

MĀDABĀ PLAINS PROJECT: EXCAVATIONS AT TALL AL-'UMAYRĪ, 2002

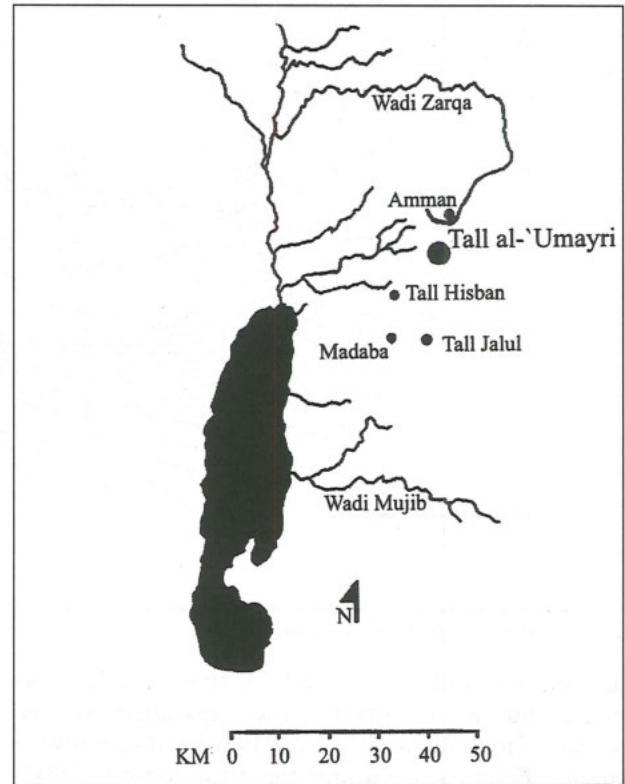
Larry G. Herr and Douglas R. Clark

Introduction

A ninth season of excavation by the Mādabā Plains Project at Tall al-'Umayrī (تل العمري) occurred between June 18 and July 31, 2002. It was sponsored by La Sierra University in consortium with the Canadian University College and Walla Walla College and in affiliation with Andrews University. Full reports have already been published for the first five seasons (first season [1984]: Geraty *et al.*, eds. 1989; second season [1987]: Herr *et al.*, eds. 1991; third season [1989]: Herr *et al.*, eds. 1997; fourth season [1992]: Herr *et al.*, eds. 2000; fifth season [1994]: Herr *et al.*, eds. 2002). Preliminary reports have also been published (first season [1984]: Geraty 1985; Geraty *et al.* 1986; 1987; second season [1987]: Geraty *et al.* 1988; 1989; 1990; third season [1989]: Younker *et al.* 1990; Herr *et al.* 1991; LaBianca *et al.* 1995; fourth season [1992]: Younker *et al.* 1993; Herr *et al.* 1994; fifth season [1994]: Younker *et al.* 1996; Herr *et al.* 1996; sixth season [1996]: Younker *et al.* 1997; Herr *et al.* 1997; seventh season [1998]: Herr *et al.* 1999; 2000; eighth season [2000]: Herr, Clark and Trenchard 2001; 2002)¹.

In the 2002 season, a team of 18 Jordanians and 36 foreigners participated in the fieldwork and camp activities of the interdisciplinary project at al-'Umayrī, located about 10km south of 'Amman's Seventh Circle on the Queen 'Alia Airport Highway, at the turnoff for Amman National Park (Fig. 1).

In the first season (1984) four fields of excavation were opened (Fields A, B, C, and D) (Fig. 2). During the second season (1987) three of the four fields were expanded (Fields A, B, and D), one was completed to bedrock (Field C), and two



1. Map of the central plateau of Jordan with the major sites of the Mādabā Plains Project.

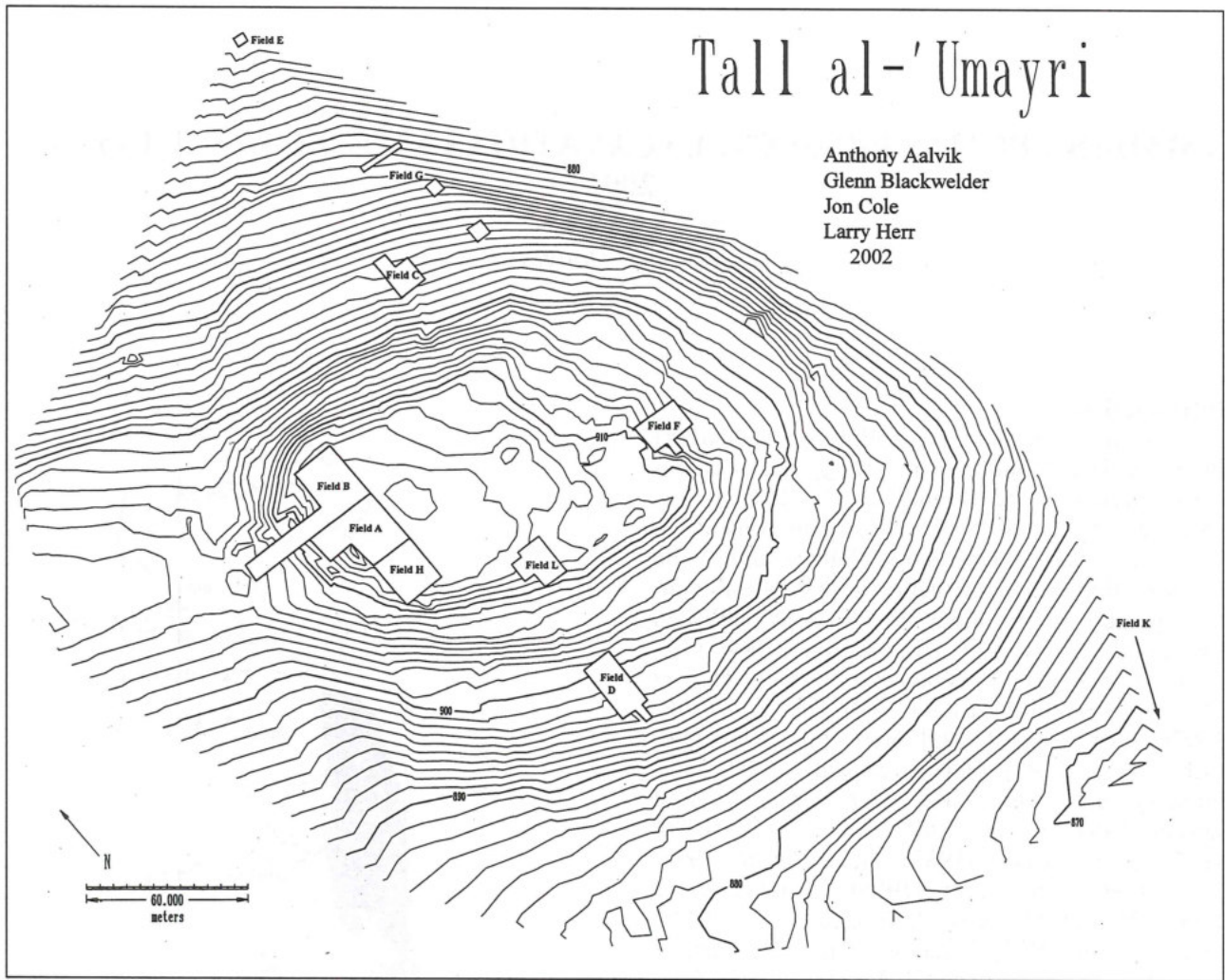
new fields were opened (Fields E and F). In the third season (1989) one field was expanded (Field A), three fields were reopened old squares and were slightly expanded (Fields B, D, and F), another was reduced in excavation from two squares to one (Field E), and a new field was opened on the north slope (Field G). In the fourth season (1992) previously opened squares in three fields were

