

RECENT EXCAVATIONS ON THE CITADEL OF AMMAN
(LOWER TERRACE)
A PRELIMINARY REPORT

by
F. Zayadine, M. Najjar and J.A. Greene

Introduction

From November 8 to December 25, 1987, the Department of Antiquities launched a campaign of excavation on the Lower Terrace of the Amman Citadel¹ with the approval and encouragement of Dr. Adnan Hadidi, Director General, after he cancelled the building permit for the school planned for construction on the site. The contractor had violated the conditions of the permit, set by the Department of Antiquities and had dug a trench 50 m. long, 3 m. deep and wide in the area. With the generous financial support of USAID, Cultural Resources Management (CRM Project), a team from the Department of Antiquities, the American Center of Oriental Research (ACOR) and the British Institute at Amman for Archaeology and History² (BIAAH) was formed to conduct the excavation. Its composition was as follows: Dr. F. Zayadine, Project Director, Dr. M. Najjar, Assistant Director, Dr. J.A. Greene, ACOR-CRM Consultant. Volunteers from the Department of Antiquities, Mrs. Hanan Kurdi, Misses Hanan 'Azar, In'am Fakhoury and Rula Qoussus undertook registration of the artifacts and drawing of the pottery. Drafting and surveying were prepared by Dr. J.A. Greene, Dr. Khairieh 'Amr, 'Ali Da'jeh and Sami 'Abbadi. The Friends of Archaeology, especially their president Mrs. Widad Ka'awr extended their full support to the project while Mrs. Larissa Najjar volunteered her time for the conservation of the mosaic pavement. Field photography was done by Mr. Salem Da'jeh and Ms. Louise Martin. The studio work was supervised by Mr. Boghos Darkjian and his assistants. To all of them and to the many volunteers who joined the team at various stages of excavation we wish to express here our utmost gratitude.

The Work Plan

A complete grid for the site was laid down under the supervision of J.A. Greene and Khairieh 'Amr. It comprised squares measuring 5 x 5 m. To obtain a good understanding of the archaeological sequence it was decided to clear a large portion of the contractor's trench to a depth of around 3 m. (Fig. 1). Two 5 x 5 m. squares, I 33-34, were plotted to the north, and two, J 33-34, to the south of the trench.

I. THE BYZANTINE-UMAYYAD COMPLEX

A. The Main Hall

The excavation uncovered a residential complex, consisting of a rectangular hall (9.25 x 4.02 m.), adjoined to the north and south by several rooms (Fig. 2 and Pl. XLIX, 1,2). This complex was superimposed onto a pre-existing structure which was limited to the east by walls 100, 113 and 128 and to the west by wall 119. All of these walls were built using roughly shaped boulders, wedged with stone chips and mortar. In addition to the wall 128, walls 125, 108 and 109 belong to the earlier building phase, together with the doorway loc. 16 in the northern square I 34 (see below). To the south, the hall is bound by wall 114 which does not exceed 0.80 m. in width; it is not in a straight line and is constructed with poor irregular stones where a fragment of a spiral column has been inserted. Wall 114 is in sharp contrast with wall 100 to the east which is solidly constructed and reinforced by large blocks. When it was cleared to the east, a Byzantine lamp of the 6th century A.D. (Pl. L, 1, N° 87) came to light under stone boulders. One can assume, in this case, that the top

