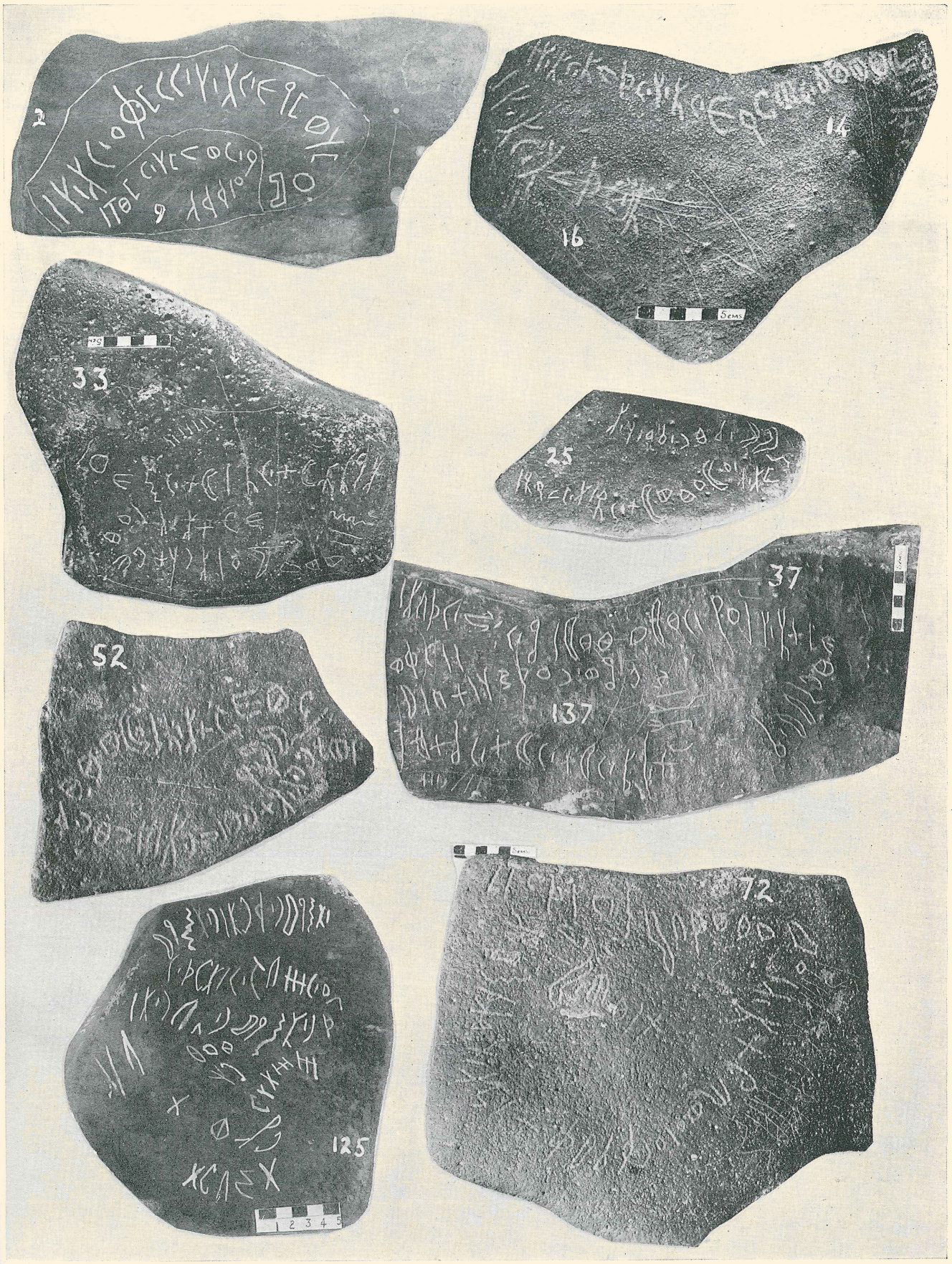
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