

RECENT EXCAVATIONS AT PETRA
(1979-81)

by
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Thanks to the efforts of the Department of Antiquities and the financial support of the Jerash-Petra Tourist Project, a substantial development programme was initiated in 1979. It included: I) the clearance of the Sîq, II) the excavation of Qasr el Bint Temple and of III) a potter's kiln complex at Zurrabeh, near the Rest House. The work was supervised by the author, with Mr. Nabil el Qadi, and the architect F. Larché from IFAPO, at the Qasr.

I. Sîq Clearance:

As previously indicated¹, large segments of the paved street and water channels were uncovered in the Sîq and consolidated by the project under the supervision of Muhammed Murshed. It is noteworthy that this main access to the caravan city is dotted by many cultic niches and Baetyls, suggesting that the gorge had been considered as a processional way. The most significant monuments in this connection, recently excavated, are a niche decorated with a doric frieze and pilasters, protecting two idols², a Greek dedication to Sabinus son of Alexander³, panagyriarches (master of the festivals) of the city of Der'a in the Hauran (Pl. CXVII, 1) and finally a sandstone altar (Pl. CXVII, 2) found opposite the niche with ten idols, at 500 m. from the Khazneh.

Text:

Θεῶι Ἁγίωι
Ἐπηκόωι *
Οὐκτωρῆνος
β(ενε)φ(ικιάριος) εὐξάμενος
ἀνέθηκεν.

Translation:

1. To the holy god
2. Who listens to prayers
3. Victorinus
4. beneficiarius
5. as a dedication
6. erected.

The saint god is to be identified with Zeus-Dusares as indicated by two Greek dedications: the first one is engraved on an altar discovered by the Horsfields near the Qasr⁴ and the second in a chapel on the top of Umm el Biyarah⁵. The epithet 'saint' is of Semitic origin⁶ and was attached to Zeus in the Roman period in the Phoenician cities of Tripoli⁷, Sidon and Baetocécé (Qal'at el Husn)⁸. At Petra, the discovery of three dedications is evidence of the permanent oriental influence in the Roman period. Victorinus, the dedicant, was a Roman soldier⁹ of the 2nd century A.D., probably in garrison at Petra.

II. Tomb 64B¹⁰:

Two funeral monuments are carved in

1. *ADAJ*, XXV (1981) p. 352.
2. F. Zayadine, *ADAJ*, XXIII (1979) p. 194-197.
3. See G. Dalman, *Petra*, Leipzig, 1908, p. 145-146, Figs 68-69.
4. P.J. Parr, *PEQ*, 89 (1957) p. 134.
5. C-M. Bennett, *ADAJ*, XXIV (1980) p. 209-212.
6. Ch. Clermont-Ganneau, *EAO*, I, p. 104; also D. Sourdel, *Les cultes du Hauran à l'époque romaine*, Paris, 1952, p. 98 & no. 1.
7. B. Mittford, in *PEQ*, 89 (1957) p. 13-14.
8. J.P. Rey-Coquais, *Arados et sa Pérée*, Paris 1974, p. 235.

9. *Idem*, *IGLS*, Paris, 1967, p. 125: "Attachés aux états majors des gouverneurs ou des officiers généraux, les bénéficiaires sont souvent chargés par leurs chefs de missions de confiance." See also M. Sartre, *IGLS*, XIII, Paris, 1982, p. 348.

10. In Brunnow and von Domasewski, *Die Provincia Arabia*, I. Strassbourg 1904, only one tomb opposite the Khazneh is recorded (64). But two of the Hegra type exist, which I number 64A, decorated with short pilasters in the attica and B. under study.

the Khubtha cliff, at the exit of the Siq, opposite the Khazneh and are sealed by about 2.50 m. of wadi débris. The excavation of Tomb 64 B. was decided as part of the Siq clearance and the accumulated gravel which obstructed the entrance was partly removed with the help of the Project's grader. The excavation of the tomb was very long (from September 1979 to March 1980) and was successfully supervised by Mr. Nabil Qadi.

The architectural facade (Pl. CXVIII, 1-2), which averages 20.05 m. in height and 13.45 m. in maximum width, belongs to the well known Hegra type: two pilasters whose bases are severely eroded support a cornice and a frieze, followed by a plain attic, a rounded tenia, and a cavetto: of the two usual half crowsteps at the angles, only the right hand one is extant.

Two frames enclose the entrance; the outer one consists of two pilasters spanned by an architrave supporting a frieze and a weathered pediment. The inner frame includes two pilasters, topped by an architrave (completely worn), and a frieze with a cornice. Five holes on the architrave and four oblique grooves above the cornice were probably prepared to hold stucco decoration. In addition to a step partly hewn out of the rock, two other steps are built with dressed stones in front of the funeral chamber, which is carved with 9 loculi and 3 sunken graves. (Fig. 1).

A sandstone block (0.45 by 0.38 by 0.12 m.), carved with a 4 line Nabataean inscription (Pl. CXIX, 1 and Fig. 3) was discovered to the left of the entrance, near sunken grave 11 which was filled with broken cover slabs and boulders, mixed with disintegrated bones (for the inscription, see below).

Grave 10, in the southwestern corner, is a shallow cist which contained broken slabs, rubble and bones, while grave 9 was filled with charcoal, probably the remains of a wooden coffin. Many little bronze bells with burned bones, broken slabs and rubble filled the burial.

From the five southern loculi, only No. 2 is dug with a grave about 1.02 m. deep, originally covered with slabs, set on a depressed rim. It contained fragmentary bones

and few sherds.

The three loculi, cut in the eastern wall, opposite the entrance, are elaborate for they are flanked by pilasters with pedestals. Imported pedestals are built in front of loculi 4 and 6. In loculus 4, a trough 2.47 m. deep and 0.78 m. wide is cut in the floor and superimposed by two shelves (section A-B, Fig. 2). A complete skeleton was deposited on the right ledge of the grave, while fragmentary bones were scattered on the shelves. A lamp (No. 2 Pl. CXXII) was found beside the skeleton and a bowl (No 1, Pl. CXX) was lying at the entrance of the loculus. At this place, a funeral stele (*nefesh*) half broken, was set in a slot.

In loculus 5 (2.75 m. deep), there were two superimposed shelves but only the lower one preserved its covering slabs: A woman's skeleton with a foetus between the legs was found on the upper shelf. A silver denarius of Septimius Severus (Pl. CXX, 2) together with lamp No. 7 were collected among the bones. In the floor, in front of the loculus, a slot was carved to receive a stele while a *nefesh* fragment was found in the vicinity.

Dressed stones line the sides of loculus 6. At its entrance, a stele, engraved with a pyramid (Pl. CXXI, 1), was discovered with lamp No 4. Another lamp (No. 5) was deposited at the entrance of the loculus.

A slab from the same area bears a painted Nabataean inscription (Pl. CXIX, 2) which reads: "MKS", probably a name of Greek origin like Andromakos.

The Nabataean Inscription:

Pl. CXIX, 1 and Fig. 3).

It consists of four lines, deeply engraved on a sandstone block, 0.38 m.H., 0.45 m. wide and 0.12 m. thick.

Transliteration:

- 1- ... bt 'frw 'ntt
- 2- ... ' w 'srt'
- 3- ... [dh] b' w 'dyt' dy t̄th
- 4- *vacat* ḡty dy 'l' *vacat*

Translation:

- 1- ... bat- 'frw, wife of
- 2- ... ' w and concubine
- 3- gold (?) and ornament which is down
- 4- *vacat* my corpse (at rest) above *vacat*

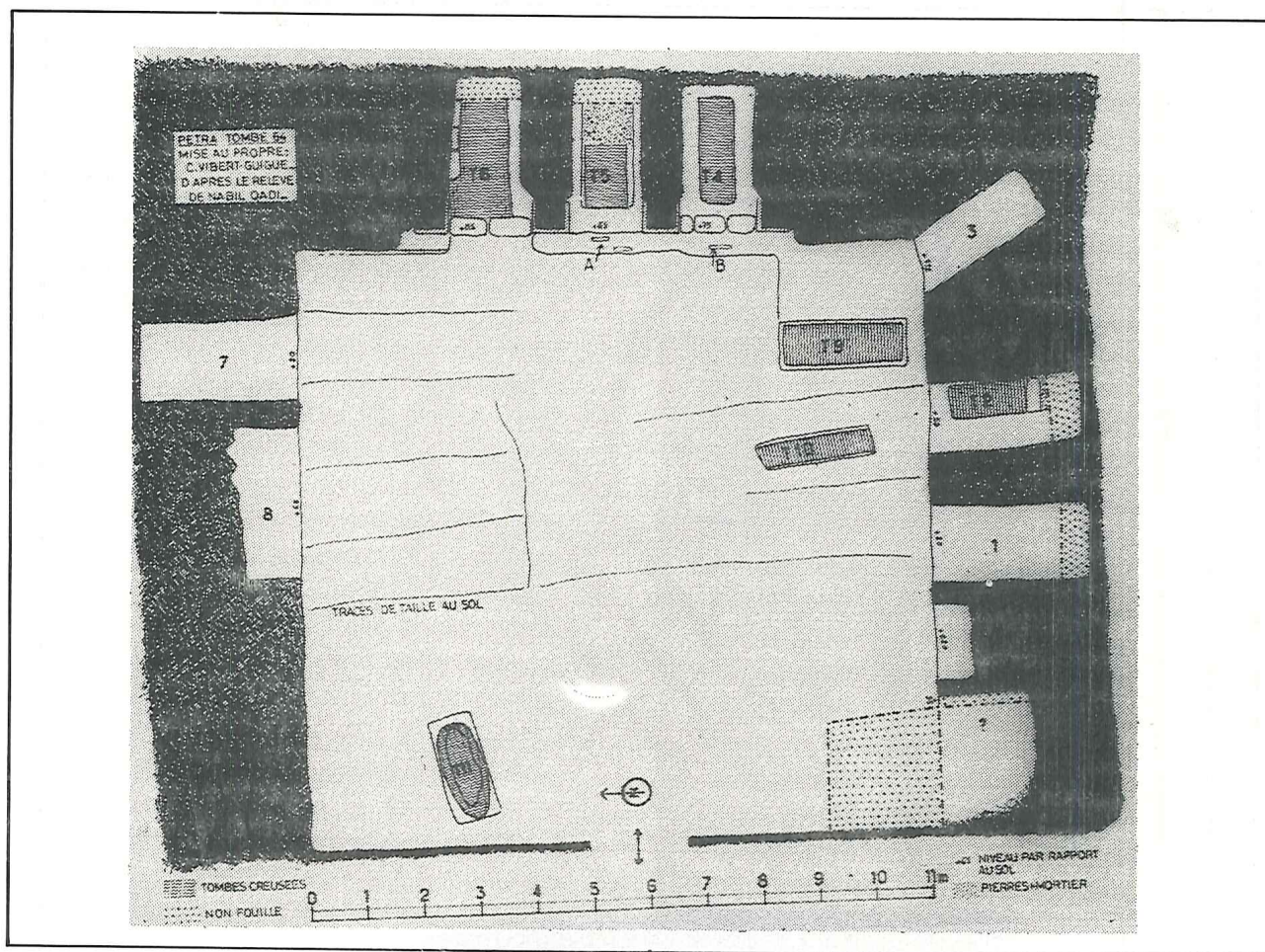


Fig. 1: Ground plan of Tomb 64 B by Cl. Vibert-Guigue

This epitaph, the first of its kind in the Nabataean epigraphic corpus, was probably a cover slab. L.1: *bat frw* designates a woman who is the unique heir of their family.¹¹ The name *frw* can be compared to arabic. *غفر* L.2: *'srt'*: in the Syriac Lexicon (C. Prockelman) and Arabic is a female captive. It is probably in this context a concubine. L. 3: although the *'ain* of *'dyt'* is not usual, there is no other satisfactory interpretation. It means ornament or jewelry (G. Dalman, *Armaisch Neuhebraisches Handwörterbuch*).

The inscription which could be dated to the second century A.D. is rather obscure because it is mutilated. It nevertheless confirms the already expressed opinion¹² that the Petra citizens preferred to place the funeral inscription, for some unknown reason, inside their tombs.

In a recent paper, M. Gawlikowski advanced the theory "that there was an interdiction of religious character barring the founders of the tombs in Petra from putting their names on their monuments"¹³. In fact, out of 81 tombs at Hegra, only 30 façades bear inscriptions. M.Gawlikowski does not specify if his hypothesis should apply to those anonymous tombs or those of Palmyra for example. On the other hand, he makes no mention of the remarks of P.J. Parr about the evidence of "plaques of limestone or of bronze originally fixed near the entrances of the tombs, materials more conducive to good and legible epigraphy".¹⁴ He also omits a bilingual epitaph, carved in the Bab es-Siq, opposite the Obelisk Tomb, bearing the name of the tomb's founder. (*ADAJ*, XXI; 1976, p. 143-154.

11. J.T. Milik, *Dédicaces faites par des dieux*, Paris, 1972, p. 259.

12. F. Zayadine, *RB*, 86 (1979) p. 134.

13. *Studies in the History and Archaeology of Jordan*, I, 1982, p. 303.

