

## TELL ES-SA'IDIYEH 1986: INTERIM REPORT OF THE SECOND SEASON OF EXCAVATIONS

by

Jonathan N. Tubb

The large double mound of Tell es-Sa'idiyeh, which lies on the south side of the Wadi Kufranjeh, about 1.8 km east of the River Jordan, was first substantially excavated in the 1960's by a University of Pennsylvania expedition under the directorship of James Pritchard (see Pritchard 1980 and 1985 for final reports). In 1985, a short six-week season of excavations was conducted by the writer on behalf of the British Museum in order to assess the potential of the site for further research (see Tubb 1985). The encouraging results indicated that Tell es-Sa'idiyeh could well serve as a major reference site providing a wealth of information relating to the chronology, demography, historical geography and archaeo-economy of the central Jordan Valley. In consequence, a more extensive excavation season took place between mid-March and late May 1986.

As in the previous season, the excavations were directed by the writer, with Peter Dorrell of the Institute of Archaeology, London, as Associate Director. The staff of the 1986 season consisted of Ann Bomann (Egypt Exploration Society) — draughtsman and area supervisor AA, Rupert Chapman (Palestine Exploration Fund) — area supervisor EE, Sarah Collins (University of Liverpool) — area supervisor DD, Penelope Fisher (British Museum) — Conservator, Sa'ad al-Hadidi (Department of Antiquities, Salt) — Departmental Representative and area supervisor FF, Alan Hills (British Museum) — Photographer, Christopher Kirby (University of Birmingham) — area supervisor AA, Joy McCorriston (Institute of Archaeology, London) — Palaeobotanist and area supervisor AA, Louise Martin (Institute of Archaeology, London) — osteologist and area supervisor BB, Constantine Politis (Institute of Archaeology, London) — senior archaeologist AA, Barbara Pritzkat (U.C.L.A.) — surveyor, and Dianne Rowan (University of

Liverpool) — area supervisor BB. Bedri Hassan al-Maḍi served as camp manager and the staff was completed by Sheikh Sadiq, an ex-Jericho technical worker. The expedition was joined for the first six weeks by Richard Hills who assisted with the excavation of FF and for two weeks by Brian Tremain (British Museum) and Vivienne Tremain (National Maritime Museum) who together undertook the production of a video recording of the excavations in progress.

Thanks are due to the Department of Antiquities of Jordan and in particular to its Director General, Dr. Adnan Hadidi for his continued enthusiastic support for the project. The Tell es-Sa'idiyeh excavations are sponsored and funded by the British Museum with additional generous sponsorship from Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, and Aramex International.

### Results Of The 1986 Season

Five excavation areas were worked in 1986; three of them, area AA on the upper tell and areas BB and DD on the lower tell, were continued from the previous season. Area EE on the west slope of the upper tell and Area FF on the north side of the low mound were begun in 1986 (see Fig. 1 for location of the excavated areas and their relationship to those excavated by the Pennsylvania expedition).

### Excavations on the Upper Tell

#### *Area AA*

Area AA, situated in the south-east corner of Pritchard's large trench of the 1960's, was begun in 1985 as a continuation of his stratigraphic sequence through the Iron Age levels of the upper tell. It was planned originally as an 11 m. square, divided into four 5 m. squares with 1 m. reduction baulks between. At the time when AA was initiated, it was not appreciated

that this particular corner had not been excavated down to Pritchard's lowest stratum (VII - ca. 825-790 BC), nor indeed that at the termination of his 1967 season, this area had not been reduced to a single coherent stratum. As a result, much of the 1985 season was concerned with the definition of residual deposits related to stratum VI, and the further isolation of stratum VII. Little could be adduced concerning stratum VI which existed only as heavily eroded and fragmentary wall stubs, damaged as a result of their previous exposure, but a reasonably coherent plan of stratum VII was obtained which conforms closely in character and layout to that excavated by Pritchard further to the north and described in his preliminary reports. Similar thin-walled, rather poorly constructed buildings arranged along streets and alleyways were encountered, and the general picture gained is one of industrial rather than domestic usage (see Tubb 1985, Pl. XVI). The division into VIIA and VIIB as suggested by Pritchard was also confirmed, these two sub-phases being more in the nature of partial rebuilds, refloorings and additions than of architecturally discrete levels. It appears, too, that there were later modifications to the upper sub-phase (VIIA), and it may prove necessary to subdivide stratum VII further into VIIB, VIIA lower and VIIA upper.

With the publication of Pritchard's final tell report (1985) it became clear that the part of the trench in which AA is situated, although almost completely cleared to stratum VI and partially exposed to stratum VII, was neither recorded nor planned, the recording of both strata VI and VII terminating some four metres north of area AA. At the start of the 1986 season, therefore, it was necessary to extend area AA by adding a further 5 m. square to the north east (AA 500) in order to obtain an overlap which will enable the 1985 plan of stratum VII to be linked to that published by Pritchard. It is also hoped that a continuous section will be obtained by means of this extension. As in the previous season, the extension first required the cutting back of Pritchard's heavily eroded east section by nearly 1.5 m. Again, this was

performed as a stratigraphic check of the sequence and produced confirmation of the upper phasing. A large pit of stratum IV was found and samples of the fill were taken for flotation. Stratum V was largely removed by this pit but stratum VI was found intact in the section cutting. In the main area of 500, Pritchard's excavation had completely removed VI and had ceased at the isolation of stratum VIIA which was represented by the remains of an east-west running wall and patches of an associated cobble paving. Below, in VIIB, was found the earlier phase of the east-west wall, this time associated with a beaten earth floor covered with ash and substantial quantities of pottery. The ash clearly derived from a *tannûr* found on the west side of 500 against the wall.

