

**PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE 1981
SEASON OF THE SYDNEY/WOOSTER
JOINT EXPEDITION TO PELLA
(SPRING SESSION)**

by
Robert H. Smith

The third season of the Sydney/Wooster Joint Expedition to Pella, Jordan, was carried out during the first five months of 1981. As in the previous two seasons, field operations were conducted in two sessions, the first during January-February by a staff provided by The University of Sydney and the second from mid-March through mid-May by a staff under the auspices of The College of Wooster. In order to enable these preliminary reports on the two sessions of the season to appear as promptly as possible, the directors are submitting their respective reports to this journal separately, as was done for the previous season.

The spring session had a staff of more than two dozen persons, who came not only from the United States but from several other countries as well, with Jordan being well represented.¹ Primary funding came from the National Geographic Society and the National Endowment for the Humanities, with significant additional funding being provided by The College of Wooster. Field work was carried out under permit from the Department of Antiquities, with the endorsement of the American Schools of Oriental Research

and the cooperation of the American Center of Oriental Research in Amman. The Expedition wishes to express its thanks to all the persons and institutions whose contributions have made possible this continuing undertaking at Pella.

The site has become sufficiently familiar from previous publications that it needs no introduction here.² Since the Joint Expedition commenced activities in 1979, fourteen areas have been explored, some of them as on a continuing basis and others for limited purposes only. Each of the two sponsoring institutions has responsibility for field activities in its agreed-upon areas. The two most extensive excavations have been Areas III-IV (Sydney) and IX (Wooster); still as Pl. XCV shows, only a small part of the ancient site has yet been excavated.³ In 1981 excavations and related archaeological activities were carried out by the Wooster-directed team in four of these areas, two of which (VIII and IX) had been opened in 1979 and two of which (XIII and XIV) were new. Regarding results of the 1981 season and the prior work done in Areas VIII and IX and other areas, the reader is referred to the several preliminary reports published

1. In addition to myself, and the four persons who are named in the text of this report as area supervisors, the spring 1981 staff consisted of the following: Omar Reshaidat and Hekmat Ta'ani, representatives of the Department of Antiquities and excavators; Douglas Kuylenstierna, photographer; Ilse Koehler, Zoologist; Cherie J. Lenzen, ceramicist; Beryl Jolowicz, registrar/nurse/camp manager; Neil Ramsay, architect; Sallie S. Fried, drafts person; Julie Billingsley, David C. Rimmner, Dorothy J. Wickert, Adriana Hopper, Mark D. Smith, Margaret Poethig, Kristy A. Dawson, Tina Niemi, Alison M. McQuitty, and Guy Wilson, excavators. Badri Madi again served as foreman and Hassan Adawi as cook. An average of

approximately seventy local labourers, mostly men and boys, completed the field contingent.

2. For a description of the site and a list of earlier publications relating to it, see Robert H. Smith, *Pella of the Decapolis, Vol. I: the 1967 Season of The Wooster Expedition to Pella* (Wooster, Ohio, 1973), particularly Chapter 1.

3. Pl. XCV also shows, atop the central mound (upper left) the permanent field headquarters that the Expedition constructed with the generous assistance of the Department of Antiquities through its director-general, Dr. Adnan Hadidi. The expedition wishes to express its appreciation to Dr. Hadidi and his staff for the continuing support that they have given to the field program at Pella.

or in the press.⁴ as well as to a book-length, three-season interim scholarly report that is presently in the press.⁵ This present report will concern itself only with the work carried out in the Wooster session in 1981.

Area VIII

The West Cut

This was the third spring session that operations have been conducted in this long trench on the western side of the central mound. The purpose of excavation in this area is to provide a solid stratigraphic picture of the occupation of the western side of the city through the centuries, until bedrock is reached. In the two previous seasons the excavators worked their way successively back through abundant Umayyad, some Byzantine, and scanty Roman remains to the Late Hellenistic city, where there was extensive evidence of both occupation and subsequent destruction, the latter associated with an invasion successfully mounted against Pella by the Hasmonean ruler Alexander Jannaeus in 82/81 B.C. The area supervisor was Brian Cannon, a veteran of the Wooster team since the beginning of the Joint Expedition; he was assisted by Cherie J. Lenzen.

As the spring session began, it was anticipated that the excavation of the Late Hellenistic stratum would soon be completed and work could proceed into the Iron II levels that the excavations in the spring of 1980 had shown underlie the Hellenistic. It was discovered, however, that the Hellenistic debris was considerably deeper than had been expected. Although Iron Age sherds were increasingly found mingled with Hellenistic remains, the disturbance of the soil layers was such that in only a few of the loci excavated during

this past spring session were pure Iron Age levels encountered.

The discovery of the relatively large quantity of Hellenistic remains gave opportunity for further inquiry into Pella's history during the 4th Century through the early 1st Century B.C. Every effort was made to distinguish any Early Hellenistic levels underlying the abundant ones of Late Hellenistic date. Although a few sherds of Early Hellenistic date were identified, there was no Early Hellenistic stratum as such in the West Cut; there continued to be predominantly Late Hellenistic sherds in most of the deposits in this stratum. It would appear that the Late Hellenistic builders who constructed the numerous walls of that period (Pl. XCVI) churned up whatever remains there might have been of the city's Early Hellenistic Period.

