

AN IRON AGE TOMB FROM AMMAN

(JABAL EL-JOFEH AL-SHARQI)

BY RAFIK W. DAJANI

A cave burial tomb, discovered by a stonecutter working in the land of Said el Qaryouti, situated at the foot hill of Jabal el-Jofeh, 300 m. to the east of the Roman Theatre.¹

More than 150 intact pottery objects & other copper & stone objects have been recovered. Many similarities between pottery vessels in this Tomb & those of Sahab published in (QDAP. XIII. Pl. 35) & Amman Iron Age Tombs, A, B, C & D published in (QDAP. XIII. & XI & PEFA, VI, 1953). They represents types of pinched mouth jugs, bowls, tripod cups, trifoil mouth jugs, mugs, cooking pots, chalices, pointed flasks, miniature two handles flasks, dippers, spouted dippers, lamps, double nozzle lamps, Iron braccellets & anklets. Some objects have many examples such as: —

Plate II: No. 37 has twenty examples of the same types & form.

Plate VIII: No. 41 (Jug) has 14.

Plate IV: No. 115 (Lamp) has 2.

Plate IV: No. 114 (lamp) has 7.

Plate IV: No. 177 (Lamp) has 7.

Plate V: No. 94 (dipper) has 3.

Plate V: No. 61 (oil flask) has 7.

Plate V: No. 97 (dipper) has 6.

There were polishing stones of marble, six bracelets of bronze, four bronze fingerrings, two beads, one bronze nail & one bronze earring.

The bronze mirror Plate VI No. 152 is very typical to that of Megablein Tomb dated 7-6th Cent. B. C. published in (QDAP. XIV Pl. 14-9) & Atleet Tomb (QDAP. II Pl. 22.551) dated 500 B.C. Our mirror is revetted on the handle, while the Megablein is not.

The clay shrine Plate IV No. 130 is a box like, rectangular in shape, 18cm. high, the base is 17×15 cm. square, & the top is 13×13 cm. square. It is of a pinkish colour,

¹ Pl. IX. Fig. 1.

buff ware, with numerous fine white grits. Decoration on the back & sides with vertical lines of dark brown or black colour. The vertical lines are crossed by a horizontal one at the top, there are four knob like legs on the base. This shrine is parallel to Megiddo shrine (M11. Pl. 251. 1 stratum VII b) (1200-1150 B.C.).

The Metal Objects :

Plate VI No. 152 includes six bracelets & two anklets, are very similar to Megablein tomb published in (QDAP, XIV. Pl. 14. 7 & 8 & 15) dated 7th & early 6th centuries B.C.

Bowls & Plates :

Bowl No. 133. Pl. V is parallel to Megablein Tomb (QDAP XIV Pl. 14.14) dated 650-600 B.C. SS. III. Fig. 6-7 period IV & to Amman Tomb C. Nos. 132 & 134 Pl. V are parallel to those of Amman tomb C dated 8th Cent. B.C. published in (ADAJ Nos. 1 & 2 Fig. 1, 2, 3, 4) & to Megablein tomb dated 650-600 B.C. (QDAP. XIV Pl. 17.16 & 4).

Plate V No. 154 parallel to SS III fig. 6.1 period IV Early 8th Cent. B.C.

Tripod Cups :

Tripod cups in this tomb were found in great quantities. They are of the same type, but differ in details. In dating they are parallel to Sahab Tripod Cups, (QDAP. XIII. Nos. 3-4) page 98. Fig. 4. Nos. 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30. Our Tripod cups Pls. VII and VIII Nos. 54, 123, 47, 51, 59 & 54 are more elaborate & decorated on the rim with strokes of black or dark brown colour. They are similar also to Amman Tomb C (ADAJ. I & 2) Fig. II dated 8th Cent. B.C. & to Amman Tomb, A & B (QDAP. XI & XII P. 69-74) Tripod cups in Jofeh Tomb are found more than in any other tomb yet discovered in Transjordan.

Jugs :

Jug No. 101 Pl. VI with a small spout decorated in horizontal parallel lines in black colour with one handle & round base is parallel to Amman Tomb C. (ADAJ. 1 & 2 Fig. 1.23) (8th Cent. B.C.) & to Sahab Tomb (QDAP. XIII, 3-4) p. 99 Fig. 5.47 (dated 8-7 Cent. B.C.).

Jug No. 100 Pl. VI with disc base is similar to No. 101 in decoration. No. 34 with no spout pinched rim, red slip un-burnished is parallel to Sahab Tomb Fig. 5.48. No. 82 pl. VII a small jug with pinched mouth one handle is similar to Sahab Tomb Fig. 5.51.