1. We wish to thank Dr. Fawwaz al-Kraysheh for granting permission for this collaborative effort, and Dr. Pierre Bikai (ACOR) for his support and assistance. The odeum was published in preliminary form following excavations conducted by a joint British, American, and Australian team in 1982 and 1983 (see Clark *et al.* 1986). For an overview of

Roman theaters in this region, see Segal (1995) and Retzlaff (2001).

For the problem of odeum as an architectural type, see Gros (1996: 308) and Thompson (1950).

For various possible awning systems in theaters, see Graefe (1979).



2. Topographic map of Tall al-'Umayri.

deepened (Fields A, D, and F), one field had existing squares deepened while expanding by one square (Field B), and two fields were discontinued (Fields E and G). During the fifth season (1994) one field was deepened (Field A), another was expanded and deepened (Field B), and one was added (Field H south of Field A). In the sixth season (1996) three fields were expanded (Fields A, B, and H). The tomb excavations on the southeastern slopes of the tall, already begun under the hinterland survey in 1994, became part of the al-'Umayri excavations as Field K. During the seventh season two fields had their squares deepened (Fields A and B), two expanded (Fields H and K), and a new field was opened on the southern lip of the site (Field L). In the eighth season we deepened three fields (Fields A, B, and H) and expanded and deepened in two fields (Fields K and L).

This season Field A was not worked, while Field B was expanded to the north to catch the northern limits of the Bronze and Iron Age settle-

ments. Portions of two other squares in Field B were worked to complete the last vestiges of unexcavated material in the Late Bronze Age building, while work in another square brought it into phase with the early Iron I discoveries of earlier seasons. In Field H, at the southwestern corner of the site, we excavated the plaster and cobble surfaces in the largest room of the later administrative complex and examined the sediment outside a major wall in another square to assess its date. Excavations in Field L on the southern lip of the site examined more of the Hellenistic structure by opening two new squares and reopening one other.

Field B: The Western Defense System and Northwestern Domestic Area (Kent V. Bramlett, University of Toronto, and Douglas R. Clark, Walla Walla College)

The primary objective of the Field B excavations this season involved an extension northward to the very edge of the tall. We hoped to reveal more

of the Late Bronze Age building discovered in the three previous seasons, and to finish work in the refuse pit that was filled with thousands of bone fragments by early Iron I activity associated with the people who built the four-room house (Building B) currently being conserved and restored for visitor presentation. With this in mind, we opened three new squares, 8K10, 8K11, and 8K12 in an E-W row to the north of previous Field B excavations. Activity also took place throughout 8K02, and the north balks of 7K92, 8K00, and 8K01 were removed. Limited work in 8K01 also completed excavation of the floor of one of the rooms of Late Bronze Age (Building C). We particularly wanted to know if Building C did indeed have more rooms to the north and also whether what appeared to be a perimeter wall (more than simply a tower) should turn from the west to follow the north edge of the acropolis. We expected to uncover more Late Iron II/Persian domestic walls and surfaces, especially in 8K12, that hopefully would help us draw a more coherent picture of the late Iron II/Persian activity in this field from the pieces afforded to us in previous seasons.

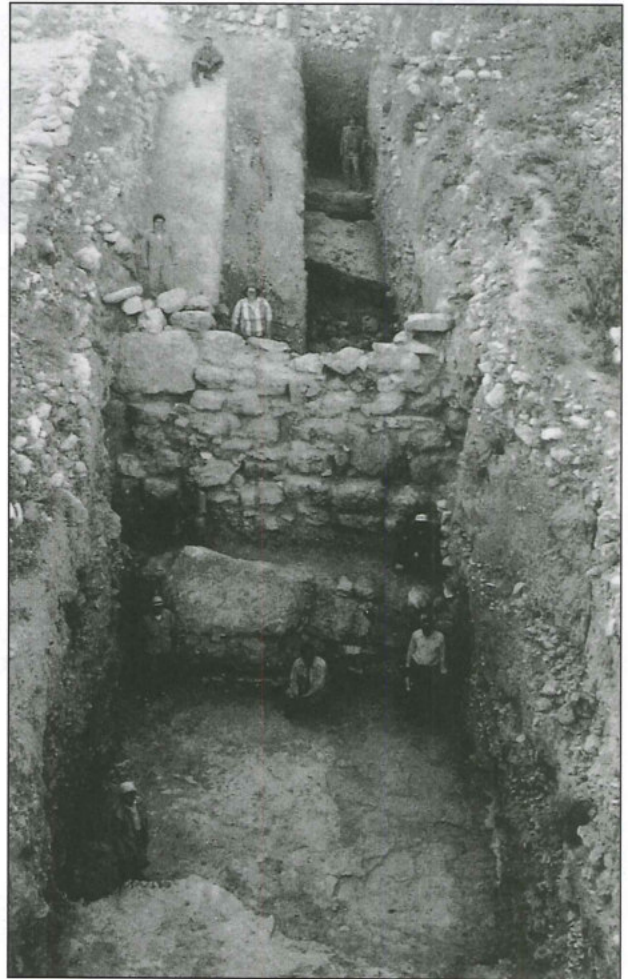
Fieldwork in 2002 has not altered our understanding of the Field B phasing deriving from the most recent past seasons. Our work this year involved primarily remains from the Late Bronze Age, the early Iron Age I period, and the late Iron Age II.

