

## EXCAVATIONS AT EL - JIB, 1960

The fourth campaign of excavations at el-Jib, the Gibeon of the Bible, was carried out from June 15 through July 30 by the University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania with the cooperation of the American School of Oriental Research under the direction of the writer. The first major objective of the season was the enlargement of the second Industrial Area which had been tentatively identified as a winery. In this area which lies to the south of the great pool we excavated 21 plots, each 5 m., square, to bedrock. Twenty-eight jug-shaped vats which had been hewn from the rock were found during the season; when these are added to those excavated in 1959 the total stands at 63 vats. The earlier interpretation of these rock cuttings as wine cellars was strengthened by new discoveries in the Industrial Area. Two of the vats were found to be coated with a hard gray plaster, which would have made it possible for the vats to have contained a liquid. That they had been used for holding wine in bulk, possibly in the stage of fermentation, is rendered probable by the discovery of two cuttings adjacent to one of the plastered vats. One is a shallow, circular basin, which could be interpreted as a wine press; the other is a pair of cylindrical setting basins. Channels cut in the rock connect these three elements of the industrial installation. Although most of the vats appear to have last used in the Iron II period, several had been modified for use in the Roman period of occupation. To the east of the Industrial area a segment of the massive city wall of the Iron Age appeared and corresponds in thickness to the segments which had been discovered previously to the north.

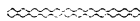
A sounding was made on the west side of the tell by Diana Kirkbride for the purpose of determining the stratification at a point where there was a heavy accumulation of debris. Here four principal layers of occupation were found. Below some Turkish burials there appeared a series of floors belonging to the latter part of the Iron II period. The earlier part of Iron II is represented by a slight deposit. Below this are floors and associated structures of the Iron I period, which is separated from the Middle Bronze II remains by a heavy deposit of ash. Sixteen storage jars from the Middle Bronze house were found crushed by the collapse of the roof. The central post of the house has been identified as an olive tree by the charred wood found in post hole.

Half of the season was devoted to the clearing of 18 shaft tombs which were discovered by a villager on the west scarp of the hill. Only one of these tombs had remained sealed since its final use; the others had either been robbed or been filled with silt which had been washed in through crevices in the roof. Further damage had been done to the necropolis area by stone cutters who had used the area as a quarry for building stone. Although the tombs vary in size the general plan is uniform. Each has a cylindrical shaft, averaging 1.19 m., in diameter, cut into the rock to a depth which averages 1.83 m. At the bottom of the shaft a doorway, averaging .80 m. by .60 m., cut into

the side of the shaft, leads into the tomb chamber. The chambers are of various shapes but they have an average floor area of 4.79 square m. The roof is generally about 1 m high. These tombs produced almost five hundred catalogued objects exclusive of beads. It is probable that all the tombs had been cut in the middle Bronze I (Intermediate EB-MB) period. Five of them still contained material which could be assigned to this period, such as four-spout lamps, small barrel-like jars, and a javelin head with curled tang. Fourteen of the tombs had been used in the Middle Bronze II period. In one tomb, T 15, which produced 129 catalogued objects, three phases of use within the MB II period could be distinguished. It had been used for the burial of 14 people before it was finally sealed. The most distinctive of the tombs were the 7 which contained burials from the Late Bronze period, and a rich variety of painted pottery. Imported Bilbils and a delicately fashioned wishbone-handle bowl appeared along with the typical LB painted ware of Palestine. These well equipped tombs provided the first evidence for a LB occupation at el-Jib.

At the very close of the season there emerged at the northwest of the tell a portion of a building with walls 1.70 m., thick and a well-plastered floor. Its foundation had been laid in the Iron I period, probably early in the twelfth century. This important building will provide a principal objective for another season of work at el-Jib.

**James B. Pritchard**



#### **CONDENSED REPORT OF THE 1960 BEITIN EXPEDITION**

The Fourth campaign at Beitin (ancient Bethel) was conducted from May 26 to July 19, 1960 by the American School of Oriental Research and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Professor James L. Kelso was the Director and his assistant was Professor Theophilus M. Taylor. This campaign, like the former ones, failed to locate Jeroboam's Temple, but we did make a sensational find in uncovering the mountain top sanctuary of the earliest inhabitants. It was located at the north-west corner of the site. Here on the bare rock of the ridge we found the flint tools used in butchering the animals, the sherds of the broken vessels used in the feast and the blood of the sacrificial animals still staining the rocky ledge. (We used the American Federal Bureau of Investigation test for blood and checked an area over seventeen meters in length.). Part of the rock surface had been calcined by the sacrificial fires. No human bones were found, only animal ones. The earliest pottery was about 2500 B.C. Directly upon this bedrock a small temple was erected with its doorway opening to the East. This building was used in the latter part of Early Bronze and in Middle Bronze I. Just north of it was what appeared to be a large haram or sacred open area of Middle Bronze II B with a colonade along the south wall.