During the 1980 spring session the excavators had found that, despite an abundance of walls of Late Hellenistic date, there was a notable absence of floors associated with those walls. It is becoming increasingly apparent that the numerous walls that the excavators found were, in fact, only the foundations of walls. The floors that must have been associated with the buildings had been destroyed by leveling procedures carried out by builders in the latest Hellenistic phases and in the Roman Period so that they could construct new edifices, just as later the Byzantine builders would scrape away most traces of Roman construction.

Although in general the Late Hellenistic ceramic tradition dominates the Hellenistic deposits in the West Cut, there appear to be some slight typological differences in the ceramics found at lower levels in the stratum, although never with sharp stratigraphic delination. In these lower levels, Eastern Sigillata A ware is less

4. Preliminary reports by the co-directors on the previous seasons of the Joint Expedition are to be published in *BASOR* and *ADAJ*. One of these reports is already in print: R.H. Smith, A. McNicoll, and J.B. Hennessy, "Preliminary Report on the 1979 Season of The Sydney-Wooster Joint Expedition to Pella," *ADAJ* 24 (1980), pp. 13-40. The reader is also referred to two non-technical articles that

summarize the results of the first three seasons of the Joint Expedition: Robert H. Smith, "Pella of the Decapolis," *Jordan* 5, no. 3 (Fall, 1980), pp. 13ff., and "Pella of the Decapolis," *Archaeology* 34, no. 5 (September-October, 1981), pp. 46-53.

5. *Pella in Jordan; Interim Report on the 1979-1981 Excavations*, by A.W. McNicoll, R.H. Smith and J.B. Hennessy (Canberra: Australian National Gallery, 1982).

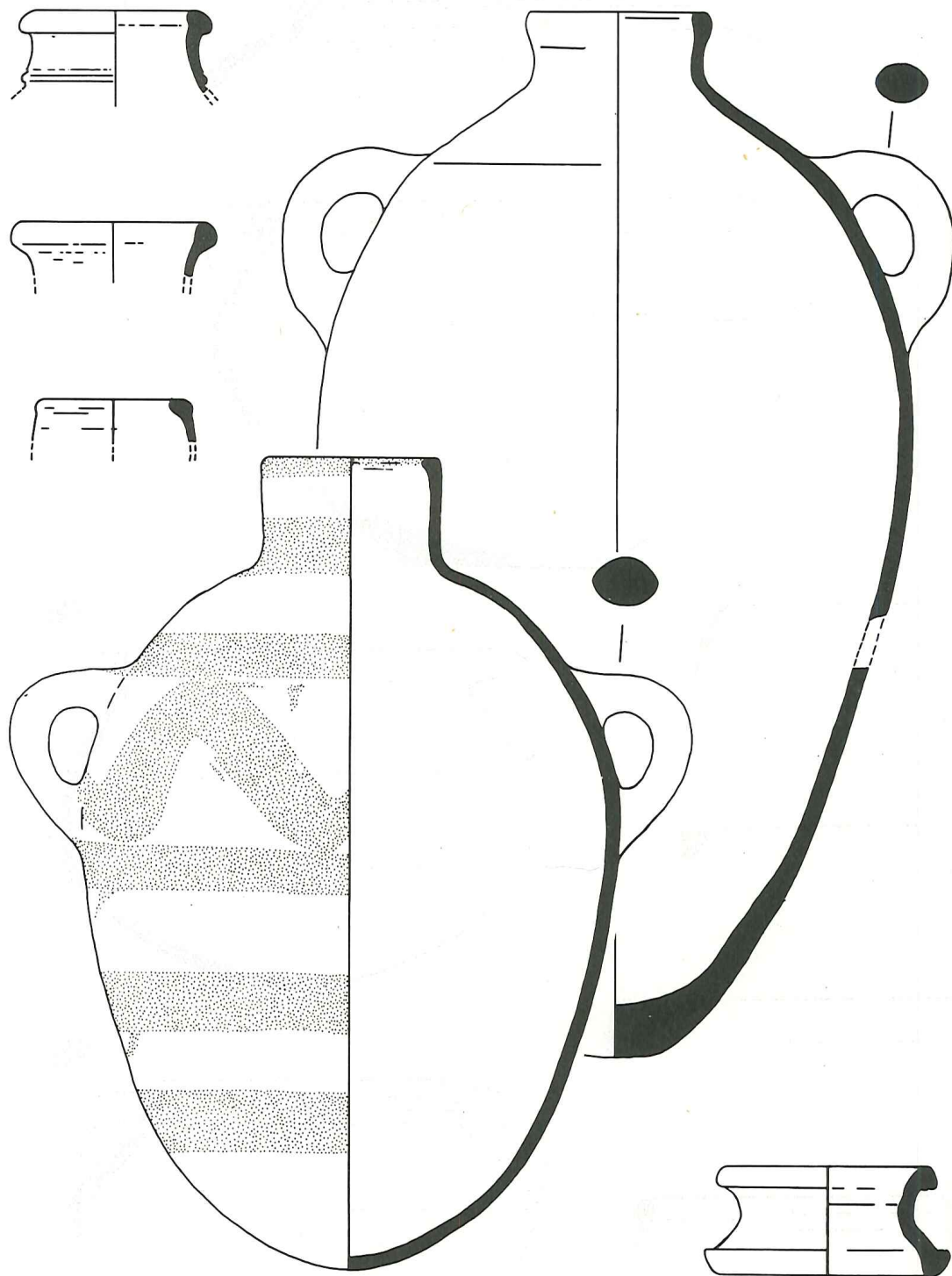


Fig. 1: Iron II pottery, chiefly jars and jar stand, from Area VIII, the West Cut, at Pella. Scale 1:4.

