

Excavations on the Upper Citadel of Amman Area A (1975 and 1977)

by
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Excavations on the Upper Citadel of Amman (Pl.VI,1 and Figs 1-2) were carried out by the Department of Antiquities¹ in June 1975, at the south-eastern rim of the circular water reservoir, where a trench dug by the army, hit the edge of a stone basin. A Square 3m. by 6m was plotted to include the new discovery. To the east, in the disturbed area, a fragmentary *tabun* whose floor was apparently of pebbles, was impossible to salvage for it was smashed into pieces.

Umayyad occupation:

When work progressed to the west, undisturbed stratigraphy was found; two layers (Fig.3, 10 and 12) of brown soil and rubble contained Umayyad sherds (Fig. 25). They covered a floor paved with irregular flagstones (pl.VII,1 and Fig. 2a) sealing the stone basin. This belonged to a courtyard which was limited to the north by wall 6, to the south by wall 14 and to the west by wall 8 and was broken by a pit in the south-eastern corner. Against wall 14, in the south-eastern corner, a plastered platform (1.27) of 0.95 by 0.75m appeared and two cubes embodied in the mortar suggested it was paved with white tesserae. It was laid over corbel stones, supported by two small parallel walls which framed a square empty space, about 0.85m above floor level, opening to the west and filled with accumulated brown soil. A small rounded hole drilled through a stone in the south-western corner of the platform is evidence that the platform served as a drain. A bronze coin of Justinus I (518-527) (Pl.XXIV,7) was found on the floor and may be considered as evidence of the latest Byzantine occupation (see below). When the pavement was removed, two layers (Fig.3,24-25) yielded a rich collection of sherds of the 5th century A.D., overlying the plaster floor on which the

stone basin was resting (Pl.VII,2) and sealed by the Umayyad pavement.

An Umayyad house (Fig.2 and Pl.VIII,1), which reused previous Byzantine structures in wall 6, was cleared north of the oil press system. The conquerors blocked the entrance of the oil press room (Pl.VIII), originally vaulted, and added a thick plaster floor which sealed off a stone mortar at the entrance and erected new vaults to replace the older ones. The Umayyad house was accessible from a paved trail (Pl. VIII, 2) which runs along the outer retaining wall of the water reservoir. It was entered from the west, and a rectangular slab (Pl. IX, 2) situated to the north drilled with two holes, was probably a threshold to the vestibule. As they covered the oil collector with a sarcophagus lid which they smoothed, they laid flagstones over the mosaic floor. A Byzantine vault springer is still standing to a height of three courses and was obviously an addition to wall 8 of the early Roman period.

The Byzantine Oil Press System: (Pl. VII-X and Figs 4-6).

The stone mill which measures 2m across and 0.60m in height and was provided with a square central square, belonged to an oil press system which included two main elements: A) The mill, B) the press. A) The Mill consisted of the circular stone basin and a stone wheel (here missing) which turned around a wooden upright fitted in the square centre of the basin. The space between the mill and wall 14 is narrow and could permit a man and not an animal to pass and work the wheel. As the wheel was of harder stone, it wore away the bottom of the basin which was repaired with small slabs. In a first phase, the olives were crushed by the wheel and then gathered in reed baskets and brought to the press.

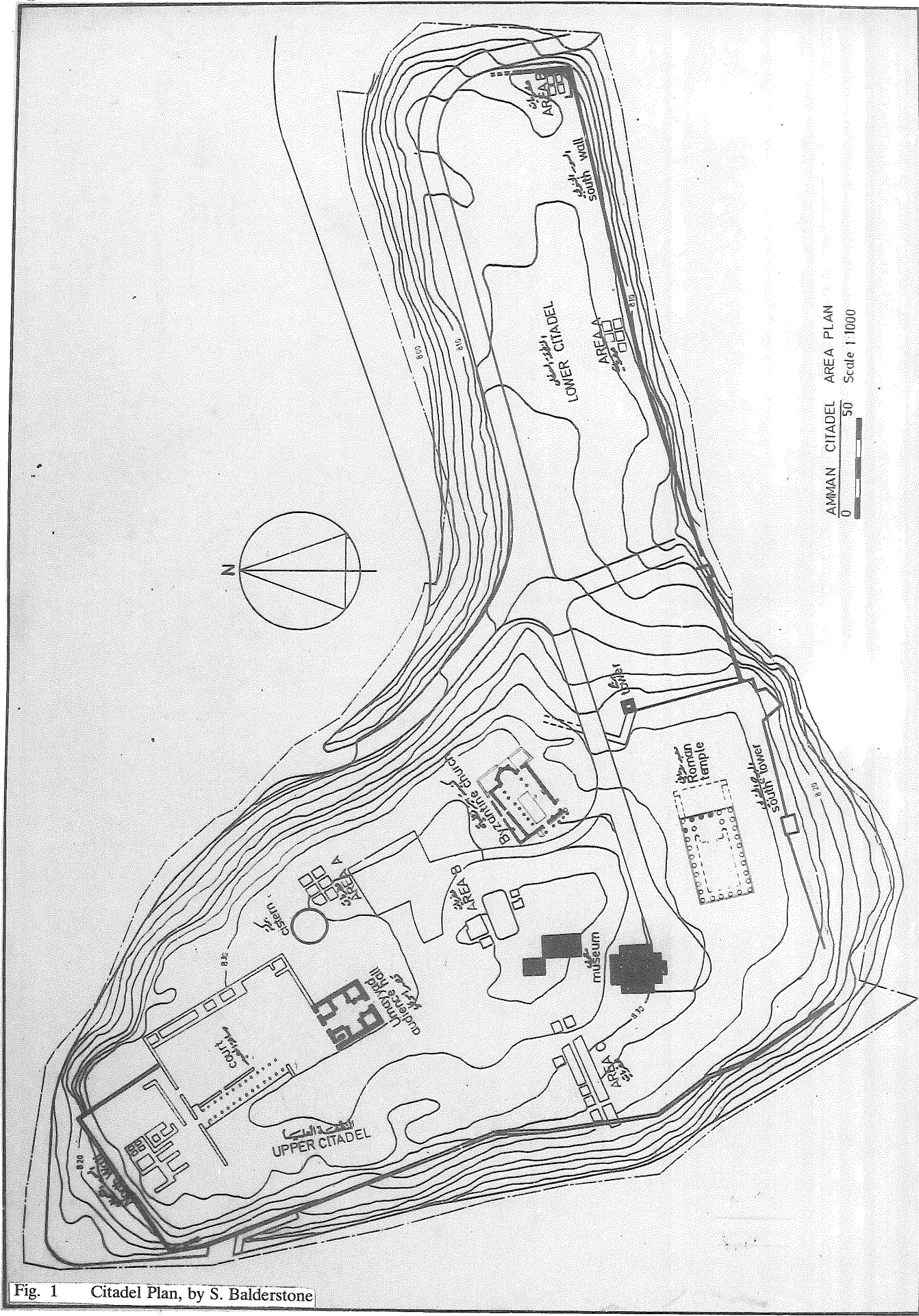


Fig. 1 Citadel Plan, by S. Balderstone

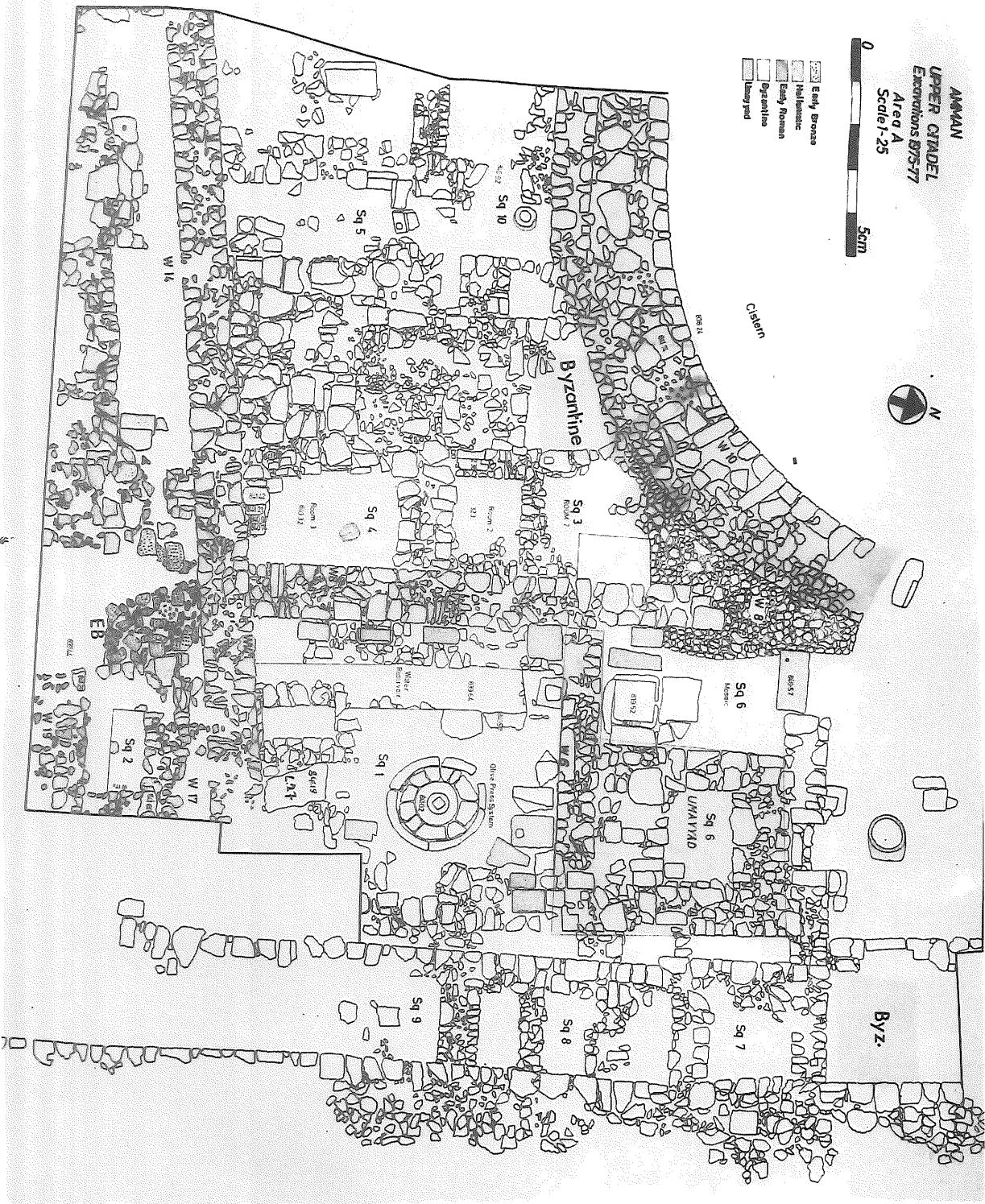


Fig. 2 plan of Excavations

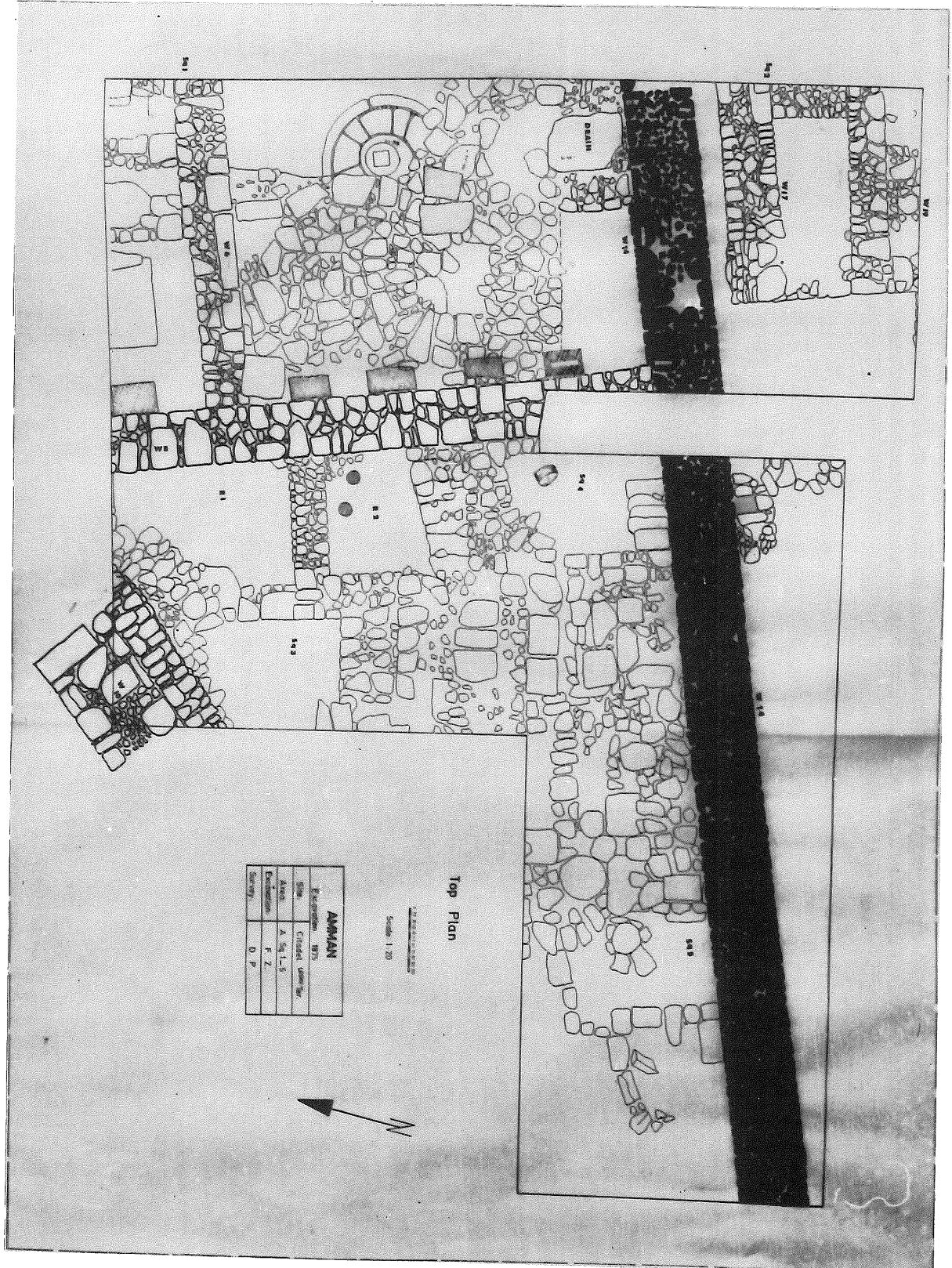


Fig. 2a Plan of Area A / Fig.2a: Plan of Umayyad pavement before removal.

Fig. 3

Area A
Sq. 1
West Balk

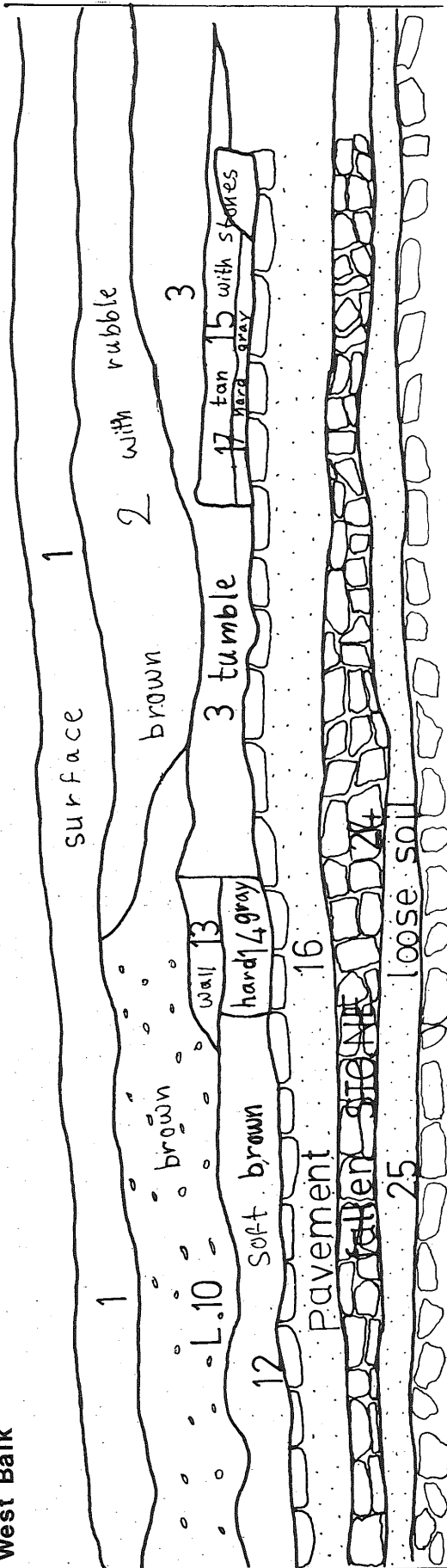


Fig. 3 : Area A, Sq. 1 West Balk

Scale 1 : 25

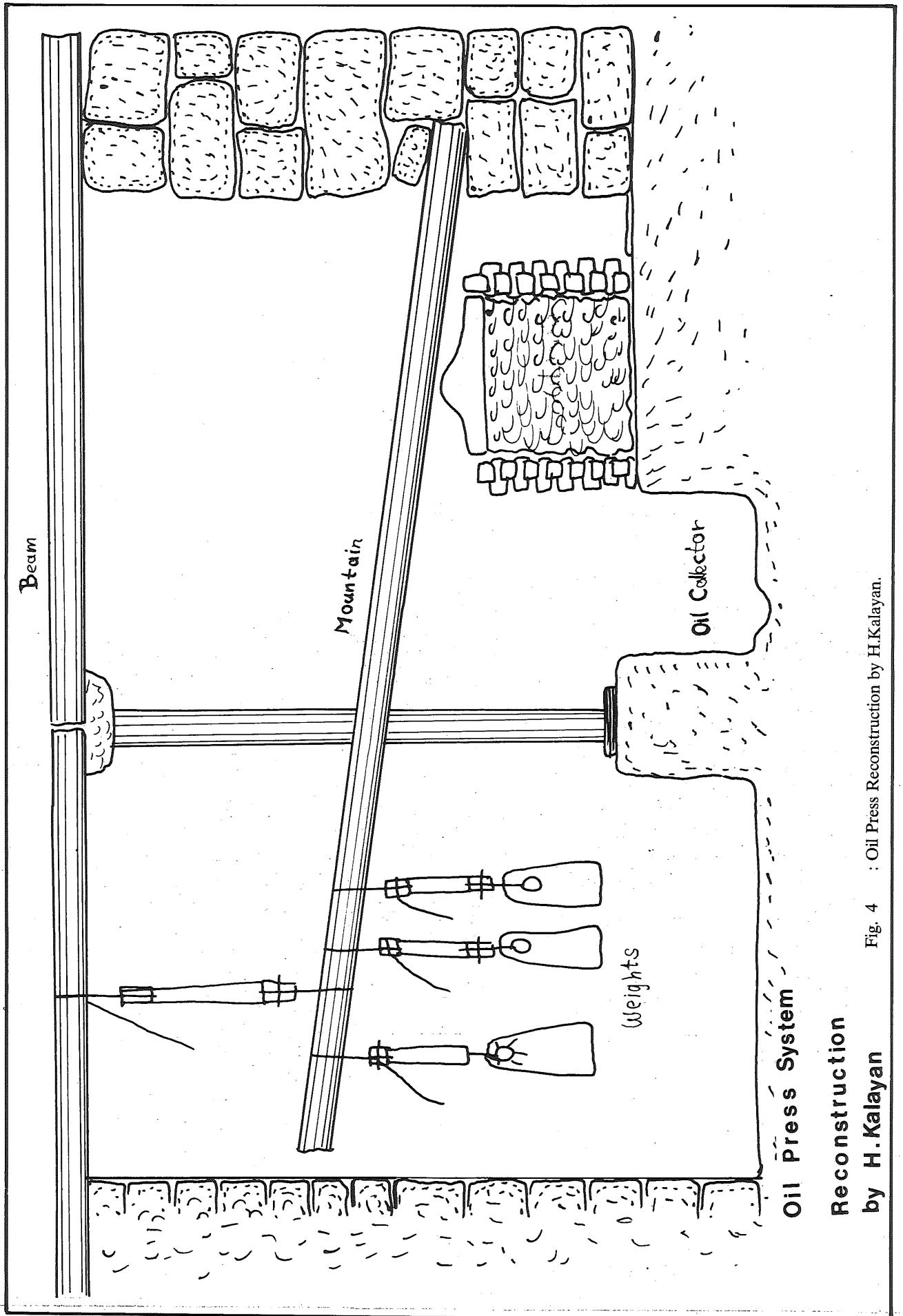


Fig. 4 : Oil Press Reconstruction by H.Kalayan.