1. For previous excavations on the Lower Terrace, see R.H. Dornemann 1983; F. Zayadine 1973.

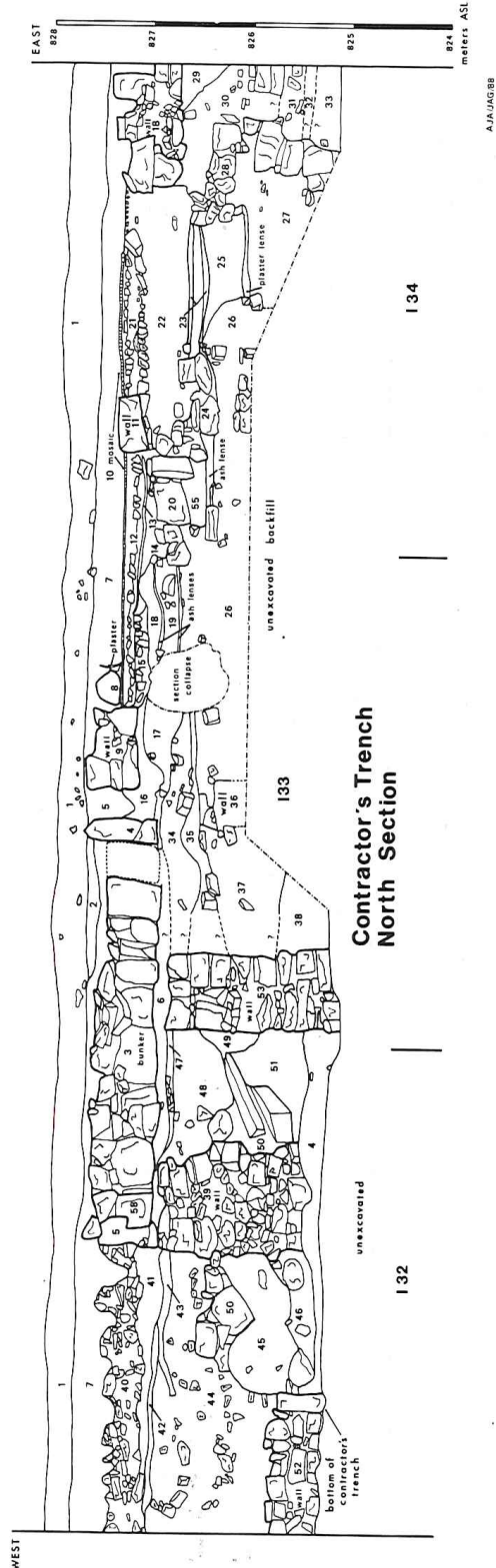
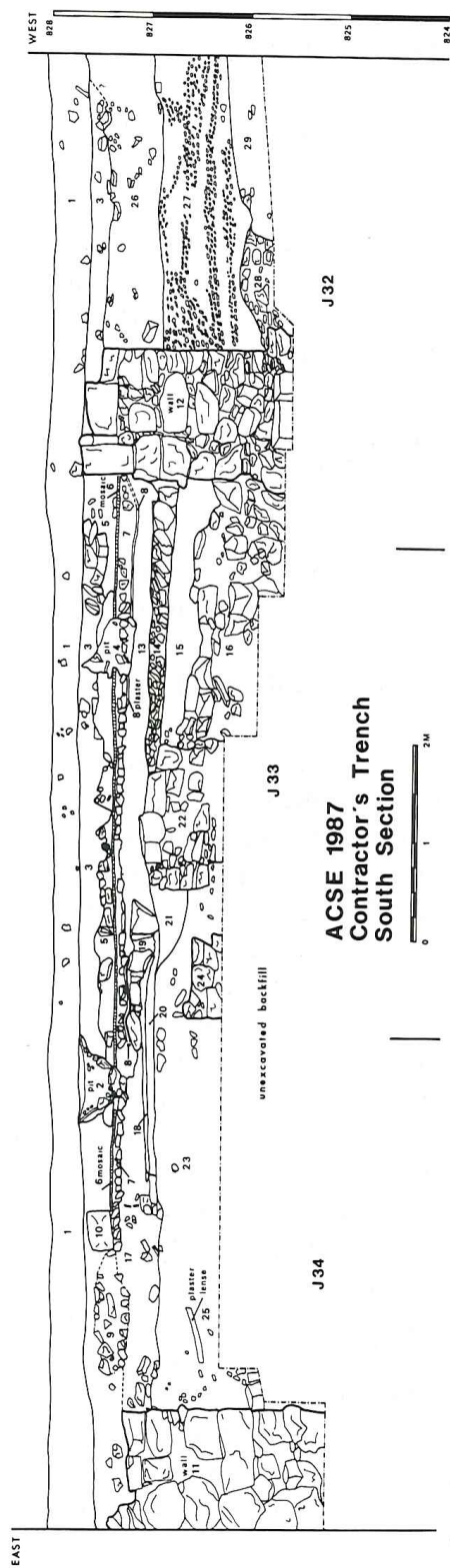


Fig. 1: South and North sections of the "contractor's trench."

