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# Survey and Excavation at Petra, 1973 - 1974

by  
Philip C. Hammond

The American Expedition to Petra, in cooperation with the Department of Antiquities of Jordan, has conducted two seasons of survey (1973) and excavations (1974) at that major site<sup>1</sup>.

In 1973 the most extensive electronically instrumented survey yet to be conducted on a Middle Eastern site was successfully completed at Petra during the period June 4 to June 25.

Four proton differential magnetometers built by the Archaeometric Laboratory of the University of Utah, a Martin-Clark Resistivity instrument, and a resistivity instrument designed and built by the Woodbury Research Laboratory of Salt Lake City, Utah, were employed in the survey.

(1) The 1973 season was under the direction of Dr. Philip C. Hammond, Professor of Anthropology of the University of Utah, with Dr. M. A. Bennett (Eastern New Mexico University) and Dr. W. H. C. Poe (California State College at Sonoma) as Co-directors, with the assistance of Mr. Yacoub Oweis, Director General of Antiquities of Jordan. Department of Antiquities Representatives were Mr. Yusuf Alamy and Mr. Raffiq Sarraf. Survey student personnel were: B. Bowman, J. Brydson, S. Brydson, J. H. Burk, P. Gibson, F. Momena, R. Read, K. Russell, P. Samiy, and N. Woodbury of the University of Utah, V. Indes of New Mexico University and A. Spencer of Brigham Young University. The survey was assisted by a grant from the Research Grants Committee of the University of Utah, by assistance from the Department of Antiquities of Jordan and by Dr. P. C. Hammond.

(2) The 1974 season was under the co-direction of Drs. Hammond, Bennett, and Poe. Francesca L. Xaiz served as Recorder, Fr. John Langfeldt was Camp Manager. Participating

Seventy-one 30 m. x 30 m. grids were laid out by transit survey on the basis of the UTMG World Grid, with the base line marked by a permanent base point at (358 UTMG 735,160 m. E. and 3,385,000 m. N. --see JORDAN, 1:50,000, Edition 1, Sheet PETRA, 3050, Series K 737, 36RYU) to estimated error of .03% (see Site map).

Some 15,975 stations were read by one or both instrument types at 2 m. intervals, with a total of 63,900 square meters (ca. 80% of the surveyable area) completed. Field data were processed by computerized programs especially written for the instruments used (N. Woodbury) at the Computer Center of the University of Utah.

students who served as Site Supervisors and Laboratory Assistants included J. L. Brydson, S. Brydson, S. Cuddy, P. Samiy, K. Russell and Kühn of the University of Utah, and S. Falconer of Portland State University. Representatives of the Department of Antiquities were Mr. A. Saidi, Mr. A. Jalil Amer, and Mr. B. Rihani. Assistance to the project was given by the Honorable Mr. G. Barakat, Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, and Mr. Yacoub Oweis, Director-General of Antiquities. Sponsorship of the project was in part made by the Institutional Funds Committee, the office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs (Dr. P. Gardner), the Research Grants Committee of the University of Utah and Dr. P. C. Hammond.

Especially thanks must be given to the Recorder, Francesca Xaiz, for invaluable assistance in the analysis of data for this report.

Appreciation must also be extended to Brook Bowman for preparation of the final drawings, plans and site maps.

Thirty-eight grid areas were identified as high anomaly areas, whose sub-surface features strongly suggest priority in excavation.

Scaled drawings of observable surface features, along with photographs and reference sounding operations completed the survey.

In 1974<sup>2</sup> two sites were chosen, on the basis of surface features, ceramic materials and the survey data (see Site Map).

During the course of the 1974 season the survey baseline established in 1973 was resurveyed to an appreciable error of .00%.

## SITE II

This site area is located on the northern edge of the *Wadi* bed, to the west of Site I. The site area is generally flat, falling off sharply to the south, with considerable fall debris to its front. The tops of column drums were visible on the surface prior to excavation in II. 6 (Plate X. 4). An area of 30 m. x 30 m. was laid out for excavation, with 10 m. x 10 m. subdivisions numbered from West to East and South to North (see Site Map). Site II. 3, 5 and 6 were opened in the 1974 season, with Site II. 6 carried to the greatest depth. Sites II. 3 and 5 were halted at opportune stratigraphic surface definitions, to be completed in succeeding seasons. When Site II. 6 began to provide the outlines of a large structure, II. 5 was opened to test its westward extension and II. 3 to test its southern extension limits. Hence, it was possible to secure a preliminary plan of the structure, as well as the complete

vertical stratigraphy of the area down to the original floor level of the building.

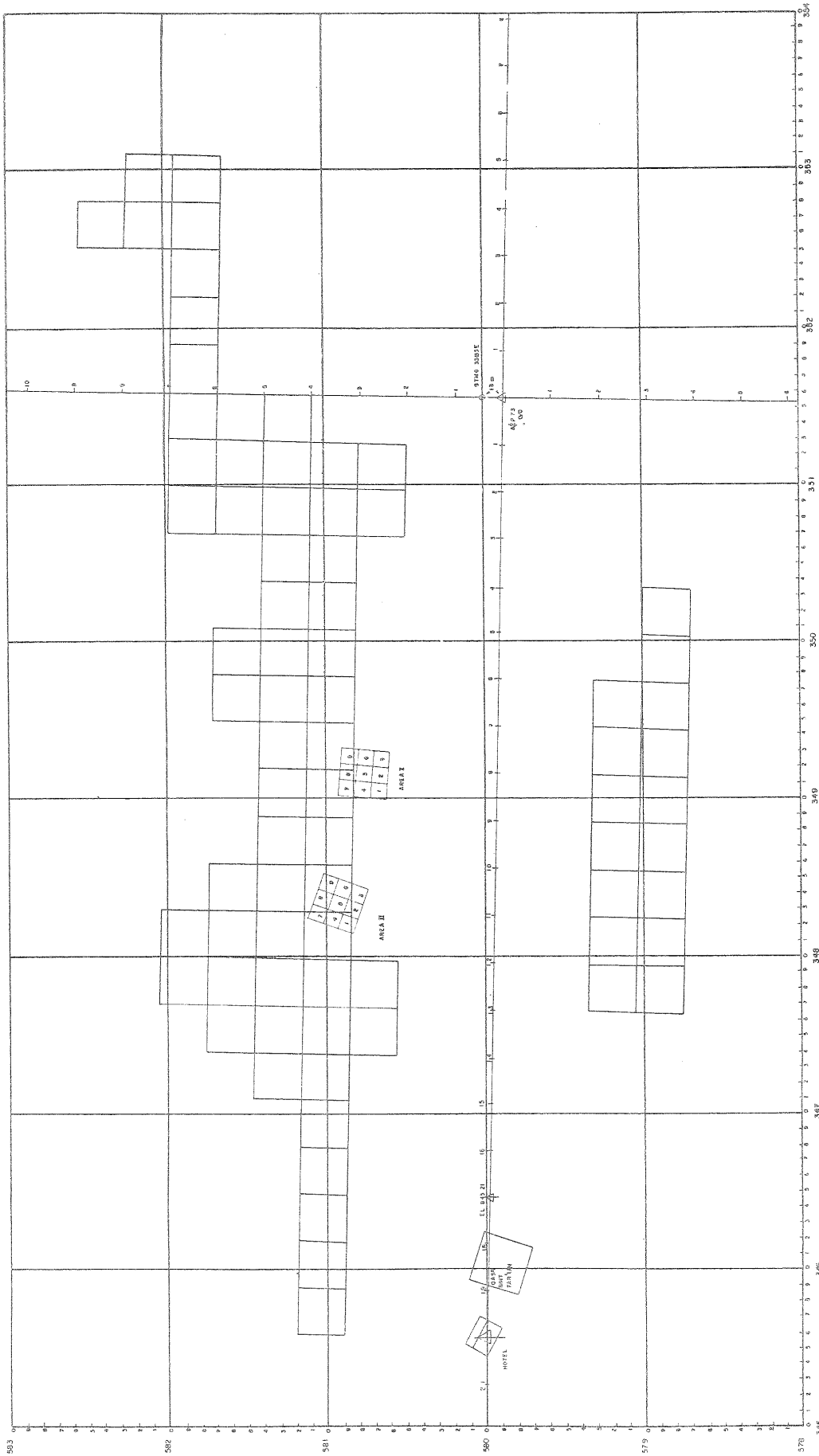
The three excavated areas produced 101 Stratigraphic Units (S. U.), which were then analyzed into 15 phases tracing the events of the use-history of the site (see Stratigraphic Phasing and Section Drawings). The probability of dividing the building phase (Phase XV) into two sub-phases reflecting the periods of its use remains to be clarified by further excavation.

**Phase I:** Modern Surface (II. 6(1) = II. 3 (S + 1) = II. 5(1)).

This phase attests to the use of this area for local agricultural activity as well as to probability of considerable wind and water erosion. The S. U. involved contained architectural materials which could only have come from the building debris of Phase XV. Plaster. *tesserae*, carved stone fragments (capitals), ashlar, iron nails (for bedding plaster and cement), among similar materials were recovered.

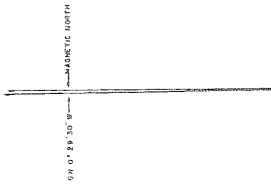
Pottery fragments were also found in large quantities, ranging from the first century B. C. onward, though generally not beyond the Byzantine period. Such a spread indicates shifting of soils (agriculture) as well as the washing down of surface debris from the slopes to the North.

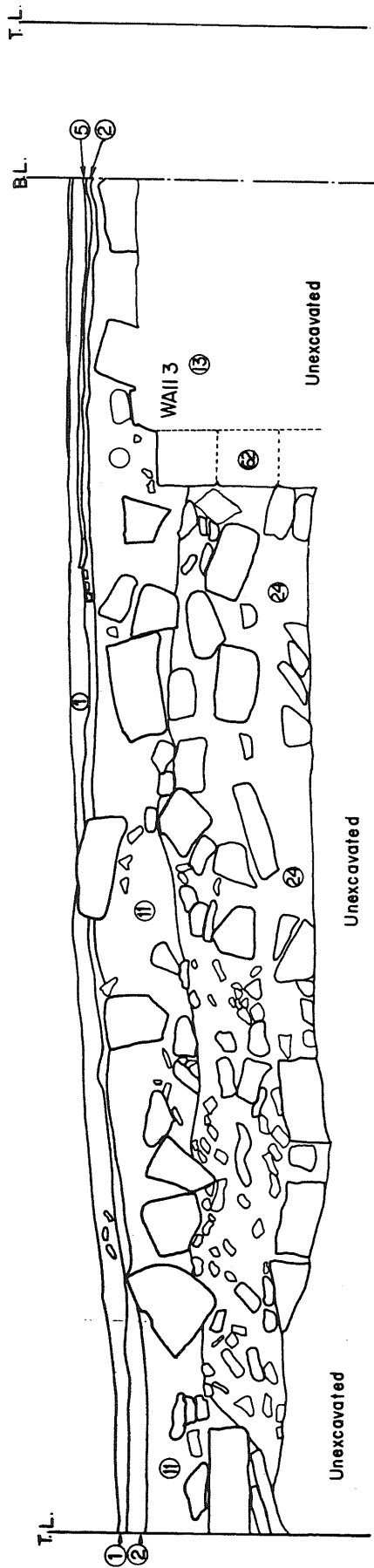
This ceramic material is, of course, non-diagnostic, chronologically, but does display, as it were, the "history" of the area as at most other Middle Eastern sites, where the occupational history is reflected by surface and near-surface ceramic remains. At the same time, the presence of virtually no sherds later than the



ROAD METERS

PETRA AEP 73-8-74  
 SITE MAP: UTMG Sheet 36RYU  
 SURVEY: 1973  
 EXCAVATIONS: 1974  
 FIELD DRAWN: WP  
 FINAL DRAWING: PCH/BAB





PETRA: AEP ' 74

AREA: II

SITE: 6

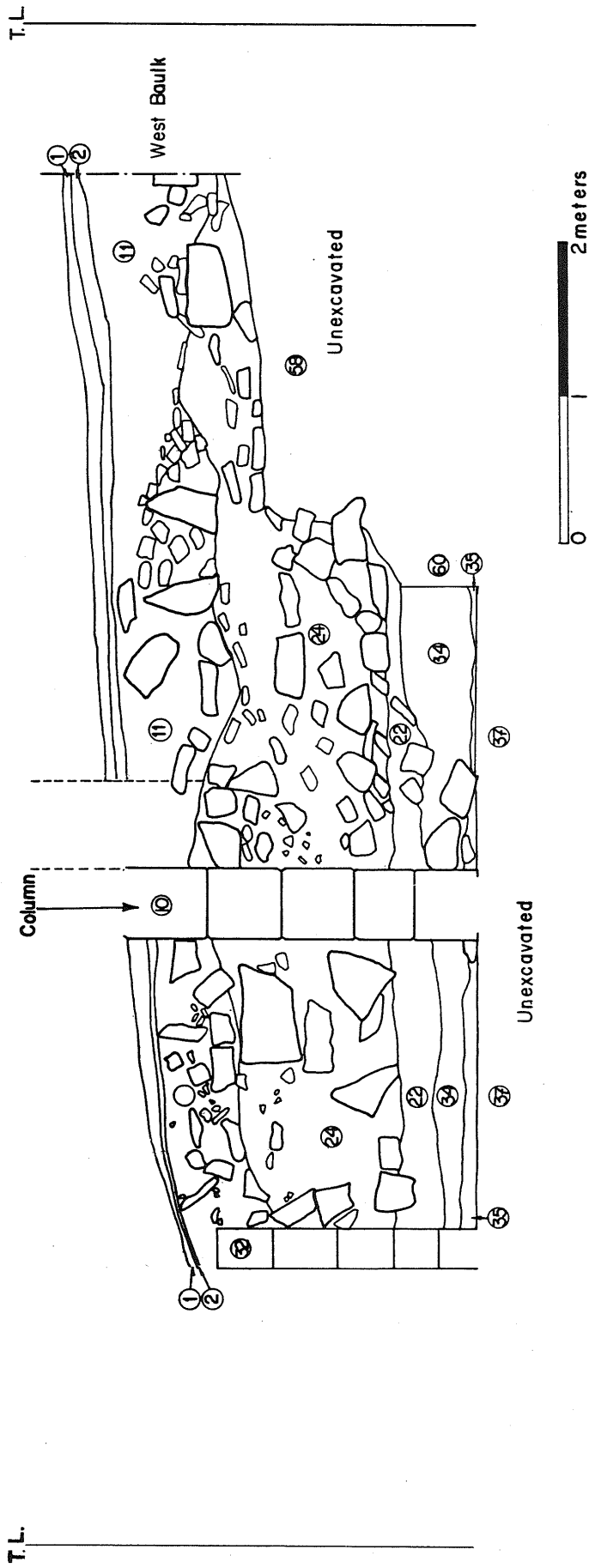
WEST BAULK: EAST FACE

FIELD DRAWN: JB/SB.

FINAL DRAWING: PCH/BAB







PETRA: AEP ' 74

AREA: II

SITE: 6

SOUTH BAULK: NORTH FACE

FIELD DRAWN: JB/SB

FINAL DRAWING: PCH/BAB

Byzantine period is suggestive in regard to the terminal occupational use made of the site, even if the "Byzantine" ceramics were actually produced in the Early Islamic period, prior to discernible influences upon form or decoration.

Apparent also in the Byzantine materials was the obvious presence of common wares --including cooking pots and store-jars--indicating that the use made of the site area was largely *domestic*, as against the *public* use of the area in Nabataean times, evidenced by the building of Phase XV (see comments on *tesserae* below).

**Phase II:** Disuse Phase (II. 6(5) = II. 3(2) = II. 5(2)).

The silty, compacted surface of this phase exhibits no signs of even casual use of the site area. Once again, architectural debris was found in the phase, especially toward the West (II. 5) where the cover of lower fall debris was slighter.

Ceramic materials from this phase were very scant and again showed the common Byzantine wares to be predominant. Common ribbed and plain wares, red, dark tan, orange-tan, and light red fabrics were found, with decoration limited to red, tan, cream (Nabataean?), and black slips. The presence of a higher incidence of Byzantine to Nabataean fragments in this phase may suggest that the number of the latter encountered in Phase I can be attributed to wash action from the northern slopes above the site area.

**Phase III:** Occupational Phase (II. 6(2) + (5A) firepit = II. 3(3) = II. 5(2)).

The extent of the "occupational" use of the site area in this phase is limited

to the one firepit found in II. 6. Since no ceramic material can be directly associated with this firepit the date of this "occupational" use cannot be fixed. The ceramic materials recovered, again scant in quantity, only repeat those from the higher phases--especially ribbed and plain store-jar and cooking-pot wares of "Byzantine" vintage.

The easternmost part of the site area (II. 6) now began to produce larger quantities of architectural debris, as the phases began to near the cover levels of the structural fall beneath and as the deposition variation from West to East (wind and erosion) was less deep. This is significant for the probable kind of transient employment use of this area in this phase, along with Phase V below.

**Phase IV:** Localized Dumping Phase (II. 3(10) over II. 3(6)).

This phase is a relative "orphan", since it is clearly defined in II. 3 only and is probably a result of the "occupational" use of the area in Phase III. In any event, it does show the moving of a part of the then-surface rubble (6) down the southern slope and its filling with soil (10) to level the surface slightly. No pottery or other remains were found in the soil-rubble debris. The probability is that this "phase" simply represents the removal of non-usable ashlar (sandstone) from the surface of II. 6 and II. 3 in order to reach destruction fall rubble (i. e. capitals) for re-use (see also Phase V below).

**Phase V:** Occupational Use (Transient) Phase/Cover of Destruction Phase (II. 6(11) + (2A) fireplace = II. 3(8) = II. 5(9)).

The Stratigraphic Units which constitute this phase reflect the re-use of

the site area following the final destruction of the already once destroyed building of Phase XV and its covering by wind and water laid soil. This "re-use" is again hardly more than casual and transient. since its evidence is limited solely to the single firepit (2A) found in II. 6, and parallels Phase III and Phase IV in terms of employment use of the area.

Moreover, the relatively scant quantity of ceramic materials found in the units of this phase represent *both* the disuse gap (Phase VI below) *and* any materials left by surface occupation, because of the silty nature of those units and their irregular depths occasioned by filling architectural fall debris below. Hence these materials can only suggest a rough *terminal* point, rather than any firm date.

Most apparent in the recovered sherds were the plain and ribbed "Byzantine" common wares already seen higher, further suggesting the nature of the use of the site area. Plain and ribbed common thin wares, plain thick and thin store-jar fragments, cooking-pot sherds, and a few probable open bowl fragments predominated. Ware fabrics tended to be red or tan, with much rarer orange-reds. Decorative finishes were mainly the usual red-tan, tan and black slips, with cream slips slightly more noticeable. With the exception of the omnipresent ribbing of cooking-pots, other decorative techniques appear to be generally lacking, although one fine orange-red bowl fragment was recovered with a black slip and paint around the rim and a few sherds showing wide combing patterns were also recovered.

The presence of "green" hued fabrics is, however, to be noted as possibly establishing a chronological peg for this phase.

It must also be realized that some or most of the ceramic materials "recovered" in this phase actually belong to the disuse (silting) phase below (Phase VI) as noted above, either deposited by users or, most probably, by wash action on the northern slopes. This latter probability is most evident in the case of the scant, but obvious, early Nabataean sherds, plain and painted, along with late (black painted) examples in the same context.

In terms of the specific occupation represented by this phase and by Phase IV and Phase III, the presence of *tesserae* is significant and a definite "industrial" use of the area is suggested. This argument is discussed in the commentary on the phase distribution of architectural elements below.

**Phase VI:** Disuse/Silting Phase (= S. U. make-up of Phase V above).

The soil makeup of Phase V is clearly the result of wind and water silting over the architectural debris of the destruction phase below, as is also shown by certain of the ceramic materials contained in it, as noted above. No estimation of the duration of this silting phase can be made, except to bracket it between the probable date of the destruction phase below and the possible terminus of the ceramic materials recovered in it already discussed above.

**Phase VII:** Destruction Phase.

There can be no question that the architectural debris covered by the silting

of the previous phase and resting on the surface of the next phase below represents anything but the final destruction of the building of Phase XV. The direction of this fall ran from the Northwest to the Southeast consistently throughout the excavated areas (Plate I. 1, 2 and X. 4).

The destruction material isolated here is significant both for the reconstruction of the original structure and for estimating the force of the obvious earthquake which caused its fall.

The former aspect will be considered in detail when Phase XV is discussed below. However, it may be noted here, since it has relevance to the latter question, that much of the building was intact at the point of this destruction --with columns still standing, some capitals and cornices still in place, considerable plaster decoration still *in situ*, intercolumnar or gate (?) arches (?) still standing, and possibly even sections of the roof (?) still in place. With this earthquake *all* of the superstructure was tumbled that had survived the earlier earth tremor which had already partially -- but *only* partially --demolished the structure. Hence a relative degree of severity between the two earthquakes may be postulated -- *precisely* as was the case with the Main Theater excavated in 1961 - 1962 (Hammond, The Excavation of the Main Theater..., 1965:55-65).

As a consequence, it is suggested that the same chronology be postulated for this structure, in terms of destruction, as was established for the Theater: namely that this phase be dated to A. D. 746/748, the second and most severe of the two earthquakes involved.

The overlying recovered materials of the higher phases do not conflict at all with this dating and it can plausibly fit the peculiarities of ceramic materials recovered -- i. e. early in the Early Islamic period wherein local potters ("Byzantine") continued to produce familiar wares and types without yet evidencing "Islamic" influences.

This fall phase was the richest in recovered architectural materials *per se*, and the specifics of content greatly assist in suggesting possible reconstructions. This quantity of material also attests to the force of the earth tremors which finally brought down the super-structure of the building, as was also the case at the Main Theater.

**Phase VIII:** Occupational Use Phase (Transient) (II. 6(24) + (47) + (11 A-B-C) firepits = II. 3 (11) = II. 5(12) + (15)/(14)/ (13) Burial † 1).

On the basis of the firepits marking this surface and the burial in II. 5 it is obvious that the building ruins invited some sort of transient visitation, as well as serving as a handy necropolis. Whether the firepits represent a one-time use or a series of visits could not be determined, nor could any relationship between them and the burial be established.

The burial was poorly preserved, since it had lacked very much in protective preparation at interment. A rough stone-line grave had been cut into the soil over the rubble fill, but no covering slabs had been used, resulting in deterioration of the skeletal remains. The burial was, in any case, a primary child interment in

the extended supine position, oriented with the head to the West, facing Southeast. The skeleton was fragmentary -- as a consequence of the impact of later destruction fall -- with facial and other bones badly damaged (Plate I. 3). Ordinarily sexing of the burial would have been impossible in this situation, but the presence of an iron neck torque (RI# 50) suggests a female, as do the presence of seashells in the debris, although the latter were too disarranged to determine precise decorative use (Plate I. 4). The torque was badly oxidized and fragmentary, but still had a longitudinally grooved stone ball (the "lotus" bead type) decoration at one end (the second presumably lost). No other remains were recovered in the grave.

The torque type would place this burial firmly in the Byzantine period, although a more precise date is impossible, other than one bracketed between Phase X and VII.

The rather deep silt make-up of this phase contained a considerable quantity of early Nabataean fine and common thin wares, along with some fragments of *terra sigillata* which are intrusive to the predominantly Byzantine materials and must again reflect wash material trapped in the debris from the northern slopes. However, the presence of these earlier materials conforms to the chronology of the two destruction falls between which this phase rests and may suggest an actual date close to that of Phase X.

The Byzantine materials from this phase include both occupation deposits and probable wash debris, and hence serve

only as terminally diagnostic. II. 6 produced a fair quantity of both thick and thin coarse common wares, plain and ribbed. Fabrics were generally red (especially), light red, tan or black, with cream, tan, dark red, red-tan and, of note, an apparent increase in black slips, complete or reserved. Store jar fragments were in relative abundance, but cooking-pot sherds extremely rare. This latter fact may give credence to the possibility that the "occupation" indicated by the numerous firepits reflects a larger group on the site for a shorter period rather than any durative period. II. 3 produced only a scant quantity of ceramic materials, probably because of its slope. Here, also, however, thick and thin coarse common wares, plain and ribbed, with red, tan, and black slips were most obvious.

A complete Byzantine lamp (RI# 25) was recovered from II. 6(24) in this phase (Plate I. 5, 6). It was the closed discus type, with a knob handle, in a red-tan ware. The top was decorated with a raised ring around the wick hole, a double ring around the filler hole, radiate raised slashes and a transverse bar on the nozzle, with curved raised slashes around the sides. This likewise would tend to depress the probable date of this phase closer to that of Phase X.

The architectural materials found "in" and under this phase belong to the lower destruction phase (X) and will be considered properly there. Miscellaneous fragments were silted all around and so give the impression of having belonged to the silt (Phase IX) making up this phase, but obviously must be assigned to their actual lower provenance stratigra-

phically. Plaster decomposition and copper plastering nail oxidation caused a varicolored effect in the soil of this phase because of the quantity of materials covered.

#### Phase IX: Disuse and Silting Phase.

The silt units, whose surface constituted the phase preceding, belong to this period of disuse and long-term silting of the site area following the first major destruction of the structure below (Phase X). The contents of these units have already been noted above (Phase VIII).

No internal divisions indicating any intervening use of the site area could be detected in the course of excavation. Hence it must be presumed that this area went out of general use, following the destruction of the building and even though ruins were visible above ground they could serve no real occupational function and were not even used for temporary shelter.

#### Phase X: Destruction Phase

The material remains of this phase are constituted by the architectural fall debris covered by the preceding phase and resting on II. 6(22). Here again, the *specific* content of this debris assists in reconstruction, on a *vertical* plane, when considered with the debris from the later fall above.

Although it has been noted that the later fall (Phase VII) was occasioned by a much more severe earthquake (or series of quakes), the earth tremors which struck in this phase were of sufficient strength to preclude further real use of the structure, as noted above.

The specific content of this phase will be discussed with Phase XV below, but the extent of damage, as reflected by the fall content, may be noted in passing here to illustrate the destruction involved. Not only were some capitals dislodged, along with cornice-carrying blocks, wall members, and other structural members, but a *great* deal of internal plastered decoration, including undercoatings, was also dislodged, including the curious inset floral decorations (plaster) set into some of the capital carvings. It would be expected that plaster decoration would be so dislodged when the structural members to which it was attached fell, but it would appear, from the quantities involved, that the plaster was not simply knocked off as a result of impact, but dislodged separately by the earth tremors. When the size of the iron plastering nails used to key such decorations to masonry is considered, the jarring movements must have been of considerable severity!

At the same time, the fact that a considerable number of free-standing columns survived the quake, even if with the loss and fragmentation of some capitals provides a contrast to the *total* loss of the superstructure and the final loss of *all* capitals in the later (more severe therefore) destruction (Plate II. 1).

It must be noted that the fall debris from this phase showed considerable weathering -- so much so that tool marks were weathered off in some cases. This would indicate that some durative, even if undefinable, period followed the destruction, prior to the beginning of the silting actions of Phase IX above.

Altogether, however, the situation reflected between the two destruction strengths, along with the specifics of both, seems to be precisely that seen in the Main Theater sequences. Hence the date of this phase should be the same as the first destruction seen there, namely A.D. 365.

**Phase XI:** Disuse and Silting Phase (II. 6(22)).

This phase was the fall "floor" of the destruction phase above and represents, itself, a period of building disuse *prior* to that destruction.

The scant quantity of ceramics materials recovered from this phase include heavier and thinner common wares from cooking-pots and plain store-jars. Ware fabrics include tan, brown, red, orange-red, and black examples, with tan, brown, red-tan, and black slips. Some combing is present, but no other decorative finishes are present. Some Nabataean fine ware is present, again probably the result of wash intrusion with the silting.

Some architectural materials were recovered from *within* the soil of this phase as well as the far greater quantity resting on or penetrating into its surface as a result of the destruction of the building by earthquake. This would ordinarily raise a serious question of sequence of deposition -- i. e. would require that this silt phase be deposited *after* the destruction phase above. However, as will be noted below, other factors preclude that interpretation -- i. e. the impossibility of this phase being deposited by wash action from *above* the destruction phase, since the main fall rests *upon* its surface;

the nature of the included debris -- i. e. more highly weathered materials, *crustae*, small architectural fragments, a particular abundance of architectural plaster, flooring slabs, and column base "necks". Hence, another explanation must be sought: namely, that less extensive disaster struck the building, *prior* to its first destruction by earthquake (Phase X), which put it out of use and partially open to the elements (hence the silting), dislodging only small or easily damaged (e. g. the decorative plaster) elements, which were subsequently covered by this silting phase and the one preceding it (Phase XIII), with a relatively durative period intervening (Phase XII), during which the extensive weathering of fallen elements took place. Some architectural fragments recovered from this phase also show evidence of fire marks, which are of significance in regard to the partial destruction suggested below (Phase XIV).

**Phase XII:** Disuse Phase - Building Open

As a consequence of the situation described in Phase XI above, this phase must be interposed to account for the weathering of the materials on the surface of Phase XIII, subsequently covered by the silting action of Phase XI and is, therefore, a "fall" phase of architectural debris on the surface below.

No estimate of duration can be made, but it must have been relatively durative to have permitted the relatively greater effects of weathering noted on architectural fragments in excavation.

**Phase XIII:** Disuse and Silting Phase (II. 6(34)/(35)).

This phase, along with Phases XII and XI above, was another disuse period,

during which certain architectural materials, similar to those of Phase XII, having been exposed to the elements began to fall, piling up on the surface of Phase XIV below and then covered by the silting of this phase.

Another phase, similar to the disuse Phase XII above, might be demanded, stratigraphically, before the silting of this phase could take place. However, the lack of weathering and the distribution of materials in the silt of this phase probably indicate that the "open" period was less durative than that of Phase XII and both the "fall" and silting constituting this phase and its contents were relatively contemporaneous actions -- hence both events are subsumed under this phase alone.

This phase contained a single coin (RI#83) of Rabbel II with Gamilat, datable to the period A. D. 71-75 (Plate II. 2). Although a single coin is hardly final evidence of date, it at least *precludes* a date for this phase *earlier* than Rabbel, although it may be *later* than his reign. However, a date *in* the reign of Rabbel II would accommodate the phases above this, up to the first firm date of A. D. 365 (the first earthquake destruction of the site) and not contradict the possibility, to be suggested below, of roughly the same date for the opening of the building and the beginning of its architectural falls. Late in Rabbel's reign Petra was in a state of decline and no particular upsurge probably took place immediately after A. D. 106 when the site was occupied by Rome. The presence of *only* Nabataean wares, especially fine thin wares, in this phase would also fit

this period, since black painted fine thin wares are present, along with the red-painted varieties, and thus indicate the Late Nabataean period even though both are wash debris, which they must be.

#### Phase XIV: Partial Destruction (?) Phase

If the stratigraphic interpretations of Phases XI-XIII above are correct, this phase -- a 1 mm. deposit of ash -- would be the key to the apparent disuses and sporadic fall of fragile architectural elements of a building whose walls and columns were still intact!

A finely decorated public building would hardly be left to have its floors silt in and its decorative elements fall down if it were still in use and closed to the effects of weather. At the same time, the relatively thin layer of ash hardly suggests any major "destruction" took place. Yet the loss of some floor tiles and almost every scrap of *crustae* and copper fixtures, along with probably some of the column base "necks", is stratigraphically indicated at about the time of the ash deposition, although no removal of other parts seems probable.

Hence, some *slight* damage of the building by fire, followed almost at once by removal of the more portable (and valuable) decorative marble and by subsequent abandonment to the weather seems to be the only interpretation of the stratigraphic evidence.

Basically, the questions involved here are the meaning of the ash deposit, the removal of only portable materials, and the apparent abandonment.

Of architectural elements susceptible to fire, only roof elements seem probable



and since no other applicable materials were recovered, but small roof tiles were, the use of traditional wooden structural beams and tile supports ( *cantherii* and *templa* ) along with main structural beams (the *columen* and others) can be postulated.

Since this building is relatively small, the total ash deposit, when compacted and washed over, left by probably fast burning woods (if local) would likewise be scant, and may well be almost totally represented in residue by the existing deposit --from which any useable timber or firewood was removed, as were most of the roofing tiles. This would account for the opening of the structure to the weather and subsequent silting actions.

If this event took place when local economy precluded re-roofing, the removal of the valuable, easily detached reusable decorative elements would then be reasonable, but not any total disassembly of the structural elements involved because of the cost involved.

Once such denuding took place, the structure could be abandoned gracefully without becoming a public eye-sore, since its walls and columns were still standing and its upper level decorative elements, here generally in plaster, were still attached.

When the history of Petra is examined, the period which fits *both* a time of economic stricture *and* one in which all the appearance of past glory had not yet been given up is that of Rabbel II, especially the latter part of his reign when his own interests shifted to Bosra and Roman pressure was building up for the reduction of the Nabataean kingdom

and its capital city. The evidence suggested for the possible date placement of Phase XIII therefore applies equally well here and, again, appears to fit known historical, economic, and political requirements.

Alternately, and equally fitting the data, is the possibility that this structure was a casualty of the incoming of the Romans in A. D. 106. Local ability to restore was at a low ebb at that time as well -- continuing the pattern of Rabbel's reign -- and Roman restoration would hardly have been expected either, resulting in the same sequences of disuse and silting phases until the initial major destruction of structural elements in the earthquake of A. D. 365.

Because of the unique appropriateness of both periods, their chronological proximity, and the lack of any more definitive dating markers in such a restricted time range, no choice between the two alternatives can be suggested as definitive, but the latter part of the reign of Rabbel II covers both and seems plausible for the date of this phase.

#### **Phase XV A/B: Main Building Phase.**

This phase represents the construction and use period(s) of the building occupying most of the area of Site II. 3, 5 and 6, excavated in the 1974 season. The structure was first exposed in II. 6, although surface indications (the upper surface of scattered columns) and the electronic survey results of 1973 had already predicted its existence.

Fortuitously, the lay-out of the excavation grids coincided with the lines (and limits) of the structure, so that East

and West walls, with their exterior, followed the N-S excavation limits of II. 3, II. 6 and II. 5, while those of II. 5 and II. 6 similarly coincided with North wall of the structure and II. 3 covered the southern wall line and exterior. Since the structure is symmetrical and square this exposure permits a reconstruction of almost all of the building plan, with the exception of the forward part of the central interior build which is still obscured by a baulk (see Plan). Moreover, by staggering the depth of excavation possible during the 1974 season a complete vertical view of the stratigraphy of the area was able to be secured. At the same time, certain questions remain to be stated and specific emphasis be made upon them during the excavation of the remaining parts of the structure in order to resolve them.

However, "reconstruction" of most of the structure, either via the recovered materials, *per se*, or the structural requirements demanded by such recovered materials, is possible descriptively at this point and will be even more complete following further excavation, although some uncertainties will doubtless exist because of the force by which destruction took place. Especially difficult, in the latter instance, is the matter of entablature parts, since these appear to have been almost exclusively molded plaster which disintegrated to a great part upon fall impact or the impact of the fall of other structural members upon them, as well as because of the effects of weathering. However, enough of these, as well as other architectural members were preserved to furnish considerable detail.

## Plan

Basically the structure is a square, measuring 17.42 m. x 17.42 m. on its exterior sides, oriented N-S, with its entry situated to the South, facing the city center along the banks of Wadi Musa.

## Walls

Existing walls stood to a height of 2.13 m. above the interior floor, measured to the top surface of preserved capping slabs. The eastern side of the wall, in II. 6 and II. 3 was best preserved and permits the best estimation of build and architectural techniques employed.

The wall build was double faced with ashlar, well coursed on the exterior into an inset-outset pattern, with the interior face less well coursed and of quite irregular stone with smaller chinking stones put in to fill gaps. Coursing is roughly header-stretcher, alternating vertically to strengthen joints, on the interior (Plate II. 3). The exterior face is much more carefully coursed, and may therefore have been left unadorned, at least on the East, North and West sides. Large blocks were notched to form the "header" type outsets from the face of "stretcher" type straight wall line (Plate II. 4). At the corners these notched blocks, literally headers on the East, became the equivalent of stretchers on the North side, neatly solving the exterior pattern. Joints on the exterior were extremely close and present a finished appearance in contrast to the rather poor interior face (which was of course completely covered by plastering and *crustae*). The space between the two faces was rubble filled and cemented. The exterior coursing is thus

what Vitruvius (*De Architectura*, II. viii, 6) called "Isodomic". The build proper is that seen elsewhere at Petra (e. g. the Main Theater) and is the "speedy" variation of the Greek *enplecton* noted by the same author ((II. viii, 7) Plate II.5). The front (South) face of the structure is considerably wider than the side and rear wall but follows the same double face build. The coursing on the exterior face is a mixed header-stretcher, varying header-header and stretcher laid in a straight pattern, but far less carefully laid than the visible section of the East side wall. Rather large joint gaps exist and the ashlar is irregular. However, the presence of large fixture holes in the ashlar explains the apparent difference -- namely that the South face of the building exterior must have been faced with the same veneer-type local marble as the *crustae* of the interior faces, hence care in coursing and laying was irrelevant to the final effect. The distance between fixture holes suggests a width of ca. 40 cm. for long facing horizontal slabs, with alternating smaller slabs (vertical?) ca. 20 cm. in width (Plate II. 6). This arrangement would have produced a patterned face which may have been further enhanced by different colors or grain types. Here, as in the case of the interior walls, the width measurements suggest *crustae* similar to those used at the Main Theater.

The significance of the capping slabs preserved on part of the East wall cannot be explained at this point, nor can the relatively low level at which they are set (Plate III. 1). Presumably the walls rose higher than 2.13 m. from its interior floor (2.38 m. from the plinth on the

exterior side), but the superstructure above those capping courses has been lost. The recovered remains do not permit the assumption of very great wall height to this structure (see below also in regard to *columns* ) but the preserved height seems much too low to begin roofing (Plate II. 3).

### Internal Plan

The internal plan of the building combines a series of engaged semi-columns and niche arrangement, set by engaged semi-columns. This plan therefore affects wall thicknesses: side walls --ca. 72-75 cm. thick (another deterrent to postulating great wall height), excluding decorations (plaster and *crustae* ); North wall -- 1.02 m. (because of double semi-columns and an outset niche) to ca. 66 -68 cm. within the niche faces (Plate III. 3 and Plan); South wall -- 1.76 m. at the East corner (outset niche and double semi-columns) and ca. 1.60 m. elsewhere.

The niches have a ledge level above the building floor but no comment can yet be made concerning how their upper part was constructed because of the destruction damage (Plate III. 2). The corner niches are outset, as well, and they vary in internal width (ca. 1.42 m. wide except for the center one). These were later filled in and this may be a part of the "simplified" interior of a later stage of the building's use.

Engaged (to ledge-capping level) half semi-columns flank the niches of all walls, with double sets at the corners (i. e. two quarter semi-columns) to achieve symmetry with

the North-South face lines. This necessitated out-setting the corner niches to maintain the line (see Plan). On the North end at least some of the semi-columns are compositely formed, whereas those of the side walls are "true" half columns in terms of drum build. However, all of these semi-columns are actually only pseudo-drums, since their rear ends are built squarely into the wall build with rectangular ashlar blocks finishing the required depth. This results in an actual out-set header, rounded off to form a semi-column face (Plate III. 5). All of the semi-columns rise above the ledge capping and then become true drums and free-standing columns.

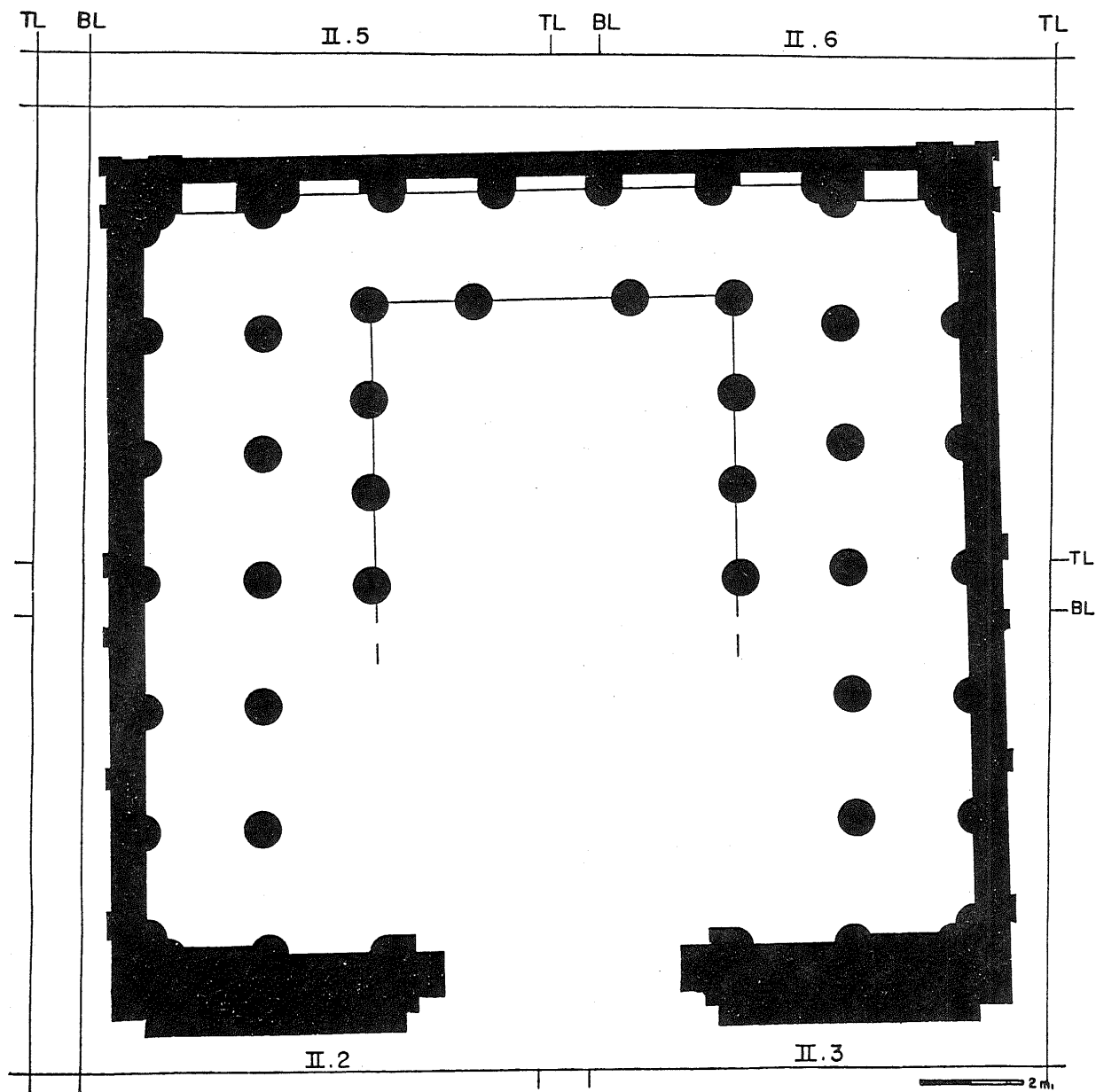
It must also be noted that the semi-engaged "drums" must have presented a rather flat appearance, since they measure some 62 cm. wide along the North-South wall face, but extend outward only about 27 cm. in frontal radius. Those of the "platform" (see below), however, were outset about 36 cm. and would, therefore, have been more truly columnar in appearance.

The East wall line (and hence the West wall line) has five engaged semi-engaged columns set along its face (Plate II. 3 and III. 1). The South wall has only a single one between the corner and doorway, excluding the niche treatment and the squared-off oblong doorway example (Plate II. 5 and IV. 1). This arrangement is dictated by the rest of the interior plan, since a row of free-standing columns, running North-South, divides the interior into bays on each side, with a "platform" structure in the center. The engaged semi-columns of the North,

South, (West) and East walls are lined up with the free-standing column rows producing the bays and cause the irregular spacing (Plate III. 6 and see Plan).

#### "Platform"

Within the structure another feature was partially disclosed -- a columnated "platform" of yet unclear meaning. The floor of this feature rises, by well-coursed header-stretcher ashlar, to a height of 1.31 m. above the general floor level of the building. Its floor was paved in brown, white, and yellow floor tiles set in a greenish cement. Four engaged semi-columns were set along its rear (E-W) end, and four were recovered along its eastern N-S side, with the possibility of one (or more) additional not yet recovered in Site II. 3. These columns were bonded to the edges of the "platform" to its floor level and then were free-standing above that level. Bonding was achieved by cuts in the drums, but the cuts were less than 50%, hence the bonded portions of the columns are less engaged than are the true half-drum ones elsewhere (Plate IV. 3, 4 and Plate II. 1). These columns are set more or less between the other columns forming the bays, with a slight intercolumnation distance variation: East side, N-S: 1.21 m., 1.12 m., 1.16 m.; North side, E-W, of the two recovered - 1.38 m.. The ashlar face of the "platform" is diagonally dressed and was probably plastered and veneered like other interior wall faces. The staggering of excavation depth in II. 3, along with the baulk between that site and II. 6 precluded securing a complete view of the eastern and southern faces of this feature, hence its function



AEP '74: Preliminary plan reconstruction - Site II

PCH.

2 m.

GN

remains to be determined by subsequent excavation. The strong possibility exists, however, that this internal structure may be another example of the "altar pedestal" discovered in the temple at Et-Tannur ( cf. N. Glueck, *Deities and Dolphins*, 1965: Pl. 101 a/b, p. 225; Pl. 110 b, p. 235). The unusual architecture involved at least would seem to fit such a purpose. It is also possible that certain of the architectural blocks recovered in II. 3 may have been from a corbelled-type front arched entry to the "platform". This issue will also have to await further excavation, however.

### Crustae

The interior decoration of the walls completely covered the rather shoddy build noted above. A thick layer of plaster was laid on and then the thin veneer-like *crustae* of marble affixed. Although scant evidence was available, these *crustae* were held in place here by the same means as at the Main Theater -- i. e. by copper fixtures. Contrary to the collection of such fixtures recovered at the Theater, all that was found here were the notches in the sides of *crustae* and traces of copper oxide to indicate the similarity. This, of course, was the result of the stripping off of the *crustae* noted above (Phase XIV). *crustae* in translucent white, yellow, and amber local marble were found, averaging about 1.7 cm. thick, a bit thicker than those at the Theater (ca. 1 cm. thick).

### Vertical Moldings

At the point of engaged column and wall-join, gaps in the plaster were obvious along the East and South wall lines in

Site II. 3 indicating the probability of vertical moldings present at those points (Plate IV. 1). These appear to have varied in thickness, based on the variations in the plastering, but this may be an accident of plastering and the same size moldings simply set differently. In any case, the gaps vary between 6 - 13 cm. (6, 10, 13 cm.). These moldings, presumably also local marble, suffered the same fate as the *crustae* and none were recovered *in situ*. The spaces between gaps give some evidence in regard to the *crustae* noted above also. These spaces were generally some 1.20 m. to 1.80 m., allowing for slab widths similar to those used at the Main Theater.

### Free-Standing Columns

The free-standing columns creating the double bays on each side of the structure -- (9), (17), (10), (7) and (4) -- were drum-built, of a reddish sandstone (Plate II. 1; Plate III. 6). Drum height varied in the individual columns, from 35 cm. to 72 cm., with a maximum of six drums (as far as recovered data suggest). In the only case of drum fall closely associated with a partially standing column (column (10) in II. 6) the column height, less capital, appears to be 2.87 m., with the double Corinthianized capital bringing the full height to between 3.62 and 3.65 m. Drums were uniformly 66 cm. in diameter -- with a centimeter of plaster bringing them up to the 68 cm. of the capitals. A few drums at the South end (II. 3) had diameters of 59 and 60 cm., but these were not of the main columniation.

The columns were straight shafted, without *entasis* and were, as were the

engaged semi-columns of the walls and of the "platform" (except column (44), diagonally dressed and plastered. The original plastering was worked into a flat-fluted surface, with 2 cm. flutes separated by 7 cm. panels (Plate V. 1). It should be noted that this results in 24 "flutes", precisely the number Vitruvius sets ((III. V. 14) for the Ionic order in conventional form. A second plastering (subphase A) produced smooth faced columns by completely covering the panels and flat fluted treatment.

The five free-standing columns on each side of the structure are in line with the engaged semi-columns on each end (North and South) of the building as well as along each wall (East and West). The intercolumnar spacing on the East side, where columns were still *in situ*, was as follows:

engaged wall semi-column (64)	
to column (9)	- 1.78 m.
column (9) to column (17)	- 1.78 m.
column (17) to column (10)	- 1.82 m.
column (10) to column (7)	- 1.78 m.
column (7) to column (4)	- 1.82 m.
column (4) to engaged semi-column of South Wall	- 1.78 m.

None of these distances respond to any multiple of the column diameters (68 cm. with plaster), nor to distances reduced by 36 cm. (the width of two base rings) to achieve a base-to-base interval. However, the regularity of the two distances (1.79 m. and 1.82 m.) suggests some intentional spacing unit involved.

Column drums were found (e. g. columns (9), (10) and (17) with roughly

rectangular cuts made in their tops, indicating the probable use of the pulley for raising them into position, as at the Main Theater, where davit holes for guy lines in the floor were also in evidence for such machine hoisting. Here the height involved probably was not much of a problem, however. Some columns (e. g. columns (4), (17)) also had small square or rectangular holes in their faces. These possibly also served for handling and would have been plastered over in the finishing stage (Plate III. 6).

### "Bases"

The "bases" of the free-standing columns, and presumably of the engaged semi-columns, were produced by affixing two half-rings (necks/collars) 18 cm. wide about the base of each column (Plate IV. 6 and VI 2). These pseudo-bases were vaguely Ionic: a large lower torus with a narrow inclined fillet, a scotia with an inclined fillet, a smaller topping torus with a narrow inclined fillet and a narrow scotia necking. These base ring were of dark local marble, setting off the white plastered columns.

### Capitals

The capitals of this structure were quite similar to those of the first story of the Khazneh Far'un, combining the acanthus and volutes of the (Nabataenized) Corinthian order. They were apparently carved on at least two separate blocks, with the acanthus motifs on the lower one and the voluted motifs on the upper one. Although it remains to be verified by further examples, it would appear that the total height of the capitals were relatively close to the Vitruvian model --

height of capital = diameter of column (Vitruvius, IV. i, 11 ff.).

The lower segment of the capitals held two bands of acanthus leaves, relatively close packed, with the upper row well curved-out from the capital face. Drilled holes appeared in the faces of the upper leaves in particular (Plate V. 3).

The upper segment of the capital was by far the most ornate and complex. Two protruding angled volutes were at the ends (presumably a full capital would show four such scrolls), inclined toward the center (Plate V. 5, 6). These volutes were veined, perhaps suggesting grapevine tendrils, and were curled one and one half turns toward the center. The upper portion of each volute was partially "wrapped" by a spiked leaf motif. Beneath each volute was an acanthus leaf, curling downward. It is probably upon these that the winged lion-griffon (RI # 94, # 95, # 96, # 99, Plate X. 6; Plate VI. 1, 2, 3, 4) figures were perched ( cf. Glueck 1965: 226, 369, 365, and 75 ff.), although these may have replaced the volute elements, also. Between the volutes was a complex symmetrical guilloche pattern of entwined vines and tendrils with flowers and leaves, upon which were pinecones and bulbous fruits or nuts (acorns? poppies?, pomegranates? or local flora?). In addition, molded plaster rosettes were set into the face of the stone as well (four petalled, five veined, with protruding centers) (Plate X. 1, 2). It is also probable that these upper segments also had carved masks/heads or flowers between the volutes in the center of the face, since some recovered examples show breaks at that point (Plate VI. 5, 6).

Above the whole ensemble was a series of band moldings resembling those of an architrave proper: a thin fillet directly on top (replacing the scroll cushion of the Ionic volutes), followed by an outset, wider *fascia* band, followed by a narrow fillet, an angular to oval bead and a fillet. These moldings varied in treatment, even on the same piece. This was a bit more complex than Roman, but parallels that of the Khazneh. Similar capitals are known from Petra, though only in fragments ( cf. M. Lindner, ed., *Petra ...*, 1974: 150).

### Floor

The main floor of the structure was paved in square and rectangular local marble tiles, white and brown banded, set in cement in a straight-line pattern. No border pattern could be detected (Plate IV. 5, 6).

### Doorway

The doorway area was only partially exposed but must measure about 4.36 m. wide, necessitating double (or folding) doors (Plate II. 5 and Plate IV. 2). Hopefully more details of this feature will be recovered when the adjacent square (II.2) is excavated, or the area of rubble fall South of II. 3.

### Entablature

The internal architrave and frieze elements of the order above the capitals were apparently all of plaster affixed to lintel beams of stone. The architrave elements (i. e. *fasciae* ) cannot, at this point, be isolated from the frieze bands of the upper entablature of this structure, although it appears indisputable that the



Ionic order was basically employed here. This is made clear by the lack of *mutuli* and *guttae* and, conversely, the presence of dentils and egg-and-dart astragals.

### Corona

One fragment, with dentils and astragal was recovered from I. 6(22) with the remains of what may be the upper cornice ( *corona* ), painted in red, brown and black. Another less developed fragment was found in II. 6(24).

### Dentils.

Dentils (Plate VII. 2, 3) with a wide flat (frieze) band below, with red and blue painting of the bands, were recovered from II. 6(24) along with other fragments of large dentils. Larger dentils with a curved molding also appear from the same S. U. In II. 3(11), belonging to the same phase, large dentils with narrow fillets above were recovered. In II. 6(22), from Phase XI, a molded egg-and dart astragal, painted brick red, below molded dentils, was present, along with a painted version of the egg-and-dart motif. The same S. U. also produced a fragment with dentils and an astragal band with a series of molded fillets, a curved band, and thin fillets below. Fragments of small dentils were also present in that S. U. . In II. 6(34) a fragment with small dentils with an egg-and-dart motif carved above them was also found. II. 6(35) produced fragments of a molded and painted egg-and-dart astragal which was also gilded.

### Frieze/Fasciae

Isolation of the frieze/ *fasciae* bands may ultimately be possible on the basis

of colors of paint used. The over-all distribution of these elements, however, is thus far only possible by paint colors involved, which may represent height and areas involved. Ordering of these elements will have to await examples *in situ*. In Phase III, II. 6(5) produced fragments of ocher and brown painted and molded plaster, white (unpainted) and molded plaster and black painted and molded plaster.

Phase V produced ocher painted and molded fragments, along with black painted and molded, brick-red painted and orange-red painted examples (II. 6(11), with blue (?) painted and molded fragments in II. 5(9). In Phase VIII ocher, dark blue, brick-red, orange-red, and light tan painted band fragments were found in II. 6(24), along with fragments of an ocher background with black designs and white (plain) fragments with dark blue horizontal lines (in imitation of moldings?). In the same phase, II. 3(11) produced fragments painted in light blue, dark blue and ocher, brick-red and blue, and plain tan as well as red with black, and black with wide red bands.

In Phase XI (II. 6(22)) a fragment with bright yellow painted bands outlined with black with a wide orange-red band beneath was recovered, along with fragments showing parallel lines in black or blue, dark blue painted and other line painted fragments.

Phase XIII produced fragments of ocher painted with black decorations, along with others in brick-red, dark blue, and dark tan. All of these fragments were more muted in color than elsewhere

and may reflect the effects of durative exposure to the elements as suggested in the stratigraphic consideration of this phase.

### **Affixes**

Also to be considered in regard to the entablature were the fragments of plaster-molded heads found in II. 3(11). The only partially recognizable specimen has the appearance of a female(?) head, seen frontally, with flat hair treatment on each side, a gaping mouth and rather odd modelling of cheek bones, nose and eyes. These were attached to small masses of plaster showing the outlines of flat wooden/metal fixtures which had apparently been set into the heads at the time of molding. The fixtures were then forced into holes filled with plaster. When the building fell the heads and their affixing plugs were dislodged in one piece. Unfortunately, the quality of plaster used for these heads was rather susceptible to weathering, hence fall impact and the elements preclude complete description and possible identification.

### **Roofing**

As was noted, in the discussion of Phase XIV, it would be reasonable to postulate a conventional roofing of this structure on the basis of evidence available. Ash, charred stone, charcoal and *tegulae* fragments all substantiate this assumption and no negative evidence appears to contradict it.

### **Drain Pipe**

As a result of the distribution loci of this element, it would appear certain that the recovered fragments of this element are all from roof drains, and

not from floor drains. The pipes are similar to those found elsewhere at Petra i. e. in the Siq and in the water systems found at the Main Theater.

### **Other Architectural Elements**

Ashlar, specialized building blocks, and plastering fixtures are treated under the comments regarding architectural element distribution which follows.

### **Comments on Phase Distribution of Architectural Elements**

**Tegulae:** The absence of *tegulae*, except in the cover debris after the latest destruction can be explained on the basis of the postulated fall with the loss of the roof (Phase XIV) and subsequent "reclamation" of valuable elements; those in the Phase V-VII debris would be the (scant) remainder not dislodged until the final fall of retaining elements (see *Ashlar* below). Fragments recovered were between 3.1 and 3.5 cm. thick, with the usual right-angle upturned edge (Plate VII. 1 and cf. Hammond 1965, Plate XXXIX. 5, 6).

**Capitals:** The heavy concentrations of these elements and their fragments in the fall of Phase VII and later phases would tend to indicate that a considerable number of columns were actually undisturbed after the first earthquake destruction (Phase X). The find areas of the "lion-griffon" decoration would suggest a definite relation to the "platform" columns, rather than the bay columns or side engaged semi-columns. This is borne out by the standing columns of the bays in II. 6 and II. 3, as well as by the distribution of drums in the later phases (see also *Drums* and *Tesserae* below).

PHASE DISTRIBUTION: ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENTS

(Order: II. 6/.3/.5; + = present, + + = concentration)

Phase:	I	II	III-IV	V-VII	VIII-X	XI-XV
<b>Tegulae</b>	- - -	- - -	- - -	++ - -	- -	-
Corona cornice	- - -	- - -	- - -	+ ? + ? -	- -	-
Dentils	- - -	- - -	+ - -	+ + -	- +	+
<b>Frieze/Fasciae</b>	+++ +	+++ -	+++ +	+++ +	+++ +	+++
Capitals	+ + ++	- - +	- - +	+++ + +	+++ +	+++
Capital frags.	+++ +	- - +	+++ +	+++ +	+++ +	+++
Column Drums	+ - ++	- - -	- - -	+ + + +	+ + +	-
Base necks	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	++
<b>Crustae</b>	- - -	- - +	+ - +	+++ + -	+ -	++
Floor tiles	- - -	- - +	- - -	+++ + -	+ -	++
Drain pipe	- - -	- - -	- - -	+++ + +	+ +	+
Ashlar	- - ++	- - -	- - -	+++ + +	+++ +	+
Concave-sided blocks	- - +	- - +	- - -	- + + -	- -	-
Bevelled-ended slabs	- - -	- - -	- - -	- + + -	- +	-
"L" blocks	- - -	- - -	- - -	- + -	- +	-
Nails: Fe	- - +	- - ++	+ - ++	+++ - ++	+++ +	-
Nails: Cu	- - -	- - -	- - -	+++ + +	+++ +	++
<b>Tesserae</b>	+ + ++	+ - ++	+ - ++	+++ + ++	- -	-

**Drums:** The presence of fallen drums in phases following the initial destruction of Phase X also supports the fact that not all columns were tumbled in that destruction. The absence of drums -- vis-à-vis capitals and capital fragment -- in the phases following the second earthquake destruction (Phase VII) can be explained by factors of height and by the probable "re-use" made of capitals and fragments later (see *Tesserae* below).

**Base necks:** The distribution is massed in the proper location only.

**Crustae:** As noted elsewhere, it is postulated that re-usable marble was

removed, in the main, following the roof destruction of Phase XIV. Pieces too high for removal then, or engaged with other elements, probably account for the presence of *crustae* in later phases, especially uppermost ones not dislodged until the heavier earthquake of Phase VII.

**Floor tiles:** Distribution is massed in the proper location, with that of later phases explicable on the same bases (i. e. difficulty of removal) as the *crustae* or because of identification error.

**Drain pipe:** The severity of the second fall (Phase VII) explains why this element appears in the phases related to that fall

as well as to those related to the earlier fall of Phase X (Plate VII, 4).

**Ashlar:** Although ashlar was encountered in later phases, the bulk of it is properly distributed in the two fall-related sequences. Both wall and trabeation ashlar is probably here involved and is relatively difficult to distinguish apart, since the latter (bearing plastered decoration) would be indistinguishable in this structure from (especially) interior wall build materials (see also the "specialty" blocks below).

**Concave-sided blocks:** The find spots of this type of material suggests a possible arch which survived until the second fall and was dislodged as a unit, as the distribution, in place and phase, would indicate. The find spots of these blocks also suggests a possible relation to the frontal treatment of the "platform", as was noted earlier (Plate VII. 5, 6).

**Bevelled-ended slabs:** Whatever the purpose of these specialty slabs, they are distributed in the same manner as the Concave-sided blocks above and may be related(?), although some are present in the fall of the first destruction (Phase X) also (Plate VIII. 1,2).

**"L" blocks:** The same comment may be made regarding these blocks as those above (Plate VIII. 3, 4).

**Nails: Fe and Cu:** Both types of nails recovered in the excavations were used for keying plaster elements to ashlar (Fe) or to base-coat plaster (Cu). A distribution difference is to be noted between the two types, with the Fe type following the distribution pattern of the

*heavier* frieze/ *fasciae* plaster elements, dislodged primarily by earthquake fall, whereas the lighter and more fragile elements keyed plaster-to-plaster were also susceptible to the effects of the elements and begin to fall in the Phase XI-XII period. The higher susceptibility to oxidation on the part of the Cu specimens caused their disintegration in most cases, as the Site Supervisor of II. 6 notes in reporting specks of green (i. e. oxidized copper) characteristic in the soil of S. U. (24), the cover of the second destruction, in particular (Plate VIII, 5, 6; Plate IX, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5).

**Tesserae:** The presence of these elements is *totally* anomalous to the structure of Phase XV, but the *distribution* provides the explanation for their presence --namely *post* the second destruction (Phase IX and higher and *only* in the more elevated portions of the area (II. 6, II. 5). When the distribution is then related to postulated *use* of the area in the phases where they are noted (i. e. transient "occupation") and then to the concentration of capitals and capital fragments in those same phases the anomaly is completely cleared up: namely the proximity of a supply of fine stone (i. e. capitals and capital fragments) to surface (the higher sections of Site II) provided the raw materials for the production of *tesserae* to be utilized elsewhere (since no further building is evident on Site II)! Erosion and modern tilling of the area brought discards up into Phases I and II, while the actual production may be assigned to the "occupation" Phases V and III. This also explains the major ceramic types recovered from these phases: i. e. store-jars (for stocking the *tesserae* manufac-

tured) and cooking-pots for daily eating "on-site", as well as the evidence of only transient use (i. e. cooking-fire remains, with little else to show for any "domestic" life. Such factory-use may also explain the high incidence of capital *fragments*, hardly to be explained by fall in Phases I through III and possibly also clarifies the peculiar nature of Phase IV -- i. e. the moving away of ashlar and other debris in the search for the raw materials. The probability of a Byzantine Church East of Site I -- where *tesetae* would be employed in large quantities -- adds further weight to this suggestion of a factory-site use of the area.

#### **Sub-Phasing, Phase XV**

On the basis of replastering of the plaster flutings found on certain of the free-standing columns and the probable filling of the niches of the interior of the North wall, it is probable that this structure underwent some form of (probably minor) redecorating in the course of its primary use phase. As a consequence, it is tentatively suggested, pending further excavation, that Phase XV should be subdivided into a primary stage (XV B) and a later one (XV A) to accommodate existing indications.

No chronological conclusions are possible in regard to the date of Phase XV A at this time. Coincidence in event with the re-doing of the Main Theater is suggestive (Hammond, 1965. 64), however, since the same conditions apply.

#### **Chronology: Phase XV A/B**

Although, as noted above, no firm evidence exists for the dating of Phase XV A -- and likewise for Phase XV B --

the similarity of events found in regard to the building of Site II and those of the Main Theater is striking.

To erect a public building of this type, with the degree of ornateness and the stage of the Nabataeanized Corinthian order involved reflects precisely the period seen at the Theater, i. e. that of Obodas II or Aretas IV, with attention again focusing upon the conditions applying in the reign of the latter. Likewise, refurbishing of the structure matches the similar activity at the Theater and the reign of Malichus II, with subsequent decline late in the reign of Robbel II (Phase XIV).

As a working hypothesis, therefore, it is suggested, pending more conclusive evidence, that Phase XV B, building of the structure in Site II, may be tentatively set in the reign of Aretas IV and the refurbishing of the structure set in the reign of Malichus II. This tentative chronology in no way conflicts with the stratigraphic or architectural data thus far recovered and does, as in the case of the Theater, fit the socio-economic, political and architectural stage situations of those reigns.

#### **Architectural Nature of the Structure**

Likewise tentative is the conclusion that this building represents a temple to a yet undetermined deity at Petra. The plan, in particular, permits that conclusion, while denying other possible use attributions. The internal "platform" strongly suggests the "altar pedestal" of the temple at Et-Tannur, although completion of excavation may render another explanation more probable. Further,

the lavishness of the internal decorations suggests a building of more than common use and the failure to demolish it, following the partial destruction in Phase XIV, may point to a special (sacral?) character of the building.

### Stratigraphic Phasing

**Phase I:** Modern.

II. 6(1) = II. 3(S)/(1) = II. 5(S)/(1).

**Phase II:** Disuse.

II. 6(5) = II. 3(2) = II. 5(2) upper.

**Phase III:** Occupational Use (Transient).

II. 6(2) + (5A) fireplace = II. 3(3) =

II. 5(2) lower.

**Phase IV:** Localized Dumping.

II. 3(10)/(6).

**Phase V:** Occupational Use (Transient).

II. 6(11) + (2A) fireplace = II. 3(8) =  
II. 5(9).

**Phase VI:** Disuse.

**Phase VII:** Destruction - A.D. 746/748.

**Phase VIII:** Occupational Use (Transient)

II. 6(24) + (47) + (11 A, B, C) fireplaces = II. 3(11) = II. 5(12) + (15) slabs, (14) fill, (13) Burial #1.

**Phase IX:** Disuse/Silting.

**Phase X:** Destruction - A.D. 365.

**Phase XI:** Disuse/Silting.

II. 6(22).

**Phase XII:** Disuse.

**Phase XIII:** Disuse/Silting.

II. 6(34)/(35).

**Phase XIV:** Partial Destruction/Disuse  
Phase - c. A. D. 106(?).

II. 6(36) ash.

**Phase XV:** Building Phase - Tentatively.

Malichus II (XV A)/Aretas IV (XV B).

The 1975 excavation season considerably clarified and modified certain of the aspects discussed above and will be subsequently reported.

Philip C. Hammond

# Photogrammetric Work at Petra, 1965 - 1968

## an Interim Report

by

P. J. Parr, K. B. Atkinson,  
and E. H. Wickens

### I. INTRODUCTION

From the very beginning of the excavations begun at Petra in 1958 by the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem it was apparent that none of the existing topographic maps of the site was sufficiently accurate either to give a true idea of its size and configuration or to provide a basis for locating the various operations being carried out by the expedition. Thus, for example, the maps of Brünnow and von Domaszewski<sup>1</sup> and of Dalman<sup>2</sup> exaggerated the width of the site from east to west by almost 50%, and gave only an impressionistic idea of its topography, while Musil's<sup>3</sup> was equally impressionistic, though more accurate. Kennedy's map,<sup>4</sup> traced from aerial photographs and therefore reasonably accurate with regard to dimensions, was not contoured and showed only the wadi courses; the map of Horsfield and Canaan<sup>5</sup> relied on Kennedy's for its dimension and was provided with sketched from-lines which, although useful for the

indication they gave of the surrounding terrain, were quite inadequate for the central part of the site where the ancient city lay. All these maps, moreover, were at a fairly small scale, ranging from approximately 1:29,000 (Kennedy) to 1:10,000 (Brünnow and von Domaszewski). The excellent plan of the central area published by Bachmann and his colleagues<sup>6</sup> was also only provided with sketched form-lines. The shortcomings of the previous survey were particularly revealed in 1964, when an investigation was begun of the Petra town walls. In that year a detailed ground survey was made of the surviving stretches of these walls, the work being conducted by Messrs. Peter Fordham and Ian Robertson of the Architectural Association in London. In addition, excavations (supervised by Mrs. Crystal Bennett, Mlle. Dominique Auscher, and the late Mr. Rafik Dajani) were made at a number of places along the lines of the northern walls, in order to establish their chronology.<sup>7</sup> From this work it

(1) R. E. Brünnow & A. Von Domaszewski, *Die Provincia Arabia*, Band I Strassburg (1904) Beilagen.

(2) G. Dalman, *Petra and Seine Felsheiligtümer* Leipzig (1908), map at end.

(3) A. Musil, *Arabia Petraea*, II (Vienna 1908), map at end.

(4) Sir Alex Kennedy, *Petra, its History and Monuments* London (1925), map following p. 18.

(5) *Quarterly of the Department of Antiquities of Palestine*, VII(1938), Plan A

(6) W. Bachmann, C. Watzinger, Th. Wiegand. *Petra (Wissenschaftliche Veröffentlichungen des Deutsch-Türkischen Denkmalschutz-Kommandos Heft 3)*, Berlin (1921). Beilage 1.

(7) For a preliminary note on this work see *Révue Biblique* LXXII, (1965) pp. 254-256.

became clear that the intentions, methods and achievements of the Nabatean military architects could only fully be appreciated by considering the walls in close relation to the local topography, and that to this end an accurately contoured map of the site was essential. The obvious way to obtain such a map was by the use of stereoscopic aerial photographs, which fortunately were already available in the form of the 1:25,000 cover taken for the Jordanian Government in 1953 by Hunting Aero Surveys Ltd. This photography had already been used by Huntings for the preparation of a map of part of East Jordan, but unfortunately the area of Petra, although photographed, had not been included in the mapping. Despite the fact that they were at too small a scale to show archaeological detail and had been taken several years before the clearance of the central part of Petra had been initiated (in 1954) by Miss D. Kirkbride for the Department of Antiquities, the photographs were of excellent quality for topographic plotting. In June 1965 permission was granted by the Jordanian authorities for the British School to use the photographs for the purpose of producing a contoured map of the site. The original plotting was done in the latter part of the same year in the Department of Photogrammetry and Surveying at University College London, and additional information was added in 1968 from terrestrial photogrammetric survey. The final drawing of the map, incorporating the expedition's

plan of the town walls and Bachman's plan of the ruins in the central area, was completed in February 1971, and is published here for the first time. Some account of the technical aspects of the work appears below, in Part II of this article.

The success of this application of photogrammetry to the archaeological investigation of Petra, and above all the support which the Department of Photogrammetry and Surveying at University College London gave to the project, prompted a further excursion into this field, namely a survey of the rock-cut architecture. Although this architecture has never come within the British expedition's terms of reference, no one concerned with the site or with Nabataean history and culture in general can but be aware of the need for accurate detailed drawings of the Petra facades. Before 1968 the only published measured elevations of rock-cut monuments were those of the Khazneh made by Newton<sup>8</sup> in 1910, prepared at 1:50 and published at approximately 1:200, and that of the Garden Tomb (Br. 644), made by Bachmann<sup>9</sup> and also published at approximately 1:200. Drawings of the Khan (Br. 4) near the entrance to the Siq are said to have been made by P.C. Hammond in 1959 prior to its conversion into the Government Rest House, but have not been published so far as the writers are aware. As for the other monuments, students concerned with a comparative

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(8) G. Dalman in the *Annual of the Palestine Exploration Fund*, I, (1911).

(9) W. Bachmann et al, *op cit* Abb. 75. Bachmann also published measured sections (but not

elevations) of the Tomb of the Roman Soldier (Br. 239) and the Triclinium opposite it (Br. 235).



study of their architecture have been forced to rely on the drawings published by Brünnow and von Domaszewski and it is these which still provide the basis for discussion of Nabataean rupestrian architecture, as for example in the recent books of Browning<sup>10</sup> and Lyttleton.<sup>11</sup> Although these sketches undoubtedly provides a reasonably accurate idea of the general style of the façades, they are not based on precise measurement and are sometimes very erroneous with regard to scale and proportion, as, for example, in the case of the Khazneh, as Dalman points out.<sup>12</sup> Moreover, von Domaszewski's drawings often omit important detail, for example the relief busts on the attic pilasters of the Urn Tomb (Br. 772)<sup>13</sup>, while moulding are never shown except in stereotyped fashion and at far too small a scale to be really informative. In this connection it may be remarked that it is most unlikely that the mouldings used in Nabataean architecture showed no stylistic development during the course of time, and the minor variations of profile should in theory be as useful a guide to the chronology of the monuments (a controversial issue at Petra, be it remembered) as they have proved to be at other sites.<sup>14</sup> As for architectural scale and proportion, these have been demonstrated on many occasions to be not only indicative of the chronology of monuments but also - and perhaps more importantly - to be indicative of the aesthetic sensibility and

so, it may be supposed, of the psyche of the architects and their clients. In short, it would seem that further progress towards establishing the chronology of Nabataean architecture and towards understanding the Nabataeans themselves through that architecture can only come from a more detailed study of the surviving remains, and that as a first step in this direction an accurate and minute record of the Petra façades is essential.

The application of photogrammetric methods in 1968 to achieve this end was frankly experimental. To have measured and plotted a significant number of the facades by more conventional methods would have involved months of labour, much of the time being spent on erecting and dismantling scaffolding, not easy to obtain locally and not always feasible on account of the terrain in which many of the monuments are situated. Even Newton, using a ladder on the Khazneh, was unable to reach the entablature of the upper storey of this monument.<sup>15</sup> Although it was recognised that the difficult terrain would make the siting of camera positions no simple matter either, it seemed clear that photogrammetry would speedily provide at least the basic data for accurate elevations of the façades, and might also be useful in recording inaccessible decorative features such as mouldings and reliefs. Some further discussion of these points is given

(10) Iain Browning, *Petra* London (1973).

(11) M. Lyttleton, *Baroque Architecture in Classical Antiquity*, London, (1974).

(12) Dalman, *Annual of the Palestine Exploration Fund* I, (1911), pp. 96-70.

(13) For the discovery of these, see P. J. Parr,

*Palestine Exploration Quarterly* (1968), pp. 10-11.

(14) See, for example, the discussion of the Dura-Europos mouldings by Lucy T. Shoe, *Berytus* IX/1 (1948) pp. 1-40.

(15) *Ann. Pal. Expl. Fund*, I, (1911) p. 106.

below, in Part III of this report, while technical details appear in Part II.<sup>16</sup> The pilot scheme, of two weeks, duration in the late autumn of 1968, resulted in the photography of about a dozen facades, including the Khazneh (Br. 62), the Urn Tomb (Br. 772), the Tomb of the Roman Soldier (Br. 239), and others, representative of all the major types. The work of plotting the data obtained has not yet been completed, and only a small selection of some of the results can be presented here.

The full publication of this photogrammetric research will form part of the final report of the British School's activities at Petra between 1958 and 1968. It was originally envisaged that, following the pilot scheme, a more comprehensive photogrammetric survey of the Petra monuments might be carried out under the same auspices. However, in December 1969 a similar, and quite independent, scheme was set in motion by an expedition of the French National Geographic Institute (IGN) financed by UNESCO, apparently quite unaware of the topographic and architectural photogrammetry done by the British expedition during the preceding years.<sup>17</sup> It is hoped that the IGN and UNESCO will find it possible to continue this work and that a complete survey of Petra will one day be achieved.

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(16) A brief technical account (by K.B.A.) of the photogrammetric work on the façades has been published in the **Photogrammetric Record** VI, No. 34 (October 1969) pp. 357-378, while reports have been represented at the Royal Photographic Society's symposium on 'Photography in Archaeological Research' London, December (1970), and at a joint meeting of the Society of Architectural Historians of Great Britain, held at Cambridge in August

## II. TECHNICAL ASPECTS

The derivation of quantitative information from photographs involves the use of photogrammetric principles which are essentially similar for aerial and terrestrial surveys. There are important practical differences arising from the larger scales of terrestrial photographs and from the limitations which are imposed by most photogrammetric plotting instruments.

All the photogrammetric measurements concerned with Petra resulted from stereoscopic observation of overlapping pairs of photographs. Two photographs, comprising a stereopair, are viewed at any one time in a photogrammetric plotting instrument. The instrument incorporates an X, Y, Z system of axes which allows three dimensional co-ordinates within the stereoscopic model to be recorded after the correct orientation procedure has been accomplished. Alternatively the positions of a reference or measuring mark can be recorded graphically on the plotting table of the instrument, usually in the form of the plan details and contours which are familiar on a topographic map.

Before any measurement or plotting can be carried out, it is usual to complete a three-stage orientation process. Inner

1973. A reproduction of the elevation of the Khazneh, plotted from photogrammetric data, appeared as the cover illustration of **Photogrammetric Engineering**, Vol. 37, No. 8. (August 1971).

(17) So far as the writers are aware an account of this work has only appeared in the form of duplicated IGN and UNESCO reports, with limited circulation.

orientation of the photographs establishes the internal geometry of each picture and should present no problems when calibrated cameras are used. Relative orientation brings one photograph of a pair into its correct position and attitude with respect to the other photograph. This involves the removal of what is called y-parallax from the stereoscopic model as viewed in the plotting instrument. The third phase of absolute orientation means relating the relatively oriented model to control so that its scale and azimuth are known and so that real height or depth differences can be determined.

### 1. The map of Petra

The contour map of Petra (fig. 1) and the surrounding area was prepared from air photography in 1965. The original plotting scale was 1:2500 and archaeological information has been added, including the positions of tombs which have been derived from terrestrial photography taken during fieldwork in October and November 1968. Only the positions of the largest tombs can be plotted from air photographs as the vertical façades do not appear unless the tombs are particularly conspicuous and are located well away from the centre of the photographs. All the terrestrial photographs used to supplement the map were taken with a Wild phototheodolite, and plotting was carried out on a Wild A5. Plotting from the air photographs was carried out on a Thompson Watts Mark II.

There is no doubt the availability of this map marks a significant step forward in the study of Petra. The accuracy of the document should be sufficient for

most users, but certain deficiencies should be noted. These derive from the use of air photographs, the scale of which (1:25,000) was really too small for plotting a map at this scale. In addition, proper ground control was not available for a thorough absolute orientation so that the contours could not be related to sea level and given real height values. Consequently, users of this map should anticipate a possible scale error in plan dimensions, though this should be very small. More significant will be errors in height information if widely separated areas are compared in this respect. this respect.

### 2. The Façades

The larger individual tombs were usually photographed with a Wild phototheodolite and smaller tombs and aspects of detail with a Galileo-Santoni stereometric camera. The phototheodolite consists of a single camera mounted with a theodolite so that camera directions may be determined and control for plotting may be conveniently observed. The stereometric camera is really a pair of cameras fixed to the ends of a rigid bar and pointing in parallel directions. In theory, less control is necessary if the camera axes are parallel and the camera separation is known. In practice, it is advisable to include extra control as a check. On some occasions it was preferable to use one camera of the stereometric pair for photography from separated camera stations and in such cases control measurements were made independently.

