

JABAL NUZHA TOMB AT AMMAN

(Rafiq W. Dajani)

The discovery of this tomb was reported to the Department by the police post in the Palestinian Refugee Camp at Jabal Nuzha North of Jabal el-Hussein in Amman. The Tomb is east of the UNRWA School in Hassan Tashley's land. It was found in digging a sewage ditch for a house. As soon as I got the information from the police post, I immediately got there where I found the labourers have cut the roof into the tomb. It is a rock cut cave approximately circular in plan 3m. wide, was entered at the north western corner by a door about 80cm wide, and 1.25m. high. Inside the cave there was no attempt at dressing the rock surfaces, indeed it would not have been possible, at the rock here is composed of layers of crumbly tabular flint and soft line-stone, and was undisturbed until I started the digging.

One hundred and sixty pots more or less intact, as very fine dust has percolated through from it and covered three fourth of the cave to a considerable depth. Along the east side was a rock cut bench about one metre high, 3m. long and 1.25m wide.

The contents of the tomb start in the Late Bronze Age, there are many points of contact with the period in Palestine. Most striking is the very close parallel with some of the fosse tombs and the 500-600 Cemetery at Tel Fara¹ where all objects from our tomb can be duplicated. There are further connection with structure III of the fosse temple at Lachish, with Beisan and with Tell Beit Mirsin, Level (c). At the same time there are striking absences; though there are Mycenaean pots, there are no milk bowls, no gazelle and bird decoration. Two arguments could be founded on these facts;

- a) that the group only just overlaps the extreme end of Late Bronze.
- b) that it goes back further into the period but that the imported wares so characteristic in Palestine did not find their ways as far as Rabbath Amman and Madaba.

The Iron Age is amply attested in the Iron piece and many pottery parallels with Palestine, but Philistine ware is entirely absent. There are some example of black or red paint, but most of the ware is gritty with fine and large Lime grits, and many slipped with dark red slip. Close parallel to the pottery types of this tomb is found in Madeba Tomb (APEF VI, 1953, p. 27-47) and to Dothan Tomb 101 (1964 ex-

¹ Beth Pelete I & II.

cavations — unpublished) and to Deir 'Alla area (E) (transitional period LB-EI II) ¹ and to types from strata VIIb - VIa at Megiddo.

On the balance of evidence I would suggest 1300-1150 B.C. as possible limits, while recognizing that 150 years is perhaps too long a continuity for such a homogeneous group. The majority of the pottery form sum to relate to LB rather than the EI, but Dr. Free's discovery of tomb 101 at Dothan in 1964 which is close parallel to our tomb as Dr. Free said when he examined the contents of this tomb, that he has suggested the same date for tomb 101 at Dothan.

The discovery of this tomb in Amman, as well as the discovery of other parallel contents at Deir Alla in area (E), Tabaqat Fahl Tombs in 1963 ², and east Ghor Channal Tomb ³ is very important to archaeology, because it fills the gap which Dr. Glueck's oft-reported statement that trans-Jordan was unoccupied between 1900-1200 B.C. ⁴, it falls well within the limits of time given by Gluecks, and cannot by its very nature be an isolated phenomenon, nor the work of Tent dwellers, who used for containers perishable skins and not enduring pottery ⁵.

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¹ Dr. Franken excavation 1964.

² Not yet published.

³ Not yet Published.

⁴ AASOR XVIII - XIX p. 265, 268.

⁵ The other side of the Jordan p. 114 and BASOR, 68. p. 21 and BASOR 75, p. 28.

JABAL NUZHA TOMB (2)