Fig. 1: South and North sections of the "contractor's trench."

Key: Contractor's Trench, South Section

Modern Fill (ca. A.D. 1968)

- 1 Red clay fill

Modern Pit

- 2 Pit: gray fill with brown lense at top

Post-Abandonment Debris (Post-Umayyad)

- 3 Grayish brown

Ancient Pit

- 4 Pit: grayish brown with cobbles, loosely compacted

Post-Abandonment Debris (post-Umayyad)

- 5 Brown

Mosaic Floor

- 6 Mosaic floor

Subfloor Fills

- 7 Subfloor fill below mosaic: cobbles
- 8 Plaster floor

Cobbled Layer East of Mosaic Floor

- 9 Cobbles of flint and limestone
- 10 Block in Main Hall A dividing mosaic from cobbled dais

Large Wall East of Main Hall

- 11 Wall 113

Large Wall West of Main Hall

- 12 Wall 119

Fills/Debris Below Main Hall and Between Walls 113/119

- 13 Brown clay
- 14 Cobble fill
- 15 Yellow clay, granular, compacted
- 16 Gray, stony (?debris from Wall 202)
- 17 Yellow clay, granular, compacted
- 18 Gray
- 19 Limestone cobble and boulders
- 20 Light brown clay
- 21 Brown with charcoal
- 22 Wall 202 (TL: 826.75/BL: 826.25)
- 23 Light brownish gray occupational debris
- 24 Wall 200 (TL: 827.00/BL: 826.25*)
- 25 Plaster lense

Fills/Debris West of Wall 119

- 26 Yellow, brickly with stones

- 27 Pebbles, sherds, ash; striated, compacted (?street accumulation)
- 28 Stony gray fill, loosely compacted
- 29 Hard packed grayish brown

* lowest excavated level

Key: Contractor's Trench, North Section

Modern Fill (ca. A.D. 1968)

- 1 Red clay fill

Modern Pit (pre-A.D. 1968)

- 2 Grayish brown, loosely compacted (?pit)

Modern Bunker Walls (mid-20th century A.D.)

- 3 Wall 131 (South wall, Bunker #1)
- 4 Wall 107 (East wall, Bunker #1)
- 5 Dark brown, loosely compacted (fill behind bunker walls 107/130).

Fill Below Bunker #1

- 6 Compact light brown clay with small cobbles

Post-Abandonment Debris (post-Umayyad)

- 7 Grayish brown

West Wall/Bench of Room VI

- 8 Wall 104 (?bench) (bonds with ?bench/wall 103)
- 9 Wall 105 (wall) (bonds with wall 106)

Floors in Room V/VI

- 10 Mosaic

East Wall of Room VI

- 11 Wall 102

Subfloor Fill Below Mosaic/pre-Mosaic Plaster Floor

- 12 Subfloor fill below mosaic
- 13 Plaster floor

Fills Below Room VI Floors

- 14 Gray ash, loosely compacted
- 15 Dark brown, ashy
- 16 Dark brown with pebbles, cobbles and occupational debris
- 17 Light gray with occupational debris
- 18 Ash layer
- 19 Light grey, ashy
- 20 Limestone boulders and cobbles

Fills/Debris Blow Room V

- 21 Subfloor fill below mosaic
- 22 Granular yellow clay, compacted

- 23 Water laid gravel between lenses of ash
- 24 Wall 201 (TL: 826.75/BL: 826.25)
- 25 Striated layers of ash, charcoal and sherds

Fills/Debris Below Rooms V/VI

- 26 Dark brown
- 27 Light brown, compacted

Fills/Debris Below Wall 101

- 28 Limestone cobbles and small boulders
- 29 Dark brown
- 30 Grayish brown, bricky with charcoal
- 31 Ashy
- 32 Reddish yellow, bricky
- 33 Gray, stony