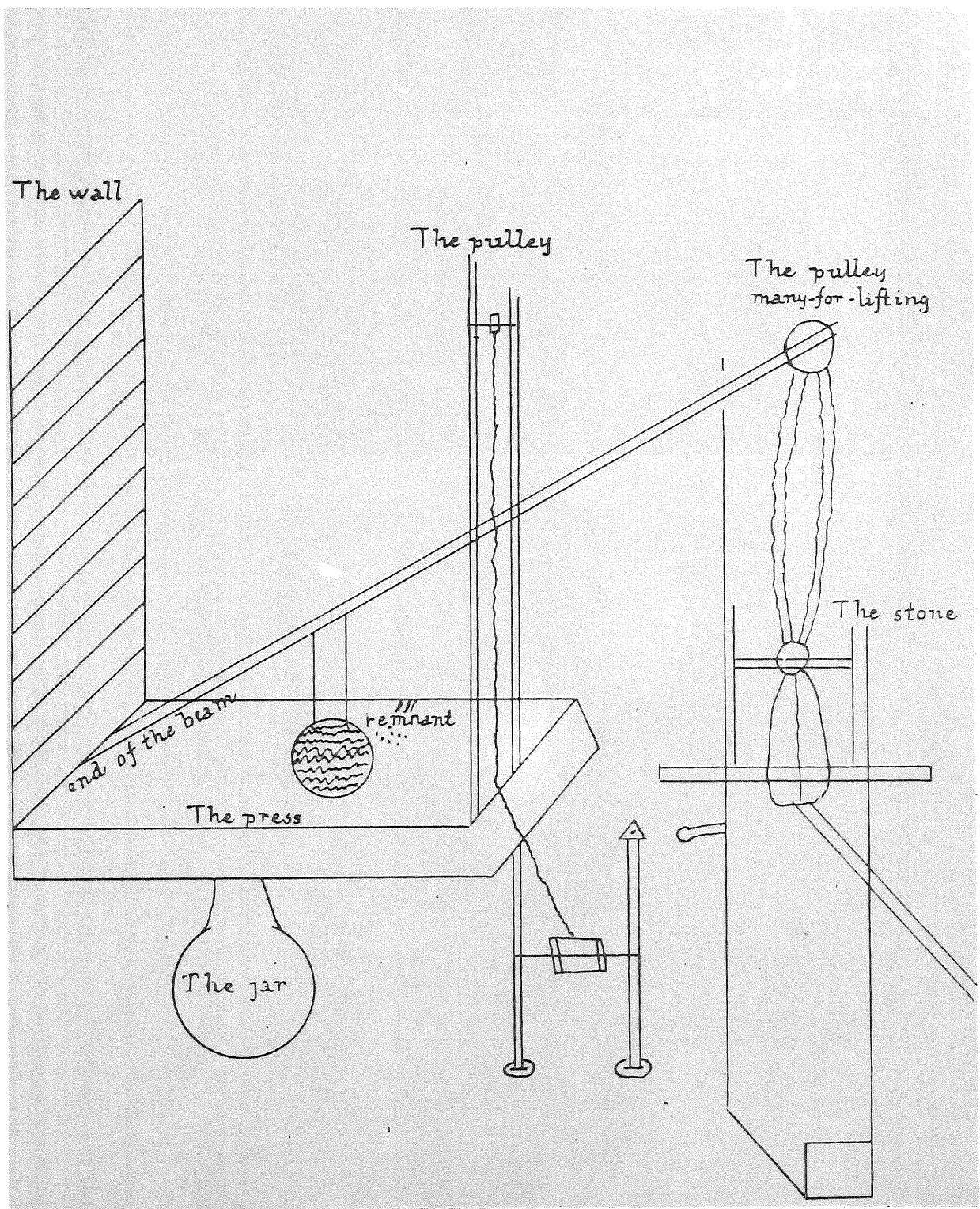


Fig. 5 : Press System, After Heron Mechanics, fig. 45

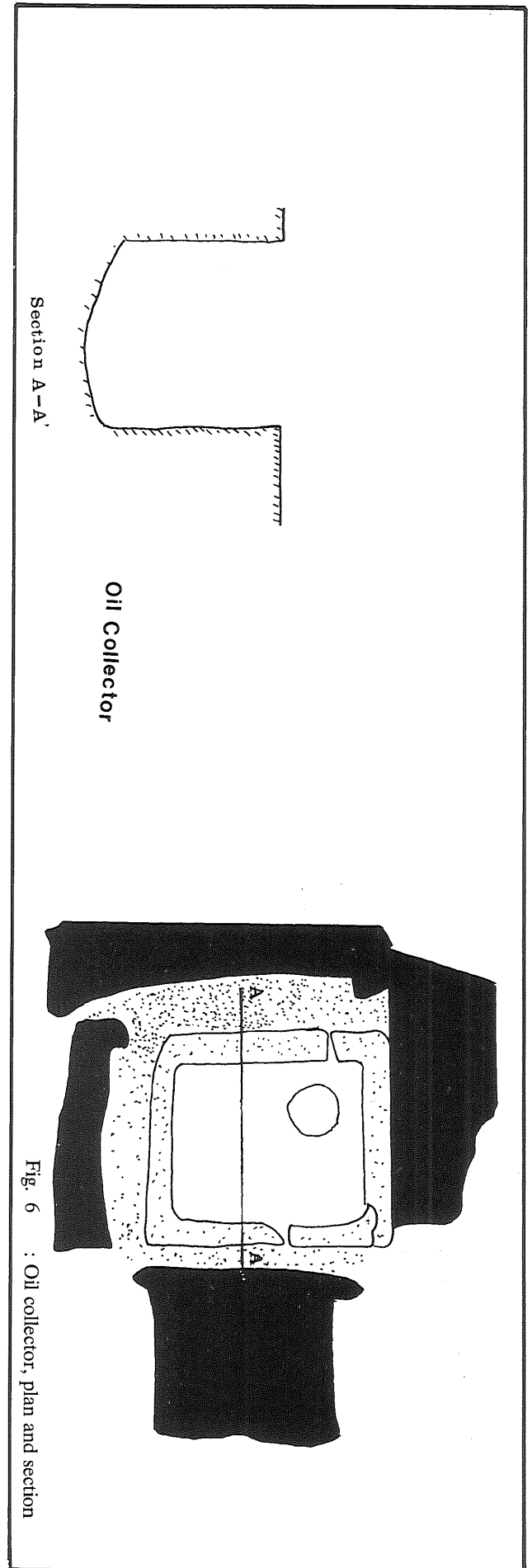
B) The press, which can be restored with the help of Heron's Mechanics (Fig.5), consisted of a wooden beam called mountain engaged at one end in a wall and articulated to move up and down. At the other end are attached three or four weights (Fig.4) movable by pulleys. The baskets full of crushed olives are piled at the opposite end, near the oil collector. By pulling the weights up, the beam presses the baskets, and the oil filters to the collector. It was carved in a limestone block (Pl.IX,2) and measures 0.95 by 0.90m and 0.90m in depth. It was provided with a sump on one side (Fig.6). In front of the oil collector, the slab where the baskets were piled and pressed was probably a swinging stone door of a tomb. It is probable that the above mentioned platform with the hole was prepared to collect the oil which leaked from the crushed olives, before the press.

An important oil press system was excavated by H.O. Thompson in a cave at Yajuz², north-east of Amman. The description of the almost complete system is unfortunately not clear. The weights Pl.X,1, were counter-weights to help the beam move up and down, and were not used to press the olives. Another olive press can be observed at Umm er Rasas and a similar system was recently discovered in Wadi Shu'eib, near Salt in a rock cave. In Lebanon³ and Palestine⁴ oil presses have been fully studied and provide excellent examples of the old press machinery⁵.

A probe trench dug below the Byzantine floor west of the millstone, exposed a basin coated with plaster and filled with black earth (Pl.X,2). Early Roman and a few Nabataean decorated sherds were collected. As wall 14 was coated with an identical plaster from the north, it is likely that the area was originally a water cistern, limited by wall 14 and probably vaulted. The extension of this cistern cannot be determined yet because of the superimposed Byzantine press structures.

Hellenistic and Early Roman remains:

These were excavated in Square 1 and 2, where the main architectural feature is wall 14 (Pl.X,2 and XI, Fig.2) about 1.10m wide and preserved to the height of 2.40m. It is con-



structed with irregular stones and runs east-west across the entire excavated area. The Byzantine and Umayyad occupants built over it. Wall 8 which is 0.94m wide, was built with larger boulders, including a moulded fragment (Pl.X,2) and meets with wall 14 at right angle.

Along the northern face of wall 14, in addition to the plaster coating, a thin wall of rubble, about 8cm thick was added and was topped by a layer of plaster. As part of this wall was removed, a decorated Nabataean sherd (Fig. 23, 147) came to light with fragments of eastern Sigillata ware. Since many early Roman sherds appeared in the southern foundation trench of wall 14, it is reasonable to date it to the first half of the first century A.D. and this dating is corroborated by the few decorated Nabataean sherds. A probe trench west of wall 8 provides 1st and 5th century sherds, but the exact function of these two walls cannot be fixed yet. As mentioned above, wall 14 could be part of a water reservoir and it is possible that the Nabataean colony of Philedelphia participated in its construction. A bronze coin of Aretas IV (9B.C.-40A.D) discovered on the floor of the reservoir is further evidence of the Nabataean influence in the city.

Walls 17 and 17a, partly looted by the builders of wall 14 belonged to Late Hellenistic building and were disturbed in the Byzantine and Umayyad periods. Much Hellenistic pottery was recovered from layer 29 of Sq.2 (Fig.7) which consisted of an ashy gray soil overlying the red soil (L.35) of the EBI period.

A Late Hellenistic fill in Squares 4-5 yielded in layers 9 and 10 few Hellenistic lamps (Pl. XXIII,1) and painted pottery of the 2nd century B.C, mixed with Early Roman pottery. Two bronze coins, one of Demetrius I (162-150 B.C.) and the other of Demetrius III (96-87) (Pl.XXV, 1-3) were discovered in Sq.5:9.

EB I Structures:

As the Hellenistic fill of layer 29 was removed, a thick layer of *terra rossa* (red soil) was reached. In the first day of excavation, it provided no single sherd, and gave the impression that we were dealing with virgin soil. But continuing the excavation, we collected in the following days some body sherds and fragments continuing the excavation, we collected in the following days some body sherds and fragments

of indented ledgehandle of EB 1A type with many flints (Fig. 27). A large portion of a vertical smoothly plastered face, partly covering a wall of large boulders, was cleared (Pl.XI,2). It was probably part of a water reservoir or silo which extended to the east and west, and we hope, will be excavated in the future. If it is indeed a water reservoir, then it is significant that an early Roman basin and a much larger reservoir (to be described below) are constructed in the same area.

Houses in Square 3 and 4 (Pls. XII-XIII).

In Squares 3 and 4, plotted west of Squares 1-2, three little rooms are propped against the western face of wall 8. The entrance of room 1 had threshold and the right door-jamb in situ, while the northern part of this room was demolished by the outer wall of the circular water reservoir. In locus 15 at about 45 cm from the entrance of Room 1 (Top. point 840m) were discovered a jug and a small glass vase (Pl.XXIV,

J. 13372 and XXIV, J. 13370). An Umayyad coin of Abdel-Malik bin Marwan (Fig. 7 and Pl. XXV,15) was found in layer 24. It is obvious that the Square was disturbed by the building of the Water reservoir. In the adjoining Room 2, an ashy layer containing rubble and animal bones was found below the Byzantine floor. It covered two complete but cracked cooking-pots resting on the floor, one of them closed by a bodyjar fragment. More than 15 bronze coins were gathered from the fill and the legible ones (see coins Pl. XXV) belong to the 4th century A.D. It is clear that the early Byzantine fill was a bedding for the later Byzantine floor. In nearby Room 3, a fragment of a column drum (Pl.XII,1) was discovered over the plaster floor.

A stairway (Pl.XII,2) of five steps built on the northern face of wall 14 led to a doorway (Pl.XII,2) and to a paved passageway running to a cistern dug in Sq. 5. Near it a basalt mill was uncovered. A tumbled layer including door-jambes and corbel stones extended around the cistern and was evidence of a heavy destruction in the Byzantine period, probably resulting from an earthquake. A rebuilding of wall 14 in this period is clear from an offset at 10 cm deep.

