



THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN

ANNUAL
OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF ANTIQUITIES
OF
JORDAN

VOLS. IV & V

1960

GREEK CONVENT PRESS — JERUSALEM

With my Compliments

A. J. J.
5/12/1960

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OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF ANTIQUITIES
OF
JORDAN

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PUBLISHED BY
THE DEPARTMENT OF ANTIQUITIES
AMMAN
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NOTE

The long interval that has elapsed between the publication of Volume III of this *Annual* and the appearance of the present double volume requires a note of explanation. Since 1956 the Department of Antiquities has passed through a period of reorganization, in which, although a full programme of field work over the whole of the country was maintained (see pp. 114 ff.), the energies of successive Directors were mainly devoted to administrative problems. Amongst other changes, the Jordan Archaeological Museum, under its own Curator, has been rearranged and officially opened to the public, while the offices of the Department have moved from Jebel el-Qala'ah and have returned to their earlier home near the Roman Theatre. Now that this reorganization has been completed it is hoped that the Department of Antiquities will once again, as in the past, be able to produce regularly a volume which will not only record the work accomplished by the Department, but will also provide a medium for the publication of the researches of other scholars.

Due Thanks to Mr. Peter Parr of the British School of Archaeology who helped much in this publication.

THE DIRECTOR

AWNI DAJANY

EXCAVATIONS AT 'AIN FESHKHA

During the last campaign at Khirbet Qumrân in 1956, the remains of a buried building were recognized near the source of 'Ain Feshkha, 3 km. south of Khirbet Qumrân. A sounding revealed that the building contained the same pottery and the same coins as Khirbet Qumrân, that the two installations were contemporary, and that they ought, then, to belong to the same community. It was imperative that this building be excavated; but, as nothing on the surface indicated the precise limits of the building, which could have been extended over a relatively vast area, it was decided to spend an entire season on the work.

This campaign took place in 1958, from January 25 to March 25. This expedition was a joint effort of the *Department of Antiquities of Jordan*, the *Ecole Biblique et Archéologique Française de Jérusalem*, and of the *Palestine Archaeological Museum*, just as the excavations at Khirbet Qumrân had been. The work, which employed 50 workers in all, brought to light an extremely interesting installation. It consisted of a rather large building, situated a hundred metres north of the spring and flanked by two enclosures, one to the southeast, and the other to the north. Each of these enclosures contained a number of smaller constructions (Pl. I, 1). The study of the architecture, the pottery, and coins revealed several periods, which have, except for the last one, their equivalent at Khirbet Qumrân. Period II is the best preserved, and, hence, the easiest to ascertain. We should, then, begin our description with this period.

Period II

1. The building (Pl. I, 2).

The building possessed two doors facing towards the east, leading onto a courtyard in the interior surrounded by room on three sides. One long room, occupying the whole north side and divided off by low partitions, must have been a storage room; two rooms along the south wall may have been used for the same purpose; two rooms along the western wall were better constructed, and must have served for lodging or administration. At one corner of the courtyard, there was a staircase leading up to the roof, and eventually to a second storey built over the two rooms along the western wall.

The earthenware is identical to that of Period II at Khirbet Qumrân; the coins cover the period from Herod Archelaus (4 B.C. to 6 A.D.) to the second year of the First Jewish Revolt (67/68 A.D.). Therefore, this building corresponds to the same epoch as Period II of Khirbet Qumrân, which has been dated from the reign of Archelaus to the year 68 A.D.

2. The south enclosure.

From the southwest corner of the building, a low wall marks the limits of an enclosure 40m square; however, the section of this low wall which should extend to the south part of the building has disappeared.

The only constructions in this enclosure are to be found against the north wall, where there was located a shed-like construction, which was supported by pillars and which had a

well paved floor. At the extremity of the shed, near the building, there was a small, square room with a door facing the east (Pl. II, 1). It would seem that this shed was destined for the drying of some sort of produce, or as a place of storage where this produce could be kept dry. Several hypotheses concerning its exact usage can be suggested. It is possible that it was used to dry dates, or better still, to allow the dates that had been taken in while yet green to ripen. Mr. Mansur Nashashibi, the Director of Agriculture at Jerusalem, saw the installation. It is his considered opinion that this hypothesis is probable. Date-palms are, in fact, the sole produce cultivated to any large extent in this locality, since the soil is salty, even where the many small springs issue forth. There are yet other proofs that the date-palm was cultivated in the region of Qumrân: trunks of palm trees, palms, and dates were found in the ruins of Qumrân, and in the neighboring caves. The rest of the enclosure, which is quite close to the springs, could well have been used as a pen in which to corral and bed down the flocks.

3. The north enclosure.

To the north of the building, a wall marks the limits of a large courtyard, half of which is taken up with a system of basins and canals (Pl. II, 2). From a main vat there flow two narrow canals. One of these canals feeds first into a rectangular and shallow basin, on whose plastered floor was found a deposit of lime; at the bottom of the basin there is a drain through which the water flowed to the outside and into a well-made pit, lined with plaster. Another branch of the same canal makes a turn around the basin, and brings the water into a second, and bigger, pit, that had been dug alongside of the first one. These two pits are sunk in a paved area, to which one descends at two places by means of steps. A second canal leaves the main vat and runs directly to another rectangular basin, found at the east end of the whole installation. This basin is larger and deeper than the first one. A well-paved platform is set between the basins. It is necessary also to speak of several large stones, crudely cut in the form of a cylinder, in connection with this system of basins.

This elaborate system is certainly not a water system that supplied water to the nearby building, for the basins can in no way be called cisterns. It is rather a very elaborate installation for some sort of industry; a material of some kind had been put through various stages of treatment and processing in these basins and pits.

The most likely explanation is that it was an industry for the preparation of leather. In the main vat, where the water was first gathered, and from which the canals lead to the two basins, the hides were washed. In the first basin, where the deposit of lime was found, the hides were next allowed to soak in a lime solution. This would be the preliminary operation for the removal of hair and pieces of flesh. The next stage in the process is performed today by rubbing the hides on tree-trunks; therefore, the cylindrical-shaped stones found near the basins must have served this same purpose. The paved platform would have been used for stretching, drying, and softening the hides. The last basin, and one of the pits, would have served for the tanning baths. In order to prove this hypothesis, samples have been taken from the canals and basins, and were submitted to the Ministry of the National Economy at Amman, and to the Department of Leather Industries of the University of Leeds in England for analysis. We thank these two organizations for their lively interest in, and quick response to, our questions, and for the help that they have given us. Their analyses revealed that there

are no traces of vegetal tan; however, the question remains undecided, since all traces of tan could have disappeared from these pits, filled as they were for so long a time with water and sediment. Besides, antiquity made use of other chemicals than those extracted from plants for their tanning processes. At any rate, two specialists who visited the ruins of Feshkha — Dr. Halilovic, an expert from the United Nations to the Jordanian Government, and Mr. Hisham M. Pharaon, an expert from the Ministry of the National Economy — have stated as their opinion that these basins and canals are well explained if this installation was a tannery.

We should, however, reject any interpretation which is suggested by the relation between 'Ain Feshkha and Khirbet Qumrân on the one hand, and between Khirbet Qumrân and the manuscripts found in the neighboring caves on the other. Even if the hypothesis proposed here is exact, it does not mean that this industry had for its purpose the preparation of parchment used for the writing of the manuscripts of Qumrân. Indeed, except for the preliminary operations of the washing of the hides and the removing of hair from the hides, the vellum used in writing was not tanned, and had, in fact, to undergo a special preparation and treatment. Moreover, this industry is developed on too large a scale to have served merely for the needs of the Qumrân *Scriptorium*. It was an industry that treated leather for almost any use, and would have afforded the community an added profit from the flocks that they raised.

The water that was necessary for this industry poses another problem: just exactly where did it come from. Water was brought to the main vat by a canal well preserved under the north well. But this canal is at a much higher level than any of the sources that are known today. This water was not brought in from elsewhere by means of an aqueduct, since there are absolutely no remains of an aqueduct. It could not have been only rain water; another source is called for. The only hypothesis left is that at a former period there was a spring at a higher level than any of the present ones. The configuration of the terrain suggests that just such a spring did have its source only a short distance from the northwest side of the building. This fact has another interesting consequence: at that level, the ground is less salty, which would mean that the spring itself was less salty than the sources we know today. Hence, conditions for living and farming in this region would have been more favorable. Two geologists who have examined these places believe that this is a probable explanation.

Period I

The period which has been described up to this point was not the first installation. The study of the buildings, the pottery, and the coins show that there was an earlier period. The plan of the building was already the same as that described above, with these two exceptions: no staircase ascended to the terrace, and there were no rooms which would constitute a second storey. The south enclosure was limited to the south end of the building, and did not extend towards the west; the shed did not exist at all. There was no courtyard to the north, and, therefore, no industrial installation in this locality. At this earlier period, the source to the northwest of the building flowed directly to the south, and even yet it is possible to discern the bed of this small brook, running under the north wall of the enclosure that belongs to Period II, to the southwest of the building.

The pottery attached to this period is scarce and quite broken; but it is easily recognizable as identical with the pottery of Period Ib of Khirbet Qumrân. The coins also are less numerous and in an advanced state of oxidization, but there are some few pieces dating probably from the time of the Hasmoneans; one certainly belongs to the period of Antigonus Mattathias (40 - 37 B.C.), and another one to the third year of Herod the Great (34 B.C.). Period I of Feshkha is, therefore, contemporary with Period Ib of Khirbet Qumrân, extending from about 100 B.C.. In the year 31 B.C., the buildings of Qumrân were damaged by an earthquake, and the site was abandoned. There is no trace of this earthquake at Feskha, which is explained by the nature of the different terrains. But the building at Feskha, which was an annex to those at Qumrân, was abandoned at the same time as the main site: there exists the same interval in the dates attached to the coins; and the building, which had been left unoccupied for about 30 years, was thoroughly cleaned out and reinhabited. This is evidenced by the fact that a part of the pottery of Period I was thrown in a dump outside the building with some other debris.

Period III

It was said that Period II ended at the same time as Period II of Qumrân, that is 68 A.D.. The buildings of Qumrân were destroyed by the Roman army during the Jewish War. There are also traces of a destruction and a fire at Feshkha at the end of Period II. At Qumrân the Romans had set up a police force, which occupied the site until the end of the first century A.D.. At Feshkha there are also signs of an occupation during this period: the north part of the building was the only section in use. Rooms were built over the ruins and a new door opened up in the wall. In these rooms there were found coins belonging to the end of the first century after Christ, and special mention must be made of a collection of 18 coins pertaining to the time of Agrippa II. A stone weight, with the inscription *LEB*, gives an interesting confirmation of these conclusions: the only provenance of such a weight could have been from a Roman military administration.

The Second Revolt

We know that Qumrân served as a place of refuge, or a point of resistance, for the Jewish insurgents during the Second Revolt under Hadrian (from 132 to 135 A.D.). They had also hidden themselves in the ruins of Feshkha, for several of their coins had been found there; but it is impossible to speak of this as a real occupation during this period.

The Byzantine Hermitage

Until now the history of Feshkha is exactly the same as that of Qumrân; but Feshkha has yet another chapter added to its history. During the Byzantine period - the 5th and 6th centuries after Christ - the little room attached to the one extremity of the shed in the south enclosure was rebuilt and reinhabited. A literary testimony throws light on this discovery. The

Byzantine writer, John Moschos, tells us that the monks of Mardes possessed a garden that was close to the sea, and which was situated at a distance of 6 miles from their monastery. They had trained a donkey to go alone to this garden in order to pick up the vegetables that they had need of; it used to knock at the gardener's door with its head. The gardener would then load up the donkey, and it would wend its way back to the monastery at Mardes Now, Mardes is actually Khirbet Mird in the Buqe'a, at a distance of 9km from 'Ain Feshkha (the equivalent of 6 miles). The little room that was excavated proved to be the house of the Byzantine gardener.

The character of the building and the installations excavated at Feshkha leave no room for doubt: this is an annex to Khirbet Qumrân, where those who were deployed in the work of directing the farming for the community lived; it was also the dwelling place of the caretakers of the palm trees and the sheep herders. It was these same who tried to draw a certain amount of profit for the community by means of agriculture, sheep-raising, and connected industries. This establishment has the same history as the principal centre at Qumrân. Its discovery helps us to understand better how this group of men were able to make a living, and how they tried, as much as possible, to supply for their own necessities without dependence on outside help.

These excavation seem to have unearthed everything that is of any archaeological interest near 'Ain Feshkha. It is still possible, however, that there remain some small installations that are entirely covered by recent alluviations, between Feshkha and Qumrân, but it is impossible to locate these sites, and, as a matter of fact, they would add nothing essential to what is already known. We can say with confidence that no other important installation ever existed in this region. Archaeology seems to have brought to light all that it could have in order to help us reconstitute the community which had left us the famous manuscripts of the Dead Sea in their own proper setting.

R. DE VAUX, O. P.

THREE SOUNDINGS IN THE JORDAN VALLEY

At the beginning of 1953, the Department of Antiquities carried out an archaeological survey on behalf of the Department of Water Resources and Agricultural Development (Point IV); the area covered by this survey was the Yarmuk Valley and the Jordan Valley.

Under the supervision of Mr. Lankester Harding, the work in the field was conducted by Mr. James Mellaart, fellow at the British Institute at Ankara, and the writer, owner of a scholarship of the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres at the Ecole Biblique et Archéologique Française de Jérusalem. They were assisted by two officials of the Department of Antiquities, Mr. Hassan Abu Awad and Mr. Nasser Nasri.

At several of the sites visited by the Point IV Archaeological Survey, small excavations were undertaken for stratigraphical purposes. The following report deals only with three of these, with which the writer was directly connected.

I. TELL ESH-SHUNEH

Tell esh-Shuna overlooks the Wadi 'Arab. Within a mile of the site, a ford called Makhadat Umm es-Sisan crosses the river Jordan; this passage, protected in ancient times by the imposing Tell Musa, opens the way to Wadi Bira, whose spring in Galilee is guarded by Tell el-Mukharkash. Tell esh-Shuna is located accordingly in a fairly important position on one of the natural routes between Transjordan and Northern Palestine.

The tell is very large, about 1 km. long, although only ten metres high at the very most; it is almost entirely covered by two villages: Khirbet esh-Shuna and Khirbet esh-Sheikh Hussein. Considerable damage has been caused by the recent progress of these settlements; building of houses, ploughing, extraction of silt have badly disturbed the ancient remains. One place however seemed especially attractive; on the southern outskirts of Khirbet esh-Shuna, a small mosque stands on the highest point of the artificial mound; almost at the foot of this monument, runs the main road from Irbid, which crosses nearby the Wadi 'Arab by a bridge; very soon, it divides into two roads: that of Jisr el-Majami, a bridge over the Jordan, and that of the Yarmuk Valley via 'Adasiye. Between the road and the mosque, during the process of widening and metalling the cross-roads, the earth has been cut away so that the archaeological layers appear in a section two hundred metres long. They were thus discovered for the first time on the 26th of January 1953 by Hassan Abu 'Awad, who opened a trench on the spot. During the following days, this sounding was enlarged to three square metres and carried down to virgin soil. At a depth of four metres under the original surface, the work was stopped on the 7th of February.

Stratigraphical sequence — (Fig. 1)

Layer	1 — Disturbed soil	0
«	2 — Brown yellowish	— 15 cm.
«	3 — Floor, yellow, very hard	— 30 „
«	4 — Grey brown, pulverulent.	

«	5	— Floor, gravel and stones, thick	— 50	„
«	6	— Brown, thick layer.		
«	7	— Floor, very hard gravel	— 90	„
«	8	— Dark brown soil.		
«	9	— Occupation layer, grey whitish ashes	—100	„
«	10	— Grey soil, with a great amount of stones.		
«	11	— Floor, gravel	—140	„
«	12	— Grey-brown.		
«	13	— Occupation layer, charcoal and white ashes	—160	„
«	14	— Brown soil, mingled with ashes.		
«	15	— Floor, stones, grey and white ashes	—180	„
«	16	— Brown reddish clay.		
«	17	— Floor, trodden earth, small pebbles, ashes in the middle of the trench	—220	„
«	18	— Red clay.		
«	19	— Pit dug in the red clay, with a filling of	—250	„
		black silt, very compact at	—280	„
		and a flat bottom at	—350	„
		— Virgin soil, red sand and gravel	—280	„
		in the centre of the trench (pit)	—350	„

Chronological sequence of the layers — (Fig. 2)

Level	I	— 19—17 — Middle Chalcolithic.	—350 to —220	cm.
		16 — Sterile.	—220 „ —180	„
«	II	— 15—14 — Late Chalcolithic.	—180 „ —160	„
«	III	— 13—8 — Early Bronze I.	—160 „ —90	„
«	IV	— 7—4 — Early Bronze II.	—90 „ —30	„
«	V	— Early Bronze III: "Khirbet Kerak".		
		No evidence in this trench, but very abundant on the surface of the tell and in Mr. Mellaart's soundings.		
«	VI	— 3—2 — Mediaeval Arabic.	—30 „ —15	„
		1 — Disturbed layer.	—15 „ 0	„

Level I — Middle Chalcolithic.

Description of the layers.

Layer 19

Layer 19 is only a pit dug into virgin soil.

The latter is reddish sand mixed with gravel; it occurs here at several metres above the present level of the surrounding plain; the first human occupation was therefore settled on a terrace at the foot of the hills, safe from floods and swamps.

Layer 19 was originally a flat-bottomed silo 150 cm. in diameter. The filling is mainly black silt mingled with clay, stones reddened and split by fire, ashes and organic material, including bones of sheep and oxen; a great amount of sherds and other artifacts were found in this deposit. At a depth of 280 cm. under the surface, the stones are more frequent and

sometimes of fairly large size. Above, the black earth was less thick and much poorer in archaeological remains, especially over 250 cm. deep (Fig. 17 A).

Layer 18

All around the upper part of the silo lies a heavy deposit of red clay. This is sterile, with the exception of a narrow vertical shaft leading to the silo; here it is mixed with charcoal, ashes, a few sherds and a certain amount of flints.

Such red clay may well be the result of agricultural activity pertaining to the first settled human life on the spot.

Layer 17

All over the red clay, at a depth of 220 cm., appears a stratum of beaten earth with an addition of small red and white pebbles 10 — 15 cms. thick; the earth is clayish and reddish-brown in colour. This stratum is the occupation floor to which belongs the bottle-shaped silo or rubbish-pit already described.

In the middle of the trench, near the narrow opening of this pit, had been built a very elaborate hearth; it was a roughly circular hole about 75 cm in diameter; the walls are first straight then curve in so that the bottom is almost round; the whole structure reaches 40 cm. under the average level of the floor. The walls are made of a row of round pebbles coated with clay; these stones are entirely calcined and turned into white lime; at the bottom, an empty space measuring 30 x 25 cm. laid bare the underlying red clay. Immediately over was a deposit of compact white clay mixed with gravel 6 cm. thick; on this rested a platform of large flat unburnt pebbles. The platform itself was covered by hard clay, on which lay a thick pocket of slimy ashes between 30 and 20 cm. under the floor. The remainder of the small pit was filled up by reddish-brown earth, shingle, a lot of charcoal, pieces of red ochre, a few sherds and a small quantity of flints. The calcination of the pebbles, and the high proportion of ashes and charcoal suggest the use of that pit as a cooking hole (Fig. 17 B, C).

At the north edge of the trench, layer 17 is represented by a patch of ashes about 1 m. wide and 40 cm. thick in the middle. Very few remains were found outside the former pit.

Layer 16

Above floor 17, there lies a thick layer of reddish-brown clay; it is thicker on the western side: 35 cm. (—215 to —180 cm.) than on the eastern side: 15 cm. (—215 to —200 cm.).

This deposit recalled the one that filled the cooking-hole, but it did not contain the least archaeological evidence.

The pit 19 is identical to those found quite near Tell esh-Shuna, at Beth Shan, on the natural rock underneath Level XVIII¹; it recalls features found at the base of the pottery-bearing Neolithic layers at Jericho². A structure similar to the small pit 17, discovered in the Pre-Pottery Neolithic, was identified by Miss K. Kenyon as a silo, owing to the absence of any ashes, which, however, is not the case here.

The Pottery.

A. Technical features.

The pots are handmade, evenly and thoroughly baked; the paste is generally white; a great number of sherds have turned to black, some have a buff or orange colour. The clay is mixed with a great amount of small siliceous elements, that may have been used as a *dégraissant*; a few sherds show also a quantity of black, white or red grits. Most of the ware is handsmoothed inside and outside; very often, a white wash covers the surface; a good number of sherds have a red slip. In several cases, the surface is slightly burnished.

B. Shapes and decoration.

I. *Beakers.*

2 small beakers were complete; they are exactly the same size and have the same hemispherical shape.

One has red paint outside and all over the rim; it was found in silo 19 at a depth of 280 cm. (Fig. 3 : 1).

The other, found in the same locus, had also a red surface but it has become almost entirely black; the surface looks as if it had been slightly burnished (Fig. 3 : 2).

II. *Bowls.*

16 bowl rims have been identified in layer 19; one form is complete. 2 more come from layer 18 and several from 17, among which is a unique crude flattened rim (Fig. 3 : 21).

All the others are very simple drinking-vessels, with a smooth rounded rim, straight or slightly outcurved.

A red slip usually coats the whole surface of the bowl. (Fig. 3 : 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17).

Less frequent is red paint only on the rim (Fig. 3 : 3, 4, 7, 9, 10, 15, 20).

One rim is slightly burnished (Fig. 3 : 17). Another one, from layer 18, has a red burnished slip all over (Fig. 3 : 19).

One rim is very coarse; the surface is uneven and probably rubbed with some sort of grass (Fig. 3 : 18).

III. *Hole-mouth jars.*

11 rims fall into this category. They all have a rather wide opening. Some vessels have a straight rim and it is difficult to say if they are big globular bowls or real hole-mouth jars (Fig. 4 : 4, 5).

However, most of those that have been excavated have an everted rim (Fig. 4 : 1-3, 6-12).

Among these, one is adorned with vertical series of red chevrons (Fig. 4 : 11).

Scalloped bands on another specimen seem to reproduce the ropes used to hang up such vessels (Fig. 4 : 1).

Bands of reddish paint often occur on the rims (Fig. 4 : 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12).

IV. *Jars with a straight neck.*

2 fragments of straight necks were collected, but they differ from the other sherds of Level I by their make: very levigated clay, use of a wheel, chocolate slip (Fig. 5 : 1, 2).

They certainly are out of their original context and may well have fallen from the overlying Early Bronze Age levels.

V. *Jars with a swelling neck.*

This type of jar has a neck with curved walls like the bow-rim jar but the rim is everted; two wide bands of red paint run around the neck, one underneath the lip and the other at the base.

4 necks of this type were identified, but only one, belonging to a large pot, could be reconstructed (Fig. 5 : 3).

Another one, of which only the lower part is preserved, belongs to a medium-sized jug with a flat bottom and probably two handles on the belly; the outer surface has a white slip and the inner one has a dark grey colour (Fig. 5 : 5).

A third neck is part of a bigger jar made of hard baked black material, with very thin walls. The rim and bottom are missing; the outside has received a white slip; three red painted bands have been preserved, two on the neck and a very broad one on the belly; the latter is interrupted by the two handles (Fig. 6).

VI. *Handles.*

Almost all the handles are big loop handles with enlarged attachment and generally flat in section. 8 samples have been found, ranging from very flat to nearly round (Fig. 6 ; 7 : 1-7).

Among these, one belonged to a large vessel whose belly was girt by a relief ornament in the shape of a rope (Fig. 7 : 1).

3 loop handles are of the same type but much smaller (Fig. 5 : 4 ; 7 : 8, 9). One of these is fastened to the shoulder of a jug whose walls, very thin and well baked, are striped by vertical bands of red paint. The other two may have belonged to one vessel of similar shape. In addition, there is only one lug, short, thick and rather coarse (Fig. 7 : 10) and a kind of nipple-lug (Fig. 7 : 11).

The handles are not decorated but often show smudges and smears produced by the painting of the pottery.

VII. *Bases.*

The bases are flat. Twenty have a sharp junction between wall and base (including one from layer 17) (Fig. 5 : 5 ; 8 : 1, 4, 5, 11, 12, 13) ; five are bulging or annular (Fig. 3 : 3 ; 8 : 7, 8, 9, 10) ; two have a smooth junction (Fig. 8 : 3, 6).

The surface treatment varies on those 27 bases :

10 have a red slip outside (Fig. 3 : 3 ; 8 : 3, 5, 8, 9) ;

3, including the one from layer 17, a red burnished slip inside and outside (Fig. 8 : 4, 6, 13) ;

2 a decoration of red bands outside (Fig. 8 : 2, 11) ;

and 2 a white slip on the outer surface (Fig. 5 : 5 ; 8 : 10).

VIII. *Raised decoration.*

9 sherds which also have painted decoration bear raised scalloped or thumb-indented bands (Fig. 4 : 1, 13, 14, 15 ; 7 : 1) ; one belongs to layer 17 (Fig. 4 : 15), another one shows also a straight horizontal incision, possibly made by means of a finger-nail (Fig. 4 : 14).

C. Comparative study.

I. *Bowls.*

A simple bowl similar to the type described has also been found in Beth Shan XVIII and pits, Tell el Far'ah *Enéo. Moyen* and Jericho VIII.³

II. *Hole-mouth jars.*

(a) with straight rim;

(b) with everted rim.

Both types are known at Beth Shan XVIII and pits, and Jericho VIII^{4, 5}.

III. *Jars with a swelling neck.*

This shape is very characteristic of Beth Shan XVIII and Tell Abu Habil. It is closely related to the bow-rim jar of Southern Palestine: Khirbet 'Ain Duq, Jericho VIII and Murabba'at⁶.

IV. *Handles.*

(a) Loop handles with enlarged or splayed attachment are a very characteristic feature, noticed at Beth Shan XVIII and pits, Tell Abu Habil, Tell el Far'arh *Enéo. Moyen*, Khirbet 'Ain Duq, Jericho VIII and Murrabba'at⁷.

(b) The lug handle or coarse ledge handle occurs in the same context: Beth Shan XVIII, Tell Abu Habil, Jericho VIII and Murrabba'at⁸.

V. *Bases.*

Flat bases area very common on all Chalcolithic sites.

VI. *Decoration.*

(a) horizontal bands of red paint are very common too at: Beth Shan XVIII and pits, Khirbet 'Ain Duq, Jericho VIII and Murabba'at⁹.

(b) chevrons in red paint, different from the Neolithic ones of Megiddo XX and Jericho IX, are also known at Beth Shan XVIII and pits, and Tell el Far'ah *Enéo. Moyen*¹⁰.

(c) simple rope-shaped and scalloped relief bands were found at Beth Shan XVIII, Tell Abu Habil, Tell el Far'ah *Enéo. Moyen*, Jericho VIII and Murabba'at¹¹.

(d) rough incisions are rare in the former sites except Khirbet 'Ain Duq and Jericho VIII¹².

To sum up the implications of this paragraph, the connections of Tell esh-Shuna I are mostly with Beth Shan pits and XVIII. There is a close relationship with Tell Abu Habil and Tell el Far'ah *Enéolithique Moyen*. Several important features are shared with Khirbet 'Ain Dug, Jericho VIII and the Murabba'at caves.

The Flint Industry.

Layer 19.

66 worked flints were found in the silo.

1 big *blade* of the Cananean type, may have been used as a knife; the bulb was thinned down by long pressure flaking to facilitate the hafting of the blade; the point is burnt; the material is chocolate flint; the piece was found at -300 cm. (Fig. 15: 1).

1 *lame de dégagement* in mauve coloured flint with a white patina (Fig. 15: 2).

3 *scrapers*: 1 on a big flake of greyish flint (Fig. 15: 3).

1 on tabular chocolate flint (Fig. 15: 6).

1 on the end of a black flint blade 45 mm. long.

3 *blades with blunted back* used as sickle blades:

1 in pale grey flint, has a fine denticulation and a lustre on the cutting edge (Fig. 15: 7); 1 is made of blond flint (Fig. 15: 8); 1, in black flint, has still part of the cortex and measures 43 mm. long and 16 mm. wide.

5 *points*: 3 in mauve flint (Fig. 15: 10); 1 in cream flint (Fig. 15: 4); 1 in orange coloured flint.

1 *tang* probably part of a broken point, is managed by abrupt retouch on a piece of mauve flint (Fig. 15: 5)

1 *borer* in black flint, with a good point (Fig. 15: 9).

1 *notched flake*, probably used as a borer, in pale grey flint (Fig. 15: 11).

2 *notched blades* of small size, possibly used as burins:

1 in red flint, with a thinned bulb (Fig. 15: 13);

1 in black flint (Fig. 15: 12).

2 *blades with blunted back*: 1 in grey flint, with fine denticulation and lustre on the cutting edge (Fig. 15: 14); 1 in black flint (Fig. 15: 15).

1 *small blade* retouched as an end-scraper, made of translucent mauve flint (Fig. 15: 16).

1 *blade section* used as a scraper; fine abrupt retouch; the material is blond flint (Fig. 15: 18).

12 *small blades* without any retouch, mostly in blond flint; 4 are chocolate coloured; 1 of rectangular shape (35 x 17 mm.) is in white blue-seamed flint; 1 is black and rounded (75 x 37 mm.).

33 *flakes*, mostly fair cream to blond in colour; 8 are black, 3 red and 2 bluish. Particles of flint charred and split by fire are very numerous.

Layer 18.

22 pieces come from this layer.

2 *endscrapers*: 1 worked on a purple blade, that has small abrupt retouch on one edge (Fig. 16: 1);

1 worked on a blade of blond flint; a notch at the other end was perhaps intended to make a tang (Fig. 16: 2).

1 *blade*, worked and worn on one edge; bluish flint; length: 43 mm.

1 *pyramidal core* in bluish flint and 47 mm. long and 30 mm. high.

3 *blade sections* : 1 is in blond flint and 40 mm. long ;
 1 in cream-coloured flint and 30 mm. long ,
 1 in blue flint with white specks, 28 mm. long.

9 *small blades* varying in size from 30 to 15 mm. ; the material is also various: 4 are mauve, 2 blond, 2 grey and black.

6 *flakes*, spoilt by fire, all blond except one that is black.

Layer 17.

14 flints were found in the cooking-hole and on the floor.

1 *sickle blade* has a strong lustre and irregular denticulation on the working edge (Fig. 16: 3).

1 *borer* is made of orange-coloured chocolate-seamed flint (Fig. 16: 4).

1 *blade section*, of mauve flint, is 45 mm. long and 25 mm. wide.

1 *flake* in creamy flint, has irregular retouch.

3 *small blades* in mauve flint measure 26, 16 and 10 mm.

8 *flakes* have no retouch: 2 are made of creamy flint, 2 of mauve flint, 2 of blond red-seamed flint, 1 of blond flint with white specks and 1 of chocolate flint.

Among those 102 pieces there are very few typical artifacts. The *lame de dégagement* (Fig. 15: 2) is similar to those from Jericho, el - Khiam, Shaar ha - Golan, Abu Gosh and other sites¹³.

The borer (Fig. 15: 9) is a very common implement, well known for instance at Shaar ha-Golan and Jericho¹⁴.

The beautiful knife blade, 115 mm. long, (Fig. 15: 1) and the tabular scraper (Fig. 15: 6), although they foretell the flint craft of the Early Bronze Age, are not unfamiliar in a Middle Chalcolithic environment.

The endscraper (Fig. 16: 1) is the only piece of layer 18 that is worth noticing although it does not give any information as regards the chronology.

The sickle blade (Fig. 16: 3) from layer 17 is fashioned according to the Cananean technique; the type is known from Middle Chalcolithic onwards and this agrees quite well with the evidence given by the industry of layer 19.

The Ground Stone Industry.

All the material for this category belongs to layer 19.

A. Limestone.

Two fragments of a *bowl* have been found but they do not fit well enough to allow the reconstruction of the whole shape (Fig. 8: 14).

There was also the bottom part of a sort of *mortar* ; the actual height is 6 cm., the original diameter was about 7 cm.

B. Basalt.

A fragment of a hollow *pedestal* gives little information about what the object looked like when complete (Fig. 8: 15).

A basalt block may be the working part of a *pestle*; the broken end is cylindrical, and the other extremity is a globular mace 15 cm. in diameter.

A *quern* was found broken in two pieces; it is rather small, 20 x 15 cm., and of the plain oval type; the upper face, used for grinding, is carefully flattened.

Such implements as the five described here could be unearthed in almost every Chalcolithic or Early Bronze settlement and they are quite useless as chronological criteria; they emphasize however the agricultural character of the community.

The Bone Industry.

The pit 19 also produced several bone *awls*, all carbonised. The best preserved is 9 cm. long; unhappily, the point has been destroyed (Fig. 15: 19). This tool is most common on all sites and the remarks made in the former paragraph apply also to this.

The Chronological Situation of Level I.

According to the finds, especially the pottery, the first settlement at Tell esh-Shuna seems to be contemporary with the earliest agricultural communities at several sites of Northern Palestine, such as Beth Shan and Tell el-Far'ah.

It is also connected with several sites of the Jordan Valley: Tell Abu Habil, Khirbet 'Ain Duq, Jericho VIII; and with Murabba'at in the Judean desert.

Most scholars agree that the cultural stage defined by Beth Shan pits and XVIII, and Jericho VIII can be termed Middle Chalcolithic; so this can be applied to Tell esh-Shuna I.

A culture very similar to that of Tell esh-Shuna I was found in the 'Amuq plain, North Syria, at Tell Kurdu (*BASOR* 122, pp. 52-55). This site, typical of 'Amuq D, a phase later than the Tell Halaf culture of 'Amuq C, yielded bow rim jars, hole-mouth jars, pedestalled vessels, together with horizontal bands of red paint.

Red slipped ware, with bow rims and splayed loop handles, was also found in the lower part of Ras Shamra IV, immediately after the Tell Halaf level.

Level II — Late Chalcolithic.

Descripton of the layers

Layer 15

A layer of small stones, mixed with yellow or greyish clay, charcoal and ashes, covers the whole layer 16; it is certainly a floor, although rather uneven: —180 cm. on the western side of the trench, —200 cm. on the eastern side.

Layer 14

Set immediately on top of this floor, a wall running WSW-ENE crosses the trench and divides it into two parts (Fig. 18 A).

South of the wall, a thick deposit of ashes lies on floor 15; over this, the excavation met a thick stratum of brown earth strewn with ashes, 48 cm. thick at the west (—178 to —130 cm.), 60 cm. at the east (—190 to —130 cm.).

North of the wall, floor 15 is only covered by a thin layer of brown ashy earth, interrupted by heaps of stones and gravel.

The wall itself is well built, carefully faced on both sides; two or three courses are preserved at the western side so that the actual height is about 40 cm.; the average width is 44 cm.

One can presume that the thick layer of ashes south of the wall means that here was the inside of a building limited by the wall. After its destruction, this structure was, gradually or not, filled up with earth — while the wall decayed and collapsed towards the North; this would account for the disturbed stratigraphy of the latter part. The stony heaps in the NW and NE corners of the trench are the result of the collapse of the higher parts of the walls.

The archaeological material comes mostly from the lower part of layer 14.

The Pottery.

A. Technique, shapes and decoration.

The pottery of Level II falls into three distinct varieties:

1. Grey burnished ware.

1 *carinated bowl with nipples* of fair grey colour (Fig. 9: 1).

1 *carinated bowl with nipples*, with a high carination, is dark grey and thoroughly burnished (Fig. 9: 2).

1 *hemispheric bowl*, dark grey in colour, has a round rim and a thick wall (Fig. 9:3).

1 *jar with a short collar* of pale grey colour (Fig. 9: 4).

4 *everted rims* belonging to jars or to bowls.

12 sherds, more or less dark.

Two surface finds can be added to this category :

1 *everted bowl rim* with a shallow groove on the belly, pale grey in colour (Fig. 9:5).

1 *bowl rim or pedestal fragment* of pale brownish colour (Fig. 9: 6).

2. Red burnished ware.

1 *large bowl with an inverted rim*; two ear-handles are fixed underneath the rim; the upper part of the handle is concave. The vessel is made of pinkish clay; the outer surface and rim are covered by a red coating, that has undergone pattern burnishing (Fig. 9: 7).

1 *jug with raised handles*: on both sides of the rim stand two high and thin loop handles; the jug is red burnished inside and outside (Fig. 9: 8).

1 *collared jug* made of white paste, from which the burnished red slip that covers the whole surface peels off very easily; the neck is rather narrow, the rim fairly everted; the walls are thin and the bottom is flat. Although many sherds of this vessel have been collected, its complete shape cannot be reconstructed (Fig. 9: 9, 10).

1 fragment of a *loop handle* similar to the former one, has also a round section, but is only 12 mm. in diameter.

2 orange-coloured sherds with an outer burnish.

2 red sherds, highly burnished on both faces.

3. Coarse ware.

The third variety is by far the most numerous.

So far as technique is concerned, this ware is closely related to that of Level I, but the shapes are different.

I. *Beaker.*

The only complete vessel from the level is a sort of beaker or mug. It is made of pinkish clay; traces of a red wash appear all over the vase. The walls are thick and irregular; the base is very thick and slightly hollowed. It may have been used as a mortar (Fig. 10 : 1).

II. *Bowls.*

(a) *Globular bowls* — 6 examples (Fig. 10 : 9-11).

They are medium-sized bowls, with a curved side; the edge is thin and inverted. The clay is well levigated and smoothed; a red wash is a usual feature.

(b) *Small bowls or cups* — 4 examples (Fig. 10 : 2-5).

This type is made of refined pink clay, with traces of a red wash in and outside. The diameter of the largest is 10 cm.; the base is flat; the sides, very thin, are at first straight, then curve in towards the base. These little vessels all bear black marks of burning inside and on one side of the rim; they were probably used as lamps. A piece of white *limestone* found in the same level belongs to a bowl similar in shape and size to those just described; this object may have been made for the same purpose.

(c) *Straight-sided bowls* — 3 examples (Fig. 10 : 6-8).

They all are coated with a red wash or slip. Two have a rounded rim and thin walls (Fig. 10 : 6, 7): one has a flattened rim (Fig. 10 : 8).

III. *Pithoi.*

The pithos is a sort of large bowl or wide opened hole-mouth jar.

(a) *Ornamented pithoi* — (Fig. 10 : 12, 13).

Two vessels of this type have thick walls and a raised band underneath the rim. One is decorated by a series of fingernail incisions; a band of red paint is still visible inside the rim (Fig. 10 : 12). The other one has continuous thumb indentations (Fig. 10 : 13).

(b) *Pithos with everted rim* — (Fig. 12 : 5).

One pithos has also thick walls; the rim is very thick and everted. The clay is coarse and roughly smoothed.

IV. *Hole - mouth jars.*

(a) *With inverted rim* — 10 examples (Fig. 11).

The clay is usually smoothed outside and rough inside; the colour is very diverse: white, pink, red, ochre, pinkish with a grey core.

Sometimes, the rim is not thicker than the wall (Fig. 11 : 3, 6, 8), but in most cases the rim is thickened (Fig. 11 : 1, 2, 4, 5, 7).

One jar has a reddish brown slip inside the rim and outside (Fig. 11 : 1); another one is red slipped all over (Fig. 11 : 8).

One half of this category bear vertical or horizontal incisions not far underneath the rim (Fig. 11 : 2, 3, 4, 5, 7).

(b) *With everted rim.* — 4 examples (Fig. 12: 1-4).

The jars with more or less everted rim are of coarse fabric compared to those of the previous type. Two have a red slip (Fig. 12: 1, 2), one a thick red slip all over (Fig. 12: 3).

V. *Jar with a pyramidal neck* (Fig. 12: 6).

One big jar has a collar that becomes more and more narrow as it approaches the rim. The rim itself is everted. The clay is buff or greyish with a big proportion of white grit; the walls are very thin, but rough. There are traces of a red slip inside and outside, especially over the rim.

VI. *Potstand* (Fig. 10: 14).

A cylindrical object, open at the two ends, was probably made to support other vases; the two bases are of different size. It is fashioned with pinkish clay; the surface, hand-moulded, is irregular. The outer surface is dabbled with red paint.

VII. *Handles.*

(a) *Loop handles.* 2 broken loop handles, with a flat section, recall those of Level I; they have a red slip (Fig. 12: 7).

(b) *Lug,* made of crude black material, with a red slip (Fig. 12: 8).

(c) *Ledge handles.* 3 examples.

Two are in coarse clay, with a red slip; on the upper surface are three short incised lines: in one case, they are parallel to the wall of the vessel (Fig. 12: 9), in the other one, perpendicular.

One, made of friable greyish clay, has a deeply indented edge (Fig. 12: 10).

(d) *Ear handles with elongated attachment.* 3 examples

Among these, one bears slight indentations all along the edge (Fig. 12: 11).

VIII. *Ornamented sherds.*

A few sherds have relief or painted decoration that foretells that of the Early Bronze Age. 1 sherd has an *incised vertical line* near a broken loop handle; well levigated clay, red slip on the outer surface (Fig. 12: 12);

The neck of a large pithos has *shallow thumbmade impressions* all around the base; coarse clay, red slip outside (Fig. 12: 13).

The neck of another pithos is decorated with irregular *short and broad incisions*.

1 sherd shows a groove adorned with *long parallel incisions*; the material is pink clay, with a red slip outside (Fig. 12: 14).

The belly of a small jug with a broken loop handle is conspicuously painted; the clay is orange-coloured and the walls uneven. Traces of red paint can be seen inside; outside, a white slip is striped with *vertical strokes of red paint* (Fig. 12: 15).

B. Comparative study.

The burnished wares are closely connected with the so-called Esdraelon ware of Northern Palestine.

1. Grey burnished ware.

The *carinated bowl with nipples* is nearer those found at Beth Shan XVII — XV and Megiddo XIX than those of Tell el-Far'ah¹⁵. The *bowl with everted rim and groove* is similar to several vessels from Tell el-Far'ah *Enéolithique Supérieur*¹⁶.

2. Red burnished ware.

The following shapes are all paralleled at Tell el-Far'ah *Enéolithique Supérieur* :

*Bowl with inverted rim and crescented ear handles*¹⁷ ;

*Jug with raised handles*¹⁸ ;

*Jar with narrow neck and everted rim*¹⁹.

The two first shapes of this category recall closely red burnished Anatolian vessels.

3. The Coarse ware can be divided in two categories.

1. Shapes related to Middle Chalcolithic.

The *straight sided bowl with a thin rounded rim* recalls the Level I type ; it is related to a bowl most common in Ghassulian pottery²⁰.

The *bowl with a flattened rim* is similar to the one from layer 17.

The *rough beaker* finds parallels at Jericho VIII and Wadi Ghazzeah D2²¹.

The *pithos with relief ornament under the rim* is a very usual shape in Ghassulian pottery²².

The *hole-mouth jar with a thin rim* is quite typical of the last phase of Middle Chalcolithic²³. A few coarse *slightly everted* hole-mouth rims, a survival of Level I, are closely akin to this type.

The *jar with a pyramidal neck* is known in several Ghassulian sites but is rather infrequent²⁴.

The *potstand* occurs in the same context ; pedestalled vessels are well represented in Ghassulian pottery, but specimens of stands independent of the vessel itself are rare ; close parallels however come from Megiddo XX-XIX, Tell Abu Habil and Murabba'at²⁵.

The *small round loop handle* is not very common but has a wide distribution²⁶.

The *ear-handle with elongated attachment and indented edge* is typical of Ghassulian²⁷.

The small unpierced *lug* is more elaborate than that of Level I ; the upper face is flattened and it is very near the ledge-handle ; it comes into the same group²⁸.

2. Shapes typical of Late Chalcolithic.

The *globular bowls* and the *cups* are very numerous in the coarse ware from Tell el-Far'ah II (*Enéo. Supérieur*)²⁹.

The *hole-mouth jar with a thick rim and incised decoration* originates in the Late Chalcolithic and goes on in the Early Bronze Age³⁰.

The *pithos with a thick everted rim* seems typical of the last Chalcolithic stage³¹.

The *wide and flat ledge handle* with a plain edge and often incised lines evolves out of the lug in the Late Chalcolithic period³².

The *scalloped ledge handle* is also an innovation of the phase but it survives long into the Early Bronze Age³³.

Series of *long incised lines on raised bands* are much more common in Late Chalcolithic than formerly³⁴.

The painted decoration made of *narrow parallel red bands* often vertical, is very characteristic of the same context; it apparently foretells the painted stripes of Early Bronze pottery³⁵.

The conclusion is that the pottery of Tell esh-Shuna II is a mixture of Ghassulian and Late Chalcolithic wares.

The Flint industry.

Layers 15 and 14 only yielded 7 worked flints.

1 *borer* on a 10 mm. thick tabular flake, chocolate coloured (Fig. 16: 5)

1 square tabular *scrape*, 10 mm. thick, in chocolate flint (Fig. 16: 6).

1 big *point* or *borer* on a trimmed core flake of grey white-specked flint, probably an Upper Palaeolithic implement reused (Fig. 16: 7).

1 *point* on a blond coloured flake (Fig. 16: 8).

2 unworked *blades*: one in blond flint 50 mm. long, the other in purple flint with white specks, a sharp end, 48 mm. long.

1 thick *flake* in blond flint, 40 mm. long, 20 mm. wide and 11 mm. thick.

The stone industry has very much deteriorated compared with that of Level I; the same fact is noticeable in other Late Chalcolithic sites. The importance of tabular flint is a common feature of this phase with Ghassulian and Early Bronze industries.

The Chronological Situation of Level II.

Level II includes several distinct elements in its pottery.

First of all, the numerous features which recall Ghassulian or at least Middle Chalcolithic do not give a clue to the chronological problem, as the date of this culture is a matter of debate; their occurrence in Tell esh-Shuna II should be one more argument in favour of its long survival in Southern Palestine.

Secondly, the Late Chalcolithic component seems to be only the result of the local evolution of the Northern Chalcolithic; it is a transitional stage between the Middle Chalcolithic and the Early Bronze Age.

Finally, the burnished wares appear as an alien element, which vanishes as abruptly as it arrives; they are now believed to be the manifestation of Anatolian influence. Owing to their peculiar character, they provide very good chronological evidence.

Level II at Tell esh-Shuna is accordingly contemporaneous with the first settlement at Khirbet Kerak³⁶, Beth Shan XVII-XVI, Affuleh, Megiddo XIX, the cave near Tell el-'Asawir³⁷, Tell el-Far'ah Level II and Necropolis, and several tombs from Jericho³⁸.

Level III — Early Bronze I.

Description of the layers.

Layer 13.

The remaining parts of the wall in layer 14 still exert influence on the overlying strata. In the southern area, layer 13 is a horizontal floor made of very hard brown trodden earth, mixed with gravel and white specks, at a depth of 130 cm. under the actual surface. In the north-

ern part, it slopes down to a depth of 150 cm. and has the configuration of a deposit of black and white ashes, some patches being 10 cm. thick. In the north-western corner of the trench, a roughly circular platform of flat stones was placed on top of the heap of gravel; this structure, approximately 75 cm. in diameter, was made for some domestic use (Fig. 18 B).

Layer 12.

Only in the northern part of the trench and on top of the ashy portion of layer 13, occurs a 10 cm. deep layer of greyish-brown earth, at a depth of 140 to 130 cm. at the north-eastern corner of the sounding.

Layer 11.

A floor having the same aspect as layer 13 covers the north-eastern quarter of the trench, prolonging the previous floor that is still in use in the southern half.

Again at the north-west, it curves in and only contains ashes; the continuous trails of ashes in this corner from layer 13 onwards seem to indicate the use of the stone platform as a hearth.

Layer 10.

Immediately on top of this floor appears a deposit of grey earth strewn with stones, some of fairly large size. In the northern part of the trench, a shallow stratum of ashes divides this deposit into two stages. In the north-western quarter, two portions of walls seem to bound a circular structure; the walls are built with large pebbles between two stone facings; only one course is left of what may have been the basement of a round building (Fig. 18 C).

Layer 9.

At about 1 m. underneath the actual surface, layer 10 is interrupted by a carefully levelled floor; the previous depressions are almost filled up. The aspect of this floor is various: gravel on the eastern side of the trench, a thick bed of ashes in the north-western part. At the western side, it was destroyed by a later foundation trench.

Layer 8.

Over occupation floor 9, pockets of a very dark brown earth remain only in the north-eastern corner and in the western part of the sounding. Elsewhere, this deposit had been later removed.

The material was not evenly distributed: the sherds were especially numerous in layers 12, 10 and 8; the flints all came from layer 10. Such a distribution is exactly what could be expected from the nature of the layers.

The pottery.

A. Technique.

The vessels are wheelmade; the paste is usually coarse, often friable and not very different from that of the Chalcolithic levels. The treatment of the surface will be described with the corresponding shapes.

B. Shapes.

I. *Globular bowls.* 2 examples (Fig. 13: 1, 3).

The bowls that were predominant in Chalcolithic, especially in Level I, are now very

scarce. They are of the globular type already known in Level II (Fig. 10: 9-11), with a rounded side and inverted rim. One, from layer 11, has a band of red paint all around the rim (Fig. 13: 1). The other, from layer 8, is made of buff clay with a pink slip; some red paint is visible outside and in spots inside (Fig. 13: 3).

II. *Pithoi*. 2 examples (Fig. 13: 7).

Two medium-sized vessels have a very short neck with a strongly everted rim; the rim is thin and rounded; both belong to layer 10. One has a red slip on the outer face and a red band inside the rim.

III. *Hole-mouth jars*. 1 example (Fig. 13: 6).

The only specimen unearthed is of the thick bullous rim type, so common in Late Chalcolithic layers; a series of horizontal incisions goes around a little underneath the rim.

IV. *Jars with a short neck*.

Two different types must be considered:

(a) *Jars with a slightly everted neck*. 2 examples.

One comes from layer 12 (Fig. 13: 2), the other one from layer 10.

(b) *Big jars with a thick rounded rim*. 2 examples (Fig. 13: 4).

Sherds belonging to two huge storing jars were scattered in all Level III. The walls are very thick; the clay is white or buff, with a black core. The outer surface is decorated with broad irregular lines of red wash, laid out in horizontal series or wide lozenges; this is known as the band-slip decoration.

V. *Bases*. 2 examples (Fig. 13: 5).

They are flat bases belonging to big jars.

One is coated with a dark red slip; the other is covered with band-slip lattice pattern like the jars IV b.

VI. *Handles*. 1 example.

The handles seem very rare; there was only one specimen, a thick ledge handle of a very plain type and in quite a bad state.

VII. *Spouts*. 1 example (Fig. 13: 8).

One cylindrical spout was found, made of buff ware, with streaks of red paint. Unhappily, the end is broken.

C. Decoration.

A great amount of sherds have the classical *band-slip* decoration: parallel or lattice red lines on a pinkish slip; they are numerous all through Level III.

2 sherds in levigated well baked clay have a *red burnished* slip.

2 sherds have a *raised decoration*: one bears a simple band of pellet-like ornament, similar to that of Levels I-II, under a dark red slip; the other one, rather crude, shows a series of irregular impressions made before baking (Fig. 13: 9).

D. Comparative study.

In Level III appear the characteristic shapes and decoration of the Early Bronze Age in Palestine; they all are paralleled by those of Beth Shan; some of them however are worth further examination.

The *globular bowl with a thick round rim* is rare; a few specimens are known in Beth Shan XIII and Megiddo XVII, two EB II strata, but others figure already in Tell el-Far'ah *Ancien Bronze I* ³⁹.

The *pithos with an everted short neck* is a typical shape if not a very common one; it can be found in Beth Shan XIV and Megiddo XIX - XVIII ⁴⁰.

The *hole-mouth with a thick bulbous rim* is very frequent in Beth Shan XIV, Megiddo XVIII and Stages VII - III, and also in Tell el-Far'ah AB I - II ⁴¹.

The *large jar with a thick rounded rim* is common in Stages I and II of Early Bronze; typical examples come from Beth Shan XIV - XIII and Tell el-Far'ah AB I - IIa ⁴².

The *long narrow spout* seems characteristic of EB I, as it only occurs in Beth Shan XIV and Megiddo XIX and Stages VII-IV ⁴³.

The *band-slip decoration*, although more frequent in Beth Shan XV - XIV and Tell el-Far'ah AB I, is also well represented in Beth Shan XIII and Tell el-Far'ah AB II; at Megiddo, it occurs all through Layers XIX - XVIII and Stages VII - III ⁴⁴.

According to the pottery, Tell esh-Shuna III is most likely contemporaneous with Beth Shan XV-XIV, Tell el-Far'ah *Ancien Bronze I*, and Megiddo Stages VII - V, which correspond to the latter part of Layer XIX.

The Flint industry.

Only 6 pieces were found, all from layer 10.

1 small blade was a *saw or sickle element* (Fig. 16: 9); the edges are denticulated; it is made of creamy flint and is roughly rectangular in shape.

1 *flake*, in buff flint, 35 mm. long, has a prepared striking platform.

4 *bladelets* without any retouch: 1, in purple flint, is 37 mm. long; 2, in pale mauve-coloured flint, are 28 and 22 mm. long; 1, in pinkish flint, is 41 mm. long and 13 mm. wide.

The progress of metallurgy is certainly responsible for such a neglect of flint working.

The Chronological Situation of Level III.

There is no sign of a stratigraphical hiatus between Levels II and III; the study of the pottery gives strength to this opinion, as the correlations above suggest that Tell esh-Shuna III falls into the period known as Early Bronze I.

Level IV — Early Bronze II.

Description of the layers.

Layer 7.

A very hard gravel floor covers the whole trench quite evenly at -90cm. On the western side of the trench it joins a wall going from west to east; this wall has two facings of large ashlar; its foundation trench destroyed part of the underlying layer 9 and the lower course cuts into layer 8; two courses are preserved above floor 7. In the south-eastern part, the latter is laid directly on floor 9 (Fig. 18 D).

Layer 6.

All over the floor, a deep deposit of brown earth extends from —90 to —60 cm. It is only disturbed in the middle of the northern side of the trench by a heap of stones, which looks like the filling of a pit dug from the next layer into layers 6—8.

Layer 5.

The former layer is entirely covered by a thick floor made of stones and gravel; the base is at —60 cm. and the top at —50 cm.

Layer 4.

Over the floor comes a layer of powdery greyish-brown earth; this is very thin, except in the centre of the sounding where it almost reaches the actual surface.

In Level IV, there are very little ashes and the stratigraphy is quite regular; the finds are concentrated as usual between the floors, in layers 6 and 4.

The Pottery.

A. Technique, shapes and decoration.

The use of the wheel is quite common and the paste improves gradually; the clay is whitish or orange-coloured.

Two varieties can be distinguished :

1. Burnished ware.

This category is a possible imitation of lost metallic vessels. The only known shape is a *bowl with an inverted rim*, 5 examples of which have been found :

2 are made of red burnished ware (Fig. 14: 1),

3 of black burnished ware.

3 sherds show a *pattern burnishing* : fine strokes draw lattice decoration, more elaborate than that of the band-slip ware.

2. Coarse ware.

A great number of sherds bear the *band-slip* decoration that covers the vases with its regular patterns.

I. *Pithoi*. 3 examples

One is quite similar to the type of Level III (Fig. 13: 7); it has the same short neck and strongly everted thin rim, the same red slip outside and dark red painted band inside the rim (Fig. 14: 9).

Another one has a sharply everted square-cut rim; it may have a bronze prototype (Fig. 14: 10).

The third has a thick round rim, with a series of curved incisions, probably made with the fingernail, on the rim; a red slip, very much eroded, covers the whole outer surface (Fig. 14: 11).

II. *Hole mouth jars*. 7 examples (Fig. 14: 2-5).

The hole-mouth vessel, very close to the type known in Levels II - III, is the most common form in Level IV. The rims are mostly thickened (Fig. 14: 3-5); one is square-cut (Fig. 14: 2). 4 rims have a line of incisions parallel to the rim (Fig. 14: 5);

1 jar, made of greyish clay, is entirely striped with red horizontal bands on a pink slip (Fig. 14: 4).

III. *Jars with a short neck.*

As in Level III, there are two types:

(a) *Jars with a slightly everted rim.* 2 examples (Fig. 14: 7, 8).

Two medium-sized pots belong to this category; one is slightly burnished (Fig. 14: 8).

(b) *Big jar with a thick rim.* 1 example (Fig. 14: 6).

Like the similar vessels of Level III, this one has a well marked neck with a thick rim, but instead of being completely rounded, the rim has a sharp ridge at the lower part.

IV. *Bases.* 1 example (Fig. 14: 12).

The only base found in this Level is flat and, like those of Level III, bears traces of a lattice band-slip ornament on the outer surface.

V. *Handles.*

1 broken *loop handle* has a triangular section and a red slip outside; it is rather small (Fig. 14: 13).

1 plain *ledge handle*, thick and coarse, shows a white slip and traces of red paint on the upper face (Fig. 14: 14).

B. Comparative study.

There is little difference between the pottery of Level IV and that of Level III; owing to the exiguity of the surface excavated, too much credit must not be given to the presence or absence of a shape. An attempt must be all the same be made to fix the relative date of Level IV.

1. Shapes common to the two Levels III and IV.

These are the *hole mouth jar with a rounded rim*⁴¹,
the *jar with a short slightly everted neck*,
the *pithos with a short strongly everted rim*⁴²,
and the *band-slip decoration*⁴⁴.

All these shapes, as shown above, are attested all through EB I and EB II.

2. Shapes only found in Level IV.

The *burnished bowl with an inverted rim* is typical of EB I-II and well known at Beth Shan XIV-XIII and at Megiddo from layers XIX to XVI⁴⁵.

Pattern burnishing is very wide-spread during EB I-II, according to the finds from Beth Shan XIV - XIII, Tell el-Far'ah AB I - II and Megiddo XIX - XVI and Stages IV-I⁴⁶.

The *pithos with a sharp everted rim* is related to a large category, but the most exact parallel comes from Tell el Far'ah AB IIa⁴⁷.

The *pithos with a round rim*, also known as the rail-rimmed pithos, is identical to one of Beth Shan XIV; similar rims but without incised ornament are published from Megiddo only in layers XIX - XVIII and Stages V - III⁴⁸.

The *square-cut hole-mouth rim* appears at Tell el-Far'ah AB I, but is quite common in Megiddo XVIII - XVI and Stages V - III⁴⁹.

The *jar with a thick rim*, with its peculiar ridged section, is known from Beth Shan XIV - XIII, Megiddo XVIII and Tell el Far'ah AB I⁵⁰.

The *small thin loop handle* is not uncommon; examples come from many sites, for instance Tell el-Far'ah AB I-II⁵¹.

The *broad thick ledge handle* seems rather rare; it figures in Beth Shan XIV and Megiddo Stages V-III⁵².

The implications of these correlations will be summed up below.

The Flint industry.

A. Layer 6 — 1 piece (Fig. 16:10).

The only flint found in Level IV is a *sickle blade*, dark chestnut in colour; the two edges have denticulation and one has a very strong lustre; the end is carefully trimmed; it is a fairly good implement.

B. Surface finds — 8 pieces have been selected; they probably belong to the Early Bronze Age:

1 *scraper* on the end of a big crude blade, made out of blond flint and 12 mm. long.

1 *blade section* of Cananean technique, rather big, made of dark chestnut coloured flint; there is pressure flaking on the edges and the ridges are streaked by use (Fig. 16:11).

1 *sickle blade* in veined white and mauve flint; the back is blunted by abrupt retouch; the ends are trimmed, also abruptly.; the cutting edge has a lustre but no denticulation (Fig. 16:12).

5 *blade sections*, 4 in blond flint are 50, 35, 36, and 30 mm. long, 1 in white flint is 25 mm. long, with traces of use on the edges.

1 *pendant* can be recorded here, although the material is black schist. A hole is bored through the top, which is broken; the actual length is 53 mm.

The Chronological Situation of Level IV.

Although the bulk of the pottery is no different from that of Level III and almost all the shapes could fit into EB I, there is no objection to establishing a synchronism between Level IV and the following strata: Beth Shan XIII, Tell el-Far'ah *Ancien Bronze II*, Megiddo XVIII and Stages IV-III. As in all these sites, only a slight evolution in the pottery marks the passage to Early Bronze II.

II. TELL ABU HABIL.

Tell Abu Habil is on the eastern bank of the Jordan, almost opposit Tell Abu Sus; it is located near the extremity of the wide valley that lies south of Lake Tiberias. Immediately south, the river works its way through a rocky rift and runs through a very narrow channel. The tell is a low mound, 100 m. east of the road, in the midst of a terrace sloping from -200 to -250m. beneath sea level. This terrace has a very rich soil and is entirely cultivated; only the central part of the tell is waste ground. The terrace is strewn with worked flints.

Two soundings were opened on the tell on the 15th of February 1953. Trench II, with which we are concerned in this article, measured 3 x 2 m. The original rock was reached on the 18th of the same month.

Stratigraphical sequence — (Fig. 19).

Layer 1	— Disturbed black soil	0
» 2	— Brown soft earth	-10 cm.
» 3	— Hardened earth, gravel and charcoal	-40 »

» 4 — Brown soft earth	—50	cm.
» 5 — Hardened earth, gravel and charcoal	—70	»
» 6 — S.E., brown earth & ashes; elsewhere, white clay	—90	»
» 7 — S.E., yellow earth & ashes; elsewhere, white clay	—130	»
» 8 — Thick deposit of ashes	—140	»
» 9 — Pockets of ashes; elsewhere, white clay	—150	»
» 10 — S.E., brown soft earth and ashes	—185	»
— Virgin soil, limestone rock	N. E.:	—160 »
	N.W.:	—180 »
	S. E.:	—225 »

Classification of the layers.

All the finds belong to the same Chalcolithic culture; although at first the whole lot seems quite homogeneous, the stratigraphy may indicate some sort of evolution.

Level I: from layer 10 to layer 8.

Archaeological remains are found in pits dug into natural soil and gradually filled up by ashes, that also cover finally the whole surface of the trench.

Level II: from layer 7 to layer 6.

Whitish silt accumulates all over the sounding, except in the south-eastern corner, where a large pit remains in use.

Level III: from layer 5 to layer 2.

A very thick and hard floor occurs over the whole area uncovered; the last filling is made of soft brown earth, subdivided by patches of hard earth (layer 3) into layers 4 and 2.

Level I

At the bottom of the trench, was found soft white limestone; the top, almost horizontal, was reached at —160 cm. at the east and —180 cm. at the west. Over this lay disintegrated rock about 35 cm. thick. Finally the decay of the limestone produces white clay up to —140 cm. The three elements represent the *virgin soil*, into which have been dug *pits* that may be dwellings or bins.

One of these pits appears in the south-eastern corner of the trench; it goes down to —204 cm., being thus about 64 cm. deep. Another one is almost completely excavated; it covers the eastern half of the trench; only the southern edge is missing. This one is a circular flat-bottomed pit; the average diameter is 2 m.; the rock appears at —225 cm., and that means an original depth of 75 to 85 cm. (Fig. 20).

Description of the layers.

Layer 10.

This only occurs in the deeper pit as a deposit of soft brown earth mingled with a great amount of ashes; it is 40 cm. thick in the middle and a little thicker at the edge.

Layer 9 (Fig. 21).

This overlies layer 10 in the big pit and fills up the smaller one; it is composed of ashes mixed with charred stones, bones and charcoal.

In the north-western quarter of the trench, there appears at -175 cm. a roughly circular depression which cuts into the edge of the large pit; it has a diameter of 80 cm. and is 25 cm. deep; the bottom and walls are coated with clay which has become red under the effect of fire; such a structure can only be a cooking-hole or a hearth (Fig. 21).

Layer 8.

A thick layer of black ashes covers the whole sounding; it is practically sterile. This probably represents the occupation layer contemporaneous with the two pits and the cooking-hole.

The Pottery.

A. Technique.

The ware recalls that of Level I at Tell esh Shuna. The paste is coarse, with a degraissant of ground limestone; the colour is usually red, but black (Fig. 23: 10), grey (Fig. 23: 3), buff (Fig. 23: 7, 12) and white (Fig. 23: 2) also occur.

The pots were handmade by coil construction and sometimes on a mat (Fig. 23: 5). A small disk of black unbaked clay with fingermarks was found in layer 9.

B. Shapes and decoration.

I. *Bowls.* 4 plain bowl rims.

One has a thick wall, a flattened rim and a band of red paint over and inside the rim (Fig. 23: 3).

Another one has a thin wall; the rim is rounded and blackened by fire (Fig. 23: 4).

A bowl, very similar to the latter, is made of well baked clay, dark red to violet in colour (Fig. 23: 11).

II. *Hole-mouth jar or pithos.* (Fig. 23: 10).

A large vessel, with a wide opening and no collar, has a slightly everted rim; the clay is well baked and black.

III. *Jar with a swelling neck.* (Fig. 23: 2).

A fragment of a small vessel is quite different from the other sherds by its material, its shape and its decoration. It is made of white finely levigated clay and the surface is carefully smoothed. The preserved part is the base of a swelling or of a bow-rim neck, 8 cm. in diameter; unhappily, the middle part of the neck and the rim are missing. The decoration is unusual: outside, red paint on the body and a band of black paint crowned by a cross-hatched triangle of the same colour on the neck; inside, red paint on the neck.

IV. *Potstand* (Fig. 23: 1).

A cylindrical object can be reconstructed, open at both ends. The paste is poorly baked and gritty; the walls are uneven. The lower edge is flattened and has a wider diameter than the upper edge, which is rounded.

V. *Bases.* 3 examples.

One, quite flat, made of yellowish clay turning to red near the bottom, bears a mat impression of the coiled type; it may have belonged to the swelling-neck jar (Fig. 23: 5).

Another flattened base has thin walls and a small diameter.

The third one is slightly concave (Fig. 23: 6).

VI. *Handles*. 2 loop handles with splayed attachment.

One has a slightly flattened section; traces of red paint occur on the outer surface (Fig. 23: 7).

The other, very broad and thin, has a vaguely triangular shape; it is fixed to a large portion of the body of a big jar; the clay is buff, well baked, with small calcareous elements; the walls are carefully smoothed and the outer surface shows a red slip (Fig. 23: 12).

VII. *Ornamented sherds*.

One sherd from layer 9 has its two faces *scratched* as if it had been rubbed by grass.

Two sherds belonging to large vessels have a *modelled band* of thumb impressions; one is made of coarse red clay (Fig. 23: 8); the other is in greyish-red clay with a smoothed outer surface (Fig. 23: 9).

C. Comparative study.

The *bowls* are quite untypical and very much like those of Tell esh-Shuna I³.

The *hole mouth jar* with its everted rim is similar to those from Tell esh-Shuna I, Beth Shan XVIII and pits, Jericho VIII⁵.

The *jar with a swelling neck* is closely related to some of Tell esh-Shuna I⁶.

The *potstand* is much less elaborate than that of Tell esh-Shuna II. It is almost identical in size, shape and texture to the one from Murabba'at^{2b}.

The *base with a coiled mat impression* may be paralleled by examples from Jericho VIII^{5b}.

Loop handles with splayed attachment are most common at Tell esh-Shuna I, Beth Shan XVIII and pits, and related sites⁷.

Modelled finger - impressed bands of the coarser type are known at Tell esh-Shuna I¹¹.

The *cross-hatched elaborate painting* on the swelled neck is conspicuously unusual. The only correlation seems to be with southern Palestine, especially Teleilat Ghassul. The bichrome decoration of this vessel recalls painted wares of Northern Syria and Mesopotamia^{5d}.

However all the other features of the pottery from Tell Abu Habil I agree with those of Tell esh-Shuna I.

The Flint industry.

11 worked flints were found.

One large flake apparently used as a *scraper or a plane* (Fig. 27: 1), 15 mm. thick, made of white flint, from layer 10.

4 *blades* without any retouch:

2 have part of the cortex remaining; they belong to layer 10; one is 77 mm. long in blond flint, the other 70 mm. long in pinkish flint.

2 come from layer 9; one in blond flint is 70 mm. long and 18 mm. thick at the bulb, the other in pinkish flint is narrow and thin with a length of 65 mm.

6 *flakes* without any retouch:

3 in layer 10: one made of white flint is 40 mm. long,
the other two measure 38 and 34 mm.

3 in layer 9: one made of blond flint is 56 mm. long,
the others, 58 and 50 mm. long, are very much burnt.

The flint equipment is remarkably poor in Level I.

The Chronological Situation of Level I.

The correlation with Tell esh-Shuna means that Tell Abu Habil I is contemporaneous with Beth Shan pits and XVIII, Tell el-Far'ah I, Khirbet 'Ain Duq, Jericho VIII and part of Murabba'at. It belongs accordingly to the northern phase of Middle Chalcolithic.

Level II.

Description of the layers.

Level II is the filling of the big pit, the centre of which has shifted towards the South-east; a large portion of the pit is not excavated. In the other parts of the trench, there is a deposit of clayish white earth.

Layer 7.

Layer 7 is yellowish earth with streaks of ashes; the highest streak is thicker than the others; this succession of earth and ashes is 80 to 50 cm. deep.

Layer 6.

10 to 20 cm. of brown earth with patches of ashes and red burnt soil complete the filling.

The Pottery.

A. Technique.

The pots are handmade. The paste has a better make and is usually well baked; it is light in colour: buff, orange or pink; only one sherd is dark red (Fig. 24: 4).

The surfaces are rather rough; a red slip is almost always found on the outer surface.

B. Shapes and decoration.

I. *Bowls.* 2 rims.

One, from layer 7, is sharp with red paint inside and on a band underneath the rim (Fig. 24: 6).

The other, from layer 6, is rounded, made of white clay, with a brown slip.

II. *Hole mouth jars.*

(a) *with a wide opening.*

2 medium-sized vessels are an intermediary form between the bowl and the true hole-mouth jar; they belong to layer 7.

One is globular, with a rounded rim; there is a wide band of red paint all over the rim; on the body, curved red bands complete the decoration (Fig. 24: 2).

The second has a thick rounded rim; inside the lip is a wide band of red paint; outside the white slip is adorned with cross-hatchings of dark red paint (Fig. 24: 5).

(b) *with a narrow opening.*

2 examples, with a sharp rim, of a large vessel.

One, from layer 7, is made of dark red clay (Fig. 24: 4).

The other, in pink coarse paste, comes from layer 6.

III. *Jars with a short everted neck.* (Fig. 24 : 1).

A medium-sized jar could be reconstructed. The neck is short with a flaring thin rim; a wide band of red paint covers the neck. To the body are attached two ear handles with narrow elongated attachments and a round section; the wall was slightly pushed in by the fashioning of the handle.

IV. *Bases.* 3 examples.

One belongs probably to a jar of the above type; the diameter is small, the walls are thin; a dark red slip covers the whole surface; it is similar to the second base of Level I (Fig. 24 : 3).

Another one is a ring base; the material is well baked, smoothed, orange-coloured clay (Fig. 25 : 1).

The third is made of well baked greyish clay, with a red slip; it is flat (Fig. 25 : 2).

V. *Handles.*

(a) *Ear handles.* See above (Fig. 24 : 1).

(b) *Loop handles.* This Level produced fragments of 3 flat loop handles with splayed attachment, 2 in layer 7, 1 in layer 6, similar to those of Level I.

VI. *Decorated sherds.*

(a) *Painted decoration.*

To those already described, one must add one sherd from layer 6; made of well levigated orange-coloured clay, it bears two parallel wavy stripes: one is red, the other purple (Fig. 25 : 4).

(b) *Modelled decoration.*

2 sherds come from layer 6.

One has a finger impressed band similar to those of Level I.

On the other, a rope-shape ornament runs all around the collar of the jar, which has a red slip inside and out (Fig. 25 : 3).

C. Comparative study.

The *hole mouth jar with a wide opening and a straight rim* derives from the Middle Chalcolithic A type; it is widely known in Middle Chalcolithic B assemblages⁵⁵.

The *hole mouth jar with narrow opening and a thin rim* is quite typical of the latter phase and occurs on several sites²³.

The *jar with a short everted neck and sloping shoulders* is not very common but characteristic of Middle Chalcolithic B⁵⁶.

The *ear handle with thin elongated attachment* is an elaborate type well known on a number of sites of the same period⁵⁷.

The *loop handles with splayed attachment* are a survival of Level I, but they are noticeably less typical than those found in this Level and the related sites⁷.

The simple *bands of red paint especially near the rim* are most common on all the sites already referred to.

Curved bands of red paint such as those of Fig. 24: 2 are paralleled at Teleilat Ghassul, Murabba'at, Bir Abu Matar and Wadi Ghazzeah O⁵⁸.

Cross-hatchings in dark or pale red call for the same correlations as the specimen from Level I⁵⁴.

Finger impressed raised bands are common in Middle Chalcolithic B sites⁵⁹.

The naturalistic style of the *rope shaped ornament* is not so frequent but still attested in the same phase⁶⁰.

The connections of the pottery of Tell Abu Habil II seem rather tenuous with Northern Palestine: Beth Shan XVII, Affuleh, Megiddo XX-XIX, Tell Fendi, Tell es-Saidiyeh el-Tahta and Tell el Far'ah I. On the contrary, they are very numerous with the south: Khirbet el-Auja el-Fôqa, Jericho VIII and t. 354-356, Ghassul, Murabba'at, Bnei Braq, Bir Abu Matar and Wadi Ghazzeah (especially Sites A and O).

The Flint industry.

Only 6 pieces came from this Level, 3 in layer 7 and 3 in 6.

A *round scraper* is a fine implement; it is made on a big flake of ochre-coloured flint; fine pressure flaking covers almost all the circumference; the maximum thickness is 12 mm.; fire seems to have altered the colour and caused part of the edge to break off. This tool was excavated in layer 7 (Fig. 27: 2).

3 thin and narrow *blades* without any retouch:

2 are from layer 7, one 60 mm. long in white flint; the other 80 mm, long in greyish flint with a prepared striking platform.

The third, from layer 6, 48 mm. long, is made of mauve coloured flint with part of the core remaining.

2 *flakes* in layer 6, both in mauve coloured flint with part of the cortex remaining, measure 49 and 37 mm.

The Chronological Situation of Level II.

This Level can be termed Middle Chalcolithic B. It may be called "Ghassulian" only in a wide sense of the word, as the most characteristic shapes (cornets, bird-vases, spouted vessels, fine cups, etc.) are missing. The survival of the loop-handle with splayed attachment seems typical of Northern Palestine.