Jugs — & Water Decanters :

Jugs and water decanters found in this tomb are numerous & more than any other Iron Age Tomb ever yet discovered in Transjordan. Most of them were elaborate, intact, smoothed & burnished, the rest were not.

They were all slipped with dark red or pinkish in colour. No. 104 Pl. VIII is similar to Sahab Tomb (QDAP. XIII-3-4-) Fig. 10.15. (Samaria period VI) & to Amman Tomb C (ADAJ. 1 & 2 Fig. 1.29). No. 60. Pl. VI is parallel to Megablein Tomb (QDAP. XIV Pl. 14,20) dated 650-600 B.C. & to Adoni Nur Tomb (PEFA. VI, 1953, Pl. V. 4) dated 650 B.C. & to Amman Tomb C, Fig. 1.31, dated 8th Cent. B.C., No. 28 Pl. VI is similar to SS. III Fig. 10.16. period VI & to Amman Tomb A (QDAP. XI. P. 67. 31) dated 7th Cent. B.C. No. 44 a Pl. VI have 14 example & parallel to Amman Tomb C. Fig. 1.27 & to Amman Tomb A (QDAP. XI 1945, page 68, No. 35, dated 7th Cent. B.C.) No. 19. Pl. VII has 21 example & similar to Amman Tomb C. Fig. 1.28 & Amman Tomb A (QDAP. XI. P. 68.33, dated 7th Cent. B.C.) No. 41 Pl. VIII Parallel to SSIII Fig. 10.5 period VI. 750-722 B.C. & to Amman Tomb C Fig. 1.29 dated 8-7th C. C.B. & has 14 examples.

Jugs in this Tomb though differing from each other in detail are variation of the same species, characterised by a red or Buff ware & red slip, not always burnished.

Nos. 44 & 44a, 28 & 60 Pls : VI & VIII belonging to a group recognized by C.N. Johns as being of foreign, possibly cypric origin (QDAP. VI, P. 142 Fig. 6.1. Text P. 141 with note No. 7) in Palestine they are not frequent, but in Trans-Jordan a fairly number is found in Amman Tombs A & B & C specially now in this Tomb. The cyprus red burnished ware ranged from about 800-700 B.C. or little later, where as the plain red starts at 750-500 B.C. (QDAP, 11, P. 79). As the plain red in Amman cannot be taken the only evidence for dating the group consisted of good number of red burnished, though the majority is not.

Dippers : — No. 91 Pl. VII is similar to SSIII Fig. 18. period. I. Nos. 94 & 95 Pl. V is similar to Amman Tomb C Fig. 1.24 (ADAJ. 1 & 2) dated 8-7th Cent. B.C. & to Lach. III Pl. 75.35. While 97 Pl. V is parallel to Lach. III. Pl. 75.34 (800-700 B.C.).

Oil Flasks with two handles & Handleless :

These are the usual types & include of many fine hand polish red ware with black lines, some covered with a creamy slip on which the hands of broad & very fine black lines are pointed. No. 88 Pl. V is unusual, is parallel to Sahab Tomb (QDAP. XIII-3-4 Fig. 7.70). Nos. 83 & 87 Pl. V are parallel to Sahab Tomb Fig. 7:69 & also 81 & 85. No. 77 Pl. V is of the same type but of a medium size similar to Sahab Tomb. Pl. 25.69., No. 79. Pl. VII is decorated on the neck & similar to Sahab No. 65 & 69 Fig. 7. P. 101.

Cups : -

No. 58 Pl. V has 4 examples, with one handle, disc base & carinated body is similar to Sahab Tomb (QDAP. XIII. 3-4) Fig. 7.66 & 71 & No. 56 Pl. VII is a cup, handleless with a pedestal base, this type is unique & unusual. This cup has two examples in this Tomb. I failed to find a parallel to them among the Palestinian types.

The Pointed Bottles : — Nos. 61 & 62 Pl. IV and 67, 63, 65, 68, 70, 72 & 71 Pl. V are parallel to Sahab Tomb (QDAP XIII. 3-4 P. 98. Fig. (4) 31, 37, 35, 71 & (Fig. 5.31) dated 8th Cent. B.C. & to Amman Tomb C (ADAJ. 1 & 2. Fig. 1, 12, 13 & 14)., & to Amman Tomb A (QDAP. XI, 1945, P. 71. Nos. 21 & 22) dated 7th Cent. B.C. & to Adoni Nur Tomb. (PEFA, 1953, Fig. 22 : 93 & 94) dated 650 B.C. & to Deir Alla No. 23 (unpublished). Nos. 66 & 64 Pl. V have a small ring base, though they are of the same type, They are bulkier than the others & as Nos. 65, 70 & 72 but differ in the base, parallel to Sahab Tomb Fig. 4.35., No. 63 is decorated at the bottom with horizontal bands is parallel to Sahab Tomb (QDAP. XIII. 3-4) Pl. 35, 31. Handleless pointed bottles though rare, but they are known in Iron II. This tomb contains the largest numbers of pointed bottles ever yet discovered in Transjordan, others which resemble. The Amman bottles more in shape than, have either a slightly thickened or a well-pronounced ring shaped lip. Another group of heavy, thick-walled pointed bottles have a more or less crudly modelled lip & are mostly knife pared. (Tell en Nasbeh Tomb 3 : Bade' Pl. XIII, 4) & Ophel (PEFA IV, 1923-5. P. 178 & Fig. 189).