A Byzantine house was uncovered in Sq.8,

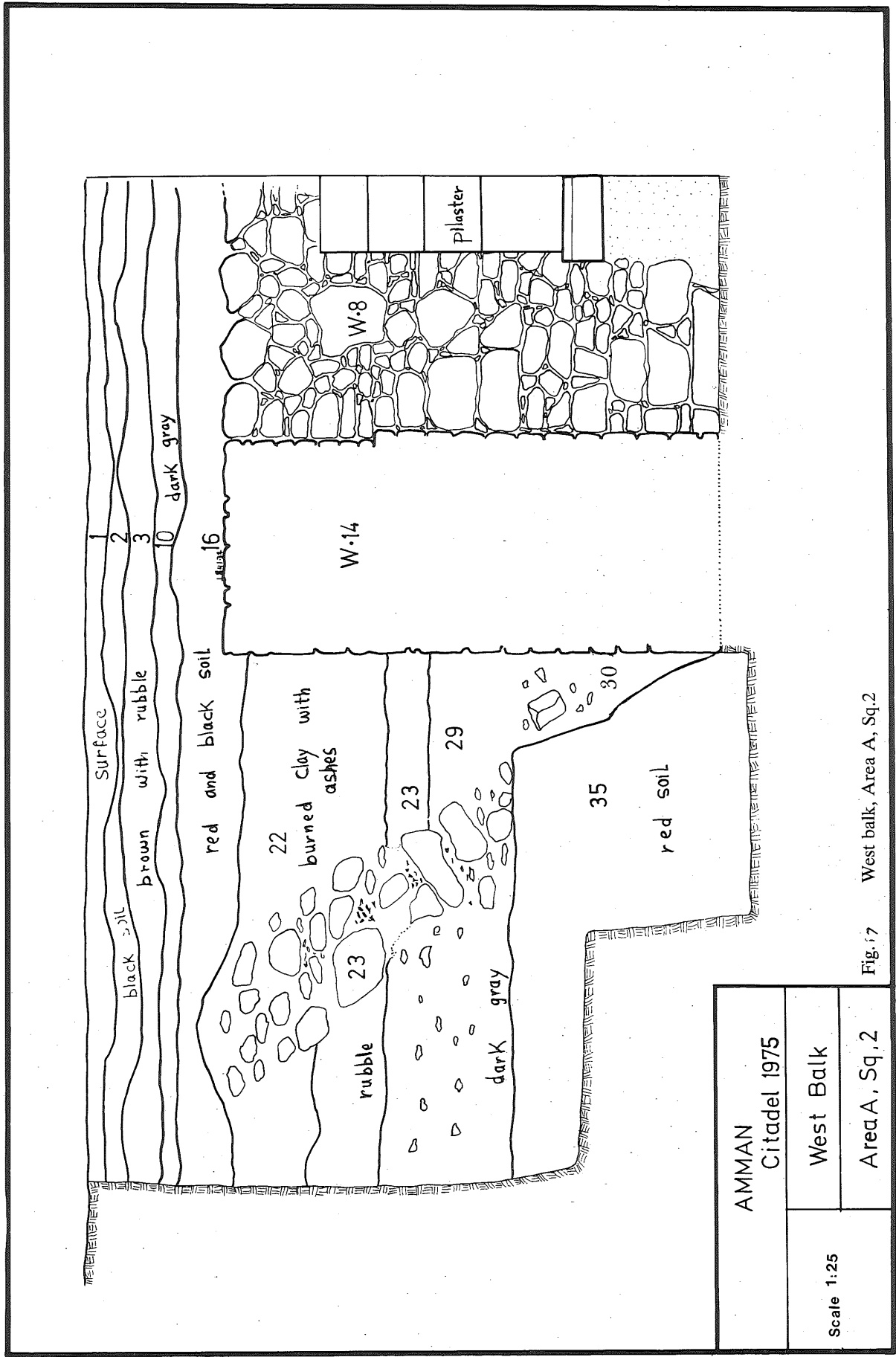


Fig. 17 West balk, Area A, Sq. 2

AMMAN Citadel 1975	
Scale 1:25	West Balk
	Area A, Sq. 2

Fig.9
Area A

Sq 5

North Balk

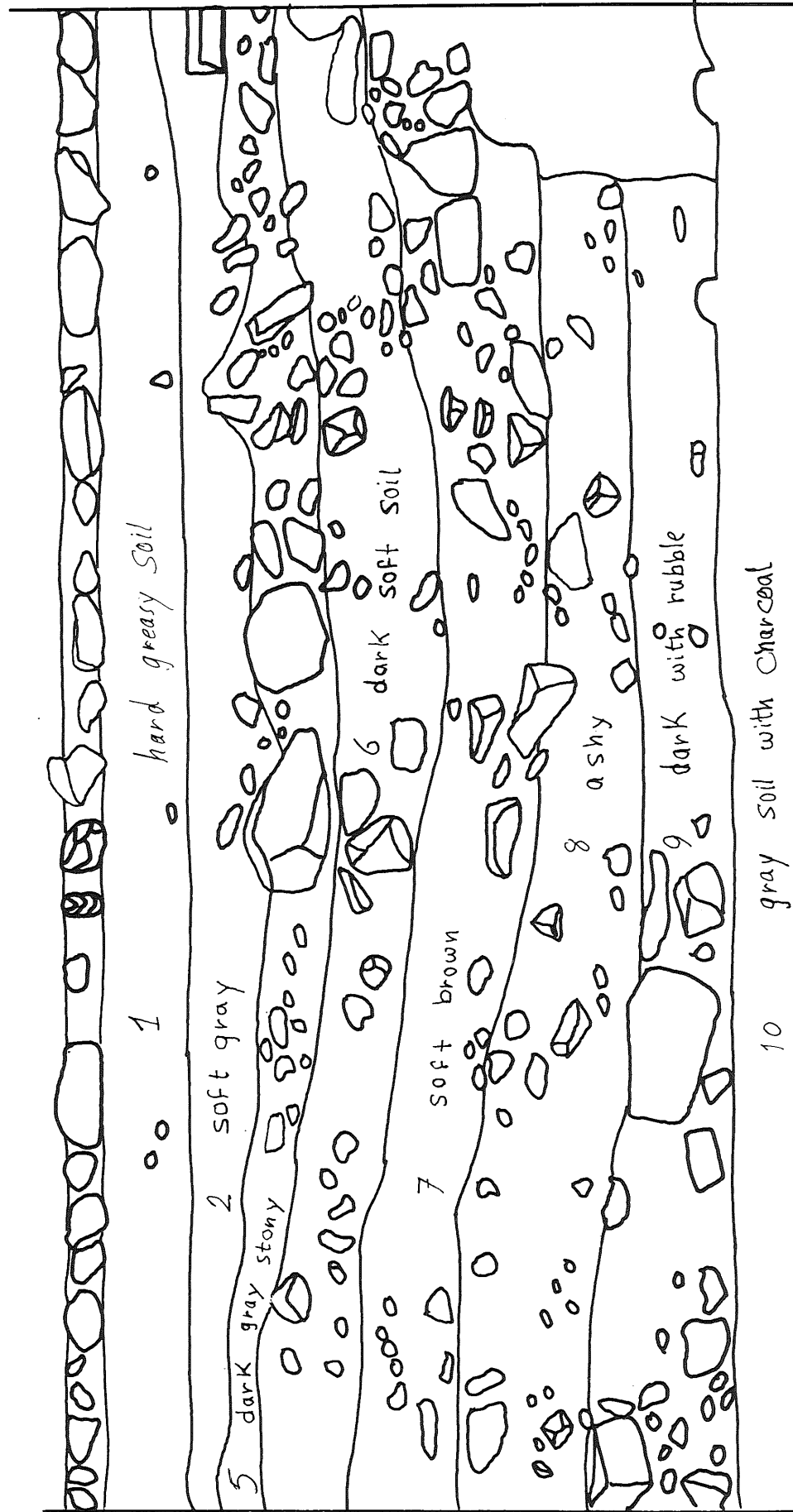


Fig. 9 Area A, Sq.5, North balk

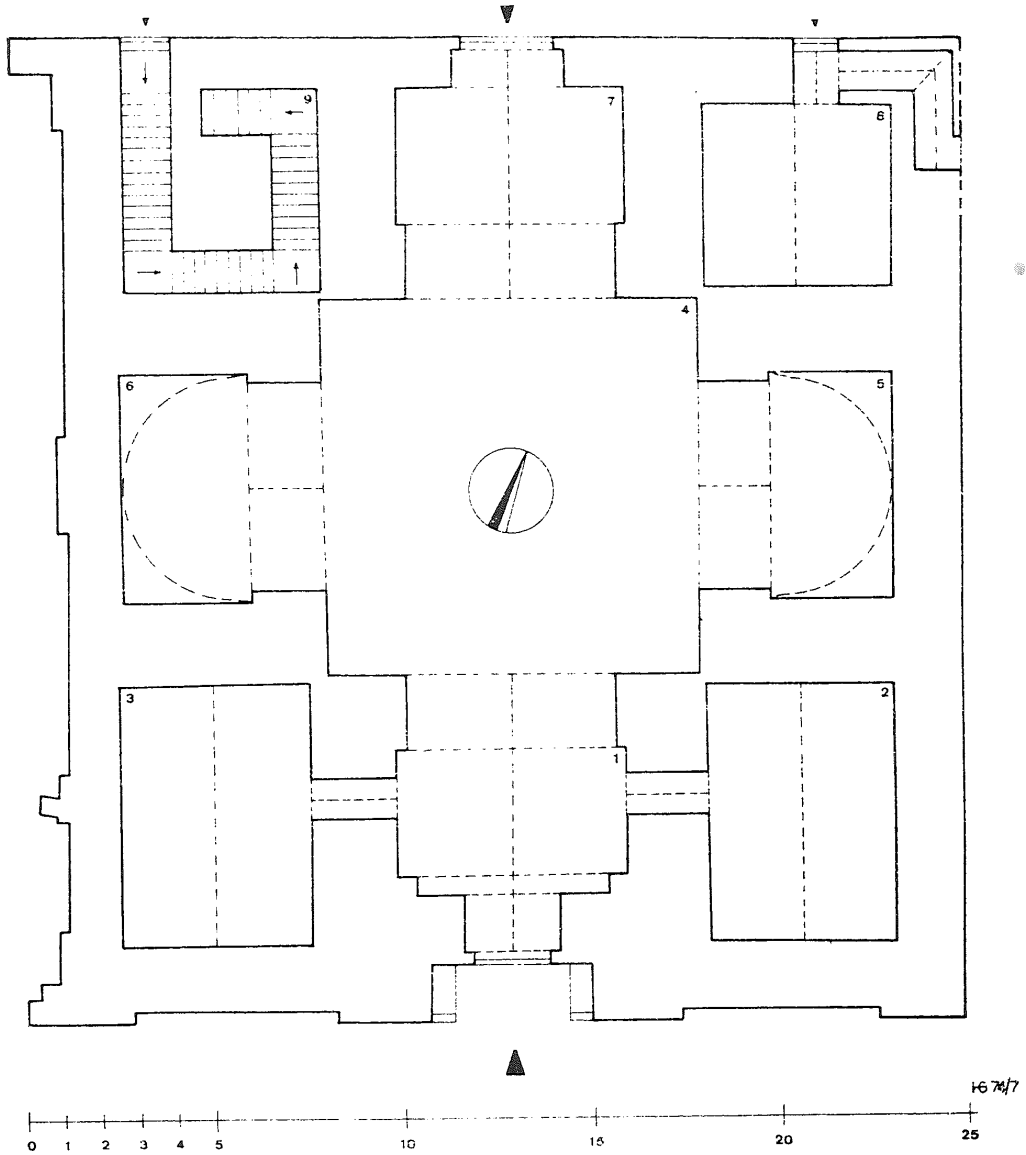


Fig.10 Plan of Qasr (after H. Gaube)

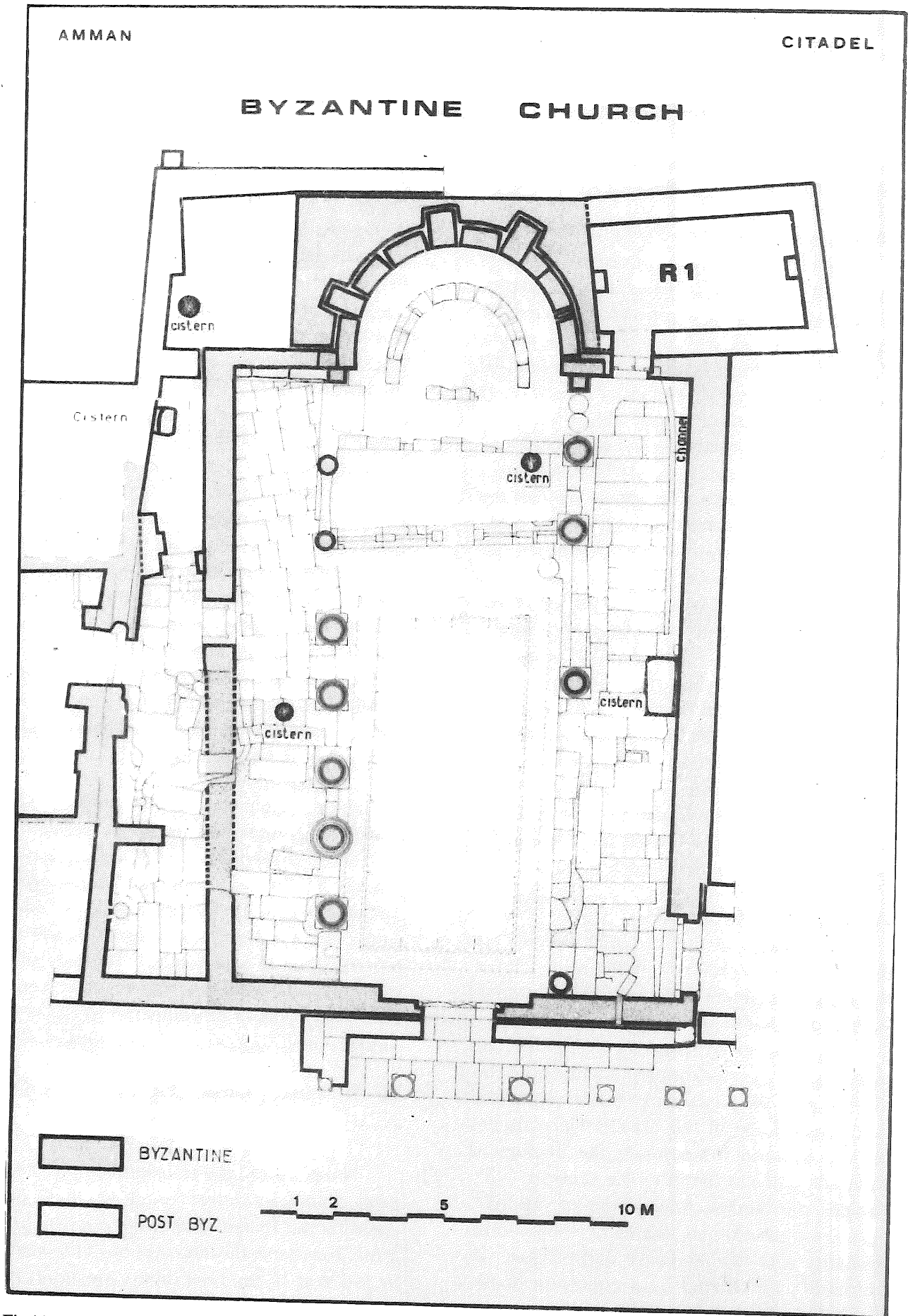


Fig.11 Plan of Church (by J.L. Biscop)

provided with two entrances (Pl.XIII,1-2) from the east and south and partly demolished by the water reservoir. At the southern entrance was found an ionic capital probably belonging to an important monument. Collapsed door-jambes blocked the doorway. At the eastern entrance a stone mortar is *in situ*, close to the northern door-jamb.

The Water Reservoir: (Pls VI and XIII,2; Fig.2)

It is a circular cistern, built east of the Qasr and south of the Roman Temenos. It measures at present about 5m in depth and 16m across. A segment of its wall was excavated in Square 3 (PIXII,1) and shows it consists of two parallel walls, about 2m thick; The inner one which is 1.50m wide is built of shaped blocks while the outer wall is of medium size and small boulders. Column drums and capitals are included in the inner face, and two covered water channels run into the cistern, one from the west and the other from the north. A stairway on the western side leads to bottom. Since the outer wall covers Byzantine structures which it destroyed, (Pl.X-III,2), and a trail paved with flagstones similar to that one already mentioned in Sq.1 covers the Byzantine floor of the press system, it was clearly built after that period, and a few sherds from room 1 above the floor were Umayyad. It is possible that the cistern was originally built in the Umayyad period like the one built by Yazid II (720-724) at Muwaqqar⁶, east of Amman. But the final conclusion must await the excavation of the foundation trench in Sq.3.

The Qasr: (Fig. 10 Pls. XIV)

North-west of the water reservoir, the Roman paved temenos is dominated by a cruciform monument. It has been recently analysed by H. Gaube.

After his excavations in 1933, R. Bartoccini concludes that the monument is not to be attributed to the Sassanians "but to one of the early Arab lords of the area"⁷. He collected ceramic material from inside the monument which he dates to the 9th-10th century A.D. Besides the Roman Mausoleum of Nweijis⁸, north-east of Amman, the Qasr shows some similarity with the Audience hall of Qaser el Mushatta⁹, terminated by a cruciform dome. The hall probably functioned as an access to a royal residence. A monumental gate was exca-

vated at the Umayyad palace of Minyah¹⁰ near the Lake of Tiberias and consisted of a square building, covered by a dome and decorated by two absidial recess. Other gates at Mafjar and Ukhaider played a major role in the palace structure, and O. Grabar¹¹ has emphasized the official functions of these halls where the prince displayed favors and justice. Two benches on both sides of the southern entrance may corroborate the suggestion of an audience hall. Facing the northern gate of the Qasr, a colonnaded street (Pl. XV,1) extends to the north and meets the northern gate of the temenos. The cubic bases of 0.60m x 0.60m x 0.25m and the lower drum are monolithic. Since the columns rest above the Roman pavement and their shape is unclassical, they cannot be Roman¹². A column base of the same type actually inside the Qasr and measuring 0.70m x 0.70 x 0.36 is decorated with a Byzantine cross and is obviously a reuse. In this case, the street is of a later period and leading to a residence (see A. Northedge, in this issue) over the foundations of a Roman temple. The residence is most probably Umayyad and few sherds of that period were collected by the writer at the entrance of the monument. But the final conclusion must await the report of the excavations actually conducted by E. Olavarri in the Qasr area¹³.

During dump clearance north of the Qasr, in the Roman temenos, the Department workers found a lion orthostat (Pl.XVI) engaged in a wall (Pl.XV,1), measuring 1.45 m in length by 0.75m in height. On its back a pedestal, curved with a circular depression suggests it was supporting a statue or a column. The date of the sculpture cannot be determined since it was a reuse, but it could be compared to the lion of Mafjar which supported a statue of Caliph.

The Byzantine Church. (Fig. 11 and Pls XVII-XXII)

North-east of the so-called temple of Hercules, a small Byzantine church was partly excavated by the Italian Archaeological Mission of 1928. But due to the interruption of the work by World War II, the final report was never published. However, in 1948, Father Bagatti¹⁴ of the Franciscan Biblical Institute of Jerusalem,

prepared a plan of the church which he sent to R. Bartoccini, director of the Mission. But because of his death, the report was never published and it was only in 1973 that Father Bagatti published the plan with a good description of the monument he visited in 1948. Because Father Bagatti reported that the clearance was never completed, we decided to excavate it when the army moved its camp from the nave. It will appear that our plan and interpretation of the monument differ in some points from the description of Bagatti, for not sufficient information was available to him.

The monument is of the basilical type, measuring 20; 30m in length and 12; 30m in width, which makes a ratio of 1:6 common in the Byzantine churches of Mukhayyat. A distortion in the plan reveals that the building is not rectangular from inside because it is larger from the east than the west. But such irregularity is common in the Byzantine churches.

Three entrances situated in the western, northern and southern walls, each about 1.90m wide provide access to the church.

The Atrium was excavated in May 1977 and is paved with slabs, supporting six irregular column bases (Pl. XVIII,2) the one to the north not in situ. More of the pavement is under the modern road and must await a decision to divert the access to the Upper Terrace. A layer of burning can be distinguished in the northern part of the atrium and the ashes covered a plaster floor which overlaid the pavement. Coins and Umayyad pottery relate this floor to the 8th century A.D. Structures of the same period are built against the western wall and a channel which begins in the south-western corner (Pl. XVIII,2) brought water to the large rectangular cistern in the southern aisle whose mouth was carved in the pavement.

2. The central nave.

From the many coloured tesserae Father Bagatti collected at the site, he suspected the presence of a mosaic floor¹⁵, and this was confirmed by the excavations which uncovered a mosaic floor of geometrical pattern of trefoil rosettes and red flowers (Pl. XXI, 2). The colours are red-brown, yellow, blue black and white. Repairs are visible in many places, and a

fragmentary Greek inscription (Pl. XXI) was found near the apse. Semi-circular on inside and square on the outside, the apse was built with large dressed blocks looted from the nearby temple and decorated with mouldings. It was separated from the central nave by a marble chancel which was fixed into a groove of 14-20 cm in width, and two square pilasters flanked the access to the altar. Behind the chancel is the foundation of a wall which probably indicated, as suggested to me by Father M. Piccirillo, an earlier chancel. Close to it was found a large slab with a groove, but which was not in situ. (Pl. XVII,2).