Elsewhere in AA, the final completion of stratum VII was achieved with the removal of the 1985 baulks and the further excavation of AA 400 which had been left unfinished from the previous season. These operations brought to light two walls which further elucidate the plan of the stratum and also two installations in the corner of AA 400, one of which appears to be a type of bath (Pl. V). It is deeply cut into the remains of strata VIII and IX and takes the form of a roughly square mud-brick lined basin (1.5 m. × 1.4 m.) floored with finely layered square mud-brick slabs. The preserved kerb stands about 35 cm above the base. In the north-west corner there is a drain hole which extends some 30 cm below the floor of the installation. A bronze bracelet and an iron blade were found on the floor of this installation.

In the main area of AA (100, 200, 300, 400) excavation in 1986 proceeded through strata VIII, IX, X and XI and finished with the isolation of stratum XII and the complete excavation of one of its rooms.

Stratum VIII was partially uncovered in 1985 in one small area of AA 100. It seems to represent not a tangible architectural phase but rather a phase of human activity, almost certainly industrial in nature. Its principle characteristic is of a thick (30-50 cm) deposit of intensely col-

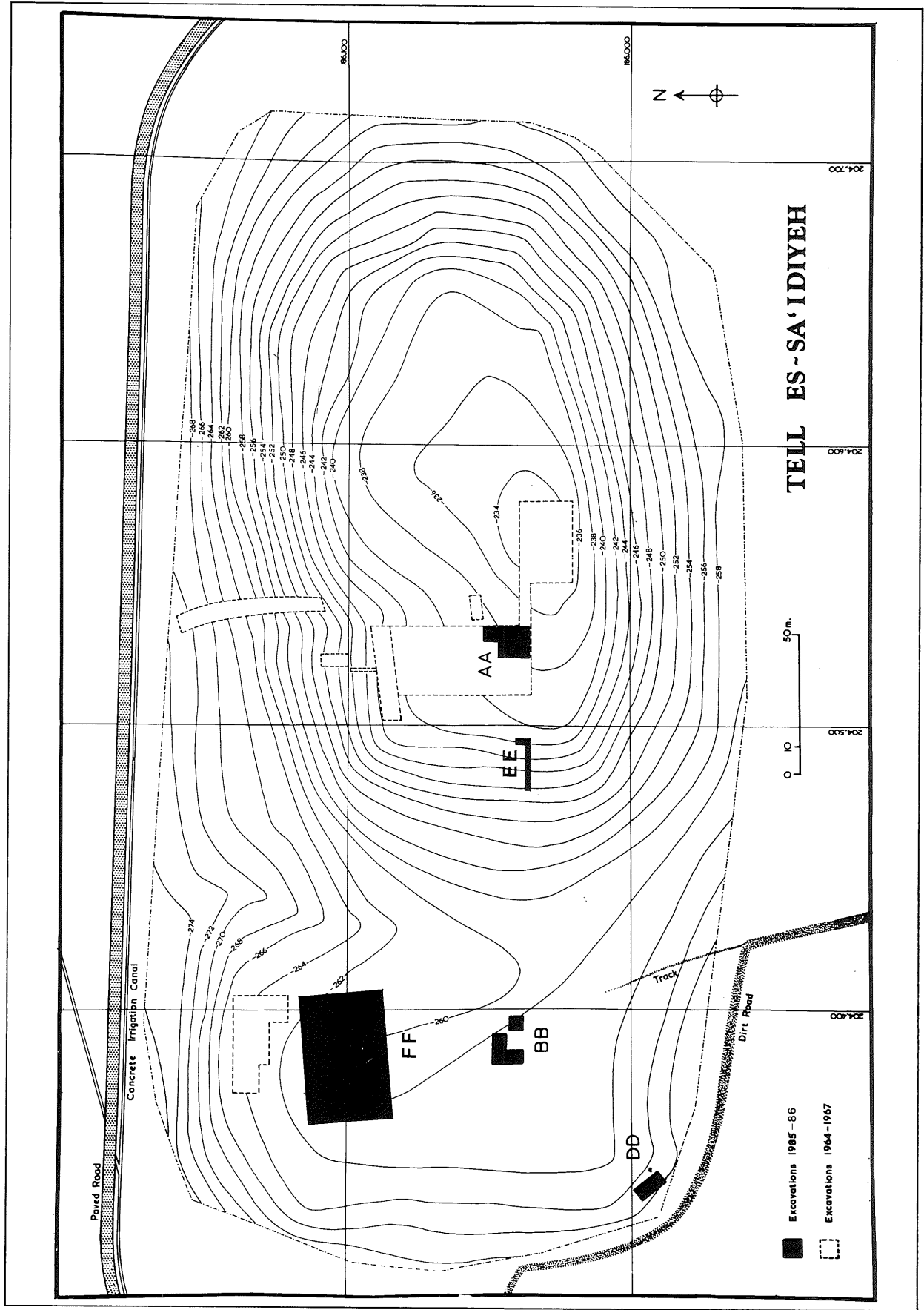


Fig. 1 Plan of the site showing areas excavated in 1985-86 in relation to those of Pritchard's expedition.

oured, layered material (blue, yellow, pink and predominantly white) resting on a thin (1-2 cm) brownish black burnt layer. As noted in the previous report it does not rest on any true surface but instead on a layer of natural reddish silt of variable thickness which covered the remains of stratum IX. In other words it is apparent that stratum IX was abandoned for a period of time (not however destroyed) and the weathered and eroded remains became covered in silt. It is over this silt that the stratum VIII deposit lay, rising over the wall stubs and falling into the more densely silted hollows and depressions. It seems probable that the lowermost black layer resulted from the burning off of the vegetation which had grown over the abandoned area.