Level III

The top layers represent the main occupation period at Tell Abu Habil.

Description of the layers.

Layer 5.

All over the trench extends a floor that possibly seals the dwelling pits of Levels I—II. It is a mixture of hard beaten earth, gravel, charcoal and bones; it is very uneven and 10 to 30 cm. thick. In the south-western corner of the trench, this floor fills up a shallow depression and a series of stone boulders appears in the section. The north-western corner is occupied by an oval platform of small stones piled up; this structure, about 12 cm. high, was packed with artifacts and was probably a hearth (Fig. 22).

Layer 4.

On top of the floor is a deposit of soft brown earth, with greyish streaks. The archaeological remains are less numerous than in the former occupation layer.

Layer 3.

Patches of greyish earth mixed with gravel, charcoal and charred bones occur in the south-east and the north-west, exactly over previous fireplaces. The reason may be that the accumulation of rubbish made necessary a rebuilding of the hearths.

Layer 2.

The brown soft earth continues to the surface, with a great quantity of sherds and flints.

Layer 1.

The last 10 cm. are a black humus that still furnishes archaeological material.

The Pottery.

A. Technical features.

From the technical point of view, there is no real difference between the Level III ware and that of Levels I — II. The surface of the sherds is more carefully smoothed and more even.

B. Shapes and decoration.

I. *Bowls.*

(a) *straight sided bowl.*

This type numbers 18 bowls, among which 14 are from layer 5, 1 from layer 4, 2 from layer 3 and 1 from layer 2.

It is a medium-sized drinking vessel, with a conical shape and straight-sided walls; the rim is sharp or rounded, very often decorated by a band of red paint.

One rather large specimen is made of well finished buff clay (Fig. 25 : 5).

Another one, also from layer 5, in orange-coloured clay, shows remains of a red slip inside and outside (Fig. 25 : 6).

The best preserved comes from layer 4; made of well levigated white clay, it has a wide band of dark red paint on the sides of the lip (Fig. 26 : 1).

(b) *hemispheric bowl.*

Closely related to the former type, this one is much less common and occurs only in layer 2 with 3 specimens. The sides are curved and the rims sharp; pink clay is used to make these cups, whose average size is similar to that of the first type; a white slip covers the outer surface, which is also adorned with a band of red paint at the lip (Fig. 26 : 7).

(c) *coarse bowls.* 3 examples.

One bowl from layer 4 is made of crude dark red clay; the surface is roughly smoothed with some sort of grass; the rim is thick and rounded (Fig. 26 : 3).

One bowl from layer 3 is very shallow and looks more like a platter; it is made of coarse pink clay, with a dark red slip all over (Fig. 26 : 5).

One bowl from layer 2 is 10 mm. thick near the rim; the diameter was presumably large; a red slip covers the surface.

II. *Pithoi*.

(a) *with a straight rim.*

2 large vessels with a wide opening were found in layer 4. They have a very short straight neck, and thick walls. A modelled band, with finger impressions runs around the shoulder, very near to the base of the neck. The paste is coarse.

One is orange - coloured. The other, in friable greyish clay, has remnants of a reddish brown wash all over the surface (Fig. 26 : 4).

(b) *with a flaring rim.*

3 medium-sized to large pots have a short neck with a flaring rim; they are also of coarse fabric.

One from layer 3 is made of greyish clay.

The second one from layer 2 is much smaller; the clay is pink; the wall is rough and uneven inside, but coated by a yellowish-white slip outside (Fig. 26 : 12).

The third, also from layer 2, made of white clay, bears patches of a red slip inside and out (Fig. 26 : 13).

III. *Hole - mouth jars.*

(a) *with a wide opening and a straight rim.*

These hole-mouth vessels have straight incurved walls; 8 examples were identified; 4 come from layer 5, 2 from layer 3 and 2 from layer 2.

Layer 5 :

One, in coarse pink clay, has a red slip outside (Fig. 25 : 8).

One has a small diameter and blots of red paint inside (Fig. 25 : 9).

One is orange-coloured, with a large band of red paint outside (Fig. 25 : 10).

The last, made of light yellow clay, has a wide band of dark red paint inside the rim; outside, there is a narrow band of red paint, then a zone of irregular cross-hatched lines, then another band similar to the upper one (Fig. 25 : 11).

Layer 3 : the 3 specimens from layer 3 resemble the second one of layer 7. One is very crude; the other, buff-coloured, has thin walls. Both have red paint outside and over the lip.

Layer 2 : one, made of coarse red paste, has a flat rim (Fig. 26 : 9); the other, very large, is of black clay with a white slip (Fig. 26 : 10).

(b) *with a narrow opening and thin rim.*

8 of this type were found, 2 in layer 5, 2 in layer 3 and 4 in layer 2, all similar to those of Level II.

Layer 5 : one is made of black clay with a white slip and a band of red paint outside the lip (Fig. 25 : 7).

Layer 3 : both are orange-coloured; one has a red slip all over.

Layer 2 :

One in buff clay is smoothed outside and pinkish inside (Fig. 26 : 11).

One, pink in colour, has a smoothed outer surface.

One, made of greyish clay, has thick walls and a thick rim.

The last differs from all the others by its large diameter; it is coarse and made with crude red paste.

(c) *hole mouth jar with a wavy lip.*

A small pot from layer 2, made of sandy greyish clay, has a peculiar rim, very sharp and undulating (Fig. 26 : 8).

IV. *Jar with a swelling neck.*

One medium-sized jar has a swelling neck with an everted rim. The material is crude grey clay. Two bands of red paint, very much eroded, appear at the rim and at the collar. This shape was found in layer 4 (Fig. 26 : 2); several fragments of the same type were recorded in layer 2.

V. *Footed vessel.*

A low pedestal was found in layer 5; it is coated inside with a red slip. It probably belongs to a goblet or bowl of the conical type (Fig. 25 : 12).

VI. *Bases.*

Numerous large pieces or fragments of bases were found all through Level III. They all are flat; the meeting with the wall is sometimes sharp, sometimes rounded; a few examples are ring bases.

One from layer 5 belongs to the last category; the clay is coarse and unevenly baked, varying from black to pink; it is decorated by parallel bands of dark red paint (Fig. 25 : 13).

Another one, also from layer 5, with a sharp edge, is made of well baked pink to grey clay (Fig. 25 : 14).

One quite similar from layer 4 has a rough surface.

A base, very much like the two preceding, in coarse buff ware with red paint outside, was found in layer 3.

The bottom of a small pot from layer 2 had a concave ring base; it is made of sandy buff clay; the walls are wavy and irregular; they have been burnt and have become greyish in colour (Fig. 26 : 14).

2 bases have *coiled mat impressions*; they belong to the rounded type. The first was found in layer 5; the clay, pink to grey in colour, is well smoothed (Fig. 25 : 15).

The second, from layer 3, is in well levigated buff material; the surface is carefully smoothed; the mat is deeply impressed in the paste (Fig. 26 : 6).

These two bases are more elaborate than the others.

VII. *Handles.*

(a) *loop handles.*

Layer 5 produced 6 fragments of loop handles : 3 look like those of Levels I-II; the 3 others are small, narrow and have a round section (Fig. 25 : 16).

Layer 2 contained several fragments of loop handles of the latter type, with an oval section. Two seem to belong to the same vessel; they are made of charred greyish black clay, with pinkish white grass-smoothed slip; traces of red paint appear on both (Fig. 26 : 15).

(b) *ear handles.*

The small ear-handle with short splayed attachment and triangular section is quite typical. 3 of this type were found in layer 5; the colour is pink (Fig. 25 : 17), orange or black.

A broken handle from layer 2, in smooth orange-coloured clay, is closely related to that group (Fig. 26 : 16).

VIII. *Decorated sherds.*

(a) *modelled bands of the primitive type.*

Modelled scalloped bands still appear on one sherd of layer 5 and one of layer 2. The second belongs to a large pot, buff-coloured; red paint covers the upper part of the sherd and produces smears over the raised band (Fig. 26 : 18).

(b) *band of large crescentiform pellets.*

This type of ornament probably derives from the former; it occurs on big jars. One sherd from layer 5, in black friable clay, has red paint on the upper part, just above the band (Fig. 25 : 18).

2 similar sherds were found in layer 4 and 2 more in layer 2, thus giving a total of 5 examples.

(c) *modelled band with thumb impressions.*

Layer 5 also has more elaborate raised bands; one is shown on Fig. 25 : 19; the other one is at the collar of a jar.

(d) *finger nail incisions.*

Series of finger nail incisions are found on 2 sherds.

One in well levigated pink clay belongs to layer 5 (Fig. 25 : 20).

The other from layer 2 is in red burnished ware, quite an unusual sherd at Tell Abu Habil (Fig. 26 : 17).

C. Comparative study.

I. *Bowls.*

(a) the *straight-sided bowl* is a very typical and widely distributed vessel of Middle Chalcolithic B⁹⁰.

(b) the *hemispheric bowl* is known in the Jordan valley and the South at the same period⁶⁰.

(c) the *shallow bowl or platter* recalls several vessels found in the same group of sites⁶².

II. *Pithoi.*

(a) the *pithos with a straight rim* is a rare type; some related vessels were found at Beth Shan XVI, Affuleh Sounding A, Bnei Braq and Teleilat Ghassul⁶³.

(b) the *pithos with a flaring rim* is better attested on Middle Chalcolithic sites⁶⁴.

III. *Hole mouth jars.*

(a) the *hole mouth jar with a wide opening and straight rim*⁵⁵ and

(b) the *hole mouth jar with a narrow opening and thin rim* have already been recorded in Level II²³.

(c) the *hole-mouth jar with a wavy or indented lip* is rare but characteristic⁶⁵.

IV. Jar with a swelling neck.

Identical with that of Tell esh-Shuna I⁶, this shape must be put into connection with the incomplete neck of Level I.

V. Footed vessel.

Low pedestals are characteristic of Middle Chalcolithic B⁶⁶.

VI. Coiled mat impressions on bases.

As was seen in Level I, they are fairly common in this period³⁵.

VII. Handles.

(a) *small, narrow loop-handles* are not very frequent, but are widely spread in the same environment²⁰.

(b) the *ear handle of the short triangular type* is one of the most usual and characteristic feature of Middle Chalcolithic B ware⁶⁷.

VIII. Decoration.

(a) *modelled bands of the primitive type*, a survival of Level II⁵⁹.

(b) the *high crescentiform pellets* are a very rare type, known only at Affuleh Sounding E, Tell Fendi and Wadi Ghazze M⁶⁸.

(c) *finger impressed elaborate raised bands* on the contrary, are most common on all the involved sites⁶⁹.

(d) *incised lunulae* are typical of several contemporary sites⁷⁰.

(e) *horizontal bands of red paint* are a common feature of all the Chalcolithic ware of Palestine; so it is useless to establish comparisons on the basis of this decoration.

(f) *crosshatchings and elaborate painted designs* have already been studied in Levels I-II⁵⁴.

The pottery of Level III has several common features with that of northern sites such as Tell esh-Shuna I or Affuleh, and with the coastal plain according to the evidence from Bnei Braq. It is closely related to the neighbouring Jordan Valley settlements: Tell Fendi, Tell es-Saidiyeh el-Tahta and Khirbet el-Auja el-Fôqa. But the most significant connections seem to be with the South of Palestine: Jericho tombs 354-356 and part of Level VIII, Teleilat Ghassul and Wadi Ghazze Site O.

The Flint industry.

The equipment is remarkably rich in comparison with the other levels and obviously adapted to an agricultural economy. Level III includes 43 pieces, among which 22 come from layer 5, 12 from layer 4, 2 from layer 3 and 7 from layer 2.

I. Hoes.

5 examples of an asymmetric tool for the purpose of tilling the soil were found.

One, complete, from layer 5, is made out of cream-coloured flint; the cutting edge is flat and straight; the butt is square; some of cortex remains in the wider part; there are numerous traces of long use (Fig. 27: 6).

One in layer 4 is broken in two pieces: the back part is missing; it is made of mauve-coloured flint; the working edge is curved and very much worn (Fig. 28: 2).

The same layer produced 2 fragments of hoes, one also in mauve-coloured flint, the other in white flint.

The finest specimen comes from layer 3; although it is worked also on the lower face like an axe, it still can be considered as an hoe. The material is fine flint, pink with purple spots. The working edge is curved and carefully ground; the butt is flat and ground, as are all the sharp ridges of the back part for the purpose of hafting the tool (Fig. 28: 3).

II. Scrapers.

4 pieces figure in this category. They all are crude *side-scrapers* and none can be compared to the one of Level II.

One in layer 5 is made from a large flat flake of cream-coloured flint; the bulb is 15 mm. thick (Fig. 27: 7).

One in layer 4 is made on a roughly circular flake of pinkish flint; the middle part is very thick, about 25 mm. (Fig. 28: 1).

The other two belong to layer 2 and are in blond flint: one is triangular, with cortex on the back (Fig. 28: 4); the other, roughly quadrangular, has the original cortex on the upper face and abrupt retouch on the two sides (Fig. 28: 5).

III. Various implements.

6 retouched flints have various uses.

2 from layer 5 are *sickle blades*:

one is of blond flint; the back is blunted by abrupt retouch, the ends are square cut, the sharp edge has fine retouch and a strong lustre (Fig. 27: 5);

the other is a terminal element, as one end is pointed; the opposite extremity is broken; the flint is cream-coloured; the two sides are finely retouched and one has a strong lustre (Fig. 27: 4).

A *borer*, also from layer 5, is made on a flat flake of blond flint, by means of two notches and small retouch inside the notches and all around the point (Fig. 27: 3).

A *wide pointed blade* in the same layer, of cream-coloured flint, has a little retouch on one edge; the piece is very much worn (Fig. 27: 8).

Layer 4 produced a *blade with irregular denticulation* on the sides; the flint is pinkish grey; the piece is 55 mm. long.

From layer 2 came a very flat *blade with a sort of tang*, made in purple blond streaked flint; the blade is pointed; one side is convex with nibbling retouch all along; the base is narrowed and thinned down for hafting; this piece may have been a razor or a sort of knife (Fig. 28: 6).

IV. Unretouched flints.

(a) *blades*. 4 examples.

3 blades without any retouch belong to layer 5: two are very flat, of cream-coloured flint, 70 mm. and 42 mm. long each; one is in fine translucent white flint and 35 mm. long.

1 blade from layer 4 was of large size: 90 mm. long, 50 mm. wide and 10 mm. thick; the material was pink flint with a greyish calcareous crust.

(b) *flakes*. 24 examples:

Layer 5: 13 crude flakes :

5 in cream-coloured flint measuring between 55 and 40 mm. ,
2 in white flint 47 and 38 mm. long; 2 in pink flint 65 and 40 mm. long; 2 in mauve-coloured flint 40 and 35 mm. long; 2 in dark grey flint 45 and 35 mm. long; 1 in charred black flint 70 mm. long.

Layer 4 : 6 flakes :

2 in mauve-coloured flint 50 and 33 mm. long;
3 in blond flint measuring 45, 40 and 30 mm.;
1 in black charred flint 44 mm. long.

Layer 3 : 1 blond 50 mm. long flake.

Layer 2 : 4 flakes :

1 is made of white flint and is 50 mm. long; the 3 others are blond and measure 45, 25 and 20 mm.

The Chronological Situation of Level III.

The correlations given by the pottery indicate that Level III belongs to the same phase as Level II, that is to say Middle Chalcolithic B. This period is almost contemporaneous with the true Ghassulian culture whose most specific features are until now missing in the northern and middle parts of the Jordan Valley.

Surface Finds

Following the excavation of the sounding described above, it may be instructive to subject Nelson Glueck's surface finds to renewed study. At the same time the numerous flint implements picked up on the surrounding plateau in the course of the excavation may add to our understanding of this settlement.

The Pottery.

From his study of the sherds collected at the so-called Khirbet Abu Habil, Nelson Glueck assumed that the place had been inhabited from the Neolithic to the Romano-Byzantine period, with great gaps in the occupation. Some of the finds are related to the Neolithic, but most belong to Early and Middle Chalcolithic⁷⁴. The very accurate plates published in the same issue give the evidence that is the basis of his statement (cf. *A.A.S.O.R.* XXV-XXVIII, Pt. II, pp. 432 ff, and pls. 12, etc.).

Neolithic.

Small ear-handle, rather clumsy and crude, with a spot of reddish brown paint on the upper part: Pl. 12 (1); 121 (1).

Ref. : Jericho IX, Wadi Ghazzeleh O, Teleilat Ghassul.

Small jar with a sloping shoulder, rim slightly inverted, made of coarse material : Pl. 13 (9); 121 (23).

Ref. : Jericho IX.

Emphasis is laid on the relation with Jericho IX.

Early Chalcolithic.

Miniature ear-handle : Pl. 12 (10); 121[~](10).

Ref. : Wadi Ghazzeah O, Teleilat Ghassul, Tell el-Far'ah *Enéo. Moyen.*

Flat loop-handle with splayed attachment : Pl. 12 (11); 121 (11).

Ref. : Jericho VIII, Beth Shan pits under XVIII, Tell el-Far'ah *Enéo. Moyen.*

Early and Middle Chalcolithic.

Flat base with a *coiled mat impression* : Pl. 14 (7); 122 (12).

Ref. : Jericho VIII, Megiddo XX, Teleilat Ghassul, Wadi Ghazzeah O.

Flat base with a *twilled mat impression* : Pl. 14 (8); 122 (13).

Ref. : Megiddo XX, Wadi Ghazzeah O, Teleilat Ghassul.

Raised scalloped bands made of *pellets* : Pl. 14 (1, 2, 4); 122 (6, 7, 9).

Ref. : Jericho VIII, Teleilat Ghassul, Wadi Ghazzeah O and M.

Raised scalloped bands with *thumb indentations* : Pl. 14 (3); 122 (8).

Ref. : Teleilat Ghassul.

According to the definition of Early Chalcolithic in the text, the connections at this period would be with Jericho VIII, Megiddo XX, Beth Shan pits under XVIII, Teleilat Ghassul Levels II-III, Tell es-Saidiyeh el-Gharbi, Khirbet 'Ain Duq, Shaar ha-Golan, oldest sites at Wadi Ghazzeah, Tell el-Far'ah *Enéo. Moyen* and Mugharet Abu Usba.

Middle Chalcolithic.

Chalcolithic without any other precision.

Early Bronze I or II.

Middle Bronze I.

There is no discussion about the remaining figures that fall into these periods.

Here Middle Chalcolithic implies a synchronism with Ghassul IV.

A simple review of the references given for the forms of the Neolithic and Chalcolithic series discloses some discrepancies in Glueck's classification. G. E. Wright's opinion that Wadi Ghazzeah O was of Neolithic age is now discarded by most scholars; the reference to Teleilat Ghassul and Wadi Ghazzeah O is rather an indication to look towards Middle Chalcolithic. The resemblance of the two supposed Neolithic sherds to examples from Jericho IX is tenuous. Therefore it is hard to believe that there is any Neolithic at all at Tell Abu Habil either in the pottery or in the flints.

Turning to Early Chalcolithic, Glueck's concept of this period apparently involves two distinct even if partly contemporaneous groups :

A. *Early Chalcolithic or "Yarmukian" pottery*, with small loop-handles running from the neck to the shoulder of globular jars, herring-bone incisions often between bands of red paint and coarse mat impressions on bases.

These characteristic features are common to Shaar ha-Golan, Mugharet Abu Usba, part of Megiddo XX, part of Tell el-Far'ah I, a few finds at Tel Aviv and Tell es-Saidiyeh el-Gharbi, part of Jericho IX-VIII, and part of Murabba'at.

B. *Middle Chalcolithic A pottery*, with swelling-neck jars, flat loop-handles with splayed attachment and coiled mat impressions.

To this group belong Beth Shan pits and XVIII, Tell esh-Shuna I and other sites, among which is Tell Abu Habil I.

The sherds figured by Glueck on Pl. 12 (11) and 14 (1, 2, 4, 7) may be connected with the earliest Level of this site.

The former shapes, however, survive more or less through Levels II-III, our Middle Chalcolithic B, Glueck's Middle Chalcolithic. To this phase belong all the ear-handles and the twilled mat impressions.

Finally the picture given by the Middle Chalcolithic surface finds closely resembles that of Levels II - III.

I. *Straight-sided bowl*.²⁰: Pl. 13 (1); 121 (15, 19).

II. *Hemispheric bowl*.⁶¹: Pl. 13 (3); 121 (14).

III. *Pithos with a flaring rim*.⁶⁴: Pl. 13 (4 - 7, 10, 12, 14, 15);
121 (13, 17, 18, 24);
122 (1, 3, 4).

IV. *Pithos with a flaring rim and thumb impressions on the rim*.²³: Pl. 14 (13, 16);
122 (2, 5).

Unknown in the sounding, this shape is very usual in Ghassulian pottery.

V. *Hole mouth jar with a wide opening and straight rim*.⁵⁵: Pl. 13 (8, 11); 121 (22, 25).

VI. *Various flat bases*. Pl. 14 (9-13); 122 (14-18).

VII. *Base with coiled mat impression*.⁵³: Pl. 14 (7); 122 (12).

VIII. *Base with twilled mat impression*.⁷²: Pl. 14 (8); 122 (13).

Unknown in the sounding but quite typical of the phase defined above.

IX. *Loop handles with more or less splayed attachment*.

Pl. 12 (5, 9, 12) & 121 (5, 9, 12) may well be Middle Chalcolithic B.

Pl. 12 (11) & 121 (11) is certainly Middle Chalcolithic A ("Early Chalcolithic") and fits better in Tell Abu Habil I.

Pl. 12 (6) & 121 (6) is possibly EB I, as suggests the writer.

X. *Ear handles*.⁶⁷: Pl. 12 (1-4, 7, 10); 121 (1-4, 7, 10).

XI. *Small horizontal handle*. Pl. 12 (8); 121 (8).

Unknown in the sounding. Here there is an alternative:

(a) Middle Chalcolithic I — (8), considering the piece looks clumsy.

(b) Middle Chalcolithic B — (28), as this sort of lug has a concave upper face.

Glueck proposes a still later date: EB I, with a reference to Teleilat Ghassul and Tell el Hammeh.

One can presume that it belongs to Middle Chalcolithic B.

XII. *Raised scalloped bands of the primitive type*.⁵⁹: Pl. 14 (1, 2, 4, 5); 122 (6, 7, 9, 10).

XIII. *Raised scalloped bands with thumb impressions*.⁷³: Pl. 14 (3); 122 (8).

XIV. *Small jar with a short slightly inverted neck*.⁷³: Pl. 13 (9); 121 (23).

Unknown in the sounding, it is rare but recorded on several sites of the same period.

The final impression is that the bulk of the surface finds agrees with the stratified sherds to place the main occupation at Tell Abu Habil in Middle Chalcolithic B ("Middle Chalcolithic")

with strong influences of Middle Chalcolithic A ("Early Chalcolithic") at the beginning; this conclusion is not very different from that of Glueck. But he cannot be followed when he detects Neolithic remains on this site. Occasional finds of Early Bronze, Middle Bronze and Iron Ages are quite possible, but in these times the settlement shifted to some other place of the vicinity; the same statement applies to Romano-Byzantine periods.

The Flint implements.

Nelson Glueck alludes to "several early flints" found on the surface. Only one is illustrated Pl. 112 (10); it is an ordinary small *sickle blade* with two serrated edges; deeper notches on the edges are probably the result of use. This implement seems quite untypical and not obviously early.

During the recent work at Tell Abu Habil, numerous flints were picked up, among which 38 are worth recording.

I. *Hoes.*

Of a total of 9 hoes or adzes, 6 are complete.

One is almost as remarkable as that of layer 3; the material is mauve-coloured flint; the full length is 80 mm.; the cutting-edge is straight and well ground; a little cortex remains on the butt; all the middle part where the tool was fastened to the haft is carefully ground (Fig. 29: 1).

One is made of blond flint; it is 90 mm. long; the sharp edges are considerably worn (Fig. 29: 2).

One in purple and orange-coloured flint is 75 mm. long.

One in greyish blond flint has a length of 70 mm.; unlike the others, it has a splayed cutting-edge.

One in mauve-coloured flint, of coarse make, is 80 mm. long.

One in blond flint has part of the working end broken; the actual length is 70 mm.

The 3 others are reutilised portions of hoes. They may have been used as gouges.

One of blond flint is 50 mm. long (Fig. 29: 3).

One of mauve-coloured flint is 55 mm. long.

The third is made of chert; the length is 55 mm.

II. *Chisels.*

The chisel is an asymmetric tool like the hoe, but it is much narrower and has a bevelled end. 4 examples were found.

One is made of a sort of flint with yellowish patina or of chert; the upper face is retouched, the lower one being perfectly flat; it measures 75 mm. (Fig. 29: 4).

One made of yellowish to blond flint was perhaps used at both ends; it is 80 mm. long.

One in blond flint has been ground on its sharp cutting-edge; the length is 90 mm.

The last one is the longest as it reaches 95 mm.; the material is white flint; the technique is rather rough.

III. *Pick-axe.*

The pick-axe is an asymmetric tool ending in a point; the direction of the handle is parallel to the untouched lower face instead of being perpendicular as in the hoes and chisels.

2 examples were discovered.

One in blond flint is partly ground and 80 mm. long (Fig 30: 1).

The other is made of grey flint; it has a triangular section and a length of 75 mm.

IV. *Sickle blade.*

There is one complete sickle blade of blond flint; the back is blunted by large abrupt retouch; the sharp edge is denticulated and has a lustre due to use; the ends are square cut; the piece measures 43 mm. (Fig. 30: 2).

V. *Scrapers.*

7 various scrapers.

One *tabular scraper*, broken in two, with a biconical perforation in the middle; one face is convex and coated with cortex; part of the edge shows long flat pressure flaking; the material is blond flint, the maximum thickness 6 mm. (Fig. 30: 3).

One *tabular scraper*, also of blond colour and broken in two, has abrupt retouch all around; it is 8 to 5 mm. thick (Fig. 30: 4).

2 *end scrapers* on blade sections of mauve-coloured flint, well finished: one is 6 mm. thick (Fig. 30: 5), the other 10 mm.

One *discoidal scraper* made from a small round dark blond core, with abrupt retouch, is 15 mm. thick (Fig. 30: 6).

One *side scraper* made on a sort of core, 18 mm. thick.

One *scraper on a thick flake* of dark chestnut-coloured flint; the length is 40 mm., the maximum thickness 18 mm.

VI. *Borers.*

6 specimens of this implement.

One on a flake of striped mauve and white flint, with a prepared striking platform, has an Upper Palaeolithic aspect; it is 50 mm. long.

One on a blade of light mauve-coloured flint, 55 mm. long (Fig. 30: 7).

One on a cream-coloured flake, 55 mm. long.

One cream-coloured blade has two points at one end; it is very much worn; the length is 45 mm. (Fig. 30: 8).

One borer on a slender light mauve-coloured blade, 70 mm. long.

VII. *Burin.*

One burin on a violet blade 60 mm. in length (Fig. : 9).

VIII. *Points.*

2 pointed blades: one in grey flint 35 mm. long;
the other in violet flint 27 mm. long.

IX. *Notched blade.*

One notched blade of buff flint 50 mm. long (Fig. 30: 10).

X. *Retouched blades.*

5 examples.

4 are made of buff flint and measure 70, 69, 63 and 42 mm,

The last is made of blond chocolate-streaked flint; it is 60 mm. long.

The flints found on the plateau stress the agricultural character of the settlement unearthed at Tell Abu Habil.

Together with the material coming from the sounding, they provide a good idea of a Middle Chalcolithic assemblage.

III. TELL ES-SAIDIYEH EL-TAHTA

Several ancient settlements were established along the two banks of Wadi Kufrinje; the most remarkable is the huge Tell es-Saidiyeh, located on the southern border of the valley and near the western edge of the fertile plateau.

Professor Glueck made a distinction between the mound itself and a low terrace lying at its western foot; he called the former Tell es-Saidiyeh es-Sherqi and this conceals certainly the ruins of an important ancient city; the latter, named Tell es-Saidiyeh el-Gharbi, discloses evidence of very remote occupation: a few sherds with herring-bone incisions and reserved red slip of Early Chalcolithic period and a great number of EB sherds⁷⁴.

A few hundred meters westward, the plateau comes abruptly to an end over the *Zor*, a deep channel through which the Jordan river flows lazily. Half-way up the slope appears a small knoll strewn with sherds and flints; this we first called by mistake "el-Gharbi" but propose to describe under the convenient name of Tell es-Saidiyeh el-Tahta. Several Soundings made on the 15th and 25th of February 1953 proved the archaeological deposit to be very thin: the natural white clay is reached at a depth between 30 and 50 cm., except in one place where a pit goes down to 1 m. under the surface. This occurred in Trench I, a sounding 3 x 2 m. wide, thus giving a stratigraphical sequence. The artifacts however are quite homogeneous and belong to only one occupational stage.

Stratigraphical sequence.

Layer 1	— Disturbed soil, rubbish from the neighbouring farms in the <i>Zor</i> , almost sterile	0	
» 2	— Soft brown earth	—10	cm.
» 3	— Grey clayish earth	—20	»
» 4	— Ashes in a pit on western side; elsewhere, natural white clay, sterile	—45	»
» 5	— Black silt in the pit	—60	»
	— Virgin soil, white clay	—100	»

Description of the layers.

Layer 5.

In the western part of the site was found a roughly circular flat-bottomed pit, about 1 m. in diameter. The filling was composed of black silt with streaks of yellow and red clay, and small slabs of white limestone; it is presumably decayed vegetable matter. At 70 cm. under the actual surface occurred a human skull lying upside down in the center of the pit; the jaw-bone was missing; unhappily, owing to the dampness, the bones were very friable and none could be saved.

The only other remains were a few coarse sherds similar to those of the upper layers.

Layer 4.

A thick deposit of ashes mixed with charcoal and charred stones occupies the upper part of the pit, that seems accordingly to have been used as an hearth; the artifacts are numerous in this stratum.

Layer 3.

A compact layer of grey clayish earth, with a high proportion of ashes, covers the whole site; 25 cm. thick, it contained a fair number of objects.

Layer 2.

Over the former layer and almost up to the surface appears soft brown earth, very rich in sherds and flints. A few rows of stones bound small square enclosures, but it was impossible to ascertain whether these structures are contemporaneous with the other remains.

The Pottery.

A. Technical features.

All the vessels are hand-made. The paste is similar to that of Tell esh-Shuna I and Tell Abu Habil; the clay comes from the site itself; fine gravel and sand is used as a temper. The ware is evenly and thoroughly baked; the colour varies from white through yellow, buff, pink, to dark red; the light coloured ware seems more refined than the dark; a few sherds are burnt and have a dark grey or black colour. Many sherds bear a calcareous crust. The faces are usually smooth, with sometimes a slip. 6 sherds show also a red burnished surface.

B. Shapes and decoration.

I. Bowls.

(a) *Small burnished bowls.*

2 small hemispheric bowls are made of well-levigated dark red clay, with burnished faces and a sharp rim (Fig. 32: 11, 12).

(b) *Bowls with a sharp lip.*

8 bowls are made of well levigated white clay; the diameter at the rim is about 20 cm.; the walls are thin and the lip sharp; the general shape is conical or slightly incurved; a band of red paint runs all over the rim (Fig. 32: 14, 17).

(c) *Bowls with a thick wall and rounded lid.*

10 plain coarse bowls have a rounded lip; they all differ by the size and details of the shape (Fig. 32: 7, 8, 15).

(d) *Big bowls with a raised band at the rim.*

2 large bowls made of red clay have a raised thumb-impressed band under the lip; the faces are smooth (Fig. 32: 18).

(e) *Various bowls.*

5 bowls do not belong to any of the previous series:

One has a *strongly inverted sharp rim*; the material is well-levigated and carefully smoothed clay (Fig. 32: 21).

One is a hemispheric bowl with a *flaring rounded rim*; the base may have been rounded; the clay is of coarse make and orange-coloured (Fig. 32: 19).

One has a rather thin wall and a *bevelled rim*; the paste is crude (Fig. 32: 16).

One is a large thick-walled vessel with a *square-cut rim*; the clay is black in colour (Fig. 32: 20).

One, very irregular, is probably a *platter*; it is shallow with a rounded rim; the paste is coarse and burnt (Fig. 32: 13).

II. *Pithoi*.

The pithoi are very numerous; 27 were identified, so that they are the same number as the bowls.

(a) *Pithos with an everted rim.*

20 vessels enter into this category; some are decorated.

One has a wide red band under the rim followed by a line of small circular depressions (Fig. 33: 7).

One has vertical parallel bands of dark red paint outside and a thin band of the same inside the rim (Fig. 33: 8).

One has a white outer slip; on top of this, parallel horizontal bands of red paint are traced on the lip and the body of the vessel (Fig. 33: 9).

One bears traces of a red slip inside and outside (Fig. 33: 10).

One has a flaring rim; it is made of yellow clay with a pinkish slip (Fig. 33: 11).

One has a strongly everted rim with a thickening at the curve leading to the shoulder (Fig. 33: 12).

(b) *Pithos with a raised or impressed band at the collar.*

7 large pithoi have relief decoration at the collar.

One has thick walls; the rim is worn; the raised band bears irregular finger-made impressions (Fig. 32: 10).

One is made of buff ware; near the outset of the body appears a series of neat bound finger-made impressions (Fig. 33: 4).

One vessel made of coarse greyish ware has the same ornament.

2 examples have a thickened rim with a sharp lip; there are traces of a red slip outside and a little underneath the edge; at the outset of the body is a series of raised scalloped pellets (Fig. 33: 5).

2 others have a slightly thinned rim; the paste is very coarse: at the bottom of the neck runs a line of incised lunulae (Fig. 33: 6).

III. *Hole mouth jars.*

The hole mouth jars are scarce: only 6 clumsy examples were found; they all have a more or less wide opening.

2 have thick walls and a smooth surface (Fig. 32: 1; 33: 1).

One is made of smooth levigated white clay (Fig. 32: 2).

One other is also rather refined (Fig. 33: 2).

One has a slight groove near the rim; the clay is coarse, red in colour with a brown outer surface (Fig. 32: 9).

One has an everted rim; made of pink smoothed clay, it bears a red painted band all over the rim (Fig. 33: 3).

IV. *Jars with a pyramidal neck.*

4 jars have a neck that becomes more and more narrow towards the rim which is everted. 2 are rather clumsy and coarse; one made of pinkish clay (Fig. 33: 13), the other of buff clay (Fig. 33: 14).

One is a small jar in buff ware; it is coated with a white slip, over which are disposed parallel vertical red painted bands outside and a red band inside all around the rim; the lip is thin and rounded (Fig. 33: 15).

The last is made of orange-coloured clay with traces of a red slip; the walls are thin and smooth; there is an ear-handle at the collar, with widely splayed attachments, one on the neck, the other on the shoulder. Another ear-handle probably existed on the opposite side of the jug. The diameter is difficult to measure (Fig. 33: 16).

V. *Jars with a straight neck.*

2 small jars can be considered together here, although they are quite different from one another.

The first is very small, made of pink coarse ware, with a brown slip; the walls are quite thin. The neck is short, straight, with a rounded lip (Fig. 32: 3).

The second is medium-sized; the material is black crude ware. The walls are thick and irregular; the rim is rounded; the body of the pot is roughly cylindrical with a slight enlarging at the base of the neck; here is fixed a small ear-handle with a round section. The base is thick and flat (Fig. 34: 6).

VI. *Bases.*

The bases are flat and similar to those of the sites described above. One however deserves special notice because of its mat impression. In the north-eastern corner of Trench I, the lower part of a large storage-jar was sunk into the natural white clay; the part remaining *in situ* was 30 cm. high but the jar was originally much higher as the fracture occurred underneath the maximum width; the top of the preserved part was 53 cm. in diameter and at the level of the ashes of layer 4; therefore the bottom was at a depth of 75 cm.

This jar is made of very hard whitish clay tempered with tiny pebbles; the average thickness of the wall is 1 cm. The inside surface is rough and uneven; the outer one is entirely smoothed with some herb or vegetable fibre.

The base has a diameter of 16cm. and a very well preserved *twilled mat impression*, the only example known at Tell es-Saidiyeh el-Tahta (Fig. 31).

VII. *Handles.*

(a) *Vertical ear-handles.*

9 ear-handles are vertical with splayed attachments and triangular in shape and section. One has a red spot on the upper attachment and vertical red painted band by its side (Fig. 32: 6).

The others are without decoration (Fig. 33: 16; 34: 6, 7).

(b) *Loop-handles.*

4 small loop-handles have slightly splayed attachments.

2 broken examples have a round section.

One is flat on the edge, so that the section is semicircular.

The fourth is flat inside and rounded outside with a vertical groove on the edge; the surfaces are smooth (Fig. 32: 5).

(c) *Horizontal ear-handle.*

One small sharp pierced ear-handle is horizontal (Fig. 34: 5).

(d) *Horizontal lug.*

A very small unpierced horizontal handle was found (Fig. 34: 1).

(e) *Horizontal ledge-handles.*

5 large unpierced horizontal handles belong to this class.

One is wide, very flat, with a plain edge and smears of red paint on the upper part (Fig. 34: 2).

The four others have a scalloped or indented edge :

three are thin (Fig. 32: 4; 34: 3).

the last is thick, upturned, and covered with streaks of red paint all over (Fig. 34: 4).

VIII. *Decoration.*

(a) *Horizontal painted decoration.*

A fair number of sherds with broad or thin red painted horizontal bands are in addition to those recorded in the earlier paragraphs; they are single or in parallel series.

(b) *Vertical painted decoration.*

3 instances of this type of decoration have already been described.

Special mention must be made of a fourth one: vertical stripes of red paint occur on a juglet or small bottle, made of pink ware, with a fragment of an ear-handle on the belly (Fig. 34: 8).

(c) *Bands of raised scalloped pellets.*

4 sherds bear the same ornament as the two pithoi of which one is figured on Fig. 33: 5 and two bowls like Fig. 32: 18.

(d) *Raised thumb-impressed bands.*

One sherd with a raised band bearing slight impressions is similar to Fig. 32: 10.

(e) *Finger-impressed circular depressions.*

One sherd has small finger impressions like those on the two pithoi of the type of Fig. 33: 7.

(d) *Incised lunulae.*

Curved nail-incisions, more carefully done than on the two pithoi like Fig. 33: 6, occur on two sherds also adorned by bands of red paint: one is made of coarse ware (Fig. 34: 10); the other in well levigated clay has one row of lunulae and another one probably of straight incisions; red paint partly covers the incisions (Fig. 34: 11).

(g) *Straight incisions.*

The base of the neck of a large jar or pithos has a slightly raised band with a series of long parallel straight incisions (Fig. 34: 9).

C. Comparative study.

Most of the pottery belongs to the Middle Chalcolithic B group, but some shapes seem to be related to Late Chalcolithic; others may pertain to one or the other of these two classes.

1. Middle Chalcolithic shapes.

The *fine conical bowl* is quite typical of Ghassulian pottery²⁰.

The *bowl with a flat rim* is similar to those from Tell esh-Shuna I - II (Fig. 3: 21; 10: 8) and Tell Abu Habil (Fig. 23: 3).

The *platter* is rare but recorded on several sites⁶².

The *pithos with an everted rim* is well represented in the same assemblage⁶⁴.

The *jar with a very short neck* is known on a few sites⁷³.

One type of *pithos with a thick rim and sharp lip* seems typical of Middle Chalcolithic B⁷⁵.

The *jar with a pyramidal neck* is also quite characteristic²⁴.

The *twilled mat impression* is a typical feature of Ghassulian⁷².

The same can be said of the *triangular vertical ear-handle* which is most common⁶⁷.

The *small loop-handle* is frequent²⁶.

The *triangular horizontal ear-handle* is widely spread in Ghassulian pottery⁷⁶.

The *small horizontal unpierced handle* is also well known²⁸.

The *raised band with series of shallow depressions*, although rare, seems attested in the same ware⁷⁷.

The *incised lunulae* are more common⁷⁰.

2. Late Chalcolithic shapes.

The *small red burnished bowls* can easily be paralleled from some Late Chalcolithic sites⁷⁸.

The *globular bowls with a sharp rim* is similar to bowls from Tell el-Far'ah II²⁹.

The *hemispheric bowl with a flaring rim* seems unusual in a Middle Chalcolithic context although no exact parallel is obvious.

The *ledge-handle with a plain edge* does not occur before Late Chalcolithic³².

The *vertical strips of red paint* are typical of this phase in Northern Palestine³⁵.

The *series of hollow round impressions* seem to belong also to this assemblage⁷⁹.

The *long straight incisions on a raised band* find their best parallels in this period³⁴.

The *pithos with a thick flaring rim* can be added to the former shapes, according to the evidence from several sites³¹.

3. Shapes that are common to Middle Chalcolithic B and Late Chalcolithic.

Among the remaining shapes, some are untypical but others are well defined, although they may occur in both stages.

The *bowl with a raised scalloped band at the rim* recalls one from Tell esh-Shuna II (Fig. 10: 13). It is closely related to the Ghassulian pithos with a raised ornament under the rim²² but would not be unfamiliar in a Late Chalcolithic context.

The *pithos with raised or impressed decoration at the collar* is common to both⁸⁰.

The *more or less wide open hole-mouth with a thin rim*²³,

the *scalloped raised bands*⁶⁹,

the *painted horizontal bands of red colour*,

are very usual in both and can not serve as an argument.

The *thumb-indented ledge-handle* can also belong either to Middle Chalcolithic B⁸¹ to or Late Chalcolithic³³, where it is more common but often has deeper indentations than those shown on the present example.

The numerous relations with Jericho VIII and tombs 354-356, Teleilat Ghassul, Tell Abu Habil and Wadi Ghazzeah O suggest a date in Middle Chalcolithic — while the connections with Tell esh-Shuna II and Affuleh point towards Late Chalcolithic.

The Flint and Stone industry.

A. Sounding I — 8 pieces.

I. *Hoes.*

4 examples, of which 3 belong to layer 4 and the last to layer 2.

One in white blond streaked flint is worn at the cutting-edge; the length is 90 mm. (Fig. 35: 1).

One is made of mauve-white streaked flint; there is cortex on the upper face in the thicker portion of the piece; the cutting-edge seems worn and shows long flat pressure flaking; the length is 70 mm. (Fig. 35: 2).

One is made of greyish blue flint; the cutting-edge is curved and slightly ground; this piece, 60 mm. long, does not seem to have been very much used (Fig. 35: 3).

One is made of mauve and white variegated flint; the working-edge is broken; the piece is rather worn; a great part of it is covered by a calcareous crust; the actual length is 107 mm., the width 40 mm. and the maximum thickness 27 mm.

II. *Flakes.*

3 unretouched flakes.

One of buff ware, 53 mm. long, in layer 4.

One of pink flint, 50 mm. long, in layer 3.

One of grey blond streaked flint, 35 mm. long, in layer 2.

III. *Basalt bowl.*

The rim of a basalt bowl was also found in this sounding; it is carefully ground and smoothed (Fig. 34: 12).

B. Other Soundings and Surface — 24 pieces.

I. *Borers* — 2 examples.

One on a thick large flake of blue white specked flint (Fig. 36: 1).

The other on a slender blade of blond flint with a fine long point (Fig. 36: 2).

II. *Retouched blades* — 2 examples.

One is small and mauve-coloured; the edges are deeply retouched (Fig. 36: 3).

One is very long, made of blond flint; the back is roughly blunted; the sharp edge shows slight flaking; one end is square; this implement may have been part of a saw (Fig. 36: 4).

III. *Scrapers* — 3 coarse specimens.

One on the side of a wide flake of whitish flint (Fig. 36: 5).

One on a large mauve white-specked flake.

One on a round flat flake of purple flint is a clumsy circular scraper (Fig. 36: 7).

IV. *Sickle blades* — 8 of various size and shape.

One is made from a wide flake of cream-coloured flint and is almost square; the two ends are carefully squared; one edge has long flat pressure flaking and a very strong lustre (Fig. 36: 6).

One is very long; the back is blunted by abrupt retouch; the cutting-edge is entirely denticulated by irregular nibbling retouch and shows a strong lustre; the material is blond flint (Fig. 36: 8).

One is medium-sized and rectangular; it is made of blond flint; the two edges are sharp, but only one has been used; the latter shows some flaking on the lower face and a lustre on the upper face (Fig. 36: 9).

One is thinned down and broken at one end; one edge has lustre; the material is mauve-coloured flint; this piece is possibly the terminal element of a sickle (Fig. 36: 10).

One is not of Cananean technique as are the others and has a triangular section; the back is carefully blunted by abrupt retouch; one end is neatly straightened by long pressure flaking; the sharp edge is roughly serrated and has a lustre; this tool of blond flint is of good make (Fig. 36: 11).

One is very much like the third, rectangular with two sharp edges, only one having been used and bearing a lustre; one end is covered of long flat retouch; it is made of blond flint (Fig. 36: 12).

One is a small blade of blond flint; one end is squared by long pressure flaking; the two edges were denticulated by nibbling retouch and had the characteristic lustre, which appeared also on the central ridge; later on, part of one edge was blunted (Fig. 36: 13).

One is a blond coloured blade section with the back deeply blunted by long pressure flaking; the sharp cutting-edge is straight; this implement may have been used as a razor (Fig. 36: 14).

V. *Unretouched blades*. 5 specimens.

One made of cream-coloured flint is 48 mm. long.

One is mauve-coloured with white specks; the length is 32 mm.

One is made of grey flint and is 21 mm. long.

2 are of blond flint and measure 17 and 30 mm.

VI. *Flakes*. 4 examples.

2 are made of mauve-coloured white-specked flint; their respective length is 25 and 20 mm.

One made of white flint is 24 mm. long.

One, 24 mm. long too, is made of violet transparent flint or possibly obsidian.

The worked stones are not very abundant but are of fairly good quality. The whole equipment is well adapted to food-producing and has a typical agricultural character; it very much resembles that of Tell Abu Habil III.

The Chronological Situation of Tell es-Saidiyeh el-Tahta.

The study of the pottery and that of the flints and stone implements agree to locate this small settlement on the same horizon as Tell esh-Shuna II and Tell Abu Habil II-III. To resolve the contradictions apparently included in the former statement, one must assume for Tell es-Saidiyeh el-Tahta a late date in Middle Chalcolithic B. The possibility of a Ghassulian survival side by side with the Late Chalcolithic in the North is not entirely excluded.

CONCLUSIONS.

The results of these three soundings are necessarily provisional since extensive excavations have not been made at Tell esh-Shuna or Tell Abu Habil, nor at the imposing Tell near Tell es-Saidiyeh el-Tahta. Tell es-Shuna, however, provides us with a good stratification, which agrees well with the sequence at Beth Shan and thus confirms the findings made at the latter site. Tell Abu Habil and Tell es-Saidiyeh el-Tahta do not, unfortunately, remedy the lack of stratified material in the *Ghor* between Beth Shan and Jericho.

Finally, the writer is fully aware of the tentative nature of this limited contribution to the discussion of the Chalcolithic period in Palestine.

Jerusalem, 1955.

HENRI DE CONTENSON

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS IN NOTES

- AASOR — Annual of the American Schools of Oriental Research.
BIES — Bulletin of the Israel Exploration Society.
BP II — Beth Pelet II, Prehistoric Fara — by E. Macdonald (London, 1932).
Gez. Exc. — The Excavation of Gezer — by R.A.S. Macalister (London, 1912).
IEJ — Israel Exploration Journal.
IPH — Institut de Paléontologie Humaine,
JPOS — Journal of the Palestine Oriental Society.
LAAA — Liverpool Annals of Archaeology and Anthropology.
M II — Megiddo II, Seasons of 1935 - 1939 — by G. Loud (Chicago, 1948).
MJ — The Museum Journal.
N. Exc. — Excavations at Tell en-Nasbeh — by W. F. Bade (Berkeley, 1947),
PEF — Palestine Exploration Fund, Quarterly Statement.
PEQ — Palestine Exploration Quarterly.
QDAP — Quarterly of the Department of Antiquities in Palestine.
RB — Revue Biblique.
RPG — Researches in Prehistoric Galilee — by F. Turville-Petre (London, 1927).
SAOC — Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilizations.
TG I — Teleilat Ghassul I (1929 - 1932) — by A. Mallon (Rome, 1934).
TG II — Teleilat Ghassul II (1933 - 1936) — by R. Koeppel (Rome, 1940).

NOTES

- 1 Beth Shan — PEF 1934, pp. 124 - 125, Pl. I 1.
MJ 1935, p. 6 - 7.
- 2 Jericho — PEQ 1954, pp. 54 - 55, Fig. 2.
- 3 Tell esh Shuna I — Fig. 3.
Beth Shan pits and XVIII — MJ 1935, Pl. II 27, III 19.
Tell el Far'ah I — RB 1947, Fig. 1 (8, 24, 27 - 29).
Jericho VIII — LAAA 1935, Pl. XL 15, 24; XLI 18.
" 1936, " XXIX 19, 21; XXXII 34a; XXXIII 7.
Tell esh Shuna I — Fig. 4: 4, 5.
- 4 Beth Shan pits and XVIII — MJ 1935, Pl. I 26.
Jerich VIII — LAAA 1935, Pl. XL 18, 27, 28; XLII 1, 4, 21.
" 1936, " XXXII 25a, 29a, 34b.
- 5 Tell esh Shuna I — Fig. 4: 1 - 3, 6 - 12.
Beth Shan pits and XVIII — MJ 1935, Pl. I 22, II 18, 25, III 18.
Jericho VIII — LAAA 1935, Pl. XLII 29.
- 6 Tell esh Shuna I — Fig. 5: 3, 5; 6.
Beth Shan XVIII — MJ 1935, Pl. I 19, 25.
Tell Abu Habil — Fig. 23; 2; 26: 2.
Khirbet 'Ain Duq — unpublished.
Jericho VIII — LAAA 1935, Pl. XL 3 - 5.
" 1936, " XXXII 21, XXXIII 18, XXXIII 18, XLa, b.
Murabba'at — RB 1953, Fig. 1 (14); Pl. IX 3 and unpublished.
- 7 Tell esh Shuna I — Fig. 6; 7: 1 - 9.
Beth Shan pits and XVIII — MJ 1935, Pl. II 16, 18 - 26.
Tell Abu Habil — AASOR 1949/50, Pl. 12 (5, 6, 9, 11, 12),
121 (5, 6, 9, 11, 12).
Fig. 23: 7, 12.
Tell el Far'ah I — RB 1947, Fig. 1 (18, 19, 33, 36),
Pl. XIII 1 - 3, 5; XIV 15.
RB 1948, Fig. 1 (3).
Khirbet 'Ain Duq — unpublished.
Jericho VIII — LAAA 1935, Pl. XLI 14, 15, 21.
" 1936, " XXXI 19; XXXII 27.
Murabba'at — RB 1953, Fig. 1 (1) and unpublished.
- 8 Tell esh Shuna I — Fig. 7: 10.
Beth Shan XVIII — MJ 1935, Pl. II 14.
Tell Abu Habil — AASOR 1949/50, Pl. 12 (8), 121 (8).
Jericho VIII — LAAA 1935, Pl. XL 27; XLI 8 - 12.
Murabba'at — unpublished.
- 9 Tell esh Shuna I — passim.
Beth Shan pits and XVIII — MJ 1935, Pl. I 19, 26; III 19.
Khirbet 'Ain Duq — unpublished.
Jericho VIII — LAAA 1935, Pl. XL 5, 18, 27, 28; XLII 3.
" 1936, " XXXIII 34a, 34b.
Murabba'at — RB 1953, Fig. 1 (11) and unpublished.
- 10 Tell esh Shuna I — Fig. 4: 11.
Beth Shan pits and XVIII — MJ 1935, Pl. I 22; II 25; III 17, 18, 20.
Tell el Far'ah I — RB 1947, Fig. 1 (24).
- 11 Tell esh Shuna I — Fig. 4: 1, 13, 14, 15; 7, 1.
Beth Shan XVIII — MJ 1935, Pl. 25, 26.
Tell Abu Habil — AASOR 1949/50, Pl. 122 (6, 7, 9, 10). Fig. 23: 8, 9.
Tell el Far'ah I — RB 1947, Fig. 1 (30, 33).
Jericho VIII — LAAA 1935, Pl. XLI 28.
Murabba'at — RB 1953, Fig. 1 (23) and unpublished.
- 12 Tell esh Shuna I — Fig. 4: 14.
Khirbet 'Ain Duq — AASOR 1949/50, Pl. 15 (1 - 7).
Jericho VIII — LAAA 1935, Pl. XL 15; XLI 18, 19, 25, 27.

- 13 Tell esh Shuna I — Fig. 15: 2.
 Shaar ha Golan — IEJ 1950/51, Fig. 4 (8).
 Abu Gosh — Syria 1952, Pl. IX 9 - 10, 13.
 Jericho — LAAA 1935, Pl. LVIII a 6 - 11.
 LAAA 1937, Pl. IX B 16, 17.
 el Khiam — Archives de l'IPH N° 24, Fig. 73 (9).
- 14 Tell esh Shuna I — Fig. 15: 9.
 Shaar ha Golan — IEJ 1950/51, Fig. 8 (15).
 Jericho — LAAA 1937, Pl. VII A 1, 2; IX A 11.
- 15 Tell esh Shuna II — Fig. 9: 1, 2.
 Beth Shan XVI — MJ 1935, Pl. III 2.
 Affuleh — JPOS 1948, Pl. II 1 - 3, 9.
 Megiddo XX - XIX — SAOC 10, Fig. 6 (18 B).
 SAOC 16, Pl. 18 (20, 21).
 Tell el Far'ah II — RB 1947, Fig. 2 (12).
- 16 Tell esh Shuna II — Fig. 9: 5,
 Beth Shan XVI — MJ 1935, Pl. III 4.
 Tell el Far'ah II — RB 1951, Fig. 6 (1, 3, 4, 6), 12 (8, 10, 14).
- 17 Tell esh Shuna II — Fig. 9: 7.
 Megiddo XX - XIX — SAOC 10, Chart 21 B.
 17, Pl. 19 (32); Chart XX 8.
 M. II, Pl. I 27.
 Tell el Far'ah II — RB 1949, Fig. 1 (10).
- 18 Tell esh Shuna II — Fig. 9: 8.
 Tell el Far'ah II — RB 1949, Fig. 1 (22); 8 (17, 21); 13 (17).
- 19 Tell esh Shuna II — Fig. 9: 9, 10.
 Tell el Far'ah II — RB 1949, Fig. 1 (19, 21).
- 20 Tell esh Shuna II — Fig. 10: 6 - 8.
 Tell Fendi — AASOR 1949/50, Pl. 80 (7); 149 (17).
 Tell Abu Habil — AASOR 1949/50, Pl. 13 (1); 121 (15 - 19, 21). Fig. 25: 5, 6; 26: 1.
 Tell es Saidiyeh el Tahta — Fig. 32: 14, 17.
 Tell el Far'ah I — RB 1947, Fig. 1 (4).
 Khirbet el Auja el Foqa — AASOR 1949/50, Pl. 19 (14); 124 (14).
 Jericho VIII — LAAA 1935, Pl. XL 17, 20 - 22, 25; XLII 26.
 1936, Pl. XXXIII 6.
 Tell Ghanam — AASOR 1949/50, Pl. 81 (5); 250 (1).
 Teleilat Ghassul — TG I, Fig. 43 (3).
 II, Pl. 77 (1 - 3); 79 (9, 10, 12); 96 (1, 28).
 Umm Qatafa — Syria 1931, Fig. 6 (3, 8).
 Hederah — JPOS 1937, Fig. 6 a, b, c; Pl. IV 1.
 Bnei Braq — QDAP 1946, Fig. 2 (3).
 Gezer — Exc. Pl. XXIII 18; CXXI 1, 9, 12.
 Bir Abu Matar — BIES 1654, Fig. 3 (10, 13).
 Wadi GhazzeH D 2 — BP II, Pl. XXXVIII 6, 8.
 E — 12.
 O — XXXIX 14 - 16, 21.
- 21 Tell esh Shuna II — Fig. 10: 1.
 Jericho VIII — LAAA 1936, Pl. XXXIII 5.
 Wadi GhazzeH D 2 — BP II, Pl. XXXVIII 7.
- 22 Tell esh Shuna II — Fig. 10: 12, 13.
 Megiddo XIX — M. II, Pl. 2 (45).
 Tell Abu Habil — AASOR 1949/50, Pl. 14 (13, 16); 122 (2, 5).
 Khirbel el Auja el Foqa — AASOR 1949/50, Pl. 19 (7, 10); 20 (6, 7); 124 (7, 10); 125 (3).
 Jericho VIII and t. 354 - 356 — LAAA 1935, Pl. XL 7, 8, 10, 11, 14;
 XLIII 3, 18, 19.
 1936, XXXII 23b; XXXIII 4.
 Teleilat Ghassul — TG I, Fig. 41 (11, 13, 14); 52 (6).
 II, 81 (18, 25); 82 (7, 8, 15) 86 (20, 27).
 Murabba'at — unpublished.
 Bir Abu Matar — BIES 1954, Fig. 3 (7).

- Wadi GhazzeH D2 — BP II, Pl. XXXII 1st row, left.
 " O — " " 4th row.
 " A — " XXXV 1st, 2d (3, 4), 3d (1, 3, 5), 6th and 7th rows.
 " B — " XXXIII 5th and 6th rows.
 " M — " " 4th row.
 " " — " " 2d and 3d rows.
- 23 Tell esh Shuna II — Fig. 11: 3, 6, 8.
 Megiddo XX - XIX — SAOC 17, Chart XIX 7.
 M. II, Pl. 1 (16 - 18); 92 (6); 93 (9).
 Tell el Far'ah I — RB 1947, Fig. 1 (5).
 Tell Abu Habil — Fig. 24: 4; 25: 7; 26: 11.
 Bnei Braq — QDAP 1946, Fig. 3 (19 - 23).
 Khirbet el Auja el Foqa — AASOR 1949 / 50, Pl. 19 (11, 12); 149 (11, 12).
 Jericho VIII and t. 354 - 356 — LAAA 1935, Pl. XL 29, 30; XLII 2, 3, 7; XLIII 13, 23.
 Teleilat Ghassul — TG I, Fig. 46.
 " II, Pl. 77 (5); 82 (8 - 12); 96 A (4, 5, 7).
 Umm Qatafa — Syria 1931, Fig. 4 a, b.
 Murabba'at — RB 1953, Fig. 1 (21).
 Bir Abu Matar — BIES 1954, Fig. 3 (3, 4, 11).
 Wadi Ghazyeh O — BP II, Pl. XXXV 2d row (2) XXXIX 17.
- 24 Tell esh Shuna II — Fig. 12: 6.
 Affuleh Sounding A — JPOS 1948, Pl. V 3; VIII 22.
 Tell es Saidiyeh el Tahta — Pl. XXXIII 13 - 16.
 Jericho VIII and t. 354 - 356 — LAAA 1935, Pl. XL 12; XLIII 14.
 Teleilat Ghassoul — TG II, Pl. 77 (7); 82 (10, 11, 13, 14).
 Wadi GhazzeH O — BP II, Pl. XXXIX 19.
- 25 Tell esh Shuna II — Fig. 10: 14.
 Megiddo XX - XIX — SAOC 17, Chart XX 18, XIX 14.
 Tell Abu Habil — Fig. 23: 1.
 Murabba'at — RB 1953, Fig. 1 (2).
- 26 Tell esh Shuna II — Fig. 10: 7.
 Affuleh — JPOS 1948, Pl. I 10.
 Beth Shan XVII — MJ 1935, Pl. II 19; III 10.
 Tell Fendi — AASOR 1949 / 50, Pl. 79 (3, 4, 11, 13, 14).
 Tell Abu Habil — AASOR 1949 / 50, Pl. 12 (5, 6, 9, 12); 121 (5, 6, 9, 12).
 Jericho VIII — LAAA 1935, Pl. XLI 13, 17.
 Tell Ghanam — AASOR 1949 / 50, Pl. 81 (10, 11); 150 (4, 5).
 Teleilat Ghassul — TG I, Fig. 41 (12); 52 (8); 56 (8); Pl. 40 (1, 2, 4 - 6).
 Wadi GhazzeH A — BP II, Pl. XXXI 4th and 5th rows.
 " B — " " 3d row (2 - 4).
 " M — " " 1st row.
 " D1 — " XXX 6, 7, 9.
 " D2 — " " 2d row (1, 2).
 " E — " " , right.
 " O — " XXXV 5th row.
- 27 Tell esh Shuna II — Fig. 10: 11
 Wadi Salhab III — RPG, Pl. XXIX C, E, F.
 Mugharet et Tawamin — JPOS 1930, Fig. 2 C.
 Khirbet el Auja el Foqa — AASOR 1949 / 50, Pl. 18, (4); 125 (12).
 Jericho t. 354 - 356 — LAAA 1936, Pl. XLIII 22.
 Teleilat Ghassul — TG I, Pl. 39 (7, 8); Fig. 54.
 " II, " 92 (7).
 Bir Abu Matar — BIES 1954, Fig. 3 (7).
 Wadi GhazzeH A — BP II, Pl. XXXI 4th row (1).
 " B — " " 3d row (1).
 " M — " " 1st row (1).
 " E — " XXX 3d and 4th row.
 " O — " XXXV 5th row (6) and 8th row.
- 28 Tell esh Shuna II — Fig. 10: 8.
 Tell es Saidiyeh el Tahta — Fig. 34: 1.
 Jericho VIII — LAAA 1935, Pl. XL 27; XLI 7, 12; XLII 35.
 Teleilat Ghassul — TG I, Fig. 41 (4, 5, 7, 8); 46; 50 (2); 54 (8).
 " II, Pl. 77 (4); 91 (1 - 4, 6); 92 (2 - 6, 8, 10, 11).
 Umm Qatafa — Syria 1931, Fig. 4.

- Murabba'at — RB 1953, Fig. 1 (4).
 Hederah — JPOS 1937, Fig. 8 a, c.
 Bnei Braq — QDAP 1946, Pl. XVII 9.
 Wadi Ghazzeah D1 — BF II, Pl. XXX 8.
 " D2 — " " 2d row, 9.
 " M — " " XXXI 2d row, right.
 " O -- " " XXIX 20.
- 29 Tell esh Shuna II — Fig. 10: 9 - 11.
 Tell el Far'ah II — RB 1947, Fig. 2 (25 - 27, 29).
 " 1948, " 5 (20 - 23, 28).
- 30 Tell esh Shuna II — Fig. 11: 1, 2, 4, 5, 7.
 Beth Shan XVI — MJ 1935, Pl. I 1, 2.
 Affuleh — JPOS 1948, Pl. III 2, 3, 8, 15, 19, 20, 40.
 Megiddo XIX — SAOC 17, Chart XIX 7; Pl. 17 (1, 6).
 Tell el Far'ah II — RB 1947, Fig. 1 (6, 7, 26); 2 (5, 6, 8 - 11).
 " 1948, " 5 (1, 3).
 Tell Umm Hamad Sherqi — AASQR 1949/50, Pl. 100 (6, 7); 104 (5); 157 (7, 8).
 Tell en Nasbeh, cave-dwelling 68 — N. Exc. II, Pl. 11 (166, 167).
 Murabba'at — RB 1953, Fig. 1 (20).
- 31 Tell esh Shuna II — Fig. 12: 5.
 Beth Shan XVI — MJ 1935, Pl. I 14.
 Affuleh — JPOS 1948, Pl. V 16.
 Tell es Saidiyeh el Tahta — Fig. 33: 12.
- 32 Tell esh Shuna II — Fig. 10: 9.
 Affuleh — JPOS 1948, Pl. VII 17.
 Megiddo XIX — SAOC 17, Pl. 17 (9 - 12).
 Tell es Saidiyeh el Tahta — Fig. 34: 2.
 Tell Umm Hamad Sherqi — AASOR 1949/50, Pl. 105 (1, 2, 4); 161 (11); 162 (1, 2).
- 33 Tell esh Shuna II — Fig. 10: 10.
 Beth Shan XVII-XVI — MJ 1935, Pl. II 3, 5, 7, 8.
 Affuleh — JPOS 1948, Pl. VII 1 - 7, 25.
 Megiddo XIX — SAOC 17, Chart XIX 8, 12, 13; Pl. 18 (11, 13, 16).
 Tell es Saidiyeh el Tahta — Fig. 32: 4; 33: 3, 4.
 Tell el Far'ah II — RB 1947, Fig. 2 (17 - 19).
 " 1948, " 5 (8, 19).
 " 1949, " 8 (31).
 Tell Umm Hamad Sherqi — AASOR 1949/50, Pl. 102 (5, 6, 8 - 10); 161 (2, 4, 6 - 8).
- 34 Tell esh Shuna II — Fig. 10: 14.
 Beth Shan XVI — MJ 1935, Pl. I 10.
 Affuleh — JPOS 1948, Pl. III 2, 8, 19, 20, 40.
 Tell el Far'ah II — RB 1947, Fig. 1 (26).
 " 1948, " 5 (2).
 Tell es Saidiyeh el Tahta — Fig. 34: 9.
 Tell Umm Hamad Sherqi — AASOR 1/949/50, Pl. 101 (4); 160 (9).
- 35 Tell esh Shuna II — Fig. 10: 15.
 Megiddo XIX — SAOC 17, Pl. 19 (22).
 Tell es Saidiyeh el Tahta — Fig. 33: 8, 15; 34, 8.
 Tell el Far'ah II — RB 1947, Fig. 2 (28).
 " 1948, " 1 (4).
- 36 Kirbet Kerak I — IEJ 1952, p. 167.
- 37 Cave near Tell el 'Asawir — RB 1955, p. 84.
- 38 Jericho — PEQ 1954, pp. 91 - 92, Pl. XL 1.
- 39 Tell esh Shuna III — Fig. 13: 3.
 Beth Shan XIII — MJ 1935, Pl. V 19.
 Tell el Far'ah AB I — RB 1947, Fig. 5 (4).
 Megiddo XVII — M. II, Pl. 5 (11).
- 40 Tell esh Shuna III — Fig. 13: 7.
 Beth Shan XIV — MJ 1935, Pl. IV 16.
 Megiddo XIX — M. II, Pl. 3 (2).
 XVIII — M. II, Pl. 102 (7).

- 41 Tell esh Shuna III — Fig. 13: 6.
Beth Shan XIV — MJ 1935, Pl. IV. 4.
Megiddo XVIII & Stages VII — III — SAOC 10, type 12 D, E.
MII, Pl. 101 (4-6).
Tell el Far'ah AB I — RB 1947, Fig. 3 (1, 2, 5); 5 (15).
1948, „ 6 (5).
AB IIb — „ 1947, „ 6 (8); 7 (12).
1948, „ 9 (2).
- 42 Tell esh Shuna III — Fig. 13: 4.
Beth Shan XIV — XIII — MJ 1935, Pl. IV 8, 11.
Tell el Far'ah AB I — RB 1948, Fig. 6 (2).
AB IIa — „ „ 7 (3).
- 43 Tell esh Shuna III — Fig. 13: 8.
Beth Shan XIV — MJ 1935, Pl. V 3, 4.
Megiddo XIX & Stages VII — IV — SAOC 10, type 23.
M. II, Pl. 96 (25-27).
- 44 Tell esh Shuna III — Fig. 13: 4, 5.
Beth Shan XV — XIV — MJ 1935, Pl. IV 18, 19; V 8.
XIII — „ „ V 7.
Megiddo XIX & Stages VII — V — M.II, Pl. 99 (6-14).
XVIII & Stages IV — III — SAOC 10, Fig. 8 F — J; 9.
- 45 Tell esh Shuna IV — Fig. 14: 1.
Beth Shan XIV — MJ 1935, Pl. V 20.
Megiddo XIX — M.II, Pl. 97 (51).
XVIII — SAOC 17, Chart XVIII 21.
M.II, Pl. 102 (41).
XVII — XVI — SAOC 17, Pl. 13 (8).
M.II, Pl. 5 (16, 17).
- 46 Tell esh Shuna IV — (not illustrated).
Beth Shan XIV — XIII — MJ 1935, Pl. V 15, 20, 23.
Megiddo XIX — M.II, Pl. 97 (46, 51).
XVIII — „ „ 104 (7-14).
XVII — „ „ 5 (16, 17).
XVI — „ „ 6 (17, 18).
Stages IV — I — SAOC 10, type I E.
Tell el Far'ah AB I — RB 1947, Fig. 4 (8).
AB II — „ „ 6 (2); 7 (37).
- 47 Tell esh Shuna IV — Fig. 14: 10.
Tell el Far'ah AB IIa — RB 1948, Fig. 7 (4).
- 48 Tell esh Shuna IV — Fig. 14: 11.
Beth Shan XIV — MJ 1935, Pl. IV 17.
Megiddo XIX — M.II, Pl. 97 (21).
XVIII & Stages V — III — SAOC 10, type 16 B - F.
SAOC 17, Chart XVIII 28.
- 49 Tell esh Shuna VI — Fig. 14: 2.
Megiddo XVIII & Stages IV - I — SAOC 10, type 12 A.
„ 17, Chart XVIII 40.
M. II, Pl. 4 (7); 101 (1, 2);
XVII - XVI — SAOC 17, Chart XVI - XVII 40.
Tell el Far'ah AB I — RB 1948, Fig. 6 (3, 4).
- 50 Tell esh Shuna IV — Fig. 14: 6.
Beth Shan XIV - XIII — MJ 1935, Pl. IV 10.
Megiddo XVIII — M. II, Pl. 101 (26).
Tell el Far'ah AB I — RB 1947, Fig. 5 (14).
1948, „ 6 (1).
- 51 Tell esh Shuna IV — Fig. 14: 13.
Beth Shan XIV — MJ 1935, Pl. VI 3.
Tell el Far'ah AB I — RB 1947, Fig. 5 (18).
„ II — „ „ 7 (22).

- 52 Tell esh Shuna IV — Fig. 12. —
Beth Shan XIV — MJ 1935, Pl. VI 10, 14.
Megiddo Stage V - III — SAOC 10, type 14 D.
- 53 Tell Abu Habil I & III — Fig. 23: 5; 25: 15; 26: 6.
Tell Abu Habil Surface — AASOR 1946/50, Pl. 14 (7); 122 (12).
Megiddo XX - XIX — SAOC 17, Pl. 19 (19, 20); 20 (27, 28).
M. II, Pl. 2 (16, 17); 92 (14, 15).
Jericho VIII — LAAA 1935, Pl. XVII 37; LV a (1st and 2d lines).
" 1936, " XXXII 33 A; XXXIII 24; XLII b, 33 A.
Tell Ghanam — AASOR 1949/50, Pl. 81 (13, 14); 150 (7, 8).
Teleilat Ghassul — TG I, Pl. 39 (2, 4).
" II, " 83 (10, 13, 15, 16, 18); 84 (1, 4, 6).
Wadi Ghazzeah O — BP II, Pl. XXXIV 10.
Also LAAA 1938, pp. 3-11; Pl. I 1-4.
- 54 Tell Abu Habil I - III — Fig. 23: 2; 24: 5; 25: 11.
Teleilat Ghassul — TG I, Pl. 42 (17); 50 (97); 54; 65; etc.
" II, " 76 (12); 80; 90; 96 B (4, 5); etc.
Gezer — Exc., Pl. CXXI 5.
Wadi Ghazzeah O — BP II, Pl. XXXII - XXXIV, passim.
E — unpublished.
- 55 Tell Abu Habil II - III — Fig. 24: 2, 5; 25: 8 - 11; 26: 9, 10.
Tell Fendi — AASOR 1949/50, Pl. 80 (3); 149 (12).
Tell es Saidiyeh el Tahta — Fig. 32: 1, 2, 9; 33: 1-3.
Khirbet el Auja el Foqa — AASOR 1949/50, Pl. 19 (2, 8, 9); 124 (2, 8, 9).
Jericho VIII & t. 354 - 356 LAAA 1935, Pl. XLIII 2, 9.
" 1936, " XXXII 34 b;
" XXXIII 8, 25 a, 29 a.
Teleilat Ghassul — TG II, Pl. 81 (30, 33); 82 (17 - 21); 96 (4 - 5 A).
Hederah — JPOS 1937, Fig. 6d.
Bnei Braq — QDAP 1946, Fig. 2 (1, 2); 3 (24 - 32, 36 - 58).
- 56 Tell Abu Habil II — Fig. 24: 1.
Beth Shan XVII — MJ 1935, Pl. I 18.
Affuleh — JPOS 1948, Pl. V 9.
Bnei Braq — QDAP 1946, Fig. 3 (59).
Tell el Far'ah I — RB 1947, Fig. 1 (1, 3).
Teleilat Ghassul — TG II, Pl. 96 (5B).
Murabb'at — unpublished.
Bir Abu Matar — BIES 1954, Fig. 3 (1, 2, 8, 12; Pl. G 3).
Wadi Ghazzeah A — BP II, Pl. XXIII 23; XL 31.
" D2 — " XXXVIII 5.
" M — " XXXIX 25.
- 57 Tell Abu Habil II — Fig. 24: 1.
Beth Shan XVI — MJ 1935, Pl. II 6.
Megiddo XX — SAOC 17, Pl. 19 (21); 20 (26).
Khirbet el Auja el Fôqa — AASOR 1949/50, Pl. 18 (5, 6); 125 11, 13).
Jericho t. 354 - 356 — LAAA 1935, Pl. XLIII 10, 13, 14, 16.
Teleilat Ghassul — TG I, Fig. 39, 2d line, 1.
TG II Pl. 91 91 (5); 92 (7 - 9).
Murabb'at — unpublished.
Wadi Ghazzeah A — BP II, Pl. XXXI 4th and 5th rows.
" D2 — " XXXVIII 5.
" E — " XXX 3d and 4th rows.
" O — " XXX 5th row; XXXIV; XXXV 8th; XXXIX 17, 18.
- 58 Tell Abu Habil II — Fig. 24: 2.
Teleilat Ghassul — TG I, Pl. 54 (4).
Murabb'at — unpublished.
Bir Abu Matar — BIES 1954, Fig. 3 (7, 11).
Wadi Ghazzeah O — BP II, Pl. XXXIX 9.
- 59 Tell Abu Habil II - III — Fig. 26: 18.
Beth Shan XVII — MJ 1935, Pl. III 10.
Tell Fendi — AASOR 1949/50, Pl. 79 (1, 2, 5, 6) and unpublished.
Tell es Saidiyeh el Tahta — Fig. 32: 18; 33: 5.
Tell el Far'ah I — RB 1947, Fig. 1 (6, 30).

