

TWO IRON-AGE TOMBS IN AMMAN

THE first, called tomb C, was located some 8 m. to the north of the Roman Tomb, described on p. 30, in the same land. Nothing whatever was left of the tomb chamber, it having been quarried away in Byzantine times. The group had, however, been robbed earlier than that, as all the objects were in a layer about 35 cm. thick on the rock, above which layer was a sterile, water-laid one, covered in turn by Roman and Byzantine fillings. The pottery was nearly all broken anciently, and is of the usual Iron II type, but falling in with the earlier eighth century (Amman tombs A and B¹ and Sahab²) rather than the seventh-century forms (Adoni Nur and Meqabelein³). Small objects were confined to bronze fibulae, bronze and iron rings and bracelets, and two palettes. A regular feature of all these groups is the presence of some shells from the Palestine coast: every tomb contains three or four. Chief interest, however, centres on the remarkable pottery figurine, Pl. XIV, unfortunately incomplete; it seems to represent an hermaphrodite deity. The face is painted bright red, with black beard and moustache, female breasts, and a clear indication of pregnancy. But perhaps the most curious feature is the head-dress, consisting of four up-turning spirals set at right angles to each other; another identical group of spirals, somewhat smaller, was also found, but does not fit on to the first one, though the breaks on top of this show clearly that another similar group surmounted it. But the smaller piece was also joined to something on each side, so one is left with a vision of tiers of spirals. Or the second may, of course, be connected with something else now lost. It is impossible to guess at the base. The Mesha stela mentions Ashtor-Khemosh, a deity apparently combining the female aspects of Ashtor with the male ones of Khemosh: our figurine might well represent some such combination.

There is clearly a connection between this figurine and the shrine published by Iliffe in *Q.D.A.P.*, XI: the spiral, proto-Ionic capitals of the pillars on the shrine are in essence the same as the headdress on the figurine. And the technique of small applied discs of clay for the eyes of the bird is used for the breasts of the figurine, one of which has come off. Iliffe dates the shrine rather earlier than this group, but we still lack a well-dated group of objects for this early Iron II material.

A second small group called tomb D, of the same period, is presented with this; it was found in a cave tomb on the north slopes of the citadel hill, but was completely cleared before the objects were brought to the Department. It is only of interest for a few new pottery forms and variants of known types.

¹ *Q.D.A.P.*, XI. ² *Q.D.A.P.*, XIII. ³ To be published in *P.E.F. Annual* and *Q.D.A.P.*, XIV.

INVENTORY OF TOMB C (PL. XIV AND FIG. 1)

No.	Description	Jordan Register No.	Body	Fire	Surface	Burnish	Other Examples	Remarks
1	Dish	1780	Buff	M	Red	—	—	Grits
2	Dish	1781	Buff	M	Red-Buff	Traces	—	Grits
3	Dish	1782	Buff	S	Pink	Traces	—	Grits
4	Dish	1783	Buff-Brown	M	Pink	Traces	—	—
5	Dish	1784	Pink	M	Red	Traces	—	—
6	Bowl	1785	Pink	H	Cream	—	—	—
7	Bowl	—	Red	S	Red	—	One	—
8	Bowl	1786	Brown	M	Red	Circular inside	—	Grits
9	Bowl	1787	Buff	M	Red	—	—	—
10	Bowl	1788	Grey	S	Black	Circular in and out	—	—
11	Tripod cup	1789	Pink	M	Red	Vertical on body	Four	Grits
12	Pointed flask	1790	Pink	M	Red	Polished	Two	Black bands
13	Pointed flask	1791	Buff	M	Buff	—	Two	Black bands
14	Pointed flask	1792	Buff	M	Pink	Vertical	Two	Black bands
15	Double lamp	1793	Buff	M	White	—	—	—
16	Lamp	1794	Buff	M	Pink	—	—	Grits
17	Lamp	1795	Grey	M	Black	—	—	Grits
18	Lamp	1796	Buff	M	Buff	—	One	Grits
19	Large dipper	1797	Pink	M	Cream	—	—	Large grits
20	Dipper	—	Pink	H	—	—	One	—
21	Dipper	—	Pink	M	White	—	One	—
22	Dipper	—	Buff	M	Red	—	Two	Grits
23	Dipper spouted	1798	Buff	M	Red	—	Two	Grits
24	Oil flask	1799	Black	S	Black	—	—	Grits
25	Small jug	1800	Buff	M	Red-Brown	—	One	Grits
26	Jug	—	Buff	M	Pink	—	Five	Grits
27	Jug	—	Grey-Buff	M	Red	—	Two	Grits
28	Jug	1801	Brown	M	Red	—	Three	Grits
29	Jug	1802	Buff	M	Red	—	One	Grits
30	Jug	1803	Buff	M	Red	—	One	Grits
31	Jug	1804	Buff	H	Red	Neck vertical, body horizontal	—	Double handles, incised lines
32	Jug	1805	Grey-Buff	M	Red	—	—	Grits
33	Decanter	1806	Buff	H	Cream-Pink	—	—	Grits
34	Small pointed jar	1807	Pink	H	Cream	—	—	Coarse grits
35	Oil flask	1808	Buff	M	Buff	Polished	—	One handle
36	Oil flask	1809	Pink	M	Cream	—	—	Black lines
37	Oil flask	—	Brown	M	Brown-Red	Polished	One	Black lines
38	Oil flask	—	Brown	M	Cream	—	One	Black lines
39	Bowl	—	Light brown	H	Brown outside, grey inside	—	—	Grits, incomplete