frequent and moulded bowls in Megarian style occasionally appear. Black-glaze Attic-style bowls are proportionately more frequent than in later levels, although Hellenistic red ware remains the most abundant imported pottery. Rhodian jar handles become noticeably less common in the lower levels. Possibly when the pottery

is studied in greater detail other distinctions may become evident. The ceramic evidence supports the conclusion that Pella was occupied by at least the later part of the 3rd century B.C., and possibly earlier in that century. Numismatic data have yet to be assembled, but the generally low percentage of legible coins that are

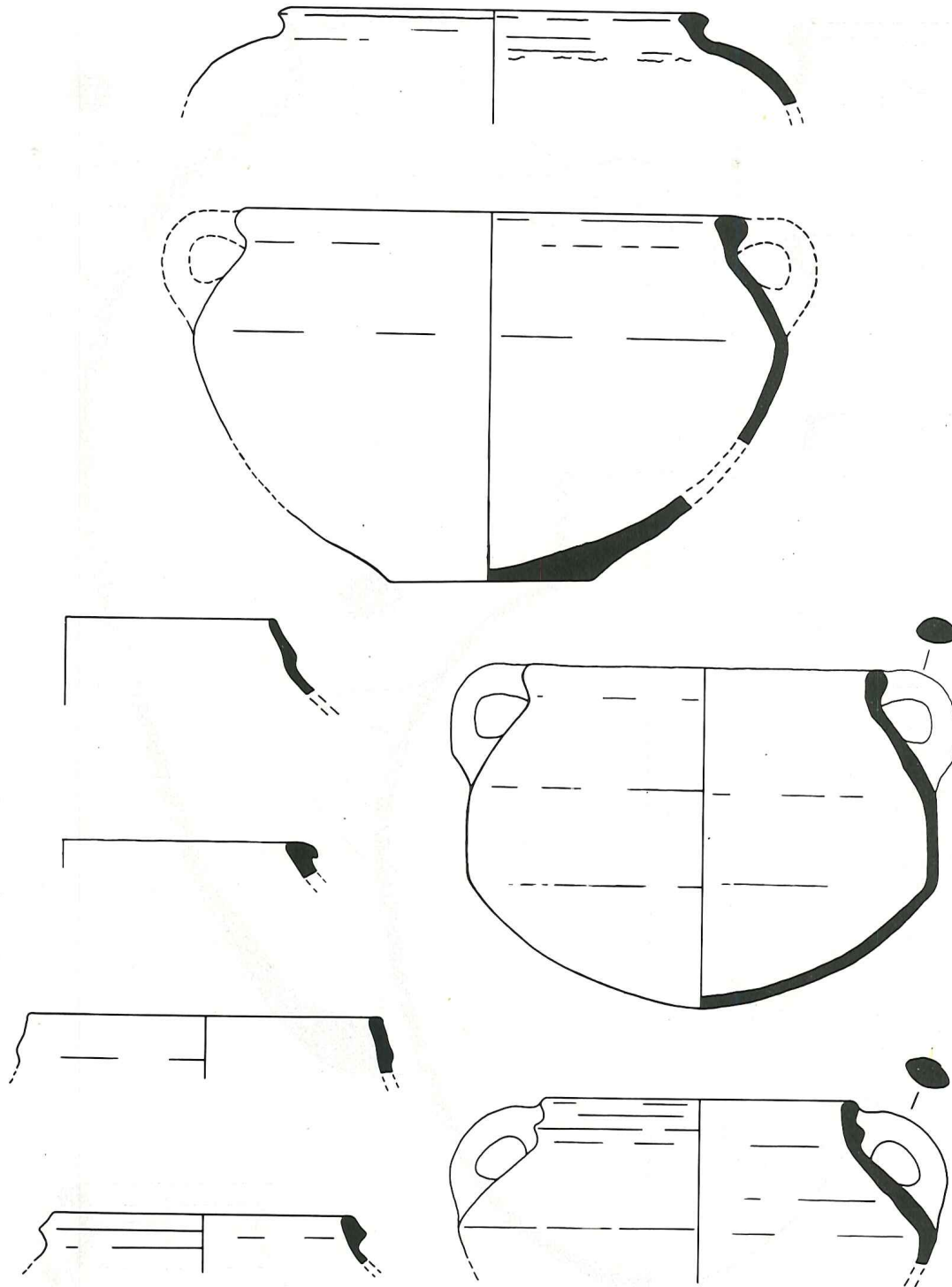


Fig. 2: Iron II pottery, chiefly cooking pots and food-storage pots, from Area VIII, the West Cut, at Pella. Scale 1:4.

retrieved in the West Cut cautions against the expectation of definitive dating by that means.