- Khirbet el Auja el Fôqa — AASOR 1949/50, Pl. 20 (1, 4, 5 11, 13).
 Wadi GhazzeH A — BP II, Pl. XXXIII 6th row.
 „ B — „ „ 4th row.
 „ O — „ „ XXXII 4th row.
- 60 Tell Abu Habil II — Pl. XXXV 3.
 Affuleh Soundings A & E — JPOS 1948, Pl. IX 1 - 3, 7, 27.
 Jericho VIII — LAAA 1935, Pl. XLII 5.
 „ LAAA 1936, Pl. XXXII 23b.
 Murabba'at — unpublished.
 Wadi GhazzeH D2 — BP II, Pl. XXXII 1st row, left.
 „ M — „ „ XXXII 5th row; XXXIII 1st row.
 „ A — „ „ XXXIII 5th row (2), 6th row.
- 61 Tell Abu Habil III — Fig. 26: 7.
 Beth Shan XVII — MJ 1935, Pl. II 15; III 12, 13.
 Tell Fendi — AASOR 1949/50, Pl. 80 (4 - 6,9); 149 (6, 14, 15, 19).
 Jericho VIII — LAAA 1935, Pl. XL 16, 23, 34; XLII 22, 24, 27.
 „ LAAA 1936, Pl. XXXIII 5.
 Teleilat Ghassul — TG I, Fig. 42 (1, 2, 5).
 „ TG II, Pl. 76 (1 - 11); 79 (6 - 9); 96 (1B, 6 - 8A).
 Umm Qatafa - Syria 1934, Fig. 6 (1, 4, 5, 7).
 Murabba'at — unpublished.
 Bnei Braq — QDAP 1946, Fig. 2 (4).
 Gezer — Gez. Exc., Pl. CXXI 4.
 Bir Abu Matar — BIES 1954, Fig. 3 (10, 13).
 Wadi GhazzeH A — BP II, Pl. XL 37.
 „ D1 — „ „ XXXVIII 1.
 „ D2 — „ „ „ 7.
- 62 Tell Abu Habil III — Fig. 26: 5.
 Tell es Saidiyeh el Tahta — Fig. 32: 16.
 Jericho VIII — LAAA 1935, Pl. XL 32.
 Wadi GhazzeH D2 — BP II, Pl. XXXVIII 2, 3.
- 63 Tell Abu Habil III — Fig. 26: 4.
 Beth Shan XVI — MJ 1935, Pl. I 12.
 Affuleh Sounding A — JPOS 1948, Pl. V 14.
 Bnei Braq — QDAP 1946, Fig. 3 (60).
 Teleilat Ghassul — TG I, Fig. 37 (7).
- 64 Tell Abu Habil III — Fig. 26: 12, 13.
 Tell Fendi — AASOR 1949/50, Pl. 80 (1, 2); 149 (11, 13).
 Tell es Saidiyeh el Tahta — Fig. 33: 7 - 12.
 Khirbet el Auja el Fôqa — AASOR 1949/50, Pl. 19 (3, 13-15); 124 (3, 13-15).
 Jericho VIII & t. 354-356 — LAAA 1935, Pl. XL 6, 9; XLII 9-11; XLIII 5, 12.
 „ 1936, „ XXXII 23a.
 Teleilat Ghassul — TG I, Fig. 39 (6, 9); 52 (4); 54 (1).
 Murabba'at — unpublished.
 Bnei Braq — QDAP 1946, Fig. 3 (33 - 35).
 Wadi GhazzeH A — BP II Pl. XL 32.
 „ B — „ „ XXXIX 27.
 „ O — „ „ „ 18.
- 65 Tell Abu Habil III — Fig. 26: 8.
 Affuleh — JPOS 1948, Pl. III 1.
 Jericho t. 354 - 356 — LAAA 1935, Pl. XLIII 17.
 Teleilat Ghassul — TG II, Pl. 85 (1, 2).
 Wadi GhazzeH B — BP II Pl. XXXIII 4th row.
 „ M — „ „ „ 3d row.
 „ O — „ „ „ XXXV 6th and 7th rows.
- 66 Tell Abu Habil III — Fig. 25: 12.
 Beth Shan XVIII — MJ 1935, Pl. III 16.
 Megiddo XX — SAOC 17, Chart XX 6.
 Bnei Braq — QDAP 1946, Pl. XVI 7, 8.
 Jericho VIII — LAAA 1935, Pl. XL 35.
 „ 1936, „ XXXIII 32.
 Teleilat Ghassul — TG I, Fig. (4, 7, 8 - 16); Pl. 49 (95 - 98).
 Wadi GhazzeH O — BP II, Pl. XXXV 5th row; (5); XXXIX 21.

- 67 Tell Abu Habil Iī — Fig. 25: 17.
 Affuleh Sounding A & B — JPOS 1948, Pl. I 3; VIII 25, 26, 28, 29, 31.
 Megiddo XX — SAOC 17, Chart XX 6.
 Beth Shan XVII — MJ 1935, Pl. II 11, 12, 15.
 Tell Fendi — unpublished.
 Tell es Saidiyeh el Tahta — Fig. 32: 6; 33: 16; 34: 16, 17.
 Tell el Far'ah I — RB 1947, Fig. 1 (13-16, 35); Pl. XIII 3, 4, 6-9; XIV 6.
 Khirbet el Auja el Foqa — AASOR 1949/50, Pl. 18 (1-4, 7-10); 125 (8-10, 12, 14-17).
 Jericho VIII and t. 354-356 — LAAA 1935, Pl. XLI 20; XLII 17-19; XLIII 11, 16.
 Teleilat Ghassul — TG I, Fig. 37 (7); 45; 47; 48; 50 (3, 4, 5); 51; 52 (1, 2, 20); 53; 56 (5); 59 (1, 2, 5)
 61 (9); 63.
 TG II, Pl. 43 (103, 104); 44 (37, 38, 50-52); 45 (1); 51 (99); 54 (7).
 TG II, 77 (3, 6, 7); 78 (2, 5, 10, 11); 91 (10, 11); 93 (1, 4, 6, 7, 11, 12); 96 B (2, 4, 5).
 Umm Qatafa — Syria 1931, Fig. 4 a, c; Pl. XIX 6, 9.
 Murabba'at — unpublished.
 Hederah — JPOS 1937, Fig. 5.
 Gezer — Gez. Exc., Pl. CXXI 5.
 Mugharet et Tawamin — JPOS 1930, Fig. 2 a.
 Bir Abu Matar — BIES 1954, Fig. 3 (8).
 Wadi Ghazzeḥ A — BP II, Pl. XXXI 4th and 5th rows; XL 33.
 " B — " " 3d row (5); XXXIX 27, 29.
 " M — " " 2d row.
 " D2 — " XXX 2d row (3, 8).
 " O — " " 5th row; XXIV; XXXV 8th row.
- 68 Tell Abu Habil III — Fig. 25: 18.
 Affuleh Sounding E — JPOS 1948, Pl. IX 19.
 Tell Fendi — unpublished.
 Wadi Ghazzeḥ M — BP II, Pl. XXXIII 1st row.
- 69 Tell Abu Habil III — Fig. 25: 19.
 Wādi Salḥah III — RPG, Pl. XXIX D, E, F.
 Affuleh Soundings A, B, D — JPOS 1948, Pl. IX 25, 26, 28, 29.
 Megiddo XX — M. II, Pl. 2 (4, 5, 49); 94 (3, 8).
 Beth Shan XVIII-XVI — MJ 1935, Pl. I 20, 21, 23, 26.
 Tell es Saidiyeh el Tahta — Fig. 32: 10.
 Khirbet el Auja el Foqa — AASOR 1949/50, Pl. 124 (7, 10).
 Tell el Far'ah I — RB 1947, Fig. 1 (10, 12).
 Jericho VIII & t. 354-356 — LAAA 1935, Pl. XL 7, 8, 10, 11, 14; XLI 28; XLIII 3, 7, 16, 18, 19.
 1936, " XXXIII 4
 Tell Ghanam — AASOR 1949/50, Pl. 81 (1-4, 6-7).
 Teleilat Ghassul — TG I, Fig. 41 (12); 50 (5); 52 (9); 60 (17); 62.
 Pl. 39 (7, 4); 53; 54.
 " II, " 81 (11); 85 (3); 87; etc.
 Umm Qatafa — Syria 1931, Fig. 9.
 Murabba'at — unpublished.
 Bir Abu Matar — BIES 1954, Fig. 3 (7).
 Wadi Ghazzeḥ D1 — BP II, Pl. XXXVIII 4.
 " D2 — " XXXII 1st row, left.
 " E — " " right.
 " O — " " 4th row; XXXV passim.
 " M — " XXXIII 2d and 3d rows.
 " B — " " 4th row; XIV 14; XXXIX 27.
 " A — " " 5th and 6th rows.
- 70 Tell Abu Habil III — Fig. 25: 20; 26: 17.
 Affuleh Sounding A — JPOS 1948, Pl. IX 21.
 Tell es Saidiyeh el Tahta — Fig. 33: 6; 34: 10, 11.
 Khirbet el Auja el Foqa — AASOR 1949/50, Pl. 20 (10, 12).
 Teleilat Ghassul — TG I, Fig. 41 (8); 51; 60 (1, 2, 4, 6-9, 18, 19); 62; Pl. 46 (1).
 " II, Pl. 86 (1-5, 12, 16-18); 88 (1-21); 93 (12).
 Wadi Ghazzeḥ D2 — BP II, XXXII 2d row, left.
 " E — " XXX 4th row; XXXII right, 1st and 2d rows.
 " O — " XXXII 4th row; XXXIV; XXXV 2d row (1), 3d row (2).
- 71 Tell Abu Habil — AASOR 1949/50, pp. 275-276, 432-435.
- 72 Tell Abu Habil Surf. — AASOR 1949/50, Pl. 14 (8); 122 (13).
 Megiddo XIX — SAOC 17, Pl. 20 (27).
 Tell es Saidiyeh el Tahta — Fig. 31.

- Jericho VIII — LAAA 1935, Pl. LV a, 1st row, left.
 Teleilat Ghassul — TG I, Fig. 40, Pl. 39 (1).
 „ II, Pl. 83 (11, 14); 84 (2, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11).
 Wadi Ghazzeah O — BP II, Pl. XXXIV 11, 12.
 E — „ p. 7.
 Also LAAA 1938, pp. 2-11, Pl. I 5-7.
- 73 Tell Abu Habil Surf. — AASOR 1949/50, Pl. 13 (9); 121 (23).
 Affuleh Sounding A — JPOS 1948, Pl. IV 1.
 Tell es Saidiyeh el Tahta — Fig. 32: 3.
 Bnei Braq — QDAP 1946, Fig. 3 (60).
 Teleilat Ghassul TG I, Fig. 37 (7).
 „ II, Pl. 78 (9).
- 74 Tell es Saidiyeh — AASOR 1949/50, pp. 290-295, 483-487.
- 75 Tell es Saidiyeh el Tahta — Fig. 33: 12.
 Jericho VIII — LAAA 1935, Pl. XLI 1-7.
 „ 1936, „ XXXII 24 a-b, 29 b.
 Teleilat Ghassul — TG I, Fig. 38 (12).
- 76 Tell es Saidiyeh el Tahta — Fig. 34: 5.
 Affuleh Sounding E — JPOS 1938, Pl. VIII 35.
 Jericho VIII and t. 354-356 — LAAA 1935, Pl. XLII 32, 33; XLIII 6, 20, 21.
 „ 1936, „ XXXII 30.
 Tell Ghanam — AASOR 1949/50, Pl. 81 (9); 150 (3).
 Teleilat Ghassul — TG I, Fig. 43 (5); 59 (1, 2); 62 (11); 56 (4). Pl. 41 (28); 43 (34-36); 51 (1).
 „ II, Pl. 76 (12-17, 21); 78 (1, 3, 4, 7, 8) 91 (7-12); 92 (1); 93 (2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10);
 96 A (5), B (2, 4, 5).
 Murabba'at — RB 1953, Fig. 1 (7) and unpublished.
 Hederah — JPOS 1937, Fig. 6 d.
 Bnei Braq — QDAP 1946 (not figured).
 Gezer — Gezer Exc., Pl. CXLI 8.
 Wadi Ghazzeah A — BP II, Pl. XXXI 4th and 5th rows,
 „ O — „ XXXV 8th row (2, 6).
- 77 Tell es Saidiyeh el Tahta — Fig. 32: 10.
 Jericho t. 354-356 — LAAA 1935, Pl. XLIII 12.
 Teleilat Ghassul — TG I, Fig. 52 (8); Pl. 54 (5).
 Wadi Ghazzeah D2 — BP II, Pl. XXXII 1st row, left.
 „ M — „ XXXIII 3d row.
 „ O — „ XXXIV.
- 78 Tell es Saidiyeh el Tahta — Fig. 32: 11, 12.
 Tell el Far'ah II — RB 1949, Fig. 1 (2, 3, 4).
 „ 1951 „ 7 (1); 11 (6, 7, 10).
 „ 1952 „ 10 (1, 4).
- 79 Tell es Saidiyeh el Tahta — Fig. 33: 7.
 Affuleh — JPOS 1948, Pl. III 3.
 Tell Umm Hamad Sherqi — AASOR 1949/50, Pl. 106 (1, 3, 7); 103 (6, 8, 12); 157 (6, 7, 4); 158 (1); 162 (10).
- 80 Tell es Saidiyeh el Tahta — Fig. 32: 10; 33: 4-6.
 1^o Middle Chalcolithic B:
 Beth Shan XVII — MJ 1935, Pl. I 20, 21, 23, 26.
 Jericho t. 354-356 — LAAA 1935, Pl. XLIII 12.
 Teleilat Ghassul — TG I, Fig. 39 (7, 8); 53; 54.
 2^o Late Chalcolithic:
 Beth Shan XVI — MJ 1935, Pl. I 7, 11, 13, 14, 16.
 Tell en Nasbeh — Nasbeh Exc. II, Pl. 10, No. 158.
- 81 Tell es Saidiyeh el Tahta — Fig. 32: 4; 33: 3, 4.
 Affuleh Sounding A & B — JPOS 1948, Pl. VII 2, 5, 6, 9.
 Beth Shan XVII — MJ 1935, Pl. II 9, 13.
 Megiddo XX-XIX — SAOC 17, Chart XX 21 & XIX 8.
 Tell el Far'ah I — RB 1947, Fig. 1 (32).
 Jericho VIII — LAAA 1935, Pl. XLI 6.
 „ 1936, „ XXXII 29 b.
 Teleilat Ghassul — TG I, Fig. 41 (9, 10); Pl. 103.
 Murabba'at — unpublished.
 Wadi Ghazzeah A — BP II, Pl. XXXI 4th row.

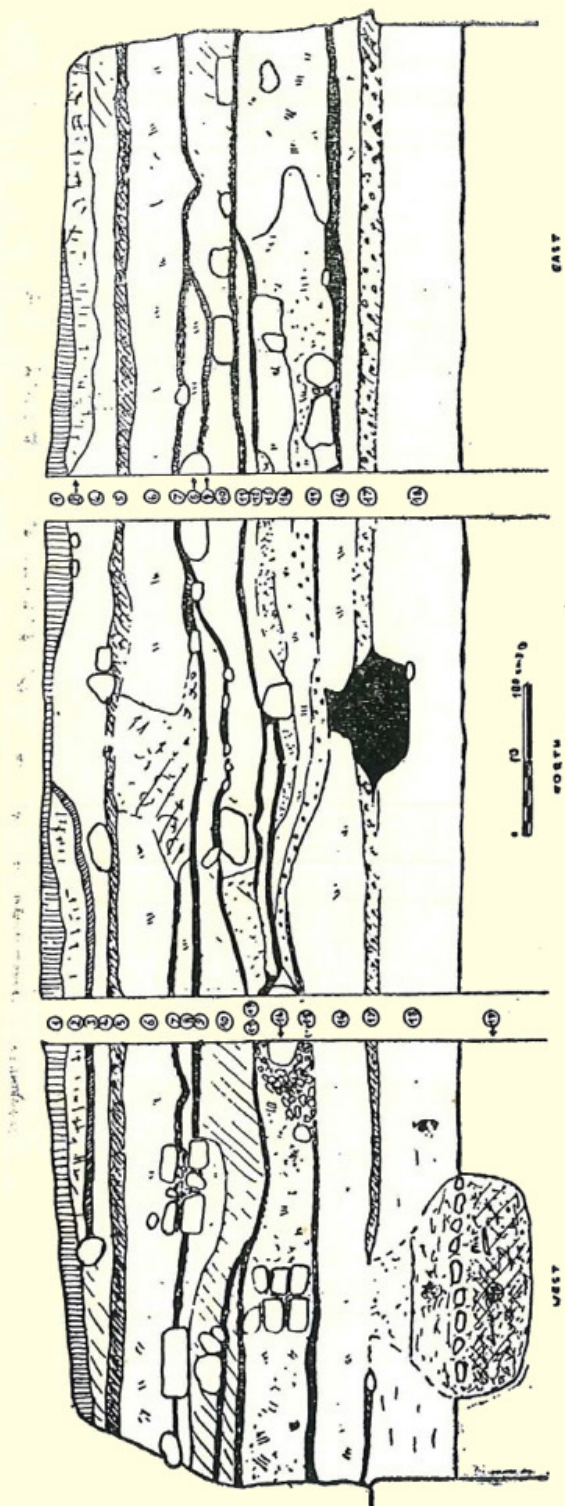


Fig. 1

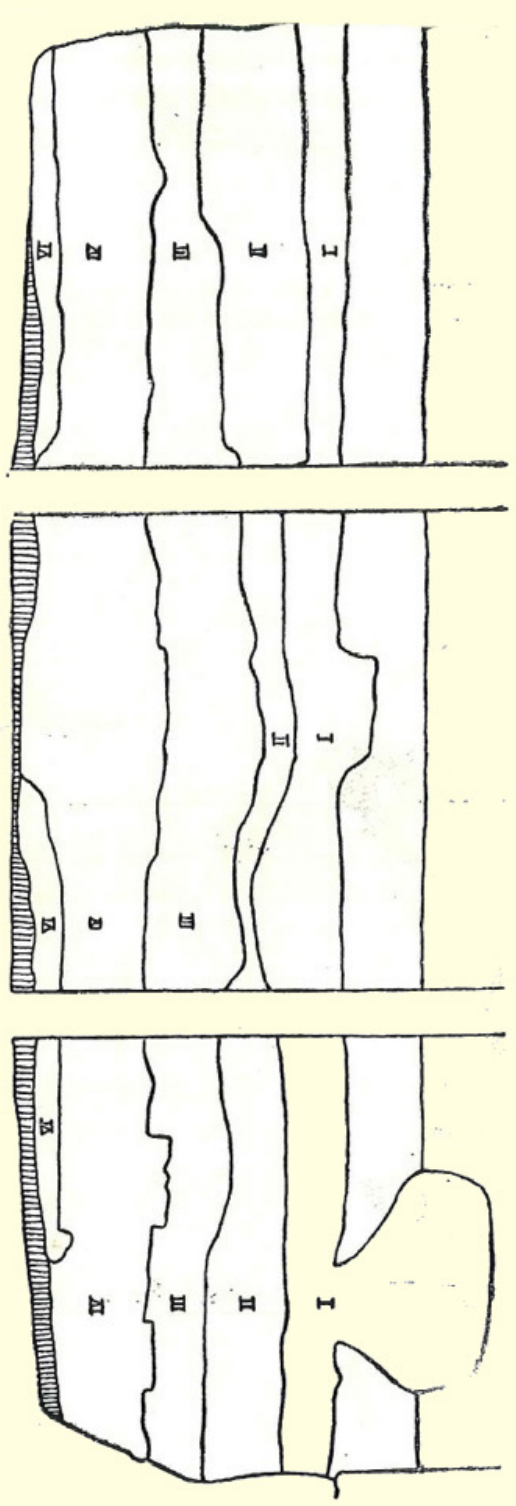


Fig. 2

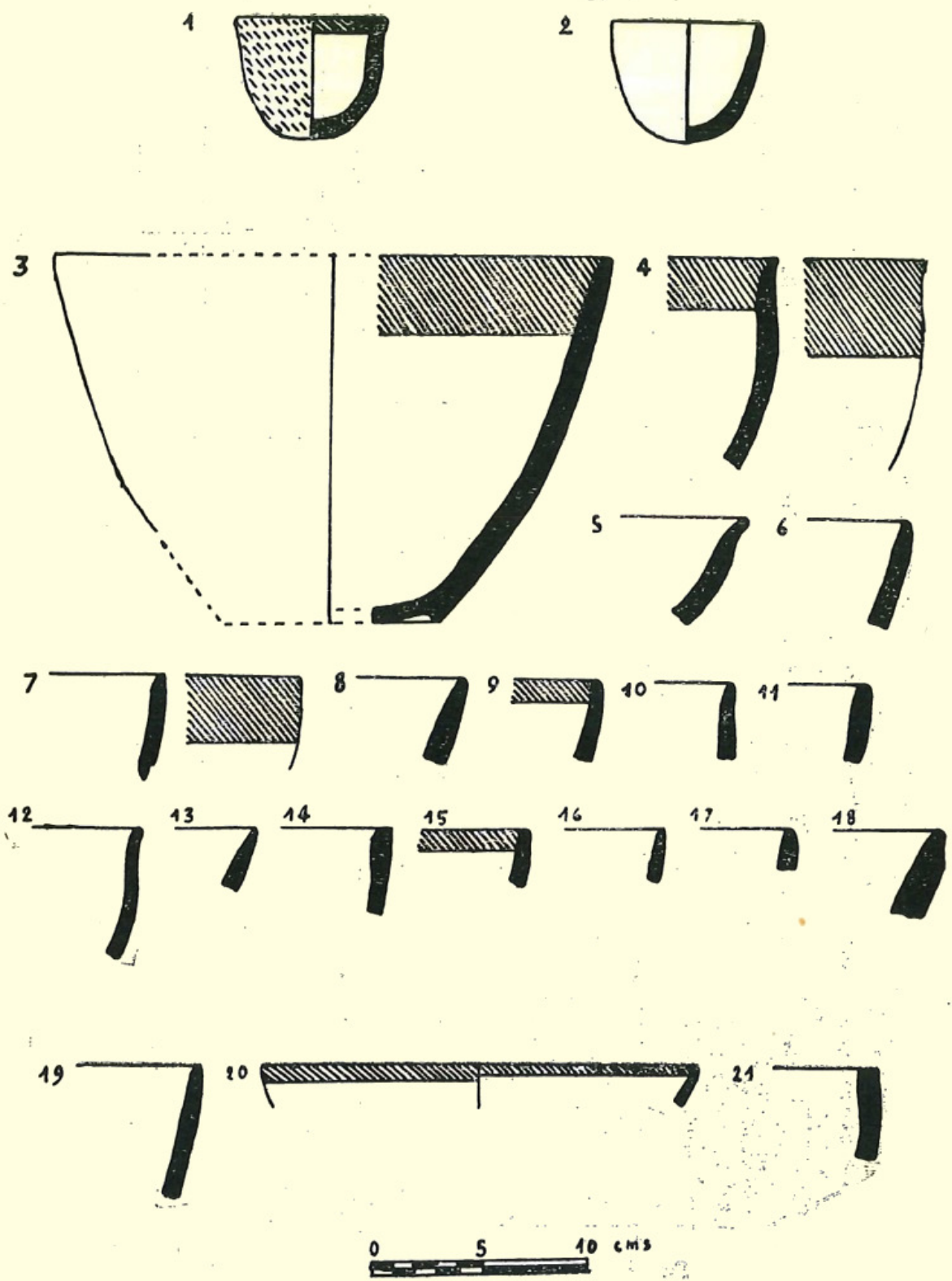


Fig. 3.

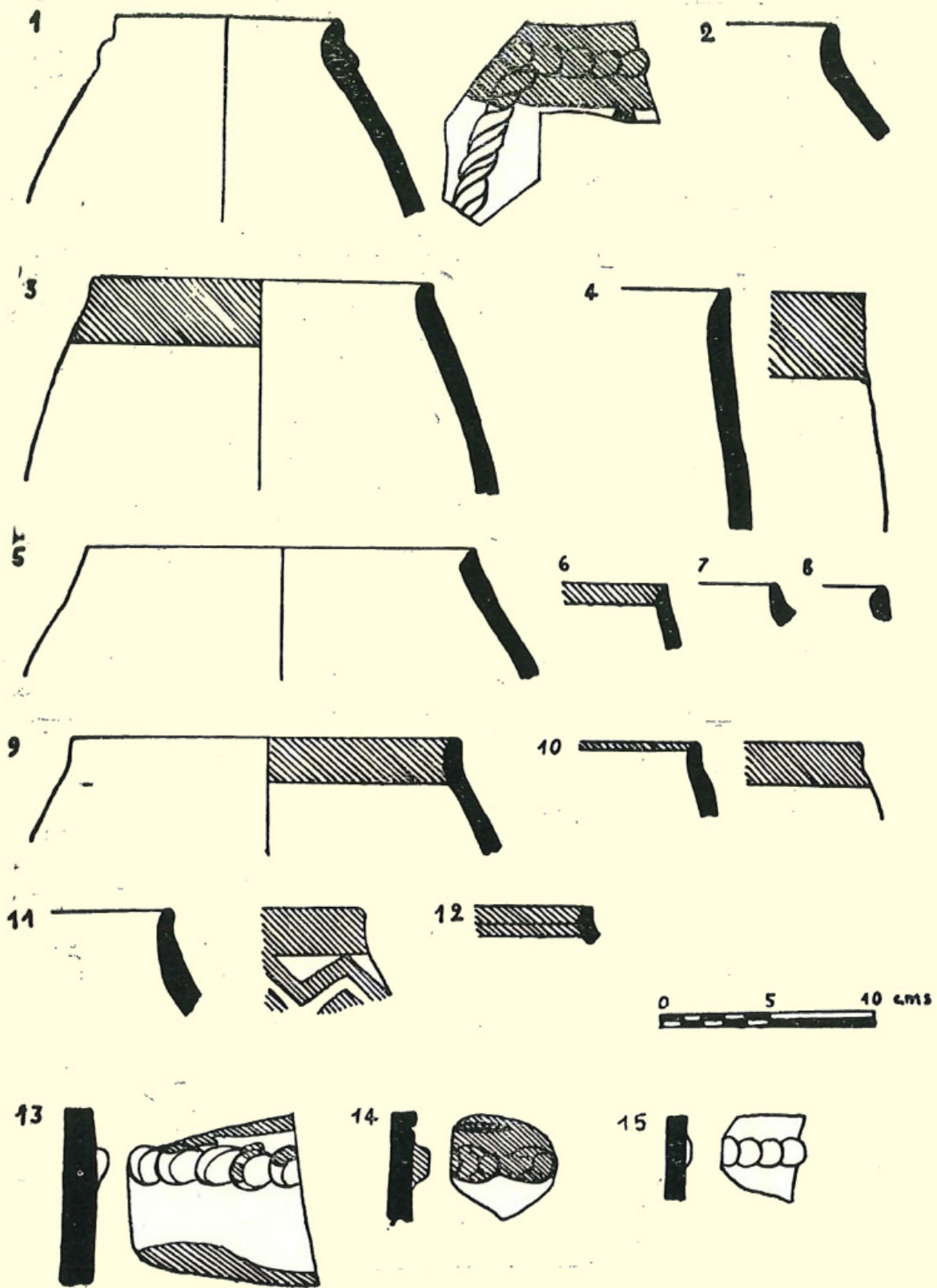


Fig. 4.

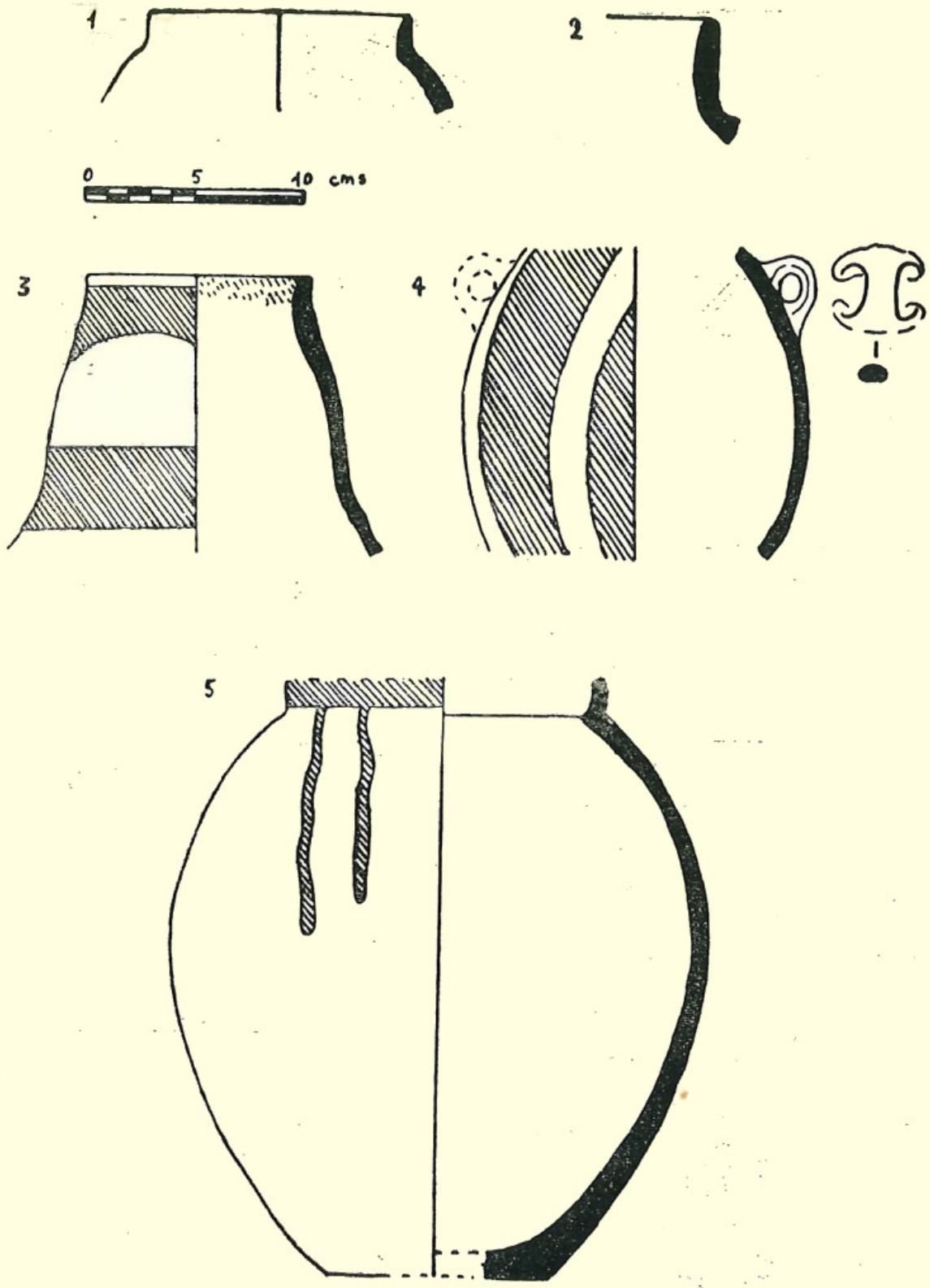


Fig. 5.

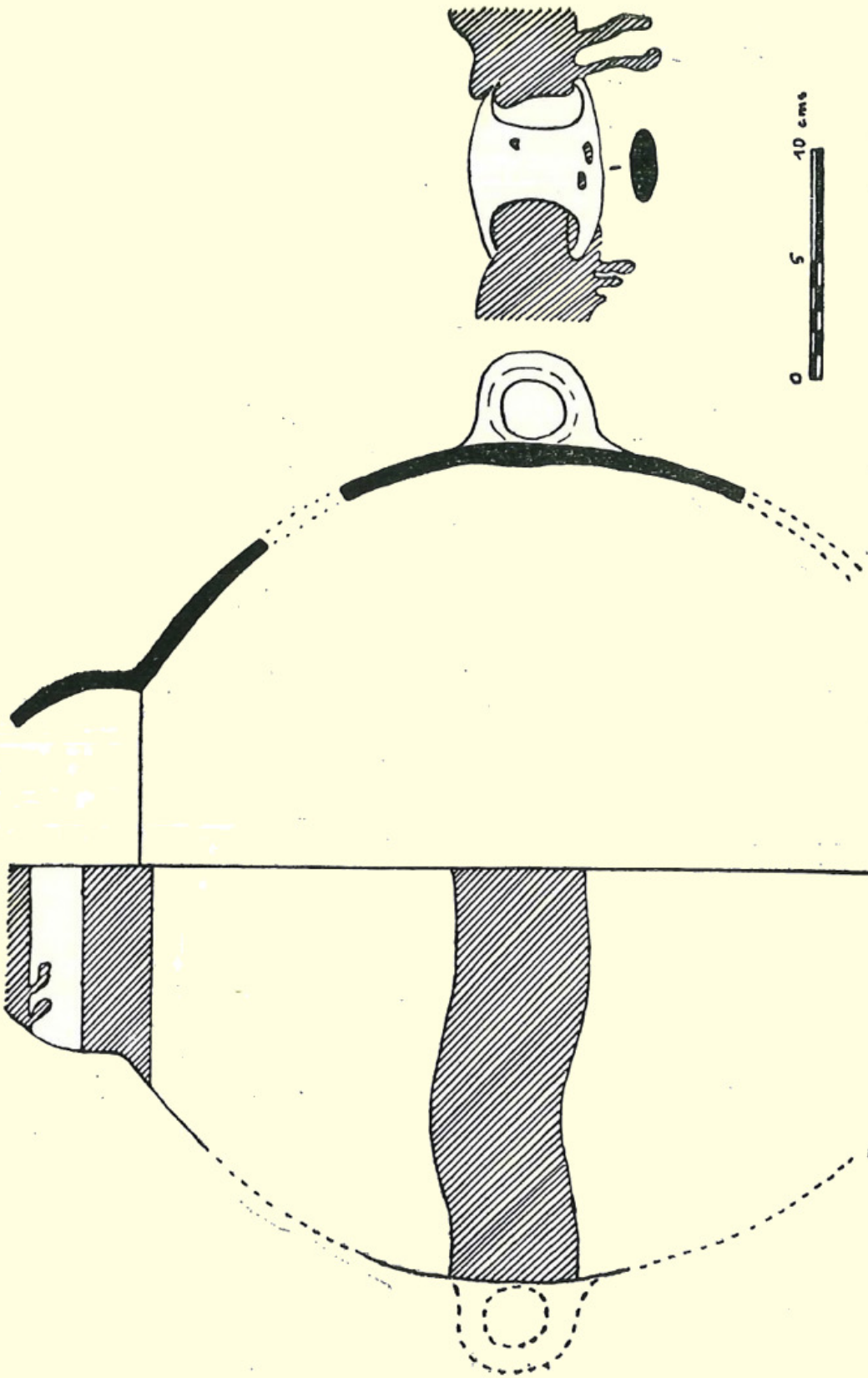


Fig. 6.

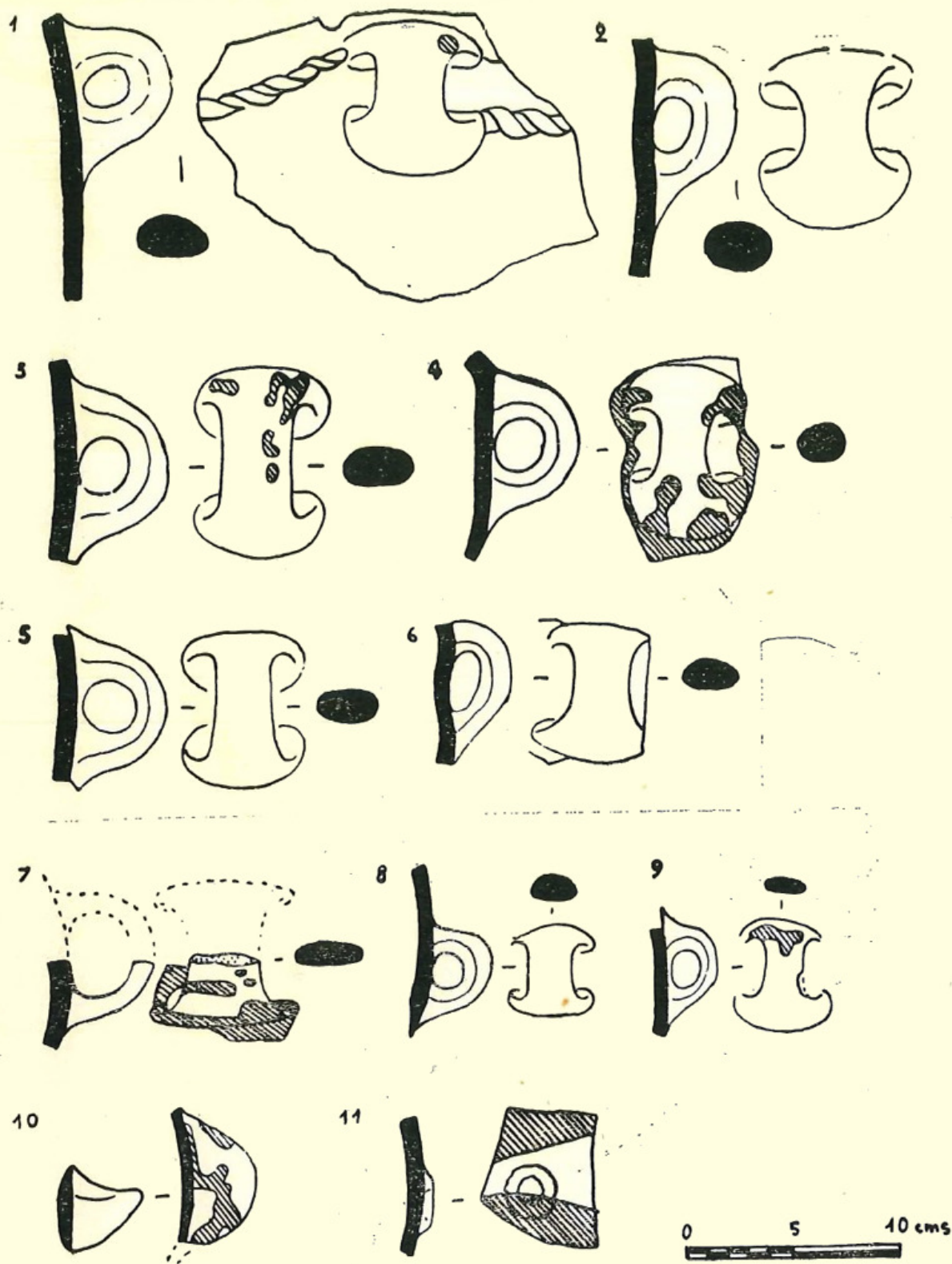


Fig. 7.

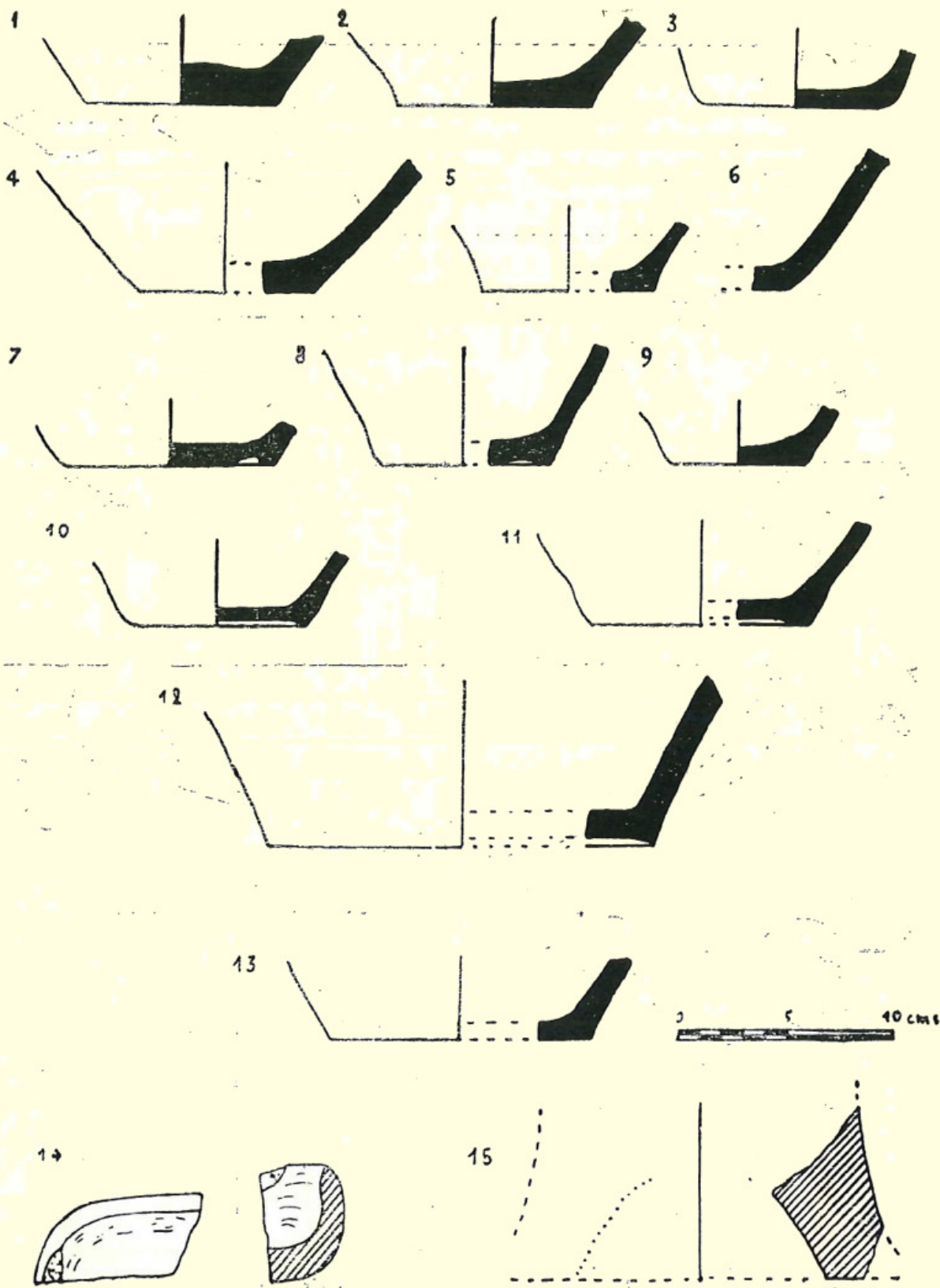


Fig. 8.

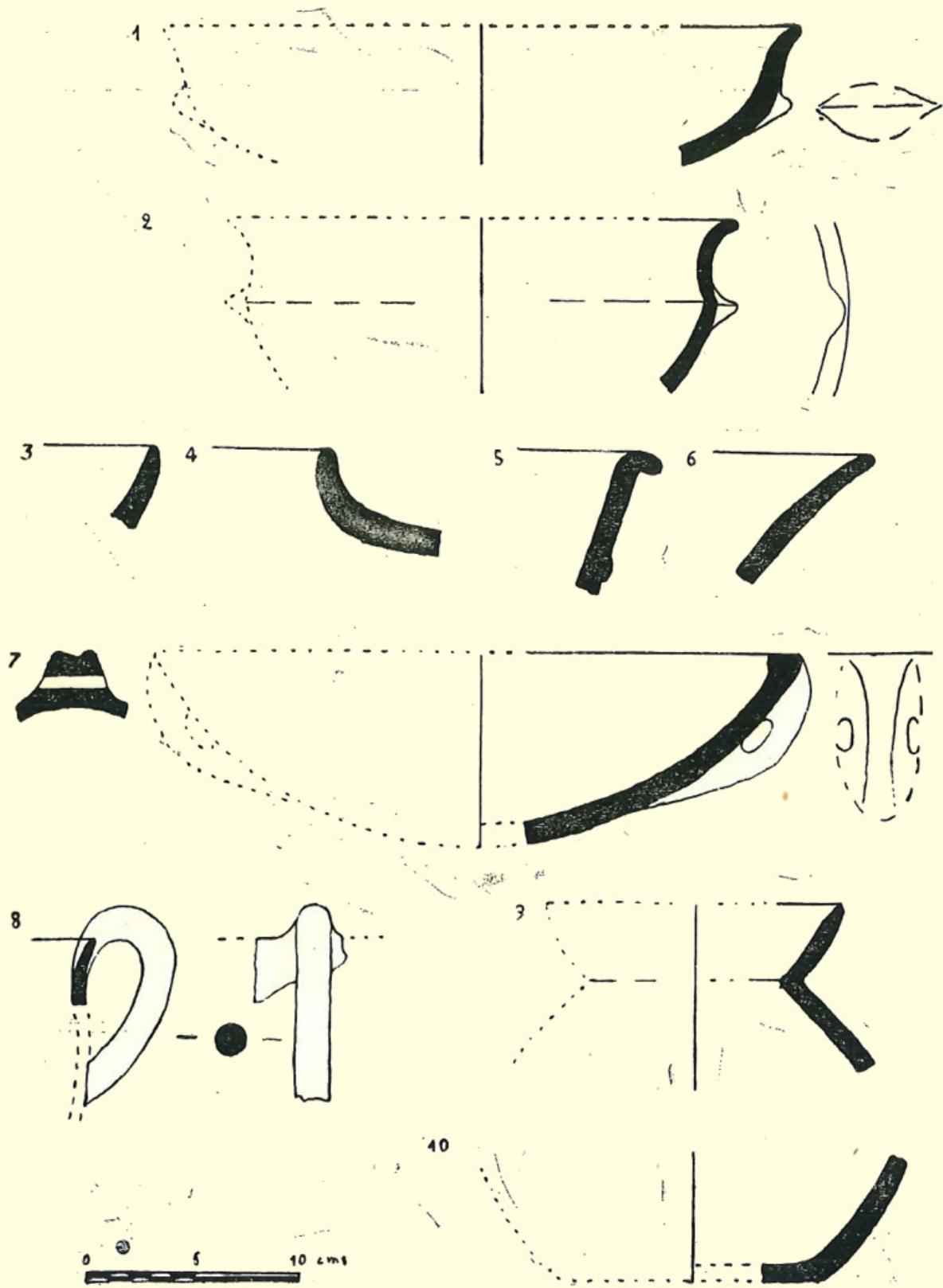


Fig. 9.

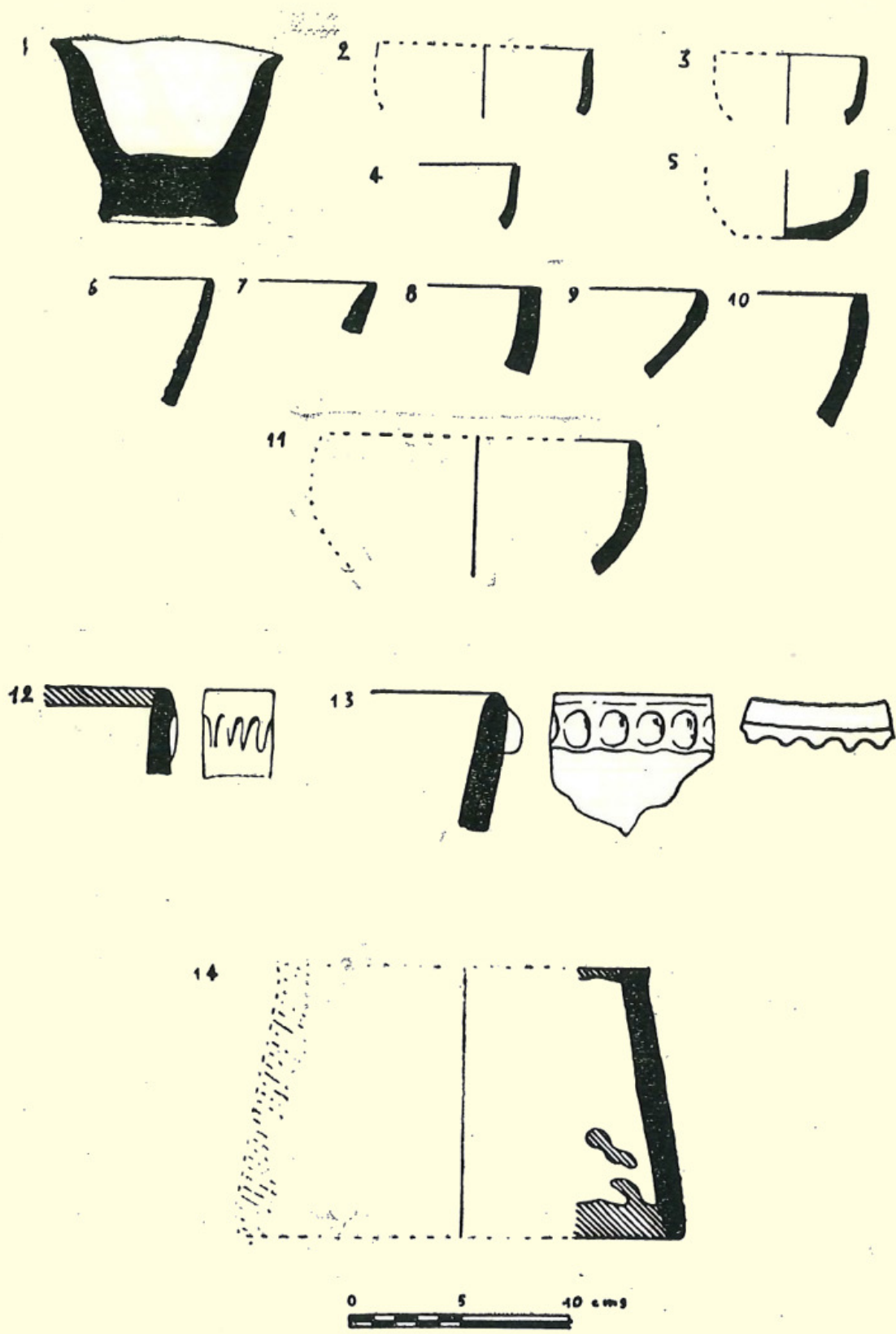


Fig. 10.

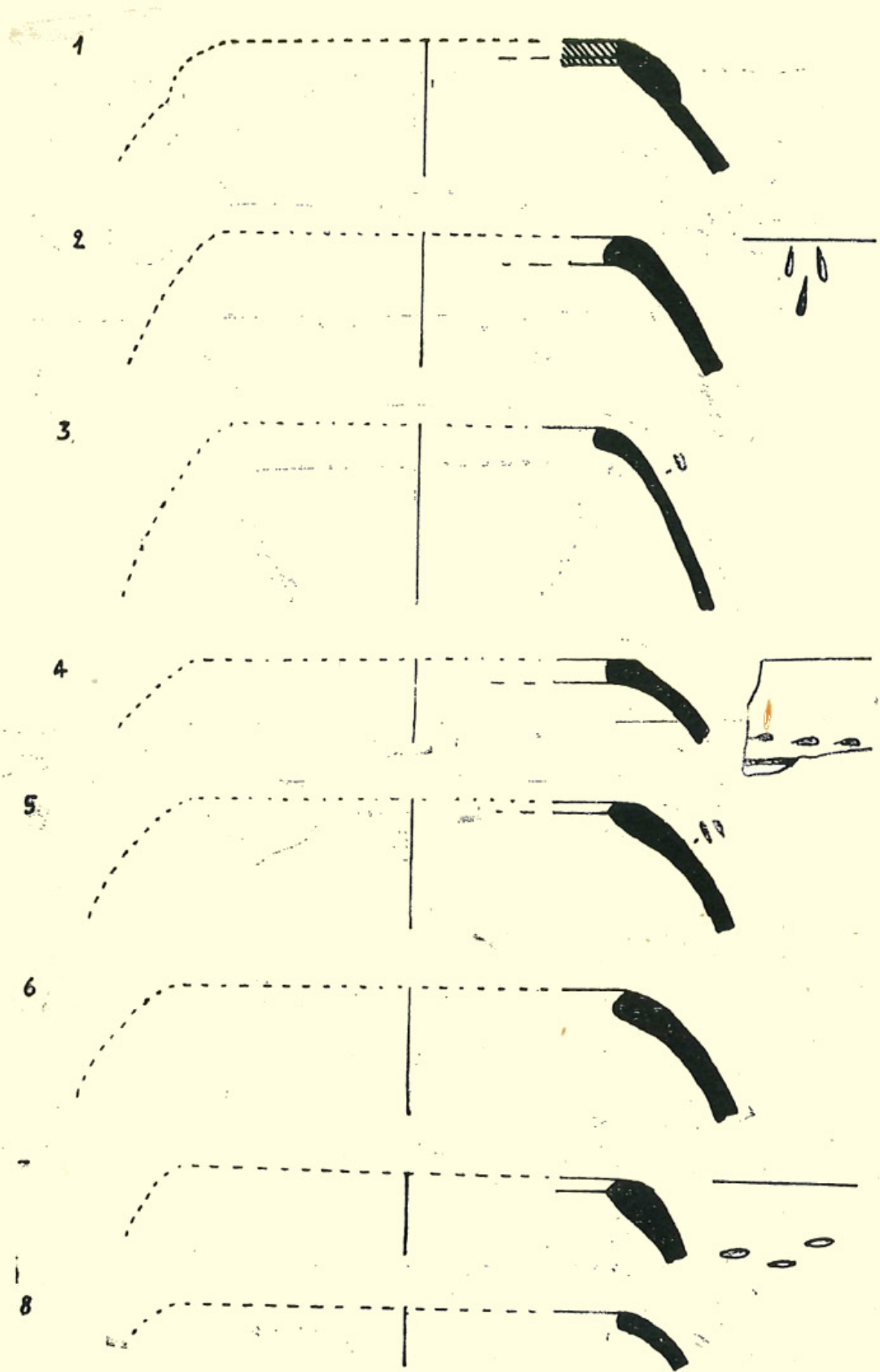


Fig. 11.

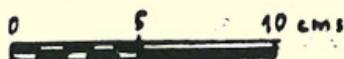
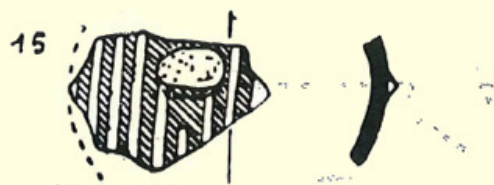
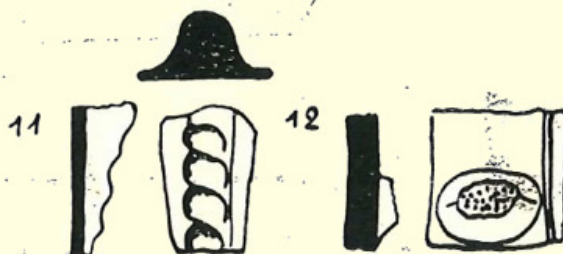
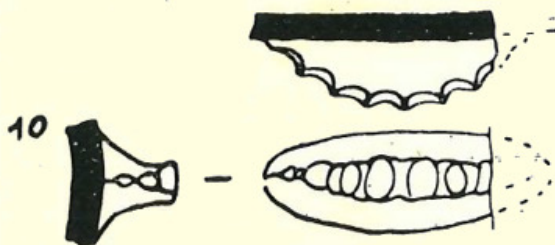
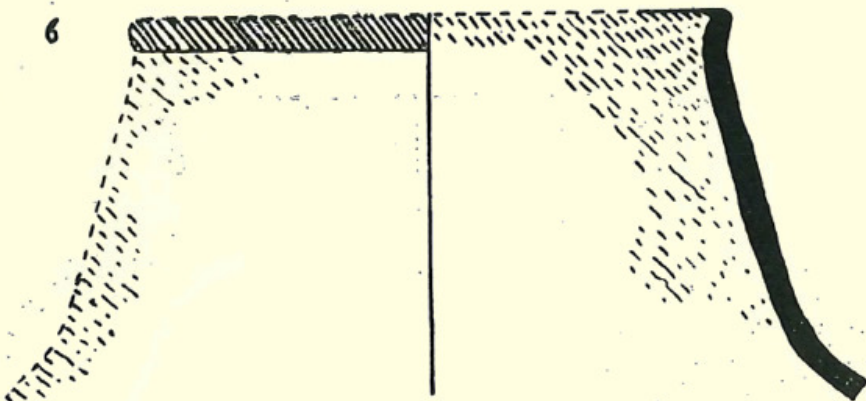


Fig. 12.

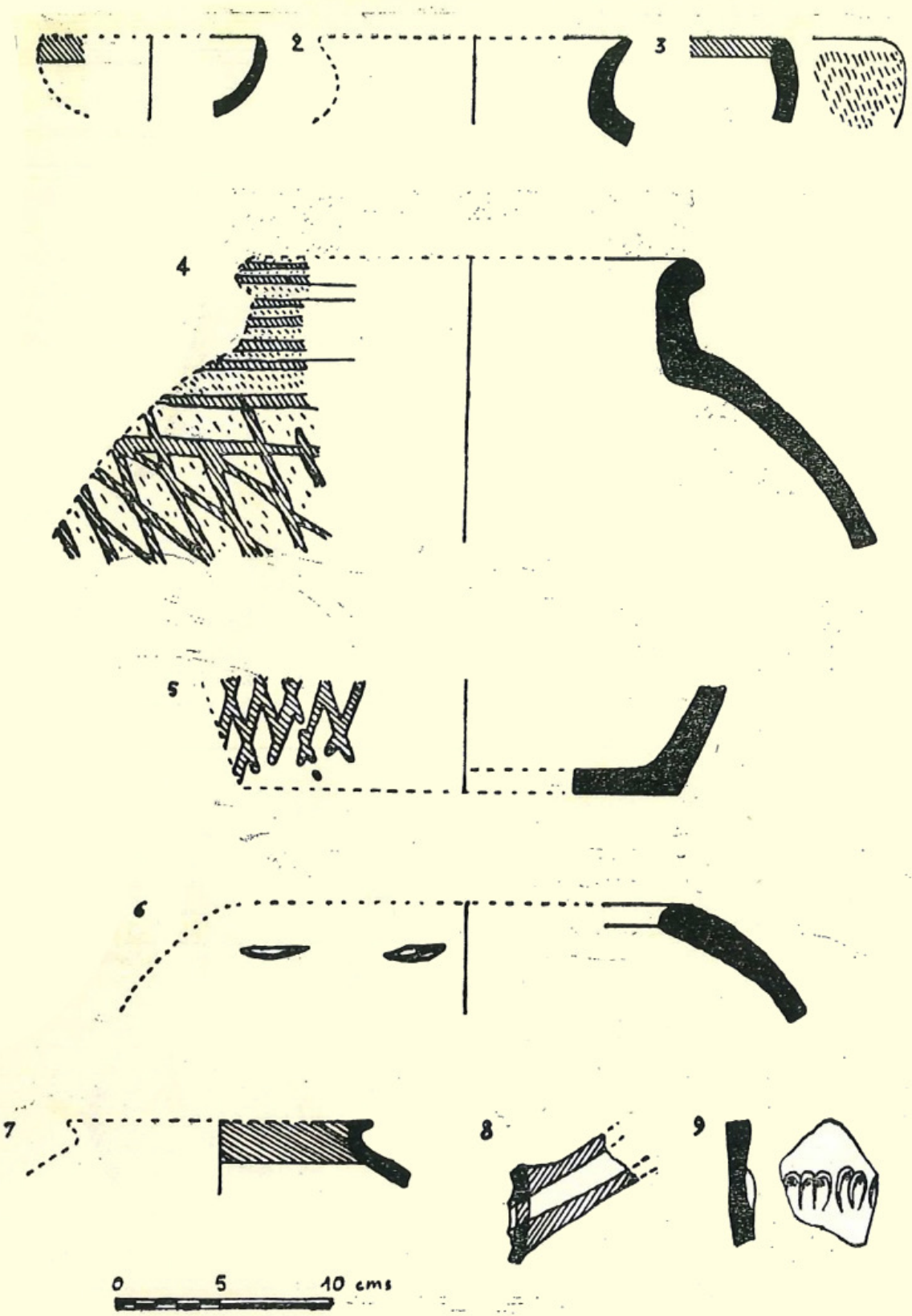


Fig. 13.

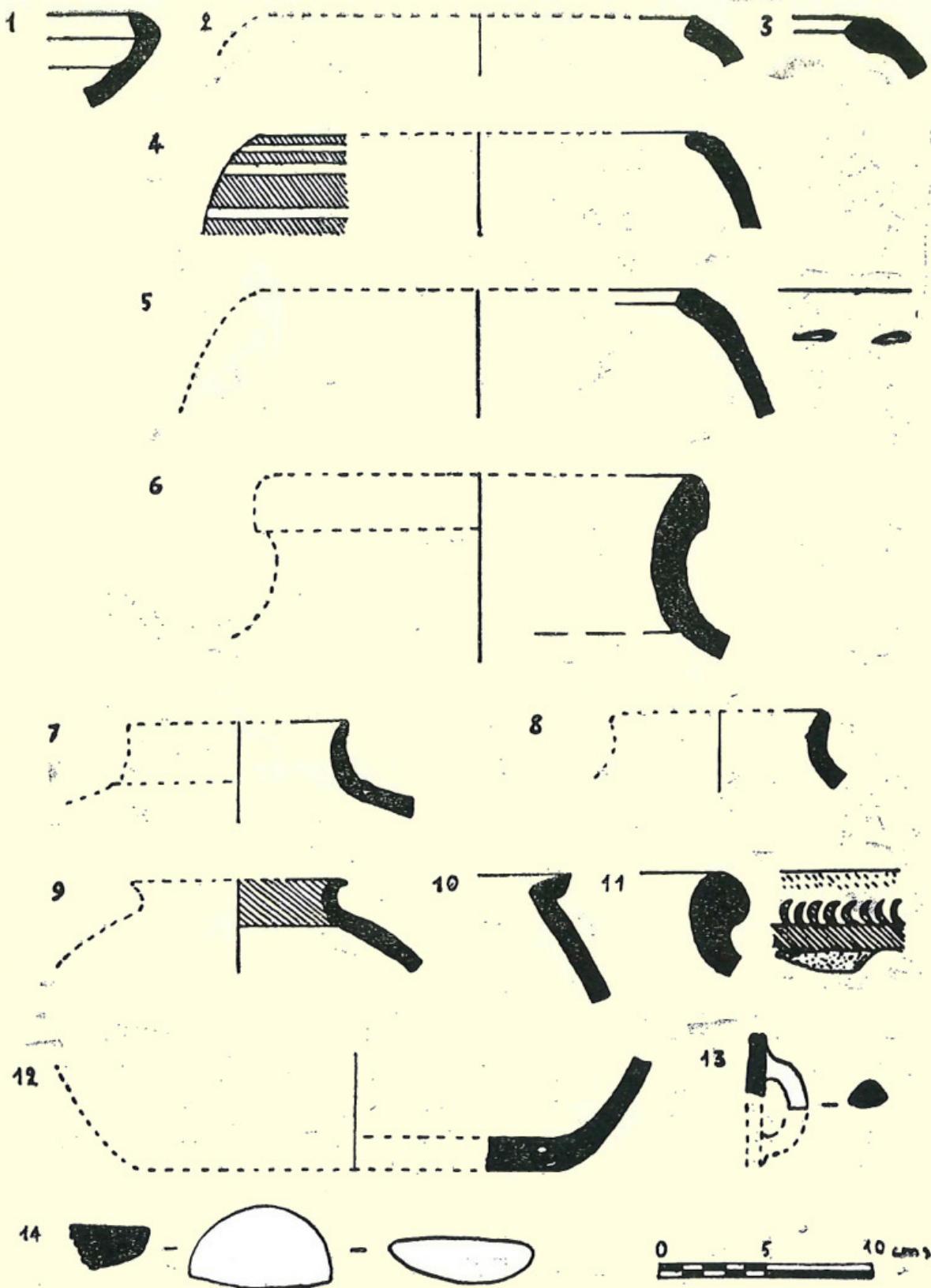


Fig. 14.

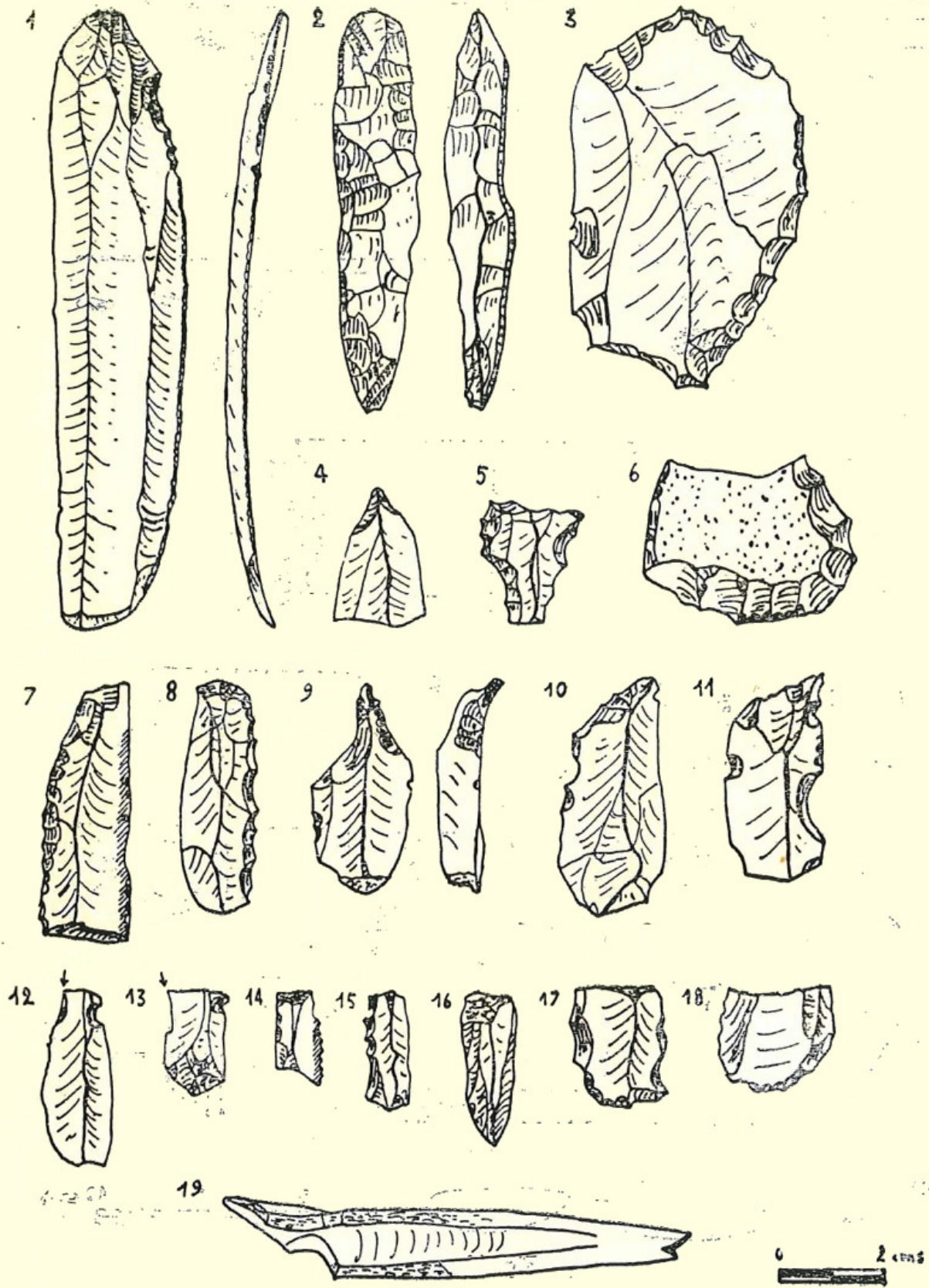


Fig. 15.

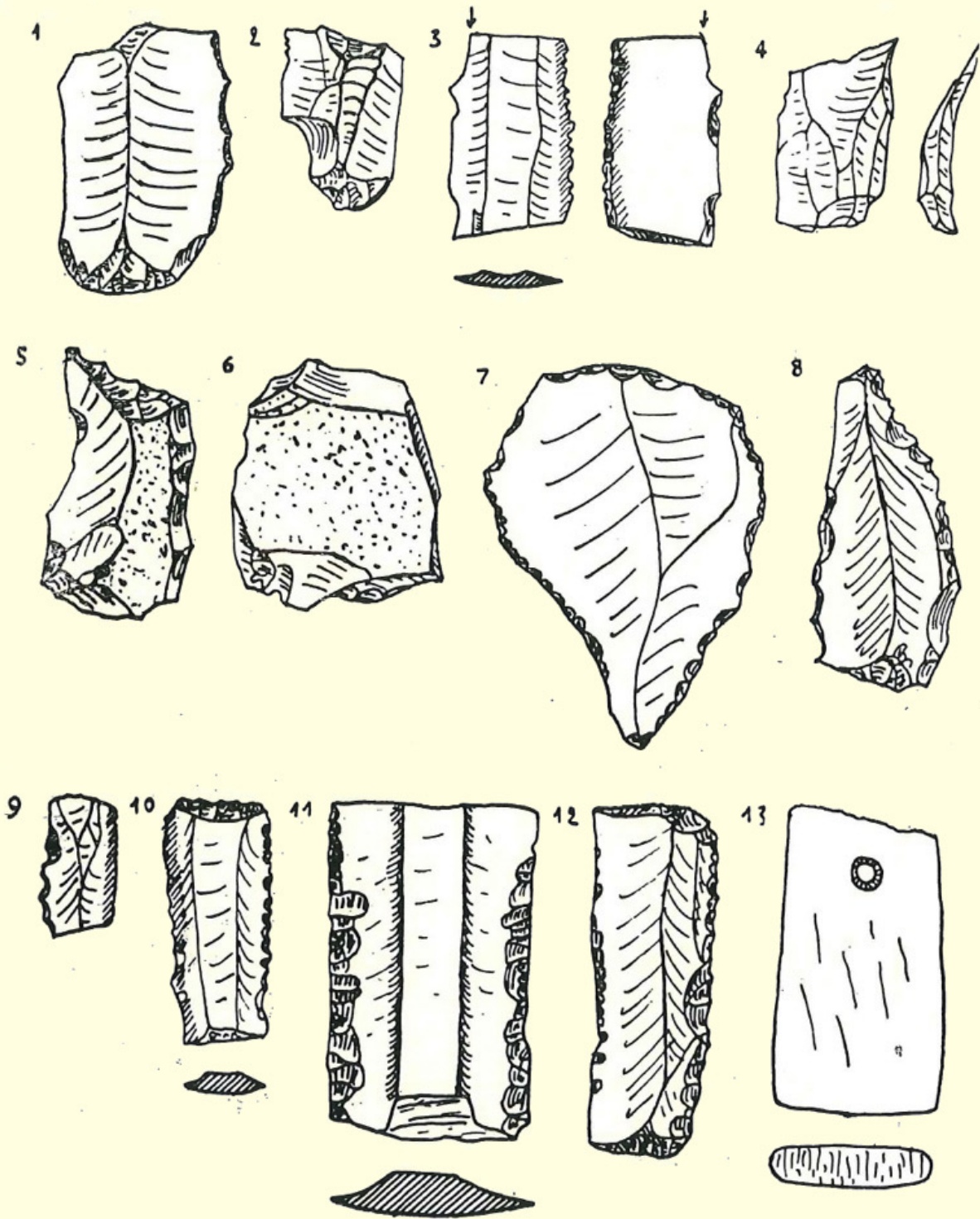


Fig. 16.

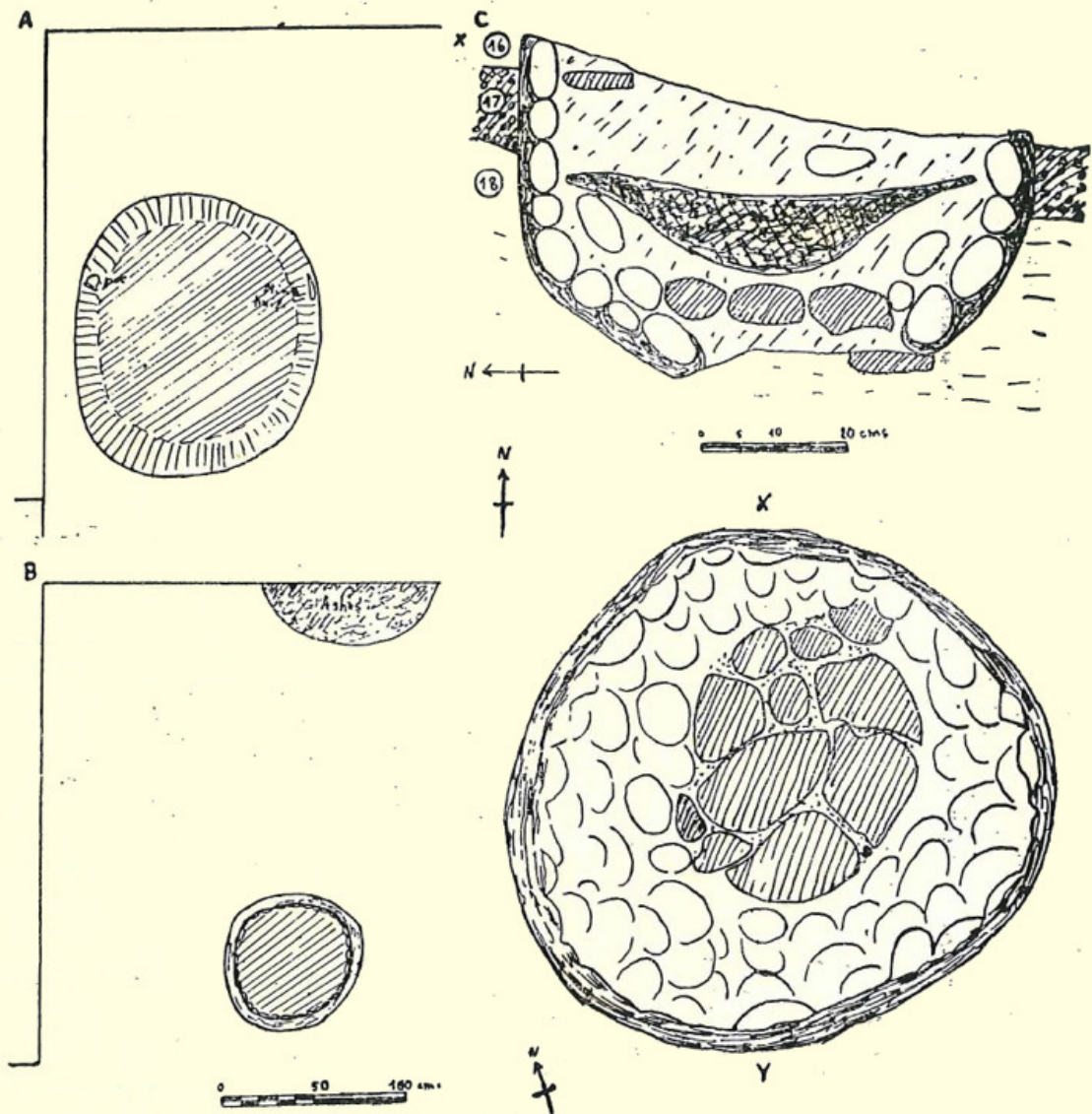


Fig. 17.

