

NEW CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE HISTORICAL TOPOGRAPHY OF JORDAN

The German Evangelical Institute for Archaeology of the Holy Land during the summer - course 1961 could raise some problems of the historical topography of Palestine and Transjordan and give contributions to their solution. Annual director was, as during the last four years, the author of this short report, and the cooperating fellows were Drs. H. Donner - Göttingen, S. Herrmann - Berlin, H. - W. Huppenbauer - Basel, E. Kutsch - Mainz, K. v. Rabenau - Berlin, W. Schottroff - Mainz and S. Wibbing - Mainz. Their names will appear in brackets respective at the end of the paragraphs in which their special contributions are mentioned.

The surface explorations would not have been possible without the kind encouragement and help of Dr. A. Dajani, Director of the Department of Antiquities, and Mr. Farah Ma'ayeh, Inspector of the West bank.

We are also obliged to Mr. Sami Rashid and Mr. Nicolai Antar who accompanied us during the explorations as representatives of the Department of Antiquities; especially the first one was most helpful for us in our research-work by his keen interest and ability in inquiring for names of places, springs, fields a.s.o. The following lines should be understood only as a preliminary summary of the results of the surface explorations. Detailed reports of the single cooperators with considerations about the historical and topographical consequences of their results will be published in the next volume of the "Zeitschrift des Deutschen Palästina - Vereins".

I. The historian Flavius Josephus (Bell. I, 33) handed down to us the frightful account of the last sickness of king Herod I. Shortly before the king died he went from Jericho to Kallirrhoë on the east side of the Dead Sea, to take the famous hot springs there. This ancient watering - place is also mentioned by other authors like Plinius, Hieronimus, Ptolemaeus, Solinus, and last but not least, by the Madaba mosaic map. There can't be any doubt about the identification of this place with 'Ain ez-zara, firstly proposed by the German traveller U. J. Seetzen in 1807. Thanks to the kindness and help of the Jordan Army we had a chance to go by ship to 'Ain ez-zara, about 3 km south of the mouth of Wadi Zarqa Ma'in. 'Ain ez-zara forms a coastal plain like an amphitheatre with a lot of hot springs coming down from the foot of the mountains and going through deep rocky wadis with thickets of rush escaping from the narrow shore. The whole area is hardly accessible; therefore the ancient bathing - establishments must have been on the shore. The Madaba mosaic map shows three buildings: an enclosed spring, a nymphaeum and a wadi coming from the foot of the mountains and going through an enclosed pond or bathing - room.

Indeed we found on the shore near the water the remains of several buildings, badly preserved because of the saltwater and of the salty air. In the north can be seen a rock - cut chamber of about 6,50×6,50 m pierced by a channel which must have had water from a hot spring in the east. South of it there are the remains of a rectangular building on a hill, called Qasr el-bahr (19×10,60 m), with Roman potsherds. West of

this building, only a few metres distant from the sea, we found the foundation walls of several large buildings, one of them being very similar to the usual ground-plan of an ancient nymphaeum with a regular apsis. In comparison with the Madaba mosaic map things seem to be as follows: the mosaic map doesn't show all buildings existing at Kallirrhoë but the typical ones without regard to their arrangement on the shore.

(H. Donner)

II. Pharaoh Shoshenk I. (ca. 935-919) during his campaign to Palestine (1. Kings 14, 25-28) penetrated into the country — as his list of the conquered or occupied cities (cf. J. Simons, Handbook ... of Egyptian Topographical Lists ..., Leiden 1937) shows — as far as Pnuel (Tulul edh-Dhahab) and Mahanaim (Tell Hajjaj). According to some scholars, Nrs. 56-58 of the list give a hint to the route by which the pharaoh setting out from Gibeon (el-Jib) reached the lower Jabbok (Nahr ez-zarqa); they propose the following identifications:

Nr. 58 [m] gdr = Majdal Bani Fadil

Nr. 56 'dmy = Duma or Tell ed-Damiye

Nr. 57 dmrn = probably the same as biblical Zemaraim, the position of which is still totally unknown.

