

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS IN BAYT RĀS, ANCIENT CAPITOLIAS, 2015: PRELIMINARY REPORT

Jolanta Mlynarczyk

Abstract

The team from the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology conducted the excavations at Bayt Rās in May 2015, in the area directly to the west of the Roman theatre on the northern slope of the plateau. The objective was to verify if the results of a non-invasive research carried out at the same site a few months earlier were correct, and to establish chronological phases for the utilization of this area of ancient Bayt Rās. Wall remains were uncovered in all three of the trenches opened, the course of which confirmed most of the results of the electric resistivity research. In addition, a sequence of floors were found, dating from the Late Roman (fourth-fifth centuries AD) and Umayyad periods, with evidence of destruction by the earthquake in the mid-eighth century AD. Most of the architecture and installations appear to be for domestic use. The evidence also points to some re-use of this area in a later period, probably the Fatimid/Ayyubid.

Introduction

The team from the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology, University of Warsaw, conducted archaeological excavations at the site of Bayt Rās (MEGA no. 2760, JADIS 2322001) in the Irbid Governorate, under permit no. 2015/19 from the Department of Antiquities of Jordan, between 3rd and 27th May, 2015. The team was directed by Prof. Jolanta Mlynarczyk (Institute of Archaeology, University of Warsaw), and included Dr. Mariusz Burdajewicz (Institute of Mediterranean and Oriental Cultures, Polish Academy of Sciences: Deputy Director), Dr. Mariusz Drzewiecki (Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań: trench supervisor),

Ms. Dorota Mazanek (University of Warsaw: trench supervisor and registrar), Ms. Iwona Laskowska (freelance: draftsman) and Mr. Rafał Bieńkowski (graduate student, University of Warsaw: trench supervisor). The DoA Representative was Eng. Amjad Batayneh.

The decisions for where to open the trenches had been dictated both by the local conditions (that is, the space available for excavations between the trees in the olive grove and consultations with private landowners), and by the results of the non-invasive research carried out in November 2014 (DoA Permit no. 2014/79). The previous year's work had also been conducted under the auspices of the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology; the team consisted of Prof. Jolanta Mlynarczyk, Dr. Mariusz Burdajewicz, Mr. Jakub Ordutowski and Ms. Iwona Laskowska, and with Eng. Amjad Batayneh as the DoA representative.

The area investigated was between the Roman theatre to the east (Al-Shami 2005) and the "vaults" (the so-called "Roman Forum") to the south-west, (Lenzen, Gordon and A. McQuitty 1986; Lenzen and Knauf 1987; Lenzen and Mc Quitty 1988). A grid of squares 20 m by 20 m was established, covering an area 40 m north-south by 120 m east – west. Six pairs of squares were marked as S. (Square) 1-N (north) and 1-S (south) through to S. 6-N and 6-S. Within this grid, a geophysical survey based on the electric resistivity method was conducted, together with a surface survey for archaeological features and artifacts. While the geophysical research evidenced the presence of architectural remains, a variety of surface finds ranging from the first/ second centuries AD through to the twelfth/ thirteenth centuries

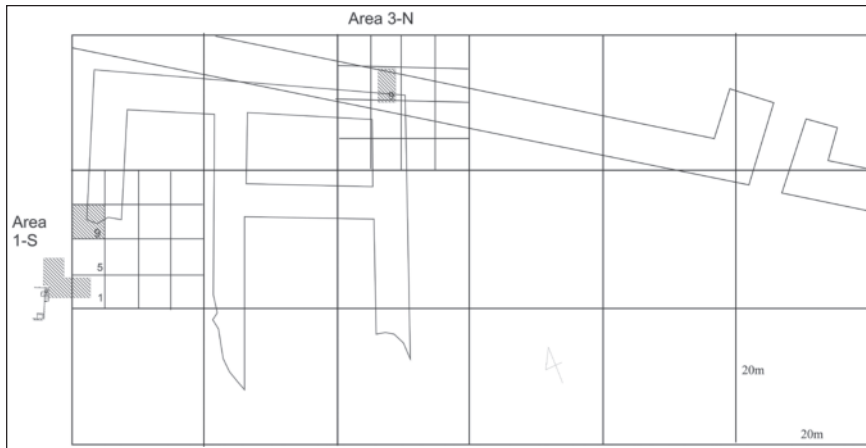
AD suggested that this area had been used for artisanal workshops in the Byzantine and Umayyad periods.

The objectives of the field season in May 2015 were to verify if the results obtained during the survey were correct, and to establish chronological phases for utilization of this part of ancient Capitolias. The grid of 12 areas, each 20m by 20m, was then subdivided into 5m by

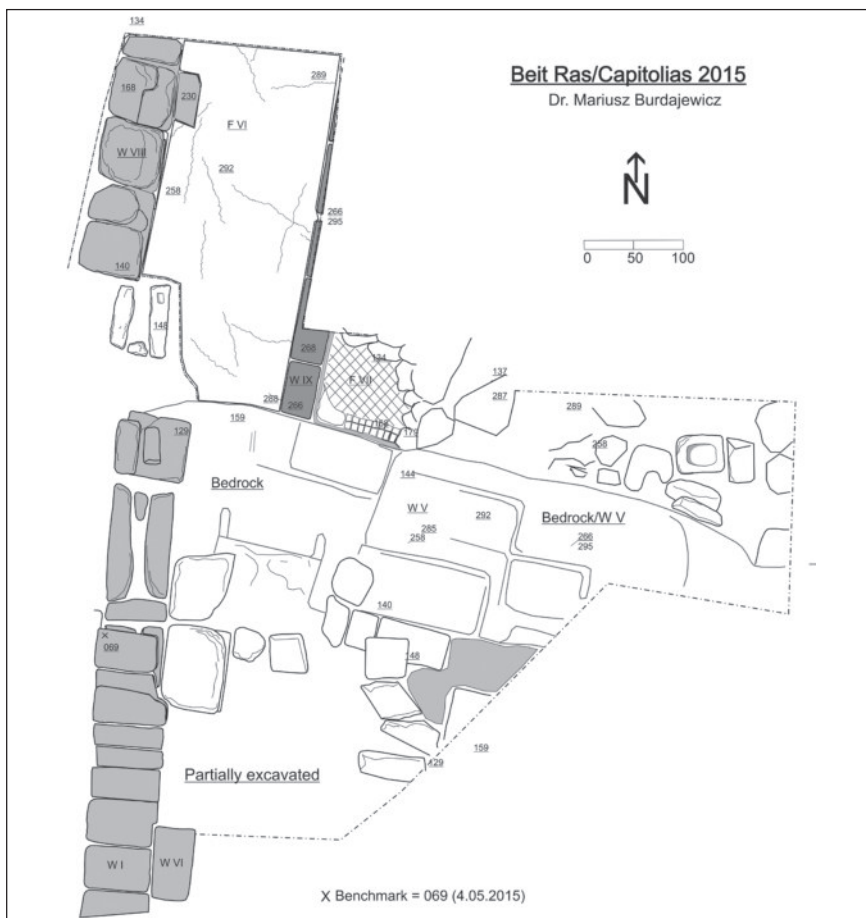
5m squares. Of the three trenches opened at the site, one was situated directly to the west of Area 1-S (Squares 1 and 5), another in Area 1-S (Square 9), and the third in Area 3-N (Square 9) (Fig. 1).