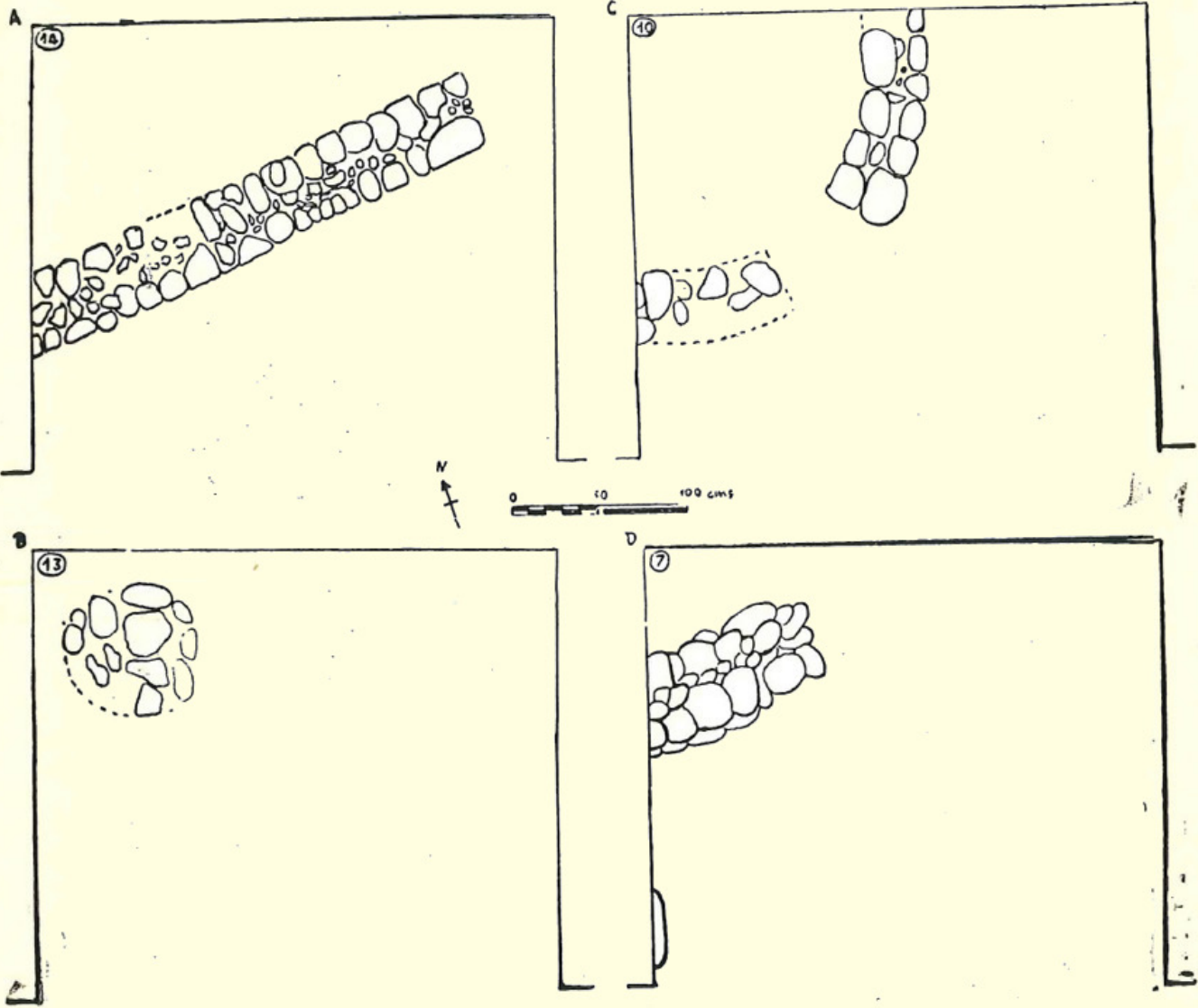


Fig. 18.

Fig. 19.

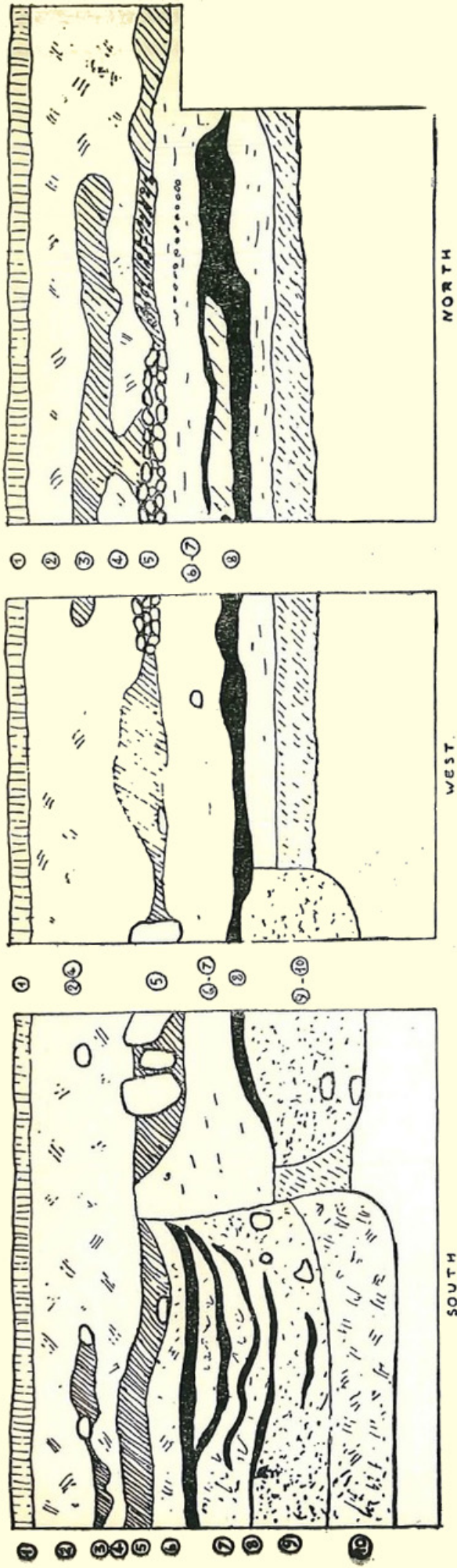


Fig. 20.

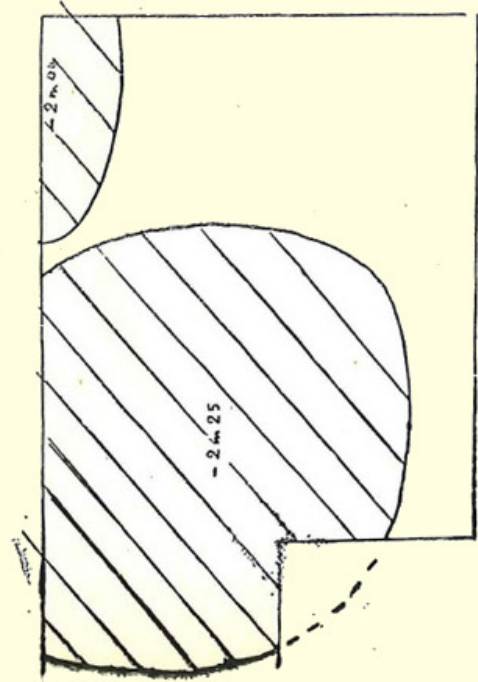


Fig. 21.

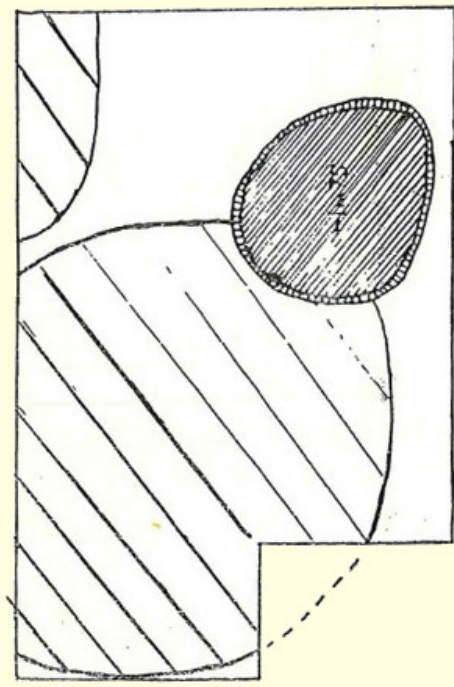
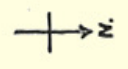
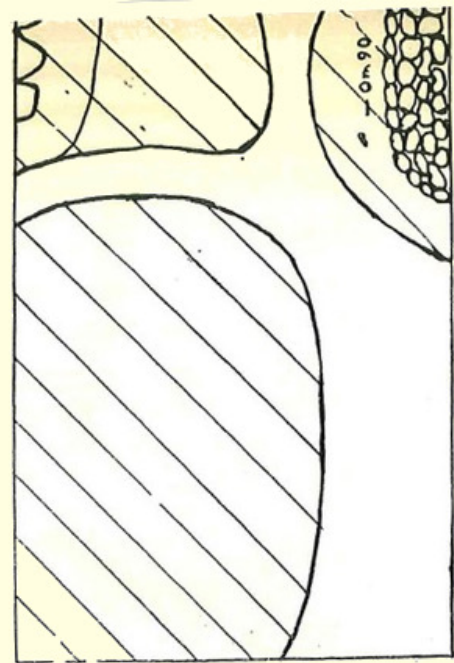


Fig. 22.



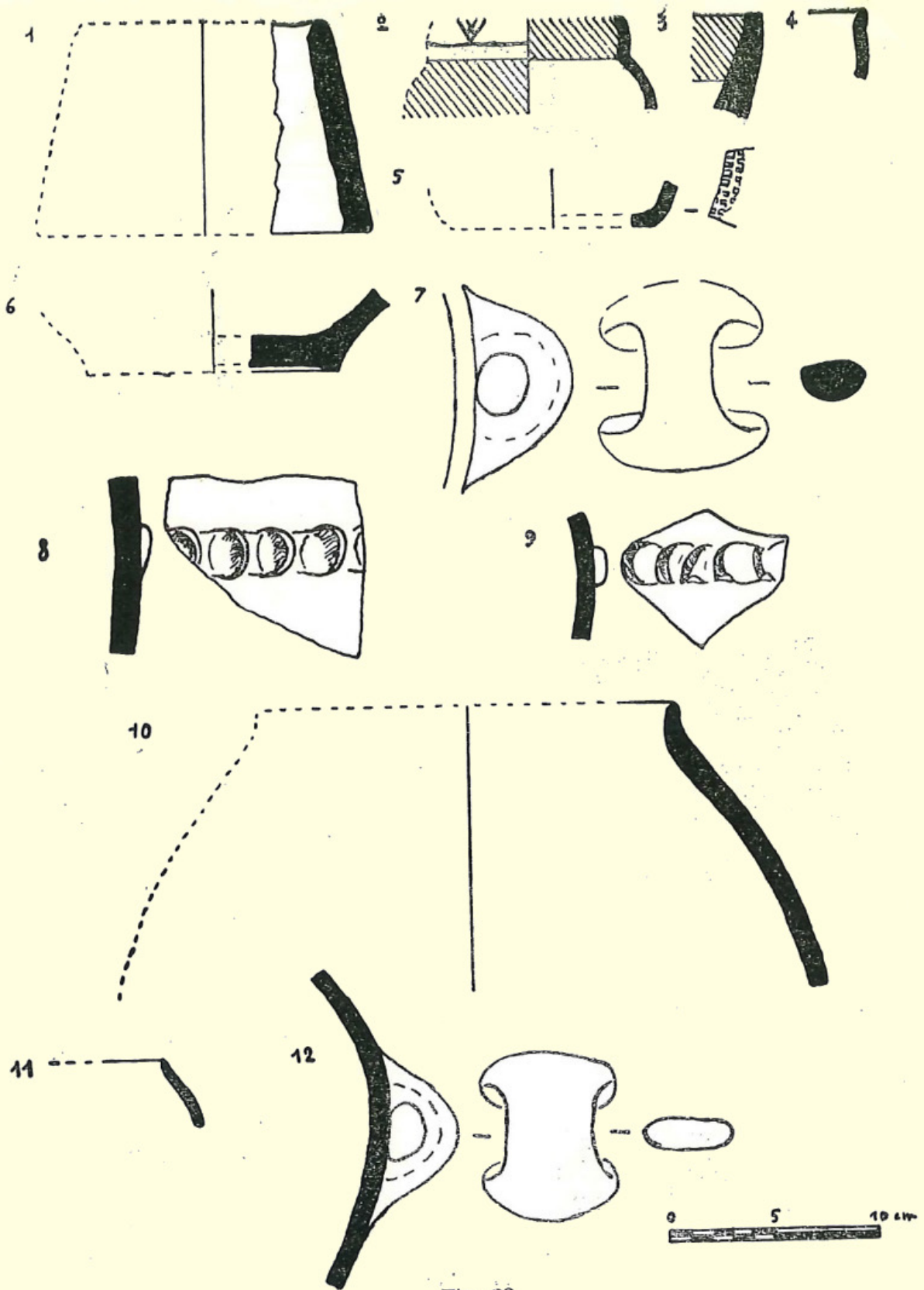


Fig. 23.

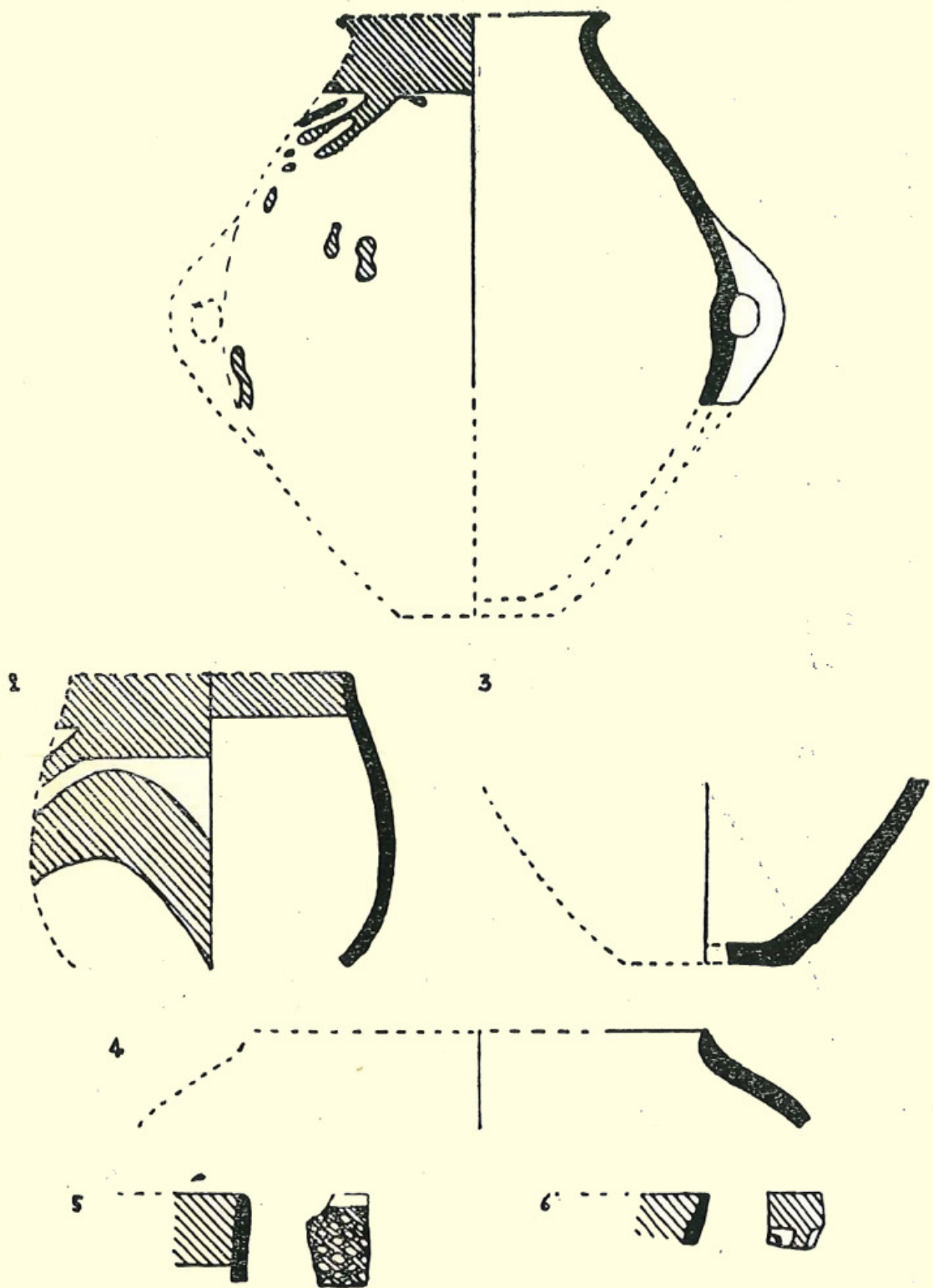


Fig. 24.

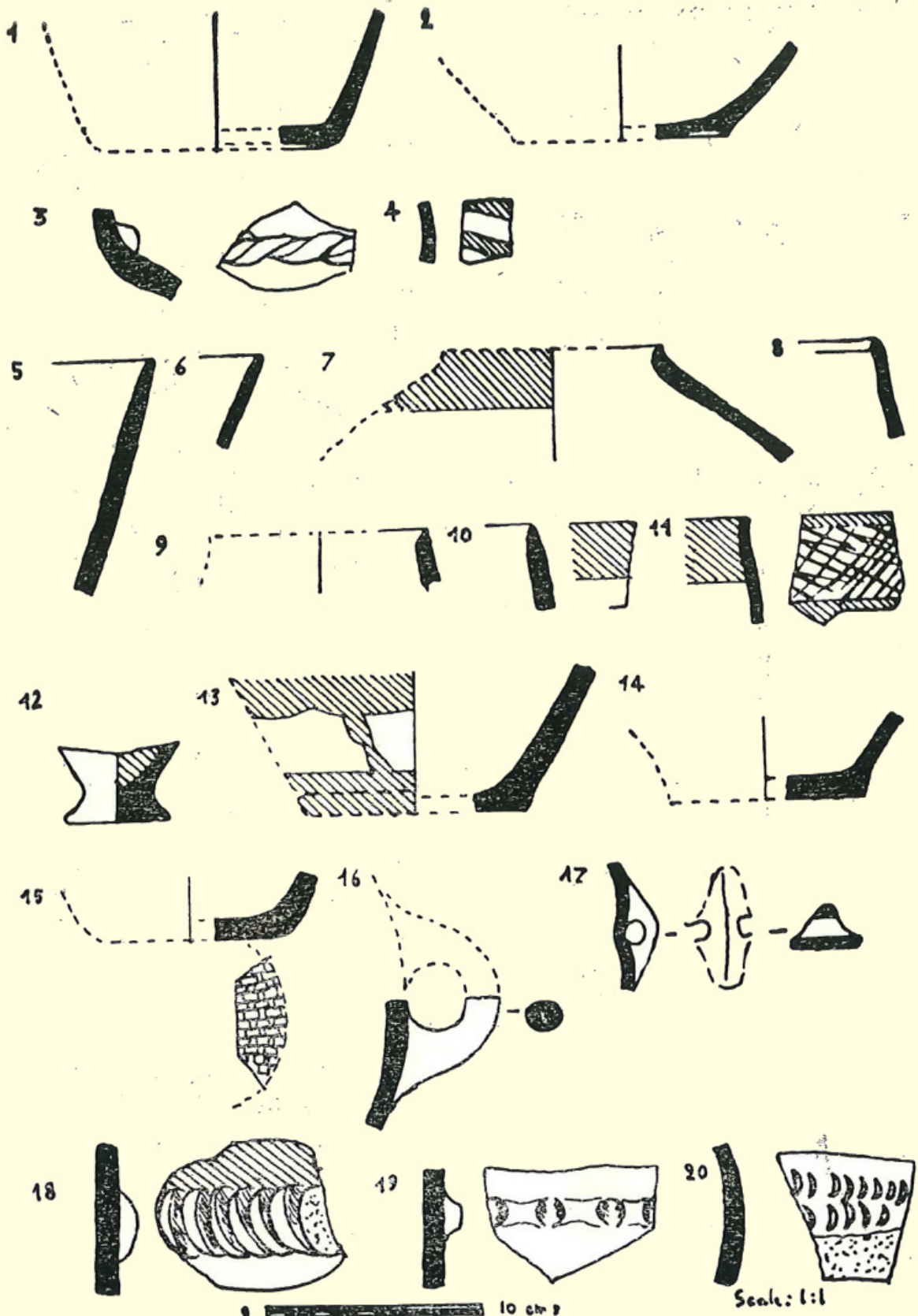


Fig. 25.

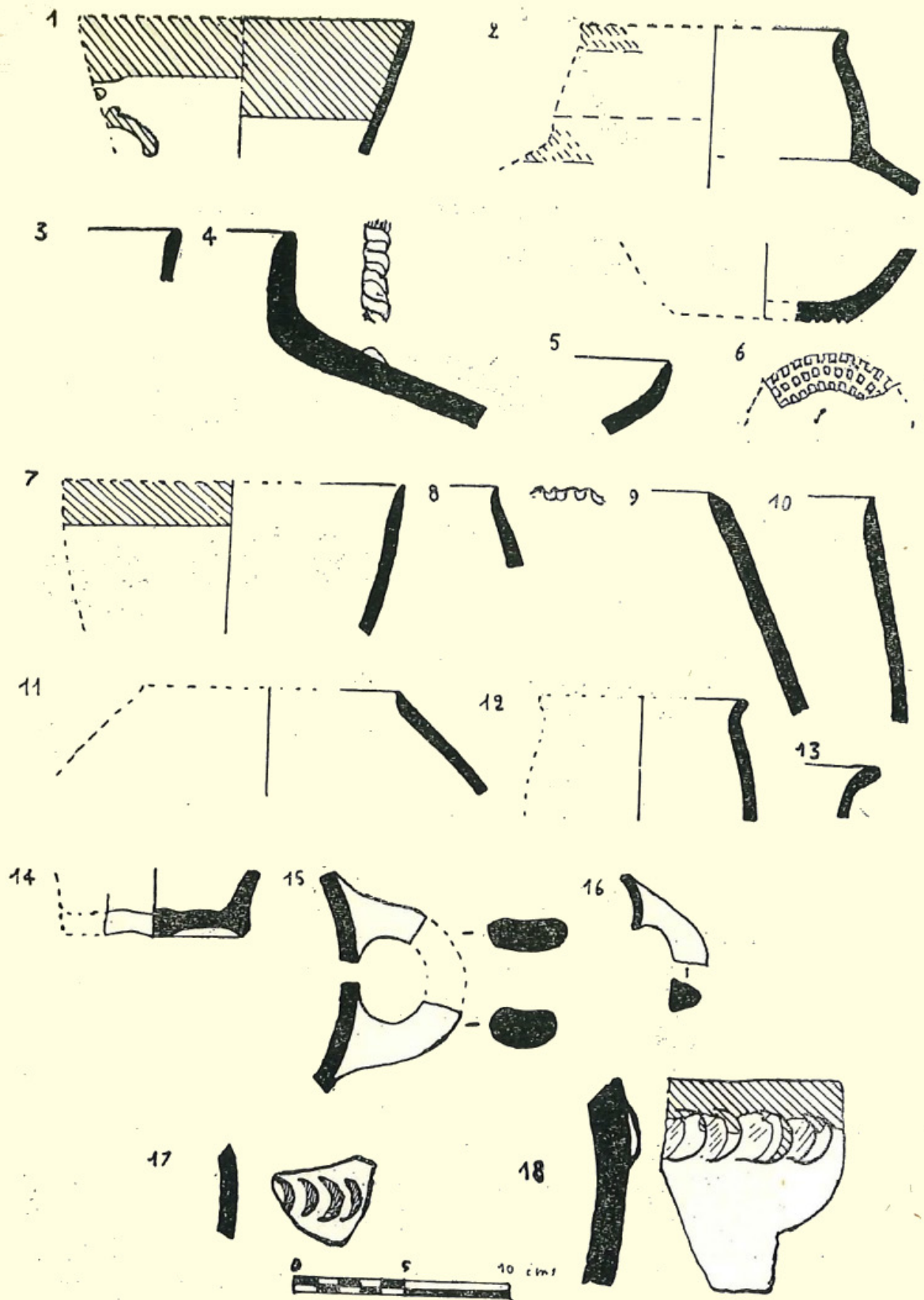


Fig. 26.



Fig. 27.

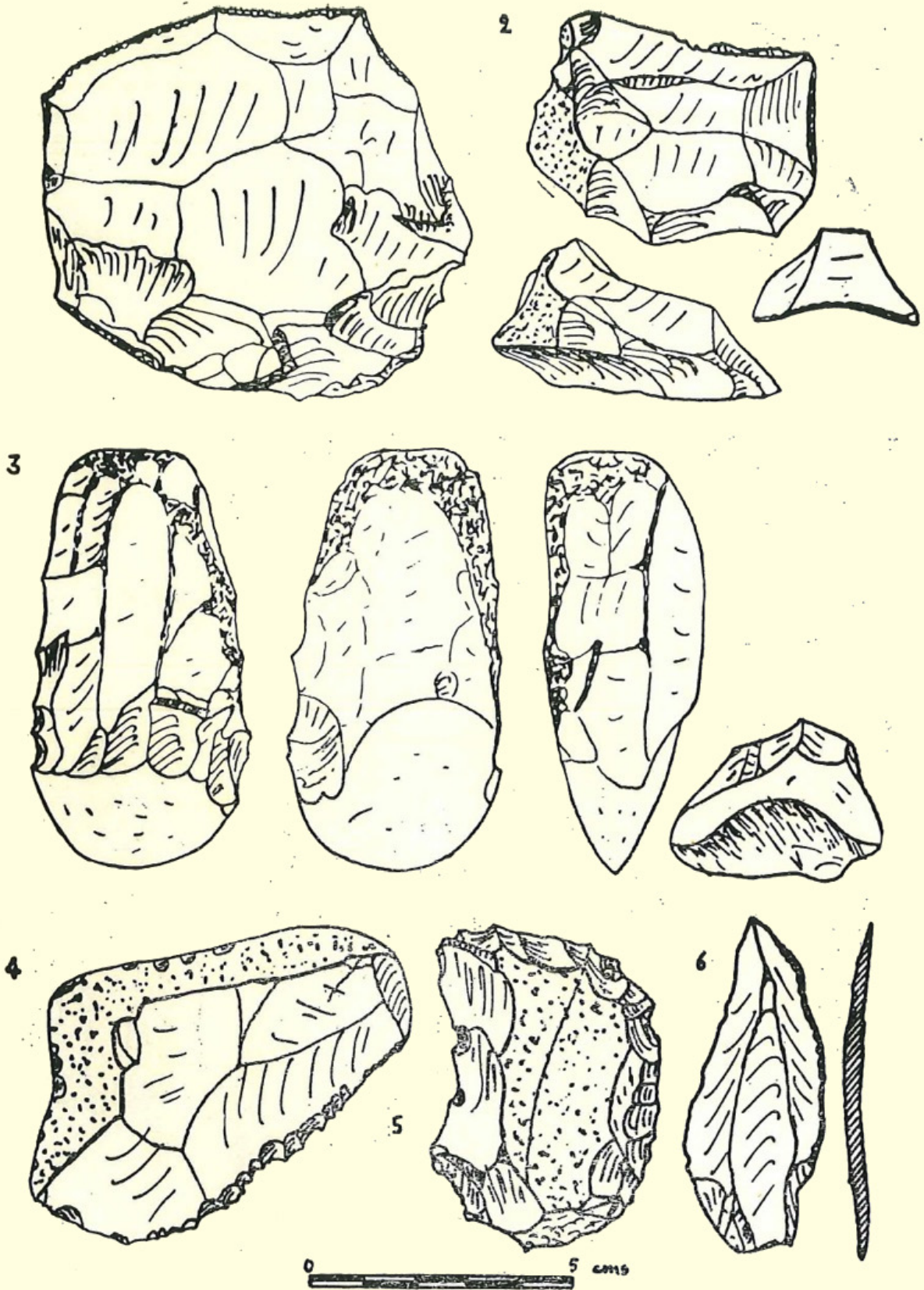


Fig. 28.

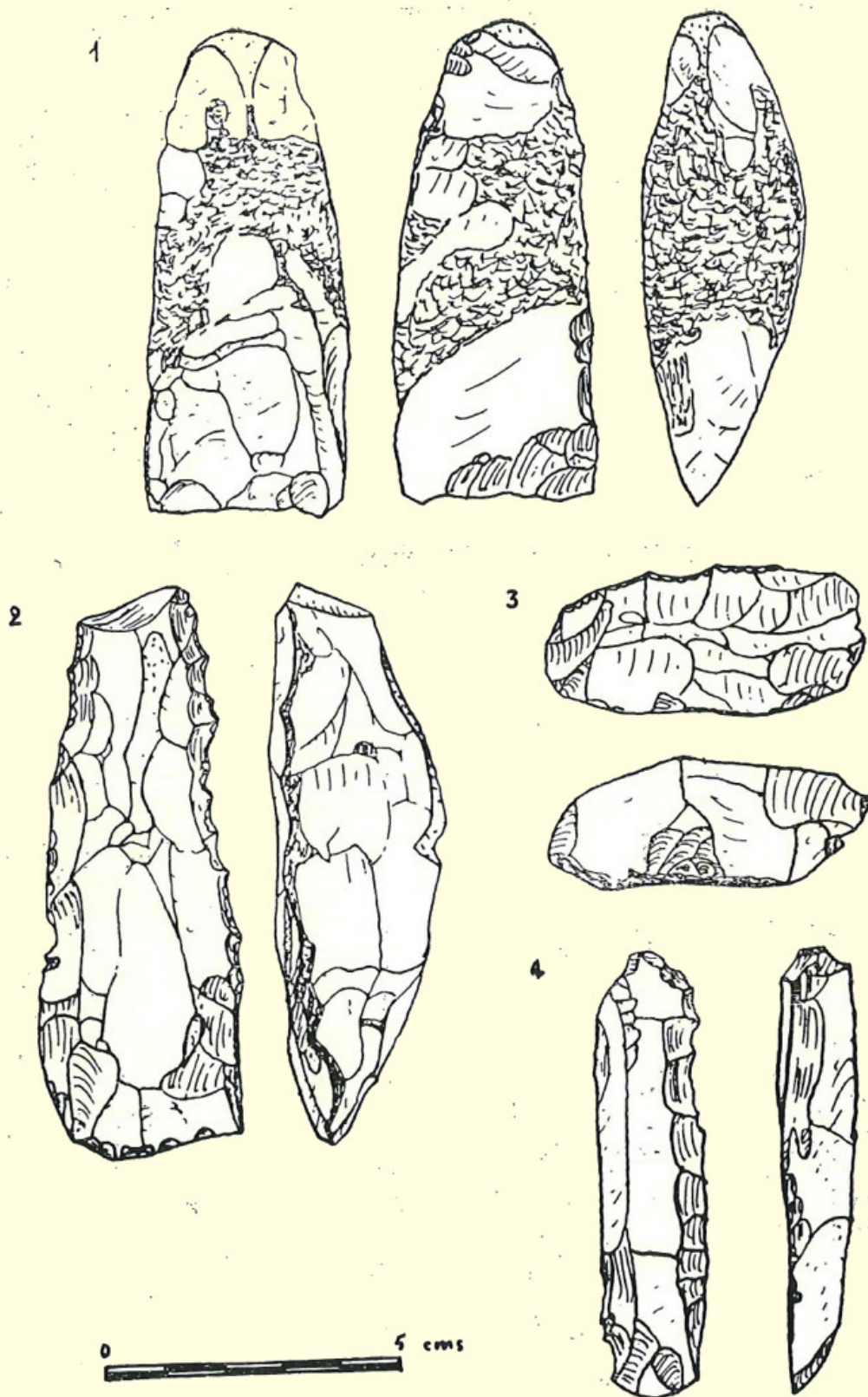


Fig. 29.

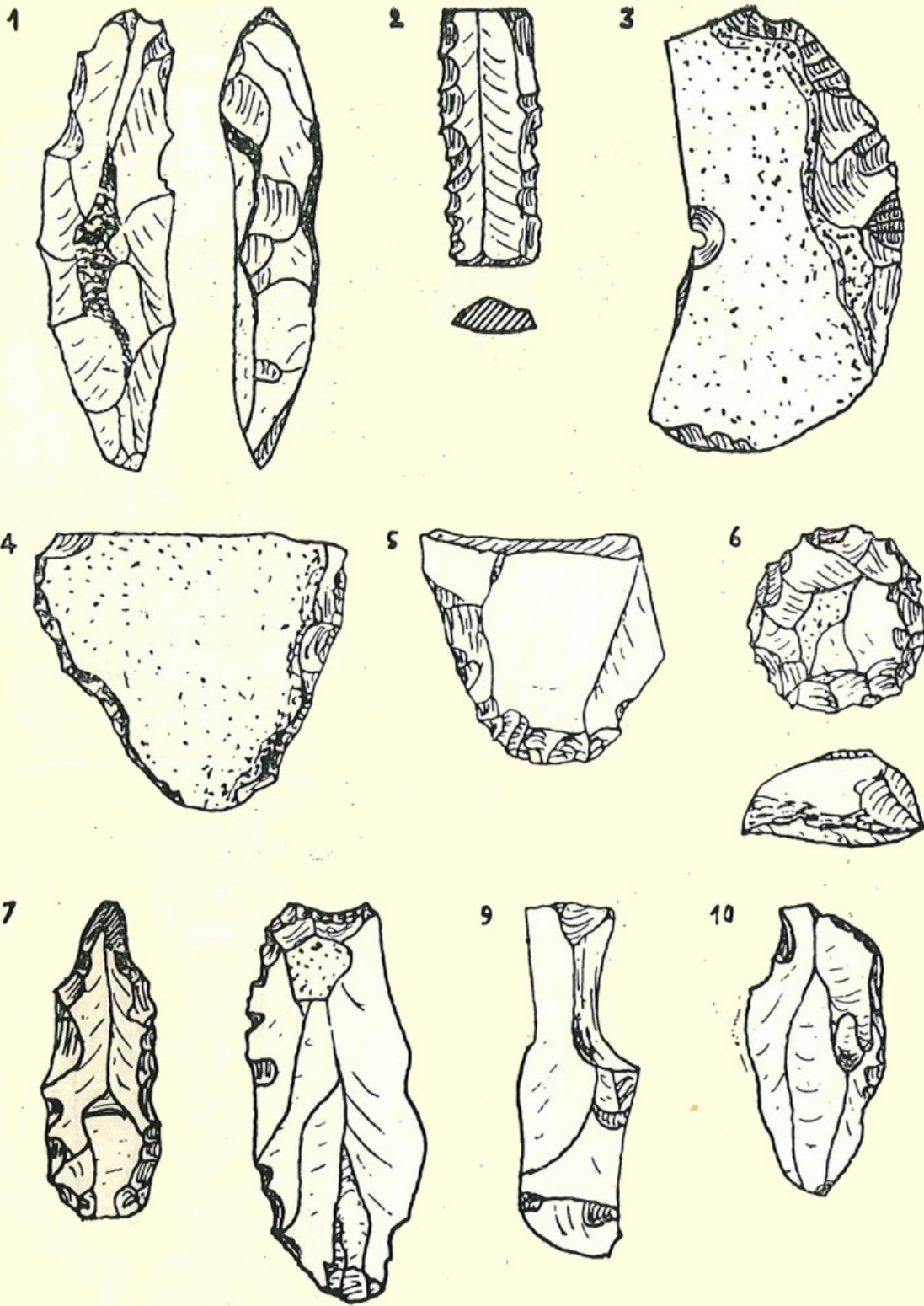
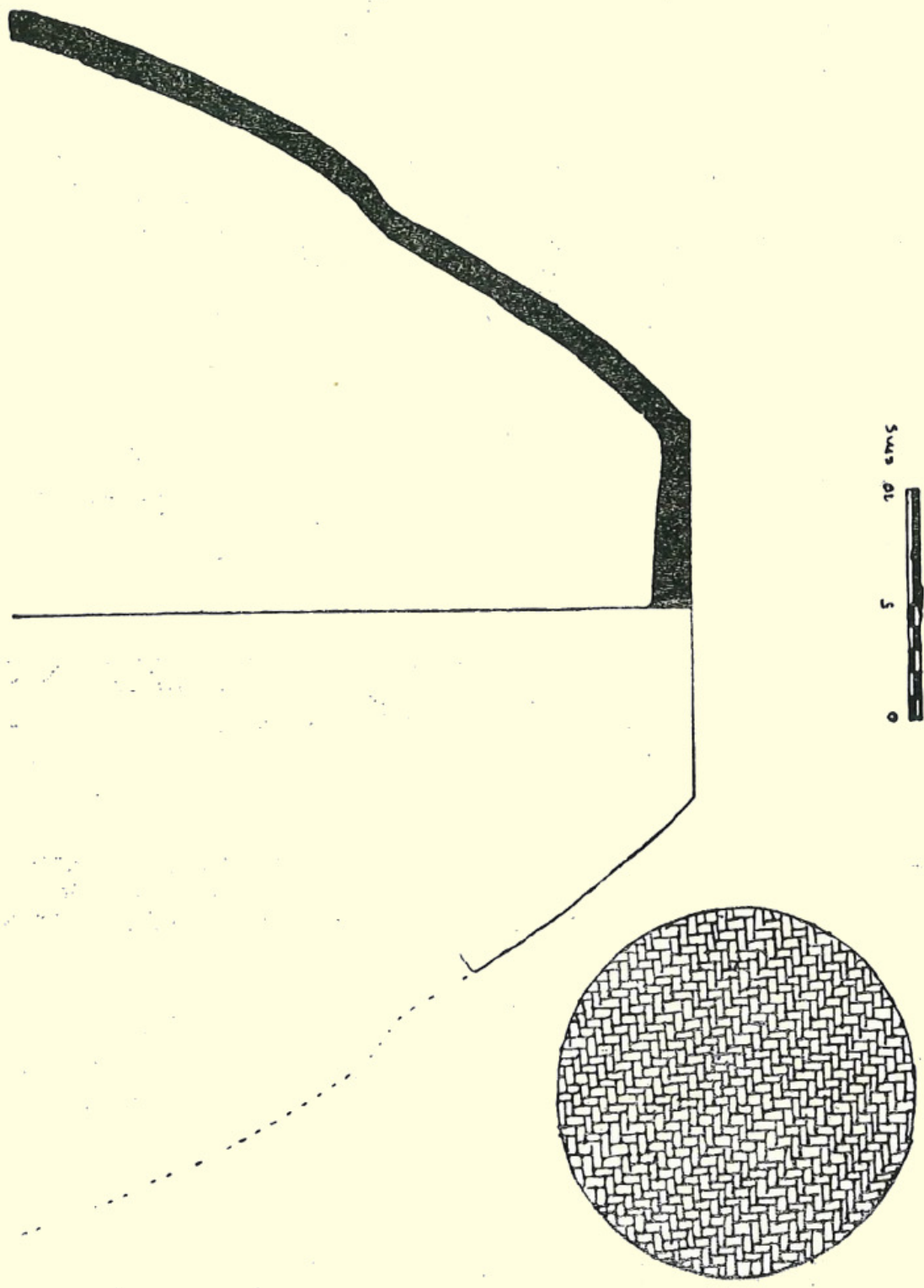


Fig. 30.



0 5 10 cm

Fig. 31.

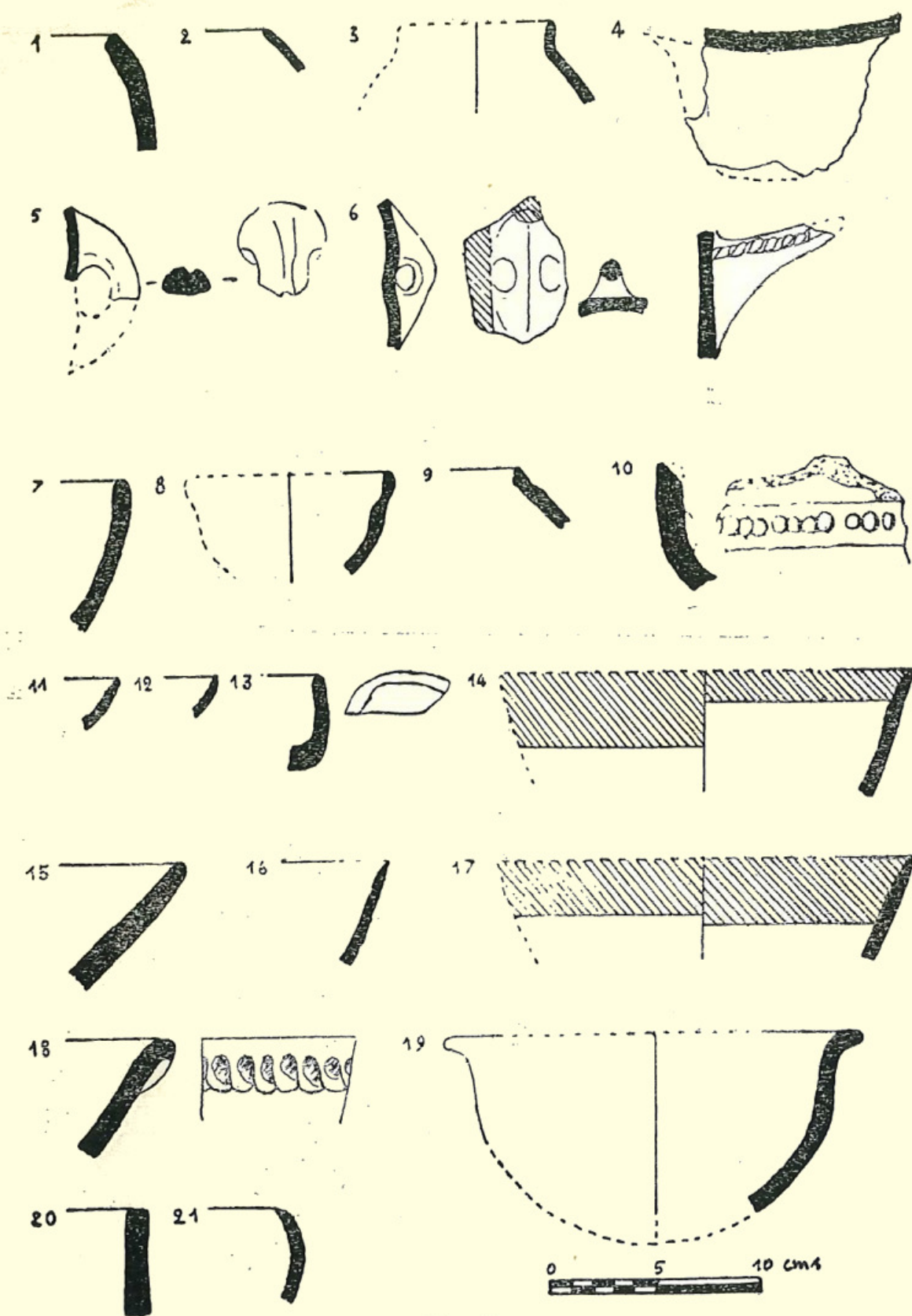
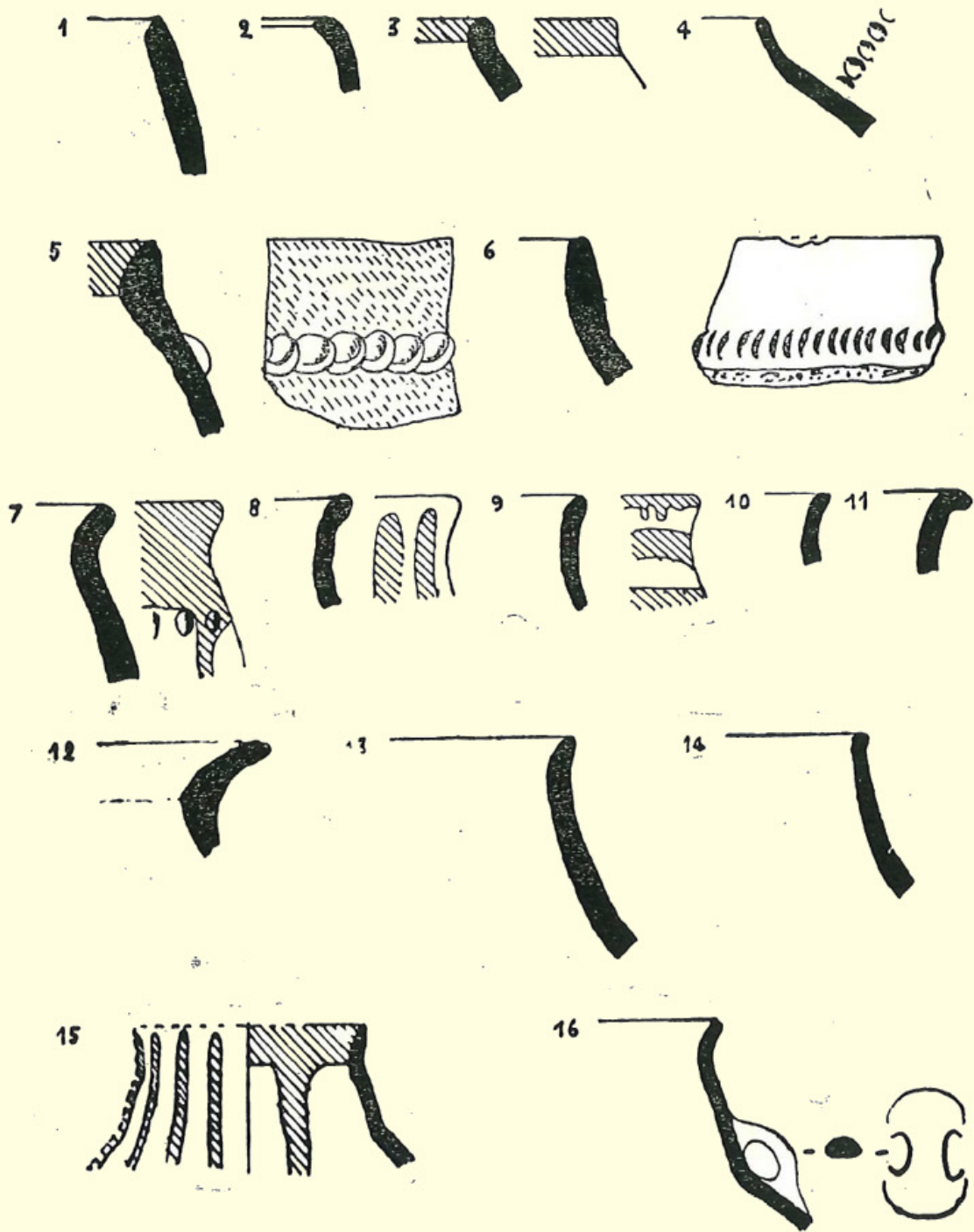


Fig. 32.



0 5 10 cm

Fig. 33.

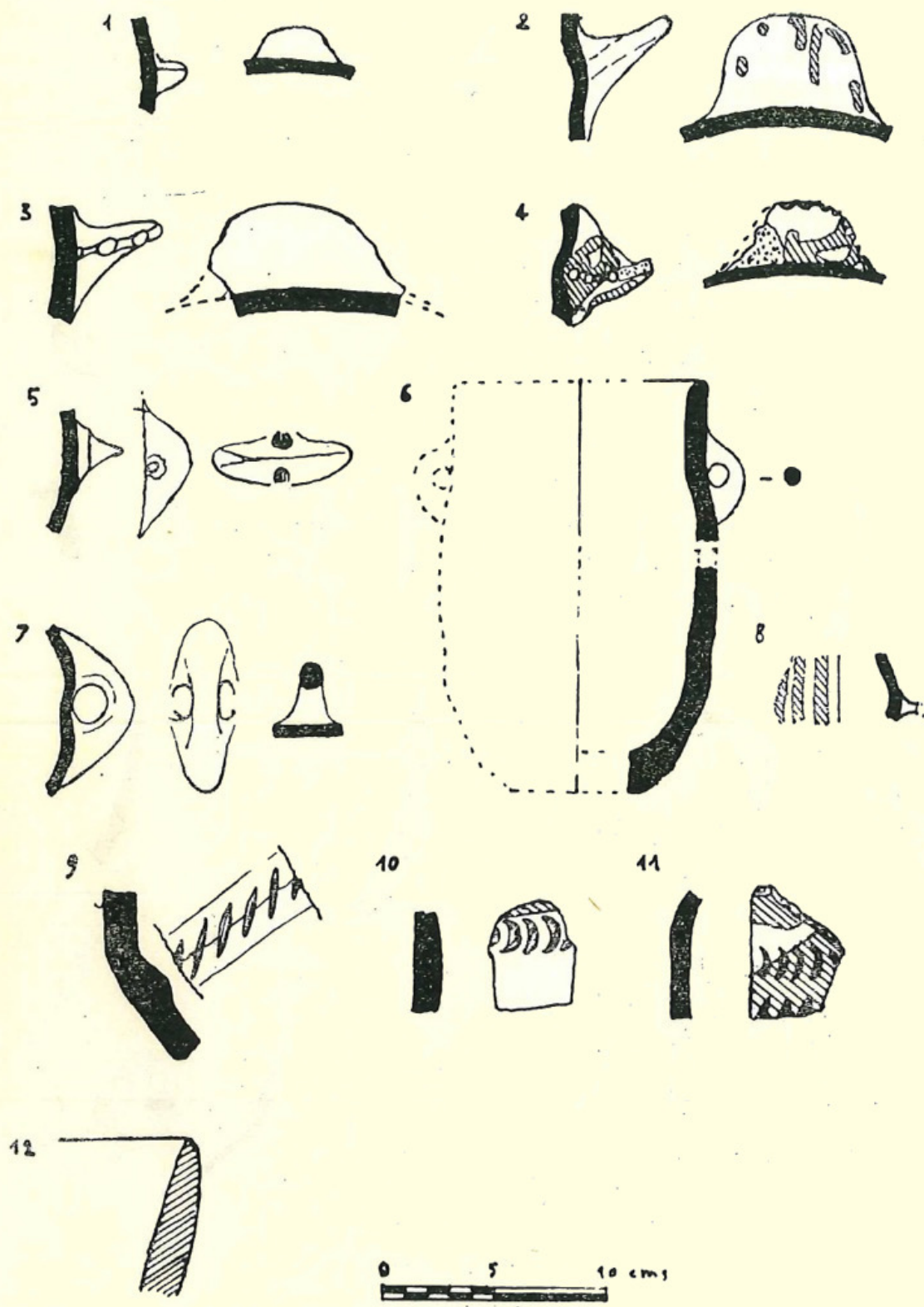


Fig. 34.

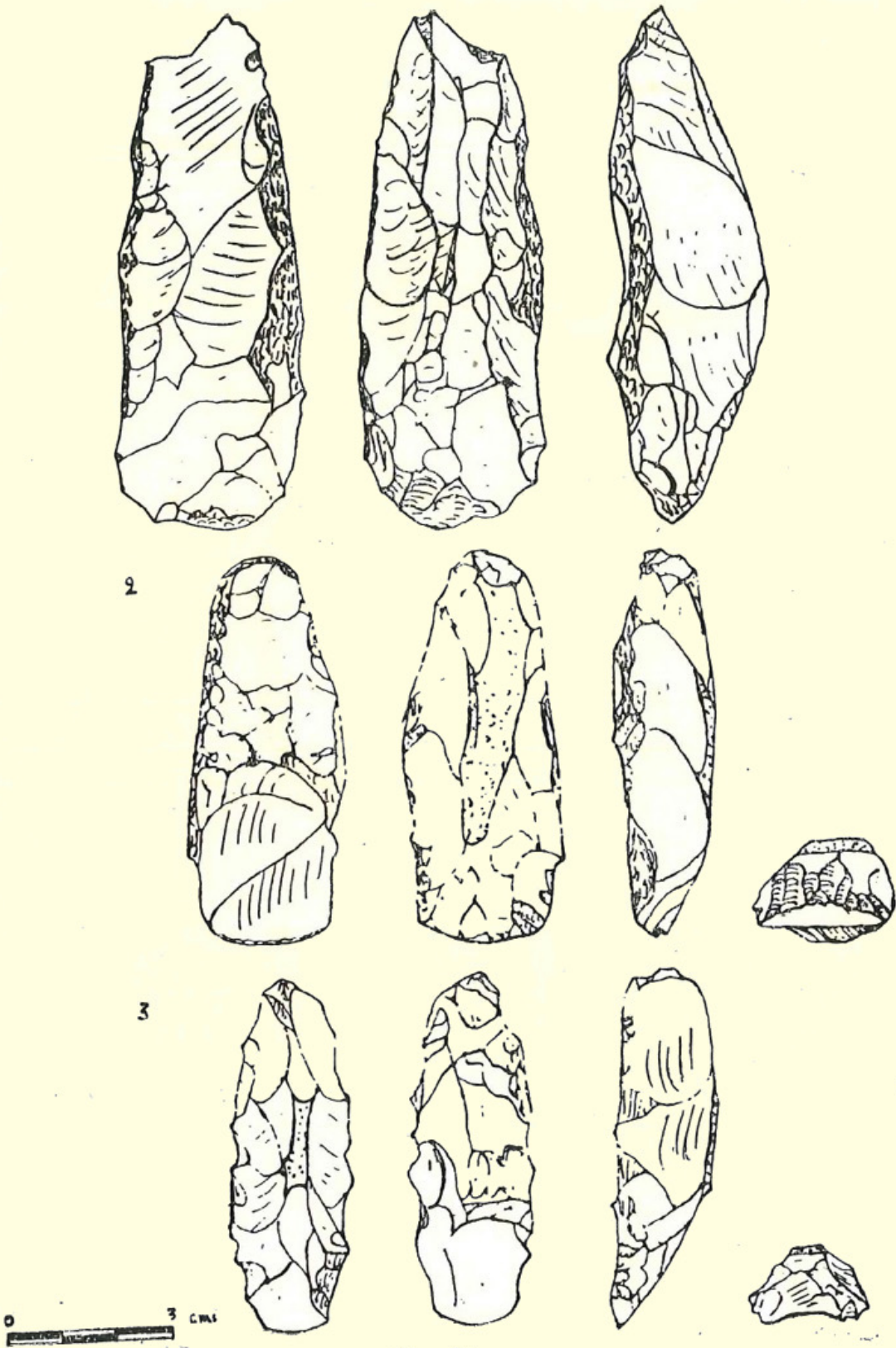


Fig. 35.

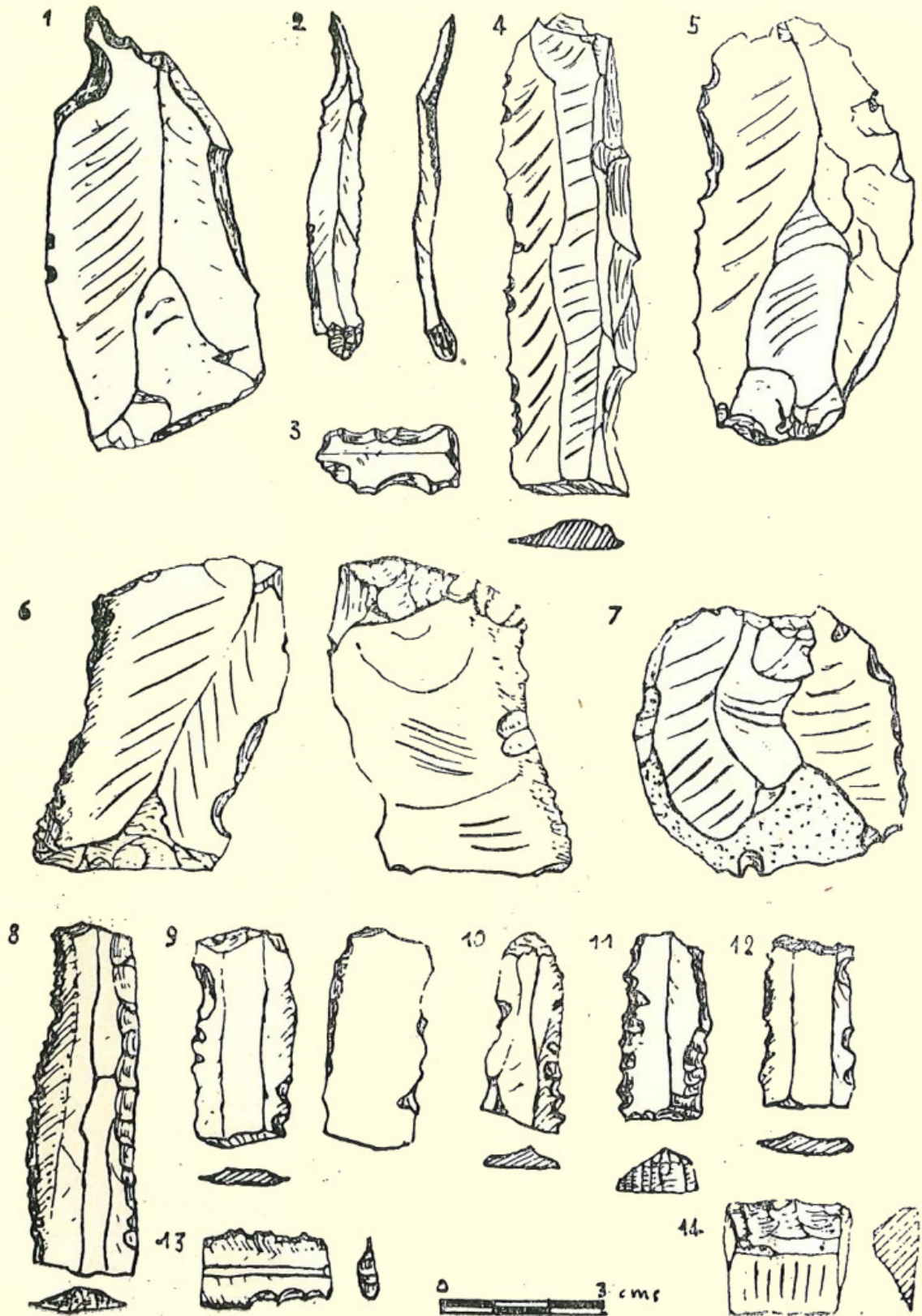


Fig. 36

MIDDLE BRONZE AGE POTTERY.

INTRODUCTION.

The inhabitants of Palestine¹ in the Middle Bronze II period (c. 1800 - 1550 BC) were Canaanites, and shared in the general civilisation of the coastal area of Syria. They had, of course, close connections with the rest of the Near East.

The physical features of Syro-Palestine prevent it from being a single geographical or political unit. The mountains, plains, and valleys tend to accentuate local differences, and in ancient times this favoured a political organisation based on the city-state. Each city-state would have its own chieftain, sheikh, or tribal leader, as we read of in the Amarna Letters. These city-states were themselves the successors of old established towns, whose ruins had in many cases built up an artificial mound, or *tell*.

The value of pottery for dating a *tell*, a ruin, or any other archaeological discovery, especially in a country such as Palestine, which lacks epigraphic material in any quantity, need hardly be stressed here. Each period in the archaeological history of Palestine has its characteristic pottery, the date of which can often be established by a study of the objects found in association with it.

The following article is an attempt at making some kind of pottery sequence for the Middle Bronze II period. The period will be divided into six phases, each phase of more or less fifty years duration. It is hoped that the study may be of some use to those archaeologists interested in the ceramics of the Middle Bronze II period in Palestine.

THE POTTERY TYPES.

Bowls: Inverted Rim.

Straight sides.

Bowls are either shallow or deep; small, medium or large, and all are wheel-made. Those of Middle Bronze I mostly exhibit a combination of horizontal combing by the wheel with vertical hand burnishing on a red or orange slip. The burnish is elaborately applied to the inside of the bowl or the outside, and sometimes to both. The rims of the bowls are mostly inturned and broad-ridged, and the bases generally flat or disc.

In the later phases of Middle Bronze I and phase I of Middle Bronze II we notice that the red-wash burnished technique becomes rare, and the broad-ridged rim is totally replaced by the inturned (inverted) rim which becomes very common in Middle Bronze II phases. The base is also changing from a flat disc to a slightly concave disc.

Meanwhile the straight-sided bowls² start to become dominant, replacing partially the inturned types until phase III of the M. B. II period, when the straight-sided are the most

¹ The term Palestine is used here and throughout, unless otherwise stated, very loosely, to include most of what was, until recently, styled Palestine and Transjordan.

² Albright, *AASOR* XIII, pl. 10; 5 and 8, from stratum E. Cf. also Macalister, *Gezer III*, pl. XLI: 5-6; Duncan, *Corpus of Palestinian Pottery*, type 21 B 1 (from Fara); Garstang, *AAA* XXI, pl. XX: 12 (Jericho Palace store-rooms).

common type. In phase III also red slip totally disappears, burnishing becomes very rare, and a plain wet-smoothed surface is frequent.

The bases of the straight-sided bowls range from a slightly convex disc base at the beginning, to a ring base at the middle, of the period of their use, and to a highly raised ring base by phase III of the Middle Bronze II period.

Carinated Bowls.

The great majority of carinated bowls are of first-class quality, made on a fast wheel, and appearing fully developed in the M.B.I. period (cf. Chart, fig. 3).¹ Many of the forms are remarkable for their sharp and angular profiles, strongly reminiscent of copper or bronze vessels. Good illustrations of metal prototypes are found among the ex-votos in the foundation jar of Byblos (*Byblos* I. Pl. LXXI : 605 (silver), 607 (copper)).

These bowls have a reddish slip with a high burnish², which was most probably intended to produce a metallic appearance. Some bowls exhibit a combination of horizontal combing on the wheel with vertical burnishing³.

The rim was turned out, generally grooved, i. e. hollowed inside as if to secure a lid⁴. The base was mostly flat or disc, and sometimes burnished, nearly always smoothed with the hand after being made on the wheel⁵ so as to remove the wheel-marks and give an illusion of metal-work.

Albright in *AASOR* XII, p. 14, states that these carinated bowls "were first imported into this part of Palestine (i. e. the region round Tell Beit Mirsim) in I-H, probably in the early part of this period, but they did not become acclimated, so to speak, until period G, when they are abundant and attain forms never surpassed in beauty later. . . . It may, of course, be that the pottery in question originated in Syria itself, in imitation of metal vases of Mesopotamian origin, but the latter have yet to be found".

The variety of these extraordinary carinated bowls of the most graceful forms and often of the most exquisite finish belonging to our earlier phases of Middle Bronze I shows that this class of pottery became exceedingly abundant, but the forms are generally not so delicate; the groove inside the rim is lacking, and the red burnished slip begins gradually to deteriorate; and this shows that the type had begun to decline in phase II, to which most of T.B.M. stratum E naturally belongs⁶ (cf. Chart, fig. 1). The use of burnish during the following phase III was already becoming less common⁷, a process which continued to the end of this phase, by which time it was almost extinct.

¹ University of London, Institute of Archaeology, *The Archaeology of Palestine*, 1953, p. 18; as to their origin, see Albright, *AASOR* XIII, pp. 69-70, and *AASOR* XIII, p. 14.

² Cf. Iliffe, *QDAP* V, 1935 (Ras el Ain); also Ory, *QDAP* VI, 1936 (Ras el Ain); Albright, *AASOR* XII, pl. 41. Petrie, *AG*, II, (Courtyard Cemetery) pl. XXVIII, nos. 25 E4, 25 G5, 28 P3, 28 P5 have also the same type of flat or disc base and some have the grooved rims.

³ Iliffe, *op. cit.*; Albright, *op. cit.* XII, pl. 41: 3-5.

⁴ Iliffe, *op. cit.* fig. I, nos. 52, 64. See also Ory, *op. cit.*

⁵ Albright, *AASOR* XII, pl. 41 (G-F).

⁶ Albright, *AASOR* XIII, pp. 76-77, pl. 8, nos. 1-10 and pl. 23, nos. 6-7, 9 and 10.

⁷ Albright, *ibid.* pl. 12: 1-6; pl. 9: 5, 6, 7.; *AASOR* XII, pl. 42, 4-8.

High Shouldered Bowl: "Goblet".

This form is a fine goblet, with low or disc base, rounded body, flaring rim, ending with a wide mouth. It appears in phase I on my Chart with a red burnish. The base changes from a disc in the earlier periods to a ring base in the later periods.

On the Chart (fig. 1) phase I, the example from Megiddo tomb 3137¹ is an artistically, well-fired work, with a spaced horizontal red burnish. In the other Megiddo tombs of later period, e. g. T. 3175², one with a horizontal burnish was found; T. 2143 had a cream slip with a burnish outside, T. 2026³ had a gritty, wet-smoothed surface without any burnish, and T. 2145⁴ had also been only wet-smoothed, without any burnish.

From Tell Beit Mirsim stratum E⁵ two examples of this type are illustrated. The first is plain while the second is burnished. In stratum D the burnish totally disappears⁶.

If we accept those in G-F of Tell Beit Mirsim⁷ as of the same family (irrespective of size) we confirm that the type was in use in Middle Bronze I in Palestine, which may strengthen our views on the position at Megiddo.

At Jericho⁸ one can see the same development as at Megiddo and Tell Beit Mirsim. The goblet found in the kiln's front is of red ware, gritty and has a tan slip with a burnish, while that of the Palace store-rooms⁹ is of buff ware with a white slip and brown decoration and unburnished.

The type was common in Jerico Tomb 9¹⁰. In the lower layers E and D, pl. XXXVI: No. 5 has a cream slip and is burnished; No. 6^a a burnished cream slip with an out-turned rim; No. 8, 12, 14, and 15, are wet-smoothed; nos. 7 and 11 have a burnished slip and No. 13 has a slip.

In the upper layers (A-C) on the other hand, none is burnished. On pl. XXXI, No. 6b is wet-smoothed, No. 7b has a cream slip, No. 8c a black slip, and 9a is wet-smoothed.

At Ajjul one may recognize some examples of this type, though the drawings are not clear. In city level 740 = 1040 there is one represented in *Ajjul* III: pl. XXXVI: 4IR², and in *Ajjul* IV, pl. LII: 40j, four are recorded from level E764; two others were found and may be taken probably as parallels¹¹.

This type may be considered as the prototype and predecessor of the triple loop-footed bowls (goblets), and may provide a clue to the origin of the Jericho goblets, though both were in contemporaneous use in M. B. II sites in Palestine.

¹ *Megiddo*, II, pl. 28; 10.

² *Ibid.* pl. 36: 10.

³ *Ibid.* pl. 36: 12.

⁴ *Ibid.* pl. 28: 12.

⁵ *AASOR* XIII, pl. 8: 11-12.

⁶ *Ibid.* pl. 12: 7 and 13; 8.

⁷ *Ibid.* pl. 4: 6, 11, 12.

⁸ *A.A.A.* 1933, pl. XVIII: 32.

⁹ *Ibid.* pl. XIX: 12.

¹⁰ *A.A.A.* 1932. Cf. also. Tomb 19, *A.A.A.* 1933, pl. III, nos. 2 and 3; Tomb 31, *ibid.* pl. V, nos. 4a, 5c. and 76, and Tomb 31, *ibid.* fig. 4, nos. 7a and 8a.

¹¹ Petrie, *AG.* I pl. XLIII: 32 A⁹, and pl. XLVI: 40 H 2.

They do not appear at Fara (Beth-Pelet) and Duweir. In Syria they appear at Ras Shamra¹, Sin el-Fil (Lebanon)², and in Ruweisé³.

Shipton says of them that these vessels "have the same wide geographic distribution as the red wares of strata XV- XIII" ^{4, 5}.

Jericho Goblets.

The trumpet-foot vessels, as Albright describes them, have an angular or rounded shoulder on a body which tapers to join a flared pedestal base. The neck is wide in proportion to the foot, and the rim is often well everted. In a later stage of development a ridge (collar) appears at the junction between neck and shoulder, and possibly in the last phase of its development another is added where the body joins the foot.

In phase II A the surface is continuously burnished on a rich dark slip. The burnishing may be applied horizontally with the wheel in motion or it may be applied by hand or both processes may be employed successively. Those of Tell Beit Mirsim⁶ "are mostly burnished on a rich red slip". Very common in stratum E, a few others were found in D⁷.

At Jericho they are so common that I am inclined to name them 'Jericho goblets'. They are more rounded in outline than those of Tell Beit Mirsim and the greater number are burnished on a cream slip; others of later phases are of plain drab or buff ware, and are wet-smoothed, without a burnish.

At Megiddo the type seems to appear only in two tombs, T. 4043 and T. 4004. In the former it appears in the earlier of two levels⁸. It is of fine, buff ware, with minute grits and well fired, and is well burnished outside. The second example (T. 4004) is of doubtful provenance and may be dismissed here.

Ajjul⁹ produced one example only, with rounded shoulders and a collar (ridge) on neck and base; and so at Gezer¹⁰ but with highly angular carinated shoulders, a close parallel to that from Tell Beit Mirsim, stratum E¹¹. The type was also found at Tell el-Far'ah (Nablus), Owes el-Tin (Bethlehem) and Kalandia Air Port (Jerusalem), and in the Amman Citadel tombs discovered recently by the writer. Only two of these goblets were found at Megiddo (none in the structural tombs there), and none has been found in the Tell Aviv Harbour cemetery, Al-Jiar cemetery, Nahariya or Beth-Pelet.

Thus one may suggest that the type was a product of inland cities, whereas in the coastal areas the other type of goblet, the high pedestal trumpet goblet (Megiddo goblet) was preferred

¹ Schaeffer, *Syria* XIV, fig. 10: 6.

² Schaeffer, *Stratigraphie*, fig. 73, no. 5, in M.B. I context.

³ *Ibid.* fig. 75, no. 2, and fig. 76, T. XXV: 3, in a M.B. II context.

⁴ Shipton, *Notes on the Megiddo Pottery*, p. 24.

⁵ Since this was written, excavations on the Citadel Hill, Amman, in 1958 have revealed M.B. tombs in which were found goblets similar to those discussed here. These will be published later.

⁶ *AASOR* XIII, pl. 7: 12 - 14 and 18; and p. 77.

⁷ *Ibid.* pl. 12: 9 and *AASOR* XII, pl. 43: 4a.

⁸ *Megiddo* II, pl. 44: 9.

⁹ *AG.* III, pl. XXXIX; 62 Q.

¹⁰ *Gezer* III, pl. XXXVIII: 2 (Cave 28 II).

¹¹ *AASOR* XIII, pl. 23: 1.

(see below). Both types appear on the Chart (fig. 1) for the first time in phase II, burnished with a red slip. The burnish started to decline, and the red slip disappeared, and by the end of the period of their popularity, i.e. the very beginning of phase III, these vessels were wet-smoothed with a buff-cream slip, and without any burnish at all.

High Pedestal (Trumpet) Goblets : "Megiddo Goblets".¹

This type is closely related to the class described above, but shows a variety of forms. They are sharply carinated vessels, on a high trumpet foot, with flaring shoulders and a wide mouth. None of those found has red slip burnishing; they are mostly wet-smoothed, and few are burnished at all.

This type of goblet appears to have started in phase II B (see Chart), later, therefore, than the Jericho Goblets. The one represented in *Megiddo* II, pl. 15:10, is erroneously ascribed to Stratum XIV. The other objects found with it are a wet-smoothed dipper (*Megiddo* II, pl. 12:13), a wet-smoothed ring-base bowl (pl. 14:23), and a lamp of type 2. These associated objects clearly show that the goblet really belongs to a much later stratum than XIV, and it falls obviously within my phases II and III and not earlier.

Among the twelve goblets found at Megiddo² none has the red burnished slip. One found in the structural tomb 3095, which is the earliest, has a vertical burnish outside, while all the others are wet-smoothed and without any kind of burnish.

Ajjul produced an incomplete example from a grain pit, shown in *AG* I pl. XXXIX:23W. None is known from Beth-Pelet.

At Tell Beit Mirsim³ one appeared in stratum E with a burnished greyish-buff surface, another in stratum D covered with a rich white slip. Gezer cave 28:II⁴ gives us one example; Jericho Palace Store-rooms 30 and 39⁵ produced two unburnished ones. The absence of this type in all the tombs discovered at Jericho by Garstang in 1932-34 suggests to me that the type was more favoured in the coastal regions, and although Dr. Kenyon found some in her Jericho excavations of 1952-56, yet the type remains rare at Jericho and was probably introduced there at a later period than the "Jericho Goblets" discussed above.

Triple Looped-foot goblets⁶.

The body is rounded, the base is made up of three vertical looped feet, adhering to the bottom of the goblet. They may or may not have a spout or handle but they are all plain and unburnished.

¹ Examples of this type of goblet were found in the Amman Citadel tombs (as yet unpublished). Some of them (painted) are of the 16th century, others (plain and polished) are a century earlier.

² *Megiddo* II, pl. 29:5 (burnished); pl. 29:3, pl. 37:5, 7 and 8, and pl. 44:24, 25, 26 and 27 (all wet-smoothed. One notices that this type is common in the structural tombs, but not in any other tomb.