Phase 14 (Middle Bronze Age). At another location, the dry moat of the MB defense system was excavated (1994) in Squares 7K84 and 7K85. Because of its depth of five meters, we only cleared a two-meter width of the moat to the bottom (Fig. 3). This year we cleared it to a five-meter width exposing the bottom of the moat. In the process we revealed a layer of naturally occurring clay still covering a portion of the moat bottom along the plane that the ancient excavators appeared to be following (Fig. 4). The 0.30-0.40m thick layer of clay, capped with ca. 0.10m of natural bedrock, consisted of a pure white nari/chalk matrix over yellow clay which itself overlay a thin layer of purple clay. We had discovered a source of raw materials for use in the construction of the rampart and perhaps for ceramic vessels.

Phase 13 (Late Bronze Age) (Fig. 5). The Late Bronze Age remains at al-'Umayri are contributing to the understanding of this sparsely represented period in the highlands of Jordan. Previous seasons of excavation revealed Building C with two well-preserved rooms (Rooms C1 and C2), the size and

construction of which tentatively suggest identifying it as a palace, certainly not a domestic dwelling (Herr *et al.* 2001: 242-243).

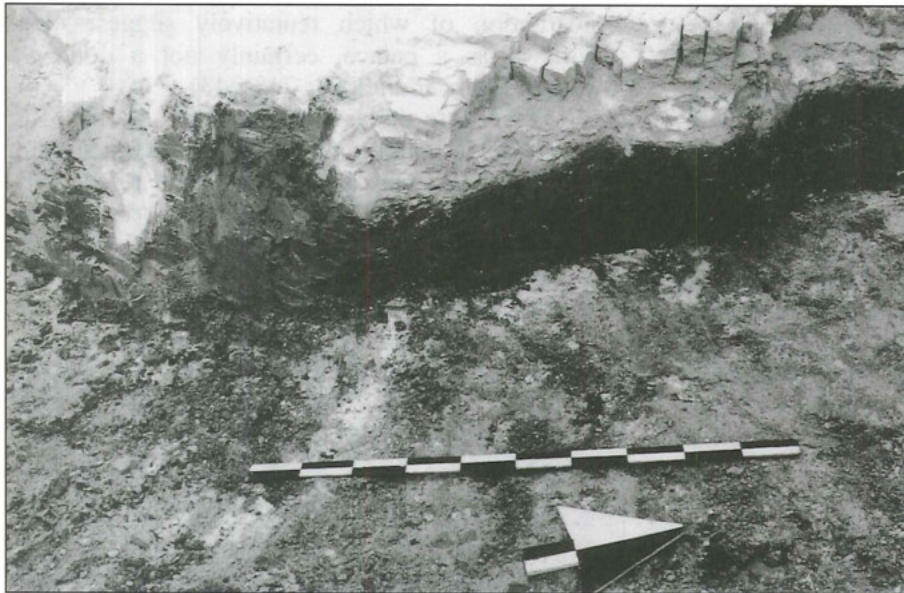
Directly to the east of Room C1, Wall 8K02: 28, previously dated to the early Iron I (functioning as the western wall to the Phase 12 refuse pit), yielded ceramic evidence that it had been constructed no later than near the end of the Late Bronze Age or as early as the Middle Bronze Age (Fig. 6). Although its phase and functional relationship to Building C are not clear at this stage,



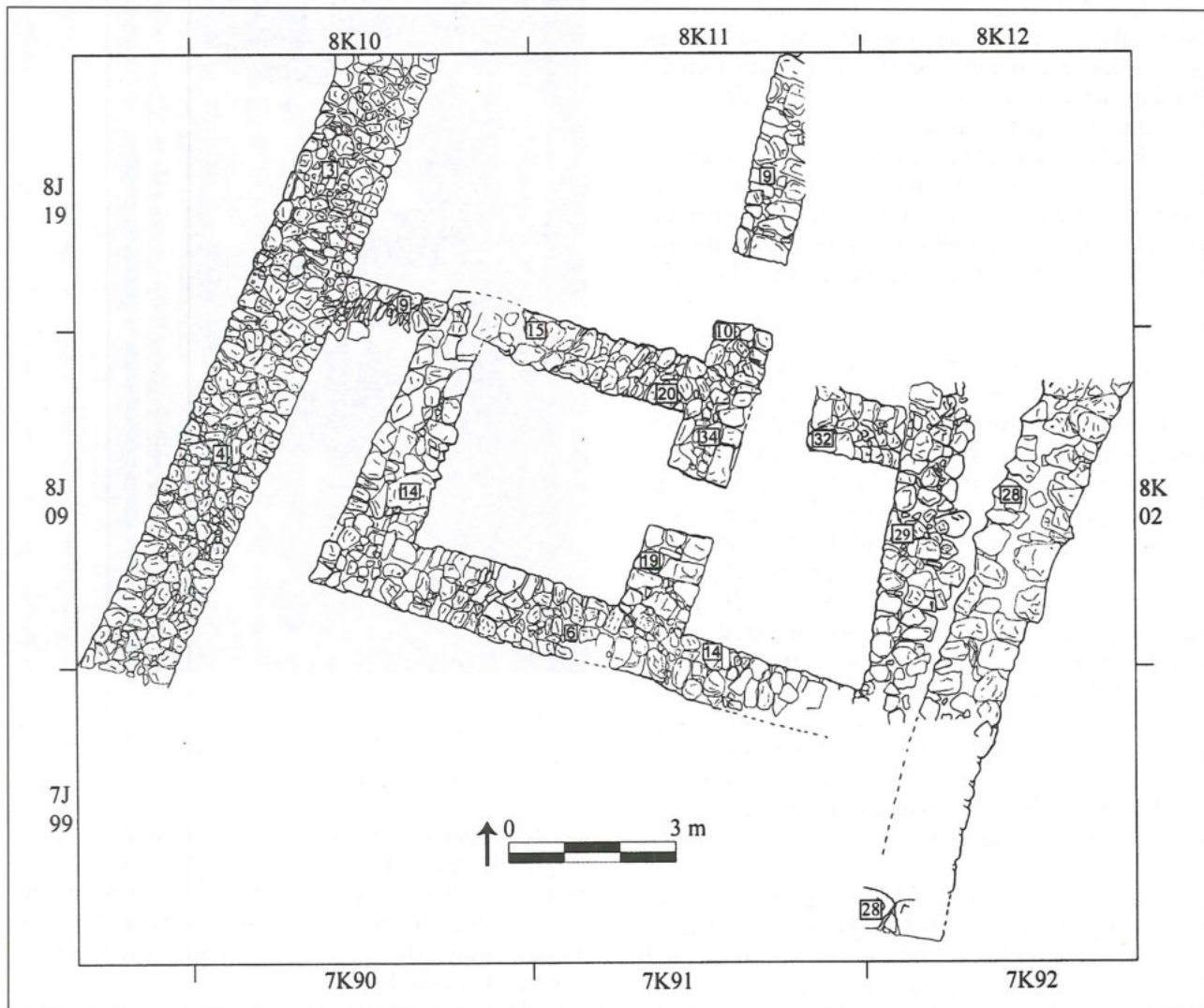
3. Tall al-'Umayri Field B: The fortification system. Foreground at bottom: floor of MB IIC dry moat' two-phase early Iron I retaining wall constructed on top of about one meter of MB fill; bedrock at back right; MB rampart in back center; early Iron I perimeter wall at top.

