

Fig. 2

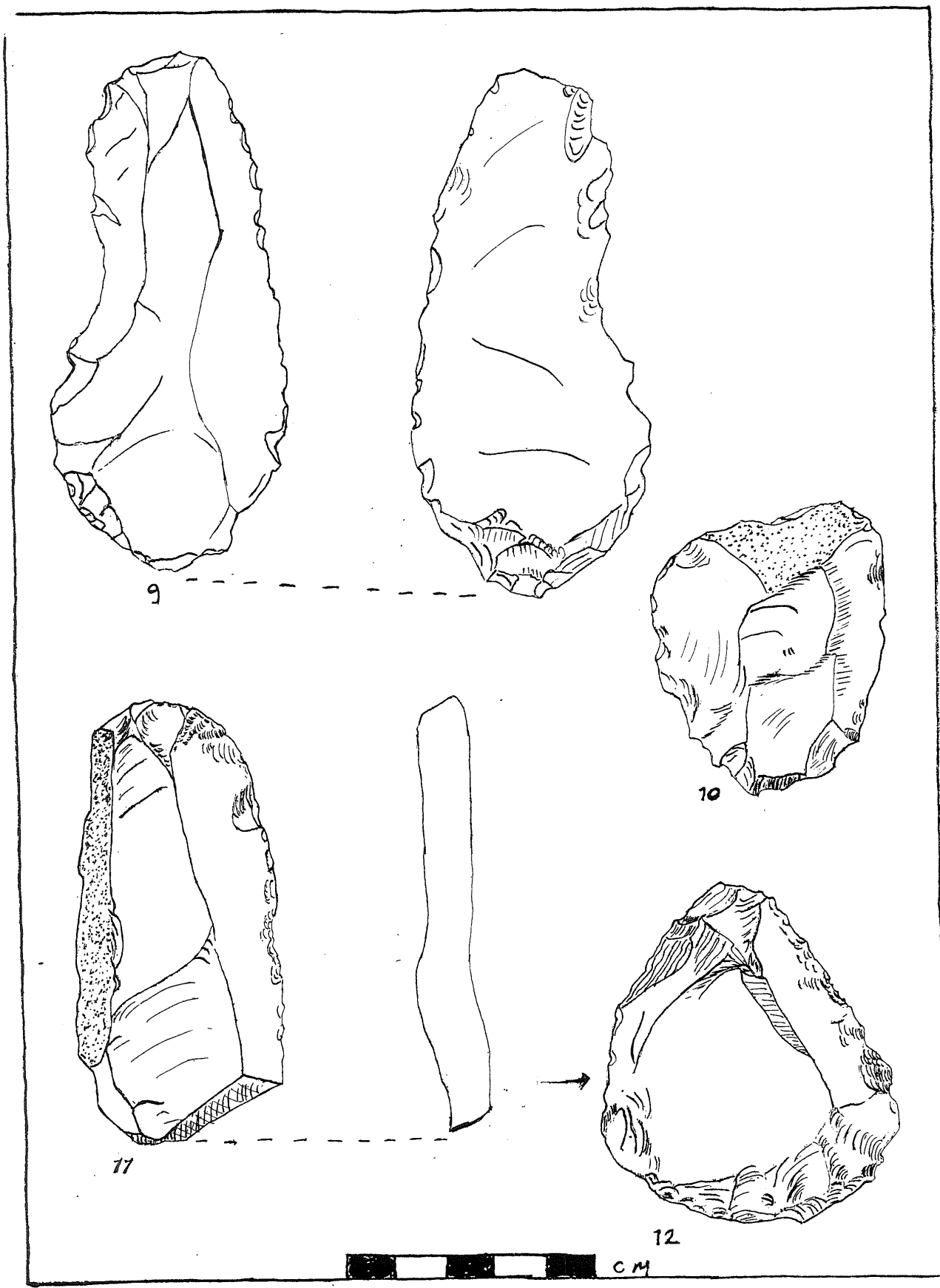


Fig. 3

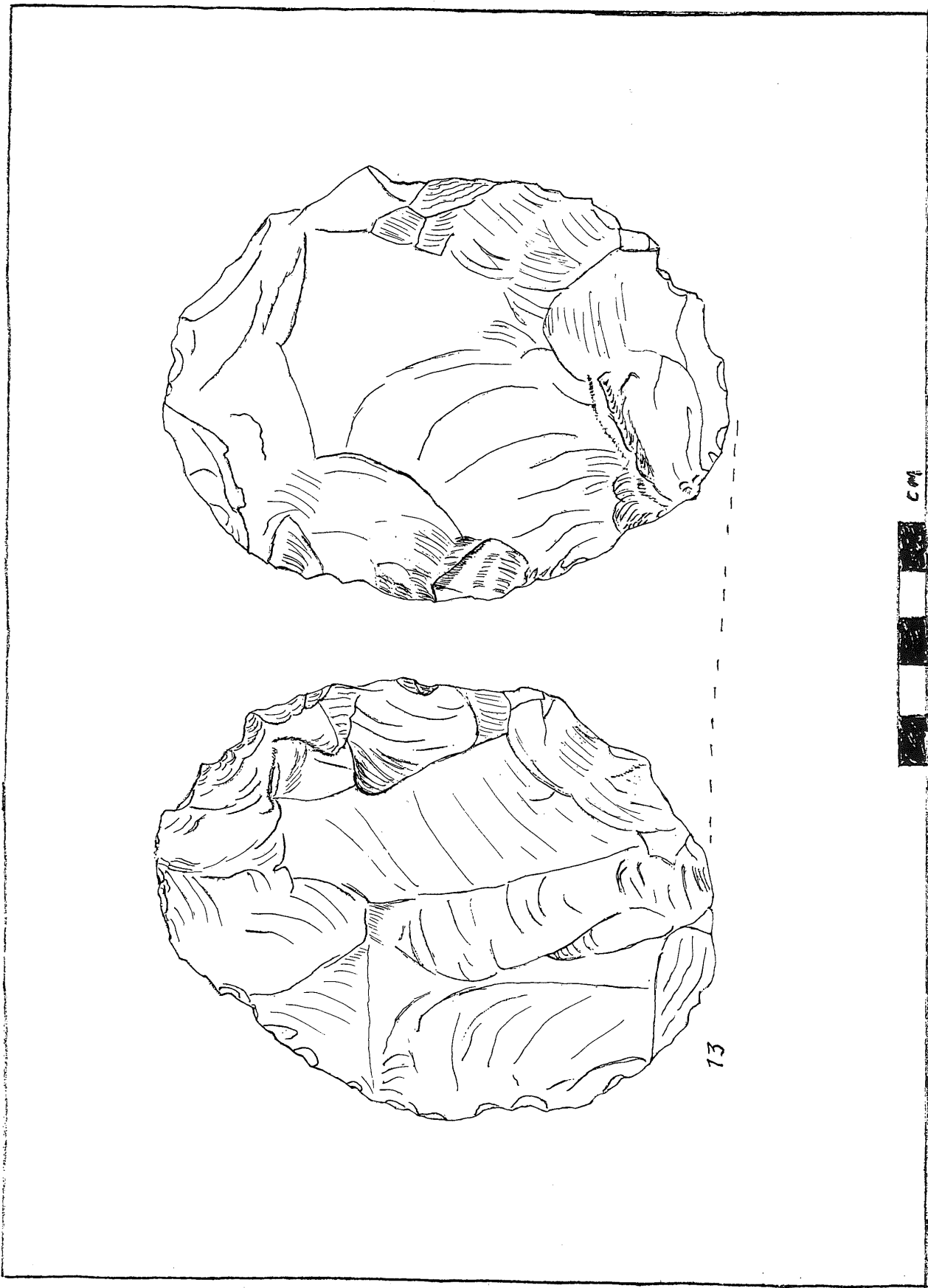
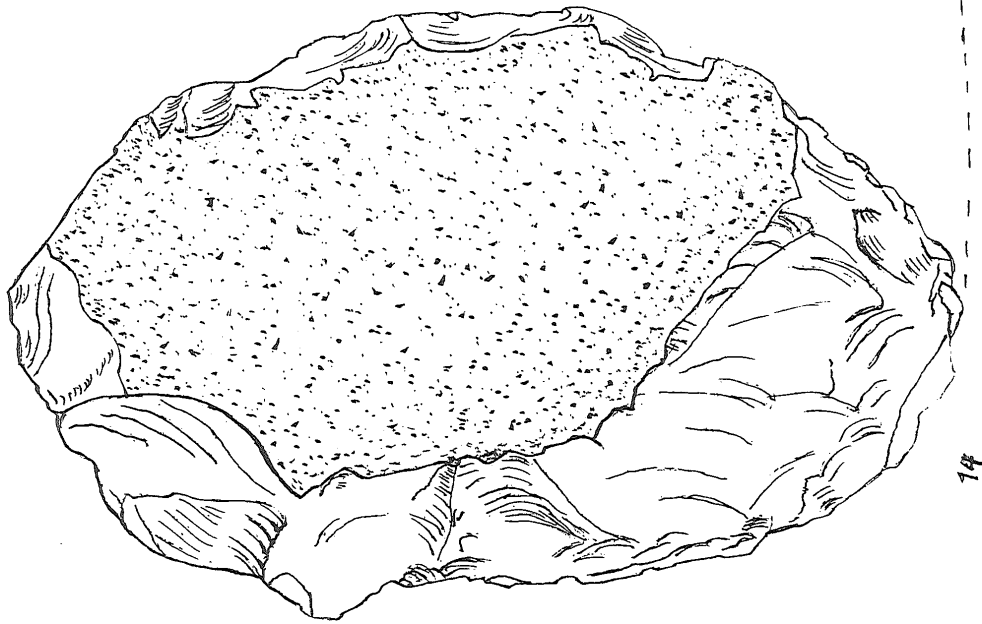


Fig. 4



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Fig. 5

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Map: *TPC-5B*, Defense Mapping Agency Aerospace Center, St. Louis, Mo., 1975, Scale: 1:500,000.