Pella was a rapidly growing city during the Late Hellenistic period, for the quantity of finds increases rapidly from the slight remains of the 3rd Century B.C. to the more abundant artifacts of the early 2nd

century and the large quantity of finds from the late 2nd and early 1st centuries B.C. Excavation is thus confirming the traditions recorded by Graeco-Roman writers that Pella was refounded, either at the end of the 4th Century B.C. or late in the 3rd Century B.C. (more likely the latter) under the Seleucid monarchy.

The Iron Age occupation was also found intermingled with the Hellenistic, but the ceramic corpus was restricted largely to potsherds that did not come from restorable vessels. Diagnostic ceramic wares and types (see Fig. 1, which illustrates some jar forms, which are among the two hundred vessel-types or wares identified in the field) indicate occupation during the 8th-7th centuries B.C. with an apparent extension into the early 6th century, after which time there is a virtual gap in occupation lasting three hundred or more years, until the refounding of the Hellenistic city.

Relatively few structural remains were associated with the Iron Age levels; such walls as did appear were flimsy and scarcely more than a course high, and generally were associated with tabuns (bread ovens). Broken but partly restorable vessels had a

narrow typological range, being chiefly for cooking or storing food (Fig. 2). Some mud brick was encountered, but it may be suspected that most of the latest Iron Age houses had been constructed of mud brick atop rubble-stone foundations. No masses of collapsed mud brick, however, were found. The Early Hellenistic builders must have destroyed most of the Iron II ruins that they found at the site as they set about their own construction. Once these levels of disturbance are past, it may be hoped that better-preserved Iron Age remains will be found. There will, however, be considerable Iron II debris to be excavated; a sounding made in one plot indicated a continuation of the same ceramic horizon for at almost two more meters below the average depth reached in the West Cut by the end of the 1981 spring session, without the appearance of floors or any change in

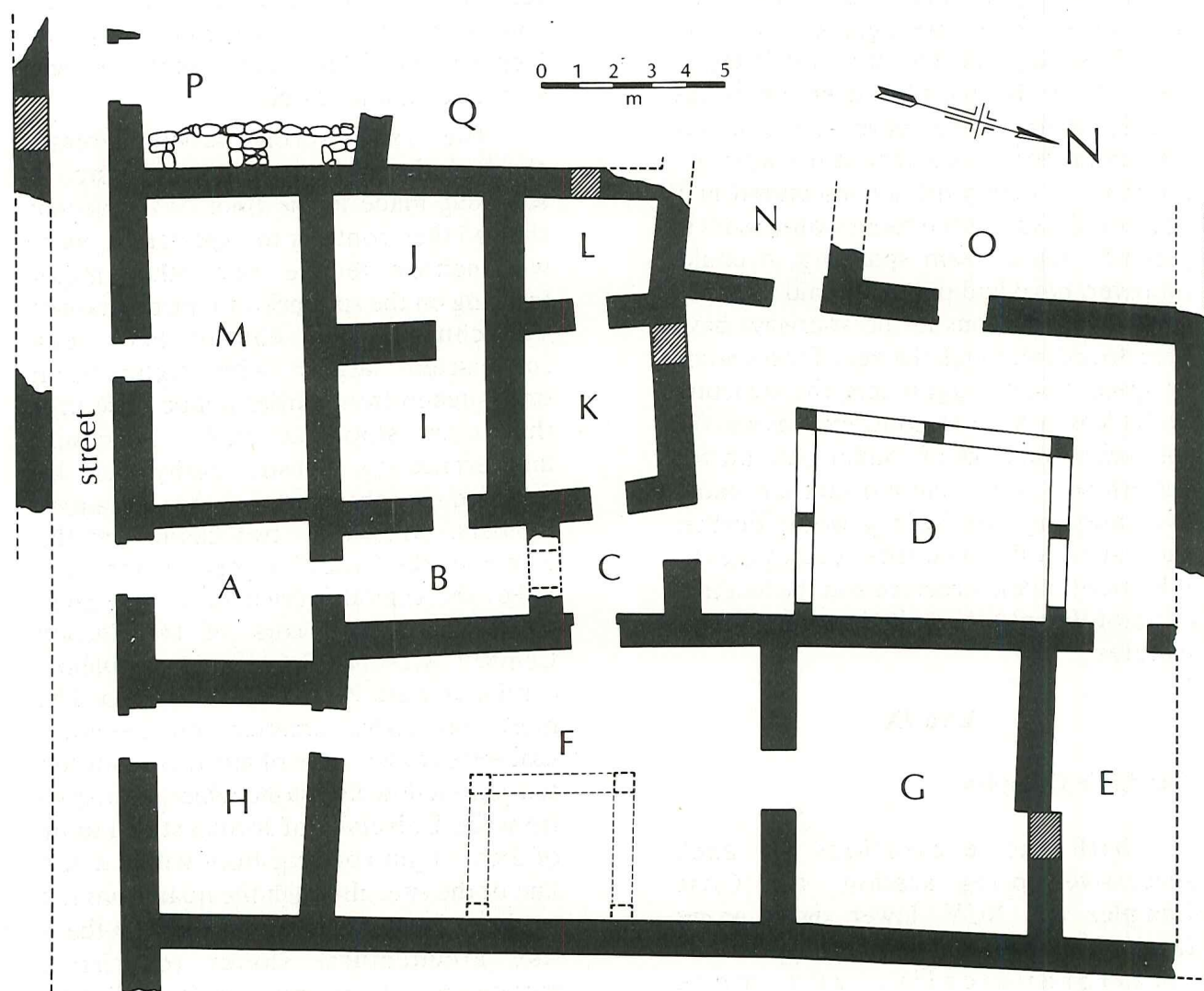


Fig. 3: Provisional plan of a large Byzantine-Umayyad house on the western side of the central mound of Pella.