the close placement of walls and its uninterrupted length of approximately ten meters suggest this was an area of the tell that was highly developed by important structures in the Late Bronze Age. Because the wall may turn west, it may be a perimeter wall around the possible palace.

Results from the 2002 season furnished additional information about Rooms C1 and C2, last ex-



4. Tall al-'Umayri Field B: Clay deposit on the floor of the MB IIC rampart dry moat; te dark yellow (dark gray in this photo) clay lay beneath a layer of cracked limestone; portions of this clay was found mixed in with the stones of the rampart above.



5. Tall al-'Umayri Field B: Plan of the LB "palace."



6. Tall al-'Umayri Field B: LB walls and early Iron I refuse pit. The people are in the refuse pit which extended from the east-west wall at far left bottom and continues past the line of excavation at the far right; not all of it was excavated in the north because of the precarious stones in the wall to the west. The eastern room of the LB building, possibly a palace, is just visible at the upper center; a possible perimeter wall for the "palace" complex is situated behind the people and extends from the far right of excavation to the south, under an iron II wall and corners to the west very near the left side of the photo' a very small segment of the east-west portion of the wall is visible behind the higher Iron II wall, going under the early Iron I Wall at the top right of the photo. The lowest wall, at lower left, is MB IIC.

cavated in 2000. A small probe against Wall 8K01: 19 — the southern dividing wall between the two rooms — was cut into Surface 8K01: 42 to a depth of 0.45 meters (Fig. 7). A layer of plaster covered over the compacted very pale brown mix of nari and earth fill, though it was difficult to separate where the plaster gave way to the matrix below. The appearance of the fill was similar to the MB rampart material where it had been elsewhere excavated. This seems to confirm the circumstantial evidence provided by floor elevation readings suggesting Building C was constructed directly on the inner down-slope of the MB rampart.

Further excavations revealed three use phases of the floor of Room C1. As already noted, Layer 42, a plaster layer, overlay the rampart surface. Later in the Late Bronze Age two additional surface layers were added — Layer 52 was also plaster, even if sparsely preserved, and Layer 51, over 52, consisted of beaten earth.

Two new squares, 8K10 and 8K11, contributed considerably to the emerging plan of Building C. We can now tentatively outline two more rooms, C3 (north of C2) and C4 (north of C1), both with walls preserved to nearly the same height as those in the rooms exposed thus far and constructed in a sim-



7. Tall al-'Umayri Field B: Floor of LB "palace" in the eastern room. The floor seems to have been the mixed nari and earth of the top of the MB IIC rampart upon which the walls were also founded.

ilar fashion (Fig. 8). Passing through the doorway leading north out of C1 into C4, one encounters immediately a doorway opening to the west into C3. Little more is known about C4, which largely awaits excavation in Square 8K12 beneath the Iron II strata studied this season. The north-south walls which separate the two new rooms, Wall 8K11: 9 north of the new doorway and Wall 8K11: 10 op-



8. Tall al-'Umayri Field B: LB "palace" walls. The previously excavated two rooms are visible in the foreground and center right. Behind the person sitting on the wall stub at center is a doorway leading to two other rooms as yet only partially excavated. The perimeter wall of the "palace" compound is visible at top right.

posite, are directly in line with Walls 8K01: 19 and 8K01: 34 dividing rooms C1 from C2. Exposure of the north wall of both rooms and the western wall of C3 awaits further excavation.

Square 8K10 remains separated from Square 8K11 by its unexcavated east balk. This limits our understanding of Room C3. Dry-laid, unfaced Walls 9, 10, and 15 were of boulder-and-chink construction similar to the walls forming C1 and C2 (Fig. 9). Earth Layer 8K10: 12 sealed against Walls 3 and 9, the loose pale brown earth containing chunks of burned timbers and other evidence of destruction. Three vessels were found in Layer 12: one goblet, cracked but still maintaining its original shape, only lacking a base; two juglets (Figs. 10-12); and 14 or 15 unfired clay figurines. The figurines were very poorly preserved and some were barely distinguishable as such.

Phase 12 (Early Iron I). Questions continue to arise surrounding the massive refuse pit, excavated over several seasons and having produced some 50 objects, 5,000 sherds and 15,000 bone fragments (Fig. 6). How the pit relates to the Iron I four-room house and from that to the rebuilding of the defenses following an earthquake around 1200 BC is still not entirely clear. The dating of Wall 8K02: 28, the western wall of the pit in Square 8K02, to the Late Bronze Age has intensified the discussion, pressing the yet unanswered question about whether deposition in the pit pre- or post-dated the earthquake and the repairs occasioned by it.

Phase 11 (Early Iron I). Little besides excavations in the refuse pit produced Iron I loci this season. Earth Layer 8K10: 6 was an exception. Its



9. Tall al-'Umayri Field B: Debris in one of the two new rooms of the LB "palace" discovered this season. A doorway is at the top right.

earth was pebbly and gravelly with pottery sherds and bones in abundance. It produced only early Iron I pottery sherds, but was not a primary deposition, and the cooking pots varied somewhat from those found in Building B or the pit.

While clearing the MB moat, we also exposed more of the early Iron I retaining wall at the bottom of the rampart and above the reuse of the moat. This operation discovered a very large stone in the foundations of the early Iron I retaining wall (Fig. 3).

