

Remarks on the History of Settlement in Southern Jordan during the Early Iron Age

In the opinion of Nelson Glueck, the history of the Edomites as a settled population begins in the 13th century BC¹. He based his proposition firstly on the evidence of written sources, in particular, the Bible, and secondly on the results of his archaeological survey in the region between Wādī l-Ḥasā in the north and the landmark of Rās en-Naqb, or the northern end of the Gulf of el-ʿAqaba, to the south. This is the region which is traditionally, and probably on the whole also correctly, regarded as the homeland of the ancient Edomites². As far as the Bible is concerned, Numbers 20: 14–21 and Deuteronomy 2: 1–8 recount, in passages by no means free from contradictions, how, during their passage from Egypt into Canaan, the Israelites confronted the Edomites who were already established in the region to the east of Wādī l-ʿAraba. This episode is traditionally dated to the 13th century. From the reference to a ‘King of Edom’ in Numbers 20: 14 and a list of ‘the kings who ruled in the land of Edom before the Israelites had any king’ in Genesis 36: 31–39, other scholars, such as Frants Buhl³, had already inferred that the Edomites had, by this time, developed a centralized state under a monarch. On the evidence of Numbers 20, this state seemed, moreover, to have been strong enough to deny access to the migrating Israelites. Glueck combined the testimony of the texts with the presence of some sixty-five ancient settlement sites in Edomite territory, which he felt free to date to Early Iron Age I/II on the basis of his survey⁴. In this fashion the textual and archaeological evidence appeared to be in agreement and the assumption that the Edomites were not only sedentary but had also developed the institutions of a state right at the beginning of Iron Age I was widely accepted⁵.

¹ See, e.g., Glueck, 1935: 138; Glueck, 1940: 125, 128, 145–147. In his latest statements, Glueck partially revised his earlier views; thus the date of the beginning of Iron Age settlements in the Transjordan is lowered to the 12th century BC, and the references to the existence of a strong Edomite kingdom at the eve of the Exodus are deleted. See Glueck, 1970: 179–181 (on p. 157, however, the original 13th century date is retained).

² The possible extension of the Edomite territory to the west of Wādī l-ʿAraba does not concern us here.

³ Buhl, 1893: 46f., 54f.

⁴ See the lists of Iron Age settlements south of Wādī l-Ḥasā in Gold, 1951: 26–36; Weippert, 1971a: 396f. and map 1 I–III.

⁵ See, e.g., Irvine, 1958: 76–81, 213–217 (sedentary culture in Edom began in the 13th

century, although the population remained partially nomadic until the 12th); Cresson, 1963: 25–28 (follows Glueck); Weippert, 1967: 129 fn. 3 = Weippert, 1971b: 133 fn. 17 (early consolidation of Edom explained by relatively undisturbed development in a marginal area; statement based on an evaluation of ‘Edomite’ [=Ḥegāz] pottery now proved wrong); Moon, 1971: 34f., 125–153 (settlement during the 13th century resulting in the establishment of an ‘amphictyony’; emergence of the Edomite kingdom during the 12th century); Bennett, 1971b: 36; cp. Bartlett, 1972: 26 with fn. 1.

All the more surprising then, when the results of the first modern excavations of Iron Age settlements in the area south of Wādī l-Ḥasā which Mrs Crystal M. Bennett undertook for the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem failed to fit into this framework. Indeed, it rapidly became clear that the three settlements concerned—Umm el-Biyāra⁶ and Ṭawilān⁷ in the region of Petra/Wādī Mūsā and Buṣēra⁸, south of eṭ-Ṭāfile—were devoid of any Iron Age I occupation at all. To ignore the later periods for the present, all three sites flourished exclusively during the Iron Age II C: Ṭawilān from the 9th or rather the 8th to the 6th centuries, Buṣēra in the 7th–6th centuries and probably continuing into the 5th/4th centuries, Umm el-Biyāra relatively briefly in the 7th/6th centuries. This state of affairs is not at all in agreement with the current hypotheses concerning the process of Iron Age settlement on either side of the Rift Valley⁹, although in the case of the ephemeral settlement of Umm el-Biyāra, its relatively unfavourable situation might be offered in explanation. It stands on an almost inaccessible rock plateau, high above Wādī Mūsā, which, though defensible against virtually any assailant, must have imposed considerable constraints on the everyday activities of the inhabitants. Here, the natural situation was by no means conducive to stable, flourishing communities on the plateau. This is, however, by no means the case for either Ṭawilān or Buṣēra, which must have occupied a much more favourable environment. Furthermore, Buṣēra may, with some justification, be identified as the Biblical Bozrah, which was the capital of Edom in Neo-

century, although the population remained partially nomadic until the 12th); Cresson, 1963: 25–28 (follows Glueck); Weippert, 1967: 129 fn. 3 = Weippert, 1971b: 133 fn. 17 (early consolidation of Edom explained by relatively undisturbed development in a marginal area; statement based on an evaluation of ‘Edomite’ [=Ḥegāz] pottery now proved wrong); Moon, 1971: 34f., 125–153 (settlement during the 13th century resulting in the establishment of an ‘amphictyony’; emergence of the Edomite kingdom during the 12th century); Bennett, 1971b: 36; cp. Bartlett, 1972: 26 with fn. 1.

⁶ Preliminary reports: Bennett, 1964, 1966a, 1966b, 1966c, 1967.

⁷ Preliminary reports: Bennett, 1967/68, 1969, 1970, 1971a.

⁸ Preliminary reports: Bennett, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1977; Puech, 1977.

⁹ The historical model usually referred to in this context is the settlement of the Israelites in Canaan (Palestine). See for this e.g., Weippert, 1976; Miller, 1977 (both with references to earlier literature). The alternative views of G. E. Mendenhall and N. K. Gottwald (see now Gottwald, 1979) must await discussion at another time.