the Iron II ceramic corpus. It would seem that Iron II may still be encountered in the West Cut at a depth of 6-7 m. from the surface of the mound. Whether Iron I or earlier periods will be found at greater depths remains to be seen, but it may be regarded as likely.

While these excavations were taking place, a crew of workmen was set to the task of clearing the large Byzantine-Umayyad house that had been discovered in the West Cut in the 1979 season, when portions of its walls were brought to light. Ever since that structure was discovered it has seemed desirable to expose the entire house-plan, so that 6th- to 8th-century A.D. domestic architecture at Pella could be better understood. By the end of the season it had become apparent that what were originally identified as Houses A, B and C in the West Cut may all be part of a single, sprawling house. As provisionally reconstructed on the basis of these investigations, the plan (Fig. 3) shows that the courtyard found in 1979 (*D* on the plan) lies deep within the house, where it may have served in the Umayyad Period as a part of the women's quarters. A courtyard is conjectured in *F* because the size of the room would seem to preclude single-beam spanning; it could, however, have had pillars to hold a roof or second storey. Thus far no stairways have been found, although the need for economy of space would suggest that the structure had at least a partial second level, as was the case with buildings of similar date on the eastern side of the mound that are under excavation by the Sydney team. Further excavation will be needed to determine the full extent of this structure and the location of all of the interior walls and other major features.

Area IX

The Civic Complex

With the excavations of each successive spring session, the Civic Complex (Pl. XCV, lower right) grows larger in area, more complicated stratigraphically, and more archaeologically significant. It is rapidly

becoming the dominant feature at the site, and its full extent remains unknown. During the interval between the 1980 and 1981 spring sessions, the Department of Antiquities had reset columns of the atrium of the Civic Complex Church which had previously been excavated, so that the viewer now has some awareness of the commanding position that this church occupied near Pella's spring and probably on the edge of the city's Roman-period forum.

In the spring of 1981, field operations in the Civic Complex were supervised by Dr. Leslie P. Day, who returned in this capacity for her third successive season. The northeast quadrant of the atrium was excavated, and the atrium was thereby completely cleared of debris. Most of the remaining columns and their capitals were found, and it is anticipated that the resetting of the final portion of the colonnade can be completed by the Department of Antiquities before the next spring session takes place.

The 1981 spring session greatly clarified the history of this building. A sounding made in the floor of the atrium showed that, contrary to expectation, there was neither temple nor other major building on the spot prior to the erection of the church. The church had been constructed largely with architectural stones taken from earlier public structures that once stood at Pella. A casual indifference to stylistic purity can be detected on the part of the Byzantine builders. Almost no two capitals in the atrium of the Civic Complex Church were alike; the capitals varied from very good quality provincial work of the Second Century A.D. (Pl. XCVII, 1) to shallow carving of Late Roman workmanship. The most impressive architectural members that were reused were of attractive mottled red-and-yellow limestone which geologists from the University of Jordan stated to be of local origin (coming from within a few km. of the site, although the quarry has not yet been located). It is possible that these fine architectural stones (consisting particularly of columns, capitals, lintels, and polished facing slabs) may have been

taken from the impressive Roman-period temple that numismatic evidence shows as standing on Tell el Husn, the large natural hill that rises 200 feet above the creekbed of the Wadi Jirm south of the central mound.

This past spring excavation proceeded for the first time inside the sanctuary of this church. Although the quantity of massive fallen stones, including some intact monolithic columns, prevented the exposure of more than a small part of the sanctuary, the results were informative, and work will need to continue there in future seasons. The sanctuary had

originally been floored with a geometric mosaic pavement, small patches of which had survived amid numerous repavings of increasingly poor quality. The sanctuary had been stripped of its ecclesiastical fittings prior to the earthquake of A.D. 746-47 that destroyed the structure. The skeletons of two persons who perished in the earthquake were found on the floor, one of them in a tightly crouched position and the other sprawled on its back. The archaeological evidence found in this one part of the sanctuary is already providing an outline of the vicissitudes of the church from the time of its construction in the 5th



Fig. 4: Typical pottery of the first half of the 8th century A.D. found in the debris the colonnaded hall north of Civic Complex Church in Area IX at Pella. Scale 1:4.

century until its abandonment and ultimate collapse in the middle of the 8th century A.D.