Description of the Results

The main part of the first trench (Fig. 2), which was also the richest in architectural remains,



1. Excavated squares in relation to the results of the 2014 electric resistivity survey (photo: Mariusz Burdajewicz).



2. Trench in Area 1-S/Sq. 1, 1-S (W)/ Sq. 1(W), and Sq. 5(W) (photo: Mariusz Burdajewicz).

was designated as 1-S(W), Sq. 1 (W), and was located directly to the west of the south-western corner of Area 1-S (or of Square 1-S of 2014 survey). It was opened in order to explain the extent and chronology of the N-S wall marked as W I in the 2014 survey, which appears on the plan published by the Joint Excavations Project of 1985 as “Wall 4” (Lenzen and Knauf 1987, 33, Fig. 5). The western face of this wall, whose lowest course rested on the bedrock with clear traces of quarrying, had been cleaned during the 2014 survey, and revealed three phases of relative chronology tentatively attributed to the Late Roman-Byzantine, Byzantine-Umayyad and Mediaeval periods (according to the Preliminary Report submitted to the DoA in December 2014). In 2015, the work began by cleaning the area on the eastern side of W I in order to determine its width (0.65-0.75 m), and the nature of deposits abutting its eastern face. The trench was then enlarged towards both the north and the east, and in its final extent assumed an L-shaped outline, covering most of Sq. 1(W) and part of Sq. 5(W), both which were located in Area 1-S, as well as the south-western corner of Sq. 1 in Area 1-S.

A rock-cut foundation for wall W V, perpendicular to W I, runs along the E-W axis of the trench. With the exception of a few blocks still *in situ* at its western end, W V has been completely robbed out, leaving a negative impression (Loc. 002) consisting of a thin layer of earth with pale grey spots (ashes?) (Fig. 3). Exploration of the negative impression revealed a series of cuts, possibly evidence of stone quarrying which had been carried out



3. Negative from W V facing south, with W I to the right (photo: Dorota Mazanek).

before the bedrock was used as a foundation for the wall. The northern edge of Loc. 002 is a floor surface of whitish earth (mortar or eroded limestone?). This poorly preserved floor (F III) continues to the north in Sq. 5(W) (Fig. 4), limited on the west by the remains of a wall (W VIII), which only approximately continues the line of W I. Stratigraphically part of the same utilization phase in Area 1-S, Sq. 1 appears to be represented by a concentration of rubble (Loc. 003) with a small trough for domestic animals (?) carved out of a limestone block (Fig. 5).



4. Late floor (F 3) and extant top of W VIII, facing west (photo: Mariusz Burdajewicz).



5. Late habitation level (F III) on the northern side of W V, facing west (photo: Mariusz Burdajewicz).

In terms of absolute chronology, while the fill of the W V negative impression contained Late Byzantine and Umayyad potsherds (Fig. 31: 1-3), the removal of F III in Sq. 5(W) yielded two fragments of Islamic glazed pottery of presumably Ayyubid and Fatimid date (Fig. 31: 4-5 respectively); that is, from the eleventh to the thirteenth century. This agrees with the results of the Joint Excavation Project (1985), who in nearby Cave A4 found a deposit of eleventh century pottery (Lenzen and Knauf 1987, 44) and may indicate some kind of domestic activity in the area during the Medieval period.

F III rests upon dense debris, mostly regular limestone blocks collapsed to the north, which are almost certainly from W V, and which are probably the result of an earthquake (Figs. 6,7). The blocks lie on a compacted earthen floor, F IV, ca. 0.65 m below F III. The ceramic material found between the collapsed blocks (Fig. 32: 19-24) may include intrusive potsherds from later periods, but the material sealed below F IV seems to be uncontaminated and dates from the late Byzantine to the Umayyad period (Fig. 32: 25-27). Therefore, one may assume that the



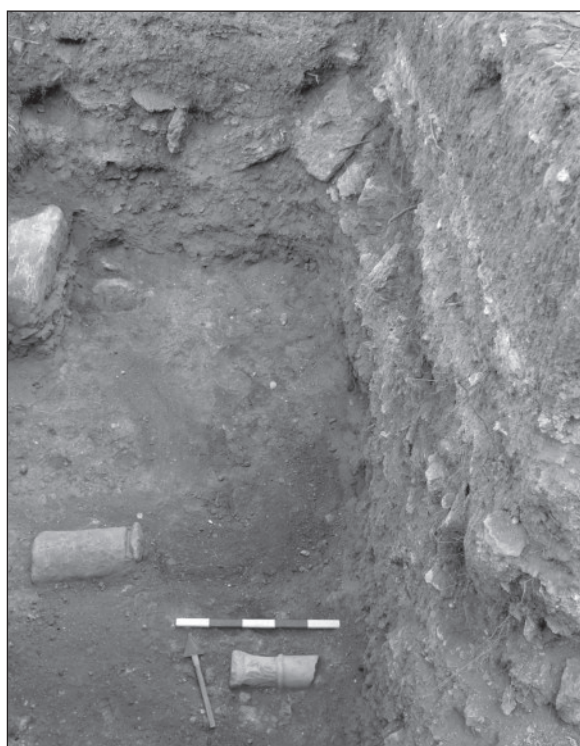
6. Blocks collapsed from W V, with part of F III above them, facing east (photo: Jolanta Mlynarczyk).



7. Blocks collapsed from W V lying on F IV, with later floor(s?) sealing them, facing north (photo: Jolanta Mlynarczyk).

earthquake evidenced by the collapsed blocks was that of AD 749.

The underlying, earlier floor (F V) in Sq. 5(W) lies ca. 0.52 m below F IV. It is a layer of dark orangey brown earth which contains some ashes, small burnt limestone pieces, and the remains of a destroyed clay *tabun*. Two architectural elements were also found lying in a horizontal position, and apparently marking the floor level (Fig. 8). One of them is a fragment from a small limestone column, and the other



8. Elements of architectural decoration from a church, lying on F V, with traces of a *tabun*; facing north (photo: Mariusz Burdajewicz).

part of a marble columnette (BR 2015/19/20) from a church's chancel (**Fig. 9**), of a type



9. Fragmentary marble columnette from a church chancel; BR 2015/19/20 (photo: Mariusz Drzewiecki).

common from the sixth to seventh centuries. (For use of identical columnettes, see a lateral chancel, dated to the sixth/seventh centuries, at the Northwest Church in Hippos of the Decapolis: Mlynarczyk and Burdajewicz 2013: 207, figs. 279a-279b). Their presence here, out of the original context, is probably the result of destruction of a nearby church; possibly the one found close to the Vaults on the northern edge of the plateau above our site (Lenzen 1995: 330). This destruction may have occurred during the Sassanian invasion of Palestine in AD 614, or slightly later. In the layer directly above F V, a Byzantine *follis* of the sixth (or early seventh?) century was found (BR 2015/19/4), confirming this date. A N-S wall (W VIII) also rests on F V, whose slightly slopy eastern face (*ca.* 1.20 m high), consisting of three layers of blocks, gives it the appearance of a retaining wall (**Fig. 10**).

The earliest floor reached in this trench, F VI, *ca.* 0.20 m below F V, lies directly over the bedrock. This is a very hard, level earthen floor, with large patches of lime mortar (**Fig. 10**). It borders W IX to the east, one row of carefully constructed, beautiful ashlar 0.30-0.32 m wide, which lie directly on the bedrock (**Fig. 11**). Judging by the preserved height of the plaster, W IX had at least two rows of ashlar. The plaster also extends to the vertical rock-cut surface of the foundation for W V (**Fig. 13**), although it is difficult to ascertain if the vertical surface *ca.* 1.30 m high was already crowned with a wall at that time, or was perhaps only a rock-cut platform. Wall W IX, visible in the



10. Floor F VI and wall W VIII, the latter resting on F V; facing west (photo: Jolanta Mlynarczyk).



11. Floor F VI and western frame of basin Loc. 004, with floors F V and F IV sealing it; facing east (photo: Jolanta Mlynarczyk).

trench's section, runs at least 3.5 m northwards, and could probably be traced to its north end in the future.

This structure provides the frame for a shallow basin (Loc. 004), paved by a plain mosaic of large *tesserae* (the "industrial" mosaic type). Only the south-west corner of the basin was uncovered, lined inside with a white plaster of excellent quality (**Fig. 12**). Neither the size nor the nature of the basin can be determined.



12. South-west corner of the basin (*piscina* or wine treading floor?) Loc. 004, viewed from above (photo: Dorota Mazanek).



13. South-west corner of the basin Loc. 004, viewed against rocky terrace of W V, facing south-east (photo: Jolanta Mynarczyk).