Babylonian times at least and which would, therefore, seem to have been a settlement of some importance. The remains of public buildings from about this period, which Mrs Bennett excavated in Buṣēra¹⁰ may, without stretching the evidence unduly, be regarded as archaeological confirmation of this importance. Ṭawīlān, on the other hand, was a rural community without defensive walls. It probably owed its existence to the abundant and readily available water from 'Ain Mūsā which allowed the inhabitants of the ancient town to irrigate their terraced gardens and fields just as the people of el-Ġi/Wādī Mūsā continue to do today. This, no doubt, stimulated the growth of a large community which Glueck considered to be 'one of the centers of the Edomite kingdom' on account of the quantity of Iron Age sherds on the surface of the site. He went on to identify it—although most certainly incorrectly—with Biblical Theman¹¹. Considering Glueck's descriptions, traces of earlier phases of the Iron Age would have been expected in Buṣēra and Ṭawīlān at the very least.

The observations made at the three sites excavated by Mrs Bennett¹² are by no means as isolated as they may first appear. For a correct evaluation, it is necessary to examine the entire region which Glueck regarded, on the whole correctly, as the area of Iron Age settlement south of Wādī l-Ḥasā. A study of sherd collections from more than fifty sites in this region with Iron Age pottery suggests that permanent settlement reached its maximum extent during the first millennium BC in Edomite territory in Iron Age II C, the 8th–6th centuries.

If the ceramic analyses are correct, a very gradual increase in settlement density is to be discerned previous to this. However, it is at present impossible to be more specific on the course of events in detail, due to the scarcity of relevant material and to the uncertainties in dating. This much at any rate is clear enough: if the geographical and chronological distribution of pottery found in a regional surface survey is indeed capable of reflecting, approximately at least, social—and hence also historical—developments, then the picture of a well-organized and powerful Edomite kingdom already functioning at the end of the Late Bronze Age is in need of revision.

In fact, such a revision does not present undue difficulties as far as the texts are concerned. Indeed, the historical studies by J. R. Bartlett and others have long pointed the way in this direction¹³. Nevertheless, the impression which remains is that the generally accepted interpretation of the history of the area could only have been formulated in this fashion because the survey results were interpreted within this historical framework provided by the Biblical texts already referred to. As often in Palestinian archaeology, the two categories of

historical evidence—textual and archaeological—were not clearly differentiated. The one was uncritically interpreted in terms of the other, and texts were accepted at face value as historical documents without previously subjecting them to a rigid analysis of their literary character and the amount of ideology and reality they contain¹⁴. The conflicting statements of Numbers 20: 14–21 and Deuteronomy 2: 1–8 might have been reason enough to suspect that as far as the literary and historical value of the texts is concerned not all is as it should be. Numbers 20 records that the Edomites—ruled by a king in verse 21—denied passage across their lands to the Israelites coming out of Egypt, or rather, from the Sinai desert (et-Tih). They furthermore manned their frontier with troops to give military emphasis to their refusal. In Deuteronomy 2: 1–8, however, there is no trace of such animosity. That the Israelites were able to pass through Edomite territory without hindrance goes without saying. What matters here is that they were not to assail the Edomites—who had been given Seir as their homeland by the Lord. In literary terms, the passage is not a homogenous record. At its basis stand a few laconic remarks concerning the route which the Israelites were to take from the northern end of the Red Sea into the territory of the Moabites. To this framework were added the injunctions concerning relations with the Edomites, which find their ideological background in a relatively late period in the first millennium when the concept of a 'brotherhood' between the Israelites and their Transjordanian neighbours, the Ammonites, Moabites, and Edomites emerged¹⁵. Consequently, the Israelites are forbidden to harass their 'brothers' or to drive them from their lands or to destroy them—in clear distinction to the other inhabitants of the Promised Land, such as the Amorites or Canaanites. Accordingly, Deuteronomy 2: 1–8 does not preserve an ancient tradition which could be used to unravel events in the 13th century BC; it is rather a secondary construction¹⁶, possibly 'correcting' the tradition of Numbers 20: 14–21.

When the passage, Numbers 20: 14–21, is subjected to literary analysis, it also proves to be an editorial composition. The events recounted have been copied and adapted from the report preserved in Numbers 21: 21–25 concerning the clash between the Israelites and King Sihon of Heshbon, while the historical summary of the events which had befallen the Israelites in Egypt is a précis of a closely similar passage in Deuteronomy 26: 5–8¹⁷.

Thus neither of the texts can be said to reflect the existence of an Edomite state at the transition from the Late Bronze Age to the Iron Age. Indeed, this is no more than is to be expected as the account of the passage of the Israelites through the

¹⁰ Bennett, 1977: 1–6 (area A).

¹¹ Glueck, 1935: 82f. The identification of Ṭawīlān with Theman has been disproved by de Vaux, 1969.

¹² I refrain from discussing the results of Glueck's excavations at Tell el-Hlēfe to the west of el-'Aqaba since nothing has been published so far pertaining to the earliest occupation levels at this site. Literature on Tell el-Hlēfe in Vogel, 1971: 85f.

¹³ See the bibliography *sub* Bartlett, J. R.

¹⁴ For the questions of method involved, see Alt, 1932: 175; Noth, 1938 = Noth, 1971: 3–16; Noth, 1957 = Noth, 1971: 17–33; Noth, 1960 = Noth, 1971: 34–51; Weippert, 1967: 124–138 = Weippert, 1971b: 128–143; Lapp, 1969: 94f.; Franken, 1970a, 1970b; de Vaux, 1970.

¹⁵ See Bartlett, 1969, 1977; Fishbane, 1970.

¹⁶ See Mittmann, 1975: 64–66, 72–77.

¹⁷ See Mittmann, 1973; Mittmann, 1975: 73–75.