In the semi-circular apse (Pl. XVIII,1) are traces of the square pilasters which supported the altar, and of a synthronon. A marble dado probably adorned the inner face of the apse and the floor was covered with mosaics; a large quantity of tesserae was piled in the south-eastern corner of the southern aisle. This destruction was recent for the debris blocked the entrance of the southern chamber built in the Umayyad period.

3. **The southern aisle** is 2.30m wide, paved with slabs, and originally bordered by seven columns but only three which are in situ. A springer of a pilaster can be noticed against the apse wall, and an isolated smaller base carved with an incision on one side is set in the western wall: it probably belonged to the earlier balustrade. A water channel, mentioned above, starts in a square basin in the atrium at the south-eastern corner (Pl. XVIII,2) and is extended by a canal carved in the pavement which runs into a square cistern (Fig. 11). Because the mouth of the channel is part of an additional structure, it belongs to the Umayyad period. From the east, along the church wall, runs another constructed channel about 30cm wide and 50cm high above floor level; its bottom is plastered (Pl. XVII,1) and it apparently collected water from the roof of the southern chamber (Pl. XVI,1). In his report, father Bagatti described this channel as a "bench" for the meetings of the Christian community. But he was not able to carry out any excavation.

The finding of a new cistern close to the

apse and two others in the northern aisle shows the importance of the water collecting in the Umayyad period, although the Byzantines had already found many solutions to this crucial problem and dug cisterns inside churches¹⁶ in some cases.

4. The southern chamber: (Fig.11 Pl. XIX,1)

Terminating the southern aisle, a rectangular chamber 3.12 m by 5.50m was previously described as a "sacristy", common in the Byzantine churches, but this seems to be a later addition to the eastern wall of the apse. A doorway, 93m wide, had a door-jamb in situ with door sockets. The threshold, which is lower than the floor of the aisle, was partly paved with grayish marble robbed from the church. From the position of the doorjamb, it is clear that the door was closed from inside the chamber and the plaster floor contrasts with the pavement of aisle. The roof was supported by an arch built with rectangular key-stones and springing from two pilasters visible in the southern and northern walls. Close to the southern pilaster was found a niche with a small pitcher inside (Pl.XXIV, J.13380 and Fig.24). From above the floor, Umayyad sherds were gathered (Fig.25).

5. The northern aisle:

Like the southern aisle, it is about 2.30m wide and paved with rectangular slabs. A cistern the mouth of which is cut in the pavement, is parallel to the southern one and its channel runs over the northern wall of the church. Seven column bases and a pilaster are *in situ*, but they vary in style, some being of the attic type and other pedestals which once belonged to the temenos of the neighbouring Roman temple. A doorway leads to the lateral building reused in the Umayyad period. Rooms were built between the columns and the northern wall. But the excavations demonstrate there is no northern sacristy as is shown on Bagatti's plan. The walls continue (Pl.XIX .2) but in the rectangular space, a courtyard paved with irregular flagstones extends around a cistern, and no doorway exists to the east. Pottery confirms an Umayyad phase in that area as in the southern room. The buildings along the northern wall cannot be described here but a cross (Pl.XX ,

1-2) on the keystone of arches which belonged to the eastern room demonstrates that they belong to the Byzantine period, with a re-use in Umayyad times.

The Greek inscriptions:

Two Greek inscriptions were discovered in the process of excavations.

1- The first inscription (Pl.XXII,1) is engraved on a square slab of 0.60m by 0.50m by 0.24m of pinkish limestone. Its original position is unknown for it was built around an army tent in the central nave but was probably found in the vicinity of the church. Two little holes in its side indicate it was reused in the church.

Text [Ἐκ] φιλοτεμμία[σ]
... λλιου Θεοδώρου.

Translation: By the generosity of ...Ilios son of Theodoros. It is a dedication probably robbed from the adjacent temple of Hercules dated to Marcus Aurelius. The first name of the second line is a Roman *gentilium* with a double lamda, possibly Julius or Aurelius, which could be transliterated with double lamda in Greek as suggested to me by M.J.L.Gatier who is going to publish this inscription in his dissertation.

2-The mosaic inscription is unfortunately very fragmentary (Pl.XXI,1) and reads:

1. ΕΨΗΦΩΘΗ

2. ΔΙΑ ΣΠΟΥΔΗΣ ΚΑ [Ι ΚΑΜΑΤΩΝ]

To be translated: Was paved with Mosaics
by the zeal (and labors)

The letters are black on a white background and average 7-8cm in height. The end of the dedication can be restored with the help of the Swafiyeh inscription.

Date of the Church:

The mosaic pattern can be compared to that of the church of St. George at Mukhayyat¹⁷ dated to the 6th century and of the Menas church at Rihab¹⁸ dated to 635, a short time before the Arab conquest. But the mosaic floor could be a later addition which was substituted a flagstone pavement, still existing in the side aisles. The pavement¹⁹, together with the engaged apse without sacristies, is characteristic of early churches of the 5th or 4th century A.D. Thus, it is likely that the original building of the

church was erected as early as the fifth century A.D. and that the mosaic floor is an addition of the sixth century. A re-use in the Umayyad period is obvious, but probably after the collapse of the Christian monument by a heavy earthquake.

The Objects: 1. Hellenistic lamps:

Four moulded lamps (Fig.23 and Pl.XXIII,1) were found in Sq.2 and 4, in the fill south of wall 14. They are all of the gray metallic ware, except for J.13374, which is of pale brown to pinkish color. J.13376 decorated with side projection and radiating lines was discovered in

Sq. 2:29, together with a group of second century B.C. pottery. (Fig.12-15). J.13374 decorated with a rosette and rays is probably a local imitation of the imported gray type. J.13377 of almost pear shape is poorly moulded and has no side projection. It could be a later descendant of the second century B.C. lamp and may be dated to the 1st century B.C. The seven spouted lamp J.13378, decorated with two palmettes and semi-circular lines is of an unusual shape. A Hellenistic lamp with seven long spouts was discovered at Samaria-Sebaste, but I was not able to find a close parallel to this lamp in the available publications.

Museum No.	Reg. No.	Prov.	Description	Pl.	Fig.
J. 13374	216	A:4,9	Pinkish to pale brown ware, burned nozzle.	XXIII,1	23
J. 13376	265	A:2,29	Gray metallic ware, burned nozzle.	XXIII,1	23
J. 13377	209	A:4,9	Pear shaped small lamp. gray ware, burned nozzle.	XXIII,1	23
J. 13378	263	A:4,9	Seven spouted lamp, gray ware, burned nozzles.	XXIII,1	23

2. Rhodian jar-handles:

Two inscribed Rhodian jar-handles, dated to the second century B.C. were discovered in the same fill.

Museum No.	Reg. No.	Prov.	Description	Pl.
J. 13375	215	A:4,12	Pinkish ware, creamy surface. Oval section ΕΠΙ ΠΑΥΣΑΝΙΑ [Σ]	XXIII,2
J. 13379	264	A:5,9	Pinkish ware, creamy sur. ΕΠΙ ΠΥΘΟΔΩ [Ρ] ΟΥ ΣΜΙΝΘΙΟΥ (180-150) See: Samaria-Sebaste III, p.382.	

The Objects of Sq.3:

Several complete objects were collected from the fill of Sq.3: in layer 15 (Fig. 8) consisting of ashes and *huwwar*, a glass bottle (J. 13372) and a jug (J. 13370) were found at the top point 840.00m, and about 45cm from the entrance of Room 1. In the next Room 2, below the Byzantine floor, two cooking-pots (J. 13368-69) were discovered, one of them covered by a body jar sherd, and contained traces of white organic material. The fill, which was apparently a bedding for the Byzantine floor, contained ashes and animal bones with 15 bronze coins dated to the 4th century A.D;

(See Pl.XXV, 11-13).

The two cooking-pots show a groove on the rim, characteristic of the Late Roman type. But this groove tends to disappear in many places. The glass bottle finds a parallel from a tomb of Beit Fujjar²¹ dated to the 4th century A.D. and from two examples in the Nazareth²² Franciscan Museum, dated from the 2nd to the 7th century A.D. The neck of jug J. 13370 can be compared to Dhiban²³ Fig. 9,57-58 dated to the third quarter of the sixth century. But this dating is questionable due to the disturbance of the stratigraphy on the site.

It is not possible to propose a close dating of the objects. But the stratigraphy suggests the Early Byzantine period if we consider the hoard

of coins of the 4th century found around the two cooking-pots. More investigations are indeed necessary to provide a much accurate dating.

Museum N ^o	Reg. No.	Prov.	Description	Pl.
J. 13368	261	A,3:31 P.50	Cooking-pot brown to gray surface, burned bottom.	XXIV
J. 13369	262		Cooking-pot, pale brown sur. burned bottom	XXIV
J. 13370	200	A,3:23	Jug, pink ware, brown to pink to orange sur.	XXIV
J. 13372	223	A,3:23	Glass bottle, bluish iridescent color.	XXIV

Umayyad Objects:

Though the Umayyad occupation was extensive over the Citadel Hill, the recovered objects are limited because of destructions and erosion of the latest strata.

Two Umayyad vessels appeared in the fill of the houses attendant to the Byzantine church: a small pitcher (Pl. XXIV, J 13380) appeared near the niche, dug in the southern wall of Room 1, close to the springer of the arch. The shape of the vase is Late Roman or Byzantine. But many Umayyad sherds discovered in

the fill point to a date in that period, though no close parallel to the pot is known to me a small pedestal pot was recovered from the Umayyad house of the Citadel²⁴ and the white slip which covers its surface, is in favor of an Umayyad date.

A cooking-pot of dark-gray surface appeared in the northern chamber where an arch decorated with a Byzantine cross is still standing (Pl. XX,2). From many other sherds, it is obvious that the chamber was reused in the Umayyad period. A slight lid groove can be observed on the rim.

Museum No.	Reg. No.	Prov.	Description	Pl.
J. 13380	266	Church, R.1:3	Pitcher, gray ware, white slip.	XXIV
J. 13381	267	Church R.2:4	Cooking-pot, dark-gray surface, gray ware, smoked bottom.	

The Coins(Pl. XXV)

A group of bronze coins was collected from the excavated Squares. They provide an evidence for the span of occupation in the Upper Citadel but in many cases they can be misleading if used without caution for the absolute dating of the strata.

The earliest coins (N^os 1-3) belong to Seleucid era; N^os 1-2 are of demetrius I (162-150) while N^o3 is of Demetrius III (96-87). N^os 1 and 3 were found in the same layer (Sq.5:9) and were associated with a rhodian jar-handle inscribed with the Eponym Pausanias and with Late Hellenistic pottery. Another inscribed handle (J. 13375), Pl. XXIII,2) was found in Sq.4:12, of the same fill.

(9B.C-40A.D.) appeared together with a hoard of Byzantine coins of the 4th century A.D. Two complete cooking-pots (Pl. XXIV, J. 13368-9) of the Late Roman type. The two coins of Aurelianus and Valerianus 1st came from Sq.3:1 and 3:8 and were associated with Umayyad and Byzantine pottery.

Of special interest is coin No. 14 of Justin 1st (518-527) which was discovered on the floor of platform l. 27 in Sq. 1. It was about 10cm below the level of the Umayyad pavement which sealed the Byzantine oil press system. It could be interpreted as an evidence of the latest Byzantine occupation and could be relevant for the antequem date of the Byzantine pottery (1:24-25) sealed by the umayyad floor.

In Room 2. a Nabataean coin of Aretas IV

A single Umayyad coin of Abdel-Malik bin

Marwan (685-705) was found in Sq. 3:24 in a disturbed layer.

No.	Prov.	Description	Pl.
1.	A,5:9	ob. Artemis bust crowned with a wreath, r. rev. Bow and quiver. ins. Mint of Antioch. Demetrius I (162-150)	XXV, 1-
2.	A,2:10	ob. Artemis bust (?) rev. Thunderbolt Demetrius I (162-150).	XXV,2
3.	A.5:9	ob. Radiated head of king, r. rev. Victory, r. holding palm. and wreath. ins. Demetrius III Philopator. (96-87)	XXV,3
4.	A,3:30	ob. Jugate bust of Aretas IV laureate and Šhaqilat rev. Two cornucopiae crossed. ins. ḤRTT ŠQY (LT)	XXV,4
5.	A,3:1	ob. Bust of Emperor rev. Emperor and Jupiter Valerianus I (235-260) (?)	XXV,5
6.	A,3:8	ob. Bust of Emperor, r. rev. Nike between 2 soldiers. Aurelianus (270-275)	XXV,6
7.	A,2:10	bust of Emperor rev. Two standards between two soldiers. ins. Gloria Exercitus Mint of Antioch Constantinus I (330-3 and 335)	XXV,7
8.	A,3:31	ob. Bust of Emperor rev. Standard between two soldiers Constantinus I	XXV,8
9.	A,3:31	ob. Bust of Emperor rev. Standard between 2 soldiers Constantius II (337-350)	XXV,9
10.	A,3:31	ob. Bust of Emperor rev. Standard between 2 soldiers Constantin I	XXV,10
11.	A,3:31	ob. Bust of Emperor rev. Soldier and enemy Maxentius (?)	XXV,11
12.	A,3:31	ob. Bust of Emperor, r. rev. Nike. Valens (364-378) (?)	XXV,12

13.	A,3:31	ob. Bust of Emperor rev. Worn Constans (337-361) (?)	XXV,13
14.	A,3:31	ob. Crowned head of king rev. M topped by cross. A CON mint of Constantinople Justinus I (518-527)	XXV,14
15.	A,3:24	obv. Standing Caliph, hand on pommel of sword rev. Globe on stepped altar. Mint of Amman ins. عبد الله عبد الملك امير المؤمنين لا اله الا الله وحده محمد رسول الله - عمان	XXV,15

II. The Pottery

1. Early Bronze IA:

Evidence of this period was revealed in the red clay (Sq. 2:35) superimposed by a Hellenistic fill. Unfortunately, the significant pottery is scanty and only three sherds can be analysed: these are two ledge-handles with thumb indentations and a jar rim (Fig. 27). The ware is gray or buff mixed with many dark inclusions. Many flints were collected from the same fill

(Fig. 27). Similar material was discovered at

Alayik²⁵, Iraq el Amir²⁶ and Sahab²⁷, east of Amman but appears for the first time at the Citadel.

The designation of the period is disputed. Wright, Amiran and P. Lapp²⁸ refer to it as EB I, Kenyon and Hennessy as Proto-Urban. Albright and Father de Vaux call it Late Chalcolithic. P. Lapp has argued for the designation "EB IA" which I prefer.

Reg. No.	Prov.	Description	Fig.
107	A,2:35 P.89	Ledge-handle, gray ware with red inclusions. Buff sur.	27
108	A,2:35	Jar rim, gray ware, dark gray sur.	
109	A,2:35 Balk	Fragment of a Ledge-handle, gray ware with many white and red inclusions. pink sur. thumb impression.	

2. Hellenistic Pottery:

A dark-gray fill (Sq.2:29) was very productive in Hellenistic pottery which forms a homogeneous group. It is characterised by rounded jar rims with an undercut. They can be compared to Samaria Theater²⁹, Balatah³⁰ and Beth-zur³¹. The bowls and plates are decorated with brown, black or red paint, but the black glazed attic ware is rare. Plate fragment 401 is decorated with a black paint and a white floral motif in the West Slope technique. Similar

plates appeared at Samaria³² and Beth-zur³³ and are dated to the end of the third century B.C. or beginning of the second. The cooking-pots 144,418 and 403 have no lid device as the pots found at the Samaria Theater.

Close dating of the group is not possible since no coins or Rhodian jar-handles were discovered with the group. Nevertheless, the rounded jar-rims and Plate 401 suggest a date in the early 2nd century B.C.

Reg. No.	Prov.	Description	Fig.
139	A,2:29,P.52	Jar rim, buff surface, dark-gray core, small to large lime inclusions.	12
140	A,2:29,P.52	Jar rim, pinkish ware, white and gray grits.	12
409	A,2:29,P.60	Jar rim, buff ware, dark core, large lime inclusions.	12
414	A,2:29,P.52	Jar rim, dark-gray ware, pink sur.	12
415	A,2:29,P.60	Jar rim, gray ware, pinkish sur.	12
416	A,2:29,P.60	Jar rim, gray ware, buff to creamy sur.	12
413	A,2:29,P.56	Rhodian jar bottom, pinkish ware, buff sur.	12
344	A,2:29,P.86	Jar rim, pinkish-buff sur., dark-gray core, small to large lime inclusions.	12
345	A,2:29,P.86	Jar rim, pink ware, buff sur.	12
145	A,2:29,P.52	Bowl base, creamy ware, brown paint out., patchy-brown to dark-brown in.	13
143	A,2:29,P.52	Bowl, dark brown ware, gritty.	13
341	A,2:29,P.86	Bowl, pink ware, red paint.	13
342	A,2:29,P.86	Bowl, pink ware, dark-gray to brown paint.	13
340	A,2:29,P.86	Bowl, creamy ware, black paint.	13
343	A,2:29,P.86	Bowl, pink ware, dark gray out. red in.	13
177	A,2:29,P.72	Shallow bowl, pale brown ware, black to gray paint.	13
402	A,2:29,P.62	Bowl base, gray ware, red-brown paint.	13
407	A,2:29,P.56	Bowl, buff ware, brown to dark brown paint.	13
417	A,2:29,P.60	Bowl, creamy ware, red paint, black patches.	13
408	A,2:29,P.60	Bowl, dark gray ware, red-orange paint.	13
141	A,2:29,P.52	Fish-plate, pink ware, dark-brown ext. orange to brown int.	14
146	A,2:29,P.52	Fish-plate, pink ware, orange to brown paint.	14
178	A,2:29,P.72	Fish-plate, gray ware, black burnished paint.	14
346	A,2:29,P.86	Fish-plate, pink ware, red brown paint only in.	14
401	A,2:29,P.62	Plate, creamy ware, white palmette in.	14
404	A,2:29,P.62	Jug, red coarse ware, dark core.	15
405	A,2:29,P.62	Jug, greenish ware, lime grits.	15
406	A,2:29,P.62	Juglet, buff ware, dark core.	15
410	A,2:29,P.56	Jug, pink ware, white paint.	15
411	A,2:29,P.56	Jug, buff ware, dark core.	15
412	A,2:29,P.56	Jug, pinkish ware, gray sur.	15

420	A.2:29,P.60	Jug, pinkish ware, gray sur.	15
144	A.2:29,P.52	Cooking-pot, dark-brown ware, dark core.	15
403	A.2:29,P.62	Cooking-pot, brown ware, gritty.	15
418	A.2:29,P.60	Cooking-pot, brown gritty ware.	15

3. Byzantine Pottery:

An abundant group of Byzantine pottery was collected from Area A. But small collection is published here from Sq.1:24-25. These two layers were sealed, as mentioned below, by the Umayyad pavement. L.24 of gray soil was directly below the flagstone pavement and L.25, a loose brown soil overlaid the Byzantine plaster floor on which the mill stone was resting. There is no significant difference in the ware of the two layers and the group is homogeneous.