14. P.J. Parr, *PEQ*, 100 (1968), p. 12.

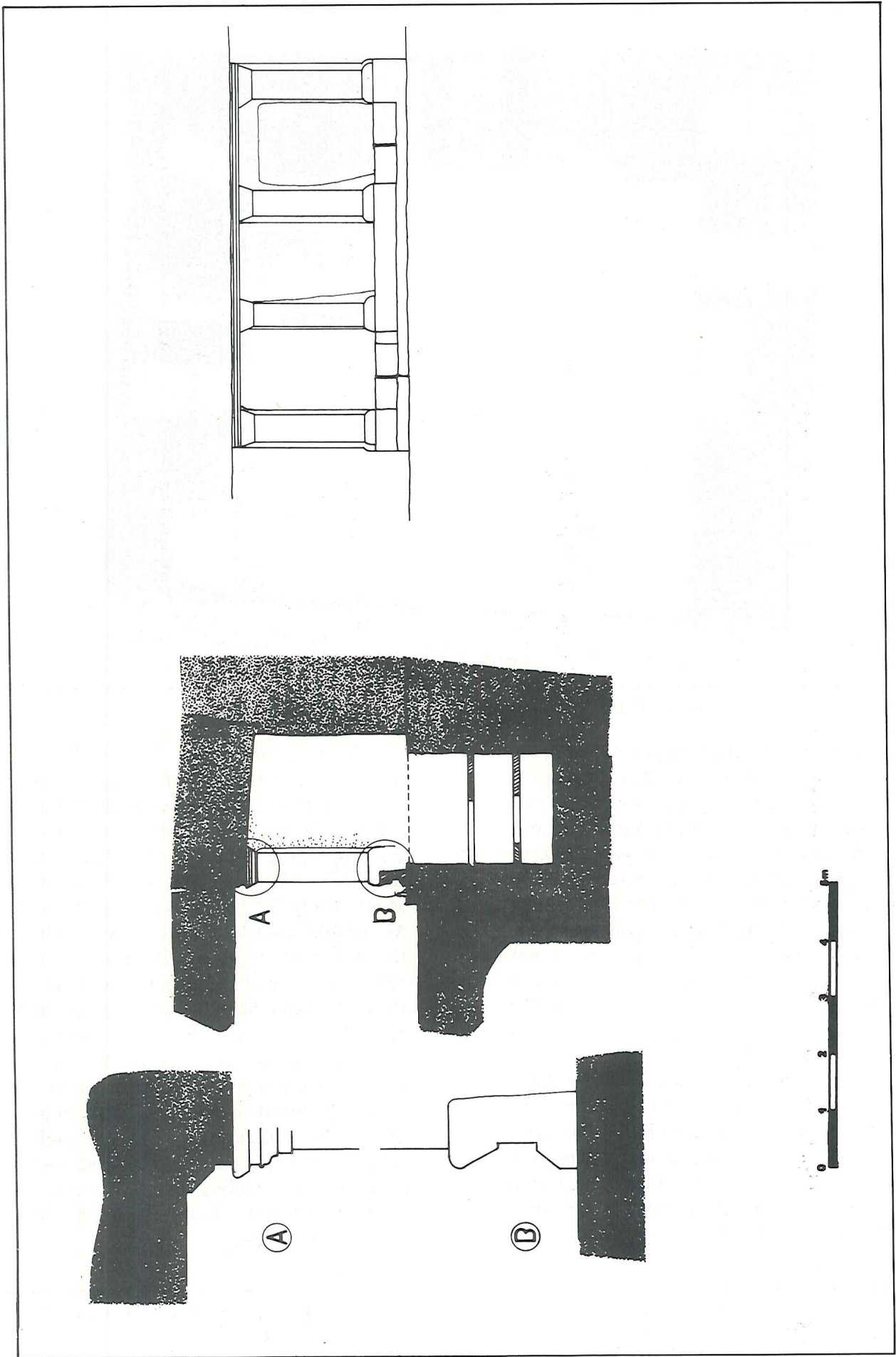


Fig. 2: Section of East wall of Tomb 64 B by Elisabeth Gunsam

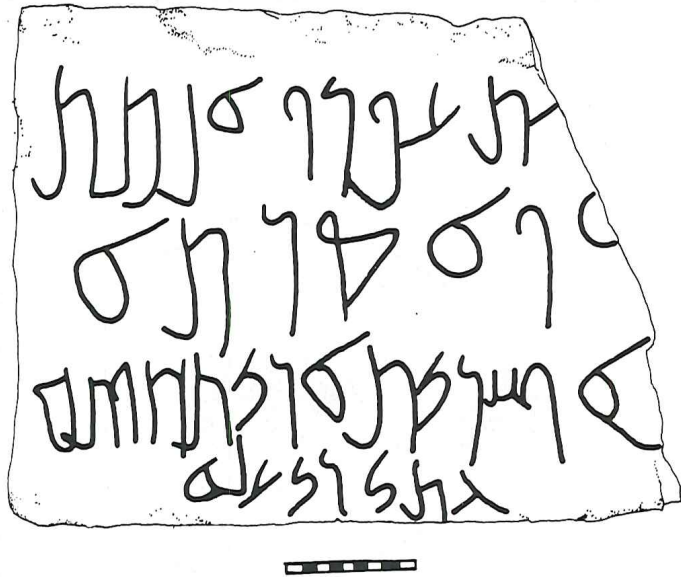


Fig. 3: Facsimile of Nabataean epitaph

The Objects:

1. A silver coin:

Exc. No. 12: Silver Denarius (Pl. CXX, 2)

Provenance: loculus 5, upper shelf.

Ob.: head of Septimius Severus, r.

Rev.: Jupiter naked, std. half left, between two children (Caracalla and Geta?), cloak over shoulder.

Insc.: (H.R.P.) M. TR.P. XVII COS III.P.P.

This example, in fairly good condition, is dated 201-210 A.D.¹⁵

2. The Pottery:

An important collection of complete vessels was gathered in tomb 64 B. Bowl 1 of red ware (Pl. CXX,1 & Fig. 6) was found outside loculus 4. It is built with thick sides but shows a thin outverted rim and a sharp carination on the shoulder. Wheel marks are visible on the outside. This is apparently a version of the Late Hellenistic bowl, common at Samaria-Sebaste, Beth-Shan and Tulûl abu el 'Alayiq. It has been dated to 20 B.C. to A.D. 20.¹⁶ But the base of the present example is slightly concave instead of the elegant pedestal base of Samaria variety. It is an imitation, probably of the end

of the first century, A.D. or later.

Along with the coin of Septimius Severus, the group of seven moulded lamps is the most secure evidence for the occupational history of the tomb and can be classified in five different types:

A. Lamp 11 (Pl. CXXI,2 & Fig. 4) is badly damaged. It is provided with a circular discus and a projecting bow-shaped nozzle, decorated with volutes. Rays and rosettes in relief are impressed on the shoulder. The type is abundantly represented at Petra¹⁷ and can be dated to the early first century A.D. (Broneer type XXII).¹⁸

B. Lamps 2 and 5 (Pl. CXXII, Fig. 4) represent a development of the preceding example. The nozzle is rounder and shorter and the depressed discuss is decorated with a frond (No 2) or a rosette of seven double petals (No5). Notice the ear-shaped projections of lamp 5, a characteristic inherited from Late Hellenistic lamps and which has a close parallel in a tomb of Mu'eisrah at Petra¹⁹. It corresponds to Broneer type XXVII(?) which was produced "about the end of the first century" (p. 95) and was in vogue in the Antonine period and the time of Hadrian.

C. With lamp 4 (Pl. CXXII, Fig. 4) the

15. H.A. Seaby, *Roman Silver Coins*, London, 1969, p. 40, N° 525.

16. See P. Lapp, *Palestine Ceramic Chronology*, p. 212, 251.6.

17. *ADAJ*, XXIII (1979) p. 188, N°s 8 & 10, pls. XXXV-XXXVIII.

18. O. Broneer, *Terra cotta lamps*, Corinth IV, Cambridge, 1930, p. 76-78.

19. *QDAP*, VIII (1939) Pl. XXI, 162.

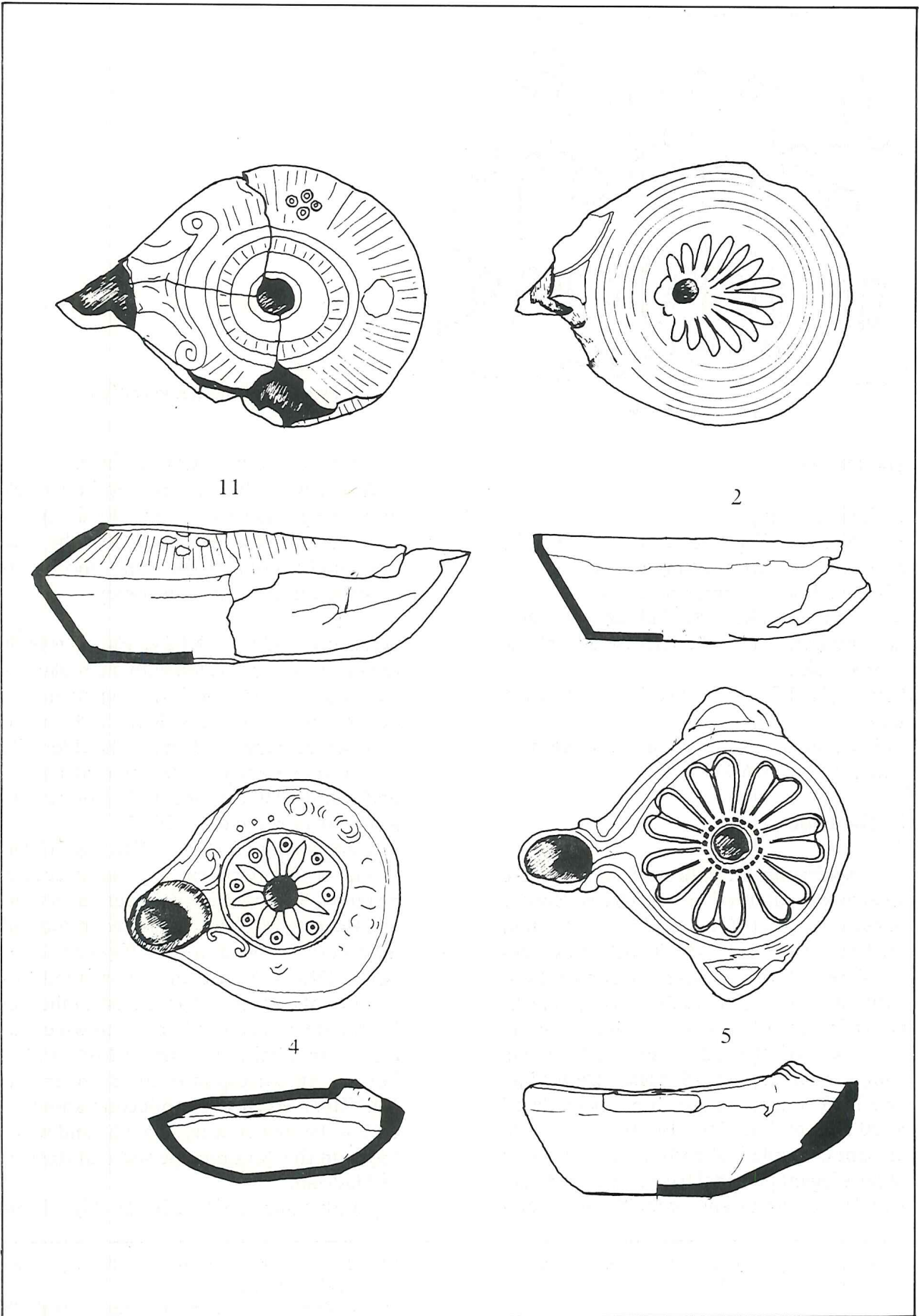


Fig. 4: Lamps found in Tomb 64B

nozzle becomes shorter. Two volutes are on the shoulder. A rosette with circles stamped between the petals decorate the depressed discuss. Compare with Broneer type XXVIII (Nos. 927 & 965, but the Corinthian examples are supplied with pyramidal handles). This type is dated to the 3rd and 4th century A.D.

D. Nos 3 and 8 (Pl. CXXII & Fig. 5) show a further development of the type: they are pear-shaped, supplied with an incised pyramidal prehension. The discuss is decorated with grooves and impressed circles. This variety is comparable to Broneer type XXVIII (Pls. XV-XVI) dated to the 3rd and 4th century A.D.

Lamp 10 (Pl. CXXI, 3) with a short knob handle and a herring-bone border around the shoulder is impressed with an erotic symplegma on the discuss. It is a common model at Petra²⁰ and Corinth

(Nos 1198-99), dated to the 3rd-4th century A.D.

E. The new type represented by Nos 6, 7 & 9 (Pl. CXXII, Fig. 5, 6) is characterized by a more elongated body called 'slipper shape'. Its pyramidal prehension is inherited from the preceding type (Broneer XXVIII). But the remarkable feature is the encroachment of the body on the nozzle by a depressed bridge, decorated with volutes.

Close parallels to this variety are to be found in Broneer type XXIX (Nos. 1419 & 1424), dated to the fourth century A.D. Other examples came from a tomb at Beit Fajjar²¹ in Palestine and were dated by Iliffe to the reign of Constantine the Great.

Tomb 64 B was occupied, on the evidence of the finds, for a long period from the 1st to the 4th century A.D.

Description:

<i>Ex. No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Provenance</i>	<i>Pl.</i>	<i>Fig.</i>
1	Bowl, carinated shoulder, outside grooving, slightly concave base. Red ware, wheel traces on back.	Out. Loc. 4	CXX	6
2	Moulded lamp, traces of burning on nozzle, pinkish ware, brown slip.	Loc. 4 with skeleton	CXXII	4
3	Moulded lamp, traces of burning on nozzle, orange to buff ware, traces of white wash.	Loc. 5 upper shelf	XXII	5
4	Moulded lamp, light orange ware, no traces of burning	Out. Loc. 6	XXII	4
5	Moulded lamp, burned nozzle,	Out. Loc. 6	XXII	4
6	Moulded lamp, pinkish ware	Fill out. Loc. 5	XXII	5
7.	Moulded lamp, burned nozzle, orange ware	Loc. 5, upper shelf with denarius of Septimius Severus.	XXII	5
8	Dark gray ware, burned nozzle	Loc. 4, mid. shelf	XXII	5
9	Pinkish ware, burned nozzle	Loc. 4, mid shelf		6
10	Lamp fragment, buff ware	Loc. 4, upper shelf	XXI	
11	Moulded lamp, buff ware, traces of grayish-brown slip.	Loc. 4, upper shelf	XXI	4

20. *QDAP*, IX (1941) Pl. XLV, 424a-424b.