³ *AASOR* XIII, pl. 8:13 (stratum E) and *AASOR* XII, pl. 43:6 (stratum D).

⁴ *Gezer* III, pl. XXXIX:4.

⁵ *A.A.A.* XXI, 1934, pl. XXI:2, with a brick-red slip (Room 30) and pl. XXII:14 with a cream slip (Room 39).

⁶ Goblets of this type were also found in the tombs on the Amman Citadel.

At Megiddo¹, one buff gritty goblet, wet-smoothed, was found in tomb 3064 (phase II B on the Chart); another similar type was found at Tell Beit Mirsim² stratum D, but this differs slightly in the rim, that of Tell Beit Mirsim appearing to be somewhat earlier, and more related to those found at Jericho in the lowest levels of tomb 9.

At Jericho³ they appear in the lowest layer of tomb 9. They have an out-turned rim, a spout and a handle, and the base is slightly rounded. They are smoothed with no decoration.

In the upper layer of the same tomb the handle and spout disappear, the out-turned rim is replaced by a long flaring neck, and the base changes from being rounded to somewhat flattish. Similarly in tomb 31 the same features appear in level (a), with the same decoration of concentric lines around the upper half of the body⁴.

In tomb 4 they appear with an attractive decoration of dark purple colour, with a collar round the base of the long neck⁵; and in type they are similar to those of tomb 9, layer (a) and to the only one from Megiddo. All are found unburnished. One base fragment was found at Ajjul.

This type has been considered by Shipton to be reminiscent of the goblets discussed above, represented on the Chart (fig. 1) phase I, no. I. But one should not ignore the fact that they were in contemporaneous use at M.B.II sites in Palestine and Transjordan.

The type is not known from Fara, Gezer, Duweir, the Megiddo structural tombs, or the Jericho Palace store-rooms.

Piriform Juglets⁶.

For the sake of facilitating the study of this very important type of juglet, I shall divide them according to their surface treatment into (a) burnished, (b) pricked, and (c) plain.

In the Early Bronze Age, especially in E. B. III, juglets of a piriform shape are very common. They differ from M. B. juglets in their neck-form and proportions, and in being largely hand-made. Moreover, in the E. B. — M. B. period there are no corresponding vessels. It is therefore probable that there is no connection between the juglets of the two periods, at least in Palestine.

In Megiddo tomb 911 A. of the M. B. I period, we find the style with a somewhat flattish base, and a longer ridged neck⁷. It has also been recognised in tombs of strata XIV and XIII. Shipton states that "on the Megiddo evidence alone, it appears that this was the forerunner of the so-called Tell el-Yahudiya Juglet"⁸. One should note the close parallels between those of Megiddo and Ras el Ain⁹.

¹ *Megiddo II*, pl. 38: II.

² *AASOR XIII*, pl. 14: 3.

³ *A.A.A.* 1932, pl. XXXII: 5 and 8.

⁴ *Ibid.* pl. XXXII: 6; *ibid.* 1953, p. 10, fig. 4.

⁵ *Ibid.* 1933, tomb 4, pl. XVI.

⁶ The Amman Citadel tombs produced very close parallels to these piriform juglets as regards shape, but none was pricked, and they were mostly plain or burnished.

⁷ *Megiddo Tombs*, pl. 28, nos. 41 and 42.

⁸ Shipton, *Notes on the Megiddo Pottery*, p. 29.

⁹ Ory, *QDAP VI*, (1936), fig. 69: 36 and 37.

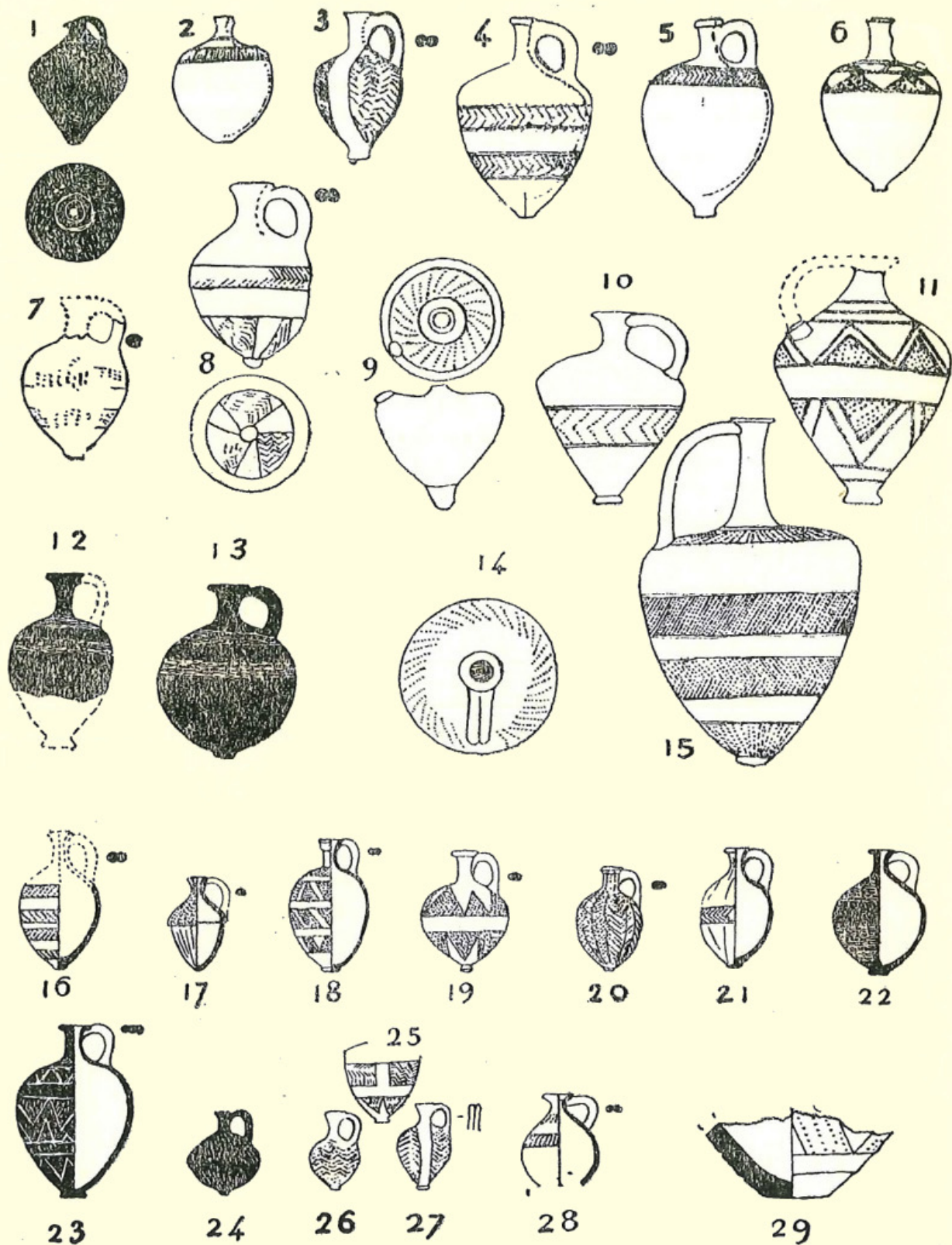


Fig. 2. — TELL EL-YAHUDIYA JUGLETS.

At a later stage, i.e. the very beginning of M.B. II, these piriform juglets started to become common in use, as seen in Megiddo Tomb 24¹, the early levels of Jericho tomb 9² and Gezer tomb I³, as well as in other later tombs at other sites, and we see the M.B.II potters producing several types of the same family. The body is sometimes squat and rounded, though the majority are elongated. The loop handle extends from rim to shoulder and is either plain or with a button, and it may be single or double or (very rarely) triple. They may have either a pointed, or rounded (i.e. knob or button), or a disc or ring base. The ware is mostly black or grey brown, with usually a black or grey slip, and burnished. All are wheel-made.

One may see from the Chart (fig. 1) that the rounded globular body appears earlier than the elongated body, and the former is more common at Megiddo and Gezer than at any other inland town of Palestine. The burnished piriform juglets are common in the early M.B. period, abundant in the first two phases of M.B. II and are contemporary with the pricked piriforms, while in the later phases they are gradually replaced by the cylindrical juglets, though the piriform and the cylindrical juglets were in use contemporaneously for a short period at the end of phase II.

The pricked technique and the Tell El-Yahudiya Juglets

The pricked technique is a style of ornamentation introduced about the 19th century. It was mostly used on juglets having a slipped and burnished surface. The technique consisted of pricking the design on the surface of the vessel and filling the marks with a white chalky paste or pigment. The juglets were mostly piriform with rounded or elongated bodies (cf. fig. 2), but this kind of decoration also occurs on cylindrical juglets⁴ and on vases, mostly of a miniature type. Their size, and the fact that they are decorated, suggests that they were used for perfumes and perhaps for oil.

The first evidence for the use of this pricked decoration comes from Jericho Tomb A, layer 4 (fig. 2, no. 1) It was first stated by the excavator to belong to M.B. I. but subsequently he changed this to E.B. III. The juglet is described as being of black ware, piriform, with slightly elongated bottom. The upper half, rim and handle, are decorated with white spots. The shape of the body is similar to that from Gezer (fig. 2, no. 9) and those, burnished and undecorated, from Nahariya⁵.

It would appear therefore that this style of decoration was in use in E. B. III. It is not, however, found in EB-MB. A date early in the M.B.I period is suggested for other pricked juglets. They are found together with four-nozzle lamps, for example at Nahariya (fig. 2, no. 29) which is unique in the shape of its base. At Byblos⁶ the pricked technique is seen in Tombs I and II, where the four-nozzle lamps are also found.

This technique of pricked ornamentation becomes common and more elaborate in the Middle Bronze I period. It is practised now on the truly piriform Tell el-Yahudiya juglet

¹ *Megiddo Tombs*, pl. 23, nos. 24-26 and 38.

² *A.A.A.* 1932, pl. XXXIV: 2, and pl. XXXIV: 1.

³ *Gezer III*, pl. LX, nos. 7 and 9, pl. LXII, nos. 35, 41 and 43.

⁴ *Megiddo Tombs*, pl. 28, no. 40 (Tomb 911 A1).

⁵ Ben Dor, *QDAP* 1950, p. 32 fig. 26 c and d.

⁶ Schaeffer, *Stratigraphie*, fig. 65, no. E 914. For other juglets see *ibid.* F. 915 and G. 917, and fig. 73, no. 3 (Sin el-Fil).

that spread throughout Transjordan and Palestine. The body is now all covered with pricked ornamentations of different designs. The base of the juglets becomes more symmetrical than nos. 1 and 9 on fig. 2. Types of base include the flat disc base of no. 2; the disc button base of no. 3 (from Jericho) and 27 (Ajjul Courtyard Cemetery), which are exactly parallel, and the button bases of 26 (Ajjul) and 20 (Megiddo), which seem to be very close to each other. We can also see that the pricked decoration on Tell el-Yahudiya juglets of the M.B. II period, phase II, has geometrical decoration which is better in design than that of the M.B. I period, as seen e.g. on nos. 4, 6, 8, 11, 18 and 25. In the latter part of phase II of the M.B. II period, the pricked ornamentation starts to decline, as seen e.g. on nos 5, 7, 21, 24 and 28, and it suddenly disappears at the end of phase II and is replaced by the cylindrical types.

Albright states that the pottery in question came into use at Tell Beit Mirsim in strata G-F, but did not become abundant until stratum E, when it enjoyed its greatest development, while in stratum D the type was not in existence at all. The type was not found in Jericho Palace store-rooms, nor in Ajjul Palaces I-II, nor at Beth-Pelet (Tell Fara).

Plain piriform (Yahudiya) juglets.

During phase II of M.B. II the plain piriforms appear for a very short period and disappear at the end of it, when the piriform type is totally displaced by the cylindrical.

Conclusion.

It should be clear now from the description of the pricked Yahudiya juglets, and from the plates and and that one cannot accept the statement Engberg¹ that "while there are numerous pottery forms typical of the Hyksos period in Palestine, not all of them concern us here. For our purpose, it will suffice to mention a few which are Hyksos products *par excellence*. The best known is the so-called 'Tell el-Yahudiya type'.... It is readily seen, that such types once they were recognised as Hyksos products, became an invaluable aid in the detection of the Hyksos occupation of a site". Soderbergh² discussed this point of view and stated that Enberg's view of the Tell el-Yahudiya juglet was in his opinion "wholly unwarranted. First of all it is a very dangerous method to deduce ethnic movements from the presence of a certain type of ceramic ware only, if there is not at the same time some important change in burial customs, and it can often be proved that a change in the archaeological material is simply due to trade. Moreover, the typical Tell el-Yahudiya jugs are gradually developed in Palestine and Syria, and their appearance there marks no sudden change in the ceramic tradition". One can only agree with Soderbergh that "in Egyptian territory they (Tell el-Yahudiya juglets) were introduced long before the arrival of the Hyksos, and are found in tombs in Lower Nubia dating from a time when the Hyksos had hardly even reached Middle Egypt. The most that can be said about the connection between the Hyksos and the Tell el-Yahudiya jugs is that the Hyksos perhaps liked them, and that possibly greater quantities were imported when the Hyksos rulers controlled the trade than when it was handled by a more conservative Egyptian Government. It should also be stressed that these jugs were used in Egypt after the unpopular Hyksos had been expelled".

¹ *The Hyksos Reconsidered* (S.A.O.C. no. 18), 1939, p. 18.

² *J.E.A.* vol. 37 (1951) p. 53 ff.

In Cyprus, it has been stated, "the black lustrous juglets of the puncture-decorated Tell el-Yahudiya type, which are common on the mainland and have been related to the Hyksos, appear in Cyprus along with Syrian juglets in wheelmade red-lustrous ware"¹.

Thus, we see that this pricked ornamentation was first practised in Transjordan and Palestine, and the pricked Tell el-Yahudiya piriform juglets were not a product *par excellence* to the so-called Hyksos period. That the pricked piriform juglets were actually made in Palestine is proved by the discovery of kilns for these vessels by Ben Dor at Affula.

Cylindrical Juglets².

Cylindrical long necked juglets, with double or single handles, some of which have a clay pellet attached near the rim to simulate a rivet, are common in Palestine. They have rounded, slightly convex, or straight sides, ending with a slightly convex or flat base.

They are occasionally decorated with pricked dots arranged in various ways, which were originally filled with a white substance, probably lime, to accentuate the design.

At Gezer³ we can recognise a burnished prototype dated by the excavator to the "First Semitic" period; although the neck is slightly longer, and the handle is somewhat more bulging, yet the size is the same as those from Megiddo, and other features show it to be of the same type.

At Ras el-Ain⁴, one having a squat base and a double handle was found in Grave 2. The ware is brown, covered with a red slip and continuously burnished all over. A thumb impression left on the body indicates that the grooves were made by pressing the thumb against the vessel while turning on the wheel. The contents of the grave are of M. B. I type. Though this particular cylindrical juglet is not exactly of the usual type, yet it may be fairly accepted as a prototype.

At Megiddo excellent cylindricals have been found, one from tomb 4016⁵. This is of buff, gritty ware, lightly fired, with a well made thick red wash, and vertical burnish outside. Shipton's remark that "the presence of this form in stratum XV is unfortunate" is no doubt a reflection of the general opinion prevailing among archaeologists at the time. He wrote that the form was only typical of the M. B. II "Hyksos" period, despite the fact that the provenance of this jug from Megiddo is sound and the other contents of the tomb are a homogeneous M. B. I group. The others from Megiddo come from tomb 911 A I, a shaft grave of M. B. I⁶. Though reused, the contents of this tomb found with the juglets are also M. B. I.

At Tell ed-Duweir⁷ two examples were found under the "glacis" defence. The first is pricked, and second burnished.

¹ *Handbook to the Nicholson Museum* (2nd ed.) p. 146.

² Examples from the Amman Citadel Tombs, as yet unpublished, date from the 16th (painted) and 17th centuries (plain and polished).

³ *Gezer* III, pl. CXLIII: 5, also *Gezer* II, p. 139.

⁴ Ory, *op. cit.* fig. 87 and pl. XXIX: 5.

⁵ *Megiddo* II, pl. II: 4.

⁶ *Megiddo Tombs*, pl. 28: 39 and 40.

⁷ Tufnell, *Lachish* IV, pl. 77, no. 750, 751.

At Jericho one was found in Tomb 5, layer G, while in layer F the type disappears and in E appears again. This feature, recognised in Jericho Tomb 5, gives us the history of the cylindricals as noticed also at Megiddo: they appear very rarely in M.B. I tombs, disappear in phase I of the M. B. II period, and became abundant at the end of phase II and very common in phase III, by which time they have totally replaced the piriform Tell el-Yahudiya juglets. Tell Beit Mirsim produced a good number in strata E and D, but all are burnished, and none pricked or plain, i. e. the early type and the late M. B. II type are missing.

Albright¹ states that "there seems to be no chronological difference between the two types" (i. e. cylindricals and piriforms). With this I do not agree as regards Tell Beit Mirsim itself, since the provenances of the piriform Tell el-Yahudiya juglets which appear in strata G-F there² were sound, that type having been proved to have originated in Palestine about the M. B. I period, and since the piriforms survive until stratum D, though at no other site do they occur at the end of the M.B. II period, c. 1600-1550 B.C. (I think this is a low dating for stratum D of Tell Beit Mirsim., as I will show later). The cylindricals, on the other hand, were rare in E and abundant in D, which is the reverse of the case of the piriform Yahudiya juglets.

Trefoil and Pinched Mouth Jugs.

These trefoil mouth jugs have a semi-rounded body and a wide neck, with a triple, double or single handle, stretching from rim to shoulder. The body ends with a rounded base in its earliest period, a disc base later and with a ring base towards the end of the period of its use. The jugs vary in size and are long, medium or short. At the beginning they are burnished, though plain and wet-smoothed juglets are the most common and are abundantly found, especially at Megiddo.

I am inclined to consider the coastal region as their place of origin, e. g. Ajjul, and if we are to consider the trefoil mouthed jug of the Courtyard Cemetery (tombs nos. 1410 & 1413, pl. XXX, 34B9 & 34Z9 in *AG II*) found by Petrie to be of the same family, they are dated to M.B. I.

Megiddo tomb 5171 produced one³, described as of buff to pink-buff ware, white grits, well fired, and poorly made, as is that from Ajjul. It is hand-finished, wet-smoothed and has red decoration. The other contents of the tomb are of the M.B.I. period.

The technique improved at Megiddo, and the potters were producing very attractive, well made trefoil jugs by the beginning of the M. B. II period. Tombs 3072 and 3073 at Megiddo⁴ produced two well burnished jugs dated by other contents to the M. B. II period, while all the other trefoil mouth jugs found at Megiddo are wet-smoothed and have no burnish at all. The tombs fall clearly into our phases IIA, IIB, and III. The type is very common in the structural tombs.

¹ *AASOR XIII*, p. 78.

² *Ibid.* p. 65 and pl. 3: 13; *AASOR XII*, p. 17 and pl. 4: 17.

³ *Megiddo II*, pl. 11: 14.

⁴ *Ibid.* pl. 33: 30 (burnished) and pl. 34: 1 (with vertical burnish on neck, horizontal on body).

Gezer¹ cave 28: II produced three with a trefoil mouth and another with a pinched lip exactly as has been noticed in Megiddo tomb 24². One was found having a rounded vase in the M. B. II cemetery near Tell Aviv Harbour³.

At Jericho⁴ one was found in tomb 9, level (a) having one triple handle ending in a curl, with a ring base. The body is covered with a yellow slip. None was found in the earlier layers in this tomb or in any other tomb at all. This feature, added to the negative evidence from Tell Beit Mirsim stratum E, suggests to us that the trefoil mouthed jugs started on the coast region in the M. B. I period, and became common at Megiddo in M. B. II (our phases IIA and B), and from there were carried to Jericho and other inland cities.

The trefoil mouthed jugs do not appear at Ajjul, Beth-Pelet, or Duweir. It is the second type, which invariably exhibits a pinched lip, that occurs there, exactly as in Tell Beit Mirsim stratum D. These wide-mouthed jugs or pitchers, as Albright called them, also appear at Megiddo and Gezer together with the trefoils, but in heterogeneous tombs⁵. Albright speaks of them as a characteristic M. B. II form, with which I agree. Parallels to those discovered in Tell Beit Mirsim stratum D⁶ are available at Tell Ajjul (*AG* I pl. XLV: 36G); while that with pinched lip⁷, of our phase IIB, has a very close parallel at Tell Fara (*CPP*. 34 P3). All of them are unburnished, as are those found at Jericho⁸. Thus we may consider that jugs with a pinched lip are rare in phase IIB, while the trefoil mouth variety is rare in phase I, abundant in phase III and disappears suddenly afterwards.

Elongated Dippers.

Elongated dippers, with a loop handle and slightly pinched lip, are very common and well known, and little discussion is necessary to establish their date and range. They vary in length from about 10-25 cms. They first appear in M. B. I with a flat base, an elongated body and a red burnish. The base is finished off sometimes with a kind of knob. At the beginning of phase II (cf. Chart) the elongated pointed dippers start to appear. Red burnished slip rarely occurs and when it does the burnishing is badly done. Meanwhile the wet-smoothed plain dippers become dominant and the flat base begins to disappear. Rare distinctive characteristics may be noticed at the end of phase II, in the form of a ridge around the neck, and a divided handle.

At the very end of phase III the elongated pointed style disappears and is replaced by a small dipper, elongated with rounded base, and wet-smoothed. This type remains dominant until the end of phase IV.

Albright⁹ states that these elongated single handled jugs die out very rapidly in Late Bronze I and were replaced, probably before the beginning of Late Bronze II, by a type

¹ *Gezer* III, pl. XXXIII: 3 (with a highly carinated shoulder); pl. XXXVII: 3 (with rounded body), pl. XXXIX: 11 (similar). See also pl. XLI: 10.

² *Megiddo Tombs* pl. 23: 18, 20 and 21.

³ Kaplan, *Atiqot* I, fig. 2. no. 3.

⁴ *A.A.A.* XIX, pl. XXXII: 8.

⁵ *Megiddo Tombs*, pl. 23 (tomb 24) and *Gezer* III (cave 28: 11).

⁶ *AASOR* XIII, pl. 15, nos. 13 and 14.

⁷ *AASOR* XII, pls. 9: 4 and 42: 10 (stratum D).

⁸ *A.A.A.* XXI, pl. XVIII: 25, 30 and 33; pl. XX: 1.

⁹ *AASOR* XII, p. 21.

superficially much the same in appearance as those of my phase II, but of medium size, and showing marks of vertical paring with a knife all round the body¹.

Single Shoulder-handled Jugs.

These vessels have a long history. They either have a rounded body or a bellying one, with a long neck and flaring mouth. The handle is mostly divided, and rests on the shoulder. Those of Megiddo stratum XIII are obviously derived from the red burnished forms of stratum XIV. Examples from Megiddo Tomb 911 are shown at the top of my Chart (fig. 1). They are also found in the Ajjul Courtyard Cemetery² and Ras el-Ain³ in the M. B. I period. In phases A and B of M. B. II they tend to disappear; in the later phases they come back again but in debased forms.

In Syria they have been found in M. B. I contexts at Ras Shamra⁴. In Egypt the divided handle type can be traced back to the 12th Dynasty.

CONCLUSION.

It is no easy task to arrive at satisfactory conclusions based on the study of certain types of pottery vessels, and to draw up a chronological sequence for a period of 250 years based on typological series. The difficulty is even greater when an area of 36,000 square miles is to be covered. The most important sites in this area from the present point of view are Megiddo in the north, Gezer and Tell Beit Mirsim in the centre, Jericho in the Jordan rift, and Ajjul and Beth-Pelet in the south⁵.

I must draw attention to the fact that my phases are not rigidly set to a fixed number of years, but may vary by some 10-25 years. Most of the typological changes in the pottery are due to natural development or degeneration in the styles. It was, no doubt, a period of considerable movement of populations, but the basic culture remained the same, foreign elements being absorbed, and only in isolated instances might it be suggested that new forms or fashions are due to new elements in the population.

At the same time the ancient elite⁶ of the Palestinian Canaanites were also emigrating to neighbouring regions, particularly to Egypt.

I do not think that any of the pottery vessels represented on my Chart have been imported in the strict sense of the term. Some of the ideas, of course, may have been. The vessels themselves were certainly made in the country, as is shown by their characteristic local fabric. There are, on the other hand, some definite importations discernible in the ruins of M. B. I and II sites, and in burials of the period⁷.

¹ Many examples of elongated dippers come from the tombs on the Amman Citadel, as yet unpublished.

² Petrie, *AG.* II, pl. XXXV 68 T (tomb 1412).

³ Iliffe, *op. cit.* p. 125, no. 74.

⁴ Schaeffer, *Stratigraphie*, fig. 47, D.

⁵ To this list should now be added Amman, which has, since the above was written, produced some exceedingly important material of the Middle Bronze Age.

⁶ I.e. the rich aristocratic tribal rulers, with their followers of shepherd sheikhs.

⁷ It is hoped to discuss those imported objects on a later occasion.

The distinctive feature of the pottery of the M. B. II period is that it is virtually all wheel-made; no object illustrated on the Chart has been shaped by hand, though of course some of the cheapest types of cooking pot and similar wares were hand-made. The shapes are generally very graceful, especially the bowls, which have beautifully proportioned curves. It has been agreed by most archaeologists that the sharp carination noticed on bowls points to metallic prototypes, as I have mentioned in my treatment of carinated bowls. The metallic illusion was heightened in the earlier periods by the use of a red slip, which was carefully burnished all over with a stone or a spatula of bone until it shone like copper or silver. This technique has been noticed particularly in the early M. B. period, and remained common in the Palestine region until phase II A, when it began to disappear gradually until by phase II B we see a cream slip appearing. In phase III the vessels are burnished but without the red slip, and in phase IV the burnish also becomes rare, and the majority of vessels are plain and wet-smoothed. This development may be considered as a common feature of most of the types of vessels represented on the Chart.

As to the types of the different pottery vessels, a detailed description for each kind has been given above and now it only remains for me to explain the Frequency Graph (fig. 3).

The inverted rim of the phase I bowls replaces the painted broad rims of the earlier period and is a characteristic feature also of the bowls of phase II A. Meanwhile another type of bowl with straight side starts to appear, replacing gradually the inverted rimmed types until phase III, when straight sides are the characteristic feature.

The carinated bowls are either angular or flared. The angular carinated type has a long and early history. It has a red slip and is burnished. It dies out in phase III, and the flared carinated type, which has no red burnished slip becomes common. Traces of burnish with a self-slip are hardly to be seen in phase III, while in phase IV and V these flared bowls are mostly wet-smoothed.

Columns 5 and 6 refer to the piriform juglet, including both the Tell el-Yahudiya and cylindrical types. Piriform juglets are first abundant in M. B. I and M. B. II, phase I, and many are characterised by the pricked decoration of the Tell el-Yahudiya type which becomes very rare in phase II A, and totally disappears in phase II B, when it is replaced by the plain burnished style of decoration. But even this burnished technique disappears at the end of phase II, and plain black piriforms are in use for a short period until they, too, are totally replaced in phase III by the cylindrical juglets. These latter were in frequent use in phase II A and are fairly common in the latter phases, but one should bear in mind that occasionally earlier types of the cylindricals have pricked ornamentation and grey burnish while later they have burnish alone, and finally are plain, degenerating as regards decoration and technique, exactly as do the piriform types.

The goblets represented on the Graph are divided into two separate groups named after the sites where they are most frequent. The Jericho goblets with angular shoulders are descended from the type represented on the Chart as from tomb 3137 of Megiddo. They appear frequently in phase I, are common in phase II A, and rare in phase II B. The Megiddo goblets, which have a flaring carinated shoulder, seem to appear later in phase II. They are rare in phase II A and common in phase II B at Megiddo, as, conversely, the other type is at Jericho common in phase II A and rare in phase II B. But on the whole the Jericho goblet appears earlier and disappears sooner than the Megiddo type, except at Jericho itself, where it continues in use until the end of the M. B. period.

As the Jericho goblets are descendants from those of M.B. I, so the Megiddo goblets are also descended from the flared bowls of phase I represented on the Chart from Megiddo tombs 2145 and 3110. In technique they have practically the same historical development as has the Jericho type: first a red burnish, or a burnish and a cream slip, and then plain wet-smoothing only. But a red burnish slip is very rare, and wet-smoothing is the most common finish.

The pitchers either have a trefoil mouth or a pinched lip. The former has a long and early history, while the latter has a short and late one, i.e. starting only in phase II B and ending in phase IV, but appearing also in later periods in different shapes and forms.

Lamps may be considered as a characteristic feature of the M.B. II phases. None has been found in tombs of M.B. I, i.e. before 1750 B.C.. (Lamps were, of course, used in tombs in the earlier EB.-MB period, but these were of a distinctive four-spouted type).

To sum up: the derivation of all the M.B. II pottery discussed above from the fine wares introduced at the beginning of the period (i.e. phase I) is clear. The needs of the growing population, which undoubtedly included immigrants and displaced people from neighbouring countries, demanded a mass production in which fine craftsmanship disappeared. In the course of the M. B. II period, therefore, the standard of the pottery shows a definite decline, though the types of vessels and the advanced technical methods introduced at the beginning of the period survive throughout.

AWNI K. DAJANI

CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE

M.B. I (1900-1800 B.C.)	Megiddo Tomb 911, and strata XV-XVII; Ras el-Ain; T.B.M. strata G-F-E; Tell el-Ajjul Courtyard Cemetery.
M.B. II Phase I (1800-1750)	Gezer tomb I and (probably) lower level of cave 28: II
Phase IIA (1750-1700)	Megiddo XI T.B.M. Stratum E Ajjul tomb 303 Jericho tomb 9 and tombs 4 and 5 (lower layers). Gezer cave 28: II upper levels (contents mixed).
Phase II B (1700-1650)	Megiddo early structural tombs Megiddo stratum X. T.B.M. stratum D Ajjul Palace 1 and tombs 300 Jericho tombs of 1952-56 excavations.
Phase III (1650-1600)	Megiddo: some structural tombs. T.B.M. stratum D Ajjul Palace 1 and Ajjul tombs 600-640. Jericho Palace store-rooms.
Phase IV (1600-155)	Jericho Palace store-rooms Beth-Pelet Bilobate tombs 551, 550 & 559 and others. Ajjul tombs 600-640
Phase V (1550-1500)	Ajjul horse burials Duweir Fosse temple, structures I & II. Megiddo stratum IX - VIII.

RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES IN JORDAN.

The building operations and road works that have been going on all over the country during the past few years have brought to light some very interesting archaeological discoveries, which have not only increased our knowledge of Jordan's history, but have also greatly enriched the national collections. These discoveries cover all periods from the Early Bronze Age to the Islamic period. The following is a brief summary of the most important of them.

Amman. At a distance of about 13m. east of Jordan Archaeological Museum on Jebel el-Qala'ah (Biblical Rabboth Ammon), a labourer, in the course of digging a drain to the museum, found a very fine marble head of Tyche, the Roman City Goddess (plate III, 1). Excavations designed to find the rest of this statue produced some very interesting results. A private house of the Ommayad period was uncovered, and many sherds, ranging in date from the Iron Age to the Early Islamic period, were retrieved; but the most remarkable discovery was that of a Middle Bronze Age tomb, below one of the rooms of the house and at a depth of about 2m. from the surface. This was the first M. B. tomb to be found on Jebel el-Qala'ah itself, and only the second to be found near Amman, another being known on Jebel el-Jofeh el-Gharbi (published by G. L. Harding, *P. E. F. A.* VI, 1953, pp. 14ff.)

A second M. B. tomb was later found on Jebel el-Qala'ah, below the south eastern room of the Ommayad Palace; while in a second season of work in the area east of the museum still more tombs of the same period have been discovered. The numerous objects from these tombs include painted and plain pottery (goblets, jugs, juglets, bowls, craters, lamps), scarabs (some mounted with gold), bone inlay, and toggle pins.

More than one hundred and fifty pottery objects of Iron Age II, dating from c. 800 B.C., were recovered from a rock-cut tomb found by stone workers at the house of Said el-Qaruty, in the foothills of Jebel el-Jofeh esh-Sharqi (Amman), about 300m. east of the present Department of Antiquities building. The finds include pinched-mouth jugs, bowls, tripod cups, chalices, mugs, cooking pots, dippers, pointed bottles, miniature cooking pots, a miniature two-handled flask, lamps, iron anklets, a bronze mirror, and a pottery cult object. In addition, a very interesting pottery head of Astarte, the goddess of fertility, was discovered, the goddess wearing a veil (plate III, 2). The finds are closely paralleled by those from Amman and Sahab published by G. L. Harding (*Q. D. A. P.* XI (1944) pp. 67 ff. and XIII (1948), pp. 92 ff.; *A. D. A. J.* I (1951), pp. 37 ff.)

At the north end of the citadel (Jebel el-Qala'ah), about 300m. east of the north corner of the Roman city wall, and in the same general area where were found, in 1950, four pieces of sculpture (cf. R. D. Barnett, *A. D. A. J.* I, (1951), pp. 34ff.), labourers converting a cave into a Civil Defence shelter discovered another statue, of a hard grey stone (plate IV, 1). The head and legs were missing, but in both the quality of the stone and in the mode of dress this statue is identical with one of the earlier group (*A. D. A. J.* I (1951), plate X). This find strongly supports the view that the statues discovered in 1950 represent a cache having some connection with a shrine, the newly discovered statue being a part of the same cache. Mr. G. L. Harding, describing the original find of four statues in the *Illustrated London News* (Feb. 2nd, 1950), stressed their importance, saying that they were, with the exception

of two detached heads, the first examples of native sculpture in the round of early date to be found on either side of the Jordan.

Sweileh. A Circassian inhabitant of Sweileh, about 13 km. north-west of Amman, reported to the Department the discovery of a burial cave on his land, situated about 50m. to the east of milestone 14 on the Amman-Jerash road, just opposite Tell Safut. The cave proved to be a chamber tomb of the 1st/2nd. century A. D., built up of dressed white limestone and of good workmanship. It contained twenty-six loculi, distributed in two storeys, as follows: six loculi in the north side of the cave, with six others above them; five in the southern side, with five others above them; and four in the western side. Over these four a platform, surmounted by two arches, had been cut back into the wall of the cave, and on this platform three large sarcophagi with their covers had been placed. Each loculus had originally been closed with a dressed slab of limestone, similar to those of which the interior walls of the chamber were constructed. The high standard of the workmanship of the tomb indicates clearly that it was originally of great richness, but unfortunately it had been repeatedly reused in later times, and its contents robbed, as was shown by the fact that all the burials were thoroughly disturbed, and the original stone door was found buried beneath the earth in the centre of the tomb. The tomb was rather disappointing, therefore, so far as grave goods were concerned.

Tell Safut (Sweileh). During the construction, near Sweileh, of the new Point 4 road from Jerash to Na'ur, part of the northern end of Tell Safut was destroyed. In the section that was left standing by the side of the road there was revealed a sloping plastered 'glacis' revetment, resting on natural rock, and crowned by a wall. The glacis was constructed of different layers of sand, *huwar*, and earth, beaten into a kind of *terre pisée*. The discovery of this type of M. B. fortification, well known in West Jordan and throughout the Near East, here also on the East Bank, proves that East Jordan was occupied during this period, a fact which has previously been denied by some scholars.

Umm el-Hanafieh. At this village, situated south-west of Amman, and described by Conder (*Survey of Eastern Palestine* I (1889) pp. 246 ff.) as a small Byzantine site, five shaft graves of the Roman period and a family chamber tomb of the Byzantine period were found by labourers of the P.W.D. in the course of cutting a road through the north-eastern side of the village. The Antiquities Department cleared the tombs. In one of the shaft graves there was found a small lead coffin in which was a medium sized lead pot full of burnt human bones.

Jerash. In the course of cutting the new road from Ramtha to Na'ur a chamber tomb of the 2nd. century A.D. was discovered by the P.W.D. near the Triumphal Arch at Jerash. The tomb was carved from the natural rock, and oriented east-west. The entrance was through a narrow doorway approached from outside by a descending flight of six steps. Within the tomb a further flight of fourteen steps built against the north wall of the chamber led down to the floor in the north-west corner. The tomb contained seventeen loculi, all of which had been robbed anciently, as was shown by the thoroughly disturbed nature of the burials and the absence of the original stone door. The loculi were all built of dressed limestone and were originally closed by small slabs of limestone set in mud, with the exception of that loculus on the east side of the chamber, which was carved out of the solid rock and had been closed by a slab of marble set in with other smaller slabs of limestone. There was a Latin inscription on the marble slab. Around the opening of this loculus an area of the chamber wall had been covered with a coating of plaster, about 3mm. thick. The sides and top of the opening were

enclosed with a decoration consisting of a gable resting on Doric columns; on one side of the opening there was drawn the portrait of a young girl, and on the other side that of a boy. Unfortunately, the painting had been very badly affected by the dampness and by the seepage of water through cracks in the roof of the tomb, so that little of it remained *in situ* on the wall. Some lamps and coins were the only objects recovered from this tomb.

This painted tomb at Jerash is of great importance archaeologically, since it is only the third such tomb to have been discovered in East Jordan, the first being that at Maru (or Marwa), published by McCown (*Q. D. A. P.* IX (1942), pp. 1 ff.), and the second being that cleared by the Department of Antiquities in 1959 at Quailba (see below).

Two more chamber tombs, poorer and of less importance, were discovered at Jerash in the vicinity of the painted tomb described above. They produced pottery lamps and figurines (plate IV, 2), and some copper masks.

Quailba (Irbid District). A very large and important painted chamber tomb of the 2nd century A.D. was recently found at Quailba, the site of ancient Abila, and was excavated by the Department of Antiquities under the direction of Hassan Awad Qutshan (plate VI, 1). Three decorated sarcophagi were found in one of the vaults of the chamber, one of which has been removed to Amman for exhibition in the Jordan Archaeological Museum. The Department also excavated a further twenty chamber tombs, twelve shaft graves, and one rock-cut tomb in the same area, which lies about 500m. N. E. of the ancient ruins and on the opposite side of the wadi from them. These tombs produced in all more than nine hundred intact objects, from the Early Bronze, Late Bronze, Hellenistic, Roman, and Byzantine periods. The most interesting finds were that of an inkwell and a cylindrical jar which are closely paralleled by similar objects discovered at Qumran (plate V, 1).

Umm Qeis. A fine early Byzantine inscribed coloured mosaic floor, with geometric decoration, was uncovered in the house of Hussein el-Faraj, in the north western part of the village of Umm Qeis (ancient Gadara), among olive groves by the side of the road to Hemma (plate V, 2). The floor is part of that of a large hall 20m. x. 6m. in size, on the east of which two other rooms were found, 5m. x 5m. and 5m. x 3m. respectively.

Madaba. In the course of cutting a new street in the south-western quarter of Madaba municipal labourers discovered a small piece of coloured mosaic. The Department of Antiquities excavated the area, and uncovered two rooms paved in mosaic. The western pavement had human portraits, a tree, and figures of Eros and Satyrs (plate VI, 2); the eastern pavement had only geometrical designs. The mosaic in the first room is probably of the late Roman period, and that in the second room of the 6th. or 7th. centuries A.D. All the pottery found was of the late Byzantine period.

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A SHORT ACCOUNT OF THE EXCAVATIONS AT PETRA IN 1955 - 56.

During the year 1955-56 the Government of Jordan gave a special grant to its Department of Antiquities for the purpose of opening up Petra and making it more attractive and understandable to tourists. The plan as evolved by Mr. Lankester Harding, formerly Director of Antiquities, was to be spread over three seasons of excavation. The first season was devoted to rebuilding part of the retaining wall which runs along the South bank of the Wadi Musa inside the city area (Parr, 1957), and the second consisted of excavating the *cardo maximus* which also runs along the southern bank of the Wadi (Harding, 1958). This latter work was entrusted to the writer assisted by Hasan Awad Qutshan of the Department of Antiquities. As the objective was clear and limited, to uncover the road as far as the Triumphal Arch, and if possible to the temple, and no great complications were anticipated, about 70 men were employed. These consisted of about 40 from the B'dul tribe who live in Petra, 10 from the 'Amarin, the neighbouring tribe to the North, and 20 from the Liathneh of Wadi Musa.

Work started at the eastern pier of the steps which lead to the "Upper Market" (Watzinger 1921) and continued to a few metres short of the "*Triumphal Arch*". For the whole of this distance, some 240 metres, the road and southern pavement were completely cleared from the deposit of wind- and water-laid sand which covered them to a depth which varied from over three metres at the southern wall to about 50 cm. near the wadi bank. The northern pavement had been badly damaged and in parts washed right away by the uncontrolled floods which pour down the wadi after rain. This pavement was cleared at its eastern end to a point opposite the South side-road, thereafter, owing to lack of time as the end of the financial year was approaching, only the two steps that led up to it were cleared along its entire length.

The *cardo*, which has been completely washed away by floods to the east of the point where the excavations started, runs straight West, descending steeply as it approaches the "*Triumphal Arch*". Apart from two patches it is in an excellent state of preservation; it is six metres wide and very steeply cambered, having a rise of about 25 cm. in three metres. This steep camber makes it very difficult for shod animals to keep their feet today, a fact coupled with the complete absence of wheel-marks which suggests that the topography of Petra, even in an era of paved roads, limited the methods of conveyance to pack transport and palanquins. The *cardo* is bordered by wide pavements approached by two steps, and for about 65 metres the column bases of a colonnade which ran along the south pavement are still *in situ*.

It has long been known that after Petra's decline a Christian community continued to live there. The excavations have shown there was a row of little rooms, probably a *suq*, built along the southern pavement, whose walls are composed of the architectural fragments of a Petra that was already in ruins, presumably destroyed by earthquake. The floors of these small rooms are mostly paved, either using the original pavement, or by laying small flagstones above it at varying levels. One room continues out across the pavement and into the road where it is founded on ten column drums (Pl. VII, 1). In this room the floor is laid above a few cms. of fill which had covered the original paving stones. The road also had reverted to a dirt road by that time with a surface about 40 cm. above its paving.

Behind the north pavement, abutting on to the containing wall of the wadi, a series of four small rooms were excavated, three entirely and one partially. These appear to belong to a complex of buildings that ante-date the construction of the Roman *cardo maximus*, and went out of use and were filled up when the great buttress wall for the *cardo* was built. In two of these rooms the most spectacular finds were made. These include a number of painted bowls, all broken, but which have since been made up into a unique collection of almost complete vessels (Pl. VII, 2). There were pottery lamps bearing reliefs, all dating to the 1st Century A.D. terra-cotta figurines, plain vessels and many sherds (Pl. VIII, 1) The most important of these finds are some Nabataean ostraca written on both plain and painted vessels. They are written in cursive Nabataean which is already showing an even closer relationship to Arabic than in the formal script.

Unfortunately it is impossible to date the construction of the *cardo* with accuracy. It could be either the Antonine period, when there was great building activity in the Near East, or even in the reign of Trajan himself. It is however, extremely fortunate that an expedition by the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem led by Mr. Peter Parr has recently put down trenches in places where the *cardo* paving had already been destroyed, and the results of this highly important work should place the building of the *cardo* on a firm basis, as well as bring to light evidence for the pre-Roman city of Petra.

The reason for this complete lack of evidence must now be recorded. With the exception of the painted bowls, ostraca and a few other finds which were taken by hand by Mr. Harding to the Amman Museum, all the other finds and sherds from *cardo*, rooms and other soundings were stored, through lack of space, in the old Museum near the Roman theatre in Amman. Owing to internal troubles in the country during the latter part of 1956 the Army took over this building, and somehow, either during or after the take-over, more than fifteen packing cases of material from Petra vanished into thin air, and have not yet reappeared. It must be stressed that this tragedy was not the fault of any of the present heads of the Department none of whom were in office when it happened. On the contrary, the writer is greatly indebted to His Excellency Saïd Dura, former Director of Antiquities; Dr. Awni Dajani, Director, and Mr. Rafiq Wafa Dajani, Curator of the Museum, who have given her every help and facility for studying the few finds remaining from the excavations. A full report is in preparation, and thoroughly unsatisfactory though it must inevitably be, nevertheless it will at least provide a fine series of the Nabataean painted and incised wares.

The evidence for dating provided by the coins is also, unfortunately, not entirely reliable. In the first place only a fraction of the total number of coins appear to have survived the the disaster, and in the second, those from the very important blocked rooms have had their levels mixed in cleaning, although there is no particular reason to suppose that their provenance is also mixed. This is particularly sad in the case of the blocked rooms, because not only does the dating of the ostraca depend on them, but also, for architectural reasons, it appears that this particular row of rooms were blocked when the *cardo* was built. The alternate strata in these rooms are, therefore, the surface deposit, accumulated through eighteen hundred years from the hill known as Zantur which lies to the south; the late pavement suq; and the blocked room; with a possible stray coin from a flooding Wadi Musa.

In room R. N. 4 (Plate VIII, 2) where the ostraca were found it is comparatively easy to leap the gap in date as far as coins are concerned. Sixteen were found of which five were Aretas IV,

one Rabbel II, then a satisfactory jump to the 4th Century which claims three, a date which fits nicely for the small pavement rooms according to the remaining coin evidence from the *cardo*. There is, however, one enigma and that is an extremely worn coin No. R. N. 4. 23: obverse worn almost smooth; traces of bust right; faint trace of ΕΞ?; Reverse: eagle displayed with head left, supporting a wreath enclosing the letters SPQR. This coin may be dated to Severus Alexander and comes in the middle of the jump. The six undecipherable ones can probably be assigned with a fair amount of certainty, by size, shape and peculiarities of stamping as five Nabataean, and one small 4th century Roman. Again the gap is clear, and it is tempting to place the Alexander Severus coin in the surface deposit and say that these rooms went out of use soon after Arabia Petraea became annexed to Rome in 106 A. D. On the other hand the coins from R. N. 2, a room which produced identical types of painted bowls and lamp fragments, and presumably went out of use at the same time as R. N. 4, produce no such clear out gap. This time there are two Antonine coins standing in the centre, although statistically the gap does exist. 26 coins were found in the different levels of this room of which thirteen are undecipherable. For the rest a brief nominal list must suffice as the full coin catalogue will be published in the final report: Aradus Autonomous, 2nd Century B. C. 1; Aretas IV, 2; Augustus, 1; Rabbel II, 3; Trajan, 1; Faustina II, 1; Marcus Aurelius and Lucius Verus, 1; ? Arcadius, 1; Valentinianus ? III, 1; Justinus I, 1. The undecipherable coins are probably six 4th century A. D. small coins, and seven Imperial Sesterii. These seven large sesterii are so badly worn as to be entirely smooth on both faces and for this reason the coin evidence from this room is thoroughly unsatisfactory as they may all date to the centre of the gap, or fit nicely with the theory that these rooms went out of use in the reign of Trajan. Nothing has survived from room R. N. 3, and from R. N5. only same painted bowl fragments.

The evidence produced by the lamps for dating these rooms is slightly more satisfactory although only complete specimens have survived, and all the sherds have been thrown away. Out of five lamps, four are probably imported. They are of Broneer's Type XXII (Broneer, 1930) which in Corinth were all dated to the 1st century A.D. while the fifth appears to be a rather rough local copy of the same thing. Here again, although the impression gained at the time of excavation was that all the lamp sherds were also of this type nevertheless as there was no opportunity to examine them all closely it is not now possible to say that there were no lamp sherds of a slightly later type. In passing it should be noted that all the fill in these rooms was sieved and every fragment of pottery sent to Amman for examination, this was to ensure that no inscribed sherds were missed.

At this moment there are 276 coins surviving from the *cardo* of which 137 are undecipherable. Of the remaining 139, fifty-five are 4th century A. D. taken here to include one coin of Diocletian, and there are eight Byzantine ones, the latest being of Justin II and Sophia. In addition, of the 137 undecipherable ones, 130 appear to be small bronzes of the 4th century. This throws the odds overwhelmingly in favour of the pavement suqs being constructed from the ruins of Petra sometime during the 4th century, and probably after the reign of Constantine. In view of the non-survival of all other evidence from the *cardo* that is really all that can be said until Mr. Parr's excavations are completed.

Two inscriptions help to throw light, but unfortunately not direct evidence, on the history of the *cardo*. The first consists of three large inscribed blocks which formed part of an important dedication. Two of these blocks were excavated on the lower steps of the flight

leading to the "Upper Market"; and one had been removed a short distance away where it lay on its face on the surface close to the wadi side. On the outer edge of the pavement in front of the ascending flight, is a large monumental plinth with moulded base (Pl. IX, 1). About six metres away in the same position relative to the pavement and flight of steps is the remnant of a similar plinth. Nearby several architectural fragments including two voussoirs from an arch were found. All these factors indicate that a free-standing arch bearing an important inscription was erected at the edge of the pavement in front of, but not as wide as the steps leading to the "Upper Market". Only three stones have been found so far, and these belong to the end of the inscription. Unfortunately those which told of the reason for the dedication are missing, although they may yet be found on the east and central parts of the steps as the arch appears to have collapsed backwards across the pavement.

The inscriptions will be published in full by Mr. John Strugnell in the final report and only a brief outline is given here. The writer is indebted to Mr. Strugnell for supplying her with information which will be published in advance of his own report. The dedication is written in Greek, and originally consisted of six stones bearing three lines of inscription, of which the uppermost is in large monumental letters and the lower two in smaller ones (Pl. IX, 2). The dedication is to the Emperor Trajan by the city of Petra during the Proconsulship of Caius Claudius Severus. It is dated to Trajan's 18th year as Tribune, and 7th acclamation as Emperor, that is, sometime between September and December 114 A.D., in other words eight years after the annexation of Arabia Petraea to Rome in 106. A.D.

We know from milestones bearing inscriptions (Michon, E. 1897) that the southern section of Trajan's Imperial Highway linking Bosra with the Red Sea was completed sometime between 10th December 110 and 10th December 111, and one milestone in the Jebel Druze not far from Bosra has been dated by Germer-Durand to 111 (Germer-Durand 1896), which brings it within range of the southern stretch, while Maqie (Butler, 1899) reads the date as 114 A.D. the same year as the new inscription in Petra. Should the later reading for this stretch of road be correct it indicates that the northern part was finished last, the accent being apparently to open up, protect and hasten the caravan routes entering the Roman Empire from Aqaba and Arabia. In any case the establishment of the Highway coupled with the cessation of petty wars must have opened to the outside world the rather remote but by no means unsophisticated city of Petra to an extent hitherto undreamed of. In the ensuing flood of direct influence from the Roman world it is tempting to see in the erection of this monumental commemorative arch only three years after the completion of the southern section of Trajan's Highway, evidence for the inhabitants of Petra turning her into a true Roman city as soon as possible after the annexation.

It seems certain that the position of the *cardo* was already planned, and in all probability its construction had already reached the "Upper Market" before the arch was erected on the pavement edge, and it is also improbable that a monument of such importance would be erected on the side of a non-existent pavement in front of a non-existent building, or that the *cardo* would be built to fit with a previously built arch, or that the arch would be moved to fit the *cardo*. The first point to be considered when planning a Roman city, or Romanising an extant one, would surely be the position of the *cardo maximus*, the main artery of the city on which everything, else hinged. There is some evidence that the construction of the *cardo* began from the east, and was carried out in a manner that will be familiar to those who know Jerash well, where there are many examples of the same phenomenon. In short, the work

was begun with enthusiasm and ample resources, but before the end either the enthusiasm or the money petered out. In any case, the pavement steps lying east of the side road which comes in from the south about 100 metres west of the "Upper Market" are composed of uniformly long, well-cut slabs of sandstone, while those to the west of the side road are of much smaller and shorter blocks set with no apparent attempt at uniformity of size, and there is a total absence of the remains of any column bases.

The writer is greatly indebted to Mr. Peter Parr for permission to say that in his soundings under the north pavement and *cardo* he found no evidence for any previous paved street along that line although there were innumerable superimposed sand tracks. The *cardo* itself is most solidly and deeply founded, adding further weight to the theory that the arch was built after the foundation at least had been laid, also there is no apparent irregularity in the paving stones that surround the extant plinth.

In view of the rather unsatisfactory indication from the coins, and the somewhat more satisfactory evidence produced by the 1st century lamps, the blocked rooms could well have gone out of use early in the 2nd century. This possibility, coupled with the evidence from the arch and inscription dating to 114 A.D. indicate the probability that the *cardo maximus* was laid down soon after the annexation and during the reign of Trajan.

The second inscription was found built into the outside wall of one of the pavement suqs. It is in Latin, and probably formed part of the base of a statue or altar, though it is impossible to tell which, or where its original position lay though no doubt that was fairly close to the place where it was found. It is dedicated to Diocletian alone and dates to about 283 A.D. This inscription does show, however, that Petra was still in being and that monuments to the Emperor were erected up until the beginning of the 4th century at least. The comparatively large number of 4th century coins from the *cardo* 54 legible and 130 illegible, plus only eight Byzantine ones against 83 earlier ones, indicates that the pavement suqs came into being late in that century after some disastrous earthquake had destroyed the centre of Petra. As it has already been stated, the coin evidence is unsatisfactory but it can be taken as a general indication of the time of the disaster.

The fact that from its canon of proportion to its solid foundation the *cardo maximus* appears to be indubitably Roman poses the question as to whether it was not Nabataean drive and enthusiasm allied to Roman engineering and architectural experience that first envisaged and then carried out the damming and diverting of the waters from Wadi Musa at the entrance to the Siq. As the *cardo* appears to be the first paved road running on that particular line, and as the paving continued right up the Siq and is still extant in parts, the damming and tunnel for the diverted Wadi Musa may all be part of the grandiose and magnificent conception for rebuilding Petra as a Roman city. Although this is not proven it is interesting to point out once more in this context that the dedication to Trajan is dated to eight years after the annexation of Arabia Petraea.

One other point should be mentioned. The *cardo* when paved and finished must have been extremely slippery for animals. Today shod animals find it difficult to keep their feet unless on the absolute crown of the newly excavated road. A combination of the camber, the smooth limestone and above all the comparatively steep slope leading down from the bridge over the dam and right into Petra (Watzinger 1921) must have been a serious obstacle to camel caravans. Camels are notoriously bad over rock, and even slip wildly on such rough

and comparatively non-skid rock as sandstone, while the *cardo* was of smooth limestone. When Petra was fully built up as a Roman city, with streets, houses and temples stretching in every direction, there does not appear to have been room, or even a large enough gap in the ruin fields to accommodate the vast caravans that must have continued to converge there for long after the annexation to Rome. It is therefore suggested that with the building of the *cardo* and establishment of the Roman city, even if it had not happened earlier, the caravans were diverted to the plains which lie to the north and south of the city, and were handled there. There is plenty of room, and several immense open cisterns in the middle of el-Beida as well as what appears to be a marshalling yard, or possibly impounding yard for customs purposes built right across one of the northern wadis which leads up from the Wadi Araba and comes out to the north of el-Barid. With the marshalling areas for the caravans situated well away from the city centre, the local pack transport from there into Petra could easily have been undertaken by sure-footed mules and donkeys. Also the pack routes down into the Wadi Araba lead from these two probable collecting areas, so time would also have been saved.

Finally it is hoped that the "Upper Market" will be fully excavated one day, the missing part of the inscription may yet be found and it may tell purpose of the building. There is another slight enigma too. The steps appear to lead up at too shallow an angle to reach the great platform at the top in the required distance. But Petra is full of enigmas and only careful excavation will help to unravel some of them.

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Div. III.

A BRIEF OUTLINE OF THE RESTORATION OF THE SOUTH THEATRE AT JERASH.

(Plates X and XI)

In 1953 it was decided to restore the South Theatre at Jerash as part of a larger plan to improve facilities and encourage the tourist trade of Jordan. The plan for Jerash was the reconstruction of the theatre, as far as was practicable, with a view to establishing an annual Jerash Festival of Drama and Music; similar to that held at Ba'albek in the Lebanon. In addition, the house belonging to the Department of Antiquities which stands in the fore-court of the Temple of Artemis was to be converted into a modern Resthouse with bedrooms. The whole scheme was to be financed by the American Aid Commission through the medium of the Tourist Department of the Jordan Government.

The late Mr. Theo Canaan, well-known Jerusalem architect, of the firm of Rais and Canaan of Beirut, and the son of Dr. and Mrs. Tawfik Canaan, was appointed to be in charge of the work at Jerash. The writer was made responsible for carrying out Mr. Canaan's instructions during his unavoidable absences in the Lebanon. During the initial two months they worked together, but from then onwards he was only able to visit Jerash for a few days every two or three weeks. Hasan Awad Qutshan of the Department of Antiquities was made the writer's permanent assistant for the whole period of the work.

In 1953 £ 1,900 was allotted for the theatre. The first two months were spent in identifying, counting, measuring and sketching the stones belonging to each architectural feature of the theatre, while the few Circassians then employed sorted the great stones lying in confusion in the *cavea*, into types; and turned over the heaped masses lying outside the theatre for inspection.

The work of reconstructing the ground floor of the *scaena* was considerably lightened by the fact that one section, complete to the architrave and containing an entire niche as far as its combined architrave and frieze, stood intact at the west end. In addition, the Department of Antiquities possessed two old photographs taken towards the end of the last century, soon after the Circassians had been settled in Jerash. These photographs were invaluable. One showed the central and western part of the *scaena*, with the door lintel in place and part of the frieze on it, and half the western niche pediment *in situ*. The other showed the interior exits of the western vaults. The arch leading on the stage was intact, the tooth outlining its sides and top being clearly visible. As there was not a single stone standing of either of the two side stage entrances when the work started and all the component stones had been muddled up and removed to different parts of the fields outside, this last is a feature that might well have been missed without the photographs. The vault into the *cavea* was shown, as regards the arch, in the same state as in 1953 lacking most of its voussoirs; but above it, *in situ*, were three large stones bearing raised margins surrounding an uninscribed plaque. Above this, one stone of the "middle" cornice was visible. From this photograph the component parts were eventually found and re-erected in their places.

Theo Canaan decided to reconstruct the whole of the ground floor of the *scaena* with the full main entablature as far as there were columns to support it. He then planned to build up a part of the first floor, beginning over the side stage vault and continuing round to

the main *scaena* and across one door. This would have given an example of a side niche, a main niche, the arch over the door and the top entablature with pediment. He chose the east side for this, and had three intact columns removed from the west end to provide the necessary support for the entablature. The gaps thus left at the west end were to be filled by building up broken columns which would not have to bear any weight.

The work was carried out by one builder with three assistants, all Circassian. A full-time carpenter, also Circassian, was responsible for all the scaffolding, making wooden arch supports and accurate profiles of carved stones, as well as many other jobs requiring a high degree of accuracy. There were about six stone masons, and some twelve to fifteen labourers for the heavy work of moving stones to the winches, and excavating a path on which to lay the railway.

During the first season's work it was only possible to clear the passage behind the *scaena* as far as the east door, and for this reason the stones had to be manhandled to the winches which was slow work. It had been decided that building must have the top priority so that definite and visible progress could be shown at the end of the first season. Work began at the east end, at the arch leading from the entrance vault into the *cavea*, and on the balustrade leading up to the box. By the end of the season four months later, both the eastern arches, the box and balustrade were built, and the *scaena* had been dismantled and rebuilt as far as the central stage door to entablature height, and including the two niches with their pediments. The east stage door had not been built but the two sections of the *scaena* wall graded down to it, and the lintel was in position propped on wooden supports. At this stage not only did the money run out, but the American Aid Commission changed its Director and its policy and Jerash was dropped.

In 1954 the former Director of Antiquities, Mr. Lankester Harding, persuaded the Jordan Government to shoulder the expense of the reconstruction of the theatre, and the plan for the Resthouse was shelved. A grant of £ 2,500 was received through the Department of Antiquities. The first two months were spent in excavating the wide corridor behind the *scaena*, and laying the railway line so that every part of the fields outside, where most of the stones were lying, the inside of the theatre and the corridor behind were all served by the line. This excavation will be the subject of a separate report, but it should be mentioned that the theatre in decay was inhabited during Ommayad times. The corridors were divided into small rooms on both storeys, and the final destruction was by fire and earthquake. The fill in the corridor for the western half was over 6 metres deep, full of stones, all of which had to be removed to the fields outside.

Building began with the lintel of the east stage door. This was found badly broken, and with a part completely missing, so that as reconstructed it consisted of three stones, the centre one inserted as a keystone. A part of the backs of these stones were cut out and a reinforced concrete beam cast both inside and behind the lintel. This operation was supervised by Theo Canaan as it was the first of its kind in this work. At least half the stones belonging to the pediments of the three stage doors were either smashed to pieces or completely missing, so it became necessary to cut new ones with the essentials blocked out simply. The pediment of the east door was just started when Theo Canaan came on his last visit. He slipped when about to take a measurement and fell in the unfinished doorway, dying from his injuries almost immediately. After this tragedy the work was continued without a permanent architect.

During that season the *scaena* was dismantled and rebuilt as far as the west door, including the east and central stage doors to entablature height in addition to the excavation of the corridor.

In 1955 the Government again allotted £ 2,500 for the work. Work started on the eastern balustrade, the arches to *cavea* and stage, and the box, and finally to and including the west stage door at entablature height. The extant part of the west end which carries the architrave and niche was found to be in such a bad state that a fully qualified architect and construction engineer would be required, but the money could not be raised during that season. For this reason that part of the *scaena* was left untouched, and only a small part adjacent to the west stage door and extending as far as, but not including the right pilaster of the west niche was dismantled and rebuilt. The soft limestone wall which forms the inner skin of the *scaena* and wall of the corridor was also rebuilt, but in neither case are the rebuilt portions bonded to the untouched part. It must be stressed most strongly that if any future campaign of restoration is contemplated at the theatre, this section of the wall must receive priority treatment. In addition to the building, a start was made on reconstructing the stage front, and on clearing all the stones from the orchestra except those needed for the main entablature, and broken columns for building up. The scaffolding was also taken down and stored in preparation for regrouping the following season.

It was hoped that excavation would not be necessary during this season, but this was not to be. The western entrance vault has two entrances, the main and open one facing north, and a second facing west. This last entrance was completely blocked with stones, seats and all manner of architectural fragments that had fallen from above. During the winter a large number of these stones had fallen into the vault itself. Many others had slipped down to block the arch again. As this was both dangerous and bad for the vault all stones and debris were cleared from outside and on top of the vault which was cleaned and patched, and a drainage system complete with guttering to throw rain water well clear of the feet of the walls was also installed. Similar treatment is also urgently needed over the east vault.

In 1956 £1,000 was allotted, not enough for reseating the columns and erecting the entablature and stage, but sufficient to finish the stage, clear the orchestra and put up a small sample of entablature to break the straight line of the wall, in short enough money to make the theatre usable. Unfortunately permission to start work was withheld, and the theatre has remained ever since unfinished and not quite usable.

This report is simply a brief outline of the course of the work, and it is hoped to publish a full architectural report at a later date. This, however is made difficult at the present time owing to the tragic death of Theo Canaan while engaged on the work. His field notebook contains sketches, with measurements, and the numbers found, of the different architectural features; while these were perfectly adequate for the recognition and typing of the various stones in the field, they are not, and were never intended to be finished architectural drawings. A scale elevation of the main, or lower storey of the *scaena* which he had started remains unfinished. It is hoped that these deficiencies will be made good in the near future.

The theatre was originally built, and so restored, with four different kinds of stone. The side walls, side arches, and balustrades were constructed with a hard white limestone. The *scaena*, door lintels, niches, and niche architraves were of a beautiful hard, pink limestone while the columns, entablatures and all pediments were of the white. The backing of the

scaena wall, the corridor behind with its vaults, the small rooms on each side, and the main outside wall together with its architectural features were all composed of a very soft white local limestone. In addition, the ties in the *scaena* wall, very long stones laid at intervals to bond the front and back skins, were of a very hard, white crystalline limestone.

Many stones with mouldings, voussoirs, cornices and so on, were completely missing, the largest gaps being elements for the east side of the theatre. This is significant, as the east end is that nearest the modern village and it is highly likely that the missing pieces may be found embellishing the houses there. A few houses were demolished at the beginning of 1955 to allow for widening a road. The resultant harvest of architectural features, though not necessarily from the theatre, and even good, plain dressed stones which were brought back to the "Antiquities Area" was truly astounding. A piece that received a particularly glad welcome was one of the miniature niches from the front of the stage.

There was also an almost complete lack of pieces of the small columns which supported the niche pediments. In all, only two of these could be built up again, with the elements for a possible third in reserve; for this reason four new small columns had to be cut at a stone factory in Amman. This dearth of small column fragments is probably because they make excellent roof rollers, being neither too large nor too heavy for modern mud roofs.

Where architectural elements were missing, or very badly broken, new ones were cut; and in dismantling and rebuilding, stones with detectable open or interior cracks were replaced, but with few exceptions — mostly above the east stage arch — none of the plain, building stones were re-faced. The variety in colour is accounted for by the degree of weathering to which any stone had been subjected, whether it had fallen face down or not, and if it had been subsequently buried or left exposed. On the other hand the soft back skin of the *scaena* was largely re-faced, this was necessitated by the extreme softness of the stone, the surfaces of the weathered blocks were not only flaking badly, but full of cracks, and would have offered an easy rothold for plants and even trees. Where possible stones excavated from the corridor were put back without refacing. The whole of this wall should mellow in colour quickly because of the softness of the stone.

Originally the *scaena* was composed of two storeys, each with entablature alternately coming forward on to columns, and returning to run with the wall over the four niches which are set in it. The return to the wall at the doors is curved gently in an arc. The main entablature, and its supporting columns are larger than those above, while the higher entablature is not only smaller, but has triangular pediments above the east and west stage doors, and a broken pediment over the central door. Conversely, the niches and niche heads from the higher were larger and heavier than those from the lower. The stage front is composed of four different features divided from each other and from the steps that lead down into the *cavea* from the stage by five broad piers each of which project about 10 cm. from the wall. These five piers each carry in high relief the Shield of Artemis or "Amazon's Shield". Three of these shield stones, one of them broken, were found in the neighbourhood of the theatre, a fourth which was also inscribed, was brought from the Museum and re-erected in its former position on the central pier, in the exact centre of the stage. This stone has been published, (1), (2); and its Museum Number is 13. The dedication is that of the theatre pavement in the reign of Domitian. The search for the fifth shield stone covered the whole of the "Antiquities Area" and it was eventually found behind the west columns at the junction of the Forum

with the *cardo*. The four panels thus divided by the piers contained centrally placed miniature niches, two with triangular pediments and two shell niches, between these niches and the piers are small pilasters, two on each side, which originally had capitals of bronze or other metal, long since robbed.

Two of the miniature niches, one of each kind were found in the *cavea*, while a third of exactly the required dimensions and with a triangular pediment was returned from a demolished house in the village. The fourth niche, a shell one is still missing, but none of its fragments have been found near the site nor built into any other ancient building, it therefore seems reasonable to hope that it too will one day be found in the modern village and returned to its true place. For the moment then the South Theatre at Jerash remains in an unfinished state, and it is greatly to be hoped that in the not too distant future at least the stage may be finished, the *cavea* cleared, and columns built up and re-erected even if no further work on the unfinished *scaena* is contemplated.

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EXCAVATIONS AT KHIRBET ISKANDER¹

Introduction

Khirbet Iskander (map reference 2233.1072) lies on the north bank of the Wadi el-Wala, a tributary of the Wadi el-Mujib, a few hundred metres west of the point where the modern road from Madaba to Dhiban crosses the stream. The site seems to have been noted first by Schick, in 1877², but the first proper study was that by Glueck, who describes the present appearance of the site, together with that of some of the neighbouring menhirs and stone circles, in some detail in the third volume of his *Explorations in Eastern Palestine*.³ Until the publication of the full report of the present excavations, which will be accompanied by a plan, the reader is referred to Glueck's description. The site is a fairly large one, though flat and not very noticeable. It occupies a strategic position, guarding the point where throughout ancient and modern times the main north-south road through East Jordan has crossed the Wala. The latter is a perennial stream with luxuriant vegetation in its bed (plate XII, 1), and Iskander, on its low isolated rise (plate XII, 2), must have been a pleasant and easily defensible settlement.

From a study of the surface sherds, Glueck dated the site to what he called the "E.B.IV-M.B.I" period, following Wright's terminology⁴; a period to which, according to him, most of the E. B. sites in East Jordan south of the Wadi Zerqa belong.

Recent work, especially that of Miss Kenyon at Jericho, and of Miss Tufnell on the publication of the Lachish material, has raised many new questions, while it has answered some old ones, concerning the M. B. I period — called now by Miss Tufnell the 'Caliciform Culture', and by Miss Kenyon the 'Intermediate E. B. - M. B.' phase. Problems concerning the so-called E. B. IV period have also become more acute, especially since this is a phase which seems to have been recognized only occasionally west of the Jordan, in any of the complete sequences available from excavation.⁵ It was, therefore, partly to throw light on this interesting but vague E. B. IV-M. B. I period that, in June 1955, trial excavations were made at Iskander. It was also hoped to see whether, in fact, any earlier settlement had existed there.

The Excavations

The work was done under the auspices of, and was largely financed by, the Ashmolean Museum. In the short time available only two small trenches could be dug, and this must be

¹ A brief note on these excavations appeared in Vol. III of this *Annual* (1956), p. 81, and a full report, now in preparation, will be published in the *P.E.Q.* The present abbreviated account is presented here at the request of the Jordanian Department of Antiquities, to the staff of which, and particularly to its Director, Dr. Awni K. Dajani, I am indebted for encouragement and assistance. Full acknowledgments for other assistance, financial and otherwise, will appear in the final report.

² *P.E.F.Q.S.* (1879) p. 189.

³ *A.A.S.O.R.* Vols. XVIII - XIX (1939) pp. 127 - 129, and fig. 47.

⁴ Glueck, *op. cit.*, p. 251 and references.

⁵ The writer hopes to discuss the E. B. IV period at greater length in the full report on these excavations.

and throughout the following discussion, only tentative conclusions can be drawn from the evidence of such a small area excavated. The first trench was on the brow of the eastern slope of the mound, and the second on the northern edge of the site, which at this point is only a little higher than the anciently unoccupied area to the north.

Stratigraphy and Structures

Trench I. This trench, on the east of the site, reached bed-rock at a maximum depth of just under 3 metres. Three main phases could be distinguished :

1. Resting on bed-rock were the bottom six courses of a well built wall, the lowest three courses of which projected a few centimetres and had a slight batter. The wall was about 2.30m. thick at its base. Its function as a town wall, rather than as a terrace or house wall, seems to be indicated not only by its thickness, and the care with which it was built (and especially by the batter at the foot), but also by the fact that the hill slope had been carefully scarped to receive it, so that originally the lowest 2 metres of the wall would have backed up against natural rock, and the interior ground level would have been that distance above the exterior. As only a short stretch of this wall was uncovered, however, it is impossible to say whether it surrounds the whole site. The wall had been destroyed down to within 1.25m. of its base, and all contemporary occupation levels had been eroded. A thick layer of gravelly soil, derived from the destruction and subsequent erosion, ran up to the face of the wall, and a little similar material covered the top.

2. The remains of this wall were sealed by a series of thin streaky levels, of soft grey ashy material and of yellow and brown clay, none of which was associated, in the small area exposed, with any structure. The fact that the big wall of Period 1 had been destroyed to a level below that of the top of its scarp and all contemporary occupation layers eroded, suggests either that there was a period of desertion between the destruction of the wall and the laying down of the Period 2 levels, or that the site was deliberately cleared at this time. It is indeed possible that the streaky grey and yellow layers of Period 2 themselves represent a period of decay, when occupation material and clayey earth spread over the destroyed wall and down the slope; or that they are part of a rubbish dump. But the presence of well defined surfaces of clay and of soft grey soil, and of burnt patches where fires must have stood, suggests rather to the writer that we have here a definite undisturbed occupation deposit, perhaps a series of courtyard levels, going with buildings further towards the interior of the site and not reached by the present excavations. This is further suggested by the fact that these thin streaky levels were overlain by a thicker deposit of yellow brickly debris, probably the destruction level of a building.

3 (i). There was evidence of a gap in occupation between the end of Period 2 and the beginning of Period 3, the upper levels of the former (especially the brick debris mentioned above) having been disturbed by what seemed to be root- and animal-holes, which suggested that at least this part of the site had reverted to nature. Into this eroded surface newcomers had dug a large and deep foundation trench (2m. deep and at least 3m. wide), to receive either another defensive wall or a terrace wall. Very little of the wall itself remained, it having slipped down into the wadi below. The stratification here was confused, and presents problems of interpretation which will be discussed in the full report. Suffice it to say here that the wall may have been rebuilt on one or more occasions during this period.

(ii). At a slightly later date a stone building was erected over this complex of walls, the large foundation trench being sealed by a cobbled area associated with the building. Some of the upper courses of the Period 3 (i) wall were still exposed, and were incorporated into the new structure. The main feature of the new building was a roughly cobbled courtyard, about 2.50m. \times 4.00m. in extent, sub-divided into working areas by low partition walls, and with a stone socket for a roof support in the centre (plate XIII, 1). The courtyard wall on the east (downslope) side had mostly disappeared; but on the west a substantial stone wall 1.50m. high and .75m. thick still survived (plate XIII, 2). The uppermost stones of this wall just protruded above the present ground surface, and must have been among those noticed by Glueck.

Trench II. This trench, on the northern edge of the site, where there were many surface indications of buildings, was not completed, reaching a depth of 2.25m. without touching bed-rock. Although no complete structures were found, the foundations of several superimposed stone walls were uncovered. Two main periods seem to be represented, corresponding closely to periods 2 and 3 of Trench I. The lower of the two periods was represented by the same alternate grey and yellow streaky occupation levels as had been found in Trench I. In the upper period, at least three, and perhaps four, phases of building were discovered. The uppermost wall, of which only one course remained, and that almost resting on the surface, could be traced for a good distance on the ground, and proved to be part of a rectangular room 9.50m. \times 7.50m. in size, with walls .75m. thick. The meagre remains of the walls of these latest building phases, and their close proximity to the surface, makes their sequence a matter of some uncertainty, especially in view of the small extent of the area excavated. We shall return to this point in the course of the discussion of the pottery, below.

