

Iron Age Tombs from Irbed

In 1958 — 9, the Department of Antiquities has excavated a number of tombs at the ancient tell of Irbed most of them were found in the Palestinian Refugee Camp and one in El-Rasafi Street. They are numbered A,B,C,D, and E. Here is a publication of tomb D, while the others are not yet published. The importance of these tombs is for the continuation of culture in East Jordan between the Bronze periods & the Early Iron Ages. Some of them were reused as burials in the Roman Periods such as Tomb (B).

(Notes and Parallel)

Pl. XXXVIII (1) Carinated bowl, ring, base, wheel made. m. fired, unburnished, is parallel to JAM Nos. 8955 and 8959 Jabal el Qalah excavation 1958 (unpublished) dated LBII.

Pl. XXXVIII (2) Bowl. m. size, unburnished, grey slip, coarse surface, ring base, parallel to Qweilbeh pottery discovered 1959 (unpublished) dated LBII JAM. No. 8831.

Pl. XXXVIII (3) Bowl m. size unburnished, grey slip, coarse surface, parallel to object No. JAM 8960 of Jabal Qala'h excavation 1958 (unpublished) dated L. Bronze II.

Pl. XXXVIII (4) Bowl m. size, unburnished, grey slip, coarse surface, is parallel to No. 8855 of Qweilbeh excavation 1959 (unpublished).

Pl. XXXVIII (5) Bowl m. size, unburnished, grey slip coarse surface, ring base. Parallel to No. 8832 of Qweilbeh excavation (unpublished) 1959.

Pl. XXXVIII (6) Bowl, m. size, flat cut base, coarse surface, gery slip, unburnished, parallel to M II. pl. 65.16 Stratum VII B and VII A. and MII. pl. 74.1 Stratum VII B-VI, M. tomb 63 (B) Pl. 60.33 LBII M. Tomb 29. Pl. 68. EI-1.

Pl. XXXVIII (7) Bowl burnt umber parallel to M. tomb 39. Pl. 68.14 (EI-1).

Pl. XXXVIII (8 & 9) Bilbils, Cyporite made, imported, dark grey slip, one handle, long narrow neck. Parallel L. II. Pl. LI (B) 279. Ours is not decorated. (LBII).

Pl. XXXVIII (10) Jug, one handle, long neck, ring base and wet smoothed. Lime grits, two holes on the side. The nearest parallel TNI. Pl. 31.5. Tomb 32-3 dated EI (10th Cent. B.C.) ours is probably earlier in date.

Pl. XXXVIII and XL (11) Jug, One handle, long neck, ring base, everted rim light red slip, wet smoothed, the nearest possible parallel MII. Pl. 75.12 Stratum VI (A) The neck in ours is narrower and the handle is different. Dothan 1962 (unpublished dated LB-EI-I) Dothan example is very near to ours.

Pl. XXXVIII and XL (12) Jug in swan type. (TNI. Tombs 32. 5. P. 98) similar vessels were found at Megiddo in Str. V (III). They are very similar to vessels found in cyprus in Bichrome ware (CVA 3:2 great Britain II dated EI-I). (Phoenica & the Phoenicean by D. Baramki) Plate 10. 1. in the upper row, dated EI-I round base, wet smoothed.

Pl. XXXVIII (14 & 15) Kraters, two handles, ring base, undecorated, everted rims. Parallel Qweilbeh LB II objects Nos. 8841, 8864, 8831 of excavations, 1959 (unpublished).

Pl. XXXVIII (16) Large Jug, one handle, pinched mouth, round base, wet smoothed, coarse surface, m. fired, parallel MII. Pl. 81. 14 Stratum VI with a little difference in details, the mouth in ours is pinched and the base is more pointed which gives an earlier dated probably the end of 13th Cent. (L. 13th — E. 12th. B. C.). The body in ours is more bulbous. M. Tomb 73. Pl. 28 (LBII). The example in MT. 73 is close similar to ours.

Pl. XXXIX (17) & (18) Dippers, one handle, round base, pinched mouth, Wet smoothed, m. fired, Parallel to Jabal Qala'h Tombs 1959. (unpublished) JAM. Nos. 8893, 8841, 8840 MII. Pl. 81. I. Stratum VII-VI (A) (Transitional Period) LB — EI-I.

Pl. XXXVIII (19, 20, 21) lamps, of round base, pinched rims & smoked nozzles. Parallel Qweilbeh Tombs 1959 (unpublished) JAM. Nos. 8828, 8830. LBII-EI - I.

