

## EL-JIB EXCAVATIONS 1962

During the fifth season of excavations at el-Jib, extending from June 11 through August 11, 1962, we worked in three areas of the site: (1) the Bronze Age cemetery on the west side of the hill, where 18 tombs had been opened and cleared in 1960; (2) the northwest of the tell, where soundings in 1960 had revealed evidence for occupation during the Middle Bronze II and the Iron Ages; and (3) the extreme southern end of the tell, which was the only area in which soundings had not been made previously. As in the previous seasons the work at el-Jib was supported by the University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania, in cooperation with the American School of Oriental Research, and directed by the writer. The staff consisted of William L. Reed, Diana Kirkbride, John Huesman, S. J., Douglas M. Spence, Asia G. Halaby, Subhi Muhtadi, Gustav Materna, Charles F. Kraft, Terry Ball, David Stewart, Grace Conklin, Anne Reed, Willy Schottroff, Mary Pritchard, and Yusuf Labadi. Approximately 100 laborers from the village of el-Jib were employed for the season of two months.

Within the cemetery 37 tombs were opened and cleared. Each consisted of a circular shaft (average diameter for the tombs of the entire cemetery was 1.13 m.) and a doorway at the bottom leading into a tomb chamber hewn from the soft limestone. Fifteen of the tombs contained funerary deposits of the Middle Bronze I (Intermediate Early Bronze-Middle Bronze period; 5 had MB I material along with MB IIB material; and one bore evidence of having been used in the MB I and the MB IIA periods. Although these tombs were in plan and section like the Dagger Type found at Jericho, the deposits in them corresponded more exactly to the Pottery Type. Objects from the MB I period included funerary jars of a rather limited repertoire, lamps with four spouts, bronze daggers, beads, and javelin points with a curled tang. The decoration on the shouldlers of the funerary jars consisted of the usual bands of combing, incised decorations, triangles, wavy lines, and in one example a frieze of 5, or possibly 6, ibexes. Ten of the tombs yielded only material of the MB IIB period. There were no funerary deposits in 5 of the tombs. One tomb that had obviously been cut as a shaft tomb in the Bronze Age had been converted in the Roman period into a columbarium with 66 niches.

The largest area excavated during the 1962 season was at the northwest of the tell. Above scattered remains of the Early Bronze and the Middle Bronze IIB periods there was found an extensive occupation for the Iron I period. A city wall of this period encircled a housing area, in which there appeared a patrician house with at least four central columns of cut stone. Beside it were two large ovens, which are to be associated with it. The Iron I Age city in this area had been disturbed by the builders of a massive city wall at the beginning of the Iron II period. In order to obtain a firm footing for the 3 m. city wall the builders had cut a trench 3 m. deep in this area through the earlier occupations in order to reach the bed rock. This city wall was traced for a considerable distance at the northwest of the tell and was found to be in line with a similar wall discovered in 1956 and 1959 at the north and east of the tell. When the foundation of the wall had been constructed to a

little above ground level, ramps of dirt were built against the side of the rising wall and the stones for the superstructure were dragged up the ramps for fitting into place. Although the entire superstructure of the city wall had been robbed in the later Roman and Byzantine periods, we were able to determine the method of building through the discovery of the ramps that were still covered with chippings from the stonemasons' hammers. Associated with this larger city wall were houses that had been used through the Iron II period. At the end of one street which led between them in the direction of the city wall there was a plastered stone-cut cistern, which had a capacity of about 40,000 gallons. It was equipped with a large filtering basin by which the silt was removed from the water before it was allowed to run into the cistern.

At the south of the tell, at a point just opposite Nebi Samwil, a sounding was made in order to discover the course of the Iron II city wall in this sector. Here the wall was discovered and found to have a width of approximately 3 m. With previous discoveries it is now possible to chart the wall around its entire course of about 959 m. The occupation of the city in this southern area seems to have been limited to the Iron II and the Roman period of the city's history. Two wine cellars, similar in form to those found at the north and east in 1959 and 1960, were found just inside the city wall.

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