21. *QDAP*, IV (1934) p. 175-178, & Pl. XXXIII.

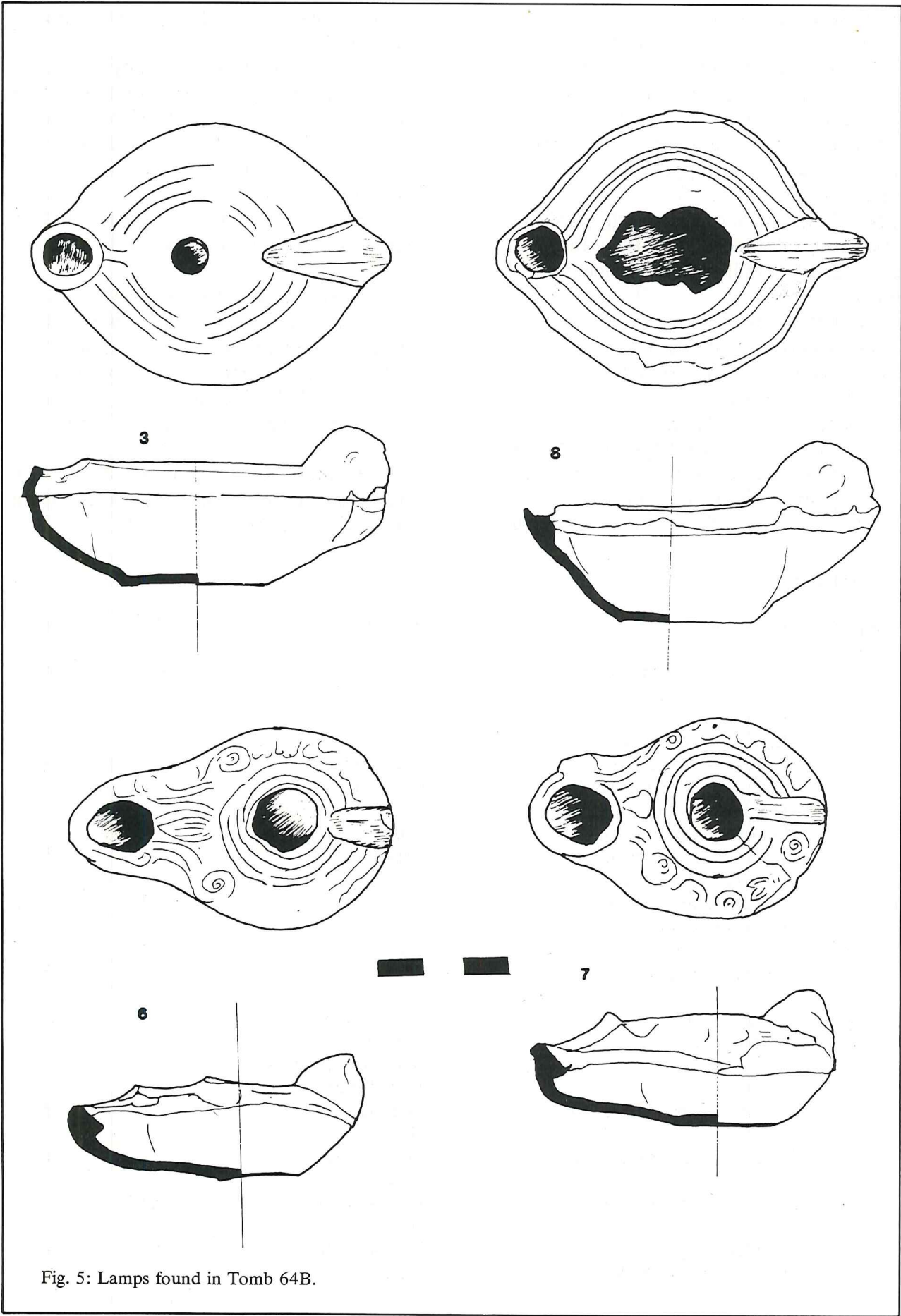


Fig. 5: Lamps found in Tomb 64B.

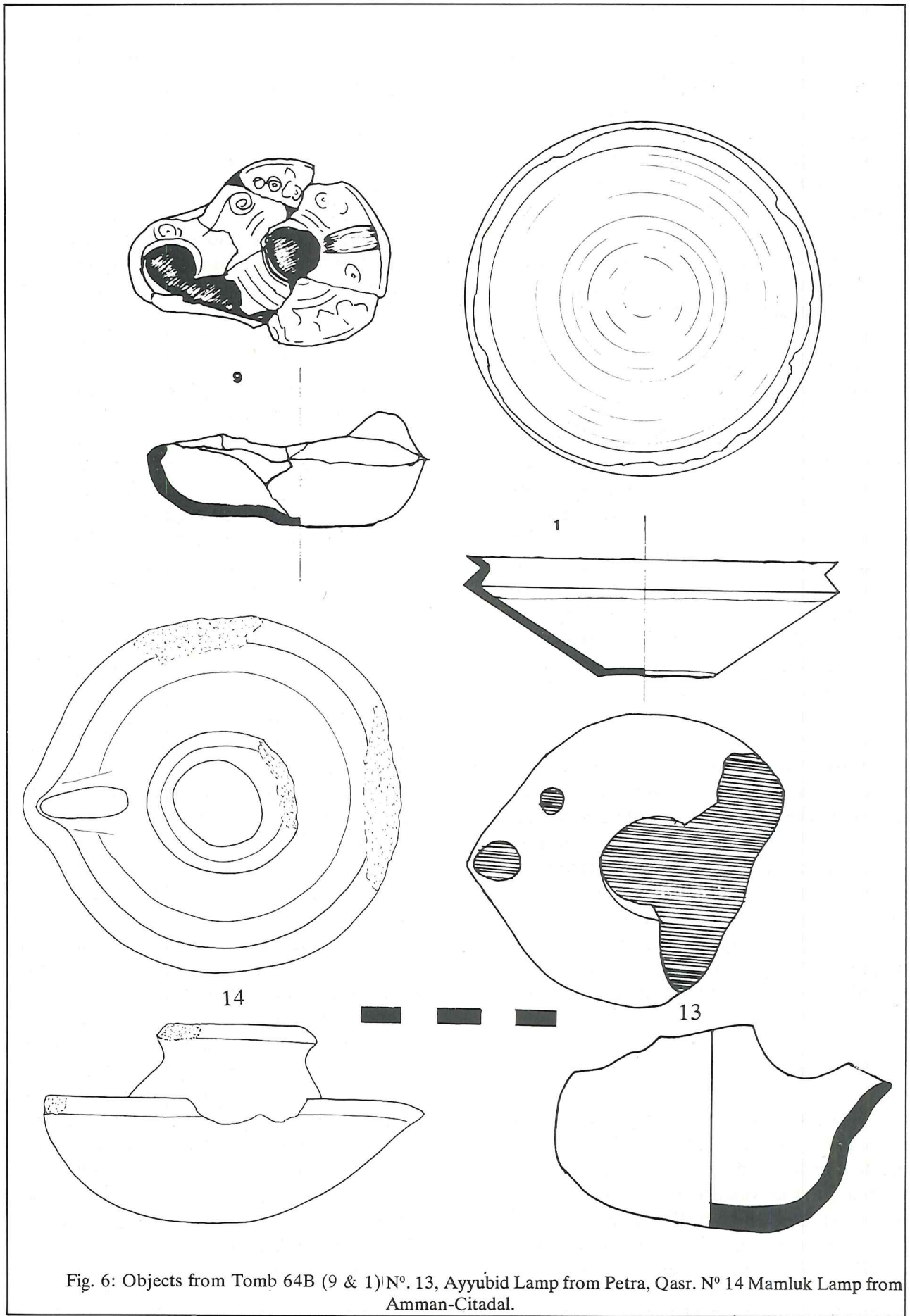


Fig. 6: Objects from Tomb 64B (9 & 1) N^o. 13, Ayyubid Lamp from Petra, Qasr. N^o 14 Mamluk Lamp from Amman-Citadal.

II. Qasr el Bint Excavations:

The free-standing temple of Qasr el Bint which stands within a large paved temenos at the end of the colonnaded street (Pl. CXXIII, 1) has been extensively reported by early explorers of the site but it was not until 1961 that an updated review of the monument was published by G.R.H. Wright prior to any excavation. Wright considered his study "as a supplement to Kohl, pending the (hoped for) clearance and reconstruction of the monument."²² Indeed, it was only in 1964, with the clearance of the temenos wall by the Department of Antiquities, that a confirmation about the Nabataean dating of the Qasr was reached: a sandstone block, built into the temenos wall, was a dedication to the statue of Aretas IV (9 B.C.-40 A.D.). With this discovery, P.J. Parr acknowledged that his previous opinion, shared by Wright, on the dating of the Qasr as not "earlier than the Antonine period... can obviously no longer be sustained."²³ He suggests the reign of Obodas II (28-9 B.C.) for the construction of the monument. Since the investigations of the British School conducted by Parr were necessarily restricted due to limited financial resources, the Department of Antiquities was convinced that new evidence both for the dating and reconstruction of the temple could be revealed by exhaustive excavations. Three seasons proceeded in and around the monument. A grid (Fig. 7) was prepared by Fr. Larché to plot the areas under investigation and to number, accordingly, the architectural fragments. From the *pronaos*, the work was extended to the monumental stairway, the *cella* and the south wall.

The Pronaos:

This forecourt of the temple, enclosed by the *antae*, the northern wall and the tetrastyle façade, is about 29 by 11 m. A niche is located in the western *anta* and was coated with stucco, and another one is west of the main entrance. The meticulous drawings of the architect Larché show that the

walls are honeycombed with stucco attachment holes. The revetment imitated stone ashlars. Traces of a cornice with relief figure (Pl. CXXIII, 2) representing probably a caryatid can be noted.

Three Squares (5 x 4 m.) were planned in the *pronaos* (area marked 7/4 on the grid).

Square 1 was plotted in the southwestern corner and four loci were identified. After the removal of surface soil, a brownish sand layer, a drum about 0.51 m. in diameter appeared in the eastern balk. The registered sherds are mainly hand-made of the Medieval periods, mixed with a few Byzantine ones. Below the surface, the soil is uniformly red-brown sand (loc. 1). A fragment of a marble statuette, probably an arm, was recovered and the pottery remained unchanged. Below this layer, a floor paved with sandstone regular slabs (loc. 2) came to light. It started from a plinth running along the southern wall 5 (Pl. CXIV and Fig. 7). This plinth was missing in the southwest corner where a pit about 1 x 1.60 m was filled with ashes. A marble block (0.38 x 0.30 x 0.14 m.) was concealed in the pit together with thin marble pieces, roof tile fragments and stucco. The collected sherds are Medieval, Byzantine and Nabataean. In a strip about 1.20 m. wide, where the pavement was removed, to the depth of 0.43 m., a cobbled floor was reached (Pl. CXXIV,1). It was covered with a thin layer of lime along the western wall 4 (loc. 5) and yellowish soil in the rest of the Square (loc. 5).

Square 2 was dug to the north of Sq. 1 with a 1 m. balk in between. Below the surface soil, a red-brown sandy layer concealed a base and a drum both 0.53 m. in diameter. Many roof tiles, about 0.14 m. in length, and marble fragments were gathered in the debris; the pottery is hand made Medieval, Byzantine and Nabataean. Other drums and dressed blocks were lying on an irregular pavement, very similar to the floor loc. 2 in Sq. 1 (Pl. CXXIV,2). No change in the pottery horizons was noticed. It is not possible to determine the structures to which the architectural elements bel-

22. *PEQ*, 93 (1961) p. 9.

23. *ADAJ*, XII-XIII (1967-8) p. 17.