(Pointed Bottles) in Tomb 14 at Ain Shems (Grant & Wright, AS IV, Pl. 45 & V, P. 145) (Dated to the 6th Cent. B.C.), Another comparison to our group may be given to two bottles, though they differ in size, one from Samaria measuring 16 cm. & the other from Nineveh measuring 26.4 cm. high, (The Samaria example is found in (G. Reisner, Samaria, 1. P. 288, Fig. 163, Texton P. 286, III 4 ; II Pl. 67 h.) & the Nineveh example is found in (R. Campbell Thompson & M.E.L. Mallowan, "The British Museum Excavations at Nineveh, 1931-2 in AAA, 1933, Pl. LXXIV, 19, P. 175). Both these bottles are from Iron Age contexts, the Samaria bottles was found with Israelite pottery. The Nineveh bottle is dated to the 7th C. B. C.

In addition to these the Adoni Nur Tomb example No. 95 (PEFA, VI, 1953 Fig. 22.95) is another thin long type (dated 650 B.C. from the Seal of Adoni Nur found in this tomb at Amman) while the other forms fig. 22. 90, 91, 93 & 94 are of the usual types of Amman & Sahab Tombs.

To Sum up the evidence for dating these bottles in this tomb is two fold.

1) Other example of the same type from Sahab (dated 8-7th Cent. B.C.) (QDAP. XIII -3-4. P. 96) & Amman Tomb A (QDAP. 1, 1945) dated (8th -7th C. B.C.) & Amman Tomb C (QDAJ. 1 & 2. P. 37) dated 8-7th Cent. B.C. & (QDAP. XI).

2) The Adoni Nur & the Megablein examples (PEFA, VI, 1953) (QDAP. XIV) dated 7th early 6th C. B. C.).

3) The Samaria & Nineveh bottles (Samaria, 1, P. 286-8, pl. 67) (The British Museum Excavations at Nineveh, 1931-2 in AAA, 1933 P. 175 Pl. LXXIV, 19) dated 7th Cent. B. C.

All these indications point to Iron Age II. I am more inclined to give them a date which may fit their earliest appearance in Amman Tomb C & Sahab Tomb & their latest presentation in Adoni Nur Tomb & Megablein, a period which may extend between the end of the 8th Cent. B.C. & starting of the 6th Cent. B.C.

Chalice : —

The chalice No. 155. Pl. IV decorated with horizontal lines in black & dark brown, with a pedestal base & high stand, is similar to Deir Alla No. 525 (unpublished) discovered by the Duch Expedition, under the direction of Dr. Franken of Leiden University in 1960, in the Iron Ages levels. The Deir Alla one is not decorated while our is decorated. A very close similarity to our chalice is that found in Amman Tomb A published in (QDAP. XI. P. 70. No. 9) The Amman "A" type is decorated with two bands on the bowl.

Lamps : —

All lamps in this tomb are of usual form or saucer type round base, except No. III. Pl. IV with a disc base & deep pinched nozzle, is parallel to Adoni Nur Tomb (PEFA, VI, 1953, Fig. 22.89) dated 650 B. C. & to Sahab Tomb (QDAP. XIII - 3-4) Fig. 7.22 dated 8-7 Cent. B. C. & to Amman -Jabal Qala'ah excavation 1960, lamp No. 3 (unpublished) found in the Iron Age levels near the pre-Roman City wall & to TN. II PL. 71.1627 dated the latter part of MI & immediately following (TN. II. P. 46.).

Nos. 177, 121 & 118 No. 121 is of black ware while Nos. 177 & 118 are of red ware & slip. All are of double ended lamp (double nozzle) unused. No. 121. is similar to Amman Tomb "A" (QDAP. XI, P. 70.17.).