The basin did not yield any finds; the explored corner was filled with a very compacted, very hard, pure clay sediment. This seems to discount identifying it as the treading floor of a winery; was it perhaps a kind of *piscina*? Judging by the few pottery finds from overlying F VI, which obviously pertains to the same phase as basin Loc. 004, and was dated to the Byzantine period (sixth century?), either is possible, as both these elements were used during this time.

A rather different stratigraphy was found on the southern side of W V. This area formed an upper terrace, related to the earliest floors F VI and F VII on the north side. Floor F I had initially been identified as the latest floor surface (Fig. 14). It consisted of small, irregular stones in pale brown earth, with some extant lime mortar and larger stone paving. The layer (up to 0.5 m thick) which covered this floor



14. Floor F I, with W I to the right, facing south (photo: Mariusz Burdajewicz).

was particularly rich in pottery (Fig. 31: 6-11). Most potsherds were “Beisan” type jars, a few of them with a circular hole drilled through the shoulder, probably in order to ensure safe fermentation of the wine. Here, one should bear in mind a number of references to the production of, and trade in, wine at Bayt Rās during the sixth/seventh centuries and probably later (Lenzen and Knauf 1987: 35 and notes 61-62). Indeed, these jars represent the shape and decoration characteristics of the seventh century, rather than the late seventh to eighth centuries (Fig. 31: 9-11). (For the seventh century “Beisan” type jars from Hippos – Susita, see Mlynarczyk 2013: 480-481 and 484-485, Figs. 15-32).

The Byzantine period date for this deposit is confirmed by single examples of fine wares such as no. 6 (early to mid-seventh century; Fig. 31), no. 8 (mid-sixth to early seventh century), and terracotta lamp BR 2015/19/1, of the so-called “North Jordan type”, dated fifth/sixth century (Da Costa 2010: 75-76 and Fig. 15), which were found on F I itself (Fig. 15). However, it is perhaps possible to detect a still later floor, or rather walking level, which we would mark as F “0”, immediately above F I. It appears to be marked by flat-positioned blocks, possibly collapsed from W I (Fig. 16). The topsoil above the blocks in question yielded very mixed ceramic material, including two pieces of glazed (Islamic) pottery and a fragment of an Eastern Sigillata “A” ware *lagynos* jug from the first century BC/first century AD; thus the presumed late walking level(?) cannot be dated precisely. Moreover, the chronology of construction for



15. Terracotta oil lamp (BR 2015/19/1), found on F I, sixth century AD (photo: Jolanta Mlynarczyk).



16. Fragments of presumed walking level ca. 0.70-0.80m above the level of F I; facing south, with W I to the right (photo: Jolanta Mlynarczyk).

remains discovered on the eastern side of W I remains obscure. Specifically, removal of the debris accumulated against the eastern face of W I (Loc. 001) revealed two additional elements; W VI which was preliminarily described as a “pillar” supporting W I, and W VII which appears to be a blocked opening (Fig. 17). Since exploration in this spot could



17. Walls W I, W V and W VI resting on the level of F I; facing south (photo: Jolanta Mlynarczyk).

be continued neither to the south nor to the east, it is not clear if there was another wall running east-west, which might have contained the blocked opening. All three vertical elements (W I, W VI and W VII) were built on F I, suggesting they are more recent than the floor in question.

F I almost certainly dates to no later than the sixth century AD, as the finds from the layer below it included, in addition to ceramic vessel fragments (Fig. 32: 14-17), Late Roman bronze coins (BR 2015/19/5, 6 and 7; fourth/fifth century?), and five terracotta oil lamp fragments (such as lamp BR 2015/19/1 found on F I; see Figs. 18, 19), all of the same “North



18. Fragmentary terracotta lamps (026.7 and 026.8) from the deposit under F I (photo: Jolanta Mlynarczyk).



19. Three terracotta lamp fragments (026.9, 026.11 and 026.10) from the deposit under F I (photo: Jolanta Mlynarczyk).

Jordan type”, which are dated to the fifth/sixth century (Da Costa 2010: 75-76 and Fig. 15). This means that F I is probably contemporary with F V on the north side of W V; the difference in the height of their respective floor levels, amounting to *ca.* 2 m, is another proof of the terrace arrangement of the area on the northern slope of Bayt Rās.

An earlier floor of tamped earth, F II, was found *ca.* 0.50 m below F I (Fig. 20), overlying a thin layer of earth immediately above the bedrock. Very few potsherds were found (Fig. 32:18), but they were accompanied by Roman coin BR 2015/19/8, probably from the mid-third century AD. F II, therefore, may date to as early as the fourth century AD, which is earlier than any of the other floors to the north of W V.

The second trench (Fig. 21) was opened in Area 1-S, Sq. 9, a short distance (*ca.* 6 m) to



20. Two successive floor levels: F I and F II, with W I to the right; facing south (photo: Jolanta Mlynarczyk).

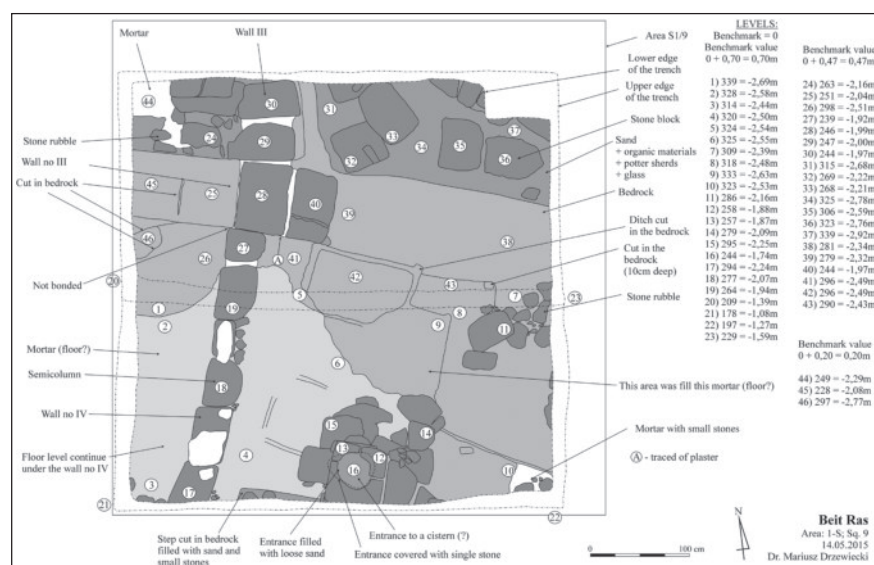
the north of the first one (Fig. 1). A rock-cut foundation for an east-west wall (W II) was found, running parallel to the northern edge of the trench (Fig. 22). W II is similar in appearance



22. Trench 1-S, Sq. 9, with W II in the background, W IV to the left and Loc. 006 in the foreground, facing north-west (photo: Jolanta Mlynarczyk).

to the rock foundation for W V, which is *ca.* 12 m to the south. The two walls (W II and V) are not only parallel to each other, but are also the same width (*ca.* 1.15 m), and both were built directly on the bedrock, which bore traces of previous stone quarrying. At the western end of W II, where it intersects with another wall (W III), some of the ashlar blocks were still *in situ*. W III runs north, and is also built on a rock-cut foundation.

The north-eastern part of the trench, between Ws II and III, revealed a layer of ashlars collapsed from the wall(s). The pottery



21. Trench in Area 1-S/Sq. 9 (photo: Mariusz Drzewiecki).

collected between them (**Fig. 32: 28-32**) leaves no doubt that we are dealing with evidence for the earthquake destruction of 749 AD. The debris was unsealed, which means there is a possibility that some of the finds are intrusive. The lack of any overlying floors proves that, after the earthquake in question, this particular area was not been inhabited again. Excavation of the floor below the layer of collapsed ashlars was postponed to the next season.

To the south of W II, the line of W III was continued by another north-south wall; W IV. However, unlike W III, which was built on a rock-cut foundation, W IV, of careless construction and only 0.35 m wide, rested on a compacted clay floor (F IX; **Fig. 23**). It lay directly on the bedrock, and must have been contemporary with W II. However, no sealed layers were found in this part of the trench; even the trench sections did not reveal any definite levels. Most of the ceramic material from the trench was chronologically consistent,

and dated to between the late Byzantine and early Islamic (Umayyad) periods (sixth/eighth centuries AD); hence this part of the site was probably occupied during these periods.