1. Hirbet Abū Banna, looking West.



Transjordan is the product of two originally distinct traditions which have been combined into one continuous narrative of events. On the one hand stands the account of the wanderings in the desert south of Palestine, on the other the stories about the conquest of Canaan from out of the lower Jordan valley. Naturally, when it came to filling in the gaps, it was the contemporary situation which was reflected in the presumed route now taken by the Israelites through the territories of the Edomites and Moabites. Some account of the relations with these peoples therefore became unavoidable.

Unlike the passages from Numbers and Deuteronomy which I have just discussed, the Edomite king-list in Genesis 36: 31–39 is most probably based on an ancient document which can, to a certain extent, be reconstructed from the wording of the passage. As we have it, the list names a series of eight kings who seem to have reigned consecutively over Edom before the inception of kingship in Israel. Their reigns, then, would span the whole of the 11th century and probably also part of the 12th. It is worth noting, however, that none of the kings was the son of his predecessor, and that to each is attributed a different city, presumably his place of residence. Moreover, these rulers are introduced (verse 31) not, as might be expected, as ‘kings of Edom’ but as ‘the kings who reigned in the land of Edom, before any king reigned over the Israelites’. It is probably correct to conclude from this observation that the succession scheme in the text as it is transmitted is secondary, and that the original document was

an enumeration of local rulers, with no indication of their chronological relationship. The rulers may well have been partially or even wholly contemporary¹⁸—in which case the list may no longer be used to date the beginnings of an unified Edomite kingdom to the early 11th or even 12th centuries. Yet it must be conceded that the text in its original form could go back to the 11th century; it could therefore imply the presence of ‘cities’ or, at any rate, certain permanent settlements, in Edom at this period. But this as far as its evidence goes.

Of relevance here is the observation that the Egyptians continued to refer to the land of Seir—the Biblical home of the Edomites—as a land of the Shasu (i.e. nomads) in the second half of the 12th century, towards the end of the reign of Ramses III¹⁹ as they had done in the 13th century, under Ramses II²⁰. Moreover, the earliest reference to Edom specifi-

¹⁸ For Genesis 36: 31–39, see Bartlett, 1965; Weippert, 1971a: 473–475. The evidence for Bartlett’s view that three of the kings actually reigned in Moab, not in Edom, is, in my opinion, not decisive.

¹⁹ Papyrus Harris I 76: 9–11 (Erichsen, 1933: 93) describes a campaign of Ramses III directed against ‘Seir among the Shasu tribes’; see Breasted, 1906: 201, § 404; Givon, 1971: 134–137, doc. 38; Weippert, 1974: 277.

²⁰ The ‘Shasu country of Seir’ is mentioned in an enumeration of six ‘Shasu countries’ incorporated into the ‘topographical’ list of Ramses II in his temple at ‘Amāra West’; see Givon, 1971: 74–77, doc. 16a, no. 1, and cp. Weippert, 1971a: 31f., no. N 93; Weippert, 1974: 270f.; Görg, 1976: 12 and fn. 34. The text probably was copied from an earlier one of Amenophis III which also had served as *Vorlage* for the latter king’s own ‘topographical’ lists at Soleb. However, since Ramses II is known to have campaigned in ‘Shasu country’ and to have plundered Mt Seir (Montet and Goyon, 1935–37: PL. III; Weippert, 1971a: 34, text 2), it is likely that the mention of the ‘Shasu country of Seir’ in ‘Amāra West’ was still grounded on the real situation.

2. Ḥirbet Abū Banna, looking East.



cally, which dates to the 8th year of the Pharaoh Merenptah (1216 BC) mentions 'nomadic tribes' or 'families from Edom' who, with their flocks, sought refuge on the eastern frontiers of Egypt²¹. But the text does not state where they came from, nor how they made their way to Egypt. Thus it would seem somewhat hasty to locate their homeland without more ado in the territories belonging to the Edomites in the first millennium.

As the literary sources are clearly deficient, we are left only the archaeological evidence with which to trace the development of settlement in the region to the south of Wādī l-Ḥasā and east of Wādī l-'Araba at the close of the Late Bronze Age and the beginning of the Iron Age. I have already mentioned the gradual increase in settlement density, observable well before the florescence in Iron Age II C (8th–6th centuries BC). Of significance is that this development is not only signalled in Iron Age II—thus the 10th century at the earliest—but,

indeed, as early as Iron Age I, as will be shown, in what follows, by two sites in the north of this region, Ḥirbet Abū Banna and Ḥirbet Mašmīl.

Abū Banna is the first settlement to be reached by travelling south down the modern highway from el-Kerak to eṭ-Ṭafile, after crossing Wādī l-Ḥasā and ascending across the west bank of Wādī La'abān to the rolling plateau called on the maps Ġibāl Safra and Ṣalāḥid more to the southwest. The countryside is intensively cultivated, especially with cereal crops. The village of Abū Banna seems to be of more recent origin; its ancient forerunner lies about a kilometre to the south and is called Ḥirbet Abū Banna²². This is an area of extensive limestone ruins (FIGS 1 & 2) under which stone foundations and possibly even the remains of an enclosing wall may be discerned. The site is partially under cultivation.

A few hundred metres further on, a road branches off in a north westerly direction, leading through gently rolling grain fields. After a good 2½ km. Ḥirbet Mašmīl²³ comes into sight on a spur on the other side of Wādī l-Muwēlī (FIG. 3). A mule-track, from which R. E. Brünnow and A. v. Domaszewski and A. Musil observed the ruins, passes along its western side. Brünnow and von Domaszewski regarded the track as the successor of the Roman road leading to Garandal (Arindela), though this is, in my opinion, by no means certain. The 1912 Baedeker recommends the track for the journey from el-Kerak to Petra, and Ḥirbet Mašmīl is mentioned as a result of the description by Brünnow and von Domaszewski²⁴. The ḥirbe itself measures some 50 × 100 metres. The foundations of a small building of about 3 × 5 metres are visible in the southern part (FIG. 4), while in the middle there is an ancient wall, running East–West. In addition there are a number of modern enclosures, apparently animal pens, some caves which have been turned into stables and a couple of cisterns. The caves may also have been cisterns originally. The ruins of Ruġm Karaka²⁵, which Glueck considers to date to the Iron Age, are visible a good kilometre to the north of the site. This probably served to guard the descent into Wādī l-Ḥasā, which begins further to the north. It is a landmark visible far and wide and for this reason functions as a triangulation point today.