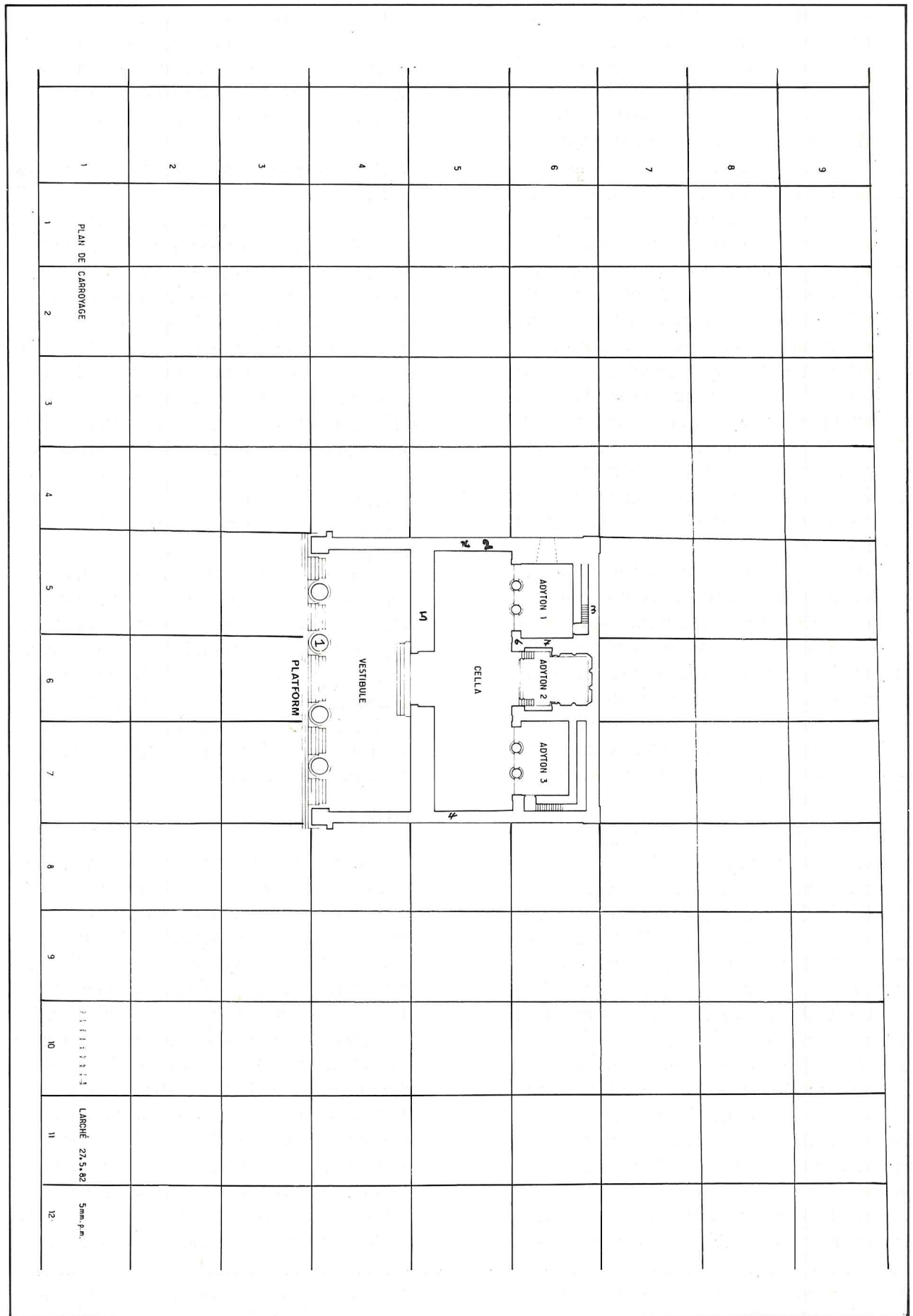


Fig. 7: Grid of Qasr el Bint at Petra

onged, for they are not homogeneous and seem to have been brought in at two different phases, probably in the Medieval period.

Square 3 is set to the north of Sq. 2, beyond the western *anta* and the left column. A bronze coin of Al 'Adel,²⁴ brother of Saladin, (Pl. CXXVI, 1), was discovered in the surface soil. Locus 1 was a yellow to brown soil, mixed with rubble and roof tile. The top of a mortar, carved in a column drum fragment with honeycomb design (Pl. CXXV, 1) appeared in locus 2. The mortar was resting on the paved floor of a chamber (loc. 6) built with rough blocks. A rounded lamp (Pl. CXXVI, 2 & Fig. 6) together with Ayyubid pottery, was gathered on the floor at the foot of the mortar. The lamp can be compared to a similar example (Pl. CXXVI, 3) of thick greenish clay, found in a Mamluk cistern in the Umayyad Palace of Amman.

As the pavement was removed, many architectural fragments including a cornice, a pine cones, oves and animal head piece were below the pavement. When this fill was removed, four steps of the stairway, stripped of their marble revetment, came to light. It appears that the western *anta* and the left column were cut with a square groove, prepared to fix a balustrade (Pl. CXXXV, 2).

The rest of the stairway (Area 7/3) was excavated as one Square of 7.20 m. by 5 m., and a few marble steps were found *in situ* (Pl. CXXVII, 1). In the tumble over the lower steps, a dedication to Shu'udat, daughter of Maliku, was discovered. She is probably a princess of king Maliku II (40-60 A.D.) as one can guess from other Nabatean inscriptions of the royal family.²⁵ It is probable, in this case, that the dedication was placed under the statue of the princess. In the same destruction layer, a cornice fragment and an Ionic marble capital of a pilaster. (Pl. CXXVII, 2) were found.

In all, the monumental approach to the temple includes fourteen steps in the lower

section followed by a passegeway; then comes another flight of eight steps. It is noticeable that no marble gutter, similar to the one discovered by P. Parr²⁶, was recovered at the foot of the stairway.

2. The Entrance to the Cella: (Pl. CXXVIII, 1-2).

The remarkable feature of this Area (6/4 of the grid) is a ramp built in front of the entrance between two retaining walls about 1.80 m. in height. They are constructed with reused column drums of 1.30 m. in diameter and ashlar blocks of variable size. A 6 by 4 m. Square was plotted in the area (Sq. 5). The excavations were very difficult in the absence of a mechanical lift. Nevertheless, the original floor of the pro-naos was reached in a 1 m. strip. Marble pavements of 0.56 by 0.54 m. were uncovered and three marble steps about 0.10 m high. were found *in situ*.

In 1981, the jambs of the lofty arch which spans the gateway were exposed by M. Murshed to start the consolidation of the vault. It was found that the original entrance was reduced, probably in the Byzantine period, from 5.65 m. to 1.70 m. (Pl. CVIII, 2). This new access to the sanctuary is built with ashlar stones and preserved to the height of 1.50 m.

Interpretation:

Some preliminary conclusions could be drawn from the excavations of the pro-naos which underwent several phases of use and disuse. The reshaping of the doorway occurred in the Byzantine period, although very little pottery was found. It is clear that the original doorjambs were worn when the new entrance was built, except for one ashlar block, presently covered with stucco at the height of 9.30 m. At this level, a wooden rounded beam was observed, embedded into the core of the wall with stucco. The ramp which covers the Byzantine wall was of the Ayyubid-Mamluk periods and clearly indicates that the Qasr was completely dismantled since column drums

24. S. Lane-pool, *Catalogue of the Collection of Arabic coins preserved in the Khedivial Library at Cairo*, London, 1897, p. 217.

25. J. Cantineau, *Le Nabatéen*, II, Paris, 1932, p. 6.

26. *ADAJ*, XII-XIII (1967-8) Pl. VIII, 12-13.

were used in the construction of this new access. There are also traces of occupation of the early 19th century, for one J.I. Yunis left his signature on the second course of the western wall 4, below the flat niche, in 1830 in Latin characters.

The Triabsidial Adyton:

Internally, the sanctuary is divided into three compartments (Fig. 7), called *adyton* in Greek. The eastern and western compartments had balcony terraces, accessible by stairway concealed in walls 3 & 4. Since the whole cella was obstructed with heavy tumbled blocks, they were numbered according to the grid prior to any excavation. In *adyton* 1 (Area 6/5) the tumble averages 2.90 m. in height, and it was not possible to dig more than a strip 6 m. long and 2 m. wide, in front of the staircase concealed in wall 3. This entrance, 2 m. high and 0.90 m. wide, is flanked by two pilasters which have been worn. In the section (Fig. 8) the most striking feature is a layer of burn, 0.20 m. thick, about 1.20 m. above floor level. It is assumed that the burn resulted from the collapse of the balcony terrace, originally supported by wooden beams. The floor itself was covered by a thin layer of ash mixed with marble slabs and roof tile fragments. Some of the marble slabs are engraved with Greek letters. The exposed floor is laid with a thick layer of gray cement but was certainly revetted with marble.

One of the two columns which supported the terrace was uncovered but not a single piece of architrave was indentified in the removed blocks. However, many keystones suggest that the columns were spanned by arches which were concealed by a wooden or marble slabs as indicated by two rectangular cavities in the east and the west walls (2 & 4), at the level of the cornice. (Pl. CXXIX, 2).

A few Byzantine sherds and two complete Late Roman oil lamps are the meagre evidence of the occupation of the monument at that period. But future excavation will hopefully provide more dating material.

Adyton 2 (Area 6/6) is the holy of holies for it is supposed to protect the cultic baetyl. This compartment, adorned with half engaged columns, has no balcony roof and was covered by 1.50 m. of tumble (loc. 1). Locus 2, below the collapse, was a floor covered with a heterogeneous pavement of sandstone flags, marble slabs engraved with Greek letters in some cases, and tiles. A mask fragment and an animal foot were in the floor bedding. There is a niche in southern wall 3 about 1.30 m. by 0.94 m. Whether it was intended for a *mihrab* will be a matter of future speculation. Another peculiarity of the western wall 8 of the *adyton* is a channel 0.16 m. wide which ascends into this wall. Its purpose is still mysterious, unless it drained the terrace water.

The central area of the chapel consists of a raised platform 1.40 m. above floor level, accessible on both sides by a flight of 7 steps (Fig. 9 and Pl. CXXIX, 3). Its central part was destroyed by a large hole and filled with marble fragments and bricks. A good parallel to this cultic podium can be observed in the Winged Lion Temple recently excavated by Ph. Hammond.²⁷ The rest of the cella was covered with debris, and an irregular wall of undressed boulders, almost of the same height as the cultic platform, was probably built as a retaining wall for the fill (Fig. 9). This phase of reuse is most probably Medieval for it is levelled with the above mentioned ramp of the entrance, but very little pottery has been so far collected in the fill.

Excavation of the Southwestern corner:

A 5 x 5 m. square was dug at the southwestern corner of the Qasr (Area 7/7). Many stucco architectural fragments were gathered from a surface clearing (Pl. CXXX, 1), but the Bedouins said they were discards left by the excavators of the Winged Lion Temple. Nevertheless, they were collected and stocked because they included some interesting stucco revetment, such as fluted column pieces. Also in this area there was about 1.70 m. modern fill belonging to the Nazzal Camp, which had been recently converted by the Department of Antiquities into a dig house.

27. ADAJ, XXII (1977-78) p. 93-94 & Pl. L-LI.

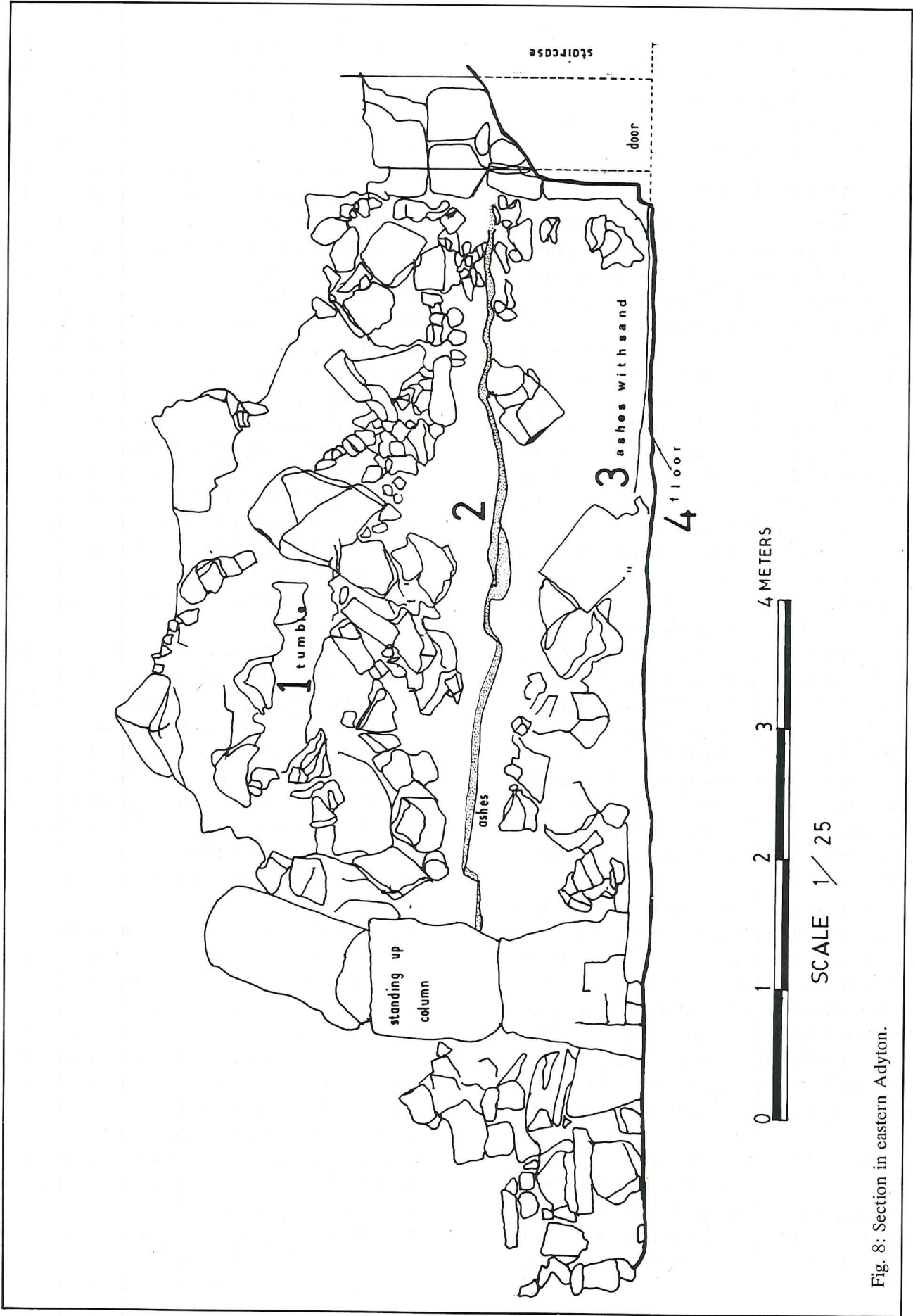


Fig. 8: Section in eastern Adyton.