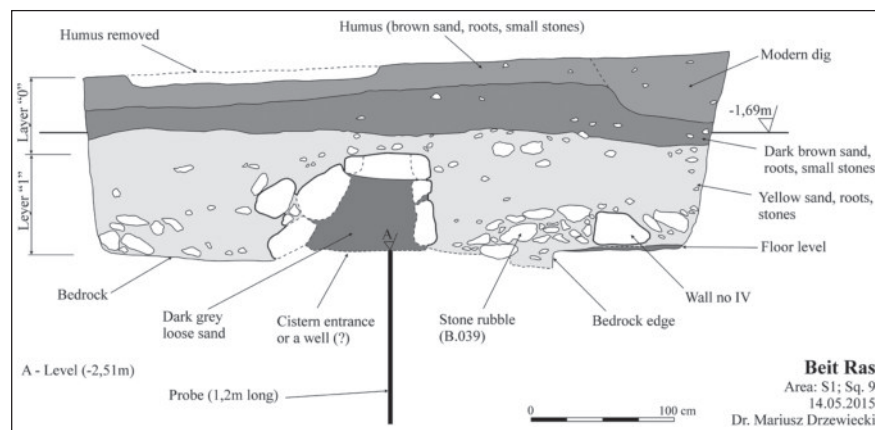
In the middle of the southern edge of the trench, a heap of both dressed and irregular blocks (Loc. 006, **Fig. 22**, foreground) was initially interpreted as part of a dismantled wall. However, it soon became evident it was a makeshift covering for a water cistern (rather than a well); Loc. 006. The original opening was cut into the bedrock, most probably during the first habitation period, when W II was built, and F IX was made. However, it is clear that the cistern was re-used some time after its abandonment, which was almost certainly caused by the earthquake of AD 749. Not only is the present well-head placed *ca.* 0.70 m above F IX, without any floors in between (**Fig. 24**), but also its cover lacks any true construction (**Fig. 25**). The well-head frame, with a diameter of *ca.* 0.30 m (**Fig. 26**), simply rests on top of



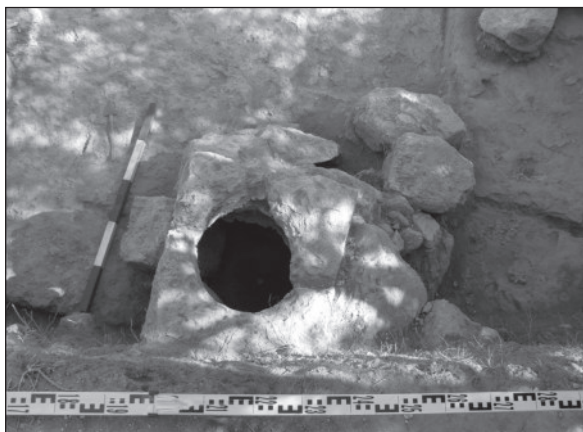
23. Trench 1-S, Sq. 9, with W II in the background, W III in the far background and W IV to the left, resting on F IX; facing north (photo: Jolanta Mlynarczyk).



25. Cistern cover (Loc. 006) with the well-head on top of earthquake debris, *ca.* 0.70 m. above the level of F IX; facing south-east (photo: Mariusz Drzewiecki).



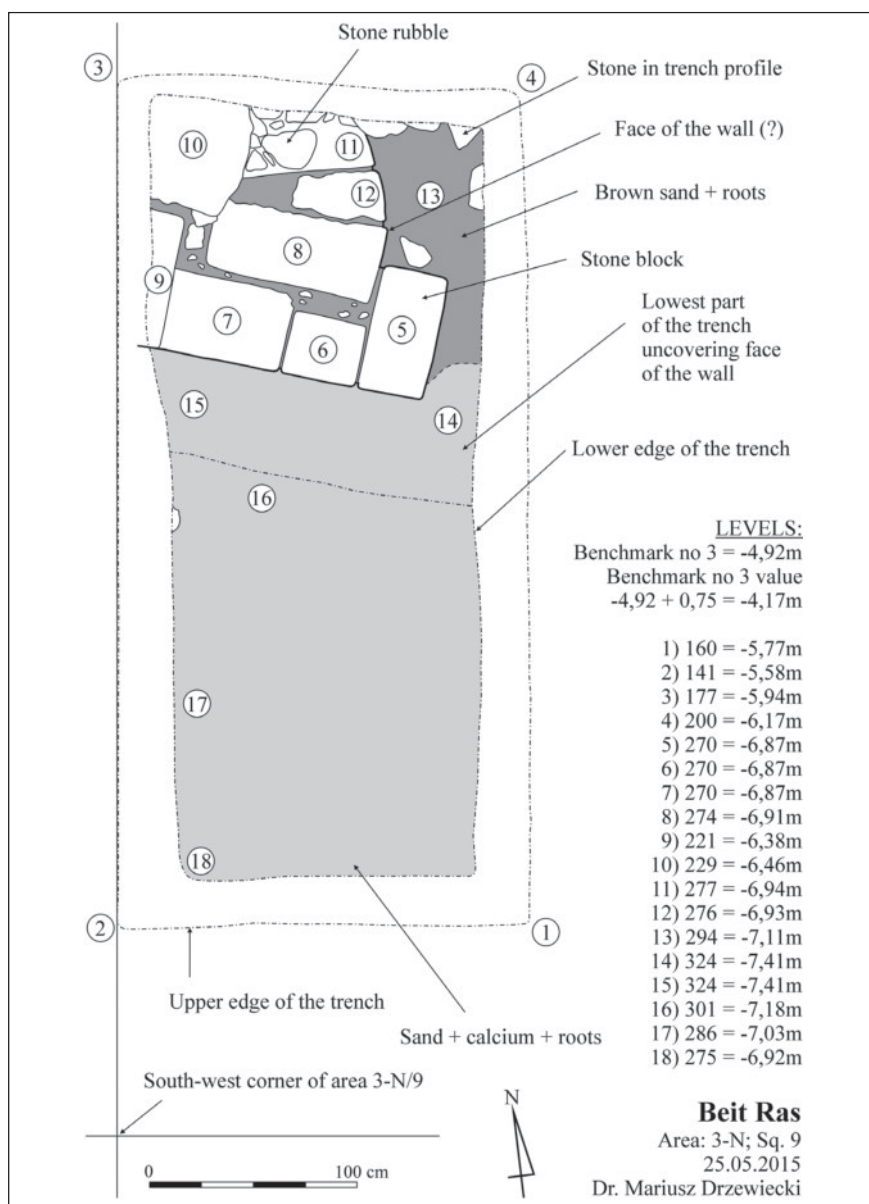
24. Southern section of trench in Area 1-S/ Sq. 9 (photo: Mariusz Drzewiecki).



26. Well-head of cistern in 1-S/ Sq. 9; seen from above (photo: Mariusz Drzewiecki).

what appears to be remains of the earthquake debris. Logically, this well-head level must have corresponded to a walking level, even if no specific floor has been noted around it. It may be related to the same chronological phase as makeshift wall W IV (a field wall?) and F III in the trench in Area 1-S (W), Sq. 5 (W); that is, to the Fatimid/Ayyubid (?) period. On the other hand, the very presence of a water cistern (or well) means that the space to the south of wall W II was unroofed, serving as a courtyard(?) both in the Byzantine-Umayyad and the late (Medieval?) periods.