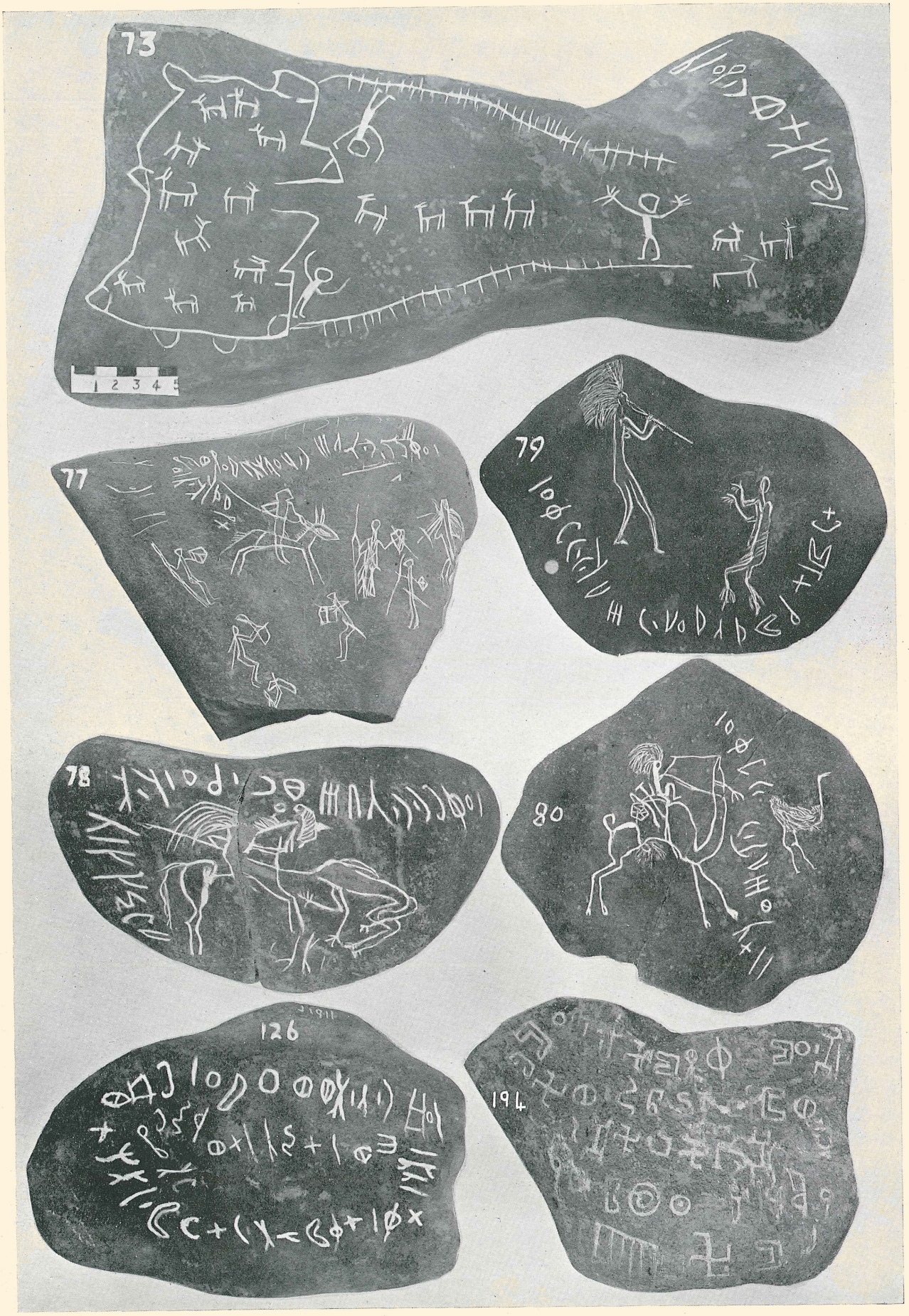
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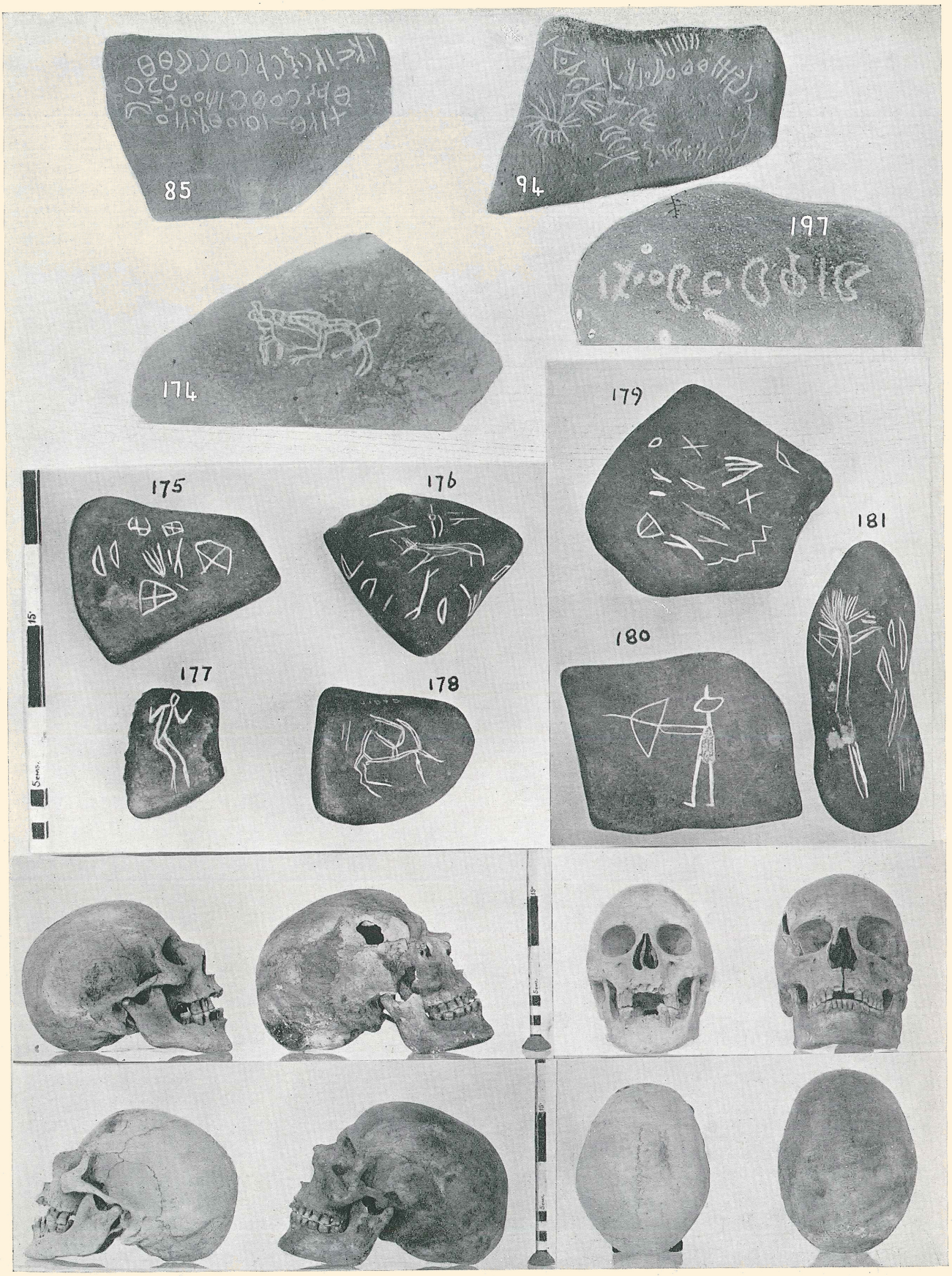
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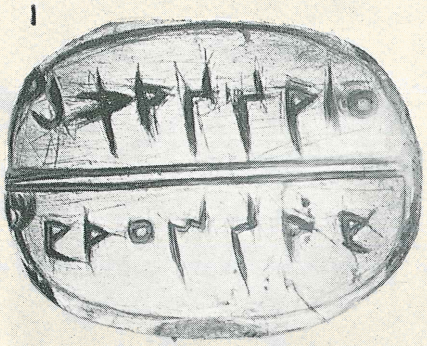

