

SALVAGE EXCAVATIONS IN JORDAN 1985/1986

by
Emsaytif Suleiman

Amman Area

1. *Khirbet Umm ed-Deba'*

A group of caves, tombs, cisterns and white Roman mosaic floor were discovered on May 4, 1985 while bulldozing the land for the foundations of a housing project at Khirbet Umm ed-Deba' in the Tla' el-'Ali area. Two weeks salvage excavation were done by the author. Remains of Roman/Byzantine stone walls were discovered at the south-west side of the site. A large Ayyubid/Mamluk building appeared at the north-east side of the site. It was built on bed-rock, with vaulted roof, wide stepped entrance and white plaster floor. The caves, tombs and cisterns were used for agricultural purposes in the Ayyubid/Mamluk Period. The white mosaic floor is from the Early Roman Period and may have been a floor of a small Roman Temple.

2. *Jubeiha*

An Early Roman rock-cut tomb was discovered on December 26, 1985 while digging the foundations of a new house at Baraka in the Jubeiha area. An excavation clearance was done by Mr. Hifzi Haddad, chief inspector of the Amman area.

The entrance of the tomb was at its north side and closed by a large slab of stone. The tomb itself is semi oval in shape with a group of three loculi at the east side, three loculi at the south side and three loculi at the west side. Two pottery jars, incomplete glass bottle and pieces of a bronze belt, besides disarticulated human bones, were found inside the tomb. It is from the Early Roman Period (1st century B.C. and 1st century A.D.).

Madaba Area

1. *The Roman Road*

A Roman white mosaic was unco-

vered in July, 1985 near the Roman Road in Madaba. The excavation clearance was done by Mr. Taysir Attiyat, the inspector of the Madaba area.

2. *Umm el-Walid*

A group of fourteen rock-cut tombs was discovered at the end of 1985, at the west side of Umm el-Walid village in the Madaba area. These tombs are from the Roman Period and were possibly used in the Islamic Period. The excavation clearance was done by Mr. Taysir Attiyat.

Irbid Area

1. *Rihab Judaitta-Road*

A group of late Roman rock-cut tombs was discovered accidentally on April 30, 1985 on the Rihab Judaitta road in the Irbid area. A one week salvage excavation was done by Mr. Hekmat Ta'ani and Mr. Naşer Khaşawneh.

2. *Beit Ras*

An ancient stone wall was discovered accidentally on September, 1985 while bulldozing the grounds for a new house at Beit Ras in the Irbid area. A salvage excavation was carried out on the site under the supervision of Mr. W. Karasneh. Several stone walls and floors were uncovered. They belonged to a Byzantine building which continued in use during the Umayyad Period.

3. *Ediun*

A late Roman rock-cut burial chamber was discovered accidentally on February 22, 1986 while digging the sewage system of the military hospital at Ediun, 5 km. south of Irbid. A one week excavation was conducted by W. Karasneh and N. Khaşawneh.

The square burial chamber (5.75 x 5.60 m.) was closed by a swinging stone door, decorated by circular medallions, 6 cm. in diameter. The burial chamber was cut with eleven loculi, five on the right side, three on the left and three opposite the entrance.

Some late Roman, Byzantine and Umayyad sherds were found, in addition to some human skulls, a bronze spoon and iron bracelets.

4. *Khirbet Yaseeleh*

Three late Roman/Byzantine rock-cut tombs were discovered at Khirbet Yaseeleh south-east of Irbid through a long salvage excavation which took place at the site between April 13 and September 14, 1985 under the supervision of Sultān Shraideh, Ibrahim Zu'bi, Wajeeh Karasneh and Mefleḥ Gharaibeh.

Mafraq Area

Three late Roman rock-cut tombs were discovered on March 15, 1985 at

Khnayzir village in the Mafraq area. The excavation clearance was done by Mr. Khalid Jubour, the inspector of the Mafraq area.

Jarash Area

Two Roman rock-cut burial caves were discovered on September 15, 1985 east of Bab Amman while digging the foundations of a new house. The contents of the tombs were of the Roman Period (2nd century B.C.) The salvage excavation was done by Mr. 'Abdel Majeed Mujalli.

Ajlun Area

A group of Ayyubid/Mamluk pottery vessels was accidentally discovered on May 1985 while bulldozing a street in Ajlun. The excavation clearance was done by Mr. Sami Rabaḍi, the inspector of the Ajlun area.

Emsaytif Suleiman
Department of Antiquities