The third trench (Fig. 27) was opened in the western part of Sq. 9 in Area 3-N, ca. 40m



27. Trench in Area 3-N/ Sq. 9 (photo: Mariusz Drzewiecki).

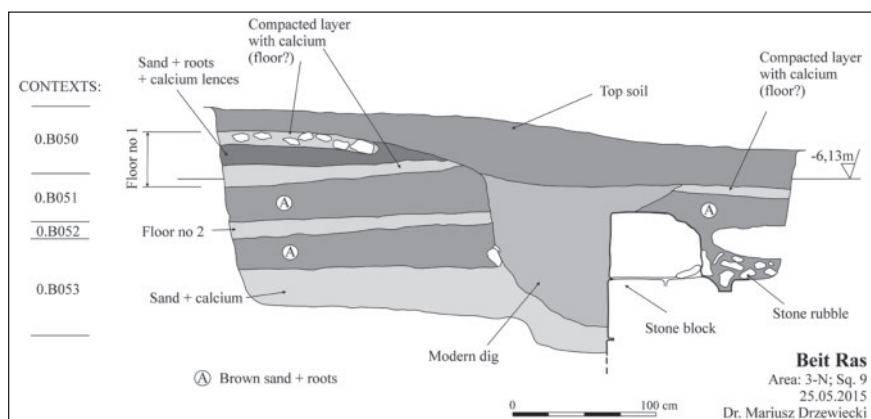
to the north-east of the trenches in Area 1-S (Fig. 1). Two successive lime mortar floors, Fs I and II, were uncovered (Figs. 28, 29) before the exploration was halted *ca.* 1.40m below the modern surface, without reaching bedrock. Both floors originally abutted on the east-west wall (W I) constructed of ashlars (Fig. 30). Its southern face was exposed to a maximum of *ca.* 1m of its actual height, while its northern face appears to be curvilinear. The wall no longer continued to the east at the depth reached by the end of the season; however its foundation was not reached.

The chronology of the floors in this trench appears to be very different from that evidenced in the two trenches on the west. In the trench in Area 3-N Sq. 9, the latest ceramic material does not seem to post-date the fifth century AD. The potsherds (Fig. 33: 34-42 from under F I, Fig. 34: 43-44 from F II, and 34: 45-48, from under F II) are exclusively Roman or Late Roman. Moreover, two bronze coins (BR 2015/19/9

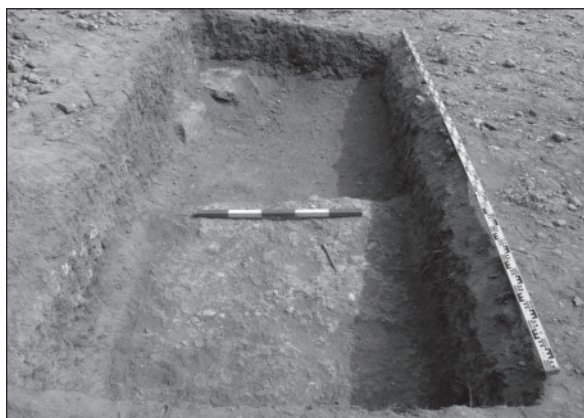
and 10) found sealed under F I should be dated to the late fourth or fourth-to-fifth centuries AD. However, one should bear in mind that the upper layers of blocks in W I were robbed out (in antiquity? in modern times?), and the robber trench completely removed the northern parts of both Fs II and I. This, of course, means there is possibly intrusive material, as a result of dismantling the wall. To completely understand the nature of W I, it would be necessary to deepen the trench and expand it to the east and west.

General Conclusions

The earliest utilization phase of the area covered by the trenches in Area 1-S (W), Sq. 1(W) and Sq. 5(W), Area 1-S, Sq. 1 and Sq. 9, must have been stone quarrying, as evidenced by the incisions in the bedrock of both W II and W V. This activity may have taken place during either the Roman or Late Roman (Early Byzantine) period.



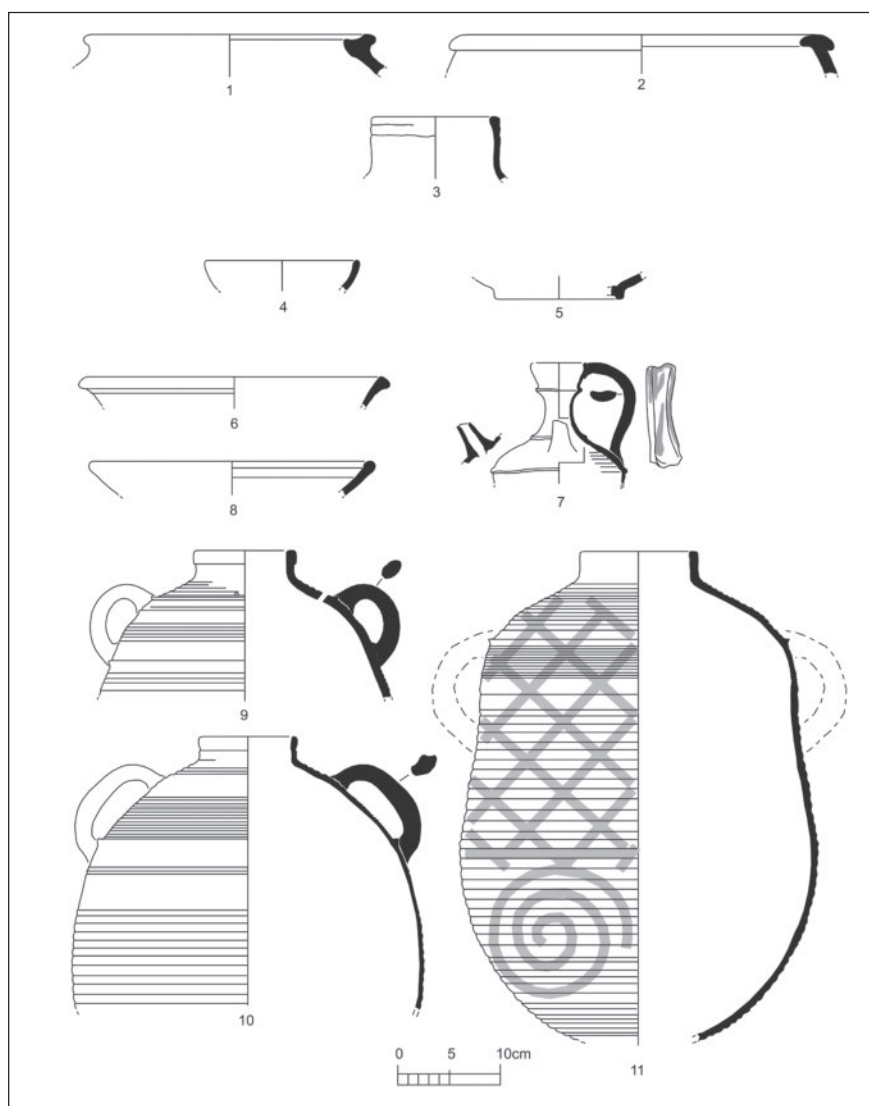
28. Western section of trench in Area 3-N/ Sq. 9 (photo: Mariusz Drzewiecki).



29. Lime mortar floor (F II) in Area 3-N, Sq. 9 trench, facing north. Note the robber trench in the northern part and at the very top of W I at the far end on the left (photo: Mariusz Drzewiecki).