The deposit of stratum VIII must surely be seen as the residue of some industrial activity, and the predominance of white in its colouration is suggestive of a lime-related process. In the south-west corner of AA (in 400) a single wall, solidly built of several courses of stone, topped with mud-brick, had been deeply cut through strata IX and X and this proved to be directly associated with the stratum VIII deposit and must be considered as the retaining wall of the process. The area in front (to the east) had also been cut out to produce a roughly level surface. In this region, the deposit was more intensely coloured orange and at its base were found substantial quantities of carbonized timber. Samples of the stratum VIII deposit have been collected for examination and it is hoped that the results of the analyses will shed light on the nature of the industry being practiced.

As mentioned above, stratum IX was sealed by a layer of silting representing a phase of abandonment between it and stratum VIII. Beneath the silt, the weathered and eroded remains of stratum IX were isolated and consisted on the west side of AA (100 and 400) of part of an insubstantial but apparently large building with walls barely 80cm wide. These were preserved to a height of 10-15 cm and were seen to be founded on irregularly layed stone foundations. The orientation of the walls differed

from that of stratum VII by a factor of some 30 degrees. On the east side of AA (200 and 300) two successive courtyard levels associated with this building were excavated, the upper paved with small pebbles and the lower with larger cobbles (Pl. VI, 1). On the south side of the upper courtyard a drain or channel ran in an approximately east-west direction. There was slight evidence that the stratum IX floors had been plastered but they were completely disrupted by subsequent erosion.

Stratum IX was preceded by stratum X without any break and the same division of building on the west and courtyard on the east was found in the lower stratum. However, the floors of the building in X were far more substantial, being composed of beautifully laid flat stones. The walls of X had largely been robbed out and some of the paving stones had been used as foundations for the stratum IX walls. The stratum X courtyard is almost identical to that of stratum IX (lower), paved with large cobbles. IX and X are based on identical plans and should perhaps be more correctly considered as two phases of the same stratum. A preliminary examination of the pottery from stratum X would place it within the 10th century BC.

Underneath the cobble pavings of stratum X, far more substantial walls belonging to stratum XI were revealed. These had largely been removed by the laying of the cobbles, but sufficient remained in AA 100 and 400 to show that they were wider, composed of mud-brick laid over two well layed courses of foundation stones. The orientation of the walls is similar to that of stratum X but the line was slightly different. Only fragments of floors were preserved, but enough to show that they were well made and composed of white plaster over a yellow bedding. Again, an associated stratum XI courtyard was found in the eastern part of AA. There is no evidence for a break between strata XI and X and the pottery from XI would seem also to fit into the early 10th century BC.

Stratum XII has only been isolated in one locus of AA (AA 100), where the ero-

ded tops of substantial walls have been uncovered. It was into these eroded walls that the foundations of stratum XI were cut. Below a layer of fill associated with the construction layer of stratum XI, the entire locus of AA 100 was covered with burnt destruction debris — black ashy deposits, carbonized wood and intensely burnt mud-brick collapse. As the walls of stratum XII were defined it was clear that their faces had been charred black. One small room, measuring only 1.5 m. × 1.5 m., presumably a store room, had been cleared to floor level showing that the stratum XII walls are standing to a height of at least 1.7 m. (Pl. VI, 2). The walls themselves are more substantial than any encountered in the strata above being 1.5 m. thick, and their orientation is also different — almost precisely north-south and east-west. The fill of the excavated room is composed of burnt wood, pottery and brick, and above the clay floor was found a dense deposit of broken pottery vessels.

The pottery from stratum XII is identical with that from the destruction debris of the casemate wall system (see below) and belongs to the early part of Iron I (12th century BC). It is therefore clear, that in this area at least, stratum XII was destroyed and that there was a break in occupation before the construction of stratum XI.

#### *Area EE*

Area EE was begun in 1986 as a 1 m. × 20 m. trench running down the west slope of the upper tell and was intended to investigate the defence systems of the site. Erosion and wash on this side of the mound has been considerable and little could be discerned in the top 30 cm, especially in the east end of the trench. A number of wall foundations were encountered but since their associated surfaces had been eroded away, little can be said as to their date: in any event their small widths make it unlikely that any of these were defensive in function. Below this eroded and disturbed layer, the trench was dominated by a massive deposit of collapsed mud-brick, containing sections of walling often bearing as many as six bonded bricks. On clea-

rance of this tumble and extension of the area northwards, the plan of an extremely large mud-brick casemate defensive wall system was revealed (Pl. VII, 1). To date, the inner face of the outer wall and three cross-walls have been isolated, the inner wall lying at some distance beyond the eastern limit of the area. The outer face of the outer wall has not been established with any degree of certainty and will require further investigation next season. It is at least 5 m. thick but external slope terracing may account for some of this width. The cross-walls are 1.1 m. wide and the spacing between them decreases south-north (more than 2 m., 2 m., 1.5 m.) producing a series of long narrow casemates. The decreasing widths of the casemates as they move northwards suggest that the wall is approaching a gateway which could, perhaps, correspond with the present depression which can be observed on the central west slope about 10 m. north of the present limit of EE. All of the walls are well built of orange-red mud-bricks of average size 42 cm × 25 cm × 11 cm.

The casemate system was built over an earlier, apparently solid, mud-brick wall, the width of which has not yet been established, but is over 2.6 m. and is also clearly defensive in nature. The bricks of this earlier wall are greenish in colour and slightly larger. There is no evidence that this wall was destroyed: its eroded top was roughly levelled and provided, in the two northernmost excavated casemates a construction base. In the southernmost casemate, where, for some reason, the earlier wall does not extend, the interior space was instead filled with large boulders (approximately 60 cm in diameter) bringing up the level to that of the top of the earlier green wall in the other two casemates.