Plotting of details of the tombs is of three types. (Fig. 2) shows the doorway to the southern side chamber of the



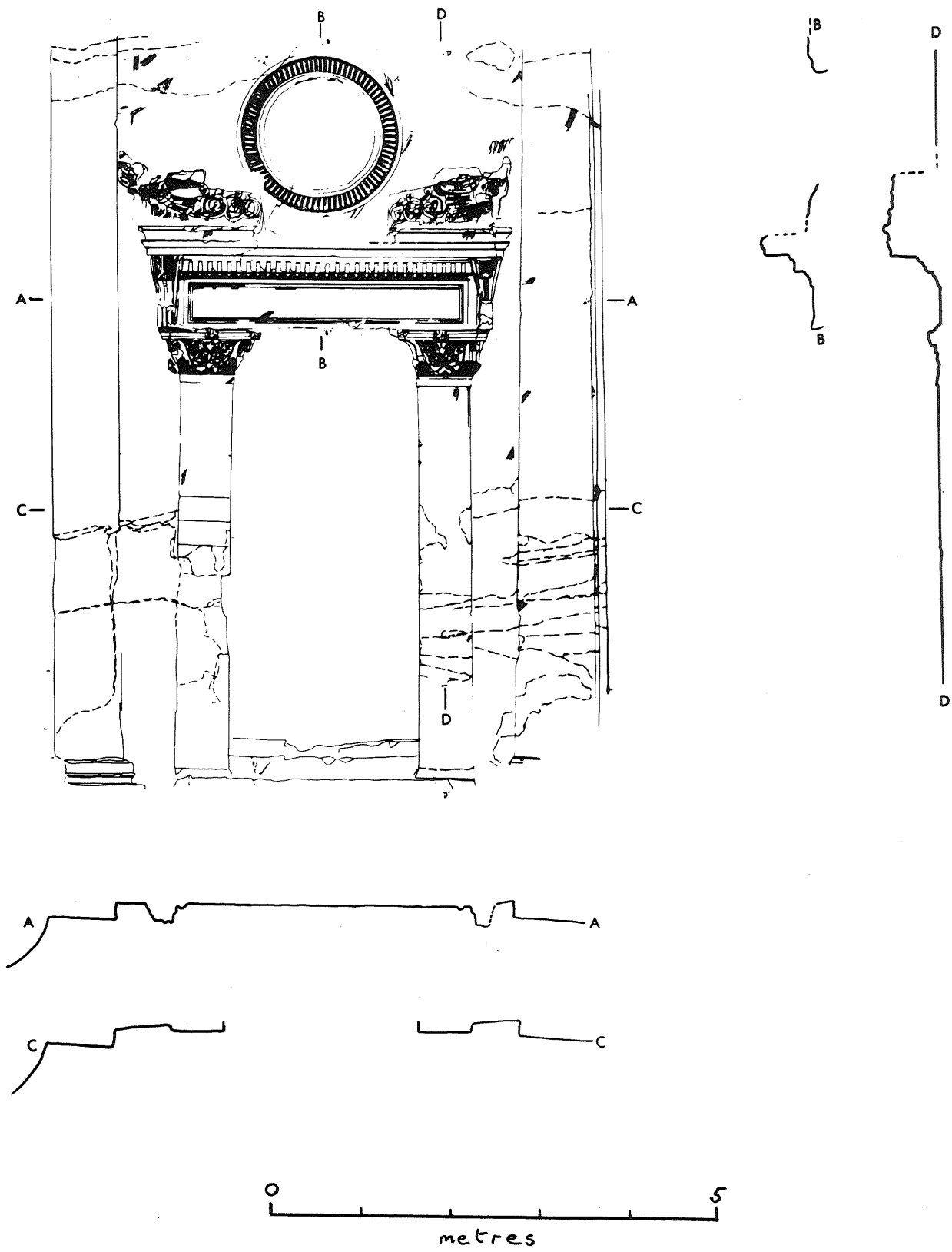


Fig. 2 : Treasury. Doorway of chamber on southern side of Vestibule

vestibule of the Khazneh (Br. 62). In this example the architectural features are well preserved, and plotting firm detail in elevation (from Galileo-Santoni camera photography on a Thompson-Watts Mk II) provides the most suitable method of presenting a record of the architecture. The original plotting scale was 1:25. The only drawback to the photogrammetric derivation of a measured drawing is that certain areas cannot be photographed because of protruding masonry. The main advantage is that measurements have an overall sympathy which it is extremely difficult to obtain by other means.

Plotting the elevation was carried out in a way which is analogous to mapping the ground from air photographs, though in this instance the datum plane was vertical instead of horizontal. The camera axes were inclined by  $+12^\circ$  during photography and that inclination was set on the plotting instrument ( $=0.20944$  rad) so that the elevation was plotted with respect to a vertical plane. Information on relief was then provided by means of sections A,B,C and D which correspond to the positions indicated on the elevation.

Some plotting instruments are provided with auxiliary devices which enable sections or profiles to be drawn directly. These have been developed because of their usefulness in engineering surveys. As the Thompson-Watts Mk II does not have this facility as a standard feature, it was necessary to use an alternative method of profile drawing. The desired section lines follow either the X or the Y co-ordinate axes of the plotting instrument and the instrument used was

fitted with automatic co-ordinate registration equipment. Consequently a series of points along any particular section line was recorded on paper tape which, with a suitable computer programme, could be used as input for a computer-drawn section at any desired scale. If the section line does not follow one of the instrument axes but is in an arbitrary direction, two instrument operators can maintain that arbitrary direction provided that one observes the photographs while the other controls the direction of observation though the plotting table controls. An additional computational step is then necessary to relate distance along the profile to be the recorded co-ordinates.

In many instances the tomb facades at Petra are heavily eroded, and in such cases the satisfactory plotting of elevations becomes more difficult. The elevation of the Tomb of the Roman Soldier (Br. 239) on (fig. 3) is an example of this kind. That part of (fig. 3) which shows only firm detail is not very informative, but the lower part of the figure, showing contour lines joining points of equal depth (isometrons) at 25 mm. intervals, seems a much more useful form of representation. Additional survey control was provided on the site itself. Plotting of the Wild phototheodolite photography was carried out on a Wild A5.

It is appropriate to include a note on the accuracy of drawings produced by photogrammetric methods. Provided that suitable control is provided, then overall dimensions are extremely reliable. Difficulties arise over points of detail when erosion, differences of lighting or the



obscuring of vision from one camera station may cause either misinterpretation or complete coverage. Reference has already been made to such unavoidable gaps. There are also features, such as columns, pillars and statues, which are extremely difficult to draw in two dimensions. An elevation which contains features like these will include areas which have been plotted to varying standards of accuracy. This difficulty cannot be avoided but, provided that these shortcomings are appreciated, the photogrammetric method will provide an excellent consistency in dimensions which could not be measured directly, either because they are so numerous or because they are inaccessible.

### III. DISCUSSION

#### 1. The Map

Apart from its primary purpose of recording the natural topography of the Nabataean capital, the chief archaeological importance of the contour map lies in the information it provides concerning the nature and positioning of the town walls. Dalman seems to have been the first to show fortifications on a plan of the site, namely a southern wall running in an approximately straight line from the southern end of el-Habis to the mountains behind the theatre, and a northern wall running parallel to this from the Wadi Abu 'Olleqah to near the Palace Tomb. Owing to the errors of scale already noted on Dalman's plan, the size and shape of the intramural area as planned by him are grossly inaccurate. Horsfield improved on Dalman as regards scale, and also added considerable further detail to the plan of the fortifications,

showing two lines (a 'First Wall' and a 'Second Wall') on both the north and south sides of the town. Both Dalman and Horsfield show the walls as continuous lines, the implication being that they are traceable on the ground throughout their entire lengths. This is certainly not the case today, and it is doubtful whether it was ever so. The 1964 ground survey revealed only disconnected stretches of walling along the presumed lines of fortification, and in many cases there was no certainty that even these were in fact parts of a defensive system. Horsfield's 'First Wall' on the northern side of the site and his 'Second Wall' on the southern were particularly hard to define. A full discussion of the evidence, including the results of excavation and the evidence for dating, must await final report of the British expedition's work, but a few remarks concerning the course of the defensive walls are in order here.

(a) **The southern walls.** Isolated stretches of substantial walling are discernible on the ground across the southern part of the site, between grid squares D12 and J15. The best preserved fragments are in H-J15, where the longest continuous stretch (including a short break in J15 which is almost certainly a postern gate) is some 140 m. long. Further west the fragments become shorter and the gaps between them correspondingly greater. Despite their massive nature it is by no means certain that all of these wall fragments are parts of a fortification; some could equally be parts of terrace walls or of large buildings, and only excavation can settle the point. However, the fragments plotted do



in general follow the natural line of defence on the south side of the city area, overlooking the Wadi Farasah, and there is every reason to believe that this line would have been fortified at some stage in Petra's history. These stretches of wall are clearly the basis for the line shown on Dalman's plan and for Horsfield's 'First wall'. As for his 'Second wall', higher up the slope, there is nothing on the ground which convincingly testifies to its existence today; the short pieces of walling approximately on this line are much more likely to be of a non-military nature, and are not shown on the new plan.

(b) **The northern walls.** Horsfield shows two walls on the northern side of the site. His 'First wall' follows the crests of Qabr Jumei'an and 'Arqub el-Hisheh as far as the 'Tower Sanctuary' (or 'Conway High Place'), where it turns through 90° to run down to the Wadi el-Mataha. This it crosses by means of a great re-entrant angle, before making its way to the eastern cliffs below el-Khubtha, just beyond the tomb of Sextius Florentinus. Horsfield's 'Second wall' follows a shorter line, from a point on Qabr Jumei'an where it supposedly branches from a tower on the 'First Wall', straight across the Wadi el-Mataha to the cliffs near the Palace Tomb.

One of the most important results of the recent work on the northern town walls by the British expedition has been to show that Horsfield's First and Second Walls are not connected, there being no bifurcation on Qabr Jumei'an. There

are, instead, two separate defensive systems which, for the sake of convenience, may be called the Inner and the Outer Walls.

**The Outer Wall.** The logical point to begin a description of the Outer Wall is with the so-called Tower Sanctuary or Conway High Place (grid square N5), which, as the writer has shown elsewhere,<sup>18</sup> is a massive fortification (and so better termed the Conway Tower) guarding the routes into Petra from the north along wadis on either side of the er-Ramlah ridge. A fine stretch of town wall some 19 m. long, exposed first by Horsfield in 1929<sup>19</sup> and systematically excavated by the British expedition in 1964 (Plate XI), joins this tower on the south west, and further in the same direction various masonry fragments and rock cuttings permit the restoration of an 'indented trace' fortification.<sup>20</sup> At a point about 60 m. from the Conway Tower, however, the evidence ceases, and there are no indications of a wall running (as Horsfield supposed) further along the crest of 'Arqub el-Hisheh. Where excavations have been carried out along this crest (Trench V, in grid square L6) the structures exposed are entirely of a domestic nature. Moreover, further still to the south-west, in square L7, excavation has also shown that his First Wall does not exist, and that there is no junction of First and Second Walls. It thus seems certain that there is no town wall along this ridge except in the immediate vicinity of the Conway Tower. Before discussing the implications of this it is advisable to look at the situation on

(18) *Révue Biblique* LXIX, (1962), pp. 64-79.

(19) *Q.D.A.P.* VII, (1938), pl. xiv/2.

(20) *Révue Biblique*, LXIX (1962), planche 1, and pp. 68-69, 74-75.

the other, south-eastern, side of the Tower.

Although there is today no town wall adjacent to the Tower on the southeast side comparable to that on the southwest, surface indications make it clear that such a wall originally existed, at least as far as a small bastion on the very edge of a rocky scarp some 25 m. from the Tower.<sup>21</sup> South and south-east of this bastion, on the precipitous slopes of the Wadi el-Mataha and its northern branch the Wadi en-Nasara, there are no surface remains, either in the shape of masonry or of rock-cut foundation trenches, to support Horsfield's postulation of a 'First Wall'. (As we shall see below, the re-entrant angle shown by Horsfield as belonging to his 'First Wall' actually belongs to our 'Inner Wall'). In grid square P7, in the angle formed by the confluence of the two above-mentioned wadis, there are the remains of part of a large rectangular structure, at least 30 m. long, while on the opposite side of the Wadi el-Mataha, in squares N-09, are more massive walls, some of them belonging to another rectangular structure (observable dimensions c. 50 x 20 m.) consisting of two long parallel walls with a series of cross-walls. None of these structures and wall fragments seems to be precisely on the line of Horsfield's First wall, but it is possible that they formed the basis of his plan.

From the above account it will be seen that the surviving remains of the Outer wall are by no means so obvious on the ground or so continuous as Hors-

field's plan suggests. In fact, the only undoubted fortifications in this part of the site are the Conway Tower itself and its immediately adjacent curtain walls and bastions, on the very summit of 'Arqub el-Hisheh, and the problem now arises of the nature of the defensive system into which this Tower complex fitted. A wholly satisfactory solution to this problem is impossible without further survey and excavation, but some suggestions might tentatively be made.

The site of Petra has, very obviously, been subject to enormous erosion since its abandonment; the fact that the defensive walls on either side of the Conway Tower are traceable in part only by means of their rock-cut bedding trenches is testimony enough. It is possible, therefore, that a town wall did originally exist east of 'Arqub el-Hisheh on approximately the line of Horsfield's First Wall, from the Tower to a point near the tomb of Sextus Florentinus. The slopes it would have traversed are steep and are exposed to the violent winds and rains which are common in Petra; all traces of a fortification wall might easily have been removed. Even so, it is not easy to explain why, had there originally been a wall on this line, there are not more convincing signs of it in the Wadi el-Mataha itself or on the less steep ground in front of the Florentinus tomb, especially in view of the fact that (as we shall see) remains of the Inner Wall (Horsfield's Second Wall) are well preserved on similar terrain further south. Final proof of the validity, or otherwise, of this stretch of Horsfield's 'First Wall' can only come from

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(21) *Ibid.* especially pp. 72-74.

excavation, but on present evidence it seems possible, even probable, that a continuous wall as shown by him never in fact existed.

To the west of the Conway Tower the position is different. As we have argued, there is no evidence for a town wall on the crest of 'Arqub el-Hisheh except in the immediate vicinity of the Tower, and the surviving depth of deposit is enough to prove that erosion cannot account for its absence. A possible solution is that the town wall here followed a line comparable to that which Horsfield postulated for the wall south-east of the Tower; namely, directly (or, more probably, diagonally) down the north-western slope of the ridge towards the bottom of the Wadi Abu 'Olleqa and so to the cliffs at the foot of Jebel Mu'eisrah esh-Sharqiyah. There are one or two indications on the ground that this may have been the case. At various points on the slopes, especially in grid squares K-L 5-6 but elsewhere also, there are fragments of walling substantial enough to be defensive, while in square K 4-5, in the bed of the wadi, there are massive foundations of a building which, though too obscure to be planned in detail, might well be a fort or gate-tower. However, the doubts that have been expressed concerning the line of the outer wall east of the Conway Tower, apply here on the west also; the fragments of wall in squares K-1 5-6 could as easily be terrace walls as fortifications while the structure in K 4-5 seems more likely an isolated feature than part of a continuous defensive system. In short, on neither

side of the Conway Tower is there clear evidence for a continuous line of fortifications, and it seems possible that this Tower, with its flanking curtains and bastions, is simply an isolated strongpoint, crowning 'Arqub el-Hisheh, and relying on its dominating position to defend the northern approaches to an otherwise (at this period) unwalled city. On this theory, the steep western and eastern slopes of the Hisheh ridge would have provided a sufficiently effective natural barrier for much of the distance across the northern part of the Petra basin. The two wadi beds (Abu 'Olleqa and el-Mataha) would have been obvious weak points, however, and would have required special treatment, and it may well be that the massive structures visible in grid squares L 4-5 on the one side and in P7 and N-0 9 on the other, are the remains of isolated redoubts similar in function (though not in plan) to be the Conway fortification.

It is worth nothing at this point that a similar situation may have pertained on the southern limits of the city where, as we have mentioned, the recent field work has also failed to reveal convincing signs of two continuous lines of fortification (above p. 40).

In this connection it will be remembered that Horsfield records<sup>22</sup> the presence in the bed of the Wadi es-Siyagh west of el-Habis (in approximately grid sq. A 9-10) of an isolated 'fort', in precisely the same relative position to this route into Petra from the south and west as the structures we have described in grid

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(22) Q.D.A.P. VII, (1938), p. 4.

squares K 4-5, P7 and N-0 9 are to the northern routes. There is, of course, no evidence that the Siyagh fort and the northern 'redoubts' are contemporary with one another or with the Conway Tower, but it is at least a possibility.

If this interpretation is correct, then at the time of the Conway Tower the Petra basin was defended by a system of individual redoubts located at strategic points controlling the natural approaches to the site. The Conway Tower itself was one such redoubt, though with the addition of short stretches of curtain walls and secondary bastions, forming as it were 'wings' to the Tower, which no doubt gave added protection to the defenders. Certain features of these curtains and bastions, in particular their 'indented trace' and their method of construction in short unbonded sections, have been mentioned on a previous occasion<sup>23</sup> as being in the tradition of Hellenistic military architecture, and in the final report further analogies will be adduced to show that the idea of defending a site not by continuous walls but by isolated watchtowers and strongpoints is also typically Hellenistic. The implications of these matters for an understanding of the process of Hellenization of the Nabataeans will also be considered in the final report.

**The Inner Wall.** The course of the Inner Wall on the north of Petra presents far fewer problems than does that of the Outer. It forms essentially two sides of a triangle, the apex being on the high

ground of Qabr Jemei'an (grid square L7), at the spot where Horsfield showed the bifurcation of his First and Second Walls. South-eastwards from here the wall is marked by a fairly obvious, though discontinuous, line of foundations running down the slope towards the Wadi el-Mataha, and then across to the cliffs just north of the Palace Tomb.<sup>24</sup> The precise manner in which the crossing of the wadi was achieved is not clear on the ground, but on the southern side of the wadi, in squares M 9-10, a great re-entrant angle is visible (already mentioned as having been attributed by Horsfield to his First Wall). The plan of this re-entrant, and its position astride a modern path leading into central Petra, make it probable that a gateway exists at this point, perhaps the main entrance to the city on this side. The spot would well repay excavation.

The western part of the northern Inner Wall is less easy to trace; the corner in grid square L7, some fragments in K7, and an excellent stretch some 60 m. long in J8 (Plate XII) are all that are certain,<sup>25</sup> but they are sufficient to show that the course is much as Horsfield suggested and as the topography required, namely, along the crest of the Jemei'an ridge, overlooking the Wadi Abu 'Olleqa. The main uncertainty concerns the termination of the wall towards the centre of the city. Horsfield believed it to end at a square structure (in grid square G9 but not shown on the present plan) on the northern bank of the Wadi

(23) *Révue Biblique* LXIX, (1962), p. 77.

(24) Excavations in grid squares L 7 and J 8 showed that the Inner Wall cut across earlier houses, and incorporated some of the walls of these in its own structure. These earlier buildings are probably of the 1st century BC,

judging from an initial study of the pottery, but unfortunately the levels contemporary with the Inner Wall itself were eroded, and it is not certain that the precise date of its construction will be ascertained.

Musa, directly opposite the Qars el-Bint, and this structure does indeed mark the end of the ridge. It is, however, as Horsfield himself noted,<sup>25</sup> perhaps a cistern rather than a tower, and there are certainly no signs today of the twon wall joining it or, indeed, approaching anywhere near it. It might be more logical to suppose that the wall turned westwards at some point along its course, perhaps at the knoll in grid square 18 where there are the remains of a small tower, and made for the lower slopes of Jebel Mu'eisrah esh-Sharqiyah, thus protecting the city from attack along the Wadi Abu 'Olleqa. But if this is the case it must be admitted that there are no signs of such a line of fortification of the ground.

From the above descriptions of the Outer and Inner fortification systems on the northern side of the Petra basin it will be clear that the Inner Wall, unlike the Outer, forms a continuous trace of conventional type, and encloses a much smaller area of the site than does the Outer. The implications of this change of character in the military architecture of Petra will be further discussed in the final report.

## 2. The Façades

As has been stated (p. 35) the work of plotting the data pertaining to the tomb façades has not yet been completed, and it is premature to comment in any detail upon the archaeological results or the value of the exercise. Some of the strengths and weaknesses of the photogrammetric method, already referred to in Part II of this article, may however, be stressed. First, its greatest value is certainly the ease and rapidity with which

the overall design, dimensions and proportions of the façades can be accurately drawn. Moreover, when several façades are photographed at one time from precisely related base lines, the locational siting of the façades, both horizontally and vertically (in several tiers up a cliff face, for example) can be mapped with an accuracy not previously achieved. The resultant data should be of immense value for a study of the distribution of the various types of tomb façade in Petra, which is badly needed.

On the other hand, the problems of plotting the architectural detail of the façades must not be minimised. As has been mentioned, erosion, differences of lighting conditions and the obscuring of vision, especially when the cameras are tilted, all play their part in making the final drawings far less than perfect. The very accuracy of measurement that it is possible to achieve with the plotting machines is perhaps itself a disadvantage at times, since it leads to a recording of irrelevant detail (imperfections of workmanship, flaws in the stone, etc) which if not recognised and allowed for by the plotter, can obscure the essential features of the design being studied. In this, as in most other branches of archaeology, the work of recording and interpretation must inevitably take place simultaneously, and it would seem that the techniques and skills of the photogrammetrist will not, in Petra, wholly replace those of the more conventional student of architectural history, armed with drawing board, tape measure, and flexible rule.

P. J. Parr, K. B. Atkinson,  
and E. H. Wickens

(25) Q.D.A.P. VII, (1938), p. 7.



# The 1974 Season of Excavations at Tell Ḥesbân

Lawrence T. Geraty

The fourth season of excavations took place at Tell Ḥesbân between June 26 and August 14, 1974. The results of the previous three seasons of work were briefly reported on by the expedition director, Professor Siegfried H. Horn, in *ADAJ* as follows: the 1968 season: XII-XIII (1967-68) 51-52; the 1971 season: XVII (1972) 15-22; the 1973 season: XVIII (1973) 87-88, and XIX (1974) 151-156. 1

Again, the excavations were chiefly sponsored by Andrews University (Berrien Springs, Michigan) with the full cooperation of the Department of Antiquities<sup>2</sup> and the American Center for Oriental Research in Amman.<sup>3</sup> Other supporting institutions were Calvin Theological Seminary (Grand Rapids, Michigan), Covenant Theological Seminary (St. Louis, Missouri), Grace Theological Seminary (Winona Lake, Indiana), Hope College (Holland, Michigan) through the

Kyle-Kelso Archaeological Fund, and the Graduate School of Loma Linda (California) University. Financial support came also from a number of private donors and for the loan of several tents from the Youth Authority, the expedition is indebted to His Excellency Prince Raad Zeid Hussein.

## Staff

For the 1974 season of excavations, S. H. Horn was succeeded as director by Lawrence T. Geraty, also of Andrews University, though Professor Horn acted as senior advisor and object registrar. Other core staff members again included Roger Boraas of Upsala College, chief stratigrapher and coordinator of specialists; James Sauer of ACOR, chief ceramic typologist and Area B supervisor; Bastiaan Van Elderen of Calvin, advisor and Area A supervisor; Bert DeVries of Calvin, chief architect-surveyor; Øystein

1 The fuller official preliminary reports for each season have appeared in **Andrews University Seminary Studies (AUSS)** and **Andrews University Monographs (AUM)** edited by R.S. Boraas and S.H. Horn: the 1968 season: **AUSS VII** (1969) 97-239 and **AUM II** (1969); in addition to these, A. Terian published the coins in **AUSS IX** (1971) 147-160; and E.N. Lugenebeal and J. A. Sauer, the pottery in **AUSS X** (1972) 21-69; the 1971 season: **AUSS XI** (1973) 1-144 and **AUM VI** (1973); in addition to these, R.G. Bullard published a study of the geology of the area in **AUSS X** (1972) 129-141; J.A. Sauer, the pottery in **AUM VII** (1973); and A. Terian, the coins in **AUSS XII** (1974) 35-46; the 1973 season: **AUSS XIII** (1975) 101-247 and **AUM VIII** (1975); the 1974 season will appear in **AUSS XIV** (1976) and **AUM IX** (1976) and

it is on the various manuscripts prepared for it by area supervisors and other specialists that this report is based.

2 The expedition is grateful to Mr. Yacoub Oweis, Director-General of the Department of Antiquities, for the excavation permit, for the loan from his staff of Mr. Muhammad Murshed Khadija, and for numerous courtesies extended throughout our stay in Jordan.

3 The expedition recognizes its sense of obligation to the Amman Committee of the American Schools of Oriental Research for its support and particularly to Dr. Bastiaan Van Elderen, then Director of ACOR, for the loan of equipment and the services of Mr. Muhammad Adawi, and for his constant help throughout the season.

LaBianca of Brandeis University, zooarchaeologist and ethnographer; and Hester Thomsen of Greater New York Academy, pottery registrar. New core staff members included Larry Herr of Harvard University, Area D supervisor; Robert Ibach of Grace, survey supervisor; Harold Mare of Covenant, Area C supervisor; James Stirling of Loma Linda, tomb and anthropology supervisor; Paul Denton of Andrews, chief photographer; and Harold James of Andrews, geologist. Sabri Abbadi, Mahmoud Rusan, and Muhammad Murshed Khadija were the very valuable and cooperative representatives from the Department of Antiquities--the latter archaeologist serving also as foreman.

Altogether there was a staff of 75 members of — 85 from overseas (United States, Canada, Britain, Denmark, Norway, Australia, New Zealand, and Indonesia) and 17 from Jordan, among whom the archaeology students from the University of Jordan were Abdel Samia' Abu-Dayya, Samir Ghishan, Rose Habaybeh, Zeidan Kafafi, and Mujahad Muhaisin (the other Jordanian square supervisors were Adib Abu-Shmais, Omar Daud, Nabil Qadi, and George Terzibashian). This large group was housed at the Amman Training Centre for Palestinian Refugees, <sup>4</sup> located between Amman and Tell Ḥesbân (Pl. XIII:2). Approximately 150 other Jordanians were hired as laborers, the majority of them coming from the village of Ḥesbân.

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<sup>4</sup> The expedition tenders its thanks to Mr. John W. Tanner, Director of UNRWA Affairs, Jordan, and to Mr. Husni Ayesh, Principal, Amman Training Centre, for their gracious

## Objectives

Objectives of the 1974 season included completing, if possible, the excavation of the Byzantine church on the acropolis of the tell (Area A); this involved locating the narthex at its western extremity (Pl. XIII:1). On a level shelf of the tell to the south (Area B), more work needed to be done before what looked like a water reservoir could be confidently claimed as such. Especially the 30 cm.-thick plaster "flooring" found 9 m. down in one square had to be connected up with the 16 m. stretch of continuously plastered retaining wall and cut bedrock in adjoining squares to the east (Pl. XVI:1). This same area contained the best hints of the earliest occupational evidence so far discovered at the site -- Iron I (12th-10th centuries B.C.); these hints begged for further excavation. Between Areas A and B lay Area D, the southern access route to the acropolis. In addition to reaching bedrock in its squares and exploring several unentered storage cisterns, an important goal was to connect stratigraphically, if possible, its monumental stairway discovered in 1973 with the Area B plaster layers found in 1968 and 1971 and subsequently interpreted as resurfacings of a roadway or plaza. Our primary objective in Area C on the mound's western slope was to clarify the extent of previously uncovered Iron Age and Roman fortifications.

Since a great variety of Roman and Byzantine tomb types had been discovered

hospitality in allowing the staff to use a portion of their facilities as expedition headquarters.



in the Areas E and F cemeteries in 1971 and 1973, we hoped in 1974 to locate tombs from the Iron Age. We also planned several soundings elsewhere on the tell and in its vicinity (Area G) to see whether their archaeological history would agree with that already discovered on the upper part of the ancient mound where excavation from previous seasons had been concentrated.

In 1973 we began an archaeological survey of the countryside within a 10 km. radius of Ḥesbân that included the tracing of the Roman road from Tell Ḥesbân (Esbûs in Roman times) to Tell er-Rameh (Roman Livias) in the Jordan valley. Another objective of the 1974 season was to complete this survey and then to sound one of Ḥesbân's ancient satellite communities in order to test the validity of the survey team's method of suggesting the occupation history of a given site on the basis of potsherds collected from its surface.

A final important goal of the last expedition was to allow for increased collection of scientific data (pollen, seed, shell, soil, rock, etc.) as well as the rigorous processing of this data both at the site and after the season was over. This goal included expansion of our zooarchaeological and ethnographic research.

#### Discoveries

As usual, these many objectives for the new season were only partially realized. The narthex of the Christian church in Area A proved as elusive as it did in the 1973 season and mostly for the same reason: it was apparently covered by an

extremely well-preserved Mamlūk building complex consisting of several corridors and rooms (Pl. XV:2) and a bath house that was (as it turns out) only partially excavated in 1973. Unexpectedly the team assigned to these squares in 1974 spent most of its time uncovering what proved to be the front half of the bathing establishment founded on what was probably the southern half of the church's narthex (Pl. XIV:1). Other Area A discoveries of 1973 whose excavation was completed in 1974 included an Umayyad *ṭabun* (Pl. XV:1) and an underground storage complex of three circular 3.5 x 2 m. cavities which may have been used for the storage of wine in jars.

Work in Area B confirmed the presence of a huge water reservoir, though the crew working there was not able to complete excavation all the way to the reservoir's bottom along the eastern wall. We were successful also in laying bare extensive remains there from the Iron I period between two relatively vertical faces of bedrock. Considerable additional evidence of post-Iron Age periods also came to light in Area B: a Late Hellenistic industrial use of an earlier cave; from the Early Roman period, beautifully tooled podiums associated with the roadway layers identified earlier, dry storage cavities in bedrock, and *ṭabuns*; and in Square D.4, a vaulted room, cave, and tunnel from the Mamlūk period. In order to achieve the stratigraphical connections we desired between Areas B and D, a new square was opened in 1974 which should be deep enough after another season's work to provide the information we need.

Work in Area C successfully uncovered more of the Iron Age and Roman city fortifications (Pl. XVI:2), but further excavation is required to see their full extent; a Mamlūk domestic complex of rooms and courts continued to emerge in the eastern sector of the Area (Pl. XVI:3). The finds in Area D clarified a number of stratigraphic problems associated with loci in and around bedrock — three squares each produced a storage cavity cut into bedrock, and one complete Late Roman subterranean room was excavated in Square D.2 (Pl. XVII:1).

Though several new Roman and Byzantine tombs were found and excavated (including sealed Early Roman Tomb E.6 not disturbed by robbers in recent times and Early Roman Tomb G.10 sealed with a rolling stone (Pl. XX:1) but plundered through the roof by modern robbers), most of them were not excavated in our attempt to locate earlier tombs or cave burials; in this endeavor, so largely a matter of chance, we were unsuccessful. Our soundings (Area G) in several spots around the tell confirmed the occupation history already disclosed on the acropolis; hence no evidence for Sihon the Amorite's period (pre-1200 B.C., the Late Bronze Age) came to light. The 72 x 49 m. depression east of the tell across the main road proved to be a reservoir with two use phases, first Byzantine, then Mamlūk.

The survey team was able to complete its work, adding 22 new sites to the 103 discovered in 1973 making a total of 125 archaeological sites within a 10 km. radius of the tell. They also added the discovery in the Jordan Valley of an ad-

ditional mile of the ancient Roman road that ran between Esbus and Livias. The 20,000 sherds gathered from the 125 sites yield interesting occupation patterns for the Ḥesbân region: intensive occupation in the Byzantine period (pottery attested at 108 sites), heavy occupation in the Iron (91 sites) and Roman (79 sites) periods, medium occupation in the Ay-yūbid/Mamlūk (49 sites), Early Bronze (46 sites), and Modern (30 sites) periods, but comparatively light occupation in the Umayyad (17 sites), Hellenistic (14 sites), Ottoman (13 sites), Middle Bronze (9 sites), Chalcolithic (9 sites), Late Bronze (3 sites), and 'Abbasid (2 sites) periods. The latter half of the season was spent pursuing the survey team's second objective: sounding a satellite mound to test the validity of their method. For this they chose Umm es-Sarab (G.8), a small hill (known to C. R. Conder as Umm Askak) at the head of the Wadi Hesban, 4.5 km. north of Tell Ḥesbân proper. Though Bronze Age sherds had been found in surface sherding this site, they were found only in mixed contexts when digging. Only Byzantine and Early Roman strata were found in the two 2 x 6 m. trenches that were completed to bedrock. In the earliest stratum were two articulated adult (c. 25 years old) burials in the soil as well as a child burial found in a blocked rock-cut recess. The ratio of sherds from the various periods found while digging proved to be the same as the ratio found in the surface survey, suggesting the soundness of the survey team's working hypothesis: sherds collected from the surface with sufficient thoroughness reflect a site's occupational history.

Hundreds of scientific samples were taken from important loci (seed—obtained through a simple field flotation procedure inspired by Robert Stewart—pollen, carbon shell, and other organic data, soil, rock, and other inorganic data). Most of these were brought back to the United States for analysis and results will appear in the full preliminary report. Our zooarchaeologist worked out a system of processing and analyzing bones right in the field; more than ten thousand were then registered on data input sheets for computer analysis. Our ethnographic research concentrated on describing and understanding the physiography, demography, social organization, economy, and material culture of the present-day village.

To describe the results of this last summer's excavation in greater detail, we will start from the earliest occupational evidence at Tell Ḥesbân and proceed to the most recent.

**Iron I Period.** The earliest evidence of occupation attested on the mound so far dates back to the Iron I age (12th-10th centuries B.C.), the Biblical period of the Judges. In 1973, Areas B and C, the areas farthest down the slopes, produced Iron I soil layers, but in 1974, in Area B, Iron I architecture was also found in association with them. In a 4 m. deep, 13 m. long depression, fissure, or channel between two slabs of bedrock lay a major fortification wall built of rough, tightly fitting boulders which, because of its size and construction, could have served to defend the Iron I city (Pl. XVI:1). And a large plastered cistern in Area D was probably Iron I since its

water-laid silt layer contained only Iron I sherds.

**Iron II Period.** Until 1974, there remained a gap for our occupational evidence between the 10th and 7th centuries B.C., but in the last season a corpus of sherds from the 9th/8th centuries B.C., or early Iron II period, may have been stratigraphically isolated in Area C. The same type of pottery (red wheel-burnished, but no black) was then found in small quantities in Area B when the upper courses of the eastern header-stretcher wall of the huge water reservoir were dismantled (Pl. XVI:1). The adjective "huge" may be justified by the fact that we know the reservoir is at least 16 m. long, 11 m. wide, and 5 m. deep; how much larger than that only future digging will reveal. And the fact that this unusual structure is a reservoir can no longer be doubted after the season's discovery of its complex hydraulic system. Whether the probable 9th/8th centuries B.C. date applies to the construction of the reservoir or only its repair, we cannot now be sure. In any case, since it appears to be within the ancient city, one cannot help but be reminded that Biblical Heshbon was famous for its pools by the gate of Bath-rabbim (Canticles 7:4).

**Iron II/Persian Period.** Previous excavation has shown that the Iron II/Persian period is well represented at the site (again primarily in Areas B and C)—both by soil layers and impressive architectural remains. The reservoir was filled (after a period of abandonment, in the Late Hellenistic period) with soil containing masses of 7th/6th centuries B.C. pottery. From this fill have come

several ostraca in previous summers and the summer of 1974 was no exception: an early 6th century B.C. four line ostrakon turned up; the latest of our Ammonite inscriptions, it is an inventory mentioning (according to Professor F. M. Cross) figs, beast of burden, and ropes (Pl. XVIII:1). Another rare find in this fill was a .07 m. long metal needle preserved from its point to its eye.

In 1973, in Area C, we found a major 7th/6th centuries B.C. wall laid on a rock ledge against a higher shelf of bedrock with another buttress wall placed against it at a right angle. In 1974 we found an extension of that wall to the south; we can also connect up to its northern end a wall extending into an adjoining square to the east that was excavated in 1968. It is quite possible, then, that we have now found the Iron II/Persian city's zigzag defense wall on the tell's western slope.

**Late Hellenistic Period.** Like so many other towns in Palestine during the 6th-4th centuries B.C., Tell Ḥesbân, too, seems to have been abandoned. In fact it apparently was not resettled until the 2nd/1st centuries B.C., probably by the Maccabees. As already stated, it was during this period that the water reservoir was covered with a deep fill belonging to the 7th/6th centuries B.C. But our primary evidence from this period, known archaeologically as Late Hellenistic, is a whole series of usually bell-shaped (often interconnected) storage cavities (or wine cellars?) cut into bedrock in Areas A, B, and D. Our geologist informed us that the unplastered pits could not have been cisterns since their rock sides were too

permeable, so their exact use awaits further study. Enigmatically, two of these pits yielded 35 pyramid-shaped (loom?) weights (Pl. XVII:2). Another interesting subterranean installation was found in the floor of an Area B cave: a 20 cubic meter circular pool perhaps for industrial use. Its Late Hellenistic silt fill produced a very clearly inscribed Rhodian jar handle whose potter's date stamp mentions Aristeidas, a name known to have belonged to a priest of Rhodes in both the early 3rd and early 2nd centuries B.C. (see J. W. Crowfoot, *The Objects from Samaria*, London 1957, pp. 379, 381). From the pottery and coin evidence, we know ours to have belonged to the latter century.

**Early Roman Period.** From the 1st century B.C. to the 2nd century A.D., when Hesban was known as Ebus, extensive building activity must have taken place since such widespread evidence of it has been found. Apparently belonging to this period is the impressive acropolis perimeter wall built on bedrock and excavated in Area D during the 1971 and 1973 seasons. Another installation built on bedrock, this time a high stone tower with a paved flagstone floor and a formal entrance on the west, continued to be uncovered in the two westernmost squares of Area C (Pl. XVI:2). Abundant evidence for domestic occupation during this Early Roman period comes from a complex of Area B caves found in bedrock and the exterior soil surfaces associated with them. Connected with the latter was a fine series of ceramic *tabuns* or baking ovens. Previous reports have described the long sequence of plaster layers and their soil make-up found throughout Area

B which began in this period and continued without interruption on into the Byzantine period. They have been interpreted as a series of roadbeds for foot traffic, or plazas. In 1974 two corner stretches of curbing stones, perhaps for podiums, were found in association with the earliest of these Early Roman plaster layers in the northwest corner of Area B. The high quality workmanship on the podiums as well as their position may indicate they were the bases or pedestals for shrines on the southern approach to the acropolis. Further north on this approach, in Area D, rock-cut "Cistern" D.3:57 produced 55 full pails of Early Roman sherds and almost a thousand registered bones—all from the first half of the 1st century A.D.

Across the Wadi Majjar, to the west of the tell, lies our Area E, a Roman/Byzantine cemetery. An unusual Early Roman tomb was carefully excavated there in 1974. Lying on the forecourt immediately in front of the entrance, which was closed with a rectangular stone and caulked shut, a unique double-spotted black Herodian lamp with central (broken) handle was found (Pl. XVIII:2). Though two slightly damaged cooking pots were found *in situ* in the unrobbed tomb, to our great surprise no skeletal remains, either whole or decomposed, were discovered. Could this unexpected phenomenon (absence of bones, but presence of vessels damaged enough only to make them inutile) point to a Roman cult practice for the dead?

In addition to the three Early Roman burials already mentioned that were excavated by the survey team at Umm

es-Sarab (G.8) 4.5 km. north of Tell Hesban, there was one further important Early Roman burial site discovered just northwest of the mound (G.10): a family tomb sealed with a rolling stone (Pl. XX:1). Like the first rolling stone tomb discovered in 1971 in Area F, this one had first been broken into by modern tomb robbers. Though they left the interior in disarray, careful work produced a beautiful gold earring, a perfectly preserved bronze fibula, a glass bottle, three Herodian clay lamps, and a Nabataean coin dated to the reign of Rabbel II (A.D. 71-106)—a fact that suggests, despite the opinion of some, that this type of tomb postdates the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 (Pl. XX:2). This argument may be bolstered by the architecture of the tomb which appears to be typologically more advanced than the 1971 tomb: vaulted ceiling, "picture" moulding around the walls, isosceles-triangle lamp niches within circles on the wall, and the mixture of loculi and arcosolia for burials. Another interesting feature of the new tomb was the fact that the rolling stone's track was cut entirely out of solid rock as opposed to the 1971 tomb where the outside wall of the track was artificially built up. Bones from at least 12 persons (both male and female) were found, ranging in age from infants to the elderly. So far, these two tombs at Hesban are the only known representatives of the rolling stone type east of the Jordan River.

**Late Roman Period.** The archaeological evidence suggests that Esbus continued to thrive during the 2nd-4th centuries A.D. Though further excavation is ne-

cessary to tell for sure, it is possible that during the Late Roman period a pagan temple adorned the acropolis; at least several imposing walls from this period in Area A may now be so interpreted. The temple would have been oriented toward the east, preceded by a paved platform and a stylobate wall that would have supported four columns. This temple may appear on the rare Elagabalus coin minted at Esbus ca. A.D. 220, examples of which were found at Ḥesbân in 1973 and 1974. Leading up to the temple from the south was the monumental stairway discovered in Area D in 1973. Beneath this stairway an entire Late Roman room (or subterranean basement) was excavated in 1974—all four walls and the doorway being intact and bed-rock serving as the floor, though one wonders what happened in two of the corners which were cut into two of the subterranean Hellenistic storage cavities already mentioned (Pl. XVII:1). A sobering object found here from this period was a lead flogging head, still covered with sharp points that could inflict serious wounds when applied in the Roman manner.

**Byzantine Period.** The most noteworthy architecture on the mound from the 4th-7th centuries A.D., or Byzantine period, is the basilica-type Christian church in Area A excavated largely in previous seasons. A further attempt was made in 1974 to locate its narthex but as has been mentioned, it was apparently covered with the Islamic bath to be described later. To the south of the church (in Area D), further excavation was carried out beneath the adjoining flag-

stone paved courtyard which indicated a Byzantine date for this imposing structure (though it may well have been repaired in the Umayyad period since a nicely inscribed Byzantine cross was found). A Byzantine object from Area C worthy of note is a Greek ostrakon that came from a Byzantine soil and rock fill inside the Early Roman tower already discussed. Unfortunately it is broken and contains only two and a half Greek letters, possibly the genitive ending of a proper name. The major 1974 discovery from this period came in a long-noticed depression next to the wadi across the Na'ur-Madeba road east of the mound (G.5) where another huge water reservoir (72 x 49 m.) and its embankments were sounded in six trenches. The floor of the reservoir was a fine layer of cement with a cobblestone and cement foundation. A second layer of cement may represent a much later (Ayyūbid/Mamlūk) use. These cement layers ran up to the reservoir's four walls constructed of squared stones set in cement and at least partially battered against their respective virgin-soil embankments. The positions of the stones in the upper preserved courses of the walls would indicate the reservoir's usefulness may have come to an end with an earthquake.

**Umayyad Period.** The only installation of note excavated this past season from the Umayyad period, 7th/8th centuries A.D., was found cut through one of the Byzantine church's mosaic floors in Area A: an unusually well preserved ceramic *tabun*, 2 m. in diameter and 1 m. deep, complete with a stone and plaster built pipe opening into its western side which

may have served either as a flue or as an aperture through which fuel could be added (Pl. XV:1). Two beautiful glass weights came from Umayyad contexts—one from an adjoining square (Pl. XIX:1) and the other from G.6, a sounding on the tell's western slope. Each contains a short Islamic inscription (the *shahadah*) in early Arabic script.

Though 'Abbasid occupation from the 8th/9th centuries A.D. has been uncovered in previous seasons, nothing of significance turned up in 1974.

**Ayyūbid/Mamlūk Period.** After a gap from the 9th to the 12th centuries A.D., Tell Ḥesbân was again settled by Arabs, this time in the Ayyūbid period (12th/13th centuries A.D.) which led without any apparent break at our site right into the Mamlūk period (13th/14th centuries A.D.). Though we are gradually making progress at separating the ceramic horizons of these two periods, they are so much alike that we have so far continued to lump them together. Each area on the mound has produced remains from these periods. In 1974, caves that showed use in the Ayyūbid/Mamlūk period were excavated in Areas B and F, while a very well preserved domestic housing arrangement from the same period was uncovered in Area C. From one of these houses came a ceramic base inscribed in Arabic with a broken text, "... *wa arba'ah* " ("...and four") (Pl. XIX:2). Another Ayyūbid/Mamlūk complex of (plastered) rooms—including one that was vaulted—was discovered in Area A at the western edge of the acropolis (Pl. XV:2). An additional structure pre-

serving an arch from the period was found in Sounding G.6.

The most interesting find from the Ayyūbid/Mamlūk period, however, is the well preserved Area A bath complex already mentioned. The northern half consisted of a furnace room, warm and cold water tanks located above and to the side of the furnace, a heated tile-floored bathroom containing a stone basin into which the water ran through pipes in the wall, and a hallway leading into the bathroom; these were all excavated in 1973 (Pl. XIV:2). The southern half remained to be discovered in 1974 and consisted of an audience room or lounge complete with plastered bench, platform, and niches for footwear, and an entrance hall entered through a fine threshold (Pl. XIV:1). Built of hewn stone, basalt and limestone tiles, and plastered throughout, the entire complex (14.5m. long and 5.5m. wide) is an example of fine workmanship. It is the first complete Mamlūk bath found in Jordan and since it is so well preserved (one wall preserved even to the height of the door lintel) the Department of Antiquities is making plans to restore it.

**Registered Objects.** Among the more than four hundred objects recorded from the 1974 season, and in addition to the ones already mentioned above, 37 legible coins (from the Ptolemaic, Maccabaeen, Nabataean, Phoenician, Roman, Byzantine, Umayyad, Ayyūbid, and Mamlūk periods), and 27 whole pots (7 from tombs and 20 from the tell proper—coming from the Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine, Umayyad, and Mamlūk periods) will

probably prove to be important. In addition to these objects, about twenty-three thousand sherds and over a thousand glass fragments of bottles, cups, bowls, and lamps were registered from every major period of habitation at Hesbân from the Hellenistic period on. Dr. Sidney Goldstein (of Corning Museum of Glass) who is studying these fragments has discovered ingots of gold foil sandwiched between two layers of glass which provide documentation for the technique of Byzantine mosaic gold glass

installation. Already mentioned were the more than ten thousand bones and hundreds of scientific samples now being studied. So far 11 species of molluscs (2 freshwater, 5 marine, and 4 terrestrial), 13 species of ancient flora (5 grains, 3 legumes, and 5 fruits), and 34 species of modern flora have been identified. Thus the 1974 season proved to be profitable both in terms of what was actually found as well as in terms of the job we now know remains. A fifth expedition is planned for the summer of 1976.

Lawrence T. Geraty



# Anthropoid Coffins From Raghdan Royal Palace Tomb in Amman

by

Khair N. Yassine

In April 1966 the Jordanian army, while bulldozing the grounds of the Royal Palaces in Amman, came upon what appeared to be ancient ruins. They immediately reported the find to King Hussein, who, in turn called in the Director of Antiquities, the late Dr. Awni Dajani. There then followed an excavation of the site, led by Dr. Dajani, and supervised by Asem Barghouti and M. Morshed Khadejeh. Unfortunately before the results of the dig could be published, the doctor met an untimely death. Moreover, his notes and preliminary reports were mostly destroyed in a flood which engulfed the department offices a few months later. In this report, I will use the scant material I managed to salvage from that flood.

The find proved to be an occupation settlement, dating from the Roman to the Islamic periods. In addition, a tomb which contained a number of Anthropoid coffins was found below one of the complexes. I have devoted my research to this tomb and its properties.

The tomb itself, was cistern-like in shape, having the following dimensions: mouth, 95 cm. in diameter; chamber, 145 cm. deep, 5.5 m. long, and 4.5 m. wide. The mouth, located at the center of the tomb, was well blocked with stones.

Five anthropoid coffins were found inside the tomb: four placed parallel to each other, and one perpendicular to them. All were in bad to very poor condition. Four were cylindrical ranging between 45 cm. in diameter at the bottom, and 65 cm. at the top. The length range was from 210 cm. to 175 cm. The fifth coffin was not kept because of its condition.

These reddish coffins were made of baked clay, with crushed pieces of pottery used as grits. They bore four handles on each side, which were evidently used in transporting the coffin (fig. 2, 3, 5, 6. Pl. XXI, XXII, XXIII, XXIV). The coffins fig. 3 Pl. XXII) had sixteen handles at the back, arranged in two rows. These seem to have served as legs to elevate the coffin when it lay down.

At the place where the head of the corpse would rest, a lid was cut out. There were four pairs of matching lug handles, one on the lid, one on the body, evidently placed to fasten the two parts together. On the exterior of the two of these lids were portrayals of the deceased (figs. 2, 3. Pl. XXI, XXII). Their noses were pointed, their eyes small and elongated, and their eyebrows were arranged in such a way as to connect up with the outline of the border of the

face. The ears were prominent and big, their lips small and straight and their beards were at a pronounce length.

The same two coffins had arms placed on the sides of the body. The other two, (figs. 5, 6. Pl. XXIII, XXII) displayed no features on their lids, nor did they bear any arms.

More than one skeleton occupied each coffin. some contained two, while other held three. One coffin (fig. 5) had a curious looking design.<sup>1</sup> I've assumed these to be only potter's marks. In addition, there were skeletons found in burial jars and around the coffins. In all, there were more than thirty skeletons in the tomb.

Pottery artifacts, bronze bowls, lamps and a cylinder seal were reported to have been among the finds. (I was unable to locate most of the material). studying the situation inside the tomb, I've concluded that it had been used as a secondary burial place. This hypothesis is supported by the pottery which ranged between the 10th and 7th centuries.

The discovery of anthropoid coffins in the vicinity of Amman leads naturally to a fuller study of this type of coffin found in nearby areas. Very few sites have shown this type of practice in Palestine and Jordan, however, from the evidence we have now, we can attempt to categorize them as follows:

(1) On one of the sherds of the coffin found in Sahab, is a curious incised design (W. Albright. *A.J.A.* 38 (1932) Fig. 2:8 Also the coffin found in Tumulus II in Tell el Yahudiyeh an M. design was incised upon headpiece

### **I. Cylindrical coffins with lids modelled in high relief with crossed arms on the lid.**

This type was found in Beth-Shan,<sup>2</sup> by A. Rowe (fig. 1: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5), and in Tell el Far'ah, south,<sup>3</sup> by Petrie, in his tombs 552 and 562 (fig. 1:10, 11). In 1938 two coffins of this type were discovered in Lachish,<sup>4</sup> in tomb 570 (fig. 9:8, 9).

This type showed the head, arms and hands, and the features of the deceased either moulded before the coffin was baked, or applied and worked bands of clay on the lid. Arm positions were mostly the same, beginning near the top of the head, and bending at the elbows. In only one (from Beth Shan, fig. 1:4) the arms were shown in a stylized way. Wigs were depicted on three coffin lids from Beth-Shan (fig. 1:1, 2, 3), one from Lachish (fig. 1:9) and one from Tell el-Far'ah (fig. 1:10).

### **II. Cylindrical coffins with lids modelled in high relief and arms modelled at the sides of the body.**

Two coffins of this type were found in Amman (figs. 2, 3) in the Royal Palace tomb. There was a great similarity between these coffins and one found in Sahab by Dr. Albright,<sup>5</sup> who was able to describe its lid only. All of these coffins had modelled features rather than having features formed by applications of lumps

before baking. (Neville and Griffith. *The Mound of the Jew* (1890) P. 43.

(2) A. Rowe. *T.H.B.S.*, P. 39.

(3) Petrie. *Beth-Palet I*, pp. 6-9, Pl. XXIV.

(4) Tufnell, O. *Lachish IV*, Pl. 45.

of clay. Too, their handles served as features as well as to fasten the lids to the bodies. There is also a remarkable similarity between them in their depiction of the beards on their lids (fig. 4 reconstructed).

This second type is so far restricted to Jordan, as it has not yet been found in Palestine, and must be a later development of type 1. The workmanship of these coffins confirms the theory that there were no known artists in the area during this period.

### III. Plain cylindrical coffin.

Two of the coffins found in the Royal Palace tombs in Amman (figs. 5, 6) were without reliefs. The lids had the four lug handles, with no indication of having been used for facial features, and there were no traces of arms. The eight transportation handles, four on each side of type II, are repeated here. Type II coffins are longer and wider.

### IV. Elongated box with rounded ends with lid covering the whole box.

This type was found in Dhiban in Jordan.<sup>6</sup> Only a small portion of the lid was found. Evidence of four handles, two near the top, and two near the bottom,

by which the lid could be removed, was evident. The face is depicted at one end of the lid. It is difficult to say whether or not the arms were depicted here, because this portion of the lid was not found. The depiction on the one end of the lid was done in more of an abstract than an artistic fashion (fig. 7)<sup>7</sup>

These distinctions of pottery coffins in the hilly part of Jordan and the hills and plains of Palestine might be applied as well to the tomb types in which these coffins were found. It is evident that the Palestinian tombs have similar plans. At Tell el Far'ah, "the access to the tomb was obtained by means of a stair case hewn in the rock, opening into a roughly square tomb-chamber. On entering into this chamber, one sees a wide bench formed by cutting away the rock in the middle so as to leave a T-shaped hollow, with the cross-bar of the T against the side in which the entrance is located. Two of the tombs had been enlarged by the addition of a smaller chamber also square in the rear".<sup>8</sup> The same appeared in Beth-Shan and Rowe<sup>9</sup> said that the graves very frequently would be broken into each other, and the hall has a rectangular recess. On the east and west are raised a step above the floor level of

(5) W. Albright. "An Anthropoid Coffin", *A.J.A.* Vol. 38, P. 297 (1932).

(6) R. Winnett and W. Beed. "The Excavation at Dhiban in Moab", *The Annual of the American School of Oriental Research*. Vol. 36-37 (1964), P. 58.

(7) Coffins similar to type 4 were found in Jerusalem dating to the second century B.C., but they did not bear the facial features depicted on the lids. (This material is not yet published. It was discovered by the Dept. of Antiquities in Shekh Jarah in Jerusalem, and in Jebel

el Hussein in Amman). These were found in a rectangular depression, and were not left just on the floor of the tomb. They were, however, quite the same as those of the 8th century B.C. and shows that this type of burial in clay coffins continued a longer time than is commonly assumed.

(8) Petrie. *Beth-Palet I*, P. 8, Pl. XIX London (1930).

(9) A. Rowe. *Topography and History of Beth-Shan*. Vol. I. (1930).

(10) A. Rowe. *Museum Journal* (Univ. of Penna.) Vol. XIII, P. 38.

the hall.<sup>10</sup> A similar group of tombs were found in Tabakat Fahel (Pella).<sup>11</sup> Lachish tombs are not quite the same, but the tombs of this type were found in the same site. In Jordan, the tombs of type II are cistern-like. The anthropoid coffins of the Royal Palace tomb in Amman contained more than one skeleton in each, while the reports on other sites failed to mention this detail. The question of whether mumification was really in existence at this time or not, is now raised.<sup>12</sup> In the Royal Palace tomb, it was clear that the bones were articulated and no evidence of mumification was found. Because the above mentioned coffins contained more than one skeleton each, it seems safe to assume the same for them as well.

The typological analysis seems to fall in a chronological sequence. It has been attested that the Lachish coffins dated back to at least the late Bronze Age, or the 13th century B.C.<sup>13</sup> Then the Tell el-Far'ah coffins, which Petrie mistakenly dated between the 14th and the 11th centuries. Since then, Albright has re-

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(11) Because the material of Tabaqat Fahel (Pella) dig is not yet available I am unable to describe the anthropoid coffins discovered there. These tombs in the east bank of the River Jordan, were dug by Sami Rashid, a former employee of the Dept. of Antiquities in Jordan, and I was able to visit the tombs while work was in progress. As far as I can recall, they were of type 1, and dated back to the Late Bronze Age these tombs were discovered in 1964. They revealed great quantities of imported Mycenaean pottery of the the late Bronze Age.

The graves were dug in a "hewar" rock at the belly of a steep mountain to the south side of the Seven Springs. They can be reached by a staircase hewn in the rock, leading to a square tomb's chamber. On both sides, the

examined the dates and has changed them to read the middle of the 12th century.<sup>14</sup> The Beth-Shan coffins were placed in the 12th to 11th centuries.

From the above dates, type I of the coffins falls between the 13th and 11th centuries. Even within this particular type, traces of an evolution in the workshop are evident. Without doubt, the lids from Beth-Shan (fig. 1:1, 2, 3) are more elaborate and exquisite than the one from Lachish (fig. 1:3, 4). They show two artistic schools: the realistic and the stylized (fig. 1:4).

Types II and III come after type one in the sequence. The tomb from Sahab was dated between the 10th and 9th centuries.<sup>15</sup> The Royal Palace tomb was dated between the 10th and 7th centuries. Since this tomb was used as a secondary burial place, type III coffins are smaller. It may be possible that type III is the second phase of the tomb (or vice-versa).

The Dhiban tomb J3 of the coffin type IV, was dated in the 8th century.

coffins were laid down. At the rear of the tomb's chamber, a smaller chamber was dug, containing one coffin.

(12) Dr. Pritchard found traces of mumification in his excavation of the tomb in Tell es' Sai'diyeh. James B. Pritchard. "New Evidence on the Role of the Sea Peoples:, **The Role of the Phoenicians in the Interaction of the Mediterranean Civilizations.** ed. by W. A. Ward (Beirut, American Univ. of Beirut). (1968) P. 108.

(13) Olga Tufnell. **Lachish IB** (Tell ed-Duweir) (1958) Pl. 45, P. 249.

(14) W. Albright. "Anthropoid Clay Coffins", **A.J.A.**, Vol. 38, P. 299 (1932).

(15) W. Albright. "An Anthropoid Coffin", **A.J.A.**, Vol. 38, P. 297 (1932).

If this supposition is correct, the chronological sequence would be as follows:

TYPE	SITE	DATE
I	Lachish	13th century
	Tell el-Far'ah	12th century
	Beth Shan	12-11th centuries
II	Sahab	10-9th centuries
	Royal Palaces	10-9th centuries
III	Royal Palaces	10-7th centuries
IV	Dhiban	8th century

This typological chronological sequence is based on the very types of coffins shown. It is quite possible future excavations will reveal further evidence to allow us to be more precise.

The problem now, as archaeology has implied, is to find the origin of these anthropoid coffins. Are they of local origin and is there any sign of foreign influence ?

The only coffins similar to the above were found in Egypt and in Nubia. Petrie and Naville<sup>16</sup> found similar coffins at Tell Nebeshah and Tell el Yehudiyeh<sup>17</sup> in the northern part of the Egyptian Delta. Albright was able to date Nebesheh coffins between the twelfth and the tenth centuries,<sup>18</sup> because of the pottery found in them. The coffins of Tel el Yahudiyeh, he said, were to be dated about the 12th century. The coffin lids of Tell el Yahu-

diyeh and of Tell Nabesheh were similar to those from Tell el Far'ah (south). In the Tell el Yahudiyeh tomb, Albright showed that it contained Palestinian pottery. His observation was that these coffins of foreign peoples in Egypt must have been made in imitation of native Egyptian pottery sarcophagi. A third site in which these coffins were found, was in the Aniba Lower Nubia<sup>19</sup> (fig. 1:4). With them was found a good quantity of Palestinian pottery.

Trude Dothan, in an article,<sup>20</sup> stated that headdresses like the one shown on the lid from Beth-Shan (fig. 1:1, 2, 3) are understood to have been worn by one group of the "Sea People", which an Egyptian artist of Ramses III shows the Pharaoh defeating on land and seas, in a famous battle sketched on the walls of Medinet Habu, in Upper Egypt. "The coffin tombs at Tell el Far'ah, Mrs. Dothan shows, are surely Philistine, and their pottery and objects have the eclectic background expected: Palestinian, Aegean and Egyptian influences mingling. Turning to the Yehudiyeh and Nebesheh tombs in the Egyptian Delta, and to comparable finds at Aniba in Lower Nubia (The Sudan), Mrs. Dothan indicates the same mixture of pottery types. She concludes therefore, that such features point to a common cultural background, probably explicable by the service of foreign mercenary groups in the Egyptian armies. Only in Palestine can these be identified

(16) Petrie, Murray and Griffith. *Tanis, Part II. Nebesheh Defenneh*. London (1888) pp. 20 f. Pls. I, III, XVI.

(17) Naville and Griffith. *The Mound of the Jew*. London (1890) pp. 5, 17, 42, 48. Pls. XII-XI.

(18) W. T. Albright. "An Anthropoid Clay

Coffin", *A.J.A.*, Vol. 36 (1932), P. 301-2.

(19) S. Steindorff. *Aniba I-II Hamburg* (1937).

(20) Trude Dothan, "Archaeological Reflections on the Philistine Problem", *Antiquity and Survival*. Vol. II, Nos. 2,3. (The Hague, Netherlands 1957). pp. 151-164.

with a definite ethnic group, i.e. the Philistines".<sup>21</sup>

From the unpublished material of Tabaqat Fahea, (Pella) I witnessed the discovery of the coffins, Egyptian scarab jewelery, beads, alabaster objects of different shapes of local and Egyptian origin in great quantities. In addition a good deal of Mycenaean pottery was unearthed. (This material is on display in the Jerash Museum, which is presently under construction). An imitation of the Mycenaean and locally made pottery was also found. Apparently the other tombs containing Anthropoid coffins had similar finds. Moulding of the facial features can be found in contemporary Egyptian art, the best example is at Serabit el Khedaim, in Sinai.<sup>22</sup> In conclusion, these tombs show a combination of Egyptian, Mycenaean, Sea Peoples (Philistines) influence.

Evidently, Trude Dothan's arguments to identify "type one" anthropoid coffins with representations of Philistines is a good argument. This came, however, before the discovery of the anthropoid coffins of the Royal Palace in Amman. I believe these coffins of types II, III, and IV are of local people. We can say that type I in this series might have been influenced by neighboring countries. From the "Sea People" country, vertical strokes on the Beth-Shan and Lachish lids, indicating the common "Sea Peoples" war headdress, and the plate of gold foil, <sup>23</sup> over the dead man's mouth (a custom reminiscent of burials at Mycenae, but also met surviving into the tenth century

at Tell Halaf). In addition, the great quantity of Mycenaean and Philistine pottery in some of the tombs (Pella, Tell el Far'ah, Beth-Shan) shows some evidence of a neighboring country's influence.

The Egyptian influence is clear by the depiction of facial features on coffins, the scarabs, alabaster vessels, amulets and other jewelery hieroglyphics written by local scribes on the Lachish coffin <sup>24</sup> is further proof of that influence. In speculating on the influences indicated by these coffins and the finds, it seems that these foreign elements were inspired by the local people. Apparently this inspiration is very clear and strong at the beginning of this practice, but in later periods, it weakens, as in types II, III and IV. In these types, the appearance of local peculiarities and traditions are emphasized such as the placement of the arms at the sides, the appearance of handles, and the disappearance of the facial features completely from the lid. There was also the disappearance of the vertical strokes.

I would assume that these burials were for the chieftans of the country, who were in a position to afford foreign imported materials (those found in Egypt were for those chieftans who lived in Egypt under the control of the Egyptian Pharaohs).

The contents of Raghadan Royal Palace tomb in Aman will be discussed in a Future Paper.

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(21) G. Ernest Wright. "Philistine Coffins and Mercenaries", *Bib, Arch.* Vol. XXII (1954) pp. 54-66.

(22) W. M. Pertie. *Researches in Sinai*. New

York (1906), Figs. 100, 103, and 104.

(23) A. Rowe. *T.H.B.S.*, (1930) Pl. 39:2.

(24) O. Tufnell. *Lachish IV* (1958) P. 132, Pl. 46.

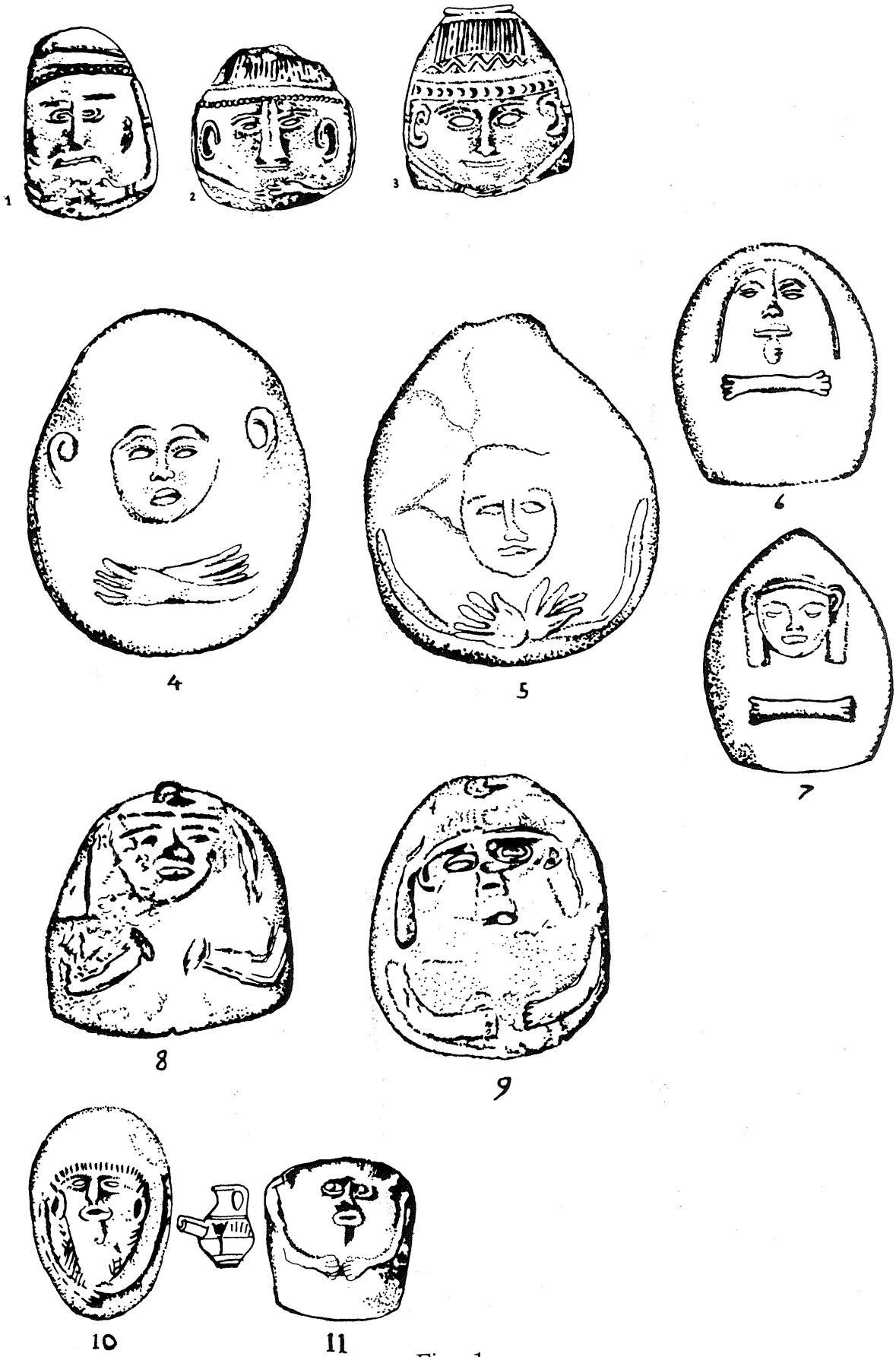


Fig. 1

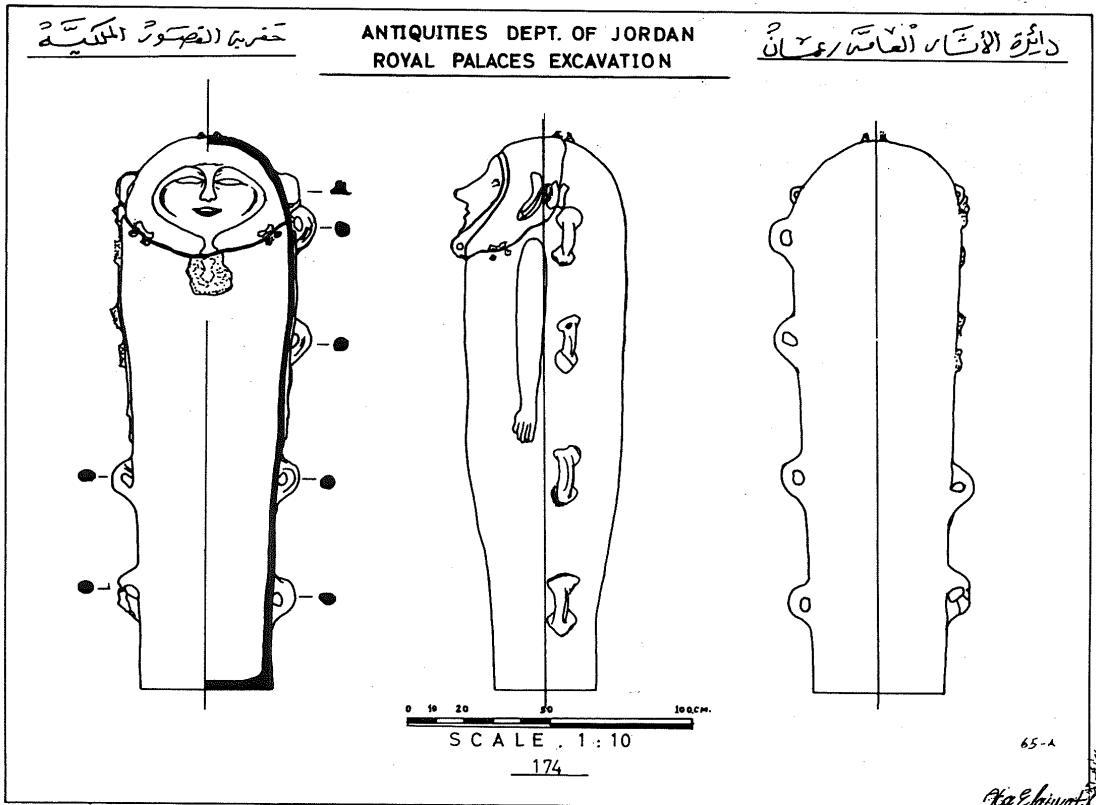


Fig. 2

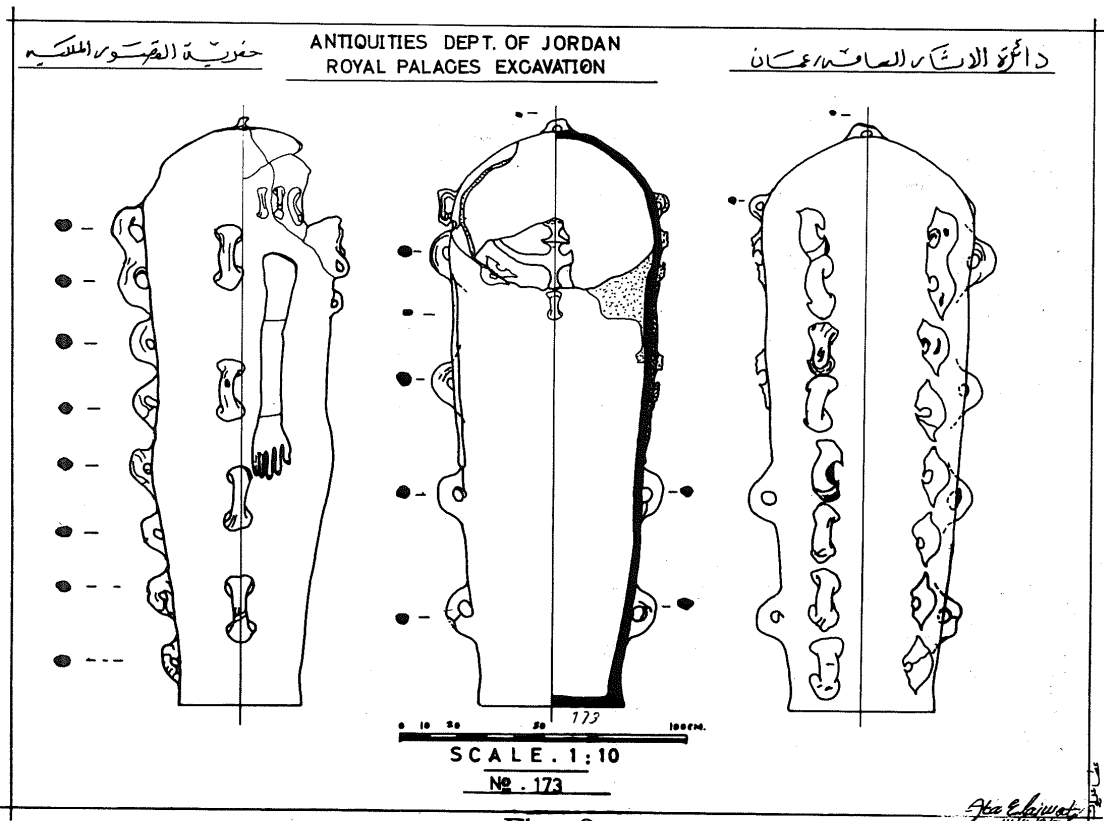


Fig. 3



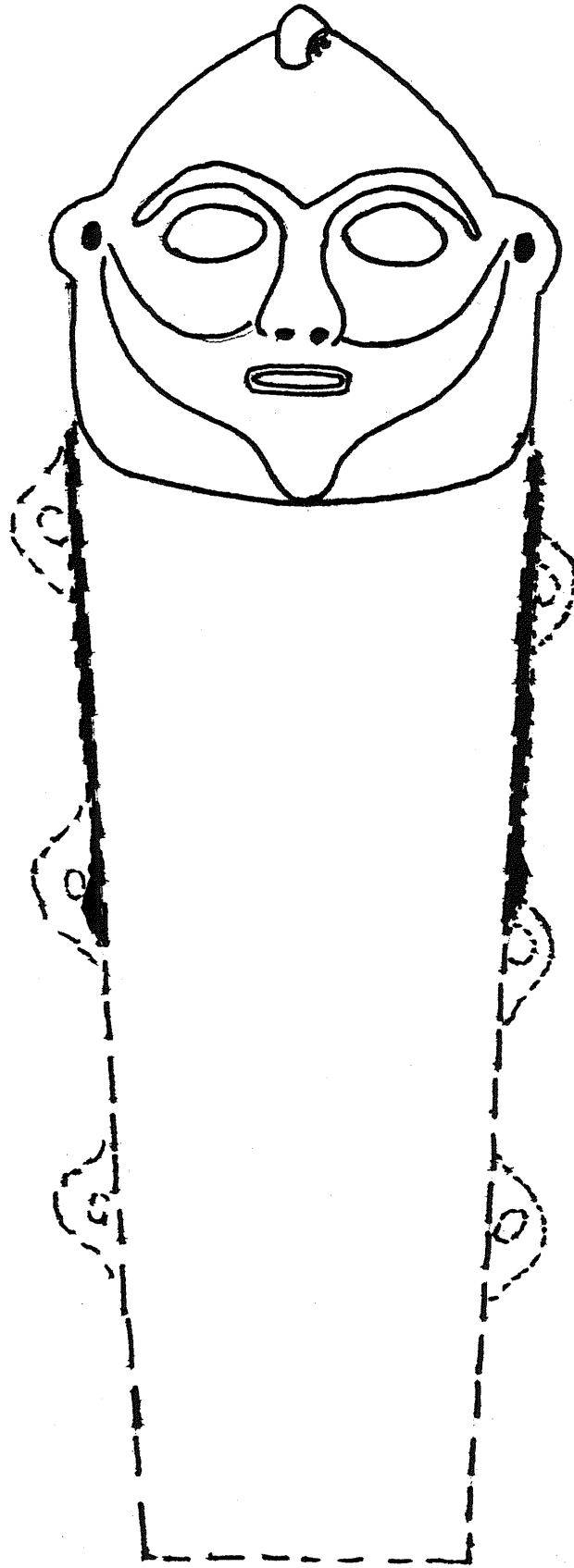


Fig. 4

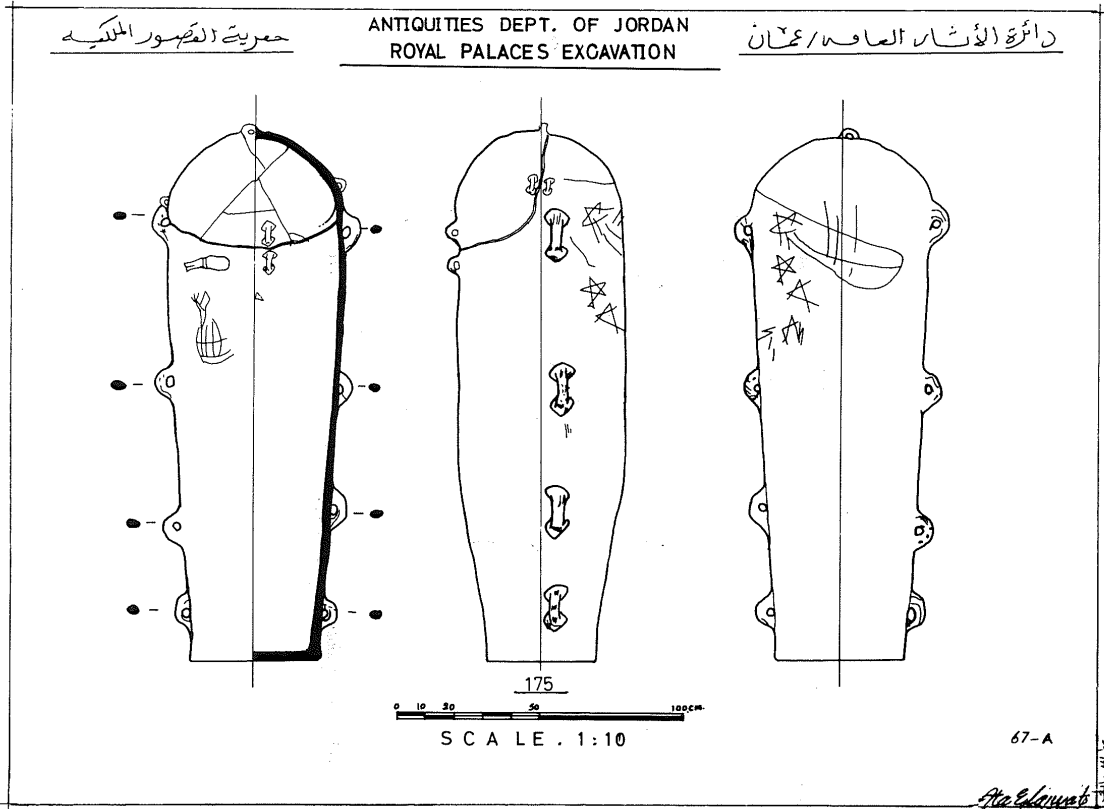


Fig. 5

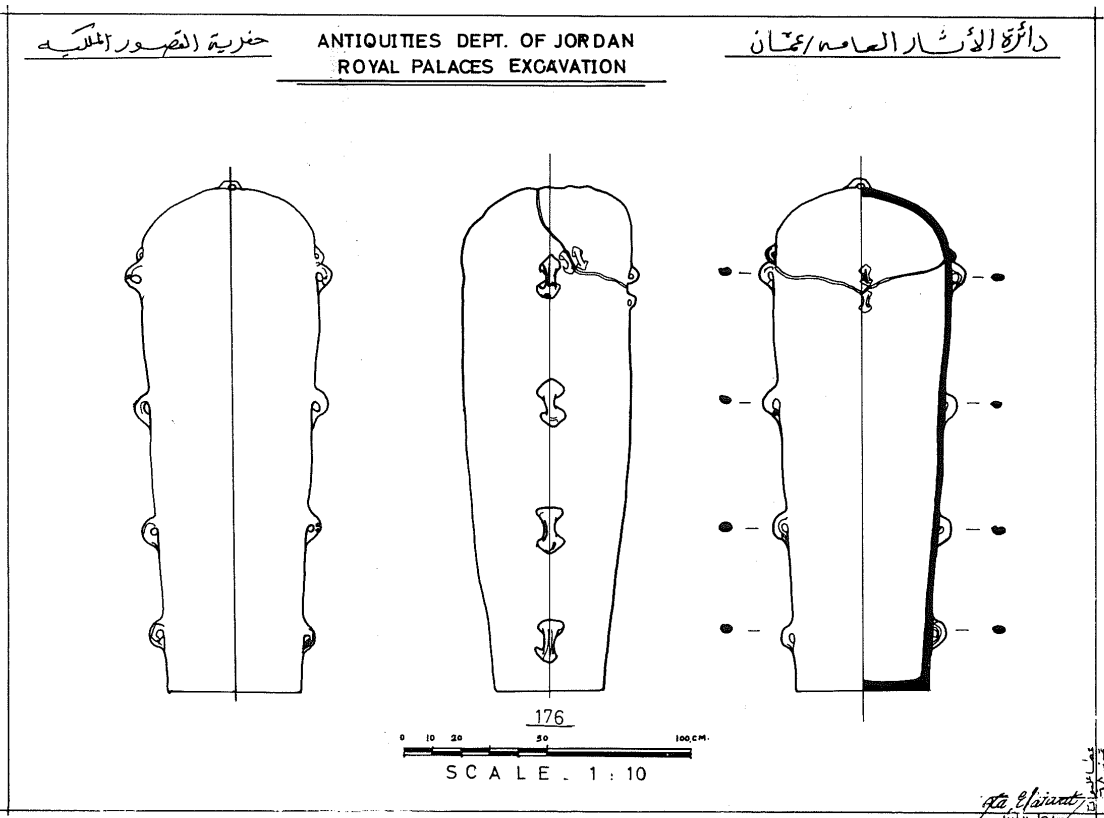


Fig. 6

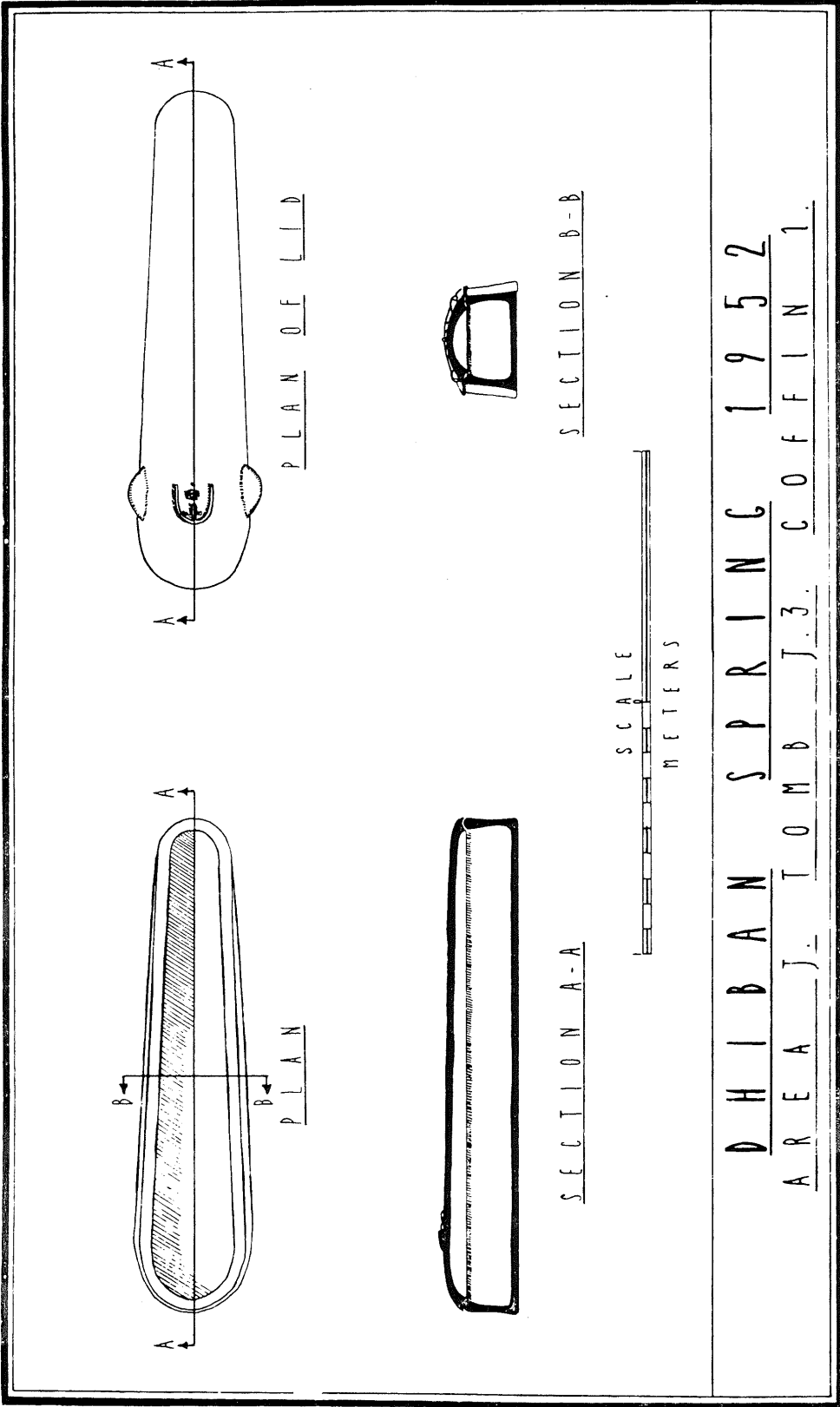


Fig. 7 : Detailed plan and sections of coffin and cover

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# Third Season of Excavations at Sahab, 1975

## ( Preliminary Report )

by

Moawiyah M. Ibrahim

The Department of Antiquities sponsored a third season of excavations at Sahab during the months of May and June under the supervision of the writer.<sup>1</sup> Sabri Abbadi, Muhammad Murshed Khadijeh, and Richard Dorsett served as Area supervisors. Kurt Langer de Polasky and Naim Ahmad were draftsmen. Wa'il Rashdan, 'Imad Dabbas, and Mahmud Ali Khalaf were in charge of pottery registration. Three men were trained at Jericho: Ayish Muhammad Isa, Sadiq Abdullah Abu-Khalaf and Ali Khalaf. Besides delineating clear stratification and balk trimming, they helped in pottery mending. Most of the 70 workers were hired from the town of Sahab.