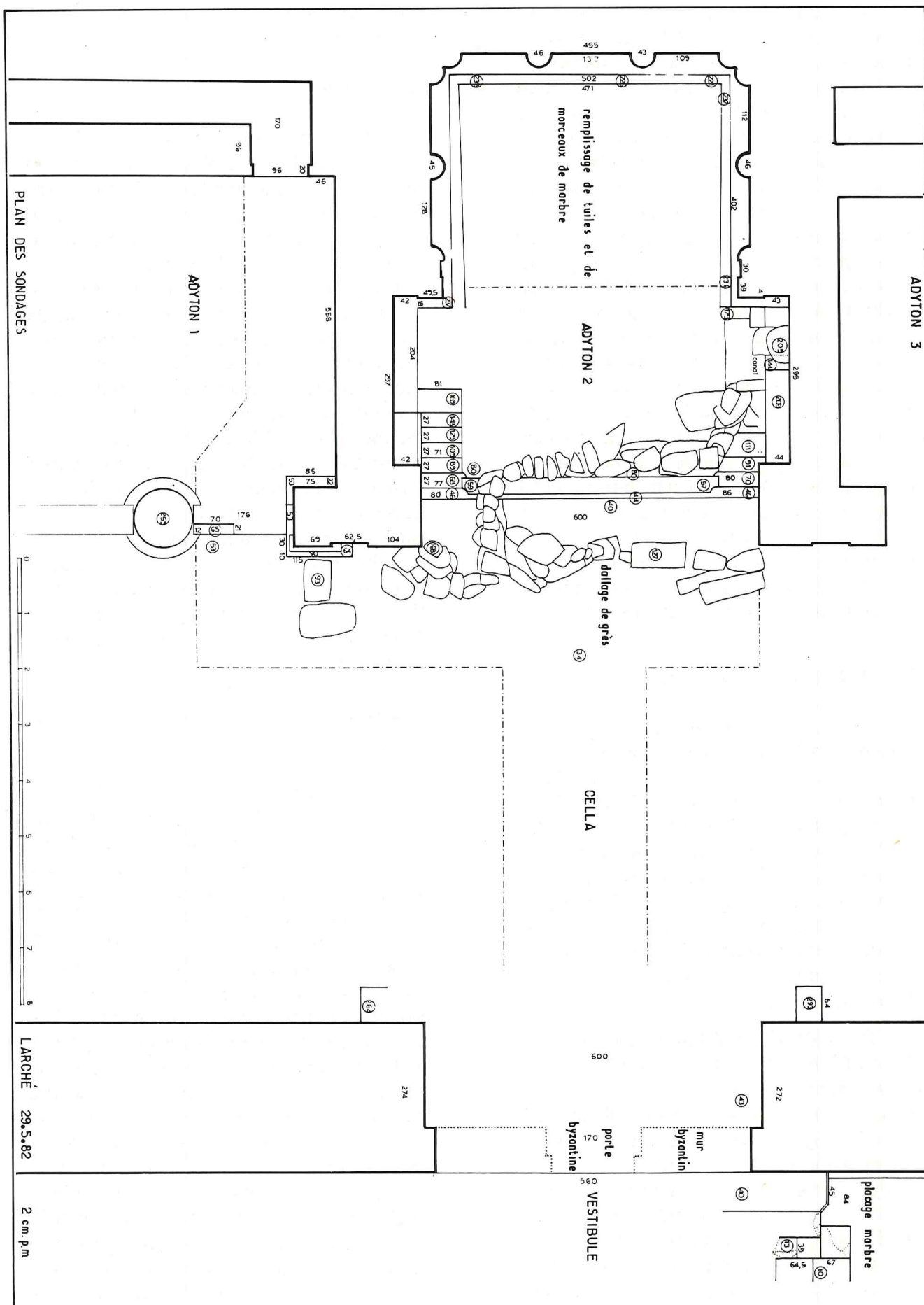


Fig. 9: Later walls in central Adyton.

The ancient occupation starts with locus 5, a greenish soil dated to the Medieval period. Late Roman and Byzantine sherds came from the next locus, a packed red sand. Since the area was covered by heavy collapsed blocks, the excavated area was restricted to a 2 m wide strip. Meanwhile, the architect Larché was able to draw the relevant architectural blocks which consisted of a pediment decorated with a palmette, a pilaster capital fragment, and a column drum (Pl. CXXX, 2). An early Byzantine coin was found in loc. 8, a loose brown sand. In loc. 10 was a skeleton of an adult lying N-S, face to west. A layer of yellowish sand mixed with charcoal was laid underneath the burial (loc. 11), beneath which was a flagstone pavement which extended along the southern wall. This was the podium of the temple which turned at a right angle to continue along the western wall. A solid season of excavation with a mechanical lift will be needed to remove the modern dump and uncover more architectural fragments of the temple.

III - The potter's kiln complex:

It was by accident that the first potter's kilns were discovered at Petra in November 1979 when a new access road was cut between the Rest-House and the Budul Housing Project at Drâ' Umm es-Sahûn, to the north. A rescue campaign was immediately launched under the supervision of Nabil el Qadi. Other campaigns followed in April 1980 and November 1981 under the direction of the author. This report is but a short account in preparation of a substantial monograph.

The staff of the different seasons consisted of Nabil el Qadi, Mujahed el Muh-eisen, Khaled Abu-Ghanimeh, Muhammed el Ghoj, Niazi esh-Shab'an and Miss Khairiyyeh 'Amr. The last who is preparing a Ph.D. Thesis on pottery and clay analysis, produced a report on neutron activation analysis at the London Institute of Archaeology of some sherds and clay samples from the Petra kiln. On the other hand, Dr. Ian Edwards, a ceramicist from Burlington College, Australia, visited the site

and was kind enough to send a short report on his observation.

1. The Site:

The kilns' area lies about one km. to the northeast of the Rest-House, halfway between the little hamlet of Zurrabeh and the ancient water reservoir of Petra, at the foot of a rock wall. Ashy layers and pottery sherds are deposited in many strata suggesting an intensive production of pottery over a long period. It is believed that the reasons for the presence of this manufacturing centre are the available clay deposits and abundant water supply. Clay is available in thick deposits on the spot and at the nearby Ain et-Tîneh (clay spring) about two km. to the northeast of Zurrabeh in a tributary valley of Wadi Musa. Fuel was certainly supplied by wild bushes which once covered the hills and which are still extant in the Hîsheh area along the modern road to Beida. Clay, fuel and water explain this large pottery making complex since four kilns have been uncovered and more of them are still buried.

2. Kilns I & II (Fig. 10 & Pls. CXXXI, 1,2 & CXXXII,1).

These are the first kilns to be uncovered in the earliest campaign. The main kiln I is oval in shape, measuring 2.87 m. E-W and 3.30 m. N-S and is sunk into the ground. Four heavy arches supported its dome. There are no traces of the sole but it can be assumed that it existed at about 0.42 m. above ground level. No traces of pillars were observed to support the sole, and it is possible that this floor was carried by low arches. The kiln floor is paved with brick slabs, but the most unusual feature is the stone archway as an entrance to the fire box. It was, nevertheless, isolated by bricks to protect it from the destructive heat. A passageway, about 1.15 m. wide and 3.80 m. long, is accessible from the north by a flight of six steps and is protected on both sides by a field stone wall, originally pierced by a doorway on the western side but closed in a later period. This vestibule was certainly a storage room for the fuel.

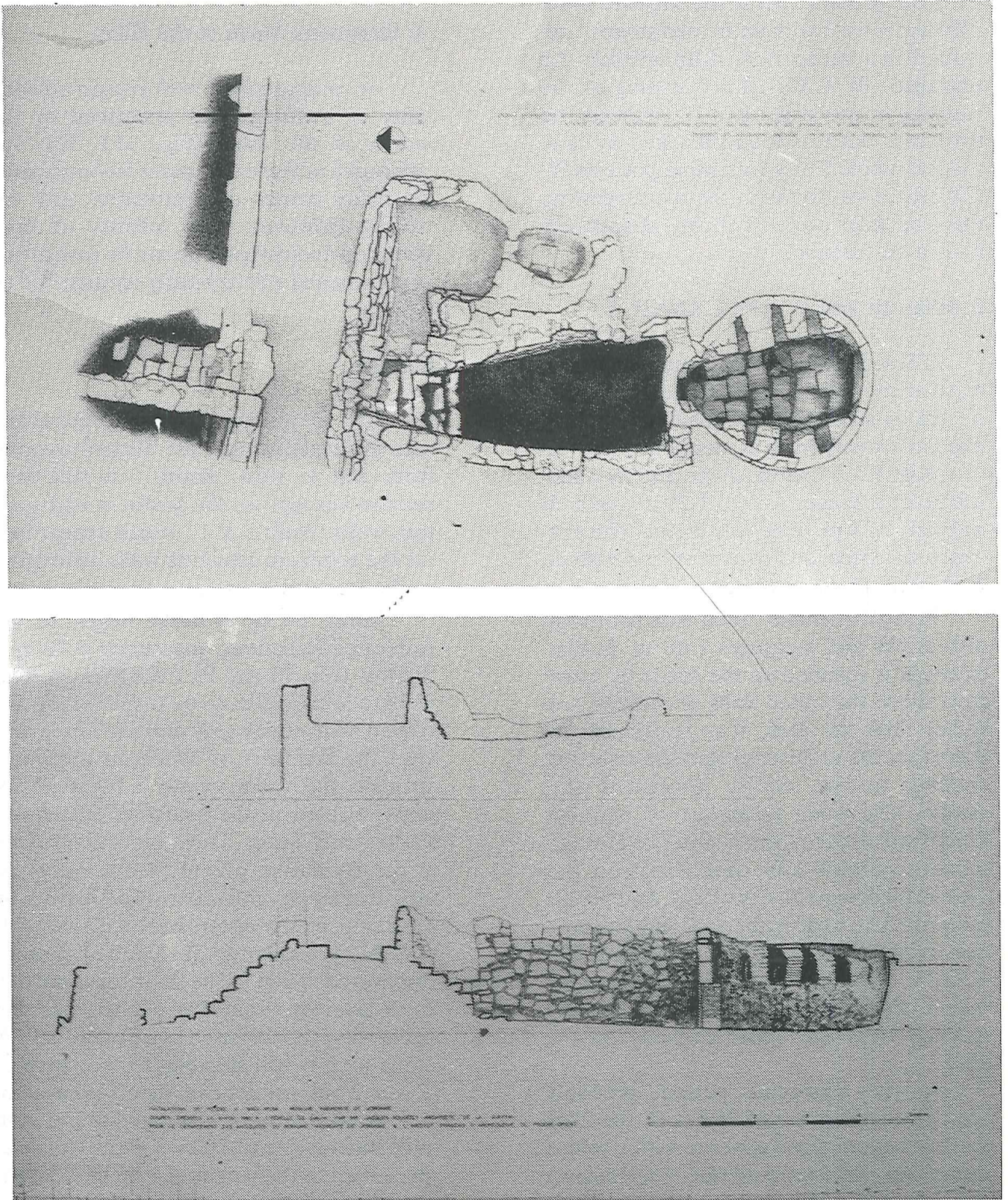


Fig. 10: Kilns I-II. Ground plan and section by J. Rougetet.

The smaller kiln II is located to the east of the larger one. It is be-hived, measuring 0.90 m. in diameter, with a preserved height of 0.74 m. A large half-circle vestibule (1.60 m. in diam.) lies at the entrance of the kiln and is built with undressed stones, repaired in a later period with mudbricks. An entrance (Pl. CXXXII, 1) leading to the stairway of the larger kiln II, connects the two areas but was found blocked by unshaped rubble. Early Byzantine pottery (Pl. CXLII, 2) was found in the fill, suggesting that the kilns were probably abandoned after a destruction.

3. Kilns III and IV: (Pl. CXXXII, 2).

These kilns were excavated in 1980, west of the kilns I and II and were connected by an entrance which has been blocked in a later period as mentioned above.

Kiln III is oval in shape and its outer diameter averages 1.59 to 1.39 m. An arch of brick 0.28 m. wide was *in situ*. The entrance was preceded by a circular vestibule built with irregular stones.

Kiln IV is smaller, built with poor reddish bricks and measures 1.08 m. in diameter. It is spanned on the inside by a low arch. Since the outer walls of the kiln are higher than the arch, it is reasonable to think that the arch supported the sole. An opening in the middle evacuated the smoke. The same technique of building kilns is still used in Jordan as noticed from a modern potter's kiln near Zizia, on the Desert Highway (Pl. CXLIV, 1,2). There is no room here to describe the complete process of pottery making but the pictures (Pl. CXLIV, 1—3) show the jars made on the wheel, then dried in the sun, and finally stacked from the upper chimney on the sole.

In the Byzantine period, probably after the earthquake of 363 A.D. the kilns were abandoned and covered with a refuse dump. An enclosure wall (loc. 4 see below) was built across the whole area from east to west.

Trial trench 5 (6 by 5 m.) was dug East of kilns I & II. No structures were encountered but only dump deposits (Fig. 12) very rich in complete objects; some of them

dated to the Nabataean period (1st century A.D.), but many figurines belong to the Late Roman and Byzantine periods (see below).

4. Structures North of the Kilns:

A comparatively well preserved complex of buildings was unearthed to the north of the kilns (Fig. 11). The stratigraphy of these structures is complicated by many phases of destruction and levelling. However, four phases of construction and destruction can be recognised at present and will be briefly summarized as follows:

Phase I:

Five adjoining rooms, constructed with unshaped stones, are aligned roughly from east to west. Room 1 is still unexcavated except for the southern and western walls. Walls 2 & 11 which appear inside the room are retaining walls, belonging to the latest phase IV.

Room 2 (Sq. 9) is the largest of the excavated structures, measuring 5.70 m x 3.20 m. (Fig. 11 and Pl. CXXXIII, 1). The walls, about 0.40 m. to 0.50 m in width, are coated with a thick gray mortar. Three arches, the springers of which are apparent, spanned the room, while a flight of six steps, located in the southwestern angle, was the only access. The room was filled up in the Byzantine period (4th century) as indicated by two coins, poorly preserved. In the dump, many wasters were collected (Pl. CXXX, 2), similar to the melted pottery discovered in kiln I. The floor consisted of a thick layer of virgin clay deposit, and the room was probably used as a storage hall. A stone arch is still standing to the north of Room 2 but was not completely excavated.