The casemate system was destroyed, or at least was caught up in a major destruction. The lowest filling of the casemates consists of burnt black ashy material overlaid with mud-brick collapse. The intensity of burning has caused the lower courses of cross-walls to be fired hard in places or burnt out in others. Pottery from the burnt debris provides a provisional date for the

destruction, and a preliminary reading suggests a date early in Iron I, perhaps contemporary with stratum XII in AA.

No later defensive wall was found in this area following the destruction of the casemate system. Certainly there was no evidence for the city walls which Pritchard found on the north side possibly related to strata V and VII (Pritchard 1985, p. 77). Indeed, there was slight evidence for non-defensive occupation above the casemate system in this area in the form of a *tannûr* and a small stretch of associated surface. Although little pottery was recovered here, it is suggestive of the early 8th century BC, perhaps contemporary with stratum VI.

### Excavations on the Lower Tell

#### *Area BB*

Area BB, located on the south-central side of the low mound, was begun in 1985 with the original intention of examining the Early Bronze Age occupation of the lower tell. Excavations revealed however that this area had been used intensively as a cemetery in the LBII-Iron I transitional period (*ca.* 1250-1100 BC), the graves having been cut into the 30-40cm silt deposit which overlies the Early Bronze Age occupation and partly into this occupation itself. In 1985, two 5m. squares (BB 200 and 400) were opened, and altogether forty burials were excavated or revealed (see Tubb 1985).

In the 1986 season, two further squares were opened (BB 100 and 600) and a further seventy graves were excavated. In addition, one grave was excavated in area DD and two in area FF. Further the graves which were revealed but not excavated in 1985 and those graves which were only partially cleared, were all completed in 1986 (Tubb 1985, graves 3, 7, 26, 34, 35, 36 and 39).

In general, the graves excavated in 1986 followed the same pattern as those of 1985 in terms of their construction, their grave goods and the degree of their disturbance and intercutting. One or two new types were found however, and some inter-

esting details were observed. Two examples of a rather extraordinary practice were encountered (graves 43 and 45) in which the head of the deceased was placed inside a store jar (broken off at the shoulder) whilst the remainder of the body is simply covered with loose sherds or stones (Pl. VII, 2). Grave 76 consisted of a stone-lined pit into which were set two large pithoi placed shoulder to shoulder, the necks having been removed. The junction of the pithoi was disguised with pieces of another smaller store jar. The burial itself included the remains of at least one adult, one child with associated bronze earring and a collection of disarticulated bones.

As in 1985 three types of practice were encountered: primary, secondary and derived secondary, the last referring to the reburial of parts of skeletons disturbed during the course of later grave cutting. Although this phenomenon had been noted previously, an interesting observation can now be added which is of a recurrent pattern in these derived secondary burials of the deliberate placement of the skull over two, frequently crossed, long bones.

Finds were similar in nature to those of the previous season. A greater variety of pottery was found however, including bowls, craters, small store jars and imitation Mycenaean vessels - stirrup jars, lentoid flasks and pilgrim flasks. Bronze bangles were frequently found, used either as anklets or bracelets. Often these bronzes preserved in their corrosion products vestiges of the textiles which had covered the deceased: this same feature was also observed on two large toggle pins from graves 86 and 157. Necklaces of shell, frit, stone and carnelian beads were found in many of the graves. The richest deposit in grave 46 contained in addition to nineteen pottery vessels, a bronze bowl, a bronze dagger, a small curved bronze knife, a necklace of carnelian and stone beads, an alabaster chalice and three bone combs (Pl. VIII). An interesting feature was observed in 1986 in that many of the jugs and juglets placed in the graves seem to have been deliberately broken at their mouths, presumably as part of some symbolic ritual (Pl. IX).

Pritchard found in his cemetery excavations further to the north (graves 101-144<sup>1</sup>) examples of funerary jars (type 53 - a roughly finished vessel with a hole in its base) placed at the feet of the deceased presumably for pouring libations (Pritchard 1980, p.7-8). Although no such jars were found in 1986, the large bowl placed inverted over the feet of the body in grave 70 had a deliberately made hole in its base and a similar function would therefore seem to be indicated.

All of the graves excavated in 1986 belong to the same period as those previously examined, that is to the LBII-Iron I transitional period (13th-12th centuries BC). It is interesting to observe that whilst many of the graves recorded in the previous season contain both bronze and iron objects side by side, the deeper lying graves excavated in 1986 contain no items of iron.

The fairly abrupt termination in the usage of the cemetery in the 12th century BC can now perhaps be explained as being related to the destruction of stratum XII (AA) and the casemate wall (EE) (see above).

By the end of the 1986 season most of the graves had been removed and substantial remains of Early Bronze occupation were isolated as residual "pinnacles" in all of the squares of BB - fragments of cobble pavings, floors and walls, often foundational only. It is important to note that in several places the kerbs of mud-brick lined graves, especially those in BB 200 were placed directly over the lines of the pre-existing EBA walls, indicating that the degree of silting of the low mound at the end of the Late Bronze Age was considerably less than at present and was indeed insufficient to completely disguise the remnants of the EBA occupation.

Although excavation of this occupation will have to await future seasons, it is already clear that the final phase of EBA occupation was violently destroyed. Remains of burnt walls with heavy deposits of ash

and burnt mud-brick debris against their faces have been found in all areas. In this respect it is interesting to observe, too, that some of the graves lined with mud-brick used not only newly-made slabs but also incorporated suitable EBA bricks which had been fired extremely hard in the destruction. Piles of almost rock hard burnt mud-brick debris were also used as grave coverings and markers.

From the observed stratigraphy (sides of deeply cut graves) and from the small amount of pottery recovered so far, it seems almost certain that this destruction is identical in date to that seen in area DD (below) and should be placed towards the end of EBII.