On Ḥirbet Mašmīl, Glueck registered 'a few pieces of Nabataean and Roman pottery and several sherds which belong unmistakably to the Bronze Age period extending approximately 2200–1800 BC'²⁶. Although I have previously

²² Glueck, 1934: 14; Glueck, 1935: 107. Grid reference (Palestine grid): approx. 2154.0219. Revisited on September 3, 1974, and August 10, 1978.

²³ Brünnow and v. Domaszewski, 1904: 109 ('el-Mišmāl', corrected in Brünnow and v. Domaszewski, 1905: 328 to 'Ḥ. Mašmīl' after Musil); Musil, 1907: 301; Musil, 1908: 242; Glueck, 1935: 107f. Grid ref.: 2131.0333. On the maps the site is called Ḥirbet el-Mušimmin (see Weippert, 1979a: 26, fn. 38). Revisited on September 3, 1974, and August 10, 1978.

²⁴ Baedeker, 1912: 174.

²⁵ Brünnow and v. Domaszewski, 1904: 108; Brünnow and v. Domaszewski, 1905: 328; Musil, 1908: 242; Braslavski, 1934: 93; Glueck, 1934: 14; Glueck, 1935: 108 and FIG. 40.

²⁶ Glueck, 1935: 108.

²¹ See the model letter in Papyrus Anastasi vi 51–61 (Gardiner, 1937: 76f.), translated, e.g., by E. Edel in Gallig, 1968: 40f., no. 16; J. A. Wilson in Pritchard, 1969: 259; Givon, 1971: 131–134, doc. 37. For the date of the model letter, see Weippert, 1979a: 27, fn. 45.

3. Ḥirbet Mašmīl from Wādī l-Muwēlī, looking North-West.



criticized Glueck's dating of the pottery from Ḥirbet Mašmīl²⁷, renewed investigation of the site shows that, as far as his statements go, Glueck was correct. There is indeed Nabataean and Roman pottery²⁸, with material from the Early Bronze IV/Middle Bronze I²⁹ and, in addition, the ubiquitous medieval (Ayyubid-Mamluk) sherds. But in the present context, it is the occurrence of fragments of Iron Age I bowls and jugs which require emphasis³⁰. These possess good parallels in the pottery repertory in the Transjordan and southern Palestine during the 12th/11th centuries BC. The evidence for the Iron Age II is still very sparse at Ḥirbet Mašmīl³¹.

²⁷ Weippert, 1979a: 26, where 'MB I and II A sherds' should read 'MB I sherds'.

²⁸ See FIG. 1: 10–16.

²⁹ See FIG. 1: 1–9. Leaving aside the finds from the Stone Age (for which see Stockton, 1969, especially the distribution map, p. 101, FIG. 1), material attributed to pre-Iron Age periods has so far been observed only occasionally in the area south of Wādī l-Ḥasā; the statements in Glueck, 1935: 138, § II, which seem to point to the contrary, are misleading. From Glueck's surveys, the following sites in the area are known to have yielded Bronze Age pottery: Ḥirbet Mašmīl (see fn. 26 above), Ḥirbet 'Abil (near eṭ-Ṭafīle, grid ref.: approx. 2091.0252; one sherd, EB IV/MB I, unpublished), 'Ain Neḡel (grid ref.: 2018.9924; one ledge-handle, EB IV/MB I, Glueck, 1935: 53f.), Fēnān (in Wādī l-'Araba, grid ref.: 1972.0041; Glueck, 1935: 33). From other surveys, this list can be supplemented by Ruwāt (grid ref.: 2110.0140; EB IV A, Graf, 1979), Ḥirbet el-Basta (grid ref.: 2018.9601; CL, EB, Kirkbride, 1959: 52; Glueck, 1935: 74 records only Nabataean and modern pottery, but EI II and Hellenistic sherds are also found at the site), el-Mutrāb (east of Ma'ān; CL, Parker, 1976: 24, no. 34), Wādī l-Fēfe (grid ref.: approx. 1933.0285; EB I–III, Rast and Schaub, 1974: 11f., 17f., 41–53).

³⁰ See FIG. 2: 1–7. The Iron Age bowl or jar base FIG. 2:8 cannot be dated exactly, but may likewise be attributed to EI I.

³¹ See, however, FIG. 2:9.

Sherds of this period are, however, present at Ḥirbet Abū Banna, along with pottery from Iron Age I, the Roman, perhaps also the Byzantine, and the medieval (Ayyubid-Mamluk) periods³².

It is apparent that after the Bronze Age hiatus, re-occupation of both settlements began as early as Iron Age I. But with the exception of these two sites, finds from this period are very scarce to the south of Wādī l-Ḥasā. My own investigations have also located material of the period at el-Qūsa el-Ḥamrā, eṭ-Tuwāna and Ḥirbet es-Sab'a in the environs of eṭ-Ṭafīle, together with Ḥirbet Umm Rās in the region south of eṣ-Ṣadaqa³³. Then there is Ruḡm Ḥanazīr from the survey by W. E. Rast and R. Th. Schaub in the northern part of Wādī l-'Araba³⁴. Altogether only seven sites can be listed. Thus it is impossible at present to draw conclusions about the history of settlement on the basis of the geographical distribution. That sites with Iron Age I pottery are known almost exclusively from the north need not necessarily mean that the early Iron Age occupation of the country south of Wādī l-Ḥasā began from the north, and extended further south from there. It might well be simple

³² See FIGS 3: 2–11; 4. FIG. 3: 1 may be an Early Bronze Age I sherd.