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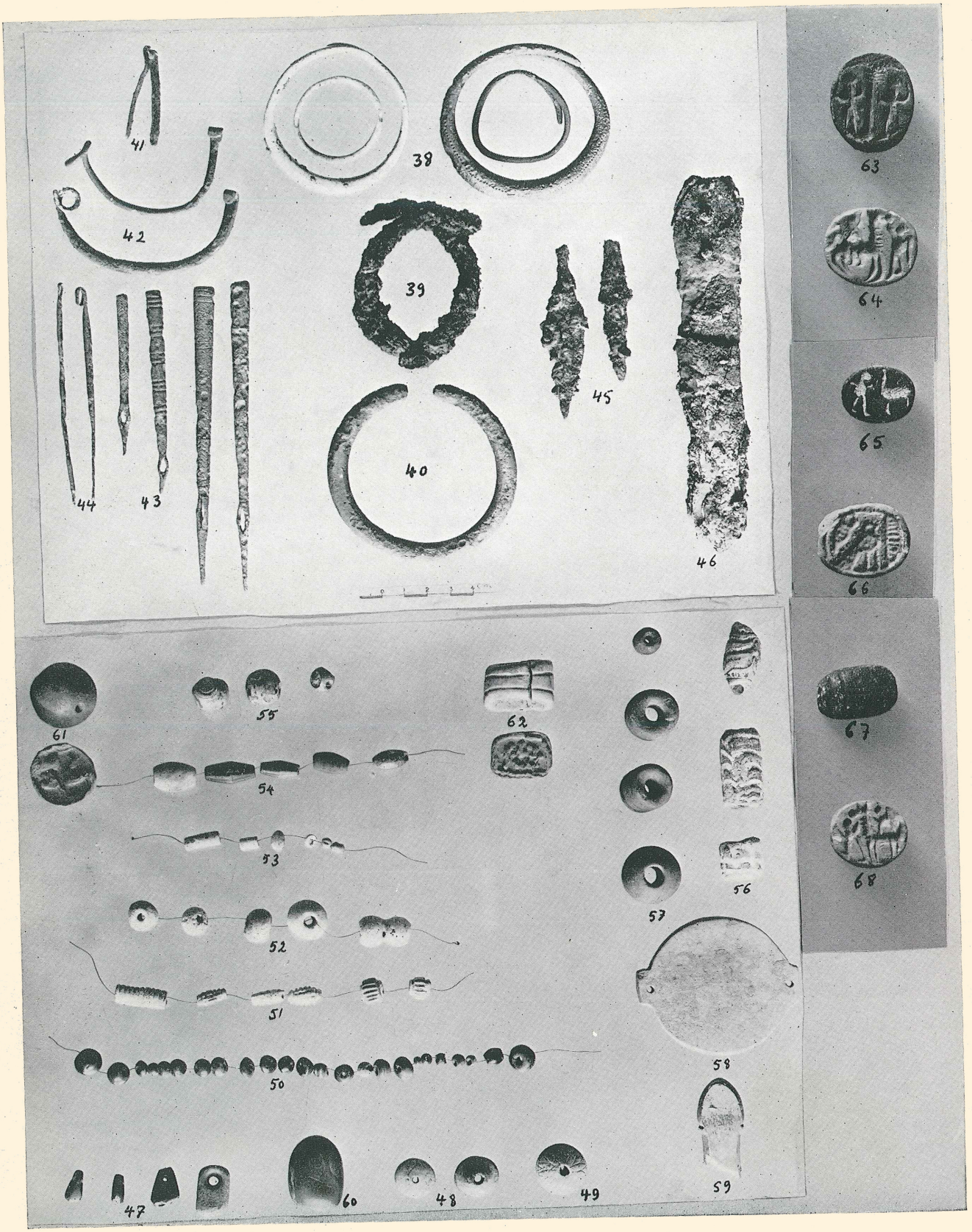
PLATE X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