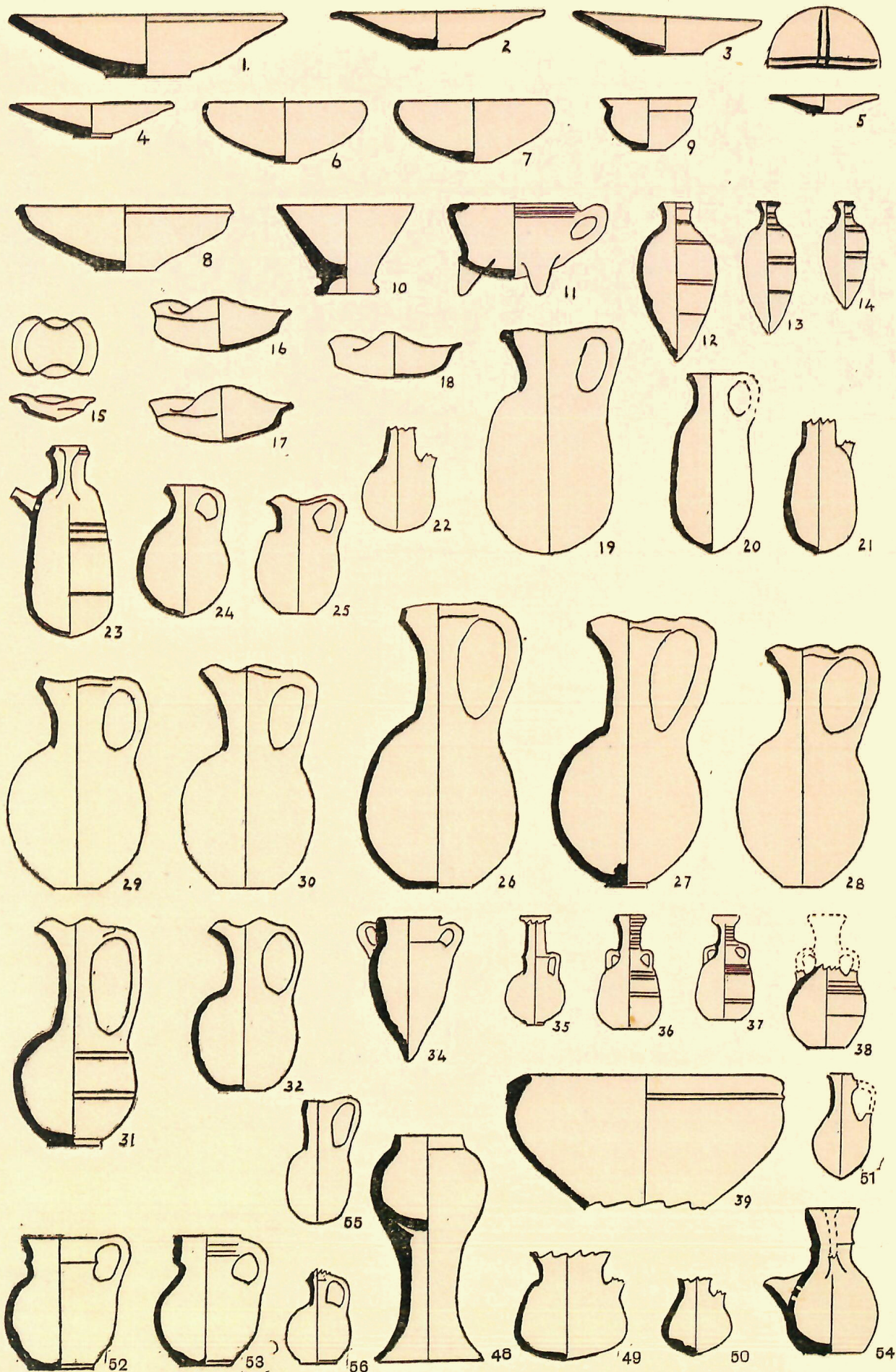


FIG. 1.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Description.</i>	<i>Jordan Register No.</i>	<i>Body</i>	<i>Fire</i>	<i>Surface</i>	<i>Burnish</i>	<i>Other Examples</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
40	Bronze fibula and fragments of others	1813						
41	Fragments of Bronze bracelets, rings and ear-rings							
42	Fragments of iron bracelets and rings							
43	Pottery figurine (see text for description)							
44	Alabaster palette	1811						
45	Limestone palette	1812						
46	Shell							
47	Sherd, decorated black and white							

INVENTORY, TOMB D (FIG. 1)

48	Incense burner	—	Brown	M	Buff	—	—	Made in two parts
49	Jug	—	Red	M	Red	—	—	Incomplete
50	Drop-shape vase	—	Brown	M	Red	—	—	Incomplete
51	Juglet	—	Black	S	Black	Traces	—	—
52	Jug	—	Red	M	Pink	—	—	Pinched mouth
53	Jug	—	Red	M	Red	Traces	—	Pinched mouth
54	Strainer jug	—	Brown	M	Brown	—	—	Rough ware
55	Dipper flask	—	Brown	M	Red	Traces	—	Pinched mouth
56	Oil flask	—	Buff	M	Brown	Traces	—	—

Other forms represented are Sahab Nos. 40, 52 and 66.

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