The photographs were taken by Muhammad Murshed Khadijeh in cooperation with Sarkis Lepedjian and Abdul-Fattah el-Attar.

Abdul-Karim Ababneh, Architect of the Department of Antiquities, Remi Fenski and Barbara Atalla, two volunteers from the Friends of Archaeology, worked on a part-time basis.

The continuous support of Mr. Ghaleb Barakat, Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, and Mr. Ya'coub Oweis, Director General of the Department of Antiquities,

and his Assistant, Mr. Yousef Alami, made a great contribution to the success of the expedition. The assistance of Mr. Minwir el-Abdallah, Mayor of Sahab, and the people of Sahab is sincerely appreciated. Their understanding that we were trying to identify the importance of their ancient site through the ages created a fruitful cooperation for the progress of the work. The dig also benefitted from visits by several colleagues of the Department of Antiquities and other foreign institutions and expeditions working in the country.

### Excavations

During this season excavations were undertaken in three major Areas: B,D,E. From the large amount of Iron Age II pottery found scattered over the site, it has long seemed certain that there must have been occupation of Sahab during this period, but it was not until the '75 season that significant material was found.

Instead of extending further to the northeast the part of Area B that had been excavated during the 1972 and '73 seasons, circumstances obliged us to investigate part of the Iron Age II settlement concentrated in the middle of the site. The Municipality of Sahab was cut-

(1) Preliminary reports of the earlier seasons are published in: ADAJ XVII (1972), 23ff; XIX (1974), 55ff.

ting a modern street (running E-W) through the ancient site in its northern third, and as a result, a portion of the late Iron Age II architectural remains and deposits, in addition to a few modern houses, were destroyed by the bulldozer. It was necessary to lay out our trenches in the middle of the street right away, before it was completed. Thanks to the cooperation of the Ministry of Municipalities and Rural Affairs, and the Mayor of Sahab, the street-construction has been discontinued until the archaeological excavations are finished in this Area.

In Area D, a few new squares were opened. Two squares 4 X 4 m were excavated to the north of the Iron Age I building above the cave, which was partially excavated during 1973. More work in the cave itself provided better evidence about the nature of this cave. It was also planned to correlate with the main artificial mound, the Iron I building in this Area, which stands east of the major Iron I town. For this reason two separate trenches were cut on the gradual slope between the mound and the Iron I building. One was located ca. 30 m. to the west of the building, and the other was dug ca. 35 m still further west, on a small isolated mound close to the major ancient site.

Excavations in Area E were continued during this season to get evidence about the Late Bronze structure, and the much earlier Chalcolithic walls of domestic houses. The area excavated during the 1973 season was extended to the south by opening 3 new trenches (6 X 4 m) within the bulldozer cut.

## **Area B**

It was decided to excavate the area at one point where a cutting for a modern street had been made. Ancient walls and occupation layers were exposed. One of these walls was standing up to the height of 1—2 m along the southern side of this street. Four trenches 8X4 m were opened. Trenches I and II were placed immediately at the southern side of the street-cut, along a large standing wall exposed in the section of the cut. Later on it was proved that this wall belonged to an Iron Age II architectural complex. Trenches III and IV are located north of I and II.

Immediately under the street-cut surface there began to appear a complex series of rooms built of selected large and medium-sized stones. Several modern pits and walls were found within the ancient complex. These modern remains were isolated from the ancient occupation layers. The pottery and other artifacts found with this structure date from Iron Age II (about 7th century B.C.).

The southern side of the street-cut is about 2 m higher than the northern one. There are inhabited houses along both sides of the street-cut. This makes it difficult to extend excavations on the northern sides.

## **Iron Age II Complex (Figs. 1-2, Pl. XXV).**

The rooms of this complex are of different rectangular sizes built in a symmetrical way, and seen to have served as part of an industrial unit. All the walls uncovered were built in the same manner, of selected rough stones in the lower parts and sundried bricks on top, like

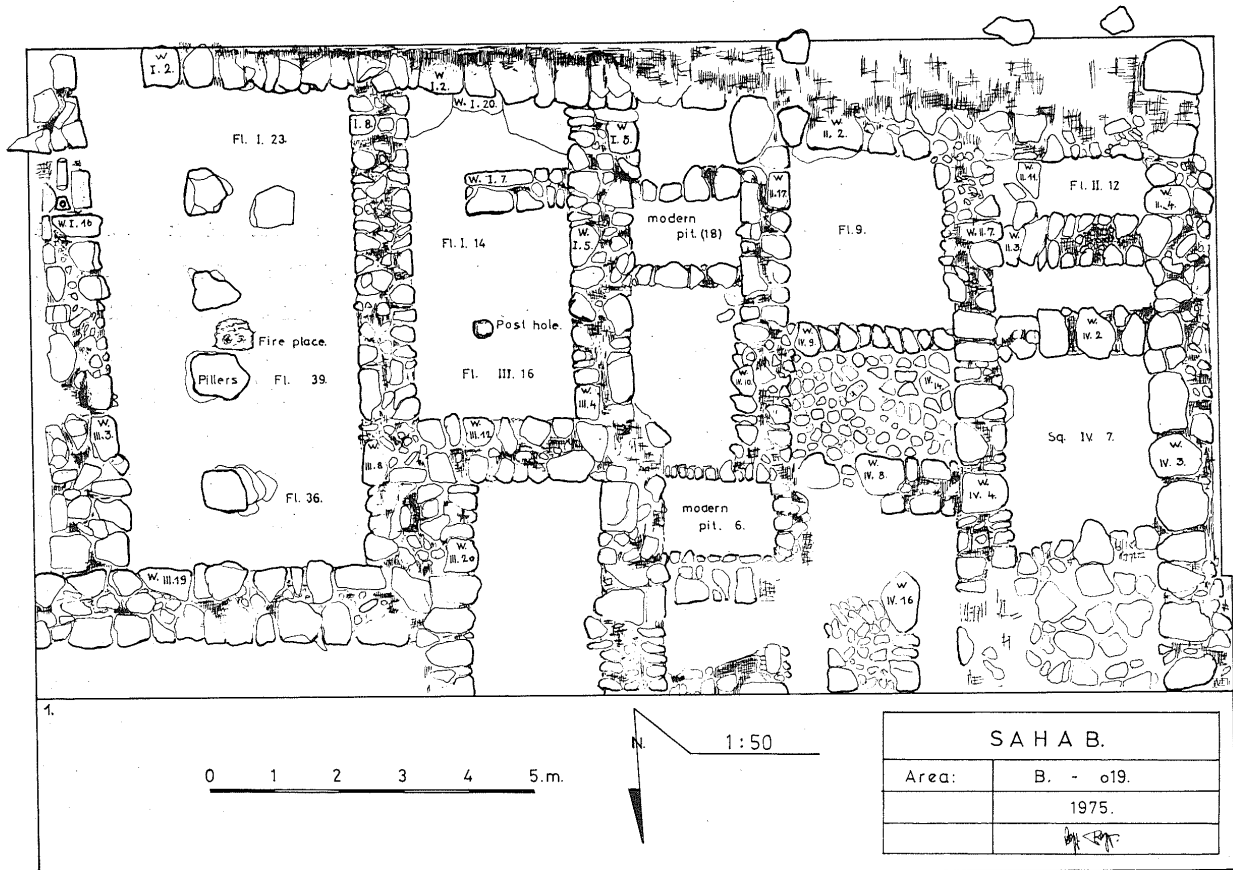


Fig. 1

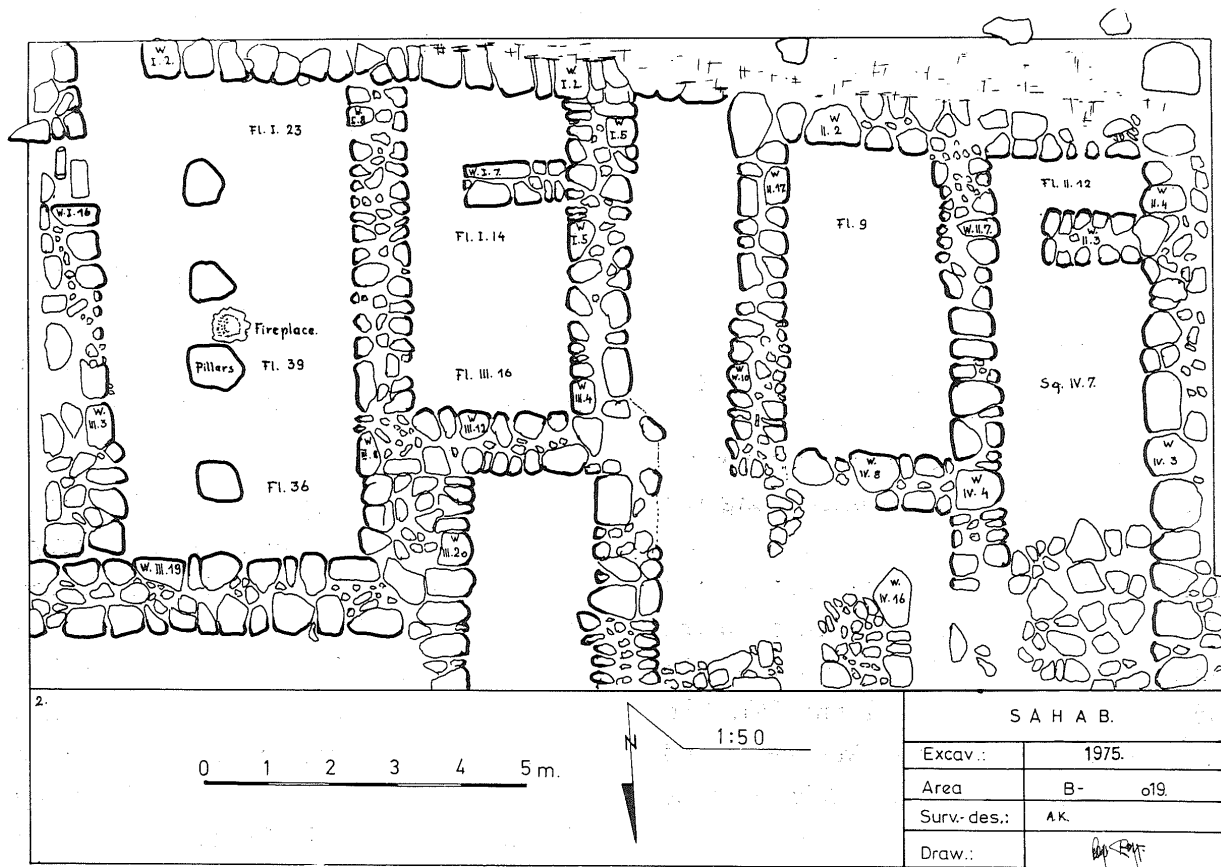


Fig. 2

those found in the room west of the "pillared room." They were set in a certain order beside each other, with the long side of the rooms towards N-S.

There is a street or a corridor (WI. 5, WIII. 4, WII. 17, WIV. 10) in the middle of the area excavated, dividing it into two equal parts. This corridor is interrupted by two modern pits (18.6). Pavement IV. 14 with walls IV 9. and IV. 8, as well as wall WIV. 2, were added at an indefinite later period. The floors were similar in all rooms. They were made of a hard brown soil-layer 2-3 cms thick. Immediately under this floor was another earlier floor, in which foundation trenches for the uncovered walls were cut. This lower floor, which is of pink color mixed with white huywar, served as a bed for the upper floor. No dating evidence or walls related to the lower floor were found during the season.

The northern part of the complex needs further work so as to clear the nature and shape of the northern rooms.

The largest and most interesting of the rooms in this complex was a spacious rectangular "pillared room"  $7\frac{1}{2} \times 4$  m. (Pl. XXV. 1), in which four supporting pillars of big stones were built along the central length (N-S) of the room. Two of these pillar-stones, one above the other, were preserved. Two entries in the southwest corner of the room, one at the end of each wall, (WI. 2 and WI. 16), were identified. A door socket was found in the doorway of WI. 16. This doorway (Pl. XXV : 2) 1 m. wide, was blocked by

stones, among them a cylindrical leveling stone.

The floor of this room is of hard-packed brown soil. In the center of the floor a circular fireplace made of stones and mud was excavated. An amount of carbonized seeds lay gathered beside it. Flour-like powder covered the top of the floor. A number of grinding and polishing tools, made of basalt and limestone, were found, along with a basalt stone carved like an abstract votive figurine to represent a deity, (Pl. XXIX) and half of a steatite scarab. No conclusion will be given about the function of the room, though the presence of the abstract votive figurine may indicate that it had a cultic function. This proposal needs further digging and research, but in any case this room seemed to be a public one. Judging by the artifacts found in the other rooms (see below), there is no doubt that the whole complex had an industrial function.

There are just a few examples of the "pillared house" excavated in East Jordan. A series of pillared houses from the Iron Age II were excavated at Tell es-Sa'idiyyeh in the Jordan Valley, and Crystal Bennett excavated a very similar structure at Tawilan near Petra.

However, this type of room has been excavated in a large number of Palestinian sites, especially at Tell Beit Mirsim, Tell el-Far'ah Tell el-Qadi (Hazor), Tell en-Nasbeh, Tell el-Mutassallim (Megiddo), Jericho and others. Most of these examples were considered in various discussions, including two articles by Y. Shiloh.<sup>2</sup> I would like to discuss the

(2) Y. Shiloh, *IEJ* 20 (1970), 180ff, fig. 1-5; *EI* 11 (1971), 277ff.



development of this house-type after completing excavations in this area. At least one point could be mentioned, that the examples found within the Ammonite and Edomite regions do not fit with the conclusion of Shiloh: "The four-room plan was thus used as a standard plan for buildings of very different function within the Israelite City," though the present author may agree that the known examples do not necessarily have the same function.

Another room on the west side of the "pillared room" measures 5 X 2-5 m with no identified entry way. Walls WI-2, WI-8, WI-20, WI-5, WI-12 belong to this room. Wall WI-7 (1-5 m) divides the room into two parts leaving an entry way. The smaller part to the south, (ca. 1 m. wide) contained two elongated cylindrical bottles (Pl. XXXIII) similar in shape to the bronze bottle with the Ammonite inscription found at Tell Siran northwest of Amman. A nicely-made bone tool with pointed end (Pl. XXXII) was also found here. The northern part, three times larger, contained a rounded post-hole in the middle, and numerous objects such as : fragmentary storage jars with one rim bearing an inscribed letter (Pl. XXXII); sun-dried mud brick of large size; burnt or carbonized wood pieces; flour-like powder; pyramid-and round-shaped loom weights; (Pl. XXXII) a spindle whorl; a small fibula made of bronze (Pl. XXXII); several grinding and polishing tools made of stone and basalt; including a miniature table (Pl. XXIX), and a pottery tripod (Pl. XXXIV 1-2).

The mixture of these different finds suggests that this room was used either

as a workshop or for storage, probably related to the pillared room.

The situation in the corridor between Walls WI. S, WIII. 4 and WII. 17, WIV. 10, is not yet very clear. It is 1.5 m wide and excavated to a length of about 8 m. Two modern rubbish and drainage pits 1.5 m deep with walls on the sides were dug through the ancient corridor, destroying part of the Iron Age II walls. The two rooms west of the corridor were interrupted by secondary walls, WII. 11, WIV. 2, WIV. 9 and pavement IV. 4 between walls WIV. 9 and WIV. 8. Loom weights were found, a stone tripod, and an excellent collection of stone and basalt objects including grinding and polishing tools, and a nicely-grooved basalt bowl (Pl. XXXI).

The pottery found in this area (Pl. XXXIII) is typical of the late Iron Age II, especially in the region of Amman. The red-and-black highly-burnished slip and band-slip inside and outside the bowls and platters is very common. Some of the bowls have profiled rims and shallow disc-bases. Variants of the bowl have a small flat base and rounded walls. Painted specimens with dark thin bands on the in-and outside, covering the rim, are well-represented. Storage jars are of the ovoid shape with thickened overlapped rim and two handles.

The two elongated bottles (Pl. XXXIII) show an exaggerated length and short pronounced neck. The tiny nobs were placed below the neck. There are traces of black horizontal bands on reddish-brown surface. The Iron II Sahab inventory, including these bottles, have

good parallels among tombs groups found in Amman and Megabelein. One tomb group from Amman was dated through a seal which bears the text: "to Adoni Nur the servant of Aminadab. 3 A striking comparison is the Bronze Bottle which bears a complete Ammonite inscription, found at Tell Siran, 6 kms northwest of Amman. 4 The name of Aminadab is repeated twice on the Siran bottle. The two Aminadabs date within the seventh century B.C. This date would fit with the Assyrian records and the seal of Adoni Nur.

This type of bottle was considered by Olga Tufnel, Rudolph Dorneman and others as a reproduction of alabaster vessels. 5 A more detailed study will be discussed elsewhere.

#### Area D. Cave

Work was continued inside the cave under the Iron Age I building. Better evidence was found about the nature of the cave. A trench was excavated in the west side to bed-rock, above which a thin irregular floor of hard-packed reddish soil was uncovered. A thick, ashy layer mixed with charcoal on this floor reaches a height up to 30 cms. The gap ca. 2 m between this layer and the cave ceiling had been filled with loose brown soil mixed with small stones. This fill seemed to have been accumulated after the Iron Age I building on top was deserted.

(3) PEFA VI (1953), fig. 23:126-130; see also Lankester Harding, Two Iron Age Tombs from Amman, QDAP XI (1945), 72:38; *ibid* An Iron Age Tomb at Meqabalein, QDAP XIV (1950), pl. XVI:13-16.

(4) Henry O. Thompson and Fawzi Zayadine, Tell Siran Inscription, BASOR 212 (Dec., 1973),

Pottery found in the fill and the ashy layer is mixed: Chal/EBI, Iron I and a few Iron II. The cave had apparently been cleaned to the original floor, the part excavated so far shows, and reused probably as a shelter or for storage purposes by the builders of the Iron I house. The excavators have no doubt that the cave was originally inhabited during the Chalcolithic/EB period.

The main entrance to the cave during this early period was in the west side. A well built wall, 1.80 m. high (Pl. XXVI) of large and medium stones, was built against the mouth (entrance) of the cave. The situation here, especially the shape of the cave and the wall at the entrance, reminds one very much of the inhabited caves found in Area A and B at Sahab (ADAJ 17, 1972). This is another example which shows that cave-habitation was wide-spread over different parts of the site.

#### Area D O 14. (Pl. XXVI, Fig. 3)

This Area was expanded to include one 4 X 8 m square (No. 4) on the north part of squares 1-3, excavated in 1973. It was excavated to an occupation floor above bedrock. The extension of main Room I was found under the balk between Squares 3 and 4. This wall, partially under the northern section, extends almost parallel to the southern wall of Room I. There is a regular gap between

5ff, fig. 1.

(5) O. Tufnel, PEAF VI (1953), 68; Rudolf Dornemann, The Cultural and Archaeological History of the Transjordan in the Bronze and Iron Ages (Dissertation of the University of Chicago, 1970), 148f, fig. 39: Type 19.

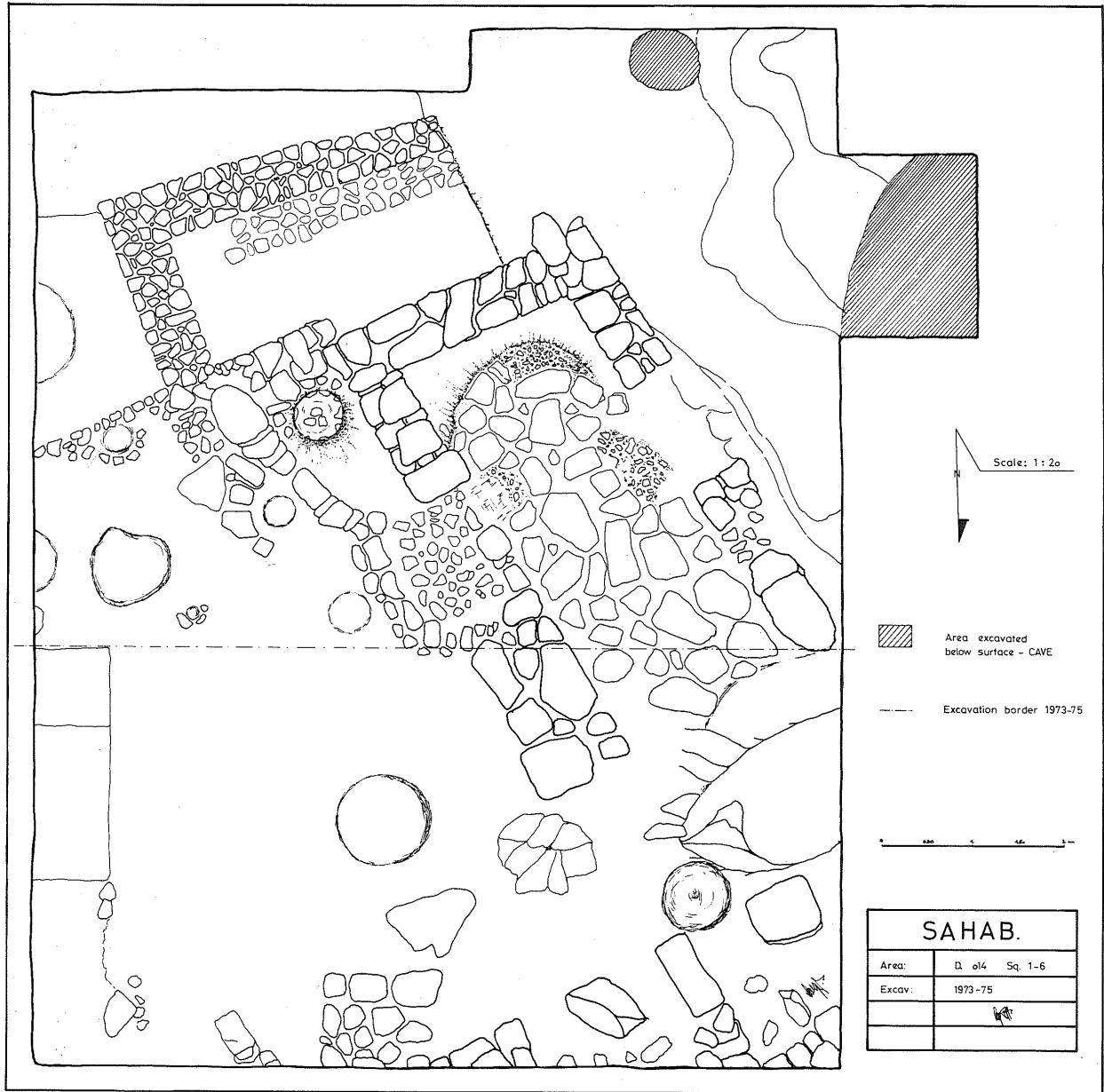


Fig. 3

the two big stones in the western side which may have served as a doorway or an entrance for the building.

Between this wall and Room I, a small rounded storage pit, rock pockets with ash, and a fireplace were cleared.

Sq. 4 includes in its east part a regular, almost square, plastered floor. The walls related to this floor seemed to have been robbed in antiquity. The Iron I pottery sherds with this floor, as in other parts of the building, were found frequently in large numbers. Cooking pots and other facilities, fireplaces, tabuns, as well as daily-use vessels, are related to a domestic house as suggested in 1973. Because of modern houses surrounding this area, there was no possibility of further digging. At this point the parts excavated had to be filled again for the safety of inhabited houses.

#### Area DO18. (Fig. 4)

During 1975 one square 4 x 4 m. was dug to virgin soil ca. 30 m. west of the Early Iron Age Building (DO 14). The purpose of this operation here and that of DO20, both on the east slope, was to search for the occupational phases between DO14 and the main artificial mound.

In this square, fill layers (L 1-8) of grayish-brown soil and small stones were removed to a depth of ca. 1.40 m. The pottery from these layers is mixed, representing the following periods: Chalc/EB, MB (?) and Iron II. These were followed by a truncated cone-shaped storage pit (L 11, 13), 1.30 m. deep and 80 cm. in diam., cut through Chalcolithic deposit and virgin soil and lined with stones,

preserved to a height of 75 cm. Pottery sherds from this pit date from Iron Age I. There were no other occupation remains within this trench related to the Iron I pit.

Beneath the fill accumulation were two layers: L 10 (fill) and L 12, which contained pure Chalcolithic sherds, similar to those found in DO20 and Chalcolithic structure of Area E. L 12 is a hard-packed floor representing the earliest and the main occupation evidence in this trench. A partly-preserved wall running NE-SW and a rounded storage pit, 70 cm. in diam., cut into virgin soil were related to this floor. On it were three interesting objects: 1) A large broken storage jar, part of it still under north section, with small flat base and badly-baked coarse ware. 2) A spoon with short pierced handle, made of stone, is similar to pottery spoons found at Tuleilat Ghassul. 3) A stamp-like piece with simple incisions had been formed in a square? shape.

#### Area DO20.

Another trial trench 8 X 2 m. was opened on the east slope of the small mound ca. 35 m. to the west of DO18. The work in this trench could not be completed during 1975. Fill accumulation layers (L. 1-13) ca. 2 m. deep were removed. Beneath these layers a pure Chalcolithic stratum (L. 14) with a well-built wall was partly excavated. The pottery from this stratum has close parallels to examples found in the earliest levels of DO18 and in Chalcolithic occupation levels of Area I. Investigations in this area will be continued during the coming season. At this point, it is probably safe

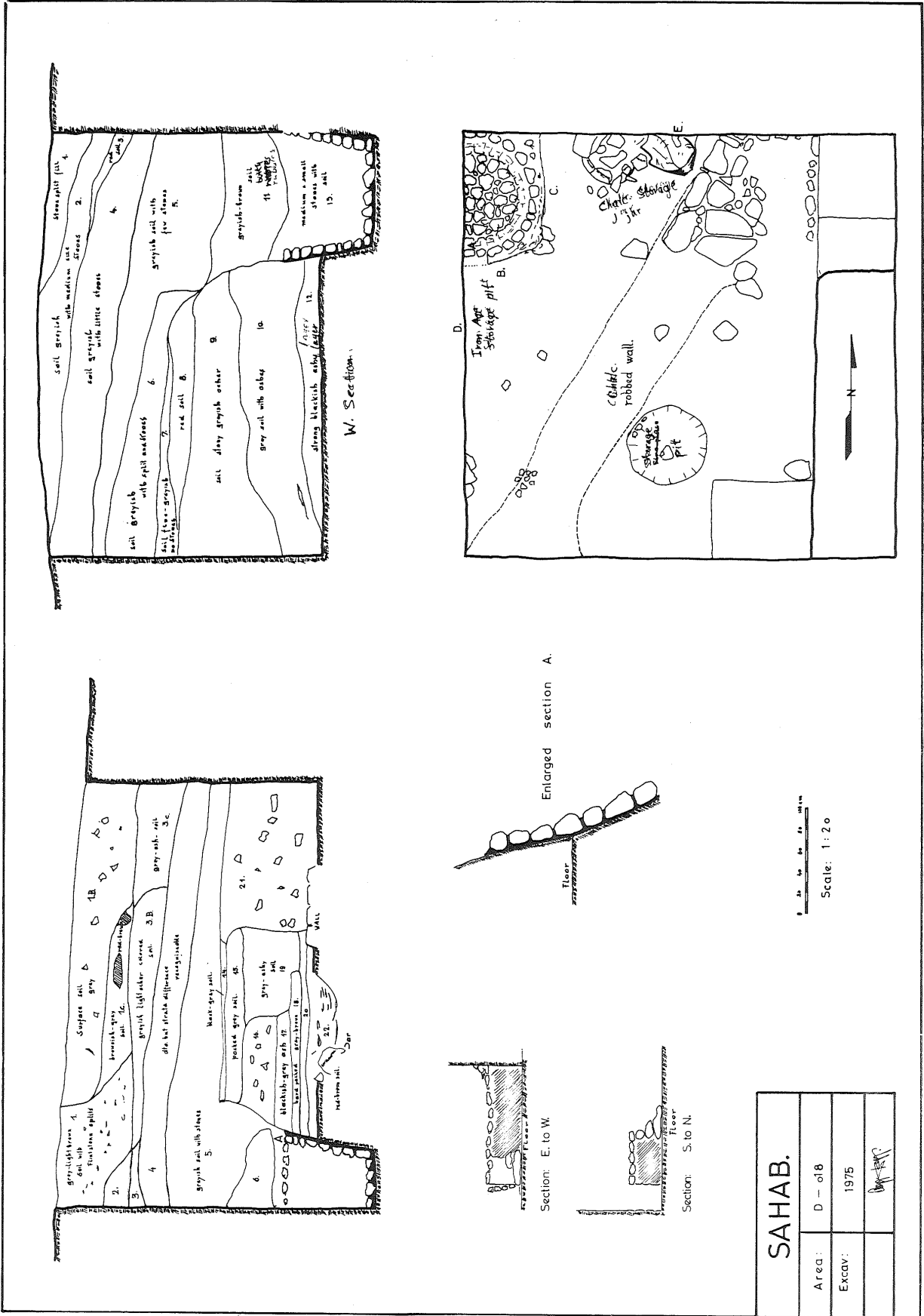


Fig. 4

to say that there was no major occupation during the Iron Ages, as indicated in DO18 and DO20, between Iron I building and the major Iron Age I-II settlement on the mound.

#### Area E. (Fig. 5, Pls. XXVII, XXVIII)

Work conducted in Area E at Sahab in 1975 was carried out to give additional exposure to the Chalco/EB walls found in squares E.1 and E.2 during the '73 season, as well as to provide more of the plan, dating evidence and stratigraphic context of the large L B structure which ran across the area.

Three new squares were laid out in '75 just to the north of squares E.1-3, in an east-west direction, leaving a 1 m. balk. Square E.4 was 3 m. wide (N-S) X 6 m. long (E-W), E.5 was 3 m. wide (N-S) X 5.6 m. long (E-W) and E.6 was 3 m. wide (N-S) X 6 m. long (E-W).

Surface soil throughout the area excavated was artificially created by a bulldozer-cut, prior to the '73 excavations, which had destroyed a large amount of the Iron Age remains in Area E. In addition to bulldozer action, which would have packed down the new surface level, it had been sitting since '73 under a large pile of building stone and so, as excavated, was exceptionally hard-packed. In color, the layer was medium to light brown or tan and had occasional small stones (10-15 cm. diam.) but sometimes ranging up to medium size (25-30 cm. diam.).

Under surface soil were several loci which throw some confusion onto the

exact sequence of post-Chalco/EB occupation at Sahab. Further excavation to the north of the L B structure in the future should help to clarify much of the problem, but certain points at this time can be shown.

A reddish-colored soil layer ran throughout the area under L.1 (i.e. E.4.1, E.5.1 and E.6.1) which appeared most thickly in square E.4 where bits of various-colored mud brick was found, along with bits of charcoal, ash and huwwar. E.4 pottery evidence seems to indicate an Iron Age I date for this layer of occupation. It is interesting to note the appearance of L B pottery in this layer, but more especially there was frequent M B sherds as well, which in '73 seemed to have appeared in small quantities.

First appearing in E.4, then throughout the area under layer 2, was an extensive huwwar layer (E.4.3, E.5.3 and E.6.9) which has thrown some light on the phasing of the L B structure in relation to some earlier material. Most significant was the fact that the foundation trench of the L B structure cut through the huwwar layer, thus putting the huwwar layer earlier in date. The small amount of accumulated material associated with either the huwwar layer or the L B structure seems to indicate a strong period of erosion(?), or perhaps just general non-occupation in this area of the site. At this point further work is badly needed.

Two of the walls (Pl. XXVII Fig. 5) which ran off to the south of the main L B long wall have been shown to be part of an almost square structure with

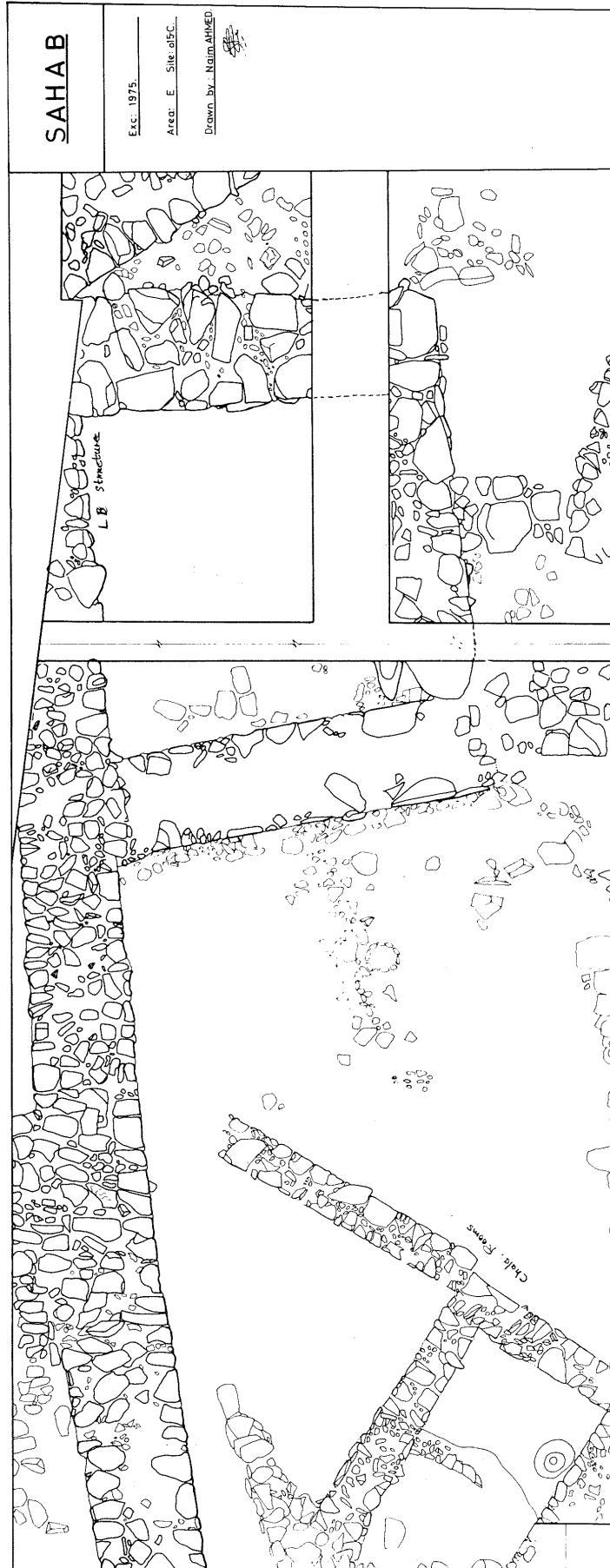


Fig. 5

corners appearing in the NE corners of squares E.5 and E.6 No doorway or indications of function have yet appeared. Inside of the square structure the red packed-soil layer which appeared as a floor in '73, was probed, but it too, like most of the other contemporary material, seems to rest directly on Chalco. /EB levels of occupation. No side walls of the L B period were found in the western part (sqs. 1, 4) of the excavated area, though the long wall continues to run under a big modern house to the west. This makes it difficult to search for the western remains of this important L B structure. Among other L B pottery sherds related to this period, an important Mycenaean sherd (Pl. XX) with incomplete design was found. Plans are to extend the work to the south and to the west of the main street running N-S.

**The Chalco./EB Material.** (Pls. XXVII, XXVIII, Fig. 5)

During the '73 season of excavations it became apparent from both Chalco./EB domestic walls in area E, and from cave occupation in other areas, that there was extensive occupation at Sahab during the late Chalcolithic or Early Bronze Age. During the '75 season more evidence for occupation during this time appeared in area E.

Especially in squares E.4 and E.5, sealed under a prominent dark soil layer (E.4.8) and E.5.7) there began emerging large amounts of pure early pottery. A small amount of similar material had come to light in E.6, but at this time the soil layer is not yet fully defined, and it is the soil fill and architecture that was

excavated in squares 4 and 5 that are here discussed.

The most prominent feature was a two-room, well-built structure that appeared in E.4 and which ran slightly into E.1 after the removal of the E.4/E.1 balk. The first room of the structure (12a) was evident in the square running in a NE-SW direction. It was rectangular in plan with the NE end of the room running under the west balk and seemingly into the foundation of a modern house. The other room, (12b), seemed to be added after the first room was constructed. This is indicated by the jutting out of the eastern wall of the second room, 12b, which was built against the northeast corner of room 12a. The walls were ca. 50 cm. thick and were made of undressed stones ca. 25.35 cm. diam. smaller stones were used for chinking and filling the gaps left in the wall. At its highest point the wall stood ca. 1 m. except where it began to run under the floor level (L.14) into a large pit (L.16). A blocked doorway was apparent in the northeast wall of Room 12a which was not removed.

The pit (L.16) poses somewhat of a problem for exact phasing of the walls of L.12. The northern edge of the pit runs outside of Room 12a under the northern walls and it seems clear that the wall was constructed after the pit was dug. The southeast wall of the room runs down into the pit following the contour of the depression, and indicates that the pit was present during the construction of 12a. The floor of the pit was a very hard white layer of plaster (packed huwwar and soil) and was lined with a wall of the same material, as in the wall



of room 12a. An ample amount of seeds were collected from the pit. This indicates its function as a storage pit. Wall 12b was a single wall extending NE from the NE corner of 12a, and was built onto the pre-existing wall, but of virtually identical construction. It bound L.15, as well as a hard-packed floor level (L.17). With these floor levels of the domestic wall for the '75 season appearing stratigraphically earlier than the founding levels for the cruder domestic walls of the '73 season, it appears safe to assume that L.15 would have been the founding level for the slightly later material. This type of subterranean pit, with walls on top, is known at Tuleilat Ghassul.

To the east of wall 12a/b, was a soil fill, and a floor level, L.13, which continued into square E.5. L.9 was a dark-brown soil layer which appeared above the floor level, and E.4.10 was apparently a backfall against wall 12a, and seemed to have been post-occupation material. In E.5 the floor level was cut by what seemed to be another large pit and continued horizontally to ca. 1 m. west of the L B wall foundation trench, which was the limit of excavation for the '75 season in these two squares.

Investigation into Chalco./EB floor levels, as well as the large pit in E.5/2, would seem very worthwhile during any coming season. The area closest to the L B wall should be given somewhat of a priority, since in the past season the exact relationship of the earlier floor

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(6) Preliminary reports on the results of the East Jordan Valley survey will be published

levels to the later domestic walls remained a problem.

The pottery found on the floors of this early construction turned out to be pure "Chalcolithic" and earlier than some of the pottery from caves in Areas A and C, which contained good EB pottery examples. Hand-made sherds found with the early structure in Area E, and in Area DO18 and DO20 have parallels with some of Ghassul types and wares, including thumb indentations, loop and small pierced handles, thumb-indented ledge handles, and dark-brown colored bands. Storage jars have a slightly inverted rim with a small flat base. Most of the bases, including mat-impressions, are flat. Detailed study of the pottery may show local forms, especially among bowls. Affinities with materials found at sites in the Jordan Valley have been temporarily designated as Neolithic/Chalcolithic. In 1975-76, a large number of these sites were explored by the joint team of the Jordan Valley Survey, with concentration on the Qatar hills and along main wadis of the Valley, including Tell Umm Hamid, Zerqa River, Wadi Nimrin, Wadi Kufrein and Wadi Adheim. Future study of discoveries from Sahab and the Valley will hopefully throw more light on the chronology and material culture of this early period.

## CONCLUSION

The earliest evidence found at Sahab dates from the Chalcolithic period. Extensive occupation of this period, of which some of the cave-dwellings, well-built

in the near future by the author together with James Sauer and Khair Yassine.

rooms and pits were excavated, goes beyond the main mound to include Areas E, DO14, DO18, DO20, in addition to prior excavation Areas F, and Cave deposit in Area B. The pottery inventory from these Areas shows affinities with Ghassulian sites. Some of the cave material has to be assigned to the E B period.

Other parts of the L B structure in Area E were uncovered, without determining its function or solving the stratigraphical problems.

Apparently scattered houses had been built after the destruction of the major

Iron I town, as indicated in Area D, and trial trenches on the east slope.

During Iron II, the town seemed to be smaller but better planned than it was in the Iron I. The material found under the modern cut surface of Area B belongs to the end of Iron II period (7th century B.C.) A complex series of rooms had large amounts of stone and basalt mortars, loom weights and other tools, suggesting that at least part of the rooms had been used for industrial purposes.

It is hoped that more intensive work will be done at Sahab.

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# A Survey of Prehistoric Sites in the (Azraq Desert National Park), in Eastern Jordan.

by

Andrew N. Garrard & Nicholas P. Stanley Price.

During March and April 1975 the authors made a brief survey of Palaeolithic and Neolithic sites in the Central Azraq Basin ("Azraq Desert National Park") in Eastern Jordan (for fuller details see Garrard and Stanley Price, forthcoming). The objectives were to relocate and examine the condition of prehistoric sites previously reported from the Park area, to collect systematic data on the density and relative date of prehistoric occupation in the region, and to assess the potential of the area for more intensive investigation involving settlement pattern analysis, excavation and related palaeoenvironmental studies.

Owing to the scarcity of cave and shelter sites, the Syrian Desert has been almost totally neglected by prehistorians although earlier surveys demonstrated the presence of fairly extensive Stone Age settlement over much of the area (Zeuner et al. 1957, Field 1960). Outside the Palmyra Basin in central Syria Coon 1956, Suzuki and Takai 1973, 1974) the only excavations was that of Waechter and Seton-Williams (1938) in the Wadi Dhobai of central-eastern Jordan.

The Azraq Basin was thought to be a particularly suitable focus for settlement studies. It covers an area of almost 13,000 sq. km. extending from marginal agricultural areas in the north and west with up to 300 mms. annual precipitation

through into limestone hammada and basalt desert in the south and east with annual precipitation of less than 50 mms. . At the centre of the Basin there is a concentration of perennial springs and marshland, and also sedimentary evidence suggesting the presence of an extensive lake during the Pleistocene with a maximum area of 4500 sq. km. (Baker and Harza (1958).

A number of prehistoric sites have been located in the Azraq region (Rees 1929, Zeuner et al. 1957, Field 1960), but only two have been examined in any detail. Both were discovered during the U.S. Aid Point 4 Programme's, Princess 'Alia Project (Baker and Harza 1958). The site at Lion Spring, Ain el-Asad (Azraq 1 in Table 1) produced several hundred handaxes and faunal remains (Harding 1958, 1959, van Liere 1960-61). The second site, at C-Spring Azraq (Azraq 21 in Table 1) yielded a Levallois Mousterian industry and a fauna which included *Dicerorhinus* sp., *Equus hemionus* & *hydruntinus*, *Camelus dromedarius*, *Boselaphus* sp., *Alcelaphus* sp. and a large bovid (Clutton-Brock 1962, 1970).

Perhaps the major advantage in selecting the Azraq area as a centre for regional study lies in the extensive published data on the contemporary environment of the region, providing a "stage" from which to study the prehistoric utili-

sation. As a result of the outstanding biological interest of the Azraq marshlands (Mountfort 1966) and the potential of the surrounding area for multi-disciplinary arid zone studies, the International Biological Programme for the Conservation of Terrestrial Communities thought the area worthy of environmental protection and conservation, possibly within the framework of a National Park (see Map 1; Poore and Robertson 1964, Hemsley and George 1965, Boyd 1966, Nelson 1973).

#### Results of the 1975 Survey.

For the purpose of the preliminary study, a systematic survey was made of selected areas of the National Park (see Map 1). These were chosen primarily so as to cover a range of ecological situations within the Park region (based largely on geological and geomorphological features), but also so as to examine those areas adjacent to previously reported sites. In order to avoid excessive disturbance of surface sites, samples of flints were removed from marked, controlled areas, usually a metre square.

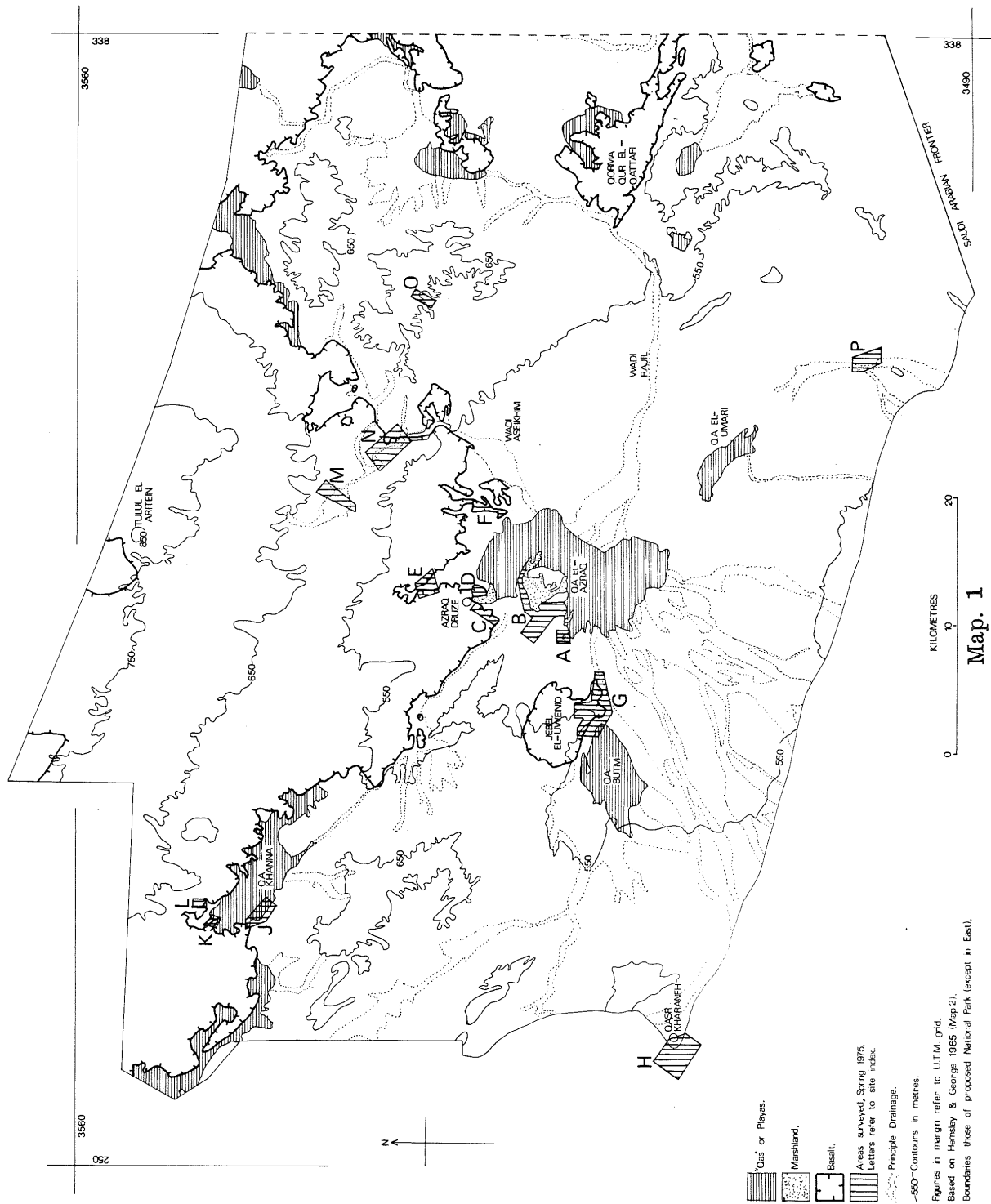
The sites located during the survey are listed by area in Table 1, with an indication of their approximate extent and period(s) of use. The assessment of period is provisional since at a number of sites artifacts were left in situ and from others only small selected samples have been examined in detail. These are described by Mrs. Lorraine Copeland in Garrard and Stanley Price (forthcoming). In addition to flint material, basalt "grindstones" and "pounders" were noted at a number of sites and perforated marine shells were collected from the Neolithic sites of

Uweinid 6, 9 and 11 and the Kebaran site, Azraq 21. In the basalt region concentrations of flints often coincided with an area cleared of boulders or were found in or adjacent to hut circles built of basalt. An important objective of further survey work would be the detailed study and dating of these and other features, including the "desert kites" first reported by Rees (1929) in the Azraq area.

#### Discussion.

Although limited in scope the preliminary survey clearly demonstrated the density of prehistoric settlement in the Azraq National Park area and the potential for further research. Any deductions about site locational preferences would be premature at this stage since several cautionary factors are already apparent. The very density of site distribution demands that some form of random survey technique (cf. Thomas 1969) must be used in conjunction with a design based on postulated range resources. Although the lack of recent human disturbance is encouraging for the recovery of detailed site distribution data, the discovery of some sites will be subject to the exposure of former land surfaces by deflation or fluvial action. Until local chronologies based on excavation and absolute dating are established, relative dating of the sites has to be based on comparisons with industries found in a very broad range of environmental locations throughout the Levant and Arabian peninsula. Moreover, as emphasised above, detailed examination has hitherto been restricted to very small selected samples.

With these reservations in mind, certain tentative observations are nevertheless



**Map. 1**

Figures in margin refer to U.T.M. grid.  
 Based on Hensley & George 1965 (Map 2).  
 Boundaries those of proposed National Park (except in East).

less possible. Sites of all major periods from Lower Palaeolithic to Chalcolithic appear to be present although some industries are very poorly represented, for example the Upper Palaeolithic. In this context it is relevant to recall the relatively few Upper Palaeolithic sites in the Har Harif area of the Negev compared with their common occurrence around the En Avdat perennial spring (Marks 1971). Geomorphological studies in neighbouring pluvial lake basins provide evidence of a period of relatively great aridity during the Upper Palaeolithic (El Jafr, Huckriede and Wiesemann 1968; Dead Sea, Neev and Emery 1967; Damascus, Kaiser et al. 1973).

In the Azraq and Uweinid areas (Map 1, Areas A-G), Neolithic sites tend to be situated at the basalt margins while Middle and Epipalaeolithic sites are found in the immediate vicinity of perennial springs. This distinction in locational preferences may be the result of variations in lake level or of the greater availability of natural seeps at the basalt margin during the period of Neolithic occupation. Alternatively different economic bases may be responsible for the contrast, with Neolithic sites established at the contact to facilitate exploitation of the two adjacent resource zones, for example for the spring bloom of cereal grasses on the basalt and for the browsing/grazing potential of the alluvial area.

Only much more extensive survey and palaeoenvironmental analysis will clarify the locational determinants at different phases. Although the extent of site obliteration seems to be limited, the surface

distribution of artifacts within sites has probably been distorted by erosive agencies. Studies of intrasite patterning will therefore concentrate on excavation of selected sites, of which a number in the alluvial areas appear to be highly suitable. In particular further investigation of two previously recorded sites would seem promising, namely Ain el-Asad (Azraq 1 in Area A, Map 1; Harding 1958, 1959) at which Acheulian, Middle Palaeolithic (?) and Pottery Neolithic industries appear to be represented, and Kharaneh 4 (Area H, Map 1). The latter site (Harding 1959) is perhaps the outstanding site in the survey area, with a profile reminiscent of a tell-formation and an area of 20,000 sq. m. virtually "paved" with artifacts of Upper Palaeolithic (?), Natufian, Pre-Pottery Neolithic and Pottery Neolithic (?) industries. The surface remains include ground stone implements of basalt and limestone, and organic preservation appears to be excellent. In addition to these two sites, others such as Azraq 16 (Middle Palaeolithic), Azraq 17 (Kebaran) and Azraq 18 (Natufian) are likely to contain stratified material.

#### Acknowledgements.

For permission and help in carrying out the survey we are grateful to Mr. Y. Oweis, Director, and to Mr. Y. Alami, Assistant Director, of the Department of Antiquities in Jordan. For other help and support we are indebted to the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem and its Director, Mrs. C-M. Bennett, to the Royal Geographical Society, and to Brigadier M. S. Jamhour, Manager of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature in Jordan for allowing us use of its premises at Azraq Shishan. For a

report on the flints (forthcoming) we are very grateful to Mrs. L. Copeland.

#### Subheading to Map 1.

Map illustrating the basic topography of the Central Azraq Basin and the areas surveyed during 1975.

Excepting the east, the boundaries are those of the proposed Azraq Desert National Park. (Hemsley and George 1965).

#### Subheading to Table 1.

Index of prehistoric sites located in Azraq National Park area during 1975 survey.

Estimates of artifact distribution area are very approximate and do not take into account artifact density.

- Class 1 = 0 - 2000 sq. m.  
Class 2 = 2000 - 8000 sq. m.  
Class 3 = 8000 - 30000 sq. m.  
Class 4 = 30000 + sq. m.

Period abbreviations are as follows:  
A/Y - Acheulian or Yabrudian; M.P. - Middle Palaeolithic; U.P. - Upper Palaeolithic; E.P. - Epipalaeolithic; Neol. - Neolithic; Chal. - Chalcolithic; ? - Undiagnostic.

"Exam. by L.C." indicates that a selection of artifacts from the site were examined by Lorraine Copeland.

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Site Index Site	Survey areas See Map.	Size Class	PERIOD							Exam. by L.C.	Earlier References
			A/Y	M.P.	U.P.	E.P.	Neol	Chal	?		
Azraq 1 (Ain el Asad)	A	Subsurface	×	?				×		×	Baker & Harza '58 Harding '58, '59. van Liere '60-'61.
Azraq 2	C	4	×					×		×	
Azraq 3	F	2						?		×	
Azraq 4	C	2						×		×	
Azraq 5	C	Diffuse		×					?	×	
Azraq 6	C	3						×			
Azraq 7	C	4						×			
Azraq 8	C	2						×			
Azraq 9	C	1						×			
Azraq 10	D	1						×			
Azraq 11	D	2						×			
Azraq 12	D	2						×			
Azraq 13	D	1						×			
Azraq 14	D	1						×			
Azraq 15	E	?						×			
Azraq 16	E	Subsurface		×				?		×	
Azraq 17	B	2				×		?		×	
Azraq 18	B	2				×				×	
Azraq 19	B	Isolated							?	×	
Azraq 20	B	find.1 find.				×				×	
Azraq 21 (C-Spring Azraq)	B	Subsurface (Not located)	?	×							Baker & Harza '58. Clutton - Brock' 62,' 70.
Uweimid 1	G	Isolated	×								
Uweimid 2	G	1 Find.							?		
Uweimid 3	G	3						?		×	
Uweimid 4	G	Diffuse.							?		
Uweimid 5	G	Diffuse.							?	×	
Uweimid 6 (Qasr Uweimid)	G	3				?		×		×	Rees '29.
Uweimid 7	G	2		×				?		×	

Site Index Site	Survey areas See Map	Size Class	PERIOD							Exam. by L.C.	Earlier References
			A/Y	M.P.	U.P.	E.P.	Neol	Chal	?		
Uweinid 8	G	2					×				
Uweinid 9	G	2					×			×	
Uweinid 10	G	Isolated	×								
Uweinid 11	G	3 find					×				
Uweinid 12	G	2					×				
Uweinid 13	G	3					×				
Kharaneh 1	H	4			?		?			×	
Kharaneh 2	H	3					×			×	
Kharaneh 3	H	?								?	
Kharaneh 4 (Kharaneh IV)	H	3 very conc.			?	×	×			×	Zeuner '57. (Site 84). Harding '59.
Kharaneh 5	H	Diffuse.	?							?	
Kharaneh 6	H	Diffuse.	?	?							
Kharaneh 7	H	2					×	?		×	
Khanna 1	J	4	?							?	
Khanna 2	J	2				?	?				
Khanna 3	J	4	?								
Khanna 4 (Habeiba)	K	2		×		×	?			×	Rees '29.
Khanna 5	K	2				×					
Khanna 6	K	1				×					
Khanna 7	K	Disturbed		×		×					
Aseikhim 1	N	Disturbed		?						?	
Aseikhim 2	N	Diffuse.	×	?							
Aseikhim 3	N	1					×			×	
Aseikhim 4	N	1					×				
Aseikhim 5	N	1					?	?		×	
Aseikhim 6	N	2					×				
Aseikhim 7	N	Diffuse								?	

N.B. No Sites were located in survey areas L, M, O, P.

Andrew N. Garrard & Nicholas P. Stanley Price

# A Prehistoric Site in the Rum area of the Hisma

by

N. P. Stanley Price & A. N. Garrard

The site briefly reported here was discovered by the authors in March 1975 on a visit to Wadi Rum in southern Jordan. The aim of this note is to put on record the location of the site and to take the opportunity of collating previously published reports of prehistoric sites in the Hisma region. Other sites in this area have been the subject only of very brief references by Kirkbride and Harding (with a note on the flints by Stekelis; 1947), Zeuner et al. (1957; Part II of this article was never published), Kirkbride (1960) and Copeland and Hours (1971). These reports together suggest that systematic survey work would result in the discovery of extensive evidence for prehistoric settlement in the region.

## Location of the site

The site lies to the north of the road to el Mudawwara at 25 km. from its junction with the Ma'an—Akaba road, and at 7-8 km. beyond the turnoff south to the Wadi Rum (Fig. 1, No. 20; map reference 1975. 8976 (Palestine Grid) on 1:100,000 South Levant series, Sheet NH 36.R3 Akaba). It is to the east of a minor qa, unnamed on the map referred to, which lies between Qa Um Salab to the west and Qa Disa to the southeast and is at the foot of a large sandstone outlier immediately to the north of the new railway embankment. This outlier is one of several which are prominent features of the neck of land between the unnamed qa and Qa Disa. Along its southern foot

erosion has formed a shallow overhang about 70 m. long and a maximum 4 m. deep. Partly under this overhang and extending from it an area of dense occupation debris, c. 150m. by 30m., has been exposed by wind deflation of sand. This debris consists mainly of flint artifacts and waste material but also includes a number of sherds, ground stone objects and a few bone and marine shell fragments. At the southern foot of the adjacent outliers where the sand has been similarly deflated only a few flints were found.

## Collection of Material

Since it was possible that the material exposed by deflation was lying in situ on the original land-surface, removal of finds was strictly controlled according to context. The majority of the material was collected from four quadrants based upon an arbitrary point to the south of the main overhang and a few finds of particular interest were removed from other areas. Among the large sample of material thereby recovered, there were no flints diagnostic of microlithic or earlier industries and the nature of the debitage was consistent with a neolithic or later date. Although some of the sherds were evidently of recent origin, a small number of badly weathered coarse wares could be contemporary with the lithic material, although again no diagnostic features of shape or decoration could be discerned. The sandstone arti-

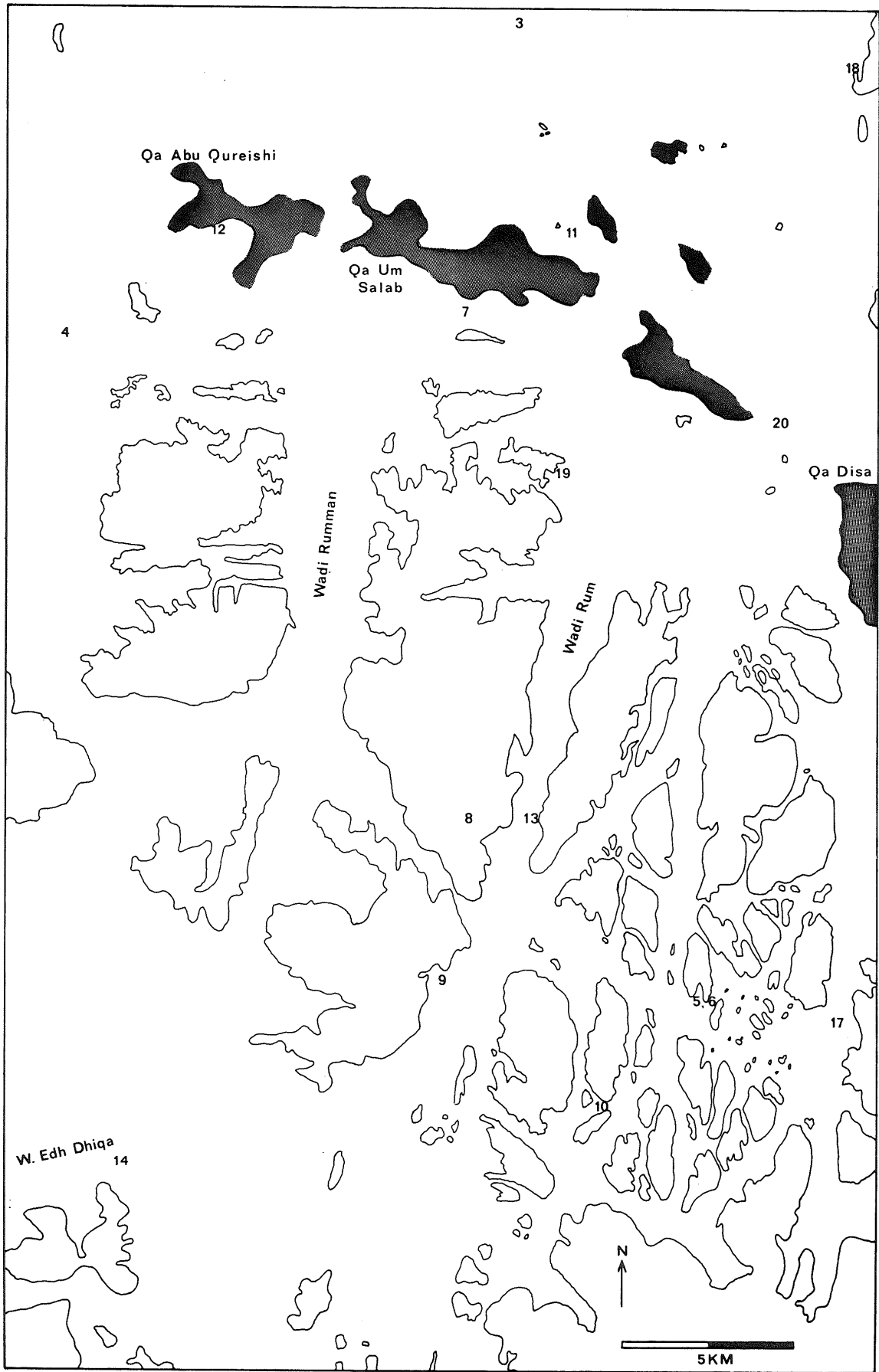


Fig. 1. Prehistoric sites in the Rum area. Contour at 1000m.

facts included two fragments of grinding-slabs, one rubber with indented surface and a large semi-perforated fragment. Two perforated marine shells were found, one a cowrie shell with the dorsal surface removed and polished to make a pendant. Although far from conclusive, a neolithic/chalcolithic date would appear to be most consistent with the material recovered, which is available for study in Amman.

#### Other prehistoric sites in the Hisma (Fig. 1)

The following sites have been previously reported as having produced prehistoric material, mainly flints. Map references are given as published or where they can be deduced from published accounts.

1. Rubeik. Kirkbride and Harding 1947, pages 22, 25 and Plate 1. To the northwest of the area in Fig. 1.
2. Harabet al Abeyd. Kirkbride and Harding 1947, 21, 26 and Plate I. To the northwest of the area in Fig. 1.
3. Retama. Kirkbride and Harding 1947, 26. Precise location unknown.
4. Qeseir Medeifi. Kirkbride and Harding 1947, 26. Precise location unknown.
- 5., 6. Um el Qeseir. Approx. 195881. Kirkbride and Harding 1947, 16 and 26. Zeuner et al. 1957, 54. Sites 61 and 62.
7. Bir Rum el Atiq. 188900. Kirkbride and Harding 1947, 19 and 26.
8. Ain Abu Nakheileh. 188886. Kirkbride and Harding 1947, 12-13, 26. Zeuner et al, 1957, 54. Site 60 Kirkbride 1960, 231-2.
9. Ain Qattar. 187881. Kirkbride and Harding 1947, 15. Zeuner et al, 1957, 54. Site 59.
10. Um er Rassal. 192877. Zeuner et al, 1957, 47-48. Site 63.
11. Qa Um Salab. 191903. Zeuner et al, 1957, 48-51. Site 66.
12. Qa Abu Qureishi. 181903. Zeuner et al, 1957, 51. Site 67.
13. Ain Rum. Approx. 190886. Zeuner et al. 1957, 54. Site 58.
14. Khirbet Rizqeh. 178876. Kirkbride 1960, 233.
- 15, 16. Two sites near Jebel Rizqeh to the south of Wadi Itm el Umran. No references given, probably near Site 14. Kirkbride 1960, 232.
17. Khirdib Elfileh. 199880. Kirkbride 1960, 232.
18. Jebel es Salaka. 199908. Kirkbride 1960, 232.
19. Wadi Rum. 191896. Copeland and Hours 1971.
20. Hisma 20. 1975.8976. Reported above.

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N. P. Stanley Price & A. N. Garrard



# On the Later Arabic Inscription in Qaṣr Burqu'

by

Ahmad M. H. Shboul

In his article 'An Examination of the Ruins of Qaṣr Burqu' ( *A.D.A.J* XIX, 1974, pp. 93-100), Dr. Heinz Gaube attempted to elucidate "the question of the chronological sequence of the different parts of the building". He is here carrying further the work of earlier scholars namely Schroeder, Field and Sauvaget.

Dr. Gaube's work on Arab monuments in *Bilād al-Shām*, notably his monograph on Khirbat al-Baiḍā' or al-Qaṣr al-Abyaḍ in the Syrian Desert, has already won him due scholarly recognition.<sup>1</sup> The following notes are meant as a modest contribution to complement his study on Burqu'. The corrections given here should be read in conjunction with his article published in the last issue of this *Annual*. It is hoped that they may be of some use for a more comprehensive study of Qaṣr Burqu' in the future.

Dr. Gaube indicates four periods which are of relevance for the dating of stages of construction - reconstruction and restoration of Qaṣr Burqu': two of these are pre-Islamic and include a Byzantine period; then the Islamic Umayyad period, when construction was undertaken under the auspices of the crown prince al-Walid b. 'Abd al-Malik in A.H. 81 (A.D. 700); and finally a later Is-

lamic period when the palace was supposedly used as a Khān. This periodization is done on the basis of epigraphical evidence both Greek and Arabic. Leaving aside a Greek inscription which is now kept in the Chicago Natural History Museum, Dr. Gaube reproduces a Greek inscription from the Christian Byzantine era; the well-known Arabic inscription of al-Walid; and a further Arabic inscription of a much later period, which he however considers as 'two' inscriptions.

The main aim of these notes is to suggest a more correct reading and dating of what I would describe as a single later Arabic inscription of six lines found on the same wall as al-Walid-inscription.

For the purpose of clarity we may review all the Arabic inscriptions for Burqu' reproduced in Dr. Gaube's article. There is first the well-known Umayyad inscription which, in the reading of Field and Sir Hamilton Gibb runs as follows:

- 1 — اللهم بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم هذا ما
- 2 — بنا الامير الوليد بن امير المؤمنين هو
- 3 — لا البيوت سنة وحدة وثمانين

This inscription is essentially relevant for the purpose of these notes be-

(1) Heinz Gaube, *Ein arabischer Palast in Südsyrien, Hīrbet al-Baiḍa* (Beiruter Texte und

Studien, Band 16), Beirut, 1974.

cause of its date (81 A.H.) as will be seen presently.

Dr. Gaube then speaks of "Two other Arabic inscriptions preserved above the Walid-inscription" to use his own words. The 'first' of these he designates as A. and gives as follows :

- 1 — قرأ هذا الخط بالكوفي
- 2 — هارون ابن سماعيل
- 3 — الزبيدي ولقاله [ في سنة ]
- 4 — سبع مائه واثنين وثمانين

and the following is how he renders it in English:

- (1) It read this Kufi-script
- (2) Hārūn Ibn Šamā'a
- (3) Az-Zubaidī He saw it
- (4) [in the year] 782 (= A.D. 1380).

He then gives what he considers as the second of the "Two other Arabic inscriptions", this he reproduces as:

- B.
- 1 — سنه كتي سنة ثاني عشر
  - 2 — وثمان مائه

and he renders it in English thus: (1) [The] year [this] was written [is the] year (2) 812 (= A.D. 1409). All the square brackets above are Dr. Gaube's. On the basis of his reading he considers what he calls "the first of the two inscriptions" as giving "a *terminus ante quem* for the restoration work". He takes the figure 782 to denote a *Hijrī* date, and with an equivalent A.D. 1380, it becomes

an important point of departure in his subsequent discussion.

A re-examination of these six lines of this Arabic inscription however, leads to some interesting and significant conclusions.

1. The first point that should be made is that these six lines are in fact only one complete inscription, written at the same time.

2. Secondly its more correct reading is as follows:

- 1 — قرأ هذا الخط بالكوفي
- 2 — هارون ابن سماعيل
- 3 — الزبيدي ولقاله
- 4 — سبع مائة واثنين وثلاثين
- 5 — سنة كتب سنة ثاني عشر
- 6 — وثمان مائة

It can then be rendered as one statement:

- (1) This inscription in Kūfic was read by
- (2) Hārūn Ibn Shammā'a
- (3) Al-Zubaidī and he found it goes back to
- (4) seven hundred and thirty-two
- (5) years. Written in the year twelve.
- (6) and eight hundred.



The second word of line (3), line (4) and the first word of line (5) should be considered as one sentence:

(ولقاه سبع مائة واثنين وثلاثين سنة)

The phrase (لقاه) indicates a colloquial form of (لقي له) which literally means "he found for it", but here conveys "he found it goes back to". There is, thus, no need to impose an additional [ في سنة ] at the end of the third line. Nor is it necessary to resort to further square-bracket additions.

3. An interesting fact emerges from this method of interpretation. Hārūn Ibn Shammā'a not only was present at Qaṣr Burqu' in the year 812 A.H. (a fact that is obscured in Dr. Gaube's reading), and not only did he read the Umayyad inscription of 81 A.H., what is more interesting is that having deciphered the old Kūfic inscription, Hārūn Ibn Shammā'a then proceeded to work out the length of the period of time that had elapsed between al-Walīd-inscription (i.e. 81 A.H.) and his own day (i.e. 812 A.H.). By simple deduction he concluded that this period amounted to 732 years.

4. It thus becomes clear that the figure 782 given by Dr. Gaube is neither the correct reading of the figure in line (4) (the correct reading being 732), nor is it in fact a date at all.

5. The correct figure 732 is simply the period of time between the year 81 A.H., in which the work of reconstruction by al-Walīd took place, and the year 812 A.H. in which a certain Hārūn b. Shammā'a stood and inscribed his own 'commentary' and autograph in a rather ordinary and not very articulate hand on a stone close to the old Kūfic inscription commemorating the work of the Umayyad crown prince.

The figure 782 should therefore be discarded completely as an A.H. date together with its equivalent A.D. 1380, and the correct figure 732, should be seen for what it is: a period of time and not a date.

For any consideration of the post-Umayyad history of Qaṣr Burqu', therefore, the only date emerging from this later inscription is 812 A.H. (1409 or 1410 A.D.). Further excavations and tidying up operations may reveal other inscriptions; at any rate such operations would hopefully throw more light on the history of this monument.

6. The inscription under review is non-official in character, and does not really necessarily indicate a new stage of restoration of the Burqu' complex, although it provides a *terminus ante quem* for the re-building of certain parts of it.

The identity and position of Hārūn Ibn Shammā'a al-Zubaidī remains unknown. Whether he was an official an

artisan, a merchant, or just a traveller it is not possible to tell.

Finally, the inscription is an example of the interest shown in ancient monuments in Islamic Arab Society. Arabic literary sources provide us with interesting references to inscriptions and graffiti which learned men, travellers and some-

times officials lefts as a personal testimony on ancient buildings which they visited. The inscription of Hārūn b. Sham-mā'a al-Zubaidī is a living illustration of this interest in ancient monuments and their history.

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# Further Safaitic Texts From Lebanon

by

G. Lankester Harding

The stone bearing these three Safaitic inscriptions was found by M. S. Ghadban at the same site as the one recently published in *The Annual of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan* vol. XVI; in the same volume M. Ghadban published an account and sketch plan of the site. It is of great interest to find further evidence of Safaitic activity so far west, though one cannot as yet speculate on the reason for this. I am grateful to M. Ghadban for the opportunity to publish these interesting texts

This new stone measures roughly 34 x 26 cms. by 9 cms. thick; it is a rather coarse sandstone, pink on the surface but showing white where it has recently been scratched. There is one text on one face and two on the other. The faces of the stone have suffered some damage here and there which renders some parts of the texts unreadable or at least uncertain; there are also a lot of scratchings on face 2, sometimes seemingly caused by a slipping of the tool used for graving the inscriptions. The letters are, on the whole, well made and graven by a sharply pointed piece of metal to an average depth of 2 mms. The forms of the letters are quite orthodox, though *f* takes rather extreme shapes in no. 1. Contents of the texts are likewise orthodox, yet because of gaps and accidental

erasures all are rather difficult to interpret.

1. l mqm bn j-- d'1 jhr (w t)šwq  
'Phth f hlt slm w qbl 'jn(?) w hm— h—  
w' 'd h b n' l h f (?)

By Muqim son of J—of the tribe of Jaḥir. And he longed for his sister. So, O Lat, (give) security and good will——?

The name of the father of MQM cannot be read because of a flake having broken from the rock surface; the first letter is certainly *j* and the last perhaps *w*; there would seem to be room for only one letter between. Only two names with this first and final letter are known, JDW and JLW, and both are Thamudic (HIn p. 156 & 166)<sup>1</sup>. The same flaking has removed the upper part of the *d* of d'1. JḤR as a tribal name is new, but is known as a proper name in Safaitic (HIn p.153).

The reading of *w* and *t* before šwq is certain, as the expression *w išwq* is well known, and *išwq 'Phth* is found in HCH 42-44.<sup>2</sup> This expression is usually followed by an appeal to a deity, and here we seem to have an appeal to Lat for "security and goodwill"? (see Dr. Littmann's remarks in the commentary to HCH 42). But it is not certain if this can be read here, owing chiefly to doubts about the words following *qbl*; it

(1) Harding, *Index & Concordance of pre-Islamic Arabian Names and Inscriptions*, Toronto, 1971.

(2) *The Cairn of Hani'*, in *Annual of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan*, vol. II, 1953.

seems improbable that the first word can be *jl*, "quickly", urging the goddess to hasten the event. Unfortunately the next word fades out after the first two letters, *hm*; the surface at this point is badly rubbed, and nothing can be made out. It is possible that the appeal to Lat should end with the word *slm*, and that the next part should be read *w qbl l 'jl* (or *'jn*), "and be drew near to 'JL (or 'JN)"; neither is known so far as a place name, however. What follows cannot even be guessed at; a large area of the text from *hm* to the next *w* is so rubbed as to be unreadable. Which makes what follows also somewhat difficult though all the letters can be read, unless one regards it simply as two names joined by *bn*. Neither *'dh* nor *'lhf* ( *'lsf* ? ) is known, though *'d* is found once in Safaitic and once in Thamudic (HIn p. 55): *'wd* is a common name, and if one considers it as a verb the present form could mean "he was commended to the protection of god" ( *'wd* IV pass.). *'lhf* could mean "Il shines". A possible division of the words could be *w 'd hbn ( sbn? ) 'l hf*, "And HBN or SBN was commended to the protection of god because of starvation", Ar. *hafa'* — a somewhat improbable reading.

2. 1 h̄dr f(y)mjd w t̄swq 'l bjt bn  
'qrbn d'1 r(hs?)

(3) Dr. Littmann in *Safaitic Inscriptions*, Leyden, 1943, quotes three examples, *yslm*, *yšrq* and *y'wr*, but in each case the meaning is optative, "may he be saved", *lyšrq* "that he

On the right of the beginning of this text are very faint traces of another, of which only *t* and *l* (?) show up on the photo and squeeze; nothing else can safely be read on the original save possibly a *h*.

In reading text 2 one encounters a problem immediately after the first name, for the most careful examination of the empty surface of the stone between the letters *f* and *γ* (?) shows that it is smooth and unbroken, and no letters have ever existed there. So should one insert and entirely imaginary *bn* in the space, to read *h̄drf ( bn ) ymj̄d* ? **HDRF** is unknown as a name in this form, though *drf* is found once in Thamudic (HIn p. 252); on the other hand **HDR** is common in Safaitic (HIn p.612). **YMJD** is found once in Sabaeen (HIn p. 683); *mjd* is well known in Safaitic. Or should the *f* be taken as "and" or "so", and *ymj̄d* as the 3rd pers. sing. imperf. of *majuda* II, so that the beginning would read "By Hadhar; and he satisfies (the animals) with herbage"? The use of this form of the verb in Safaitic is extremely rare; and in fact the form of the *γ* itself (if such it be) is a little unusual with the loop left open on one side.<sup>3</sup> Under any circumstances it is very difficult to see why a blank space should have been left; it is the only occurrence of such a thing I have so far encountered.

might go east", *y'wr* "may he be blinded". The present case could also be optative, "may he satisfy the animals with herbage", and perhaps this makes better sense than "he satisfies."

