

ABU NSEIR EXCAVATION

by
Khaled Abu Ghanimeh

Introduction

When I received a report that some people were searching for gold in the Abu Nseir area, I and the inspector for Amman's antiquities, went to the site. We found that a tomb area had been disturbed. Artefacts were found throughout the area.

The Site

The Abu Nseir tell is located 4 kms. north of Sweileh. It overlooks the Beq'ah Valley and the Amman-Jerash highway. The area is rocky, with many caves. The foundations for two square towers were observed and a large north-south wall.

A square was excavated near the western tower on May 11th, and work was continued until June 30th 1981. Two courses of stones were found, standing 1.50 m. in height. The stones measured 1.00 X 0.77 X 6.70 m. The tower was built on bedrock and is dated to the eighth/seventh centuries B.C. (late Iron Age II), based on the recovered pottery.

Two tombs were also excavated. The first tomb had an entrance measuring 1.17 m. high with five steps leading into the burial chamber. The chamber measured 2.50 m. x 1.70 m. and was 1.44 m. high. The tomb contents had been disturbed and bones and artefacts were scattered throughout the tomb. The artefacts date the tomb to the same period as the western tower.

The second excavated tomb was undisturbed. It was closed with a rock which hid the six steps leading to the burial chamber. The walls of this tomb were covered with plaster. The only material culture remains from the tomb were sherds dating to the Iron Age and the Mamlük period.

A wine press in (Fig. 1), similar to the one found at Umm es-Summaq, was also found here (1983). There were two squared basins, 5.00 x 5.00 m., within a one-course wall enclosure. Two smaller basins for straining the wine were also found. The pottery found here dates the press to the Byzantine period.

Abu Nseir Excavation 1981

No.	Description	Parallels	Plate
1.	Bowl, buff ware, inverted rim, shallow ring base, medium hard ware.	1. L. Harding: Iron Age Tomb at Sahab. QDAP. XIII. 1948 Fig. 3. p. 97, No. 9	LVIII: 1:1
2.	Bowl buff ware, grooved rim, flat base, medium hard ware, red burnished	1. L. Harding: The tomb of Adoni Nur in Amman. P.E.F.A. No. VI. 1953. Fig. 21. No. 67. 2. L. Harding: Iron age tomb at Sahab. QDAP. Fig. 3. No. 7-8. p. 97.	LVIII:1:2
3.	Bowl, inverted rim, 4 knob handle, medium hard ware, red burnished, shallow ring base.	1. L. Harding: Iron age tomb at Sahab. QDAP. XIII 1948. Fig. 3. No. 11, p. 97	LVIII:2:3
4.	Bowl, everted rim, grooved below the rim, small disc base, medium hard ware burnished inside and outside.	1. L. Harding: Iron age tomb at Sahab. QDAP. XIII. 1948. Fig. 3. p. 97. No. 8.	LVIII:2:4