While Nos. 177 & 118 are parallel to Amman Tomb C (QDAP. 1 & 2 Fig. 1.15) dated early 8th Cent. B.C. Pl. IV Nos. 125, 115, 114 & 105 & 106 are parallel to Sahab Tomb Pl. 101. Fig. 75. 76, 81 & 78 (QDAP. XIII 3-4-) dated 8-7th Cent. B.C. & to Amman Tomb "A" (QDAP. Pl. XI P. 70. 15, 16 & 14) dated early 8th Cent. B. C. To Amman Tomb "C" (ADAJ. 1 & 2. Fig. 1. 16, 17, 18) dated early 8th Cent. B.C.

Saucer lamps in this tomb with round base, are parallel to those in TN. T. 3 & they extend in date to the latter part of MI. The disc base lamps found in the upper phase in this tomb belong to the latter part of MI & later (TN. 11 P. 46).

Jugs decorated with horizontal lines : —

It is interesting to give some notes & parallel to this kind of jugs found in this tomb, in comparison with the others found elsewhere. Nos. 122, 124, 123 & 127 Pl. IV with either ring base or disc base, wide collared neck, two handles, everted rim, decorated at the rim, neck & body with horizontal lines in black or dark brown colour, highly wheel burnished with creamy slip, buff ware, typical of the Moabite ware found by Albright at Kerak (AASOR XIV P. 14) & Glueck at Sahiyeh (AASOR, XIV. P. 14) & Medeiyneh (AASOR, XIV. P. 15 Pl. 20.1) & Qasr Sa'afaran I (AASOR, XIV, Pl. 29.8), Balua'h (XIV P. 24), Kh. el Jemeil (XIV. P. 36) etc.

One intact jug, of the same type, & size was found in Adoni Nur Tomb in Amman (PEFA, VI, 1953, Pl. V. 10) dated 650 B.C.

This type of jugs as intact, appeared for the first time in Adoni Nur Tomb & in this tomb. The type, form decoration & the ware technique are characteristic of the Moabite ware which appeared in Moab in Iron II.

Cooking Pots :

No. 59 Pl. V is a cooking pot of small size, round base, found smoked in this tomb. It was the only cooking pot we found in this tomb. Parallel at Hazor Pl. LXXXV 9 Stratum V (a) & at TN. II Pl. 47. 1007 (1000-900 B.C.) & Pl. 48. 1013 (900-600 B.C.).

(Summery & Conclusion)

This tomb was found undisturbed in Amman. The cave tomb was oval in form, 6,30 m. long & 400 cm. wide & high about, 1,20 m. (See Pl. IX. Fig. 1). Most of the objects found in this tomb are typical to those in Sahab Tomb (QDAP. XIII 3-4) dated 8-7th Cent. B.C. & Amman Tomb C (A.D.A.J. Vols. 1 & 2) dated 8th Cent. B.C. & Amman Tomb A in Jabal el Jofeh (QDAP. XI, P. 67) dated late Iron II.

The tripod cups which is peculiar of Transjordan forms were found in abundance & more than any other tomb yet discovered in Transjordan.

The jugs Nos. 122, 124, 123 & 127, decorated with horizontal bands of black & white in between with decorated rims is one of the decorative characteristic of Transjordan Technique in the Iron Age II. The first discovery of this type of Jugs in Transjordan was in the Tomb of Adoni Nur Tomb found in Amman & dated late 7th Cent. B. C. (PEFA, VI. 1953 Pl. V. 10). The water decanters & Jugs Nos. 44 & 44a 60, 22, 5 (a), 33,4 & 24, have many other examples in this tomb, the number of which are more than

any other number of jugs & water decanters have ever discovered in Transjordan & most of them were plain red, the date of which in cyprus at 750-500 B.C. (QDAP. II. P. 79). A similar date may be given to our jugs & water decanters.

On the basis of all parallels quoted as mentioned above point to a late Iron Age II. A late date too would agree with the type of the decorated jugs represented in Nos. 122, 124, 123 & 127, Pl. IV the first appearance of which, in an intact form was found in the tomb of Adoni Nur in Amman dated late 7th Century B. C. & on the basis of the large members of the plain red jugs found in this tomb a date of the second half of the 7th Cent. - to end 7th Cent. B. C. may fit the period of this tomb (650-600 B. C.).

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ABBREVIATIONS

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| ADAJ | ANNUAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANTIQUITIES, Jordan. |
| QDAP | QUARTERLY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANTIQUITIES PALESTINE |
| AASOR | ANNUAL OF THE AMERICAN SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL RESEARCH. |
| PEFA | ANNUAL OF THE PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND. |
| AAA | ANNALS OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL. |
| SS III | CROWFOOT, J. W. AND KENYON, K. M. SEBASTIYEH-SAMARIA III. |
| TNI | MCCOWN, C. C. TELL EN-NASBEH (BERKELEY, 1947). |
| TNII | WAMPLER, J. C. TELL EN-NASBEH: THE POTTERY. |