From here to the end of the text is quite straightforward, except for the reading of the tribal name, which looks like R(ḤS) or R(ḤJ); neither has a known root in Arabic, but the latter is found once as a proper name (HIn p.273). There is a tribe RKS found in WH 28374 which should perhaps be considered, though it would be a very strange *k*.

The full reading *could* be:

By Hadhir; and may he satisfy (the animals) with herbage.

And he longed for Bajjat son of 'Aqrabān, of the tribe of R(ḤS) or R(KS).

BJT is known from Safaitic and one example from Thamudic (HIn p.93), as is also 'QRBN (HIn p.427). Note the strange disproportion between the small *d* and the very tall *'* in *d'l*.

3. I 'mt w tšwqt 'l — m w 'lt w dšr —  
(h) wdr(f?)t.

By 'Immit; and she longed for-M. And 'LT and DŠR——whoever rejects(?).

The name 'MT is well known is Safaitic (HIn p.435) but this seems the first time it is feminine as is suggested by the feminine ending of the verb: it is also the first time I have encountered this form of *tšwq*, but there seems to be no doubt about it. The name of the person she

longed for is lost in a hole in the stone. The invocation to 'LT and DSR is clear, but what they are asked to do is unfortunately unreadable; a number of lines, scratches and rubbings intervene at this point, and though some lines look like letters they are very uncertain and make no sense. It is therefore unsure whether the following *w* is the end of a verb or a conjunction starting a new word or phrase. The penultimate letter is very uncertain in its reading; there are faint hints of a return at the upper end of the letter, and the extension at the lower end might be where the graver slipped. As it stands it resembles no known Safaitic letter.

Remains the problem of what the *d* represents, part of a verb or the particle "whoever". These invocations usually call upon the deity to blind and/or otherwise incapacitate whoever damages, etc. (the writings); the space between the *'* of *dšr* and the *w* would accommodate three or at most four letters, but it would be pointless to guess at what they might be. If the end is read *d rft* "whoever rejects" (presumably the writing), it would certainly be preceded by a curse of some kind. The word *rft* may occur in SLJ 5605, where I would read the latter part as *f r (f) t d r f*, "He rejected him who flattered"; Ar. *rafata*, to reject, refuse. Winnett does not read this part of the text, but Jamme

(4) Winnett and Harding, 4000 Safaitic texts from Jordan, in preparation; see Harding, The Safaitic Tribes, in Al Abhath XXII, nos 3 and 4.

(5) F. V. Winnett, Some Safaitic Inscriptions from Jordan, Toronto, 1957.

(JSafN, n. 27)<sup>6</sup> reads *fm flgt dlf* "Fulgat, he of Lafi', has cheated", treating both *r*'s as hooked *l*'s. The latter are rare in Safaitic, whereas *r* frequently has a hook on one end only. No doubt other readings are possible of both texts.

The photographs have been selected to show the greatest possible number of letters, but it must be emphasized that different lighting reveals (or obscures) different parts of the texts. The black and white figures are taken direct from inked squeezes.

G. Lankester Harding

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(6) A. Jamme, *Safaitic Notes*, Washington, 1970.

## Book Review

**The Excavations at Dibon (Dhiban) in Moab: The Third Campaign 1952 - 1953**, by A. D. Tushingham. AASOR, 40 Cambridge: American Schools of Oriental Research, 1972. Pp. xiii+172+38 figures +42 plates+9 fold-out sheets. \$ 12.50.

Dhiban is the site of ancient Dibon, where the famous Moabite Stone of Mesha was discovered in 1868. The site was excavated in 1950-51 by Fred V. Winnett, and in 1952 by William L. Reed, and the results of those two campaigns were published together in 1964 as AASOR 36-37 (Dhiban I). A. Douglas Tushingham directed the third campaign at Dhiban in 1952-53, and the present volume (Dhiban II) is the final report on that campaign. Subsequent campaigns, conducted at Dhiban by William H. Morton in 1955 and 1956 have to date been published only in the form of short notes (BASOR 140, 1955, pp. 5-6; BASOR 144, 1956, pp. 2, 5). During the first three campaigns, the excavations were confined to the southeast portion of the site, and to the tomb area on the south side of the Wadi Dhiban. During the later campaigns, excavations were carried out on the north and central portions of the site.

The present volume makes Dhiban one of the most important published sites in East Jordan, and Tushingham is to be thanked for greatly increasing our knowledge about the site.

The site was one of the first to be excavated during the 1950's by Americans

who adopted the "Wheeler - Kenyon" method of excavation and recording, and thus it is fitting that in the Introduction (pp. 1-4), Tushingham discusses problems of stratification and archaeological method at Dhiban. While the main emphases of the Wheeler-Kenyon method are certainly here to stay, it is becoming increasingly clear that to excavate in separated Areas and Squares can sometimes distort a single excavation into a number of essentially vertical soundings, and that this procedure can rob a site of its unity. Such soundings can produce evidence which is too incomplete to be interpreted definitively, or too isolated to be related horizontally over an entire complex site. It is such a situation, complicated at Dhiban by changes in directors, methods, and terminologies, which Tushingham describes in theory in the Introduction, and with which he has to cope in practice in Chapters I-V.

In Chapters I-V (pp. 5-85) Tushingham presents the evidence for the following major occupational periods at Dhiban: "Moabite, Nabataean, Roman, Byzantine, Arab (Umayyad, Ayyubid-Mamluke Turkish)." In Chapter VI (pp. 86-115) he describes the tombs, and in Chapter VII (pp. 116-119), the coins.

In this review we shall attempt to outline the occupational history of Dhiban from EB IV to Modern, integrating the evidence from the site into the overall archaeological history of East Jordan. In

the process, we shall often agree, but at times disagree, with Tushingham's interpretation of the evidence from Dhiban.

The earliest occupation at Dhiban would seem to be EB IV (ca. 2300-2100 B.C.). There were apparently no EB occupation layers attested in the south-east, but they are said to have been found above bedrock in the north. The few sherds which are published (Dhiban I, Pl. 14:3-5; 74:9; Dhiban II, Fig. 3:52 59-61) would argue for an EB IV occupation at Dhiban contemporary with those found at Iskander, 'Ara'ir, 'Ader, Bab edh-Dhra', possibly Balu'ah, and many other sites visited by Glueck in southern Jordan.

The MB and LB periods (ca. 2100-1200 B.C.) are not represented at Dhiban, as has also been found to be the case at the southern sites of Umm el-Biyara, Tawilan, Buseirah, and probably also 'Ara'ir and Balu'ah, and at the central sites of Hesban, Hajjar, and 'Araq el-Emir. This negative evidence, particularly from the sites which have great historical significance (Dhiban = Dibon, Buseirah = Bozrah, 'Ara'ir = 'Aro'er, Hesban = Heshbon), would support Glueck's observations about a decline in occupation during the MB and LB periods, at least in southern Jordan. In central Jordan, on the other hand, MB pottery has been found at Amman, Mekhayyat (Nebo), Sahab, Safut, and Jalul, and LB pottery has come from Amman (Airport), Sahab, Jalul, and the Beq'a Valley.

There would seem to be an Iron I (ca. 1200-918 B.C.) occupation at Dhiban (Dhiban II, p. 21), but no structures

have been identified, and only a few sherds have been published which might be Iron Ia-b (as is also the case at 'Ara'ir and Balu'ah). Iron I pottery was not attested at the southern sites of Umm el-Biyara and Tawilan, and to date no Iron I pottery has been published from Buseirah. Yet, in central Jordan, clear Iron Ia or Iron Ia-b pottery has come from Hesban, Hajjar, Sahab, Madeba, Safut, and probably 'Araq el-Emir. These sites in central Jordan would fall approximately within the area attributed by Num. 32, Deut. 3, and Josh. 13 to the Israelite tribes of Reuben and Gad, and by Num. 21, Num. 32, Deut. 2, Josh. 13, and Judges 11 to the Amorite kingdom of Sihon which preceded them.

The first period which is well documented at Dhiban is Iron IIa (ca. 918-701 B.C.), the period following the United Monarchy when the kingdoms of Moab, Edom, Ammon, Israel, and Judah were independent or semi-independent states. From this period at Dhiban are the large defensive structures in the southeast, possibly the reported public buildings in the north, and the rock-cut tombs on the south side of the Wadi Dhiban. The pottery (Dhiban II, Fig. 1:1-76; 2:1-58; 3:37-39, 41-44, 47-51, 53-58; 4:35-39; Figs. 15-24; cf. also Dhiban I, Pls. 72-79) is very similar to that which has come from Mekhayyat (Nebo), Medeiyyineh, Balu'ah, 'Ara'ir, Kerak, and Madeba (unpublished tomb), sites which during this period would seem to have been essentially Moabite. It could also be compared to the pottery which has been found at the Edomite site of Buseirah, and possibly also at Umm el-Biyara and



Tawilan, and possibly also at the Ammonite site of Amman (Jebel Qusur tomb, unpublished). In north Jordan, ancient Gilead, parallel pottery has come from Rumeith (unpublished), and on the West Bank, the best parallels have come from the north Israelite sites of Samaria, Megiddo, Hazor, and Shechem (unpublished). The pottery could best be dated to ca. 850-701 B.C., with which the ca. 850 B.C. carbon 14 date (Dhiban I, p. 49) and the ca. 830 B.C. Moabite Stone date would agree. Tushingham argues on the basis of limited pottery evidence (Dhiban I, Pl. 72:1, 2, 5; Dhiban II, Fig. 1:6, 27, 46, 61-66; 2:16, 24-30; 4:35-39), and more on the basis of historical probability, for an Iron IIb (ca. 701-587 B.C.) occupation at Dhiban (Dhiban II, pp. 15, 19, 23-25, 86, 89, cf. Dhiban I, pp. 51, 53-55, 59, 66-68), but the archaeological evidence must at present be considered weak. The Iron II occupation at Dhiban would probably represent the expansion of the Moabite state north of the Wadi Mojib (Arnon) during the time of Mesha (ca. 850 B.C.), an expansion which would have lasted until sometime in the late 8th cent. B.C. (733, 721, 711, 701 B.C.?). If Dhiban was occupied after ca. 701 B.C., it would seem to have been a greatly reduced occupation. Evidence for a late 8th cent. B.C. abandonment would seem to have been found at 'Ara'ir, and at other Moabite sites visited by Glueck (but apparently not at all of them). Since there is clear evidence in Ammon for an Iron IIb (ca. 701-587 B.C.), and probably also

an Iron IIc (587-539 B.C.) and Persian (ca. 539-332 B.C.) occupation, it would seem that Ammon fared better than did Moab during the periods of Assyrian, Babylonian, and Persian domination.

The Hellenistic period (ca. 332-63 B.C.) is represented at Dhiban, but only by a few clear sherds which are included with the Nabataean pottery (Dhiban II, Fig. 3:17; 4:20, 21, 27, 28, 31, and possibly others; cf. pp. 27, 49). No structures can be identified, and no relevant coins or stamped jar handles were found, but the sherds should reflect a 3rd-2nd cent. B.C. occupation at Dhiban, which could apparently be either Early Nabataean (ca. 312 B.C. ff.) or pre-Nabataean Hellenistic. Clear Hellenistic pottery was also found at 'Ara'ir, and probably also at Balu'ah, and at Petra, Hellenistic sherds came from the earliest occupational remains at the site. In central Jordan, similar Hellenistic pottery has come from Hesban and Amman.

There is an extensive Nabataean occupation at Dhiban, including the temple and stairway in the southeast, architecturally similar to Qasr Bint Far'un in Petra, and the reported deep occupational remains in the north. The pottery from Dhiban (Dhiban II, Fig. 2:59-61; 3:1-30, 31-36; 4:4-34, 40-60) comes from fills, and it includes Hellenistic (cf. above), Early Roman (e.g., Fig. 3:18, 19, 33; 4:11, 32, 33), and Nabataean types. The Early Roman types are similar to those found at Hesban, while the Nabataean types are similar to

those published from Petra, Khirbet et-Tannur, 'Ara'ir, and many other sites. The coins from Dhiban, which cannot be related to the fills, include a 63-40 B.C. coin of Hyrcanus II, a number of Nabataean and Roman coins dated to 9 B.C.-A.D. 106, and three post-A.D. 106 Roman coins (two of Trajan, A.D. 105-111, and one of Hadrian, A.D. 117-138). It would seem likely that the temple was built during the reign of Aretas IV (9 B.C.-A.D. 40), but there was probably a pre-temple Nabataean (or Early Roman?) occupation during the 1st cent. B.C. (cf. Dhiban II, pp. 49-50). The Nabataean occupation at Dhiban would probably have lasted until the annexation of the Nabataean Kingdom by Rome in A.D. 106, or slightly later. At 'Ara'ir, and possibly also Balu'ah, the Nabataean occupations would seem to have ceased about this same time.

After the Nabataean occupation there would seem to be a gap at Dhiban until ca. A.D. 200 ff., in the Late Roman period. Evidence for this Late Roman occupation at Dhiban would be the coins dated to ca. A.D. 193-324, and the two inscriptions, one dated to ca. A.D. 201, and the other dated to A.D. 245/46 (Dhiban II, p. 56). No definite Late Roman structures were identified (the bath could perhaps be Ayyubid/Mamluk, like a similar one found at Hesban; cf. Dhiban II, p. 57; Dhiban I, pp. 17-18), but there would seem to be some pottery published which is Late Roman (Dhiban I, Pl. 69:7-13; 70:3, 6-7). The Late Roman period is very well attested at other sites in East Jordan, both domestic and military, such as the published sites of Amman, Jerash,

Hesban, and Rujm el-Malfuf (shown by excavations in 1974 to be a reused Iron Age tower), and the unpublished sites of Um el-Jimal, Khilda, and Qasr el-Bashir.

The Byzantine period is well represented at Dhiban, including numismatic and ceramic evidence for the Early Byzantine (A.D. 324-491) and the Late Byzantine (A.D. 491-634) period. The main structure at Dhiban, from the Late Byzantine period, is the North Church, which was constructed next to the former Nabataean temple in the southeast. The pottery which is published (Dhiban II, Fig. 4:64-75, 81-99; 5:27-32, 33-40; 6:24, 26-29, 33-34; Figs. 9-12) comes mainly from fills, and Tushingham assigns virtually all of it to the mid-late 6th cent. A.D. The full range of the pottery would seem to be ca. A.D. 392-634, primarily 5th-6th cent. A.D., but on stratigraphic and numismatic grounds alone, it would seem that the Early Byzantine pottery (pre-A.D. 491) cannot be separated from the Late Byzantine pottery (post-A.D. 491). For example, the pottery published from R 30.5 (Fig. 5:33-40) would seem to be 5th cent. A.D., and it was accompanied by single A.D. 395-423 and A.D. 408-450 coins, as well as by twenty-five illegible *minimi* and small coins of the 4th-5th cent. A.D. Yet, an A.D. 527-65 coin came from R 30.11, and a possible A.D. 491-518 coin came from R 30 Wall V, which would make the dating uncertain. Also, some pottery published from S 3-4 would definitely seem to be 6th cent. A.D. (e.g., Fig. 9:62; 10:78-81), but on stratigraphic grounds, the 5th cent. A.D. and the 6th cent. A.D. pottery cannot be separated consistently.

Tushingham also argues for a mixture of Late Byzantine and Umayyad pottery over the entire site (Dhiban II, pp. 61, 67-68, 75-77, 79-80), but the evidence from Dhiban (and from many other sites) would not agree. For example, R 4.5 and R 4.6 are described (pp. 60-61, 77) and drawn (Section J-J) as one fill layer, which supposedly produced mixed Late Byzantine and Umayyad pottery. Yet the pottery from R 4.5 alone (Fig. 6:25,30-32, 36-37) is Umayyad, and that from R 4.6 beneath it (Fig. 6:24, 26-29, 33-34) is Late Byzantine. Supporting the distinction would be the A.D. 582-602 coin, as well as the glass and metal "church" artifacts (Fig. 13:1-21, 49 ff.), which came only from R 4.6. Elsewhere in Jordan the Early Byzantine period is well attested at Hesban and 'Araq el-Emir, and the Late Byzantine period is found at Mt. Nebo, Hesban, and Pella. The churches at Mt. Nebo, Hesban, and Pella, like the North Church at Dhiban, were probably destroyed or abandoned soon after the Moslem conquest of A.D. 634-36, although some churches seem to have continued well into the Umayyad period (Madeba).

After the destruction of the North Church, there would have been an Umayyad (A.D. 661-750) squatter occupation at Dhiban. Umayyad pottery is well attested (Dhiban II, Fig. 5:1, 4-17, 19-23, 58-59; 6:1-13, 25, 30-32, 36-37, 40-52; 7:1-15; 14:5, 6), but it is wrongly considered by Tushingham to be a mixture of Late Byzantine and Umayyad (cf. above). The pottery is identical to that which is now well dated by coins and inscriptions to the A.D. 661-750 Umayyad

period at Amman, Hesban, Pella, Siran, Mt. Nebo, Hammam es-Sarakh, Ma'in, el-'Al, and many other sites, and thus we could not agree with Tushingham's argument for an A.D. 635-735 gap in occupation at Dhiban (p. 77). Umayyad coins are attested at Dhiban from Tomb J 4.1 and from R 8.4, and there would also seem to be an unrecognized Arabic-incised sherd from R 6.6C (Dhiban II, Fig. 7:12), like similar Arabic-incised Umayyad pieces from Mt. Nebo, Hesban, Pella, and el-'Al. The Umayyad occupation above the North Church at Dhiban would correspond to the occupations which have been found above the churches at Mt. Nebo, Hesban, Pella, Ma'in, Madeba, and other sites. To judge from the available evidence, the Umayyad period was one of intense activity in East Jordan, until the 'Abbasid takeover in A.D. 750.

There is some evidence for a brief Early 'Abbasid (A.D. 750-878) occupation at Dhiban, although Tushingham does not recognize it as distinct from the Umayyad (Dhiban II, pp. 77, 80). Two 'Abbasid coins, dated to A.D. 782 and A.D. 815, came from the site (Dhiban I, pp. 29, 79), but they are essentially uncontrolled. Some unstratified 'Abbasid pottery is published (Dhiban I, Pl. 13:18; 17:2; 66:4; 67:6; Dhiban II, Fig. 5:3, 18: 6:23; 7:38), as well as some which would seem to be stratified from R 4.2, 3, floor (Dhiban II, Fig. 7:16-20, 45-46), which has R 4.5 (Umayyad) beneath it, and R 4.1, 2 (Ayyubid/Mamluk) above it. Similar pottery has come in small quantities from Hesban and Mt. Nebo, but the 'Abbasid period is very weakly repre-

sented in East Jordan. This would reflect the decline which set in after A.D. 750, when the center of Islamic civilization shifted from Syria-Palestine to Iraq.

After a ca. A.D. 878-1174 gap in occupation, a gap which Dhiban shares with most sites in East Jordan, Dhiban was reoccupied in the Ayyubid (A.D. 1174-1260) period, probably during the time of Saladin. Coins dated to A.D. 1146-1238 are attested at Dhiban, but most of them cannot be related directly to the published pottery. Early Mamluk (A.D. 1260-1401) coins are also attested, probably reflecting a Mamluk occupation which began in the time of Baibars, and which continued until the A.D. 1401 invasion of Tamerlane. The site of Dhiban seems to be covered with houses from the Ayyubid/Mamluk period, which were built over the earlier Byzantine, Umayyad, and 'Abbasid remains. A fine collection of Ayyubid/Mamluk pottery is published (Dhiban II, Fig. 5:2; 6:39; 7:21-37, 39-44, 48, 50-53; 8:1-38), but it would seem that the Ayyubid pottery cannot be separated from the Early Mamluk pottery on stratigraphic and numismatic grounds (but cf. the pottery from R 8.3 and R 9.2, which would seem to be pure Ayyubid; Fig. 7:21-34). Ayyubid/Mamluk pottery is very well attested at many sites in East Jordan, including Hesban, Pella, el-'Al, Deir 'Alla, Balu'ah, and 'Ara'ir, reflecting a major occupation in the country from ca. A.D. 1174 to ca. A.D. 1401.

Following the Ayyubid/Mamluk period there is another gap in occupation at Dhiban, from ca. A.D. 1401 to ca. A.D.

1808, a gap in the Late Mamluk and Ottoman periods which is again attested at most sites in East Jordan. During the Late Ottoman II (A.D. 1808-1918) period, part of the ancient site at Dhiban was used for a cemetery, and in the southeast a "weli" and a number of smaller tombs were excavated. No pottery was attested, but Ottoman coins dated to A.D. 1808-40 were found (Dhiban II, pp. 84-85, 109-111, 113; Dhiban I, p. 18). The Late Ottoman II occupation was apparently confined to a nearby hill, located to the south, where today is situated the Modern village of Dhiban. Elsewhere in East Jordan, many villages were reoccupied like Dhiban during the Late Ottoman II and Modern periods, with the ancient sites being used as cemeteries.

The above reconstruction is based largely on the new information which Tushingham has put at our disposal in Dhiban II. It should be clear that this reconstruction is tentative, and that many problems still await solutions at Dhiban. It can only be hoped that Morton will publish the results of the 1955 and 1956 campaigns, or that Tushingham will return in the near future to do further work at Dhiban.

In conclusion, we should make a few general comments about the volume. The volume is well illustrated, with numerous photographs, plans, sections, and artifact drawings. The sections are very small, however, and Loci from which crucial coins or published pottery came do not always appear on them (e.g., R 30.11; S 4.5 on Section S-S; R 8.6, 7 on Sections M-M, P-P). The pottery drawings are

arranged by phases or "construction" and "destruction" units, rather than by Loci, which makes it awkward to reconstruct critically the pottery sequence from Locus to Locus, except by constant reference to the "Provenance" notation in the Figure Descriptions (pp. 120-165) and the Plate Descriptions (pp. 166-170). In the text, walls are usually identified by numbers or letters, but soil layers and other features often are not, which makes the discussion seem vague or imprecise. Very little anthropological evi-

dence (bones, seeds, pollen, etc.) is given in the volume, as might be expected considering the date of the excavation (1952-53). The volume was very well edited by Philip J. King, and only a few minor errata need to be noted here: Sylvester (x); Boraas (p. 56); surface (p.85); B. A Roman (p.105); Cat. No. 5, 6, 7 (p. 117); V 1.15C (p. 132).

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# Inscriptions récemment découvertes à Pétra

par

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Plusieurs séjours à Pétra nous ont permis de découvrir quantité de nouvelles inscriptions nabatéennes, généralement des graffites. Nous les ferons paraître dans un fascicule du *Corpus Inscriptionum Semiticarum (CIS)* qui reprendra les inscriptions de Pétra. Notre dernier séjour, en octobre 1974, se fit en liaison avec deux topographes de l'Institut Géographique National (IGN) français, Maurice Gory et Gabriel Charles, venus préparer la photocopie et la carte de la région de Pétra à l'aide des photos aériennes prises par ce même institut en mars de la même année. <sup>1</sup> Nous avons aussi bénéficié de la présence de Fawzi Zayadine, de la direction du Department of Antiquities of Jordan, qui nous aida dans notre travail et nous obtint un soutien logistique. Le présent article est un échantillonnage qui montrera l'intérêt historique,

religieux ou philologiques de ces courts textes, d'autant plus précieux que les fouilles ne nous ont pas encore livré les grandes dédicaces ou les inscriptions juridiques auxquelles nous ont habitué les sites analogues, par exemple Palmyre. Pour la commodité du lecteur, nous donnons en note la liste des principales abréviations employées. <sup>2</sup>

Pour la toponymie de Pétra, nous suivons T. Canaan, *Studies in the topography and folklore of Petra*, JPOS, IX 1929, p. 136-218 (et les additions, X, 1930, p. 178-180). Nous renvoyons aux coordonnées de sa carte, et aux nos de celles du vol. I de *Die Provincia Arabia* (Strasbourg 1904) de R.E. Brünnow et A. von Domaszewski, et de l'ouvrage *Petra und seine Felsheiligtümer* (Leipzig 1908) de G. Dalman abréviations: Br et D suivi d'un chiffre; "Dalman" suivi d'un chiffre renvoie aux inscriptions

(1) Ils ont parcouru avec nous le secteur de Pétra pour pointer le site exact de chaque inscription ou groupe d'inscriptions. Nous désignons ci-dessous ce point par le sigle IGN suivi d'un chiffre. Cette numérotation figurera sur le photoplan et la carte, ainsi que les nos des monuments, précisés par une reconnaissance analogue, effectuée avec F. Zayadine.

(2) — **BMC, Arabia**: G.F. Hill, *Catalogue of the Greek coins of Arabia, Mesopotamia and Persia*, British Museum, 1922..

— Cantineau: J. Cantineau, *Le nabatéen*, I, 1931; II, 1932. Paris.

— **DISO**: Ch. -F Jean et J. Hoftijzer, *Dictionnaire des inscriptions sémitiques de l'Ouest*, Leiden, 1965.

— Harding, **Index**: G.L. Harding, *An index concordance of Pre-islamic Arabian names and inscriptions*, Toronto, 1971.

— **Mission**: RR. PP. Jaussen et Savignac, *Mission archéologique en Arabie*, I, 1909; II, 1914. Paris.

— **RES**: *Répertoire d'épigraphie sémitique*, (Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-lettres, Paris).

— **SDB**: VII: *Dictionnaire de la Bible, Supplément VII*, Paris, 1966: article *Pétra et la Nabatène*, col. 886 - 1017 (J. Starcky).

— Stark: J.K. Stark, *Personal names in Palmyrene inscriptions*, Oxford, 1971.

— Wuthnow: H. Wuthnow, *Die semitischen Menschennamen in griechischen Inschriften und Papyri des vorderen Orients*, Leipzig, 1930. Les abréviations pour les revues, d'orientalisme comme **MUSJ** (*Mélanges de l'Université St Joseph de Beyrouth*) sont supposées connues.

publiées dans ses *Neue Petra Forschungen* (Leipzig 1912), p. 79ss.).

### 1. La reine Paša'el

Sur la paroi orientale d'el Habis, l'archéologue P.J. Parr nous a signalé il y a quelques années un groupe de courtes inscriptions gravées très haut au-dessus de la grotte aménagée en colombier IGN 013, Dalman, *Petra* . . . , p. 229s. et fig. 167, le n° 372 de sa carte = BR 395). Elles avaient échappé à la perspicacité de Dalman, et ce n'est qu'à l'aide de jumelles et de photos prises au téléobjectif que nous avons pu en assurer la lecture (Pl. XXXVII, 2). Deux se distinguent sur un redans qui fait face au sud, et une troisième sur la paroi à gauche. Par-dessus, court une longue faille horizontale, sans doute une canalisation (Pl. XXXVII, 1 et XXXVIII, 1).

A. Sur le redans, à droite du dessin d'un bétyle presque rectangulaire, posé sur un socle :

ŠLM PŠ'L : Paix à Paša'el.

B. Plus bas, deux lignes :

ŠLM PŠ'L MLKT NBTW : Paix à Paša'el reine de Nabatène.

C. Sur la paroi à gauche, sous deux obélisques posés sur une mince base :

ŠLM PŠ'L : Paix à Paša'el.

Pour la base à deux obélisques, on comparera le relief inédit du Wadi Umm el-'Alda figurant deux obélisques à

fleuron sur un soubassement mouluré en haut et en bas (probablement une double "néfesh")

Malgré l'effritement du grès, notre lecture, confirmée par celle de F. Zayadine, est certaine. Les L sont encore à double courbure (sauf celui de MLKT) et l'écriture a l'élégant calibre des inscriptions du milieu du 1er siècle de l'ère. Or les deux autres mentions nabatéennes du nom Paša'el vise un enfant d'Arétas IV (9 a 40 ap. J.C.), ce qui convient à notre datation et nous permet de présumer qu'il s'agit du même personnage, en rectifiant l'interprétation de ces deux textes, ou PŠ'L était considéré comme un nom masculin. Le plus anciennement connu est la dédicace à "Obodat le dieu" dans le sanctuaire rupestre du massif d'en-Nmer (Pl. XL, 2), qui énumère, en l'année 29 d'Arétas IV, ses enfants: "Maliku et 'Obodat et Rab'el et Paša'el et Sa'udat et Hagaru ses enfants".<sup>3</sup>

Ce dernier mot traduit BNWHY, littéralement "ses fils", et il en va de même pour la seconde attestation, sur une tablette de marbre trouvée par A. Negev dans la tour à escalier menant à l'acropole de l'antique Oboda ('Abdeh, 'Avdat), sur la route de Pétra à Gaza (*IEJ*, 11, 1961, p. 127 et pl. 28, B). La tablette paraissant complète, elle aura été apposée sous l'effigie des personnages

(3) *CIS II*, 354; *Cantineau*, II, p. 5s.; J.T. Milik; *RB*, 66 (1959) p. 559s, *SDB VII*, col. 906. Le nom Sa'udat a aussi été donné à une soeur de Rab'el II (voir plus bas, mais en *CIS II*, 786, en 1604, cf. 1296 et en 2003, 2129, 3145, il s'agit sans doute d'un patronyme. Tout comme la Hagar mère d'Ismaël ou les Hagar de Palmyre (*Stark*, p. 14 et 84), les Hagarû des textes nabatéens sont des femmes. Nous

mentionnerons plus bas deux reines de ce nom, signalons ici les deux Hagarû de Pétra: *Mission.*, I, p. 165 - 169, n° 13 et 14 (= *CIS II*, 226 et 203) et p. 190 n° 30 (= *CIS II*, 200), où l'expression HGRW D', cette Hagarû, s'oppose à M'NT DNH, ce Mu'anat (1.3 et 6). La vocalisation Hagarû est assurée par les transcriptions grecques (Agarê), *Wuthnow*, p. 11 et 135.



nommes par le texte: " 'Obodat et Paša'el et Sa'udat les enfants de Harétat", l'absence de l'afné, Maliku, s'expliquant s'il était déjà le roi régnant.<sup>4</sup> Le type d'écriture convient également à une datation postérieure à Arétas IV.

Dans ces deux textes, Paša'el apparaît comme la fille afnée du roi et on retiendra volontiers la suggestion de G.F. Hill de reconnaître ce nom dans les lettres PŞ de bronzes à l'effigie d'Arétas IV.<sup>5</sup> Nous possédons deux exemplaires, avec PŞ entre deux cornes d'abondance. Mais il est peu probable que la princesse Paša'el ait déjà porté le titre de reine du vivant de son père. Il semble alors réservé aux épouses royales, Hūldu puis Šaqilat, et peut-être à la reine-mère, si Arétas IV

est le fils de "Hagaru la reine" mentionnée dans un texte de fondation de l'an 18 de son règne.<sup>6</sup> Tel est en tous cas le titre de la mère de Rab'el II, Šuqailat II, durant ses quatre ans de régence (71-74) : au revers des deniers, on lit *Šuqailat sa mère, reine de Nabatène*<sup>7</sup>. Mais sous le règne de Rab'el II (71-106), toutes les soeurs du roi finissent par porter le titre de reine : si l'inscription de l'an 17 du Jébel Ramm distingue les soeurs-épouses Gumullat et Hagaru des simples soeurs Qasma'el et Sa'udat, les premières étant seules qualifiées de "reine", l'inscription n° 92 de Dalman, trouvée à Pétra et dont la date est perdue, leur donnent à toutes les quatre ce titre.<sup>8</sup> Mais les monnaies ne connaissent que Gumullat et Hagaru,<sup>9</sup>

(4) Cf. **SDB**, VII, col. 917 (où il faut maintenant lire: ... **ce fils et ces deux filles**). J. Naveh suggère qu'il ne s'agit que des enfants de Hūldū, qui fit place à Šaqilat I entre l'an 16 et l'an 20 d'Arétas IV (**BMC, Arabia...**, p. XVIIIs.), tandis que **CIS** II, 354, de l'an 29, ajouterait ceux de la seconde reine (**IEJ**, 17 (1967) p. 188s.). Mais Malikū, premier nommé, doit être l'aîné, et son absence sur la tablette d'Obodas s'explique mal dans cette hypothèse. De même l'écriture nous paraît trop évoluée pour dater du début de l'ère. Nous conservons la transcription **Malikū**, mais les inscriptions ont toujours MNKU.

(5) **BMC, Arabia...**, p. XVIII: "Two cornucopiae and palm-branch; in field left, PS", Pl. XLIX, 9. Dans nos deux exemplaires les deux cornes d'abondance ne sont pas accolées, mais en sautoir, et il n'y a pas de palme.

(6) J. Starcky, dans **Hommages à A. Dupont-Sommer**, Paris (1971) p. 151 - 159 et fig. 2 (on notera la différence d'écriture d'avec la dédicace d'Oboda). La pierre n'a pas été trouvée au Wādī Sabra, comme l'indique le post-scriptum, mais près de l'ancienne forteresse dite ez-Zantūr (carte Canaan, F, I). Ce qui convient à une installation militaire.

(7) J.T. Milik et H. Seyrig, **Rev. Numismatique** (1959) p. 13 et 20. Nous avons renoncé à la transcription Šuqaylat, non attestée, car les noms propres de forme fu'aylat sont rares,

et dans le cas présent le diminutif ne se justifie pas.

(8) Ces deux importantes dédicaces seront reprises avec amélioration de lecture dans le fascicule en préparation sur Pétra, voir en attendant M.R. Savignac, **Rev. bibl.**, 42, (1933), p. 406 - 410 pour celle d'Iram (er-Ramm) et Cantineau, II, p. 9s. pour Dalman n° 92. Ce dernier texte pourrait être postérieur à l'an 28 de Rab'el (98 ap. J. - C.), car le document 2 de la "grotte aux lettres" du wādī Khabra (nahal Hever) est daté de "Kisleu de l'an vingt-huit de Rab'el" et nomme, après " 'Obodat fils de Rab'el", les seules "Gumullat et Hagarū, ses soeurs, reines de Nabatène, enfants de Malikū..." (Y. Yadin, **IEJ**, 12 (1962) p. 239). Mais on peut objecter que l'absence, dans ce document, du dauphin Harétat, mentionné par les deux dédicaces, et la présence d'un 'Obodat attesté pour la première fois suggère pour Dalman 92 une date plus haute.

(9) Pour Hagarū, cf. A. S. Kirkbride, **BASOR**, 106, avril, 1947 p. 4s.: deux exemplaires d'un petit bronze aux noms de RB'L et de HGRW. D'autres exemplaires aux musées de l'Ecole Biblique Française et du Studium Biblicum Franciscanum de Jérusalem. Nous en possédons un, mutilé. La rareté de ces pièces contraste avec l'abondance de celles aux noms de RB'L et GMLT.

et leurs deux soeurs ne furent donc pas épouses royales. Ajoutons que les enfants du roi ne portent pas de titre.

Il ressort de ces textes que notre Paša'el fut appelée reine après la mort de son père Arétas IV, et probablement à simple titre honorifique. Il est en effet peu probable que son frère Maliku II l'ait épousée. Les monnaies datées au nom du roi et de la reine Šuqailat II son épouse vont de l'an 3 à l'an 23 du règne 42-62), mais à ce hiatus de huit ans (63-70) répond le silence des inscriptions après l'an 25, et en 63 ap. J.-C., Paša'el ferait une reine quinquagénaire! Quant au silence des monnaies pour les trois premières années, il reste incertain—il y a peut-être un denier de l'an 1 — et la série comporte d'autres lacunes.<sup>10</sup>

Il nous reste un mot à dire sur le nom de Paša'el. Il faut particulièrement mentionner ici Phasaêlos, frère d'Hérode le Grand, car comme ce dernier et leur soeur Salômé, il est né d'Antipattros l'Idumeen et de Kypros l'Arabe, c. à d. la Nabatéenne (Josephe, *Antiquités*, XIV, 121s.). Et les deux frères eurent chacun un fils auquel ils donnèrent ce nom de

Paša'el (XVII, 21s.). Il est assez fréquent en palmyrénien, mais écrit PSY' L, ce qui suppose une prononciation Pasayel ou Phasayel, confirmée par des transcriptions grecques comme *Phaasaieîê*.<sup>11</sup> mais en général, les transcriptions omettent le *iôta*, ce qui suppose que la forme primitive *pašaya* avait passé à *pašâ*, comme dans l'arabe *fašâ*, écrit avec *yâ*'.

La forme arabe simple signifie "délivrer", et la forme intensive, *fassa*, également usitée en araméen (par ex. syriaque *passi* ) veut dire "délivrer". La forme simple n'est pas employée en syriaque, mais on la rencontre parfois dans les targums araméens de la Bible, précisément au sens de "délivrer".<sup>12</sup> C'est donc avec raison que le CIS donne à PS'L et PŠY'L le sens de "Dieu a délivré" (II, 354 et 3923).

Paša'el est un nom nord-arabique, car on le retrouve trois fois en safaitique et une fois en thamoudéen, de même que le diminutif PŠY (Harding, *Index*.. p. 468, auquel répond le PŠYW si fréquent dans les graffites nabatéens du Sinaï (J. Cantineau *Le nabatéen*, II, p. 137). Or on sait

(10) J. T. Milik et H. Seyrig, *Rev. Numismatique*, 1958, p. 13 et 19.

(11) Wuthnow, p. 117 et 162.

(12) La forme simple au sens de "délivrer" est aussi attestée en hébreu dans le psaume 144, v. 10 (participe *pōšeh*), 7 et 11 (imperatif). Mais on estime que dans ce psaume tardif il s'agit d'un aramisme, car ailleurs dans la Bible, la forme simple *pasah* signifie "il a ouvert" et elle est suivie du mot "bouche" (ou "lèvres"). Ainsi dans Job 35, 16: *ypsh pyhw*, il ouvre la bouche. Le Targum traduit par *pase pûmêh* (J. Levy, *Chaldäisches Wörterbuch*, II, p. 282), mais il s'agit cette fois d'un hébraïsme, car ailleurs les Targums emploient *psy* au sens de "délivrer", normal en araméen: ainsi dans

ce qui reste du Targum de Job de la grotte XI de Qumrân, publié par J.P.M. van der Ploeg et A. S. van der Woude (1971): Job 30, 13 (p. 42), 33, 24 (p. 56), mais aussi 27, 14 (p. 32), où [hr] b *ypšwn wl' yšb'wn* n'est pas à traduire par... l'épée, ils ouvrent (la bouche), mais ils ne seront pas rassasiés, ce qui ne répond pas au texte hébreu et sous-entend le mot "bouche" (toujours exprimé en hébreu). Il faut sans doute comprendre: ils ne seront pas sauvés de l'épée et ne seront pas rassasiés, [l'mn hr] b *ypšwn wl' yšb'wn*. Et il faut donc écarter l'explication de PŠY'L palmyrénien que donne J. K. Stark (p. 109): "God has opened (the womb)". Le sens d'ouvrir est bébreu et *psh* ne s'emploie pas dans la Bible pour l'ouverture du sein maternel.

que leur onomastique a un caractère arabe très marqué.

Mais l'intérêt principal de nos inscriptions est historique: Paša'el, enfant d'Arétas IV, est une fille, et elle porta le titre de reine, sans doute sous le règne de son frère Maliku II (40-70).

## 2 — La grotte funéraire de 'Abd'obodat.

Dans le flanc nord du Qunb el-Hamar (carte Canaan G, VII) s'ouvre une grotte funéraire (Pl. XXXVIII, 2) contenant une épitaphe inédite (Pl. XXXIX). Elle a été copiée et photographiée en octobre 1971 par J. Starcky et revue en octobre 1974 par les deux auteurs de cet article. La grotte (IGN 018) n'est pas visible du wadi Farasah qui sépare la hauteur du Qunb el-Hamar de celle du Haut-Lieu (le Madhbah), ce qui explique qu'elle ait échappé à l'attention des explorateurs, alors qu'elle n'est qu'à une quinzaine de mètres à l'ouest du tombeau Br 201 (cf. la carte de la Pl. XLIII, confuse pour le Qunb el-Hamar).

Devant l'entrée, qui fait face au nord-ouest, l'espace est partiellement clôturé par le roc et forme cour, comme c'est le cas pour de nombreux tombeaux rupestres. La façade n'a pas de décor et la porte, ainsi que les deux fenêtres, sont irrégulières. Mais l'intérieur est une salle rectangulaire aux parois taillées verticalement. Celle du fond comporte, vers la gauche, une sorte de niche à cuvette, probablement un réservoir.

(13) Pour cette curieuse notion voir en dernier lieu F. Zayadine, *A New Commemorative stele at Petra*, dans *Essays in memory of P. Lapp*, p. 57s, Pittsbourg 1971 (le nom du défunt est QYMT (et non TYMT), qu'on retrouve avec le même patronyme au haut du même sentier, CIS II, 400 et 040, ce dernier avec

Sur la paroi de droite, non loin de l'angle ouest de la pièce, sont gravées deux "néfesh", c. à d. deux monuments funéraires pyramidaux symbolisant la "personne" (*napšâ* en araméen) du défunt.<sup>13</sup> La plus proche de l'angle est anépigraphie. L'autre, plus grande, a 66 cm de haut (dont 54 pour sa pyramide à fleuron). Le corps du monument est discernable à gauche (Pl. XXXIX, 1). Face à cette néfesh, le sol de la grotte présente une dépression rectangulaire, perpendiculaire au mur: sans doute le *loculus* du défunt.

Sur la pyramide, dans un cartouche de 9 x 11 cm, deux lignes, usées à droite, mais de lecture certaine. Hauteur moyenne des lettres, 2 cm. (Pl. XXXIX, 2).

'BD'BDT 'Abd'obodat

BR 'BDT fils de 'Obodat

Les lettres ne sont pas assez caractéristiques pour dater l'inscription, mais rien ne s'oppose à la situer encore au temps d'Arétas IV (-9 a 40). Au témoignage des transcriptions grecques, 'BDT se prononçait 'Obodat ou 'Obdat<sup>14</sup>. Cet anthroponyme de forme *fu'lat* est surtout attesté en safaitique (16 fois). Notons aussi deux attestations minéennes à Dedan, l'actuelle el-'Ula, ou il s'agira d'un nom nord-arabique<sup>15</sup>, également cité par Ibn Doreid (213, 16). Mais en nabatéen il n'est guère porté que par des rois ou des membres de la famille royale.

NPŠ et un dessin détaillé de ce monument symbolique). M. Gawlikowski, *Berytus*, 21, 1972, p. 5-15.

(14) Wuthnow, p. 86: Obdas, Obodés; Josèphe, *Antiquités*, XVI, 220: Obodas.

(15) Harding, *Index...*, p. 398; *Mission...*, II, p. 318, n° 58; p. 323, n° 78.

Pour les textes publiés, le seul exemple sûr d'un particulier est CIS II, 393 bis : DKYR 'BDT BR HNYNW MN QDM DWŠR', qu'on se souvienne de 'Obodat fls de Honaynu devant Dušara. Nous n'avons pas retrouvé cette inscription découverte par les Pères Jaussen et Savignac sur le chemin qui va du sanctuaire rupestre de "Obodat le dieu" (cf. note 3) au Madhbah. 16

Le père de notre défunt porte donc un nom rare, mais la modestie de sa sépulture suggère qu'il n'appartenait pas à la famille royale. Par contre le nom du défunt, 'Abd'obodat, se réfère à un roi 'Obodat, tout comme TYM 'BDT qui signifie lui aussi *serviteur de 'Obodat*, ou 'WS'BDT *don de 'Obodat* 17. Ce roi est sûrement "Obodat le dieu", c.à.d. le vainqueur d'Alexandre Jannée, puis d'Antiochus XII (cf. SDB VII, col. 906), et non le prédécesseur d'Arétas IV. 18 Ces noms s'insèrent dans la série des anthroponymes en l'honneur des rois ou reines de

(16) Rev. bibl., 11, 1902, p. 587. La fin du graffite, MN QDM DWŠR', est présentée par CIS II, 393 bis comme une restitution, mais une note manuscrite de Ch. Clermont-Ganneau, sur son exemplaire du Corpus, précise que le Père Lagrange lui écrit (le 7.5.06) que les P. P. Jaussen et Savignac ont revu l'inscription et confirment la restitution.

(17) Cantineau, II, p. 59, 126, 156; Harding, Index..., p. 137 (un TM 'BDT tham.) et 141 (un TYM 'BDT sab.); Wuthnow, p. 8: Abdoobdas; F. Rosenthal, dans Excavations at Nessana, I, p. 201-203: sur une pierre portant une liste de noms un MWTBW BR 'BD'BDT (lecture sûre d'après le fac-similé et la photo Pl. XXXIV, 1). L'auteur ajoute (p. 203): A greek inscription from Nessana furnishes the name **Themoobdou** (Taym-'Obodat) (n° 21) which has the same meaning "Servant of 'Obodat". Pour MWTBW, cf. Harding, Index..., p. 573: MWTBM et p. 635: WTB (racine wtb, *assoir*). Voir aussi note 19.

Nabatène 19 et sont un indice de plus du culte royal à l'époque hellénistique.

La séquence 'Abd'obodat/'Obodat n'est pas attestée ailleurs.

### 3 — Un anthroponyme rare : Taym'alkut-ba.

En novembre 1973 F. Zayadine et J. Starcky descendaient du sanctuaire du Madras (carte Canaan L, VII) mais par la corniche qui surplombe le wadi qu'on emprunte d'abord quand on quitte ce haut lieu, célèbre par ses chambres rupestres à inscriptions (Br 40,41,44 = D 89,88,90). Sur la paroi de la corniche, à une dizaine de mètres à l'est de l'escalier qu'on voit vers le milieu de notre photo (Pl. XL, 1), ils aperçurent deux graffites côte à côte, qu'ils photographièrent et déchiffrèrent (IGN 4). En octobre 1974, J. T. Milik et J. Starcky en trouvèrent trois autres, de part et d'autre des premiers.

A. Le premier graffite en venant du haut lieu est gravé près du tournant de la corniche, au-dessus de l'escalier (Pl.

(18) J. T. Milik montre que le nom de 'Abd'obodat est antérieur au règne de cet 'Obodat (III): Il est en effet porté par le père du Wahballahi qui en l'an I de l'ère achève un tombeau à Hegra (CIS II, 198), ce qui nous renvoie au milieu du siècle précédent (SDB VII, col. 906). Il faut aussi écarter le 'Obodat (II) qui est probablement à insérer entre Arétas III, mort peu après la campagne de Scourus en 62, et Malikû I, qui monte sur le trône en 65 au plus tard (SDB VII, col. 909-911) Mais il n'a régné que quelques années et n'avait pas acquis la gloire d'un 'Obodat Ier (SDB VII, col. 906).

(19) J. T. Milik, Studi Biblici Franciscani, Liber Annus X (1959-1960), p. 148-150 p. 149, ligne 11: lire **Sadalli** au lieu de **dadalli** dans la bilingue du Capitole: on a ainsi la transcription latine de S'D'LHY, Cantineau, II, p. 153 et une nouvelle transcription grecque **Thaimmo-obdas**; supprimer l'hypothèse d'un TYM 'BDT'LH', *Serviteur d'Obodas le dieu*.

XLI, 1). Longueur actuel 30 cm; hauteur du M, 10 cm:

TYM'LKTB['] *Taym'alkutb* [a]

Le B a presque disparu, mais la lecture est assurée par les autres graffites.

A neuf mètres à gauche, deux graffites (Pl. XLI, 2): B. A droite, une ligne, longueur 57 cm; hauteur du M, 10 cm.

TYM'LKTB' *Taymalkutb* [a]

Les deux dernières lettres sont écrites plus haut que le reste, sans doute pour éviter le graffite suivant, qui est donc antérieur. Après le second T, le long trait vertical n'est pas une lettre, mais fait la liaison avec le B en quart de cercle; l' *aleph* final est bouclé, le haut a disparu. Mais la lecture, due à F. Zayadine, est certaine. On notera, ici et en F, l'article écrit sans *aleph*, alors qu'en A, D et E, on a TYM'LKTB', cf. TYM'LHY, Cantineau, II, p. 155.

C. A gauche et plus bas, deux lignes, 30 x 20 cm; hauteur du Z, 8 cm.

ŠLM ZYDW BR *Paix à Zaydu fils de*  
W' LW BTB *Wa'ilu, en bien.*

A cinq mètres à gauche des précédents, deux autres graffites, le second à un demi-mètre et plus bas sur la paroi de la corniche:

D. Quatre lettres, hauteur du T, 10 cm. (Pl. XLI, 3):

TYM' [LKTB'] *Taym'a (lkutba)*

Le graffite n'a pas été achevé, à cause de la surface du grès, mais a été repris ci-dessous:

E. Longueur 56 cm; hauteur du M, 10 cm:

TYM' LKTB' *Taym'alkutba*

On a donc quatre fois le même nom, certainement dû au même personnage, car la hauteur et le type des lettres sont les mêmes et l'écriture est ascendante. On notera le M tracé en deux fois et ouvert en bas (en particulier en E), ce qui suggère la première partie du premier siècle de l'ère. Le graffite de Zaydu manque de lettres caractéristiques, mais sera antérieur, si B l'évite. La séquence *Zaydu fils de Wa'ilu* ne réapparaît pas à Pétra, mais elle est fréquente dans les graffites sinaïtiques (CIS II, 569, 586, 976, 1251(?), 1693, 1821, 2549, 2722 et 3204), où elle s'applique sans doute à plusieurs individus. Il y a peu de chances que notre Zaydu fils de Wa'ilu soit l'un d'eux, car l'écriture de ces graffites, au témoignage des fac-similés reproduits par le *Corpus*, est plus tardive, comme c'est le cas habituel dans la presque île du Sinaï. Ainsi les Y sont simplifiés en forme de S alors qu'ici, ils sont encore à deux traits. Mais nous allons voir que Wa'ilu pourrait bien être le père de notre Taym'alkutba, ce qui expliquerait la juxtaposition des graffites B et C.

Les deux noms se lisent en effet dans un graffite relevé durant cette même mission d'octobre 1974. En face du sanctuaire rupestre de 'Obodat - le - dieu débute la montée vers le couloir qui rejoint la montagne du Madhbah. Notre photo Pl. XL, 2 est prise du haut de la montée: le sanctuaire s'ouvre dans le mamelon du bas, et à gauche on voit le haut de la paroi au bas de laquelle ont été gravés

plusieurs séries de noms, presque tous endommagés par l'usure du grès. Celui que nous publions ici est le dernier avant le raidillon (Pl. XLI, 5).

Deux lignes, 25 x 60 cm; hauteur du dernier W: 10 cm.

BRYK TYMLKTB' *Beni soit Taymalkutba*

BR W' LW *fils de Wa'ilu*

L'écriture est du type des graffites précédents, et vu la rareté du nom de Taymalkutba, attesté pour la première fois à Pétra, il s'agira ici du même personnage qu'à Madras, et le Zaydu du graffite C est alors le frère de Taymalkutba.

J. Strugnell a reconnu notre anthroponyme dans un graffite nabatéen de Hégra : DKYR TYMLKTB' / QDM DWŠR' WTBWS, *qu' on se souviennne de Taymalkutba devant Dusara et ... (?)*. La copie du Père Savignac ne laisse aucun doute ( *Mission ...*, I, pl. XXVIII, n° 142, cf. p. 236), mais sa lecture ne lui a pas révélé le nom, car on ignorait alors l'existence d'une divinité Kutba. C'est parceque J. Strugnell l'a reconnue dans une inscription d'Iram (er-Ramm), également publiée par le Père Savignac ( *Rev. bibl.*, 43, 1934, p. 574, n° 17 et p. 586s), qu'il a compris qu'il s'agissait dans le graffite de Dedan d'un anthroponyme du type de TYM'LHY. Grâce à la collaboration d'autres savants, il put retrouver al-

Kutba dans deux inscriptions nabatéennes d'Égypte et dans des textes lihyanites de Dedan au sud de Hégra (HKTB'Y, hak-Kutbay, et HN'KTB, han'Aktab). Cette étude si féconde<sup>20</sup> permet d'améliorer la lecture de ce qui reste d'une des inscriptions du "stibadium" repéré par G. Dalman au-dessus du wadi es-Siyyagh (D 398; inscriptions Dalman 81-84): ... QDM KWTB' 'LH' DNH, *devant Kutba, ce dieu - ci*<sup>21</sup>. La vocalisation du nom divin, ainsi que le genre masculin de la divinité, était ainsi assurés.

Comme l'indique la racine *ktb*, il s'agit du dieu de l'écriture, et W. F. Albright y voit une réplique du dieu-scribe Nabu ( *BASOR* 156, p. 37), tandis que J. Strugnell songe plutôt à Thoth (p. 35). Les années passées par Nabonide dans les oasis de Teimah, Dedan, Khaybar et Medine (C. J. Kadd, *Anatolian Studies*, 1958, p. 60 et 79s.) auront favorisé la diffusion du culte de Nabu, cher à la dynastie néobabylonienne, et J. Teixidor a rendu vraisemblable l'identité de Nabu et de Kutbay dans le paganisme mesopotamien tel que nous le décrit la littérature syriaque.<sup>22</sup>

Mis à part *Taym' alkutba*, les seuls noms en l'honneur de ce dieu ont été relevés par les Pères Jaussen et Savignac à Dedan, dans des graffites lihyanites: GRMHN' KTB, *Mission ...*, II, p. 510, n° 290 (lu MRMHN' KTB) et ZDHN' KTB, p. 446, n° 78 et p. 527, n° 358.

(20) *BASOR*, 156, Dec. 1959, p. 29-36.

(21) J. T. Milik, *BASOR*, 163, Oct. 1961, p. 22-24. Actuellement nous n'hésitons plus sur le sexe de la divinité.

(22) *Loc. cit.*, p. 24-25. Sur les rapports possibles entre Kutbâ=Nabû=Mercure d'une part et le dieu Rudâ=Arşâ d'autre part, cf. *SDB VII*, col. 993-996 (pour Arşâ, cf. J. T. Milik, *Dédicaces faites par des dieux...*, p. 49).

C'est J. Strugnell qui les a identifiés<sup>23</sup> et on les trouve enregistrés dans l' *Index* de G. L. Harding (p. 160 et 297). On peut se demander si les 'KTB safaitiques (p. 61) ne seraient pas l'hypocoristique d'un théophore analogue à *Geramhan'aktab* (*Aktab-a-décidé*) et *Zedhan'aktab*, (*accroissement-de* (dû à) 'Aktab).

Si l'attestation d'al-Kutba à Pétra reste modeste, elle n'en est pas moins précieuse : c'est un indice de plus de l'étroite parenté des panthéons nabatéens et dédanite.

#### 4 — Nouveaux graffites dans le massif d'en-Nmer.

Le 17 octobre 1974, Gabriel Charles, topographe de l'IGN qui accompagnait J. Starcky dans le massif d'en-Nmer, découvrait un nouveau nid de graffites, situé en contrebas du sanctuaire de 'Obodat-le-dieu. Il s'agit d'une étroite faille (IGN 037), près de celles qu'on voit à droite sur notre photo, Pl. XL, 2. On l'atteint facilement à partir du sanctuaire, en descendant le sentier jusqu'à l'endroit où il est constitué de marches : là on prend à gauche, on longe la falaise, on passe un seuil et l'on descend un raidillon d'une trentaine de mètres. On est alors face à un escalier qui grimpe jusqu'à l'entrée de la faille. Elle est très étroite, mais peu profonde, le sol est plat et couvert de sable. Dans la paroi sud on a taillé une niche destinée à recevoir une idole. Sur les deux parois les visiteurs ont gravé leur nom, mais aucun de ces

graffites nabatéens ne nomme la divinité du lieu. Sans doute n'était-il qu'une annexe du sanctuaire de 'Obodat.

Nous publions ici le mieux conservé de ces graffites, remarquable par l'élégance de son écriture (Pl. XLII, 1) et par les noms propres, qui posent quelques problèmes. Il est gravé sur la paroi nord de la faille, à gauche du haut de l'escalier, et mesure 58 cm. de long. Hauteur du T : 10 cm.

DKYR BGRT BR GRPW *qu'on se souviene de Bagrat fils de Gurpu.*

On notera qu'au B en quart de cercle de BR s'oppose celui de BGRT, encore carré, ce qui nous reporte au milieu du I<sup>er</sup> siècle de l'ère à plus tard. En effet, les inscriptions postérieures n'offrent ce B archaïque qu'à la fin du mot. Pour le reste, l'écriture de notre graffite est très proche de celle de la belle inscription du tombeau dit du Turcoman (Turkman), CIS II, 350, non datée, Mais la forme des lettres et le style de la façade la situent autour de 50 ap. J.-C. 24

Les lettres D et R n'étant pas distinctes en nabatéen, une lecture BGDT et GDPW est théoriquement possible. Ecartons GDPW, non attesté, alors que GRPW figure sur une stèle nabatéenne d'Umm el-Jimal (RES, 2081). Il est également connu par des transcriptions grecques de Syrie méridionale : *Gorpost* et *Gorepos* (Wuthnow, p. 42 et 134). Il appartient à l'onomastique nord-

(23) BASOR, 156, Dec. 1959, p. 31. La note 12 propose de lire le graffite lihyanite n° 279 (Mission., II, p. 507) GRMKTBH, mais si l'estampage de la Pl. XCI autorise cette lecture, le H final est insolite.

(24) SDB VII, col. 931 et 961. Pour une date un peu plus tardive, cf. F. Zayadine, dans *Petra und das Königreich der Nabatäer*, par M. Lindner et alii, 2<sup>e</sup> éd., Nüremberg 1974, p. 61.

arabique (huit attestations de GRP en safaitique), et sous la forme GRPM, au sud-arabique (Harding, *Index* . . . , p. 159). Le sens de la racine *grp* est "emporter" (un courant d'eau, gloutonnerie . . .) et Jurfan est un nom arabe ancien (G. Ryckmans, *Les noms propres sud-arabiques*, I, p. 63).

Par contre, une lecture BGD<sup>T</sup> n'est pas exclue: les graffites safaitiques nomment quelques BGD et BGD<sup>T</sup> (Harding, *Index* . . . , p. 93) et l'arabe ancien connaît des Bijad, Ibn Doreid, 207. Nous préférons cependant lire "Bagrat", bien attesté en safaitique (Harding, *Index* . . . , p. 93) et par des transcriptions grecques (Bagrathos et Bagratos, Wuthnow, p. 31 et 130). C'est ainsi que le *Corpus* et le Père Savignac lisent cet anthroponyme dans les inscriptions nabatéennes CIS II, 161 (Damascene); 205 et 211 (= *Mission* . . . , I, p. 159-165, n° 12 et 11, Hegra): *Mission* . . . , II, p. 217, n° 321 (sur la route de Hégra à Teima). J. Starcky a aussi choisi BGR<sup>T</sup> de préférence à BGD<sup>T</sup> pour le patronyme qu'on lit sur un fragment palmyrénien conservé au Musée de Beyrouth, en invoquant la transcription *Bogranes* attestée pour le palmyrénien BGRN, de même racine.<sup>25</sup> Son sens est difficile à préciser (ventru?), et elle a fourni d'autres noms propres, dont le très fréquent 'Abgar (nord-arabique, nabatéen, palmyrénien, syriaque). On

(25) *Bulletin du Musée de Beyrouth*, XII, 1955, p. 36, n° 6. Le fait que le R de BRT semble pointé (cf. Pl. XVIII) alors que celui de BGR<sup>T</sup> ne l'est pas n'impose pas une lecture BGDN, car à Palmyre, dans une même inscription, il n'est pas rare de voir des R pointés à côté d'autres qui ne le sont pas. Même

doit cependant tenir compte de la bilingue CIS II, 4402, où *Apollodoros* rend BGDN plutôt que BGRN, car le nom iranien *Bagadana* est de sens analogue, cf. CIS II, 4340. S'il fallait lire BGD<sup>T</sup> dans notre graffite, il s'agirait du nom nord-arabique, de même racine que BGD, car un nom iranien comme *Bagadata* (grec *Bagadates*) serait unique à Pétra.<sup>26</sup>

### 5 — Une dédicace à Isis de l'an cinq de 'Obodat III.

Le wadi es-Siyyagh, dans son parcours le long d'el-Habis, présente sur sa droite une impressionnante faille, qui s'ouvre à moins de deux cents mètres du cirque de Pétra: c'est le sidd el-Mreriyyeh de la carte de Canaan (E, VI). Notre photo, Pl. XLII, 2, est prise du fond du Siyyagh, en direction nord. On distingue à mi-flanc une corniche (IGN 042) plus apparente Pl. XLIII, 1, où elle est marquée par une ligne de buissons et de niches, celles-ci bien visibles Pl. XLIII, 2. La quatrième à partir de la droite présente de part et d'autre une grande inscription (XLIV, 1), qui désigne comme Isis l'idole figurée à l'intérieur (XLIV, 2).

Nous sommes donc en présence d'un sanctuaire rupestre, semblable à celui du Qattar ed-Der (cf. *Syria*, XXXV, 1958, pl. XXI). C'est à Madame C. M. Bennett que nous en devons la connaissance: elle en fit l'escalade en 1964 et nous com-

remarque pour le cas parallèle de CIS II, 4402 (cf. la note 1, p. 36).

(26) Les noms iraniens *Bagadana* et *Bagadata* sont attestés en araméen par les papyri d'Eléphantine, mais dans un contexte totalement différent du nôtre (cf. P. Grelot, *Documents araméens d'Égypte*, Paris, 1972, p. 467).



munique quelques photos, dont celle de l'inscription. J. Starcky en octobre 71 et J. T. Milik en octobre 1974 y monterent en compagnie de F. Zayadine, et ainsi purent être réunies toutes les données, photographiques et autres, dont nous résumons ici l'essentiel.

Et d'abord la dédicace. Les lettres ont de dix à quinze centimètres de haut et l'écriture se veut monumentale. A droite, il reste cinq lignes (sur six), et autant à gauche, où le texte paraît complet, mais l'usure du grès, très marquée vers le bas, ne permet pas d'être affirmatif. Dimensions actuelles des parties inscrites : 80 x 43 et 84 x 96 cm. Nous commençons par la colonne de droite, vu le sens de l'écriture.

BHD B'YR	'LHT
BSNT	D' 'SY
HMS	DY 'BDW BNY BR-
4 L'BDT	HBL BR QYMW'
MLK	W---BR TYM'
[NBTW]	

*Au premier d'Iyyar en l'an cinq de 'Obodat le roi (de Nabatène); cette déesse (est) Isis, qu'ont faite les fils de Barhobal fils de Qayyuma et — fils de Tayma*

Pour l'écriture on notera les aleph à trait vertical détaché comme dans les inscriptions d'Arétas IV, par ex. CIS II, 199 (4 ap. J.-C.); 209 (31 ap. J.-C.), les deux de Hégra; 160, de Sidon, pro-

(27) Sur les monnaies attribuées par Hill à Obodas II (*BMC, Arabia...*, p. XII et Pl. XLIX, 2 et 3) et sur celles de Malichos Ier (*loc. cit.*, et p. 3, p. XIII, pl. 1, 5, cf. *SDB VII*, col. 909).

(28) L'an cinq d'Obodas II n'est à envisager que si on attribue à ce roi les didrachmes de poids phénicien à bustes conjugués de l'an trois, cinq (*BMC, Arabia...*, p. XV, Pl. I, 6 et XLIX, 5), six (inédit), que G. F. Hill laisse à Obodas III, bien que ce roi ait émis de

bablement de 4 av. J.-C., encore plus ornemental. Ce type d'aleph, dérive de l'aleph en forme de  $\times$  qu'on constate déjà dans l'inscription d'Aslah (Dalman n° 90), du Ier siècle av. J.-C., commence à se dessiner dans la dédicace de la statue de Rab'el (Ier), de l'an 18 d'Arétas III, vers 67 av. J.-C. (*CIS II*, 349). Mais il n'a pas encore cette forme fourchue et le trait median n'est pas détaché. Les attestations nous manquent pour les règnes d'Obodas II (autour de 60 av. J.-C.), de Malichos Ier et d'Obodas III (29 à 9 av. J.-C.). Des autres lettres, retenons le H en deux courbures parallèles, qu'on ne rencontre que dans quelques inscriptions du temps d'Arétas IV, et le M, arrondi et fermé par le bas, alors qu'au temps d'Obodas II et de Malichos I, il est ouvert et carré.<sup>27</sup> Le S a déjà la haste de gauche prolongée par le bas, par contre le Q a encore une grande tête, comme dans la dédicace de la statue de Rab'el Ier. Mais dans l'ensemble l'écriture de notre inscription paraît trop évoluée pour se situer vers 58, qui serait l'an cinq d'Obodas II, 28 et l'an 25, qui est la cinquième année d'Obodas III, est à retenir jusqu'à plus ample documentation.

La titulature du roi est 'BDT MLK' MLK NBTW, Obodas le roi, roi de Nabatène, sur les didrachmes et les bronzes<sup>29</sup> et 'BDT MLK' NBTW sur les

nombreuses drachmes de poids attique (p. XV et XXs.). Mais cette attribution (*SDB VII*, c. 911) est rendue douteuse par des bronzes inédits.

(29) R. Dussaud, *Numismatique des rois de Nabatène*, n° 16 (bustes conjugués du roi et de la reine; revers, déesse debout). J. Starcky a deux bronzes, bustes conjugués et revers avec corne d'abondance (an cinq) pour l'un, et cornes d'abondance en sautoir pour l'autre (an 20?).

drachmes. Mais J. Starcky a une drachme de l'an 13 qui porte clairement 'BDT MLK' MLK NBTW. Notre inscription a la titulature courte, car le K de MLK qui suit 'BDT' a la forme finale.

Pour la formulation de la date, on comparera CIS II, 219, l.7, de Hégra, corrigé par le P. Savignac, *Mission I*, p. 148-151, WD' BYM HD B'B SNT TLT L MLKW MLK' MLK NBTW, et cela, au jour un, en 'ab de l'an trois de Malichos le roi, roi de Nabatène. <sup>30</sup>

Colonne de gauche, l.2: "Isis" est écrit 'SY. Le nom de la déesse se retrouve dans l'anthroponyme 'BDY'SY, <sup>31</sup> aussi écrit 'BD'SY, <sup>32</sup> donc avec l'orthographe de notre dédicace. Ajoutons qu'une stèle funéraire inédite de Bosra porte le nom TYM'YSY, Taym 'isi. En safaitique on a 'BD'S et en lihyanite probablement 'BDS et HN'S. <sup>33</sup>

L. 3s. : BRHBL, lecture pratiquement sûre, bien que le B soit presque effacé. Barhobal est le répondant araméen du nom arabe Binhobal, attesté par la dédicace nabatéenne de Pouzzoles à "Hobalu et Manawatu" (sic), CIS II, 158. Sur le dieu Hobalu, nommé à Hégra (CIS II, 199) et principale idole de

la Mecque d'avant l'Islam, cf. SDB VII, col. 998-1000. L'index de G. L. Harding signale trois attestations safaitiques de l'anthroponyme HBL (p. 607), qu'il rapproche de 'BHL, un autre nom safaitique (p. 81). Il cite aussi le nom arabe Hubal (Hess, *Beduinennamen aus Zentralarabien*, etc), dont la vocalisation suggère un théophore apocopé.

Pour le patronyme, QYWWM', nouveau en nabatéen, la vocalisation est assurée par les transcriptions grecques Kaioum, Kaioumos et Kaioumas (Wuthnow, p. 164), ce dernier supposant également une désinence -a.

La niche encadrée par la dédicace a 65 cm de haut et 60 de large, le haut relief de 59 cm de hauteur se détachant de la paroi du fond, bien dressée (Pl. XLIV, 2). La déesse est assise sur un siège sans dossier, mais sculpté à droite et à gauche, sans qu'il nous soit possible d'affirmer qu'il s'agissait d'animaux. Le siège repose sur une sorte de large tabouret. Le haut de la déesse a beaucoup souffert. Elle retient son manteau de la main droite, et en bas on distingue les plis d'une ample tunique qui descend jusqu'aux pieds: sur la poitrine, elle formait sans doute le noeud isiaque, mais cette partie est fruste.

(30) Voir aussi RES, 676; Cantineau I, p. 74s.

(31) RES 1382 = Dalman n° 3 et RES 1431 B = Dalman n° 87. Nous avons revu ces deux textes (ainsi que RES 1462). L'interprétation du premier est encore due à Lidzbarski (*Ephemeris...*, III p. 276s.) et celle du second à J. — B. Chabot (RES 1431), Notre n° 7 apporte une nouvelle attestation de 'BD'YSY.

(32) RES 1435 = Dalman n° 93 (qui a lu 'BD'YSY). Nous l'avons revu en octobre 74 (IGN 074). Par contre il faut écarter ici RES

1462 = CIS II, 443, où la lecture 'LYMT 'S est à remplacer par 'LYMT 'SLH (Aus'allah), avec S comme en safaitique et thamoudéen ('LH est écrit sous 'S).

(33) Harding, *Index...*, p. 397, 399, 626. Pour les attestations en phénicien et punique ('S; 'BD'S, PT'S, etc), cf. F. L. Benz, *Personal Names in the Phoenician and Punic inscriptions*, 1972, p. 271s. Le roi ammonite Ba'alīs, mentionné Jérémie 40, 14 (LXX; 47, 14; Belisa, etc), porte peut-être un nom en l'honneur d'Isis.

Ce noeud distinctif de la déesse est parfaitement discernable sur une autre statue assise de Pétra, comme nous l'avait fait remarquer le regretté Henri Seyrig en prenant connaissance de "la notice préliminaire" publiée par P. J. Parr, sur "un sanctuaire nabatéen près de Pétra", découvert en 1959.<sup>34</sup> Le site ne figure pas sur les cartes : c'est un vallon, le wadi abu 'Olleqah tributaire du wadi Waqit (ou Wigheit, carte au 100 000°), qui court d'est en ouest au sud du Ras Sliman (carte Canaan F, X). Ce haut relief se détache également du fond d'une niche, et la déesse, dont la tête est perdue, est assise sur un siège caché par le vêtement (tunique et manteau) et posé sur un support analogue à celui du Siyyagh. Comme l'indique une note de P. J. Parr, (p. 22), il connaissait l'existence de notre déesse assise, mais ne l'avait pas encore vue.

On a voulu faire du Khazneh, le plus beau monument de Pétra, un temple d'Isis.<sup>35</sup> Cette interprétation n'a pas été retenue, étant donné le caractère nettement funéraire du plan intérieur et du décor de la façade. Mais la déesse qui

(34) **ADAJ** VI et VII, 192, p. 21-23, pl. VIII-XI, fig. 1-7 : la fig. 3 (Pl. IX) montre la terrasse avec les restes d'une construction antique et le rocher où s'ouvre la niche, dont le haut relief est reproduit fig. 5 (Pl. XI).

(35) A. von Domaszewski, **Die Provincia Arabia**, I, p. 186. La déesse de la tholos ne porte pas le sistre, mais comme on l'a noté depuis, une patère. (ou un vase oblong ?). Cependant l'acrotère à hauteur du podium de ce haut-relief présente un disque isiaque entre deux cornes et deux épis, lequel est en relation avec la déesse, si celle-ci est une Isis-Tychè.

(36) F. Zayadine, dans **Petra und das Königreich der Nabatäer**, p. 66 et fig. 31 (oenochoé avec en relief Bérénice sous les traits d'une

orne la tholos de l'étage a été identifiée comme une Isis-Tychè dont le modelé est alexandrin.<sup>36</sup>

Rappelons ici une inscription grecque du Siq qui mentionnait peut-être un "prêtre d'Is [is]", datée du 25 siwan 151 (de l'ère de Bostra).<sup>37</sup> Mais une date aussi tardive (juin 256) est en dehors de notre contexte. Par contre il faut mentionner le Zeus-Sérapis publié par J. P. Parr<sup>38</sup>, puisque cette divinité alexandrine était le parèdre d'Isis.

La niche à droite de celle d'Isis a pu contenir une idole anthropomorphe (Pl. LXIV, 3), car le profil de ce qui en subsiste n'est pas celui du bétyle quadrangulaire si fréquent à Pétra. On en a un exemplaire dans la petite niche voisine (la deuxième à partir de la droite, (Pl. XLII, 2). Cette niche était rectangulaire et dans la paroi du fond on a taillé une seconde niche, avec deux colonnettes et un cintre encadrant le bétyle. La grande niche à droite est éventrée, et celle qu'on aperçoit à gauche de l'inscription d'Isis, de dimensions réduite, ne contient pas de bétyle.

Fortune (elle n'a pas le noeud isiaque et on ne le devine pas non plus sur le buste de la Fortune du Khazneh, dont le haut est endommagé).

(37) Br. 60, 11 (et p. 222), à env. 600 m du Khazneh. Malheureusement cette inscription, comme celles à la Thea Megisté (Atargatis ?) ont disparu du Siq. Dans le même méandre (BR 60, 2 et p. 220) on voyait un édicule avec une déesse assise entre deux bêtes à cornes. Dalman estimait qu'elle était debout, entre deux panthères, et par dessous il a dégagé une inscription au nom d'un panégyriarque, mais qui ne nomme pas la divinité (**Petra** . . . , p. 145s et fig. 68; cf. **Neue Petra Forschungen**, p. 108.) L'édicule est sous les alluvions du Siq.

(38) **PEQ**, 1957, p. 6-7.

Entre la grande niche éventrée et le fond de la terrasse, nous avons relevé sur la paroi quelques dessins et graffites.

1. à 11 m à droite de la niche d'Isis et à 1, 25 m. du sol : ŠLM TY MW. (Pl. XLV, 1). Hauteur du S, 10 cm. Le Y est certain, quoique abîmé en bas. L'éclat qui suit a emporté deux lettres, puis la surface redevient bonne et anépigraphie. ŠLMTY n'est donc pas à interpréter comme un nom théophore.

2. à un mètre plus à droite, à côté d'un rectangle surmonté de deux triangles opposés par le sommet (peut-être un vase, mais pas une néfesh), un mot, long. 13 cm; lettres, 6 cm. Pl. XLV, 2.

KWDNW, *Kudnu*

Une lecture KWRNW ne donne rien. Bien que le mot soit isolé il s'agira d'un nom propre, celui d'un défunt si notre interprétation du dessin est exacte. On l'expliquera par l'araméen *kudna*, mulet.<sup>39</sup> Le N n'est pas tout à fait sûr.

3. Signalons encore, tout proche de cet ensemble, un rectangle figurant sans doute un bétyle, et à sa droite un autel à deux cornes et à merlon central (?), Pl. XLV, 3.

Il est difficile de préciser la date de ces dessins et graffites et leur rapport avec le culte d'Isis. C'est ce dernier qui fait l'intérêt du sanctuaire, car il est attesté que Pétra, même après la conquête de la Palestine par le séleucide Antiochus III, restait sous l'influence de l'Égypte, en matière religieuse comme dans le domaine des arts. Ajoutons que la dédicace est notre première inscription datée du règne

d'Obodas III, abstraction faite des monnaies et de deux dédicaces de son ministre Syllaios, de la dernière année du roi (cf. *SDB* VIII, col. 913).

## 6 — Une inscription mentionnant al-Uzza.

Le wadi es-Siyyagh, après sa jonction avec le wadi Kharrubat ibn Jraymeh longe sur sa gauche le massif d'Umm el-Biyara (carte de Canaan, DE, VI). C'est dans ce couloir d'un demi km de long que jaillit la source la plus abondante de la ville. Elle explique les nombreux graffites et dessins sur les deux parois, la plupart inédits. Le mieux conservé est gravé sur la paroi sud, à 4 mètres de haut, et caché par un gros bloc de grès qui barre le sentier (IGN O46). C'est encore à Madame Bennett que nous en devons la connaissance et J. Starcky le photographia en juillet 1966 du haut du bloc rocheux. Il mesure environ 270 cm. de long et les L doivent atteindre 25 cm. de haut. Le premier mot, dont la première lettre a disparu, est gravé à droite d'une petite niche (30 x 20 cm. env.) qui contient un bétyle rectangulaire, et le texte se poursuit à gauche de la niche, qui lui est donc antérieure Pl. XLVI, 1 et 2. Une autre niche rectangulaire, qui elle est vide, a été taillée à moins d'un mètre sous la première.

Nous avons revu l'inscription en octobre 1974.

[Š] LM HN'T 'LYM 'L'Z' 'LHT'

*Paix a Han'at Serviteur d' al-Uzza la deesse*

(39) Ainsi dans les *Texte araméens d'Égypte*, de N. Aimé-Giron, (n° 90) et à Palmyre, dans le tarif, *CIS* II, 3913, I, 1.39 et p. 61.

Les L verticaux se confondent avec les N : le L de 'LHT' est plus court que le N de HN'T. Cette confusion reflète sans doute celle des deux sons : rappelons que "Malichos" se disait "Manku" en nabatéen, car on a toujours Mnk<sup>w</sup>. Le Y de 'LYM, tout petit et en forme de S étiré, a été rajouté après coup, mais il est certain. Ici et pour ŠLM on notera le M non final, qui s'explique peut-être par l'état construit (mais le cas n'est pas rare). Il est d'un tracé continu, qui s'oppose au tracé ancien, cf. l'inscription d'Isis. Ce détail, ainsi que les *aleph* à appendice faisant suite au haut de la lettre et les H non finals à hastes presque parallèles, suggèrent la seconde moitié du premier siècle ap. J.-C. (au plus tôt).

Le nom Hani'at est surtout attesté en safaitique, à côté de HN', Hani', et ces deux formes se retrouvent dans l'onomatistique arabe (Harding, *Index* ..., p. 625). En nabatéen, on a HN'W, Hani'u, très fréquent dans les graffites sinaïtiques. Le nom de notre "HN'T" se lit encore, écrit de la même main, en amont et du même côté du wadi (IGN 045) à cinq mètres du sol : ŠLM HN'T (lettres, 5 cm environ). Ajoutons deux attestations inédites (environs de Pétra). Le

(40) J. Cantineau, *Grammaire du palmyrénien épigraphique*, p. 104-107; F. Rosenthal, *Die Sprache der palmyrenischen Inschriften*, p. 18. Il ne s'agit pas de la forme diminutive "fu'ayl" cf. judéo-araméen 'ulēm, syriaque 'alīm, arabe ghulām. voir aussi **DISO**, p. 214, qui distingue les quatre sens du mot.

(41) Dans le graffite 257 Hégra Mission..., II, p. 199s. et pl. CXV), 'LYM est suivi de MR..., qui peut être un anthroponyme aussi bien qu'un titre divin. Pour 'LYM et 'LYMT en nabatéen, cf. Cantineau, II, p. 131. Pour Pétra, voici la liste complétée et rectifiée: 'BD'BDT 'LYM W'LM, **CIS II**, 376 + 377, en-Nmeir, IGN

mot hani', *Serviteur* se retrouve, surtout en safaitique, dans des noms théophores, peu attestés (HN' SMS, HN' 'LY, HN'LH, HN'MNWT), etc. (Harding, *Index* ..., p. 625s.), mais qui permettent de considérer Hani' et Hani'at comme des formes apocopées.

Le mot de 'LYM au sens de *Serviteur*, est bien attesté déjà en araméen d'Empire. A Palmyre on a aussi l'orthographe défective 'LM. 40 Ici, le contexte nous invite à donner à 'LYM le sens de desservant d'un sanctuaire d'al-'Uzza, mais dans les autres attestations nabatéennes, le mot est suivi d'un anthroponyme. 41

A Pétra, la déesse al-'Uzza n'était connue que par l'inscription gravée par un plâtrier à côté d'une niche, à un tournant du monumental escalier qui grimpe au haut-lieu d'el-Khubthah, au-dessus du célèbre *tombeau à étages* (*Palace tomb*). C'est la dédicace de deux bétyles (perdus), ceux de la déesse et du "Seigneur de la Maison" (MR' BYT), **RES 1088** (où les lettres signalées ne sont pas au-dessus du texte, mais au-dessous, et constituent le patronyme du plâtrier: [BR] ZYDN). Le haut-lieu est

039; 'MTHLDW 'LYMT 'BYSW, **CIS II**, 426 B, Dalman 49, M. Lidzbarski, *Ephemeris*, II, p. 7 et **RES 1442**, w. el-Mu'eisra el-Gharbiye; HDWT 'LYMT WTYQT, **CIS II**, 432, w. el-Kharrôbat, IGN 053; 'LYMT 'SLH, **CIS II**, 443, cf. notre 32; KL 'LYMY DRW'L (**Bras-de-Dieu**), **RES 837 A** ('LYM'), triclinium du w. el-Hureimiye, IGN 008; 'BDLG' 'LYM LWS', Dalman 42 =, **RES 1406**, w. el-Mu'eisra el-Gharbiye; inédits: 'JLYMT HRSW, elMadras, Br 40, IGN 005;... 'LYM W'LV RB', près de **CIS II**, 389, en-Nmeir, IGN 038; 'LYM 'MRT, w. abu 'Ollêqa (affluent du w. Waqît): notre n° 8.

impressionnant, et se prêterait bien au culte de l'Etoile du Matin, que personnifiait al-'Uzza au témoignage de la littérature syriaque, en particulier d'Isaac d'Antioche, qui rappelle que les femmes de l'Arabie montaient sur les toits pour l'invoquer. 42 En octobre 1974, J. T. Milik a découvert une nouvelle mention de la déesse ('L'Z') dans une inscription du Sidd el-Ma'ajin (carte de Canaan, J, III), qui sera publiée ultérieurement.