Adjacent room 3, situated to the west, is of smaller size (3.70 by 3.40 m.) and was preserved to the height of 1.60 m. Like the above mentioned structures, the walls are of undressed field stones, coated with gray plaster. There is evidence of repair in the north-west angle where a flight of four steps is lodged. A door socket was found on the last step but its original position could

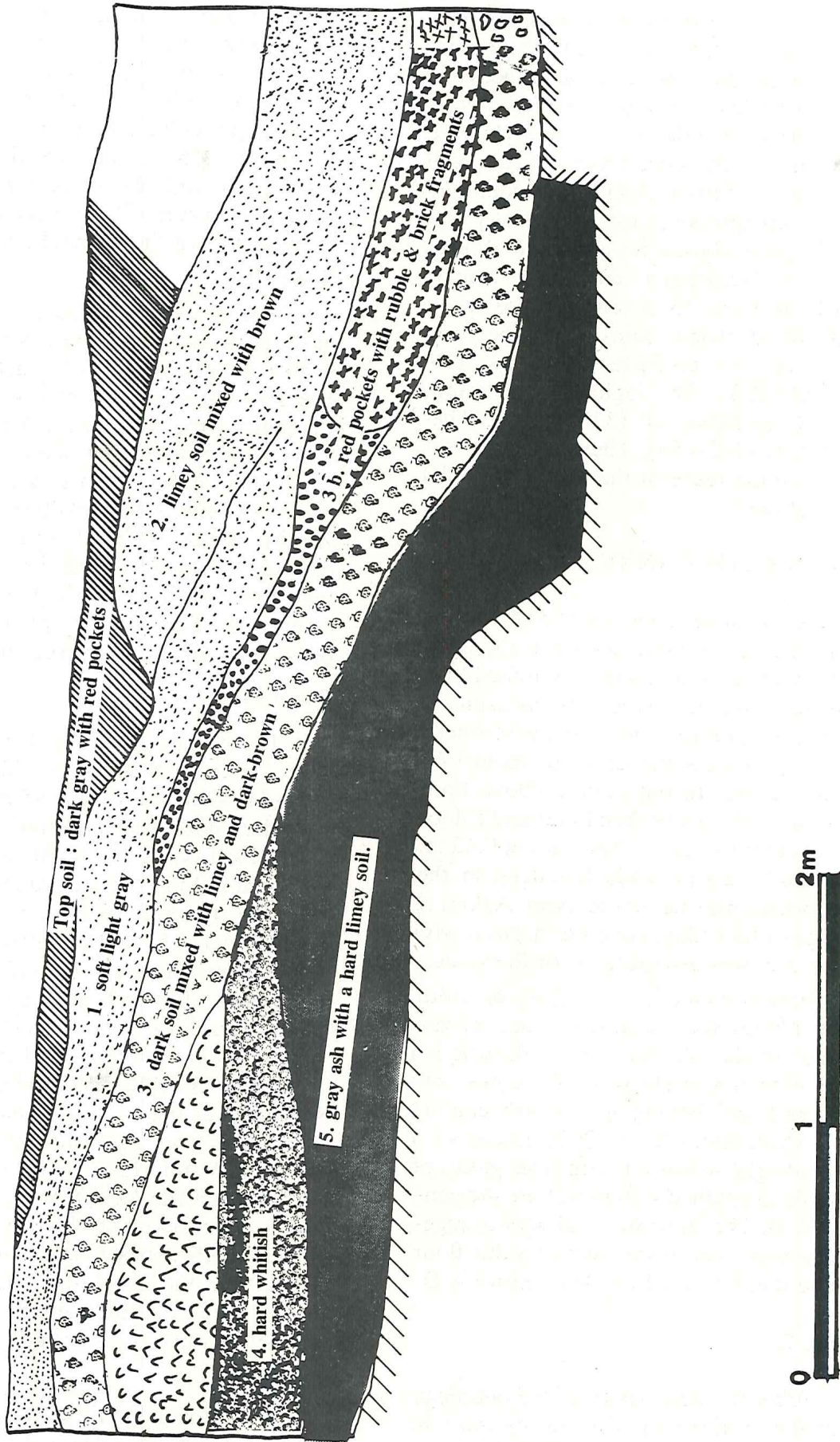


Fig. 12: Area A, Sq. 5
East Baulk

not be determined. A thin partition wall separates this room from the next (Room 4, Fig. 11 & Pl. CXXXIV,1). A vault springer can be noticed in this wall, and in locus 9, a destruction level, many *voussoirs* of sandstone dressed in the Nabataean style were excavated. In the same layer a bronze coin of Maliku II (40-60 A.D.) was identified. But it was intrusive, for the pottery was mainly early Byzantine and Late Roman with few Nabataean and Early Roman sherds. In locus 15, a reddish hard soil, a hoard of 45 bronze coins was gathered as well as 10 complete lamps (Pl. CXXXIV,2,3). The legible pieces range from Constantius II (337-361 to Theodosius II (402-450). These dates fit very well with the reuse of the site in phase III (see below).

Rooms 4 & 5 (Pl. CXXXV,1 & Fig. 11)

Heavy destruction of the structures west of room 3 complicates the stratigraphy in this area. Room 4, which is arched by a vault still covered by the balk, measures 6 m. from east to west, but only the southern and western walls, preserved to about 1.60 m. are visible. In the tumble above floor level (loc. 26) a broken lintel and a door socket came to light. A basin about 0.42 m. deep and 1.20 m. wide is lodged in the southwestern corner of the room. A floor of orange-yellow clay, covered in place with black ash, was associated with the walls.

Finally room 5, about 2 m. in width, probably served as a storage place, or vestibule. In the fill (loc. 35), a destruction layer of stones and brown soil, 4 coins were gathered and belong to the 4th century A.D. (Valentinus II 375-392). Locus 44, a layer of light brown soil with large pieces of roof tile, contained 4 coins of Late 4th century A.D. The floor was laid with orange-yellow clay. Two coins found on this floor can be dated to the Late 4th century A.D.

Phase II

After the destruction of the buildings, probably in the Late 4th century A.D. as indicated by the above mentioned coins, a channel was built across the area. A stretch

about 5.40 m long was exposed to the north of the Square running to the south-east. The channel has destroyed the northern walls of rooms 4 & 5 and another room situated in the N-W corner of the Square. Its external width is 0.50 m. and its inner dimension 0.16 m. with a depth of 0.45 m. It is covered with flat stones and was plastered from inside. It is not possible to determine where the channel empties.

Phase III

This is a complicated phase of reuse after the destruction of the structures of the earlier phases. A wall of rough boulders, preserved to the height of 1.40 m. with an opening to the west, preceded by a step, was probably an animal shelter. There is a small strip of pavement to the south (loc. 16) (measuring 1.35 by 0.80 m) paved with roughly regular slabs. A layer of concrete extended from the platform (Loc. 5). It yielded 6 coins of Late Roman mint (Constantius II). This phase is apparently a re-occupation of the destroyed phase II.

Phase IV:

To the last phase IV belongs a wall (loc. 4), about 0.30 m. in width and preserved in some places to 0.45 m. It extends over the whole excavated area, from east to west (Pl. CXXXV, 1) but could not be completely followed. It probably dates to the Late Byzantine period, around the 6th century A.D., for a dismantled segment of this wall provided a coin of Theodosius II (402-450 A.D.), indicating a reoccupation phase after this time. It is assumed that wall 4 was a field boundary, and the large collection of olive pits encountered in the dig suggest that the area was thickly planted with olive trees as is still the case in the village of Wadi Musa. In the area between the kiln and the Rest House, a mill stone and a counterweight (Pl. CXXXV, 2-3), similar to the ones found at the Amman Citadel and Yajuz (*ADAJ*, XXII, 1977-78, p. 20 f. & Pl. X, 1) indicate the existence of an ancient olive press system.

Summary:

It is difficult in this short account of the kilns area to draw a decisive conclusion on the occupational history of this large pot-

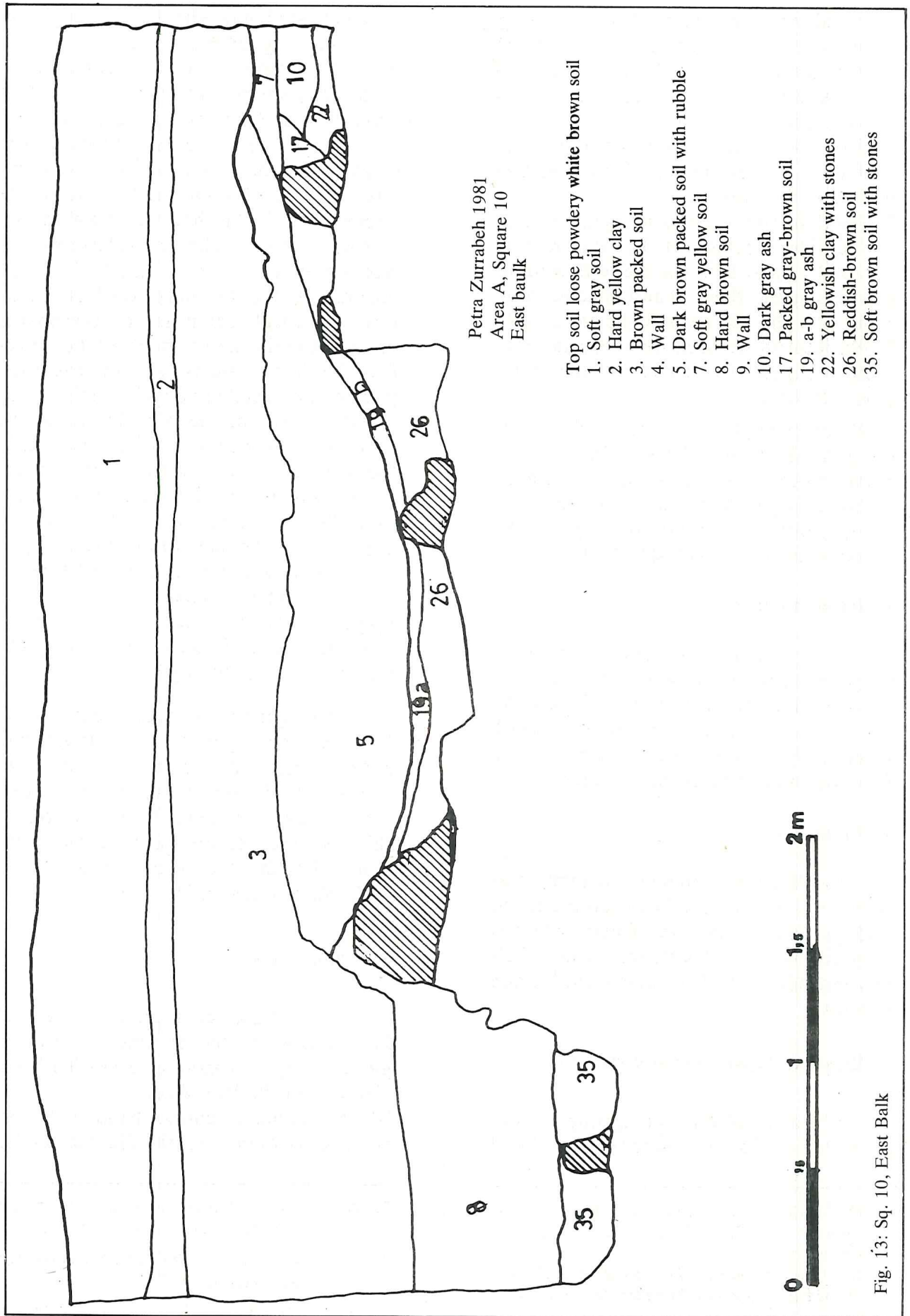


Fig. 13: Sq. 10, East Balk

tery making complex. Such a conclusion must await an exhaustive analysis of the coins and a more detailed study of the pottery. Nevertheless, some preliminary conclusions can be reached:

1. From the large quantity of Nabataean pottery, it is clear that a Nabataean kiln existed in the area.
2. The kilns I-IV were in use in the Roman period. The blocking of the passage between kiln I and II in the Early Byzantine period suggest their abandonment, probably after the 363 earthquake (phase II).
3. A reuse of the area for domestic purposes was brought to an end probably in the Late 4th century A.D.
4. A domestic phase was reestablished in the mid 5th century (Phase III).
5. An abandonment of the site and its adaptation for agricultural purposes, especially for olive plantation, is attested in phase IV, probably in the 6th century A.D.

5. Selected Objects:

A good sample of figurines, moulded lamps, pottery vessels, and coins has been discovered in the excavations of the kilns and the adjacent structures. But for lack of space, only a selection of objects will be published in this preliminary report.

A. Figurines:

A collection of human and animal figurines was recovered. They represent the popular and artisanal art of Petra which is very expressive and portrays religious beliefs and cults in the Nabataean and Roman periods.

1. Standing Figurine with a raised hand:

N° 52: A plaque representing a standing female figure, raising the right hand

with parted fingers. She wears a long mantle which clings around her breast. A band is on the forehead, and a necklace with a crescent-like pendentive hangs on the chest while a torque adorns the left arm (Pl. CXXXVI, 3). This figure appears on the coins of Obodas III (30-9 av. J.C.) and Aretas IV (9 B.C-40 A.D.)²⁸. It is interpreted by Y. Meshorer as a Nabataean queen,²⁹ but J. Starcky³⁰ considers this representation as a blessing goddess". Since the present plaque shows no distinctive features of a royal personage, it is reasonable to admit the alternative interpretation. Besides, Meshorer asserts that "the extended palm of the raised hand had a distinctly religious and ceremonial significance in the life of the Nabataeans".³¹ This is also true in the Semitic world. S.A. Cook lists the different symbols of the hand: "It is painted on walls as a charm... In Carthaginian inscriptions it is the hand of the god that bestows blessings while the pair of hands on palmyrene altars is taken to be a symbol of prayer."³² The presence of a crescent on the Zurrabeh plaque is in favour of a religious interpretation of the figure.