30. Wall W I in Area 3-N, Sq. 9 trench, facing north-west (photo: Mariusz Drzewiecki).



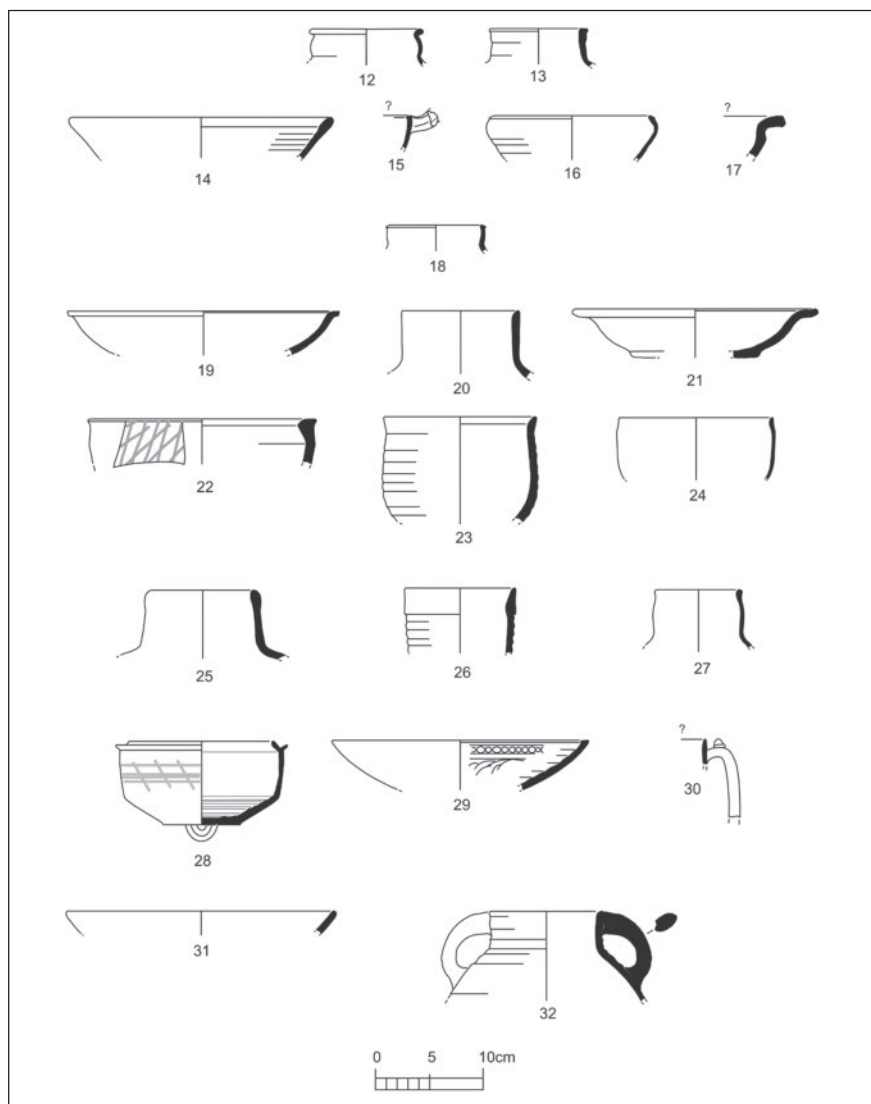
31. Pottery nos. 1-3: robbery fill of W V; nos. 4-5: under and inside F III; nos. 6-11: deposit above F I (photo: Mariusz Burdajewicz).

The second phase, pertaining to the Late Roman and/or Early Byzantine period, is evidenced by F II, and perhaps by the construction of W V, to the north of which a basin (Loc. 004) and the mosaic floor (FVII) were built. F VI must have belonged to the same phase, because of the stratigraphy connected with the basin.

At a slightly later period in the third phase is F V, a modest earthen floor, probably with a domestic context, judging by the remains of the *tabun*. Two architectural fragments, most probably originally from a church, were found on that level; they possibly testify to destruction caused by the Sassanians in AD 614 or soon after that. A piece of a marble *mensa* (BR 2015/19/19; a church table or tray), which may have been connected to the same event, was

found in the neighboring trench (1-S/Sq. 9). F I, on the southern side of W V, may date from the same chronological phase.

The next (fourth) architectural phase is represented by floors F IV and F IX, which were covered by the debris of an earthquake, doubtlessly that of AD 749. This destruction seems to mark a period of temporary abandonment of the site, until the fifth phase which occurred during the Middle Ages (Fatimid/Ayyubid?period), as evidenced by makeshift floors on roughly leveled debris from the mid-eighth century; Fs VIII, III, and perhaps also F 0(?). The topsoil layer above these floors contains only a few datable ceramics, most of which are residual potsherds from the Byzantine/Umayyad period.



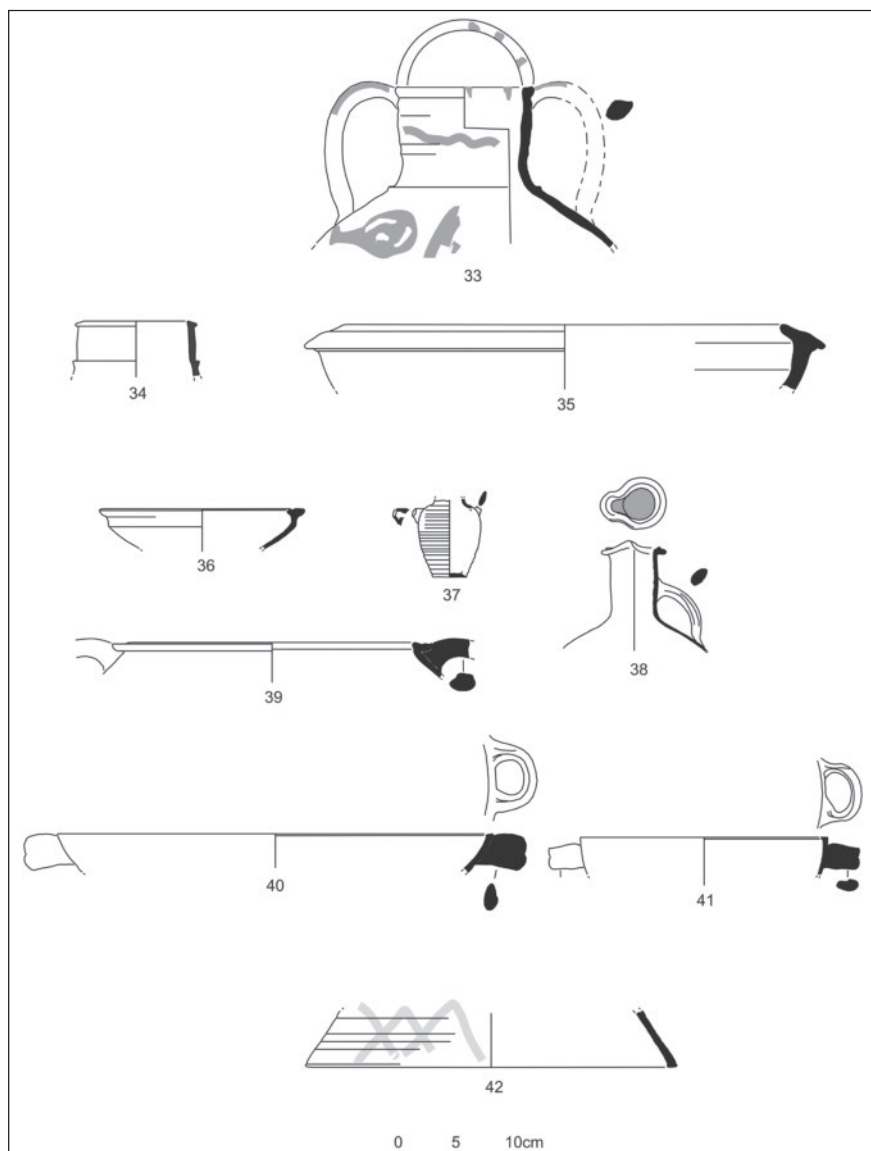
32. Pottery nos. 12-13: exploration of F I; nos. 14-17: under F I; no. 18: under F II; nos. 19-24: between the blocks collapsed from W V; nos. 26-27: under F IV; nos. 28-32: between the blocks collapsed from W II (photo: Mariusz Burdajewicz).

Regarding the small trench in Area 3-N, two habitation levels, represented by Fs I and II, have been examined so far. They were followed by a partial dismantling of the east-west wall (W I) at an undetermined date (Byzantine?). F II appears to be middle Roman, while F I is Late Roman (fourth century, perhaps fifth century).

It should be added that an important result of the surface survey in 2014 was to record evidence of artisanal activity in the area directly to the west of the Roman theatre. This evidence was concentrated in the 2015 season's Areas ("Squares") 4-S, 5-S and in part of 6-S (Fig. 1). It consisted, apart from the kiln/furnace remains collected around the mouth of a cistern found in the south-western corner of Area ("Square") 4-S, of at least two elements. First, many small

fragments were collected which belonged to hand-made clay rings, which almost certainly served as "dividers" to separate vessels placed in the potter's kiln for firing. Secondly, local production of glass, which has already been discussed in the literature (Abd-Allah 2010), was confirmed (Burdajewicz, M.: this volume).