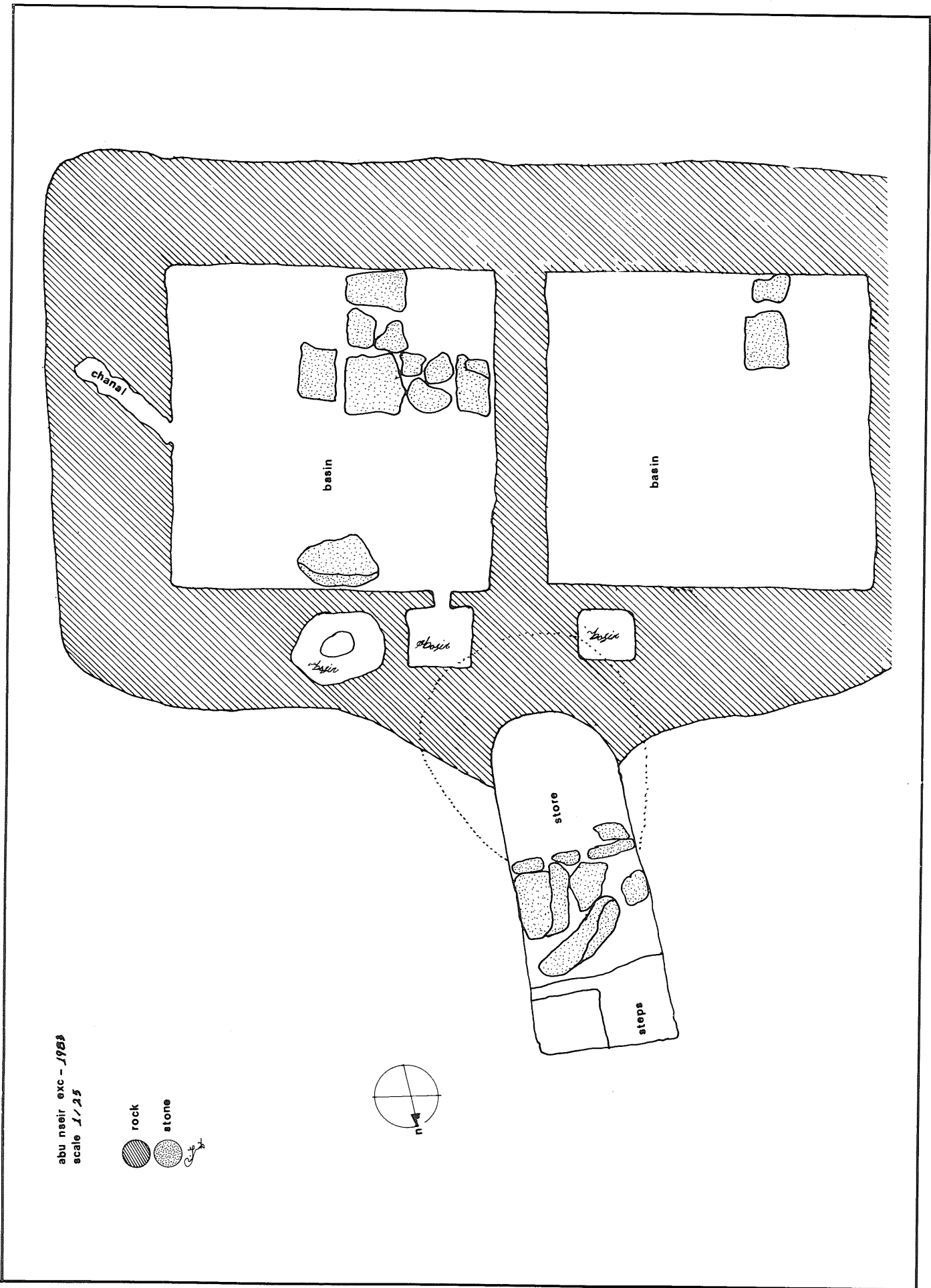


Fig. 1

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| 5. | Bowl, everted rim, medium hard ware, whitish colour burnished flat base. | 1. L. Harding: Iron age tomb at Sahab. QDAP. XIII. 1948. Fig. 3. p. 97. No. 7-8. | LVIII:3:5 |
| 6. | Bowl, carinated body, inverted rim, knob handle, one missing, burnished inside and outside, medium hard ware, disc base, broken and mended. Part of body missing. | | LVIII:3:6: |
| 7. | Bowl, inverted rim, 4 knob handle, red burnished inside and outside, shallow ring base medium hardware, broken and mended. | 1. L. Harding: Iron age tomb at Sahab. QDAP. XIII. 1948. Fig. 3. No. 11. p. 97. | LIX:1:7 |
| 8. | Lamp, hardware wide flanged rim, deeply pinched, nozzle, buff ware, blackened nozzle, ring base. | 1. L. Harding: Iron age tomb at Sahab. QDAP. XIII: 1948. Fig. 7. p. 101. No. 74.
2. L. Harding: The tomb of Adoni nur in Amman. P.E.F.A. Vol. VI. 1953. Fig.: 21: No. 84.
3. R. Dajani: An Iron Age tomb from Amman ADAJ: Vol. XI. 1966. Pl. IV. No. 115. | LIX:2:8 |
| 9. | Lamp, wide flanged rim, pinched nozzle, flat base orange ware. | 1. R. Dajani: Four Iron age tombs from Irbid. ADAJ. XI. 1966 Pl. XXXIII. No. 15. | LIX:2:9: |
| 10. | Pottery lamp, wide flanged rim, elongated black nozzle, deeply pinched, slightly broken ring base. Buff ware. incomplete, L. part of rim and body missing. | 1. L. Harding: Iron age tomb at Sahab. QDAP. XIII. 1948. Fig. 7. No. 72. p. 101. | LIX:2:10 |