Jar rim 249 (Fig. 16) is of a thick folded type common at Dhiban³⁴. Basin 291 is compared to Dhiban Fig.11, 13, dated to the end of the 6th century A.D. The cups of Fig.20 have parallels in the Dhiban corpus fig.9-10. Cup similar to Mt. Nebo Fig. 13, 13.

The dating of the group is hard because of the great confusion in the Dhiban material. But this important collection, as mentioned below, is not reliable for the exact dating. The Hesban³⁵ pottery which came from a good stratified exca-

vation, is unfortunately too limited to allow interesting comparisons.

But several points may help determine a closer dating of our material: the absence of the gray white painted ware of Mt Nebo³⁶ dated to the 6th and 7th centuries is evidence of an earlier date. If the Pella corpus is considered, the absence of jar type 396³⁷ and of "the roofing tile"³⁸ ware assigned to a Late Byzantine period may be an additional evidence. On the other hand, the discovery of a Byzantine coin of Justin I (518-527) found in Sq. 1:27, above the square platform, associated with the oil press system, but about 0.60m above the floor of the stone mill, may be considered as an *ante quem* date of the Byzantine group. Thus the group may be dated to the end of the fifth century A.D.

A lamp fragment Fig. 23, 260 from Sq. 2:10 of creamy ware is pralled at Pella, Fig. 67, 190 and is dated to the 6-7th century A.D.

Reg. No.	Prov.	Description	Fig.
306	A,1:25,P.38	Jar rim, pinkish ware, buff slip.	16
245	A,1:24,P.33	Jar rim, pinkish ware, red-brown sur.	16
249	A,1:24,P.33	Jar rim, gray ware, pink sur.	16
248	A,1:24,P.33	Jar rim, pink ware, buff sur.	16
291	A,1:24,P.33	Jar handle, pink ware, gray sur.	20
292	A,1:24,P.33	Jar handle, creamy ware, dark gray sur.	20
294	A,1:24,P.33	Jar handle, pink ware, gray sur.	21
253	A,1:25,P.38	Jug rim, pale brown to gray ware, buff sur.	16
250	A,1:25,P.38	Juglet, buff to gray ware, brown sur.	16
302	A,1:24,P.33	Cup, gray ware.	20
304	A,1:24,P.33	Jug, pink ware, pink sur.	20
293	A,1:24,P.33	Pitcher bottom, gray ware, white creamy slip.	20
309	A,1:25,P.36	Plate, pinkish ware, dark brown to red brown paint.	19
246	A,1:25,P.38	Plate, pinkish ware, pinkish sur.	19
247	A,1:25,P.38	Large plate, pink ware, brown to dark brown sur.	19

329	A,1:24,P.35	Plate, pink to orange sur.	17
336	A,1:24,P.35	Plate, pink ware, dark brown to orange sur.	17
299	A,1:24,P.33	Cup, red orange ware, lime inclusions	20
257	A,1:25,P.38	Cup, pink ware, red brown sur.	18
316	A,1:25,P.36	Cup, orange to gray ware, orange to dark-gray sur.	16
303	A,1:24,P.33	Cup, pink ware.	20
251	A,1:25,P.38	Cup, brown gritty ware.	18
315	A,1:25,P.36	Cup, brown ware, lime inclusions.	18
313	A,1:25,P.36	Bowl, orange ware, orange to brown sur.	18
256	A,1:25,P.38	Bowl, creamy ware, dark gray sur.	18
252	A,1:25,P.38	Bowl, creamy ware, dark-gray sur. orange in.	
254	A,1:25,P.38	Bowl, gray ware buff sur.	18
310	A,1:25,P.36	Bowl, reddish ware, reddish sur.	18
335	A,24:35	Cooking-pot frag. decorated with wavy incision.	21
331	A,24:35	Cooking-pot, horizontal handle, gray sur: buff in.	21
324	A,24:35	Cooking-pot, brown to gray sur. pink in.	21
336	A,24:35	Cooking-pot, gray sur, pink in.	21
328	A,24:35	Cooking-pot, gray sur, pink in.21	
334	A,24:35	Cooking-pot, yellow creamy in, brown sur.	21
312	A,1:25 P.36	Cooking-pot, gray ware, dark gray sur.	22
314	A,1:25 P.36	Cooking-pot, pinkish ware, gray sur. pale brown to pink in.	22
255	A,1:25 P.38	Cooking-pot, buff ware, gray sur.	22
311	A,1:25 P.36	Cooking-pot, pinkish ware, pale brown sur.	22
317	A,1:25 P.36	Cooking-pot, buf ware, reddish to gray sur.	22
296	A,1:24 P.33	Basin, pink ware, buff sur.	17
297	A,1:24 P.33	Basin, buff-pinkish ware.	17
298	A,1:24 P.33	Basin, pink ware, buff sur.	17
300	A,1:24 P.33	Basin, pink ware.	17
305	A,1:24 P.33	Basin, buff ware.	17
258	A,1:25 P.38	Mortar, pink ware, large and small inclusions.	19
259	A,1:25 P38	Mortar, gray ware, dark-gray sur.	19

4. Umayyad Pottery:

Umayyad occupation extends over the whole excavated area, covering or re-using the Byzantine buildings. Unfortunately, this occupation was eroded or disturbed in modern time.

Most of the ceramic group came from Square 1 and were found in two stratified layers (10 and 12). Layer 10 was a destruction locus of brown soil and rubble while 12 was a loose brown soil mixed with ashes over the pavement

L. 18, which can be considered as an excellent sealing for the pottery. Below it, the layers 24-25 yielded the Byzantine pottery described below. Thus, the stratification is reliable.

Unfortunately, the only datable coins were found out of context in Squares 2 and 3. A bronze coin of Justin I (518-527) and the Umayyad coin of Abd el Malik bin Marwan in Square 3:24. Nevertheless, they are a good evi-

dence for the limit of the later occupation in the area.

The Umayyad ware is finely levigated with few inclusions and of buff color and white slip, contrasting with the Byzantine corpus where the reddish or orange ware with a gray or dark surface is dominant.

Decoration techniques are characteristic of the period. Combing and thumb impressing are noticeable on the basins 507, 508 and 243. It is remarkable that the combing decoration shows a horizontal band alternating with a wavy one. This kind of decoration is common at Mount Nebo but does not appear at Pella. The cup 505

with an undulating incision under the rim has a good parallel at Pella³⁹ but dated to the Byzantine period, though the author recognises it may extend to the Umayyad period. Similar vases appear at Mt. Nebu⁴⁰ and Dhiban⁴¹.

Painted decoration was found in Room 1 in the Byzantine church and shows the common spiral design in red-brown. A bowl fragment is decorated with a red-brown wavy paint over the rim on the inside, and was found in 1:12.

More Umayyad pottery was discovered in the church atrium and in the surrounding buildings. But only a limited amount can be published here.

Reg. No.	Prov.	Description	Fig.
260	A,2:10,P.16	Moulded lamp, creamy whitish ware, white slip.	23
502	A,1:10,P.16	Jar handle, pink ware, gray sur.	23
244	A,1:10,P.16	Jug, reddish ware, gray core	
503	A,1:12,P.17	Cup, pinkish ware, brown sur.	
504	A,1:12,P.17	Bowl, buff ware, brown paint, white slip.	
245	A,1:10,P.16	Bowl, pinkish ware, white slip.	25
246	A,1:10,P.16	Bowl gray ware, white-gray slip.	
505	A,1:12,P.17	Bowl, fine pinkish ware.	
506	A,1:12,P.17	Basin, gray ware, white gray slip.	
507	A,1:12,P.12	Mortar, gray ware, wavy incision	
243	A,1:10,P.16	Mortar, gray ware, horizontal and wavy incisions.	
510	Church,R,1:3	Plate, creamy ware, red-brown slip.	
508	Church,R,1:3	Basin, pink ware, white slip, wavy and horizontal combing	
509	Church,R,1:3	Decorated sherds, buff ware, white slip, spiral in brown.	
511	Church,R,1:3	Buff ware, white slip, brown paint.	

General conclusion:

Several phases of occupation are now determined by the last excavations on the Upper Terrace of the Citadel in Area A:

1. The earliest phase can be dated to the E.B.I A and consists of a large plastered cistern or silo which was partly cleared in Sq.2. Few flints and pottery sherds were recovered.

2. E.B. structures were covered by Late Hellenistic buildings and an Early Roman wall.
3. A wall (14) about 1m wide, extending over Sqs 1,2,4,5 was partly used as a retaining wall of a water reservoir.
4. A late Roman fill in Sqs 3,4 covered Early Roman strata.
5. Extensive Byzantine occupation was

uncovered in the whole area and an olive press mill points to a domestic area, in connection with the Byzantine church N-E of Hercules temple.

6. An important Umayyad occupation dated to the 8th century was recorded. The Qasr and the circular water reservoir are prob-

ably to be dated to that period. But little Ayyubid-Mamluk pottery was found in the latest strata, contrasting with the important occupation of that period in Area B.

F. Zayadine

Footnotes

1. The staff consisted of F. Zayadine, A. Abu-Diyyeh, I. el-Hajj-Hassan and M. el Muhaisen. Mrs CM. Bennett and her team of Area B provided appreciable help: the pottery drawings were partly prepared by Noamy Assinder and Susan Balderstone was responsible for the Citadel plan. Mrs Nancy Lapp and G.L. Harding helped in the edition of this report. J.A. Sauer was always ready to assist in the pottery reading. To all of them the writer wishes to express his gratitude.
2. *ADAJ*, XVII (1972) p.37-41 and Pl. III, 1.
3. R. Cresswell, *L'Homme*, V, 1 (1965) p.33-63
4. R. Hasterin and Z. Yavin, *Qadmoniot*, IV (1971) p.92-95 (in Hebrew.)
5. See Drachman, A.G., *The Mechanical Technology of the Greeks and Roman Antiquity*, Copenhagen, 1963, Fig.45.
6. R.W. Hamilton, *QDAP*, XII (1946) p. 70-72
7. *Bolletino D'Arte*, 28 (1934) p.282.
8. K.A. Cresswell, *Early Muslim Architecture*, Oxford (1932) p.313-14, and Fig. 382.
9. *Ibid.* p.351ff and Fig.430.
10. O. Grabar, *The Formation of Islamic Art*, New Haven and London (1973) p.148ff.
11. *Ibid.* p.148ff.
12. *ADAJ* (1975) Pl. XLIX, 2.
13. In a recent article (*ZDPV*, 93, 1977, p.52-86) H. Gaube came to the conclusion that the Qasr was Umayyad.
14. *Liber Annus*, XXII (1973) p.277-283.
15. *Ibid.* p.279.
16. S.J. Saller and B. Bagatti, *The Town of Nebo*, Jerusalem (1949) p.47, 3.
17. *Ibid.* Pl. 22, 2.
18. S. Mittmann *ZDPV*, 83 (1967) p.34-41.
19. *The Town of Nebo*, p.48.
21. *QDAP* IV (1935) Pl. LXXXV, 5.
22. *Liber Annus*, XVII (1967) Fig. 1, 36, et 6, 131.
23. A.D. Tushingham, *AASOR*, XL (1972).
24. G.L. Harding, *ADAJ*, I (1951) Fig. 2, 28.
25. J.B. Pritchard, *AASOR*, XXXII-XXXIII (1958) p.14ff.
26. The pottery was kindly shown to me by Mrs N. Lapp.
27. The information was supplied by my colleague Dr. M. Ibrahim.
28. *Near Eastern Archaeology in the Twentieth Century*, New York (1970) p.10ff.
29. *ADAJ*, XI (1966) p.53-64 and Pl. XXVII.
30. N. Lapp, *BASOR*, 175 (1964) p.14-26 Fig. 1a-1b.
31. O.R. Sellers, *AASOR* XXXVIII (1957) Fig. 22.
32. *Samaria-Sebaste*, III (1957) Fig. 47, 2.
33. *AASOR*, XXXVIII, Fig. 24, 18b.
34. *AASOR*, XL, Fig. 5, 16-23, and 12, 55.
35. J.A. Sauer, *Heshbon Pottery 1971*, Andrews University Press, 1973.
36. H. Schneider, *The Memorial of Moses*, III, p.44.
37. R.H. Smith, *Pella of the Decapolis*, London (1973) Pl. 66 and p.219.
38. *Ibid.* p.235.
39. *Ibid.* p.222 and Pl. 28, 1233.
40. *Op.cit.* Fig. 13, 4, 7.
41. *Op.cit.* Fig. 10, 78-79.