See PLATE XVII

Serial No.	Plate	Object	Body	Slip	Grits	REMARKS
1	Pl. 17 No. 47	Chalice	Buff	L. red	Lime	Deir Alla. J. 9773. M.T. Pl. 34.11. (LB. 11)
2	Pl. 17 No. 14	Bowl	Buff	L. red	Lime	Deir Alla. J. 9794. (LB. II) L. II. Pl. XXXVIII (B). 38
3	Pl. 17 No. 35	Dipper	Buff	L. red	Lime	Deir Alla. J. 9741. (LB. II)
4	Pl. 17 No. 36	Dipper	Buff	L. red	Lime	Deir Alla. J. 9789. (LBII-EI-I)
5	Pl. 17 No. 37	Dipper	Buff	L. red	Lime	Deir Alla. J. 9792. (LBII-EI-I)
6	Pl. 17 No. 39	Dipper	Buff	L. red	Lime	Deir Alla. J. 9743. (LBII-EI-I)
7	Pl. 17 No. 59	Lamp	Buff	L. red	Lime	Deir Alla. J. 9788. (LBII-EI-I)
8	Pl. 17 No. 2	Bowl	Buff	L. red	Lime	Decorated ring base, Paralled, Deir Alla. J. 9738. (LBII-EI-I)
9	Pl. 17 No. 64	Lamp	Buff	L. red	Lime	Deir Alla. J. 9787 (LBII)
10	Pl. 17 No. 60	Lamp	Buff	L. red	Lime	Deir Alla. J. 9786 (LBII)
11	Pl. 17 No. 61	Lamp	Buff	L. red	Lime	Deir Alla. J. 9788 (LBII)
12	Pl. 17 No. 6	Bowl	red	red	Lime	Deep, decorated with circle bands from inside, trumpet base, LII. XVIII. (B) 252. Temple III. (1223.1190. B.C.)
13	Pl. 17 No. 15	Bowl	Buff	L. red	Lime	Madaba Tomb (APFE.VI, 1953. Fig. 13.40) Carinated.
14	Pl. 17 No. 16	Bowl	Buff	L. red	Lime	Madaba Tomb. Fig. 12.3
15	Pl. 17 No. 7	Bowl	Buff	L. red	Lime	Deep, two handles, Carinated ring base. Tomb, Fig. 14.54.
16	Pl. 17 No. 8	Bowl	Buff	L. red	Lime	Deep, two handles, ring base, Madeba Tomb. Fig. 14.58.
17	Pl. 17 No. 57	Lamp	Buff	L. red	Lime	Madeba Tomb, Fig. 14.63.
18	Pl. 17 No. 32	Lamp	Buff	L. red	Lime	Madeba Tomb, Fig. 14.62. one handle.
19	Pl. 17 No. 51	Flask	red	red	Lime	Decorated with inner circles in black, rolled rim, two handles attached to the rim, Parallel: Madaba. T. Fig. 15.79.80
20	Pl. 17 Nos.44, 45, 46, 49, 50	Flask	Buff	L. red	Lime	Madaba T. Fig. 15.83. No. 44. is unique.
21	Pl. 17 No. 22	Bowl	Buff	Creamy	Lime	Madaba. T. Fig. 12.5 MII. Pl. 65.5, str. VII B. - VII A.
22	Pl. 17 No. 26	Bowl	Buff	Creamy	Lime	VII B. - VII A. Fig. 12.4
23	Pl. 17 No. 21	S. Bowl	Buff	Creamy	Lime	Round base, everted rim, Madaba. T. Fig. 13.28, LII. Pl. LVI (B) 371.
24	Pl. 17 No. 3	Bowl	Buff	Creamy	Lime	Decorated with parallel bands from inside in black.
25	Pl. 17 No. 12	Bowl	Buff	Creamy	Lime	Inverted rim, ring base, Parallel: Madeba Tomb, Fig. 12.21.
26	Pl. 17 No. 17	Bowl	Buff	Buff	Lime	Ring base, Madeba tomb, Fig. 12. 23.
27	Pl. 17 No. 31	Jug	Buff	White wash	Lime	Two handles, decorated Paralled Tell el Far'ah, J. 4832. El - Jib, J. 4908.

Serial No.	Plate	Objects	Body	Slip	Slip	REMARKS
28	Pl. 17 Nos. 48, 52	Pyxis	Hard	Dark brown	Fine	Decorated in Paralled horizontal bands in black, (imported Mycenaeam). Parallel: Tell es - Saidiyeh tombs 136, 119.
29	Pl. 17 No. 66	Bowl	Buff	L. red	Lime	Round base, everted rim. parallel: Deir 'Alla. (1960) No. 188, Madeba tomb Fig. 15.83.
30	Pl. 17 No. 34	Jar	Buff	L. red	Lime	Two loop handles, slight pointed base, broken rim, decorated with parallel horizontal bands in dark red. Parallel to Tell es - Saidiyeh tomb 142 and tomb 132.
31	Pl. 17 No. 53	Jug	Buff	Buff	Lime	Ring base, one handle broken, parallel: Tell Saidiyeh Tomb 101. (LB. 11).
32	Pl. 17 No. 54	Jug	red	Red	Lime	One handle, long neck, decorated in parallel horizontal bands and Ziq - Zaq line in between - ring base. The nearest parallel Tell Deir 'Alla. (1960) No. 323 (unpublished).
33	Pl. 17 No. 19	Bowl	buff	Creamy	Lime	Inside curved rim, small round cut base. parallel MII. Pl. 74.4. Str. VII B. VI A.
34	Pl. 17 No. 25	Bowl	Buff	Red	Lime	MII. Pl. 74.3. Str. VII-VI. (LB 11 - E 1 - 1)
35	Pl. 17 No. 27	Bowl	Buff	L. red	Lime	Plain rim, round cut base. MII Pl. 71. 18. (Str. VII - VI A).
36	Pl. 17 No. 9	Bowl	Buff	L. red	Lime	Trumpet base, everted rim, L II. Pl. XXXVII B. 31 Temple II.
37	Pl. 17 No. 10	Bowl	Buff	L. red	Lime	L II. Pl. XLIB. 109 Temple III.
38	Pl. 17 No. 4	Bowl	Buff	L. red	Lime	Decorated with parallel hands from inside in black grooved on the rim, trumpet base L. II Pl. XXXVII.
39	Pl. 17 No. 20	Bowl	Buff	Creamy	Lime	Small, deep, decorated from inside. L II. Pl. XXX VIII (B). 38 Temple II.

OBJECTS

See PLATE X

Serial No.	Plate	Object
28	1	Brass piece with engraved dots.
29	2	Brass piece with engraved dots.
30	3	Disc, Lime stone, perforated.
31	4	Iron piece part of an object
32	4	No. 5 Fingerring (copper) engraved
33	4	No. 6 Bracellet (copper) engraved
34	4	No. 7 Bracellet (copper) Broken
35	4	No. 8 Earring (copper)
36	4	No. 9 Toggle Pin (copper) Broken

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ABBREVIATIONS

LII	LACHISH BOOK II.
APFE, VI	PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND, ANNUAL VI.
Fig.	FIGURE
MII	MEGIDDO. BOOK II. LOUD, ETC., AL., MEGIDDO, 1935 - 39.
J.	JORDAN NUMBER OF OBJECTS IN AMMAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM.
LB II	LATE BRONZE II.
Str.	STRATUM.