Pl. XXXIX (22) Chalice or funnels, L. red slip, lime grits, broken base. Wheel made, m. fired. Parallel TN I. Pl. 79, 10 Stratum VI (A). Deir Alla (Unpublished) No. 133. EI-I.

Pl. XXXIX (23) Lime stone disc perforated. Probably used as a stand for a pot or part of a flour mill? Parallel MII. Pl. 172. 35 Stratum VI (B) (bottom flat, top convex-concave) dated probably 1150-1100 B.C.

Pl. XL (24 & 25) Knives blades. Parallel Madeba Tombs (PEFA, VI, 1953). Pl. IV. 162, 193. MII. Pl. 56 Stratum VI. (Transitional Periods) LBII — EI-I.

Pl. XL (26) Rim of a bowl, everted, slightly carinated, Lime grits m. fired. L. red slipped. Parallel to Qweilbeh Tombs 1959. (Unpublished) JAM. No. 8894, MII. Pl. 69. 2 Krater Stratum VII (A) LBII.

Pl. XL (27) Rim of a bowl with straight everted rim parallel Hazor I. Pl. CXXVIII. 3.

Pl. XL (28) Jug (incomplete) Rim, neck, handle ring base, parallel MII Pl. 51. 1. Stratum IX. MII. Pl. 58. 19 Stratum VIII (LBI — LBII).

Pl. XXXVIII (29) Copper ring, broken 3 parts.

Pl. XXXVIII (30) Amulet bead. Two holes, greyish stone, parallel Madeba Tomb Pl. IV. 160 & 161 quite typical of Iron I and II and good indication of Iron I. 30 (A) small bead, round type white colour, 30 (B) small copper beads.

Oblong stone pendants seem to have been popular during the Iron Age rather than before (Cf. Bp. I, Pl. 37. for tomb 222, Tell Fara).

Pl. XXXVIII (31) Upper part of a peak of a bird.

Pl. XL (32) Two parts of a dipper, L. red colour, lime grits, red slip, burnished, buff ware. Parallel TN I Pl. 40. 770 Ed-Dheiriya tomb (QDAP. 4. Pl. 61. Fig. I top No. I.) ca. 1000 B. C. Probably 9th Cent. B. C. Grant & Wright Megiddo Str. V. M. I. Pl. 5. 141, 47:141 1060-1000 B.C. Albright a. 1050-950 B.C. (AJA 44:548).

TBM. (ASS:12:67. Pl. 27:14 ca. 950-920).

Conclusion

This is the fourth tomb excavated by the Department of Antiquities (Jordan) in Irbid. The Burial in this tomb extends from the late Bronze II to the starting of the Early Iron Age. Half of the objects are typical of LB periods, while the rest are a development of the earlier types, the use of which continued till the Early Iron Age. Some types in this tomb are new and locally made such as Nos. 10, 11, 12,, 13 and 14 have similarities with objects from strata VII-VI at Megiddo (Transitional Period) probably dated 1350-1100 B.C.

Also Nos. 16, 17, 18 are good parallels to objects from these strata.

Lamps 19, 20, 21. This type continued to be used since LBII till the end of EI — I.

The knife blades Nos. 24, 24 are typical to Madeba tomb (PEFA, VI 1953) dated 1250-1150 B.C. and similar to types at Megiddo stratum VI dated 1150-1100 B.C.

The Amulet bead No. 30 is good for dating. This dark green amulet bead is typical of Early Iron Age. Elaborate faience amulets were used during the XVIII dynasty and are absent in Early Iron Ages.

The discovery of this tomb is very important from the cultural and historical point of view. It indicates that the culture in Gilead had no break in the late Bronze Age till the Early Iron Ages. The discovery of other LB. tombs in Amman; Amman temple tomb (Harding, PEFQ, 90, 1958. P. 10 -12 and BA. XVIII, 1955. 80) and the LB tomb discovered by the writer at Jabal Nuzha NW. of the citadel of Amman, in 1961, is another proof of the continuation of culture with no break in Ammon from the MBII - Early Iron Ages, and that of Madeba tomb ((PEFA, VI, 1953) is another proof of the continuation of culture in Moab with no break from the MBII period up to the end of EI I — I — II. The last Tomb of this transitional Period came from Appela excavated by the D.A.J. in 1963.

Dating

On the basis of the new types appeared in this tomb and the typical vessels LBII and the other objects typical of the Iron Age, a date probably starts from 1350-1100 B.C. may coincid with the burial of this Tomb.

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