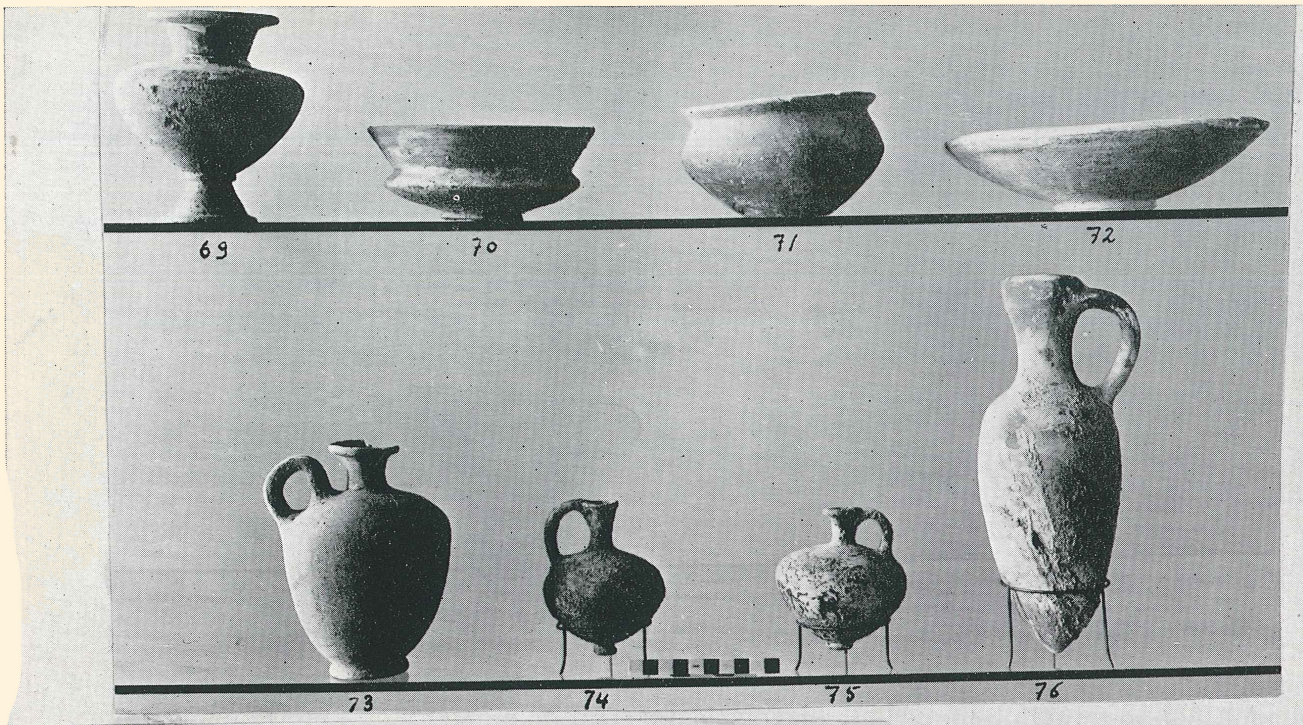
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