The Pottery

With the exception of several worked flints (plate XIV, 2), a broken basalt pestle and two spindle whorls (plate XIV, 3), and a pottery animal figurine¹ (plate XIV, 1), the only objects found were potsherds. In the brief discussion which follows, only the most important facts concerning the pottery will be mentioned, and one or two tentative conclusions drawn from them. It will be convenient to treat each of the three main periods outlined above separately, though the two trenches may be considered together.

Period 1. In the levels immediately associated with the stone wall of Period 1, very little pottery was in fact found. The three sherds illustrated (fig. 1, nos. 3, 4, and 8) all come from the gravelly soil sealing the remains of the wall, presumably representing its destruction and the subsequent erosion of the site. The sherds are all of coarse greyish ware, very gritty, and poorly fired, and the shapes may best be paralleled in the Late Chalcolithic and early E. B. periods elsewhere. (Cf., for example, the short jar neck and the square-cut hole-mouth rims from the Chalcolithique Supérieur of Tell Far'ah²).

¹ Cf. a similar figurine from the M. B. I. level at Byblos : Dunand, *R.B.* LIX (1952) pl. VI, first object in fourth row from top.

² R. de Vaux, *R.B.* LXII (1955) p. 555, nos. 11 and 16,

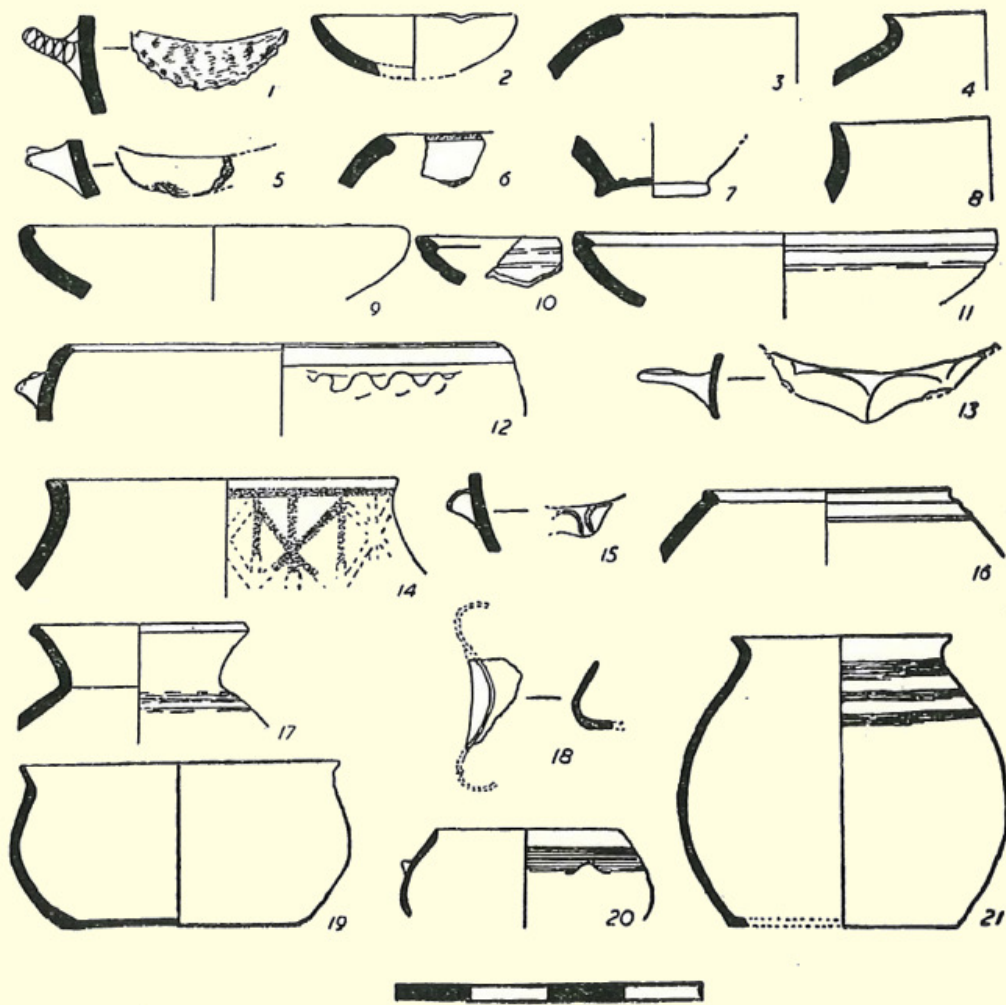


Fig. 1.

Period 2. The sherds from the streaky occupation or midden accumulation of Period 2, in both trenches, belong to the Late Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Ages. A full analysis of their types and dating must await the final report, when it will also be discussed whether or not there is a typological and chronological development through the successive layers of this period. The important fact to be noted here, however, is the presence of many undoubted Late Chalcolithic sherds.¹ Two ledge-handles may be mentioned, the one (fig. 1, 1), a thumb-indented handle, for which parallels may be found in Stages VII-IV at Megiddo², the early E. B. levels at Jericho³, and the early caves at Tell Duweir⁴; and the second (fig. 1, 5), a variant of the same form, also found in the Chalcolithic caves at Duweir⁵. The hole-mouth jar rim illustrated (fig. 1, 6) is of coarse, gritty, grey ware, hand-made, and has a band of red paint over the lip (cf. Tell Far'ah, *Enéolithique Moyen*: *R. B. LIV* (1947) p. 406-7, no. 5.). Also probably of the Late Chalcolithic or beginning of the E. B. period is the lamp fragment illustrated (fig. 1, 2), which has highly polished red exterior and interior surfaces, and a small indentation in the rim, now heavily discoloured with smoke⁶. Other sherds from Period 2 include pinch-lapped ledge-handles and a red burnished stump-base, indicating that the site was not deserted in the later phases of the Early Bronze Age.

One should, perhaps, remark here that the presence of Chalcolithic and early E. B. sherds in these levels overlying the wall footings of Period 1 does not necessarily mean that that wall is itself of such an early date. So long as the origin of the streaky grey layers which constitute Period 2 in both trenches is in doubt - i. e. whether they are undisturbed occupational accumulation or a later rubbish dump - the possibility remains that the early sherds are derived from elsewhere on the site, and have no bearing on the date of the Period 1 wall.

Period 3. Although the pottery of the final main period from both Trenches I and II is sufficiently similar to warrant its being treated as a whole, it may be better at the moment, in view of the uncertainty of the sequence of the building phases near the surface of Trench II, to direct our main attention to the Trench I material, using sherds from the second trench for illustrative purposes only.

At first glance the material from Period 3 seems to be a mixture of Glueck's E. B. IV and Miss Kenyon's E.B. - M.B. forms, including, as it does, grooved inverted rims (fig. 1, nos. 10 and 11); "rolled" inverted rims (no. 9); grooved "tea-pot" rims (no. 16)⁷; incised decoration (nos. 17, 20, and 21 — all from Trench II, but many similar sherds from Trench I); and everted jar rims with square-cut lips (no. 17)⁸. One envelope ledge-handle was also found, in Trench II. All these forms were undoubtedly found associated together in the occupation and destruction levels of the stone building in Trench I (Period 3 (ii)), and while

¹ Père de Vaux, who saw this pottery, was immediately struck by its resemblance to the material of the *Enéolithique Supérieur* at Far'ah.

² Engberg and Shipton, *Notes on the Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age Pottery*, fig. 5 (Form 14G).

³ K. M. Kenyon, *P.E.Q.* 1952, p. 78, and fig. 5, no. 4.

⁴ O. Tufnell, *Lachish IV*, p. 151, fig. 7 (Form 2), and pl. 11, nos. 31 and 32.

⁵ *Ibid.*, fig. 7, no. 1 (Form 1).

⁶ Cf. Engberg and Shipton, *op. cit.*, Form 21C (Red High Polish Bowls), Stages VII - IV.

⁷ *Lachish IV*, p. 175, and pl. 67, no. 454. (Caliciform)

⁸ K. M. Kenyon, *A.D.A.J.* III (1956), p. 49, fig. 8, no. 7. (EB - MB)

it is possible that a certain amount of extrusive earlier material is included in the body of sherds recorded as coming from this phase, it is unlikely that there is enough of these completely to alter the character of the group. It should be borne in mind, also, that no examples of the forms mentioned above were found in the Period 2 levels immediately beneath the walls and cobbled floor of the Period 3 building. In any case, the mixture is not unprecedented. Grooved bowl rims are known from the E. B. - M. B. tombs at Ajjul¹, while many examples are illustrated from Tell Beit Mirsim, strata H-I². There is no reason to suppose, therefore, that we have here at Iskander anything but a chronologically homogeneous group of pottery. Its chief interest lies in the fact that within it the E. B. tradition still seems strong, both as regards the forms, the ware, and the decoration, while at the same time the E. B. - M. B. characteristics are also strongly in evidence. The implications of this situation at Iskander, and its bearing on the study of the E. B. - M. B. period elsewhere in Palestine, will be discussed in the final report.

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Addendum. Two sherds illustrated on fig. 1 deserve a special note. The one, no. 7, is the ring-base of a medium-sized vessel, possibly a jug or jar; the second, no. 14, is the neck of a large jar, with a decoration (faint in places) of reddish-purple paint on a pink, wet-smoothed surface. The neck shows signs of having been made on the wheel. Both sherds are of the buff ware, evenly fired, typical of Period 3 at Iskander, from which, in fact, they both come. The base has the harsh texture and green hue typical of some E. B. - M. B. material elsewhere.

¹ *Ibid.*, p. 48, fig. 7, nos. 1 and 2.

² W. F. Albright, *A.A.S.O.R.* XII (1930 - 1), pls. 3, 4, and 5 *passim*; XIII (1931 - 2), pls. 20 and 21 *passim*. Professor Albright, however, maintains that the grooving on the rims of bowls from strata H - I at Tell Beit Mirsim is different from, though related to, that found on bowls from late E. B. sites such as Bab ed-Dra; cf. *A.A.S.O.R.* XII (1930 - 1), p. 11.

NABATAEAN SCULPTURE FROM KHIRBET BRAK.

Situated a few kilometres south - west of the village of Wadi Musa, and commanding a fine view westwards over the Petra basin and the 'Arabah to the Negeb beyond, Khirbet Brak (خربة براك) is one of several small sites which must have been the garden suburbs of the Nabataean capital. The limestone slopes below the site, watered by a copious spring, are terraced today, and most probably were also in antiquity, and the crops they produced were no doubt readily sold in the Petra markets. The ruins of Brak have never been fully described, though there are quite substantial walls and foundations to be seen over a fairly wide area, with many Nabataean/Roman and Byzantine sherds lying on the surface. Musil first drew attention to the part played by 'Ain Brak in the water supply of Petra¹, while Nelson Glueck seems to have been the first to visit the site itself and realize its significance as a suburb of Petra². This latter author records and illustrates several architectural fragments which he discovered at Brak³, and also mentions the reputed existence of a statue, which, however, he was not able to locate⁴.

During the course of the 1959 season of excavations at Petra by the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem, reports similar to those heard by Glueck with regard to the existence of statuary at Khirbet Brak led to an excursion being made to the site⁵. Two pieces of sculpture, hitherto unrecorded, were at length discovered, built face downwards into field walls near a pool at the foot of the slopes below the main area of the ruins. After the photographs and notes on which this paper is based had been taken, the statues were replaced in their concealed and relatively protected positions, they being much too heavy to remove from the site. It is perhaps worth remarking that no one was more concerned over the preservation and safety of the sculptures than were the two members of the Bdul tribe of Petra who led the party to Khirbet Brak and produced the stones for inspection.

1. The first piece of sculpture is a large female head carved in high relief on a block of limestone .52 m. wide and .56 m. high (plate XV, 1). One corner of the block has been broken off, and the nose, eyes, and mouth of the face are damaged, but otherwise the carving is clear and well preserved. With its full face and long chin, its well marked eyes and thick lips, the relief is a typical example of the Orientalising style of Palestinian art of the first and second centuries A.D.⁶, though it is, perhaps, rather more competently executed than are many other specimens. Its closest parallels are to be found in three reliefs from the latest period of the Nabataean temple at Khirbet Tannur, dated by the excavator to the first part of

¹ A. Musil, *Arabia Petraea II: Edom* (1907), pp. 78, 98, 102, 108.

² N. Glueck, *A.A.S.O.R.* XV (1934-5), p. 79; *ibid.* XVIII-XIX (1937-9), pp. 44ff.

³ E. g. *A.A.S.O.R.* XVIII-XIX (1937-9), figs. 24, 25.

⁴ *Ibid.*, pp. 44-45.

⁵ I am indebted to Mrs. C. M. Bennett, who was first told of the statues, for persuading me to accompany her to the site, and to Mr. Ahmed Sheshtawi, of the Jordanian Department of Antiquities, for much assistance in obtaining information from the local inhabitants.

⁶ Cf. M. Avi-Yonah, *Oriental Elements in the Art of Palestine . . . Q.D.A.P.* X. (1944), pp. 112ff., especially pp. 116-8.

the 2nd. century A. D. ¹. Most strikingly, one of the Tannur reliefs has the same kind of leaf decoration on the face as has the present example, a decorative feature which otherwise seems to be unknown in the Near East ². The treatment of the hair, and especially the representation of a small ringlet against the cheek near the ear, is closer to that on the other two reliefs from Tannur ³, though the present statue is distinguished by the three tight braids of hair falling on each shoulder ⁴. Glueck most plausibly identifies the three sculptures from Tannur as representations of Atargatis, in her role as goddess of natural produce and cultivation, and it would seem very likely that the Brak figure is similarly to be explained. The worship of Atargatis at Khirbet Brak would not be surprising in view of the distinctly agricultural basis of the settlement there.

2. The second relief (plate XV, 2) is that of a volant winged figure; the head has been destroyed, but the figure is evidently female, judging from the dress. It is carved on a block of limestone .71 m. long and .47 m. high. One side of the block is dressed moderately straight, and from the position of the figure in relation to that edge it would appear that it originally formed part of a frieze or of the spandrel of an arch. Unfortunately, some detail of the carving has been obliterated, especially at the top, and it is not possible to see what attributes, if any, the figure had; perhaps there are traces of a cornucopia. The drapery is reminiscent of that of the reliefs of Tyche discovered at Petra in 1954, and elsewhere ⁵, and there can be little doubt that this figure from Brak belongs, with them, to the 2nd. century A. D.

Two other architectural fragments from Khirbet Brak may conveniently be mentioned here, though one of them has already been published by Glueck ⁶. This is part of a capital (plate XVI, 1), of a style obviously derived from, though much more ornate than, the classic Nabataean capital. What is unusual about the Brak capital is that it has carved animal heads at each corner, projecting from beneath the volutes. Glueck identified these heads as of dolphins. The heads are carved in a peculiar "rippled" technique, the surface of the stone being finished in a series of wavy grooves, in a manner that is both distinctive and pleasing. A capital exactly similar to this from Brak was found during the course of recent excavations at Petra, lying in débris on the Roman street; while many other fragments of similar carved heads, including some with horns, evidently of sheep or goats, were also discovered, all in the débris from the final destruction of the city. The date of the capital and the fragments from Petra is not yet securely determined, but it is in all probability not earlier than the beginning of the 2nd. century A. D., when Petra was architecturally embellished after the Roman annexation, and may be even a hundred years later. The capital from Brak is, then, of the same period, as, indeed, Glueck suggested, and must be contemporary with the two

¹ Glueck, *The Other Side of the Jordan* (1940), pp. 180ff. and figs. 114, 116, and 117. But note that Albright dates this structure almost a century later: cf. *Archaeology of Palestine* (1954) p. 165.

² Glueck, *ibid.*, mentions a similar feature on a statue of Zeus from Puteoli, near Naples, from where, it will be remembered, two Nabataean inscriptions are also known.

³ A photograph of one of the Tannur reliefs, showing this feature most clearly, is to be found in Aviyonah, *op. cit.*, pl. XXII, no. 4.

⁴ This manner of hair dressing has been noted on fragmentary reliefs from near the Monumental Gateway at Petra itself, as yet unpublished.

⁵ Parr, P.J., *P.E.Q.* 1957, plate IVA, and p. 8, with references.

⁶ *A.A.S.O.R.* XVIII - XIX (1937 - 9), fig. 25 and p. 45.

pieces of sculpture discussed above. In so far as it is reflected in architecture, therefore, Brak's prosperity seems also to date from the coming to Petra of the Romans, for whose needs it and the other agricultural suburbs no doubt most profitably catered.

Finally, we illustrate a stone which is an interesting curiosity more than anything else (plate XVI, 2). The stone, a building block some .25m. square, has been reused in a fairly modern wall, next to a block dressed in the typically Nabataean fashion, with regular diagonal tooling. The stone in question here, however, has its face dressed in a very distinctive manner, being decorated with a lozenge-shaped figure incised on the stone with a sort of herring-bone tooling. The beginnings of two similar designs, one on either side of the complete example, show that the original scheme was of a series of contiguous lozenges. The stone lacks the smooth margin of the Nabataean block next to it; nor is the tooling so carefully done; so it is unlikely that our stone is to be assigned to the same period. More probably, perhaps, it is of Byzantine date, surface sherds of this period proving that Brak was still occupied then. A few other blocks at Brak show the same decorative pattern on their faces; and it would be interesting to know whether it has been found elsewhere in Jordan.

PETER J. PARR

THE COPPER DOCUMENT FROM CAVE III OF QUMRAN TRANSLATION AND COMMENTARY

The two inscribed copper scrolls, which were found on March 20, 1952 in Cave III of Qumrân (3Q), actually form a single text of twelve columns. They were opened in 1955/56 by means of a simple, but very careful, method of cutting into sections by Professor H. Wright Baker of the College of Science and Technology at the University of Manchester⁽¹⁾. The strips, numbering twenty three, were sent back to Jordan at the beginning of April, 1956. At present they are exhibited in the Archaeological Museum of Amman, the capital of the country.

The three institutions which conducted the exploration of the cliffs of Qumrân from the 10th to the 29th of March, 1952: The American School of Oriental Research at Jerusalem, the Palestine Archaeological Museum, and the École Biblique et Archéologique Française à Jérusalem⁽²⁾, commissioned me to bring out the edition of this intriguing document. My provisional translation was sent out as a press-release and appeared simultaneously in Jordan, England, the United States, and in France, on June 1, 1956. It told of the opening of the scroll and gave the initial information concerning the text which was there engraved. I, myself, have spoken of this on many occasions⁽³⁾. After three years, despite other editorial work (Hebrew and Aramaic documents of Murabba'ât⁽⁴⁾, literary texts of Cave IV of Qumrân) the edition of the Copper Document is now ready and it will be in press when this article appears. With the kind permission of the Clarendon Press we publish here the translation of the entire document in English, as well as some notes dealing with the identification of the sites in 3Q 15⁽⁵⁾. The reproductions (photographs and facsimiles) and the complete transcription of the text, together with an extensive commentary, must be reserved for the editio princeps in *DJD* III. In the meantime, the elements furnished by the translation and by some of the transcriptions will offer material for useful discussions on topography of Roman Palestine⁽⁶⁾.

From the notes the reader will discern that we still hold to our first view, namely, that the bronze catalogue describes purely imaginary treasures belonging to Jewish folklore of the Roman period. As to the date of the document, further study of the complex and disparate data, discussed in detail in *DJD* III, makes us now lean towards the period between the two Jewish wars against the Romans, giving the year 100 as a round number. We have not found a single valid indication that would lead us to attribute the composition of this curious work

(1) See H. W. Baker, Notes on the Opening of the "Bronze" Scrolls from Qumrân, *Bulletin of the John Rylands Library*, XXXIX, 1955-56, pp. 45-55.

(2) Cf. R. de Vaux, Exploration de la région de Qumrân, *Revue Biblique*, LX, 1953, pp. 540-61.

(3) *Biblical Archaeologist*, XIX, 1956, pp. 60-64; *Volume du Congrès de Strassbourg 1956* (Supplements to *Vetus Testamentum*, vol. 4), Leiden 1957, pp. 22s.; *Ten Years of Discovery in the Wilderness of Judaea* (Studies in Biblical Theology, No. 26), London 1959, pp. 45 and 42 s.

(4) *Grottes de Murabba'ât*, by P. Benoit, J. T. Milik and R. de Vaux, in the series *Discoveries in the Judaean Desert* II (in press); abbreviated from now on: *DJD* II.

(5) This is the siglum that will be given to the copper scroll in the edition: *Discoveries in the Judaean Desert* III.

(6) See also my two papers in the *Revue Biblique* of 1959, pp. 321-57 and 550-75.

to the members of the learned confraternity of Essenes, who disappeared from the region of Qumrân in the year 68 A.D.

In examining the place names of 3Q 15, as offered here, the reader should bear in mind:

1) that the orthography of this text shows some popular features similar to that of the ossuary graffiti: inconsistent use of *matres lectionis*, sometimes more defective than that of the Bible texts, or of the Qumrân manuscripts; the feminine singular ending is habitually indicated by *aleph* and, on the other hand, the final *-e* is generally given as *he*;

2) that the script is of the semi-formal type (i. e. simplified formal hand with occasional cursive letters), the same that is found on the ossuaries up to the Second Jewish Revolt; *yod*, *waw*, sometimes *zain* and less frequently *resh* (cursive form) expressed by a simple vertical stroke; *beth*, *qaph*, sometimes *mem*, very much alike; *he* and *heth* of almost identical forms (also *taw*, if its left "foot" is not clear upon the plaque);

3) that its language is Mishnaic Hebrew, but representing a particular dialect (the speech of the Jews of the Jordan Valley, to be more exact?) which, for certain elements, is more developed than the Mishnaic dialect of the Murabba'ât documents (see *DJD* II) and more than that of the Mishna writings; e.g. the very frequent use of the periphrastic pronoun *shel*, while in other particularities it is closer to biblical Hebrew, e.g. the ordinal *shenit* and not *sheniyyah*;

4) that the vocabulary contains a relatively high number of *hapax legomena*, or at least, some new meanings for known common words, of which we do not pretend to give a definitive explanation;

5) that nominal sentences predominate and that the style is extremely concise, which leaves a certain margin of error when it is question of grouping the words in meaningful clauses.

N.B. Because of the printer's lack of diacritical signs, the Latin transcription of Semitic words is merely approximate. So for instance, *s* represents *samek*, *sade*, *sin*, and *shin*.

Translation (1)

Col. I

1) ¹ At Khorebbeh, situated in the valley of Achor, below ² the steps leading to the east, (dig) forty ³ cubits: a coffer (full) of money, the sum ⁴ of which is the weight of seventeen talents. KEN.

2) ⁵ In the funerary monument of *Ben Rabbah, of (Bet) Shalishah*: ⁶ 100 ingots of gold.

3) In the large cistern, situated in the ⁷ Court of the small Cloister — the one which is closed by means of a stone drilled clear through — in the deepest part of the bottom, ⁸ facing the upper opening: nine hundred talents.

4) ⁹ On the hill of Kohlit: vase(s) of aromatic spices, sandalwood, and sacred vestments; ¹⁰ the sum of the aromatic spices and of the treasure: seven and *one tenth* (of a talent). ¹¹ *Sight* from the entrance of the turning door the north side of the outlet of the canal, ¹² (and count off) six cubits in the direction of the crevice (used) for ritual baths. XAG.

5) ¹³ In a hole of the *mine* which is at Manos, go down to the left, ¹⁴ three cubits from the bottom: forty talents ¹⁵ of silver.

Col. II

6) ¹ In the filled up cistern, found at the lower part of the Steps: ² forty two talents. HN.

7) ³ In the grotto of the *old Bet ha - March*, in the third ⁴ recess: sixty five ingots of gold. OE.

8) ⁵ In the underground chamber of the Courtyard of the *wood-sheds*, in the middle ⁶ of which is a cistern; there are vases and silver: seventy talents.

9) ⁷ In the cistern in front of the Eastern Gate, at a ⁸ distance of fifteen cubits, there are vases.

10) ⁹ And in its canal: ten talents. AI.

11) ¹⁰ In the cistern, situated beneath the rampart on the eastern side, ¹¹ (dug) into the craggy rock: six bars of silver, ¹² at its entrance, (hidden) under the large threshold.

12) ¹³ In the pool, situated to the east of Kohlit, dig four cubits ¹⁴ at the north corner: ¹⁵ 22 talents.

Col. III

13) ¹ In the Cour[t of the *Peri]bolos*, under the sou²th corner, (at a depth of) nine cubits, silver and gold vases containing ³ aromatic spices, bowls, cups, basins, ⁴ pitchers; the total six hundred and nine (vases).

14) ⁵ Under the other corner, (the one) to the ea⁶st, dig sixteen cubits: forty talents ⁷ of silver. TP.

15) ⁸ In a pit, which is to the north of the Esplanade: ⁹ vase(s) with resin from the Aleppo pine; (the pit) whose entrance is ¹⁰ under the western corner (of the Court).

16) ¹¹ In the tomb which is found to the northeast ¹² of the Esplanade, three cubits under the ¹³ *body*: 13 talents.

(1) *Italics*: translation uncertain; parentheses (): words added in translation; brackets []: lacunae; < >: omission; ⁰⁰: letters not deciphered; . . . : approximative number of letters missing.

Col. IV

17) ¹In the large cistern, which is at [. . .]*qeh*, in the pillar,² to its north (side): [. . .] 14 talents. ⁰K.

18) ³In the canal, which le[ads towards . . .] . . . , proceeding⁴ fort[y on]e cubits: 55 talents⁵ of silver.

19) ⁶Between the two tamarisk trees, which are in the valley of Achon,⁷ dig three cubits in between them; ⁸ here are to be found two cooking pots full of silver.

20) ⁹In the Red Pit, situated at the outlet (of the spring) ha-¹⁰As¹⁰ la: two hundred talents of silver.

21) ¹¹In the East Pit, situated to the north of Koh¹² lit: seventy talents of silver.

22) ¹³In the tumulus, which is in the vale of ha-Sekaka, dig < . . . >¹⁴ cubits: 12 talents of silver.

Col. V

23) ¹At the beginning of the aqueduct which is [at]² Sekaka, on the north side, under the large³ [stone], dig [. . .] cubits: ⁴ 7 talents of silver.

24) ⁵In the cleft which is in Sekaka, to the eas[t]⁶ of Solomon's Pool: vases of⁷ aromatic spices.

25) And near there,⁸ from above the Canal of Solom⁹ on in the direction of the large block of stone¹⁰ (count off) sixty cubits, dig three¹¹ cubits: 23 talents of silver.

26) ¹²In the tomb situated in the torrent ha-Kippa,¹³ coming from Jericho to Sekaka,¹⁴ dig seven cubits: 32 talents.

Col. VI

27) ¹In the Cave of the Column, which has two² entrances (and) which faces the east,³ dig three cubits at the north entrance;⁴ there you will find a jar, (and)⁵ inside it a book, beneath it⁶ 42 talents.

28) ⁷In the Cave of the⁸ Rock Base, facing⁹ the east, dig¹⁰ nine cubits at the entrance: 21 talents.

29) ¹¹In the Abode of the Queen, on the western¹² side, dig twelve¹³ cubits: 27 talents.

30) ¹⁴In the tumulus which is found at the Ford of the High

Col. VII

¹ Priest dig nine² [cubits]: [. . .] 22 talents.

31) ³In the aqueduct of Qe[. . . , at the . . .]⁴ of the reservoir to the nor[th, . . .] . . . , count⁵ off twenty [fo]ur cubits⁶ from [its] four sides: ⁷ four hundred talents.

32) ⁸In the cave which is nearby, in the vi[cini]ty of ⁹Bet ha-Qos, dig six cubits: ¹⁰six bars of silver.

33) ¹¹At ha-Doq, dig seven cubits under the eastern corner¹² of the fortress: ¹³ 22 talents.

34) ¹By the outlet of the water channel, at ha-Kozi ¹⁵ba, (proceeding) towards the retaining wall, dig three cubits: ¹⁶60 talents (of silver), two talents of gold.

Col. VIII

35) ¹[In the aque]duct which (runs along) the road to the east of Bet ²Ahsor, situated to the east of *Ahzor*: ³vase(s) of aromatic spices and books. Do not *appropriate (them)*!

36) ⁴In the Outer Vale, in the middle of the *abrupt slope*, ⁵dig seventeen cubits near the stone; ⁶under it there is some silver ⁷and gold: 17 talents.

37) ⁸In the tumulus which is found at the entrance of the Gorge of ha-Qedro(n) ⁹dig three cubits: 4 talents.

38) ¹⁰In the dry land situated at ha-Sho', facing ¹¹towards the west, in the southern part, ¹²dig twenty four cubits in the grave orientated towards the north: ¹³66 talents.

39) ¹⁴In the irrigated land situated at ha-Sho', there, under the border-stone, dig ¹⁵eleven cubits: ¹⁶70 talents of silver.

Col. IX

40) ¹From the *crevice*, out of which flows (the spring of) ha-Natoph, count off thirteen cubits from its outlet; ²dig two (cubits) and upon seven smooth stones ³(you will find) *two* bars (of silver weighing) four *pounds*.

41) ⁴At *Tekelet ha-shani*, by the side of the grave turned ⁵towards the east, dig eight cubits: ⁶aromatic spices (called) *husa* (and) 23 $\frac{1}{2}$ talents.

42) ⁷Among the graves of (Bet) Horon, dig sixteen cubits ⁸into the *basin* of the one facing the Sea: ⁹22 talents.

43) ¹⁰At Qob'eh, a large quantity of silver has been stored.

44) ¹¹At the waterfall a short distance from Kephars Nebo, ¹²dig seven cubits near its outlet to the east: ¹³9 talents.

45) ¹⁴In the pit which is found at the entrance of the gorge of Bet ¹⁵Tamar in the *parched area (near) the bushy Cairn*: ¹⁶anathema.

46) ¹⁷In the *man-hole* (found) in the aque[duct] of ha-Masad,

Col. X

¹on the south side, at the second «storey», descending from ²above: 9 talents.

47) ³In the well for the irrigation ditches (fed) from the Great ⁴Torrent, at the bottom (of the well): 12 talents.

48) ⁵In the reservoir of Bet ha-Kerem, going down ⁶to the left, count off twelve *feet*: ⁷sixty two talents of silver.

49) ⁸In the pool of the vale of . . . , on the west side ⁹(there is found) a stone joined with two clamps; ¹⁰it is the door: three hundred talents ¹¹of gold and twenty vases coated with pitch.

50) ¹²Under the Hand of Absalom, on the west ¹³side (of the monument), dig ¹⁴twelve feet : ¹⁵80 talents.

51) ¹⁶In the pool of the Baths of Siloah, under ¹⁷the pipe : 17 talents.

52) ¹⁸[At . . .] eh, at the four

Col. XI

¹corners : *gold* and vase(s) of aromatic spices.

53) Just nearby, ²beneath the south corner of the Portico, ³at the tomb of Sadoq, under the pillar of the vestibule : ⁴a vase of resin from the Cilician pine, (a vase of) senna perfume.

54) And just nearby, ⁵in a family plot (situated) at the top of the rock facing west, ⁶in front of the courtyard (of the tomb) of Sadoq, under a large ⁷flat stone found near the water canal : anathema.

55) ⁸In the tomb which is beneath the Galleries : 40 talents.

56) ⁹In the tomb of the Sons of . . . of Yerah : ¹⁰there is a vase containing resin from the cedar, (a vase of) resin from the Cilician pine.

57) ¹¹Nearby, ¹²at Bet Eshdatain, in the reservoir ¹³where you enter into the small basin : ¹⁴a case of aloes wood (and a vase of) resin from the white pine.

58) ¹⁵ Just nearby, ¹⁶at the western entrance to the lodg[ing] of the triclinium (where is found) ¹⁷the platform for the portable stove, close by [. . .] : nine hundred [talents of silver],

Col. XII

¹five talents of gold.

59) Sixty talents : on circling around from the west side, ²beneath the black rock.

60) Nearby, under the threshold ³of the (stepped) cistern : 42 talents.

61) ⁴At Mount Garizin, beneath the steps of the upper pit : ⁵a coffer with its contents, as well as 60 talents of silver.

62) ⁶At the spout of the fountain of Bet-Shan : a silver and a gold ⁷vase containing aromatic spices; and the sum of the silver is six hundred talents.

63) ⁸In the large gutter of ha-Baruk, (going) towards Bet ha-Baruk : ⁹altogether it amounts to 71 talents (and) 20 minas.

64) ¹⁰At the tunnel in the Smooth Rock to the north of Kohlit, which opens towards the north ¹¹and which has tombs at its entrance : a copy of this document, ¹²with the explanations, measurements, and a detailed account ¹³of each (treasure).

Commentary

Before beginning the study of the place names contained in 3Q 15, it is necessary to give a summary of the difficulties inherent in a work such as this, as well as the hypothetical character of almost all the identifications which are proposed for the sites and monuments. First of all, it consists in a correct reading of the text, letter by letter, then of a grouping of the letters into words (since the engraver had chosen to employ the *scriptio continua*). Afterwards, it should be decided if the text treats of common names, or of place names, geographical points, or of monuments constructed by the hand of man. Once the possible place names have been disentangled, we are faced with a difficult task: namely, to try to pin them down to the map of Roman Palestine and Jerusalem. An important criterion — but never decisive — would be to use the sequence employed by the author himself. In any case, we have to be resigned to the laconic style of the author, who writes for himself alone or for the initiated, and who does not give in his *pro-memoria* known focal-points, as for instance, large cities, mountains, etc., with but few exceptions. We have to contend with the orthography and phonetics of the sources which have handed down to us the topographical material; and we have to contend with the variations according to different periods and languages; and again we have to contend with the sources themselves, which are astonishingly poor for the Roman Period, and with the sites, which are difficult to identify today either because there are so few remains left or because they have entirely disappeared in the course of these twenty centuries.

In beginning this study, the editor had no preconceived notions as to the extent of the "network" of treasures. He believes that he has arrived at results, which are, in the main, satisfying, and which will, broadly speaking, stand correct. The sites of the copper scroll are to be placed in that part of Roman Palestine where the Jewish population was mostly concentrated, and that since the end of the second millenium before Christ: the Judean plateau, the Jordan Valley (and the Peraea?), the national and religious center of which was always Jerusalem and its Temple, standing, or in ruins. Some of the more distant sites seem to have a connection with the holy mountains and the history of the Jewish religion. The one city, Scythopolis-Beisan, which was outside strictly Israelite territory, may have been the hometown of the author of the catalogue. However this may be, the editor is convinced that the place names of 3Q 15 will give us a new insight into the geography of the Ancient World. This is of the utmost importance, and will have a real and lasting value.

We have made much use of the following books, even though we have not at times cited them explicitly: F. M. Abel, *Géographie de la Palestine*, I - II, Paris 1933, and 1938; M. Avi-Yonah, "Map of Roman Palestine", *The Quarterly of the Department of Antiquities in Palestine*, V, 1936, pp. 139-93 (with the map, reprinted in 1939 and 1950); *idem*, *Historical Geography of Palestine from the Persian Period to the Arab Conquest* (in Hebrew), Jerusalem 1949 (with map).

Col. I.

L. 1.

"The Valleŕ of Achor": 'mq 'kwr (written 'mq 'kwn in IV 6 in memory of a biblical personage) is not the "Valley of Trouble" of the Iron Age, the modern el-Buqei'ah to the south-

west of Jericho, between W. Mukellik and W. en-Nār (M. Noth, *Zeitschrift des Deutschen Palaestina-Vereins*, LXXI, 1955, pp. 42-55; F. M. Cross, Jr. and J. T. Milik, *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research*, 142, April 1956, pp. 5-17) but a valley which the Jewish and Christian traditions place to the northeast of Jericho. Josephus does not explicitly establish its locality, but the context of his account places us in the neighborhood of Old Jericho, Tell es-Sultân; *AJ* V §§ 33 and 42-4. According to Eusebius and Jerome, it is "to the north of Jericho" and "near Galgala"; *Onomasticon*, ed. Klostermann, p. 18, 17-20 and 84, 18-21. The name *'emeq Achor* was used by the natives (οὕτω εἰς ἔτι νῦν καλεῖται πρὸς τῶν ἐπιχωρίων; p. 18, 49 s.), the same that was known to the author of the catalogue three centuries earlier. The only place it can refer to is the broad Wadi Nuwei'imeh, northeast of Jericho. The continuity of the tradition with regard to the Valley of Achor is confirmed by the identification of Galgala: ten stadia (Josephus, *AJ* V § 20; cf. Tosephta Sotah VIII 6), or better, about two miles (*Onomasticon*, p. 66, 5 and 46, 18-20) to the northeast of Old Jericho (pilgrim accounts), hence in the vicinity of Kh. Mejjer, situated on the north bank of W. Nuwei'imeh; see J. Muilenburg, *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research*, 140, December 1955, pp. 11-19; A. Augustinovic, *Gerico e dintorni*, Jerusalem 1951, pp. 147-154; J. T. Milik, *Revue Biblique*, LXVI, 1959, p. 566.

"Khorebbeh": *Hrybh*, "which is in the Valley of Achor", etymologically "Small Ruin", had become a place name preserved even down to the Byzantine Period. A monastery in the region of Jericho mentioned by John Moschus is called τὸ κοινόβιον τοῦ Χωρεμβη: *Pratum Spirituale*, ch. 157, *Patrologia Graeca*, LXXXVII, col. 3025. With a high degree of certitude we can say that it is not a transcription of the biblical Bet 'Arabah, nor of the modern 'Ain el-Gharâbeh to the east of Jericho (Féderlin, *La Terre Sainte*, XX, 1903, pp. 232-4; Abel, *Géographie*, II, p. 267), since an 'ain or a ghain are never transcribed by a Greek *chi*. On the contrary, the *Hrybh* of the catalogue corresponds perfectly with *Chorembe*. Following the account of Moschus, this monastery is close to two others: Σουββα τῶν Σύρων and Σουββα τῶν Βέσων, but at some distance and not visible from them; whence it had been necessary for a dog to lead a Besian monk (a Georgian) from the monastery of the Syrians to see it. If this last was succeeded by a hermitage of the 9th century, which was decorated with a Syriac mosaic, later uncovered in the middle of the modern road from Jericho to the Allenby Bridge (*The Quarterly of the Department of Antiquities in Palestine*, IV, 1935, pp. 159-61), we would look for the monastery of Chorembe, and, consequently, our *Khorebbeh*, at one of the extremities of W. Nuwei'imeh, near its mouth (for the ruins see Féderlin, *l.c.*, XXI, 1904, pp. 9s.; Augustinovic, *l.c.*, pp. 159-61), or better, and with more probability, in the neighborhood of Kh. Mejjer, where there have been found many Iron Age sites, to the north and to the east of the Umayyad Palace, together with the remains of some buildings (J. Muilenburg, *l.c.*, pp. 17 and 20-27).

L. 4.

KEN: I can not explain what the Greek letters mean, here and further on.

L. 5.

"Ben-Rabbah of (Bet) Shalishah": the reading of the patronymic and gentile are extremely uncertain; the first could be read *dkwr* etc., the second *h'dsy*, etc. In any case, the last letter of the patronymic is certainly not a final *kaph*.

The biblical place Ba'al Shalishah (II Kings 4 : 42) was called in the Roman period Baith Sarisah and located 15 miles to the north of Lydda-Diospolis (*Onomasticon*, p. 56, 21 - 3), probably the modern Khirbet Sirisiah 22 km to the north of Lydda.

L. 6.

"400 (ingots)": the numbers spelled out in the text are spelled out in the translation ; those indicated by the Arabic numerals are in the text represented by special signs attested elsewhere in this period.

L. 7.

In the original text the phrase "the one which... clear through" comes after "in the deepest part of the bottom".

"The small Cloister": *hsr hprstlyn* is probably not the "Cloister Court" — semitic plural of *περίστυλον* — but rather the simple transcription of *περίστύλιον*, (pronounced also in Greek *peristūlin*) "small cloister". In our case, this would be the popular name of the wall — set in with columns — of the upper (inner) court of the Temple.

A considerable treasure — nine hundred talents (of gold and silver) — is hidden in a large cistern, closed by means of a rectangular stone which has a round hole drilled through it, ll. 6 - 8. This mouth of the cistern (Hebrew *hly'*) recalls the *lapis pertusus* of the Pilgrim from Bordeaux, which in the 4th century served the same purpose for the Jews as the wailing wall of later times : ed. *Geyer*, p. 22, 5 - 7. We are told of a similar cache — and quite close by — from the time of Julian the Apostate. When stones were removed from the old Temple foundations, there appeared an opening to a rectangular pit filled with water ; at the top of the central pillar (*στήλη*) the hands of the worker had reached a book wrapped in fine and pure linen, and in a perfect state of preservation : it was the gospel of St. John ; *Philostorgius*, *Patrologia Graeca*, LXV, col. 552.

L. 13.

"Mine" : *hm'b'*.

"Manos" : *mns*, possibly the common name *manos* 'refuge' which became a place name, but not attested in the literary sources.

Col. II.

L. 1.

"The Steps" : the *m'lot* are identified with the *αναβαθμοί* of the *Pascal Chronicle* (*Patrologia Graeca*, XCII, col. 613) in the Tyropoeon Valley, to which succeeded the *δωδεκάπυλον* of Aelia Capitolina. The Herodian level of this stepped street has been uncovered by modern excavations ; C. N. Jones, "Jerusalem: Ancient Street levels in the Tyropoeon Valley within the Walls", *The Quarterly of the Department of Antiquities in Palestine*, I, 1931, pp. 97 - 100 and 105 - 110. These steps of the Roman Period continue the *mā'alot* of Neh 3 : 15 and 12 : 37.

L. 7.

"The Eastern Gate" : *hs'r hmzrhy* designates the only eastern exit from the Peribolos of the Temple — the Golden Gate — rather than either the Corinthian Gate by which one enters onto the inner court, or the eastern gate of the city wall.

Col. III.

L. 1.

"The Court of the Peribolos": *hs[r.]y't*. The second (incomplete) word is probably of Greek origin. The identification with the Peribolos, outer colonnade of the Temple, is suggested by the context; see note to the l. 8.

L. 8 (and 12).

"The Esplanade": *hmlh*, whatever may be its vocalization (*ha-maleh* "the Full, the Filled-in area"?), must correspond to the biblical *millô*. It names, then, the great retaining walls and the inner fill-in, which go to make up the artificial terrace of the imposing Esplanade of the Herodian Temple; cf. Vincent, *Jérusalem de l'Ancien Testament*, p. 440. It is especially the eastern wall which had caused admiration ("300 cubits high", *BJ* V § 187; "400 cubits high", *AJ* VIII § 97; "of an almost infinite height", *AJ* XV § 397) and excited the imagination of the people of Jerusalem (attributed to Solomon: Josephus and the New Testament; treasures: 3Q 15).

Col. IV.

L. 6.

"The valley of Achon": see note to I 1.

L. 13.

"Sekaka": *skk'*, which is mentioned four times in the text (see V 2, 5, 13), is a biblical place name. One of the six villages of the desert district, *Jos* 15: 61s., is called Sekakah. It has recently been identified with Kh. Samra, the central ruin of el-Buqei'ah; see Cross and Milik, *BASOR*, 142, April 1956, pp. 15s.; Milik, *Ten Years*, p. 51, note 1. This is the most important site of the valley, just as the Wadi Qumrân is the valley's largest torrent. Actually Samra is situated near a northern tributary of W. Qumrân, but it is never easy to determine which of the tributaries near the beginning of a torrent is the principal one. For our author, as is the case of the modern name for the same torrent, Sekaka was the name for the torrent throughout its entire course, from the beginning to its mouth, where it leads into the Dead Sea. If the biblical name of el-Buqei'ah, the valley of Achor, had been moved to a place closer to Jericho or, at least, had been used of two different sites for any number of reasons: exegesis of that time, "tourist" needs, etc., still other names of places as equally central as Sekaka would have remained attached to the same places until the Roman period. At any rate, we do not try to identify the biblical Sekaka with W. Dakâkin, a tributary of W. Mukellik; this name comes from a cave which the Arabs likened to a shop (*dukân*, pl. *dakâkin*).

Moreover, I have never heard any name other than Wadi Dukkân used for this latter tributary.

"The vale of ha-Sekaka": the Wadi Qumrân between the cliff and the Dead Sea.

The number of cubits is omitted by distraction.

Col. V.

Ll. 1 - 2.

"The aqueduct of Sekaka": the aqueduct of Qumrân (for Sekaka = Wadi Qumrân see note to IV 13) is well preserved, even today; see R. de Vaux, *Revue Biblique* LXIII, 1956, p. 538; Milik, *Gen Years*, pp. 48 and 50s.

Ll. 5 - 7.

"Vases of aromatic spices in a crevice to the east of Solomon's Pool". The term *'ashiah*, designating a large, rectangular reservoir, refers undoubtedly to the cistern southeast of the ruins. This is the only one that remained visible after the destruction of 68 A.D.; cf. R. de Vaux, *Revue Biblique*, LX, 1953, p. 89; LXIII, 1956, p. 539.

Ll. 7 - 11.

"Twenty three talents of silver located thirty meters from the Canal of Solomon", which is close to Solomon's Pool. The term *hrys* of V 8, does not mean "moat" (*harus* Dan 9:25; Accadian *ḫharisu*), but any kind of "canal, drain, or ditch", as is found in the Mishnaic writings; for example, Kilaim V 3 says that there is seen in a vineyard a *be-haris*, ten palms deep and four wide. In our case, the word refers to the main canal of the ruins, which used to distribute the water to the various cisterns, and ended with the reservoir mentioned in the preceding note; R. de Vaux, *Revue Biblique*, LXIII, 1956, pp. 538s.

If our translation of *'ashiah Shelomo* and *heharis shel Shelomo* is exact, then at the time when the catalogue was composed legend had already attached the memory of Solomon to the buildings at Kh. Qumrân, meaning that they were already lying in ruin. For this we would need at least a generation, bringing us to about the year 100 A.D. We have seen that folklore placed enormous treasures very close to the ruins. The hoards discovered by the excavators in the ruins amount to a mere several hundred bronze coins, a dozen silver coins, and three large hoards of silver tetradrachms from Tyre, which filled three small pots and numbered, respectively, 223, 185, and slightly more than 150; R. de Vaux, *Revue Biblique*, LXI, 1954, p. 230; LXIII, 1956, pp. 565 - 9.

Col. VI.

L. 1.

"The Cave of the Column". Continuing along in the direction given in V 13, from Jericho to Sekaka (Qumrân), we find two caves facing east (ll. 2 and 8/9), and which are most certainly located in the cliff of Qumrân. The first one is called the Cave of the Column, for a reason which the author leaves understood: it has two entrances; at the north entrance there is a hidden treasure, a jar with a book and 42 talents of precious metal, VI 1 - 6. A large double cave between the W. Jaufat Zabin and Cave XI is one of the most striking landmarks in the side of the cliff.

Antiquity, just as in our own time, had known of the discovery of books in this region. To the examples lined up in *DJD* I, p. 88, note 4, and in *Gen Years*, p. 19, note 2, we should add with J. Coppens, *Ephemerides Theologicae Lovanienses*, XXXIII, 1957, p. 509, a legendary

notice about the discovery of the Quinta at Jericho, "hidden in small bronze jars", handed down in the *Libellus Memorialis* of Joseppus, c. CXXII, *Patrologia Graeca*, CVI, col. 126, which comes from a Palestinian writer living circa 380; J. Moreau, *Byzantion*, XXV - XXVII, 1955-7, pp. 241 - 276. But these treasures are still not to be counted in terms of talents.

L. 11.

"The Abode of the Queen": *mskn hmlk'*, probably a mausoleum in the region of Jericho, rather than the tomb of the Queen Helen of Adiabene (Qubur Muluk), to the north of Jerusalem.

Col. VII.

Ll. 8 - 9.

A cave with a treasure is to be found in the vicinity of *Bet ha-Qos*, which, for us, is the residence of the Benê ha-Qos, who were a priestly family and who held the important functions of the Temple during the Persian and Greco-Roman Periods. For the identification of their place of origin we turn to Neh ch. 3, which treats of the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem. The first group of the sons of ha-Qos are found not far from the people of Jericho, and next to the *benê ha-Sena'ah* (vv. 2-4), whose residence was called in the 4th century *Μαγδασεινα*, located eight miles north of Jericho; *Onomasticon*, p. 154, 16s. The second group of the same family was beside a group of priests *'anshê ha-kikkar* that is to say, the members of the other priestly families who dwelt in the district of the Jordan; Neh 3; 21s.

At the issue of W. el-Qelt out of modern Jericho, there is found today along the north bank a hill called Tell el-Qos (Tell el-Kos of the *Survey*); Augustinovic, *Gerico e dintorni*, pp. 89 - 92. Despite the uncertainty of the exact pronunciation, it is there that we place Bet ha-Qos of 3Q 15. It is not to be marvelled at that popular belief had sought in the residence of the Temple treasurers a treasure: six bars of silver.

L. 11.

"Ha-Doq": *hdwq* is the ancient name of Jebel Qarantal, northwest of Jericho, of which the flat summit, Tahunet el-Hawwa, measures a mere 100m. long and 40m. wide. It had been crowned by a Hasmonean fortress, the Δοκ of I Mac 16: 15, replaced by the monastery of Δουκα in the 4th century; G. Garitte, "La Vie pré-métaphrastique de S. Chariton", *Bulletin de l'Institut Historique Belge de Rome*, XXI, 1941, p. 32, 1. The Byzantine, Mediaeval, and modern churches and constructions have wiped out all traces of the fortress, except for a few architectural elements nearby.

The legend could have come from the single important historical event which happened at Doq, eclipsed as early as Alexander Jannaeus by the fortress at the Alexandrion, located more to the north: namely, the murder of Simon Maccabeus in 134, together with his wife and two sons, by Ptolemy, son of Aboubos, the *stratêgos* of the plain of Jericho and son-in-law of Simon. According to I Mac 16: 11, Ptolemy "had plenty of gold and silver". Folklore may have elaborated the story by saying that, when he fled to Amman (*AJ* XIII § 245), he hid "22 talents (of precious metal) under the eastern corner of the fortress".

Ll. 14 - 15.

“Ha-Koziba”: this treasure is found near the spring of *hkwb'*, which we should look for not in southern Judea (*Kozeba'* of I Chr 4: 22; cf. Gen 38: 5; Jos 15: 44; Mich 1: 14), but 4 km. southwest of the Mount of Temptation where, in the wild gorge of the W. el-Qelt, there existed the monastery of *Xoζιβα* from the beginning of the 5th century; see *Analecta Bollandiana*, VII, 1888, p. 98; A. M. Schneider, “Das Kloster der Theotokos zu Choziba im Wadi el-Kelt”, *Römische Quartalschrift*, 1931, pp. 297 - 332. The name undoubtedly signified that part of the W. el-Qelt which runs from 'Ain el-Qelt to Roman Jericho, just where it enters the valley. The rather rare words *yesi'at ha-magim* and *ha-tur*, would seem to refer to some sort of complicated water system. Despite the crude reconstructions of Byzantine and Mediaeval times, the system of aqueducts still admired today must preserve, for the most part, the general plan of the Herodian installations. The aqueduct from 'Ain el-Qelt forms first of all a single canal which later, after Jisr ed-Deir, branches off into three channels; for maintaining the desired level, retaining walls had been built: the *twr* of our text; see *The Survey of Western Palestine. Memoirs*, London 1881 - 8, pp. 205 - 6, 222, 227 - 9.

There is, perhaps, in the cache of Choziba — “60 talents of silver and two talents of gold”, VII 16 — a connection with tales about robbers. In the same torrent, but closer to its source at 'Ain Fârah, Simon bar-Giora, chief of the Zealots, prepared some caves for hiding his treasures and his stolen goods during the winter of 69; *BJ* IV §§ 503 - 513 (Abel, *Géographie*, I, p. 437, and *Histoire*, II, p. 78, prefers the region of Ma'in to the south of the Judean desert, which hardly seems probable). Christian legend tells about the Old Church, previously a cave of brigands, whose riches had come into the possession of St. Chariton, in the monastery of Phara; Garitte, *l.c.* [note to l. 11], ch. 9 to 12; S. Vailhé, *Revue de l'Orient Chrétien*, IV, 1904, p. 336.

Col VIII.

L. 2.

The readings *'hsr* and *'hxr* are very uncertain. Are these names a phonetic spelling of *Hs(w)r*, the mount of Hazor in the northern Judaea, modern el-'Asûr?

L. 8.

“The Gorge of the Qedron”. Following the course of the Torrent Cedron (mentioned perhaps in the l. 4 by a special name “the Outer Vale”), we arrive at the Gorge of the Cedron, *swq hqdrwh* (peculiar spelling of *Qdrwn?*), a little before the present-day monastery of St. Sabas. This *swq* of the Cedron is probably to be identified with the *swq* of Yoma VI 4 - 6, the place where the scape-goat was brought, passing by Bet Harodon, Kh. Haredhan, half way between Jerusalem and the gorge; for Bet Harodon, see Mur 20 1, note, *DJD* II, p. 111 (the distance of “three miles” given by Yoma VI 8 must be corrected). The Rabbis had gauged the distance from Jerusalem to *Swq* at twelve miles, Yoma VI 4, which is too much: 12 Roman miles are equal to 17½ km., as against the actual distance of between 13 and 14 km. The calculation given in walking time is more satisfactory: 1 mile requires 18 minutes to walk, 12 miles 3½ hours. Now, from Jerusalem to Mar Saba, “following the Cedron Valley, the distance is covered in 3 hours and 15 minutes”; *Les Guides bleus. Syrie-Palestine*, 1932, p. 598. Our *swq* is referred to, perhaps, in Mur 8 5, for the same period (*DJD* II, p. 89). In any

case, it is not permissible to associate the *swq* of the Talmud with *Σουκα*, which is in the W. Khareitun; cf. Abel, *Géographie*, II, p. 471; Avi-Yonah, *The Quarterly of the Department of Antiquities in Palestine*, V, 1936, p. 150. This last site represents *shuqa* and *siq*, as is abundantly attested to in the Syriac and Arabic christian writings; nevertheless, the last words have a similar meaning, "a narrow passage", "a monastery found in such a place", therefore "a laura".

Ll. 10 and 14.

Ha-Sho': *hsw'* is found, under its fuller form, in Josephus. In describing the western side of the first wall, he gives as the extreme points the Hippicus Tower to the north and the Essene Gate to the south, adding that the ramparts crossed the region called Βηθσω (variants: Βησου, *Betiso*), *BJ* V § 145; cf. Vincent, *Jérusalem de l'Ancien Testament*, I, pp. 51ss. Therefore, the form found in 3Q 15 has to be vocalized *ha-sho'*, and that of Josephus *bet-sho'*. This site has to do with a cemetery and has to be identified with 'mq *swh* and 'mq *hmlk* of Gen 14:17. It is precisely the existence of this place name around Jerusalem — plus the natural tendency of drawing biblical memories to the Holy City — which enabled the revisers of the Torah after the Exile to identify 'mq *swh* of the meeting between Melchisedeq and Abraham with the Royal Valley. Later the author of the "Genesis Apocryphon" identified this place with the valley of Bet Karma (cited in the note to X 5: note the writing *sw'* in that passage, as compared to *swh hqrywt* of XXI 29, which is the equivalent of *swh qrytym* of Gen 14:5). This cemetery, southwest of Jerusalem, is the modern Baqâ'ah.

In this same cemetery — southwest of Jerusalem — the Jews of the Roman Period looked for the Hand of Absalom, X 12 (according to II Sam 18:18, in the Royal Valley). Josephus saw it as "a stele of marble", two stadia from Jerusalem; *AJ* VII § 243.

Col. IX.

L. 1.

"Ha-Natoph": *hntp* is the same as 'Ain en-Natuf in the Wady Khareitun, which gave its name to the biblical village of Netophah to the west, and to the desert of *Natoupha* to the east; Schwartz, *Kyrrillos von Skythopolis*, pp. 227s. and 235. The spring comes out of the craggy hillside near the cave of St. Chariton. The author of the catalogue seems to suppose that the source of the spring is in the cave itself, just as the monks, who had built their monastery nearby, did later. They attributed the origin of the spring to the prayers of their founder, when he had used the cave for a hermitage; Garitte, *l.c.* [note to VII 11], ch. 24, p. 34.

L. 7.

"Ha-Horon": perhaps the biblical Bet Horon, Beit 'Ur of our days.

L. 10.

"Qob'eh": village el-Qabû to the southwest of Jerusalem?

L. 11.

"Kephâr Nebo": *kpr nbw*, if this is a *vera lectio*, would give us a Transjordan place name of the catalogue; the importance of Nebo in Jewish religion does not have to be emphasized.

We thought to identify this site with the *Nebô* of Esr 2:29 and Neh 7:33, which is the modern Nûba, 13 km. east of Beit Jibrin; but the presence of the term *kpr*, village, may offer some difficulty. Reading it as *kpr nby* "Village of Prophet" we are not warranted in thinking of the *vicus prophetarum* (or *prophetæ*), the name which is used for Teqoa in pilgrims' accounts and charters; this name has its origin in mediaeval times, and was in use only among Europeans. We prefer the village of Nebo, situated on the southern slope of Jebel en-Neba (Siyâghah), the village which is mentioned by Peter the Iberian under the name of *nbw qryt'*; R. Raabe, *Petrus der Iberer*, Leipzig 1895, the Syriac text, p. 88, 3. The excavations of the Byzantine village have also shown some traces of the Roman occupation; S. J. Saller and B. Bagati, *The Town of Nebo*, Jerusalem 1949, pp. 13 (presses), 15 (coins), 29s. (pottery). Concerning the Jewish and Christian traditions attached to the mountain and its environs, see S. J. Saller, *The Memorial of Moses on Mount Nebo*, Jerusalem 1941, pp. 330ss. (and the two volumes, *passim*); Abel, *Géographie*, I, pp. 379ss, and 460.

We should call attention to the fact that the cache is not in the village itself, but at a certain distance from it. If our translation of *qwl hmy*m as "the waterfall" is exact, we could easily identify this point with the two springs and the cascade of 'Ayun Musa, north of the mountain and village. These springs were rich in Christian traditions; Saller, *The Memorial*, pp. 7ss. The treasure of nine talents, IX 11-13, is to be found very close to the cave where Jeremiah was said to have hid the tabernacle, the ark, and the altar of incense, II Mac 2:4-8; see further Ginzberg, *The Legends of the Jews*, IV, pp. 305 and 320s., VI, p. 410 note 59.

Ll. 14 - 15.

"Bet Tamar": *byt tmr* is easily identifiable with Βηθθαμαρ of the *Onomasticon*, (Klostermann, p. 56, 1-3), a *viculus* (Jerome) in the vicinity of Gaba'ah, the Tell el-Fûl of today. The biblical name of the same village was Ba'al Tamar, Jud 20:33. It would seem quite unlikely that it should be associated with *kpr tmrt' sbyhw*dh or with *kwr* (read *bw*?) *tmrh*, which are mentioned in the Talmudic writings; cited by S. Klein, *Sepher ha-Yishub*, I, Jerusalem 1939, pp. 97 and 173. Perhaps Bet Tamar is to be looked for at Râs et-Tawil, the summit northeast of Tell el-Fûl where were found some caves with ancient pottery, and a Byzantine farm; Abel, *Géographie*, II, p. 260.

L. 17.

"Ha-Masad": *hmsd* is almost certainly Masada, southwest of the Dead Sea. The Aramaic form *msd'*, which is that used by Josephus, we see again in the two documents of Murabba'ât: 19 1 and 72 1 10. The description of 3Q 15 seems to indicate twin aqueducts, which can be seen on the northwest slope of the rock of Sebbeh; see *Israel Exploration Journal*, VII, 1957, pp. 54-8.

The treasure amounts to 9 talents (of gold and silver), IX 17-X 2. The memory of the Hasmonean and Herodian Kings and of the Zealots who "carried their riches there during the insecurities of the war", BJ IV § 399, should allow for even greater expectations.

Col. X.

L. 5.

"Bet ha-Kerem": *byt hkrm* is a biblical place name, Jos 15:59 (LXX - κερεμ), Jer 6:1, Neh 3:14. Mentioned again in the *Genesis Apocryphon*, XXII 13-14 ('mq sw' whw' 'mq mlk' bq't byt krm')

and in Rabbinical writings (Middot III 4; Niddah II 7), it has been recently identified, and plausibly so, with Ramat Rahel, half-way between Jerusalem and Bethlehem; Y. Aharoni, *Israel Exploration Journal*, VI, 1956, 137s. and 152 - 156. From the 2nd century (Protoevangelium of James), Christians have attached to this site the remembrance of Our Lady's Rest.

L. 12.

"The Hand of Absalom": see note to VIII 10.

L. 15.

"The Baths of Siloah": *slwhy* is an adjective from the word *slwh*, which is used here to qualify the "thermae", *bet hammim*. For the history of the Pool of Siloah, see H. Vincent and F. M. Abel, *Jérusalem Nouvelle*, I, Paris 1914, pp. 6ss. and 34; IV, 1926, pp. 880ss. Reputed for its ritual use and its medicinal qualities, as well for the common people of Jerusalem (John 9) as for the Rabbis ("even if he were to bathe at Siloah or in the primeval waters...", *yTa'anit* II 65a), the baths may have been the center of many popular legends.

Col. XI.

L. 2.

"The Portico": the colonnade which crowned the eastern wall of the Esplanade had been called by the people "the Portico of Solomon", *ἡ στοὰ τοῦ Σολομῶνος*, John 10:23, Act 3:11 and 5:12. The *h'st'n* of our text can refer only to the same colonnade and not to the "great porticoes" of *BJ* I § 401 encompassing the whole of the Peribolos, which already has another name (see III 1). Otherwise, in the hypothesis that they are synonyms, we cannot understand why the south corner of the *Stoa* would in actual fact be the southeast corner of the Precinct, while the south corner of *hsr..y't* would be the southwest corner of the Peribolos, and at the same time the southeast corner of the Peribolos would have to be called the east corner.

L. 3.

"The tomb of Sadoq": *qbr sdwq* is situated "under the southern corner of the Portico", which is to say, at the southeast corner of the Temple Precinct, "which dominates the unfathomable ravine", *AJ* XX § 221. It is here that the Jewish Christians used to point to *ἡ στήλη παρὰ τῷ ναῷ* as the place of martyrdom and burial of St. James up to the war of Bar-Kochba; Hegesippus in Eusebius, *Ecclesiastical History*, II, 23, 18. It should be pointed out that the Sadoq of this grave bears no family nor tribal name. Therefore, he must be the head of the line of high-priests who were buried there together with him, their ancestor. Now, the Jewish tradition — represented by the *Lives of the Prophets* — knew of the *τάφος τῶν ἱερέων* which we interpret as "the tomb of the High-Priests", situated in the Cedron Valley; Jeremias, *Heiligengräber in Jesu Umwelt*, pp. 62-64. The interesting datum of 3Q 15 permits us to locate it on the west bank of the torrent, opposite the three monuments which are still standing; there is nothing which would warrant identifying it with these other monuments, as Jeremias would wish to do.

L. 7.

"Anathema": *herem*.

L. 8.

"The Galleries" : *hsbyn*, which does not seem to be attested elsewhere (cf., however, Tosephta Kelim Baba Mesia II 8), recalls the Mishnaic *swbb* "a sort of gallery around the altar", Middot III 1, and the latter in its turn recalls the Greek term *περύγιον*, used when speaking of an altar or some other construction. It would be permitted, then, to make a connection between our *hsbyn* — which we translate approximatively by "galleries" — and to *περύγιον* τοῦ ἱεροῦ of Mat 4:5 and Luc 4:9. The two expressions are best applied to the Royal Basilica — that is, the double portico on the southern colonnade of the Peribolos — or more exactly, to its outer elements and to its terraces; cf. Vincent, *Jérusalem de l'Ancien Testament*, II, pp.441-6. The restriction of the semantic use of a word which is in itself capable of a broader meaning has its parallel in the "portico" discussed in the note to the l. 2.

"The tomb which is beneath the Galleries" : *hqr stht hsbyn* should be looked for inside the city, if our identification of *hsbyn* with the southern colonnade of the Peribolos is correct. The two south gates of the Temple Precinct are called the Gates of Hulda by the Rabbis, on account of the tomb of the prophetess, the only one permitted in these quarters; Jeremias, *l.c.*, pp. 51-53. It would seem, therefore, that the tomb of the catalogue is that of Hulda, being adequately indicated by the mention of the Royal Basilica, and in perfect harmony with the repeated affirmation of the Rabbis that no other burial was permitted in this quarter of the Holy City.

L. 9.

"Of Yerah" : *hyrhy*, possibly the gentilic of the talmudic Bet Yerah, modern Khirbet Kerak at the southern end of the Sea of Galilee.

L. 12.

"Bet Eshdatain" : *byt 'sdtyn* (reading somewhat uncertain) is essentially a large rectangular reservoir (*h'syh*), and evidently a double construction, if we are to judge by the ending of the principal word. Despite the curious inflection of the ending, we can easily recognize the same place name in the following :

- 1) Βηθεσδα of John 5:2 : *byt 'sdh*; the second element is in the singular; the variant *Bethsaida* is due to the influence of the name of the village in Galilee;
- 2) *byt 'sdtyn* of 3Q 15; the second word is in the dual form; another place name of the same quarter which also expresses twofold notion is Χαφενεθα (*haphelâtâ*) of I Mac 12:37;
- 3) Βεζαθα of Josephus (*BJ* II §§ 325 and 530; V §§ 149, 151, 246; variants : Βεζεθα Αβισσαθη) and Βηζαθα of Eusebius (*Onomasticon*, p. 58, 21-6; variants of John : Βηθσαθα, *bethzel(h)a*) : *bet eshdâtâ*, the second element in the Aramaic emphatic plural, shortened to *be-zdata* and transcribed as Βηζαθα, where the *z* corresponds to *zd*, as in Αζωτος, which comes from *azdôd*. We must recall that for Josephus this is the name for the entire quarter - called, therefore, after its most famous monument - which had replaced the place name for that quarter, cited above (I Mac 12:37).

Whatever may be the true etymology of the second component of the name, *'sdtyn* (twin slopes?), nevertheless the Aramaic-speaking Christians of Jerusalem attached it to the Aramaic root *'sd* "to pour out (water, blood)", since they filled one section of the pool with rain water and colored the other with the blood flowing from the victims; Eusebius, *l.c.*, 11,

23-5. The dual form of *Eshdatain* has its echo in λίμναι δίδυμοι of the κολυμβήθρα ('*ashiah* of XI 12) in Eusebius and in the *piscinae gemellares* of the Pilgrim from Bordeaux. Eusebius makes use of the same term "lake" as the author of the catalogue; but this latter is more precise, because he seems to make a distinction between the larger reservoir - the one to the south - and *ymwmyt* (diminutive of *ym*) XI 13, "the small(er) basin" - the one to the north. See Vincent - Abel, *Jérusalem Nouvelle*, IV, pp. 669ss.; J. Jeremias, *Die Wiederentdeckung von Bethesda (Ioh, 5:2)*, Göttingen 1949.

L. 16.

The next monument, *dy . . byt hmskb*, is most certainly to be found near the preceding (XI 15), but it is not easy to determine its nature. The first of the expression can, perhaps, be restored in this way: *dy[rt]*, "a lodging, a room" in a building that was not destined for habitation; Ben Iehuda, II, p. 932. On the other hand, *bet ha-miskab* can in no way be referred to a "tomb", since that would call for *miskab* alone, as it is found in the only inscription from the Roman Period bearing this word: *zh mskb sl Hsdyh*; Vincent, *Jérusalem de l'Ancien Testament*, I, pp. 362s. Moreover, no biblical or Mishnaic usage of the word *mskb* seems to fit in our context.

We propose here a suggestion that is inspired by the single occurrence of this word in a Nabataean inscription of Hegrah which reads as follows: *dnh mskb' dy 'hd 'nmw 'srtg' br dmmps* "this is the seat which was reserved for 'Animo, the stratêgos, son of Demasippos" (concerning this personage, see J. Starcky, *Revue Biblique*, 1957, pp. 202-4). The use of this word in any connection with a place of burial is excluded by "the total absence of a burial place" in this neighborhood, that is, Jebel Ethlib, the sacred mountain of Hegrah. The inscription is engraved above a rather primitive sort of a seat which had been cut into a rock situated on an esplanade, which had been raised up several meters; CIS II, 234; Jaussen and Savignac, *Mission archéologique en Arabie*, I, p. 206 no. 40 and p. 409 (plan). It is supposed, then, that it was upon this esplanade that the feasts and cult meetings were held, together with the sacred banquets. The simple pilgrims (who have left their names on the rock in the back) were herded into the area, while the most important person of the region had his own place reserved, κλινή; the seat in relief is nothing more than the symbol of his office. In conclusion, the *bet ha-miskab* of 3Q 15 designates the building in which were held the religious meetings consisting principally of a ritual banquet, that is to say, a triclinium. This hypothesis is confirmed by the mention of the "platform" (*typ*) in the lodging of this house.

L. 17.

The *tiph* of the Talmudic texts (Ben Iehuda, IV, p. 1874) is the "base", a small platform, set into the pavement upon which is placed a small, portable stove, *kirah* (or *kiraim*) of the Rabbis, *môqadeh* of the Arabs; cf. Dalman, *Arbeit und Sitte in Palästina*, IV, Gütersloh 1935, pp. 40 and 45. This fire-place is found in an annex to the triclinium, and the only thing this annex can be is the kitchen.

Col. XII.

L. 4.

"Mount Garizim": *hr gryzyn*, a holy mountain of the Bible and of Samaritan tradition, called today et-Tur, south of Nablus. In 36 A.D. some Samaritans believed that they were

about to uncover on this mountain a cache of "sacred vessels hidden by Moses, who brought them here to store away", *AJ* XVIII § 85. At a later date, Merqa, a Samaritan poet, spoke of an ark in a cave; J. A. Montgomery, *The Samaritans*, Philadelphia 1907, p. 239; for other legends, see Ginzberg, *l.c.*, IV, pp. 22 - 24; Montgomery, pp. 36s. and 234-239.

If the phrase "the steps of the upper pit" - in itself a little baffling - can be understood as "the stairway close to the upper pit", we would be willing to suppose that this stairway represented a former phase of the famous steps which ascended from the Portico at the bottom up the side of the mountain to the esplanade of the temple of Zeus Hypsistos - Serapis, built by Hadrian on the ruins of the Samaritan temple; Abel, *Géographie* I, pp. 360 - 9.

"Bet-sham": *byt sm* is almost certainly to be identified with the modern Beisân, to the north of the Jordan Valley, *Byt s'n* and *Byt sn* according to the Jewish sources, Βαιθσαν and Βεθσαν in the Greek writings. In the Greco-Roman Period the city of Bethsan-Scythopolis was pagan, and it later became Christian; however, it always did retain a Jewish minority of some importance; see F. M. Abel, *Revue Biblique*, IX, 1912, pp. 415 - 417; A. Rowe, *The Topography and History of Beth-Shan*, Philadelphia 1930, pp. 2 - 5 and 43 - 49; N. Zori, *Bulletin of the Department of Antiquities of the State of Israel*, V-VI, 1957, pp. 16 - 19; (cf. the same, *Bulletin of the Israel Exploration Society*, XVIII, 1954, pp. 78 - 90).

The consonants [n] and [m] may interchange at the end of proper names, e.g. *Bet-Haran* and *Bet-Haram* in the Bible. Cf. on this phonetic phenomenon: E. Y. Kutscher, *Tarbiz*, XXIII, 1952, pp. 38ss., and *Scripta Hierosolymitana*, IV, 1957, pp. 23s.; B. Bagatti and J. T. Milik, *Gli scavi del "Dominus Flevit"*, I, Jerusalem 1958, p. 90.

L. 8.

"Ha-Baruk": *hbrk*, if this is a *vera lectio* (I suppose that the third letter, a simple stroke, is a cursive *resh*), is seen again in Mur 43 5 with exactly the same spelling; there we identify it with Kaphar Baricha of the ancients, Bani Na'im of today. The epithet "Blessed" refers to Abraham. The catalogue speaks of a large gutter belonging to the village, which must have been renowned for its water systems, since even today they are greatly admired: "... die Zisternenanlagen mit riesigen Randsteinen, wie ich sie in solcher Menge (auf der Westseite des Dorfes allein zählte ich über 50) und Grösse nirgends mehr gesehen habe", A. E. Mader, *Altchristliche Basiliken und Lokaltraditionen in Südjudaä*, Paderborn 1918, p. 158.

If this identification is correct, the next place name, i.e. Bet ha-Baruk ("The House of the Blessed One") may be a popular name of Hebron, anticipating the later Arabic name: (Madinat) el-Khalil, "The Town of the (God's) Friend".

Jerusalem, August 1959.

J. T. MILIK.



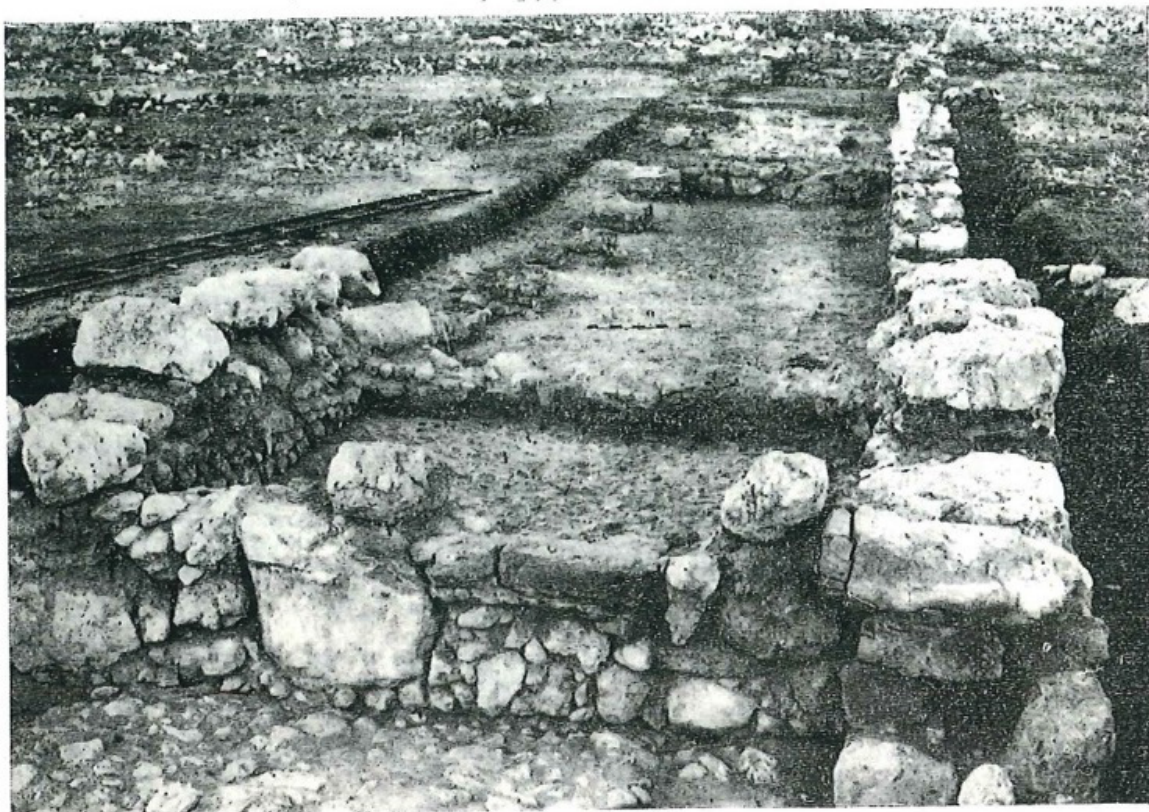
1. THE SPRING AND RUINS OF 'AIN FESHKHA.