A Iram, à la source dite 'Ayn Shel-laleh, on a taillé dans la paroi deux bétyles d'al-'Uzza, les yeux indiqués par des carrés. L'un est suivi du bétyle du Seigneur de la Maison ('L'Z' WMR BYT'), l'autre précédé de celui d'al-Kutba ('L-KTB' DY BGY' 'L-'Z').43 Le premier couple est celui de Pétra et le second mentionne Gaya, l'actuel Wadi Musa au-dessus de Pétra (appelé autrefois el-Ji). Il est probable qu'al-'Uzza ait été la déesse principale de Pétra. C'est elle que nomme la dédicace bilingue de Cos, faite en l'an 18 d'Arétas IV, par le Nabatéen Ausallas: LL'Z' 'LHT, à al-'Uzza la déesse et théa Aphro (di te) (au datif), ce qui confirme son identité avec Vénus, l'Etoile du Matin. 44

#### 7 — Graffites au Shu'b-Qes.

Le Shu'b-Qes, *défile de Qays*, entoure au sud et à l'ouest le massif d'al-U'erah,

(42) **SDB**, VII, col. 1003 et 1014. On sait l'importance du culte de la déesse dans l'Arabie préislamique, où le nom de 'Abd al-'Uzzâ, au dire d'Ibn al-Kalbi (12 3), était particulièrement fréquent. En nabatéen, il n'est attesté qu'une fois (**CIS**, II, 946) et l'**Index** de Harding ne mentionne qu'une 'MT'ZYN, en sabéen (p. 74). La forme première du nom de la déesse est 'zzay, la **Très-Forte**, épithète de la Vénus céleste.

(43) M.R. Savignace, **Rev. bibl.**, XLII, (1933),

qui porte le chateau croisé (carte Canaan LM IV) et p. 163s.). Plusieurs auteurs, dont Dalman, le mentionnent, mais ne semblent pas avoir vu les graffites du parcours ouest. Ils ont été découverts par Maurice Gory en 1973 et le 27 octobre 1974 il y retourna avec J. Starcky qui les copia et les photographia.

Nous publions ici les deux les mieux conservés, gravés sur la paroi ouest (IGN 131), à trois mètres et demi de hauteur, au-dessus d'un étroit passage qu'on atteint en grimpant deux douzaines de marches. A quelques mètres au sud (donc en aval), un énorme bloc de grès obstrue la gorge, formant un passage couvert entre lui et la paroi Pl. XLVII, 1. On a creusé dans la face du bloc perpendiculaire à la paroi trois niches à idoles, actuellement vides, celle du milieu plus petite et carrée, les deux autres rectangulaires. Par-dessous, les deux niches cintrées semblent être des réservoirs.

Les deux inscriptions lisibles sur notre photo Pl. XLVII, 2 ne peuvent être mesurées directement, mais occupent une largeur d'environ 1,10 m. On lit à droite:

p. 413s.; XLIII, (1934), p. 15 - 18; J. Strugnell, **BASOR**, 156, Dec. (1959), p. 29 - 31.

(44) Il existait à Pétra un temple d'al-'Uzzâ: dans le papyrus 10 du w. Khabra, de 124 ap. J. - C., il est précisé qu'il émane du temple d'Aphrodite à Pétra, Y. Yadin, **Jaarbericht ex Oriente lux**, 17, (1963), p. 234ss (mais ce n'est pas le Kasr, cf. P.J. Parr, *ib.*, 19, (1965-1966), p. 550 - 557. Pour une vue d'ensemble sur le culte d'al-'Uzzâ, voir **SDB**, VII, col. 1003 - 1005, 1010 - 1014.

DKRWN ṬB  
 (L....) BR NḤṢṬB  
 BNY' MN QDM  
 DWŠR'

Bonne commémoration  
 ( de .... ) fils de Nahaštab,  
 le constructeur, devant  
 Dušara.

Le patronyme, NḤṢṬB, est attesté en accadien, en lihyanite et minéen, en nabatéen, palmyrénien, hatréen(?) et syriaque, et la vocalisation est assurée par les transcriptions Naastabos et Nahestabus de Doura. 45 A. T. Clay a fait connaître ce nom dans un texte cunéiforme du règne de Darius II (424-404) Na-ḥi-iš-tabu, Na-ḥiš-tabu, cf. dans un document du temps de Darius I, Ni-ḥi-is-tum-ta-a-bi. Il le compare (en note) au nom Awil-na-ḥi-is-tum, qui remonte à la III<sup>e</sup> dynastie d'Ur, en remarquant que l'absence du déterminatif divin devant Naḥistum ne doit pas nous empêcher d'y voir un nom divin, car "à cette époque Awil ( homme de ) dans les noms propres est toujours en relation avec un nom

(45) Stark, p. 39 et 99, mais il faut éliminer CIS, II, 120, qui a été revu par Jaussen et Savignac, *Mission...*, II, p. 216, n° 319 et pl. 118, où ils lisent NḤṢGLB, lecture également douteuse.

(46) *Business Documents of Murachu Sons of Nippur*, The Babylonian Expeditoin of the Univ. of Pennsylvania, X, 1904, p. 57, et 71 (dans sa liste des noms divins: Na-ḥi-iš).

(47) W. von Soden, *Akkadisches Handwörterbuch*, p. 713 - 715 et 801, où on notera l'expression kakkab nu-uh-šū, étoile Abondance. Pour d'autres noms de la racine nḥš, voir J.J. Stamm, *Die Akkadische Namengebung*, 1939, p. 240, 249 et 160, où Na-ḥi-iš-šal-mu, "das gesunde Kind gedeiht" serait un bon parallèle bonne santé par Stamm).

(48) On a voulu faire de NḤṢṬB lui même un nom divin, au moins pour l'inscription minéenne n° 1 de *Mission...*, I, p. 250, de Hégra, reprise par G. Ryckmans, RES, 3602, cf. Les

divin". 46 On peut considérer la forme nahiš/naḥiš comme l'état absolu de l'adjectif naḥšū, fem. nahištu, aussi employées comme nom propre, de même racine que le verbe nahašū, être bien portant, prospère, et le substantif nuḥšū, prospérité, fécondité. 47 Un dieu Naḥiš et une déesse Nahištu, bien que non attestés directement, sont aussi plausibles que Kettu et Mesaru, Vérité et Droiture, les asesseurs divins de Saturne. Le nom propre appellerait donc "la Prospérité" à se montrer "bonne" pour le nouveau-né.

En fait, les autres auteurs qui ont essayé d'expliquer l'anthroponyme Nahaštab, n'ont fait appel à l'accadien nahašū, bien que ce verbe ait donné plusieurs noms propres, par ex. Munnahis-Marduk, *Marduk rend prospère*. Ils ont d'abord considéré l'élément Nahaš, comme identique à l'hébreu nahaš, serpent, et Nahaštab comme un nom théophore, bien que les inscriptions sud-sémitiques ne connaissent pas un dieu Serpent. 48 Mais plus

noms propres sud-sémitiques, I, p. 22 et 321; J. Pirenne, RES, VIII, p. 205, au mot NḤṢṬB; Harding. *Index...*, p. 583, où ce n° 1 ne figure pas. Mais M. Höfner estime que partout on a l'anthroponyme, et l'interprète comme "le Serpent (ainmal attribut de Wadd) est bon" (et non pas "le bon Serpent"). Voici les autres références: *Mission...*, II, p. 226es no 135, 145, 166, 168, minéennes de Dedan (=RES 3805, 3371, 3821, 3822); lihyanite de Dedan: p. 491, n° 230, NḤSDB à lire NḤṢṬB.

(49) J. Johnson, dans *The Excavations at Dura-Europos, Prel. Report of Second Season*, 1931, p. 139, no D. 103; H. Ingholt, *Berytus*, II, 1935, p. 92; J. Cantineau, *Inventaire des inscriptions de Palmyre*, VIII (suite), 1936, p. 71 n° 104 (indépendamment des précédents). Partant de cette signification, O. Eissfeldt estime valide l'interprétation que *Genèse*, 30, 77 et 13 donne des noms patriarchaux Gad et Aser, *Journ. of Bibl. Liter.*, 82, 1963, p. 195-200, repris dans *Kleine Schriften*, IV, p. 73-78.

recemment, on l'a rattaché à l'araméen *naḥṣā*, *augure* 49. Cette racine *nḥs* se retrouve en hébreu avec le même sens divinatoire, et aussi en arabe, mais en ne retenant que l'aspect négatif, car *naḥis* signifie "être funeste".

Quelle explication faut-il adopter ? Ecartons *naḥas*, *serpent* qui n'est attesté qu'en hébreu. La racine *nḥš*, être bien portant, abondant, ne rend pas compte, à première vue, du minéen et du liḥyanite *Nḥstb*, puisque l'alphabet sud-arabique distingue *ḥ* et *ḥ̣*. Mais on ne saurait isoler cet anthroponyme de l'accadien *Nahīštābu*. L'explication la plus satisfaisante est de partir de la racine *nḥš*, déjà attestée en accadien ancien par des noms comme *Es-dar-nu-uḥ-si*, *I-li-nu-uḥ-si*, *Na-aḥ-šum*, etc. (I. J. Gelb, *Glossary of Old Akkadian*, (1937 p. 200). Proche de l'idée de prospérité est celle de "chance", et le *Nahistabu* des documents *Musrashu*, qui émanent d'un milieu aramaisé, exprime peut-être déjà cette nuance, qui caractérise la racine araméenne *nḥš*. Celle-ci aura été empruntée à l'accadien, avec passage normal de *ḥ* à *ḥ̣*. Le *Naḥāštāb* araméen est ensuite adopté par les tribus arabes.

L'anthroponyme araméen *Nahīštāb* était déjà connu en nabatéen par deux inscriptions : un graffite d'Iram (er-Ramm) publié par le Père Savignac, *RB* 42 (1933), p. 412, n° 3) et un autre de Hégra, *CIS* II, 299 (= *Mission* .., I, p. 222, n° 78), relu par nous sur photo de la mission F. V. Winnet et de W. L. Reed, en 1962, et nous adoptions l'ex-

plication par l'araméen *naḥṣa*) "Bonne Fortune" (Eutyches, Fortunatus). 50 Signalons aussi quatre attestations inédites de Pétra, dont trois au Wadi Abu 'Olleqa (Affluent du W. Waqit).

Au *Shu'b Qes*, le passant est invité à se souvenir du fils de *Naḥštāb* devant *Dusarā* : c'est sans doute la grande niche rectangulaire qui était consacrée au chef du panthéon nabatéen.

L'inscription à gauche de la précédente n'est pas de la même main, ni sans doute de la même date : les formes finales de l'aleph y sont remplacées par la forme bouclée (la dernière lettre).

'BD'YSY 'Abd' isi

WS[B]NY' et Sabina

Pour 'BD'YSY, on se reportera à notre n° 5 (dédicace à Isis). Notre lecture S[B]YN, suppose que le tracé du B a été commencé trop haut, si bien qu'il a la forme du L. Mais pour une lecture SLYN' on ne peut guère invoquer que la transcription grecque *Selianou* (Hauran), que *Wuthnow* p. 107 rattache au nom SLY (Sullay), bien qu'il ne soit pas attesté avec un suffixe -an. L'avant dernière lettre de notre nom est également quelque peu douteuse : pardessus la courbe profonde qui remonte jusqu'à l'aleph on voit un trait horizontal, qui, s'il est intentionnel pourrait indiquer un B ausis bien qu'un N : On aurait alors un diminutif de l'anthroponyme safaitique SLB (*Harding, Index* .., p. 324). Mais nous préférons la lecture SBYN', qui a l'avantage d'être attestée à Palmyre deux

(50) *Ancients Records from North Arabia*, 1970, p. 158, no 112.



fois telle quelle, une fois sans Y, sans compter la forme non aramaisée SBYNS (Sabinus, en grec Sabeinos), cf. Stark, p. 40. Il s'agit partout d'un nom masculin, et l'aleph final ne rend pas le vocatif latin ou grec (H. Ingholt, *Berytus* V, 1938, p. 105), mais la désinence de l'état emphatique. 54

### 8 — Stèle funéraire mentionnant un paranymphe.

Le petit musée de Pétra s'est enrichi pendant notre séjour de 1974 d'une stèle funéraire dont nous ignorons l'origine précise (Pl. XLVI, 3). Il semble qu'on ait utilisé à cet usage un tambour de colonne: on l'a coupé en deux et on a rabattu les deux extrémités. On sait que les tambours de grès sont de faible hauteur à Pétra. Hauteur 22, largeur 40, épaisseur 15. Grès rose. Trois lignes de nabatéen; haut. du B de BR (l.1): 4 cm; du L de 'L (l.2): 7,5 cm.

NPS ŠLY BR ZR'LHY  
'LYM Š'YDW NŠ'  
ŠWŠP'

Stèle de Šullay fils de Zar' ilahi  
serviteur de Šu'aydû fils de Neš  
le paranymphe.

Les deux Y de la l.1 ont la même forme, mais au second le scribe a rattaché le 'aleph de NŠ'. Le M est non final, sans doute parce que 'LYM est à l'état const-

ruit. Son tracé est continu, ce qui suggère, avec d'autres indices, la seconde moitié du Ier siècle ou le second siècle.

Le nom de ZR'LHY est nouveau en nabatéen. On sait que la racine zr' ensementer, se présente généralement sous la forme zr', même en arabe, et qu'elle est très proche de la racine zr', qui a aussi le sens d'ensemencer. On notera surtout l'anthroponyme sud-et nordarabique ZR'T/DR'T 52 et le toponyme (cananéen?) YZR'L, transcrit par la Septante par Iezrael, *El a ensemencé*. C'est l'équivalent de notre Zar'ilahi, duquel il faut aussi rapprocher le safaitique D R'L et le sud-arabique 'L D R'. 53

Ici 'ulaym a son sens ordinaire, analogue au grec pais et au latin puer, *serviteur*, cf. notre n° 6.

Le diminutif Šu'aydu, plusieurs fois attesté en nabatéen (Cantineau, II, p. 153) et en sudarabique (S'YD) est aussi connu par des transcriptions grecques (Soaidos, etc, Wuthnow, p. 173). Ce n'est pas le nom arabe Sa'id, comme le suggère Harding (*Index.*, p. 321).

Le nom qui suit n'est pas précédé de BR, ce qui est rare en nabatéen. 54 Il est vrai qu'on pourrait lire Š'YD WNS', mais ce serait donner deux maîtres au même serviteur. Nous préférons la lecture NŠ' a BŠ' à cause de la courbe profonde

(51) Ainsi Stark, p. 101. Pour SBN', il y voit avec Lidzbarski une forme augmentée de SB'.

(52) G. Ryckmans, *Les noms propres sud-sémitiques*, I, p. 71 et 86, mais il donne à DR' le sens de "mesurer" (cf. "brasse"); Harding, *Index.*, p. 252 et 297. (ne donne pas d'étymologie).

(53) G. Ryckmans, *op. cit.*, p. 223: Ildara', 'Il produit, ensemence; Harding, *Index.*, p. 65 et 251.

(54) En fait il s'agit d'un surnom (signum), cf. TYMLH RB', CIS II, 385 (en Noir IGN 038; W'LV RB' cf. note 41; 'BD'BDT 'KM' (Le Noir), Dalman 26 (dans Br 212, IGN 017).

qui convient mieux à N (opposer le tracé du B de BR), mais les deux noms sont bien attestés en safaitique, BŠ' et NŠ', Harding, *Index.*, p. 105 et 586. On ne peut dissocier le second du palmyrénien NŠ', aussi écrit NŠ',<sup>55</sup> ce qui suppose la racine sémitique nš', élever (Stark, p. 100). Il est vrai qu'on attendrait alors la graphie NŠ' en safaitique, cf. arabe naša', s'élever. Mais on sait combien était hésitante la transcription des chuintantes, alors en pleine évolution.<sup>56</sup>

Suaydu est qualifié de ŠWŠP'. Le mot araméen šušipa signifie "manteau", mais

on attend ici un nom de profession. Ce pourrait être le mot araméen šausbînâ, "celui qui conduit la mariée," le nymphagogue ou paranymphe, et par extension l'ami, le parrain.<sup>57</sup> On le trouve dès la première moitié du premier millénaire av. J.-C. dans des listes lexicologiques babyloniennes sous la forme šušapinnu, et le terme abstrait de la fonction est attesté au XIII<sup>e</sup> siècle dans un acte royal d'Ammistamru II roi d'Ugarit: kasap su-sa-pi-in-nu-ti, l'argent prelevé sur le garçon d'honneur.<sup>58</sup>

J. T. Milik et J. Starcky

(55) Le même personnage a son nom écrit NS' (grec Nesês) sur une console du temple de Bel (*Inventaire des inscr. de Palmyre*, IX n° 14 [= CIS, II, 3916) et NS' (grec Nesês) sur cf. CIS, II, 4309s. et 4311.

une console de l'Agora (*Inventaire.*, x, n° 124),

(56) G. L. Harding rattache NŠ' à l'arabe naša', garder, protéger, cf. G. Ryckmans, *op. cit.*, p. 141. Ils distinguent donc pour le sens NS'N de NŠ'N. Ajoutons que les noms tirés de ces deux(?) racines sont rares, *Index.*, p. 586-8 (sauf sabéen NŠ'KRB). Les étymologies proposées sont souvent très hypothétiques: ainsi on peut se demander si l'anthroponyme SKRN, très fréquent en safaitique, est vraiment identique à l'arabe sakrân, ivre, et ne doit pas être rattaché à la racine skr, qui a donné les noms SKR'L' "Dieu a récompensé", SKR, etc, cf. *Index.*, p. 323 et 353.

(57) Pour les divers emplois de ce mot dans le judaïsme et le christianisme oriental, cf. J. Levy, *Chaldäisches Wörterbuch.*, II, p. 464s.; M. Jastrow, *A dictionary of the Targumim.*, p. 1543; R. Payne Smith, *Thesaurus syriacus*, col. 4341s. Le *Dictionarium syriacolatium* de J. Brun signale l'arabe moderne šabîn, parrain, et l'hébreu šwšbt (p. 665, sub šaušhînô), donc une forme sans la finale—in. W. Bauer, *Griechisch-Deutsches Wörterbuch zu den Schriften des Neuen Testaments*, à numphios, cf. à arkhistrikinos. H.L. Starck et P. Billerbeck *Kommentar zum Neuen Testament aus Talmud und Midrash*, I, p. 500-518 (Matthieu, 9, 15); II, p. 407-409 (Jean, 2, 8).

(58) J. Nougayrol, dans *Le palais royal d'Ugarit*, III, p. 146s., 225, 245; W. von Soden, *Akkadisches Handwörterbuch*, p. 1063.

# Excavations At The Citadel, Amman, 1975

by

Crystal — M. Bennett

In 1881, an Englishman named Claud Reignier Conder, an officer in the Royal Engineers, was seconded to the Palestine Exploration Fund to complete their general survey, embracing all matters of a physical, archaeological and social nature relating to Palestine. The Survey of Western Palestine had been accomplished. Thus in 1881 he spent ten weeks in Transjordan. Volume 1 was published in 1889 and referred specifically to that part of Jordan, which embraced the Adwan territory, but also included Amman.<sup>1</sup> (Some interesting material however is to be found in the Survey of Western Palestine, Special Papers Part 1.)

As the Survey of Eastern Palestine has long been out of print, the writer quotes from it, because Conder's comments are of particular interest regarding the Qalah or Castle of Rabboth-Amon, present day Amman.

"The Kalah, or castle of Amman occupies the long tongue which runs out south and east on the north side of the stream. It is divided from the hill of which it is naturally the continuation by a saddle on the north side of the fortifications, which seems probably to have been artificially cut down. The fortress is L-

shaped: the short line north and south measuring 1,200 feet and the long line running east for 2,700 feet... the western or upper terrace of the Kalah includes the remains of a temple on the South, an Arab building near the middle with a large well to the east of it, a court of the Roman period further north and additions of the Arab period... The whole area of the Kalah plateau is 1,295,000 sq. feet, or about 29 acres". (Plate XLVIII taken from Conder's Report, illustrates these remarks.)

Sixty years after Conder's work was published, an area was cleared in November 1949, on the Qalah, to build the present Museum.<sup>2</sup> "The area cleared was restricted to that on which the Museum was to be built and was roughly cruciform in shape. A courtyard and several rooms of a large house and the beginnings of other houses, all of the early Umayyad period, were revealed, the walls of the main building still standing to a height of 2.5 metres in the highest part. The houses were cleared to floor level, and pits,<sup>3</sup> sunk down to bedrock, the depth of which varied tremendously, revealed only a jumbled, comparatively sterile level." In his report<sup>4</sup> Mr. Harding makes the comment that "the material

(1) C. R. Conder: The Survey of Eastern Palestine Vol. I The Adwan Country: P.E.F. 1889 (An interesting adjunct to this is his work "Heth and Moab" (Explorations in Syria in 1881 and 1882, A. P. Watt London 1892 3rd edition).

(2) G. L. Harding: Excavations on the Citadel, Amman, pps. 7-16, Annual of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan, Vol. I. 1951.

(3) op. cit. p. 7.

(4) op. cit. p. 7.

is important inasmuch as it is one of the rare occasions when we have Umayyad buildings and objects of the ordinary man. It would appear that Amman was quite a flourishing Umayyad village, if not town, for the style of house and the quality of the objects found in it are not the style and quality associated with squatters."

Twenty six years later, in 1975, the Jordanian Government decided that it needed a new Museum. In case the Qalah or the Citadel, as it is now commonly called among foreigners, should be chosen, it was agreed that excavations should be commenced north of the present Museum in the area which had previously been closed to the public as it housed the Military Police. The total area under investigation is approximately 11,600 square meters of which, in Area B, approximately 30M north-south by 22M e—w (660 sq. meters) is being excavated. (Fig. 1.).

Additionally a massive clearance operation began, once the Military Police had abandoned much of the area, behind and to the north of the Umayyad Building (Pl. XLIX).

As the area was so large, it was intended that there should be three main teams at work, the Department of Antiquities, the University of Jordan and the British School of Archaeology, each independent, but under the overall supervision of the writer for the archaeological

results. Various circumstances prevented the University from participating, but it is hoped very much to have their co-operation in the forthcoming season. The Department of Antiquities concentrated, therefore, on Area A under the general supervision of Dr. Fawzi Zayadine<sup>5</sup> with the writer on Area B.

Area B was chosen, because at some time past, the Jordanian Military Police had bulldozed an area of about 250 square meters, with the intention, so it is related, of building a Headquarters. Their plans changed and the area became a rubbish tip. Thus, our first month's work, which began on June 15th, consisted of removing 20th C. rubbish, which in some cases, went down to a depth of more than 2 meters.<sup>6</sup>

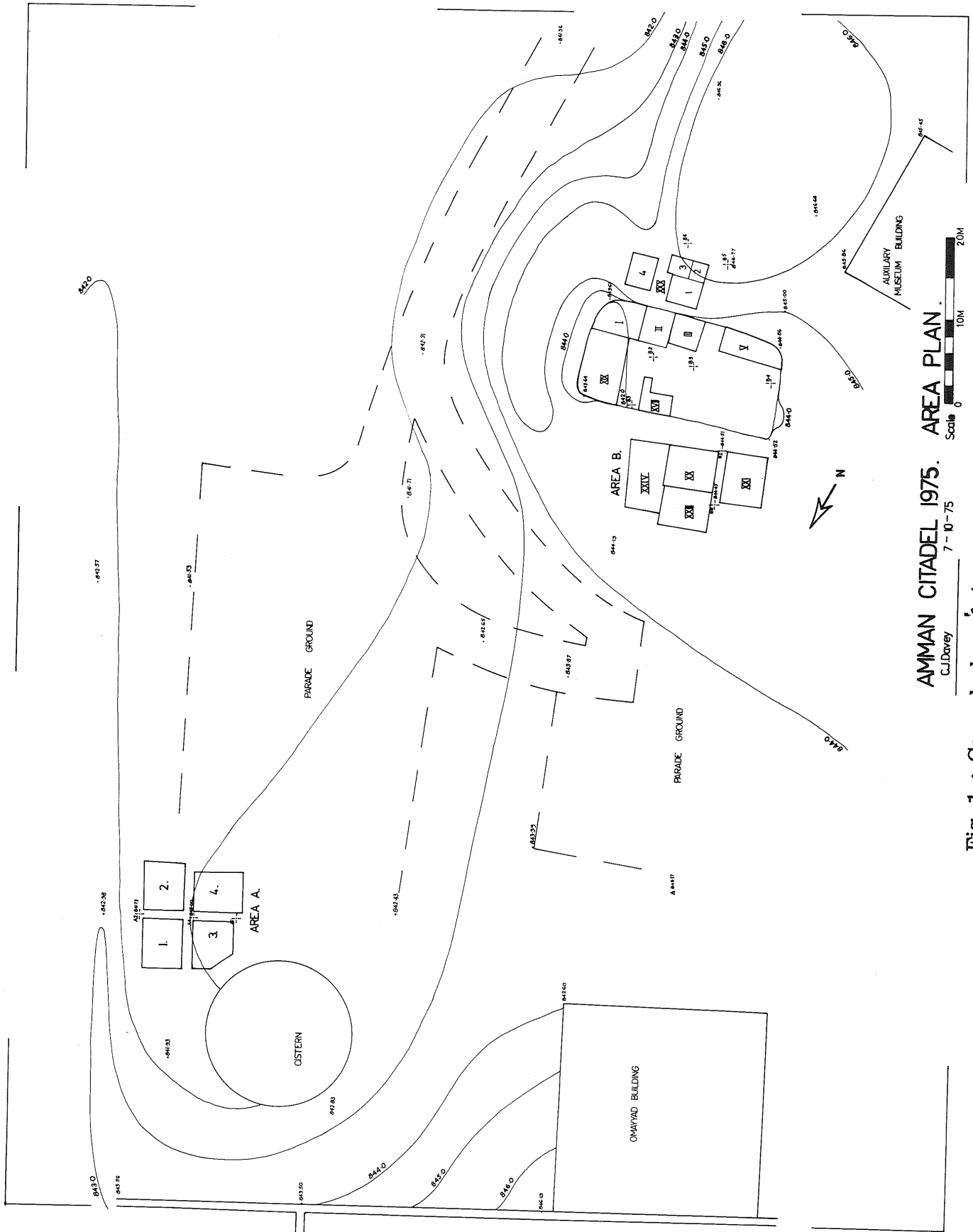
As work of clearance continued, it became apparent that the bulldozer had done a very efficient job of slashing through buildings, not only from the hundreds of building stones that had to be removed, but from the stubs of walls that emerged in both the north and south sections (Pl. L. 1). At one time, it was thought that the walls visible in the south side linked up with those on the north, but subsequent planning showed them to belong to two completely different complexes of buildings.

For the sake of clarity, it is perhaps better initially to describe those buildings in the bulldozed basin. As will be seen from the plan Fig. 2 and (Pl. L. 2) there

(5) Dr. Fawzi Zayadine will publish independently a preliminary Report on Area A.

(6) We were grateful to Colonel Ajadin for warning us that there was a cistern to the

east under the debris, thus enabling us to avoid what might have been an unpleasant accident. We were also grateful to him for allowing us to encroach on the Parade Ground.



AMMAN CITADEL 1975. AREA PLAN.  
C.J. Davy 7-10-75 Scale 0 10M 20M

Fig. 1 : General plan of Areas of excavation

is a wall running west across Rooms 3 and 2. At its westernmost edge it was built on bedrock and formed a rightangle to join up with the wall north-south going into the section. The earliest floor in Rooms 3 and 2 could have been bedrock, but there were a series of other floors in clay above, all very close to each other. There was a gap which had been deliberately filled with stones, mortars etc. of the Roman period (Fig. 2), before the laying down of the foundations of the wall going west-east. The earliest building structure, therefore, must be Roman or later, and judging from the mortaring in the wall, it seems likely that it is late Byzantine, an hypothesis which will be borne out by the pottery which came from the associated floor levels<sup>7</sup> (see below).

This possible late Byzantine building went through several phases in construction: this was very apparent in the southern east-west wall where a definite levelling off of the courses can be seen (Pl. L. 2), to enable a later wall to be superimposed. This early building must have been of large proportions, because as will be seen from the plan (Fig. 2) the northern wall runs right out under the present eastern baulk.

Any later construction on the northern wall had been completely removed either anciently or recently, but we were fortunate to find definite evidence of a later building in the form of a wall going north-south sitting on the latest floor of the earlier building. The pottery associated

with this earliest building was Byzantine. After a period of disuse, in which was found Umayyad pottery, squatters had come in though no walls can be associated with their occupation, but that there was occupation was evident from the heavy smoking of the east-west wall and the farun (oven) which had been built up against the wall. This must have happened before the wall went into its second major period mentioned above, because there is no evidence of fire above the deliberate levelling off of the wall.

The western wall (north-south) of B. II marks the end of the earliest building, which probably abutted onto a street which ran the entire length of the bulldozed area. In the later phase or period of the building, there was a vaulted roof, the springing of which is just visible in the extent section of Room II (Pl. LI. 1), but there is nothing at the moment to suggest that this particular complex of buildings ran beyond the western wall of B. II.

That there was another building to the west, perhaps separated from the one under discussion by a street going north-south, seems very likely in that there has been a deliberately laid pavement of footings (Pl. LI. 2 top off centre and Fig. 3). These are much in character with those found on the northern side of the bulldozed basin, and at the same time could be tied up with Harding's buildings. We cannot, however, be certain of the street or explain the footings until we have cut through to the south, all the

(7) The writer is most grateful to the Very Reverend Père Ch. Couasnon of the Ecole Biblique who made a special visit to Amman to examine the mortaring of the various

buildings. (Incidentally, he inspected the walls of the building to the north of the Umayyad building and said they were undoubtedly Roman).

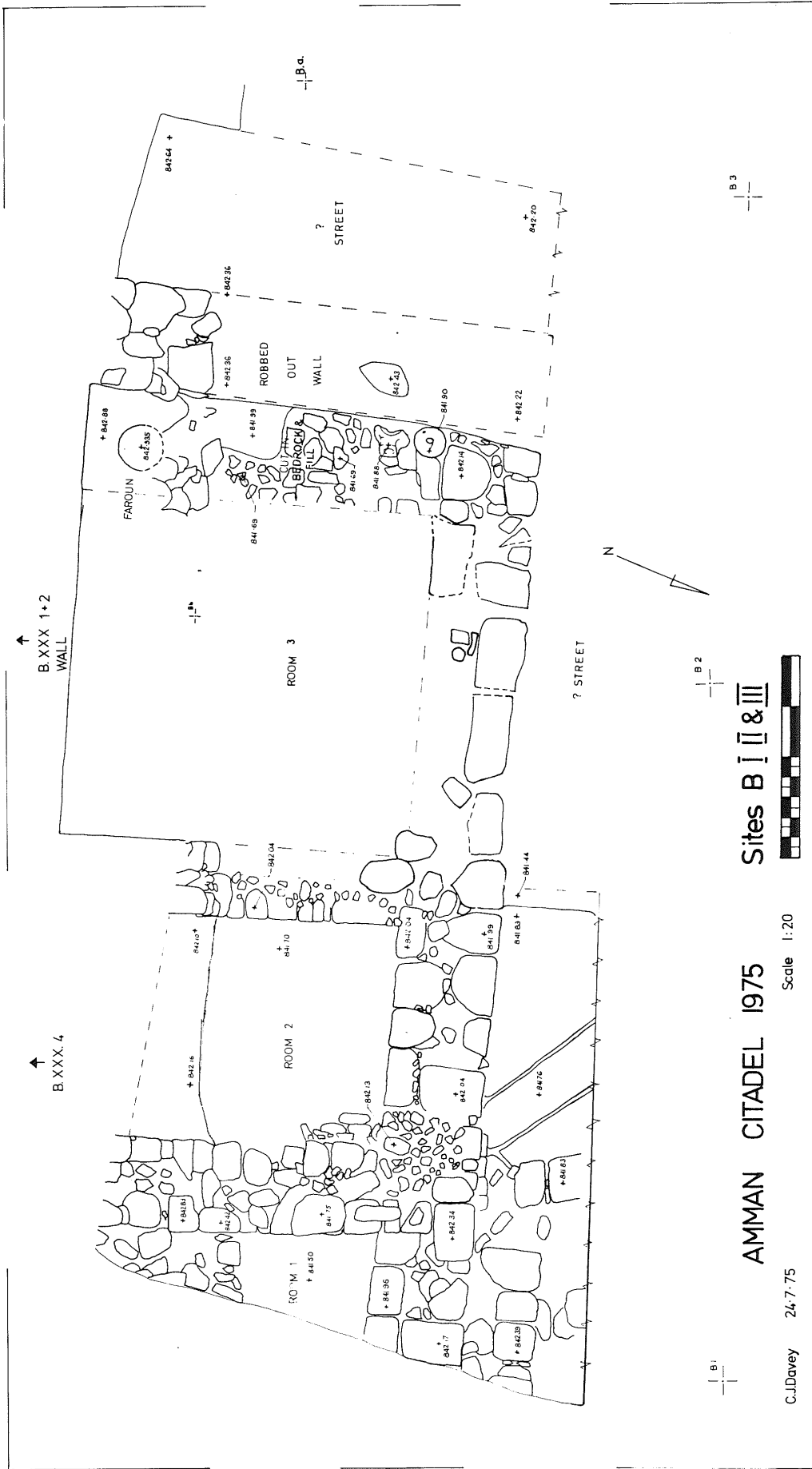
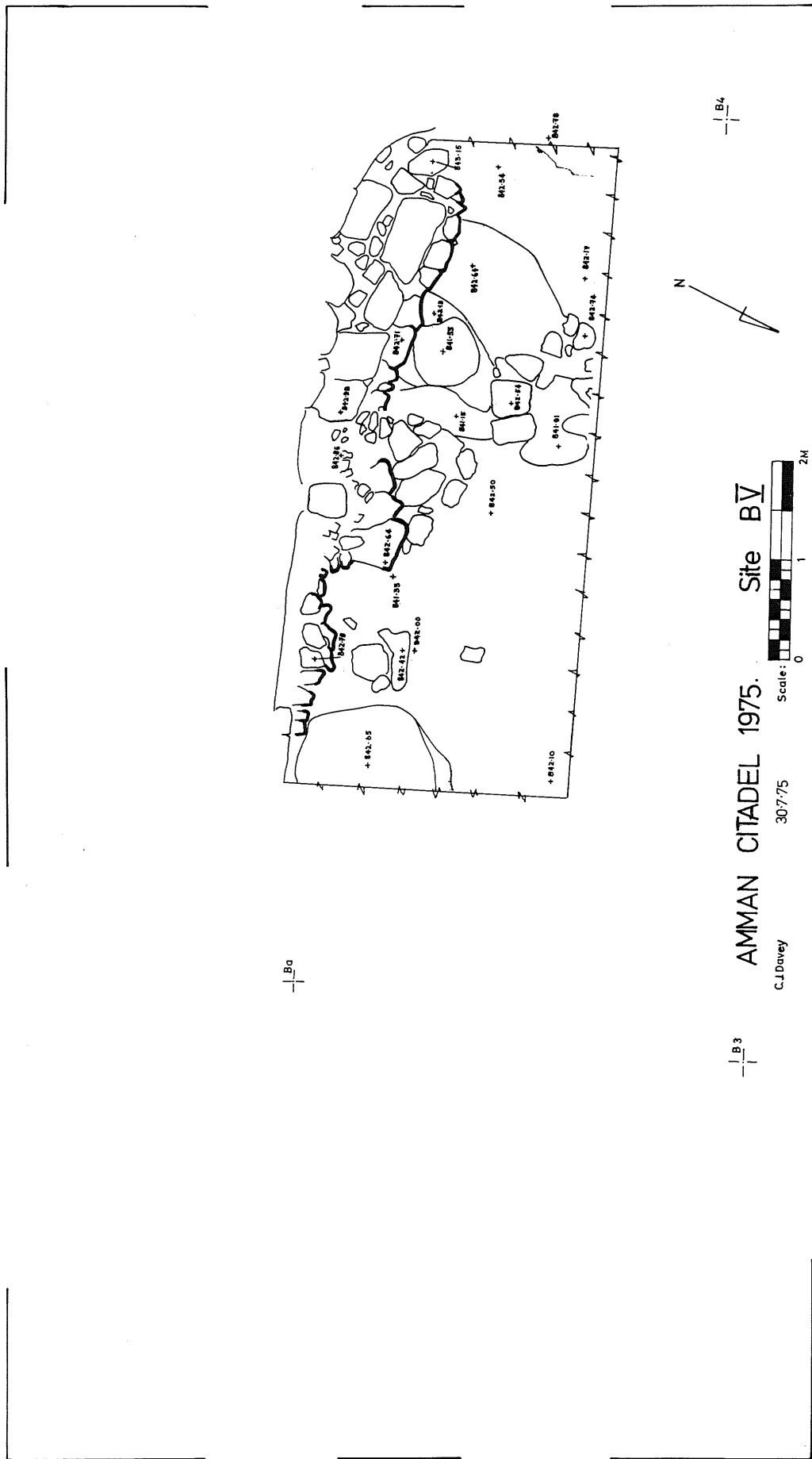


Fig. 2 : Plan of B. I, II and III.



AMMAN CITADEL 1975. Site B V

Fig. 3 : Plan of B. V.



accumulated overlying debris of some 2 meters. An interesting feature in this area was the appearance of sherds of the E.B./M.B. period, found in pockets cut into the bedrock but, so far, apparently unrelated to any buildings.<sup>8</sup> One of the most irritating features of the whole Citadel complex is the vagary of the bedrock outline as Harding noted in his report p. 1. in Vol. I A.D.A.J.

As has been pointed out earlier, the walls emerging from this southern cut did not run on the same axis as those jutting out from the Northern section, but before moving to the surfaces, both south and north, it is advisable to finish off the trough or bulldozed basin as far as we can, though the whole complex of BXIX can only be described in the broadest outline because all the answers lie under the eastern baulk (Fig. 4). However, large paved slabs, very well laid, dated by the pottery found to the mid-5th C. A.D. and the remains of walls indicate a very substantial building of the Byzantine period. 20 cms. above this this paving and to the north was another paved floor of smaller slabs (Pl. LII. 1). These went out under the northern section. The foundations of the buildings so far revealed bear no relation to the earliest buildings south of the main street. The building was subjected to several modifications over the years; these included the installation of a fine plastered drain (Pl. LII. 1) some 20 cms. in width, which lead directly to the cistern mentioned above see note 6 (Fig. 4). In fact, in the street (the bedrock) separating the

buildings on the south from those running out under the eastern section, a series of channels had been cut which lead into this cistern.

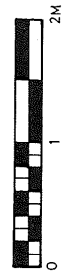
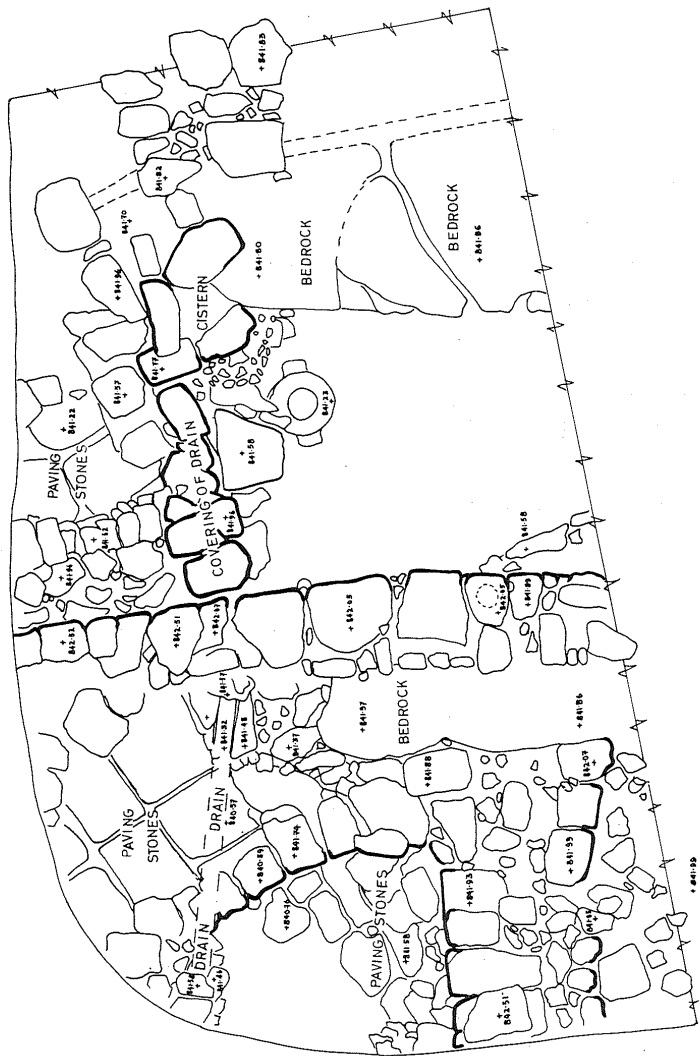
Our phasing, for the moment, then, in the basin is as follows, excluding the isolated pockets of EB/MB sherds: Earliest Phase A — the bedrock cut, perhaps for quarrying; followed by two phases B + C of Byzantine buildings, which lie north and south of the main street; Phase D — a period of abandonment and squatting between the end of the Byzantine period and the beginning of the Umayyad occupation as represented by the fire and the farun in B. II; Phase E — a rebuilding upon the latest clay floor of the Byzantine house to the south of the courtyard (which was the earliest floor in the Umayyad period), roughly on the same axis as the earlier building (Phase B and C) and going out under the eastern baulk; Phase F the plastered drain, probably Umayyad — the pottery between the two periods is not well stratified because the upper levels were somewhat ruthlessly removed to get some kind of section. (This, however, will be followed through in the subsequent season.) Finally Phase G — the covering of the Umayyad house with debris from the houses to the south, some of which belonged to the later Mamluk period (see *infra*).

It seems, as has been said, that a long strip of bedrock formed the street between the houses lying to its south and north. An interesting feature was that

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(8) Dr. F. Zayadine has reported finding similar sherds in one of his trenches in Area

A under a sterile earth deposit and lying on bedrock.



AMMAN CITADEL 1975 Site BXIX  
 7-10-75  
 C.J.Davey

J.B9

Fig. 4 : Plan B. XIX.

the level of the bedrock in the "B" basin was 841.86M and in the area to the north, the B. XX (see Fig. 1) complex, was generally about 841.83M — there were variations of course, but it is interesting that in one of the most important trenches B. XX, the plastered floor which lies immediately on the bedrock should be only 3 cms. different from that in the basin. This fairly flat expanse of bedrock may then have accounted for the density of building in that area.

In the area B. XX, as has been said earlier (Pl. L. 1) it was thought that the walls obtruding in the northern section of the basin might be in alignment with those projecting from the southern section. They bear absolutely no relation to each other and belong to a completely different plan and, in some cases, are of different architecture.

Several periods are represented, the earliest being a Byzantine house complex, the most striking remains of which, being the column of 5 drums (Pl. LII. 2), very weathered and the doorway equally weathered. Incidentally, this column must have been one of several, because a study of Conder's map (Pl. XLVIII) has columns marked just over half way between the Temple of Hercules and the Umayyad Palace. Related to this column and doorway was a plastered floor into which had been let a basin, also plastered, measuring approx. 80 x 60 cms. in the north-west corner. This floor runs over the plinth of the column which suggests that the column is earlier than the plaster floor. Also a Byzantine coin was found on the plaster floor which suggests that the building is Byzantine; the weathering

of the stone further suggests that the building may have been abandoned for quite a long period of time before being brought into reuse. That the columns were still visible in Conder's time is borne out by the fact that in order to get down to the plaster floor, we went through debris, which in an adjoining trench, included a razor blade used in Jordan only up until the departure of General Glubb. This area was open and visible then until 1957.

Retainment of water played a great part in the building programme throughout the various periods represented. In Trench BXXI (Pl. LIII, 1) at a depth of 1 m. from the surface and under the debris which had been thrown in to level off the area for the present parade ground, we came across a paving of rough uncut stones, but deliberately laid; these had been laid directly on top of an earlier paving of smaller stones. This paving surrounded a shaft, which had been stone built at the top and then ran off westwards. This has not yet been excavated, but could well prove to be either a cistern or a passage down to the water of the Ain or the Seil Amman. No diagnostic pottery was found between the two pavings and as the earth overlying it, which had obviously been brought from elsewhere for the levelling up process, contained pottery from the Mamluk to Iron Age, it is impossible, for the present, to give a date to this structure.

Until more work has been done in this area, it is equally impossible to give any plan of the structures which were either built into the Byzantine buildings or superimposed upon them. Certainly the

post Byzantine house complex was oriented s.e. — n.w. and the building superimposed on that had a mortaring quite distinct from the earlier mortaring; this was of a very dark grey colour and similar to that found in the later buildings above the walls in the southern section of the "Basin".

Two major building phases were noted, with alterations within the phases, such as blocking of doorways (Pl. LIII, 2 and obvious patching of walls. The buildings are shoddy compared with those of the earlier periods and there is a frequent use of stone from these periods<sup>9</sup> (Pl. LIV, 1).

An odd feature was the arch in XXIV (Pl. LIV, 2) which spanned a cistern, only partially excavated, which had a thick lime plaster lining. In this connection, it would be well to remember Gerald Harding's find of similar arches in the excavations prior to the building of the present Museum (A.D.A.J. Vol. 1. Fig. 1). What is very evident is that this construction was built into the ruins of an earlier wall. All the stones surrounding this cistern are of much greater dimensions than the earlier wall and are an obvious re-use of stones from an earlier building elsewhere in the vicinity. (Pl. LV, 1).

The latest phases in this area are represented by two features (latest omitting, of course the 20th C. infill for levelling off for the present day Parade Ground); one is the drain running right

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(9) Some of the re-used rectangular blocks in Roman pilasters in situ.

across XXII into XX and which has no connection at all with the plastered basin in XX mentioned on Page 139; conceivably it might have connected with the cistern in XXI. Only the removal of the intervening baulk between XXIII, XX and XXI will elucidate this problem: two, the incredibly hard concrete floor, which was found in the north east corner of XXIV, with a total thickness of 26 cms. The dark grey cement suggested to some people that it might be the roofing for the building which started over the top of the column in XX. As, however, the level readings for the lower part of the "roofing" and the lowest part of the wall showing the same cementing or mortaring are exactly the same, this theory can be dismissed.

To get the full plan of these buildings and to interpret them correctly, it will be necessary to cut right through the northern edge of the "Basin" where, it will be seen from Plate III, the walls are still standing to probably their original height. If the writer is correct in her assumption that there was a street between the walls to the south of the "Basin" and those to the north, then, we should have here some very fine house plans dating from the late Byzantine period through to Mamluk in this northern area.

We come finally to the excavations to the south of the "Basin" — Trenches XXX etc. (Fig. 1). This was an even worse problem to tackle than the "Basin" itself. It was impossible to lay out not

are exactly the same as those found in Area A

only a decent grid, but even a respectable trench because of the mass of shifting loose rubble (a dump from previous excavations into which had also been thrown well cut building stone). A further complication was the Army's slit trenches, which had been put alongside, very naturally, existing walls, thus from an archaeological standpoint removing all hope of relating floors to walls. We did the best we could, but what was a straight sided trench at the beginning of the day looked like a 19th C. Englishman's burrowing into a barrow by the end of the day's work! This area, however, brings us into close contact with that excavated for the present Museum, and, for our knowledge of the later (i.e. Umayyad, Ayubbid to and including Mamluk) periods of occupation, may well prove to be the most rewarding.

The latest occupation is represented for the present by the uppermost walls encircling XXX. 2 and XXX. 3. These are probably Turkish, but there are no associated floor levels. They rested on a layer of dark brown earth, a beaten tamped floor going with an earlier building. (Pl. L. 2). Underneath this was a thick plaster floor, 20 cms. in depth, which ran right across east—west and under the tamped floor in XXX. 1 and XXX. 2, linked up to an earlier wall and was decisively cut through for the installation of the latest wall. (Pl. L. 2). The fill below this floor, which had no pottery, either on or in it, was Umayyad down to late Roman. The back of the south wall of the buildings overlooking the "Basin" roadway had been reinforced to make a good strong outer northern wall for the Umayyad building.

No doubt the easternmost (north-south) wall of this building lies under our somewhat tenuous baulk dividing XXX. 1 from XXX. 4.

To our surprise at 3 meters below the southern wall of this building complex, a much earlier wall appeared which was associated with Iron Age II pottery. It would be premature, however, to ascribe this wall to the Iron Age, but it seems likely. Under the western wall which had been built on bedrock another surprising discovery was made of a cave full of animal bones, which had almost solidified—there must have been thousands. The extent of the cave was not established because of the danger of burrowing under the wall. (Pl. LV. 2). The area XXX. 4 was one of the most interesting. The north wall (west-east) of XXX. 1 continued into this trench with one remaining course of a later wall on top. The wall was bonded with another going north-south in which there was evidence of springing. The eastern wall (north-south) did not emerge in the section. The fill was enormous and covered every period. At some time, in the Mamluk period, the room had been used for cooking; a taboun (Pl. LVI. 1) with associated clay floor was found. In the north west corner was a rectangular limestone trough (Pl. LVI. 2) and compare Pl. 1.4 in Harding's article). This block had been carefully placed on stones to keep it off the floor. Behind this trough were some very well cut ashlar blocks. Under the clay floor was a plaster floor on which lay pottery of the Umayyad period. Excavation stopped at this point.

It will be seen from the foregoing that the Byzantine period has not yet appeared in this area and that the Phasing at the end of the excavation should read Earliest A — Iron Age (in XXX. 1), B. Umayyad, C. Squatters, D. Mamluk and E. Ottoman. No attempt has been made yet to correlate the phasing in the several areas. This will be done at a later date when certain problems of stratigraphy

have been settled to the writer's satisfaction.

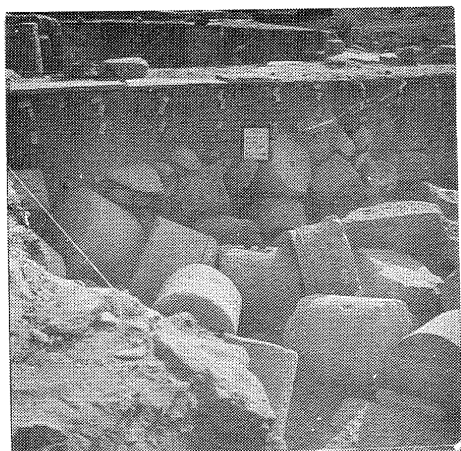
To sum up therefore: the excavations have produced evidence of domestic architecture forming 2 main complexes either side of a broad street and covering the Mamluk through to Byzantine and perhaps earlier periods. Additionally some of the other buildings emerging in the S.W. corner of the basin may be related to those excavated by Mr. G. L. Harding.

Crystal — M. Bennett  
Director of British  
School of Archaeology

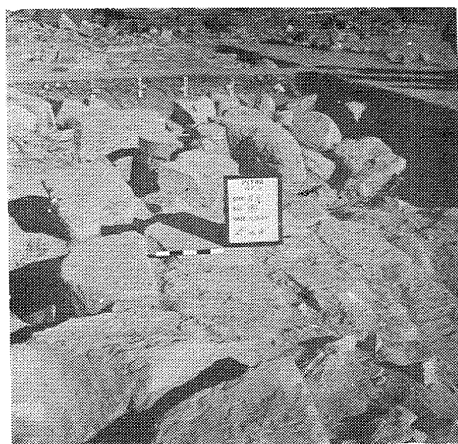
# PLATES







1. Debris of second destruction, Phase VII, Site II. 3.



2. Debris of second destruction, Phase VII, Site II. 6.



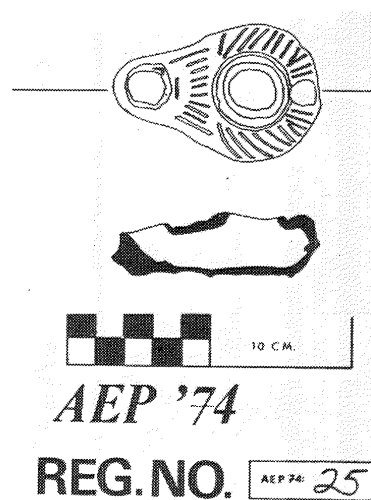
3. Burial, Phase VIII, Site II. 5.



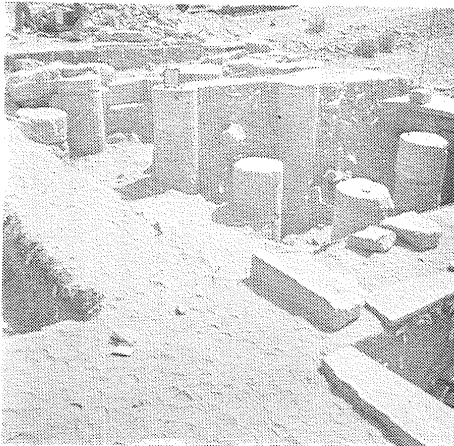
4. R. I. # 50, iron neck torque burial, Phase VIII, Site II.5.



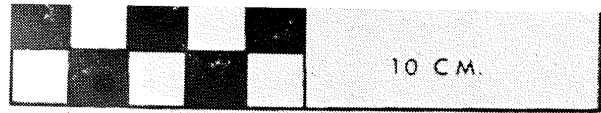
5. R. I. # 25, Byzantine lamp, Phase VIII, Site II. 6 (24).



6. R. I. # 25, above.



1. Columns and walls standing after final destruction, Phase VII, Site II. 6.



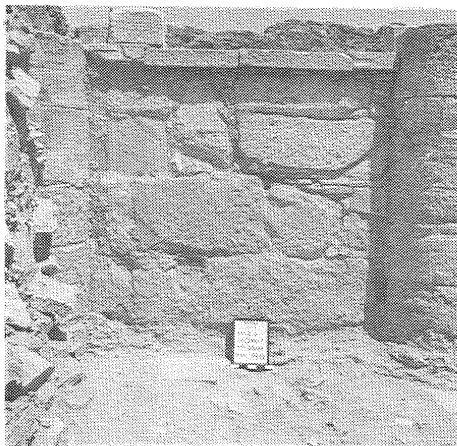
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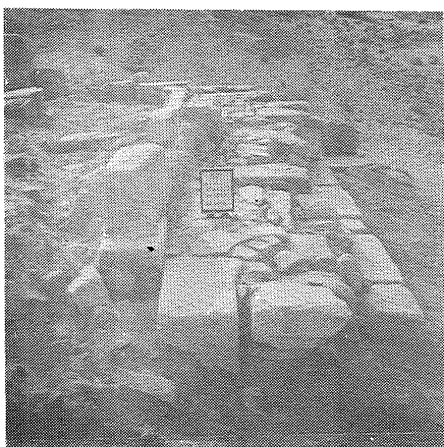
2. R. I. # 83, Coin of Rabbel II and Gamilat, Phase XIII, Site II. 6.



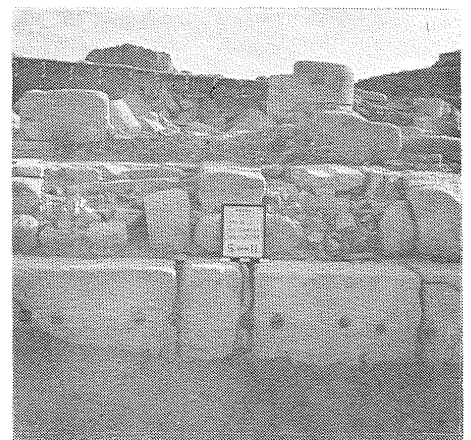
3. Interior, East Wall, Site II. 6.



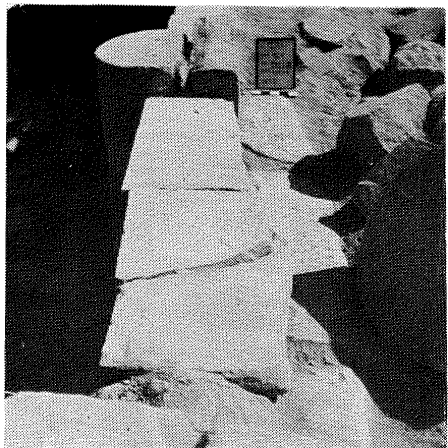
4. Exterior, East Wall, Site II. 6.



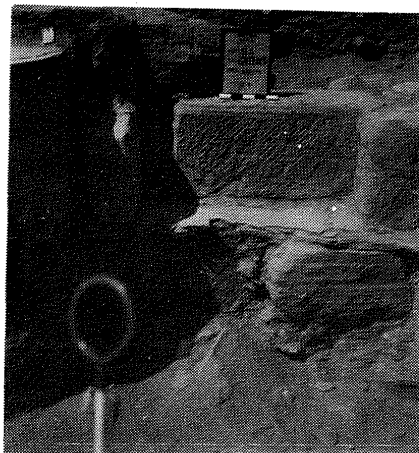
5. Enplecton build, South Wall, Site II. 3.



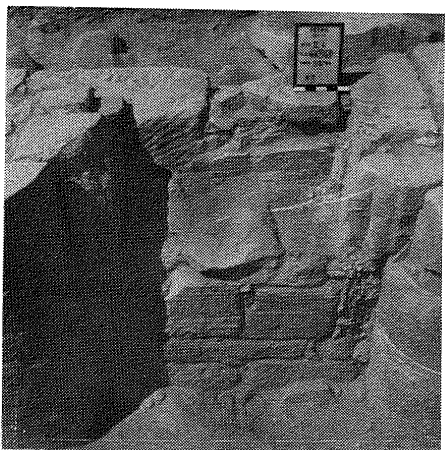
6. Front face, South Wall, showing build and fixture holes, Site II. 3.



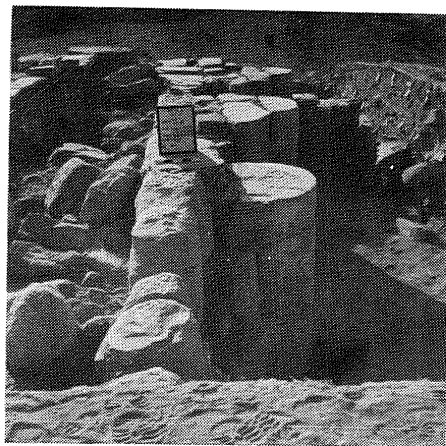
1. Capping slabs, Wall 4 (25), East Wall, Site II. 6.



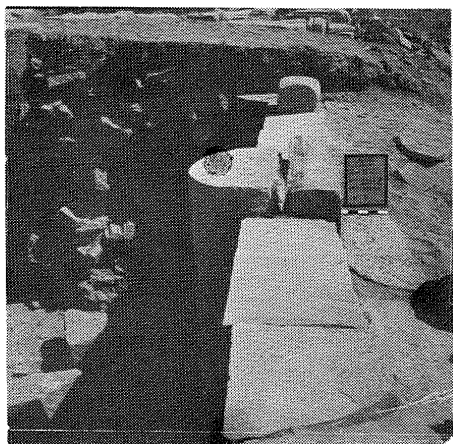
2. Niche of Wall 3 (13), North Wall, Site II. 6.



3. Wall 3 (13), North Wall, Site II. 6, Southeast corner, showing out-set niche.



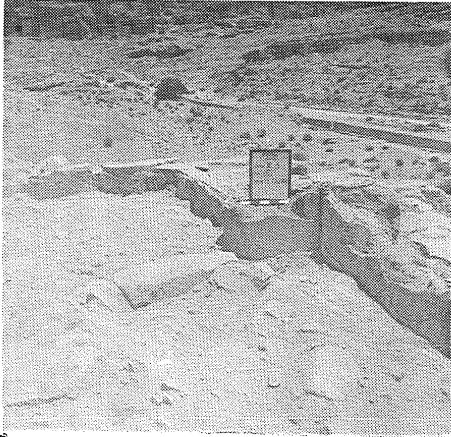
4. Wall 3 (13), North Wall, Site II. 6, showing composite engaged semi-column drums of niches.



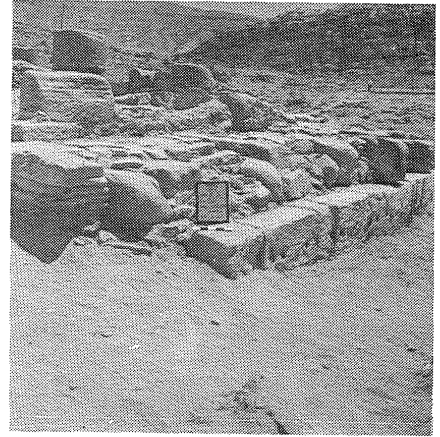
5. Wall 4 (25), East Wall, Site II. 6, showing cutting of drums of engaged semi-columns and backing blocks.



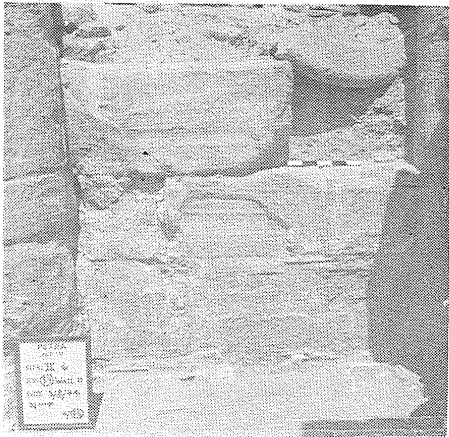
6. Site II. 6, showing columnar arrangement.



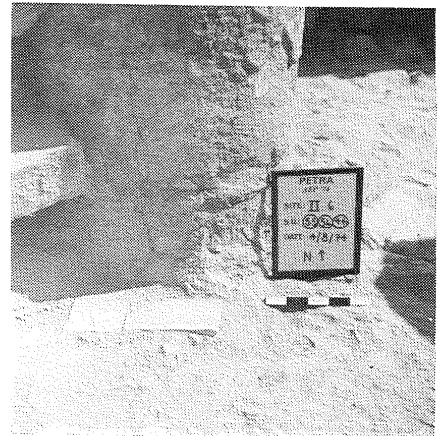
1. South Wall, Site II. 3, showing gaps in plastering for vertical moldings and outset niche.



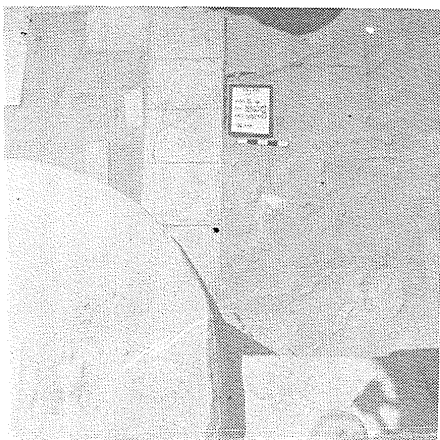
2. South Wall, Site II. 3, doorway.



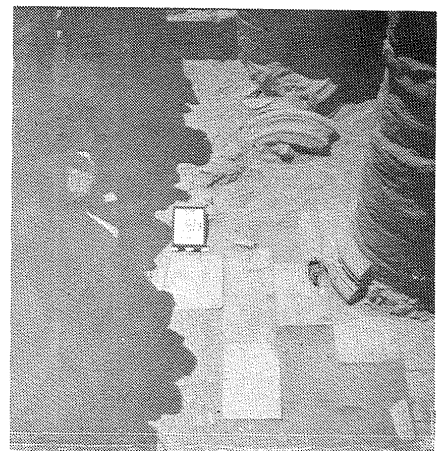
3. "Platform", Site II. 6, face and engaged semi-columns.



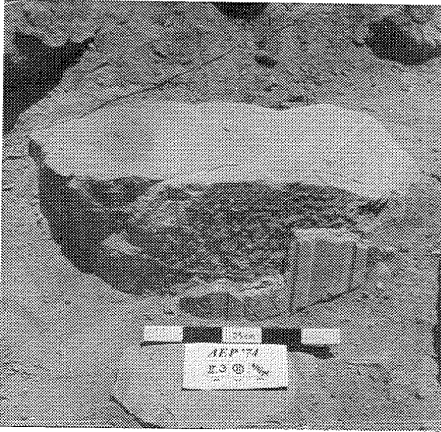
4. "Platform", Site II. 6, tiled floor.



5. Site II. 6, floor and tile pavement.



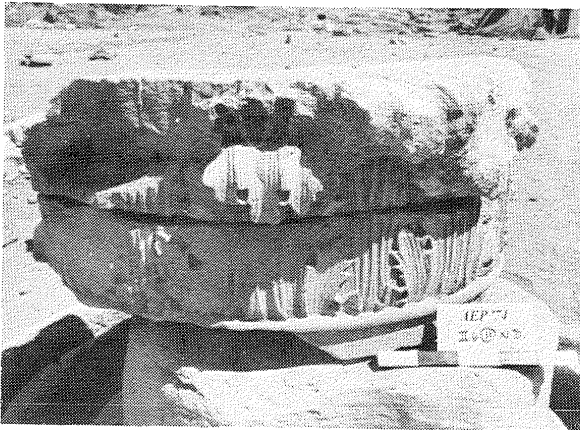
6. Site II. 6, floor and tile pavement.



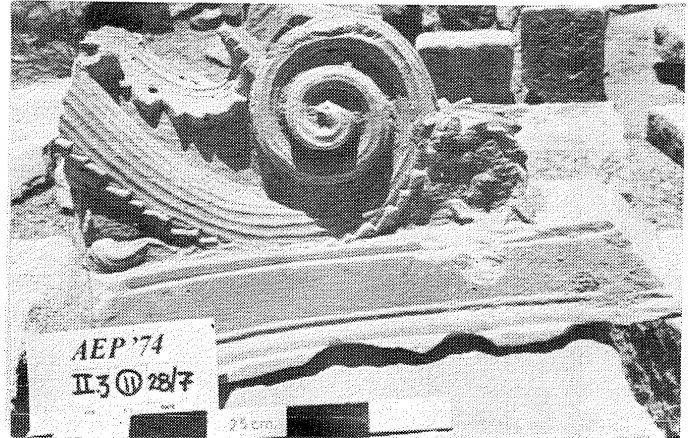
1. Column drum, showing fluted plaster, Phase XV B, Site II. 3.



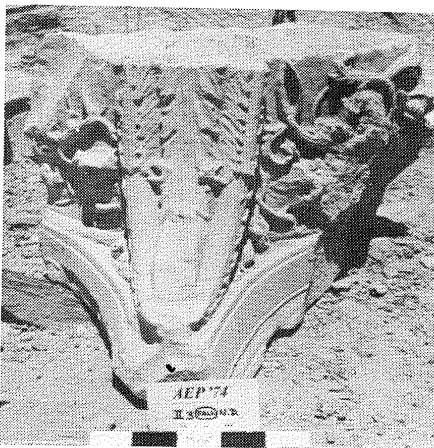
2. Base-necking of columns.



3. Lower block of capital (fractured), with acanthus motif.



4. Upper block of capital (fragment) with volute.



5. Upper block of capital (fragment), underside of volute element.



6. R. I. # 94, "lion-griffon" fragment from capital.



1. R. I. # 95, "lion-griffon" fragment, frontal.



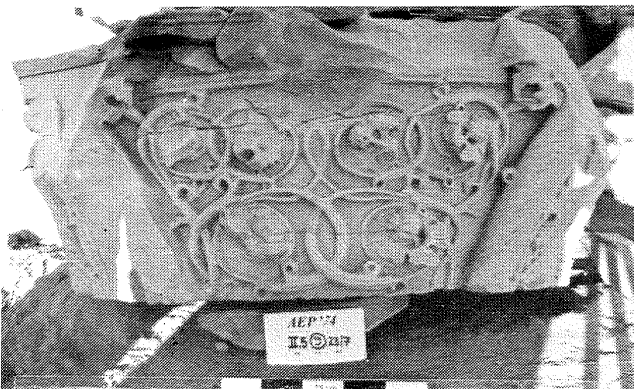
2. R. I. # 95, view.



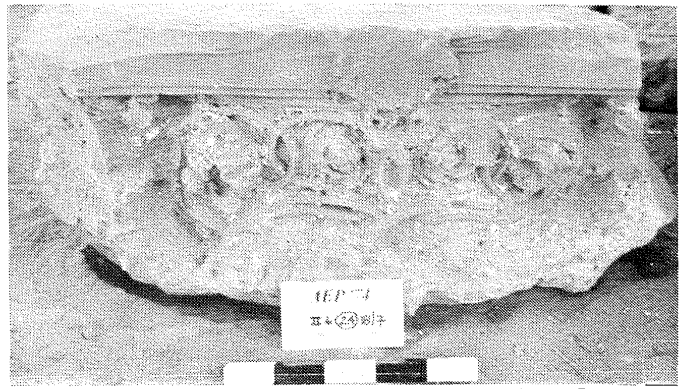
3. R. I. # 96, side view.



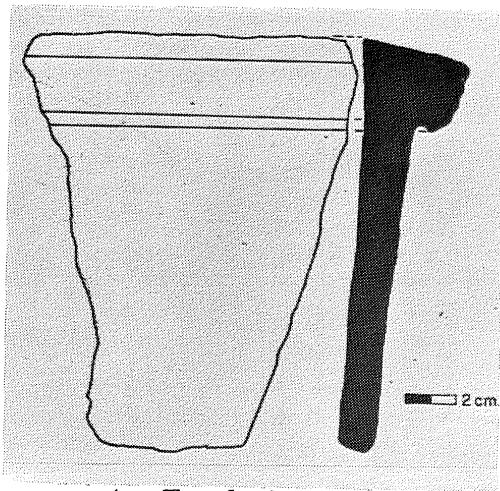
4. R. I. # 99, side view.



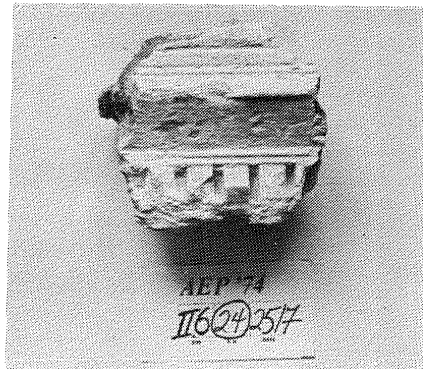
5 Upper block of capital, showing floral decoration between volutes.



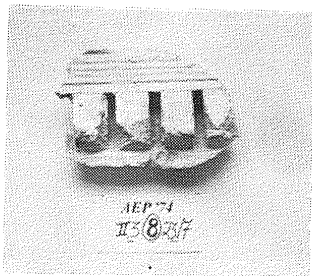
6. Upper block of capital, showing floral decoration between volutes.



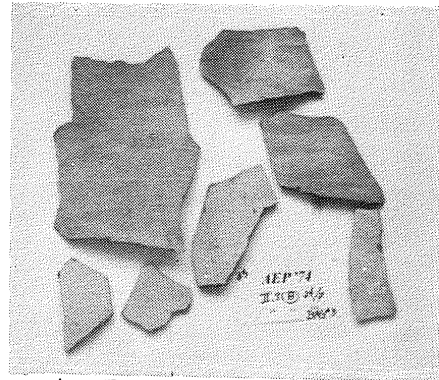
1. Tegula fragment.



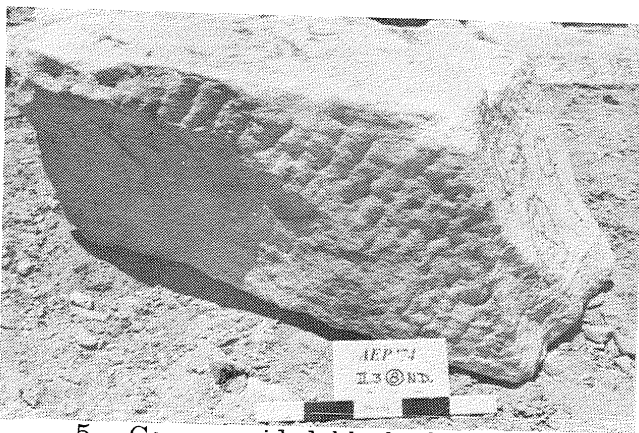
2. Dentil fragment, small type.



3. Dentil fragment, large type.



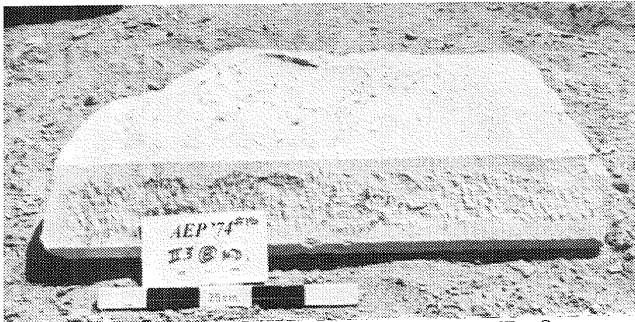
4. Drain-pipe fragments.



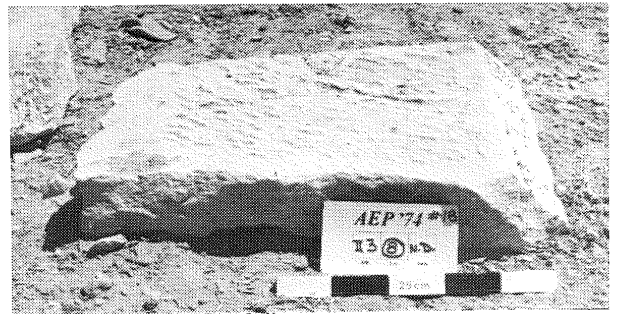
5. Concave-sided block, Site II. 3.



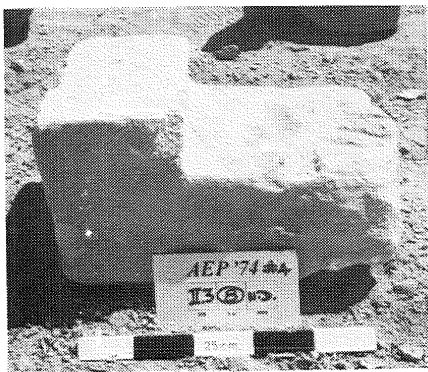
6. Concave-sided block, site II. 3.



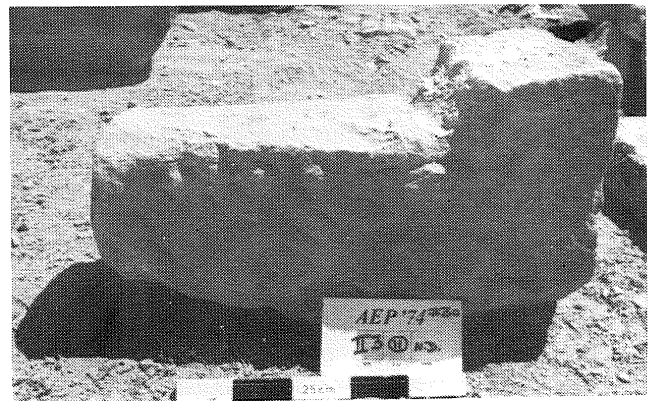
1. Bevelled-ended slab, Site II. 3.



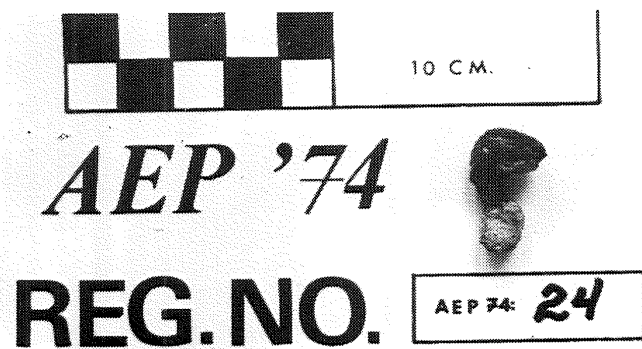
2. Bevelled-ended slab, Site II. 3.



3. "L" block, Site II. 3.



4. "L" block, Site II. 3.

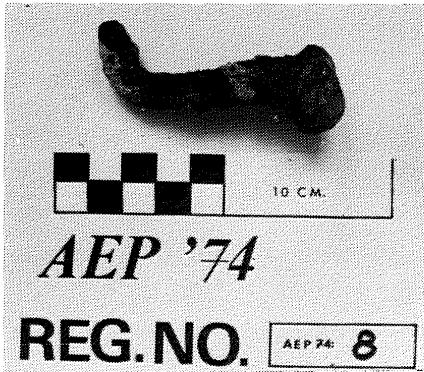


5. Iron (Fe) plastering fixture nail.

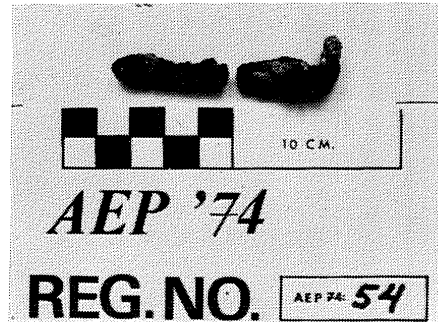


6. Iron (Fe) plastering fixture nail, ben

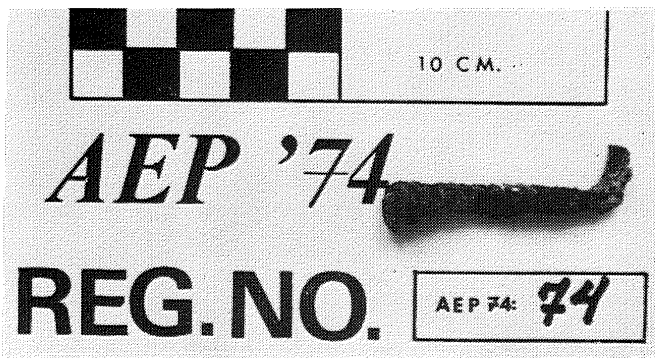




1. Iron (Fe) plastering fixture nail, bent.



2. Iron (Fe) plastering fixture nail, broken.



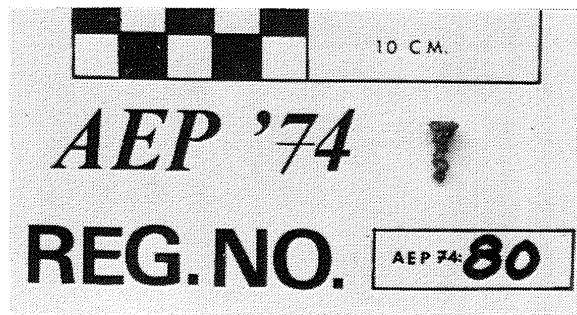
3. Iron (Fe) plastering fixture nail, broken.



4. Copper (Cu) plastering fixture nails, with plaster, top view.



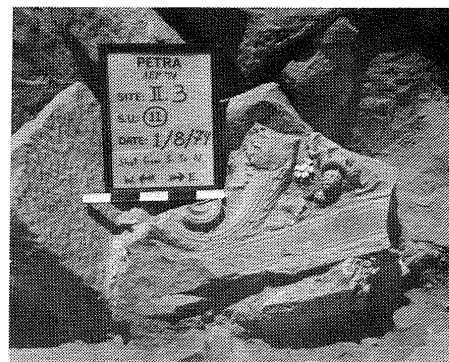
5. As above, side view.



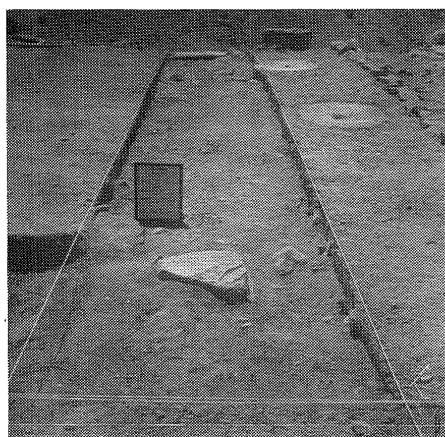
6. Copper (Cu) plastering fixture nail.



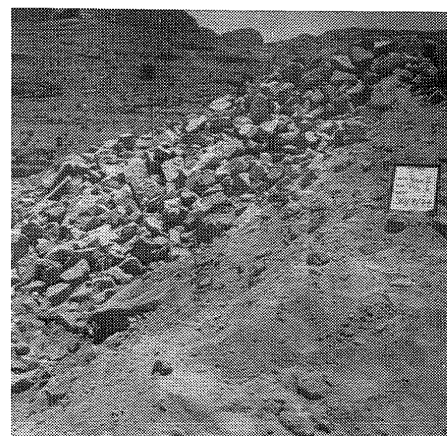
1. Plaster rosette from upper block of capital, Site II. 3.



