

AN (EB - MB) BURIAL FROM AMMAN

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PL. XL. Fig. 1 + 2

A cave burial was accidentally discovered by the civil defence group on the 21 st. May, 1968 at Jabal el-Taj in Amman while making a civil defence refuge in that area.

The department was immediately informed and what the department could save were five jugs of EB - MB period.

The rest were small pottery sherds which could not be restored.

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- PL. XL 1 : Jug, one loop flat handle marked with X incision, slightly everted rim, big
Fig. 2 round cut base, red ware and incised body.
Parallel : Jericho Tombs II. T. N. 5.
Fig. 67. 5. & Fig. 24.11. dated EB - MB.
- PL. XL 2 : Big jug, one loop flat handle, big round cut base, two ledge handles (envelope
Fig. 2 type) on the largest part of the body, red ware, everted rim.
Parallel : T. N. I. Pl. 26:1554. T. 12.
MT. pl. 12. 6. L. IV pl. 62:288
dated by Kenyon EB - MB. Albright MB I.
- PL. XL. 3 : Big jug, one loop flat handle, big round cut base, everted rim, two ledge(enve-
Fig. 2 lope type)handles on the largest part of the body, red ware.
Parallel : Jericho Tombs II.T.P. 24. fig. 67:5.
The loop handle in our example is decorated with incissions.
- PL. XL. 4 : Medium size jug, two ledge envelope handles, big round cut base, gritted, two
Fig. 2 horizontal incised lines on the body. Buff ware.
Parallel : Jeriche Tombs II. T.P. 24. Fig. 67:5. EB - MB.
- PL. XL. 5 : Big jug, two ledge envelope handles, big round cut base, buff ware. (repaired).
Fig. 2 Parallel : Jericho Tombs II. T.P. 22 fig. 52. 9.

(CONCLUSION)

This is the first EB - MB. burial of its period discovered in Amman.

Usually the EB - MB cave burials have a shaft. The shaft in this tomb have been demolished by the civil defence labourers when they enlarged the cave to convert it to a civil defence refuge.

The cave was about two metres by two metres sq. semi circular shape and very roughly cut.

This burial is similar to the pottery type tombs form at Jericho. (Kenyon A.H.L.P. 139). They are so called because always pottery and never daggers comprise the funerary offering.

We have no idea about the burial custom in this tomb, since we found it completely disturbed by the labourers before we were on the spot. At any rate, it is of the same type as the pottery type at Jericho, where the body was put in literally as a bag of bones, disarticulated and lying in disorder.

The pottery in these tombs is a new type. The most characteristic form is a tall ovoid jar with flat base and flaring rim. The handles are loop either or ledge handles. The ledge handles are of (envelope type) and put on the largest part of the body. The ware is usually brittle and not well fired, but the actual making of the pots, with remarkably thin walls is skillful. The bodies of the jars are made by hand, the rims are usually made on a fast wheel. The typical decoration is incised, usually a combination of straight and wavy lines or else of a series of stabs.

EB - MB. burials were also found in other places in Palestine such as Tell Ajjul in the south and Megiddo in the north. They were found in two separate cemeteries 100 - 200 and 1500 at Ajjul and at tell Duweir, a cemetery (the 2000 cemetery) resembles in many respects the 100 - 200 cemetery of Tell Ajjul.

The clearest evidence comes from Jericho. It appears immediately over the ruins of EB town. This occurs not only all over the tell, but on the surrounding hill slopes as well.

In this tomb no tea pot was found. Such tea pots were found at Qatna in inland Syria (Syria, XI) and sherds with similar decoration have been found in Byblos in Lebanon.

The jars in this tomb at Jabal el-Taj have some rare forms; the pots have ledge (envelope) handles on the largest part of the body and the loop flat handles on the rims and the shoulders of the pots. This is very rare to be found in other site in Palestine. No lug handle was found in any pot.

The EB - MB Period range indate between 2300 - 1900 B.C. (Kenyon. AHL. P. 161.)

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