North of the atrium and sanctuary is a long colonnaded chamber discovered in the spring of 1980. By the end of the past spring session a total of seven camel skeletons, a calf skeleton, a donkey skeleton, and two human skeletons had been found in this chamber; all had died in the final earthquake. One of the human skeletons was found crouched near the entrance (Pl. XCVIII, 1); with it was a pruning hook, a dagger, a gold earring, and several gold and silver Umayyad coins. Although by the first half of the 8th century this chamber was obviously being used to house domesticated animals, its original function will not become clear until excavation has proceeded further. Of particular interest in the debris that filled this hall was a corpus of artefacts (mostly ceramic) dating from the period between the earthquake of A.D. 717 and that of 746/47. Fig. 4 illustrates some of the forms. As a whole, the corpus is indisguishable from that found in the debris of the latter earthquake in Area III. The quantity of pottery from the first half of the 8th Century A.D. at Pella is rapidly growing, and already constitutes a major contribution to the knowledge of Transjordanian ceramics of the Early Umayyad period.

Amid the debris that filled the chamber of the camels was a paver of Byzantine or Early Umayyad date that had been fashioned from a larger marble slab bearing an inscription in Latin on its opposite side. Regrettably in forming the paver the mason destroyed most of the inscription; all that can be read are the fragmentary words (Pl. XCVII, 2).. SARIBUS ... HEODOSIO.., in two lines, which can be easily be reconstructed as *Caesaribus... Theodosio*. The upper edge of a third line of text is visible, but is too fragmentary to be reconstructed. The reference to Theodosius as Caesar, if indeed the two should be read together, suggests a date during the period of A.D. 350-450. It is possible that the text was a dedicatory one that was placed on a public building. This inscription is the first in Latin

that has been found at Pella. It would be premature to draw extensive conclusions from the find, since inscriptions have thus far been scarce at Pella by comparison with a site such as Gerasa, but it would seem that Pella generally shared the preference of Levantine cities for Greek rather than Latin as an international language.

Much more has now been exposed of the monumental stairway that extends southwestward from the atrium toward the Wadi Jirm, that is to say, toward what was probably an open public area in Roman-Byzantine times. At the bottom of the stairway a Byzantine street was discovered. In the last few days of the excavation an interesting exedra began to emerge to the west of (and originally beneath) this street. It is tempting to speculate that, since it lies very close to the city's great spring, this massive, 1-meter-thick, U-shaped wall may prove to have some connection with the nymphaeum that is shown on some of the city's coins, but only further excavation will reveal its exact form and function.

South of the atrium lies Pella's odeon, a small theater that was presumably originally roofed. The condition of the building is very ruinous, largely because of earthquakes and robbing by Byzantine inhabitants of the architectural stones of the structure for use elsewhere. As early as the 7th century the ecclesiastical authorities appropriated the limestone seating slabs of the odeon for the construction of the monumental stairway leading up to the atrium of the church. After the odeon was denuded of virtually all usable architectural stones, it was used as a dumping ground. Several retaining walls of poor quality were constructed during the final century of the city's life to prevent the accumulating debris from sliding into the creekbed and polluting the city's water supply. The excavations behind these walls produced large quantities of potsherds of about the 6th-century A.D., representing thousands of discarded vessels.

Every effort was made this past spring to clear the Byzantine debris from at least a part of the floor of the orchestra of the

odeon. The pavement was encountered on the last day of excavation, but only after immense difficulty because the water table in the Wadi Jirm rises more than 2 meters above the floor of the building. Only by continual pumping of water and excavating of mud was it possible to reach the floor, and then only temporarily. Upon conclusion of the excavation the water table resumed its customary level and the Department of Antiquities anticipated filling in the resulting pool as a safety measure. Although it would be highly desirable to excavate the stage of the odeon, further archaeological work there will have to await the permanent lowering of the water table.

The discoveries in the Civic Complex are gradually beginning to dovetail, so that it is now possible to understand the occupation of part of this area in broad outline, and to relate it to the emerging larger history of Pella. The odeon, and perhaps the colonnade north of the church, date from the Roman period. These structures flanked a public area that had been constructed in the creekbed just south of the city-mound. When Pella was at its height of prosperity and population in the 5th-6th centuries and Christianity was in full sway, extensive construction began in the Civic Complex. The large Civic Complex Church was built of stones taken from important pre-Christian buildings, including many architectural stones from one major especially handsome structure. Approached by a street that descended southward into the atrium from the eastern side of the city, the church was flanked on the west by a row of shops and a street that led to the rear (northern) entrance of the odeon. Later, when the odeon was closed, the approach to the church was changed from north to west, and on the west a monumental stairway was constructed that covered the street and Byzantine shops. For the paving of this stairway the stone seats of the odeon were turned upside down and reused. Before long, however -- perhaps because it had been damaged in an earthquake -- the grand staircase was walled off and the atrium was once again entered from the north -- this time by

means of a rude corridor formed of assorted old column drums and other architectural stones. By this time the chamber adjoining the atrium on the north had been converted into a kind of stable, and in order to prevent the animals from straying into the atrium the church's leaders had a large stile of discarded architectural stones built across the corridor (Pl. XCVIII, 2). Soon afterward the entire complex was destroyed by earthquake.

Area XIII

The Jebel Sartaba Fortress

One of the notable discoveries made in the spring of 1980 was a large fortress situated 2.2 kilometers east-southeast of Pella, on the highest hilltop in the vicinity, the elevation of which is 350 meters above that of Pella. Although within view from the western side of the mound (Pl. XCIX, 1), the site lay beyond all roads, ancient or modern, and was difficult of access--a fact which had undoubtedly saved its stones from depredation over the centuries. A crew of men under Area Supervisor Dale Martin worked at the site throughout the spring session of 1981, clearing the fallen stones from the walls so that the outlines could be examined and mapped, and conducting soundings to try to determine the dates of construction, occupation, abandonment and collapse.