Fills East of Wall 112

- 34 Dark brown with occupational debris
- 35 Dark gray with charcoal
- 36 Wall 203 (TL: 826.30/NFL)
- 37 Light brown
- 38 Occupational debris: sherds, charcoal, bone

Continuation of Wall 119 from South Section

- 39 Wall 219 (?=Wall 119 [no. 12] in South Section)

Fills West of Wall 219

- 40 Brown, loosely compacted, limestone cobbles and small boulders (? cut by bunker construction)
- 41 Sandy brown

- 42 Ash layer (TL: 827.00)
- 43 Plaster surface (TL: 827.00)
- 44 Brown fill with medium to large cobbles
- 45 Brown fill
- 46 Small to medium cobbles

Fills Between Walls 112/219

- 47 Ash lense with cobbles
- 48 Loose brown
- 49 Gray-brown fill
- 50 Stone tumble (?from Wall 219)
- 51 Dark brown, loosely compacted, stony

Wall Associated With Occupational Debris (No. 54)

- 52 Wall 205 (TL: 825.70/BL: 825.10*)

North-South Wall in I.33

- 53 Wall 112

Occupational Debris Below Wall 219

- 54 Reddish brown clay

Fill Below Room VI

- 55 Dark brown, stony with sherds

Major Wall East of Room V

- 56 Wall 100/101

Modern Bunker Wall (mid-20th century A.D.)

- 57 Wall 130 (East wall, Bunker #1)

* lowest excavated level.

phase of this wall was built in the Late Byzantine Period. Another lamp (Pl. L, 1, N° 88) decorated with a cross came out in square J.34, 19, in front of the platform (see below).

A doorway, 1 m. wide and with a carved doorsocket (Pl. L, 2) opens on the southern side of the hall. In front of it, two steps lead down to a corridor, 2.50 m. in width. Originally, the eastern retaining wall of the corridor was buttressed by column drums but a bunker of the Jordanian army had destroyed most of it. An Umayyad fil (C 12) was found next to the drums, unfortunately in a disturbed locus.

The western wall of the corridor (W 117) was preserved to a height of 0.650 m. An earlier wall (125) appeared at its foot and a rectangular bin of uneven stones was uncovered in the south-western corner of the corridor. Inside the bin green glazed pottery sherds of "Sassanian" type, common in the 6th century A.D., were collected.

A floor of white and coloured mosaic cover the hall. Approximately in the middle of the floor, a circular medallion bordered with multicoloured tassels contains entangled oval circles with a heart shaped leaf in the middle. This common geometrical design appears in the Propylaea church of Jarash, dated A.D. 665 (Crowfoot 1931: 13-16, Pl. IV b) and in the diaconicon-Baptistry of Mount Nebo of A.D. 541 (Piccirillo 1987: 39, 41). To the west, another quadrangular medallion depicts a standing man, facing east with raised hands, in the posture of the *orante*. He has a short sparse beard and a cap on his head; hanging over the left shoulder of his robe is a white shawl. On both sides of the standing man's head is a fragmentary Greek inscription, most probably the name of the man, beginning with a cross. Below and to his right is a feline animal of which only a back leg and tail remain. This was most probably a lion. To his left is another animal, perhaps a bull, of which only the hindquarters survive (Pl. LI,1).

The image of the *orante* is well known from the church of St. George at Khirbet el-Mukhayyat which dates to A.D. 536 (Saller and Bagatti 1949: 166f, Pl. 29,1);

his name, Joh, (son) of Ammonius is inscribed on both sides of his portrait. The same motif occurs in a mosaic at Jarash in the church of Cosmas and Damianus, dated A.D. 533 (Piccirillo 1981: 40-41; Pl. 30, Fig. 34 A).

As for the theme of the opposing lion and bull, it is represented in the Madaba Museum (Piccirillo *et al.* 1986: 57-58, Fig. 36) where a lion and a bull eat at a bush to fulfill the prophecy of Isaiah, 11:6-7, announcing an era of peace: "...and the lion shall eat straw like the ox".