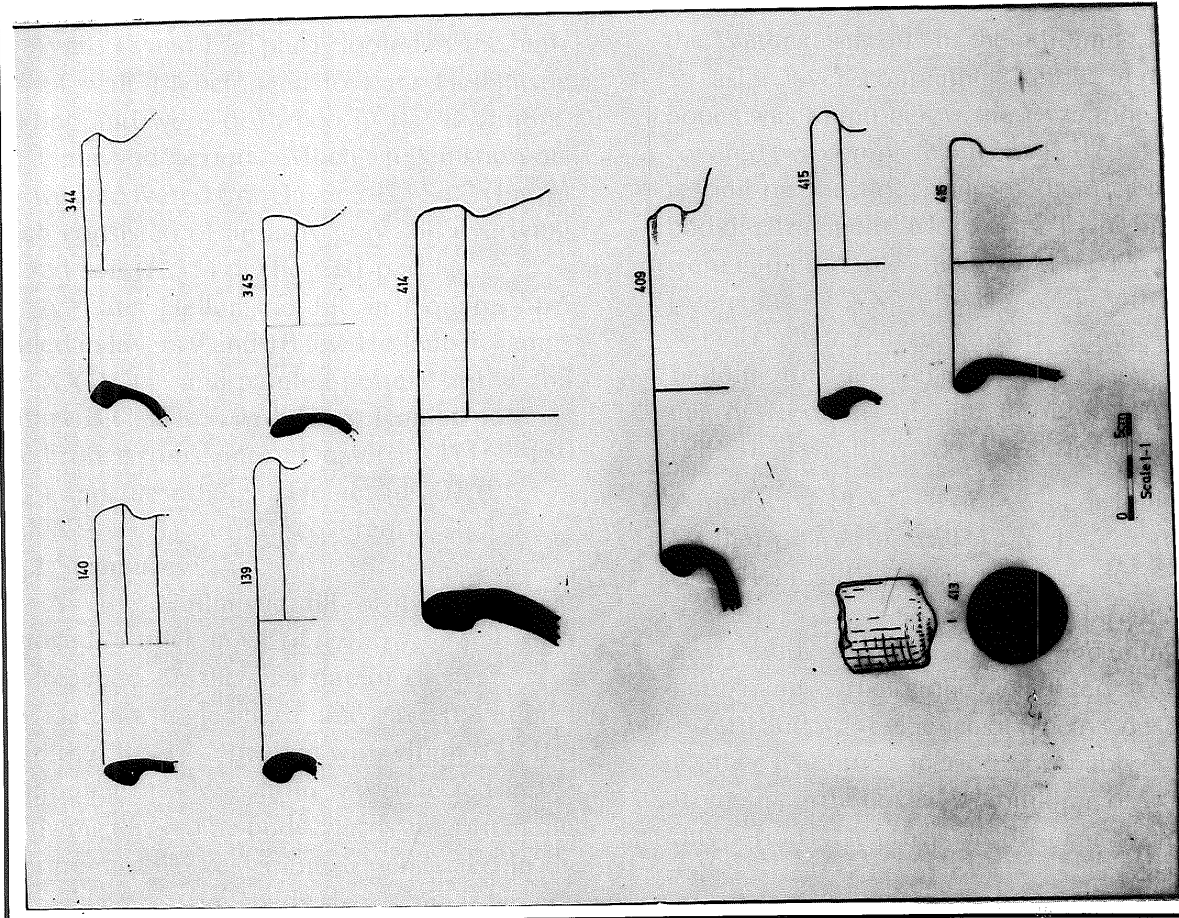


Fig. 12 Hellenistic Pottery A2:29

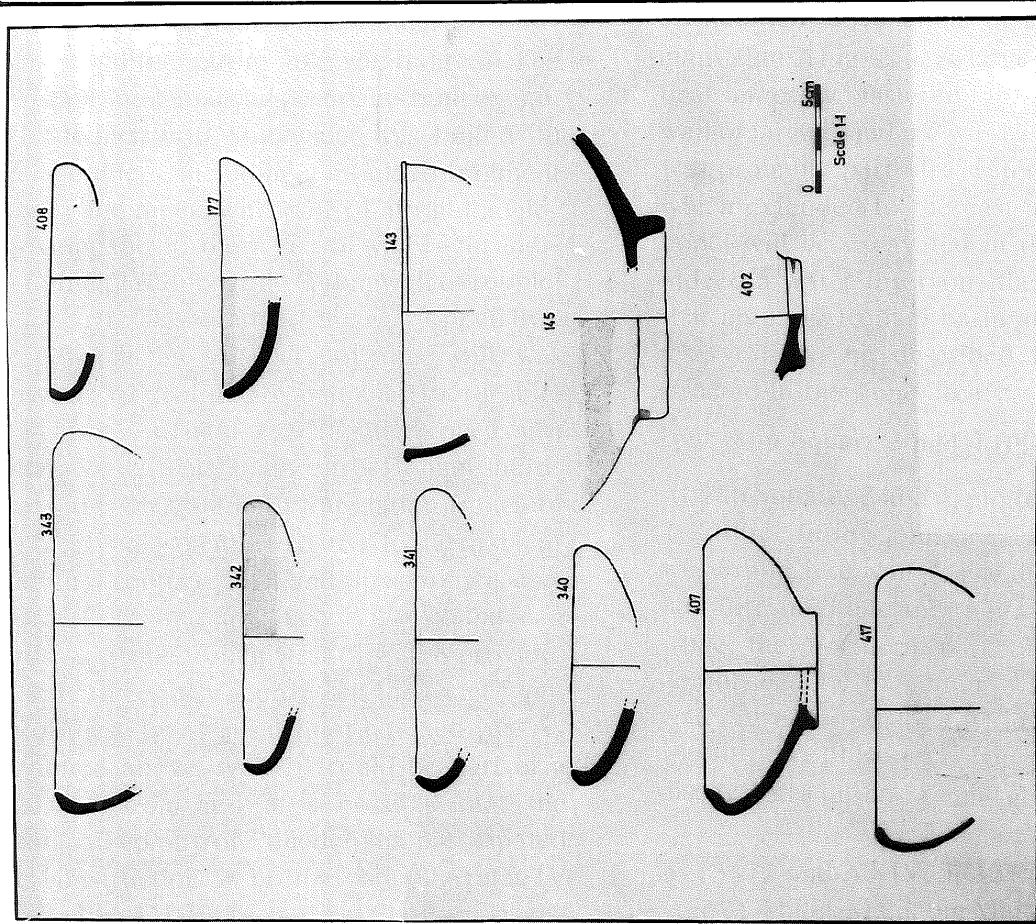


Fig. 13 Hellenistic Pottery A 2:29

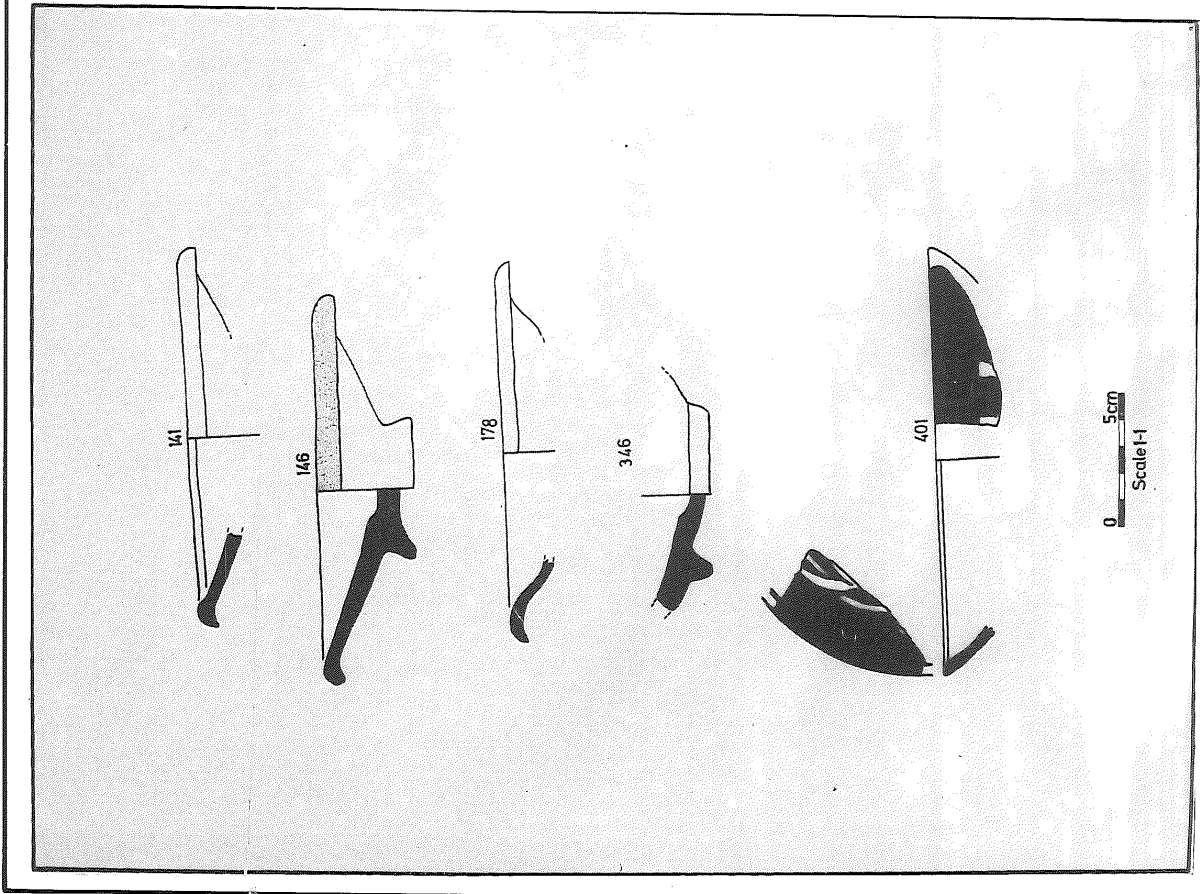


Fig.14 Hellenistic Pottery A 2:29

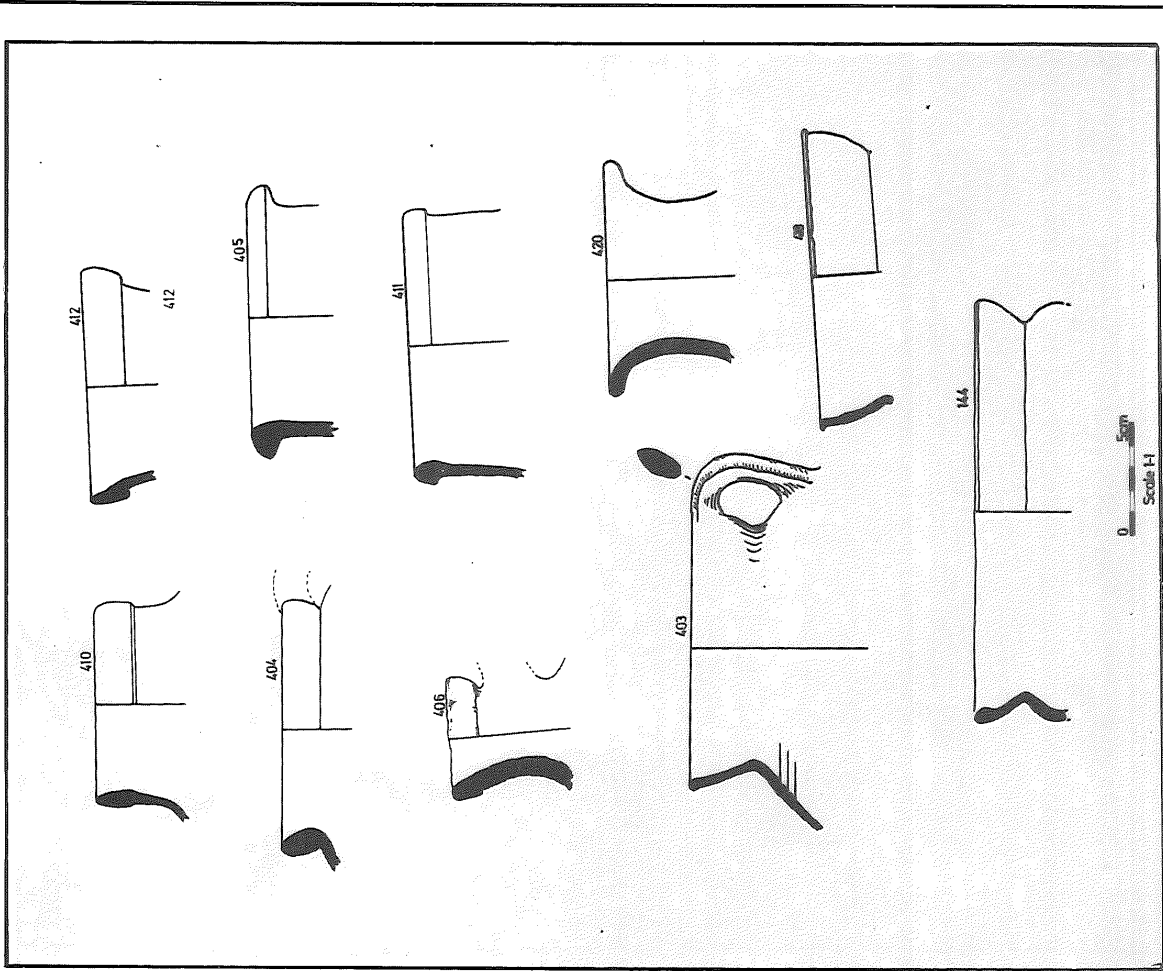


Fig.15 Hellenistic Pottery A 2:29

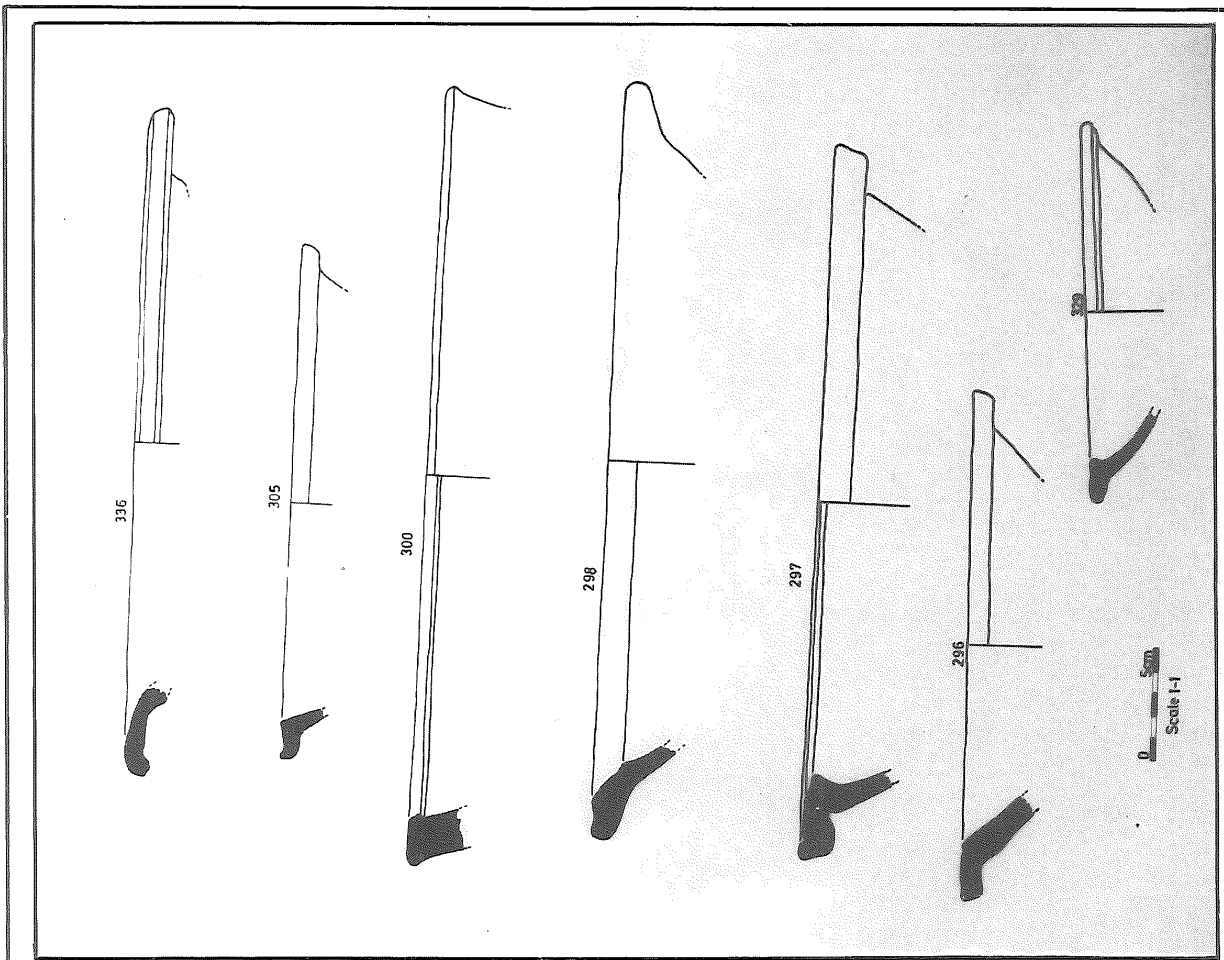


Fig.17 Byz. Pottery A 1:24-25

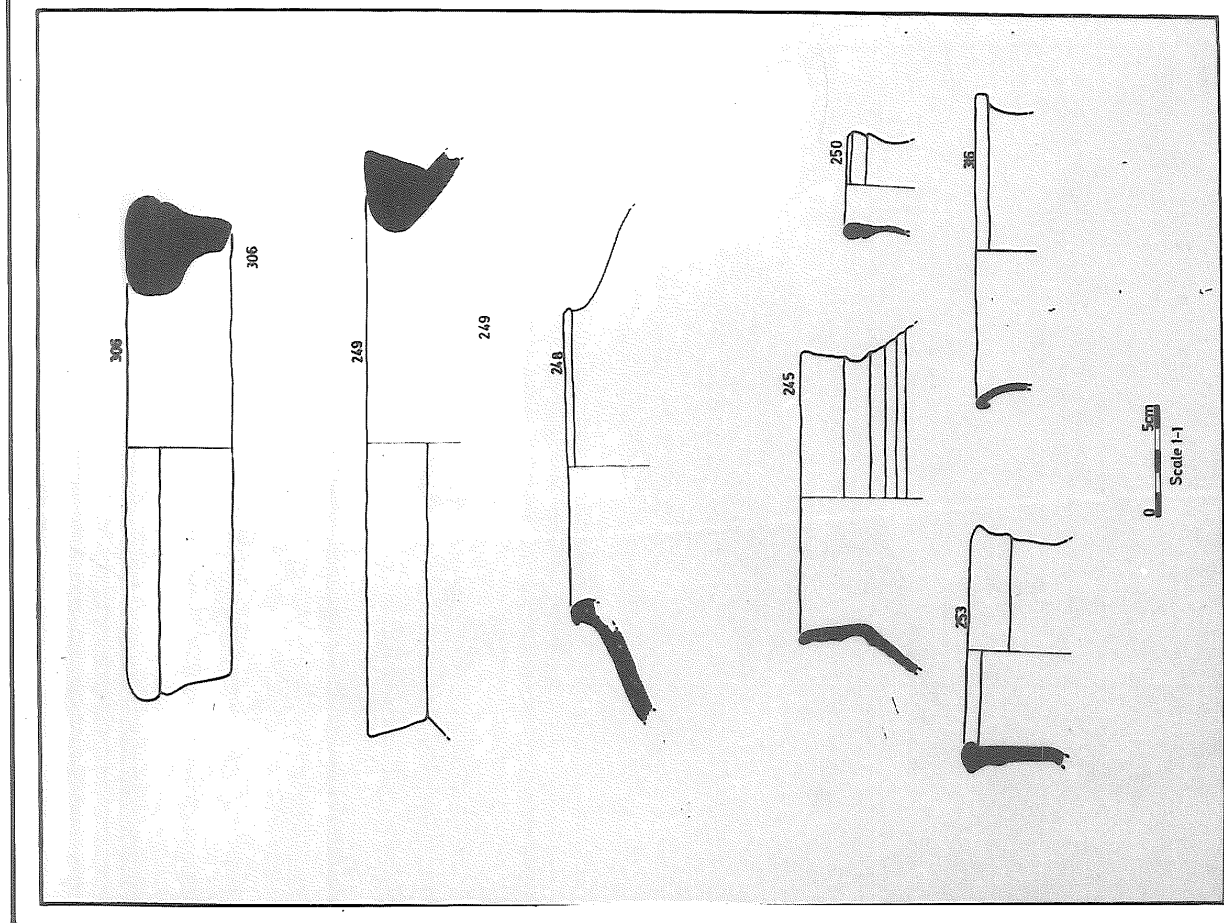


Fig.16 Byz. Pottery A 1:24-25