| 11. | Lamp, wide flanged rim, elongated deeply pinched nozzle. blackened nozzle, round base. orange ware, part of rim missing. | 1. L. Harding: Iron Age tomb at Sahab. QDAP. XIII. 1948. Fig. 7. No. 75. Fig. 8. No. 80.
2. L. Harding: Two Iron age tombs from Amman. QDAP. XI. 1945. P. XVII: 14.
3. S. Saller: Liber Annuus. Vol. XVI. 1965-66. P. 200. Fig. 14. No. 8.
4. M. Piccirillo: Una Tomba Del Ferro I A Madaba Liber Annuus. Vol. XXV. 1975. Tav. VIII. No. 6.
5. R. Dajani: Four Iron age tombs From Irbid. ADAJ. XI. 1966. Pl. XXXIII. No. 14. | LIX:2:11 |
| 12. | Lamp, wide flanged rim, elongated pinched nozzle, buff ware, incomplete (part of body and nozzle missing). | 1. L. Harding: Iron Age tomb at Sahab. QDAP. XIII. 1948: Fig. 8. No. 81. p. 102.
2. L. Harding: Two Iron age tombs-Amman. QDAP. XI. 1945. p. 70. No. 16.
3. R. Dajani: An Iron age tomb from Amman. ADAJ: Vol. XI. 1966 No. 111. Pl. IV. | LIX:3:12 |
| 13. | Lamp, wide flanged rim, elongated pinched nozzle buffware, incomplete, part of nozzle and rim missing. | 1. L. Harding: Iron Age tomb at Sahab. QDAP. XIII. 1948. Fig. 7. No. 75, p. 101, Fig. 8, No. 77: p. 102. | LIX:3:13 |
| 14. | Lamp, wide flanged rim, elongated medium pinched nozzle, blackened nozzle, pink ware, incomplete mended. | 1. L. Harding: Iron age tomb at Sahab. QDAP. XIII. 1948. Fig. 8. No. 78. p. 102.
2. R. Dajani: An Iron Age tomb from Amman. (J.J. Sharqi). ADAJ. Vol. XI. 1966. Pl. IV. No. 114.
3. S. Saller: Iron Age tomb at Nebo. (Jordan) Liber Annuns. Vol. XVI. 1965-66. Fig. 14. No. 16. p. 200. | No Plate |
| 15. | Juglet, one loop handle, inverted trefoil rim, | 1. L. Harding: Iron Age Tomb at Sahab. | LX:1:15 |