The results of our surface explorations in this area were the following: Majdal Bani Fadil itself doesn't show any pre-Roman occupation. The ancient site of Majdal is probably to be located at Khirbat Bani Fadil, an important site east below Majdal Bani Fadil, dominating the descent of the Roman road from Neapolis to Phasaelis. It has a spring in its near neighbourhood and pottery remains from the EB down to the late Iron Age. There are no real objections to the identification of this site with the mgdr of the Shoshenk-list. As for 'dmy (No. 56) it is uncertain whether Duma, 3 km south of Majdal Bani Fadil, can be proposed for identification or not. Duma itself has no occupation-levels older than Roman. But the fact should be taken into consideration that 1,2 km south-west of Duma is situated Khirbat al-Marajim, a big mound dominating the road which comes down from the Sahl Kafr Istuna, i.e., a possible ancient communication between the South-North-Highway at the ridge of the mountains and the upper Jordan-Valley. We found numerous Iron-age sherds and remains of a city-wall. This could have been the site of pre-Roman Duma. After all, we can say that Khirbat Bani Fadil and Khirbat al-Marajim should not be overlooked, when the localisation of Nrs. 56 and 58 of the Shoshenk-list is under discussion.

(S. Herrmann)

III. At the eastern foot of Jabal Meisara 2,5 km, south of the village of Subeihi immediately on the right hand beside the track which leads from the Amman-Nablus-Highway into the western part of the Ard el-'Arde, at this point there is a group of Roman milestones well known since many years. The question to be solved was which line this Roman road followed. Our results were:

1) At the above mentioned place, we found fragments of 8 very outworn Roman milestones. At one of these can be read some letters and the number VI.

2) The upstanding column immediately northwest of Subeihi is **not** a Roman milestone because it has not the characteristic square socle and because its distance from the first group is 2,5 km ; this distance does not fit into the Roman mile system.

3) In the environs of Tell Hajjaj too we did not find any remains of a Roman road. But the continuation of the road will probably be found northwest of Tell Hajjaj climbing up to 'Arqob Abu Buseile and from there going to 'Alla.

4) The continuation to the South could be cleared by the discovery of a hitherto unknown group of Roman milestones exactly 1,5 km, South-south-east of the first mentioned group, 20 m west of the newly built foresterhouse which is on the old road about 2 km northwest of Khirbet ez-Zai. At one of the milestones, we found an inscription from the time of the emperor Caius Fabius Tri(b?)onianus. From this spot on the body of the road can be observed over some hundred meters to the South.

5) By the position of these two groups of milestones, we may conclude that this Roman road went to Saltus (es-Salt), which is precisely 6 Roman miles from the first group.

6) Further examinations should clear up the question whether this road crossed near Khirbet ez-Zai or another one which according to the Archaeological Map of Jordan went from this point to the Northeast.

(H. W. Huppenbauer)

IV. The Wadi Kufrinji has until now scarcely attracted the interest of modern archaeologists and topographers. We began to fill this gap by two explorations on September 11th and 26th investigated — guided by a native youngster of this valley — the ancient sites between the eastern precincts of 'Anjara down to the South-western environs of Kufrinji.

1) Khirbet Hamid (or Kh. Arbua) immediately north of the new road from Sakib to 'Anjara, in about 1 km distance from the centre of 'Anjara. Pottery : Iron-age, Roman, Byzantine.

2) 'Anjara. Between the houses and ruins of the upper southern part of the village, we found only some Iron-age, Roman and Byzantine sherds, but numerous ones of the Mamluk period. In the débris of Wadi Sa'ad, which runs down the village, some Iron-age and very many medieval Arabic sherds were picked up. Before the Mosque was found the fragment of a column or a Roman milestone with Latin inscription, the lower part of which is under the surface of the earth.

3) Khirbet el-Habib (ca. 2187/1899). Scarce remains of Iron-age, more of Roman and Byzantine pottery. Foundations of a tower (4×4m) which was leaning against a wall of about 25 m length.

4) Khirbet Kedadi. A mighty plate of rock within the woods, 40 m above the bottom of the valley to the South (ca. 2190/1908). Some Iron-age and early Arabic sherds. A cave on the northeast slope.

