

AN EB/MB TOMB AT TLA' EL - 'ALI

by
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An EB/MB tomb was discovered accidentally on the 8th of May 1984 in the Um ed-Deba' area while work on the project of Tla' El-'Ali sewage was occurring. The tomb was located ap.5m. east of Mrs. Qamar El-Koni house.

The discovery was reported immediately. The excavation clearance, planning, description and study of the pottery in the tomb was done by the author.

Description of the tomb (Pl. XXX)

The tomb was a rock-cut cave, comprised of a single burial chamber in a semi-circular shape (2.90 m./N-S and 2.40 m/E-W) with a domed roof (Height 1.25 m.) and plain floor covered with a thick layer (ca: 10-12 cm.) of soft *ḥuwwar*. The entrance was a shaft located at the west end of the tomb (Diam. 1 m.) and it was closed by a rough semi-circular stone (Diam. 0.95 m.).

Three pottery pots and fragmentary remains of human skeletons were found on the floor at the southern end of the tomb.

Description of Pottery (Pl. XXX).

No. 1: Amphoriskos: Round shape, simple rim, two loop handles and a flat base. Gray ware with lime deposit inside and outside. Parallels: Lapp 1966: Pl. 7:5; Fig. 19:5; Tubb 1985: NE 10a:3.

No. 2: Jug: Globular shape, slightly evert-

ed rim, one angular handle from rim to shoulder and a flat base. Reddish-Gray ware, herring bone incisions on shoulder and handle with lime deposits inside and outside (incomplete, mended).

Parallels: Dajani 1967-68: Pl. XL: 1.

Hadidi 1982: Pl. LXXIV: 1.

Zayadine 1978: Pl. IX: 4.

No. 3: Storage Jar: Globular shape, everted rim two ledge envelope handles and a flat base. Gray ware, herring bone incisions on shoulder with lime deposits inside and outside.

Parallels: Dajani 1967-68: Pl. XL: 5.

Hadidi 1982: Pl. LXXIX: 4.

Zayadine 1978: Pl. IX: 5.

Date of the Tomb

The pottery of Tla'el 'Ali tomb is very close to those of EB-MB tombs of Jabal Jofeh, Jabal Taj, Sport City, Dhahr Mirzbaneh and the Cemetery of Tiwal esh-Sharqi (See Bibliography).

The acceptable date for the tomb under discussion is the beginning of the twentieth century B.C. (Ca: 1950 B.C.), as Zayadine suggested in his dating for the Sport City tomb (Zayadine 1978: p. 65).

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