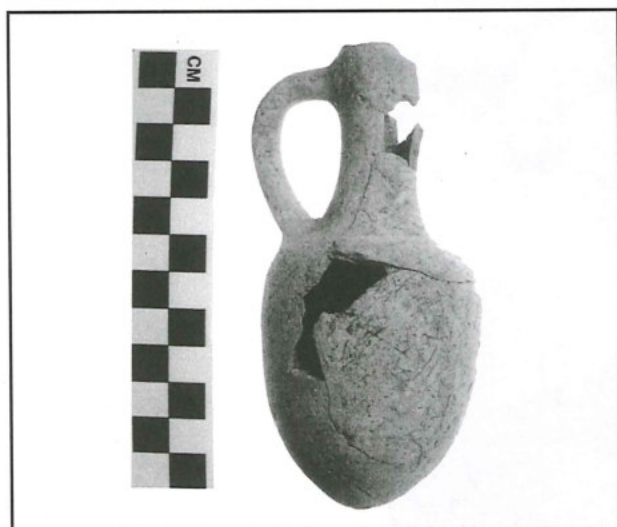
Phase 7 (Late Iron II/Persian). While the Bronze Age wall line on the northwestern corner of the tall did not begin its expected turn to the east in



10. Tall al-'Umayrī Field B: White slipped painted goblet found in the debris inside the LB "palace".



11. Tall al-'Umayrī Field B: Oval-shaped juglet found in the debris inside the LB "palace."



12. Tall al-'Umayrī Field B: Dipper juglet found in the debris inside the LB "palace."



13. Tall al-'Umayrī Field B: Possible late Iron II perimeter wall at north edge of the site (right). A late Iron II domestic room is at left.

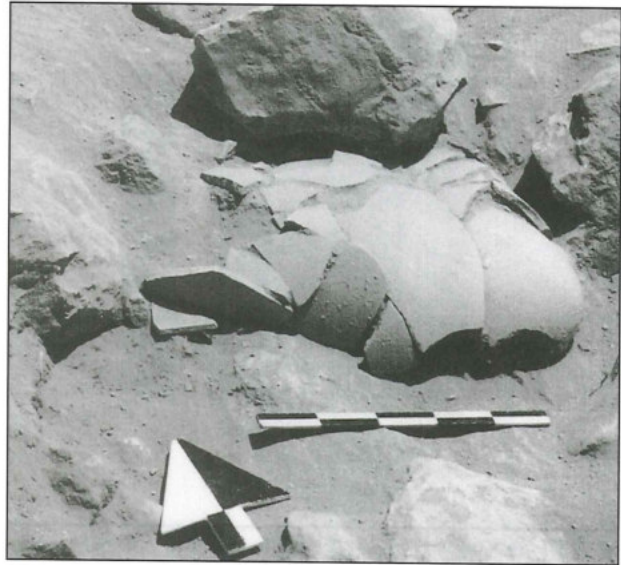


14. Tall al-'Umayrī Field B: Tower / perimeter wall of MB IIC at top with late Iron II curving addition at bottom. The MB wall was reused in LB.

the space exposed by the new squares opened in 2002, we did perhaps identify some severely disrupted foundation courses of a major late Iron II wall that followed the tell contours (**Fig. 13**). Wall 8K12: 10, Wall 8K11: 8, and a pattern of stones forming a curve in rubble Layer 8K10: 7 marked the line which, and it remains uncertain, may have

indicated a perimeter wall sometime in the Late Iron II/Persian period (**Fig. 14**). Unfortunately, nearly all the upper courses had sloughed off down the hillside, making positive identification impossible. Moreover, no clear perimeter wall has been found elsewhere at the site from this period.

The LB materials in all three new squares excavated this season were covered by a late Iron II/Persian destruction layer (8K10: 8, 8K11: 6, 8K12: 6=8K02: 21) with an average thickness of approximately 0.50m throughout. These layers sealed against Walls 8K10: 3, 9, 10; 8K11: 9, 10, 12, 15, and possible Post Bases 8K11: 13, 14, which may connect with a series of post bases found previously in 8K01 which were located at the same elevation, but which have yet to be linked stratigraphically. The destruction appeared clear in Squares 8K10 and 8K11 with burned beams and bricks and dark gray to black ash pockets. A smashed LI2/Per storage jar lying on its side within the layer (**Fig. 15**) and other small finds — jar stop-



15. Tall al-'Umayri Field B: Smashed piuthos in situ within destruction of a late Iron II house.



16. Tall al-'Umayri Field B: Room in a late Iron II domestic dwelling with stones and pottery lying on the surface.



17. Tall al-'Umayri Field B: Pithos in situ under the floor of the late Iron II room.

pers, spindle whorls, basalt grinder fragments, pounders/ballistica — suggest a domestic function for the building.

Parts of a structure were unearthed in the southwest quadrant of Square 8K12. It consisted of two bonded walls (8K12: 5 and 9) (compare **Figs. 13 with 16**), a questionable third wall (8K12: 12), a fragmentary surface (8K12: 11), a buried store jar (**Fig. 17**), and a possible silo structure (8K12: 4) constructed over the buried pithos. The fragments of several loaf-shaped grinders, a mortar, pounder, and a possible silo structure (8K12:4) constructed over the buried pithos. The fragments of several loaf-shaped grinders, a mortar, pounder, and stone bowl suggest a domestic function. Stratigraphic complexities, however, might point to two phases of use of the house.

This room and its buried store-jar might have been part of the pillared building to the south (which we now identify at Building D) (**Fig. 18**). Several pithoi, one buried completely to its rim in the floor (Herr *et al.* 2001: 245), were found in this building previously, connected with surfaces at nearly the same level. While the stratigraphy of potential surfaces in Building D is complex and incomplete, partly because of remaining balks, another season of excavation will help us understand this building significantly. Pier Base 8K02: 33, exposed but not recorded in 2000 for Building D, falls in line with Wall 8K02: 14, suggesting a second north-south row of quoins and piers in the east