- rounded base, Reddish-yellow ware, incomplete, rim is missing.
16. Juglet, one loop handle grey and black grits, reddish-yellow ware, traces of red slip, Possibly trefoil rim, disc base, incomplete. rim is missing. QDAP. XIII. 1948. Fig. 5. P. 99. No. 44.
17. Jug, rounded body, ridged-grooved rim, Loop handle, shallow disc base, Red colour.
18. Dipper Juglet, Loop handle inverted rim, rounded flat base, buff ware, complete.
19. Decanter. (Small size) ridged rim, handle drawn from the ridge of neck, disc base. Grey ware, burnished
20. Spouted juglet, Loop handle triangular rim in a section, rounded base, orange burnished slip, vertical brown painting, complete.
21. Spouted juglet, Loop handle, reddish ware, brown and white painting, disc base, incomplete.
22. Small Juglet, Loop handle, triangular rim in section, round flat base, dark-grey colour, burnished black slip. incomplete.
- 23: Assyrian bottle, painted base, triangular rim in section, short neck, creamy burnished colour, burnished and decorated with horizontal brown bands on neck and body, complete.
24. Small dipper Juglet, one Loop handle, Pinched grooved rim, globular body, rounded base reddish ware, red slip, complete.
25. Juglet, one loop handle, turned over rim, short-neck, dark grey colour, black burnished slip, flat base, complete.
1. L. Harding: Two Iron Age Tombs from Amman. QDAP. XI. 1945. p. 71. No. 32. Pl. XVII
2. L. Harding: Iron Age tomb at Sahab. QDAP. XIII. 1948. Fig. 5. No. 49. p. 99.
3. R. Dajani: An Iron Age tomb from Amman. ADAJ. Vol. XI: 1966. Pl. VI. No. 33.
1. L. Harding: Iron Age Tomb at Sahab. QDAP XIII. 1948. p. 99. Fig. 5. No. 51.
2. R. Dajani: ADAJ: Vol. XI. 1966. p. VII. No. 5. Pl. VI. No. 5A. p. 42-43.
3. F. Zayadine: Tomb du fer II A Samarre-Sabaste; Revue biblique 1968, Fig. 2 No. 4. Planche LXI.
1. L. Harding: Iron Age Tomb at Sahab. QDAP. XIII. 1948. Fig. 5, No. 38. p. 99.
2. L. Harding: Two Iron age Tombs in Amman. ADAJ Vol. I. 1951. Fig. I. No. 19.
1. L. Harding: Iron Age tomb at Sahab. QDAP. XIII. 1948. Fig. 6. No. 57: p. 100.
1. R. Dajani: An Iron Age tomb from Amman. ADAJ. Vol. XI. 1966; Pl. V. No. 99.
1. Awni, K, Dajani; An Iron Age tomb at Al Jib. ADAJ: Vol. 2 & 3, p. 70. Pl. IX No. 20.
1. L. Harding: Iron Age tomb at Sahab. QDAP. XIII, 1948, Fig. 5; No. 45. p. 99.
1. L. Harding: Two Iron Age tombs at Amman. QDAP. XI. 1945. p. 71, No. 21.
2. L. Harding: Two Iron age tombs in Amman. ADAJ. Vol. I. 1951, p. 39, No. 13.
3. R.W. Dajani: An Iron Age Tomb from Amman (J. Jofeh al Sharqi) ADAJ. Vol. XI, 1966, No. 62, Vol. IV.
4. L. Harding: Iron age Tomb at Sahab. QDAP XIII. 1948, p. 98, No. 34. Fig. 4.
5. L. Harding: The tomb of Adoni Nur in Amman. P.E.F.A. Vol. VI. 1953. Fig. 22. Pl. VI. No. 95, 96.
6. L. Harding: Iron Age Tomb at Sahab. QDAP XIII, 1948. P. 95-No. 42. Pl. XXXV.
1. L. Harding: QDAP XIII, 1948. Fig. 5 No. 39, p. 99.
1. R. Dajani: An Iron Age tomb from Amman (J. Jofeh Al Sharqi) ADAJ. Vol. XI. 1966. Pl. V. No. 94.
2. L. Harding: Two Iron Age tombs in Amman. ADAJ. Vol. I. 1951. Fig. I. No. 24.
- LX:1:16
- LX:1:17
- LX:1:18
- LX:2:19
- LX:2:20
- LX:2:21
- LX:3:22
- LXXI:1:23
- LX:3:24
- LX:3:25