³³ Weippert, 1979a: 30 and fn. 57 (implicitly corrected here); for Ḥirbet Umm Rās (grid ref.: 1965.9476) see Musil, 1908: 231; Glueck, 1935: 70.

³⁴ Rast and Schaub, 1974: 12f., 50–53; cp. Frank, 1934: 212.

4. Hirbet Mašmil, looking South.



coincidence. It is the task of future investigations to eliminate such coincidences³⁵.

Description of the pottery³⁶*Hirbet Mašmil* (FIG. 5)

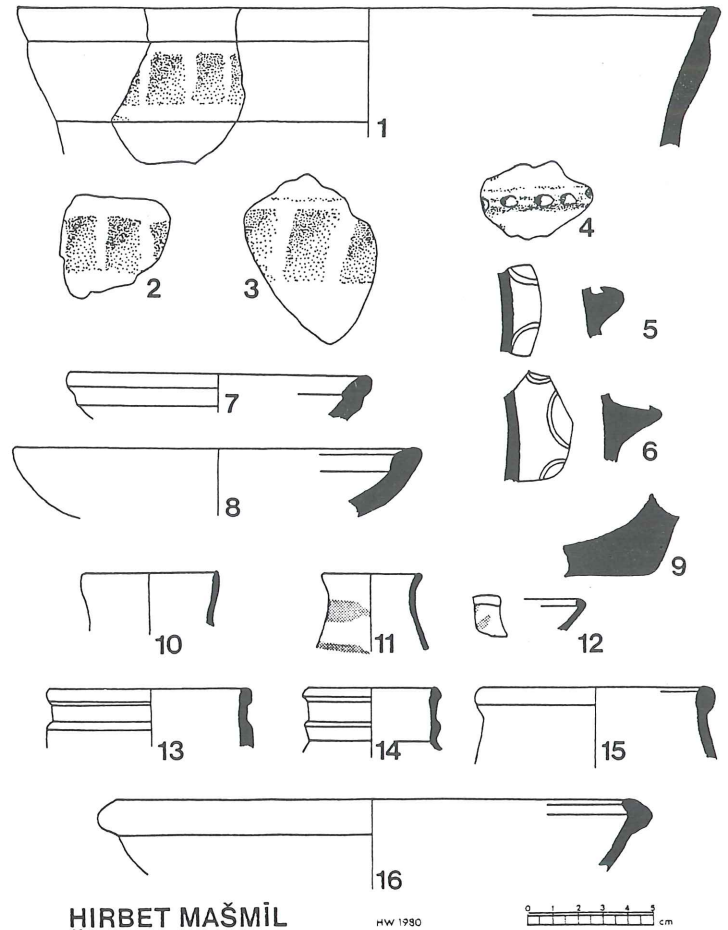
1 Reg. no. 6.25

Deep bowl. *Section*: pink; light yellowish gray core; some small and large grits (l/c). *Surfaces*: Exterior: pink slip; some large grits (l/c) seen; impressed raised moulding below rim. Interior: pink; some large grits (l/c) seen. *Date*: EB IV/MB I.

³⁵ Translation from the German by Mrs C. van Driel-Murray (Leiden).

³⁶ The pottery descriptions in general follow the scheme employed in Weippert, 1979b: 95–103 (see *ibid.*, 95, fn. 17). For identifying additional material (temper, 'grits') the following conventions have been used: *Frequency*: 'a few' means < 15%, 'some' 15–30%, 'many' > 30% (estimated). *Size*: 'small' means < 0.5 mm., 'medium' 0.5–1 mm., 'large' > 1 mm. *Type*: s = 'sand', l = 'lime(stone)', c = 'crystal' or 'quartz', p = 'pottery' (ceramic particles), o = 'organic matter' (or traces left by decomposed straw particles in the fabric). This classification is strictly descriptive and does not intend to imply anything about the 'true' (chemical) nature of the materials in question. See in general, A. E. Glock in Rast, 1978: 63; J. D. Seger in Dever and Lance, 1978: 118, 134f. The descriptions of Hirbet Abū Banna and Hirbet Mašmil should now be compared to those by B. MacDonald, 'The Wadi El Hasa survey 1979: A Preliminary Report', *Annual of the Department of Antiquities, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan*, 24 (1980), p. 175, no. 212, and p. 179, no. 23; PL. CVII 1.

5. Pottery from Hirbet Mašmil.



2 Reg. no. 6.24

Body sherd, presumably of deep bowl or jar. *Section*: light brown; many small to large grits (l/c/o). *Surfaces*: Exterior: cream slip; many small to large grits (l/c) seen; impressed raised moulding. Interior: light brown; many medium to large grits (l) seen. *Date*: EB IV/MB I.

3 Reg. no. 6.49

Body sherd, presumably of jar. *Section*: red; pink core; some small to large grits (l/c). *Surfaces*: Exterior: pink; some small to medium grits (l/c) seen; impressed raised moulding; combed on body. Interior: red; some small to large grits (l/c) seen. *Date*: EB IV/MB I.

4 Reg. no. 6.37

Body sherd, presumably of jar. *Section*: outside light brown, inside gray; many small to large grits (l/c). *Surfaces*: Exterior: light brown slip; some small to large grits (c) seen; impressed raised moulding. Interior: gray; some medium to large grits (l/c) seen.

5 Reg. no. 6.85

Folded ledge-handle attached to body sherd. *Section*: light brown; some small to large grits (l/c/p). *Surfaces*: Exterior: light brown slip; on upper side of ledge-handle red slip. Interior: red slip; some grits (l/c) seen. *Date*: EB IV/MB I.