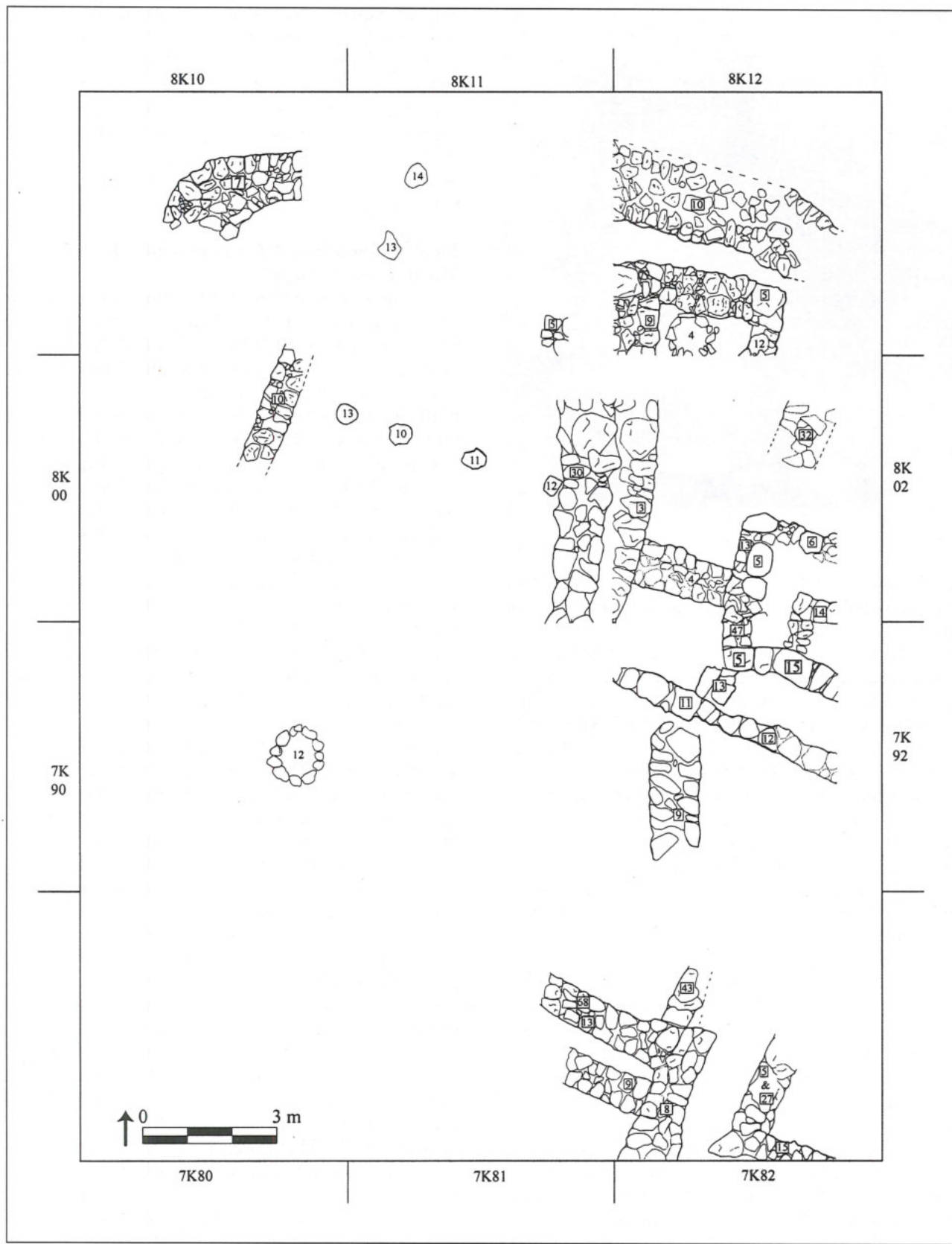
balk of Square 8K02 that parallels quoin and pier Wall 8K02: 5. Next season we will focus on excavating the new rooms of Building C and perhaps chasing the Bronze Age perimeter wall lines. Special attention will be given the “four corners” region at the northwest corner of Room C2 and the north balk of 8K00 to discover the relationship among and relational function of the walls converging there.

Field H: Southwest Quarter (Julie L. Cormack, Mount Royal College)

Field H is located at the southwestern corner of the flat top of Tall al-'Umayri. Excavations in this field began in 1994 for the initial purpose of exploring the southern extension of the Ammonite administrative complex in Field A, directly to the north. Excavations in Field H this season reopened three squares: 7K22, 7K30, and 7K31, each of which was excavated in previous years (**Fig. 2**).

In 1996, an extensive plaster floor was uncovered within parts of three squares, 7K21, 7K22, and 7K31. In 2000, one corner of this plaster floor, with its varied plaster, cobble, and earth surfaces in its makeup, as well as later pits cut into the floor, was excavated to a lower cobble layer (Locus 7K21: 26) in Square 7K21. The purpose of this year's excavation was to extend the removal of this surface down to the equivalent cobble layer in adjacent squares to the north (7K31) and to the east (7K22). In addition, towards the end of the field season, the northern and eastern balks of 7K21 were also removed down to the same cobble layer in order to provide continuity in stratigraphy between these three squares and throughout a room defined by later walls. We hoped to establish clearly the stratigraphic relationship of the visible walls to each other and to the cobble and plaster surfaces. One extra phase, not so far represented in Field H, was located this season from the early Iron II period.