(PHOTO: R. DE VAUX)

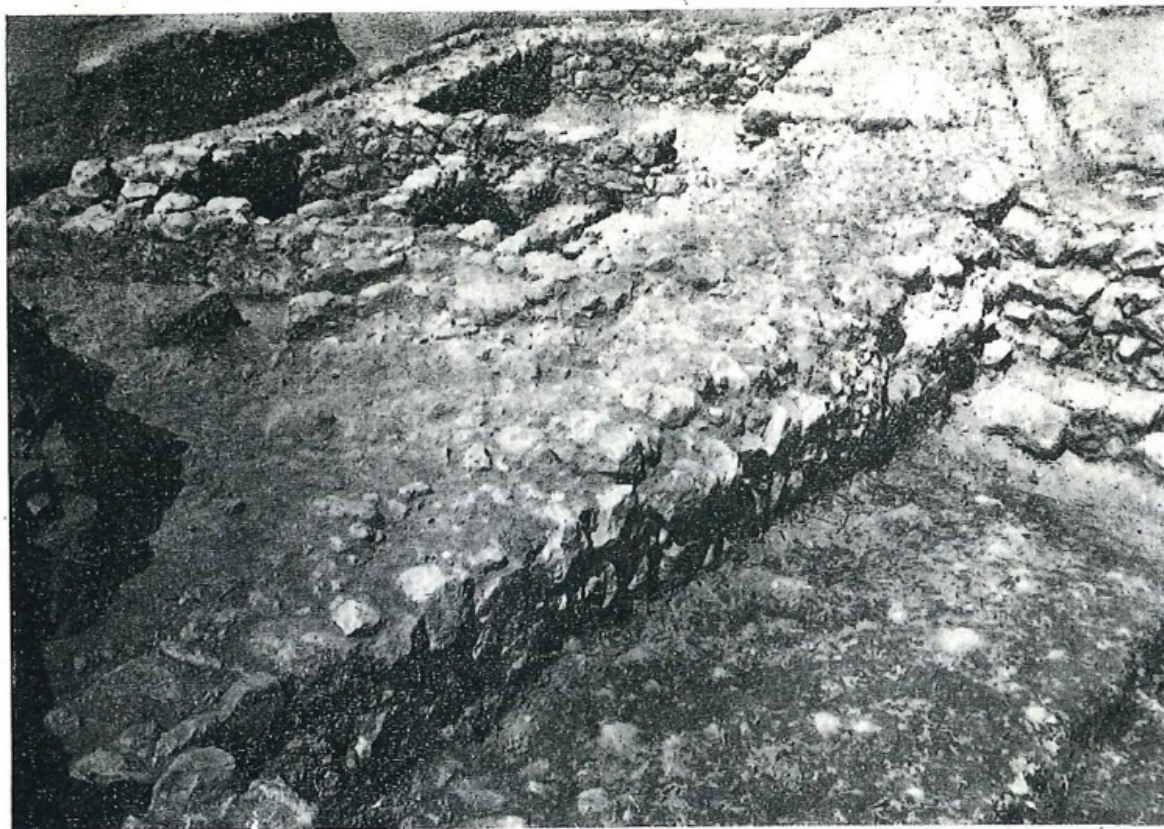


2. FESHKHA. THE BUILDING, LOOKING SOUTH - EAST.

(PHOTO: R. DE VAUX)



1: FESHKHA. THE CONSTRUCTION IN THE SOUTH ENCLOSURE, LOOKING WEST.
(PHOTO: R. DE VAUX)



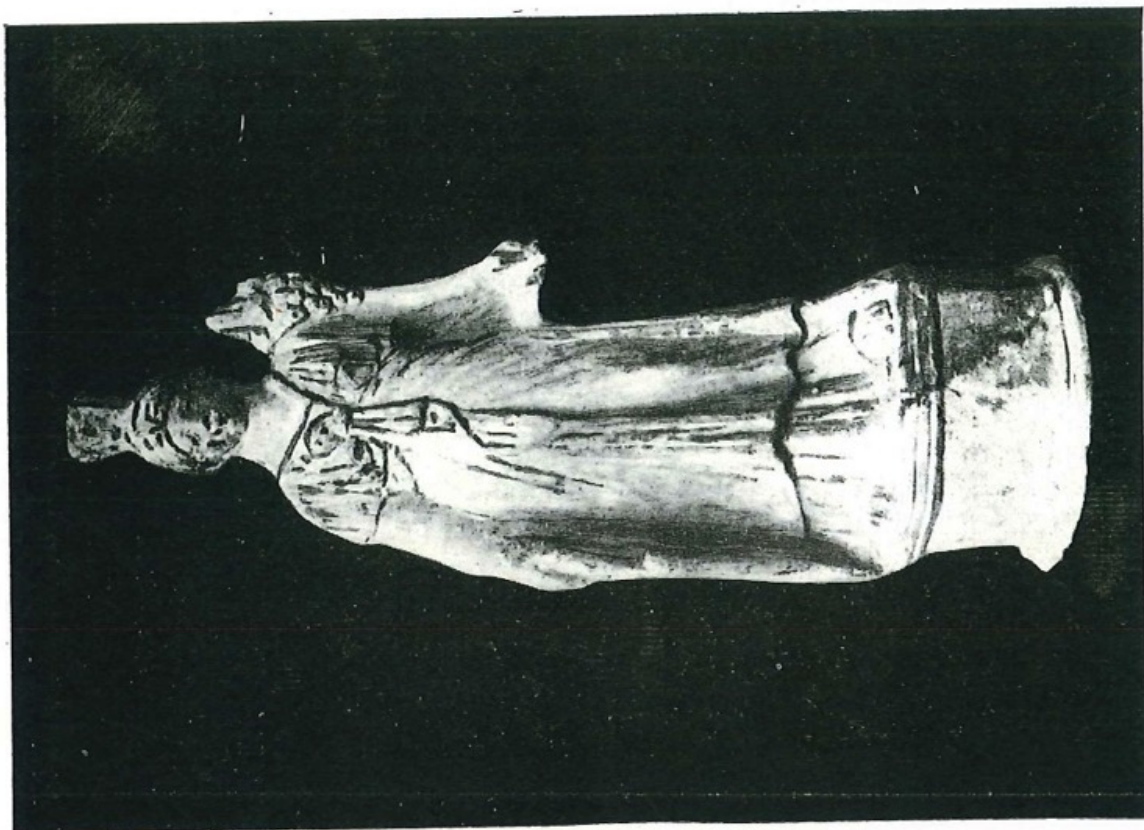
2. FESHKHA. THE BASINS IN THE NORTH ENCLOSURE, LOOKING SOUTH-WEST.
(PHOTO R DE VAUX)



2. AMMAN. POTTERY HEAD OF ASTARTE.



1. AMMAN. HEAD OF TYCHE.



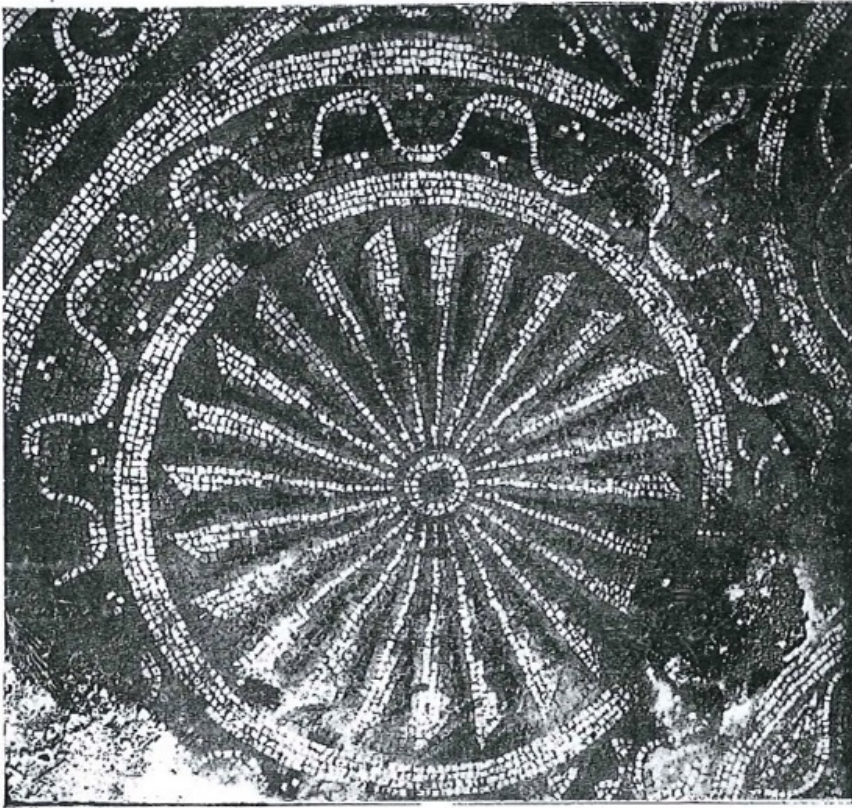
2. JERASH. POTTERY FIGURINE FROM TOMB.



1. AMMAN. IRON AGE SCULPTURE.



1. QUAILBA. INK WELL AND POTS FROM TOMB.



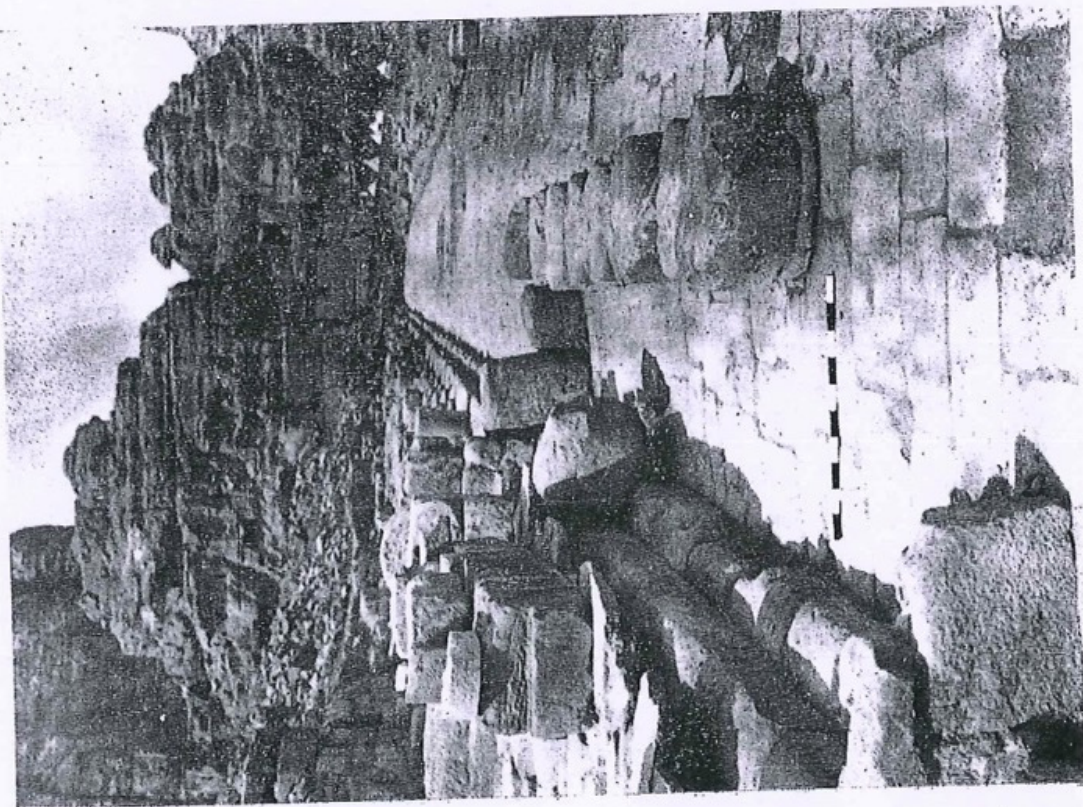
2. UMM QEIS. MOŞAİÇ FLOOR.



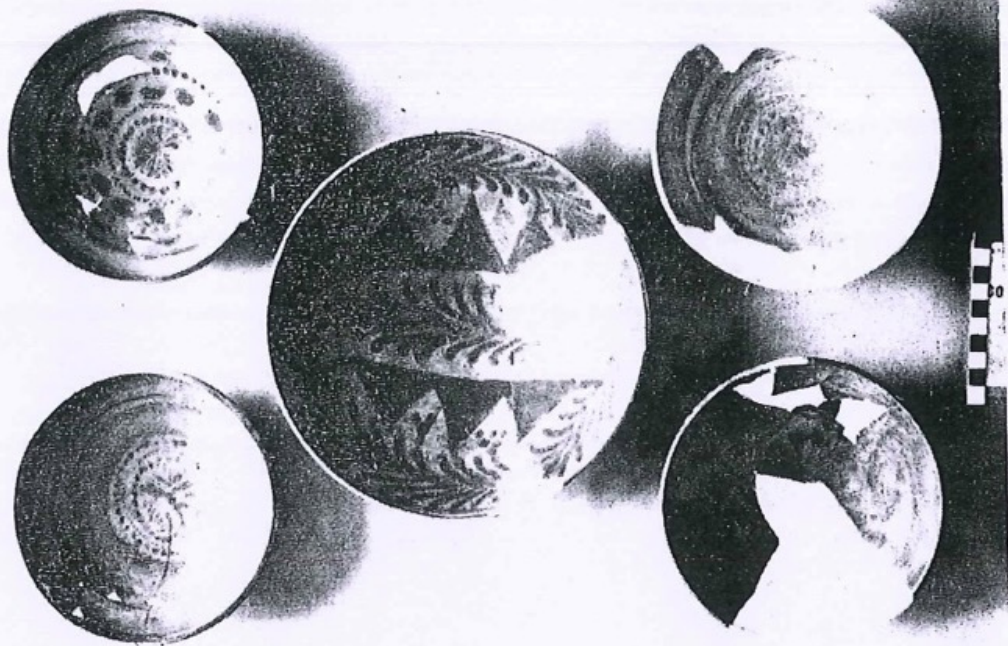
1. QUAILBA, PAINTED MURAL DECORATION IN TOMB.



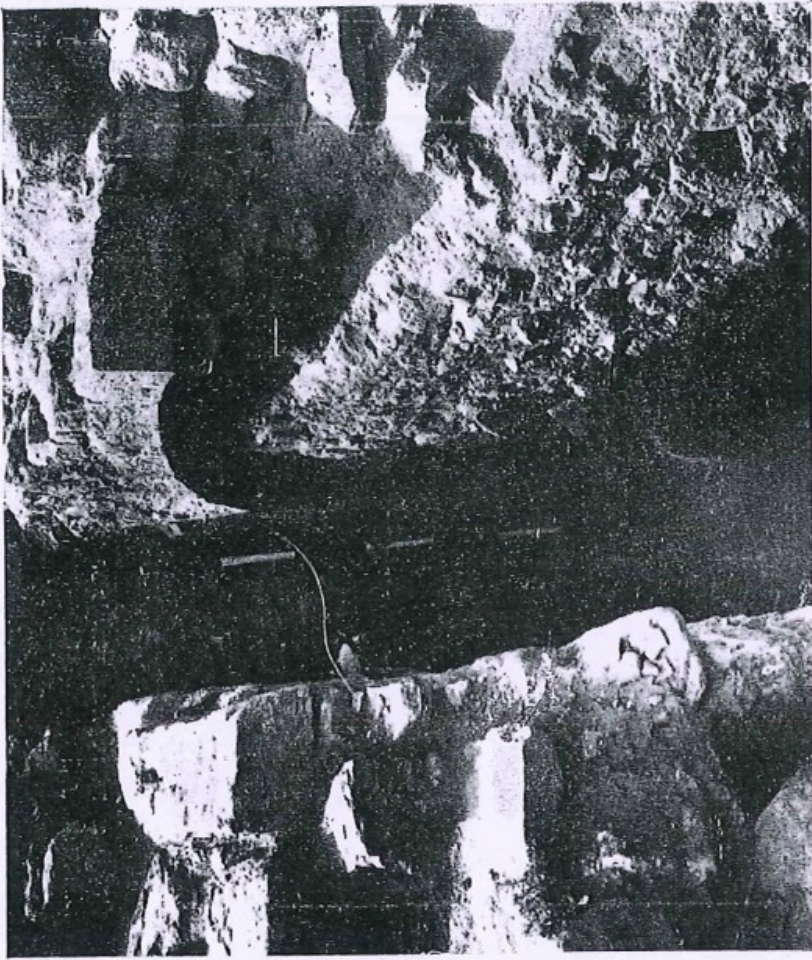
2, MADABA, MOSAIC PAVEMENT WITH EROS AND SATYRS,



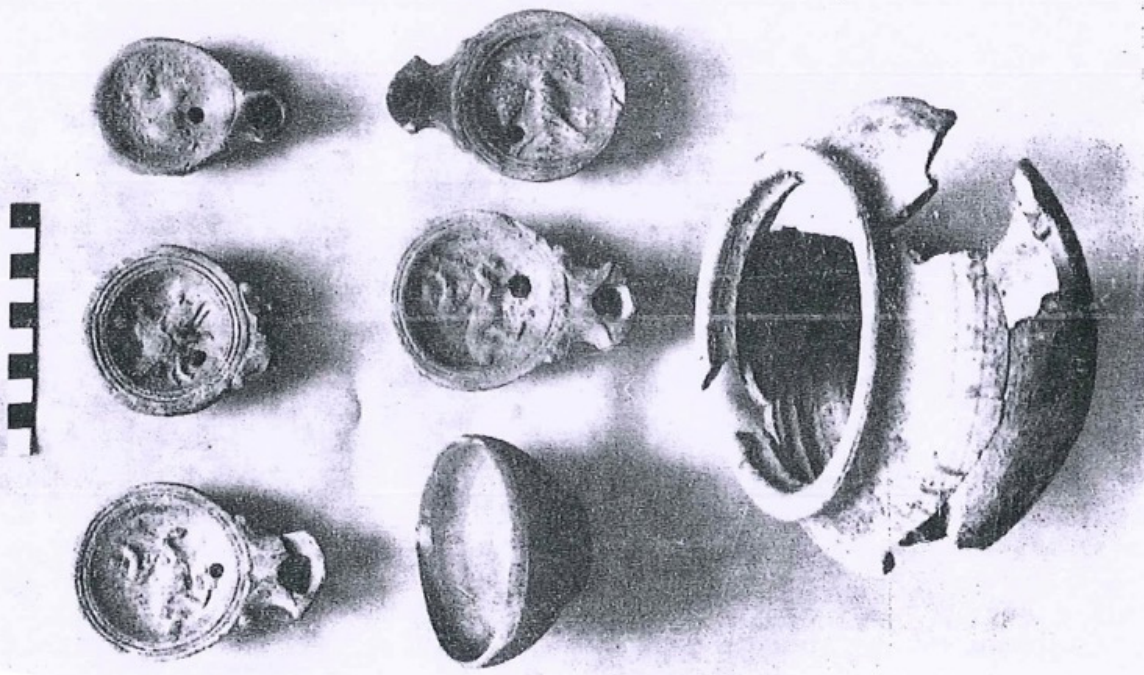
1. PETRA. THE CARDO MAXIMUS LOOKING WEST.
NOTE FOUNDATIONS ON COLUMN DRUMS OF A LATE PAVEMENT
ROOM AND THE FLOOR OF THE ROOM RAISED ABOVE THE TOP STEP.
(PHOTO: FARID MORCOS)



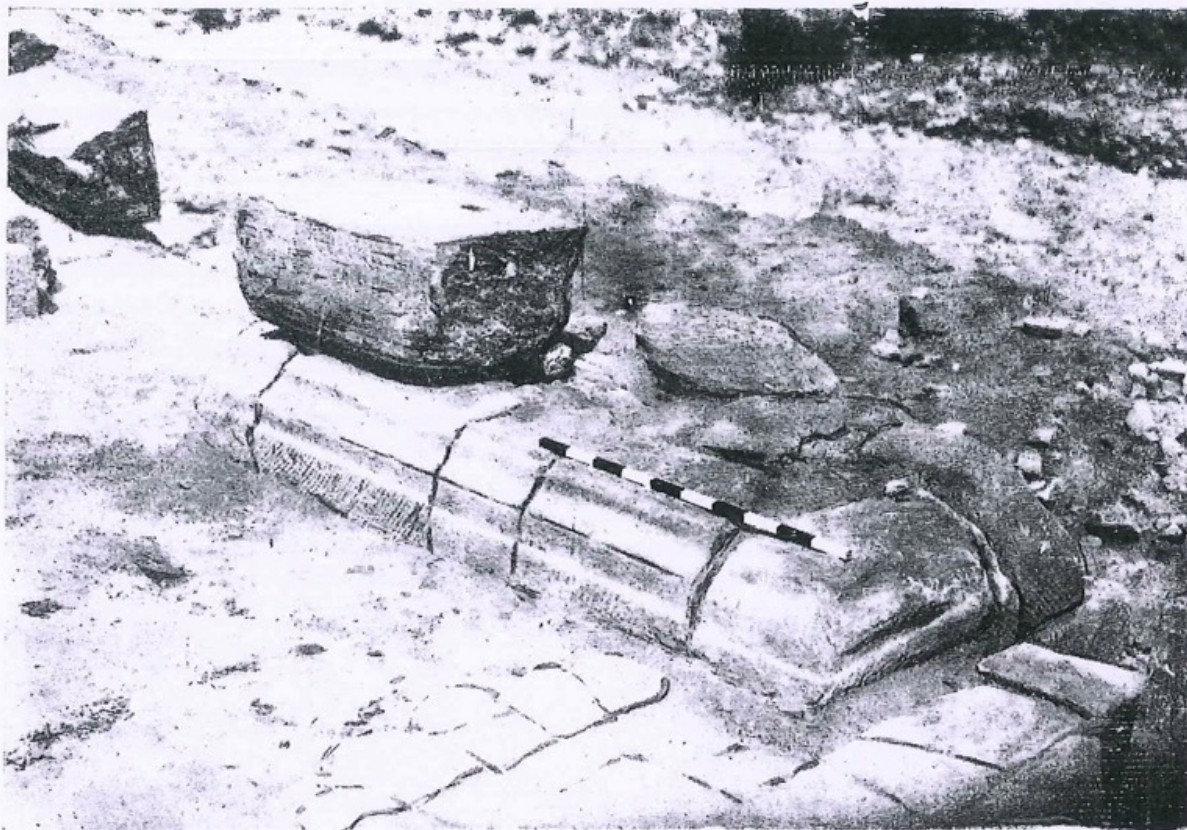
2. PETRA. A SELECTION OF PAINTED BOWLS FROM ROOM R. N. 4.
(PHOTO: FARID MORCOS)



2. PETRA. THE BLOCKED ROOM R. N. 4.



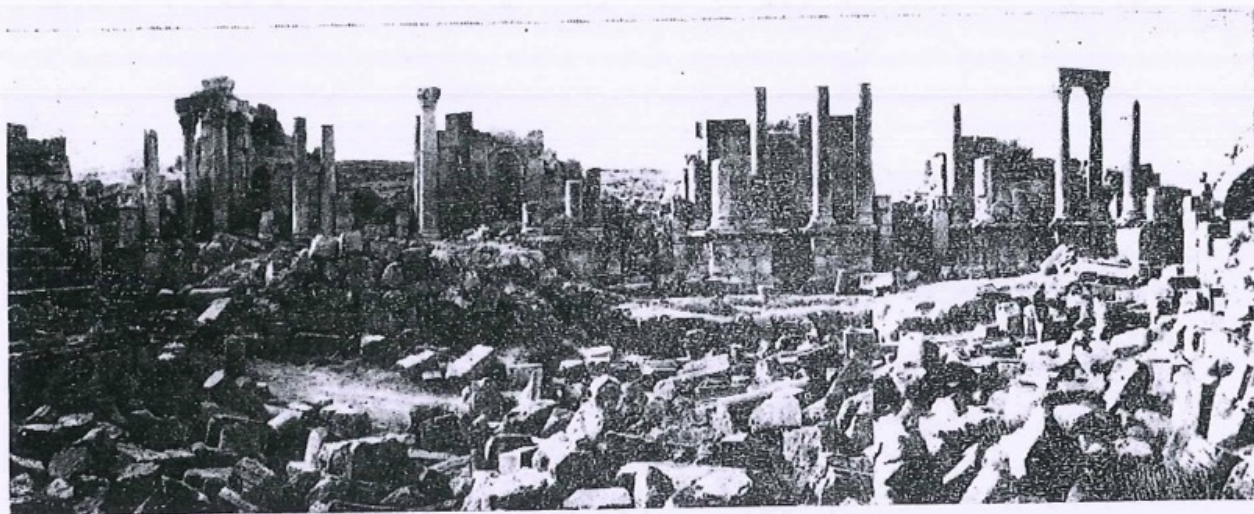
1. PETRA. POTTERY, LAMPS, AND ONE OF THE NABATAEAN OSTRACA ON A PLAIN BOWL.
(PHOTO: FARID MORCOS)



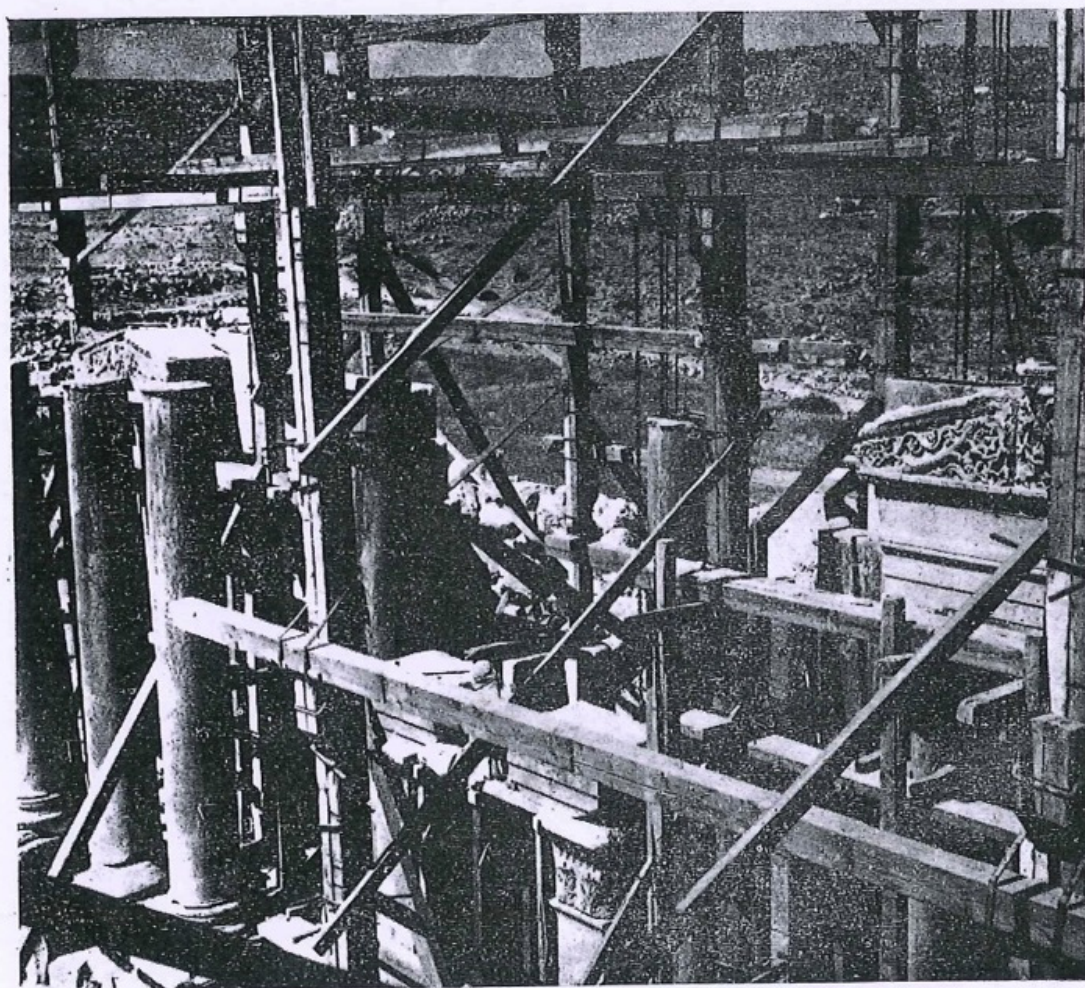
1. PETRA. MONUMENTAL PLINTH WITH MOULDED BASE IN FRONT OF THE STEPS OF THE UPPER MARKET.



2. PETRA. TWO OF THE THREE BLOCKS CONTAINING THE DEDICATION TO TRAJAN.



1. JERASH. THE THEATRE BEFORE BEGINNING WORK.



2. JERASH. WORK ON THE NICHE PEDIMENTS AND EAST DOOR IN PROGRESS.



1. JERASH, THE RESTORED WEST VAULT, BALUSTRADE, AND BOX.



2. JERASH- THE RESTORED EAST AND CENTRAL DOORS AND EAST CENTRAL NICHE.



1. THE WADI EL - WALA, NEAR KHIRBET ISKANDER.



2. KHIRBET-ISKANDER FROM THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE WADI EL - WALA
(THE SMALL WHITE TENTS ARE AT THE CENTRE OF THE LOW MOUND).



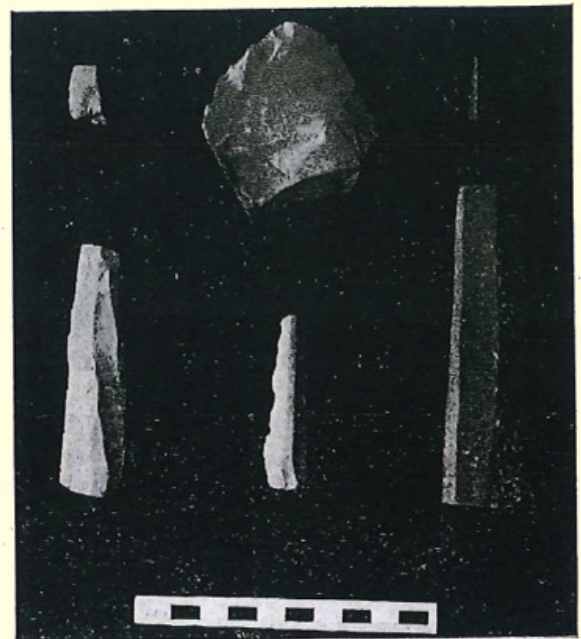
1. KHIRBET ISKANDER. THE COBBLED COURTYARD IN TRENCH I, PERIOD 3 (ii).



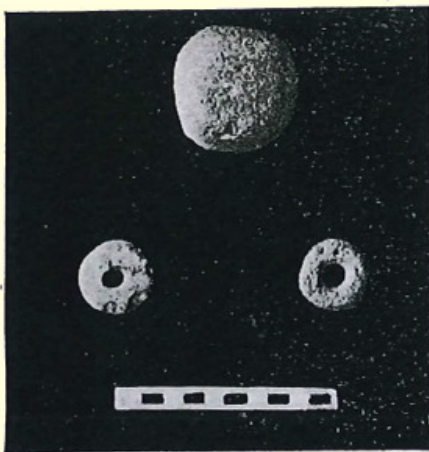
2. KHIRBET ISKANDER, THE WEST WALL OF THE BUILDING IN TRENCH I, PERIOD 3 (ii).



1. KHIRBET ISKANDER. ANIMAL FIGURINE
(Length 16 cms.)



2. KHIRBET ISKANDER. FLINTS.



3. KHIRBET ISKANDER. BASALT PESTLE, AND WHORLS.



1. KHIRBET BRAK. HEAD OF ATARGATIS.



2. KHIRBET BRAK. RELIEF OF WINGED FIGURE.



1. KHIRBET BRAK. DECORATED CAPITAL.



2. KHIRBET BRAK. DRESSED STONES.

وفي موسم سنة ١٩٥٩ نصبت مخيمها في خربة زرقة الواقعة في وادي الظائفة — وهو اقدم مقدس وجد في هذه الديار من العصر الجاهلي وستظهر اهميته في كتابة تاريخ عرب الجاهلية . ولقد كان هذا المعبد دائري الشكل وقد بلغ قطره ٢٠ متراً وقد نصبت في مدخله صفائح حجرية حفرت عليها صور الرجال والنساء وقد طمست هذه الصور وغفت آثارها . وعندما سقط المعبد على الارض تحطمت حجراته وتبعثرت ، واستطاعت هذه الحملة ان تجمع قطعاً كثيرة تكفي لتكوين ٣٠٠ صورة . كما وجدت عدة اواني حجرية كانت تستعمل للطقوس الدينية في هذا المعبد . ولم تجد الحملة فخاريات ولا ما يساعد على تعيين تاريخ اصحاب هذه الآثار . ولا بد من انتظار نتائج فحص المواد المنفحة بالاشعاع الكربوني رقم (١٤) ولكن من المحتمل ان اصحاب هذا المعبد كانوا من العرب الثموديين الذين سيطروا على طريق القوافل التجارية بعد زوال سيطرة الانباط عليها . يدل على هذا كثرة الاسماء الثمودية التي كتبت على حجارة في سفوح الجبال المجاورة ولا سيما على الرجوم التي اقيمت على قبور اخذت حجراتها من المعبد الذي تهدم قبل مجيء الثموديين . وقد نسخت البعثة هذه الكتابات لتدرسها فيما بعد .

١٥- الخبايا

ان دائرة الآثار لا تؤمن بالكنوز التي اضاع اهل الطمع اموالهم في سبيل اكتشافها ولم ينلهم من جراء ذلك الا الحسرة والندم . ولكن الصدق قد تؤذي الى اكتشاف خبيثة خبأها صاحبها — قبل ان توجد المصارف التي تودع فيها الاموال في هذه الايام — ومات ولم يعلم بها احد ، فاذا حفر احد ، فاذا حفر احد في مسكن قديم لتجدبده مثلاً فقد يعثر على بعض هذه الخبايا — وليست الكنوز . واليك بعضاً من اخبارها :-

في عورتا

نسف الحجارون صخرأ بالبارود في محاجر (عورتا) — للجنوب الشرقي من نابلس — فطار مع الحجارة المتطايرة سراج فخاري سقط على الارض . وفي ٣١/٨/١٩٤٩ كانت فتاة صغيرة من بنات القرية تبحث عن اشياء فوجدت هذا السراج . ولما فتحته وجدت فيه ثلاثين ديناراً ذهبياً من عملة البيزنطيين التي تحمل الصلبان وقد صكت في القرن السادس بعد الميلاد .

عمارة سيدو الكردي بعان

بينما كان العمال في تشرين الثاني سنة ١٩٤٩ يهدمون بقايا ابنية قديمة في أرض السيد حسني سيدو الكردي لاقامة بناء جديد كشفوا جرة . ولما كسروها تدفق الذهب منها ، فخاطفه العمال . ولما وصل الخبر الى صاحب الملك امرع بالحضور وانقذ ٥٧ ديناراً وسلمها للشرطة وبعد فحصها ظهر انها أموية وعباسية .

في عمارة بدير بعان

في ٢٤/١٢/١٩٥٠ وجد العمال الذين كانوا يحفرون اساساً لبناء للحاج محمد علي بدير قرب سوق الخضار بعان — وجدوا جرة فيها دنانير ذهبية احضرها رجال الشرطة واخرجوا منها ٤٥ ديناراً عباسياً — كتب على الوجه الاول منها (لا اله الا الله وحده لا شريك له) وعلى الوجه الثاني السنة التي ضرب فيها ومعظمها ضربت سنة ١٩٢ هـ مع عبارة « بسم الله . محمد رسول الله » .

في عجلاون

في حزيران سنة ١٩٥٥ كان عيسى جورجي يحفر حفرة في ساحة داره ببلدة عجلاون فوجد ٤٩ ديناراً صليبياً و ١٣ ديناراً اسلامياً من عهد المالك . وهو المبلغ الذي سلم من هذه الخبيثة .

ودائرة الآثار ترجو المواطنين الكرام ان لا يصدقوا اخبار الكنوز الخرافية والسلام .

الذي كان يشغله رهبان القديس بندكت (١١٤٤ - ١١٨٧ م) ولقد وجدت المخلفات الايوية مكسرة ومختلطة . وأهمها الفخار المدهون الذي يميز صناعة ذلك العصر . مما يدل على ان العرب سكنوا هذا المكان بعد عام ١١٨٧ م . وهو العام الذي استرجع فيه صلاح الدين الايوبي القدس وضواحيها .

بيت سوو (خربة طيبة)

في اراضي حلحول بقضاء الخليل نعت المدرسة الامريكية للابحاث الشرقية سنة ١٩٥٧ فعثرت على ادوات فخارية ونحاسية وزجاجية وعلى تمثال صغير مصنوع من العاج على شكل هرم ، مما يدل على اتصال حضارة مصر بالاردن . وهذه الآثار تدل على ان الخربة كانت مأهولة من العصر البيزنطي الوسيط حتى القرن الثاني قبل الميلاد .

الكتابات الصفوية

بينما كان احد مهندسي النقطة الرابعة يبحث عن مصادر جديدة للمياه في موقع (الجفور 4 H) على طريق بغداد لفت نظره رجم كبير كتبت على حجراته خطوط غربية . وقد جمع منها عدداً كبيراً واوله الى متحف الآثار في عمان (١) .

وفي سنة ١٩٥٨ قام علماء من الامريكان والانجليز وممثل دائرة الآثار الاردنية برحلة الى قصر البرقع على بعد ٢٨ كم شمالي الجفور وخصوا تسعة عشر رجماً وصوروا ونسخوا خطوطها الصفوية . ثم اتجهوا الى وادي المقاط في الجنوب على الكيلو ٢٦٢ بين عمان وبغداد وجمعوا منه عدة مخطوطات صفوية ومخطوطين بالخط البطي . وكان مجموع ما فحصه ١٨٠٠ مخطوط صفوي .

وفي سنة ١٩٥٩ قامت هذه الجماعة بجملة ثانية وقد كشفوا فيها رجماً غنياً بمخطوطاته وفي أسفله وجد قبر صاحبه واسمه سعد بن صباح . ولقد أدت دراسة هذه المخطوطات الى ان البدو الرحل كانوا يرتادون هذه المراكز التي كانت تعشب في ايام الربيع وقد اعتادوا ان يقيموا رجوماً على قبور قتلاهم وأن يسجلوا أعمالهم على رقائيق من حجر البازيليت . وكل رقيم يتألف من ثلاثة اسطر او اربعة يكتب عليها اسم صاحب القبر واسماء الاقارب والاصدقاء الذين حضروا الجنازة وساعدوا في البناء ، واسم العشيرة او القبيلة التي ينتسب اليها صاحب القبر . وقد كتبها بلغة عربية جاهلية تدلنا على أن الرعاة كانوا يمارسون الكتابة بين القرنين الاول والسابع الميلادي . وعلى بعضها صور بدائية لمعارك حرية وحيوانات الصيد والطراد .

١٤- التنقيبات في منطقة رم

قامت المدرسة البريطانية لعلم الآثار بالقدس بالاشتراك مع دائرة الآثار الاردنية - برئاسة الأنايسة (ديانا كبراييد) ، بالبحث عن الادوات الصوانية في منطقة رم بين معان والعقبة سنة ١٩٥٨ . وقد جمعت هذه الحملة عدداً من الادوات والموازين الحجرية كالاجران التي كانت تستعمل لهرس الحبوب وطحنها وكالصحنون من الحجارة البيضاء الصلبة ثم النبال والمكاشط واستنان مناشير الحصيد . وكلها من الصوان كما جمعت الخرز من حلزون البحر . وقد عثرت على موقد للنيران لا يزال الرماد يملأه ويجانبه نبال الصيد وعظام الحيوانات من مخلفات العصر الحجري الوسيط . وفي اثناء البحث لفت انظار الحملة حجارة تشبه انصاب القبور عليها محاولات لحفر اشكال بشرية ، قد تكون لاباطال وقد تكون لمعبودات - فجمعت منها ١٩ نصباً بمختلف الاحجام . كما وجدت كتابات على الصخور تبين في ما بعد انها كتبت بالخط الثمودي .

(١) وجددير بالذكر ان هذه الكتابات كانت معروفة لدى دائرة الآثار منذ سنة ١٩٤٧ وكان لديها مجموعة كبيرة منها . وللكتاب مقال بعنوان الكتابات الصفوية نشر في السنة الثالثة من مجلة رسالة المعلم سنة ١٩٥٨ عمان .

في ١٧/١٠/١٩٥٩ كشفنا ساحة مرصوفة بالفسيفساء مساحتها ٢٠ × ٦ م وملتصق بها من الشرق مقصورة كتب على فسيفساتها باليونانية اسم صاحبة البناء والحمام وعبارة تدل على النعيم والرفاه وهي من العصر البيزنطي ولو لم تظهر عليها العلامات المسيحية . وتقع على بعد قليل من شارع الاعمدة في غربي القرية على الطريق الهابط الى الحمة في وادي اليرموك .

البازان

في ربيع سنة ١٩٥٠ كشفت اعمال توسيع الطريق من البازان الى نابلس قوساً يستلفت اليوم نظر المسافرين . قطر هذا الباب ١٢٥ سم وسمكه ٣٠ سم واذا اردت عبوره قابلتك درجات تهبط بك الى ارضية احد مدافن الاسر في العصر البيزنطي . وعندما تسطيع الروية يظهر لك انك في غرفة مساحتها ٢٨٥ × ٢٦٥ سم وعلوها ٢١٦ سم وقد بنيت حيطانها بالحجر الكلسي النظيف ومنه سقف سقفيها . في الواجهة الجنوبية كوة فيها ناووس وفي الشرقية كوتان فيهما ناووسان من الحجر . ويبلغ طول الناووس نحو مترين وعرضه ٨٥ سم وارتفاعه ٦٠ سم وسمكه ٥ سم . وقبل مئة سنة دخل بعض الناس هذه المقبرة من احدى الكوى وكسروا اغطية الناووس وبعثروا ما فيها من عظام وآنية فخارية وزجاجية . ومع ذلك فقد جمعت دائرة الآثار كمية من الامرجة الفخارية الرائعة الزخرفة ومن المكاحل الزجاجية التي لا يزال الكحل في بعضها . ومنها كانون فخاري للنار وقدرة فخارية للطبخ واسورة وخالخل زجاجية ونحاسية وجمجمة وعظام واسنان بشرية .

بيت ايل (بيتين)

من قضاء رام الله وقد دل الفخار على انها من العصر البرونزي الوسيط ١٧٥٠ ق م .

سلاوات

قبور رومانية ويهودية .

بيت لحم

قبر كنعاني من العصر البرونزي الوسيط .

بيت موسم

في جنوب الخليل . وبعض بيوتها في المنطقة المحتلة . فتحنا فيها مقبرة بيزنطية بشكل ورقة (السباتي) وقد ملئت الاطراف الثلاثة بقبور في الارض وكان اغناها القبر في المنتفخ الجنوبي . وهو قبر امرأة وجد فيه حلق واقراط وخواتم و صليب . وقد وجد في هذه المقبرة كمية من الامرجة الفخارية والقناني الزجاجية من مخلفات العصر البيزنطي .

١٣- حفريات ثانوية

بينما كانت حراسة الاراضي المقدسة تحفر في ارضها للجنوب من جامع العيزرية على طريق القدس - اريحا كشفت ارض الكنيسة البيزنطية التي انشئت في القرن الرابع الميلادي . وظهرت على الحيطان قصارة ملونة عليها صلبان . اما ارض الكنيسة فكانت من الفسيفساء ذات الالوان الاسود والايض والاحمر وفيها بعض الاشكال الهندسية . ويقول الاب سلفستر سلار انها الدير

مقبرة جرش

في اثناء شق طريق بجذاء قوس النصر (باب عمان) في مدخل جرش ظهر باب منحوت بوذي الى هوة عميقة . ولما علمت الدائرة بهذه الاكتشاف اسرعت الى المكان وباثمرت تنظيفه فنزلت الدرجات الست عشرة الى قاعة تكاد تكون مربعة . وفي جدرانها حفرت القبور في الصخر الابيض . وفي صدرها الشرقي فتحة يحيط بها اطار مرسوم بالوان مختلفة وقد سقطت منه بلاطة رخام كتب عليها بالحروف الرومانية معناها (اليانا - ١٨ سنة) وقد كتب تحت الرسم الملون بالحروف الرومانية عبارة معناها (برداً وسلاماً) ولهذا المقبرة اهميتها من حيث ذكر اسم صاحب القبر . وعلى جانبي الفتحة رسمت اليانا واخوها باللون البنفسجي . ومن النقود والفخار استطعنا ان نرجع تاريخها الى اوائل الحكم الروماني في البلاد .

مقبرة دير الليات

في صيف سنة ١٩٥٩ اظهر شق الطريق المؤدي من جرش الى دير الليات - مقبرة لاسرة رومانية كان يعالوها رجم ضخ ولدى كشفها ظهر فيها عدة نواويس بسيطة ومزخرفة تدل على التفاوت بين الذين قبروا فيها . وقد اظهر الفخار والنقود انها من ايام الرومان . وقد فُتحت سابقاً وبمثر ما فيها .

تل اوبد

يعتبر تل اربد من اغنى تلال البلاد في آثاره - ولا سيما من العصرين الحديدي والبرونزي . وقد اثبتت الاكتشافات العرضية هذه الحقيقة . ولقد اهتمت دائرة الآثار ببحر تين كشفتنا سنة ١٩٥٨ في مخيم اللاجئيين على منحدرات التل من جهة الشمال وحصلت منهما على كمية كبيرة من فخار العصرين الحديدي والبرونزي المتأخر - كان منها ١٧ سجلاً و١٢ نبلة واربعة خناجر وابريقان وكلها من البرونز وقطعة ذهبية ومجس ذهبي .

مقابر ام الحنافية

تقع بين عمان ومادبا . وجد فيها نواويس أحدها من الرصاص . وهي من العصر البرونزي .

قناة الغور الشرقية

في سنة ١٩٥٣ قامت بعثة مسح منطقتي وادي الاردن واليرموك وعينت مواقع اثرية عديدة لم تكن معروفة من قبل . وفي اثناء شق التل الواقع شرقي العدسية لنجري فيه قناة الغور الشرقية من نهر اليرموك ظهر للعمال قطعة نقود نحاسية من تاريخ ٦٤ ق م وقطعة نقود فضية سككت في مصر في المدة الواقعة بين ٣٨٥ - ٣٠٥ ق م وعليها حروف فينيقية وجمعت من نفس التل مغارف فخارية ورأس حربة حديدية . ثم وصل الحفر الى اكتشاف حربة من العصر البرونزي ١٧٠٠ ق م وقد احضرت هذه الموجودات مع غيرها من العاديات الاخرى الى المتحف في عمان في اواخر سنة ١٩٥٨ .

ام قيس

وهي احدى المدن العشر واسمها جادارا وقد زهت في اثناء الحكم الروماني . وفي ٢٥ / ٤ / ١٩٥٨ فتحنا مدفناً في جنوب شرقي القرية وقد وجدنا فيه ستة نواويس كان احدها غنياً بموجوداته الفخارية والزجاجية والنحاسية وبمض الحلي كحلقي بنت وخاتم له طبعة حمراء نقشت عليها ذئبة و هما من الذهب .

جيوش الحلف الثلاثي الى اسوار القدس كما وصلت جيوش اسرائيل الى ذيبان . وقد اخرجت الدائرة من هذه المقابر كمية كبيرة من الاواني الفخارية المصنوعة من التربة الحمراء وعليها زخارف بأشكال مختلفة . كما وجد فيها عدد من الاساور والخللاخل البرونزية مع مرآة بحجم كف الرجل صنعت من النحاس . ومن اهم ما وجد فيها رأس الالهة عشتار الفينيقية والتي شاعت عبادتها في جميع بلدان شرقي البحر المتوسط وعلى هذا التمثال المصنوع من الفخار مسحة من الصبغة المصرية .

كما اذت عملية تنظيف المدرج الروماني بعمان لجمع بعض النقود البرونزية وبعض قطع من الرخام ومن نيجان الاعمدة والعتبات العليا . ومن اهم ما وجد عليها كتابات بالحرف اليوناني نأمل ان تؤدي الى معرفة تاريخ بناء المدرج عندما نعتز على بعض الاجزاء التي لا تزال ناقصة منها . كما عثرنا فيه على تمثال الالهة اثينا المحاربة التي امتازت بحربتها بيدها اليسرى وبترسها على جانبها الايمن . وهو من منحوتات القرن الثاني بعد الميلاد وقد صنع من الرخام بغاية من الدقة والاتقان . كما عثرنا على نصف التمثال المعروف باسم الراعي الصالح من القرن السادس بعد الميلاد .

مدفن صويلح

بينما كان احد سكان صويلح يحفر عن ماء في صيف ١٩٥٧ في ارضه على الكيلو ١٤ على طريق جرش ظهرت له مغارة مأسرع باعلام دائرة الآثار التي اسرعت للكشف عنها ، فظهر لها رتاج من الحجر الابيض . ولما فتح ادى الى قاعة رئيسية نقرت على جوانبها كوى - كل كوة منها قبر لواحد من ابناء الاسرة التي انشأتها . وكانت الكوى طبقتين . وفي صدر القاعة ناووسان لربي تلك الاسرة . وبنتيجة تنظيفها جمع منها كمية من الاواني والاعوية الفخارية والزجاجية . كما وجد فيها حلي ذهبي من اقراط وحلق . وبعض الاساور والخللاخل من النحاس وكلها من طراز القرن الاول بعد الميلاد .

تل سافوط

يقابل هذه المقبرة تل اصطناعي كسرت انه الجرافة التي كانت تمهد الطريق في خريف سنة ١٩٥٨ فأزال الطبقات الاضافية التي وضعت بشكل مائل خلف سور هذا الحصن . وقد اختلفت ألوان التراب فظهرت كأنها شيم ولحم او ما يعرف بالسندوتش . وهي عادة جرى عليها سكان هذه البلاد في صد هجوم عربات الاشوريين الخيفة التي كانت تهدم اسوارهم الضعيفة بكل سهولة ولكن هذه التلال اصبحت تعيق عملية الهدم . وقد ظهر من المخلفات الاثرية ان التل هجر من العصر الروماني . فاذا رجعنا بتاريخه الى الوراء فاننا نصل الى سنة ١٧٥٠ ق م . ويقول مدير الآثار أن هذه التحصينات العسكرية هي الاولى من نوعها اكتشفت في الضفة الشرقية من المملكة .

ام الدنانير

وعلى الكيلو ٢٠ بذات الطريق يمتد فرع الى الغرب حتى يصل الى قرية ام الدنانير . وعندما جرى توسيع العين وبناء بركة فيها كشف العمل بعض البيوت التي ظهر في احدها جرة مملوءة بحج القمح الذي حافظ على حجمه وشكله ولو انه نفحم ولقد دلت الاواني الفخارية على انه من العصر الحديدي حوالي سنة ١٠٠٠ ق م . ووجدت بنفس المكان الاجران الحجرية التي كانت تهرس فيها الحبوب .

تماثيل ولعب من طين: رأس اسد بدلع لسانه • عدة تماثيل لسيدات في مختلف المظاهر • عدة تماثيل لطيور مختلفة • ان هذه العاديات تحتل مكانها اللائق في متحف عمان • وسينشر نتائج الحفريات مدير الآثار في العدد المقبل •

١١- حفريات الازرق

يقع حوض الازرق في الشمال الشرقي من عمان وعلى بعد نحو مئة كلم منها • وبمجرد النظر الى ذلك المكان يستنج الناظر اليه انه كان بحيرة واسعة لم يبق منها الا هذه البرك الصغيرة المتباعدة • وكان ماؤها يجري في ما يعرف اليوم بوادي السرحان الذي يمتد جنوباً حتى يدخل المملكة العربية السعودية على طول مئتي كلم ويبدأ بعرض عشرة كلم ويأخذ في الاتساع حتى يبلغ ٦٠ كلم • ولئن جفت مياه البحيرة من حوض الازرق فان تربته الطينية واعشابه تدل على اصله المائي •

بينما كان المهندس (رولاند بيرنل Roland Purnell) من بعثة العمل الاميركية في الاردن ، يحفر في موقع عين الاسد للحصول على ماء يجريه في قنوات الى مسافات بعيدة لتروي هذا السهل العطش ، عثر على عمق متر واحد على ثلاث فووس صوانية من العصر الحجري الحديث (النيولوثي) ولما نزل الحفر الى ثلاثة امتار كثرت ادوات الانسان القديم ، فأخذ يجمعها ويرتبها على مناضد ، حتى بلغ عددها اكثر من سبع مئة قطعة صوانية من سكاكين بدوية وبلطات وفووس • وقد بلغ طول احداها نحو نصف متر وتعد من اصخم ما وجد في العالم من نوعها • ثم جمع قطعاً خشبية وعظام حيوانات ضخمة • وقد وجد اسنانها مغروزة في الطين المتحجر • وقد تولى فحصها كل من مدير آثار الاردن وسفير الولايات المتحدة في سنة ١٩٥٥ • وقد ارسلت عينات منها الى امريكا حيث فحصت بالاشعاع الكربوني رقم ١٤ فتبين ان تلك الادوات كانت لانسان العصر الحجري القديم (الباليوليثي Paleolithic) الذي كان بدائياً يسكن الكهوف ويتجول في الغابات ليقاتل الحيوانات بسلاحه البسيط وهو المرأوة الخشبية او بجحر ، ولا يعرف من الارض الا البقعة المحدودة التي يسكنها •

وقد اخذ العلماء يقارنون بين هذه العظام وبين هياكل الحيوانات الضخمة التي توجد في متاحف اوروبا وامريكا والتي كانت تعيش في محيط بكثير ماؤه وترتفع حرارته ، فاستنتجوا ان هذه الحيوانات الضخمة كانت تملأ حوض الازرق قبل وجود الانسان ، حينما كانت الارض مكسوة بغابات تملأها المياه الوفيرة التي تسمح لتلك الاجسام الثقيلة بالحركة • وكان اصغر ما فيها عقولها • وقد ادرك انسان العصر القديم الذي كان صياداً آثار ذلك العهد ورأى بقايا تلك الحيوانات التي انقرضت بسبب تغيرات الجو •

١٢- الحفريات العرضية

ادى نشاط الحركة العمرانية وشق الطرق في مختلف البلاد الى كشف مواقع أثرية ، مما حمل دائرة الآثار على أن تنقب فيها وتجمع مخلفاتها الاثرية - ففي عمان مثلاً اكتشفت عدة مقابر في جبال : المصدر ، والجوفة ، والاشرفية ، والحسين ، والهاشمي ، وخرفان معظمها من العصر الروماني وكانت غنية بمخلفات ذلك العصر ولا سيما الفخارية منها • وكان بعضها قد استعمل في عصور اقدم من العصر الروماني • واهمها المقبرة التي اكتشفت في مطلع جبل الجوفة في ملك السيد سعيد القربوتي التي وجدت مملوءة بمخلفات العصر الحديدي الثاني الذي يعود تاريخه الى القرن الثامن قبل الميلاد • وهو القرن الذي اضطر فيه سكان الضفة الشرقية من عمونيين وموابيين وادوميين ليقفوا متحالفين في وجه العدوان الامرائيلي • وكانت الحرب سجالاً بين الطرفين فقد تصل

لم تعثر الحملة على مخطوطات بسبب رطوبة التربة ، ولا على كنوز بسبب فقر سكانها القدماء . وكان رجال البعثة الاثرية يأملون في الحصول على معلومات اوسع تلقي الاضواء الساطعة على حياة اولئك الذين سكنوها منذ التي عام - اولئك الذين كتبوا ودرسوا مخطوطات قران التي طبقت شهرتها الافاق^(١) .

١٠- حفريات القويبة

تبعد عين القويبة من اراضي قرية حرثا نحو ١٨ كيلومتر للشمال من اربد . وعندما يجري ماء العين في الوادي اليانع بساينته النظرة تظهر المدافن القديمة على العدوتين . وعلى السفح الغربي منها تقوم آثار اييلا احدى المدن العشر (الدبكابوليس) التي اشتهرت في العهد الروماني . ولا تزال آثار اييلا تنتظر من يكشف غوامضها ويجلو انبائها كما حصل في زميلتها جرش . وفي ٢٣ حزيران سنة ١٩٥٩ باشرت دائرة الآثار باشراف المساعد الفني السيد حسن عواد قطشان فتح احد المدافن في القويبة . ولما أزيلت الاتقاض من المدخل تبين لها انه مغلق برتاج حجري ثقيل منقوش وقد أدى هذا المدخل عندما فتح الى القاعة الرئيسية التي حفرت في جوانبها كوى لتكون كل كوة منها مقراً لرفاة احد موتى الامرة التي انشأتها . وفوق هذه الكوى اطار من الرسوم الملونة على القصارة (فريسكو) تمثل مناظر مختلفة لحيوانات وعربات ضمن اشكال نباتية متنوعة . وتبين ان في صدر القاعة ثلاثة نواويس ضخمة . وخلفها فتحة أدت الى مخدع معتم رهيب وضع فيه ناووسان من البازلت ، على صدر احدها حفر بارز لرجل وحوله مكان وعلى ظهره حفر بارز لاسدين . وعلى الناووس الثاني حفر بارز لثسزين . وظهر عند فتح النواويس انها سرقت سابقاً . ومع ذلك جمع منها نحو مئتي قطعة أثرية مختلفة الانواع .

وعلى يمين القاعة فتحة اخرى تؤدى الى مقبرة جانبية من طابقين . وقد انهار قسم من ارضية الطابق الثاني على الطابق الاول . وظهر ان لهذه المقبرة باباً آخر ولما فتح تبين على طرفي المدخل حفر بارز لثخلة وثور وصورة لملك الموت (اله الصواعق) وصورة امرأتين من الندابات . وقد حفر على هذا المشهد كتابة لاتينية تطلب الرحمة للراقدين في هذا المكان . وقد كتبت سنة ٤٧ ق م . ثم امتد الحفر الى عشرة مدافن اخرى في السفح وفي الطريق وانتهى الحفر فيها في ٢٩ تموز سنة ١٩٥٩ واحضرت الى المتحف محتويات جميع القبور التي استمرّ الدفن بها الى العصور البرنظية التي تقارب سبع مئة قطعة أثرية كان منها :

- حجارة : الناووس الكبير . الرتاج المنقوش . هاون مستدير من البازلت . صورة اسد من حجر صيني اخضر .
- نقار : صهون . زبادي . اباريق . كاسات . مكاييل (مغاطيس) . اسرجة رسم على كثير منها الصليب . قدور . اطواس . جرار عليها كتابات يونانية . محابر .
- زجاج : اساور (غويشات) . صهون مستديرة . كاسات . قناني دمع وشمع . قوارير .
- عظم : محارز . مراود كحل .
- خرز : عقود مختلفة وحببات متفرقة .
- برونز : دبائيس . سكاكين . اساور . جرس . عملة . قضبان . مراود كحل .
- نحاس : مشبك . خواتم . مماسك وابدادي توابيت .
- حلي : اقراط ذهب . ثلاثة احجار كريمة من الامائست بلون بنفسجي فاتح .

(١) في العدد الثاني من السنة الرابعة لمجلة رسالة المعلم (حزيران سنة ١٩٥٩) التي تصدرها وزارة التربية والتعليم في عمان مقال عن مخطوطات البحر الميت .

وهناك محاولات لحفر اشكال الانسان والحيوان ومحاولة لصناعة التماثيل من الحجارة منها رأس عجل صغير قد يكون تقليداً للعجل ايس المعبود في مصر .

أما مخلفات العصر الحديدي فكانت مجموعة كبيرة من الاواني الفخارية المختلفة وقطع من الحديد كالاسلحة المختلفة والازاميل والاسورة والاسلاك وبعض القضبان والمسامير .

ونأمل أن تجلوا الحفريات في المواسم القادمة حقائق جديدة في تاريخ هذا الموقع .

٩ - حفريات الفشخة

في سنة ١٩٤٩ نشرت مجلة امريكية نبأ اكتشاف سبعة ملفات كتب عليها بعض اسفار التوراة باللغة العبرية من ايام المسيح . لذلك اسرعت دائرة الاثار الاردنية بالاشتراك مع متحف الاثار الفلسطيني والمدرسة الفرنسية للتوراة والاثار بالقدس للبحث عن الكهوف التي وجدت فيها هذه الكنوز التي هزت خطورتها وأهميتها العالم . ومن ذلك التاريخ لم ينقطع البحث في هذه المنطقة الواقعة في الجبال التي تحف بالبحر الميت من الغرب .

وفي سنة ١٩٥٢ اكتشف الملف النحاسي الذي كتب عليه خبر الكنز الذي يزن نحو مئتي طن من الذهب والفضة . ولا تزال المساعي مبذولة لكشفه .

وفي سنة ١٩٥٤ اكتشف الكهف الرابع وهو اغنى كهوف المنطقة بالمخطوطات .

وفي سنة ١٩٥٦ اكتشف الكهف الحادي عشر ولا تزال مخطوطاته في خزائن متحف الاثار الفلسطيني بالقدس . كان يقابل الكهف الرابع من جهة الشرق خربة قران التي كانت المقر الرئيسي لطائفة الاسيين (النساك الخشنين) وفيها وجدت مخلفاتهم التي ينطبق عليها وصف المؤرخين القدامى لحياة الطائفة الغربية التي يعتبر البعض ان المسيحية امتداد لتعاليمها وطقوسها .

ومن مرتفعات خربة قران امتدت اعين الاب دي فو مدير المدرسة الفرنسية الى عين الفشخة التي تبعد عنها ثلاثة كيلومترات نحو الجنوب ، فاسرع اليها وتبين له بعض جدران قد تكون سوراً لمدينة مجهولة ، فوضع خطة لاكتشافها . ولقد قام بالحفر في ثلاثة مواسم كان آخرها في ٢١ آذار سنة ١٩٥٨ . ولقد اشتركت معه دائرة الاثار والمتحف الاثري الفلسطيني بالقدس .

كشفت الابحاث الاثرية في عين الفشخة ابنية كثيرة فيها نغار ونقود برونزية تشابه معاصرتها التي سبق اكتشافها في خربة قران . ونستطيع ان نقول ان خربة الفشخة كانت مزرعة لسكان قران . ومما اكتشف فيها احواض قد تكون لتطهير الجلود ودباغتها . لقد اسست هذه المزرعة في عهد تأسيس قران في نهاية القرن الثاني قبل الميلاد ولكن زلزال سنة ٣١ ق م . هدمها فحلت من ساكنيها . وفي اول العهد المسيحي عاد اليها بعض السكان . وعندما زحف الجيش الروماني على مدينة القدس استولى على قران سنة ٦٨ م . ومن ذلك الوقت حلت مزرعة الفشخة من السكان مرة أخرى حتى لجأ اليها بعض اليهود في ايام هديران ١٣٢ - ١٣٥ م . واتخذوا من خرائنها ملاجئ واماوي لهم وكانهم بنات آوى . واستمرت الفشخة خراباً . غير ان راهباً مسيحياً سكن احد بيوتها في القرن الخامس بعد الميلاد .

الحفريات

اعتادت هذه المدرسة ان تقوم في خريف كل سنة باعمالها التنقيبية باشراف مديرها الآب ديفو ، بالتعاون مع متحف الآثار الفلسطيني بالقدس . ويساعده مهندس مساح ورسام ومساعدان . ويقلب ان يكرس لكل موسم نحو الف وخمس مئة دينار . ويشغل في عملياته ابناء قرية طلوزه وبعض عمال من مخيم اللاجئيين في الفارعه . ومنذ سنة ١٩٤٦ حتى ١٩٥٩ قامت البعثة الاثرية بثمانية مواسم حفر وتنقيب في هذا الموقع . وهذه خلاصة عن اعمالها في الموسم الثامن الذي جرى في سنة ١٩٥٨ :
ركز الاهتمام في حفريات هذا الفصل على طبقات العصور البرونزية القديمة (٣٠٠٠ - ٢٠٠٠ ق م) التي وصلت اليها الحفريات السابقة بالقرب من القسم الشمالي الغربي من التل . وقد حفر عن طبقات من ادوار مختلفة في مساحة كبيرة كشفت عن وجود تخطيطات سليمة لمباني عديدة تعود بتاريخها الى العصور البرونزية القديمة والمتوسطة . كما كشفت ايضاً عن شارع يمتد الى سور المدينة وقد انتشرت على جانبيه المساكن . وعثر على مخزنين للآنية الفخارية . وربما كانت الفاخورة قريبة من ذلك المكان . يدل على ذلك وجود المواد التي كانت يستعملها الفخاري كالصدف والرمل والتراب الذي يعجن طيناً ويخلط مع مسحوق الكوارتز . وهناك المسحوق الناعم الذي كان يستخدم في طلاء وتنعيم وتمليس الفخار من الخارج . هذا فضلاً عن وجود دولاب الخزاف .

وفي احدى الطبقات المنخفضة وصل الحفر الى بناية قد تكون معبد المدينة . واستمر الحفر على نطاق واسع في الزاوية الشمالية الغربية من سور المدينة وتبين منها ان التحصينات العسكرية نشأت في العصور البرونزية القديمة وأعيد بناؤها في العصور البرونزية المتوسطة ورممت في العصور البرونزية الاخيرة ثم اعيد ترميمها في العصور الحديدية . وفي الدور الاول من عملية انشاء تلك التحصينات حفر خندق حولها وبني درج منها يرتفع في داخل المدينة متسلقاً التل الى ان يصل الى أعلى قمة فيها . وفي العصور البرونزية المتوسطة اضيف الى تلك التحصينات جدار استنادي من الحجر لتقويتها وليكون اساساً للقاعة التي استمر استعمالها حتى العصور الحديدية .

أما الموسم التاسع الذي امتد من واحد ايلول الى ٢٥ تشرين الاول سنة ١٩٥٩ فقد وصل في حفرياته الى العصر الحجري الحديث (النيولوثي Neolithic) قبل ان يعرف الفخار . وفي أعلى من هذه الطبقة وجدت مخلفات العصر الحجري - النحاسي (الكالكوثي Calcolithic) . وفوق هذه الطبقة تبدأ طبقات العصور البرونزية والحديدية التي بدأ فيها البناء لأول مرة في هذا الموقع . وكشف من السور البرونزي الذي ذكرناه سابقاً ما طوله خمسون متراً ، أساسه من الحجر ثم اكمل البناء بالطوب الجفف في الشمس . ومما يجدر ذكره ان البعثة لم تكتشف الا آجرة واحدة شويت بالنار . وقد ظهر في السور بناية اما ان تكون برجاً أو دعامة لبوابة قد تنجلي في موسم قادم .

وأهم المكتشفات في جميع المواسم التنقيبية من العصر الحجري القديم سكاكين صوان ومكاشط لتنظيف الجلد ومسكات احرار وازاميل صوانية واجرار من حجر ومناشير صوانية .

أما مخلفات العصور البرونزية فهي قطع اوزان وخرزات المغازل وجرار وباريق وصحون وزبادي مختلفة الحجم والالوان واجرار تتألف من نصفين استعملت لدفن الاطفال فيها . وادوات من العظم كالابر والمخارز والمغازل . أما الادوات البرونزية فهي نشايب ونصال واسلاك وخرز بأشكال مختلفة منها الخواتم بأبسط اشكالها . كما وجدت فيها بعض الجعلان (الخنفس او الصراصير) المصنوعة من العظم او الحجر .

هياؤه مقبرة على اسلوبهم المعروف فجعلوا وقوا وفتحته الواسعة بقوس بنوها من حجارة الريش وحفروا في جوانبه الكوى لتكون قبوراً لأفراد الاسرة .

من مخلفات هذه المساكن والمقابر :

الفخارية : جرار على ايديها كتابات بالحرف اليوناني . فخار هيلاني . سرج - صحون .
النحاسية : ابريق ، طبر ، سكين ، نبال ، وسنان ، مراد مكاحل .
جعلان : احدها من الحجر الابيض وعليه خط هيروغليفي ، وعلى ثان طير كبير وعلى ثالث اسد ، ورابع صنع من زمرد اسود عليه صورة شخصين بينهما شجرة .

مرمر : زهريات ، نوافخ المسك والطيب ، رأس ثور يشبه العجل ايس .

تقود : قطع نحاسية ، قطعة فضية ، من اوائل العصر العباسي .

في المقصورة الجنوبية الغربية من القصر العربي في القلعة حفر مدفن دلت محتوياته على انه كان لامرة سرية . وامتاز فخارها بصقله ولعانه وتعدد اشكاله وحجمه - من جرار لطيفة ومغارف لغرف الماء او اى سائل من الجرار (وقد تسمى ايضاً مغاطيس) ونوافخ المسك والاسرجة والخرز واسلحة البرونز ومعها الادوات المرمرية التي تشبه مصنوعات مصر من هذا النوع في العصر البرونزي المتوسط . وقد جاءت مويبة لموجودات مطار عمان من حيث دلالتها على رقي البلد وحضارتها في ذلك العصر . وقد امتاز من بين موجوداتها جعل مطرق بالذهب وعليه نقوش وخطوط هندسية وما يشبه حروف الكتابة . وهذه المجموعة الفريدة تملأ احدى خزائن متحف عمان .

قام بهذه الحفريات المساعد الفني السيد حسن عواد قطشان .

٨ - حفريات الفارعة

اسمها القديم ترصة ومعناها الفرح . احدى مدن الكنعانيين التي خربها يشوع واعطاها لاسباط بني اسرائيل - ولما انشق يربعام بعد وفاة الملك سليمان جعل ترصة عاصمة لمملكة اسرائيل في الشمال . وخلفه الملوك بعشا وابله وزمري . أما الملك عمري فبعد ان حكم فيها ست سنين انشأ مدينة السامرة (سبسطية) وجعلها عاصمة لمملكة اسرائيل . وهكذا دامت ترصة خمسين سنة وهي عاصمة اسرائيل . وفي نحو ٧٧٢ ق م . صعد منجم بن جادي من ترصة الى السامرة وقتل ملكها شلوم وملك عوضاً عنه . وذكرها سليمان الحكيم في نشيد الانشاد بقوله : انت جميلة يا حبيبتى كترصة . . .

الموقع :

تقع ترصة على الطريق العام بين نابلس (شكيم) وبيسان (بيت شان) والى الشمال منها عدة كهوف وقبور قديمة يظن انها قبور ملوك الاسرائيليين الاربعة الذين حكموا فيها . وهي في موقع تل الفارعه من اراضي قرية طلوزة في الشمال الشرقي من نابلس . وقد بدأت مدرسة التوراة والآثار الفرنسية بالقدس تقوم باعمال الحفر والتنقيب في ذلك المكان الذي كان مأهولاً منذ خمسة آلاف سنة واشتهر في ما بعد كمدينة كنعانية .

كانت هذه المدرسة تستأجر الموقع من اصحابه في كل سنة حتى اذا كان عام ١٩٤٩ قدم رئيس المدرسة المذكورة طلباً لاستملاك الموقع الاثري الذي تبلغ مساحته ١٩ دونماً . فأجيب طلبه بعد ان وافق على دفع ١٥ ديناراً ثمناً لكل دونم وان يسجلها باسم الخزينة . وقد وافقت الحكومة ان تؤجره هذا الموقع بأجرة اسمية قدرها ثلاثة دنانير في كل سنة الى أن يتم الحفر فيها .

وبالإضافة الى سيف الخفش البرونزي الجميل المذكور سابقاً وجدت ما يقارب الثلاثين سنّاً وحرابة وخنجرآ وبقايا مهشمة من اسلحة اخرى ومجموعة واضحة الشكل بيئة الغرض وكلها من البرونز . يضاف الى ذلك بعض رقائق الذهب وبعض لفات من الفضة حول اطراف الاسلحة المذكورة ولها ثقبو للخياطة او ضرب المسامير . وكان بعضها بشكل زهرة اللوتس والنجوم . وبينها دبوس ذهب وحلق ذهب وخرز من عقيق ومن حجر الكوارتز واربع لفات خيطان كبيرة ومغازل و كيزان الماء التي تقوم مقام الانابيب ليدخل الماء فيها الى الهيكل ثم معالق من العاج ودوائر مستديرة او بيضوية مطرزة بأشكال الزهر وبقايا عصي ودبابيس ومقابض سكاكين من العظام زينت بنقوش وزخارف كثيرة . أما الجعران والاختام الاسطوانية فهي شديدة الشبه بما عرف من صناعة العصر البرونزي الوسيط والحديث ولم ينقص هذه المجموعة شيء سوى نقش او كتابة تدل على تاريخ بناء الهيكل واسم الاله الذي كرس له . ومما يجدر ذكره اننا لم نعثر على اي نوع من التماثيل او النحت لاي حيوان . وان هذه العاديات الثمينة الراقية لم تكن لسكان فقراء ولا متأخرين في الحضارة .