#### *Area DD*

In 1985, a small excavation in area DD on the south west slope of the lower tell revealed part of EBII building which had been destroyed and which seemed to represent the final phase of occupation of this part of the low mound. In 1986 the area was expanded to the north, east and south in an attempt to recover more of the plan. To the east (DD 200) graves of the cemetery were revealed (Grave 50 was completely excavated) and operations here were brought a close. To the north and south however, despite the inevitable erosion that this side of the tell has suffered, more of the plan of the destroyed building was uncovered. Interestingly, in the northern extension (DD 300), between the dense layer of mud-brick detritus (301.1) and the occupation surface associated with the building, there seems to have been a later, somewhat ephemeral, phase of occupation unassociated with any architectural feature and representing, perhaps, a squatter or camp-fire habitation in the burnt ruins.

The building itself is not yet completely isolated to the north, but to date consists of a rectangular room (2.3m. × 3.8m.) to the south and a somewhat larger one to the

---

1. In order to ensure a logical numbering for the graves of the cemetery, numbers 1-100 and 145

onwards have been allocated to graves excavated by the current expedition.

north. There is only one phase of construction and it is clear that the two rooms which do not apparently connect laterally, were conceived of as part of one integral building. The interior of the southern room was largely excavated in the previous season, but the remaining walls on the east and south sides have now been added. As anticipated, the south-west corner of the building has been lost through erosion. On the west side, the north-south common wall of both the northern and southern rooms (also uncovered this season) was terraced on the slope of the mound.

The northern room has a wide entrance way on the west side which is approached by a series of three steps terraced on the slope: a large circular flat stone set on the uppermost step flanks the entranceway and bore a four-spouted painted lamp. In the centre of the entranceway was found a roughly square mud-brick installation on which were placed two further four-spouted lamps. These highly unusual lamps, which must be seen as the earliest examples so far recorded of the type which becomes familiar in EBIV, suggest, perhaps, a function for the building other than purely domestic and it may not be premature to postulate some type of shrine. In this respect it is worth drawing attention to a series of post holes found on the uppermost step immediately in front of the square installation (Pl. X).

The construction of the steps is interesting, for when they were removed it was observed that they were composed not of mud-brick but of pisé. They were made over a series of wooden formers, the fugitive, white fibrous traces of which were clearly visible. These in turn had been placed over a dense hard-core fill of broken pottery sherds. This pottery proved to be largely consistent in date with that excavated from the floors of the building and is similarly late EBII. It would seem, therefore, that no great period of time elapsed between the construction of the building and its destruction.

As a similar series of events has now been confirmed in area BB; destruction, followed by squatter occupation, followed

by abandonment (see above), stratum numbers have been assigned to the phases of Early Bronze Age occupation of the lower tell. Stratum L1 refers to the post-destruction ephemeral occupation and L2 to the latest building phase represented by the so-called 'shrine'.

Towards the end of the 1986 season, the stratum L2 building, described above, was removed. Excavation beneath, revealed the well-made foundations of the walls which had been set into shallow and quite narrow foundation trenches. The floor surfaces had been laid over a levelling fill, approximately 15cm deep and this in turn had been placed over a hard-packed construction surface.

Below the stratum L2 construction surface, the remains of stratum L3 were excavated. Although clearance of this stratum has not yet been completed, remains of two buildings have been isolated, separated by a stretch of cobbled street, associated on its southern side with a drain. The walls of the buildings appear to be eroded, and it is clear that they were deliberately levelled for the construction of stratum L2. In the area of the later steps, bricks had been knocked off one of the stratum L3 walls and were left to lie amidst the sherd hard-core make-up. There is no evidence to suggest that stratum L3 was destroyed: the small area of floor so far uncovered in the northern building is remarkably clean with very few sherds. Although little directly associated pottery has been recovered from stratum L3, it would appear to differ little in date from that of stratum L2. (See Pl. XI, 1 for general view of stratum L3.)

#### *Area FF*

Both Glueck (1951, p.292) and Pritchard (1985, p.1) had made reference to the foundations of a large building on the north side of the lower mound. In 1985 a surface sherding implied that this building was probably of Byzantine date and it was decided in 1986 to examine more closely the remains in order to establish more precisely the date and function of the building. The area encompassed by the building has



been termed FF.

The excavation here took the form of a general clearance of the walls in order to recover the complete plan, and selective soundings in order to elucidate problematic areas and to reveal any intact associated surfaces. In the event, it was soon established that the remains are purely foundational, all surfaces having been eroded, ploughed or robbed out. A more intensive surface survey was therefore undertaken. Since late period material is only found in the vicinity of the ruins and nowhere else on the site, the latest material from the surface collection provides an effective dating for the building. This date is now seen to be early in the Islamic period, perhaps in the 7th-8th centuries AD.

The plan resulting from the clearance of the walls (Pl. XI,2) shows two distinct elements, a rectangular building (18m. × 5m.) set in the south-west corner of a larger rectangular enclosure (40m. × 30m.). The whole complex is orientated almost due east-west.

As mentioned above, all of the walls of the south-west building and the enclosure are represented by their foundations only. These are surprisingly deep, *ca.* 1.0m., and are composed of small rocks and cobbles, some 20-30cm in diameter, tight packed and with vertical faces. No traces of foundation trenches could be discerned and it was concluded that these had been vertical sided and of the same width as the walls. Above the foundations, at more or less ground level, ran a line of much heavier boulders (40-50cm in diameter) infilled and backed by smaller boulders to the width of the wall.

The south-west building has two doorways, one in the middle of its western wall and the other towards the centre of the northern wall: both suggest single rather than double doors. The sills of the two doors indicate that the internal floor level of the building must have been very close to the present ground surface.