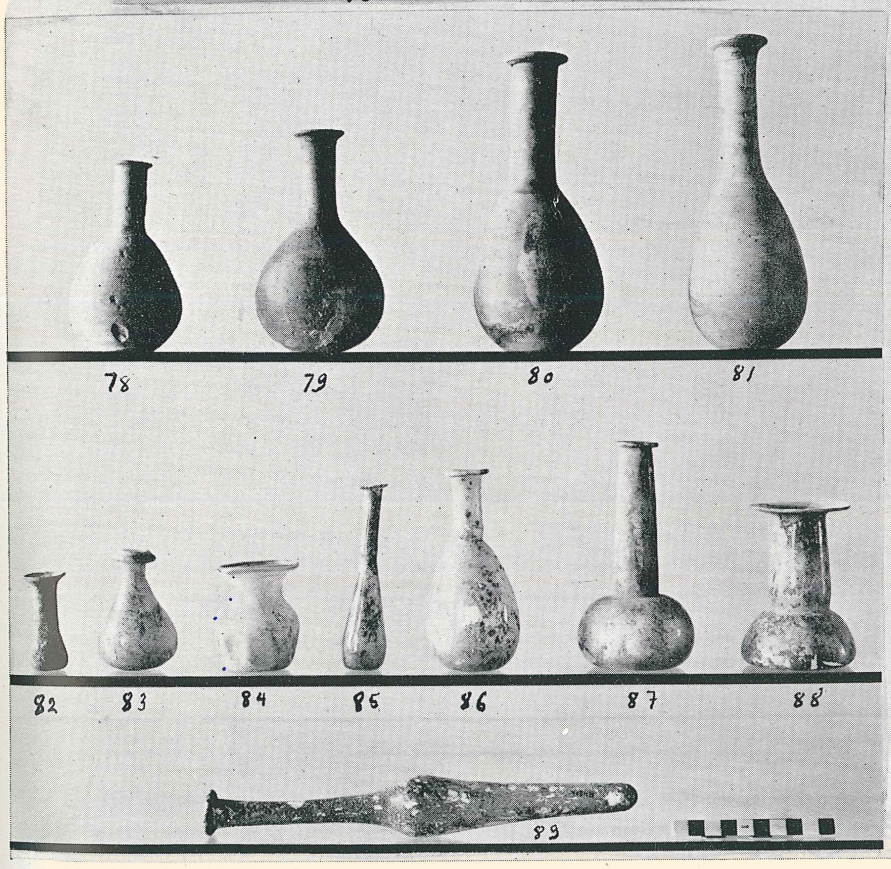
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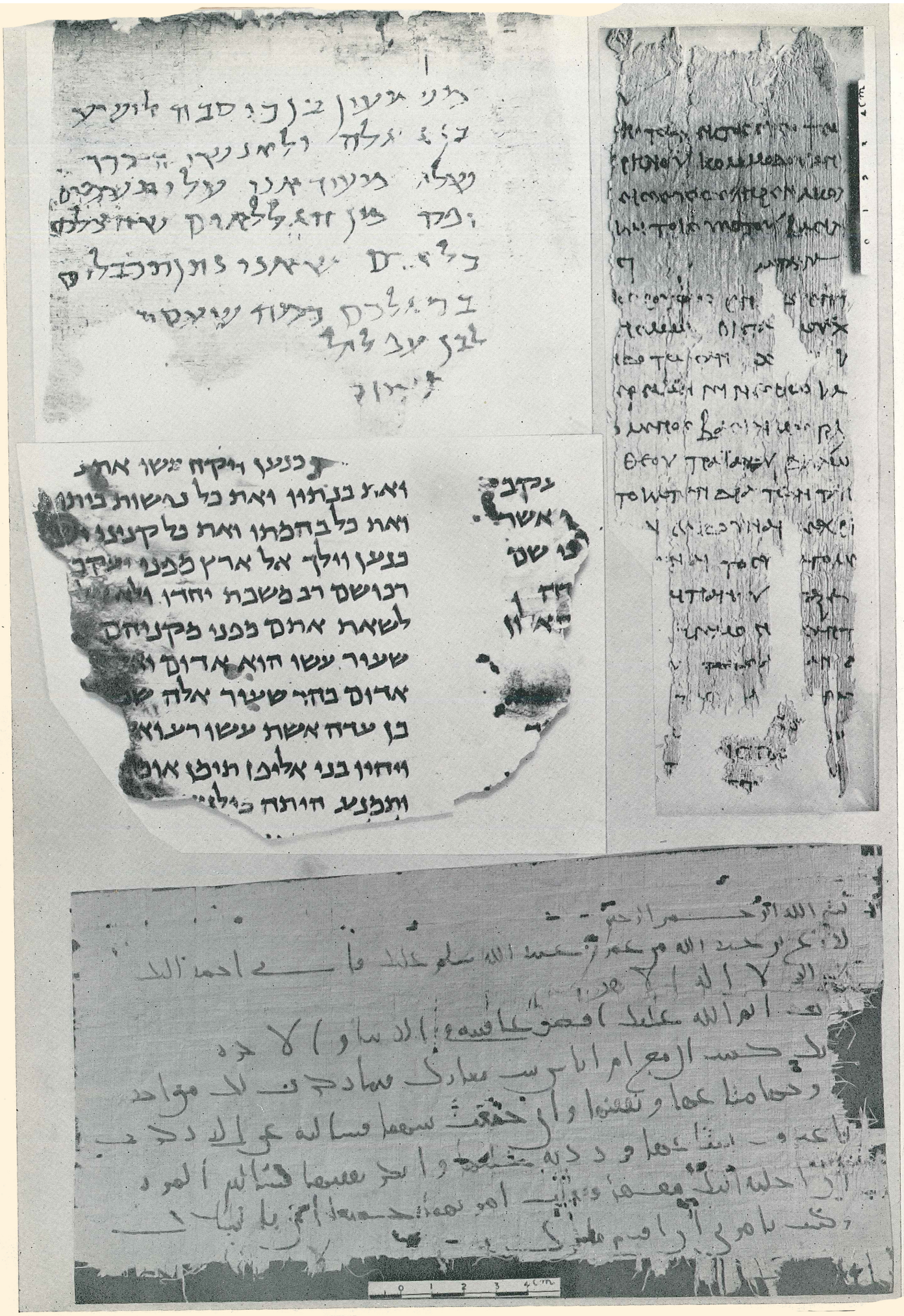