A low platform with a cobbled floor ends the hall to the east. Its remaining length from north to south is 3.55 m. and its width is 2.55 m. Two rectangular blocks border it on both sides, the right one being well dressed (0.64 x 0.41 x 0.21 m.) and provided with a rectangular mortise to hold a pole. As for the left block, it was broken by the bulldozer.

Under the cobbled floor of the platform, a semicircular apse of plaster, 1.40 m. in diameter is engaged into wall 100. We have not been able to determine the function of this apse as part of the platform pavement must be removed. It may have been a niche for a Byzantine chapel, but there is no trace of screen or altar. Among the paving stones of the platform, marble fragments were imbedded, one of which is rounded in the shape of a basin and the other in the shape of a base. Such fragments appear in Byzantine cultic sites but they have also occurred in Umayyad palaces such as Hammam es-Sarah and 'Amra. In any case, the pottery sherds indicate that the platform was added in the Umayyad Period and it is very similar to the floor at the vestibule of the North Umayyad residence of the Citadel of Amman, excavated by E. Olavarri (1985:49, Pl. 14a).

B. The South Rooms

Three rooms were uncovered to the south of the hall in squares K 33 and L 33. Room I is rectangular in shape (3.25 x 2.65 m.) and has an entrance from the west with a threshold 1.20 m. wide. Its floor was covered with irregular flagstones. A *tabun*

appeared to the east. Inside room I, Umayyad sherds of brown colour with incised designs were collected. There is an irregular opening in the room's eastern wall which leads into the corridor. Room II to the south has the same dimensions with an entrance of 0.80 m. only. As for room III, it was not excavated, except for the northern wall.

Only a small part of the rooms east of the corridor remain since they were destroyed by the above mentioned bunker of the army. In room IV on the northern side, wall 115 of the earlier building phase was probably used as a bench. The bunker is 4.14 by 2.90 m. Its entrance lies on the eastern side with four steps going down to the floor. There is a small cupboard (50 x 40 cm.) where the lantern was placed. The eastern wall of the bunker was built on top of a wall (128), dating to the early Byzantine Period as suggested by a 4th century coin, found on the floor with pottery sherds dating to the same period.

C. The North Rooms

Two rooms, V and VI, were excavated north of the contractor's trench in squares I 34 and 33 (Fig. 1 and Pl. XLIX,2). Room V at the eastern end of I 34 is bound by the above mentioned wall 100 which averages on this side 1.14 m., but the room has its proper walls 101, 102 and 127 a fact that suggests it was added to a pre-existing construction. There is an entrance to the north 0.90 m. wide with the doorjamb *in situ* which lead to the northern structures, actually covered by the modern road. When the room was built, the doorway was blocked by a large boulder (0.50 x 0.37 x 0.20 m.) and the eastern doorjamb cut to insert wall 127. A few Late Roman-Early Byzantine sherds came out from the fill of the doorway. The floor of room V, slightly higher than that of the adjoining room VI, was paved with white tesserae. A plaster floor, loc. I. 34:5 = section 13 in the north section Fig. 1, can be noticed underneath the mosaic pavement. This was probably the floor of the early building.

The adjoining room VI was also paved with white tesserae (preserved dimensions

2.70 m. x 1.54 m.). Two benches (103 & 104) were added to the northern and western walls in which fragments of columns were used together with a marble block engraved with a Greek inscription (Pl. LI,2).

Text: [TY]XH TH ΑΓΑΘΗ Κ...

To be translated: "... (to Ty)che, the good (lady?).."

The marble block was most probably a base for a statue of Tyche. It should be remembered in this connection that a beautiful marble head of Tyche was discovered in 1957 in the garden of the Archaeological Museum, near the temple of Hercules. Unfortunately, the inscribed block is a reuse and it cannot be assumed that a temple to the goddess existed on the Lower Terrace.

To the north of room VI in square I 33, two walls, 108 & 109 came to light at a lower level (elevations 826.99 and 826.84). They belong to the earlier construction phase, in relation with the doorway loc. 16.