The results of the geophysical research in 2014 strongly suggested the existence of an east-west wall, continuing from the Roman theatre for some 150m westwards, where it appeared to turn southwards. Therefore, one could forward a working hypothesis that we may be dealing with a northern section of the Byzantine-period fortifications of Capitolias. During the same period, on the southern (inner) side of the wall, there could have been an area



33. Pottery no. 33: fill on the eastern side of W IV; nos. 34-42: under F I in the Area 3-N trench (photo: Mariusz Burdajewicz).

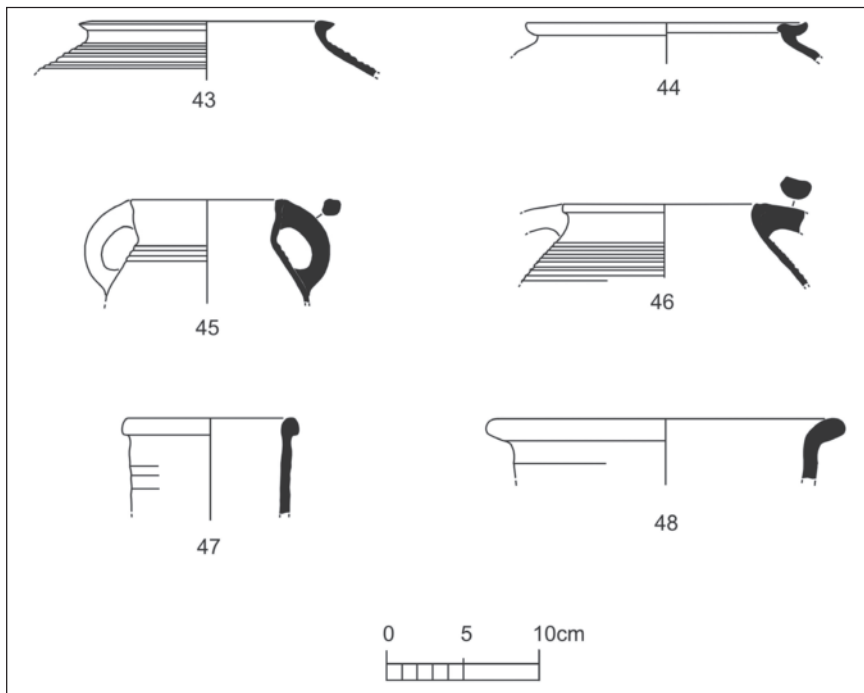
of industrial activity, with kilns and furnaces for glass and perhaps pottery production, including oil lamps (?).

Acknowledgments

We are very grateful to our Jordanian representative of the DoA, Eng. Amjad Batayneh, for his very friendly and useful cooperation, as well as to Prof. Nabil Bader, Dean of the Faculty of Archaeology and Anthropology, Yarmouk University (Irbid), for his unfailing help. During our stay in Jordan, we also received invaluable support from H.E. the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland, Dr. Krzysztof Bojko. Many thanks are due to our Polish colleagues, who assisted us to identify the Islamic glazed pottery

(Dr. Malgorzata Redlak, National Museum in Warsaw) and the bronze coins (Mr. Tomasz Wiecek, Institute of Archaeology, University of Warsaw). We are also grateful to the DoA employees in the Bayt Rās office for their friendly attitude towards our team, as well as to our local neighbors and workers, who greatly contributed to the unforgettable atmosphere during the fieldwork season.

Jolanta Młynarczyk
 Institute of Archaeology, University of Warsaw
 ul. Krakowskie Przedmieście 26/28
 00-972 Warszawa 64
 Poland
 e-mail: susyam@wp.pl



34. Pottery nos. 43-44: from removal of F II; nos. 45-48: from the layer under F II (photo: Mariusz Burdajewicz).

Appendix

Catalogue of illustrated pottery, diagnostics for the interpretation of the site's chronology. (Jolanta Mlynarczyk).

I. Trenches in Area 1-S (W) and Area 1-S

Pottery From the Fill Connected with the Robbing out of W V

- 1) 002.1. Rim of pithos in grey ware, hand-made. Umayyad.
- 2) 002.2. Flanged rim of deep basin. Fabric: light red (5 YR 6/6: reddish yellow), very dense with some very tiny white and dark (or voids?) grits. Surface near 7.5 YR 6/2 ("pinkish gray") with darker horizontal brush(?) marks. Wheel-made. Umayyad?
- 3) 002.3. Neck/rim of "Beisan" style jar. Fabric hard fired, orange-brown (5 YR 5/4 reddish brown), dense with medium-sized white grits; surface dark grey (7.5 YR 6/0 "gray"). Umayyad.

Pottery Dating the Execution of F III (from under and inside the floor)

- 4) 009.2. Rim of glazed bowl. Bluish green to "white" glaze inside, pale yellow to "white" outside. Ayyubid, twelfth/thirteenth century.
- 5) 010.1. Ring base of bowl and unconnected body sherd of the same vessel. Fabric reddish

yellow (7.5 YR 7/6) with reddish brown grits. Interior with eroded greenish blue glaze. Exterior unglazed, fired pale brown (beige). So-called Fatimid Underglaze Painted ware, mid-eleventh/mid-twelfth century.

Pottery deposit above F I (wine jar deposit, seventh century AD)

- 6) 002.6. Rim of Jarash(?) bowl imitating LRC bowl, profile of Hayes form 10C (Hayes 1972: 343-346, fig. 71:13), dated early to mid-seventh century AD. Fabric orange-red (2.5 YR 6/8 light red), slightly paler surface (2.5 YR 6/6 light red), with very uneven break, some tiny white grits; interior very eroded.
- 7) 002.9. Fragments of spouted "cook ware" juglet; painted decoration in transparent white. Fabric gritty red (2.5 YR 6/8 light red), fairly clean; exterior fired brown (5 YR 5/3 reddish brown with dark brownish grey spots); white sediment inside.
- 8) 003.1. Rim of ARSW bowl/dish, form Hayes 104C (Hayes 1972: fig. 30:23) dated to ca. 550-625 AD.
- 9) 002.8. Fragments from the upper part of a jar with a circular hole in lower shoulder. Fabric red with small to large white grits and fewer dark (brown) ones; surface fired brown with very pale brown ("white") slip partly worn; seventh century AD.

- 10) 003.2. Fragments of “Beisan” jar. Fabric red, dark grey “skin” outside, with white painted decoration; seventh century AD.
 11) 003.5. Fragmentary “Beisan” jar, recomposed from many smaller fragments. Greyish brown exterior with remains of white painted decoration; seventh century AD.

Exploration of F I

- 12) 007.2. Rim of cook pot. Fabric dark pink (5 YR 6/6 reddish yellow) with tiny white and reddish brown grits; surface fired light reddish brown (7.5 YR 6/6 reddish yellow).
 13) 025.1. Rim of “Beisan” jar. Fabric gritty light red (5 YR 6/6 reddish yellow), with some small white grits and voids; surface fired grey (5 YR 5/1).

Under F I

- 14) 026.1. Rim of “Galilean bowl”. Fabric red (2.5 YR 5/6) with rounded black grits and smaller (fewer) white ones; same surface, with black eruptions.
 15) 026.2. Casserole rim. Fabric with “sandwich” firing (orange exterior, light brown interior), dark brown grits and fewer white ones; surface fired pale orange inside, greyish brown outside, smoothed.
 16) 026.4. Fragment of bowl with in-turned rim, slightly flanged on exterior. Fabric “orange” (5 YR 7/8 reddish yellow), rather dense, with small white grits. Surface baked unevenly from reddish brown to brown and dark greyish brown, with white eruptions.
 17) 026.5. Rim of basin (*lekane*). Fabric whitish (10 YR 8/3 very pale brown) with tiny orange grits; the same surface, very smooth (see the fabric of 053.7).

Under F II

- 18) 027.1. Rim of cook pot; fabric granular red (5 YR 6/8).