The fortress was roughly square in plan and approximately 60 meters on each side (Pl. C). The construction was extremely simple; the rocky surface had been stripped of soil and rough-hewn field stones (of which there is an abundance on the broad hilltop) were laid to form walls as much as 2 meters wide. There were eight towers, one at each corner and one near the center of each wall. No two towers were identical, but all of them had one to three inner rooms (Pl. XCIX, 2). There were four entrances, one on each side and each beside a tower. A few meters outside the walls ran a low terrace with an outer face of rough-hewn stones but seldom any discernable inner face. The quantity of fallen wall stones was not sufficient to

suggest that there had been a second storey. Indeed, so undressed were the building stones that there is some question as to the stability of the structure if it had borne a second level.

Two small cisterns had been cut in the bedrock inside the fortification. The restricted size of the cisterns indicates that not many soldiers could be accommodated within the fort for any great length of time. Indeed, the lack of more than a few centimeters of sediment at the bottom of each of them suggests little or no actual use. The few sherds that were found at the bottom of them or embedded in the cement that partially lined their rough-hewn rock walls were of Hellenistic date, as were occasional sherds or clusters of sherds found amid the fallen stones of the fortress's walls. Though slight in quantity, the ceramic evidence clearly indicates that the fort was built in the Hellenistic period. The form of the structure accords well with that dating.

It is not plausible that the fortress was built by the people of Pella independently for their own security, for in its isolated hilltop position it could do little to defend the city; rather it is likely that it was constructed by one of two Seleucid monarchs, either Seleucus I around 301 B.C. or Antiochus III, both of whom are said to have been interested in the region of Pella. The construction most likely took place around the end of the 3rd Century B.C., for, as we know from the ancient historian Josephus, Antiochus was militarily active in Transjordan for a brief period around that time.

Inspection of the interior of the structure showed a ragged outcropping of bedrock running across the center, with no evidence whatever of any interior paving, or even so much as a packed-earth floor. Had there been such, it could not have been washed entirely away by erosion, since the walls of the building would have acted as retainers. Soundings made at various spots within the structure yielded no evidence whatever of occupation. Indeed, it is possible that the walls of the fort were never completed.

The fact that the fort was never

occupied may be attributed either to its

If the construction of the fortress was ordered by Antiochus III, it was presumably hoped that it would serve as a deterrent to incursions by the Arab tribes that inhabited the Transjordanian plateau that began only a few miles east of Pella. The idea was apparently ill-conceived, since the manning of a fort of such large size would require a large expenditure, and the utility of the structure as a barrier to incursions would be limited. Perhaps, of course, the chief purpose of the installation was to serve as a psychological deterrent. It also could have served as a lookout station, commanding as it did a view of much of the terrain on the north, east, and south. From the hilltop the castle of Ajlun can easily be seen a dozen kilometers to the south-southeast, and to the west a sharp-eyed watchman could see not only Beth Shan but also Mt. Carmel, and on a clear day even Mt. Hermon 100 km. distant to the north.

poor structural characteristics or the possibility that, once Antiochus left the region, his administrators did not, or could not, carry out his ambitious plans for establishing a military presence throughout northern Transjordan. In any case, after a relatively short time the Seleucids were forced to abandon the region, and never returned. Their retreat from this part of Transjordan early after relatively brief occupation may have been the primary cause for the abandonment of the fortress before it was ever used.

An isolated tower situated some 60 m. south-southeast of the fortress, atop the highest spot on the hilltop, was also explored archaeologically. Its construction was identical with that of the fort, and some sherds found in association with the walls indicated that it was contemporaneous with the larger structure. There was, however, in addition to the Hellenistic pottery, a relatively large corpus of much earlier ceramics ranging from Chalcolithic through Iron II. This pottery was much weathered, and appeared to have been lying on the hill at the time the tower was constructed. It is possible that the tower was built on a natural camping spot which had attracted

occasional use for thousands of years.

This large hill also has other features of interest, including a wall-like line of large, unhewn rocks leading from the fortress to the single tower, and an irregular enclosure, also constructed of massive field stones, extending northeastward from the tower. The enclosure may perhaps have been intended for animals, and could date from a later time than the tower itself. Several other apparent lines of rude single-course walls can be seen at various places on the slopes. Much farther down the slope to the northeast is a cistern that still holds water. The relationship of these more distant evidences of human activity to the structures on the crest of Jebel Sartaba is unknown, as are their dates.

Area XIV

The Chalcolithic Site

On the third day of the 1981 spring

session two staff members discovered, about one-half kilometre southeast of the city's ruins, a circular group of stones (which, upon excavation, proved to be a so-called silo, with a plastered bottom; Pl. CII) and some associated Chalcolithic potsherds that were of sufficient interest to warrant further investigation. The site is situated midway up the slope of a high ridge that is presently remote from water but may once have had a spring coming out of a gully that was close at hand (Pl. CI). It overlooks the Jordan Valley, but is somewhat sheltered from view by intervening hills. Looking northward, one sees Tell el Husn looming up not far distant, blocking the view of most of the central mound of Pella.