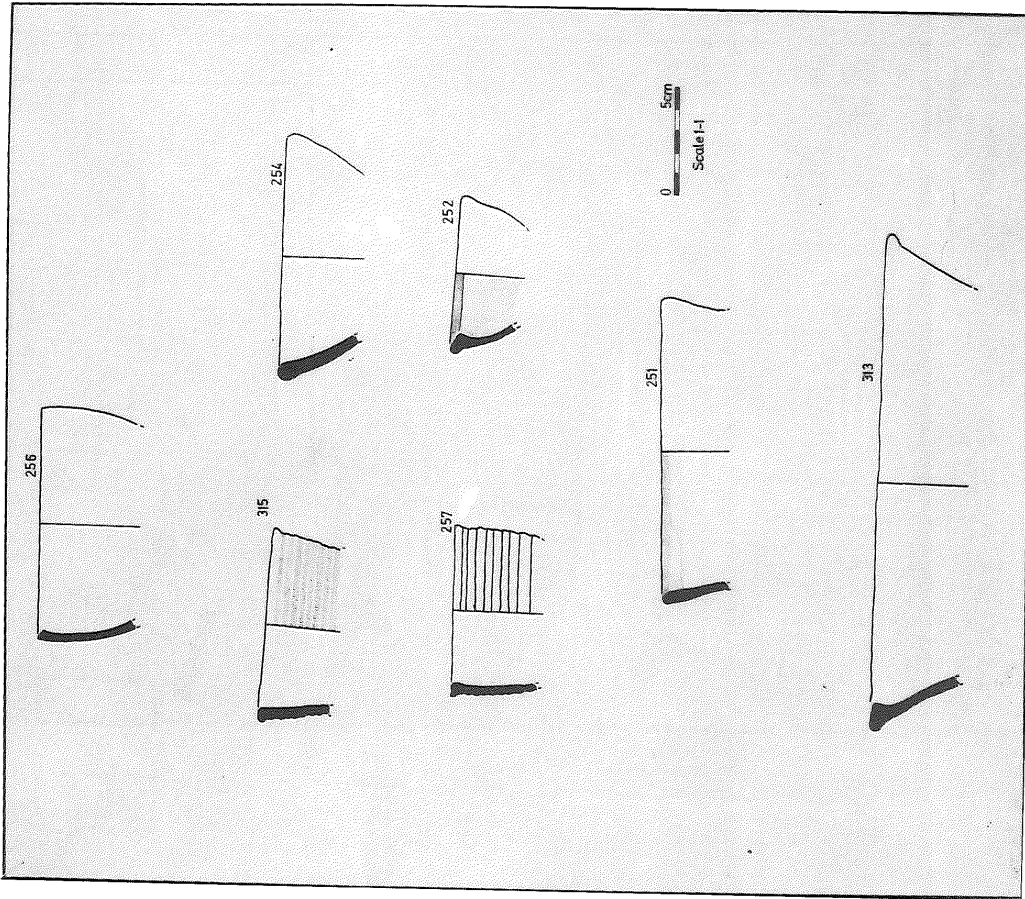


Fig.18 Byz. Pottery A 1:24-25

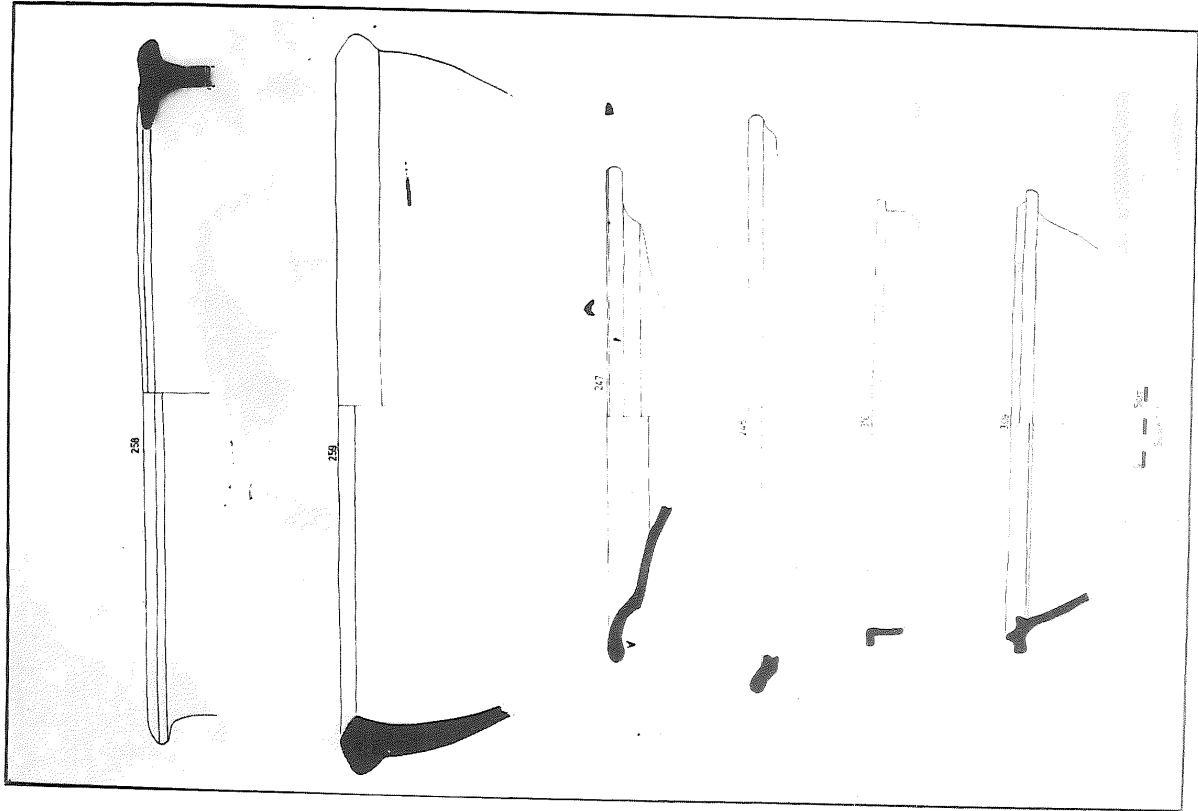


Fig.19 Byz. Pottery A 1:24-25

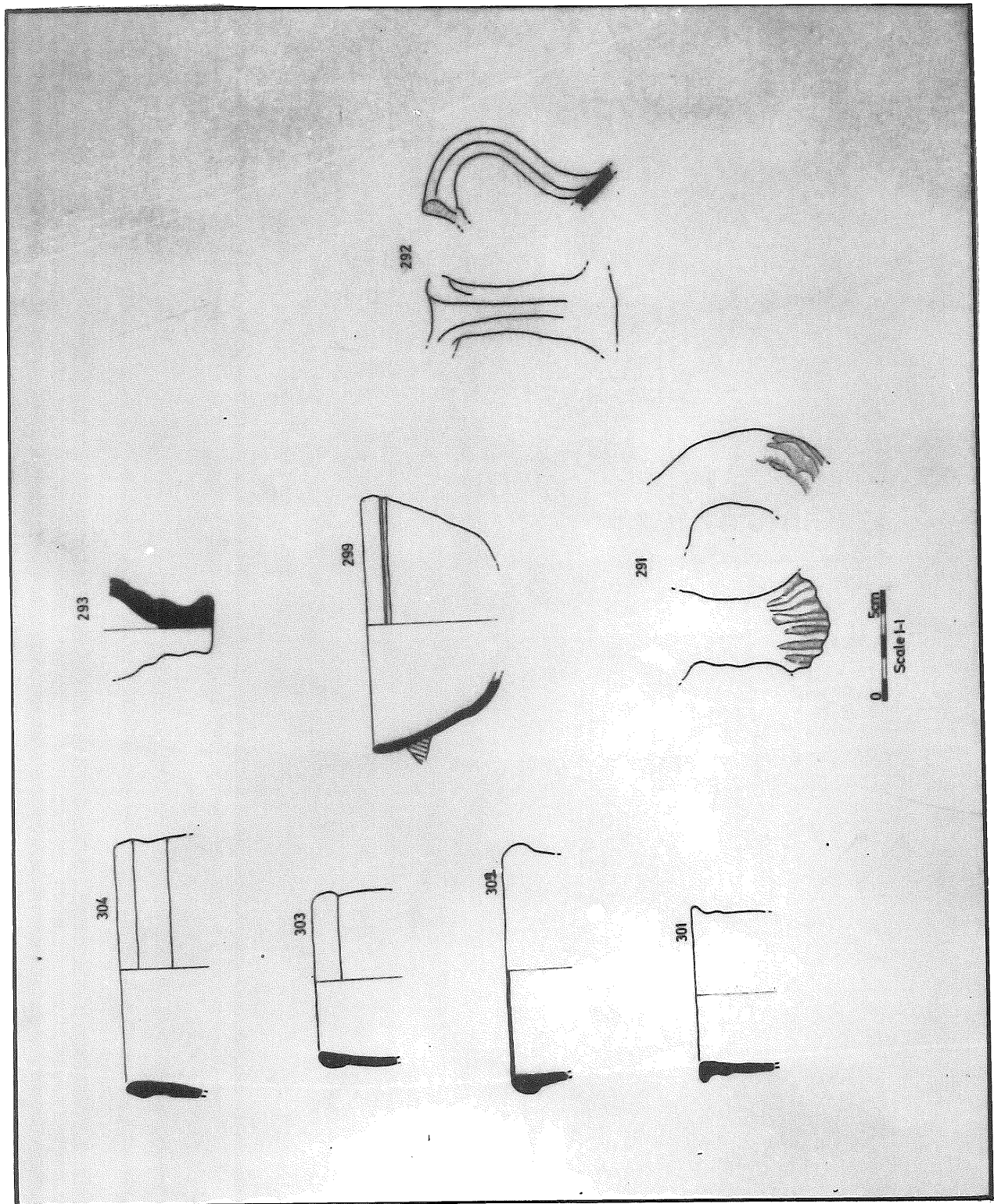


Fig.20 Byz. Pottery A 1:24-25

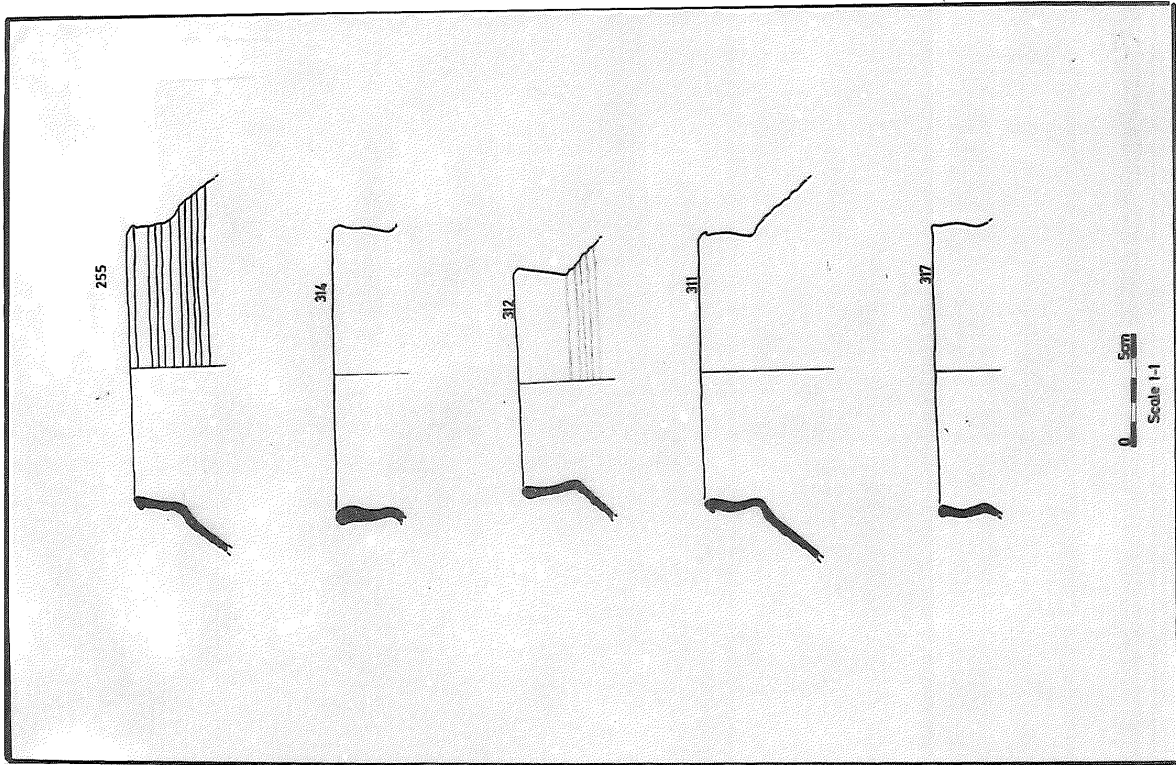


Fig.22 Byz. Pottery A 1:24-25

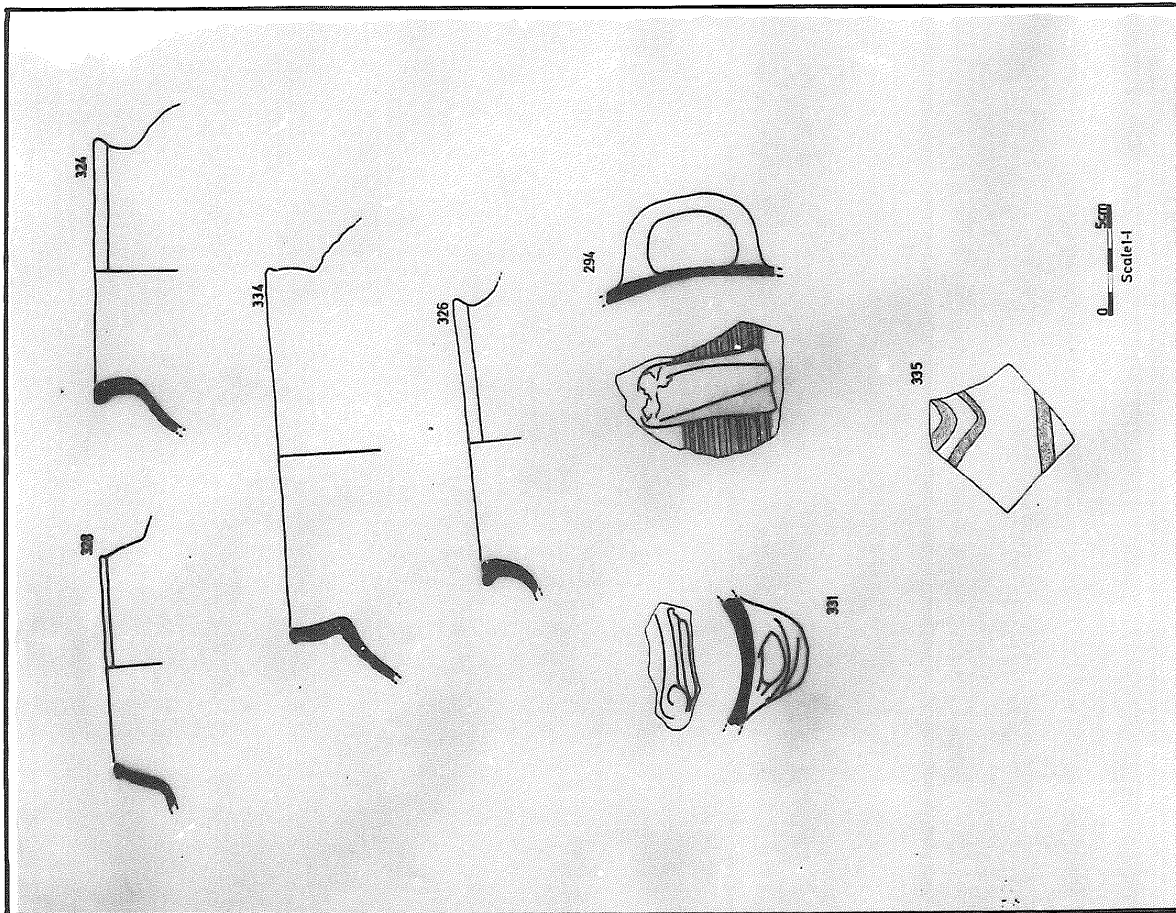


Fig.21 Byz. Pottery A 1:24-25

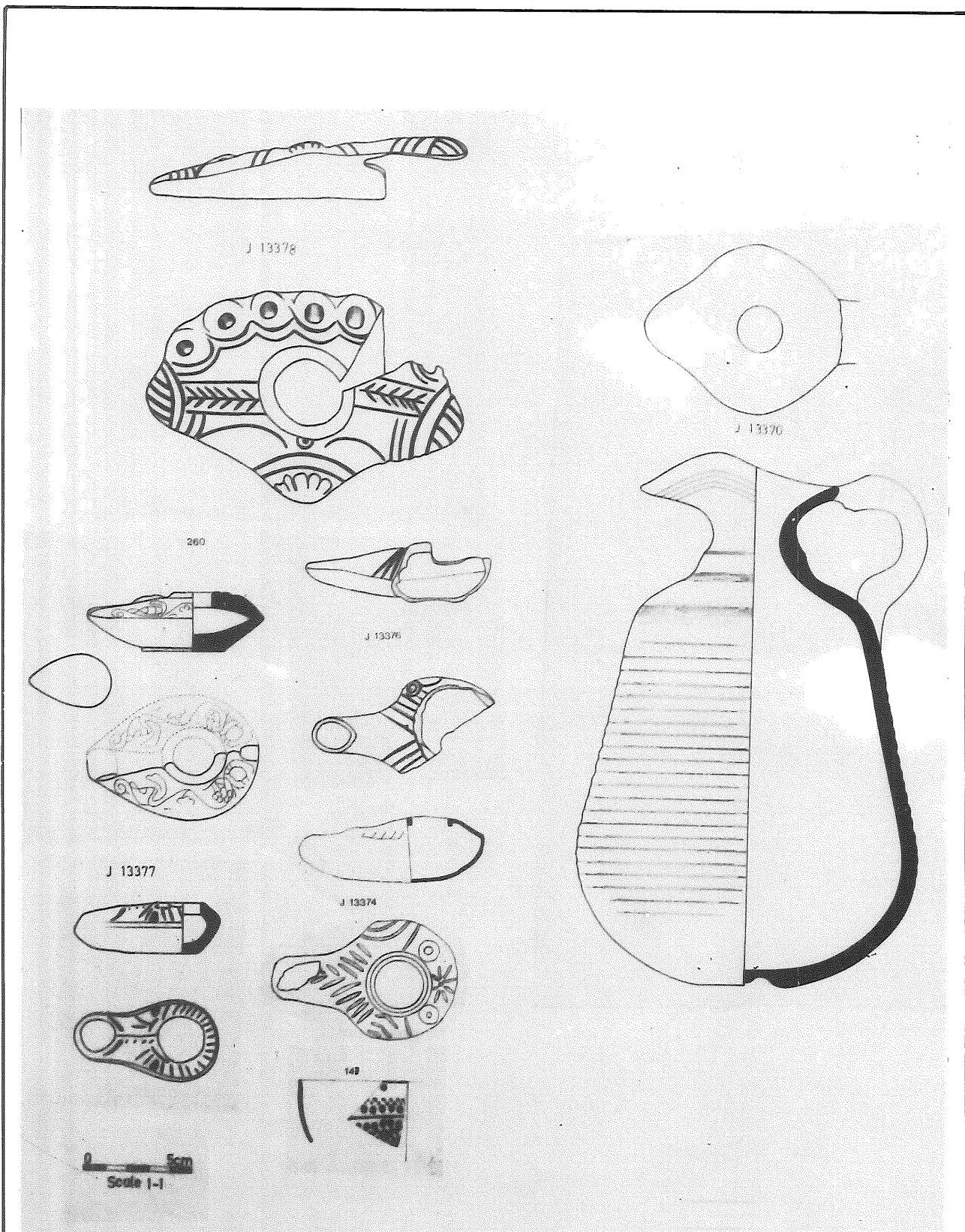


Fig.23 Pottery of Area A.