This figurine was discovered in Sq. 2, loc. 10, a dark gray soil with loose undressed stones, with a coin of Rabel II (70-106 A.D.). The locus was apparently a destruction level with many Roman sherds. In this case, the figurine can be dated to the first half of the 2nd century A.D.
Buff Ware, red slip. H.: 7 cm.

2. Astrate Type:

Three figurines reproduce the well known types of the oriental Astarte figurine, very common in Palestine³³ and Cyprus³⁴ in the Iron Age.

N° 185: Female figurine, hands held together below breasts. Curls of hair in parallel

28. Y. Meshorer, Nabataean Coins, *Qedem* 33, Jerusalem, 1975, Pl. 3, 35; 4, 55; 56, 58, 60; 5, 66.

29. *Idem*, p. 25.

30. *Un royaume aux confins du désert, Pétra et la Nabatène*, Exhibition Museum de Lyon, 1978-79, p. 30, N° 12.

31. *Op. cit.* p. 25.

32. S.A. Cook, *The Religion of Ancient Palestine in the Light of Archaeology*, London, 1930, p. 45.

33. See for example, J.B. Pritchard, *Palestinian Figurines*, New Haven, 1943.

34. J. Karageorghis, *La grande déesse de Chypre*, Lyon, 1977.

lines are represented on forehead. The nose is straight and protruding. The incisions around the neck are probably a collar imitation. An incision girdles the waist and other incisions on the legs probably represent anklets (Pl. CXXXVII, 1 Reddish clay, possible ochre slip; H. 12 cm.

Discovered in Sq. 5, loc. 4, a loose brown soil, with brick fragments. The pottery was Byzantine and Late Roman with few Early Roman and Nabataean sherds.

A precise dating of this type is not easy since Sq. 5 was a dump area (see above), but it is possible to attribute it to the Early Byzantine period (4th and 5th century A.D.). There are parallels in the Late Roman and Byzantine figurines of Palestine³⁴ and Egypt³⁵.

N^o 360 : Female figurine, head missing. Incised collar around the neck. Hands held on abdomen, below breasts. Horizontal incisions on abdomen and representation of anklets on the legs. (Pl. CXXXVII, 2).

Grayish clay; H.: 7 cm.

Provenance: Sq. 5, loc. 3, a layer of dark ash mixed with a limey and dark brown soil.

N^o 201 : Bottom front half of a figurine. Anklets are represented by rounded bands with an intermediate incision. (Pl. CXXXVII, Pink-red clay; H.: 4, 5 cm.

Prov.: Sq. 5, loc. 5, a layer of gray ashes with a hard limy soil. The two figurines (N^o201 x 360) can be dated to the Late Roman period.

3. Seated Figurines:

N^o177 : Seated female figurine, draped in a long mantle ornamented by a rounded fringe in the front (Pl. CXXXVI, 1, Fig. 14). The right hand, wearing a bracelet, is raised to the chin, while the other, resting on the knee, holds the folds of the mantle. The parted hair is sur-

mounted by a crown, consisting of a little disc amid a trefoil plant. This is an imitation of the Isis crown worn by Egyptian figurines³⁶. Here the goddess is depicted in a pensive attitude, suggesting a mourning Isis. The type is not very common and only two parallels are recorded in the large collection of the Cairo Museum, recently published by Fr. Dunand³⁷. Two other parallels were recovered at Petra by Ph. Hammond in a Nabataean house³⁸ and in the Winged Lion Temple³⁹. The first object is a moulded statuette of a female figure, draped in a mantle with a central twisted fringe. The right hand is raised to the chin. Apparently, the crown is decorated with a central disc amid a trefoil plant. Hammond describes it as an Atargatis with a question mark. But the similarity of this figurine said to be a "moulded lamp handle" with the Zurrabeh example is striking.

The second object is a sandstone statuette of a seated female figurine. There is no description in the report but in the registry book, Hammonds notes: "Clock gathered in front and secured by Isis knot".

It is noticeable that the upper part of figurine N^o177 was excavated in Sq. 5, loc. 5, while the lower segment was found in loc. 4. It is evident that we are dealing with a dump area. The two parts of the figurine were assembled thanks to Dr. K. Parlasca and his wife, during their stay in Amman. Pink to gray ware, traces of ochre slip. H.: 17 cm.

To be dated most probably to the Roman period, 2nd. Century A.D.

N^o 50 : Seated female figurine, draped in a long mantle. A thick rounded band is on the forehead. One hand is resting on the lap (Pl. LXXXVI, 1) while the other is raised to the chin. The general features are crude and imprecise but the attitude is similar to N^o 177. Red to gray ware; H.: 9, 1 cm. Found in A Sq. 2, loc. 13, a gray soil with stones and a few animal bones.

N^o51 : Crude seated female figurine; the head is featureless, except for five

35. M. Avi-Yonah, 'Oriental elements in the art of Palestine in Roman and Byzantine periods.' *QDAP*, X (1940) p. 121 f. & Pl. XXIV.

36. P. Graindor, *Terre cuites de l'Egypte gréco-romaine*, Anvers, 1939, p; 106-107, N^o 34.

37. *Religion populaire en Egypte romaine*, Leiden, 1979, p. 34, Pl. XXIV, N^{os} 37 & 38 (Museum N^{os} JE 43540 & JE 55242).

38. *ADAJ*, XXII (1977-78) Pl. XLVIII, 1 and p. 83.

39. *Idem*, Pl. LVII, 3.

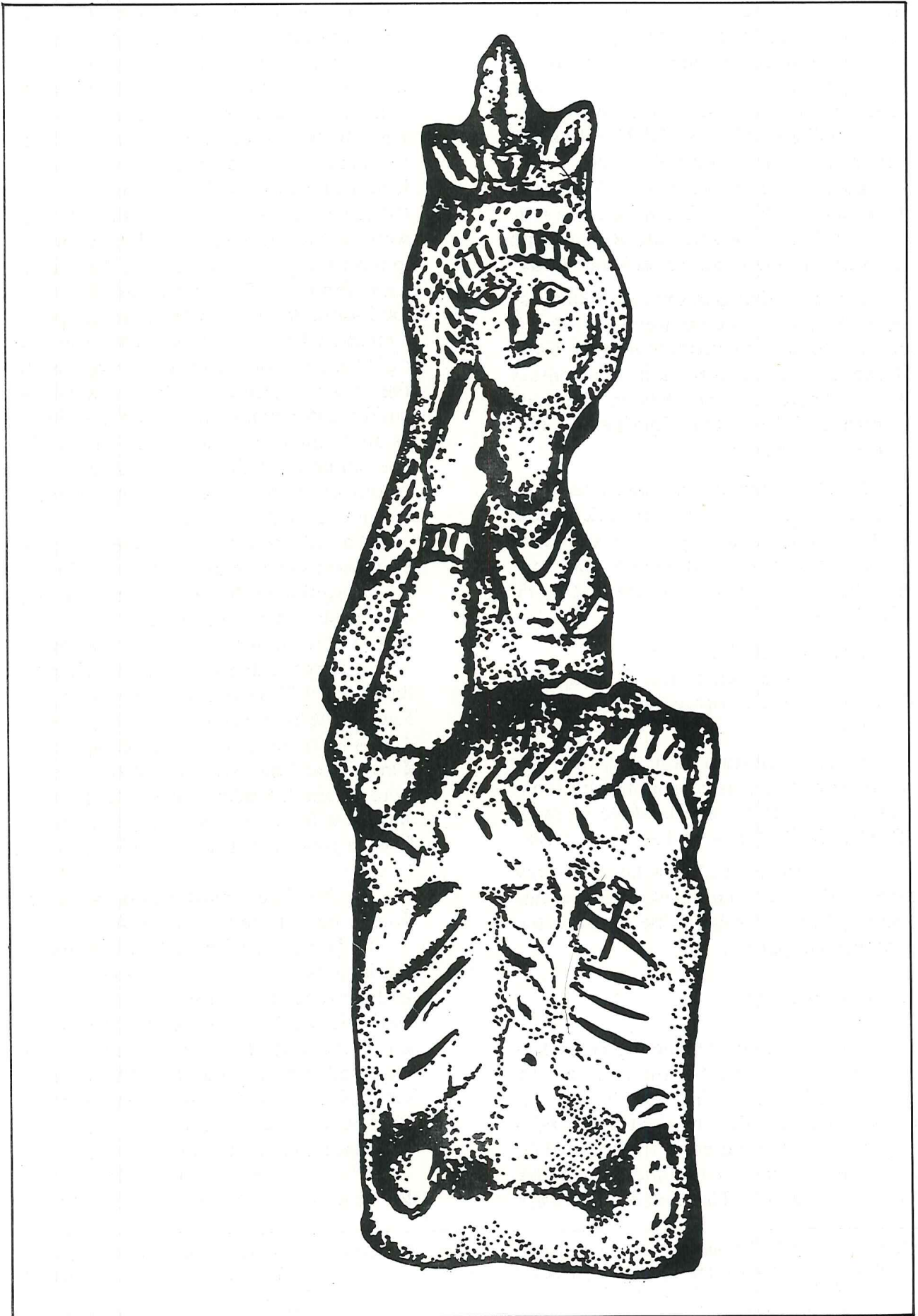


Fig. 14: Seated Isis

holes. The hands are crossed below the breasts, represented by small rounded discs; the rounded rolls on the legs are probably anklets. (Pl. CXXXVI, 2). Pink core, dark gray surface, white wash in some places H.: 8 cm. Found in A, sq. 2, loc. 13 with N°50. Probably a waster.

The enthroned goddess, identified with Isis, is carved in two niches at Petra, in Wadi Waghit⁴⁰, and Wadi Siyyagh;⁴¹ in the last site the relief is accompanied by a Nabataean inscription dated 25 B.C. In a recent survey of the cult of Al 'Uzza at Petra, the author suggested the identification of this patroness of the city with the Egyptian goddess Isis.

4. Animal Figurines: (Pl. CXXXVII)

N° 213 : Animal head, probably goat two horns and a beard. Incised decoration. Pink-red clay. H.: 6.3 cm.

Provenance: A, Sq. 6, loc. 1 (loose, dark ashy soil, with Late Roman and Byzantine pottery).

N° 17 : Ibex fragmentary head, incised horns and round pastille eyes. Dark gray ware, gray slip. Provenance: A, Sq. 1, loc. 7, a brown soil mixed of ashes, in front of kiln I H.: 6 cm.

N° 18 : Fragmentary ibex head, horns decorated with incisions. Provenance : A, Sq. 1, 1, the upper surface of the kiln with black soil, and broken bricks. H.: 6, 5 cm.

N° 96 : Ibex head, working as spout; This was probably part of an aquamanile. Dark gray ware. H.: 8 cm.

Provenance: A, Sq. 4, loc. 1, hard-packed brown soil. A Byzantine coin was found in the same layer (probably 5th century).

The three heads belonged to zoomorphic vases, probably used as aquamanile. Similar vases were found at Khirbet el Mefjar, near Jericho.⁴²

N°215 : Deer head? probably a lamp handle. Broken small loop handle over the head. (Pl. CXLI).

Provenance, A, 6, 2, hard brown, mixed with black ash pockets. (Late Roman and Byzantine pottery).

B. Painted Pottery (Pl. CXXXVIII).

A large amount of painted Nabataean sherds was found in the excavations but unfortunately in a mixed context. A few forms and designs are selected here as samples. Four of them came from Sq. 5, a dump area as noted above. Two fragments (28-29) are from the potter's kiln I with other material which was disturbed by the road cutting.

N° 189: Deep carinated Bowl, rounded base, inturned rim, reddish gray clay. Red-brown painted decoration consisting of a counterclockwise palmette on border and two others on the centre. H.: 4, 8 cm; diam.: 15, 6 cm.

Prov.: Area A, Sq. 5, loc. 5.

Parallel : A-Negev, Pl. 4, 2⁴³

N°202: Rounded bowl fragment, orange clay, dark-red decoration of a central multi-petalled rosette and a clockwise palmette border.

Diam.: 10,5 cm.

Prov.: Area A, Sq. 5, loc. 5.

Parallel : P. Parr, Pl. 44, 12⁴⁴

N° 203: Base of a rounded bowl, orange clay, pinkish wash, dark-red-brown paint; central multi-petalled rosette and a palmette.

Prov. ; Area A, Sq. 5, loc. 5.

Parallel : P. Parr, Pl. 44, 12, Phase IX (?).

N°125 : Bowl, base missing. Clockwise palmette around rim. Pink clay, few white grits, pink-white wash on outside, around rim. Reddish orange painted palmette.

Diam.: 8 cm.

Prov.: Area A, Sq. 5, loc. 1.

40. P.J. Parr, *ADAJ*, VI-VII (1962) p. 21-23 & Pl. XI, 7.

41. J.T. Milik et J. Starcky, *ADAJ*, XX (1975) p. 120-124 & Pl. XLIV.

42. D. Baramki, *QDAP*, X(1940) Pl. XVIII, 4. Ibex heads similar to the Petra examples are common in South Arabia. Cf. R.L. Cleveland, *An Ancient*

South Arabian Necropolis, Baltimore, 1965, Pls. 56-59.

43. *The Nabatean Potter's Workshop at Oboda*, Bonn, 1974.

44. A sequence of Pottery from Petra, *Near Eastern Archaeology in the Twentieth Century*, J.A. Sanders Ed., New-York, 1970.

Parallel : A. Negev. Pl. 7, 16.

N° 28: Plate fragment of an orange ware decorated with a black palmette and dots.

Prov.: Area A, Sq. 1, loc. 5.

Parallel : P. Parr, Fig. 7, 113, Phase XIV.

N°29 : Plate fragment, decorated with a bird about to peck at a grape cluster. Orange ware decorated with black paint. These two fragments represent the later development and decline of Nabataean pottery techniques in the Late Roman period.