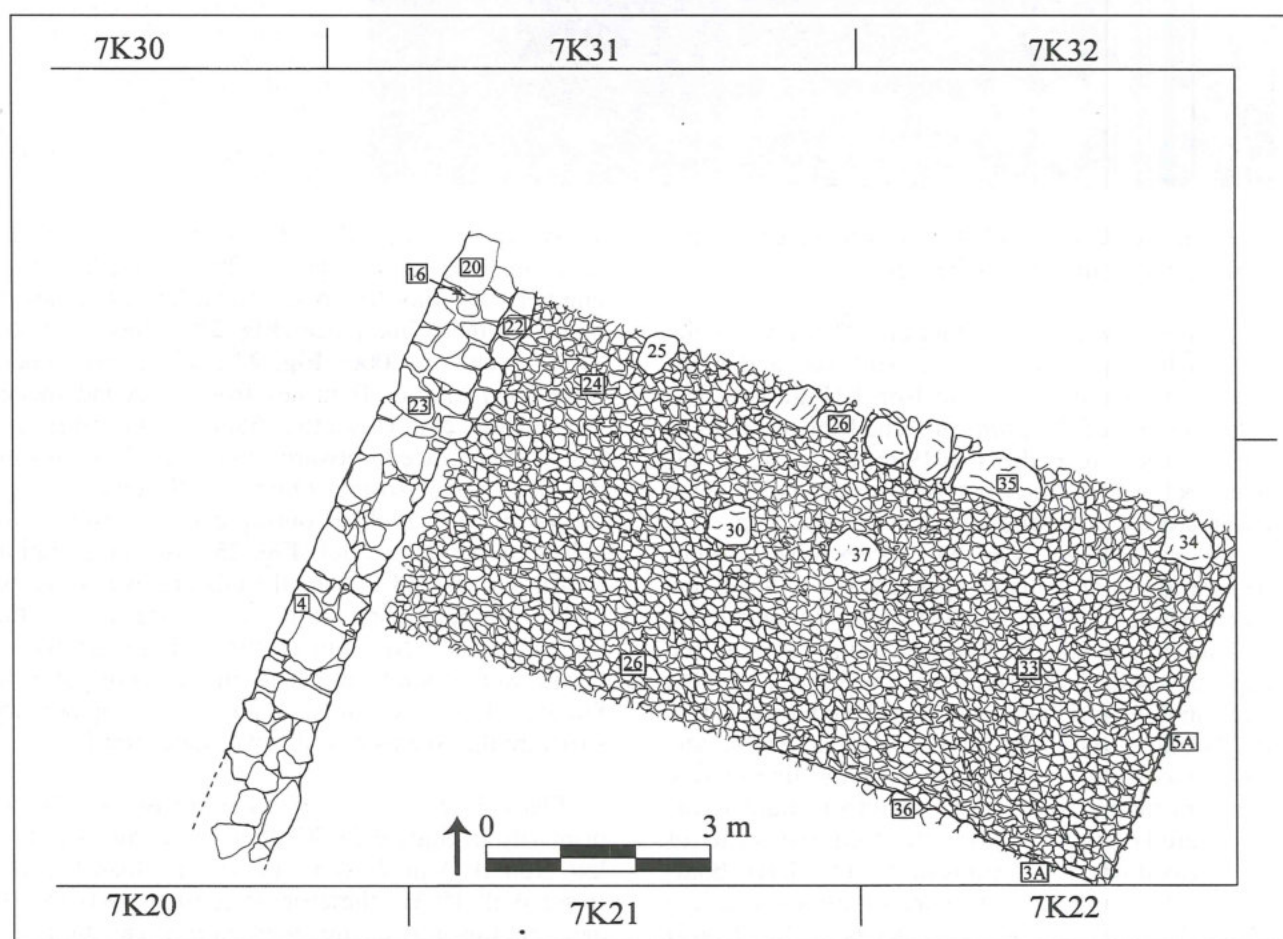
Square 7K30 was located in the westernmost part of the field. Excavations here had the aim of examining a major wall (7K30: 7) first uncovered in 1994 and excavated on its eastern side. Based on the previous excavations, it was uncertain whether the wall was part of the early Iron I perimeter wall or not. D. Berge, former supervisor of Field H, had concluded that the wall was Iron II (Berge and Willis 2002: 117). Therefore, one goal of our excavations this season was to reassess the date of Wall 7 by excavating its western side. If the wall turned out to date to early Iron I, it could be part of the perimeter wall of the site during that period. If not, it must be part of a large structure. No perimeter wall from periods later than Early Iron I has been found



18. Tall al-'Umayri Field B: Plan of the late Iron II / Persian structures in Field B; these may have been part of one or two houses.



19. Tall al-'Umayri Field H: Early Iron I wall extending diagonally across the photo from lower right to center top. It was later pitted near the center and a late Iron II wall runs against it from the left. The wall parallels a similar wall 4.5 meters to the north and may be part of a gate complex.



20. Tall al-'Umayri Field H: Plan of the late iron I architectural elements at the site.

Phases 12-10 (Early Iron I). Because the early Iron I layers found in Square 7K30 this season could not be limited to a single phase as discovered in previous seasons, we have attributed them to all the three early Iron I phases Berge discerned, although they most likely belonged to only one of

them. East-west Wall 49 was the westward extension of a wall discovered in previous seasons and also dated to early Iron I (Fig. 19). The bottom earth layer of a probe against it produced pottery confirming its early Iron I date. The founding level has not yet been reached, but we have exposed at least seven courses. The wall may be part of a gate structure, because it is a substantial wall and parallels the



21. Tall al-'Umayri Field H: Lower level (late Iron I) of cobbles and stone features in sanctuary courtyard. The two long walls at right and left are much later and the courtyard must have originally extended farther to both the right and left. Only the large oval stone at right, near the person with the hat, belongs to this phase' it may have been a pillar.

perimeter wall in Field A, ca. 4.5 meters to the north, after it curved into the city.

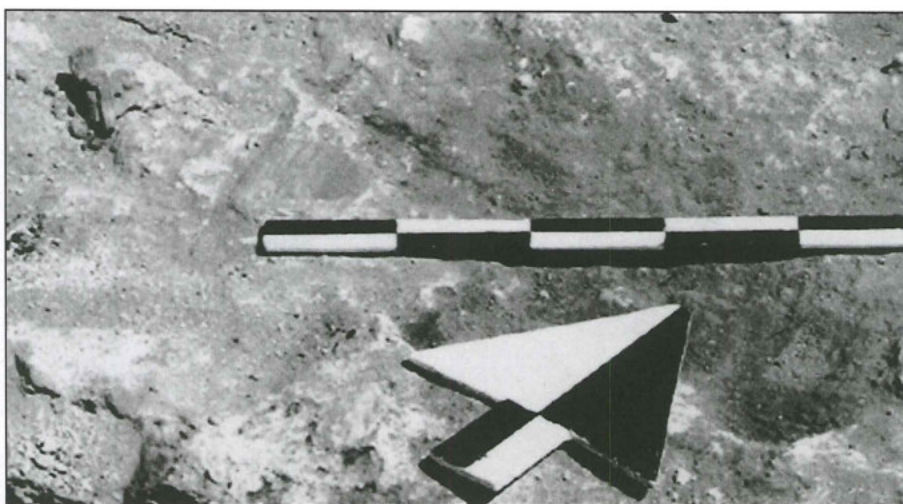
Phase 9 (Late Iron I) (Fig. 20). The lowest suite of cobble, earth, and plaster surfaces under the plaster surface dated to late Iron I (Fig. 21). The rim typology of the *pithoi* matched those found in the storeroom of Field A in 1996. For reasons outlined below, we interpret this space as an open courtyard used in religious activities, perhaps as a shrine or sanctuary. On the cobbles several boulders rested in an apparent pattern, but without further exposure of the courtyard their functions are not clearly understood. Roughly in the center of the exposed room (remember that the large east-west walls in the photo date later than the courtyard) two flat boulders probably served as pillar bases, perhaps associated in some way with the line of five boulders farther to the north. Another boulder was discovered on the cobbles in the northeast corner of the excavation area. Opposite the five large boulders in the southern part of the courtyard is a line of smaller stones immediately beneath a late Iron II wall. The courtyard most likely continues south of the limits of our excavation. The eastern wall, however, seems to have been constructed prior to the surfaces. If a gateway (or entranceway) to the settlement was in this area, as we project for Phases 10-12, the entrance to the courtyard may have been near the northern limit of our excavated space.