6 Reg. no. 6.65

Folded ledge-handle attached to body sherd. *Section*: red; many small to large grits (l/c). *Surfaces*: Exterior: pink slip; many small to large grits (l/c) seen. Interior: red; grits as exterior. *Date*: EB IV/MB I.

7 Reg. no. 6.22

Small shallow bowl. *Section*: red; orange core; a few large grits (c).

Surfaces: Exterior: red slip; a few small to medium grits (l/c) seen. Interior: red; a few medium to large grits (l/c) seen. *Date:* EB IV/MB I.

8 Reg. no. 6.78

Small shallow bowl. *Section:* orange; light to medium gray core; a few small to large grits (l/c/o). *Surfaces:* Exterior: red, gray, irregularly fired; some small to large grits (l/c) seen. Interior: pink; many medium to large grits (l/c) seen. *Date:* EB IV/MB I.

9 Reg. no. 6.68

Flat base of jar. *Section:* light brown; many small to large grits (l/c/p). *Surfaces:* Exterior: cream slip; a few large grits (c) seen. Interior: light brown; many medium to large grits (l/c/p) seen. *Date:* EB IV/MB I.

10 Reg. no. 6.60

Juglet. *Section:* red; a few small grits (l). *Surfaces:* Exterior: cream slip; traces of red painted bands below rim. Interior: red; a few small grits (l) seen. *Date:* Nab./Roman.

11 Reg. no. 6.50

Juglet. *Section:* red; medium gray core; a few small to large grits (l/c). *Surfaces:* Exterior: red; some small to medium grits (l) seen; black painted leaf ornaments. *Date:* Nab.

12 Reg. no. 6.82

Small shallow bowl. *Section:* red; a few small grits (l). *Surfaces:* Exterior: red slip. Interior: red; polished; purplish brown painted leaf ornaments. *Date:* Nab.

13 Reg. no. 6.42

Cup? *Section:* light brown; a few small grits (l/c). *Surfaces:* Exterior: buff slip. Interior: light brown. *Date:* Nab./Roman.

14 Reg. no. 6.75

Bottle? *Section:* red; a few small grits (l/c). *Surfaces:* Exterior: red; a few small grits (l) seen. Interior: red. *Date:* Nab./Roman.

15 Reg. no. 6.41

Jug. *Section:* pink; gray core; a few small to large grits (l/c/p). *Surfaces:* Exterior: pink; a few small to medium grits (l) seen. Interior: brown; a few small grits (l) seen. *Date:* Nab./Roman.

16 Reg. no. 6.199

Shallow bowl (platter). *Section:* red; some small grits (l/c). *Surfaces:* Exterior: purplish brown slip. Interior: red. *Date:* Nab./Roman.

Hirbet Mašmīl (FIG. 6)

1 Reg. no. 6.107

Carinated bowl. *Section:* light brown; medium gray core; many small to medium grits (l/p). *Surfaces:* Exterior: light brown slip; some large grits (l) seen. Interior: as exterior. *Date:* EI I.

2 Reg. no. 6.108

Carinated bowl. *Section:* brown; medium gray core; many small to large grits (l/p). *Surfaces:* Exterior: cream slip; a few large grits (l) seen. Interior: light brown slip; some grits (l/p) seen. *Date:* EI I.

3 Reg. no. 6.114

Carinated bowl. *Section:* brown; medium gray core; many small to large grits (l/c/p). *Surfaces:* Exterior: pink slip; some medium to large grits (l/c/p) seen. Interior: red; grits as exterior. *Date:* EI I.

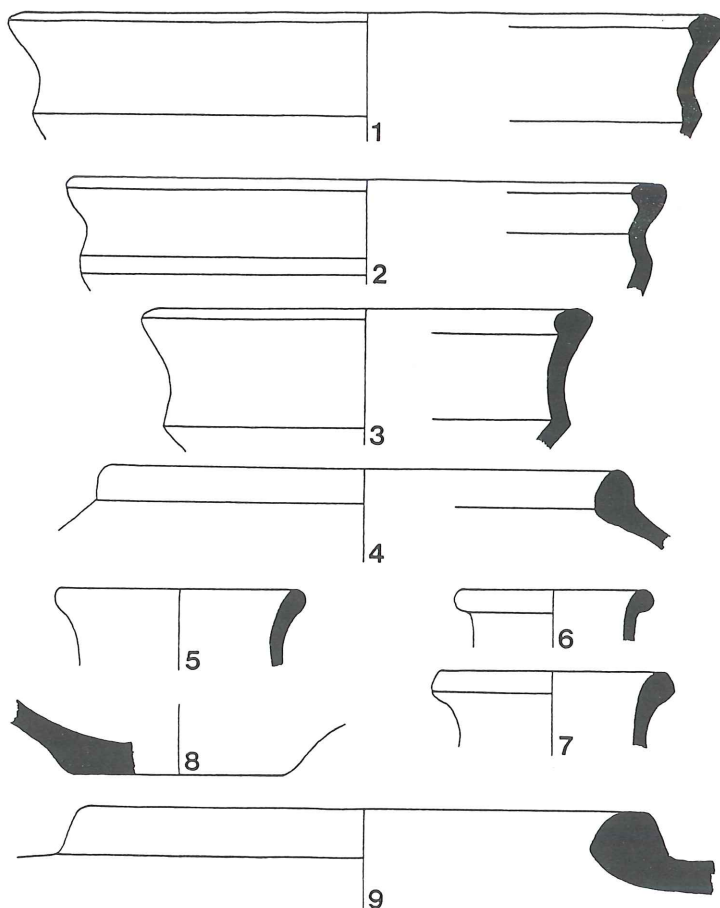
4 Reg. no. 6.14

Jar. *Section:* red; light gray core; many medium to large grits (l/c/p). *Surfaces:* Exterior: pink slip; many large grits (l/c/p) seen. Interior: red; grits as exterior. *Date:* EI I.