Another army bunker appeared west of square I 33. Its floor was made of packed *huwwar* and sand. After the removal of this modern soil, we were able to excavate to the depth of 4.50 m., uncovering a north-south wall (W112), 0.50 m. wide. It is abutted by a wall, running east-west, built with large unhewn stones (W111), about 1.10 m. wide. The pottery in loci 11-14 were Iron Age II and Hellenistic, suggesting that the two walls date to the Hellenistic Period. A stamped Rhodian jarhandle confirms this dating (Loc. 13, N° 92).

II. THE DEEP SOUNDING IN M26-27

Introduction

The Deep Sounding in M26-27 was undertaken as part of the Amman Citadel Salvage Excavations to probe the stratification of the western end of the Lower Terrace. Earlier work had been confined to the southern edge of the Terrace (Zayadine 1973) or to the depression at its southwestern corner (Dornemann 1983:105, "Area VII"). The size and location of the Sounding was determined only

accidentally, accounting for its somewhat anomalous designation — M26-27. Originally it had been a shallow pit dug as a waste water sump for a portable construction office placed on the Lower Terrace by the school building contractor. Visible in this approximately 1.30 m. by 1.30 m. by 2.0 m. deep pit were a series of substantial plaster floors above a thick layer of ashy debris rich in bone. The uppermost floor was in turn cut by a stone wall, one course high, oriented roughly east-west. In the spoil around the pit were Umayyad and Byzantine sherds and quantities of animal bone. These features visible in and around the original pit invited further investigation. Therefore the sides of the pit were cleaned and trimmed and excavation begun, maintaining the pit's original size. Excavation eventually reached bedrock at 4.50 m. below ground surface (823.50 m. above MSL). All digging was done by the supervisors — Mr. Marcus A. Woodburn and Mr. Michael Rawlings — themselves and all excavated soils screened through 0.5 cm. wire mesh screen to assure recovery of the maximum amount of cultural debris — sherds, bone, chipped stone, etc. Botanical and radiocarbon samples were taken from the two lowest levels: Locus 20 and 21 — the MBIIB/C and EBIB cultural horizons, respectively. The excavation of the Sounding revealed a full sequence of occupational levels from Early Bronze Age to the Umayyad Period.

Stratigraphic Summary

Twenty-three separate layers or features, including bedrock, were identified in the Deep Sounding (Fig. 3). Several of the uppermost layers (Locus 1-2, 6 [fills], 23 [wall], 3-5, 7 [plaster floors and associated subfloor fills]) were observed but not excavated stratigraphically as they had already been removed wholly or partially in the digging of the original waste water pit. Controlled excavation began with Locus 8 and continued to bedrock, Locus 22. Datings for all loci are provisional, pending fuller study of the ceramic evidence; nonetheless, dates for the earlier levels — Locus 19, 20, 21 — are reasonably secure.

The principal (indeed, almost the only) architectural feature uncovered in the Deep Sounding was the large wall, Locus 18, consisting apparently of three phases. Phase 1, visible in the north and east sections, was formed of three well coursed squared blocks. This earliest phase cuts into the basal cultural layer, Locus 21, and is associated stratigraphically east and north with Locus 20, suggesting a Middle Bronze IIB/C dating for the founding of the wall. An extensive rebuilding (Phase 2) on this original foundation is associated with Locus 19, a massive layer of stony debris datable to Iron Age II, perhaps as late as the seventh century B.C. Locus 19 may represent a destruction or collapse of the Iron Age phase of the wall, Locus 18. The final rebuilding of the wall (Phase 3) rests partly atop Locus 19 and partly atop Locus 16, which dates to the second century B.C. Subsequently the wall went out of use and was covered by deliberately dumped or casually accumulated occupational debris (Locus 6, 12, 13, 15), here and there pitted and backfilled (Locus 8/10, 9/11, 14/17). Finally, the area in the vicinity of the Sounding seems to have been levelled for the laying of a series of thick plaster floors: First Locus 7, then Locus 5, 4, and 3. The last of this series of floors and subfloor fills was cut by a construction trench (Locus 2) for wall, Locus 23, which rests immediately atop floor, Locus 4. Whatever superstructure existed above the wall, Locus 23, is now missing. The entire top level of the Deep Sounding was covered by Locus 1, a mid-twentieth-century A.D. layer of imported red clay fill.