Collapsed Stone Blocks (earthquake 749 AD) from W V, overlying F IV (may contain intrusions from above?)

- 19) 012.2. Rim of cook ware lid. Fabric “sandwiched” (dark brown outside, orange-brown inside), granular, with white and black grits. Surface yellowish brown inside (10 YR 5/4), discoloured to light brownish

- grey (2.5 Y 6/2) outside; remains of soot on rim.
 20) 012.3. Rim fragment of jar rather than cook pot (?). Fabric yellowish red (5 YR 5/6) with brown and white grits. Surface fired light brown (7.5 YR 6/4).
 21) 012.4. Full profile of bowl with extended rim, joining 006.1. Fabric light red (2.5 YR 6/6) with many small white grits and occasional larger light grey ones. Surface reddish yellow inside (remains of slightly flaky self? slip), light red outside, with many small white grits and occasional large ones.
 22) 012.5. Rim of large bowl. Fabric extremely hard, dense pale red (5 YR 6/6 reddish yellow) with tiny brown grits. Surface of similar colour (5 YR 7/6 reddish yellow) outside, near beige-pink (7.5 YR 7/4) inside. Lattice ornament deeply incised on the outer surface.
 23) 012.6 (and a fragment from B. 017!). Two joining and four unconnected pieces from rim and body of deep bell-shaped bowl. Fabric reddish yellow (5 YR 7/6), rather dense, with some white (oblong) grits. Surface un-slipped, fired from reddish yellow to pale yellow (10 YR 8/4 very pale brown).
 24) 012.7. Two unconnected fragments of deep hemispherical (?) bowl, thin-walled (Jarash ware?). Section ash-grey; self-slip in horizontal bands from very pale brown to brown and dark greyish brown, inside and out.

Under F IV

- 25) 021.2. Rim of jar (?). fabric pale pink with some deep voids; “white” surface.
 26) 021.3. Rim of jar or big jug. Fabric very pale brown with voids; exterior fired to “bricky” brown with white and dark eruptions.
 27) 022.1. Rim of cook ware jug. Light reddish brown fabric with some small white grits; exterior brown with brownish red spots.

Between the Stone Blocks Collapsed from W II (earthquake 749 AD)

- 28) 031.3. Deep bowl with lid device (*pyxis*); fabric reddish yellow (5 YR 6/6) with ash grey core, very hard and clean. Surface

- palier reddish yellow (5 YR 7/6); exterior decorated in semi-transparent white.
- 29) 031.4. Three joining parts of rim and wall of plate (“Jarash bowl” type). Jarash ware: hard fired, with ash grey section; orange (5 YR 6/6 reddish yellow) self-slip with light brown concentric bands applied with brush. Below rim on interior there is a guilloche (“chain”) pattern in faint “black” with some schematic sprigs (?) below.
- 30) 031.5. Rim and handle of flask/juglet. Fabric very pale brown (10 YR 8/4) with brown grits; surface fired white (ca. 2.5 Y 8/2).
- 31) 031.6. Rim of bowl. Green glaze inside, green to blue glaze outside.
- 32) 031.7. Rim of cook pot with handle, burnt through. Fabric dark reddish brown, exterior fired to very dark grey, smoothed.

Fill on the Eastern side of W IV

- 33) 038.8. Fragments of large table amphora in Umayyad Painted ware. Fabric very granular, near 7.5 YR 6/6 (reddish yellow) with many tiny reddish brown grits and some small white ones. Exterior discoloured to greyish brown (10 YR 5/2), with darker ornament (intended as red).

II. Trench in Area 3-N

Under F I (the latest potsherds date from the seventh century AD: e.g., Beisan jars, grey-ware hand-made basins, but there is a strong prevalence of fifth century ceramics)

- 34) 051.1. Rim of dark skinned (Beisan) jar. Fabric hard, red with some lime inclusions; surface (“skin”) very dark grey.
- 35) 051.2. Rim of coarse-ware basin (*mortarium?*). Fabric red, with pale brownish grey core, white grits, dark grey pebbles, traces of straw; pale pinkish beige slip.
- 36) 051.3. Fragment of handled (?) bowl. Fabric orange-red with medium-sized white inclusions and larger eruptions, unslipped.
- 37) 051.5. Miniature juglet lacking neck and rim, as well as handle and rim of spout; string-cut base. Orange fabric (5 YR 7/8 reddish yellow), rather dense, with small

white grits. Surface baked unevenly, from reddish brown to brown and dark greyish brown, with white eruptions. The same ware as nos. 16 (026.4) and 38 (051.6).

- 38) 051.6. Rim/neck/handle of juglet with *oinochoe*-type “trefoil” mouth. The same ware as no. 37 (051.5).
- 39) 051.9. Rim of cook pot. Fabric reddish brown, exterior fairly smooth.
- 40) 051.10. Rim of casserole. Fabric with “sandwich” firing (orange exterior, light brown interior), with dark brown grits and fewer white ones; surface fired pale orange inside, greyish brown outside, smoothed.
- 41) 051.11. Casserole rim and handle, very thin-walled. Fabric light red (2.5 YR 6/6) with many white grits; exterior reddish yellow (5 YR 6/6), interior greyish brown.
- 42) 051.12. Fragment of cook ware lid. Fabric very gritty, red banded dark grey; exterior very dark brownish grey with traces of white ornament (?).

Removal of F II

- 43) 052.2. Rim fragment of cook pot. Fabric orange-red with some medium-sized white grits. Fourth/fifth century AD.
- 44) 052.3. Rim fragment of casserole. Brownish red fabric, lime mortar (?) sediment on surface.

Layer under F II

- 45) 053.2. Rim of cook pot. Fabric brown/dark brown with white grits; surface dark brown.
- 46) 053.3. Rim of cook pot. Fabric orange-red (2.5 YR 6/6 light red); similar surface (2.5 YR 5/6 red) with dark grey spots.
- 47) 053.4. Rim of jar or jug. Fabric light red with partial light grey core, dense, with some white grits; surface pink (5 YR 7/4).
- 48) 053.7. Rim of deep bowl. Fabric whitish (10 YR 8/3 very pale brown) with tiny orange grits; the same surface, very smooth.

Bibliography

- Abd-Allah, R.
2010 Chemical Characterization and Manufacturing Technology of Late Roman to Early Byzantine Glass from Beit Ras/Capitolias, Northern Jordan. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 37: 1866-1874.
- Al-Shami, A.J.
2005 A New Discovery at Bayt Ras/Capitolias – Irbid.

ADAJ 59

- ADAJ 49: 509-519.
- Da Costa, K.
2010 Economic Cycles in the Byzantine Levant: the Evidence from Lamps at Pella in Jordan. *Levant* 42: 70-87.
- Hayes, J.W.
1972 *Late Roman Pottery*, London, British School at Rome.
- Lenzen, C.J.
1995 Continuity or Discontinuity: Urban Changes or Demise? Pp. 325-331 in S. Bourke and J.-P. Descoedres (eds.), *Trade, Contact and the Movement of Peoples in the Eastern Mediterranean*. Sydney, Meditarch.
- Lenzen, C.J., Gordon, R.L. and McQuitty, A.M.
1986 Tell Irbid and Beit Ras Excavations 1985. *ADAJ* 29: 151-160.
- Lenzen, C.J. and Knauf, E.A.
1987 Beit Ras/Kapitolias. A Preliminary Evaluation of the Archaeological and Textual Evidence. *Syria* 64: 21-46.
- Lenzen, C.J. and McQuitty, A.M.
1988 The 1984 Survey of the Irbid/Beit Ras Region. *ADAJ* 32: 265-269.
- Mlynarczyk, J.
2010 Wine for the Christians in Early Islamic Susita (Hippos of the Decapolis). *Etudes et Travaux* XXV: 473-485.
- Mlynarczyk, J. and Burdajewicz, M.
2013 The Northwest Church Complex. Pp. 194-218 in A. Segal *et al.* (eds.), *Hippos – Sussita of the Decapolis. The First Twelve Seasons of the Excavations 2000-2011*. Vol. I. Haifa: Zinman Institute of Archaeology.
-