5 Reg. no. 6.92

Jug. *Section:* red; light gray core; some small and large grits (l/c). *Surfaces:* Exterior: pink slip; a few large grits (c) seen. Interior: brown slip; grits as exterior. *Date:* EI I.

6. Pottery from Hirbet Mašmīl.



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6 Reg. no. 6.118

Jug. *Section:* light brown; some small to large grits (l/c/p). *Surfaces:* Exterior: light brown; some medium to large grits (l/c/p) seen. Interior: as exterior. *Date:* EI I.

7 Reg. no. 6.66

Jug. *Section:* pink; light gray core; some small to large grits (l/c/p). *Surfaces:* Exterior: pink; a few small to large grits (l/c/p) seen. Interior: light brown; a few small to large grits (l/c) seen. *Date:* EI I.

8 Reg. no. 6.122

Disc base of bowl or jar. *Section:* red; light reddish gray core; many small to large grits (l/c/p). *Surfaces:* Exterior: red slip; many medium to large grits (l/c/p) seen. Interior: red; grits as exterior. *Date:* EI I.

9 Reg. no. 6.31

Pithos. *Section:* red; medium reddish gray core; many small and large grits (s/l/c). *Surfaces:* Exterior: red slip; many medium to large grits (l/c) seen; traces of strings impressed on shoulder below rim. Interior: red slip; grits as exterior. *Date:* EI II C.

Hirbet Abū Banna (FIG. 7)

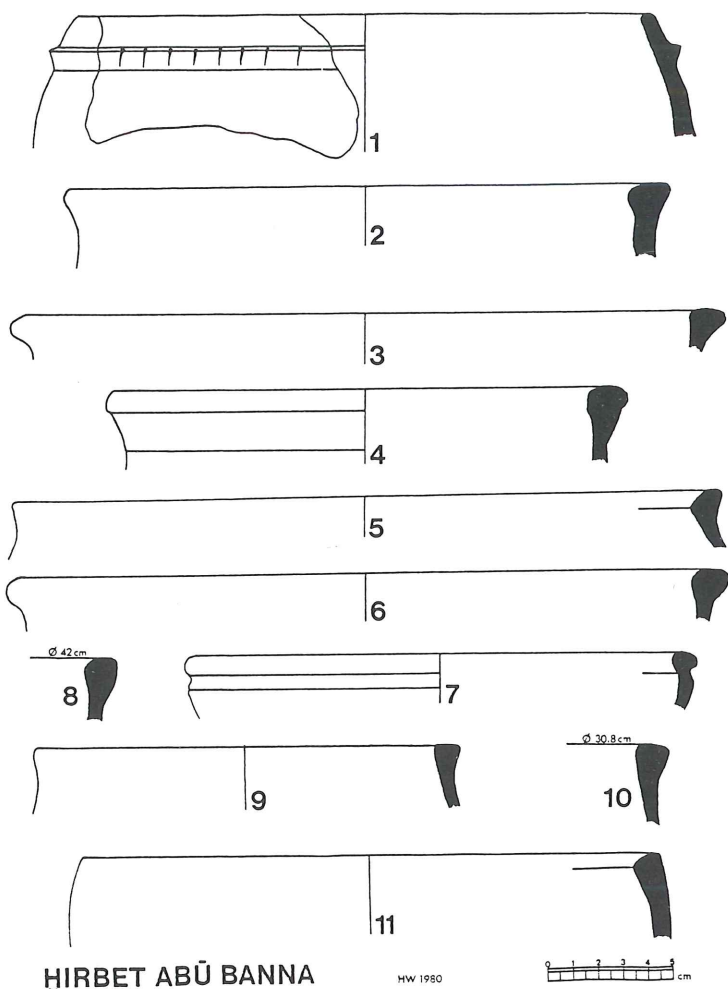
1 Reg. no. 1.100

Holemouth jar. *Section:* red; reddish gray core; many small to large grits (l/c). *Surfaces:* Exterior: light brown slip, wet smoothed, irregularly fired; incised raised moulding below rim. Interior: brown slip. *Date:* EB I(?).

2 Reg. no. 1.98

Deep bowl. *Section:* red; medium gray core; many large grits (l/c).

7. Pottery from Hirbet Abū Banna.



Surfaces: Exterior: cream slip; some medium to large grits (l/c/p) seen. Interior: red slip (traces); some medium to large grits (l/c) seen. *Date:* EI I.

3 Reg. no. 1.113

Deep bowl. *Section:* light brown; medium gray core; some medium to large grits (l/c). *Surfaces:* Exterior: light brown slip; some large grits (l) seen. Interior: light brown; grits as exterior. *Date:* EI I.

4 Reg. no. 1.74

Deep bowl. *Section:* medium gray; some small to large grits (l/c). *Surfaces:* Exterior: brown; some medium to large grits (l/c/p) seen. Interior: as exterior. *Date:* EI I.

5 Reg. no. 1.64

Crater or jar. *Section:* red; orange core; some small to large grits (l/c). *Surfaces:* Exterior: pink slip; some small to large grits (l/c) seen. Interior: red; grits as exterior. *Date:* EI I.