Occupational History

Several factors — the restricted extent of excavation (only 1.30 m. x 1.30 m.), the small ceramic collection (fewer than two hundred identifiable sherds) and prior disturbance of the upper levels — combine to limit the conclusions that may be drawn from the data in the Deep Sounding. Nonetheless some inferences about the occupational history of the Lower Terrace are possible.

The earliest occupation, Locus 21, dates, on ceramic grounds, to EBI B. There is no associated architecture, and it is unclear whether Locus 21 represents occupational debris *in situ* or in secondary position. Absence of any trace of virgin soil above bedrock and below the EB level suggests, however, that Locus 21 is *in situ* occupational debris. On the Upper Citadel Early Bronze IA occupation levels associated with a plastered installation were discovered in a sounding in Area A, though in a limited lateral exposure (Zayadine 1977-78).

There is a certain amount of residual EBIV material mixed with the MBII B/C ceramics in Locus 20, though no EBIV level was discovered in the Sounding. EBIV tombs are known in the Amman area (Dajani 1967-68, Zayadine 1978, Hadidi 1982, Suleiman 1985); but this is the first instance of EBIV ceramics occurring in an occupational context on the Amman Citadel.

Middle Bronze Age

Locus 20 is a substantial occupational deposit associated with the earliest phase of wall, Locus 18. The ceramic indicators in Locus 20 are preponderantly MBII B/C, though they do include a single MBII A red slipped juglet handle. However, no MBII A layer was isolated in the Sounding. This suggests that later Middle Bronze age occupation on the Citadel extended down to the Lower Terrace. The Upper Citadel was certainly occupied then: Two MB tombs were discovered accidentally in the 1950's near the present-day museum (Ma'ayeh 1960, Piccirillo 1978). Excavations at the north end of the Upper Citadel during the late 1960's exposed what may have been remnants of a Middle Bronze Age glacis (Dornemann 1983:18-19). Limited exposures in soundings on the Upper Citadel during the 1970's revealed MBII B/C occupation levels (Bennett and North-edge 1977-78).

Late Bronze Age/Iron I

No identifiable Late Bronze Age in-

even as residuals in later levels. Such material has been found on the Citadel, though only in unstratified contexts (Dornemann 1983:22). Some Iron I sherds occurred as residual material in later layers in the Sounding, but no Iron I phase was isolated. On the Citadel remains of this period are little excavated and are not well understood (Zayadine 1973:30, Dornemann 1983:31-34).

Iron Age II

The existence of a massive Iron Age II wall oriented north-south at the western end of the Lower Terrace accords well with the Iron Age levels known from excavations farther east along the southern edge of the Lower Terrace (Zayadine 1973). The evidence for Iron Age occupation eastward, beyond the line of wall, Locus 18, argues against its being a part of the Iron Age defensive walls of the Citadel. The wall, Locus 18, may instead have been a terrace wall, part of a system of such walls stepping down toward the east along the natural slope of the bedrock underlying the Lower Terrace. In the Deep Sounding bedrock appeared at an absolute elevation of 823.50 m. above MSL; above the bedrock was an EBI occupation layer. In the Main Trench 30 metres to the east, *at the same absolute elevation*, were Hellenistic and Iron Age II debris layers, suggesting a significant difference in the absolute levels of contemporary living floors over a rather short lateral distance. Moreover, in the section exposed in the contractor's cut in the Main Trench (Fig. 2) there is some evidence for the existence of similar north-south terrace walls in use into the Hellenistic Period.

Persian

In the Deep Sounding no Persian (sixth-fifth centuries B.C.) phase was noted; nor were any ceramics of this period found, even as residuals in later strata. The period is not well attested on the Citadel (Dornemann 1983:180-182). A Persian Period tomb is known in the vicinity of Amman, though it is located some distance

from the Citadel (Hadidi 1987).