The find-spot proved to have had intensive occupational use. Although three rooms were excavated by Area Supervisor Jack Hanbury-Tension during the spring session, sherds found elsewhere in the

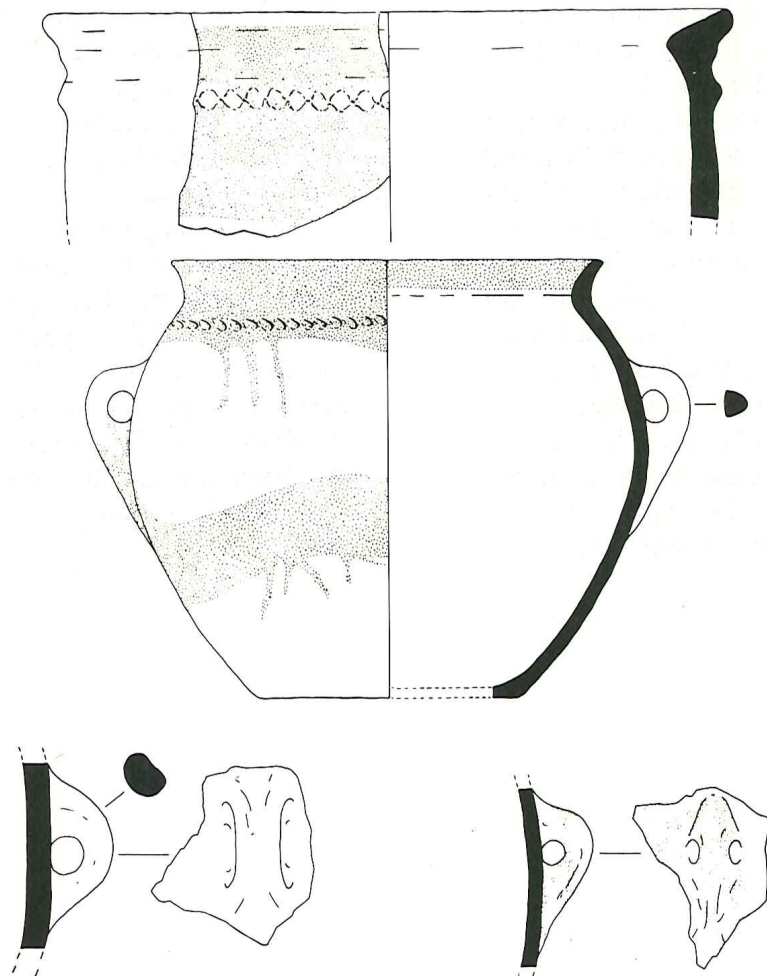


Fig. 5: Typical storage kraters excavated in Area XIV at Pella, one of a many of vessel forms found at the Chalcolithic site during excavation. Stippling denotes red paint. Scale 1:4.

immediate vicinity suggest that the site may have extended over a considerable area. The chambers were crudely fashioned by a combination of the cutting of the bedrock and the construction of some walls of field-stone, and some walls were made of rounded, breadloaf-shaped mud bricks. The typically Middle Chalcolithic artifacts included basalt bowls, including one fenestrated pedestal bowl that was found broken and lying on its side inside a plastered pit. Fragments of many dozens of ceramic vessels were found in the chambers, sometimes lying in the shallow soil and other times close to the irregular, rock-hewn floors. In addition to customary coarse-ware basins, jars and other large ceramic vessels that were often parcel-slipped in red with bold geometric brush strokes (examples of which are illustrated on Fig. 5), there was an interesting repertory of smaller, much better levigated pottery that included some bowls turned on a slow potter's wheel. There were also worked flints, limestone adzes and stone spindle whorls.

The site has features that suggest that religious rites may have been performed there, but displays domestic characteristics as well. It has particular importance not only because it is the first Chalcolithic occupation found *in situ* at Pella, but also because the site appears to have been used for a relatively short period of time and therefore constitutes a homogeneous assemblage of Middle Chalcolithic artifacts that may be dated to the third quarter of the 4th millennium B.C. Although it may be that many of the salient features of the site

have been uncovered in the excavation of these three chambers, there is the possibility that the site has more of archaeological importance to offer, particularly with regard to the settlement's plan; hence excavation will continue in 1983 during the Australian winter session, and into future seasons if its potentiality warrants.

Conclusion

The 1981 spring session at Pella was abundant in new discoveries of the history of the site, ranging over more than four thousand years. The richness of the discoveries is the more notable in view of the fact that no tombs were excavated. The 1981 finds have made it possible to fill in some otherwise obscure periods of Pella's history and to give a more detailed and coherent picture of the final centuries of the city's long history. But only a small part of the site has yet been explored archaeologically, and many questions remain. A number of seasons of field work will be required before a complete outline of Pella's history can be written.

The College of Wooster team will not be in the field in the spring of 1982. For some time it has been planned that there would be a fallow year, in which there would be opportunity for additional curatorial work on the artifacts and study of the finds of the first three spring sessions of the Expedition. The resumption of field activities is projected for the spring of 1983.