There is some evidence to suggest that the enclosure was built slightly later than the south-west building since its walls, al-

though equally straight, are out of alignment. The north-west corner of the enclosure has not been found, possibly due to heavy erosion on this side of the mound. Several internal walls have been detected within the enclosure but have not yet been fully defined. Only one entranceway has been found, in the south wall, some 4m. east of the south-west building. A stretch of lower and flatter stones here suggests an entranceway about 4m. wide: too wide, that is, to be spanned by ordinary gates.

The function of the building remains obscure but the best suggestion is perhaps that it was a type of *khan*. This proposal is supported by an observation made during a visit to the River Jordan, immediately west of the site. At this point there was seen to be a firm ford across the river and the remains of what could have been causeway piers. The crossing is immediately opposite a wadi connecting to the Nablus region, and, therefore, a *khan* at Tell es-Sa'idiyeh would provide a very reasonable staging post for caravans passing to the West Bank.

### Concluding Remarks

The 1986 season has yielded results which enable some general remarks to be made about the history of occupation of Tell es-Sa'idiyeh.

It appears that EBII was the most extensive period with occupation of both the lower and upper tells. No traces of defensive walls have been found at any point on the low mound, and it seems that this part of the settlement, at least, was undefended. Such a situation surely implies a period of relative peace and stability. This view is reinforced by the results of a limited survey in the region west of the low mound where several small settlements were located (single houses or farms), all associated with EBII pottery.

Towards the end of EBII, the site was destroyed and no further habitation occurred on the lower tell. To what extent occupation of the upper tell continued after this destruction is impossible to say, but certainly by the end of the Late Bronze Age

there was a strongly fortified settlement represented by stratum XII in AA and the casemate wall system in EE. It seems probable that the staircase water system excavated by Pritchard belongs also to this phase of occupation. The picture of a tightly nucleated settlement, living through a period of great insecurity is developed still further by reference to the cemetery of the lower tell which is fully contemporary with this occupation and exhibits such a high intensity of burials within a relatively short period of time. Stratum XII was clearly destroyed around the middle of the 12th century BC and this date corresponds to the termination of the usage of the cemetery.

Following the destruction and the subsequent abandonment of stratum XII, the character of the upper tell occupation changes in Iron II. In all of the areas examined, both by Pritchard and more recently, its nature seems to be industrial rather than domestic. There is little evidence for

strong defensive walls (if at all), and the lower tell is no longer used for burials. Together, these facts bring serious doubt on the question as to whether Tell es-Sa'idiyeh was a habitation centre at all during the Iron II period: instead, it could be suggested that it was an industrial centre where people worked but did not live.

No further clues have been found as to the identification of the site, but one factor may be relevant in future discussions. As mentioned above (see FF), there is a firm ford of the River Jordan immediately to the west of the site. On the east bank above the ford is found a low tell with Iron I-II pottery on the surface. It seems likely therefore that there was an important crossing of the Jordan at this point, a fact which may have implications relating to the historical geography of this region.

Jonathan Tubb  
British Museum  
London, England.

## Appendix - List of Graves Excavated in 1986

The following is purely a working inventory of the graves excavated or examined in 1986 and is not intended as a final statement.

3. BB 400 Pit, burial covered by store jar sherds. Single articulated. W-E. *Finds* T3:1 Jar, T3:2 Iron bracelet. The store jar sherds are from several vessels and no complete profiles were reconstructable.
22. BB 100 Partially mud-brick lined pit. Single articulated. W-E. No associated finds.
34. BB 400 Mud-brick lined pit. Single articulated. W-E. *Finds* T34:1 Bronze bowl, T34:2 Painted pilgrim flask, T34:3 Iron dagger. Scatter of ovicaprid bones overlying skeleton.
35. BB 400 Jar burial in mud-brick and stone lined pit. *Finds* T35:1 Bronze bangle.
36. BB 400 Mud-brick lined pit. Single articulated. W-E. *Finds* T36:1 Pyxis.
38. Mistake in numbering = T35
- 39A. BB 200 Second phase of pit use. Partially mud-brick and store jar sherd lined. Disarticulated bones. No associated finds.
- 39B. BB 200 First phase of pit. Store jar burial. Disarticulated. No associated finds.
41. BB 200 Pit burial marked by stones and with a mud-brick floor. Disarticulated. *Finds* T41:1 Loop handled amphora, T41:2 Black bead.
42. BB 200 Mud-brick lined pit. Not completely excavated. *Finds* T42:1 Store jar.
43. BB 400 Pit burial. Single articulated juvenile. SW-NE. Head and upper part of torso contained within store jar; rest of body in east baulk. No associated finds.
44. BB 200 Pit burial. Single articulated. E-W. *Finds* T44:1 Bronze pin, T44:2 Bronze anklet.
45. BB 400 Pit, partially bounded by stones. Single articulated. S-W. Head and torso contained within store jar. Rest of body covered with sherds. *Finds* T45:1 Cowrie shell bead, T45:2 Spindle whorl, T45:3 Carnelian bead.
46. BB 200 Rectangular pit grave with inner clay kerb. Single articulated. W-E. *Finds* T46:1 Store jar, T46:2 Bowl, T46:3 Stand, T46:4 Dipper juglet, T46:5 Bowl, T46:6 Bowl, T46:7 Pilgrim flask, T46:8 Lentoid flask, T46:9 Stirrup jar, T46:10 Bronze bowl, T46:11 Bronze dagger, T46:12 Lamp, T46:13 Ivory combs, T46:14 Necklace, T46:15 Bowl, T46:16 Bronze knife, T46:17 Bone spindle, T46:18 Lamp, T46:19 Comb, T46:20 Comb fragment, T46:21 Small jar, T46:22 Stirrup jar, T46:23 Lentoid flask, T46:24 Stirrup jar, T46:25 Stirrup jar, T46:26 Stirrup jar, T46:27 Alabaster jar.
- 47A. BB 400 Pit partially bounded with mud-brick. Single articulated. E-W. *Finds* T47A:1 Bronze pin, T47A:2 Bronze toe ring.
- 47B. BB 400 Pit? Single articulated: only legs uncovered (torso in west baulk), feet missing - possibly cut by 47A. W-E. No associated finds.
- 47C. BB 400 Pit? Single articulated: only legs uncovered (torso in west baulk), feet missing - possibly cut by 47A. W-E. Possibly contemporary with 47B. No associated finds.
- 47D. BB 400 Pit. Disturbed collection of long bones and a mandible. No associated finds.
48. BB 600 Pit, partially bound by mud-brick and stones. Single articulated. W-E. *Finds* T48:1 Scarab.
49. BB 600 Pit. Partially articulated. SW-NE. *Finds* T49:1 Painted jug,