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| | | 3. L. Harding. Two Iron age tombs from Amman. QDAP. XI, 1945. pl. XVIII, No. 64. No. 94: is similar to Amman tomb c. Fig. 1. 24 (ADAJ. 1-2) dated, 8-7 Cent B.C. and 10 lach. III. Pl. 75-35. | |
| 26. | Assyrian bottle, pointed base shortneck, buff ware, short neck decorated with horizontal brown bands, burnished, complete. | 1. L. Harding: Two Iron age Tombs, Amman. QDAP. XI. 1945. Pl. XVII, No. 22.
2. L. Harding, Two Iron age Tombs, Amman. QDAP. XI. 1945. Pl. XVIII, No. 56.
3. L. Harding, Two Iron age tombs at Sahab. QDAP. XIII. 1948. No. 33. Fig. 4, p. 98.
4. L. Harding, The tomb of Adoni Nur in Amman. P.E.F.A.: Vol. VI, 1953. Fig. 22, No. 95. | LX:1:26 |
| 27. | Amphoriskoi (small) Two broken loop handle ridged neck, possibly mushroom rim, rounded body, disc base, reddish ware, traces of red burnished slip, incomplete. | 1. R. Dajani: An Iron age tomb from Amman (J.J. Al Sharqi) ADAJ. Vol. XI. 1966. Pl. II. Fig. 3, No. 14. | LX:3:27 |
| 28. | Small bowl, slightly everted rim, concave base, white grits, reddish, yellow ware. | 1. L. Harding. Two Iron Age tombs from, Amman. QDAP. XI. 1945. Pl. XVII. No. 7. | LIX:3:28 |
| 29. | Double ended rim, lightly red ware, convex base, nozzle slightly pinched. incomplete. | 1. L. Harding, Two Iron age tombs in Amman. QDAP. XI, 1945. Pl. XVII, No. 17.
2. L. Harding: Two Iron age tomb in Amman. ADAJ. I. 1951. Fig. I. No. 15.
3. R.W. Dajani: An Iron age Tomb from Amman (J.J. Al Sharqi). ADAJ. Vol. XI. 1966. Pl. IV. No. 121. p. 45. No. 121, is similar to Amman tomb A. QDAP. XI p. 70, no. 17. | LIX:3:29 |
| 30. | Tripod cup. One loop handle thick-flat everted rim, straight sided body, reddish ware. | 1. R. Dajani: An Iron age tomb from Amman (J.J. Sharqi) ADAJ. Vol. XI, 1966. Pl. VIII. No. 48. | LXI:2:30 |
| 31. | Tripod cup, one lug handle straight sided body, ridged inverted rim, brown and white painting on rim, orange beige ware (creamy). | 1. L. Harding. Two Iron age tombs. Amman. QDAP. XI. 1945, p. 70, no. 13. | LXI:2:31 |
| 32. | Juglet, rounded base, pinkish colour, incomplete mended. | | LXI:2:32 |
| 33. | Rounded bowl, flared up rim, slightly everted, disc base, pinkish-yellow slip, burnished, incomplete, mended. | 1. L. Harding, Two Iron age tombs. ADAJ. Vol. I, 1951; Fig. I, No. 9 | LXII:1:33 |
| 34. | Slightly carinated shallow bowl, thick flat carinated rim, red burnished slip incomplete, mended. | 1. L. Harding: The tomb of Adoni Nur in Amman. P.E.F.A. No. VI. 1953; Fig. 21, No. 64. | LIX:1:34 |
| 35. | Small Juglet, one loop handle, rounded base, reddish yellow ware, red burnished slip. | 1. S. Saller: Iron Age tombs at Nebo. Liber Annuus XVI. 1965-1966, fig. 34; No. 16. | LX:3:35 |
| 36. | Upper part of Juglet, handle starts from middle of neck to the body, orange ware, incomplete, mended. | | LXI:2:36 |
| 37. | Small bracelet incomplete | — | LXII:2:37 |
| 38. | Small bracelet incomplete | — | LXII:2:38 |
| 39. | Small bracelet incomplete | — | LXII:2:39 |
| 40. | Small bracelet incomplete | — | LXII:2:40 |
| 41. | Earrings, broken into pieces | — | No plate |

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| 42. | Iron object, (pieces), rusted | — | No plate |
| 43. | Shell, perforated | | LXII:3:43 |
| 44. | Scarab perforated | | LXII:3:44 |
| 45. | Jug, ball shaped, disc base orange ware, hole in body, incomplete. | 1. L. Harding: Two Iron age Tombs in Amman. ADAJ. Vol. I. 1951, Fig. I. No. 27. | LX:2:45 |
| 46. | Juglet, one handle, concave base incomplete, mended. | — | LX:3: 46 |
| 47. | Deep bowl, carinated rim, gross on surface, disc base, complete, mended. | 1. R. Dajani: Jabal Nuzha Tomb at Amman. ADAJ. Vol. XI. 1966. Fig. 14; Pl. XV. | LXII:1:47 |
| 48. | Krater, tripod loop handles on base, thick flat rim, reddish, yellow colours, mineral inclusions two bands of brown colour and in between wide red band, ring base incomplete mended. | 1. S. Saller, Liber Annuus. Vol. XVI; 1965-1966. Fig. 35. No. 10. | No plate |
| 49. | Lamp, wide flanged rim, blackend pinched nozzle, disc base, light red ware, incomplete, mended. | — | No plate |
| 50. | Lamp, wide flanged rim, blackened, pinched nozzle, disc base, pink ware, complete. | 1. S. Saller: Iron age tomb of Nebo, Liber Annuus. Vol. XVI, 1965-66. Fig. 14. No. 18, p. 200.
2. L. Harding: Iron age tomb of Sahab. QDAP. Vol. XIII, 1948. Fig. 8. No. 78-83. | No plate |

Khalid Abu Ghanimeh
Department of Antiquities
Amman - Jordan