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Drawings by Anna L. Garner

**A PRELIMINARY SURVEY OF THE
IRBID-BEIT RAS REGION, NORTH-
WESTERN JORDAN.**

by
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A regional archaeological investigation based in north-west Jordan and concentrating on the ancient and modern towns of Irbid (Arbela) and Beit Ras (Capitolias) is planned. The intention of this project is to view the region as an integrated whole, taking into account the influences of environment, modern development, previous fieldwork bias — not merely to write another list of human occupation. As part of this project, a week's preliminary survey was carried out in August, 1983.

This provided a means to acquaint the researchers with the area as well as to act as a valuable recording exercise in its own right. The region is subject to rapid change and the recording of historical and archaeological features before they disappear is desirable. The aim of the preliminary survey was to examine the modern settlements and terrain and to determine the existence of modern/ancient regional variations. The area under consideration is bounded by the modern villages of: Fau'ara, Kufr Jayiz, Harima, Al'Al, El Mughaiyir, Bishra, Hawwara, Es Sarih, Aidun, Ham, Beit Yafa, Kufr Yuba, Jumha, Jijjin, Hawar.

Survey took the form of exploring the modern villages, ancient sites and the

intervening tracts of land, based on information obtained from previous surveys (G. Schumacher, N. Glueck, G.L. Harding, S. Mittmann), and that obtained from the villagers. Because of the limited time available, surveying was necessarily selective, although it is envisaged that eventually a stratified sampling technique will be employed.

Recording of selected features was carried out, although this project aims to record all human activity until 1948. Such features included the water system of ancient Beit Ras, domestic Ottoman buildings at Kufr Jayiz, re-used architectural fragments at Beit Ras, olive/wine presses near Tuqbul. The recording consisted of photographs, measured drawings, sketches and detailed notes. Areas under threat from development were determined and the variation throughout the area was noted. The results are being synthesized and related to previous data retrieved from the region, e.g., the objects in the Irbid Department of Antiquities Office, previous survey material.

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AN ETHNOGRAPHIC AND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDY OF
TAWABEEN IN JORDAN

by
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Tabun is the Arabic name for a circular clay bread oven which is today usually housed in a small "shed". These structures are still in use and are one of the most common installations found on archaeological sites. However, *tawabeen* (tabuns) have received relatively little study in the past. The object of this research is to increase the amount of information that they can provide to the archaeological record, particularly in terms of interpretation, and to contribute to the archive of customs and activities which are fast disappearing in contemporary Jordanian society. The aim of combining these two approaches is to address the wider question of the extent to which archaeological interpretation relies on knowledge of the contemporary use of material objects and whether this can be extended to statements about behaviour in the past.

During July and August, 1983, ethnographic fieldwork was carried out in several villages in north-west Jordan: Ashrafiah, Beit Ras, Harta, El Mughayir, Tabaqat Fahl, Taiyba. These villages were included in the survey partly because of familiarity with the inhabitants which aided ethnographic enquiry, but chiefly because they display economic variety, ranging from the Jordan Valley to the Hauran.

In the process of fieldwork it became clear that there is more than one type of oven and that they are used for more than breadmaking. The type of oven seemed to vary according to the recent history of the

village, e.g., whether occupied by recently settled Bedu or well-established with a long history of settled life. The fieldwork took the form of photographs, drawings, plans, details of the construction of ovens, their siting and the associated courtyards. This data is being related to the results from archaeological excavations as a means to aiding interpretation, e.g., the Iron Age domestic complex uncovered in the 1983 Wooster College excavation at Pella. The archaeological clay ovens at Pella have also provided samples for archaeomagnetic dating which are being analyzed at Newcastle University by Dr. Don Tarling.

Work continues relating the results of the study of modern *tawabeen* to archaeological examples from sites of all periods throughout Jordan. A full report will appear in the next edition of *ADAJ*.

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was financed by the British Academy, the British Institute at Amman for Archaeology and History, the Emslie Horniman Anthropology Scholarship and the Palestine Exploration Fund. My thanks go to the inhabitants of all the villages surveyed, to the Department of Antiquities in Amman and Irbid, to Dr. R. H. Smith for permission to use the Pella material, to Dr. Don Tarling and to Dr. C. J. Lenzen.

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