- T49:2 Bowl, T49:3 Store jar, T49:4 Pilgrim flask.
50. DD 200 Pit. Single articulated. SW-NE. No associated finds.
  51. BB 600 Pit. Single articulated juvenile. W-E. *Finds* T51:1 Bronze anklet, T51:2 Beads, T51:3 Bronze anklet, T51:4 Bronze bracelet, T51:5 Beads (necklace), T51:6 Bronze earring.
  52. BB 100 Pit in baulk. Articulated infant covered by inverted bowl. W-E. *Finds* T52:1 Bowl.
  53. BB 200 Pit. Single articulated juvenile. W-E. *Finds* T53:1 Bronze earring, T53:2 Jug.
  54. BB 200 Pit? Mandible in baulk - not fully excavated. *Finds* T54:1 Pyxis.
  55. BB 600 Pit? Disarticulated. Not fully excavated. No associated finds.
  56. BB 100 Pit. Single articulated. E-W. *Finds* T56:1 Bronze bracelets.
  57. BB 100 Pit. Isolated skull. No associated finds.
  58. BB 400 Pit. Two isolated skulls - one adult, one juvenile, very disturbed. No associated finds.
  59. BB 600 Pit. Single articulated juvenile. W-E. *Finds* T59:1 Bowl.
  - 60A. BB 200 Pit partially mud-brick and stone lined. Single articulated. W-E. No associated finds.
  - 60B. BB 200 Pit. Disturbed by 60A and 60C - only skull and one long bone remaining. *Finds* T60B:1 Lamp, T60B:2 Bowl, T60B:3 Jar, T60B:4 Pyxis, T60B:5 Bone blade.
  - 60C. BB 200 Pit; partially mud-brick and stone lined. Single articulated. W-E. Contemporary with 60A. No associated finds.
  - 61A. BB 600 Pit. Single articulated, cut by 61B. W-E. *Finds* T61A:1 Juglet, T61A:2 Iron bracelet, T61A:3 Shell bead, T61A:4 Silver earring.
  - 61B. BB 600 Pit, partially mud-brick lined and floored. Disturbed remains. No associated finds.
  62. BB 600 Pit? Single articulated. W-E. No associated finds.
  63. BB 400 Jar burial set into pit. Disarticulated infant. W-E. *Finds* T63:1 Store jar, T63:2 Carnelian beads, T63:3 White beads, T63:4 Bronze bangle, T63:5 Bronze bangle, T63:6 Bronze bangle, T63:7 Bronze bangle.
  64. Mistake in numbering - 64 = 155.
  65. BB 200 Pit. Single articulated juvenile. W-E. *Finds* T65:1 Scarab, T65:2 Scarab, T65:3 Scarab, T65:4 Scarab, T65:5 Scarab, T65:6 Scarab, T65:7 Beads, T65:8 Jug.
  66. BB 400 Pit. Single articulated cut by T45. W-E. *Finds* T66:1 Bowl, T66:2 Pyxis, T66:3 Beads.
  67. BB 400 Jar burial, very disturbed. Sparse remains. No associated finds.
  68. BB 200 Pit covered by stone wall (uncovered in 1985). Single articulated. W-E. No associated finds.
  69. BB 200 Pit cut into fill of 46. Single articulated. W-E. No associated finds.
  70. BB 400 Pit marked by stones. Single articulated — only legs uncovered (rest in east baulk). E-W. *Finds* T70:1 Bowl.
  71. BB 600 Pit? Very disturbed. No associated finds.
  72. BB 400 Pit, partially mud-brick lined with a stone marker. Single articulated. W-E. *Finds* T72:1 Bronze frag.
  73. BB 100 Pit. Single disturbed, cutting 52. *Finds* T73:1 Bowl.
  74. BB 100 Pit. Disarticulated infant buried within a bowl. *Finds* T74:1 Bowl, T74:2 Beads.
  75. FF Pit. Single articulated. W-E. *Finds* T75:1 Jug, T75:2 Iron bracelet, T75:3 Iron bracelet, T75:4 Bronze earring, T75:5 Pyxis, T75:6 Juglet (fragmentary), T75:7 Glass bead.
  76. BB 400 Double pithos burial set in pit. Burial contains one partially articulated adult (B), one disarticulated infant (A) overlying chest of B, and