5) Khirbet Abu Khashim (ca. 2187/1912) 50 m above the bottom of the Wadi. Extension from East to West ca 50 m, from North to South 40 m, Early Arabic and Mamluki pottery.

6) Khirbet Qaraqosh, on a small top projecting from North to South, about 50 m above the northern bank of the valley (ca 2180/1909), now occupied by two houses. Pottery: some Iron-age sherds, more Roman, Byzantine, Arabic, numerous Mamluki. At the Southwest foot of the hill, a mill in decay.

7) Khirbet Ru'eise, opposite No. 6 above the southern side of the valley. No ruins, predominantly Byzantine sherds, on the northern side some of the Iron-age.

8) Khirbet Saffit, in a dominating position over the southern slopes of the Wadi (2176/1903). Pottery: Iron-age, Roman, Byzantine, Arabic.

9) In the village of Kufrinji, sherds were collected until now, only at a steep slope falling down to the northern border of the village: Medieval Arabic only. The exploration of this village should be continued next year. For, it is improbable that a village in such a favourable position was not occupied earlier than in Medieval times.

10) Tell Habib, 800 m North-north-east of Kufrinji (2167/1900). No traces of occupation, not a single sherd.

11) Khirbet el-Mansura (2154/1902). Remarkable remains of foundations. Pottery: Roman, Byzantine, early Arabic, Mamluki.

12) Khirbet Hammam (2142/1893). Ruins of a house preserved to a height of 4 m. The same pottery as on No. 11.

13) Khirbet en-Nila (2117/1860), North of the track. Roman and Byzantine pottery remains.

(E. Kutsch)

V. The exploration of the Ammonite Kingdom border- and defense-line which we had begun in 1957 was continued. Last year we had cleared the southern border towards the Moabite territory from Rujm Bil'as, Southeast above Na'ur, to Khirbet el-Bishara. This year we explored the line in an eastern direction.

Khirbet el-Bishara was reinforced by a fortress at Tal'at er-Ruwaq about 800 m North-north-west of it (Map 1:25000, Sheet Na'ur: 33,3/39,8). The next pillar of the Ammonite defense-line must have been the huge site of el-Yadude on the highway from Amman to Madaba.

These two important points were connected with each other by a rectangular tower called 'Arqob Abu Mesalti (35,8/40,4).

Behind this frontline with its strongholds projecting into the Plain of northern Moab, there was a protecting second line consisting of the following sites and fortresses: el-'Umeiri (34,6/42,1), Rujm Jazu' (35,6/41,5) with a tower of 4 m diameter, Rujm Bint el-Ma'awid (35,9/42,0) with a rectangular structure of 16×18 m and a square tower of 4,5 m², Rujm el-Fahud (37,1/41,1) with a fortress of 17×18 m within a more extensive installation.

It is intended to continue these explorations East of the Amman-Madaba Highway in 1962.

(K. v. Rabenau).

VI. King Mesha of Moab mentions in his stele among the cities which he had conquered a city named Hauranein, occurring in the form Horonaim in Jerem. 48,3. According to the opinio communis of scholars, this site has to be localized in the South of the country at el-'Araq or at Khirbet ed-Dubab near the upper tributaries of Seil en-Numeira. But as was shown in the "Festschrift für W. Rudolph" (Tübingen 1961) p.188 ff., the context of the Mesha-Stele leads us to the assumption that Hauranein should be looked for North of the line of the Seil Heidan — Wadi el-Wale. And the Map Palestine 1:100,000, Sheet Dead Sea shows in 208/106 that the name Hauran adheres to the region South of el-Muqawir. But explorations round the heads of Wadi el-Atun and Wadi el-Huta did not yield a single Iron-Age Site. Only on Khirbet ed-Deir, 2 km South of el-Muqawir, extended over 150 m square, some early Iron-Age sherds were found among numerous sherds of the Byzantine and Mamluki periods, a result which does not allow one to localize an Iron-Age settlement of any importance at this place. So the problem in question remains unsolved for the present.

(W. Schottroff).