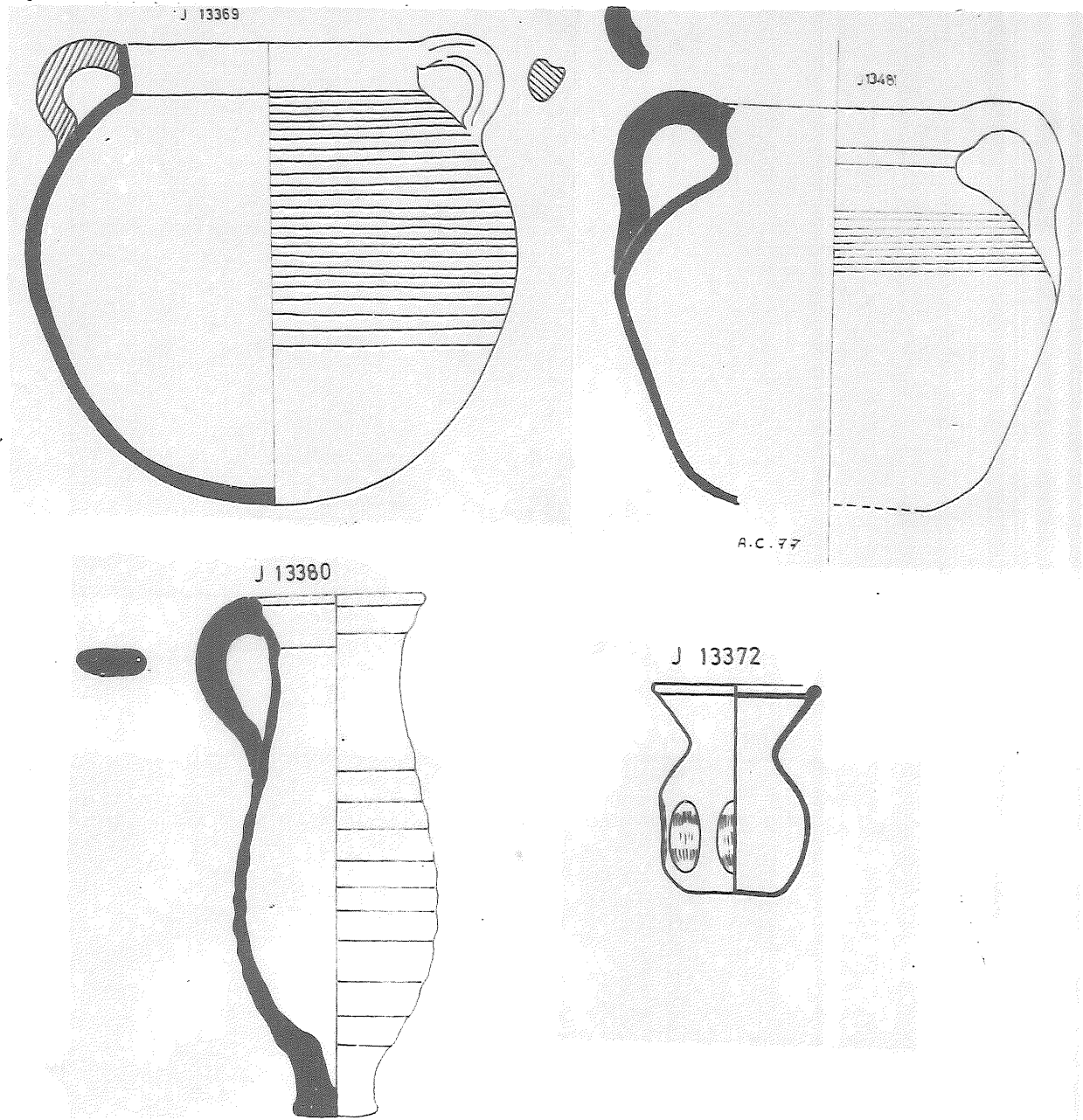


Fig.24 Pottery and glass bottle. Area A and Church.

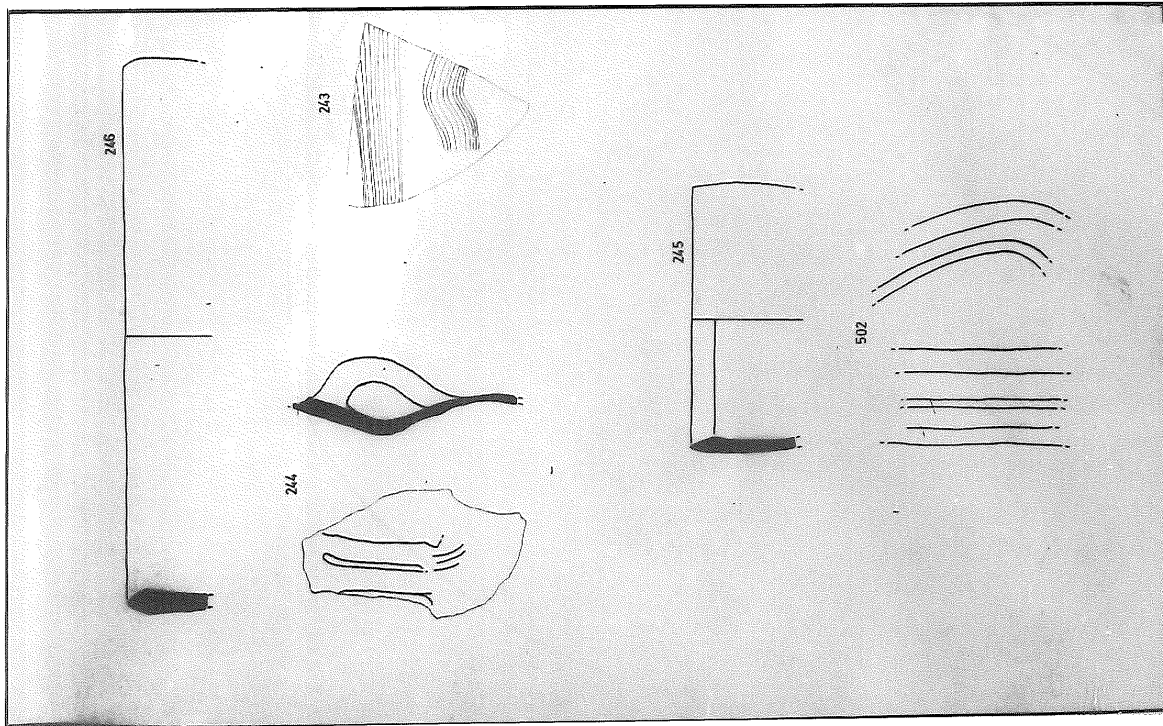


Fig.25 Umayyad Pottery Area A, 1 and Church.

by D. Oursaud

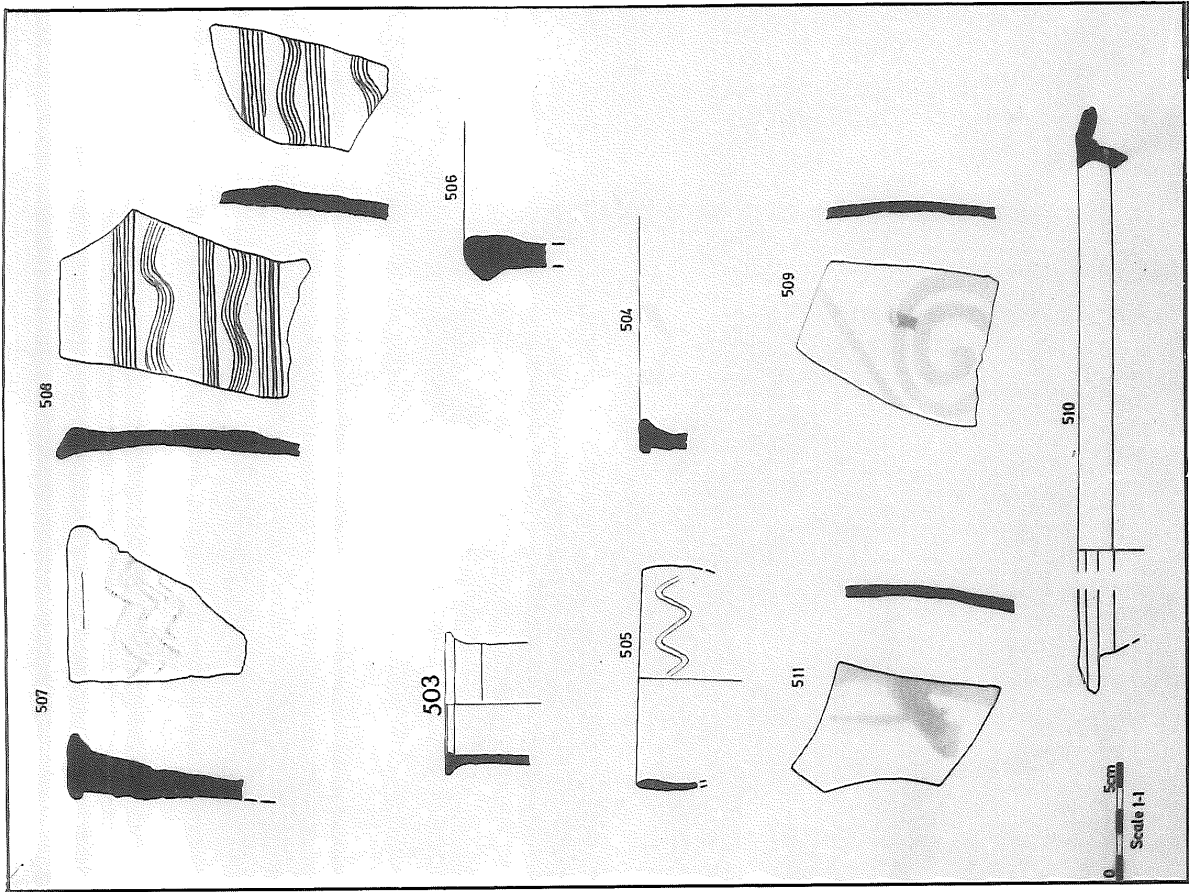
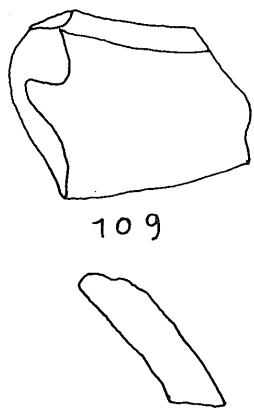
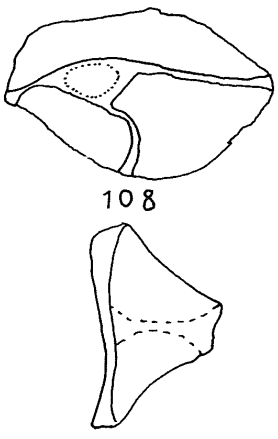
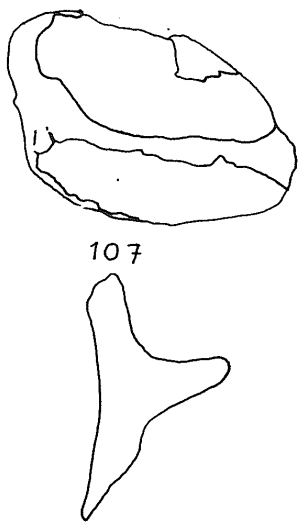
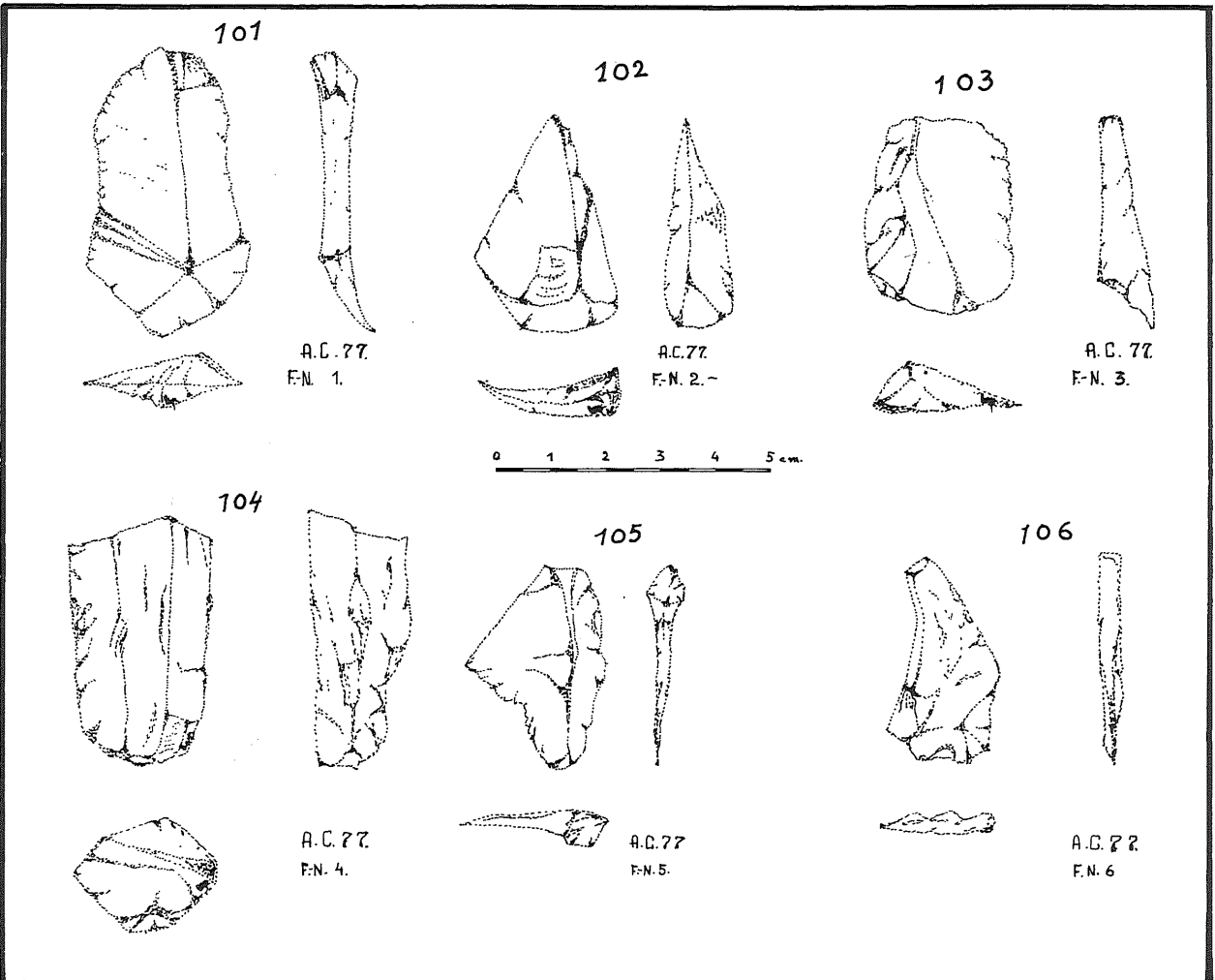


Fig.26 Umayyad Pottery Area A, 1 and Church.



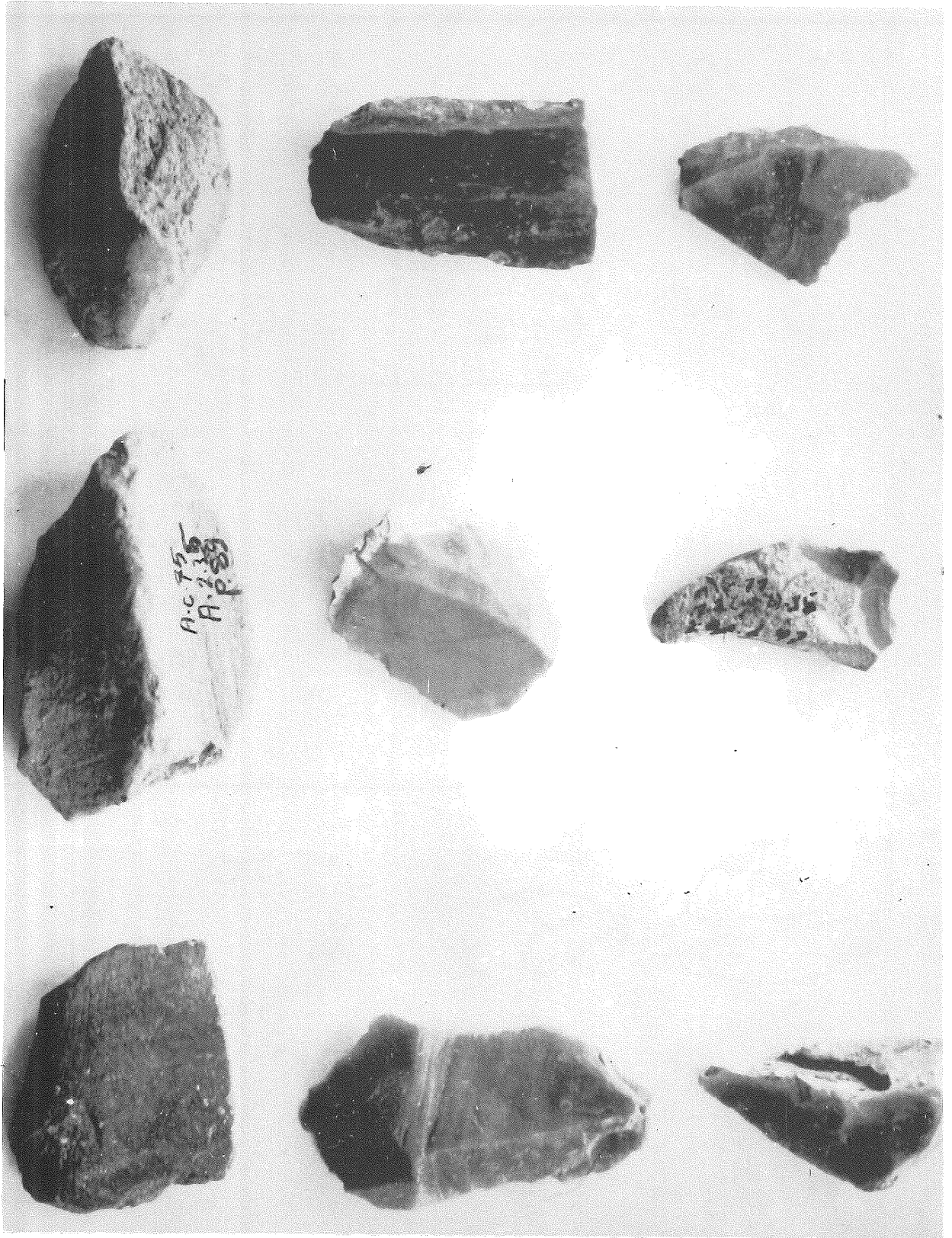


Fig.27 Early Bronze Pottery and flints.