

A brief note on a bronze bowl and a fibula from a tomb in  
« Ain Ghazal »  
( Madaba region - Jordan )

By  
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A Bronze bowl and a fibula were purchased by the Department of Antiquities from a Jordanian citizen in the Madaba Region. Their provenance is «Ain Ghazal» in the eastern Ghor of Jordan. They were found in a tomb by a peasant while ploughing his field. Also found in the same tomb were fragments of a bronze bracelet, an anklet (?), and a toggle pin (Pls. I, II).

The bowl : (Pl. II A, B)

*Description and dating:-*

It is a deep thin - walled bronze bowl with a carinated flaring-out rim. The body is plain without any kind of a decorative pattern or incision. Here the flat base may represent a sort of local artistic development. The height of the bowl is 6 1/2 cms.; the diameter is 12 cms. This type resembles one of the commonest of the Achaemenian bowls which suggests a date between 539-331 B.C. (Iron Age II-III).

*Parallels:-*

- I. In the bas-relief of the Apadana at Persepolis in the scene depicting the Lydians' tribute-bearers proces-

sion, a man is carrying a similar bowl in the right hand. (1)

- II. A silver bowl found in the Apadana at Persepolis from room 12. (2)
- III. A bronze bowl found in Tell Fara (S) in tomb 817. (3)
- IV. A Bronze bowl from a tomb at Kh. Ibsan in lower Galilee (4)
- V. A parallel in shape to this bowl is a vessel of malleable clay from Fort Shalmaneser at Nimrud. (5)

The Fibula. Pl. II : C)

*Description and Dating:-*

It is made of bronze and apparently was the triangular shaped type with a spring-pin. Each branch measures about 2 1/2 cms. and both sides of the apex have a decoration of 11 ridges. The end of the pin is coiled to form a spring, although the pin itself is broken. The other end is unusual because of the catch-plate which represents a folded hand.

In general fibulae have been used widely

1- E. Herzfeld, *Iran in the Ancient East* (1941), Pl. LXXVIII.  
2- E.F. Schmidt, *Persepolis II* (Chicago, 1957), Pl. 68: 1.  
3- W.M.F. Petrie, *Beth Pelet (tell Fara) I* (London,

1930), Pl. XLVII.  
4- R. Amiran, «Achaemenian bronze objects,» *Levant*, IV (1972), P. 135, Fig. 1.  
5- A.U. Pope, *A Survey of Persian Art XIV* (1960), P. 2986, Fig. 1054 : c.

from the Late Bronze Age onwards. It became especially popular in the middle of the seventh century B.C. (6) Both the spring-pin, and the triangular shaped fibula were prevalent at the end of Iron Age II in Palestine, Syria, Assyria, and Cyprus, probably developing from the arched type fibula, persisting into Hellenistic time (7).

It is noticeable that the finds belonging to the Persian period in Transjordan are scarce, since archaeological explorations have shown that this area was largely depopulated before the middle of the sixth

century B.C. until the third century B.C (8).

*Parallels:-*

- I. A. Bronze fibula found during the excavations - at Tell Beit-Mirsim. Stratum (A), Iron Age II, (9)
- II. A bronze fibula from Bethel, Iron Age II. (10)
- III. A bronze fibula from Adoni—Nur's tomb in Amman, Jordan; Iron Age III. (11)

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6- J. Bermingham, «The development of the fibula in Cyprus and the Levan,» *P.E.Q.*(1963). P. 108.  
7- C.N. Johns, *QDAP*, II (1932), P. 55, Fig. 13.  
8- G.M. Landes, *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible.* (1962) P. 112.

9- W.F. Albright, *AASOR*, XXI-XXII (1943) P. 80, Pl. 64 : 5  
10- J.L. Kelso, *AASOR*, XXXIX (1968), Pl. 46: 21.  
11- G.L. Harding, *PEFA*, VI (1953), Pl. VII, Fig. 19.