural estate; the

22. Butler, p. 122, ill. 96.

23. R. Krautheimer *Early Christian and Byzantine Architecture*, pp. 116-120.

24. For plan see A. McNicoll and A. Walmsley "Pella/Fahl", pl. 3.

sort of construction popular in rural or semi-rural areas in the 8th century A.D., as Pella obviously was by this time.

C) FINDS (Figs 19, 20)

1. Pottery

The excavations of 1980 have confirmed the ceramic typology of the collapse period at Pella as first reported in 1979.²⁵ In this preliminary report there seems little point in publishing further pottery of the types detailed last year. However, an additional shape is a small cup with a dimple base in a hard, fine orange and brown terracotta (fig. 19). The dimple base seems characteristic of small terracotta vessels, such as cooking jars and juglets, in the Umayyad period.

A few broad trends in the popularity of certain ceramic types can be suggested at this point, although it must be remembered it is early days yet. A pale green ware seems to be more common in the late phase of the Early Islamic Period. This ware is likely of local manufacture and is mostly used to make small, coarse, porous water jars. The pinky-orange, gritty terracotta that was used to make small handled jars and single-handed spouted juglets which were decorated in swirling and wavy white painted lines, seems popular up to the end of the early phase of the Early Islamic Period. Still conspicuous through its absence is the red paint on cream ware. It may be this ware was never popular at Pella, or that it dates to a period previous to the occupation levels dug so far.

In order to be able to demonstrate observations like these statistically, a sherd-weighing programme has been instigated that should allow an evaluation of the changes in frequency of ceramic types over time. This will be of particular importance as the floors of the buildings exposed in 1979 and 1980 are dug, ideally providing a pottery sequence back to the 4th century A.D. Preliminary results have already been published²⁶ and in the coming seasons the focal point of our studies on the pottery from the Area Excavations will be concerned with establishing the occurrence and popularity of ceramic types in the Byzantine and Early Islamic Periods through this sherds weighing programme.

2. Coins²⁷

Of the nine coins from the collapse of the early phase building, three were fourth to fifth century minims, while three others were Byzantine, one each from the reigns of Justinian, Justin II and Heraclius. The three other coins are barely identifiable.

The evidence from the coins this season is inconclusive, although the continued lack of any post-reform Islamic coins from the building collapse is a little disturbing if we wish to date this destruction to the 746 A.D. earthquake.

3. Stone (fig. 20)

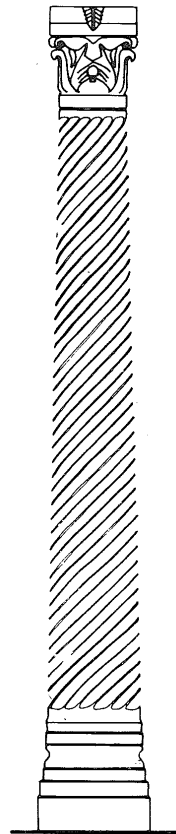
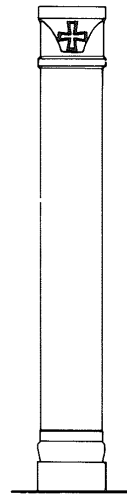
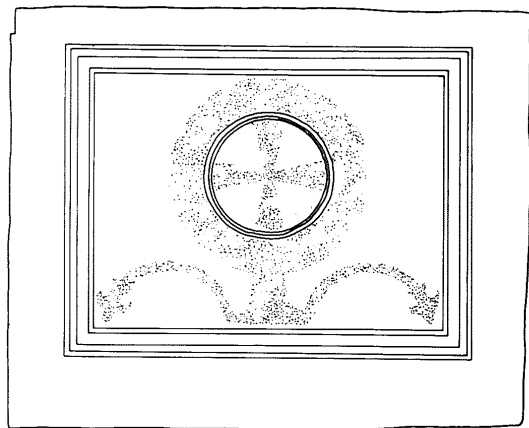
Among the *pisé* collapse of IVS was made one of the more telling discoveries this season. Fairly high up in the level was uncovered a number of architectural elements made of marble. These consist of a small, plain column

25. Preliminary Report in *ADAJ* XXIV, 1980.

fig. 1.

26. A. McNicoll and A. Walmsley "Pella/Fahl",

27. Coins identified by A. McNicoll.



MARBLE PANEL & COLUMNS.

AREA IV 1980

PELLA 80·9

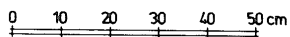


Fig. 20 Pella Area IV. Marble panel and columns.

and a colonnette, both of white marble, and a complete, but broken, white marble slab. The colonnette, a composite piece with base, column and capital in one, had a simply delineated capital distinguished by a cross (fig. 20). The marble slab showed signs of re-use. A border and central raised circle are plainly visible but the cross within the circle and the garland ribbon which ended in a pointed leaf had been erased (fig. 20). The erased decoration is depicted by stippling. In an adjoining area, another broken but complete white marble colonnette was uncovered, this again of a composite type but with a more elaborate capital and a twist-decorated shaft (fig. 20).

These architectural elements undoubtedly originate from one of Pella's churches. Churches of the fifth century in Palestine were commonly finished off with imported Proconnesian marble fittings, although discovery of these fittings *in situ* is rare due to later robbery. The pieces from IVS illustrate the uses to which such robbed materials were put. The marble slab, originally a chancel screen, probably served as a table or shelf, with the colonnette with the cross (which was found immediately underneath) as one of the legs. In its church context, this colonnette would have served a similar function as one of four legs of a stone altar. The twist-decorated colonnette, being of greater height, is probably from a baldacchino, although because it was found by itself, lying broken on a floor, its later use is unknown. Also unknown is from which of Pella's churches these marble pieces came. Excavation at the church in Area V has shown inside fittings such as these were robbed out before the building collapsed, but it would be only a guess that the marble elements found

in IVS came from this church.

d) *Summing up*

The most important aspect of the Area Excavations initiated in 1980 has been the clarification of occupation at Pella after the widespread destruction of the early phase houses. We have ascribed this destruction to natural causes, one of the major earthquakes recorded for the Jordan Valley in the first half of the eighth century A.D. Both the alterations to the early phase buildings from Late Byzantine to Early Islamic times, and the limited extent of rebuilding in the late phase, indicates Pella's changing status from trading city to agricultural village. Very likely this trend was underway by the end of the sixth century A.D., being accelerated, firstly, by the Persian invasion then by the Islamic Conquest in the seventh century. This change in status was associated with the continuing depopulation of Pella, so that by the eighth century A.D. Pella, as Pella was called by then, could have played only a minor rôle in the regional organisation of the Jund al-Urdunn as the location of perhaps a number of farmhouses belonging to small agricultural estates.

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