Hellenistic

Evidence of earlier Hellenistic (fourth-third centuries B.C.) occupation is absent in the Sounding, even as residual ceramics in later layers. The final phase (phase 3) of wall 18 was rebuilt some time in the second century B.C., on top of the remains of the previous phase of the wall. If that wall was originally a terrace wall in the Iron II period, its reconstruction suggests that patterns of Iron Age occupation on the Lower Terrace were resumed in the later Hellenistic Period. This interpretation has some support from the evidence noted in the section exposed in the contractor's cut in the Main Trench.

Roman

Roman occupation on the Upper Citadel is known to have been extensive (Hadidi 1978, Almagro 1983, Northedge 1983), but so far there is only limited evidence for Roman levels on the Lower Terrace. Excavations along the southern edge of the Lower Terrace in 1968/1972 uncovered first century A.D. architecture and habitation levels succeeded by third century burials (Zayadine 1973). In the Deep Sounding, Early Roman (to 1st century A.D.) levels are confined to a fill (Locus 12) above the wall, Locus 18. This wall seems to have gone out of use by the end of the second century B.C. There are no certain Roman architectural remains to which to relate this fill.

Byzantine/Umayyad

The appearance of a succession of plaster floors in the uppermost levels of the Deep Sounding suggests that the western end of the Lower Terrace underwent an architectural replanning, possibly in conjunction with the initial construction of the large building uncovered in the Main Trench. The earliest of the series of plaster floors was laid directly atop Locus 6, a post-first century A.D. fill. This first floor was succeeded by several other floors of similar construction, each founded on a layer of deliberate fill. Given the limits of

the Sounding, it is impossible to determine whether these floors were laid within a structure or were outdoor courtyard surfaces. The cutting of the latest floor and the laying of a single-coursed wall, Locus 23, directly above the floor, Locus 4, suggests a further replanning of this portion of the Lower Terrace. This may have occurred in the Umayyad Period, though there is no direct evidence from the Sounding to confirm it. The wall, Locus 23, represents the final architectural phase at the western edge of the Lower Terrace.

Post-Umayyad

The ruins of the structures in the uppermost architectural phase on the Lower Terrace must have been exposed at the surface into the twentieth century of the current era. The uniform layer of red clay fill (put down reportedly ca. A.D. 1968) lies immediately above the latest architectural remains both in the Deep Sounding and in the Main Trench. In this area of the Lower Terrace there is almost no debris dating later than Umayyad and no trace of the later medieval occupation known to have existed elsewhere on the Citadel.

SUMMARY

The 1987 campaign demonstrated that the Lower Terrace of the Citadel was inhabited from at least the EB I period as proved by the probe in M 26-27 which reached bedrock. A residential complex existed in this area from the Hellenistic to the Umayyad Period and probably in the Iron Age II. The latest phase, dated to the Byzantine-Umayyad Periods consisted of a central hall (*iwan?*), surrounded by rooms, reminiscent of the Umayyad building at Mushatta (Trümpelmann 1962: Fig. 1). An earlier building existed underneath. The excavation in K 34 (army bunker) and to the north (I 33-34) provided good evidence of an earlier phase. From the coins and the pottery sherds, this phase could be tentatively dated to the Late Roman-Early Byzantine Period. A Hellenistic phase can be deduced from the finds in square I 33. The Umayyad occupation, although pre-

rooms, did not alter the complex. Apparently little change occurred in the buildings. It is clear that the Byzantine inhabitants of the Lower Terrace kept on using the same building into the Umayyad Period. Such continuity can be observed at the recently excavated city of Umm er-Raṣaṣ-Mefa'a, where the local people kept up their religious traditions and churches until the beginning of the Abbasid Period (A.D. 785-6).

Future Work Plan

The excavation sponsored by the team

cooperation with USAID-CRM was short term. It is hoped that the work will be resumed at the site to recover a complete plan of the Byzantine-Umayyad building which extends towards the southern city wall. At the same time, further information could be gained about the Hellenistic and Ammonite occupation. With the ongoing excavation in the 1968 trench, the Lower Terrace will become a good attraction both for scholars and tourists.

F. Zayadine
M. Najjar
J.A. Greene

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