2. Plaster rosette *in situ* on capital, Site II. 3.



3. Site II. 6, showing column drums visible on surface prior to excavation.



4. Rubble fall in front of Site II. 3.



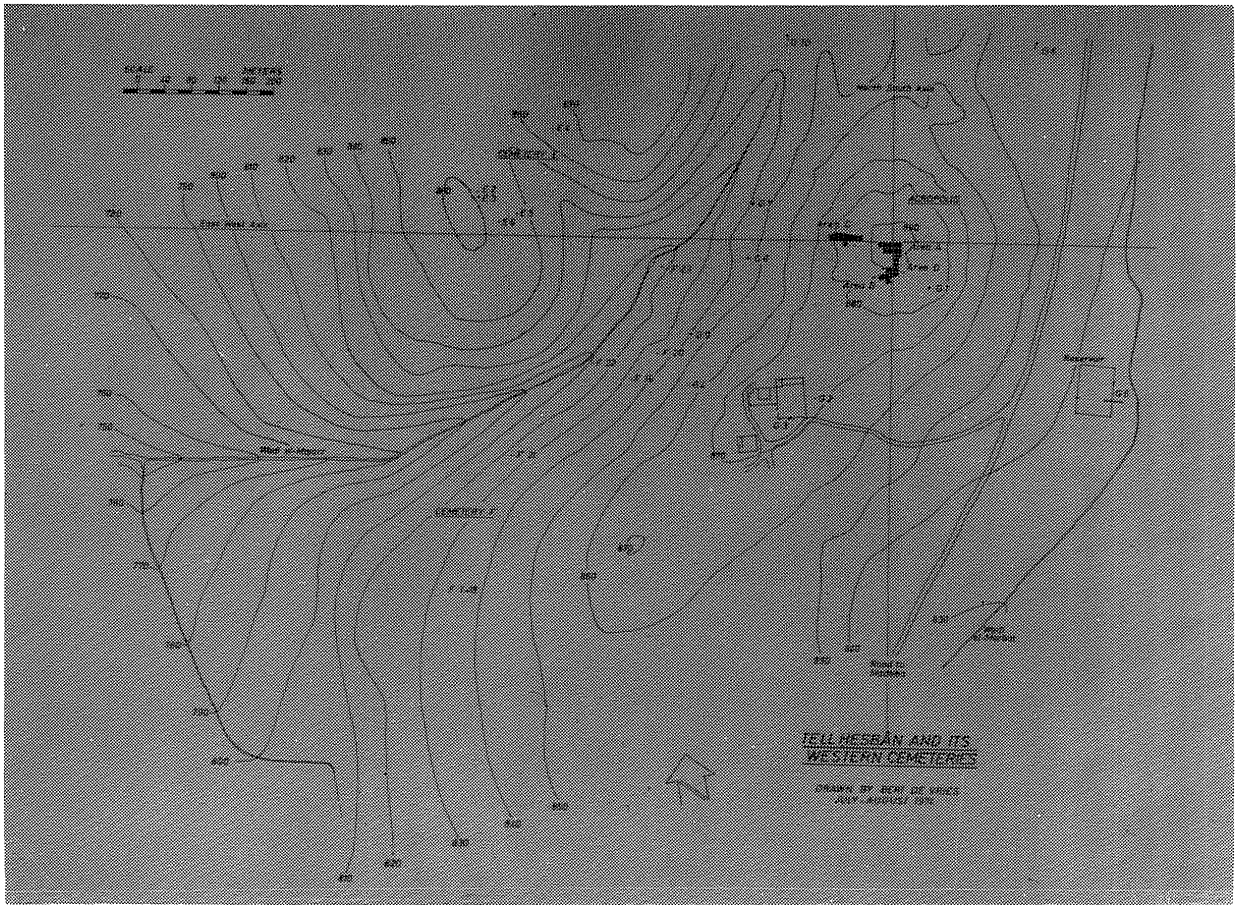
5. Plaster affix, Site II. 3 (11), frontal view.



6. Plaster affix, Site II. 3 (11), side view, showing plaster plug.







1. A contour map of Tell Hesban including the excavated areas (B. DeVries).



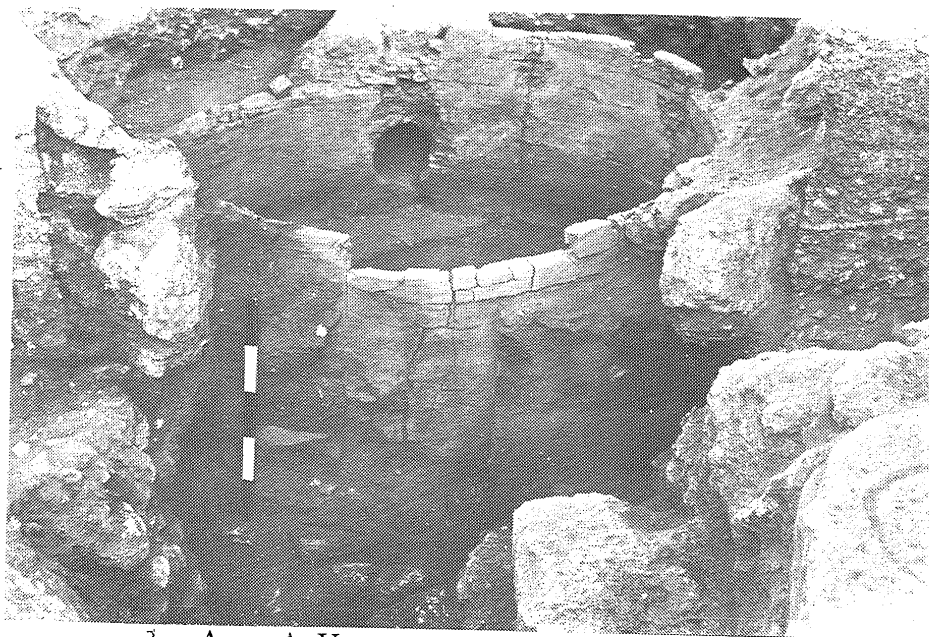
2. The staff of the 1974 expedition to Tell Hesban (P. Denton).



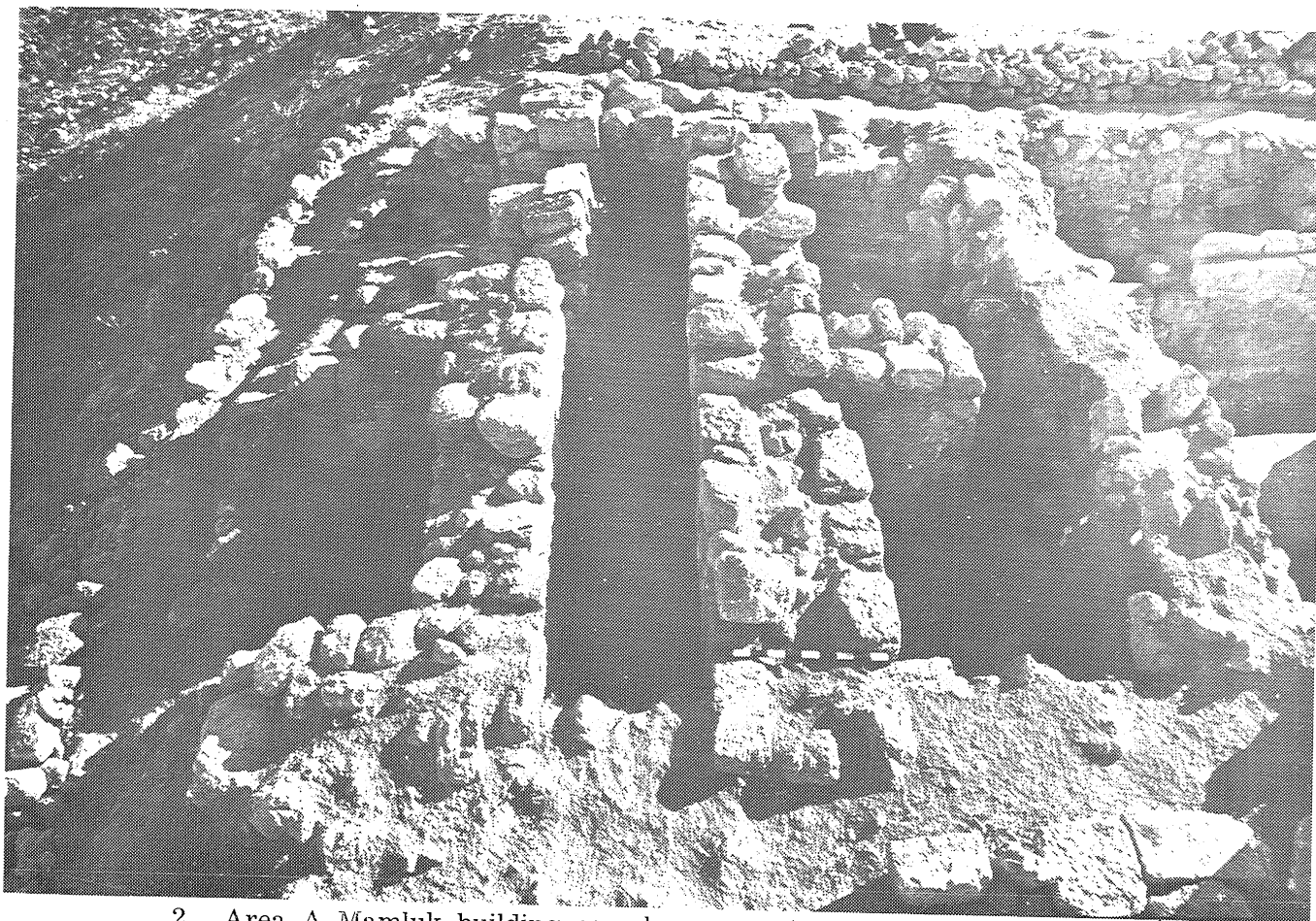
1. The southern half of the Area A Mamluk bath complex.  
From right: entrance hall, reception lounge, access hallway, bathroom proper (P. Denton).



2. The northern half of the Area A Mamluk bath complex.  
From left: access hallway, bathroom proper with tiled floor and basin, plastered reservoirs, furnace room (P. Bergsma).



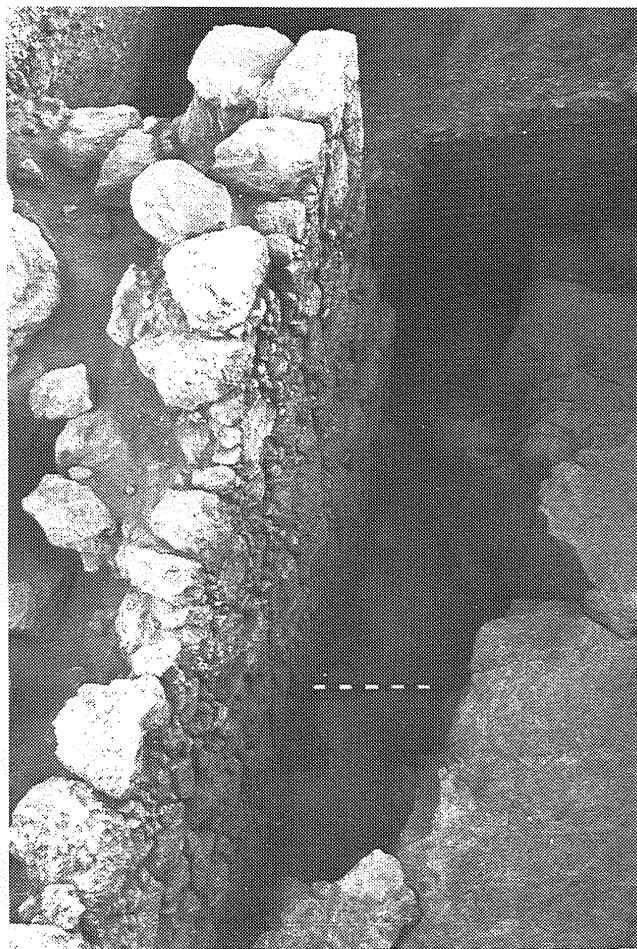
1. Area A Umayyad tabun (H. Lamberton).



2. Area A Mamluk building complex on western edge of acropolis (H. Lamberton).



1. The eastern (header-stretcher) wall of the Area B Iron Age reservoir; the meterstick lies on an abutting Iron I wall (H. Lambertson).



2. The corner of a high Roman tower built up against a shelf of bedrock in Area C (P. Denton).

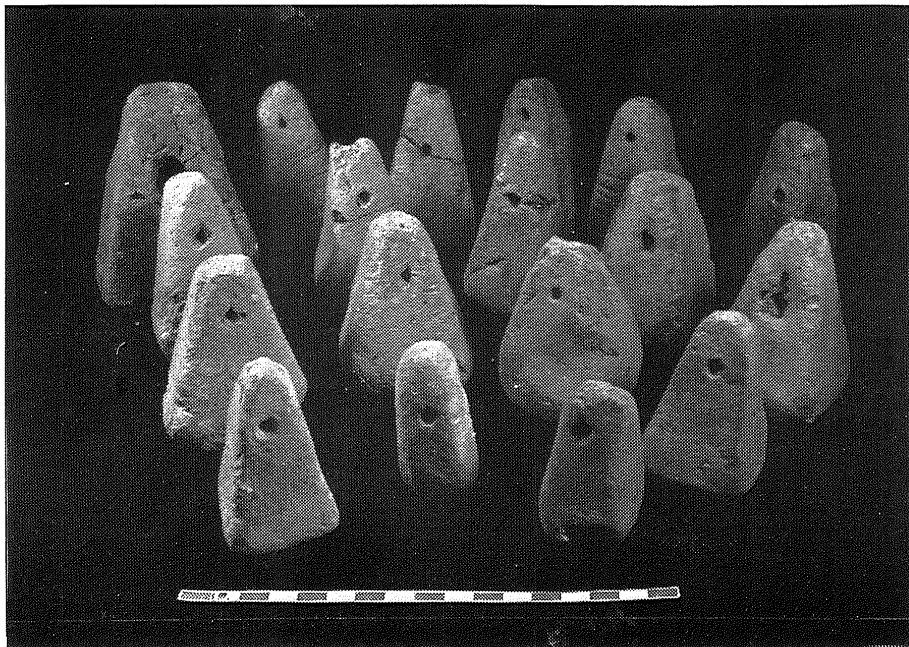


3. Area C Mamluk domestic complex (P. Denton).

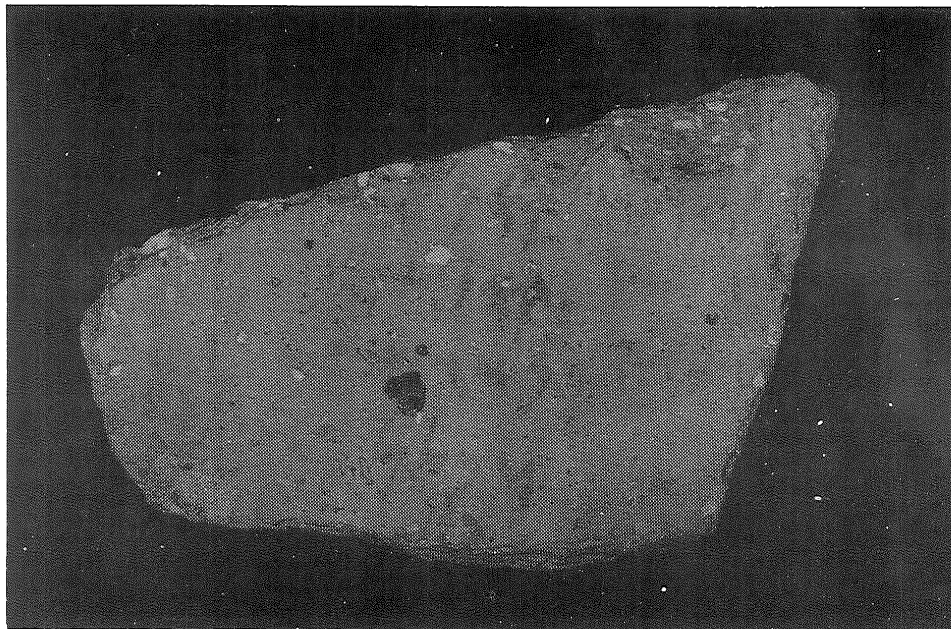




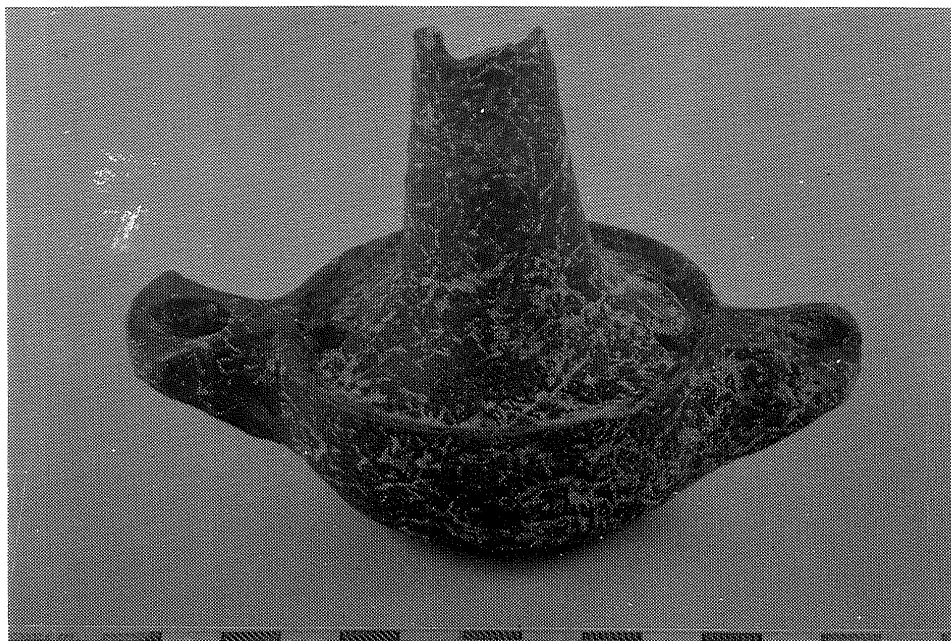
1. Late Roman building in Area D whose basement was excavated into previous rock-cut storage cavity (P. Bonney).



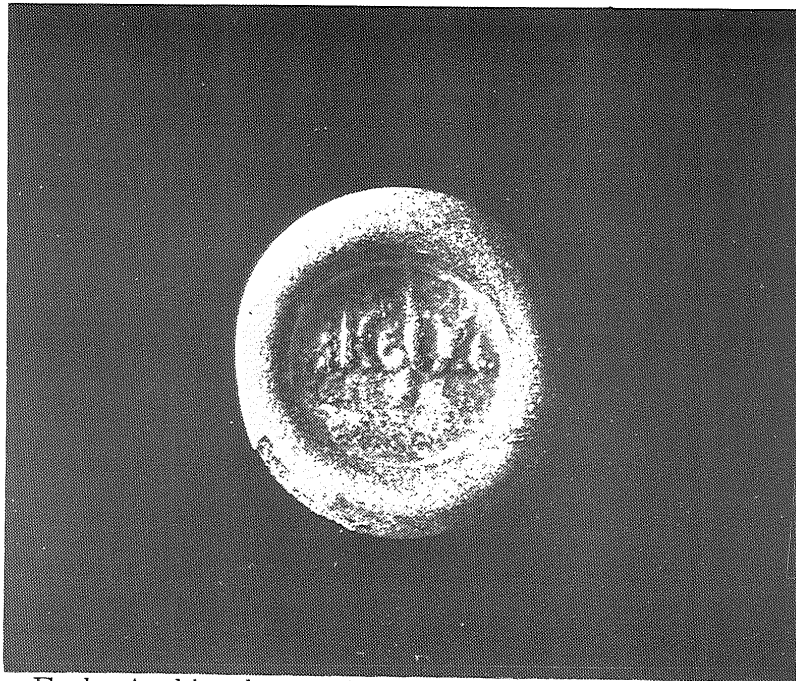
2. Some of the (Loom?) weights found in the Hellenistic storage cavities of Areas A and D (P. Bonney).



1. Ostracon No. XI, Ammonite, from Area B (E. Nitowski).



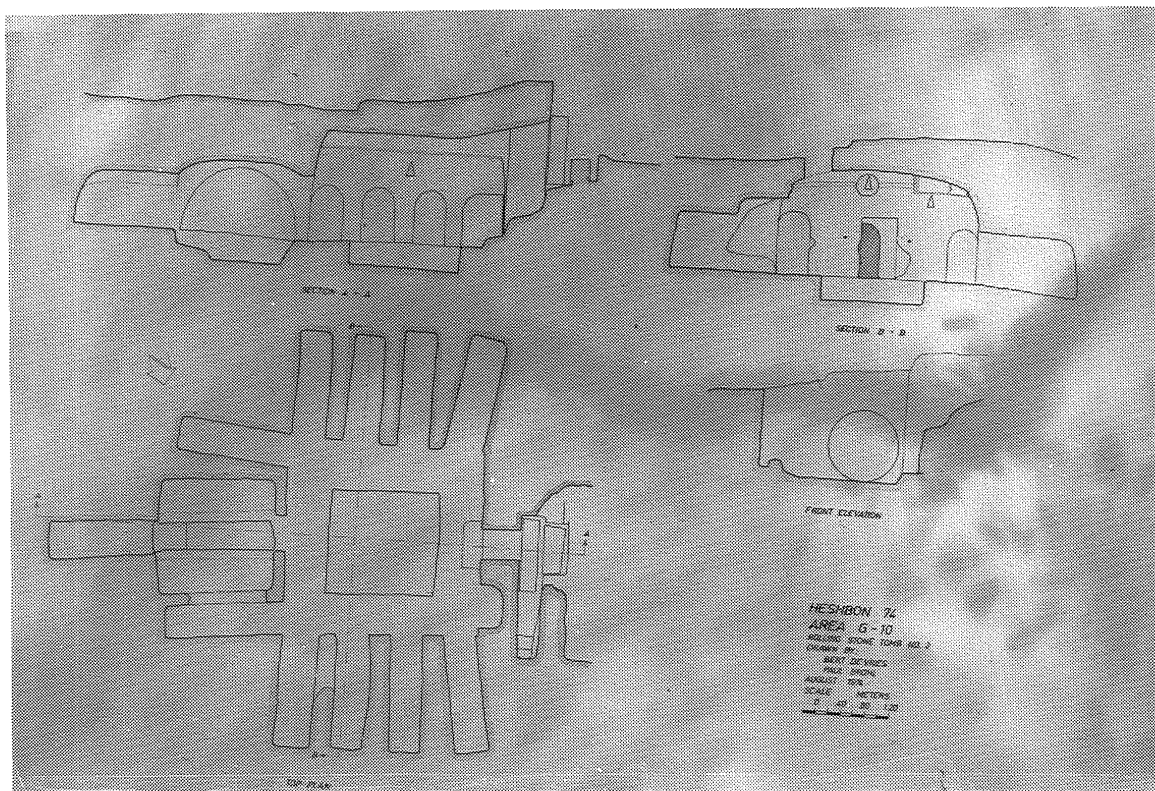
2. Double-spouted Herodian Lamp found in forecourt of Tomb E. 6 (P. Dentin).



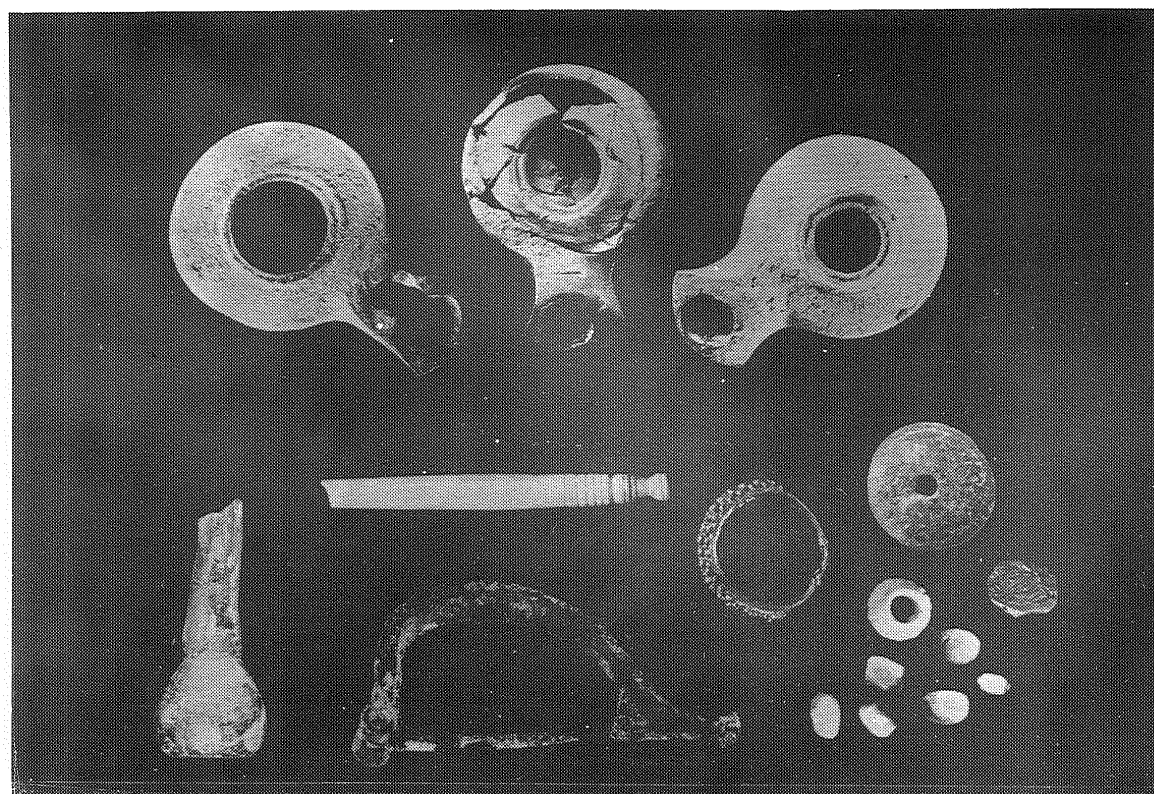
1. Early Arabic glass weight from Area A (E. Nitowski).



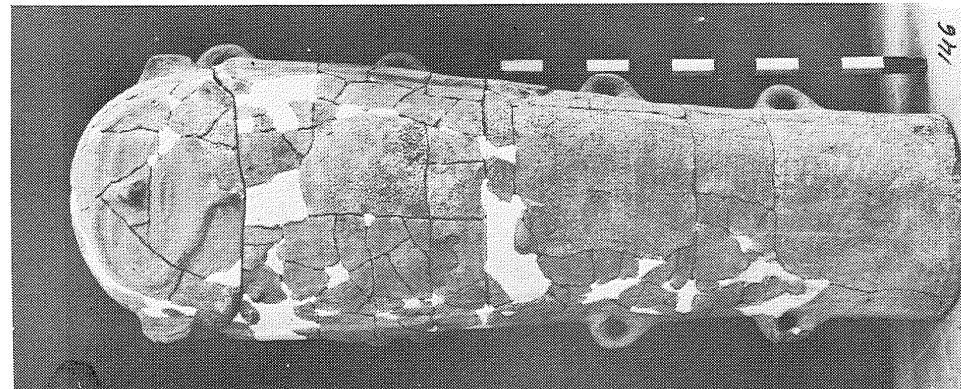
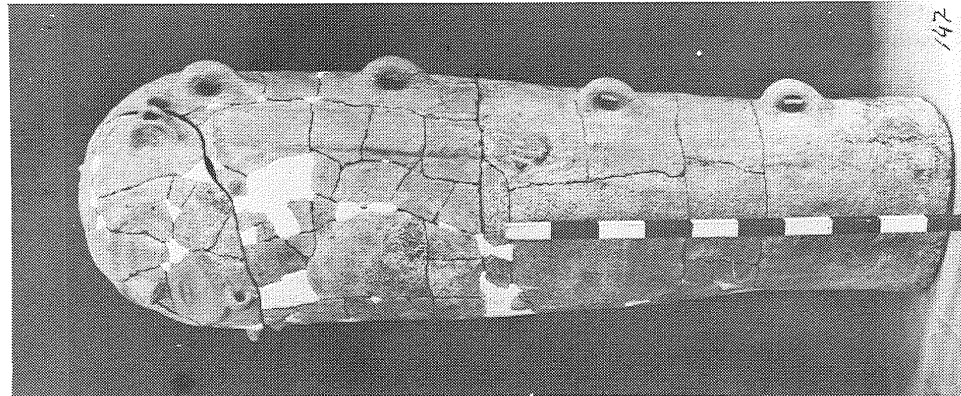
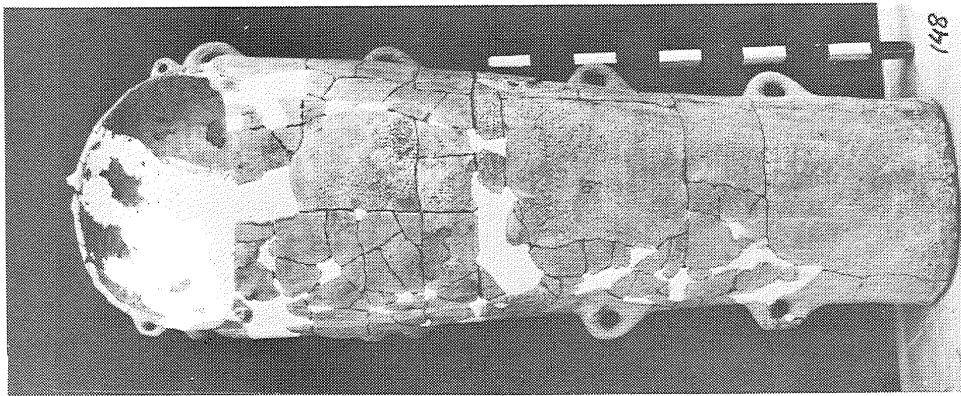
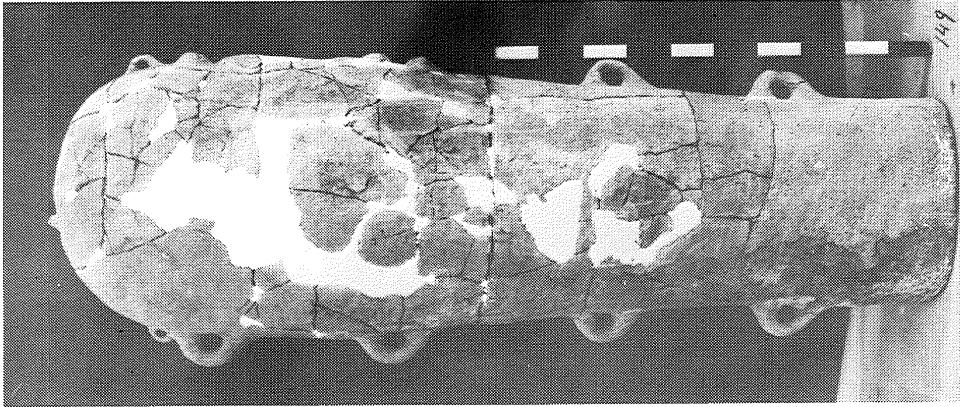
2. An inscribed Mamluk sherd from Area C (E. Nitowski).

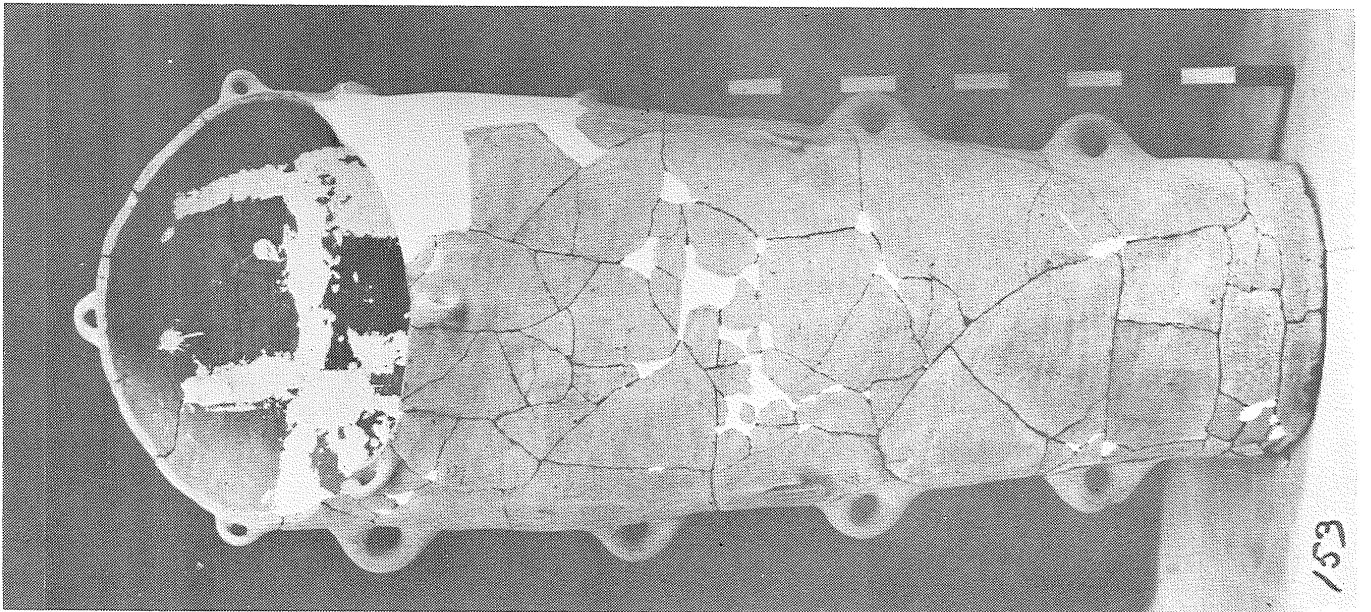
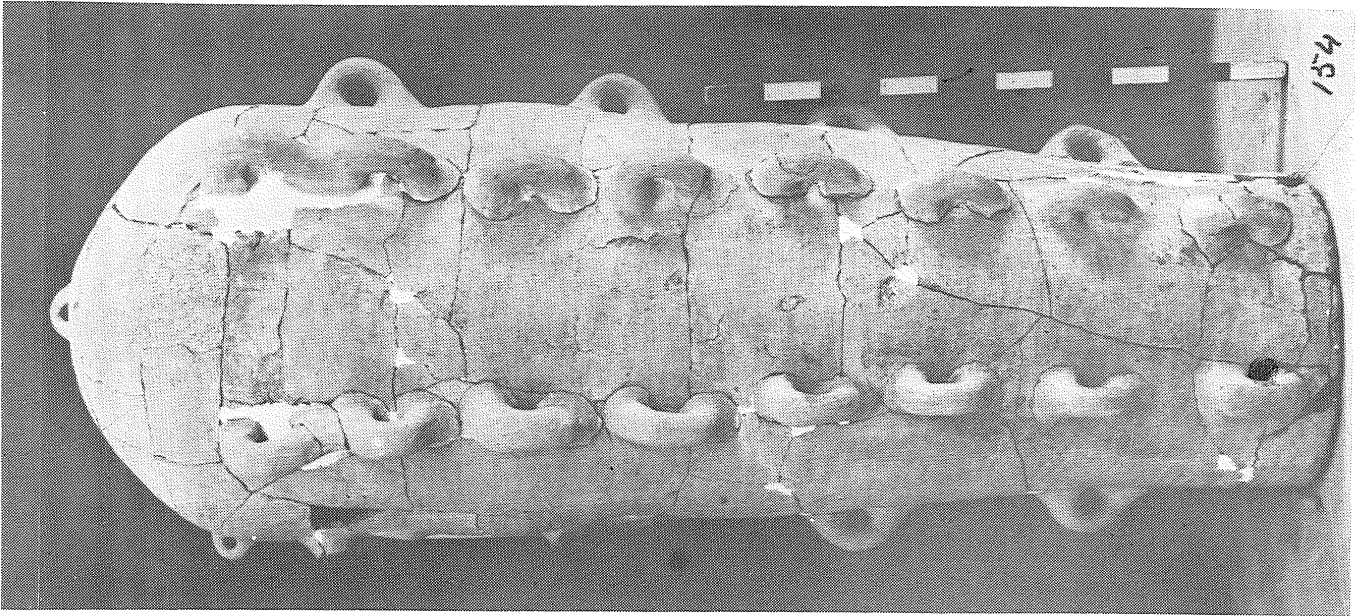


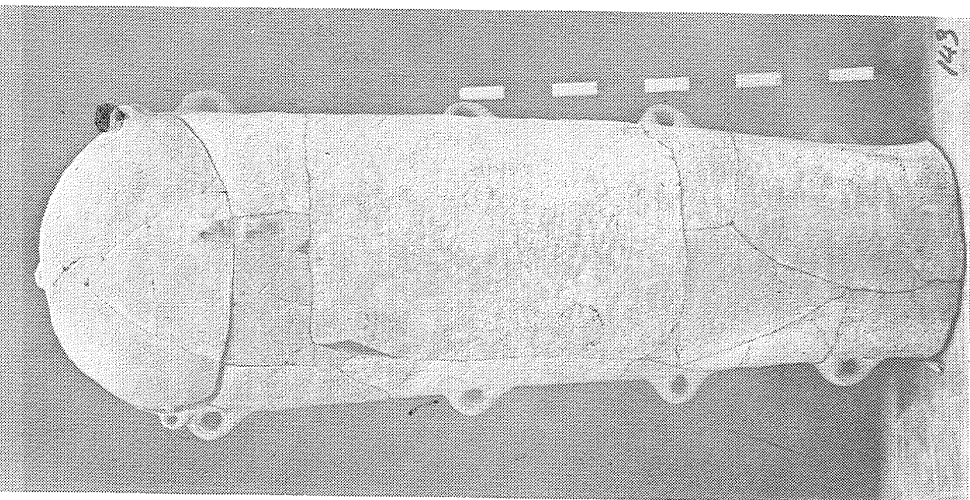
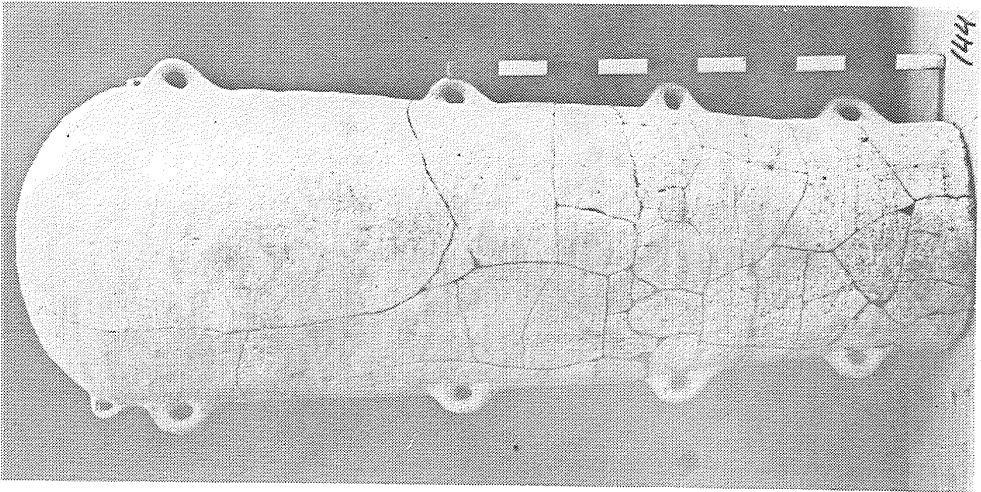
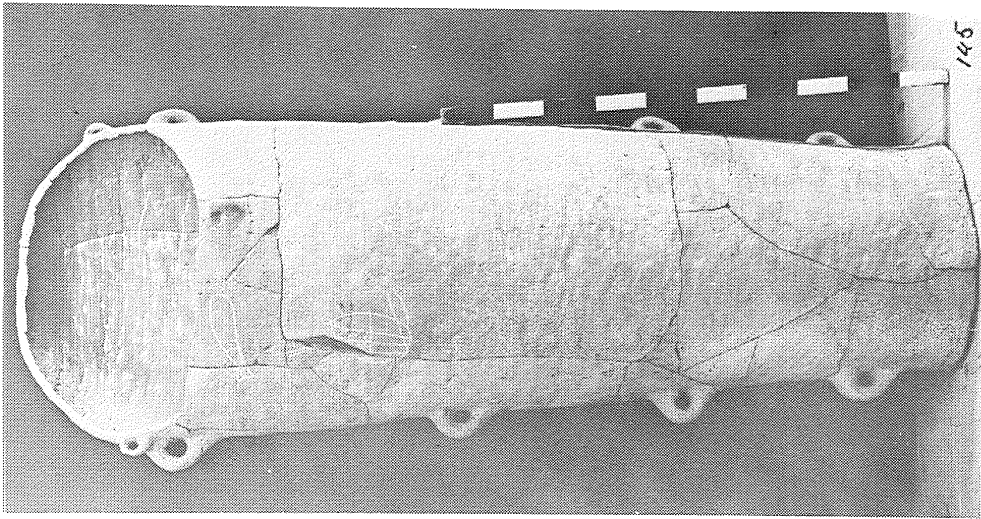
1. Plan, sections, and front elevation of Tomb G.10 (B. DeVries).

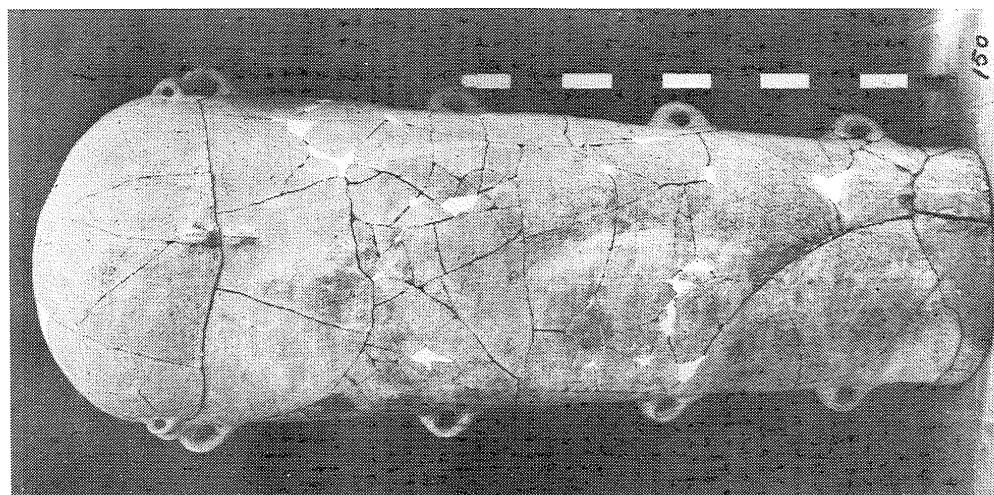
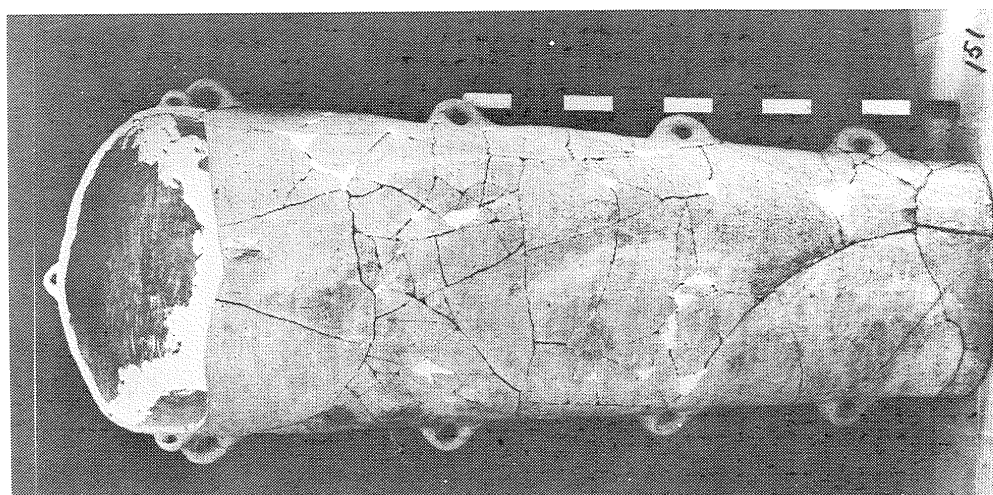
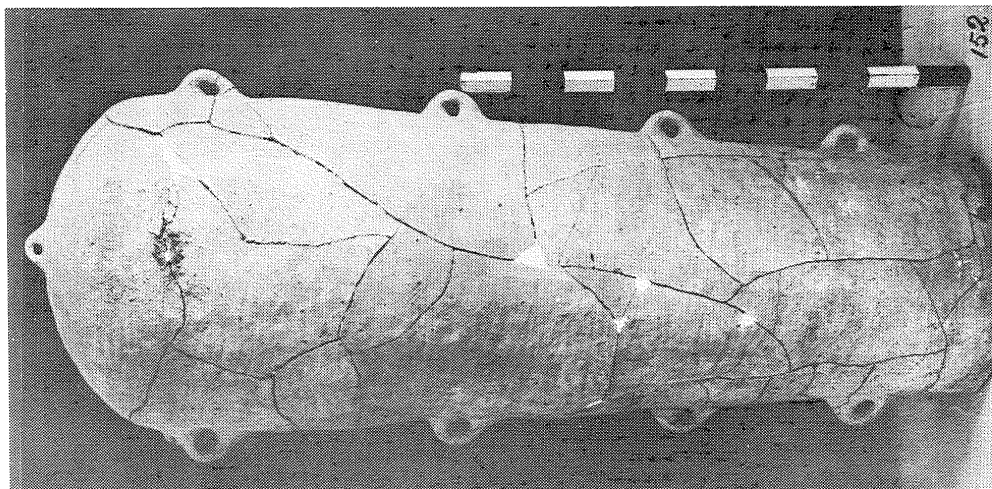


2. A group of objects found in Tomb G.10 (P. Bonney).













1. Sahab, Area B, Iron II Architectural complex.



2. Entry of the "Pillared room".



1. Sahab, Area D, Wall built against mouth of the cave.



2. Area D, Early Iron Age building.



1. Sahab, Area E, LB Walls Showing foundation trench cut through earlier deposits.



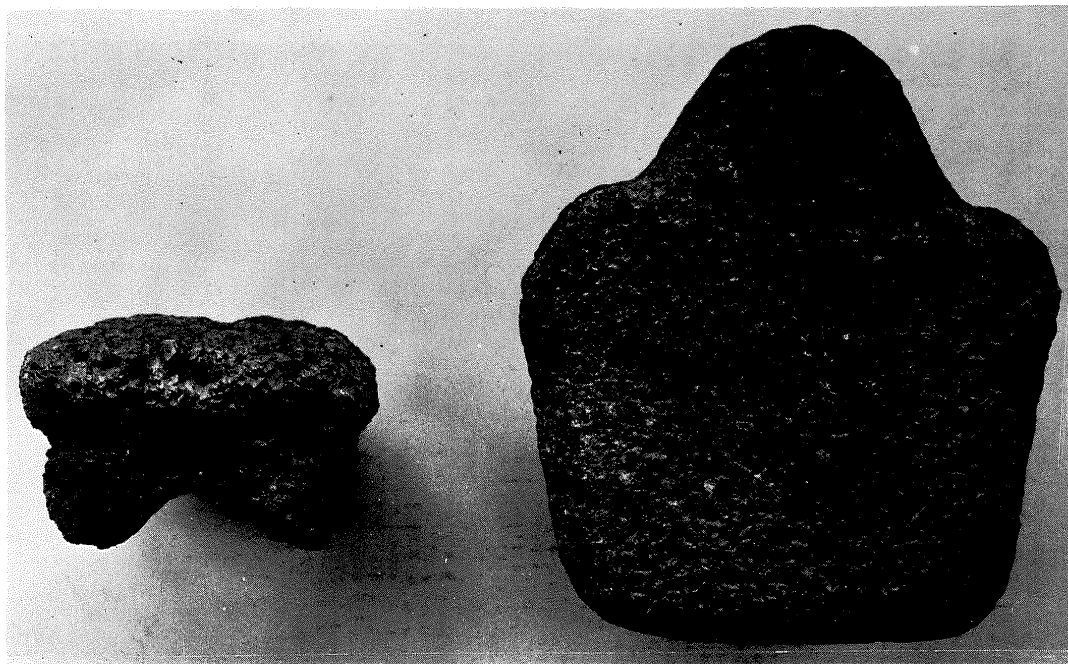
2. Sahab, Area E, LB Structure and Chalcolithic rooms next to scale.



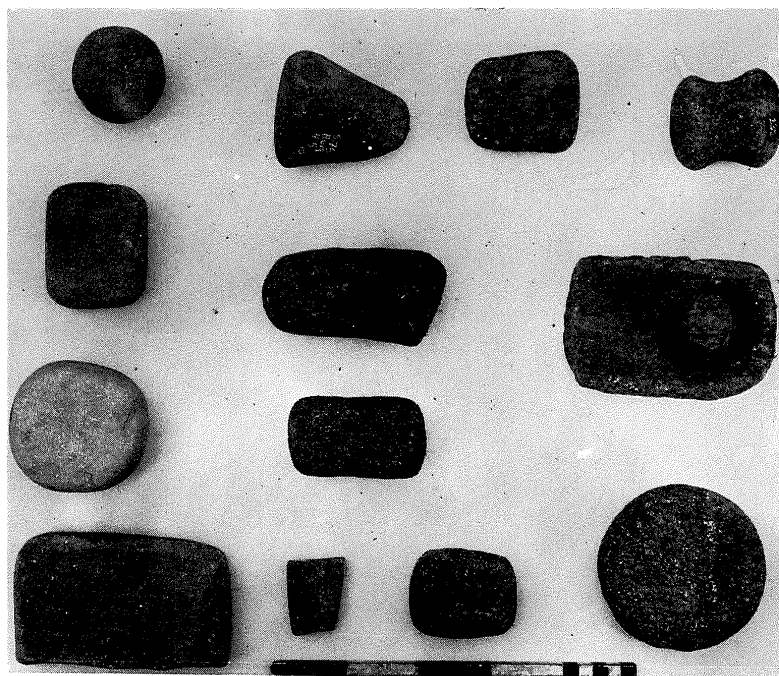
1. Sahab, Area E, Chalcolithic rooms (12 a, b).



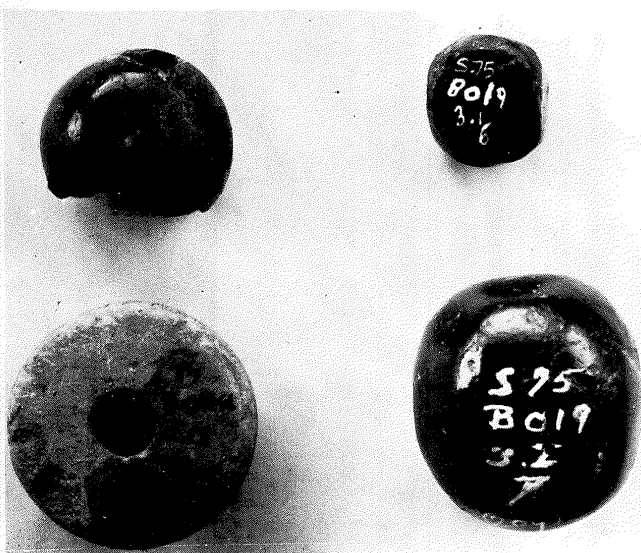
2. Sahab, Area E, Chalcolithic storage pit, lined with a wall, Its floor is lower than the floor of room 12a.



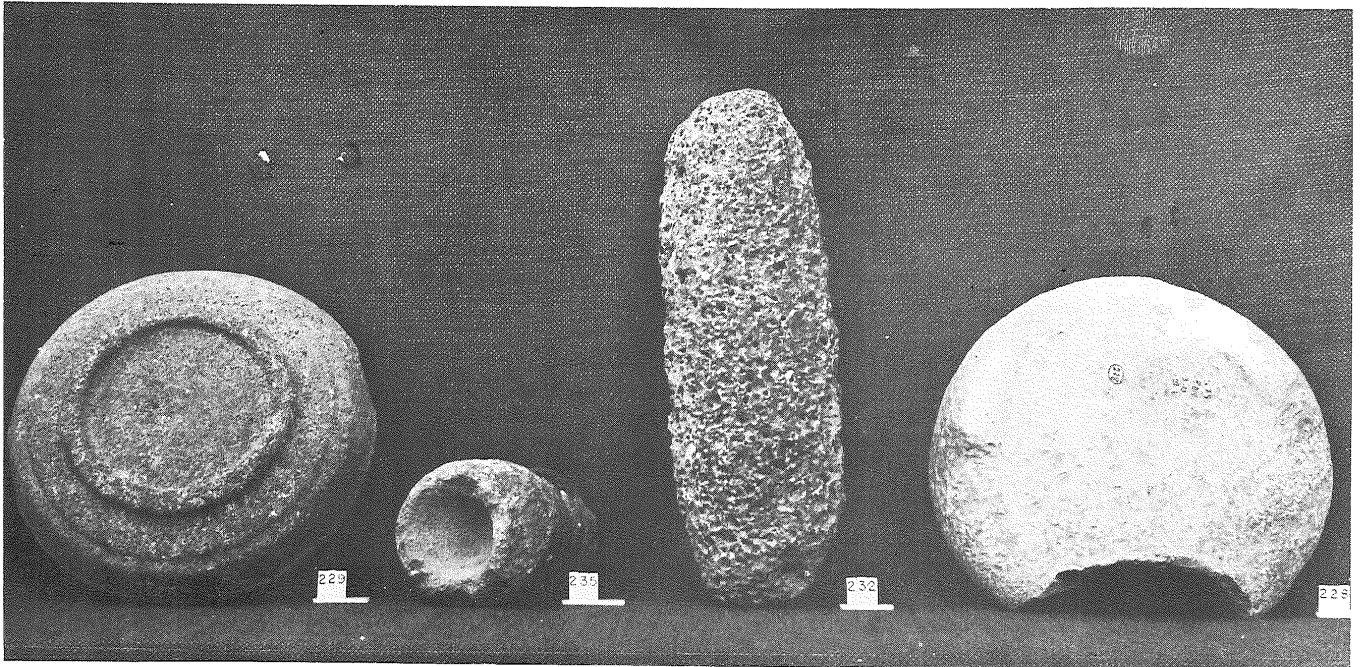
1. Sahab, Area, B, miniature table and a votive figurine made of basalt.



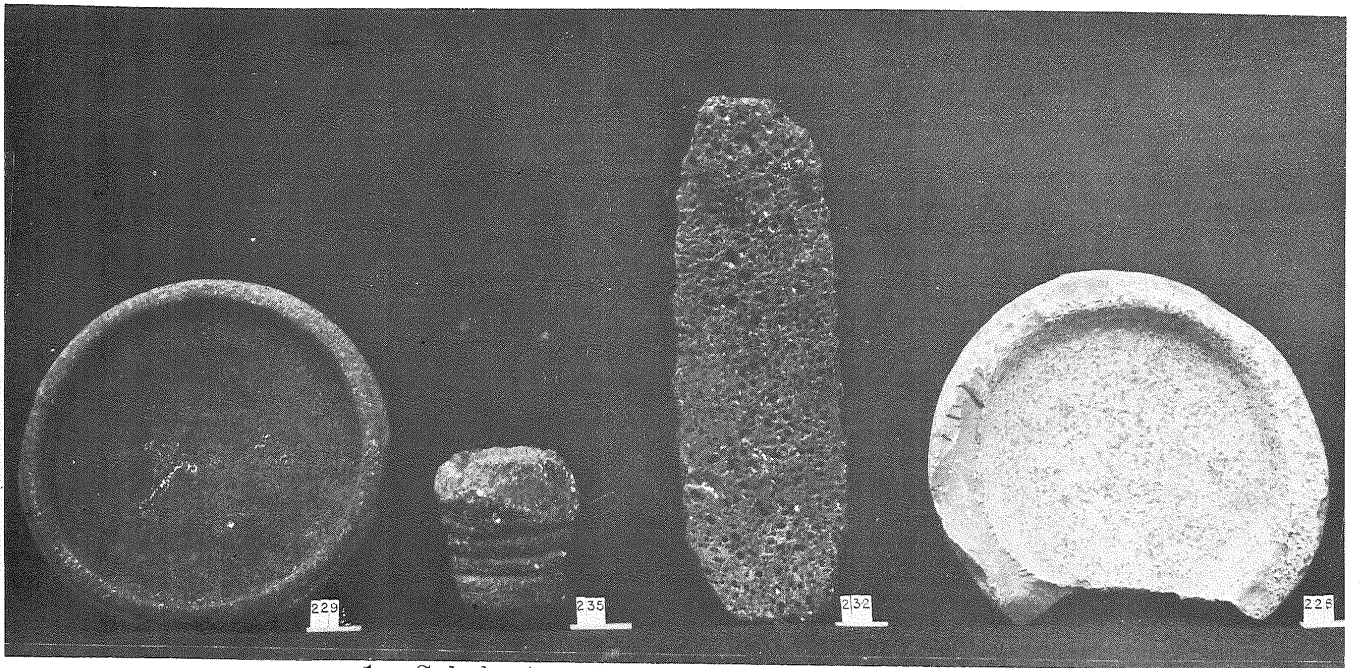
2. Sahab, Area B, Selective basalt and stone tools.



3. Sahab, Area B, Spindle whorl and weights.



2. Sahab, Area B, grinding objects shown from the back.



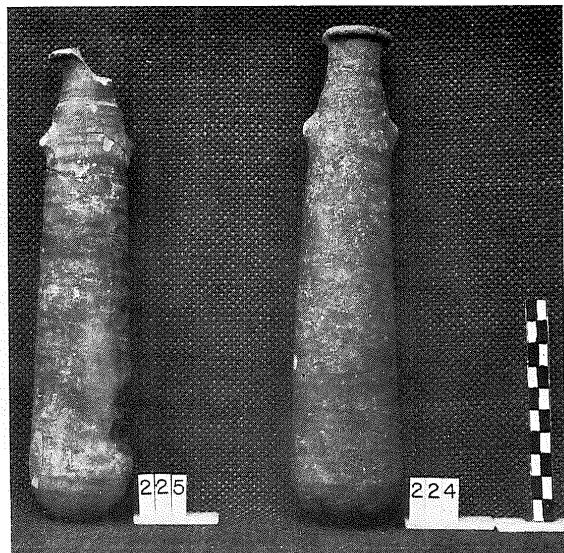
1. Sahab, Area B, Iron II grinding objects.



1. Sahab, Area B, Rounded and Pyramid - Shaped loom weights.



2. Sahab, Area B, weaving bone - tool, scarab, fibula Iron knife.



1. Sahab, Area B, Two elongated pottery bottles.



2. Sahab, Area B, storage jar fragment with an inscribed letter, and painted pottery pieces.

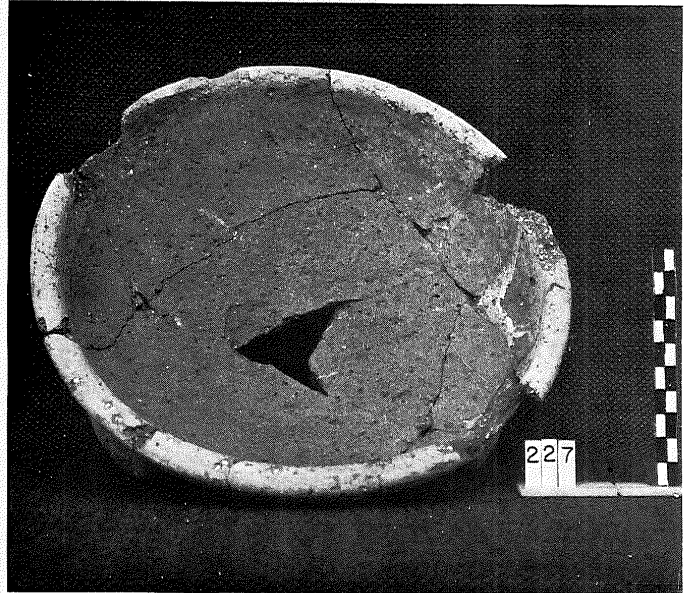


3. Sahab, Area B, Black-burnished bowl (218), kiln waster (226), red-burnished deep bowl (222).

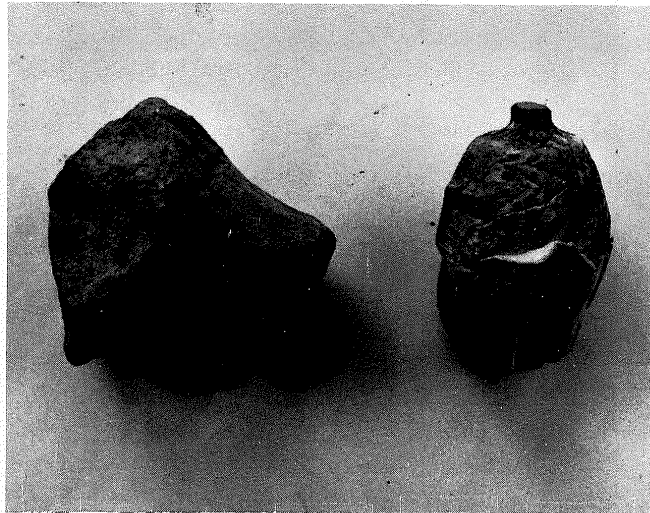




1. Sahab, Area B, Tripod from the outside.



2. Sahab, Area B, Tripod from the inside.



3. Sahab, Area D, Head of an animal figurine (clay), like objects (bone) with incisions.



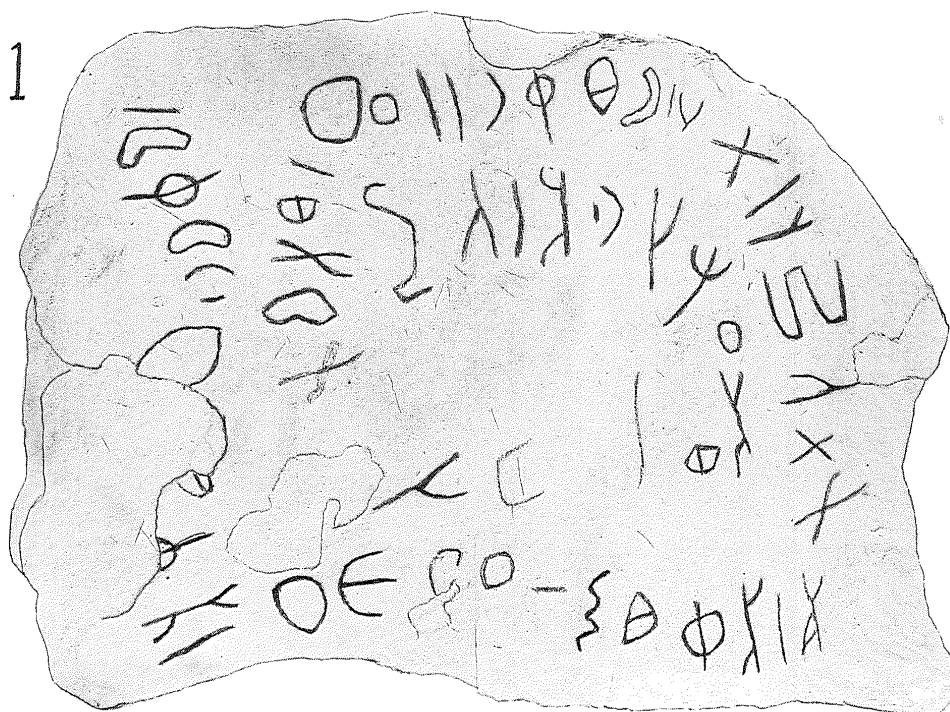
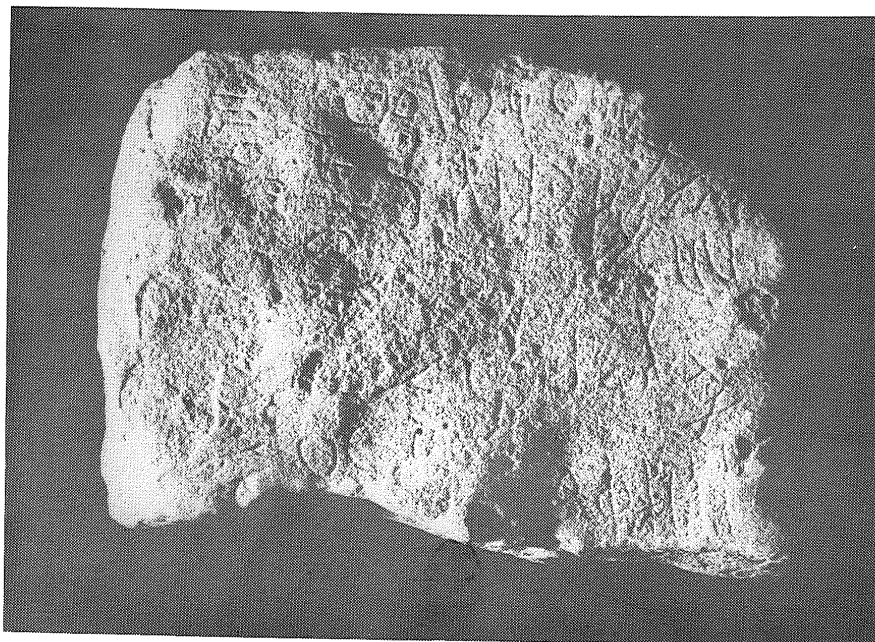
1. Sahab, Area D, Chalcolithic storage jar.

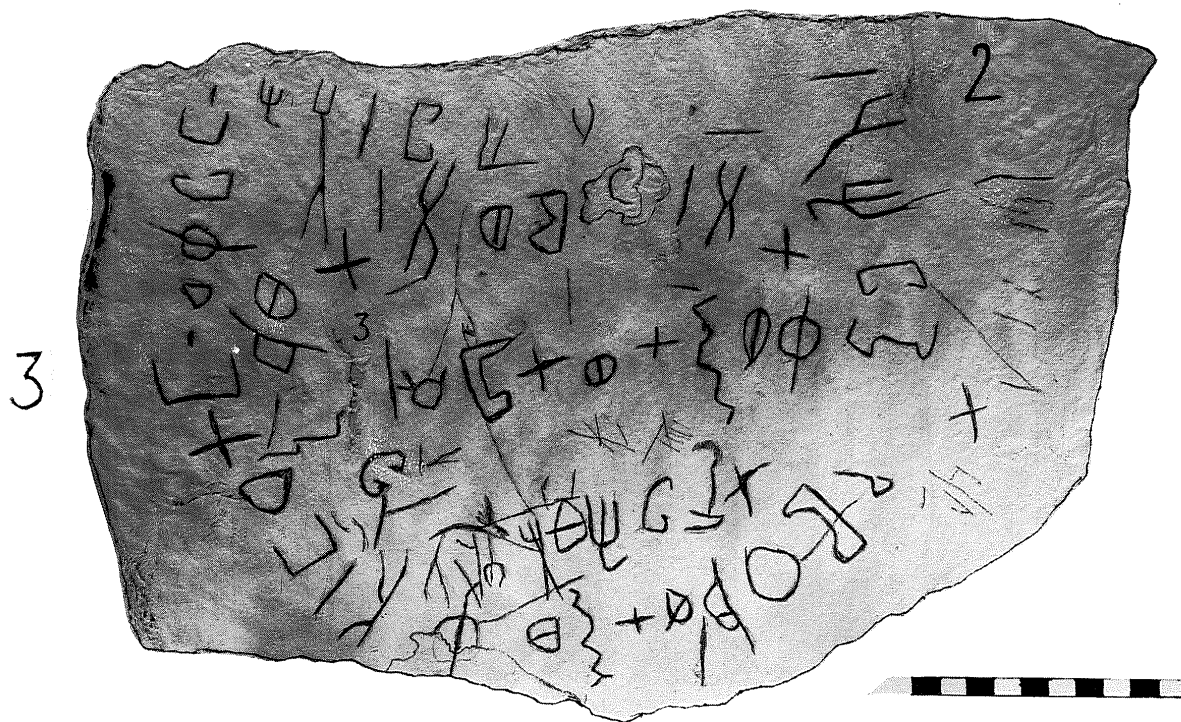
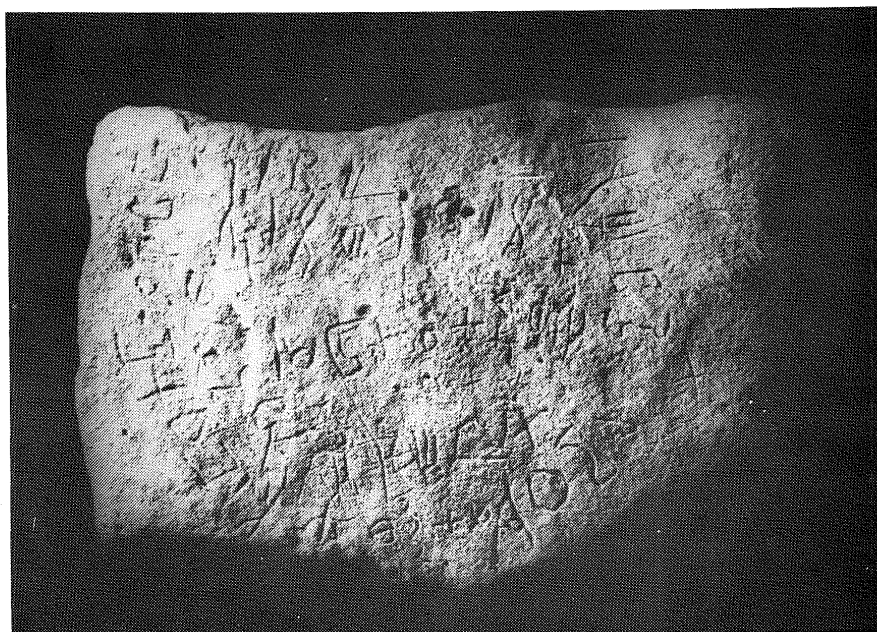


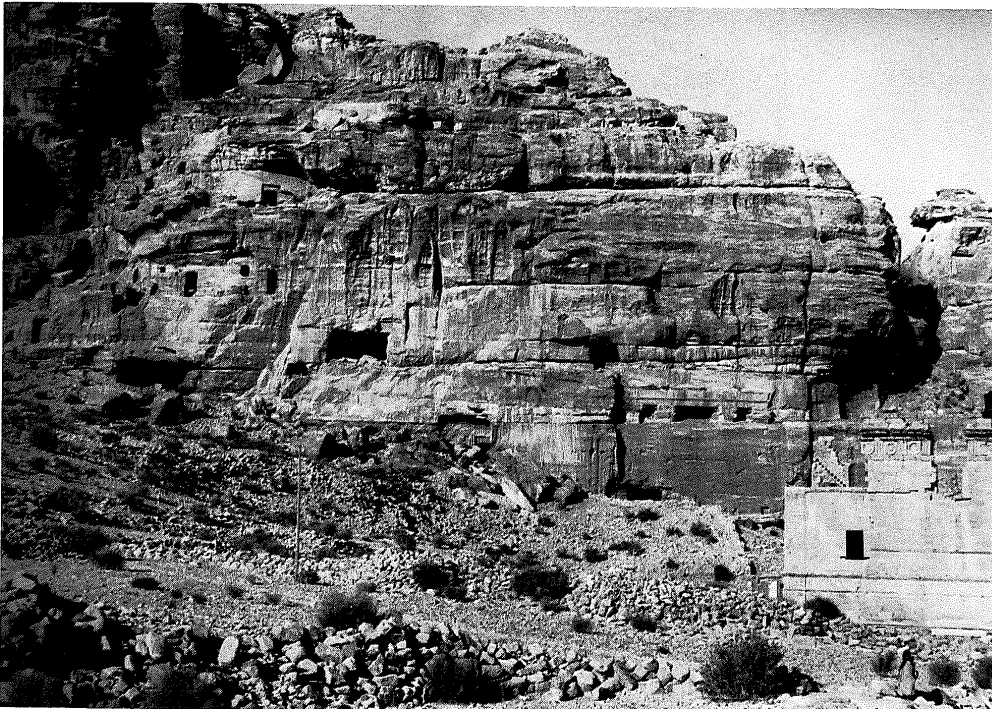
2. Sahab, Area D, Clay stamp-like object, stone spoon with pierced handle.



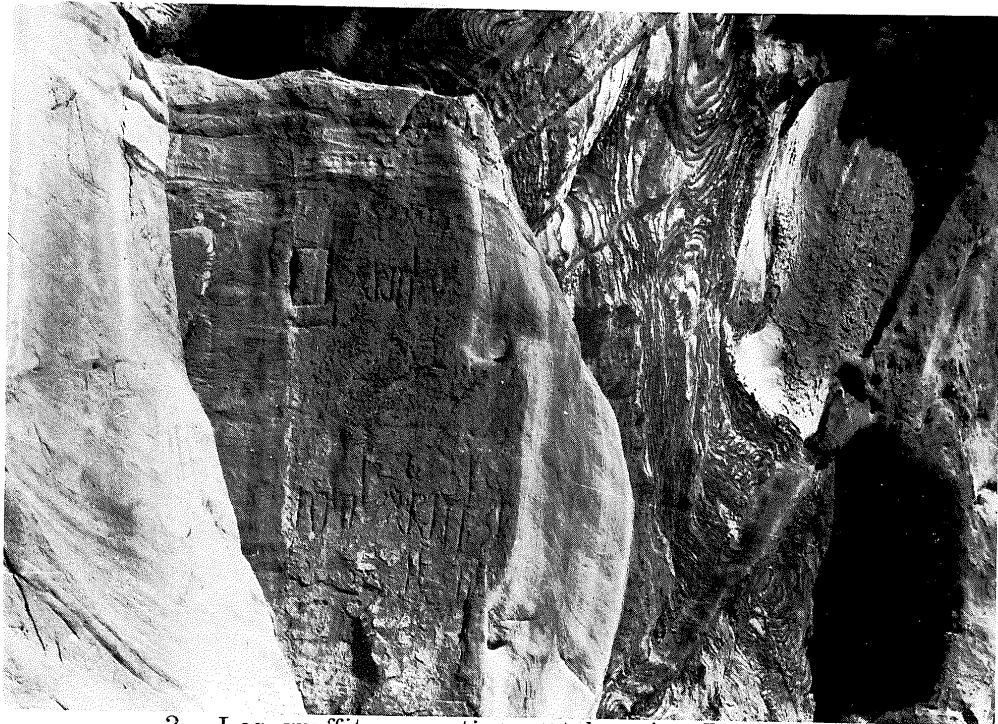
3. Area, E, Mycenaean sherd.



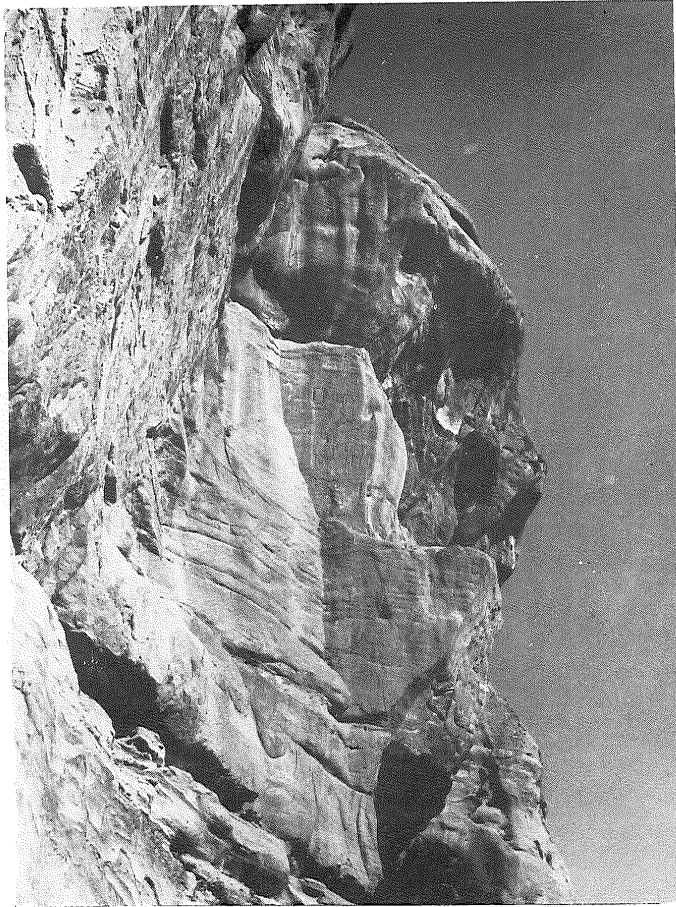




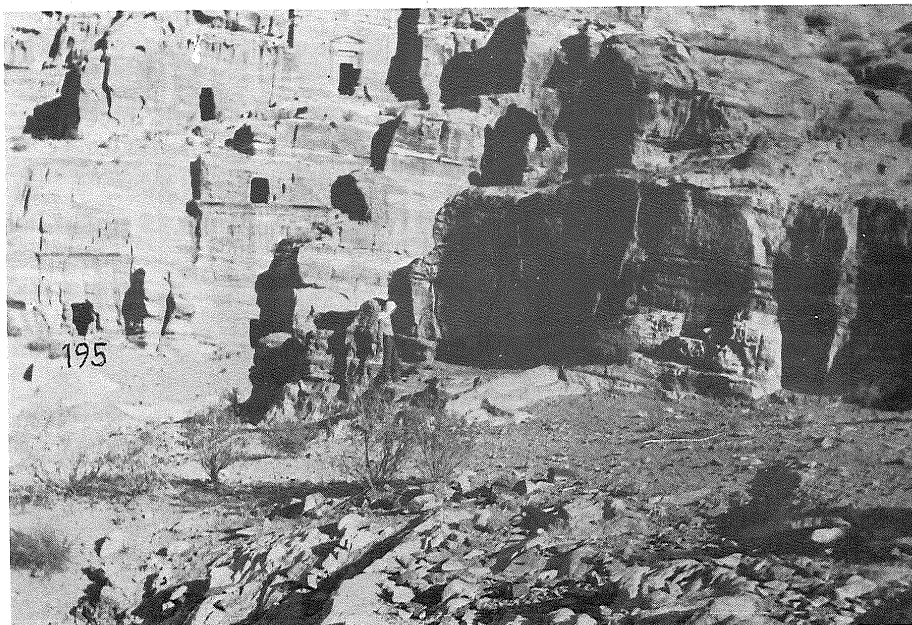
1. La paroi orientale du Habis. Au centre le columbarium avec ses niches. En haut la longue corniche horizontale.



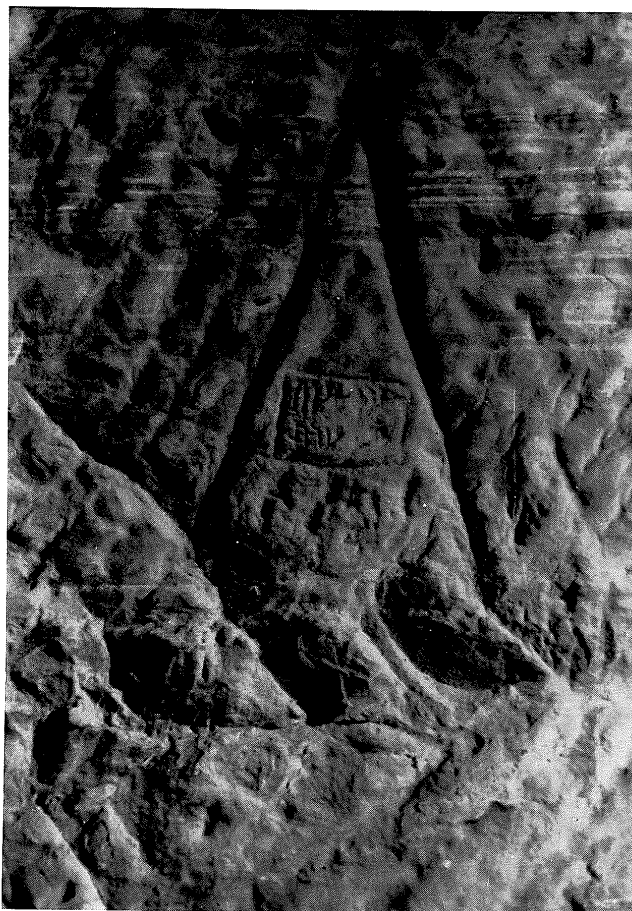
2. Les graffites mentionnant la reine Pasi'el.