No small finds were located immediately above the cobbles, but were found in great numbers

above some of the sub-surfaces in the suite of surfaces making up this phase. They included large numbers of pithoi fragments and a few examples of model shrines. One piece (Fig. 22) joined a model shrine found in 2000 (Fig. 23), while two others were fragments of figurines from a second model shrine (Fig. 24). These two figurines, however, appear to have faced outward, unlike the figurines on the first model shrine. Other small figurine fragments found in Field H during earlier seasons may belong to a third model (Fig. 25). A concentration of ash surrounded the small finds and was heaviest in the northern parts of the courtyard around the five boulders. No remarkable concentrations of bones were found anywhere in the courtyard. In Square 7K30, we found Wall 45, a fragmentary structure that seems best dated to Late Iron I.

Phase 8 (Early Iron II). This phase was found primarily in Square 7K30 where an earlier stage of late Iron II Wall 7 seems to be later than the late Iron I Wall 45. We therefore suggest an early Iron II date, but this may change with more excavation.

Phase 7 (Late Iron II). The debris and tumble layers west of Wall 7 in Square 7K30 clearly date to the beginning of our late Iron II phases. Although the dominant period of pottery in all layers was early Iron I, a few clear late Iron II sherds showed up in virtually every pail. This was the situation in all layers associated with Wall 7 down to its founding level. A few small, ephemeral pits were dug into the



22. Tall al-'Umayrī Field H: A small fragment of a model shrine (upper left) was found this season; it was a missing part of the shrine found in the 2000 season.



23. Tall al-'Umayrī Field H: Reconstructed model shrine found in the 2000 season; the newly discovered piece was the palmette capital on the left side.



24. Tall al-'Umayrī Field H: Two new figurines from a second model shrine.

layers, but we could detect no stratigraphic change in the pottery.

Phases 5/6 (Late Iron II/Persian). Although a few early Iron II sherds occurred in these layers, the pottery in this second suite of surfaces clearly dates to our late Iron II corpus. Unlike the Phase 9 cobble

surface in the sanctuary courtyard, the cobbles from this phase contained no large boulders (Fig. 26). But, like the cobbles of Phase 9, they seem to have supported a suite of beaten earth and plaster surfaces rather than serving as a surface on their own. Small finds were more frequent on the upper layer than on the cobbles and the intervening plaster layers. Indeed on top of the cobbles and associated with at least two plaster "surfaces" running against it was a plaster-mixing basin (Fig. 27). The photo shows some of the plaster still in the basin. It also shows how the plaster "surface" associated with it was actually a support surface for the real surface immediately above. The basin was used only in the



25. Tall al-'Umayri Field H: Upper layer of cobbles from the Iron II period. The bottom of a Hellenistic pit cut through the layer at the center; the bottom of the plaster mixing basin, used with the plaster layers founded upon the cobbles, is still preserved at right center; the long walls at top and bottom are later than the cobbles, except for the large oval stone above the person on the right.

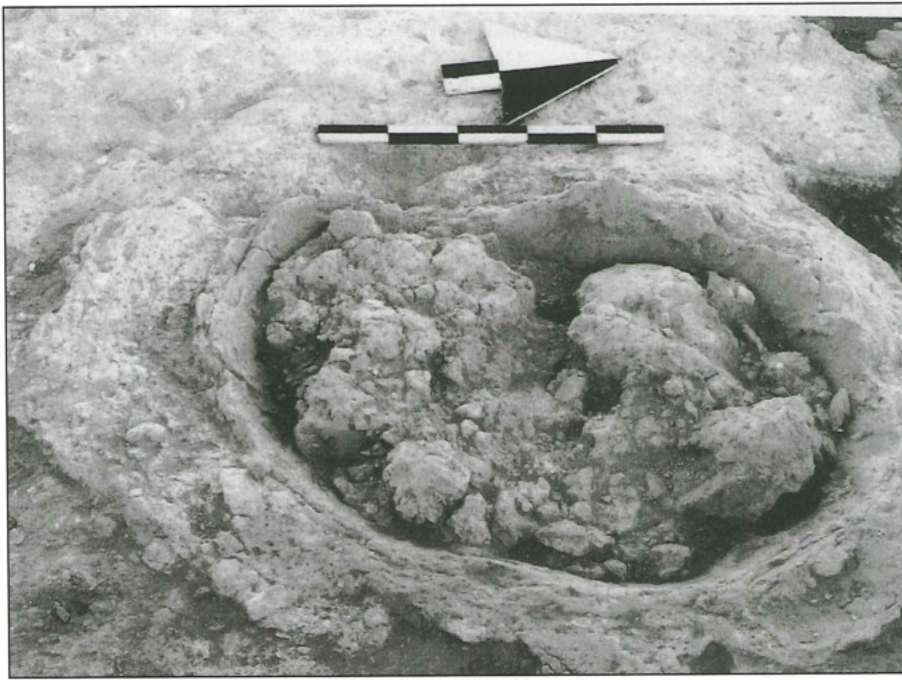


26. Tall al-'Umayri Field H: A double exposure containing two views of the same model shrine fragment found in the 1998 season.

construction phase and was put out of use when the use surface was laid.

Fig. 25 also shows how the northern wall of our excavated area is later than the surfaces of this

phase as they go beneath the wall in the northeast. Only later plaster surfaces, excavated in 1996, seem to have been laid with this wall. However, the eastern wall of the courtyard was constructed prior



27. Tall al-'Umaryi Field H: Plaster mixing basin found above the upper level of cobbles but embedded within the upper plaster layer and sealed against by a lower plaster layer, showing neither the cobbles nor the lower plaster layer were really surfaces. The real surface overlay the mixing basin; globs of plaster filled the basin and supported the surface above.

to the laying of all surfaces. Later pits cut into this suite of surfaces.

Phase 4 (Persian). The north and south walls of our excavated area, along with their foundation trenches, seem to date well after the foundation of the administrative complex farther north. They are also later than the late Iron II suite of surfaces in Phases 5/6. We thus date them to the Persian period, although the pottery still remains that of the late Iron II/Persian corpus. Into the plaster surface from this phase was a pit for a large isolated pithos. If the surface represents a continuation of the sanctuary, the pithos may have been intended to receive offerings. But no other cultic items were found.

Phase 2 (Byzantine). Two pits cut the upper plaster and cobble surfaces and contained a few Byzantine potsherds and probably date to that time.

Field L: The Southern Edge (David C. Hopkins, Wesley Theological Seminary).

Acknowledgments

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