ان أهمية هذه المكتشفات تعود الى انها امدتنا بمجموعة نفيسة من الفخار المحلي من ذلك العصر وعلى ضوءها نستطيع ان نصحح رأي الدكتور نلسون غليك الذي سبق ان ذكرنا انه يذكر وجود اي حضارة خلال عصري البرونز المتوسط والحديث في شرقي الاردن وان سكانه كانوا بدواً لا حضارة لهم - فان هيكلآ غنياً كهذا يضم عدداً كبيراً من رجال الدين ويتسع لعدد اكبر من المصلين لا يمكن الا وان يدل على ان مدينة عمان وما جاورها كانت عامرة في ذلك العصر ما بين القرنين ١٨ - ١٣ ق م . وانها كانت على صلة وثقى وتجارة واسعة بين جميع مراكز الحضارة في حوض البحر المتوسط وانها كانت تتمتع باستقرار وطأينة . وأزيد على ذلك ان هذا السلم وتلك الحضارة قضى عليهما الغزو الاسرائيلي بقيادة يشوع بن نون .

٧ - حفريات قلعة عمان

في صيف ١٩٥٧ وبينما كان عمال دائرة الآثار يحفرون قناة لتصريف الماء المستعمل في بناية المتحف الى بئر قديمة في خارجه عثروا على رأس من الرخام لم يخسر شيئاً سوى تهشيم اصاب انفه . وبعد تنظيفه ومقابلته بما يشابهه من رؤوس التماثيل في العالم تبين انه نسخة عن تماثيل برونزي صنع في القرن الثالث قبل الميلاد وهو الآن في متحف روما . ولكن تماثلنا الرخامي هذا نحت في القرن الثاني بعد الميلاد ليمثل الالهة التي تبحمى مدينة عمان وتكسبها الحظ والسعادة، جريباً على عادة جرت عليها المدن الشهيرة في ذلك الزمن ويطلق عليه لقب (تيخي او تابيكي) . فتايخي انطاكية هي افروديت وتايخي جرش هي ارطاميس ولكننا الى الآن لم نعثر على ما يدلنا على اسم تابيكي عمان هذه . ان هذا الرأس يحتل مركزه في متحف عمان وبنال اعجاب الزائرات والزائرين .

ان كشف هذا الرأس حملنا على مواصلة الحفر والتنقيب آملين ان نجد جسده كاملاً او مكسراً . والى الآن لم نجده ولكننا في اثناء العمل كشفنا منازل العصور : الأموي والبيزنطي والروماني والهيلاني والحديدي وجمعنا كمية كبيرة من الفخار وبعض النحاس التي تمثل هذه العصور . وقد وصل الحفر الى مدفن قطع في الصخر وجد فيه هيكلان عظيميان وفي جوارهما ادوات فخارية تشابه ما وجد في اريحا من العصر البرونزي الوسيط . وقد اثبت ذلك الجعران الخاصة بذلك العصر .

واتصل الحفر الى سنتي ٥٨ و ٥٩ حول هذا المكان . ومن اهم موجوداته اختام آشورية اسطوانية الشكل من القرن الثامن قبل الميلاد . وفي جهة اخرى كشف مدفن واسع كان يستعمل لهذه الغاية من العصرين البرونزي والحديدي ولكن البزنطيين

ختاماً نرجو ان نعبر مرة اخرى عن امتناننا العميق لدائرتكم لتكرمكم بالسماح لنا بادارة هذا التحري وسبر العمق في هذا الموقع الاثري . وانا نتطلع الى مستقبل عظيم لعلم الآثار في الضفة الشرقية من الاردن .

وتفضلوا بقبول فائق الاحترام

نيل ريتشاردسون : مدير المدرسة

روبرت فونك : الاستاذ السنوي

٦ - حفريات مطار عمان

هذه خلاصة عما كتبه مدير الآثار السابق الاستاذ لانكستر هاردنج .

في صيف سنة ١٩٥٥ كنت انتظر الطائرة في مطار عمان لقضاء اجازتي السنوية في لندن عندما تقدم مني شاب من سلاح الطيران البريطاني ويده رزمة ملفوفة بورقة زرقاء وطلب مني فحص ما بداخلها . ولما حللت اربطتها وجدت فيها اربع قطع من سيف برونزي من النوع المعروف باسم سيف خفش Khe Pesh كان يصنع في مصر في العصر البرونزي الاخير - ذلك العصر الذي لم يوجد من مخلفاته شيء في شرقي الاردن قبل هذا الاكتشاف . وقد افهمني انه وجده في مكان منعزل ولم يجد معه اية مادة اخرى . وطلبت من مساعدي السيد محمد صالح ان يقوم بحفر المكان وتنقيبه . ثم سافرت الى لندن .

بدأ مساعدي يحفر في المكان المعين الذي كان في وسط المطار وخلف مدرج السيارات وكانت الجرافة قد اتلفت ثلثه قبل ان تتوقف عن العمل ربثاً تم اعمال البحث والتنقيب . وعندما عدت من اجازتي وجدت مساعدي قد أتم الكشف وجمع لي كومة من شقف الفخار . ومن النظرة الاولى ظهر لي انها تقدم البرهان الذي كنت في اشد الحاجة اليه للتدليل على عمران شرقي الاردن منذ أواخر العصر البرونزي المتوسط حوالي سنة ١٥٥٠ ق م . حتى العصر البرونزي المتأخر حوالي سنة ١٢٥٠ ق م . ولقد دلتي مظاهر الموجودات على انها كانت في معبد بلغ طول سورته الحجري ١٦ متراً ونصف المتر وقد بني من حجارة ضخمة غشيمة غير منقوشة ولا مهندمة . وقد سلم من تدمير الجرافة ، الواجهة الشمالية منه . وكان يحيط بالبناء من الجهات الاربع ساحة مكشوفة واسعة . وكان ضمنها وبلصق الجدار الداخلي ثلاث غرف ضيقة ، كانت الوسطى منها اغنى من اختيها بالمخلفات الاثرية . وتدلنا آثار الحريق من رماد وفحم على ان هذا البناء دمر حرقاً . ولم نجد في هذا المعبد مذبحاً .

يمثل الفخار والمواد الاثرية الاخرى حضارة العصرين البرونزين الوسيط والاخير وقد شوي معظم الفخار بالنار وكثير منه لم يكن كاملاً واكثره مستورد من فخار مايسينيا في البحر الابيحي ولا يمكن صنع ما هو احسن منه . ومن اشهر انواعه مطرات الحجاج والآنية التي تشبه الاسفاط وما يشبه فوهة البركان . ومنه آنية الحليب المصنوعة في قبرس ومنه آنية تقف على قواعد . وقد رسمت عليها صور الرجال والعربات . وأهم من ذلك الفخار المحلي الذي وجدت منه كميات وافرة كالامرجة والصحون الصغيرة ومطرات الحجاج وقد رسمت عليها حشائش وحيوانات بحرية . وتعود أهميتها الى انها الدليل الاول على وجود حضارة العصر البرونزي الاخير في شرقي الاردن . ولفت نظري واستدعى انتباهي وأثار اهتمامي ان بعض الامكنة التي ذكرها الدكتور نلسون غليك Nelson Glueck انها تعود الى العصر الحديدي الاول اصبحت الآن مراكز لحضارة العصر البرونزي المتأخر على التحقيق . وهكذا استطاع فخار عمان الذي يمكن مقابله بفخار فلسطين ان يحول الحدس والتخمين الى الحقيقة والواقع بشأن حضارة العصر البرونزي .

وسبر الغور في خربة فخل — ذلك السبر الذي اتمناه . ويسرنا ان نكون في وضع يمكننا من القول بان مدة الحفر القصيرة التي دامت تسعة ايام فقط انت بالنتائج المفيدة لمستقبل علم الاثار في الاردن .

وبما ان سطح التل متوج بتل اصغر يعاوه بجوالي ثمانية امتار فقد قررنا ان نبدأ الحفر من مكانين ، احدهما في النقطة العليا من التل وثانيهما في نقطته الدنيا . اذ انه في حالات التجارب وسبر الغور يرغب المرء في الذهاب عميقاً جهد المستطاع أولاً تحاشي تنظيف او ازالة عدد ضخم من الجدران التي تعيق عمله كثيراً . فن اجل ذلك بدأنا الحفر في مساحة قدرها سبعة امتار مربعة متوخين احداث خفض في هذا المكان . وحينما وصلنا الى عمق ستة امتار انحصرت المساحة في ما هو اقل من مترين مربعين . ورغم ان عملنا كان محدوداً فان التحري وسبر الغور انتجا صورة ممتازة عن الطبقات العليا للتل . وقد حوت هذه الطبقات آثاراً عربية وبيزنطية ورومانية وهيلانية ، بالإضافة الى طبقة تعود الى العصر الحديدي . وبما اننا وصلنا الى عمق سبعة امتار فقط من مجموع ٢٥ متراً الذي هو عمق التل من قمته الى الصخر ، فن الجائز ان تكون مدينة كبرى تعود الى العصر البرونزي او الى العصر الحجري الحديث قد دفنت هنا في طبقات التل الدنيا . واذا صححت هذه النظرية تكون خربة فخل من الاماكن الاثرية الهامة في الاردن .

لقد سبرنا غور التل فوجدنا آثاراً اقامت الدليل على غنى التل بالعاديات التي تستحق العرض في المتاحف رغم صغر المساحة المحفورة وقصر الوقت . وقد تألفت هذه العاديات من :

٥٢ قطعة من النقود البرونزية

٣ اواني زجاجية كاملة تقريباً

٥ أسرجة فخارية

قطع عديدة من الاواني الفخارية الكبيرة

قطع اخرى مختلفة

ولهذا الفخار اهمية خاصة في دراسة هذا المكان الاثري .

ونظراً للنجاح الذي حققه تنقيبنا في خربة فخل فاننا اشد ما نكون حماساً للقيام بحفريات في هذا المكان مستهدفين انفاق ما يتراوح بين ٥٠ الف و ٧٥ الف دولار خلال خمس سنين . اذ ان هذا المكان الاثري واسع جداً وهام جداً . واذا نجحت هذه الفكرة فاننا لندرج ان نشيد هنا بناءً دائماً من الاسمنت ليستعمل مسكناً لبعثات الحفريات اولاً ثم يوئول الى دائرة الاثار القديمة لاستعمله متحفاً محلياً عندما تنتهي الحفريات . ومما لاشك فيه ان مشروعاً يتطلب تشغيل ١٥٠ — ٢٠٠ من الايدي العاملة لمدة لا تقل عن شهرين في كل سنة ، لتحقيق نتائج توازي وتناسب اهمية هذا الموقع الاثري .

وهذا الخطاب بمثابة تقرير اولي عن حفائرنا في خربة فخل ثم تتسلمون تقريراً تاماً مفصلاً حسب ما يقتضيه القانون . كذلك نتقدم اليكم برجاء السماح لنا بتصدير حصتنا من العاديات المكتشفة عندما تنتهي من تصويرها وتسجيلها . ومهما يكن الامر فان اهتمامنا الرئيسي محصور بقطع الفخار . فاذا كانت دائرتكم ترغب في العاديات الاخرى لعرضها في متحف عمان فيسرنا جدا ان تحتفظوا بجميع ما وجدناه بما فيها قطع النقود ايضاً ، حينما ننتهي من تصويرها وتحقيقتها . ومن جهة اخرى فاننا ننظر بعين الالاهية العظمى الى كمية القطع الفخارية التي نأمل ان تمكنونا من شحنها الى اميركا لدراستها التفصيلية هناك . لذا نرجوكم منحنا التصريح بهذا الشحن في الفرصة المناسبة .

شقفة لصحن بشكل قارب من العصر البرونزي المتوسط
شقفة قاعدة مع ابيدي وحجر مسن (محك) وابريق له يد من العصر الحديدي
٢٠ شقفة منتخبة

١٠ احجار محك وشقف صحن حجري

٦ خواتم من المعدن

شكان من الخرز

٢ اوزان

قدح وجرة وصحن وجرة دوئان وقسم من صحن وتمثال لعشروت .

٥ - حفريات فحل

اذا سافرنا من الشونة الشمالية في الغور متجهين نحو الجنوب فاننا نلاحظ بعد نحو عشرة كيلو مترات ماء ينحظ من الهضاب الشرقية الى ان يجري في الغور ويصب في الاردن . هذا هو ماء وادي جرم الموز الذي يخرق اراضي فحل . ولقد وصف تلك التلة سائح زارها منذ مئة عام فكتب انه شاهد فيها مجموعة من الابنية تدل على انها كانت مدينة عظيمة وقد وصف السور الذي يحيط بالقلعة التي كانت حول التل الرئيسي وكان طول السور ٣٠٠ متر وعرضه ٢٠٠ متر يحيط بصخرة رفعتها انقاض المدن المتهدمة نحو ٢٥ متراً . اما المجموعة الثانية من الابنية فهي مدرج هيلاني - روماني يقوم على جانبي الوادي وبجانبه معبد . والمجموعة الثالثة شارع معبد وبوابة نصر تبدأ من قعر الوادي والمجموعة الرابعة عدة كنائس لاسيما في شمال وشرق وجنوب التل . والمجموعة الخامسة دير (باسيليك) . وتمتلىء التلال المجاورة بالقبور التي تشبه خلايا النحل التي استعملها اليونان لدفن رماد موتاهم . كما توجد كهوف صناعية في شعاب الوادي استعملت مقابر في العهد المسيحي الاول .

ومنذ القرن الثالث عشر قبل الميلاد ورد ذكر فحل في السجلات المصرية ولا سيما في نصب سيتي الاول الذي اكتشف في بيسان ، وفي اوراق البردي . ومع ان اسم فحل لم يظهر في التوراة فانها كانت مكاناً مسكوناً منذ ايام انقسام مملكة اسرائيل . ولكن شهرتها ظهرت في العصر الهيلاني عندما اعيد بناؤها باسم (بيلا Pella) كاحدى المدن العشر (ديكا بوليس) او المدن اليونانية الحرة . ولقد ذكر يوسيفوس واسايوس اخبارها المطولة في العصر الروماني . ثم هاجمها اسكندر جانوس المكابي فهدمها حوالي سنة ٨٠ ق م ثم جدد عمرانها على نطاق ضيق حتى هدمتها الثورة اليهودية الاولى سنة ٦٦ م . وقد هربت الطائفة المسيحية من القدس خلال تلك الثورة ٦٦ - ٧٠ م . فالتجأ اليها المسيحيون الى ان اعترف بالمسيحية ديانة رسمية سنة ٣٢٥ م . فاصبحت فحل مركز ابرشية الى ظهور الاسلام .

الحفريات

ارسل مدير المدرسة الاميركية للابحاث الشرقية في القدس بتاريخ ١٨ ايار سنة ١٩٥٨ تقريراً عن اعمال البعثة الى مدير الآثار جاء فيه :

يطيب لنا ان ننتهز هذه المناسبة باعتبارنا مدير المدرسة الاميركية للابحاث الشرقية في القدس واستاذها السنوي ، فنقدم اليكم بواجب الشكر وعظيم الامتنان والاعتراف بالجميل نظراً للتعاون الذي ابدته دائرتكم بمنحنا التصريح باجراء التجارب

٢ - العصر الحديدي :- في الموسم السادس وفي اواخره وصلنا الى قبر من مستوى الحديدي الاول في المدينة التي بنيت قبل عصر سليمان وهو قبر ضخم ، بذلنا كثيراً من الجهد في تنظيفه من الانقاض التي تراكت في اسفله . ولما ضاق بنا الوقت أجلبنا تنظيفه الى الموسم السابع في ربيع ١٩٦٠ .

اما المستوى الثاني اي من القرنين العاشر والتاسع قبل الميلاد فقد وجدنا المدينة التي عاشت في زمن الملوك امينة هادئة ولكنها تجربت وتهدمت بعوامل الطبيعة فنشأت عليها مدينة المستوى الثالث التي استمرت حتى فتح (تغلث فلاسر) الاشوري مدينة مجدو التي تبعد عنها ١٣ ميلاً في الشمال وذلك في سنة ٧٣٣ ق م . اما المستوى الرابع فقد بني على انقاض المدينة التي فتحها ودمرها سرجون الثاني ٧٢٤ - ٧٢١ ق م . عندما دمر مدينة السامرة وقضى على مملكة اسرائيل .

وأهم الموجودات من العصور الحديديّة كانت سوراً عرضه اربعة امتار ومخزناً وجد فيه ٩٦ زيراً ، ٦ كوم بعضها فوق بعض ووجد في بعضها حبوب القمح وبذور الزيتون مما يدل على انها كانت العنبر الذي تجتمع في الضرائب العينية من حاصلات البلاد وبجانب ذلك مطبخ مملوء بالاواني البيتية وامامه الطابون الذي لا يزال الحصى الصغيرة فيه ، وامامه حفرة كانت دماء الذبائح تجتمع فيها . وهناك بلاط منحوت وناعم في بعض البيوت وقصارة جيدة في البعض الآخر . وفي طرف الشارع كان مجرى الماء الذي يصب في صهريج واسع او يجري ليصل الى الوادي في اسفل التل .

ومن اهم ما وجد هياكل عظمية لاطفال وضوا في جرار ، كانت كل جرة تتألف من نصفين لان بوضع الطفل في النصف ثم يركب النصف الثاني بعد ذلك . وقد وجد في اصبع احدهم خاتم طبعته من حجر اخضر . وحول هذه التوابيت وجدت :- الآنية الفخارية التي كان وجودها ، ألوفاً في قصور الاشوريين .

و ١٥ قطعة فضية مع خواتم واسورة وحلى وخرز .

و ٢٥٠ قطعة زجاج .

و ٢٥٠٠ قطعة فخار منها ١٢ جرة لها ايدي ومنها ازيار الماء والزيت وخوابي الحبوب وفخار مدهون ورأس منحوت وساسال فخامي . وختم مطبوع على جرة يمثل رجلاً رافعاً يده وقد وقف امام اسد . ودرج خدم في عصور متعددة يتألف من ٢٤ درجة .

٣ - العصر الهيلاني :- ٣٠٠ - ١٠٠ ق م . وقد بنيت هذه المدينة بعد خراب مدينة العصر الحديدي على قمة تعرف اليوم بالخربة . وأهم ما وجد فيها جرار عليها كتابات يونانية استوردت من رودس . وكذلك اسرجة وقطع نقود من ايام انطيوخوس الساقوي .

٤ - العصر الاسلامي :- فخار مدهون وقطع نقود وقبور اسلامية وخمسون غرفة لامير اقطاعي ظلت عامرة في القرن الثالث عشر بعد الميلاد .

وفينا يلي قائمة بمجصة البعثة التي سمحت دائرة الآثار بتصديرها في ربيع سنة ١٩٥٨ :-

صحن من العصر البرونزي المتوسط

جرة من العصر البرونزي القديم - مكسورة

سراج من العصر الحديدي وسراج يشابهه

شقفة سراج من العصر البرونزي المتوسط

- ١٧ — قالوا يا أبانا إنا ذهبنا نستبق وتركنا يوسف عند متاعنا ، فأكله الذئب وما انت بمؤمن لنا ولو كنا صادقين .
 ١٨ — وجاءوا على قميصه بدم كذب . قال بل سولت لكم نفسكم امرا ، فصبر جميل والله المستعان على ما تصفون .
 ١٩ — وجاءت سيارة فارساوا واردم فأدلى دلوه . قال يا بشرى هذا غلام . واسروه بضاعة . والله عليم بما يعملون .
 ٢٠ — وشروه بثمن بخس دراهم معدودة وكانوا فيه من الزاهدين
 ٢١ — وقال الذي اشتراه من مصر لامرأته اكرمي مثواه ، عسى ان ينفعنا او نتخذه ولداً

وجاء في سفر الملوك الثاني الاصحاح السادس :

اما ملك آرام فكان يحارب اسرائيل .

ولكن اليسع النبي الذي في اسرائيل يخبر ملك اسرائيل بالامور التي تتكلم بها في مخدع مضطجعك فقال : اذهبوا وانظروا اين هو ، فارسلوا وآخذوه . فاخبر وقيل له هو ذا في دوئان .

فارسل الى هناك خيلا ومركباً وجيشاً ثقيلاً . وجاءوا ليلاً وأحاطوا بالمدينة . فبكر خادم رجل الله وقام وخرج واذا جيش يحيط بالمدينة وخيل ومركبات . فقال غلامه له : آه ياسيدي كيف نعمل فقال : لا تخف لان الذين معنا اكثر من الذين معهم . ولما نزلوا اليه صلى اليسع الى الرب وقال : اضرب هؤلاء الامم بالعمى . فضر بهم بالعمى كقول اليسع . فقال لهم اليسع : ليست هذه الطريق ولا هذه هي المدينة . اتبعوني فاسير فيكم الى الرجل الذي تفتشون عليه . فسار بهم الى السامرة . فلما دخلوا السامرة قال اليسع : يارب افتح اعين هؤلاء فيبصروا . ففتح الرب اعينهم . فابصروا واذا هم في وسط السامرة .

هذه الاخبار من التوراة عن تل دوئان — ومعنى دوئان صهر يمان — ويظن بأن بئر يوسف المشهورة هي في فسحة بجانب خان على بعد عشرة كيلومترات للجنوب من جنين قال عنها السائح (بير كهاردت) الذي زارها حوالي سنة ١٨١٢ م . بان قطرها ثلاثة اقدم وعمقها ثلاثون قدماً وقعرها نخوت في الصخر والمياه لا تجف منها على مدار السنة وجدرانها بنيت بناءً صناعياً — هذه الاخبار مع ما جاء عن دوئان في السجلات الاشورية حملت الدكتور (جوزيف فري) على ان يقوم على رأس بعثة باسم جامعة (ويتون) الامريكية لينقب في هذا التل الواقع على الكيلو الرابع والثلاثين من نابلس الى جنين ، مقابل بلدة عرابة التي هي في غرب الطريق وهو في شرقي الطريق على مسافة كيلومتر واحد . ولقد بدأ الحفر في الموسم الاول منذ شهر نيسان واستمر طوال آيار والعشرة الاول من حزيران سنة ١٩٥٣ . وقام في الموسم الثاني في ربيع سنة ١٩٥٤ والثالث في ربيع ١٩٥٥ والرابع في ربيع ١٩٥٦ والخامس في ربيع ١٩٥٨ والسادس في ربيع ١٩٥٩ . ولقد اعتاد الدكتور فري ان يتحدث بعد انتهاء كل موسم عن تفاصيل اعماله في المتحف الاثري الفلسطيني بالقدس وعلى مسمع من رجال الاثار ومحبي الاثار . ثم يعود الى اميركا حيث يدرس المكتشفات ويكتب عنها تقريره العلمي الذي ينشره في المجلة الاثرية للابحاث الشرقية . وهذه خلاصة عما جاء في التقارير الستة المذكورة : لقد اشترى التل وسجله باسم مواطن اردني من سكان جنين . وبدأ الحفر فيه من امكنة مختلفة ويمكن تقسيم النتائج الى هذه العصور : —

١ — العصر البرونزي — الذي يبدأ من الغزو الاشوري حوالي ٢٧٠٠ ق م في طبقة فخارها يشبه فخار مصر من ايام الدولة الاولى . وكان يحيط بمدينة هذا العصر سور ارتفاعه ١٦ قدماً . ومن اهم العاديات التي وجدها من هذا العصر هي اختام وصحون وازيار فخارية وازاميل نحاسية وحلقات نول او مغزل مصنوعة من الطين وكانت معدة لان تشوي في الاتون عندما هدم المدينة زلزال عنيف . وعلى اثر ذلك قامت مدينة العصر البرونزي الوسيط — المدينة المعاصرة لحوادث يوسف كما وردت في سفر التكوين .

وفي ٢٣ / ١٠ / ١٩٥٩ انتهى الموسم الثاني لهذه البعثة وقد اشتركت دائرة الاثار بالمال والرجال في هذا الموسم . وقد كان هدف السنة الحالية توسيع الساحات التي سبر غورها في الموسم السابق . واسفر هذا العمل عن اكتشاف كميات كبيرة من العاديات منها النقود النحاسية والاسرجة والتماثيل والفخار المكتوب عليه واواني فخارية من طراز جديد لم يسبق ان وجد له مثيل . وسوف تؤدى دراسة هذه الموجودات الى كشف الستار عن تاريخ تلك المنطقة في عهود الحضارات التي تعاقبت عليها من عربية ويونانية ورومانية . ولقد تعدت حفريات هذا العام الى دراسة البقايا المعارية التي ما زالت قائمة هناك ، فقد تولت المدرسة البريطانية دراسة العمارة في المعبد الروماني (قصر البنت) وتوصلت في بعض الاماكن الى اسسه كما درست قوس النصر دراسة هندسية . وفي امكنة اخرى تولت التنقيب في بعض المقابر القديمة التي استخلصت منها كميات كبيرة من الاواني الفخارية لها اهميتها الاثرية . وقد تولت دائرة الاثار الكشف عن الجزء الباقي من الشارع الروماني للمعبد . ولا بد وان يعود العمل مرة ثالثة بغية الاستمرار في الكشف عن حقائق جديد .

٤ - حفريات دوئان

جاء في سفر التكوين : ٣٧ :

ومضى اخوته — يوسف — ليرعوا غنم ابيهم عند شكيم . فقال له ابوه : اذهب فانظر سلامة اخوتك وسلامة الغنم ورد لي خبراً . فارسله من وطاء حبرون ، فأتى الى شكيم . فذهب يوسف ورا ، اخوته فوجدهم في دوئان . فلما ابصره من بعيد قال بعضهم لبعض هو ذا صاحب الاحلام قادم ، فالان هلم نقتله ونطرحه في احد الابار . فكان لما وصل يوسف الى اخوته انهم خلعوا من يوسف القميص الملون الذي عليه واخذوه وطرحوه في البئر . واجتاز رجال مديانيون تجار فسحبوا يوسف واخرجوه من البئر وباعوا يوسف للاسماعيليين بعشرين من الفضة . فأتوا بيوسف الى مصر . اما المديانيون فباعوه لفوطيفار خصي فرعون رئيس الشرط .

وقد جاء في سورة يوسف الآية : —

- ٧ — لقد كان في يوسف واخوته آيات للسائلين .
- ٨ — اذ قالوا ليوسف واخوه احب الى ابينا منا ونحن عصبة . ان ابانا لفي ضلال مبين .
- ٩ — اقتلوا يوسف او اطرحوه ارضاً يخل السك وجه ابيكم وتكونوا من بعده قوماً صالحين .
- ١٠ — قال قائل منهم : لا تقتلوا يوسف والقوه في غيابة الجب يلتقطه بعض السيارة ، ان كنتم فاعلين .
- ١١ — قالوا يا ابانا مالك لا تأمنا على يوسف وإنا له لناصحون .
- ١٢ — ارسله معنا غداً يرتع ويلعب وإنا له لحافظون .
- ١٣ — قال اني ليخزني ان تذهبوا به . واخاف ان يأكله الذئب وانتم عنه غافلون .
- ١٤ — قالوا ان اكله الذئب ونحن عصبة إنا اذاً لخاسرون .
- ١٥ — فلما ذهبوا به واجمعوا ان يجعلوه في غيابة الجب واوحينا اليه لتنبئهم بامرهم هذا وهم لا يشعرون .
- ١٦ — وجاءوا اباهم عشاء يبكون .

لقد حفر التل الجنوبي صف الدكاكين التي انشئت في حفنه من الهدم . وكان بناؤها قد اعيد اكثر من مرة ومع ذلك لم تجد بعثة التنقيب دكاناً واحداً سالماً منها . اما دكاكين العدو الشمالية من الوادي فلم يبق منها الا بقايا اسس واطئة ودرجات متأكلة تنحدر الى دون مستوى الطريق الحالي . ومن المحتمل ان يكون السيل مسقوفاً كما كان سيل عمان مسقوفاً ، ولم يبق منه الا قنطرة كانت قائمة في العصر البيزنطي وكان السكان يعبرون عليها بين العدوتين . ومما يؤسف له انه لم يبق بناء في شمال الوادي .

في هذا الشارع عثر على اشكال بشرية محفورة على الصخر حفرها بارزاً كما عثر على تيجان اعمدة منقوشة ومزخرفة ومطلية بقصارة من الجبس زينت بزخارف نباتية على الطراز البيزنطي . وقد وجدت كتابتان الاولى منهما بالخط الاغريقي كتبت عليها عبارة (ولاية البتراء Metropolis Petrae) و اسم بكاد يكون (غابوس كلوديوس Gaius Claudius) والكتابة الثانية بالخط اللاتيني ظهر عليها اسم (مكسيموس ديو كلتيان Moximus Deoclotian) يظهر منها ان بترا كانت لاتزال ولاية ذات اهمية وخطورة في القرن الثالث واولائل الرابع بعد الميلاد . ولم توجد اية كتابة نبطية . ومما يجدر ذكره ان اهم المكتشفات وجدت في الجانب الشمالي من الوادي .

وعندما يفيز الشارع مصاحبه الوادي فينحرف الى قوس النصر تتسع المسافة الخالية بين الشارع والوادي . وفي تلك الفسحة وجدت مجموعة من الغرف كانت مسقوفة ببلاط مجري كبيز كما وجدت قناطر تسقفها عوارض خشبية . وقد ملأت هذا الوادي الانقاض .

ومن اهم ما حصلت عليه هذه الحملة الاثرية دزينة من الصحن الفخارية التي صنعها الانباط وزينوها بالرسم وقد امتازت برفقتها وملاستها . واذا القينا عليها النظر في خزائن متحف عمان نلاحظ ان رسوم الصحن الواحد تخالف رسوم الصحن الاخر . وقد كتب على احدها بالخط النبطي المائل الذي يشبه الخط العربي . وقد قارنها الاب مايك والاستاذ ستاركي بالخطوط التي على البردي في خربة قران . وقد وجدت في قبر قطعة من القرמיד بحجم الكف ، برز في وسطها رجل ينفخ بزمارة وعن يمينه امرأة تنفخ في زمارة اخر وعن يساره امرأة ثانية تضرب الطبل . وحولها في متحف عمان مجموعة ثمينة من الفخار النبطي مختلفة الاشكال والانواع .

حفريات المدرسة البريطانية لعلم الآثار القديمة في القدس

في سنة ١٩٥٨ رغبت هذه المدرسة في ان تقوم باكمال حفريات البتراء التي لم تكملها دائرة الآثار فصرحت لها دائرة الآثار بذلك وقولى تنفيذ المهمة الانسة ديانا والسيد بار . وقد اختارت هذه البعثة ثلاثة امكنة في مواقع مختلفة من البتراء لتنقب فيها . كان اولها في الشارع العام تحت البلاط والقصد منه معرفة الطم الذي تراكم تحت بلاط الشارع قبل العهدين النبطي والروماني . وقد نزل الحفر الى عمق خمسة امتار . وثانيهما كان في التل الواقع جنوب شرقي قصر البنت . والقصد منه معرفة اتجاه سور المدينة . اما الموقع الثالث فكان في مكان البيضاء الذي يبعد نحو خمسة كيلومترات للشمال الشرقي من البتراء وكان القصد منه البحث عن الادوات الصوتية من العصر الحجري الوسيط (المسولي) . وفي حفريات الموسم الاول الذي جرى سنة ١٩٥٨ سبزت البعثة غور اماكن مختلفة في البتراء لتعرف اقدم حضارة سبقت الحضارتين النبطية والرومانية وتزيد المعلومات عن الفخار النبطي والروماني .

كانت دائرة الآثار قد رأت ان الضرورة تقضي ببناء جدار استنادي في جرف الوادي يسند ويحفظ هذا الشارع وما وراءه من بقايا الابنية ولا سيما قوس النصر والذي كان يخشى عليه من الانجراف من شدة السيول في فصل الشتاء وعهدت بالاشرف على البناء للسيد بيتر بار البريطاني . وفي اثناء هذه العمليات كشفت الحفريات عن تماثيل نبطية منها تمثال نصفي سليم لرجل ورأس تمثال رجل آخر والقسم الاعلى من تمثال ثالث وقد دفنت في مكان معروف لتعذر نقلها بسبب ثقلها وكبر حجمها .

وفي سنة ١٩٥٥ عهدت دائرة الآثار الاردنية الى الانسة (ديانا كبير كبرايد) البريطانية الجنسية باجراء حفر وتنقيب في البتراء . فبدأت عملها بتهيئة احد الكهوف لتتخذ منه مسكناً ومكتباً لادارة اعمالها . وقد لاحظت ان هذا الكهف كان مسكوناً من العصر الحجري المتوسط (الميسولي Mesolithic) وقد يكون اقدم مسكن كشفت عنه الابحاث الاثرية في البتراء . ويكاد يكون معاصراً لمساكن اريحا ذات المصاطب المرصوفة والمقصورة . وقد جمعت ديانا ادوات صوانية كثيرة كروؤوس السهام الجميلة وبعض معاول العظام . كما وجدت فيه بعض مخلفات الانباط ، مما دلها على ان المكان بكر لم تنقب فيه ابدي الاثرين - انه ملجأ صخري ذو قيمة حربية من حيث انه يشرف على الوادي الذي تحته .

بدأت ديانا بتنظيف الشارع الرئيسي المباط الذي يمتد ما بين قوس النصر والهيك (قصر البنت) وقد استمرت في العمل دون انقطاع حتى في ايام الراحة الاسبوعية والاعياد الدينية واستخدمت رجال البدول (العشيرة التي تسكن شعاب البتراء) . وقد عثر احد سكان البتراء على تمثال غير كامل من البرونز كان مطموراً في جرف الوادي وهو الاول من نوعه الذي يعثر عليه في هذه البلاد وهو الان في متحف عمان ، ويظن انه تمثال الإلهة ارطاميس .

وفي اواخر عام ١٩٥٦ استأنفت الدائرة اعمال الحفر الحقيقية لتكشف ارض الشارع وتنظفها من الوادي حتى قوس النصر - تلك القوس التي كانت في اسوأ حال وفي امس الحاجة لصيانتها ودرء خطر الانهيار . وقد وجب تنظيف الساحة المحيطة بها على امل ان تظهر بين الانقاض القطع المنقوشة الفنية التي سقطت منها سابقاً ، فقد بأي الزمن لتبني مرة اخرى في اماكنها الاصلية من هذه القوس الجميلة .

يعود بناء هذا الشارع الى ايام الاحتلال الروماني لمدينة بترا في اوائل القرن الثاني بعد الميلاد . وهو يشابه معاصره في جرش تمام المشابهة من حيث انه مباط بصفائح كبيرة من الحجر الكلسي . كما رفعت الاعمدة على جانبيه لتكون المائتي الجانبية خلفها والتي تفتح عليها الدكاكين . وهناك درجان يتساقان التل حتى يوصلا الى القمة في الجنوب . وقد استمرت هذه الابنية تؤدي مهمتها حتى العصر البيزنطي ثم أهملت . واليوم لم يبق من الاعمدة الا القواعد وقد زحزح بعضها عن مكانه . اما تيجانها وابدانها فقد سقطت وتحطمت . وفي العصر البيزنطي استعملت الجدران بما ادخل عليها من اضافات بنائية بسيطة كزرائب للحيوانات . كما قسمت حوائط التجار الفخمة بجدران اضافية لتحول الى اكواخ حقيرة يسكنها فقراء العصر البيزنطي . وبدل الفخار على استمرار الانحطاط من العصر البيزنطي الى العصر العربي ، لا سيما بعد ان خسرت الاردن مقامها بانتقال عاصمة العرب من دمشق الى بغداد فاهملت فيها طرق القوافل والمحطات التجارية واختل الامن وطواها النسيان حتى فطن الصليبيون الى أهميتها الحربية فانشأوا فيها قلعة لتراقب طريق الحج بين دمشق ومكة وتتحكم فيه كما فعلت في الكرك وغيرها .

(١) ادى الحفر في اسفل الهيكل من الشرق الى عمق ثلاثة امتار الى اكتشاف حضارة القرن الرابع عشر قبل الميلاد .
(٢) ظهرت التحصينات القوية شرقي البوابة وقد هبط الحفر فيها الى عمق ستة امتار حيث اكتشفت حجرات من الخارج مليئة بالفخار من العصر البرونزي المتوسط .

(٣) السور الذي بني في القرن السادس عشر ق م . لدعم الحصون القديمة وكان عرضه ثلاثة امتار ونصف المتر وكان يطوق المدينة من الجهات الثلاث بابراجه وابوابه وتكنات الحرس التي وجدت مصاطبها مقصورة بالسكس . وقد وجدت عليها ستة هياكل بشرية على عمق ثلاثة امتار تحت انقاض اللبن والاجر من تدمير المصريين للمدينة سنة ١٥٥٠ ق م .

(٤) عندما ازيلت الانقاض عن سطح الهيكل والقصر عثر على فخار من تاريخ ١٦٠٠ ق م .

(٥) فوق آثار العصر البرونزي المتوسط ظهرت آثار ومخلفات العصرين البرونزي المتأخر والحديدي . ويظهر ان السكان عندما ارادوا تجديد المدينة بنوا على انقاض العصر السالف اي لم يحفروا اسفاً وبذلك ارتفع التل وازادوا تحصينات على برج العصر البرونزي واستخدموا بقايا السور في بناء غرف الحرس . ثم وجد هيكل عظمي لحيوان صغير مع آجر محروق من ايام ابيالك .

(٦) كشفت ترميمات يربعام الاول لاسوار شكيم سنة ٩٢٠ ق م . وظهر انها كانت بسيطة بحيث لم تصبر على تقلبات الجو . وقد جمعت البعثة من ساحة الهيكل مخلفات عصر الحديد الثاني . وقد وجد على بعض قطع الفخار الحرفان ق و بوظ (ظ) من عصر الختم السامري الذي صنع في ايام يربعام الثاني عند تدمير شكيم تدميراً تاماً حوالي سنة ٨٠٠ ق م . وادى ذلك الى نقل عاصمة اسرائيل من شكيم الى السامرة (سبسطية) ولم يبق في شكيم الا مركز للجباية .

(٧) استمر خراب شكيم حتى فتح اليونان بعد الاسكندر فظهرت بعض البيوت على سفح التل وقد بنيت من مواد الابنية القديمة . ولقد فني خشب تلك المنازل ولكن المسامير والحديد لم تفن . واكتشفت البعثة الرسوم والتراويق على قصارة الغرف بألوان مختلفة كما وجدت قطع النقود باسم انتيوخس الثاني ١٢١-١٢٠ ق م . بعد ان خربها هر كانوس المكابي . وقد يكون لجأ اليها بعض السكان حوالي سنة ١٠٠ ق م . فعاشوا بين خرائبها .

وفيما يلي قائمة بخصه البعثة التي سمحت دائرة الآثار بتصديرها الى اميركا :-

٣٠٠٠	قطعة فخارية مكسرة .
٤٠٠	قطعة متنوعة من العظام والفخار والحجارة والمعدن ومعظمها مجهول التاريخ .
١٨	قطعة نقود معلومة التاريخ و١٥ قطعة نقود مجهولة التاريخ .
٨	صواني حجرية .
٢	ختمان اسطوانيان .
١	ختم واحد .
٤	قطع من الحجر المنحوت عليه .

بالبحث عن الباب الشرقي والبرج الذي في المدخل الشمالي والساحة التي خلفه والتي كان سليلين قد كشفها سنة ١٩٢٦ وظنهما متصلتين بالسور في شمالي التل من العصر البرونزي المتأخر . ويعتقد الدكتور البرايت انه السور الذي بناه يربعام الاول بعد وفاة الملك سليمان وجعل فيه عدة ابراج بارزة يتألف كل برج من حجرتين كبيرتين بنيت من حجر البازيلت الاسود . وقد هبط الحفر الى اربعة امتار حتى وصل الى قاعدة السور . وقد كانت مصاطب الابراج والحجرات مقصورة قصارة ماسكة وقد غطيت بطبقات من رماد الحريق .

في الزاوية الشرقية من البرج سقط متراس المكسوس الى هوة عميقة على حجرة من عصر البرونز الثاني . عرفنا ذلك من الفخار والمواد المتفحمة ومن ثلاثة هياكل بشرية تعود الى عصر تغلب المصريين على المكسوس سنة ١٥٥٠ ق.م . وحرقتهم المدينة .

ولما عمرت شكيم مرة اخرى في زمن القضاة والملوك استمرت حتى سنة ٩١٨ ق.م . عندها فتحها الفرعون المصري (شيشنق) ومن ذلك الوقت طواها التاريخ في طيات النسيان والاهمال . وبعد فتح الاسكندر فظهرت حضارة العصر الهيلاني من ايام سنبلط الثاني الذي بنى هيكل السامريين على جبل جرزيم حوالي ٣٢٥ ق.م . كما ذكر يوسيفوس . وقد اثبت ذلك وجود قالب لصك النقود من ايام بطليموس الاول ٣٠٣ - ٢٨٥ ق.م . وحوله كمية من الفخار الهيلاني . وعلى بعد قليل وجدت قطعة من نقود انتيوخس ايفانوس ١٧٥ - ١٦٤ ق.م . وقطعة اخرى من نقود انتيوخس السابع ١٣٨ - ١٢٩ ق.م . بين كمية من الآجر الذي سقط على الارض عندما خرب المدينة بوحنا هر كانوس سنة ١٢٨ ق.م . واخضع السامريين ولكن اعم ما وجدت هذه البعثة يكاد يكون قطعة نقود من الفضة طلعت بالذهب قطرها سنتمتران ووزنها ١٤٥ غراماً تعود في تاريخها الى ٥٠٠ - ٤٨٠ ق.م . وبذلك تعتبر اقدم قطعة نقود وجدت في فلسطين حتى هذا التاريخ .

حفريات ١٩٥٧

قام بهذا الموسم اربعة من العلماء ومعهم ٢١ طالباً باسم قسم الدراسات اللاهوتي بجامعة (درو) بمدينة ماديسون من ولاية نيوجرسي بالاشتراك مع معهد مكورميك اللاهوتي في مدينة شيكغو واشترك معهما مؤسسة بولينجن . وبدأ العمل في ٤ تموز واستمر حتى ٦ آب سنة ١٩٥٧ برئاسة الدكتور ايرنست رايت الاستاذ بمعهد مكورميك ، يشاركه في ذلك الدكتور اوفيد سلرز المدير المتقاعد من المدارس الاميركية للابحاث الشرقية ومديرها الحالي الدكتور نيل ريشاردسون الذي هو استاذ علم التوراة في جامعة بوسطن . وقد عمل معهم المهندس ستكوبه الذي شارك في هذا المكان سنة ١٩٣٤ .

بنيت شكيم في هذا المرقع الذي يتحكم في الطرق الرئيسية التي تتشعب منه في جميع الجهات منذ العصر الحجري - المعدني (عصر الكالكو) الذي وجدت البعثة عدة قطع من آثاره تعود الى حوالي سنة ٣٥٠٠ ق.م - عصر عمران تليلات الغسول قرب جسر سومية على طريق عمان - ناعور - القدس . وتلا ذلك حضارة عصر البرونز الثاني ١٧٠٠ - ١٥٥٠ العصر الذي اصبحت فيه شكيم مركزاً وسطاً بين ممالك الكنعانيين التي كانت تمتد من بيت ايل جنوباً الى مرج ابن عامر شمالاً وهي التي احرقها ابناء يعقوب . ولقد قسم تقرير هذه الحفريات العمل الى هذه الخطوات :-

ذاكراً لهم انه من عظيمهم ولحمهم • فلبوا دعوته وجمعوا له سبعين شاقلاً فضة استأجر بها رجالاً ساعدوه على قتل اخوته السبعين رجلاً على حجر واحد — كما جاء في سفر القضاة ٨ و ٩ — وعاد ابيالك الى شكيم وعند بلوطتها نصبوه ملكاً عليهم ولكنه ما لبث ان اشتد عليهم شدة حملتهم على ان يشروا عليه فقاتلهم وهدم المدينة وزرعها • لكن المقاتلين التجأوا الى حصون المدينة وارجحها فقطع ابيالك الحطب من الجبال المحيطة هو ورجاله وغطى بها الحصن واشعل فيها النيران فاحترق بداخله نحو الف رجل •

هذا دافع رابع دفع علماء التوراة للبحث في تل بلاطة للتحقق من صحة رواية هذا الحريق • ففي سنة ١٩١٣ — ١٩١٤ اوفدت الدائرة الاثرية الهولندية الاستاذ (ارنست سلين) الالماني الى بلاطة فزار بيز يعقوب او بير السامرية ودرس التل دراسة سطحية فجزم بانه هو شكيم القديمة واستأجر الموقع واخذ يحفر فيه الى ان كشف الهيكل والسور واثنين من ابواب المدينة الضخمة • ثم غادر البلاد عندما انشبت الحرب العالمية الاولى •

وفي سنة ١٩٢٦ — ١٩٢٧ عاد الاستاذ سلين الى البلاد فشق الاخاديد وازال الانقاض آملاً ان يكشف للعالم اسرار اربعين قرناً غابرة ••••• وقالت احدي الصحف الانجليزية التي صدرت في اواخر سنة ١٩٢٧ انه من المأمول ان تزيح اعمال تلك البعثة النقاب عن كثير من اخبار بني اسرائيل والحصول على الكنوز والآلهة المدفونة ليكون ذلك دليلاً على صحة ما ورد في التوراة • ولا تزال بير يعقوب في شكيم باقية آثارها كذخر من ذخائر التاريخ المقدس • ولقد حصل ساين على تصريح بنبش قبر النبي يوسف^(١) وهو يأمل ان يجد جثته مخنطة فيه مع احتمال العثور على بعض اوراق البردي تبين لنا نهائياً اسم فرعون في ذلك الوقت • وقد عثر الحفاردون في سفح الالكمة الكبرى التي يعتقد ان آلهة قوم يعقوب ونفائسهم مدفونة فيها — على آثار حضارة قديمة في بقايا بناء عظيم يرى بعض العلماء انه قصر يربعم الاول الذي نصب نفسه ملكاً على مملكة اسرائيل الشمالية بعد موت الملك سليمان • كما اكتشف محراباً (مذبحاً) كان لعبادة عشتروت ، ضمن اسوار المدينة وبقايا ابوابين عظيمتين من اكبر ما اكتشف حتى الان في فلسطين • وقد اكتشف في هذا السور عدة مداخل وبروج وحجرات وفي داخله قصر بتألف من حجرات كانت تقوم على تسعة اعمدة •

ومما يؤسف له ان سلين لم يضع تقارير عن اعماله كما اهمل اهمية الفخار فجاء تقريره مختصراً ومحدود الفائدة • فاضطرت الدائرة الهولندية ان تكلف الاثري الاستاذ ولتر باستئناف الحفر سنة ١٩٢٨ — ١٩٣٢ • وفي نهاية المدة وضع مخططات للمنطقة الممتدة من البوابة الشمالية الغربية الى الهيكل •

وفي سنة ١٩٣٤ اعيد سلين لاستئناف الحفر ومعه المهندس الالماني (ستكويه) فاستطاعت هذه البعثة ان تزبل الانقاض حتى تسنى لها الوصول الى اسس الاسوار لكن نشأت صعوبات حالت دون الاستمرار في العمل • واستمر سلين يدفع اجرة الموقع الاثري طوال هذه المدة حتى لا تختفي هذه المعالم التي اكتشفها واظهرها آملاً ان يعاود العمل في اقرب فرصة ممكنة •

حفريات ١٩٥٦

اشتركت كل من جامعة (درو) ومعهد (مكورميك) ومدارس الامير كان للابحاث الشرقية في القدس وبغداد — لمعاودة الكشف عن اطلال شكيم في تل بلاطة واستمر العمل من ٦ — ٢٤ آذار سنة ١٩٥٦ • واكتفت البعثة هذا العام

(١) قبر النبي يوسف في شكيم : السيامة الاسبوعية ٢٠ نوفمبر سنة ١٩٢٦

٢ - الخفريات في شكيم

قبل ان تدخل مدينة نابلس الحالية من جهة الشرق فانك تخترق قرية بلاطة الواقعة بين جبلي عيبال من الشمال وجرزيه من الجنوب . وفي الشمال منها تشاهد تلاً يرتفع عن سطح البحر ٥٠٠-٥٢٠ متراً وهناك كانت تقوم مدينة شكيم الكنعانية التي قام فيها في العصر البرونزي اكبر هيكل بني في فلسطين قبل الحكم الروماني بلغت مساحته ٢٦ × ١٢ متراً وكان سمك جداره اكبر من خمسة امتار وهو اعرض سور اقيم لتحصين مدينة . وقد ذكر هذا الهيكل في سفر القضاة باسم « بعل بربث » . اول ذكر لمدينة شكيم من ارض كنعان ان ابراهيم بنى محراباً وعين شجرة بلوط كبرى كعلامة مقدسة هناك .

وفي سفر التكوين ما خلاصته : اتى يعقوب الى شكيم التي بارض كنعان . . . فنزل قبالة المدينة وابتاع قطعة الحقل التي ضرب فيها خبائه بمئة نعجة . وانام هناك مذبحاً « محراباً » باسم ايل -- اله اسرائيل -- وحفر بئراً في الارض الصخرية عمقها ثمانون قدماً وقطر دائرتها تسع اقدام وخرجت دينا ابنة يعقوب لتنظر بنات البلد فرآها شكيم بن حمور الحوتي شيخ البلد فعلمت نفسه بها وادخلها داره . وكلم شكيم اباه حمور قائلاً : خذ لي هذه الصبية زوجة وسمع يعقوب ان شكيم نجس ابنته فسكت حتى عاد ابناؤه من الحقول التي يرعون فيها مواشهم واخذوا يكيدون المكائد من لطمخ شرفهم ثم جاء حمور وقال ليعقوب وابنائهم : شكيم ابني قد تعلقت نفسه بابنتكم . اعطوه اياها زوجة وصاهرونا -- تعطوننا بناتكم وتأخذون لكم بناتنا وتسكنون معنا وانا اعطي كل ما تطلبون مهراً فأجاب بنو يعقوب ماكرين : لا نستطيع ان نعطي اختنا لرجل اغلف اذا اختن كل ذكر منكم نعطكم بناتنا وتأخذ بناتكم ونسكن معكم لنصير شعباً واحداً . وان لم تسمعوا لنا نأخذ اختنا ونمضي .

حسن هذا الكلام في عيني حمور فخزن ابنه وجميع الذكور في مدينته وفي اليوم الثالث التهمت الجراح وقعدت باصحابها عن الحركة فهاجمهم بنو يعقوب وهم على تلك الحالة السيئة واعملوا فيهم السيوف ونهبوا المدينة -- الغنم والبقر والحديد والثروة والاطفال والنساء -- ورحلوا الى بيت ايل في جوار بلدة البيزة الحالية . وقبل الرحيل طرح يعقوب كل الالهة الغريبة التي كانت في ايديهم والاقراط في آذانهم تحت البطمة التي عند شكيم .

هذه الرواية جعلت علماء التوراة يتساءلون لم التهمت الجراح ما دامت آلة الختان من حجر الصوان -- اذا لا بد لصحة ذلك من استعمال سكين نحاسي -- فهل كانت المعادن كثيرة الاستعمال في شكيم في ذلك العهد الذي هو حوالي سنة ١٨٠٠ ق م . وبعض العلماء كان يأمل ان يجد التماثيل والحلى التي دفنها يعقوب تحت بلوطة شكيم .

ولما خرج بنو اسرائيل من مصر نقلوا رفاة الاجداد والاباء لتدفن في ارض الميعاد . ولما كان يوسف بن يعقوب وزيراً في بلاط فرعون فلا بد وان يكون مخططاً ولا بد وان تكون معه اوراق البردى التي كتب عليها بالخبط الهيروغليفي ومنها سيكشف اسم فرعون الخروج وهو امر خطير جداً . لذلك كان بعض علماء التوراة يأمل في العثور على مومياء يوسف في المقام الاسلامي في قرية بلاطة

كان للقاخي الاسرائيلي (جدعون) سبعون ولداً من نسائه الكثيرات كما ولدت له احدى سراريه من مدينة شكيم ولداً سماه (اببالك) . وبعد موت جدعون ارتد بنو اسرائيل وعبدوا البعل فتألم اببالك وعاد الى اخواله في شكيم وطلب مساعدتهم

تستلم للغزاة الجدد الذين يضيفون اليها انواعاً جديدة من مظاهر الحضارة فظهرت البيوت المطيئة جدرانها بطبقة رقيقة والممدودة مصاطبها ، وقد وجدت فيها اساور من خرز وآنية خشبية وخزفية وقطع من الاثاث والخشب والحصر والامشاط . ثم تبعتها مدينة العصر البرونزي وفيها وجدت البعثة هياكل لامرأة ورجلين وطفلين وقد قتل هؤلاء الخمسة بضربات على الرؤوس بآلات غير حادة . ومن اهم ما وجد في هذه المدينة القبر الذي نقل مع جميع محتوياته الى متحف عمان واعطي الرقم ١٨ (من عصر الهكسوس نحو سنة ١٧٠٠ ق م .) وبه اشتهر في عالم الآثار فاذا تيسر لك ان تزوره شاهدت عظام الموتى وادواتهم من سلال واشاط وبواطي وغير ذلك لم تبل بسبب غاز يبيت الحشرات . وقد تغضن الدماغ في احدى الجماجم فانكش حتى اصبح بحجم الجوزة . وفي متحف عمان ايضاً اول محاولة لصنع تمثال بشري في اريحا .

قد لا تكون اريحا هي المدينة الوحيدة التي حصل فيها هذا التطور الذي ادى الى الاستقرار وانتشار الحضارة الزراعية من غرب آسيا الى كافة انحاء العالم القديم . ولكننا المدينة التي قام الدليل على انها المكان الاول الذي له الحق ان ينتخب بانه اول بلد اخذ يبني درجات السلم الحضاري . . . نعم ان تل عين السلطان الذي يرتفع عشرين متراً عن مستوى الارض المجاورة قد شع انوار المعرفة في سائر انحاء العالم .

اريحا الرومانية

اذا خرجت من مدينة اريحا واجتازت عمارة الشرطة متجهماً نحو الغرب الى عقبة جبر القديمة لاحظت على يمينك تلاً بدأ التنقيب فيه شتاء ١٩٥١ وكان القصد من ذلك البحث عن قصر هيروودس الذي ذكره يوسيفوس . وقد لاحظ رجال البعثة ان صفوفاً من شجيرات البندورة تنمو بعضها اضعف في نموه من البعض الآخر ، مما يدل على انها مزروعة في تربة رقيقة . ولما ازبلت الاتربة من حولها ظهر سور المدينة وجدران القصر الذي يرجع عهده الى ٧٣ ق م . من بناء هيروودس الكبير وقد اظهر البحث والتنقيب ان مساحته كانت ٢٨٤ × ١٥٢ قدماً ويضم ٣٦ غرفة وقد دهنت جدرانه ونقشت بالالوان البديعة وقد توفرت فيه وسائل الترفيه كالجمامات الفخمة المزودة بموارد الماء البارد والساخن . وقد غطيت ارضها بالبلاط الملون المنقوش وبرسوم رائعة . وقد وجدت في القصر جرار الخمر المستوردة من جزر البحر المتوسط ولم تمتد اليها الايدي بعد . كما وجد اكثر من ١٢٠ ابريقاً كانت مملوءة بالطيب والعطور . ولا يبعد ان يكون هو قصر هيروودس او ابنه اريخيلوس الذي حكم بعده . ويروي يوسيفوس ان هيروودس قتل في هذا القصر اخا امرأته ارستوبولس . واظهر الحفر والتنقيب ان القصر احرق واعيد تشييده . ويعتقد العالم الاثري ابريكى بريشارد الذي قام بالحفر ان هذا القصر كان قد بني في مكان عامر بالسكان منذ ثلاثة آلاف عام قبل الميلاد ثم هجر حتى اعيد تعميده في ايام الرومان وعلى يد هيروودس وابنائيه .

خربة المفجر

قام الدكتور عوني الدجاني ، مدير دائرة الآثار الحالي ، بالبحث عن أسوار قصر هشام الاموي في خربة المفجر ، فعثر على بيوت العمال الذين بنوا القصر . وفي منازلهم وجد أهم انواع الموائنة البيتية كالتمر والزبيب والقطين والثوم والسمسم .

وبنوا عرائشهم واكواخهم الهرمية الشكل . وهناك اقاموا على صخرة قريبة اول مقدس عبدوا فيه مظاهر الطبيعة ولاسيما النار . وهناك عامل ثالث جعل نسل الصيادين يتكاثرون في هذا المكان وياتصقون به — هو تلك الخيرات من انواع النبات والحيوان التي تتوفر فيه بحيث تمد الصيادين بالمعيشة اليومية . ولقد بنت البعثة الاثرية هذه المعلومات على ما عثرت عليه من مخلفات هذا الانسان — من ذلك انها وجدت حظيرة بنيت جدرانها القليلة الارتفاع بالحجارة وفيها دعائم عليها شعارات مقدسة ووجدت في وسطها نقرات لا تزال فيها بقايا العظام البشرية المحروقة ووجدت بقربها الشص الذي يصطاد به السمك والصوان الذي يصاد به الحيوان البري .

ثم حصل الانتقال الى الدور الثاني الذي تمكن الصياد فيه من تحقيق فكرة الاستقرار في المكان الواحد بعد ان كفته الزراعة هموم الحياة والتفكير في اشباع البطون . في هذا الدور الزراعي ظهرت للبعثة بقايا البيوت الحقيقية التي بناها من اللبن والطوب المحفف بالشمس وقد كونت البيوت المتجاورة اول قرية كشفها البحث الاثري واتسعت مساحتها حتى بلغت ٣٢ دوئماً ولهذا كانت اريحا القرية الزراعية اوسع من اي مدينة في شرقي البحر المتوسط خلال الدور الحديث (النيولوثي) . ومن المحتمل ان سكانها جروا في مجاري طبيعية وفي قنوات اصطناعية — الماء من مكان بعيد ليسد حاجة مدينة كثر عدد سكانها واتسعت مزارعها .

وفي اثناء الحفر والتنقيب عثرت البعثة على سور يحيط بالمدينة من الشمال والغرب والجنوب وقد بني من الحجارة على ارتفاع عشرة امتار . واقم فيه برج مستدير قطره ١٣ متراً يصعد اليه باحدى وعشرين درجة ويمكن ان يراه كل زائر لتل السلطان . وهذا السور والبرج اقدم بناء حجري عثر عليه علماء الاثار حتى الآن . ويعود بناؤه الى سنة ٧٠٠٠ ق م . اي انه اقدم من اهرام مصر باربعة آلاف سنة . ويحيط بالسور خندق حفر في الصخر على عمق مترين ونصف المتر واتساع ثمانية امتار . وقد عثر في البرج على هياكل احد عشر انساناً ، قد يكونون حماة القلعة .

ان بناء السور وحفر الخندق والقيام باعمال الري لتدل على كثرة السكان وعلى قوة نظمهم وجعلتهم يقومون متعاونين متشاركين باعمال لا تقوم بها الا الحكومات . وهكذا يجوز لنا ان نقول ان نواة اول حكومة نشأت هنا .

وفي احدى طبقات هذه المدينة وجدت قاعة فسيحة مبنية من الطوب مدت ارضيتها بالطين الممهّد وفي وسطها نقرة مربعة فيها اثار عظام وادوات محروقة وفي احدى الزوايا جمجمة بشرية في مكان مرموق كما وجدت جثة طفل تحت احد الجدران مما يدل على ان المكان كان مكرساً للعبادة تقدم فيه الضحايا والقرايين للنيران . وحول هذه الساحة وجدت الادوات الصوانية والحجرية المختلفة التي استعملت في حفر الارض ونكشها كما وجدت محازن الحبوب من قمح وشعير وبجانب ذلك وجدت المهارس الحجرية التي كانت تستعمل لهرس الحبوب وطحنها . ولقد وجدت بين طبقة العصر النيولوثي سبع جماجم بشرية طليت بطبقة من الجص بحيث يظهر فيها الخدان المستديران والفم المتألق والوجنات البارزة والشفاه المبرومة .

لقد هدمت هذه المدينة عدة مرات وتراكت انقاضها بحيث ارتفع التل عن مستوى السهل اربعة امتار . وعلى هذا التل الجديد قامت مدينة ضمن سور جديد لم يبق الا اجزاء بسيطة منه فوق السور القديم ، هذه هي مدينة العصر الحجري النحاسي التي ظهرت حوالي سنة ٤٠٠٠ ق م . والتي سبق وصفها . ولقد تعرضت هذه القرية الناجحة لغزوات كثيرة . وكانت كثيراً ما

لاردن ٠٠٠ وهلك بسقوطها العدد الكثير من السكان ٠٠ ودخل الاسرائيليون المدينة بعد سقوط الاسوار فقتلوا كل نفس حية فيها الارحاب وادل بيتهما ٠٠٠ ثم احرقت المدينة ٠٠٠ ولعنت ٠

لذلك اختطت مدينة قرب هذه البقعة بجانب عين السلطان التي تسمى عند الاجانب بركة اليسع ٠٠ والارجح ان موقع المدينة كان على عهد اصحاب الاناجيل عند فم وادي كلات ٠٠٠ وهنا شفى السيد المسيح الرجلين الاعميين ٠٠ وكانت اريحا في زمن الرومانيين محل اقامة الملوك ٠ فمات فيها هيرودس الكبير ٠ وقد خربت اكثر من مرة ثم بنيت بعد موت هيرودس ٠ «

هكذا كانت اريحا اول مدينة كنعانية وقفت في وجه يشوع قائد الاسرائيليين المطرودين من مصر ٠ ولقد احتار علماء التوراة في تحديد زمن خروج بني اسرائيل من مصر وتضاربت الاراء في تحقيق شخصية فرعون الذي اخرجهم لذلك التجهت النية الى الاستمئانة بالحفريات في الامكنة التي مروا بها ٠ ووقع اختيار علماء الالمان ثم الانجليز فيما بعد على تل السلطان في الشمال الغربي من اريحا الحالية ٠ وترأس اول بعثة كشفية العالم الاثري جون غارستنغ سنة ١٩٣٠ ٠ ولقد شجعت النتائج التي وصلت اليها هذه الحملة فجاءت بعثة جديدة على نطاق اوسع اشترك فيها جامعات اكسفورد وكيمبردج وبيرمنغهام وغلاسكو ومتحف ليفربول ومتحف اللوفر في باريس وقد ترأس البعثة غارستنغ استاذ التاريخ والآثار في جامعة ليفربول ٠ واستمر العمل في ربيعي سنتي ١٩٣٥ و ١٩٣٦ حفرت في خلالها وازالت من الانقاض ما يزن ثمانية وثلاثين الف طن من التراب والحجارة حتى وصل الحفر الى مصاطب سبعة منازل من مساكن وجدت عليها ادوات العصر الحجري المتأخر واوائل العصر النحاسي التي كانت معروفة حوالي سنة ٤٠٠٠ ق م ٠ ومعاصرة للدولة المصرية الاولى التي حكمت مصر قبل بناء الهرم بألف سنة ٠ وقد جمع غارستنغ نحو مئة الف قطعة من الفخار والجمالان ٠ وكان احدها معاصراً للفرعون امنحوتب (الذي عرف فيما بعد باسم اخناتون) وقد وجدت بين رماد الحريق ٦ فاستنتج غارستنغ ان يشوع دمر اريحا واحرقها في ايام اخناتون الذي حكم مصر حوالي سنة ١٤٠٧ ق م ٠ فاذا علمنا ان بني اسرائيل تاهوا اربعين سنة استطعنا ان نقول انهم خرجوا من مصر حوالي سنة ١٤٤٧ ق م ٠

الحفريات الحديثة

منذ سنة ١٩٥٢ اخذت الآنسة كنيون مديرة المدرسة البريطانية للآثار في القدس تقوم في شتاء وربيع كل سنة باعمال الحفر والتنقيب في المكان الذي بدأت فيه الحفريات السابقة بقصد الرجوع الى اقدم تاريخ في اوطى مستوى يصل اليه الحفر في تل عين السلطان ٠ واصبح ينضم اليها علماء وطلاب من مختلف جامعات العالم ٠ واستمر الحفر سبع سنين (١٩٥٢ - ١٩٥٨) وهذه خلاصة عن تقارير الدكتور كنيون :-

كان التاريخ يعود بأقدم القرى الزراعية في آسيا الغربية الى ٤٧٠٠ - ٤٠٠٠ ق م ٠ وذكر من اشهرها قرى بيباوس (جبيل) الى الشمال من بيروت ثم اوغريت (راس شمرا) شمال اللاذقية ثم مرسين قرب اضنه في آسيا الصغرى وكذلك جارمو في شمال العراق ٠ وبقيت هذه القضية مسلماً بها حتى قضت عليها حفريات اريحا التي وضعت لها بداية تاريخية تعود الى سنة ٧٠٠٠ ق م ٠

عندما انتهى عصر الجليد في اوروبا وسواحل البحر المتوسط منذ عشرة آلاف سنة وتغيرت الاحوال المناخية اضطر انسان ذلك العصر الى ان يتكيف حسب الظروف الطارئة فدخل في العصر الوسيط (الميسولي) فجذبت عين السلطان جماعات الصيادين

١ - حفريات اريحا

جاء في سفر يشوع :

(١) وكان بعد موت موسى ان الرب كلم يشوع بن نون خادم موسى قائلاً : موسى عبدي قد مات فلان قم اعبه
هذا الاردن ٠٠٠٠ لا يقف في وجهك انسان ٠٠٠٠ تشدد وتشجع ٠٠ فأمر الشعب قائلاً : هيئوا لانفسكم زاداً لانكم
بعد ثلاثة ايام تعبرون الاردن .

(٢) فأرسل يشوع بن نون من شطيم رجلين جاسوسين سرّاً قائلاً لهما : انظرا الارض واريحا ٠٠٠٠٠ فذهبا ودخلا بيت
امرأة ٠٠٠٠ اسمها راحاب واضطجعا هناك ٠٠٠ فقبل لملك اريحا : هوذا قد دخل الى هنا الليلة رجلان من بني اسرائيل لكي
يتجسسا الارض . فأرسل ملك اريحا الى راحاب يقول : اخرجي الرجلين ٠٠ فأخذت المرأة الرجلين وخبأتهما وقالت : نعم
جاء الرجلان ٠٠٠٠ وخرجا ٠٠٠ لست اعلم اين ذهب الرجلان ٠٠٠٠ وانطلق السعاة يبحثون عنهما ٠٠٠ وفي اليوم الثالث
غاد السعاة ٠٠٠٠ وانبا الجاسوسان يشوع وقالوا ان الرب قد دفع بيدنا الارض كلها . وقد ذاب كل سكان الارض بسببنا .

(٣) بكر يشوع في الغد ٠٠٠ وارتحلوا من شطيم واتوا الى الاردن ٠٠٠ وقال يشوع للكهنة : احمولوا تابوت العهد
واعبروا امام الشعب .

(٤) وكان لما انتهى جميع الشعب من عبور الاردن الى تخم اريحا ٠٠٠٠٠٠٠٠

(٥) في ذلك الوقت قال الرب ليشوع اصنع لنفسك سكاكين من صوان وعد فاخزن بني اسرائيل ثانية ٠٠٠٠٠٠٠ فصنع
يشوع سكاكين وخن بني اسرائيل ٠٠ لان جميع الشعب الذين ولدوا في القفر على الطريق بخروجهم من مصر لم يمتنوا ٠٠٠
وعملوا الفصح ٠٠٠ واكلوا من غلة الارض ٠٠٠ فطيراً وفريكاً ٠٠٠٠٠ فأكلوا من محصول ارض كنعان . وحدث لما كان
يشوع عند اريحا انه رفع عينيه ونظر واذا برجل واقف قبالة سيف مسلول بيده ٠٠٠ فقال : انا رئيس جند الرب .

(٦) وكانت اريحا مغلقة مقفلة بسبب بني اسرائيل ، لا احد يخرج ولا احد يدخل واجتاز السبعة الكهنة حاملين ابواق
الحنان السبعة ٠٠٠٠ وتابوت العهد سائر وراءهم ٠٠٠ هكذا فعلوا ستة ايام ٠٠٠٠ وكان اليوم السابع ٠٠٠ وداروا وراء
دائرة المدينة على هذا المنوال سبع مرات . وكان في المرة السابعة عندما ضرب الكهنة بالابواق ان يشوع قال للشعب : اهتفوا
الرب قد اعطاكم المدينة ٠٠٠ وكل ما فيها محرم للرب ٠٠٠ وكل الفضة والذهب وآنية النحاس والحديد تدخل في خزانة الرب .
فهتف الشعب هتافاً عظيماً فسقط السور في مكانه وصعد الشعب الى المدينة وذبحوهم بحد السيف واحرقوا المدينة بالنار وحلف
يشوع في ذلك الوقت قائلاً : ملعون قدام الرب الرجل الذي يقوم ويبني هذه المدينة اريحا — يبكره يوئسسها وبصغيره
ينصب ابوابها .

وجاء في قاموس الكتاب المقدس للاستاذ جورج بوست الذي طبع في بيروت سنة ١٨٩٤ : —

« اريحا من اقدم مدن الارض المقدسة . وكانت من نصيب سبط بنيامين . وكانت تسمى مدينة النخل ٠٠٠ لان النخل كان
ينمو بكثرة في تلك النواحي . ولفظ اريحا في الاصل العبراني يرادف معنى القمر . فالارجح اذن ان عبادة القمر كانت منتشرة
هناك . وهذه المدينة — وهي ثاني اورشليم اتساعاً — كانت اول مدينة حاصرها الاسرائيليون وافتتحوها عنوة بعد عبور

الحفريات الأثرية في الأردن

خلال السنوات العشر الاخيرة ١٩٤٩ - ١٩٥٩

بقلم الاستاذ محمود العابدي - مفتش الآثار العام

توطئة

الدافع الرئيسي للتنقيب الاثري في هذه البلاد هو البحث عن حوادث ورد ذكرها في التوراة . فاذا استمر وجود العاديات الى ما قبل حوادث التوراة فان النقبين والباحثين يستمرن في اعمالهم دون توقف ليصلوا الى ابعث تاريخ لمكان التنقيب . ففي اريحا مثلاً كان الدافع الاول هو معرفة تاريخ خروج بني اسرائيل من مصر ومعرفة فرعون الخروج . ولكن التنقيب في تل السلطان لم يقف عند المدينة التي احرقها يشوع بل استمر حتى وصل الى ادنى الطبقات التي سكنها انسان العصور الحجرية القديمة منذ عشرة آلاف عام .

يستثنى من ذلك الحفريات العرضية التي تضطر دائرة الآثار لان تكشفها وتنقبها عندما تكشفها صدفة حفريات الطرق او البناء .

لذلك رأيت من الضروري ان اذكر ما ورد في الكتب المقدسة عن كل موقع من مواقع التنقيب في الحفريات التي يتناولها هذا البحث وهي التي جرت خلال السنين العشر الاخيرة ١٩٤٩ - ١٩٥٩ ثم اقدم ، لمخصاً عما كتبه رجال الحفريات من تقاريرهم المنشورة او المحفوظة لدى دائرة الآثار الاردنية .

واتماماً للفائدة لا بد من ذكر كيف تبدأ البعثات الاجنبية اعمالها التنقيبية فأقول :

ان قانون الآثار القديمة رقم ٣٣ لسنة ١٩٥٣ المعمول به في المملكة الاردنية الهاشمية يشترط قبل التصريح لاية بعثة بالحفر والتنقيب في المواقع التاريخية شروطاً من اهمها :

- ١ - المؤهلات العلمية والاختبارات السابقة .
- ٢ - مخطط للمكان الذي يراد الحفر فيه .
- ٣ - المبلغ المخصص للحفريات .
- ٤ - دفع تأمين قدره ثلاث مئة دينار لاصدار النشرات العلمية عن النتائج الحفرية .
- ٥ - على الحفارين ان يحفظوا سجلاً خاصاً لقيد القطع الاثرية على نسختين وان تدون به جميع المعلومات التي تتعلق بمكان كل قطعة ومستواها الارضي على ان يجري تدوين ذلك يوماً فآخر . ثم يضاف لهذه المشروحات صورة مسودة او فوتوغرافية لكل قطعة اثرية وبوضع عن ماهيتها بتفصيلات خطية في السجل المذكور . ثم يقيد على القطعة بخط واضح او بلصق اليها بطاقة يكتب عليها بالحبر الثابت عدد متسلسل يتماثل مع العدد المذكور بالسجل . تبقى النسخة الاصلية من هذا السجل ملكاً للحفارين اما النسخة الثانية فتعطي للحكومة .
- ٦ - تكون جميع الآثار المكتشفة ملكاً لدائرة الآثار اذا كانت لازمة لمتحف الآثار الاردني . ويقسم الباقي بين الدائرة وبين البعثة التي حفرت ونقبت .
- ٧ - يرافق البعثة الاجنبية مندوب عن دائرة الآثار .
- ٨ - لا يجوز للمكتشف ان يصدر حصته من الآثار الا بتصريح رسمي ودفع ١٥٪ من اثمانها رسوماً جمركية .

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

هذه المجلة

كثيراً ما كنت اتطلع الى ان ارى مجلة اثرية تقدم الى العالم بعض ما في هذه المملكة من الآثار الخالدة ، والتي منها ما لم يحوه اي قطر . لما فيها من آثار ما قبل التاريخ وما بعده من العصور القديمة والوسطى والآثار الاسلامية فضلاً عن المقدسات الدينية المحترمة من جميع الاديان السماوية . ولهذا يسرني ان اقدم هذا العدد من هذه المجلة لرجال العالم والتي اعتقد انها ستسد فراغاً كبيراً في عالم الآثار طالما تطلع رجال التاريخ اليه والذي طالما حثنا القرآن العزيز على البحث فيه والتدبر واليقظة الى ما كان السبب في دمار اهله وتشتيت شملهم للعظة والتعلم (اولم يسيروا في الارض فينظروا كيف كان عاقبة الذين كانوا من قبلهم . كانوا هم اشد منهم قوة وآثاراً في الارض) .

سائلاً المولى القدير أن يأخذ بيد العاملين لكل خير ، وأن يوفقنا لخدمة هذه البلاد واظهارها للعالم كما هي بلد عريق في تاريخه ، قوي في حاضره ، عامل لمستقبله في ظل جلالة مليكه سليل بيت مجده وتاريخه ، الحسين بن طلال حفظه الله ووفقه .

محمد الامين محمد الخضر الشنيطي

وزير التربية والتعليم - الأناضول

عمان في ١٨ رمضان سنة ١٣٧٩

١٥ آذار سنة ١٩٦٠