1. La corniche au-dessus du colombarium, vue prise du sud.



2. La grotte funéraire de 'Abdo 'obodat. À gauche le tombeau Brunnow 195. Entre les deux le wâdi Farasah.



1 — 2. Une nefesh avec épitaphe nabatéenne de 'bd 'obodat.

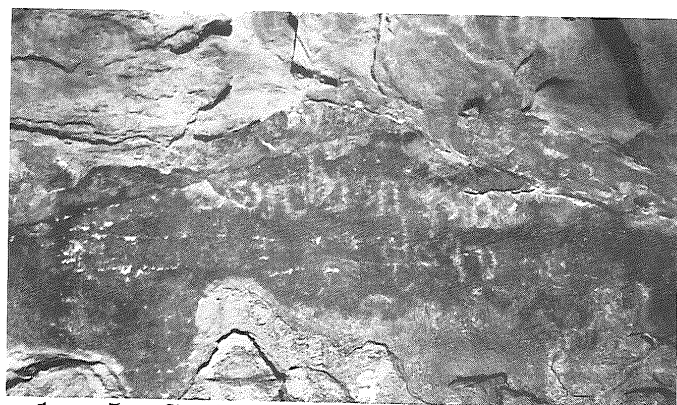
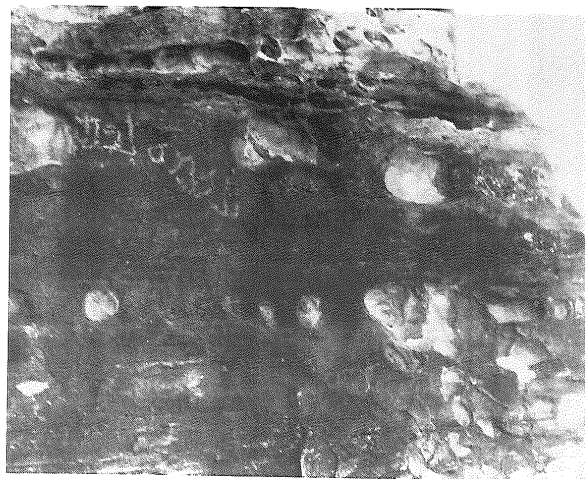


1. El Madras, la corniche aux graffites. Vue prise du nord.

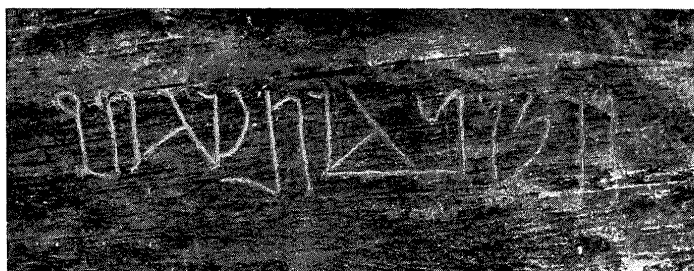


2. Le sanctuaire de 'Obodat-le-dieu.

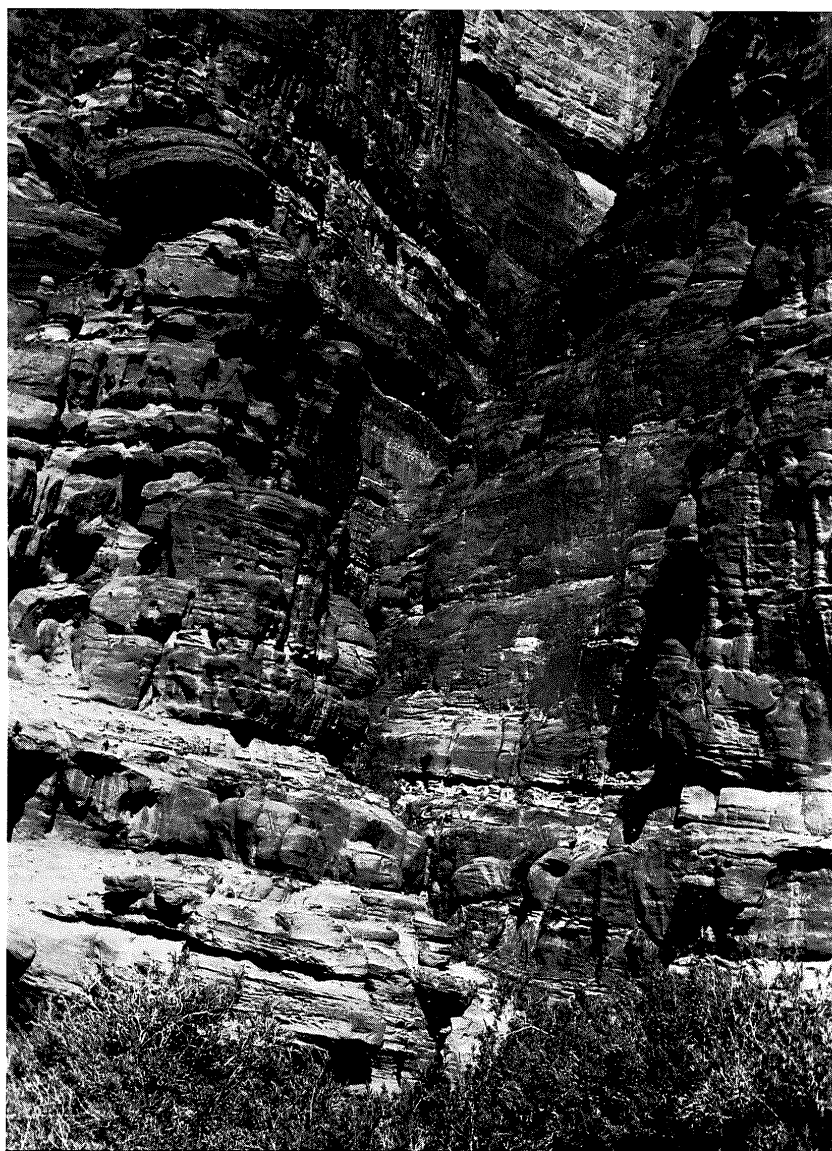




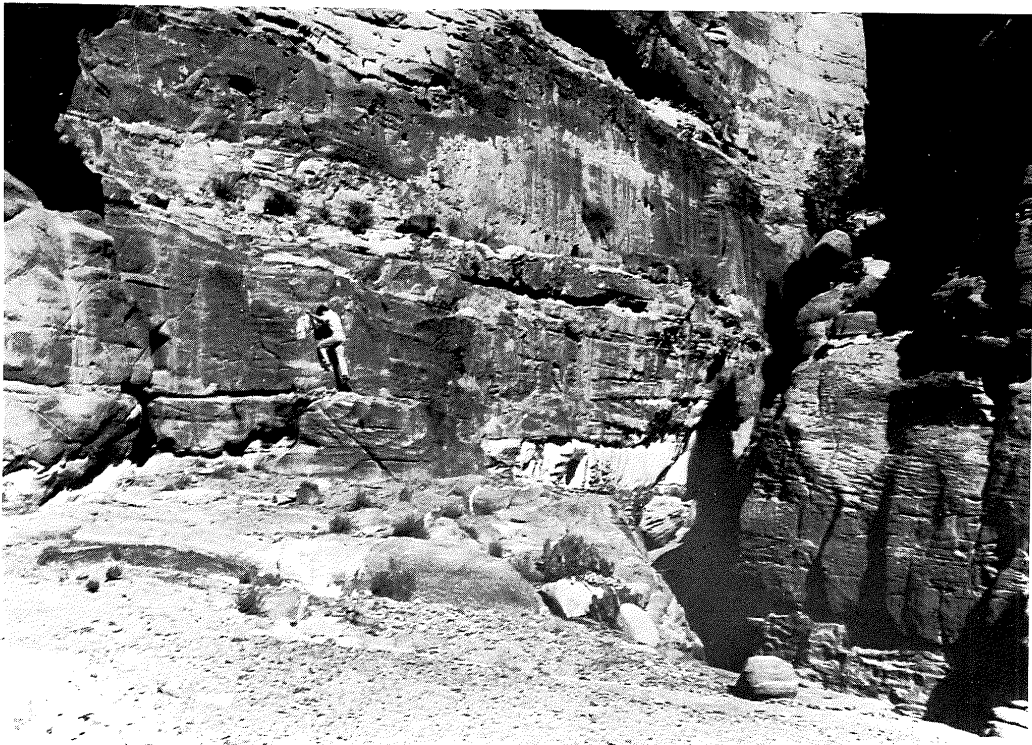
1 — 5. Graffites au nom de Taym-al-Kutbá.



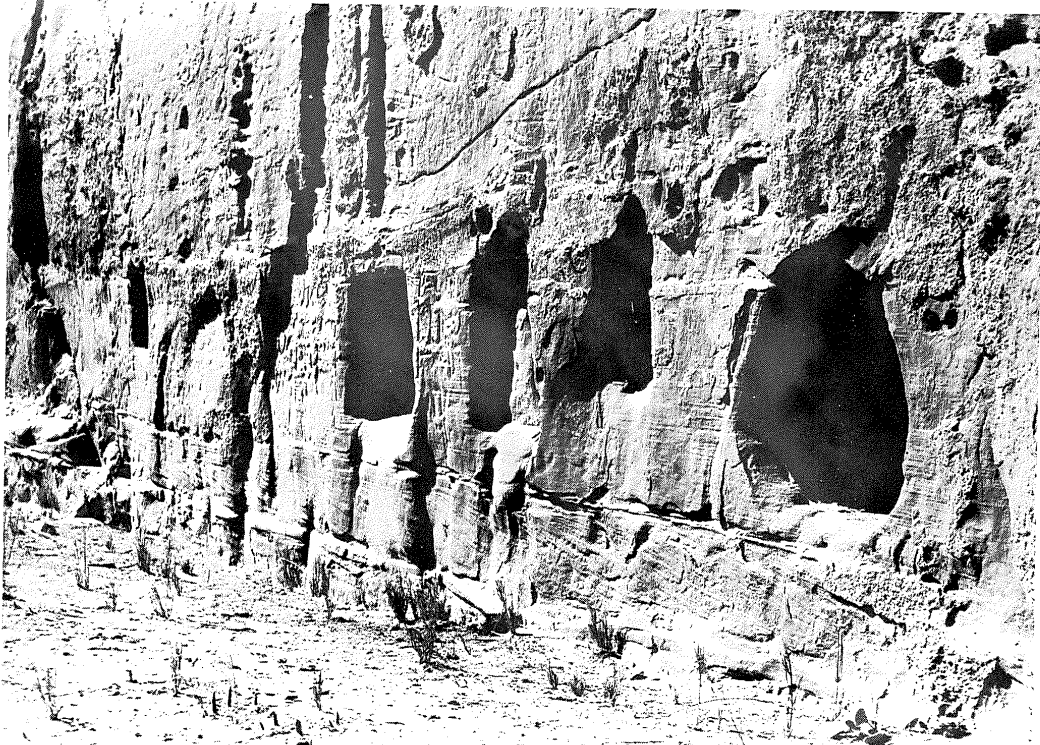
1. Graffite dans le massif d'en-Nmér.



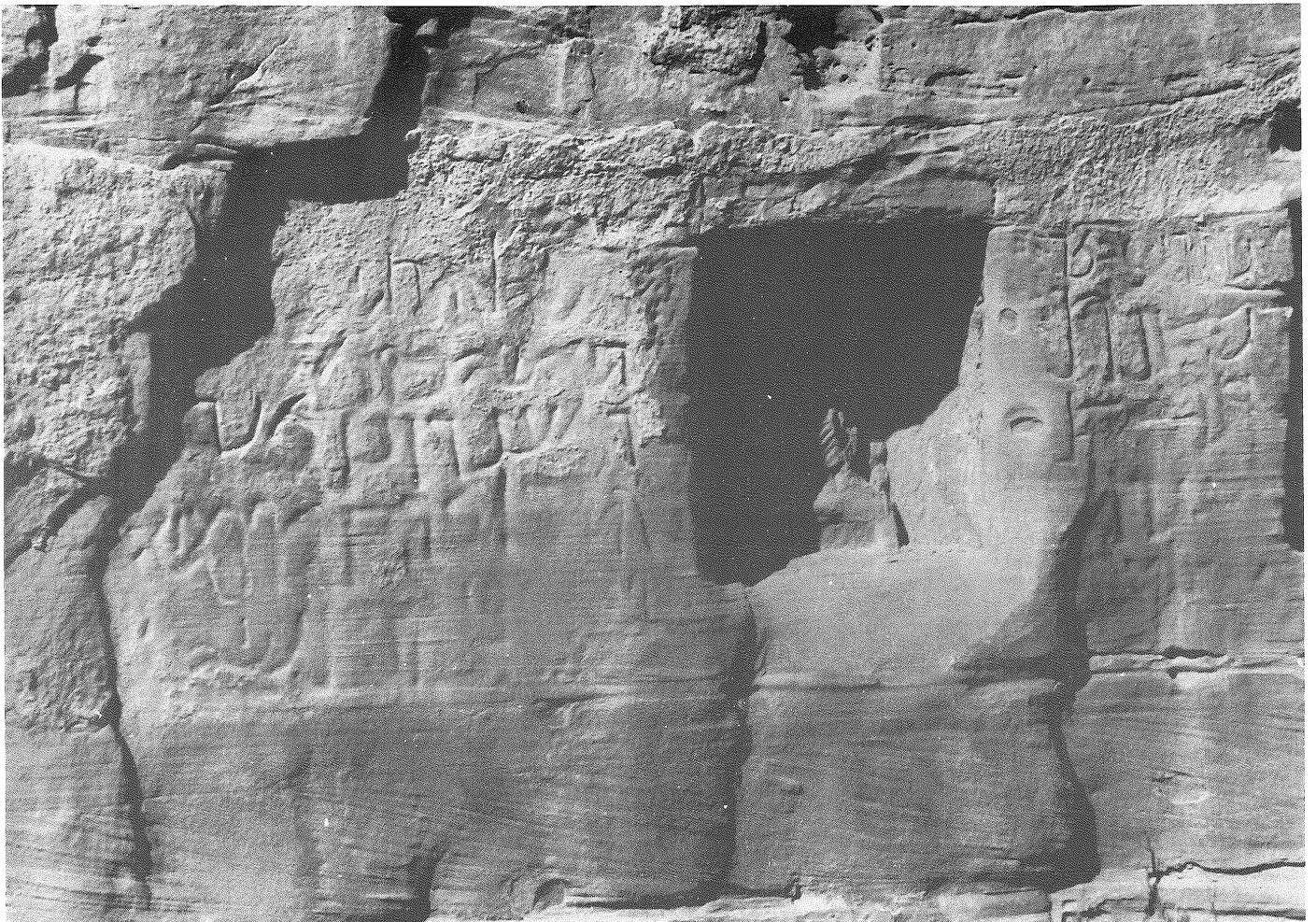
2. Une gorge du wâdî es-Siyyagh: le haut-lieu de la déesse Isis est indiqué par la flèche.



1. L'escalade à la corniche du haut-lieu de la déesses Isis.



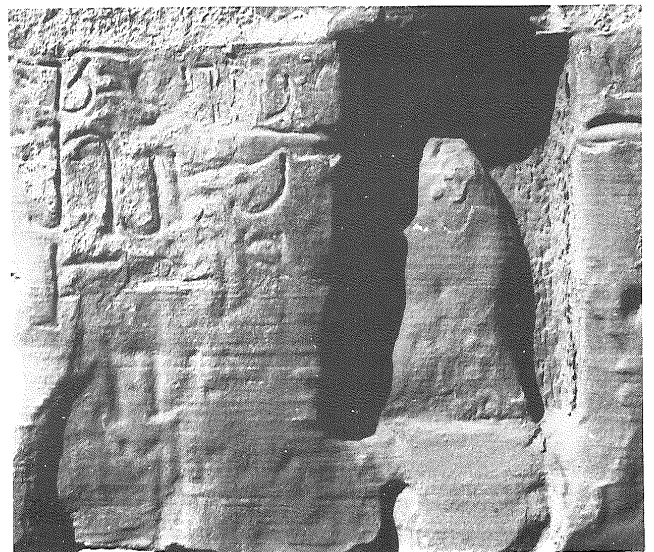
2. Les niches du haut-lieu de la déesses Isis.



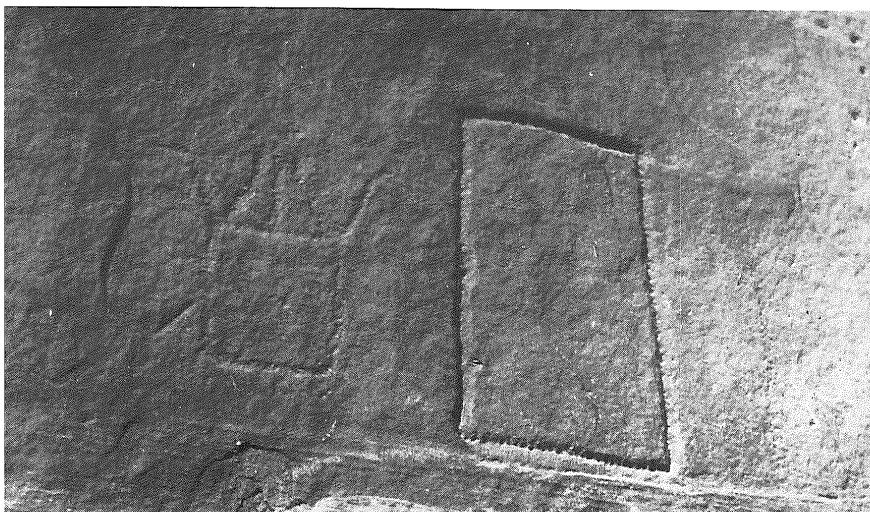
1. La dédicace à la déesse Isis.



2. La déesse Isis.



3. Une idole à droite de la déesse Isis.



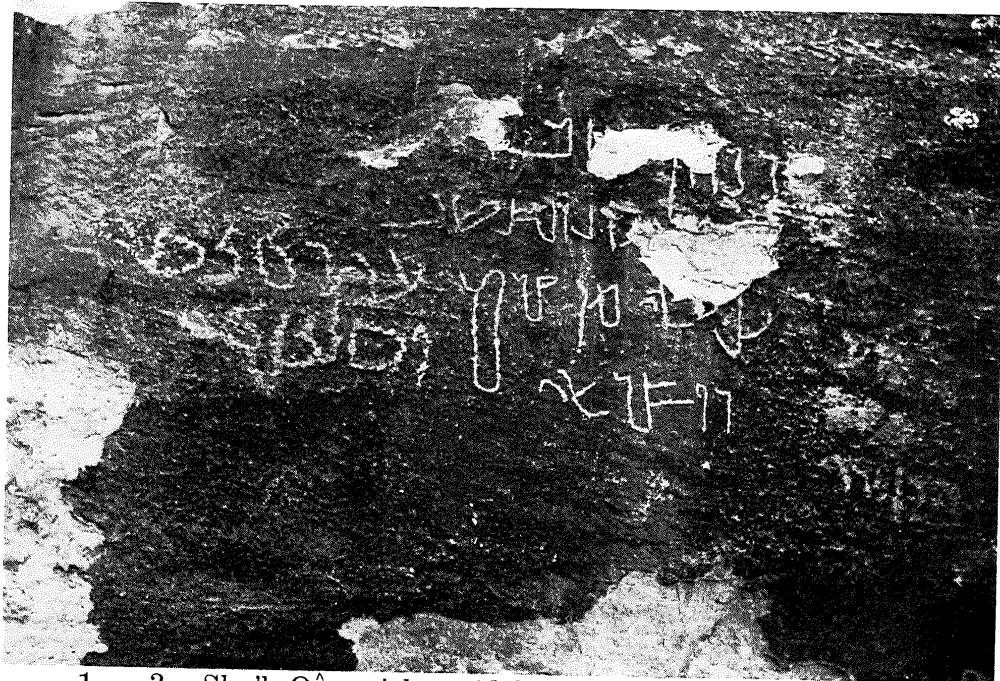
1 — 3. Graffites et dessins du haut-lieu d'Isis.



1 — 2. Inscription du Wâdî es-Siyyagh mentionnant un desservant de la déesse al-'Uzzâ.



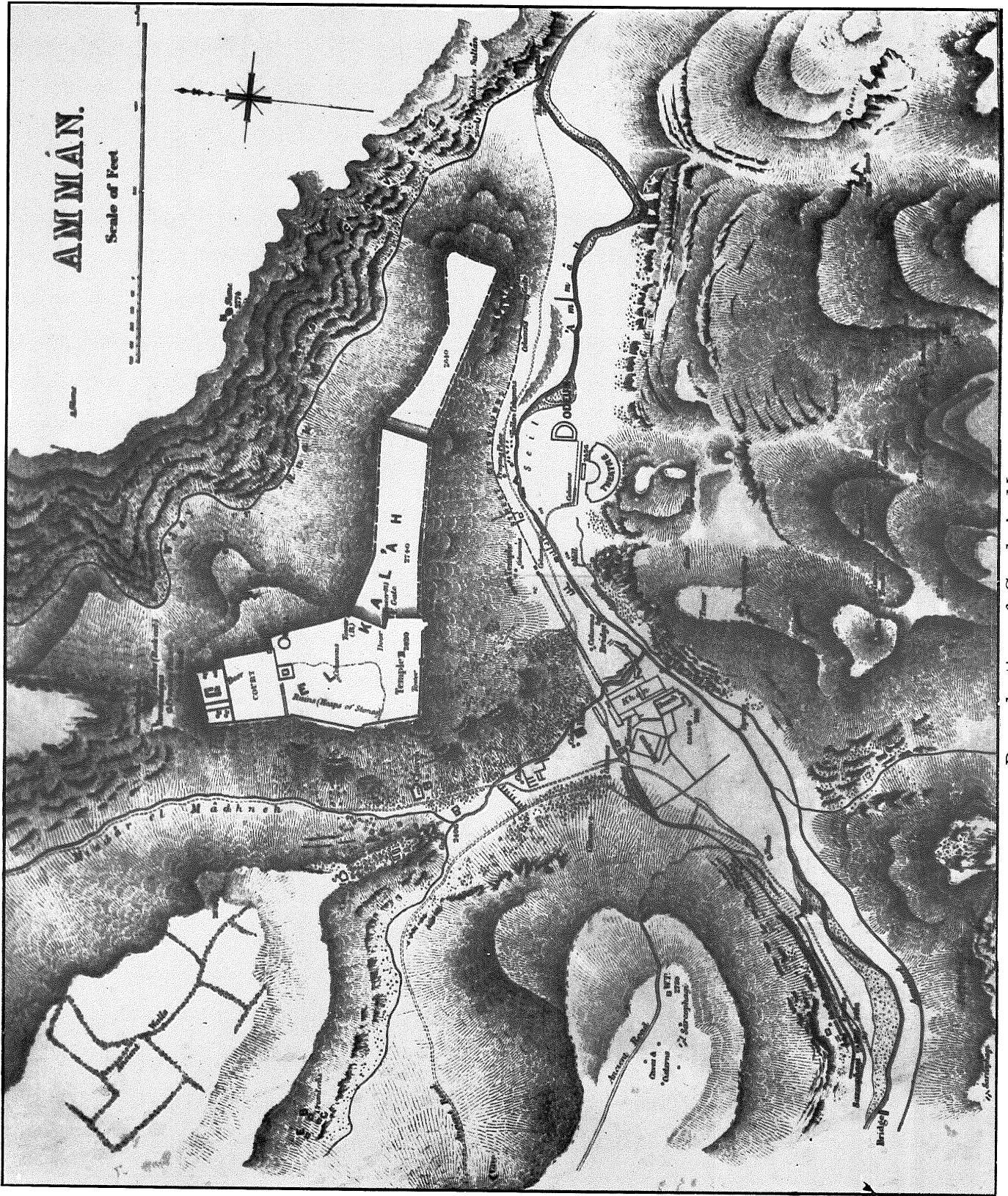
3. Epitaphe mentionnant un paranymphe.



1 — 2. Shu'b Qês: niche à idoles et proscynème à Dusharâ.







Reproduction of Conder's Map.



1. The Umayyad. Building looking north.



2. The (?) Roman Street north of the Umayyad building after cleaning, looking south.



1. The bulldozed Basin in Area B looking west, showing stubs of walls in south and north sections.



2. Rooms 2 and 3 in the Basin looking south. (Showing also by the middle ranging pole, the clay and earlier plaster floor in B. I).



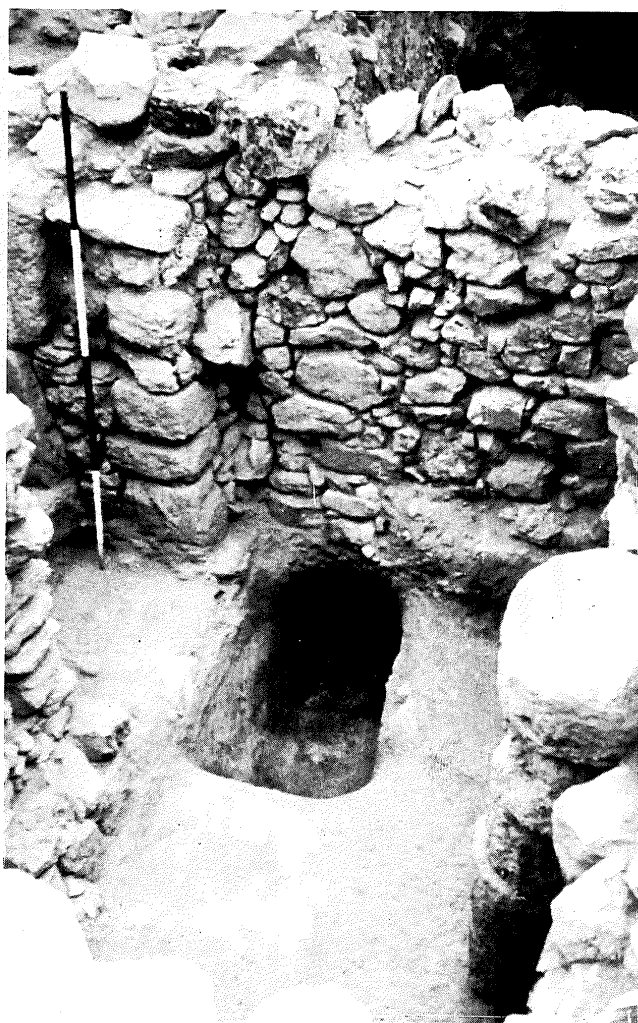
1. Springing of roof in Room 2. looking west.



2. Footings of building in B.V. separated from Room 3 by a possible street.



1. Paving at northend of B. XIX looking north.



2. Column and doorway in B. XX looking north.



1. 2 periods of paving in B. XXI looking S.W.



2. Blocked doorway in B. XX complex looking north.



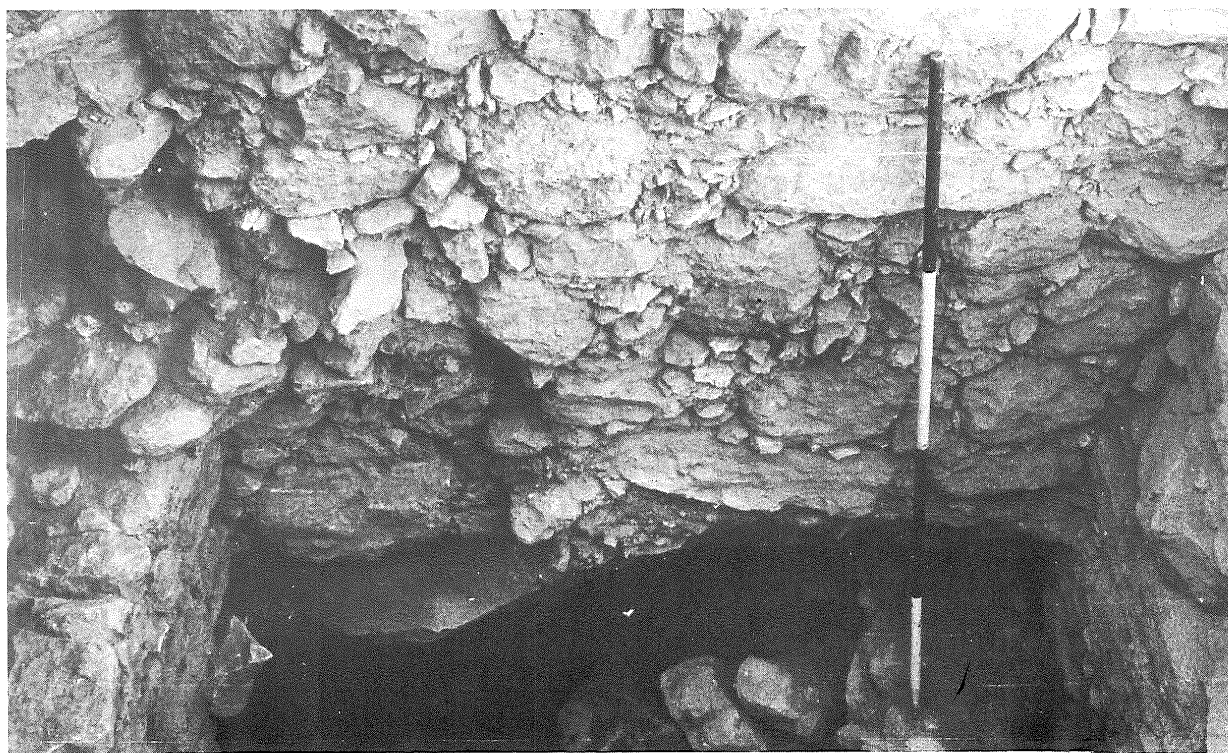
1. Re-used ashlar block in wall in B. XXIV. 2. looking east.



2. Arch spanning the cistern in B. XXIV looking west.



1. Re-used stones in side of cistern in B. XXX. 1. looking east.



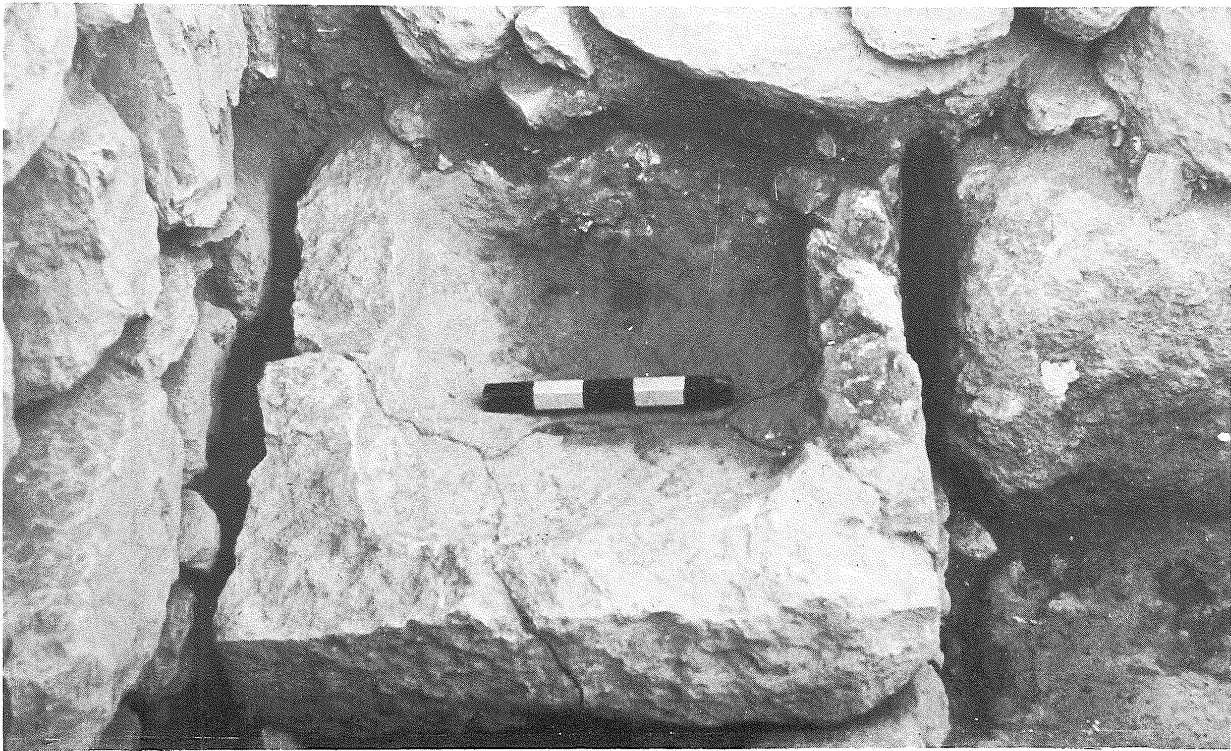
2. Cave entrance in B. XXX. 1. looking west.



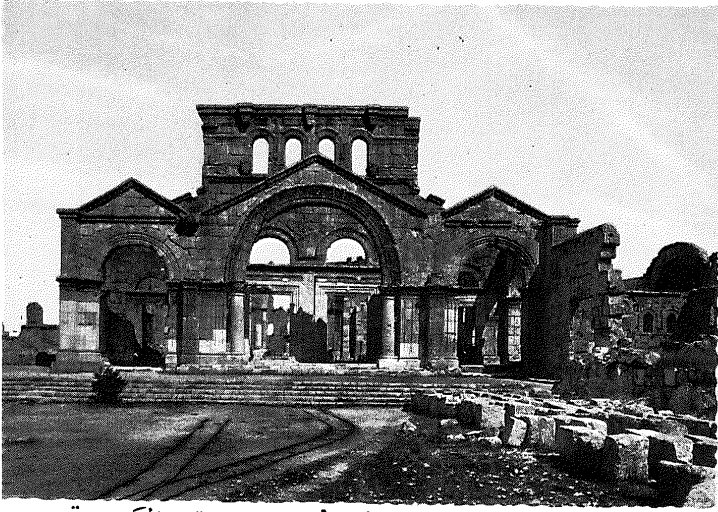




1. Tabun in B. XXX. 4. looking west.



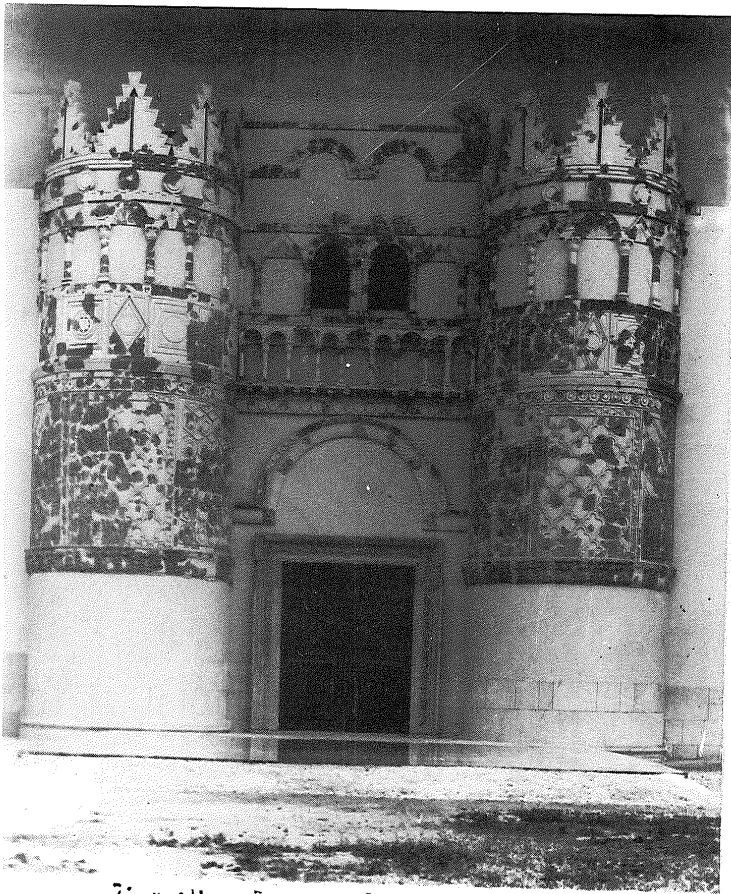
2. Limestone trough in B. XXX. 4. looking east.



٢ - كنيسة القديس سمعان العمودي وتقع الكنيسة مع المعمودية غربي حلب



١ - الرصافة - سرجيو بوليس وتقع شمالي تدمر وهي من اضمخ الاوابد المسيحية



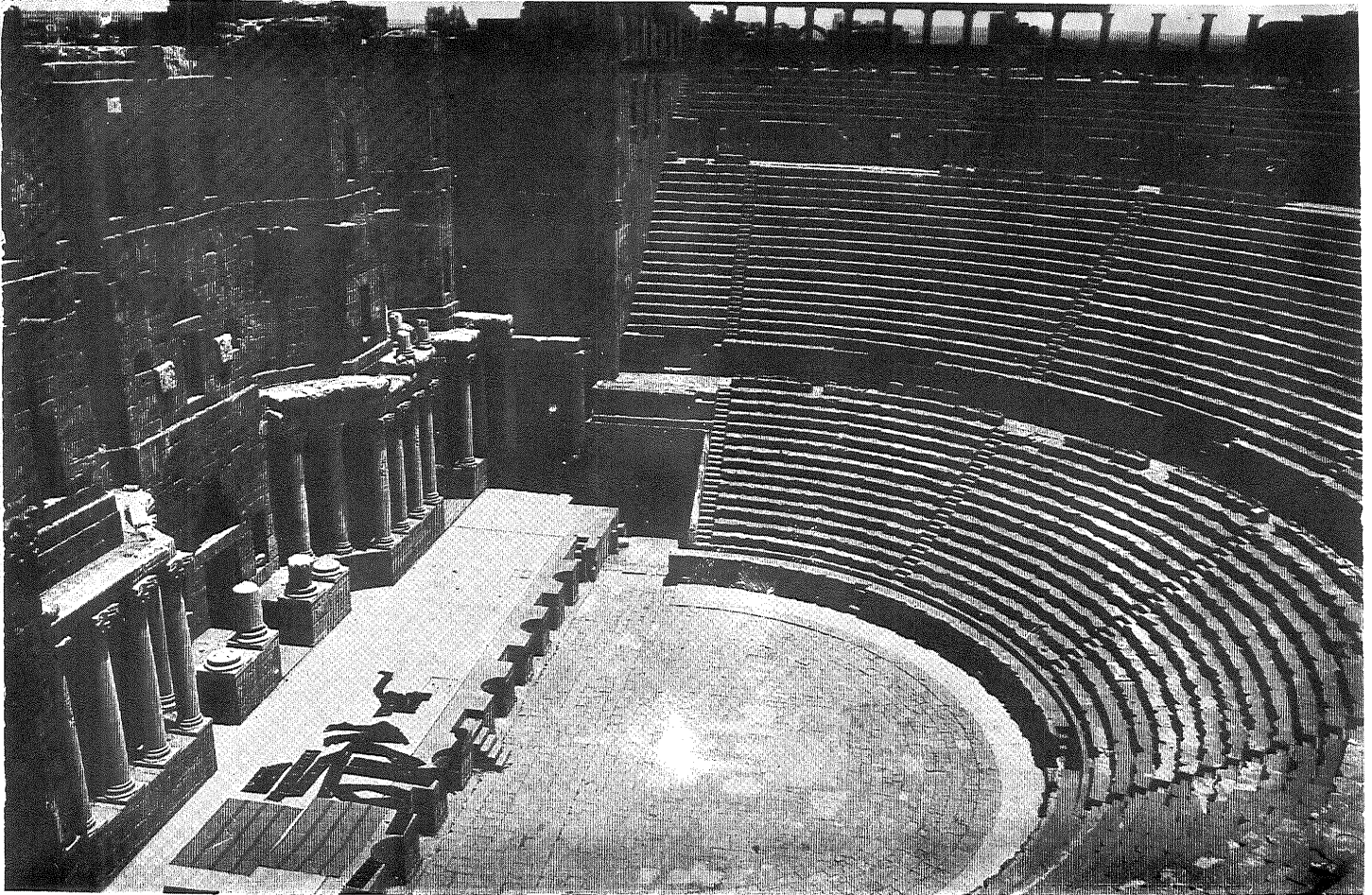
٣ - قصر الحير الغربي او قصر الزينونة



٢ - يظهر الشارع الطويل وقوس النصر وخلفه على بعد يبدو  
معبد بل الشهير



١ - افاميا كانت من اهم المدن السلوقية في القرن  
الثاني ق.م ثم اصبحت حاضرة رومانية .



٣ - مسرح بصرى وكان مغطى بقلعة سلجوقية



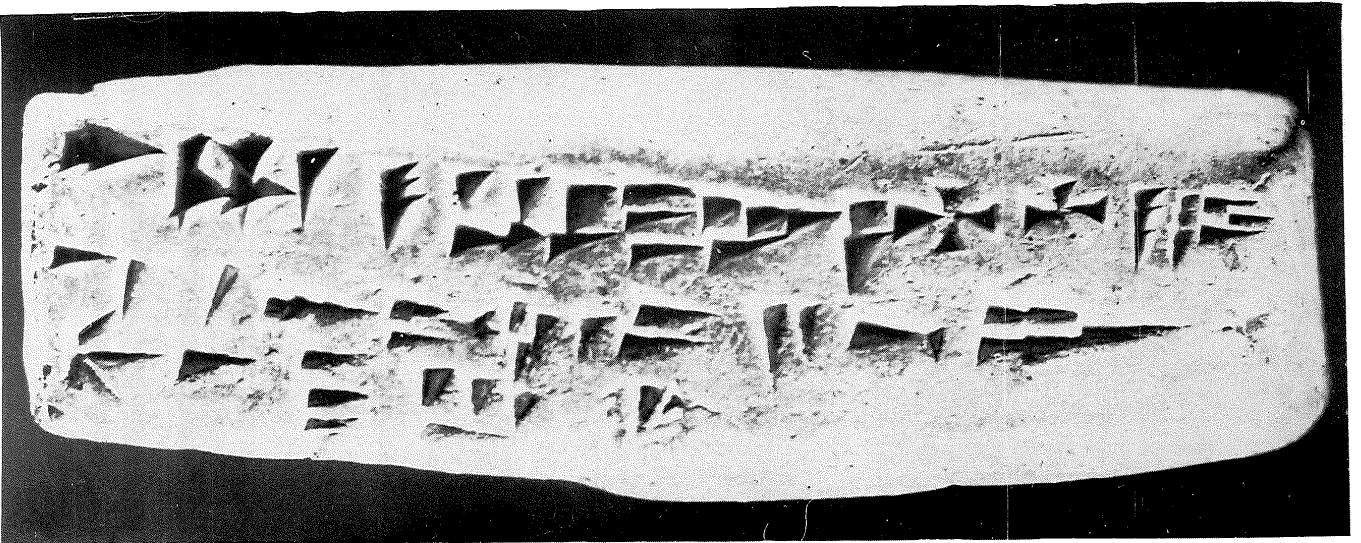
١ - حلب وتبدو قلعتها العظيمة ومسجدها المشهور بمئذنته التي ترجع الى العهد الفاطمي



٢ - دمشق عاصمة الامويين التي تزهو بجامعها الاموي



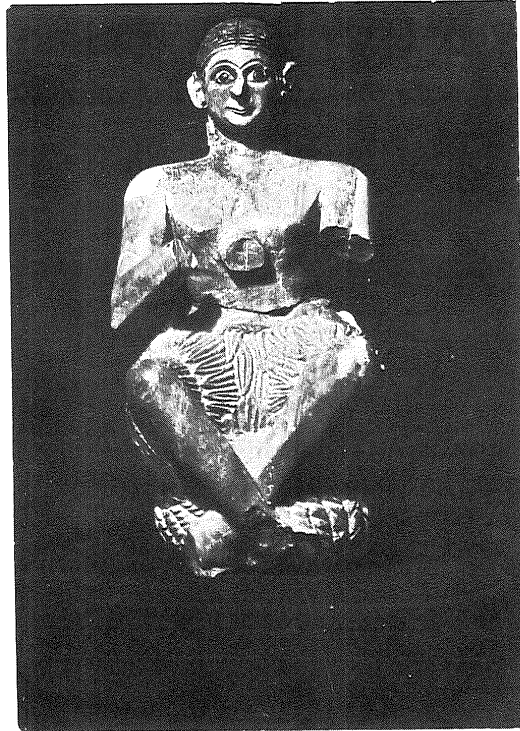
- ١ - رقيم مكتوب بالمسمارية وجد في (ايبلا) تل مردوخ - رأس عاجي من (اوغاريت) رأس الشمرا قرب اللاذقية  
جنوبي حلب وهي محفوظة في متحف حلب •  
محفوظ في المتحف الوطني بدمشق •



- ٣ - ابجدية اوغاريت ، وهي اقدم ابجدية في التاريخ مكتوبة بالمسمارية على رقيم طيني  
محفوظ في المتحف الوطني بدمشق •



١ - موقع مدينة ماري الاثرية في تل الحريري . وفي هذه الصورة يبدو القسم الرئيسي من القصر الملكي (صالة العرش) .



٢ - تمثال (اورينا) عثر عليه في مدينة ماري



تمثال طيني يمثل ربة الخصب في موقع المربيط على الفرات





1



2



3



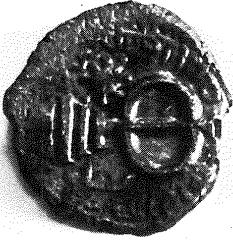
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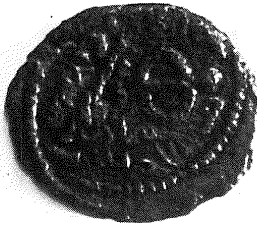
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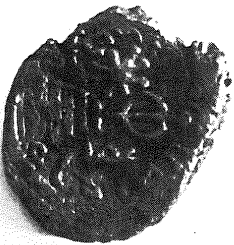
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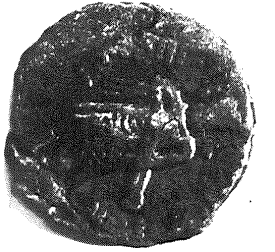


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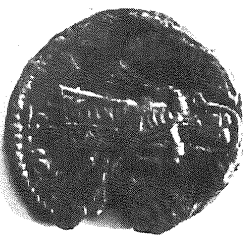
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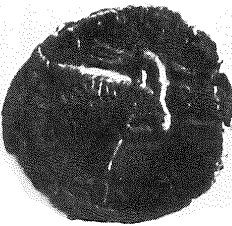
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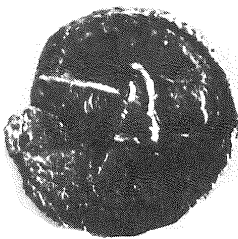
11



12



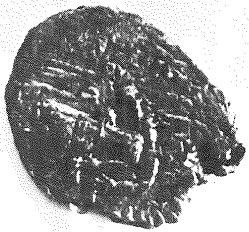
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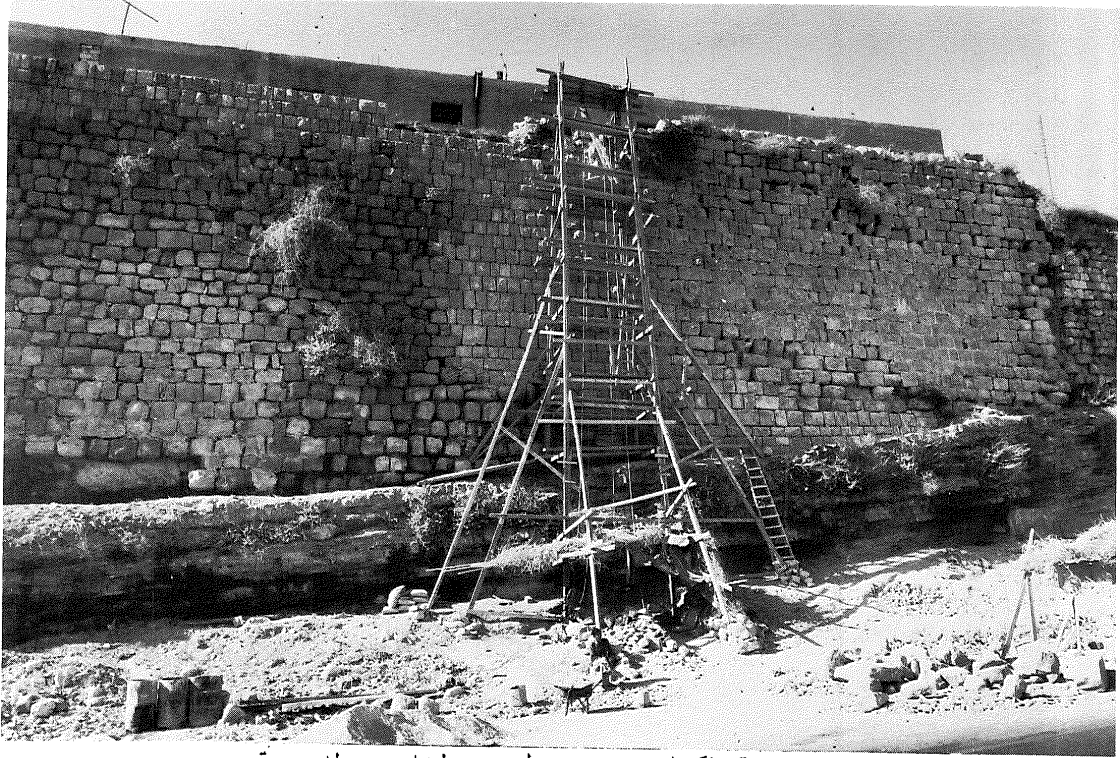


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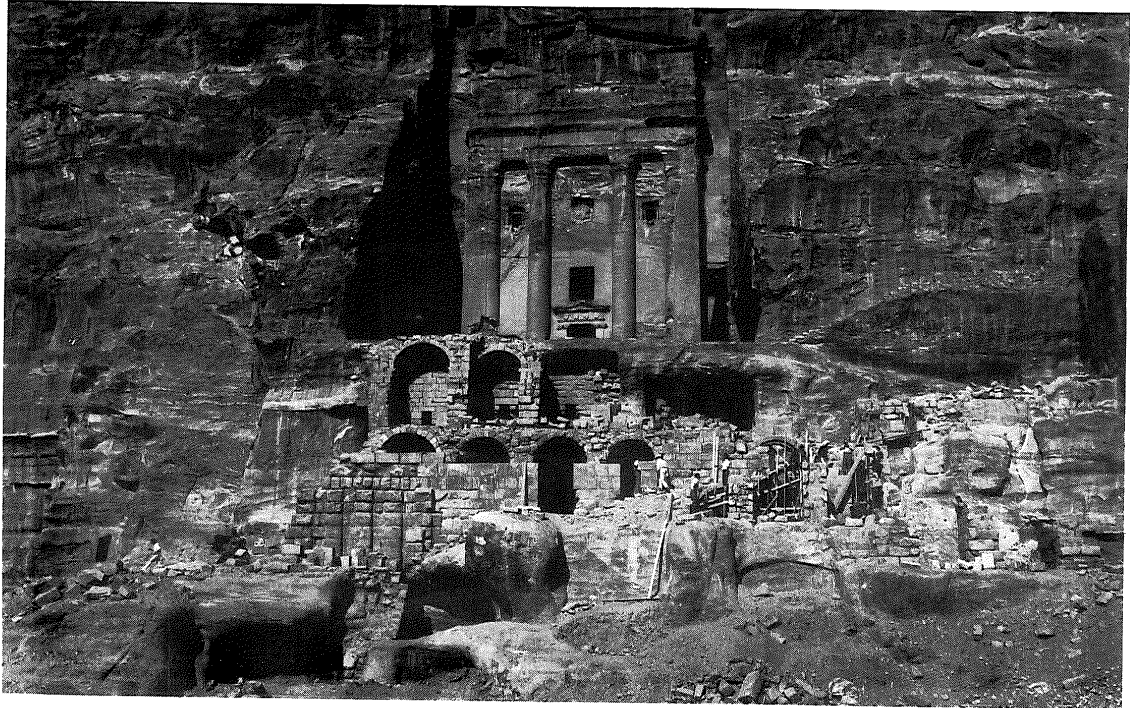


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١ - قلعة الكرك - ترميم السور الخارجي للمدينة



٢ - البتراء - ضريح الجرة - ترميم الاقواس والارضيات



١ - جرش - معبد ارتيميس • حفريات خلف المعبد



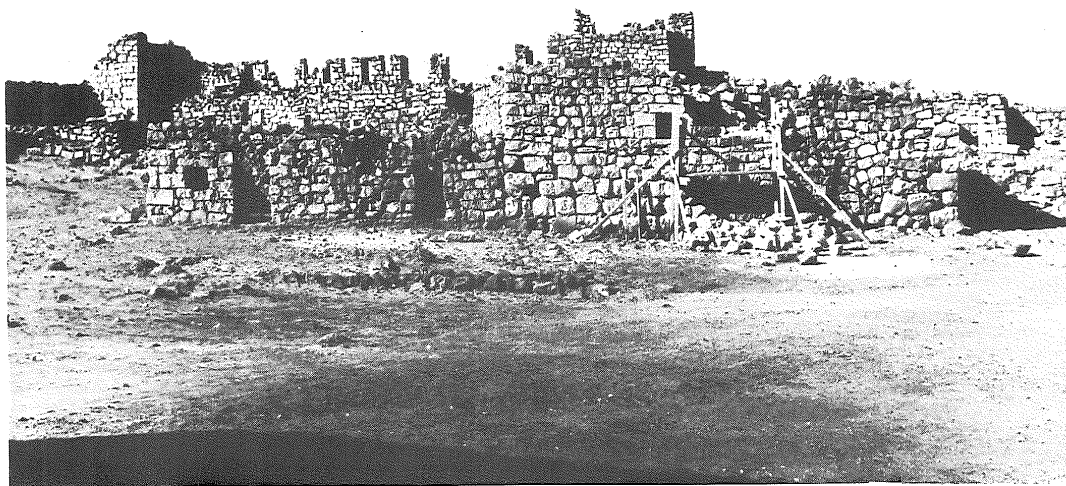
٢ - زي - السلط • انشاء سقف فوق أرضية الكنيسة



١ - قلعة الربض - عجلون - منظر للدرج والاقبية من الداخل



٢ - جرش - الجدار الخلفي للمدرج الروماني الجنوبي ، دعمه وترميمه



١ - الازرق - منظر لجدران القصر



- قلعة الربض - عجلون منظر للبرج الشمالي بعد الترميم



١ - قصر الطوبة - اعادة دعم الاساسات والحجارة المتساقطة



٢ - الازرق - منظر للمسجد



١ - الاوديون (المدرج الصغير) بعمان . اعادة المقاعد كما كانت عليه سابقا



٢ - جبل القلعة - عمان . منظر عام للكنيسة





# اللوحات



القديمة ولقد كانت القلعة قائمة كتحصينات منذ السلاجقة والاتابكة ولكن الملك العادل أختار صلاح الدين هو الذي أمر بتشيدها على الشكل الحالي منذ مطلع القرن السابع الهجري وقبله أقام فيها صلاح الدين في برج خاص وصلى عليه فيها بعد موته .

والقلعة كما أنشئت في عهد الملك العادل تقوم على مستطيل ٢٢٠ × ١٦٠ في غربه القصر والحى الملكي ، وفيها كان برج لطيبور البريد ودار لسك العملة ومصنع للسلاح وسجن وسوق وحمام وعدد من المساجد ، وكانت القلعة مركز الدولة وقيادة الجيش ، محاطة بأبراج وأبواب ضخمة .

ثم خرب قسم من القلعة على يد هولاء ، ومن ثم أعيد ترميمها في عهد المماليك وأصبحت مركز الحاكم أو نائب السلطنة . (٢٣)

ان الحديث عن الحضارات التي تعاقب على بلاد الشام حديث طويل ، واذا تمكنا في هذه العجالة من عرض نماذج بارقة من هذه الحضارات فان ذلك لا يغني عن التذكير من أن كل فترة من فترات تاريخ الحضارة في هذا القطر ، تحتاج الى مجلد خاص ، ونحن ما زلنا ننادي بكتابة تاريخ الحضارة في هذا القطر وفي الاقطار العربية الاخرى هذا التاريخ الذي لم يكتب بعد .

الدكتور عفيف البهنسي  
المدير العام للآثار والمتاحف  
في الجمهورية العربية السورية

واذا انتقلنا الى عصور اسلامية لاحقة فان قلعة حلب لتي أعيد ترميمها وأضيف اليها كثير من المنشآت في العهد الايوبي ، تبقى مفخرة القلاع الاسلامية ، ولقد أقيمت هذه القلعة على مرتفع صخري وكانت موقع معابد لاله حدد الآرامي والاله تيشوب الحثي وزفس اله الاغريق ، ثم أصبح المكان أكروبول المدينة في العهد الاغريقي . وعندما استولى العرب المسلمين على القلعة ، جعلوا القلعة حصنا لحماية السلطة ، وفي العهد الايوبي أنشأ الملك الظاهر غازي بن صلاح الدين أقساما كثيرة في القلعة ورمم أقساما أخرى ، وحفر خندقها وكسى سفحها بالحجارة وشيد في داخلها مسجدا كبيرا وقصورا ، وعاش في القلعة مع زوجة ضيفة خاتون التي دفنت في القلعة بعد موتها . (٢٢)

وشكل القلعة اهليجي وهي محاطة بسور ذي أبراج مربعة أو مستديرة والبرج الاول يتضمن المدخل الرئيسي يعلوه قاعة العرش التي أعيد تزيينها مؤخرا . وفي القلعة مسجد ابراهيم الخليل ، أنشئ كما يقال في موقع كان ابراهيم قد أقام فيه عندما جاء من حران الى حلب . بالاضافة الى مسجد آخر وحمامات وأسواق وأقبية وخزانات وسجون .

وليست قلعة دمشق بأقل أهمية ، بل انها تمتاز بوقوعها على مستوى سطح الارض وهي تقع في الزاوية الشمالية الغربية من سور دمشق

(٢٢) عبد القادر ربحاري قلعة دمشق — مخطوط دراسة موسعة — تحت الطبع .

(٢٣) فيصل الصيرفي — قلعة حلب .

أهمية دمشق كأول عاصمة اسلامية لأكبر دولة عربية في التاريخ .

والجامع الاموي الذي أنشأه الوليد بن عبد الملك أقيم على رقعة مقدسة كانت كنيسة استمر المسلمون يقيمون صلاتهم فيها مع المسيحيين منذ فتح دمشق ، ثم فاوض الوليد المسيحيين على تخصيصها للمسلمين مقابل السماح بإنشاء ثلاثة كنائس . وقبل أن تنشأ الكنيسة كان المكان مخصصا لمعبد جوبيتر في العصر الروماني ، ما زالت آثاره بادية حتى الآن ، وقبل ذلك كان هذا المكان معبدا لحدود الآرامي . (٢٠)

ان هذا المسجد الكبير الذي وضع المخطط الاساسي للمساجد الاسلامية ، وحفل لأول مرة بصورة جدارية فسيفسائية رائعة ، لعلها تذكر بأحلام المسلمين بالجنة والفردوس الموعود ، يبقى واحدا من أروع المنشآت الاسلامية .

أما القصور الاموية ، كقصر الحير الغربي الذي أنشأه هشام بن عبد الملك في البادية جنوبي تدمر ، فانه يبقى من روائع العمارة الاسلامية الاولى التي انطلقت من مبادئ فن المناذرة في الحيرة ، ولكنه استمد من الزخارف والفنون القائمة في ذلك الوقت وهي الفنون الساسانية والبيزنطية . ولكنها أخذت طابعا جديدا هو بداية للفن الاسلامي . ويبدو ذلك جليا في زخرفة واجهة هذا القصر ، التي نقلت الى المتحف الوطني بدمشق . (٢١) (لوحة رقم ١٤ - ٣) .

لقد كان عصر هشام بن عبد الملك ٧٢٤ - ٧٤٣ عصر ازدهار معماري كبير فلقد أنشأ في بلاد الشام عددا من القصور ، منها قصر الرصافة وقصر الحير الشرقي وقصر الحير الغربي وبتحدث المؤرخون عن قصرين لهشام مقابل الرقة وقصر في دمشق وقصر في مرج الصفر جنوبي دمشق . عدا قصر المفجر وغيره في فلسطين والاردن .

(٢١) عفيف بهنسي - القصور الشامية في العهد الاموي - الحوليات ١٩٧٥ .

منذ القرن الخامس الميلادي وبعد أن استقرت المسيحية التي انتشرت بين سكان سورية ، انتشرت ظاهرة التنسك والتقشف وكان على الرهبان أن يعتكفوا في صوامعهم أو في رؤوس الجبال والمغاور أو على أعمدة كما تم بالنسبة لسبعان العمودي القديس الذي عاش على عمود مدة تقارب الاربعين عاما ، في المنطقة التي كانت تسمى جبل ليلون أو جبل البيلوس وتمتد من سلوقية الى بيلوم (أي جسر الشغور) الى كالسيس (أي قنسرين) وتضم جبل الاربعين وباريشا والاعلى وجبل سبعان ومدنا أخرى تعرف اليوم باسم المدن البائدة لهجرانها ، ولم يبق منها الا أطلال تدل على روعة المنشآت المسيحية في عهد سبعان العمودي وبعده حتى القرن السادس . (١٩)

وكان سبعان العمودي القديس الورع المتقشف موئل الناس من كل حدب فقد ذاع صيته حتى وصل فرنس ، وعندما توفي وهو في السبعين من عمره نقل رفاته الى أنطاكية ثم نقل الى بيزنطة ضمن كنيسة فخمة خاصة ، وبتأثير من دانيال العمودي أنشئت كنيسة في مدينة تلاميوس التي تسمى اليوم قلعة سبعان في عهد زينون ، ولقد كلفت بناءها أموالا طائلة وأتى البناء رائعة لانظير لها ما زالت أطلالها تشهد على ذلك ، وهي مؤلفة من الكنيسة والدير والقبر والمعمودية وملحقاتها ولقد أنشأها معماريون سوريون يدفعهم الورع والرغبة بتمجيد هذا القديس . واستمر بناء هذه المجموعة المعمارية أربعة عشر عاما وانتهى عام ٤٩٠ م وتعتبر مفخرة العمارة السورية ، بل المسيحية كلها في العالم ، وفي ذلك الوقت . (لوحة رقم ١٤ - ٢) .

ان الفترة الاسلامية من تاريخ سورية العريق تبقى أطول الفترات وأهمها ، ولقد تركت هذه الفترة الزاهرة آثارا رائعة . ويبقى الجامع الاموي ، أكمل الاوابد الاسلامية وأقدمها ، شاهدا على

G. Tchalenko: Villages Antiques de la (١٩) Syrie du Nord.

(٢٠) علي الطنطاوي - الجامع الاموي .

المدى مصدر الخير والسعادة والحب ، ولم تتضمن المسيحية معان مغايرة سيما وأن الكتاب المقدس قد قدم أخباره وتعاليمه باللغة الآرامية ذاتها . وهكذا انتشرت المسيحية في الرها ودورا وأفاميا وأنطاكية وفي دمشق ، وكان لرسائل القديس بولس الذي انقلب الى المسيحية وسهل له أهل دمشق الهروب ، أهميتها في نقل الديانة الى العالم . (١٧)

واعتنق العرب المناذرة ، والغساسنة هذا الدين وأقاموا له الدير والكنائس وظهرت الى الوجود حواضر مسيحية كالرصافة ودير سمعان وبصري وازرع ما زالت آثارها قائمة حتى اليوم . أما الرصافة فلقد كانت في العهد الروماني مجرد ثغر ، تحرس القوافل بين دمشق وتدمر وتراقب تحركات الفرس . وفي عام ٣٠٥ ضمت هذه المدينة الصغيرة رفاة سرجيوس الذي أصبح قديسا بعد مقتله في عهد ديوكلسيان ، وحملت اسم سرجيوبولس . (لوحة رقم ١٤ - ١) وفي عصر جوستينيان (٥٦٥ - ٥٢٧) أخذت المدينة شكلها الحالي ، بأسوارها الحجرية البلورية على شكل مستطيل يبلغ طولها ٥٥٨ مترا وللسور أبراج مختلفة الاشكال والحجوم يبلغ عددها واحدا وخمسين برجاً (١٨) .

وضمن الاسوار ما زالت تقوم أطلال الكنائس الثلاث الكبرى ، وتعتبر كنيسة القديس سرجيوس من أضخم الكنائس ٤٣٥ م × ٢٨ م وفيها كان صندوق الذخائر المقدسة الذي يضم عظام القديس ، وله قناة يجري منها الزيت المقدس يتبرك به المؤمنون .

ومن أهم المنشآت الباقية الصهاريج الثلاثة التي بلغ عمق الواحد منها ٢٤٥ مترا وبطول ٤٠ مترا يملأ بماء المطر .

Dussaud: Pénétration des Arabes en Syrie (١٧) avant l'Islam, 1955.

. J. Kollwitz (١٨)  
انظر مقالات كولويتز عن الرصافة في الحوليات السورية  
الاعداد ٤ - ٨ - ١٤

بجميع أقسامه عندما أنشئت عليه قلعة اسلامية . ولقد أنشيء هذا المسرح في القرن الثاني وهو مبني من الحجر البازلتي وقطره ١٠٢ م وهو مؤلف من ٢٧ درجة تتسع لعشرين ألف متفرج ، ولقد ازيلت المنشآت التي كانت قائمة فوقه ، وأصبح جاهزا لاستقبال الزوار والاحتفالات الضخمة ، ولعل احتفال عام ١٩٧٤ وما ضم من شهور ملأت أرجاء المسرح كان حدثا في تاريخ هذا البناء . (١٥)

وتجري في بصري حاليا حفريات واسعة للكشف عن المنشآت القديمة ، ولقد تم الكشف عن السوق الارضية (الكريبتوبورتيك) وهي رواق تحت الارض بطول مائة وستة أمتار وعرض خمسة أمتار وتضيء هذا الرواق أربعة وأربعون نافذة تعلو محاريب تزيينية وكشف أيضا عن الحمامات والفورم والطريق المستقيم والمصلبة والقوس المركزي .

أما أفاميا وهي العاصمة الثانية للسلوقيين والتي أصبحت بعد عام ٥٠ ق.م حاضرة رومانية ، فان أطلالها الرائعة ، وقد نامت باتجاه واحد كأنما بساط سحب من تحتها على حد تعبير أديب سوري ، هذه الحاضرة ما ازلت تبحث عن معين يساعدها للنهوض من كبوتها الطويلة لكي تكشف عن شوارعها وأبوابها وساحاتها ومسرحها العظيم واذا كانت الحفريات والترميمات قائمة منذ عشرات السنين ، فان ذلك سوف يستمر طويلا جدا لأن ما خربته الايام لا تصلح الا القرون (١٦) .

ولقد أصبحت أفاميا ابتداء من القرن الرابع مدينة مسيحية فيها الدير والكنائس .

لقد استقبل سكان سورية القدماء ، وهم الآراميون العرب ، المسيحية بكثير من القناعة ، ذلك أن الالة (ايل) أو بل أو حداد كان في مفهومة البعيد

(١٥) د. سليم عبد الحق - مسرح بصري وقلعتها - الحوليات الاثرية - المجلد (١٤) .

(١٦) انظر ابحاث بالتي عن افاميا (Apamée) في مجلة الحوليات الاثرية - الاعداد ١٧ - ٢٠ - ٢١ .

الى أقصى أمجادها فلقد توسعت الزبء حتى وصلت الى الاناضول والشام ومصر . وكانت تدمر حاضرة ضخمة لها تلك المنشآت التي ما زالت شاهدة حتى اليوم على ازدهارها . ولعل معبد بل وهو أكبر معبد عرف حتى ذلك الوقت يبقى الدليل القاطع على تقدم المدينة وانتشار سيطرتها . كما أن الشوارع المستقيم ( لوحة رقم ١٣ - ٢ ) بما اشتمل عليه من مخازن تجارية ومصلبة (تترايبيل) ضخمة ، وما جاوره من ساحة (فوروم) ومسرح ، اضافة الى السور الضخم وما تلاه من قبور ذات أبراج أو قبور تحت الارض ، دليل ازدهار اقتصادي واجتماعي رفيع المستوى . (١٣)

ابان ازدهار تدمر كانت تحكم روما اسرة سورية هي سيفر ، عندما انتهى حكمها لم يلبث أن أعلن فيليب العربي المولود في شهباء امبراطورا سوريا على الامبراطورية كلها . فعاد العطف من جديد على هذا القطر ، وتجلي ذلك في تشييد شهباء (فيليبو بوليس) وفي دعم مدينة بصرى . وما زالت في شهباء ، الطريقات المبلطة والمخازن والحمامات وأقنية المياه والمسرح والمصلبة والمعبد ومدفن فيليب (الذي لم يدفن فيه) قائمة حتى اليوم .

أما بصرى فانها مدينة عريقة أيضا كانت موطن العرب وخاصة الانباط ومنذ عام ١٠٦ ميلادي أصبحت بصرى مدينة رومانية هامة ، منحت في عهد اسكندر سير لقب «أمهات المدن» وأصبحت من المراكز الهامة المتميزة بالعمران بالعمران والمنشآت الضخمة وكان مركزها التجاري سبب ازدهارها . (١٤)

ومن أهم ما تبقى من بصرى في العهد الروماني المسرح (لوحة رقم ١٣ - ٣) وهو الوحيد في العالم الذي يتصف بالكمال نظرا لأنه بقي محتفظا

J. Starcky: Palmyre, 1952.

J. Starcky & Munajed: Palmyre la fiancée du desert, 1948.

A. Champdor: Les ruines de Palmyre, 1953.

(١٤) سليمان مقداد - بصرى ١٩٧٥

على سورية أقام هذا مدينة الاسكندرونة تكريما لقائده الراحل ، كما أنشأ انطاكية نسبة لابيه انطوخوس واللاذقية نسبة الى أمه لاوديسن ومدينة افاميا نسبة الى زوجة أباميا ومدينة دورا اوروبس نسبة الى المدينة التي ولد فيها . وما زالت هذه المدن قائمة حتى اليوم ولكنها فيما عدا انطاكية لم تحتفظ من آثار السلوقيين الا بالاسم ، ولكنها وقد خضعت للرومان على يد بومبة مع غيرها من المقاطعات السورية بقيت انطاكية عاصمة لها ، ولكن الحكام استمروا من العرب في الرها وعنجر وحمص وفي بصرى وتدمر وأفاميا ( لوحة رقم ١٣ - ١ ) .

ولقد تزوج سبتيم سيفير وهو قائد روماني من ليبيا ويتكلم البونيقية ، من جوليا دومنة الحمصية التي تتكلم الآرامية شقيقة البونيقية . وكان من ثمار هذا الزواج ان أصبح سبتيم امبراطورا وانتقلت حاشية الملكة من حمص لكي يصبح تأثير سورية في الحكم والثقافة بشكل جلي وخطير ، حتى أن الشاعر جوفينيال قال «لقد أصبح نهر العاصي يصب في التبر» (١٢) .

وفي ذلك الوقت حظيت تدمر بالمزيد من عناية روما . وحازت في عهد كاراكالا عام ١٨٣ على لقب «مستعمرة رومانية» أي أنها أصبحت معادلة لروما وغير مجبرة على دفع الضرائب لها . ان الحديث عن تدمر يأتي في بداية الاحاديث عن المجتمعات العربية المتحضرة فلقد حكم هذه المدينة وما حولها قبائل عربية كانت تتكلم العربية والآرامية ، ولقد كشفت التنقيبات عن أسماء السلالة الحاكمة وكان من أشهرها اذينة الذي خلفته بعد مقتله زوجة الزبء كوصية على ابنها وهب اللات .

وخلال القرن الثاني والثالث وصلت تدمر

A. Hatem: Les souvenirs Syriens à Rome, (١٢) A.A.S. T. XI-XII, p. 83.

(١٣) من اهم المراجع عن تدمر :

H. Seyrig: Palmyra and the East Journal of Rome Studies, 1950.

بأسلوب مصري • ومثال آخر الرأس العاجي  
الذائع الصيت ( لوحة رقم ١١ - ٢ ) ، وكلاهما  
محفوظ في متحف دمشق •

ولقد عثر في اوغاريت على رقم فخارية مكتوبة  
بلغات المنطقة وخاصة الكنعانية ، ولكن أعظم  
هذه الرقم هو الرقيم الذي نقشت عليه الابجدية  
وهي أقدم أبجدية في التاريخ (لوحة رقم ١١ - ٣)  
فلم تكن الكلمات مؤلفة من حروف قبل ذلك  
التاريخ ، وهذه الابجدية مؤلفة من ثلاثين حرفا  
مرتبة حسب الابجدية المعاصرة (٩) •

وإذا كان لهذه الابجدية من أهمية فهي تبدو  
بصورة أوضح عندما نقشت على ورق البردي  
فتحولت الاحرف الى شكل لين كما بدت في نقوش  
قبر أحيرام ، وكانت هذه الابجدية أساسا للابجدية  
السامية - العربية والابجدية الاغريقية -  
اللاتينية بوقت معا (٩) •

وإذا كان هجران المواقع الاثرية مثل ماري  
وأوغاريت وإيبلا قد فسح المجال للتنقيب  
والكشف عن ماضي هذه المدن فإن كثيرا من  
المدن السورية وخاصة دمشق وحلب ما زالت  
تخترن في باطنها أسرار ماض عريق معاصر أو  
سابق لجسارة تلك المدن •

وقد تكون حلب أقدم مدينة في العالم وجدت  
وما زالت قائمة ومزدهرة • فلقد ورد ذكرها منذ  
منتصف الالف الثالث وكان اسمها حلبا او  
حلبابا ، ثم أصبحت عاصمة مملكة يحاض  
الامورية وكان لها دور في معاضدة حمورابي وفي  
عقد معاهدات مع بابل وإيبلا ، ولقد خضعت حلب  
الى الحثيين مرة وللمصريين مرة ثم صارت مملكة

(٩) Parrot, Mouscati, Chéhab: Les Phéniciens.

(١٠) من اهم المراجع عن حلب

S. Saouaf: Alep dans sa plus ancienne histoire.  
G. Herzfeld: Inscriptions et monuments d'Alep.  
J. Sauvaget: Alep.

• د اسعد طلس : الآثار الاسلامية والتاريخية في حلب •

(١١) من المراجع عن دمشق :

ابن عساكر المتوفى عام ٥٧١ : تاريخ دمشق •

آرامية صغيرة ثم خضعت للبابليين والاحمينيين  
ثم الى الاسكندر المقدوني ، وأصبح اسمها (بيروه)  
ثم فتحها الرومان والبيزنطيون واستعادها العرب  
المسلمون عام ٦٣٦ م (١٠) •

وآثار حلب كالقلعة (لوحة رقم ١٢ - ١)  
والجامع الكبير والحلوية والبيمارستانات والخانات  
والاسواق ، تجعل من مدينة حلب القديمة تحفة  
تاريخية لامثيل لها •

أما دمشق واسمها القديم دارميسك أي  
الارض المسقية باللغة الآرامية • فهي المدينة التي  
استمرت زاهرة خلال أربعين قرنا وما زالت ، فلقد  
عرفت منذ الالف الثالث يوم احتلتها مصر وكانت  
موطن العموريين ثم أصبحت مملكة آرامية وحاضرة  
رومانية ومسيحية ثم عاصمة لأكبر دولة اسلامية في  
التاريخ وهي الدولة الاموية (لوحة رقم ١٢ - ٢) •

وفي دمشق آثار من العصر الآرامي والروماني  
وما زال الشارع الطويل ومدخل المدينة والصور  
وآثار معبد جوبيتر قائمة ، تذكر بازدهار المدينة  
في ذلك العهد •

وتبقى كنيسة القديس يوحنا وكنيسة القديس  
حنانيا وبوابة بولس من الآثار المسيحية القديمة •  
أما الآثار الاسلامية فانها تملأ المدينة كالمساجد  
والمدارس والبيمارستانات والخانات والتكايا وهي  
على حال جيدة وتخضع لعناية مشددة (١١) •

عندما انتصر الاسكندر المقدوني على دارا  
ملك الفرس في موقعه ايسوس ، كان ذلك بداية  
للسيطرة الاغريقية ثم الرومانية على سورية  
وغيرها من الدول الشرقية •

وعندما خلف سيلوقوس نيكاتور الاسكندر

محمد كرد علي - خطط الشام ١٩٢٥

نقولا زيادة - دمشق في عصر المماليك ١٩٦٦ •

عبد القادر ربحاوي - دمشق ١٩٦٩ •

J. Sauvaget: Le plan antique de Damas, Syria, XXVI.

J. Sauvaget: Esquisse d'une histoire de la ville de Damas, R.E.I Islamique, 1934.

J. Sauvaget: Les monuments historiques de Damas, 1932.



أن هذا القطر لعب في الالف الثالث قبل الميلاد الدور الاول في تاريخ الشرق الادنى . وان بدايات حضارته وثقافته ، والتي تشهد عليه فنونه وطرازه الهندسي ، وتطوره الادبي ، تبرز في الوقت نفسه ، ان ايبلأ لعبت دورا رئيسيا الى جانب مصر وبلاد الرافدين (٧) .

ومنذ عام ١٩٢٩ اكتشفت مدينة اوغاريت في موقع رأس الشمرة شمالي اللاذقية وهي أعظم مستوطن على البحر الابيض المتوسط خلال الالف الثاني قبل الميلاد ، وكان ذلك بعد أن اكتشف فلاح يحرث أرضه حجرا ، ما أن نزعه حتى بدى له نفق يؤدي الى قبر ، ووصل الخبراء الى العلماء فقام منذئذ العالم كلود شيفر بالتنقيب ، الذي ما زال مستمرا حتى يومنا هذا (٨) .

كان هذا الموقع مأهولا منذ العصر الحجري ، ولكن المدينة ازدهرت منذ أن أقام فيها الكنعانيون وهم عرب ينطقون بلغة العرب القديمة ، ثم وصلت المدينة قمة ازدهارها في منتصف الالف الثاني بعد أن نشطت في مجال التجارة . ثم انتهت مع نهاية الالف الثاني اذ غزتها شعوب البحر وأتت عليها .

ان أهم المكتشفات التي ترجع الى ذروة حضارتها هي القصر الملكي ، وهو المدينة الرسمية المنظمة وفق أدق الاساليب ، ولم يكن لهذا القصر مثيل قط . والى جانب القصر ، كان معبد الاله (بل) والاله (داغان) وهي من أهم الآلهة الكنعانية .

ولقد عثر أثناء التنقيبات على نماذج من الصناعات الفخارية والبرونزية والعاجية ومثالها اللوح العاجي المستطيل الذي كان يؤلف جزء من عرش ملوك مدينة اوغاريت ، نقشت عليه من الوجهين مشاهد من الحياة اليومية والسياسية والعسكرية والاجتماعية ، بدقة خارقة ولكن

(٨) انظر مجلدات Ugaritica التي تتضمن ابحاثا وترجمة للكتابة الاوغاريتية ، وهي باشراف الاستاذ شيفر C. Schaeffer

والقراءة الاولى لهذه النصوص ، قد أوضحت أن هذه الوثائق تحوي قوائم كبير للتجارة لايبلا القديمة ، وأوامر ملكية حول المسائل القانونية للدولة ، وتقارير رسمية مقدمة الى ملك ايبلأ عن المعارك العسكرية وقوائم بالغرامات الحربية التي دفعتها المدن الخاضعة ، وكذلك معاهدات دولية جرت مع الدول الكبرى التي وجدت في الالف الثالث قبل الميلاد .

والى جانب وثائق الدولة ، وجدت أعداد كبيرة من النصوص اللغوية ، ومن بينها ، يمكن أن نرى أقدم المعاجم بلغتين ، والتي أعطتنا سلسلة من الكلمات السومرية - لغة جنوب ما بين النهرين - واللغة الكنعانية - لغة سورية حينذاك . وهي ذات أهمية خاصة لمعرفة قواعد التعليم في الالف الثالث قبل الميلاد ، وهي في نفس الوقت كتب تعليم وتمارين لغوية وقعها الطلاب وشاهدها معلموهم ومديروهم .

وفي ذات المكتبة الملكية ، اكتشفت بعض النصوص الادبية والدينية ، وبعضها سجل عليه الاساطير والملاحم السومرية ، واحداها تروي ملحمة البطل الشهير (غلاميش) المعروف فيما بين النهرين .

ان لاكتشاف الارشيف المركزي للقصر في ايبلأ أهمية بالغة جدا للتاريخ . وان الوثائق الجديدة تبرز ايبلأ ، في حوالي ٢٣٠٠ قبل الميلاد ، كمركز لأهم دولة في الشرق الادنى ، فقد كانت تسيطر على مناطق واسعة جدا من حوض البحر الابيض المتوسط ، وحتى بلاد الرافدين وقد أظهرت النصوص سلالة أحد ملوك ايبلأ ، بين ٢٣٥٠ و ١٢٥٠ قبل الميلاد ، والتي ضاع ذكرها في خضم العداوات مع ملوك سلالة آكاد الشهيرين في بلاد النهرين .