OTHER DISCOVERIES

Um Qeis

At Arqūb el Dhahr, near Um Qeis, Aisa Mahmoud reported the discovery of a large cave containing pottery. The Department took over the excavation, under the supervision of Sayid Rashid Hamyd, and unearthed a very large group of Early Bronze Age pottery. The whole area is a settlement of the period, about 250 m. by 300 m., with a number of caves in the rock scarp around the edge of the site.

More than 200 complete and reconstructable forms were recovered, also many sherds of Khirbet Kerak ware. Forms range from large platters, ray and criss-cross burnished, through round and flat-bottomed bowls, painted or burnished, with lug and ear handles, to graceful narrow-necked vases, burnished and with one handle, like those found in the royal tombs of Abydos. Some of the ware is of astonishingly fine quality, with high polish and traces of ripple combing on the surface.

There are also sherds of very heavy vessels of band slip ware, suggesting that there were two periods of use, except that some of the fine vessels also are of the same ware. A number of flint implements were recovered, including fragments of a curious disc-shaped implement with a hole in the centre. It is hoped to be able to get this very interesting material worked up in time for publication in the next volume of the *Annual.*

Ain Feshkha

In a cave somewhere in the neighbourhood of Feshkha (the exact location is uncertain) was found a cache of at least 277 silver coins, many in mint condition. Apparently nothing else was found with them, so the cache seems to represent either someone's savings hidden for safety or the result of a hold-up somewhere. In view of the nature of the country, the latter is perhaps more probable.

Of the total, 150 are of Trajan, 43 of various other Roman emperors, 13 Roman unidentified and 71 Nabataean. A rough list is as follows:

Trajan, various mints	150
Nero	5
Vespasian	7
Domitian	13
Galba	1
Nerva	2
Hadrian	1
Ascalon?	14
Unidentified	13
	206

Aretas IV	15
Malku II	7
Rabel II	16
Obadas?	1
Unidentified	32
Total	277

Wady el Nar[1]

In a cave in this wady, which is south of Ain Feshkha (map ref. approx. 191–120), Bedouin found a deposit of ancient manuscripts ranging in date from the 5th to the 9th centuries A.D. The bulk of the material consisted of Arabic papyri, probably 8th to 9th centuries, of which an example is shown on Pl. XIII, but there are also leather and papyrus fragments written in Christo-Palestinian Syriac and Greek, both uncial and minuscule. So far identified are remains of the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and John, the book of Wisdom, and Joshua. It seems probable that these date to the 5th–7th centuries A.D.