C - Wasters and Roman Pottery

An abundant collection of melted plates was found in the potter's kiln and adjacent buildings. An excess of heat is the cause of this technical accident. It is important to note that a good quantity of wasters was found in the main kiln I, in loc. 2 (N° 47). The melted plates show a characteristic thick, folded-in rim, in contrast with the thin classical Nabataean vessels. The decoration consists of palmettes in dark brown. Similar pottery wasters were found in Sq. 9, room 2, loc. 8 (N°s 430, 436, 439) (Pl. CXXXIX). N° 436 is painted with palmettes and pyramids in dark brown and can be compared to painted pottery excavated in the colonnaded street by P.J. Parr and belonging to a later phase of occupation. It is difficult to assign a precise date to the Zurrabeh group but the hoard of lamps found in the kilns and the building complex points to the Late Roman period (2nd and 3rd centuries A.D.).

1. Cups:

The six cups (Pl. CXL, 1-2) present an everted flat rim, a bulbous body and a pedestal base. Cups 37.39-41 are of pinkish ware, a yellowish buff with patches of red-brown paint. They are all of the same locus (A. 1, 2) from inside the main kiln I. Evidently they represent a development of the Nabataean cups well known at Petra⁴⁵. N° 38

of a pinkish ware, a buff surface and a brown patch was discovered in the vestibule of the smaller kiln II. N° 36 was collected in loc. 7 in the passage of the main kiln I. All of these pots of the same fabric prove that the kilns were abandoned all at once, in the Late Roman period.

2. Juglets: (Pl. CXL, 3)

The three juglets show the same characteristic of gray ware and an ochre flaky slip.

N° 327 : Red pink ware, ochre slip. H. 13.5 cm Prov.: Area A, Sq. 7, loc. 10. This jug was found in the vestibule of kiln III. It is wide spread from Hellenistic to Byzantine periods. This example can be dated to the Roman period. N° 222: Handle and neck missing. Gray ware, ochre slip. H.: 9, 3 cm.

Prov.: Area A, Sq. 6, loc. 4.

For good parallels : see Hammond,⁴⁶ 1973, Figs. 10, 11, 13 (2nd-3rd century A.D.).

N° 225: Pink ware, gray surface and ochre slip. H.: 9, 3 cm.

N° 43: Ring handle bowl. Red gritty ware, buff slip. (Pl. LXLII, 3). Prov.: Area A, Sq. 1, loc. 10.

This bowl fragment came from the blocking of a passageway between kiln I and II. It is similar to a jug found by Ph. Hammond in Site I and dated to the early Byzantine period.

N° 45 : Cup fragment, decorated with vertical and horizontal incisions on body and below rim (Pl. CXLII,3).

Prov.: Area A, Sq. 1, loc. 7, with cup 36. It probably belongs to the Late Roman period.

D- Moulded Lamps:

1. Figured Early Roman Lamps: (Pl. CXLII,1-2 & Fig. 15)

From the large collection of moulded lamps excavated in the kilns and the adjacent buildings, a small amount is pub-

45. Ph. Hammond, Pottery from Petra, *PEQ*, (1973), p. 31-32 & 45-46.

46. *Ibid.*

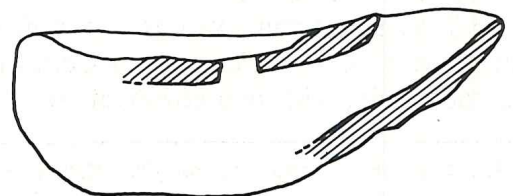
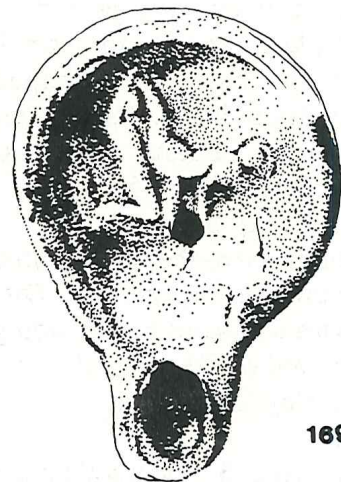
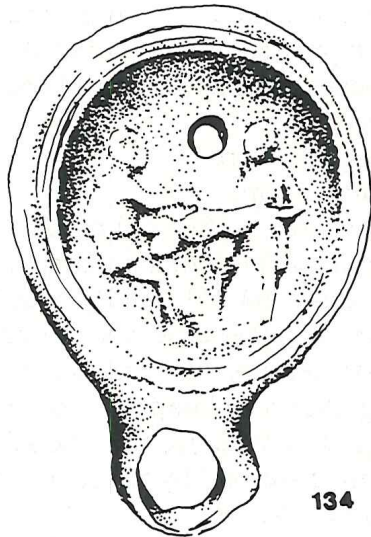
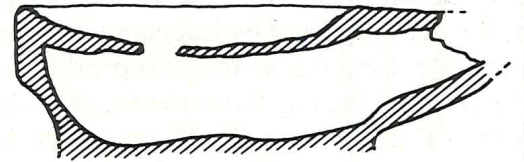
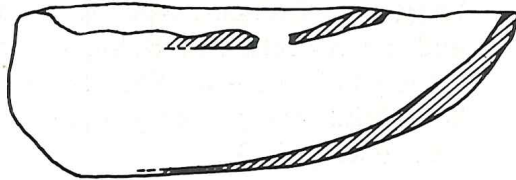
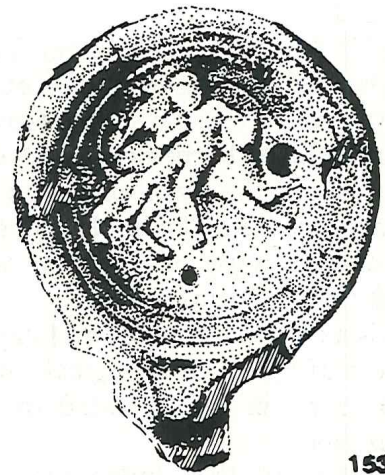
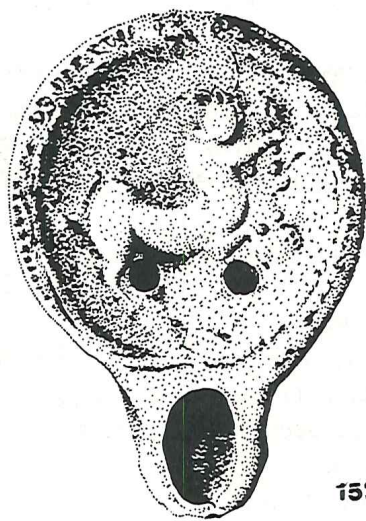


Fig. 15: Figured lamps found in the kilns by J.P. Lange

lished here which represents the occupational history of the workshop from the first century to the Byzantine period (5th century A.D.).

Lamp N° 4 belongs to Broneer Type XXII. The bow-shaped nozzle is decorated with relief volutes. While the rim is grooved with concentric lines. In the depressed discus is impressed the representation of Europè, riding the bull. She holds with one hand the animal horn, while here veil, blown by the wind, forms a dome.

There is a close parallel to this lamp in the collection of the Archaeological museum of Bologna in Italy⁴⁷, dated to the Augustan period.

The myth of the kidnapping of Europè, daughter of Agenor the king of Sidon, was reported by Lucian of Samosate in his *De dea Syria* 4. It was reproduced on the coins of the city from the reign of Antiochus Epiphanes to the Roman period⁴⁸. Europe was soon identified with Astarte whose temple was famous at Sidon. She was probably confused with Al-'Uzza-Aphrodite at Petra.

Buff ware, red to brown slip.

Diam.: 6,8 cm.

Prov.: Area A, Kiln I, loc. 2.

The lamp was discovered in the main kiln with other pottery of later period.

N° 152: Complete lamp but for a small piece missing in the base. Bow shaped spout, two ventilation holes. Rim decorated with incisions. Centaur on discus.

Pinkish gray ware Diam.: 5,5 cm.

Prov.: Area A. Sq. 5, loc. 3.

N° 153: Broken bow-shaped spouted lamp, concentric grooves around rim. Discus impressed with a winged cupid, riding a panther, the animal of Dionysos.⁴⁹

Pinkish-gray clay, ochre slip.

Diam.: 5 cm.

Prov.: A, Sq. 5, loc. 3 (Ashy soil mixed with limy and brown soil).

N° 129: Slight concave base, rim decorated with concentric grooves. Central ventilation hole, with two cornocopiae on

both sides. Pinkish clay, ochre slip. Diam: 5,5 cm.

Prov.: A., Sq. 5 loc. 1 (Loose ashy soil).

N° 134: Upper part of a lamp. Grooved circles around rim; ventilation hole. Relief impression of a divination⁵⁰ scene on depressed discus. Orange to brown ware, ochre wash.

Diam.: 5 cm.

Prov.: A, Sq. 5, loc. 2 (whitish soil mixed with brown).

N° 169: Moulded lamp decorated with a symplegma scene (Pl. CXLIII & Fig. 15), Dark gray clay, traces of an ochre wash.

Diam.: 5 cm.

Prov.: A, Sq. 5, loc. 3.

For good parallels to these figured lamps, see Broneer, type XXII (p. 76 ff) and the collection of Bologna,⁵¹ dated to the reign of Augustus. The Petra Lamps are later imitations, probably of the end of the first century A.D.

2. Late Roman and Byzantine lamps:

This collection of lamps was gathered in Sq. 1, 2 and 8.

N° 6: Pear shaped lamp, rounded nozzle, pyramidal handle. Grooves around the rim and impressed circles on the shoulder. Two bunches of grapes around the ventilation hole.

Pink gritty ware.

Diam: 5.9 cm.

Prov.: Area A, Sq. 1, Loc. 2.

A good parallel of this lamp is N° 8 found in tomb 64 (Pl. LXII) which corresponds to Broneer type XXVIII dated to the 3rd-4th century. Its presence in kiln I, loc. 2, together with lamp 4 of the early 1st century A.D. is evidence that the kiln area was heavily disturbed by the road working machines. (Pl. XLIII)

N° 7: slipper shape (see N° 7 of Tomb 64, above p. and Pl. and could be dated to the 4th century A.D. It came from loc. 9, in

47. M.C. Gualandi Genito, *Lucerne fittile delle collezioni del Museo civico archeologico di Bologna*, Bologna, 1977, p. 85 & Pl. 25, 148.

48. J. Babelon, *R.A.* 20 (1942) p. 126.

49. For similar moulded lamps, see O. Broneer, *op. cit.* No. 429 with Dionysos and Menad.

50. Cf. a similar motif in *QDAP*, IX (1940-41) Pl. XLIV, No 421.

51. See M.C. Genito, *op. cit.*, Pl. 25.

front of kiln. (Pl. CXLIII)

N^o 55: pear shaped lamp, short rounded rim, rounded circles around shoulder and grooves around filling hole. Pyramidal handle. Pinkish ware, burned nozzle. Diam. 6, 4 Prov.: Area A, Sq. 2, Loc. 5. It came from below wall 4, which was dated by a coin of Theodosius II (402-450). This coin can be considered as an antequem date for lamp 55 which is of the 4th century A.D. (Pl. CXLI, 2)

N^o 56: The shoulder is decorated with rays. Same type as precedent example. Buff ware, burned nozzle. (Pl. LXXI, 2)

Diam.: 5, 8 cm.

Prov.: Area A, Sq. 2, loc. 1. (with late Roman pottery sherds pail 24).

N^o 57: Slipper type lamp, vestigial handle, ray decoration. Red brown ware, gray slip. (Pl. CXLI, 2)

Diam.: 5.2 cm.

Prov.: Area A, Sq. 2, loc. 17 (over floor of Room 2.). This lamp can be compared with the group of 8 lamps found on the floor of Room 3 together with 45 coins (the latest dated to Theodosius II (402-450 A.D.) see below.

N^{os} 372-377 : this collection of lamps was recovered in Room 3, loc. 16, together with 45 bronze coins, the latest of them dating to Theodosius II (402-540 A.D.)⁵². The ware is pinkish with a buff surface and an ochre (Pl. CXXXIV 23).

E. Moulds (Pl. CXLI, 1)

Several lamp moulds were discovered in the dig and two of them were found in Sq. 2 : N^o 63, from loc. 14, was used to produce the lower half of the lamp. Red gritty ware, diam. 7.3 cm. N^o 64, loc. 4. with its ray

decoration was for the upper part. Red ware, gray core. Diam.: 7 cm.

General Conclusion:

The recent excavations of the Department of Antiquities brought to light, along with the Nabataean remains, a good amount of Roman and Byzantine cultural material. Greek inscriptions in the Siq prove that this access road to Petra continued to play the role of a sacred way in the Roman period. Pottery objects from tomb 64 and the potter's complex indicate that the site remained as a pottery manufacturing centre for a long period of time. The available clay deposits in the vicinity of the kilns stimulated a mass production. But there is, compared with the Nabataean classical period, an evident decline of techniques in the Late Roman and Byzantine periods. However, a mass production suggest an intensive commercial demands which is probably the main cause of decline in techniques. On the other hand, the discovery of a large quantity of cultural figurines indicate that there existed an increasing popular religious demonstrations. Aphrodite and Isis, identified with al 'Uzza, as has been proved by the author⁵³ enjoyed a favourite place in the Petra religious beliefs as late as the Byzantine period.

Through the excavations of Qasr el Bint, it is now evident that the site continued to be occupied in the Medieval period, during the crusader wars, a still obscure phase in the history of Petra.

Fawzi Zayadine
October 1982

52. For a similar lamp, see R.H. Smith, *Pella of the Decapolis*, London, 1973, p. 218-219, N^o 368 & Pl. 66 (4th-6th century A.D.).

53. F. Zayadine, 'L'Iconographie d'al 'Uzza-Aphrodite', *Mythologie greco-romaine, mythologie périphérique*, Colloques Inter. du CNRS, Paris, 1981.