ان صفحة جديدة ، كانت مجهولة ، قد فتحت أمامنا لأول مرة في القطر العربي السوري ، بحيث

(٧) انظر النشرة التي صدرت بمناسبة هذه الحفريات لباولوماتيه .

الطبقات القديمة ، كانوا يفاجأون بسوية جديدة  
تكتشف عن حقبة كاملة ( لوحة رقم ١٠ - ١ ) . ففي  
عام ١٩٣٥ اكتشف قصر يرجع الى الالف الثاني ،  
وفي عام ١٩٦٤ اكتشف تحته قصر يرجع الى العهد  
قبل الصارغوني أي من ٢٧٠٠ ق م - ٢٤٥٠ ،  
ثم تكتشف سوية ترجع الى عهد نينوى الخامس  
أي الى الالف الرابع . وفي العصر قبل الصارغوني  
عشر على معبد شماش ومعبد داغان ومعبد عشتار  
ومعبد ثي ثي زازا .

أما في الحقبة الثانية فلقد عشر على القصر  
الكبير الذي تهدم شر تهديم بعد حرب طاحنة شنها  
حمورابي عام ١٧٥٠ ق م على هذه المدينة وهذا  
القصر وقضى على خصمه العنيد آنذاك زيميري ليم  
ملك ماري ولم تعد المدينة الى أهميتها ومجدها  
الذي وصلت اليه على يد هذا الملك ، فمن القصر  
الكبير هذا ، كان زيميري ليم يسيطر على جزء كبير  
من الشرق الاوسط ، وبين يديه كان مصير كثير من  
الشعوب ، الى أن احتلها البابليون .

ثم أعيد لماري بعض أهميتها عندما استعملت  
من قبل الآشوريين كمركز لحماية الطريق التجاري  
الممتد من (الشمس المشرقة) أي الخليج العربي ،  
والى (الشمس الغاربة) أي البحر المتوسط ، وبعد  
ذلك أخذت ماري تسقط شيئاً فشيئاً في هاوية  
العدم .

ولقد عشر أثناء التنقيب على عدد يزيد عن  
ثلاثين ألف رقيم مكتوب بالمسمارية وباللغة  
الاكادية ، كما عشر على تماثيل مختلفة من الطين  
والحجر ، منها تمثال رائع بجماله لمغنية المعبد  
(أورنيثا) (لوحة رقم ١٠ - ٢) ، الذي عشر عليه  
في معبد ثي ثي زازا وتمثال لامغي ماري ملك ماري  
وتمثال العرافة وتمثال عشتار وحامل العجل  
والطحان ايدي ناروم ، وايكو شاماغان التي عشر  
عليها في معبد عشتار . ومن أهم مكتشفات قصر  
زيميري ليم والتي تعود الى الالف الثاني تمثال  
ربة الينبوع وتمثال ايشنوب ايلوم الكبيرين . ثم

تمثال ايدي ايلوم مقطوع الرأس . كما عشر في  
فناء القصر على بقايا لوح مزين وملون يمثل مشهد  
احتفال (التقليد) وهو يمثل في بعض أقسامه  
الملك ، زيميري ليم بوقفته الدينية أمام الآلهة  
عشتارات الهة الحرب وهي بكامل لباسها منتصبه  
فوق رمزها الاسد ، وفي أقسام أخرى ترى آلهة  
الينبوع وأشجار نخيل . وثمة لوح آخر يمثل  
مشهد (التقدمة) وهو مؤلف من خمسة صفوف  
من الصور لم يبق منها الا جزء يبدو فيه الالهة  
عشتارات وبعض الجنود ، والملك يقوم بالتقدمة .

ولقد عاصرت مدينة ماري ، مدينة ايبلا  
العمورية أيضا ، ولقد كان اكتشاف مدينة ايبلا  
حدثا عظيما تم خلال الاعوام الخالية . فمنذ  
عام ١٩٦٤ كانت بعثة ايطالية تبحث في موقع ن  
مريخ الذي يقع جنوبي حلب وقرب الطريق العام  
بين حلب ودمشق ، وقد انتهت حتى الآن اثني عشر  
موسما علميا ، وتؤكد لها مؤخرا أن هذا الموقع  
هو مدينة ايبلا التي كانت مزدهرة الى جانب  
ماري وبارموت التي يعتقد أنها اللاذقية الحالية .  
ولم يكن يعرف موقع ايبلا قبالا . ولقد كان اسم  
هذه المدن الثلاثة قد ورد في الرقم الفخارية التي  
عشر عليها في نيبور في العراق والتي ترجع  
الى عهد صارغون ٢٣٥٠ ق م ، كما ورد اسمها  
في كتابات من عهد نارام سين حفيد صارغون  
وغوديا ملك لاغاش السومرية . (٥)

وخلال عام ١٩٧٥ تم اكتشاف ذو أهمية غير  
عادية لتاريخ الحضارة . ففي قاعة استقبال القصر  
الملكي ، والذي يعود تاريخه للنصف الثاني من  
الالف الثالث قبل الميلاد ، تم اكتشاف حجرتين  
للمحفوظات تحوي آلاف الرقم (اللوحات)  
المسمارية ، والتي تعتبر من أقدم وثائق الدولة  
(لوحة رقم ١١ - ١) في أكبر وأقدم المدن المعروفة في  
العالم . وان نصوصها ، المكتوبة باللغة الامورية  
والكنعانية القديمة وبالسومرية وجدت على حالتها  
الاصلية ، ومحفوظة كما كانت سابقا ، منضدة على  
رفوف خشبية ، كما هو متبع في مكتباتنا اليوم (٦) .

(٦) انظر بحث باولو ماتيه في الحوليات الاثرية المجلد (٢٦) .

(٥) انظر ابحاث باولوماتيه في الحوليات الاثرية المجلدات :

وهو (أندره بارو) أن يوفد للاطلاع على هذا التمثال فيرى منه مفتاح تلك المدينة العظيمة التي سبق أن ذكر اسمها في كثير من الكتابات المكتشفة هنا وهناك . ويقوم بأسبار تؤكد له أن تل الحريري ما هو الا مدينة ماري ذاتها .

وتستمر الحفريات المنتظمة حتى اليوم في هذا الموقع الهام الذي يكشف عن سويات وطبقات لمنشآت مختلفة ، الشوارع فيها فوق الشوارع والقصور فوق القصور والمعابد فوق المعابد ، انها مجموعة من الحضارات المتوضعة فوق بعضها ، أولها حضارة ترجع الى عام (٣٠٠٠) قبل الميلاد ، تم الكشف عن مظاهرها في ذروتها وفي حضيضها ، ذلك أن الحرب التي أتت على هذه المدينة كانت قد خلفت آثار الحرائق والخرائب والنهب ، وعلى ذلك فان الحفريات كشف عن آثار من تماثيل وتحف تكشف عن ذروات هذه المدينة التي تبهر الاثريين بل جميع من يزور متاحف القطر مطالعا على بعض هذه اللقى الخارقة التي ترجع الى بداية مدنيات الانسان على هذه الارض . والتي تدفع الغرب على لسان بارو نفسه لكي يقول : «لقد صدق القول القديم الذي يؤكد أن الشرق قد جاء الى الغرب أو أنه أتى بالنور الى الغرب Ex Oriente Lux ، »

ولقد أغنت آلاف الألواح الطينية معرفتنا عن التاريخ القديم وأبانت عن أن بلاد الرافدين كانت كمصر أقدم موطن للحضارة ، وكانت ماري قد احتلت مكان الصدارة في تاريخ الرافدين .

ويمكننا أن نقسم تاريخ ماري الى حقتين أساسيتين ، الاولى تبدأ من الالف الثالث قبل الميلاد وحتى بداية الالف الثاني قبل الميلاد . وهي الفترة الواقعة قبل العهد الصارغوني والحقبة الثانية تنتمي عام ١٧٥٠ ق م .

ولقد كان المنقبون في كل مرة يعتقدون فيها أنهم أدركوا الارض العذراء التي تنتهي عندها

A. Parrot: Mari: une ville fabuleuse, (٤) Sumer, Gallimard.

الخصب التي كانت معبودة في المجتمعات الزراعية في تلك المنطقة ( لوحة رقم ٩ ) وعثر أيضا على قواقع وعظام وأحجار كانت تستعمل كحلي لزيينة المرأة . كما عثر على رؤوس رماح من الصوان وسكاكين من الالومينايديدل يدل على مبادلات تجارية مع الشمال .

وفي (أبي هريرة) التي لا تبعد كثيرا عن المريبط ، وجدت آثار مستوطنات ترجع الى نفس العهد أي الى الالف التاسع قبل الميلاد . ووجدت فيه نفس مظاهر الحياة المتقدمة بالاضافة الى أن البيوت كانت مستطيلة وهي من اللبن ، وان الموتى كانوا يدفنون وفق طقوس ، منها أن الميت يدفن في أرض البيت أو في الباحة الخارجية ، ثم ترفع الهياكل من مكانها وتنقل عنها الجماجم لكي تجمع في مدفن آخر ، وكان السكان يعتقدون بعودة الحياة أو بوجود بعث جديد (٣) .

وينتشر السكان على ضفاف الفرات يتقدمون فيه نحو الحضارة .

ولم يكن يدر بخلد مجموعة من المهاجرين الزاحفين من الرافدين أو من سكان المنطقة الاصليين أنهم سيبنون على ضفاف الفرات في المنطقة التي تسمى اليوم (تل الحريري) والتي تقع على بعد عشر كيلو مترات غربي البوكمال ، حضارة واسعة نسجت منذ الالف الثالث قبل الميلاد الى مدينة اسمها (ماري) (٤) .

ولقد كان من حسن الحظ أن يعاد اكتشاف هذه المدينة صدفة في عام ١٩٣٣ ، عندما كان أحد الفلاحين البدو يسعى للبحث عن قطعة من الحجر يجعلها شاهدة قبر أحد ذويه ، فاذا به يعثر على تمثال منحوت مفقود الرأس فيعتقد للوهلة الاولى أنه أمام شيطان فلم يلبث أن ينتقل خبر هذا الكشف الى المسؤولين في البوكمال الذين يتصلون بسلطة الانتداب التي تعلم بدورها بباريس ، ويكون من نصيب أحد محافظي متحف اللوفر الشباب

A.M.T. Moore: Tell Abou Houreira, dans (٣) "Antiquités de l'Euphrate" 1974.

# جوله أثرية في سورية من اللطامنة وعبر آلاف السنين

بقلم : الدكتور عفيف البهنسي

المربط الذي يقع على الفرات الى الغرب من مدينة الطبقة - الثورة عن مستوطن أقام فيه الانسان منذ أحد عشر ألف عام ، وهو أقدم موطن مستقر معروف حتى الآن (٢) .

ولقد سعى الانسان القديم الذي كان يجهل الزراعة والرعي، الى ضفاف الانهار لكي يصطاد غذاءه منها الى جانب ما يصطاده من الثور البري والحمار الوحشي والغزال . وكان ذلك موفورا في تلك المنطقة ، فقد كشفت الحفريات عن كميات كبيرة من عظام هذه الحيوانات .

وكانت أدواته عبارة عن مقاطع صوانية يقطف بها النباتات البرية التي لم يكن يزرعها ، مثل القمح والشعير والعدس حيث عثر منها على حبوب متفحمة .

وعاش هذا الانسان في بيوت مؤلفة من غرف واسعة دائرية ، ومادة انشاء هذه البيوت كانت الطين والخشب المشذب بقدم من الحجر ، أما تغطية هذه الغرف فكانت من الاغصان أو الجص أو من جلود الحيوانات .

وبعد ألف عام منذ ذلك التاريخ ، أصبحت البيوت أكثر اتساعا ، وأصبحت الغرف ملونة ببعض التزيينات البدائية بلون أحمر وأسود . ويبدو أن الانسان في ذلك الوقت ، استطاع أن يكتشف الطين المشوي ويستعمله بدلالة العثور على أواني صغيرة من الطين المشوي ، كما عثر على بعض التماثيل من الحجر والطين لامرأة عارية تضع يديها فوق ثدييها ، وهي تمثل ولا شك ربة

استقر الانسان على هذه الارض منذ آلاف السنين ، وقد ترك لنا آثاره الاولى في مدينة حماة وفي اللطامنة وهي المصاطب الاولى لنهر العاصي التي غزت الوادي وحتى الساحل بالتوضعات السكنية المتتابعة والآخذة بالرقى ، فلقد كان ثمة كثافة سكانية عالية في تلك المنطقة تركت آثارا واضحة اكتشفت خلال السنوات الاخيرة (١) .

ويبدو أن الانسان الاول استطاب الحياة في غابات الصنوبر والبلوط التي كانت تكتنف وادي العاصي ، فاستقر فيها في العصور الحجرية الاولى في العهد الشيلي والاشولي واستعان بأدوات عثر على بعضها هي مكاشط وفؤوس يدوية ورقاق صوانية .

وقد عايش الانسان في ذلك الوقت حيوانات كبيرة ومتوسطة الحجم وبعضها ضخمة ، كالفييل ووحيد القرن وكالغزلان والوعول والثيران والجمال وربما الحصان ، وكان الانسان في العصر الآشولي يستخدم لحمها على ما يبدو لغذائه . وكانت الامطار غزيرة والاشجار كثيفة والمراعي معوفرة ، وفي الشتاء كان الصقيع شديدا يدفع الناس الى الالتجاء الى المغاور .

واذا انتقلنا الى العصر الحجري المتوسط (الميزوليتيك) ، والعصر الحجري الحديث (النيوليتيك) فاننا نرى في هذا القطر أقدم توضع سكني واضح في العالم ، ولقد تم اكتشاف ذلك بمناسبة انقاذ الآثار في موقع سد الفرات .

لقد كشفت البعثات العلمية في موقع تل

J. Cauvin: Tell Moureibet, dans "Antiquités de l'Euphrate" 1974. (٢)

J.D. Clark: Excavation at the middle acheulian site at Latamné, A.A.S., Vol. 16. (١)

فقليلة نسبيا في المنطقة التي اجريت فيها الدراسات .

### العصر الحديدي :

وهناك عدد من التلال المحصنة التي تعود بتاريخها الى العصر الحديدي بفتراته المختلفة وخاصة قبل النصف الاول من الالف الاول قبل الميلاد كما وكشف عن المخلفات الهلنستية من القرن الرابع وحتى القرن الثاني ق م .

### المواقع الرومانية حتى العربية :

واما المواقع الرومانية فقد اتخذت طابعا عسكريا بدليل وجود تحصينات وابراج على المرتفعات التي تطل على الغور وذلك بخلاف الفترات اللاحقة حيث عثر على مواقع بيزنطية في الاماكن المنخفضة حيث يظهر ان الحياة الزراعية كانت تمارس على نطاق محدود اما في العصور العربية ابتداء من العصر الاموي وحتى الايوبيين والمماليك فقد اخذت الحياة الزرعية تنشط بشكل ملحوظ وتتواجد مواقع العصرين الاموي والمملوكي في المناطق الخصبة ومع امتداد الوديان والينابيع واهم ما يلفت النظر هو معاصر السكر التي عثر

على مجموعة كبيرة منها في المنطقة التي غطتها اعمال المسح الاثري لهذا العام ويظهر ان زراعة قصب السكر كانت تمارس على نطاق واسع في الاغوار وقد عثر على آلاف الاواني التي كانت تستعمل لتجفيف السكر وقوابله .

وقد شقت الطرق في فترات مختلفة أوضحها الطريق الروماني الممتد من الشمال وحتى البحر الميت والتي كانت تتواجد على اطرافها قياسات مكتوبة على اعمدة بين كل ميل واخر وكانت طريق الغور الرئيسية تربط الاردن بفلسطين بواسطة جسور تم انشاؤها فوق نهر الاردن .

ويظهر ان الكثافة السكانية في بعض هذه العصور كانت اكثر مما هي عليه الان ، كما وساعد مناخ وخصوبة وتوفر المياه في وادي الاردن على استغلال موارده وارضيه ، وتعمل البعثة على استكمال المسح الاثري في مطلع عام ١٩٧٦ لتغطية المنطقة المتبقية ، وسقوم باصدار تقرير مفصل عن نتائج الدراسات .

الدكتور معاوية ابراهيم

دائرة الاثار العامة

## المسح الاثري لمواقع ما قبل التاريخ في منطقة الازرق :

قام بهذا المسح السيدان جيرارد وستانلي من المدرسة البريطانية للاثار ولمدة اسبوعين بهدف استكشاف المنطقة وامكانية العمل فيها على نطاق واسع .

وقد امكن تسجيل حوالي خمسين موقعا من عصور ما قبل التاريخ ابتداء من العصور الحجرية القديمة وحتى العصر الحجري الحديث ، وتم جمع عينات لدراستها ومن اهم هذه المواقع : عين الاسد ومنطقة الحرانه حيث يأمل جيرارد وستانلي باجراء حفريات منظمة لتلقي ضوءا على المراكز والمقومات الحضارية لما قبل التاريخ في المنطقة .

## المسح الاثري في وادي الاردن :

انتهت البعثة الاثرية الموسم الاول للمسح الاثري في وادي الاردن ، وقد تكونت البعثة من دائرة الاثار والتي يمثلها الدكتور معاوية ابراهيم المشرف على ادارة البعثة والدكتور خير ياسين ممثل الجامعة الاردنية والدكتور جيمس ساور ممثل المركز الاميركي للابحاث الشرقية ، وشارك في اعمال البعثة عدد من ذوي الاختصاص من دائرة الاثار وعدد من طلاب قسم التاريخ والاثار بالجامعة الاردنية كجزء من الاعمال التدريبية التي يقومون بها .

والهدف من هذا المسح هو تحديد وتسجيل جميع المواقع الاثرية الممتدة ما بين نهر اليرموك شمالا والبحر الميت جنوبا ، وكذلك البحث عن مواقع لم ترد في سجلات دائرة الاثار للخروج بصورة واضحة عن التطور الحضاري الذي شهده وادي الاردن عبر جميع العصور .

وقد اسفرت نتائج الموسم الاول الذي استمر من ١٥ - ٢ الى ٣ - ٤ - ٧٥ عن تغطية المنطقة الواقعة على نهر اليرموك وتل المزار شمالي ديسر علا ، وتم تسجيل وتوثيق ما يزيد عن مائة موقع

تمثل جميع الفترات الزمنية من العصور الحجرية وحتى العهد العثماني ، ودون فراغ حضاري يذكر كما وان ثلث هذه المواقع على الاقل قد تم اكتشافها من خلال البعثة المشتركة ولم يسبق ان نوه عنها باحثون سابقون .

مواقع العصور الحجرية :

تشير الدراسات الاولية الى ان معظم مواقع العصور الحجرية وحتى الالف الرابع قبل الميلاد تتواجد في غالبيتها في منطقة القنار ، وهي الهضاب التي تشرف على الغور الخصب والمحاذي لنهر الاردن كما وان بعض هذه المواقع متواجد في المنطقة المنبسطة قرب سلسلة الجبال الشرقية على اطراف الوديان .

## العصر البرونزي القديم :

اما مواقع العصر البرونزي - الالف الثالث ق٠م - وهي كثيرة فقد تم اكتشاف معظمها على قمم الهضاب الشرقية المحاذية للغور . ولها طابع تحصيني يظهر ذلك من خلال الجدران والمرافق الدفاعية وتتواجد على مواقع استراتيجية وفي بعضها امكن تتبع جدران تحيط بها وان هناك بعض الدلائل تشير بان مفهوم المدينة قد اخذ يتبلور واصبحت كل مدينة مع القرى المحيطة بها تنعم باستقلالية لم تشهدهما في عصور سبقت العصر البرونزي القديم واصبحت دويلات المدن منتشرة في فلسطين والاردن خلال الالف الثالث ق٠م وقضى على حضارة العصر البرونزي القديم من قبل جماعة اطلق عليها اسم العموريين وقد عثر على عدد من المواقع كبيرة الحجم وتمثل هذه الفترة المرحلة التي تعتبر مرحلة انتقال بين مرحلة العصر البرونزي القديم والمتوسط ولم تدم حضارة هؤلاء طويلا بدليل كثافة الطبقة السكنية التي شوهدت في معظم هذه المواقع .

تلا ذلك العصر البرونزي المتوسط والمثل في عدد من المواقع صغيرة الحجم والمتواجده في المنخفضات اما مواقع العصر البرونزي المتأخر

وكشفت اعمال التنقيب لموسم ١٩٧٥ عن بناء هام يعتقد بأنه كان مركزا دينيا والبناء مستطيل الشكل ويقع في منطقة متوسطة من تليلات غسول وعثر بداخله على مجموعة من الاواني الفخارية ومجموعة هامة من الاشكال التي غالباً ما كانت تستعمل في الطقوس الدينية . ويعود تاريخ هذا البناء مع ما كشف عنه من مخلفات رئيسية الى العصر الحجري النحاسي - او الكالكوليثي من الالفين الخامس والرابع قبل الميلاد . وقد كشف عن عدد من الجدران التي بنيت من الحجر او الطوب . ووجد في بعض الابنية - كما هو الحال في موسم سابقة - على جدران طليت بطبقات من الجبس التي تحمل اشكالا ملونه ، وتبدي دائرة الاثار والبعثة اهمية خاصة لصيانة وحفظ اكثر ما يمكن من هذه الرسومات الجدارية . وعثرت البعثة على مجموعات كبيرة ومتنوعة من الادوات الحجرية والصوانية .

ويظهر أن تاريخ الموقع يصل الى النهاية مع اواخر الالف الرابع قبل الميلاد ، اذ تم الكشف عن آخر مخيم سكني تضمن عددا كبيرا من المواقع والادوات الحجرية والكسر الفخارية ، وبعد هذه الفترة هجر الموقع بسبب زلزال ولم تعد تظهر فيه مخلفات تذكر .

ويحتل موقع تليلات غسول اهمية خاصة في التعريف على هذه الحقبة الزمنية لما قبل التاريخ ، لكبر حجمه وكثرة مكتشفاته وموقعه المتوسط ، حتى ان الفترة الزمنية هذه قد صبغت باسم الموقع وكثيرا ما عرفت بحضارة غسول التي لقيت انتشارا واسعا في فلسطين والاردن .

وتشير الدراسات الاثرية على ان الموقع كان محاطا بالمياه العذبة في الالفين الخامس والرابع ق.م .

وستواصل البعثة اعمال الحفر والدراسة في مواسم قادمة .

القسم الاوسط منه مصطبة يبلغ ارتفاعها متر تقريبا ، واما الجدران الجانبية فيلتصق بها اعمدة يتخللها حنايا غالبا ما كانت لوضع التماثيل والهبات . كما وعثر بداخل المبنى على حجارة مزخرفة باشكال مختلفه ، وتيجان اعمدة مزينه باوراق نباتية ، وافاريز مزخرفة وبقايا رسوم جدران ملونه واسود مجنحه ، وغالبا ما كانت هذه الزخارف مثبتة على جدران البناء بدليل العثور على اعداد كبيرة من المسامير المعدنية التي استعملت لهذه الغاية . وأبرز هذه المكتشفات هي لوحة حجرية نحت عليها وجه انسان يبرز منه فقط العينان والانف والقم ويحيط به افاريز هندسية تمثل اسلوب العمارة الذي ساد في ذلك الوقت . ويوجد في القسم السفلي للوجه سطر من كتابة نبطية قراءتها - حيان بن نيبث ، وغالبا ما يشير هذا التمثال لاحد الهة الانباط . ويعتقد بان مقارنات لهذا النصب وجدت في جنوب الجزيرة العربية . ومن المكتشفات الاخرى لهذا الموسم ، اوزان حجرية ومصاييح واواني فخارية ومطاحن للحبوب ، وتمثال فخاري صغير لامرأة جالسة شعرها ينسدل على كتفيها بينما تضع يديها على وجهها .

وكشفت الحفريات ايضا في الجهة الشرقية لهذا البناء عن بيوت بيزنطية بنيت على اساسات نبطية . هذا ويعتقد الدكتور هاموند ان البناء الرئيسي الذي تم الكشف عنه كان قائما في العهد البيزنطي وانه دمر قديما من جراء هزة ارضية هذا وستواصل البعثة أعمال التنقيب في المنطقة عبر مواسم قادمة .

#### تليلات الغسول :

قامت بعثة جامعة سدني الاسترالية باجراء حفريات بموقع تليلات غسول على بعد ٤ كم شمال شرقي البحر الميت ، باشراف الدكتور باسيل هنسي وبالتعاون مع دائرة الاثار العامة ، وكان الدكتور هنسي قد اشرف على حفريات سنة ١٩٦٧ في الموقع نفسه .

تركزت حفريات ١٩٧٥ في اربع مناطق متباعدة من مدينة العصر البرونزي القديم (المرحلة الثانية والثالثة) .

أولا - في الجزء الشمالي الشرقي من المدينة ، حيث تم الكشف عن برج بنيت اساساته من الحجر والجزء العلوي منه من الطوب المجفف ووجدت غرفة بداخل البرج تتضمن عدة ارضيات سكنية .

ثانيا - سور المدينة الذي اجرى في جنوبه اختبارات تمتد على عرض السور وحتى داخل المدينة والتي ظهر من خلالها جدار تحصيني من الحجر والطوب المجفف غالبا ما تمثل اكثر من فترة زمنية واحدة .

وشملت المنطقة الثالثة حول المدينة خلف السور الغربي حيث عثر على بقايا برج متهدم من الحجارة والطوب المشوي والمجفف ، وسيواصل الفريق الحفر في هذه المنطقة لمعرفة تفاصيل ما هية هذا البناء .

وكشف في المنطقة الرابعة عن ابنية سكنية او تجارية في الجزء الشمالي الغربي من داخل المدينة . ويظهر ان هذه الابنية كانت قد تهدمت من جراء حريق عثر عليه ركام من الطوب . والجدير بالذكر ان بعض اجزاء هذه الابنية كانت مدعومه بجدران استنادية تتفق وطوبوغرافية الموقع .

وابرز ما تبين خلال هذا الموسم هو العثور على مخلفات من اواخر العصر البرونزي القديم على بعد نصف كيلو متر الى الشمال الشرقي من المدينة حيث ظهرت مجموعة من بيوت الطوب والتي احتوت مجموعات من الفخار . وينسب الحفاريون دمار المدينة الى سكان هذه البيوت . ويظهر من الفخار ان المدينة كانت قد سكنت في الفترة ما بين ٢٨٥٠ - ٢٢٥٠ ق م .

وهناك مرحلة اخرى ممثلة من خلال العديد من المقابر ذات المدخل الراسيه تعتبر اقدم ما عثر عليه

في باب الذراع (اواخر الالف الرابع ق م) ، ولم يترك لنا اصحاب هذه المقابر ابنية تشير الى حياة استقرار ، وانما جدران بسيطة تتبع مخيمات سكنية . وقد تم حفر احد المقابر القديمة في الجهة الغربية المحاذية للمدينة ، مع العلم بان معظم المقابر القديمة تتواجد بعيدة عن المدينة والى الجنوب الغربي منها . ووجد في هذا القبر هيكل عظمي لامرأة تضم شابا في ذراعها وطفلا في الذراع الاخر ، بالاضافة الى تمثال صغير من الطين الفخاري يمثل الالهة الخصب . وهناك دلائل تشير الى تواجد قبور اخرى في بداية العصر البرونزي القديم غربي المدينة .

وعمل الفريق في احد مقابر المرحلة الثانية للعصر البرونزي القديم والذي هو عبارة عن بناء مستطيل الشكل من الطوب المجفف .

وتشير دراسات الخبير الجيولوجي مع البعثة بان الغور الجنوبي كان اكثر خصوبة مما هو عليه الان ، وان تجمعات سكانية كانت تعيش في هذه المنطقة على الانتاج الزراعي .

هذا وستواصل اعمالها في العام القادم .

#### البتراء :

انتهى موسم الحفريات الثالث الذي قامت به بعثة جامعة يوتا الامريكية في منطقة البتراء السكنية ، باشراف الدكتور فيليب هاموند بالتعاون مع دائرة الاثار العامة .

وقد ركزت البعثة أعمالها لهذا الموسم في البناء الذي وصف بانه معبد نبطي والمتواجد على قمة السفح الشمالي لقوس النصر ، الذي يطل على وسط المدينة ويقابل مجموعة من الابنية الرئيسية على السفح الجنوبي . ويبلغ طول ضاح المبنى ١٧ مترا ، وكشف عن مدخله الرئيسي في الضلع الجنوبي ، ويتصل المدخل بدرج يؤدي الى شارع الاعمدة . ووجد بداخل البناء صفان من الاعمدة يقسمانه الى ثلاثة اقسام ، ويوجد في



واظهرت حفريات البوابة الغربية لساحة المعبد التي تؤدي بواسطة درج الى عدد من الابنية الاموية والبيزنطية والرومانية .

ومما يلفت النظر من اجراء هذه الحفريات هو كثرة المخلفات الاموية في مدينة جرش مما يدل على استقرار وازدهار الحياة فيها في العصر الاموي مع الابقاء على مخططاتها الروماني القديم .

### جاوه :

انهت المدرسة البريطانية للاثار موسم الحفريات الثالث في موقع جاوه في الجزء الشمالي الشرقي من الاردن وعلى بعد ١٨ كم شمالي بلدة الاجفايف باشراف السيد سفند هيلمز (راجح حولية دائرة الاثار الاردنية مجلد ١٩ (١٩٧٤) ، ص ١٧) .

يتواجد هذا الموقع الاثري الهام على مرتفع تبلغ مساحته حوالي ١٤ دونما ، بين وادي راجل من الشرق ووادي جاوا من الغرب ويلتقي الواديان في الجهة الجنوبية من الموقع الاثري .

استهدفت البعثة لهذا الموسم دراسة نظام المياه والحياة الزراعية التي مارسها سكان جاوه في الالف الرابع . قم . وقد بنى هؤلاء سدا كبيرا في وادي جاوه لتجميع المياه ومن ثم تسييرها بواسطة قنوات الى المنطقة السكنية ، وقد كشفت الحفريات عن بعض جدران السد وكيفية تكوينها كما وعثر على بعض انواع الحبوب مثل القمح والشعير ، ولا غرابه فيما اذا ساهم بناء السد هذا من خلال المياه التي كان يتم جمعها في انعاش الحياة الزراعية وتطويرها في المنطقة ، ومما لا شك فيه ان السيطرة على المياه الطبيعية كان العامل الحاسم الذي ساعد على ابقاء المدينة وسط الصحراء .

ولقد ساعدت طوبوغرافيه الموقع على بناء تحصينات ضخمة عثر على بعض اجزائها على ارتفاع ٥ م فوق سطح الارض . وتتكون هذه التحصينات من جزئين تقسم المدينة الى قسمين

علوي وسفلي . يتخلل القسم العلوي ثلاثة مداخل واربعة ممرات جانبية . اما التحصينات المنخفضة والتابعة للقسم السفلي للمدينة فتتصل بالسد وبركة الماء وتمتد حتى تصل نقطة التقاء الوادين في الجهة الشرقية للموقع . وقد كشف عن ثلاثة مداخل وثلاثة ممرات جانبية وبقايا ابنية نصف مستديرة تشبه الابراج . وبناء على مقارنات فلسطينية من الابنية والفخار فقد اعاد السيد هيلمز تاريخ هذه التحصينات الى اواخر العصر الحجري النحاسي (الكالكوليثي) او الفترة التي سبقت العصر البرونزي القديم ، وقد تكون من بداية ذلك العصر .

هنالك بناء مربع الشكل تقريبا بني في اعلى قمة للمدينة على شكل قلعة ، وغالبا ما يمثل هذا البناء مرحلة زمنية متأخرة عن التحصينات سالفة الذكر . وبني حول القلعة بيوت مستطيلة الشكل يتخللها مداخل باتجاه القلعة ولم تكشف الحفريات بعد تفاصيل عن ما هية هذه الابنية ، الا انه امكن تاريخها الى اواخر الالف الثالث ق .م أي المرحلة الانتقالية ما بين العصرين البرونزي القديم والمتوسط .

هذا وقام احد اعضاء البعثة لهذا الموسم بنقل وتصوير عدد كبير من النقوش والكتابات الصفوية ليتم دراستها بالتعاون مع السيد لانكستر هاردنج .

### باب النواع :

انهت بعثة جامعة انديانا الاميركية موسم الحفريات لعام ١٩٧٥ باشراف الدكتورين والترراست وتوماس شاوب في موقع باب النواع وذلك استمرارا للحفريات التي قام بها الدكتور بول لاب في الفترة ما بين ١٩٦٥ - ١٩٦٧ .

وقد سبق عام ١٩٧٣ وان اجري راست وشاوب مسحا اثريا في المنطقة الممتدة بين باب النواع وغورفييه وقاما بدراسة سطحية لعدد من المواقع الاثرية ثم نشرها في حولية دائرة الاثار لعام ١٩٧٤ .

وقد ركز الفريق اعماله بداخل كهف صخري كان قد سكن في العصور الاسلامية الاموية وحتى المملوكيه والايوبية . والكهف كبير الحجم وغير منتظم الشكل يتخلله عدد من الغرف الجانبية التي لم تصل الحفريات الى نهايتها . وللكهف مدخلان يقوم أمامهما جداران من الحجارة المنتظمة .

ويرتبط الكهف بتاريخ الموقع نفسه حيث تتواجد مخلفات كثيرة وجدران في العصور العربية المتعاقبة ، وسيواصل الفريق اعماله في الموقع المذكور .

#### جرش :

قام فريقان من دائرة الاثار والجامعة الاردنية باعمال التنقيب في منطقتين من مدينة جرش القديمة ، فقد عمل الفريق الاول باشراف الدكتور عاصم البرغوثي مدرس الاثار الكلاسيكية في الجامعة الاردنية في الجزء الغربي للفورم وشارع الاعمدة ، بحثا عن المنطقة السكنية في الفترات الزمنية المختلفة وللتأكد من العلاقة القائمة ما بين المنطقة السكنية والمباني العامة ومرافق المدينة الاخرى . كما استهدفت الحفريات الكشف عن ما هيته المخلفات الهلنستية التي لم تزودنا الحفريات السابقة الا بمعلومات قليلة عنها . وقد كشفت الحفريات عن مجموعة من البيوت الاموية وبعض الجدران البيزنطية والرومانية وظهرت مع هذا الجدران العديد من الامثلة الفخارية وقطع العملة تمثل هذه العصور وسيواصل الفريق المذكور العمل في هذه المنطقة للخروج بمعلومات اكثر تفصيلا عن العمارة الرومانية والهلنستية .

اما الفريق الثاني فكان باشراف الدكتور خير ياسين من قسم التاريخ والاثار في الجامعة الاردنية والسيد فيصل القضاء مفتش آثار جرش ، وقد باشر هذا الفريق بالكشف عن ساحة معبد ارتيميس وابرار الاعمدة المحيطة بها بعد ان تم ازالة قسم كبير من التربة المتراكمة حولها .

ويظهر من خلال الحفريات ان البناء قد اعيد استعماله في العصور العربية الاموية ، الايوي والمملوكي بدليل العثور على كسر فخارية تمثل هذه الفترات .

ستواصل دائرة الاثار والجامعة الاردنية اعمال التنقيب في هذا الموقع .

#### ام الرجوم :

تقع ام الرجوم على بعد بضعة كيلو مترات الى الشمال من مدينة عمان وكيلو متر واحد جنوبي طريق صويلح - الزرقاء مقابل خربة يا جوز . وقد سبق ان عثر على بئر ماء كبير جنوبي البناء (العموني؟) القائم في الموقع ، ويضم البئر كتابات صفوية وثمودية حفرت على جدرانه ، وقد تكون بعض هذه الكتابات قد كتبت بالخط النبطي .

قامت دائرة الاثار بالتعاون مع المركز الامريكي للابحاث الشرقية والجامعة الاردنية باجراء حفريات في اجزاء مختلفة من الموقع اشرف عليها الدكتور جورج مندنهول ، كان الهدف منها التأكد من تاريخ البناء المعروف بالقصر وكذلك ايجاد العلاقة بين الكتابات في البئر والابنية الاخرى المتواجده في الموقع ، الا ان هذا يحتاج الى المزيد من الدراسة والحفريات .

كما تم اختبار بعض الكهوف والمرتفع الكائن شرقي القصر حيث كشف فيه عن مخلفات من المرحلة الانتقالية ما بين العصرين البرونزي القديم والمتوسط .

#### عين الباشا :

قامت دائرة الاثار بالاشتراك مع قسم التاريخ والاثار في الجامعة الاردنية باجراء حفريات في موقع عين الباشا قرب صويلح الى الشمال الغربي من عمان وبأشراف الدكتور صفوان التل والسيد حسين قنديل مع عدد من الفنيين والمختصين من دائرة الاثار والجامعة الاردنية .

مدينة العصر الحديدي الثاني كانت قد بنيت بتخطيط مسبق ، ومن بين هذه الابنية بيوت وجدت فيها مرافق الحياة السكنية من مواقد وادوات الطبخ والجبوب وغيرها ، ووجد في احد الابنية عدد كبير من ثقالات النسيج ، كما اكتشف اعداد كبيرة من الادوات والاواني الحجرية والفخارية مما يدل على ان سكان المنطقة كانوا يمارسون صناعات مختلفة . ومن بين المخلفات المعمارية بناء كبير مستطيل الشكل يبلغ طوله حوالي ثمانية امتار وعرضه حوالي ستة امتار وكان سقفه يرتكز على اعمدة من الحجارة تم وضعها في وسط البناء وستكشف حفريات المستقبل عن ماهية هذه الابنية واهميتها في تطور العمارة القديمة .

#### خرابة السوق :

انتهى اول موسم للحفريات الاثرية في موقع خربة (أو خريبة) السوق ، بضعة كيلو مترات الى الجنوب من عمان ، حيث قامت دائرة الاثار العامة بالاشتراك مع الجامعة الاردنية باعمال التنقيب في منطقة مرتفعة تقرب من احد الجدران الاثرية الكبيرة الذي عثر عليه المواطنون بطريق الصدفة ، واشرف على العمل الدكتور فوزي زيادين ممثلا عن دائرة الاثار العامة والدكتور عاصم البرغوثي ممثلا عن الجامعة الاردنية .

وتركزت التنقيبات بداخل بناء على شكل باسيليك يبلغ طوله حوالي خمسين مترا وعرضه عشرين مترا ، وقد ظهرت بعض اعمدة وجدران هذا البناء فوق سطح الارض وقبل البدء بعملية الحفر ، وتشير تيجان الاعمدة الكورنثية ان البناء روماني الاصل ، الا ان الحفريات كانت قد كشفت عن ارضية فسيفسائية تعود بتاريخها الى العصر البيزنطي حوالي القرن السادس الميلادي . وتضم الارضية زخارف هندسية ونباتية وحيوانية مماثلة للارضيات الفسفسائية التي كشف عنها في مأدبا وغيرها من القرن السادس الميلادي .

وتعود اقدم الاثار المكتشفة الى عصور ما قبل التاريخ ما بين الالف الخامس واول الالف الثالث ق م وقد تم الكشف عن عدد من البيوت السكنية المبنية من الحجر بشكل منتظم في الجزء الجنوبي من الابنية الوسطية ، ووجد مع هذه البيوت ارضيات مقصورة وعليها عدد من المكتشفات الفخارية والحجرية وكميات من الجبوب مما يدل على ان سكان المنطقة كانوا يمارسون حياة زراعية متطورة بالاضافة الى تدجين الحيوانات المتعددة ، كما وعثر على مثل هذه المكتشفات في بعض الكهوف التي تم حفرها في مواسم سابقة ، مع العلم بأن البعض الاخر من الكهوف كانت قد استعملت في اوائل الالف الثالث ق م .

كما وعثر في نفس المنطقة ( Area E ) على جدران كبيرة قد تكون لبناء عام امكن تاريخها الى منتصف الالف الثاني ق م (العصر البرونزي المتأخر) ، وقد يعاصر هذا البناء المعبد الذي كشف عنه في مطار عمان سنة ١٩٥٠ .

وتابع فريق الحفريات العمل حول احد بيوت العصر الحديدي الاول من الجهة الشرقية للموقع ( Area E ) والذي بدأ العمل به في موسم ١٩٧٣ ، ويظهر انه تم بناء هذا البيت خارج المدينة الرئيسية ، اذ تم اجراء حفر تجريبية في المنطقة الواقعة ما بين هذا البيت ومرتفع المدينة ، وتبين انها خالية من بيوت حديدية ، الا انه عثر فيها على مخلفات تشبه ما عثر عليه في اقدم الطبقات التي تم حفرها في ( Area E ) .

وقد تبين بان العصر الحديدي الثاني ممثل بشكل جيد في الموقع ، اذ عثر في وسط التل تقريبا ( Area B ) على بيوت منتظمة لهذا العصر (حوالي القرنين الثامن والسابع ق م) ومع ان المدينة في هذه الفترة اصبحت اصغر مما كانت عليه في العصر الحديدي الاول (القرن الثاني عشر ق م) ، الا ان نظام البيوت واشكالها يوحي بان

# الحفريات الأثرية في الأردن

عام ١٩٧٥

بقلم الدكتور معاوية ابراهيم

## حفريات قلعة عمان :

قامت دائرة الآثار العامة باجراء حفريات اثرية واسعة النطاق في الجهة الشمالية من قلعة عمان ، باشراف الدكتور فوزي زيادين والسيدة كريستال بنيت ، تمهيدا لاقامة متحف مركزي وطني فوق جبل القلعة ، ومن ضمن برنامج العمل ازالة الاتربة المتراكمة من جراء الاعمال الانشائية والحفريات السابقة .

واقدم ما عثر عليه كسر فخارية وجدت في الطبقات السفلى فوق الصخر او التربة الطبيعية وتعود الى العصر البرونزي القديم وبعضها يمثل المرحلة الانتقالية ما بين البرونزي القيم والمتوسط الا انه لم يعثر على جدران تمثل هذه الفترات القديمة .

اما فترات العصر الحديدي فيظهر ان مخلفاته المعمارية كانت قد ازيلت في هذه المنطقة من قبل الرومان والبيزنطيين ، مع العلم بأنها ممثلة بشكل جيد في اجزاء اخرى مختلفة من القلعة ، كما تبين من المكتشفات المتعددة واعمال التنقيب سابقا .

يلي ذلك العصر الهلنستي من القرنين الثالث والثاني ق.م ، حيث وجدت مجموعات تميز هذا العصر . كما وجدت جدران ضخمة تمثل العصر الروماني في الجهة المحاذية للبركة من جهة الشرق وكشف عن جدران اخرى من العصر البيزنطي . وكذلك ارضية فسيفسائية لكنيسة بيزنطية كان قد تم حفر القسم الرئيسي منها سنة ١٩٦٣ .

اما الفترات العربية الاسلامية فقد لقيت اتساعا ملحوظا فوق جبل القلعة ، وخاصة في المنطقة المجاورة للبناء القائم والمعروف بالقصر الاموي . كما وجدت بعض الجدران ومعصرة من العصر البيزنطي ، وبرز المكتشفات المملوكية ممثلة بمجموعة من الابنية التي تحمل سقوفا برميلية الشكل ، ووجد مع هذه الابنية مجموعات فخارية منها الملون والمزجج ، وستواصل دائرة الآثار اعمال التنقيب في المنطقة ذاتها .

## الجبل الاخضر :

قامت دائرة الآثار العامة باجراء هذه الحفرية العرضية في الفترة ما بين ١٩٧٥/٦/٣ وحتى ١٩٧٥/٦/٥ وقد تم الكشف عن مقبرة تعود للعصر الروماني وموجودات قليلة كبعوض الاسرجة الفخارية والقوارير الزجاجية .

## جبل القصور :

قامت دائرة الآثار العامة باجراء هذه الحفرية في ١٩٧٥/١٠/١ ولمدة خمسة ايام وقد تم العثور نتيجة لهذه الحفرية على مقبرة تعود الى العصر البيزنطي المتأخر .

## سحاب :

انتهى موسم الحفريات الثالث الذي قامت به دائرة الآثار العامة في موقع بلدة سحاب باشراف الدكتور معاوية ابراهيم . وقد تم حصر أعمال التنقيب لهذا الموسم في ثلاث مناطق مختلفة من الموقع ( Area B. D. E. )

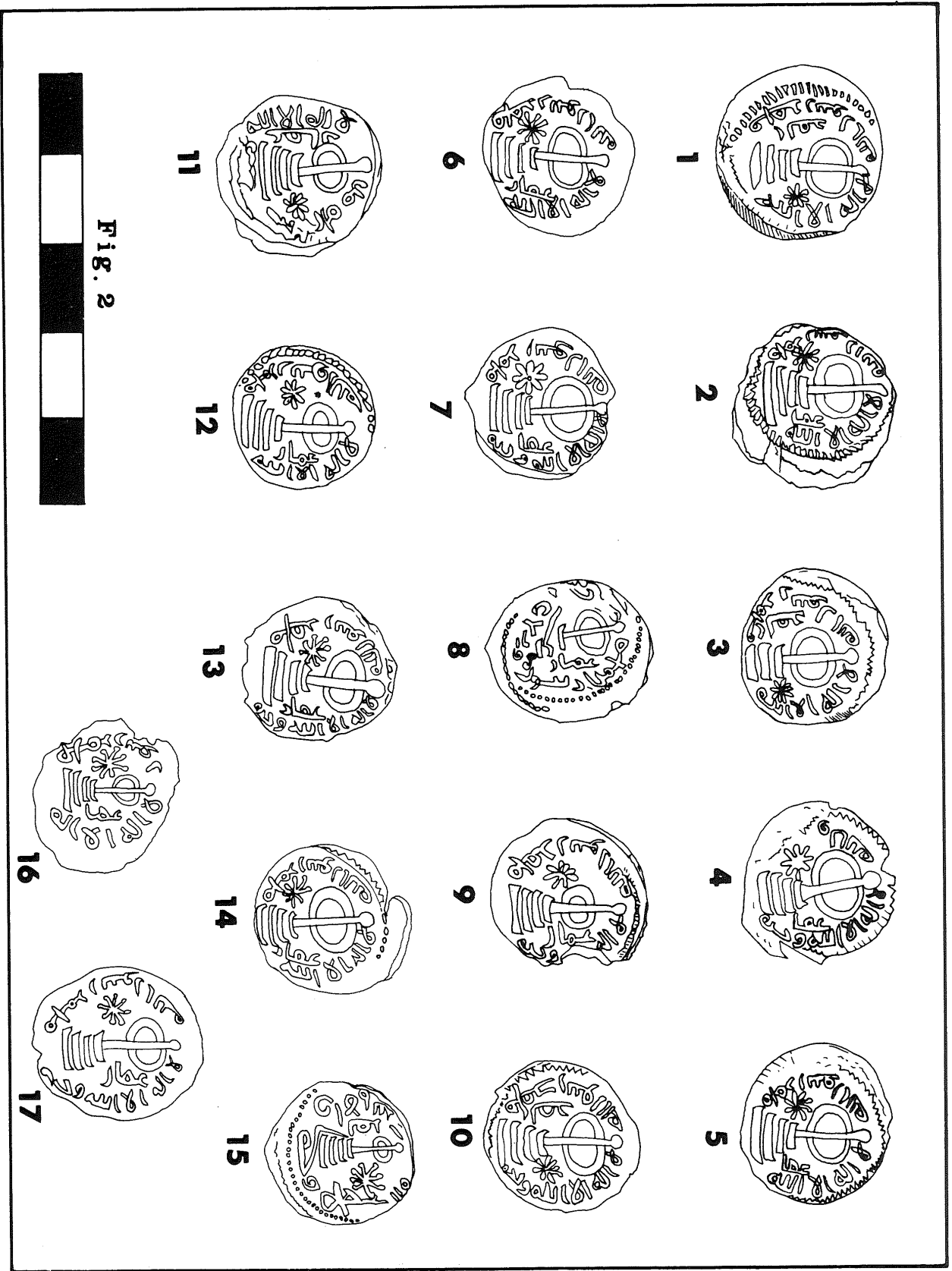


Fig. 2

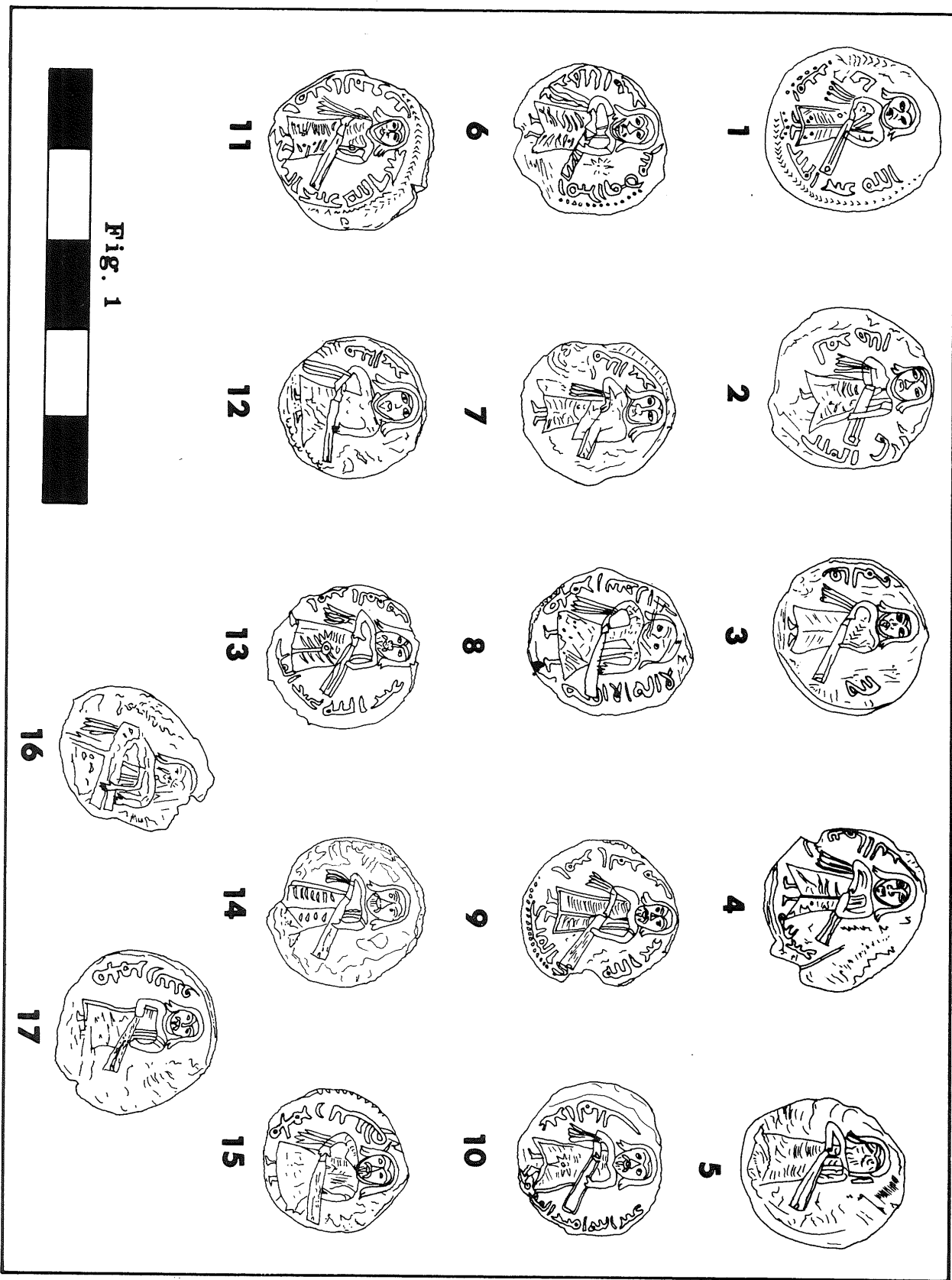


Fig. 1

مركز القفا (لوحة ٨:١٥ ، شكل ٢:١٥) :  
كما في الشكل السابق (لوحة ٨:١٠ ،  
شكل ٢:١٠) :

هامش خارجي (من اليمين الى اليسار) :  
لا اله الا الله وحده (محمد رسول الله)  
الوزن ن: ٢٦ غم القطر : ١٦ ملم

١٦- مركز الوجه (لوحة ٧:١٦ ، شكل ١:١٦) :  
كما في الشكل السابق

هامش خارجي (من اليمين الى اليسار) :  
عبد الله عبد الملك امير المؤمنين

مركز القفا (لوحة ٨:١٦ ، شكل ٢:١٦) :  
كما في الشكل السابق (لوحة ٨:١٠ ،  
شكل ٢:١٠) :

هامش خارجي (من اليمين الى اليسار) :  
لا اله الا الله (محمد رسول الله)  
الوزن : ٢٦ غم القطر : ١٤ ملم

١٧- مركز الوجه (لوحة ٧:١٧ ، شكل ١:١٧) :  
كما في الشكل السابق

هامش خارجي (من اليمين الى اليسار) :  
عبد الله عبد الملك امير المؤمنين

مركز القفا (لوحة ٨:١٧ ، شكل ٢:١٧) :  
كما في الشكل السابق

هامش خارجي (من اليمين الى اليسار) :  
لا اله الا الله وحده (محمد رسول الله)  
الوزن : ٢٩ غم القطر : ١٧ ملم

**الدكتور عدنان الحديدي**

الجامعة الاردنية

مركز القفا (لوحة ٨:١٢ ، شكل ٢:١٢) :  
كما في الشكل السابق (لوحة ٨:١٠ ،  
شكل ٢:١٠)

هامش خارجي (من اليمين الى اليسار) :  
لا اله الا الله محمد رسول الله  
الوزن : ٢٨ غم القطر : ١٥ ملم

١٣- مركز الوجه (لوحة ٧:١٣ ، شكل ١:١٣) :  
كما في الشكل السابق

هامش خارجي (من اليمين الى اليسار) :  
عبد الله عبد الملك امير المؤمنين

مركز القفا (لوحة ٨:١٣ ، شكل ٢:١٣) :  
كما في الشكل السابق

هامش خارجي (من اليمين الى اليسار) :  
لا اله الا الله و (حده) محمد رسول الله  
الوزن : ٣٤ غم القطر ١٦ ملم

١٤- مركز الوجه (لوحة ٧:١٤ ، شكل ١:١٤) :  
كما في الشكل السابق

هامش خارجي غير مقروء

مركز القفا (لوحة ٨:١٤ ، شكل ٢:١٤) :  
كما في الشكل السابق

هامش خارجي (من اليمين الى اليسار) :  
لا اله الا الله محمد رسول الله

الوزن : ٤٢ غم القطر : ١٦ ملم

١٥- مركز الوجه (لوحة ٧:١٥ ، شكل ١:١٥) :  
كما في الشكل السابق

هامش خارجي (من اليمين الى اليسار) :  
لا اله الا الله (محمد رسو ل الله)

مركز القفا (لوحة ٨ : ٩ ، شكل ٢ : ٩) :  
كما في الشكل السابق

هامش خارجي (من اليمين الى اليسار) :  
لا اله الا الله وحده محمد رسول الله  
الوزن : ٣٧ غم القطر : ١٦ ملم

١٠- مركز الوجه (لوحة ٧ : ١٠ ، شكل ١ : ١٠) :  
كما في الشكل السابق

هامش خارجي (من اليمين الى اليسار) :  
عبد الله امير المؤمنين عبد الملك

مركز القفا (لوحة ٨ : ١٠ ، شكل ٢ : ١٠) :  
كما في الشكل السابق باستثناء النجمة  
الثمانية التي نجدها في النصف الايمن واسم  
مكان الضرب عمان كتب معكوسا في النصف  
الايسر .

هامش خارجي (من اليمين الى اليسار) :  
لا اله الا الله وحده محمد رسول الله .  
الوزن : ٣ غم القطر : ١٧ ملم .

١١- مركز الوجه (لوحة ٧ : ١١ ، شكل ١ : ١١) :  
كما في الشكل السابق

هامش خارجي (من اليمين الى اليسار) :  
عبد الله عبد الملك امير المؤمنين

مركز القفا (لوحة ٨ : ١١ ، شكل ٢ : ١١) :  
كما في الشكل السابق باستثناء اسم مكان  
الضرب عمان الذي يقع في النصف الايسر .

هامش خارجي (من اليسار الى اليمين) :  
لا اله الا الله (وحده محمد رسول الله)  
الوزن : ٤٧ غم القطر : ١٨ ملم

١٢- مركز الوجه (لوحة ٧ : ١٢ ، شكل ١ : ١٢) :  
كما في الشكل السابق

هامش خارجي غير مقروء

مركز القفا (لوحة ٨ : ٦ ، شكل ٢ : ٦) :  
كما في الشكل السابق

هامش خارجي (من اليمين الى اليسار) :  
لا اله الا الله وحده محمد رسول الله  
الوزن : ٣ غم القطر : ١٧ ملم

٧- مركز الوجه (لوحة ٧ : ٧ ، شكل ١ : ٧) :  
كما في الشكل السابق

هامش خارجي في النصف الايسر (من اليسار  
الى اليمين) :

عبد الله (عبد الملك امير المؤمنين)

مركز القفا (لوحة ٨ : ٧ ، شكل ٢ : ٧) :  
كما في الشكل السابق

هامش خارجي (من اليمين الى اليسار) :  
(لا ا) له الا الله وحده (محمد ر) سول الله  
الوزن : ٣٧ غم القطر : ١٥ ملم

٨- مركز الوجه (لوحة ٧ : ٨ ، شكل ١ : ٨) :  
كما في الشكل السابق

هامش خارجي (من اليمين الى اليسار) :  
لا اله الا الله محمد رسول (الله)

مركز القفا (لوحة ٨ : ٨ ، شكل ٢ : ٨) :  
كما في الشكل السابق مع ملاحظة وجود

كتابة يصعب قراءتها مكان الاربع درجات  
تحت الصارية وما يشبه الحرفين اليونانيين  
( G Y )

هامش خارجي (من اليمين الى اليسار) :  
محمد رسول

الوزن : ٣ غم القطر : ١٦ ملم

٩- مركز الوجه (لوحة ٧ : ٩ ، شكل ١ : ٩) :  
كما في الشكل السابق

هامش خارجي (من اليمين الى اليسار) :  
(عبد) الله (عبد) الملك (امير) المؤمنين



## وصف النقود :

الثمانية تقع الى اليمين واسم مكان الضرب  
عمان كتب معكوسا الى اليسار \*

هامش خارجي (من اليمين الى اليسار) :  
لا اله الا الله محمد رسول الله

الوزن : ٣ غم القطر : ١٦ ملم

٤ - مركز الوجه (لوحة ٧ : ٤ ، شكل ١ : ٤) :  
كما في الشكل السابق

هامش خارجي (من اليمين الى اليسار) :  
(عبد الله) عبد الملك امير (المؤمنين)

مركز القفا (لوحة ٨ : ٤ ، شكل ٢ : ٤) :  
كما في الشكل السابق مع ملاحظة ان النجمة  
الثمانية تقع الى اليسار واسم مكان الضرب  
عمان الى اليمين \*

هامش خارجي (من اليمين الى اليسار) :  
لا اله الا الله وحده (محمد رسول) الله

الوزن : ٣ر٣ غم القطر : ١٨ ملم

٥ - مركز الوجه (لوحة ٧ : ٥ ، شكل ١ : ٥) :  
كما في الشكل السابق

مركز القفا (لوحة ٨ : ٥ ، شكل ٢ : ٥) :  
كما في الشكل السابق

هامش خارجي (من اليمين الى اليسار) :  
لا اله الا الله محمد رسول الله

الوزن : ٣ر٣ غم القطر : ١٧ ملم

٦ - مركز الوجه (لوحة ٧ : ٦ ، شكل ١ : ٦) :  
كما في الشكل السابق

هامش خارجي في النصف الايسر (من  
اليمين الى اليسار) :

عبد الله عبد الملك

وفي النصف الايمن :

أمير المؤمنين (كتبت معكوسة) \*

١ - مركز الوجه (لوحة ٧ : ١ ، شكل ١ : ١) :

صورة الخليفة منتصبا رافع الهامة ومرتديا  
عباءة مزركشة وكوفية وقابضا بيديه على  
سيفه \*

هامش خارجي (من اليمين الى اليسار) :  
(عبد) الله عبد الملك (أمير المؤمنين) \*

مركز القفا (لوحة ٨ : ١ ، شكل ٢ : ١) :  
صارية تنتهي بشكل كروي مثبتة على اربع  
درجات وعلى يمين الصارية نجمة ثمانية  
وعلى يسارها اسم مكان لضرب عمان كتب  
معكوسا \*

هامش خارجي (من اليمين الى اليسار) :  
لا اله الا الله محمد رسول الله \*

الوزن : ٤ر٣ غم القطر : ١٨ ملم

٢ - مركز الوجه (لوحة ٧ : ٢ ، شكل ١ : ٢) :  
كما في الشكل السابق

هامش خارجي (من اليسار الى اليمين) :  
لعبد الله (عبد الملك امير المؤمنين)

مركز القفا (لوحة ٨ : ٢ ، شكل ٢ : ٢) :  
كما في الشكل السابق مع ملاحظة ان

النجمة الثمانية تقع الى اليسار واسم مكان  
الضرب عمان الى اليمين \* هامش خارجي :

لا اله الا الله محمد رسول الله

الوزن : ٣ر٥ غم القطر : ١٧ ملم

٣ - مركز الوجه (لوحة ٧ : ٣ ، شكل ١ : ٣) :  
كما في الشكل السابق

هامش خارجي (من اليمين الى اليسار) :  
(عبد) الله (عبد الملك امير المؤمنين)

مركز القفا (لوحة ٨ : ٣ ، شكل ٢ : ٣) :  
كما في الشكل السابق مع ملاحظة ان النجمة

# فلوس نحاسية أموية من عمان

بقلم الدكتور عدنان الحديدي

بعض التعديلات عليه واهمها تحويل الصليب الى شكل كروي على صارية مثبتة فوق اربع درجات في مركز القفا (لوحه ٨) ، وصورة الخليفة منتصبا رافع الهامة وقابضا بيديه على سيفه ومرتديا عباءة مزركشة وكوفية في مركز الوجه (لوحه ٧) ثم عدم استعمال الحروف اليونانية ويروي المقريري في كتاب «شدور العقود في ذكر النقود» ان معاوية بن ابي سفيان كان اول خليفة قد ضرب دنانير عليها تمثاله متقلدا سيفاً . وفي ذلك اشارة واضحة الى طراز النقد الذي يحمل صورة الخليفة رافع الهامة .

على ان تعريب النقود الاسلامية لم يتم الا بعد الاصلاحات الادارية والمالية التي قام بها عبد الملك بن مروان عام ٧٧ هـ . لذا فان تاريخ ضرب مجموعة النقود النحاسية التي تؤلف مادة هذه المقالة لا بد وان يكون بعيد ذلك بزمن قصير وكان من اهم الدوافع التي حدثت بعبد الملك الى تعريب النقود الاسلامية هو النزاع السياسي الذي نشأ بينه وبين جستين الثاني امبراطور بيزنطة وتهديد الاخير للخليفة الاموي بضرب نقود بيزنطية تحمل شعارات تسيء الى الدولة الاسلامية وذلك انتقاما من المسلمين الذين بادروا الى وضع عبارة «لا اله الا الله وحده محمد رسول الله» على ورق البردي الذي كانت بيزنطة تستورده من مصر . وكان عبد الملك قد بدأ بتعريب الدواوين في الدولة الاسلامية الناشئة قبل نزاعه مع جستين الثاني واستكمالا لذلك قام باصلاحاته المالية الشهيرة التي شملت تعريب النقود تأكيدا لسيادة الدولة الاسلامية ونشر شعاراتها الجديدة .

قامت دائرة الآثار في المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية بتنقيبات أثرية علمية على ثلاث مراحل في ساحة السوق الرومانية وسط مدينة عمان بين ١٩٦٥ - ١٩٦٧ وذلك قبل تحويل هذا السوق الى متنزه عام . وكان من اهم المكتشفات مجموعة من الفلوس النحاسية الاموية التي ضربت في عمان بعد تعريب النقود الاسلامية زمن الخليفة عبد الملك بن مروان (٦٥ - ٨٦ هـ) . ويعتبر هذا الاكتشاف بالغ الاهمية من الناحيتين التاريخية والفنية للاسباب الآتية :

أولا - قلة ما اكتشف من هذا النوع من النقود الاسلامية وما نشر منها حتى الآن (راجع كتالوج النقود الاسلامية في المتحف البريطاني لمؤلفه ووكر) .

ثانيا - كونها اول نقود اموية تحمل اسم مدينة عمان يتم اكتشافها في طبقة سكنية بوسط المدينة .

ثالثا - ميزاتها الفنية الخاصة التي تساعد على دراسة تطور فن ضرب النقود الاسلامية .

ومن المعروف ان العرب المسلمين حينما فتحوا الشرق القديم حافظوا على مراكز الحضارة فيه واسهموا اسهاما فعلا في انعاش وتطوير الحياة العامة في بلدانه . فواصلت المدن التي اعتادت ضرب النقود في العهود السابقة نشاطها في عهد المسلمين ومنها عمان التي كانت تعرف باسم فيلادلفيا زمن الاغريق والرومان . وفي العهد الاموي صارت ادارتها تتبع جند فلسطين وعاصمته مدينة الرملة . واقتصرت سكة عمان على ضرب الفلوس النحاسية بالنمط البيزنطي بعد ادخال

ساحة مكشوفة كان امتدادها مقام على اعمدة واقواس تم الكشف عليها في السنوات الماضية وازالة جميع الاتربة المتساقطة امامها بحيث ظهر الدرج الاصلي المؤدي الى ساحة المحكمة والتي حولت الى كنيسة في العهد البيزنطي وكان الاعتقاد ان هذا الامتداد استغل لسكن الكهنة وقد اعيدت الى سابق عهدها وتم ترميم معظم الاقواس وكذلك السطح وبوشر في ترميم الدرج الرئيسي باتباع نفس الاسلوب الموجود ولا يزال العمل مستمر ومن المنتظر ان يتم خلال العام القادم . (لوحه رقم ٦-٢) .

#### الوعيره :

ان هذه القلعة الصليبية يفصلها عن البتراء وادي سحيق يبلغ عمقه حوالي ٦٠ متر وكان الوصول اليها صعب جدا وقد اعيد ربطها بجسر لكي تسهل عملية الوصول ونظرا لعدم وجود دلائل اثرية عن وجود جسر قديم سواء كان من الحجر او الخشب فقد اتبع اسلوب بسيط كان الهدف منه فقط عملية الوصول باقصر الطرق وآمنها دون اعتبارات اثرية لان المعلومات التاريخية عن هذا الجسر لم تكن متوفرة ولذلك فان هذا العمل لا يعتبر ترميم او اعادة بناء بل اضافات ضرورية لسلامة الزوار للموقع .

ان جميع اعمال الصيانة والترميم التي تقوم بها دائرة الاثار بالمملكة بتخطيط واشراف المهندس يوسف العلمي مساعد مدير عام الاثار والمهندس عبد الكريم عباينه رئيس قسم المشاريع بالدائرة بالاضافة الى اشراف مفتشي الاثار بالمحافظات .

#### المتاحف :

١ - المتحف الوطني : لقد جرت عدة دراسات حول موقع المتحف الوطني الجديد وقد تم الرأي على اعادة بنائه في منطقة جبل القلعة في الموقع ما بين القصر الاموى ومبنى المتحف الحالي . لذلك بدأت الدائرة باجراء حفريات اثرية للكشف على المكان وللتأكد

من البقايا الاثرية لاتخاذ القرار المناسب للموقع الافضل والاقبل ضرا بالنسبة للموجودات الاثرية .

كما استدعي بعض الخبراء في هذا المجال للمساعدة في تقديم تقريرهم عن الدراسة التي قدمها المهندس يوسف العلمي مساعد المدير العام للاثار حول احتياجات الدائرة لهذا المتحف والاشياء التي يجب ان تتوفر في هذا المتحف .

وقد وضع هذا المشروع ضمن برنامج الخمس سنوات وستكون السنتين القادمتين للحفريات الاثرية والدراسات ومن المنتظر المباشرة بانشائه في نهاية سنة ١٩٧٧ .

#### ٢ - متحف الاثار الاردني بعمان :

لقد جرت اضافة غرفتين للمتحف الحالي بالقلعة نظرا لضيق المكان وقد استغلت احدهما لعرض المكتشفات الحديثة في الاردن وذلك لاهمية تعريف المواطنين بمنجزات الدائرة الاثرية والعلمية وهذه ستحل مشكلة ضيق المكان لفترة حتى يتم بناء المتحف الوطني .

#### ٣ - متحف الازياء الشعبية بعمان :

لقد تم افتتاح الجناح الغربي في المدرج الروماني بعمان في سنة ١٩٧٥ كمتحف للازياء الشعبية بعد ان اعيد تقسيم الغرى واستغل القبو كصاله عرض بحيث استوعب جمع المعروضات وصدر دليل له يساعد السائح في تعريفه بجميع المعروضات .

#### ٤ - المتاحف المحلية بالمحافظات :

لقد جرى صيانة للمتاحف المحلية في اربد وجرش ومادبا والبتراء والكرك سواء في اعادة ديكور المكان او اضافة خزائن عرض او تحضيرها حسب حاجة كل متحف .

#### المهندس يوسف العلمي

مساعد المدير العام

### مأدبا :

كان العمل يتركز على متحف مأدبا الاثري والشعبي بحيث اكملت صالات العرض واثت استعدادا لامكانية فتح المتحف رسميا خلال العام القادم .

أما في الكنائس فقد جرى ازالة الطم من العديد منها وخاصة في كنيسة غيشان حيث ازيلت جميع الابنية الحديثة وتم الكشف على ارضية الكنيسة الاصلية وعمل جدار لتسويرها وتحديدها .

وكذلك الحال في كنيسة الرسل .

وقد رمت ارضيات الفسيفساء في المناطق المختلفة بمادبا وحولها .

### منطقة الكرك :

**القلعة :** لقد انتهى العمل بالسور الشرقي لقلعة الكرك (لوحة رقم ٦-١) والذي تهدم نتيجة الامطار في السنين السابقة واعيد تقويتها ودعمها بالاضافة الى ان ازالة الابنية من على السور لازلت مستمرة وذلك بعد ان تنتهي عملية الاستملاك .

وقد تركز العمل كذلك في البرج الشمالي حيث جرى دعم الاساسات واعادة الحجارة المفقودة الى نفس الجدار .

اما في داخل القلعة نفسها فقد جرى دعم وتكحيل الاقبية الخاصة بالمتحف الشعبي وكذلك تنظيفها وازالة الاتربة من الداخل وتكحيل الفواصل بين المداميك وتعبئة الفراغات بالاسمنت لتقوية الجدار ومنع تسرب المياه .

كما جرى ازالة الاتربة والانقاض من المناطق الاثرية حول مدينة الكرك في الربو وشقيرا حيث تم استملاك المنطقة الاثرية .

### البتراء :

**ضريح الجرة (المحكمة) :** انه احد الاضرحة ذات الطابع اليوناني الروماني حيث توجد امامه

الانتهاء من مدخلين نهائيا بحيث اعيدت الاقواس كسابق عهدا واعيدت بعض الكراسي الى مواقعها الاصلية وقد تم ترميم الجدار الخارجي كذلك بحيث تم الانتهاء من المدخلين الشرقيين واصبحا في حالة جيدة ويمكن استعمالهم . وانتقل العمل حاليا الى المداخل الاخرى في الجهة الغربية بحيث سيجري اجراء الترميم لامكانية استعمالها . (لوحة رقم ٤-٢) .

وان الهدف من ترميم هذا المدرج واعادة المقاعد الى سابق عهدا هو ضمن برنامج استعمال المدرج في الحفلات العامة بحيث يصبح كمدرج عمان بحالة جيدة وسيستغرق هذا العمل في حدود الثلاث سنوات وقد تم تسهيل المرور من الخلف ولا زال العمل جاريا في هذا المدرج .

**ب - معبد أوثيميس :** لقد سبق وان جرت بعض التنظيمات في الموقع في السنوات السابقة بالجهة الجنوبية . وحاليا تم ازالة جميع الاتربة خلف المعبد وظهرت الساحة الخلفية وتم كشف المدخل الخلفي (لوحة رقم ٥-١) الذي يقود الى مباني امويه وكذلك وصلنا بالحفر الى الارضية الاصلية بحيث ظهرت معظم الاعمدة وسيعمل على كشف الجهة الشمالية والشرقية مستقبلا بحيث تظهر الساحة المحيطة بالمعبد كما كانت بالسابق ويحتاج الى ازالة جميع الطم المتراكم .

وقد جرى تنظيف بعض اجزاء من داخل المعبد نفسه لبيان الساحة الداخلية .

### منطقة السلط :

**زي :** تقع على بعد ١٢ كم الى الشمال الغربي من مدينة السلط جرت بها حفريات في سنة ١٩٧٤ وظهرت ارضية فسيفساء لكنيسة بيزنطية تعود للقرن الخامس او السادس الميلادي . وقد كشفت جميع الارضية ورممت ثم احيطت بجدران وبني عليها سقف لحفظها وامكانية زيارتها بسهولة . (لوحة رقم ٥-٢) .

الآتربة وظهت الغرف على طول الشارع ما بين المدرج والشارع الرئيسي للبلدة حيث يعتقد بأنها كانت عبارة عن دكاكين وقد تم ترميم الاسقف والجدران في العديد من هذه المباني واصبحت في وضع جيد .

ومن المنتظر اجراء حفريات اثرية قبل اكمال الترميمات .

د - **قلعة الربض عجلون** : لقد جرى الترميم خلال هذا العام في البرج الشمالي الشرقي (لوحة رقم ٢-٣) بحيث تم صيانتة ودعمه من الداخل والخارج وجرى حقن جميع الجدران بالاسمنت من الداخل لجعله متماسك وكذلك اعيد تكحيله مع اعادة الحجارة المفقودة الى سابق وضعها . وكذلك جرى حفر وترميم المر في الجهة الشرقية بعد ان تم ازالة الطم والكشف على الارضية الاصلية بعد ان حفر مسافة تتراوح ما بين المتر والخمسة امتار في بعض المناطق وظهر القبو الاصيلي وصار دعمه واكماله لمنع اية انهيار في هذه المنطقة واعيد الدرج الذي كان موجود بالاصل (لوحة رقم ٤-١) وقد تم الانتهاء من البرج من جميع الجوانب وانتقل العمل الى الداخل والذي سيستمر لسنوات قادمة .

#### منطقة جرش :

أ - **المدرج الجنوبي** : ان تاريخ هذا المدرج يعود يعود الى العصر الروماني بالرغم من انه اعيد استعماله في الفترات المتعاقبة وتخطيطه ومعظم الانشاءات رومانية ما عدا المسرح وبعض الاضافات والتي تعود الى العصر البيزنطي .

لقد كانت المداخل العلوية للمرحلة الثانية من المدرج في حالة دمار مما كانت تمنع الدخول والخروج الى المدرج بسهولة بالاضافة الى انهيار الاقسام العلوية من الصفوف والكراسي ولذلك فقد باشرنا الترميم بها منذ العام الماضي وقد جرى

اساسات الواجهة الشرقية واعيدت الحجارة المفقودة الى مكانها علما بأن الجدران الخارجية واساسات القصر كانت من الحجارة وبارتفاع ثلاثة مداميك فوق الارض يعلوها مداميك من الواح الطوب وقد لوحظ وجود العديد من الطوب الذي لم يستعمل في غرف المدخل مما يدل على عدم اكتمال المبنى . وقد اصبحت الاساسات والجدران في حاله جيدة حاليا وسيتم اكمال الترميم في السنوات القادمة .

هـ - **قصر الحراثة** : ان هذا البناء هو الوحيد من القصور الصحراوية الذي له طابع دفاعي حيث تقف في زوايا البناء ابراج مستديرة بينما يتخلل الجدران طلاقات السهام . وقد جرى تسييج الموقع لحفظه وكذلك انشئت وحدة صحية خارج القصر .

و - **قصر الازرق** : ان هذا المبنى يعتبر من القلاع الرومانية (لوحة رقم ٢-٢) والذي اعيد استعماله زمن الممالك وقد تم تنظيف الساحة الداخلية للقصر وازيلت جميع الآتربة حوله (لوحة رقم ٣-١) وكذلك فقد جرى ترميم بعض اجزاء الجدار الشرقي للقصر والغرف المحاذية له بقصد دعمها واغلاق الفراغات التي بها .

#### منطقة اربد :

أ - **ام الجمال** : ان هذا الموقع يقع على بعد حوالي ١٢ كم شمال شرقي مدينة المرق و يعود تاريخه الى الفترة الرومانية والنبطية حيث كانت له اهمية على طريق القوافل . وقد جرى تسييج الموقع جميعه مع البرك المحيطة به وحددت معالمه لمنع التعديات عليه وذلك لحفظه واجراء الترميمات على بعض المباني الاثرية مستقبلا .

ب - **ام قيس** : لقد تم ازالة بعض الابنية الحديثة من حول المدرج الاثري وكذلك كشف بعض من ارضية البازيليك وازيلت

# صيانة وترميم الاماكن الاثرية

خلال عام ١٩٧٥

بقلم المهندس يوسف العلمي

رقم ٢-١) وكذلك جرى تنظيف خزان المياه وازالة الحجارة المتساقطة بها وكذلك صيانة المباني الاموية والتي ظهرت من الحفريات الجارية بنفس المنطقة وازالة العديد من المباني الحديثة .

ج - عواقق الامير : ان هذا القصر يقع الى الغرب من وادي السير وقد سبق وان جرت به بعض الحفريات الاثرية لمعرفة تاريخه ونظرا لضخامة حجارتها فيحتاج الى اليات ضخمة ودراسة كل قطعة قبل المباشرة بالترميم وجرى تحديد الموقع وتسويره لحفظه ولمنع ضياع حجارتها وكذلك تنظيف الساحة الامامية واستملاك البيوت المجاورة بقصد هدمها وازالتها وقد وضعت خطة للمباشرة بالترميم خلال السنوات القادمة .

د - قصر الطوبه : وهو بناء مستطيل ويوجد في كل زاوية من زواياه برج مستدير بالاضافة الى خمسة ابراج نصف دائرية في الجدار الجنوبي وبرجين نصف مستديرين في كل من الجدار الشرقي والغربي .

لم يسبق وان جرت اية ترميمات بهذا القصر ونتيجة لتسرب المياه من الوادي المجاور فان أساسات الجدار الشرقي والجنوبي قد كشفت وتردمت المداميك العلوية مع فقدان العديد من الحجارة (لوحة رقم ١-٢) وقد تركزت الاعمال خلال هذا العام في تحويل مجرى المياه بحيث تعود الى الوادي وعمل سد ترابي بسيط من الجوانب لمنع دخول المياه الى القصر . وقد جرى ترميم

ان سياسة دائرة الاثار في الحفاظ على المواقع الاثرية وصيانة المباني التذكارية وترميمها بانحاء المملكة ناتج عن سببين مهمين :

- ١ - منع أي انهيار او دمار لاي موقع اثري .
- ٢ - عرضه بصورة لائقة وجيدة للسائح .

وقد قامت الدائرة خلال عام ١٩٧٥ باجراء الاعمال التالية :

## ١ - منطقة عمان :

أ - الاوديون : وهو المدرج الصغير بجانب ساحة الفورم وقد تم ازالة جميع الاتربة من حوله والكشف عن صفوف المقاعد وساحة المسرح نفسه لاطهار المسرح وقد جرى اعادة بعض الصفوف الاولى من المدرج وهي ثلاثة (لوحة رقم ١-١) بحيث اعيدت بعض المقاعد الاصلية وجرى اكمال الباقي من حجارة جديدة اعيد دقها حسب النمط القديم .

كما وجرى الكشف على السور الخارجي للمدرج وكذلك اكمل ترميم الاقواس في الجدار خلف المسرح ، والمقصود من ذلك اظهار معالم المدرج وبيانها خوفا من اندثارها .

ب - جبل القلعة : يوجد العديد من المباني الاثرية في القلعة والتي تحتاج الى حفر وتنقيب وكشف معالمها وترميمها وقد جرى الكشف على ارضية كنيسة بيزنطية بالمدخل وظهرت معالمها كما اعيدت بعض الاعمدة والجدران المحيطه بها وهي بحالة جيدة ويرجع تاريخها الى العصر البيزنطي (لوحة



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عمان

الآراء المطروحة في المقالات لا تمثل رأي دائرة الآثار بالضرورة . المؤلفون مسؤولون عن تدقيق مقالاتهم .

الطابعون

جمعية عمال المطابع التعاونية

عمان - هاتف ٣٧٧٧١



# حولية دائرة الآثار العامة

١٩٧٥

المشرون

دائرة الآثار العامة  
عمان  
المملكة الاردنية الهاشمية