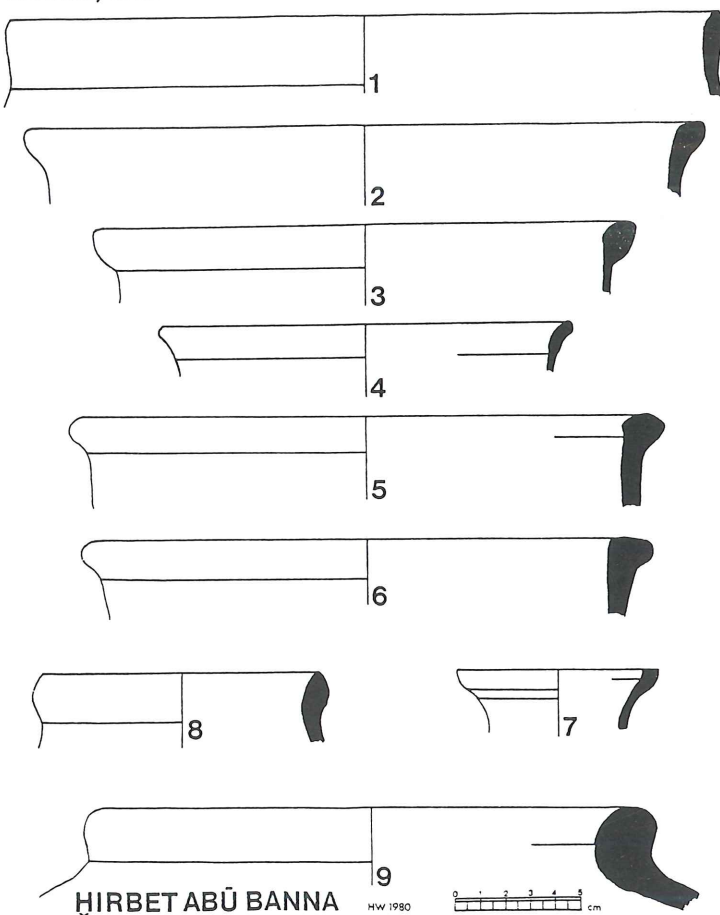
6 Reg. no. 1.180

Deep bowl. *Section:* medium yellowish gray; some small to large grits (l/c). *Surfaces:* Exterior: pink; some medium to large grits (l/c) seen; traces of whitish paint on upper side of rim. Interior: red; some small to large grits (l/c) seen. *Date:* EI I.

7 Reg. no. 1.9

Deep bowl. *Section:* red; light gray core; many medium to large grits (l/c/p). *Surfaces:* Exterior: cream slip; groove below rim. Interior: cream slip. *Date:* EI I.

8. Pottery from Hirbet Abū Banna.



8 Reg. no. 1.138

Large deep bowl. *Section:* light gray; some medium to large grits (l/c). *Surfaces:* Exterior: pink slip; some medium to large grits (l/c) seen. Interior: red slip; some medium to large grits (c/p) seen. *Date:* EI II.

9 Reg. no. 1.168

Deep bowl. *Section:* light brown; many medium to large grits (l/c/p). *Surfaces:* Exterior: light brown slip; some medium to large grits (l) seen. Interior: light brown; some medium to large grits (l/c) seen. *Date:* EI II.

10 Reg. no. 1.94

Large deep bowl. *Section:* brown; light brownish gray core; many small to large grits (l/c). *Surfaces:* Exterior: buff slip; some medium to large grits (l) seen. Interior: brown; many small to large grits (l/c/p) seen. *Other features:* ancient mending hole. *Date:* EI II.

11 Reg. no. 1.92

Crater or deep bowl. *Section:* pink; light gray core; many small to large grits (l/c). *Surfaces:* Exterior: pink; many small to large grits (l/c) seen; traces of red paint on rim. Interior: pink; many small to large grits (l). *Date:* EI II.

Hirbet Abū Banna (FIG. 8)

1 Reg. no. 1.93

Deep bowl or crater. *Section:* light brown; light gray core; a few medium to large grits (l/c). *Surfaces:* Exterior: light brown slip; many small to large grits (l/c/p) seen. Interior: light brown; grits as exterior. *Date:* EI II.

2 Reg. no. 1.91

Deep bowl. *Section*: light red; light gray core; many small to large grits (l/c/p). *Surfaces*: Exterior: light red; many small to large grits (l/c/p) seen. Interior: light red slip (traces only); grits as exterior. *Date*: EI II.

3 Reg. no. 1.11

Deep bowl or jug. *Section*: brown; medium gray core; a few small to medium grits (l/c). *Surfaces*: Exterior: light brown slip; many small to large grits (l/c) seen. Interior: brown; some small to medium grits (l/c) seen. *Date*: EI II.

4 Reg. no. 1.66

Small bowl or jug. *Section*: light brown; light gray core; a few small to medium grits (l/c). *Surfaces*: Exterior: light brown slip; a few small to medium grits (l) seen. Interior: light brown; some small to large grits (l/c/p) seen. *Date*: EI II.

5 Reg. no. 1.169

Deep bowl. *Section*: pink; light gray core; some small to large grits (l/c/p). *Surfaces*: Exterior: cream slip; some medium to large grits (l/c/p) seen. Interior: pink; many small to large grits (l/c/p) seen. *Date*: EI (I or) II.

6 Reg. no. 1.26

Deep bowl. *Section*: pink; many small to large grits (l/c/p). *Surfaces*: Exterior: cream slip; a few medium to large grits (l/c/p) seen. Interior: as exterior. *Date*: EI (I or) II.

7 Reg. no. 1.5

Juglet. *Section*: light brown; many small to large grits (l/c). *Surfaces*: Exterior: light brown slip; some medium to large grits (l/c/o) seen. Interior: cream slip; some small to large grits (l/c) seen. *Remarks*: brittle. *Date*: EI.

8 Reg. no. 1.31

Jug. *Section*: pink; many small to large grits (l/c/p). *Surfaces*: Exterior: pink slip; many small to large grits (l/c/p) seen. Interior: pink; grits as exterior. *Date*: EI (I or) II.

9 Reg. no. 1.1

Pithos. *Section*: pink; light to medium gray core; many small to large grits (l/c/p). *Surfaces*: Exterior: pink; many small to large grits (l/c/p) seen. Interior: as exterior. *Date*: EI II C.

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