- three additional skulls (C,D and E) with jumble of bones. Orientation of B: W-E. *Finds* T76A:1 Bronze earring, T76:2 Pyxis.
77. BB 600 Pit. Single articulated lying below 49. W-E. No associated finds.
  78. BB 200 Pit. Very disturbed, *Finds* T78:1 Jar.
  79. BB 200 Pit, partially mud-brick and pebble lined. Two skulls and scatter of bones. No associated finds.
  80. BB 200 Pit? Scatter of bones. *Finds* T80:1 Bone button, T80:2 Dipper juglet, T80:3 Dipper juglet.
  81. BB 200 Pit disturbed by 69. Scatter of bones possibly extending into baulk. No associated finds.
  82. BB 600 Pit within 48. Disarticulated skull and long bones. No associated finds.
  83. BB 100 Pit, mud-brick lined and stone marker on east side. Single articulated. E-W. No associated finds.
  84. BB 400 Pit? Disturbed, skull and few bones possibly cut by 76. W-E. No associated finds.
  85. BB 400 Pit with stones on east side. Skull and long bones. No associated finds.
  86. BB 400 Pit partially bounded with mud-brick. Very disturbed, three skulls, pelvis, ribs and long bones. Not fully excavated. *Finds* T86:1 Bronze pin.
  87. BB 400 Pit? Very disturbed, three skulls and scatter of long bones. *Finds* T87:1 Pyxis.
  88. BB 200 Pit, partially bounded by stones with store jar inside. Sparse remains. *Finds* T88:1 Store jar.
  89. BB 400 Pit. Secondary burial: skull and carefully arranged long bones. W-E. *Finds* T89:1 Jug, T89:2 Pyxis.
  90. BB 100 Pit cut into mud-brick wall. Disturbed, three skulls (A,B,C). *Finds* T90:1 Jug, T90:2 Beads, T90:3 Stamp seal.
  91. BB 200 Pit, brick lined with dressed stone marker at east side and cut into 46 fill. Single articulated. E-W. *Finds* T91:1 Bronze bowl (held between teeth), T91:2 Iron arrow-head, T91:3 Iron objects, T91:4 Silver earring, T91:5 Silver earring.
  92. BB 100 Pit with store jar sherd marker. Single disturbed — feet only rest in baulk. *Finds* T92:1 Bronze anklet, T92:2 Bronze anklet.
  - 93A. BB 600 Pit. Single articulated — Pelvis and legs only, rest in baulk. E-W. *Finds* T93A:1 Alabaster lid, T93A:2 Stone whorl.
  - 93B. BB 600 Pit. Single articulated — lower leg and foot only, rest in baulk. E-W. No associated finds.
  - 93C. BB 600 Pit. Single articulated — pelvis and leg, rest in section. E-W. No associated finds.
  - 93D. BB 600 Pit. One lower leg, rest in baulk. E-W. No associated finds.
  94. BB 200 Pit with stone markers cut by robber trench. Single articulated covered by jumble of numerous bones. W-E. No associated finds.
  95. BB 200 Pit, possibly marked by stones, cut by robber trench. Single articulated. W-E. No associated finds.
  - 96A. BB 600 Pit. Single articulated juvenile covered by a krater. N-S. No associated finds.
  - 96B. BB 600 Pit. Very disturbed, few long bones. No associated finds.
  - 96C. BB 600 Pit. Single articulated extending into baulk. W-E. No associated finds.
  97. BB 200 Pit with mud-brick floor (EB). Disturbed. Possibly continuation of 41. No associated finds.
  98. BB 200 Pit? Disturbed, scatter of bones. No associated finds.
  99. BB 200 Pit, partially mud-brick lined. Single articulated. E-W. *Finds* T99:1 Bowl.
  146. BB 400 Pit? Isolated skull. *Finds* T146:1 Alabaster pyxis, T146:2 Bowl.

147. BB 600 Store Jar with overlying mud-brick slab. Sparse remains. No associated finds.
148. BB 400 Store jar burial. Single disarticulated infant. *Finds* 148:1 Dipper juglet.
149. BB 400 Pit with stone lining (partly EB) and with EB destruction rubble fill. Single articulated — skull and upper torso only, rest in baulk. W-E. *Finds* T149:1 Lamp, T149:2 Sherds of bowl, T149:3 Jar, T149:4 Abydos juglet.
150. BB 200 Pit, mud-brick and stone lined. Single articulated - skull and upper torso only, rest in baulk. W-E. No associated finds.
151. BB 400 Double store jar burial. Single disarticulated infant, skull and long bones. No associated finds.
152. BB 200 Pit, partially mud-brick lined. Single articulated juvenile, skull and upper torso only, rest in section. W-E. *Finds* T152:1 Pilgrim flask, T152:2 Beads.
- 153A BB 400 Pit with stone markers. Single articulated. W-E. No associated finds.
- 153BBB 400 Pit. Directly underlying 153A. Single articulated. W-E. *Finds* T153B:1 Bronze bracelet, T153B:2 Six bronze rings, T153B:3 One and a half bronze rings, T153B:4 Beads, T153B:5 Juglet.
154. BB 400 Pit with stone marker. Single articulated, legs only, rest in baulk. W-E. No associated finds.
155. FF Store jar. No bones. No associated finds.
156. BB 100 Pit. Store jar burial. Single disarticulated infant, skull and a few bones only. *Finds* T156:1 Beads.
157. BB 600 Pit with mud-brick and stone covering. Single articulated. W-E. *Finds* T157:1 Bronze pin, T157:2 Pyxis.
7. BB 400 Pit. Single articulated covered with store jar sherds. E-W. *Finds* T7:1 Juglet (fragmentary).
- 7A. BB 400 Infant ribs overlying pelvic area of 7 - may be extending into baulk. E-W. No associated finds.

## Bibliography

Glueck, N.

1951 *Explorations in Eastern Palestine IV. AASOR 25-28.* New Haven.

Pritchard, J. B.

1980 *The Cemetery at Tell es-Sa'idiyeh, Jordan.* University Museum Monograph 41. University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia.

1985 *Tell es-Sa'idiyeh: Excavations on the Tell, 1964-1966.* University Museum Monograph 60. University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia.

Tubb, J. N.

1985 Preliminary Report on the 1985 Season of Excavations at Tell es-Sa'idiyeh, Jordan. *ADAJ* 1985, p. 131-140.