Howara, Nablus District

A rock-cut tomb of the Late Bronze Age was found here in June 1951. Objects were well preserved and in good condition. Contents include the usual local pottery of the period, with base-ring ware, a Cypriote milk bowl, painted kraters, an imported Mycenaean vase, bronze bowls and a bronze dagger. The vases can be paralleled from Tell Beit Mirsin Stratum C, Tell abu Hawam Stratum V, Mejiddo VIII, Lachish II Stratum II, etc., and dated to the 15th–13th centuries B.C.

Sebastia (Samaria)

A family tomb of about the 3rd century A.D., consisting of a courtyard and a vaulted chamber, was found by a man in the course of clearing his land, and excavated by the Department. Five crude limestone busts were found, lying in the courtyard beside two ornamented sacophagi. Other objects include lamps, a juglet, a glass tear vase and a fragmentary lead tablet inscribed with eight lines of Greek, possibly a magical text. It is hoped to publish this in the next volume of the *Annual*.

Bethany

A rock-cut burial chamber approached by five steps was discovered in July 1952. On three sides of the main chamber are apse-like niches (arcosolia type) with trough graves. The tomb appeared to be undisturbed, but contained only a few objects, lamps, glass vases, a bronze cross and four bronze coins, one of Flavius Claudius, the others of Justinian and Amastasius I. The tomb would thus date to the late 6th century A.D.

[1] It is now established that the real site of this discovery is Khirbet el Mird.

ABBREVIATIONS AND CONTRACTIONS

AAA	*Annals of Archaelogy and Anthropology* (Liverpool University)
AASOR	*Annual American Schools of Oriental Research* (New Haven)
ADAJ	*Annual of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan*
CPP	*Corpus of Palestinian Pottery*, J. Garrow Duncan (London, 1930)
D	Deity
DMS	Dussand and Macler, *Voyage Archéologique en Safa*
DMSM	Dussand and Macler, *Mission dans les regions désertiques de la Syrie Moyenne*
JPOS	*Journal of the Palestine Oriental Society*
L	Lihyanite
Lane	E. W. Lane, *Arabic Lexicon*
LSI	Littmann, *Safaitic Inscriptions*, Publications of the Princeton University Archaeological Expedition.
M	Minaean
N	Nabataean
NPS	Ryckmans, *Noms propres Sud-Sémitiques*
OIP, XLII	Lamon, and Shipton, *Megiddo I, Strata I–V* (Chicago, 1939)
OIPMP	*Notes on the Megiddo Pottery of Strata VI–XX, by* Geoffrey M. Shipton (Chicago, 1939)
PEF	Palestine Exploration Fund
Petrie, *Gaza*	F. Petrie, *Ancient Gaza*, II (London, 1932)
Petrie, *Scarabs*	F. Petrie, *Scarabs and Cylinders with Names* (London, 1917)
pl.	place-names
pr.	pronoun
p.s.c.	'he placed a stone on the cairn of——'
Q	Qatabanian
QDAP	*The Quarterly of the Department of Antiquities in Palestine*
RB	*Revue Biblique*
s.	'son of'
Sa	Sabaean
Su.	Sumer, *Journal of the Iraq Department of Antiquities*
subs.	substantive
T	Thamudic
TAH	*Excavations at Tell Abu Hawam*, by R. W. Hamilton (1932–33)
TBM	*Tell Beit Mirsim*, by William F. Albright (1930–33)
TIJ	Harding, *Some Thamudic Inscriptions from Jordan* (Leiden, 1952)
tr.	tribe
v.	verb

LIST OF PLATES

GENERAL INDEX

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