VII. Some sites were explored which surely or probably occur in the reports about the battles between the Seleucides and the Maccabaeans (I. Macc. 3-9,22; II. Macc. 8-15 and Josephus, Ant. 12,6-11).

Khirbet Beit Zakariya bears still today the name as that mentioned in I. Macc. 6,32 and Jos. Ant. 12,9,4 (Niese 369) as the site of the second encounter of Lysias and Judas Maccabaeus: Beth Zacharia. It is on top of a mountain, the steep slopes of which go down to Wadi Abu Nofal at the Westside, and to Wadi Abu Bakir on the East-and North-side. To the South there is an easy transition to Khallet Jamal. As it is said in the reports one can see from the top to the south as far as Beth-Zur (Khirbet et-Tubeiqa). Khirbet Beit Zakariya was occupied during the Iron II-Age and the Hellenistic Period and as we saw by the collected sherds during the Byzantine and Medieval periods.

A battle of General Nikanor with the Maccabaeans took place at or near a village called Adasa (I. Macc. 7,39 f.; Jos. Ant. 12,10,5). There are three Khirbet 'Adasa which

have to be taken into consideration for the localization of Adasa : 1.) Khirbet 'Adasa, 4,5 km North of Jerusalem 2.) Khirbet 'Adasa, 1,5 km West from the mainroad to Ramallah and immediately South of the road from the junction to el-Jib, 3.) Khirbet 'Adas, West of el-Jib, just behind the branch off to Biddu and to Beit 'Ur. Only No. 2 and 3 can be taken into consideration, because No. 1 is too far off from the roads going from North and West to Jerusalem. No. 2 has a dominating position over the roads leading to Jerusalem from the North and West ; the Roman road coming up from Caesarea passes No. 2 below its western slopes and reaches the North-South-Mainroad immediately South of it. As for pottery we found only Byzantine and early Arabic sherds.

No. 3 is situated on the northeastern slope of Ras esh-Sharqi with ruins of the Byzantine and Medieval times. The ceramic remains admit the assumption that the tiny site has been occupied in Hellenistic and early Arabic periods. It is at some distance from the Roman road which comes from the coast by Beit 'Ur and goes up to Jerusalem. A strategical importance of the place cannot be denied. But it is difficult to decide which of the two sites has to be identified with Adasa. As for its excellent position we have to prefer No. 2, the Khirbet 'Adasa (East of el-Jib and Southwest of er-Ram).

(S. Wibbing)

VIII. In September 1960, I discovered an important Iron-Age-site 200 m above the 'Ayun ed-Dib which is called by native people Khirbet el-Qureiye. In "Zeitschrift des Deutschen Palästina-Vereins" 1961, p. 24-31, I have submitted all the arguments for the identification of this site with ancient Qaryatein (Mesha-Stele, Qiryataim in the Old Testament : Numb. 32,37 ; Josh. 13,19 ; Jerem. 48,1.23 and Ezech. 25,9.) There was only one difficulty : Qaryatein has still existed in early Byzantine times as we know from Eusebius who says in his "Onomasticon" (ed. E. Klostermann, p. 112, l.14-17) that it is situated 10 Roman miles West of Madaba in the neighbourhood of Bare, the site of the hot springs (Hammam Zerqa Ma'in). The distance of 10 Roman miles from Madaba is right, because there is no direct communication from Madaba to Khirbet el-Qureiye. In ancient times as today the way was by Ma'in : 15 km. But we found very few Roman and Byzantine sherds at Khirbet el-Qureiye. The settlement must have been shifted to another place in Roman times. Therefore I returned with some colleagues this year, on September 27th, to the Wadi 'Ayun ed-Dib to search for Roman and Byzantine remains at this place. And we found a big Khirbe which farmers working there call Qureiyat 'Ayun ed-Dib. It is situated some hundred meters below the springs on the southern bank of the valley. As collected sherds show it may go back only to Medieval times, but we found many Roman columns and dressed stones, carved with Byzantine motifs re-used in this building. At the base of this result and of the results of last year, we can now with good reasons say that ancient Qaryatein/Qiryataim or — as Euseb calls it — Karaiatha has been round the 'Ayun ed-Dib.

Arnulf Kuschke