

# KATARET ES-SAMRA: A LATE BRONZE AGE CEMETERY IN TRANSJORDAN?

by

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## Introduction

The *katarrah* region is a geological formation (Pl. XLVIII, 1) consisting of a succession of barren, grey cliffs of Pleistocene Lisan marls separating the *ghor* and the *zor* of the Jordan Valley.<sup>1</sup>

Kataret es-Samra ("Katarrah of the dark woman") is the specific, local name given to an area in this region c. one half kilometer square roughly forty kilometers northwest of Amman and five kilometers north of the confluence of the Wadi Zarqa (Biblical Jabbok) and the Jordan River (Fig. I).<sup>2</sup>

Although Nelson Glueck travelled and surveyed extensively in Transjordan he did not apparently explore the area presently under

consideration,<sup>3</sup> and it was not investigated archaeologically until it was visited in 1976 by members of the Jordan Valley Survey team whose members were drawn from the Jordanian Department of Antiquities, Jordan University and the American Center for Oriental Research.<sup>4</sup> In addition to recording surface evidence for man's presence here at least as early as the Early Bronze Age, the survey team excavated a Late Bronze Age tomb in order to protect its rich contents from the illicit digging that had already begun.

During May and June, 1978, a more intensive investigation of the Kataret es-Samra region was begun by the author under the auspices of the American Schools of Oriental

1 D. Baily, *The Geography of the Bible*, Harper & Row (New York), 1974, pp. 199-201.

2 Map Reference. 1:10,000 Jordan Valley Sheet 99/70, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, published under the direction of the Department of Lands and Surveys of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, 1950, by the Air Survey Company, 1950. The area presently under discussion was concentrated in four grids: 202-204 East/West, and 173-175 North/South.

3 N. Glueck, "Explorations in Eastern Palestine, IV." *The Annual of the American Schools of Oriental Research*, Vols. XXV-XXVII for 1945-49 (New Haven), 1951.

4 Initial results of a portion of this work have been published: M. Ibrahim, J. A. Sauer and K. Yassine, "The East Jordan Valley Survey, 1975," *BASOR* 222, pp. 41-66. The report of their work at Kataret es-Samra (their site No. 126) will appear in a future publication.

Research.<sup>5</sup> This work was comprised of two facets: excavation, in an attempt to determine whether or not the tomb excavated by the survey team was an isolated occurrence or rather a single element in a larger, L.B. cemetery; and survey, in order to initiate a more detailed study of the sequence of cultural development in this transitional, ecological zone. The results of this brief, initial season are presented here.

## Excavation

While conducting their exploration of Tell Kataret es-Samra (Fig. 2, our Site 4) in 1976, the joint Jordan Valley Survey team interrupted the clandestine excavation of a large tomb at the end of an adjacent *katarrah* "finger" just to the south of the "tell" (Fig. 2, our Site 2). In order to preserve the contents of this tomb it was subsequently cleared by members of the survey team, producing a rich assemblage of local pottery, bronze weapons and imported L.B. II Cypriot ceramics.

One of the primary goals of the present project was to determine if the tomb excavated in 1976 represented a single, isolated burial, or whether it was, in fact, part of a Late Bronze Age cemetery.

<sup>5</sup> In addition to the author, our small staff included James Armstrong (University of Chicago), Annie Lee Jones (Eastern Illinois University, and Jericho-trained Khamis Issa Fahed. Our work was greatly facilitated by the kind help of Department of Antiquities representative Ali N. Saidi.

Funding for the pilot season was generously provided by the Research Council of the Graduate School, University of Missouri-Columbia; the Department of Antiquities of Jordan; and the Kyle-Kelso Fund.

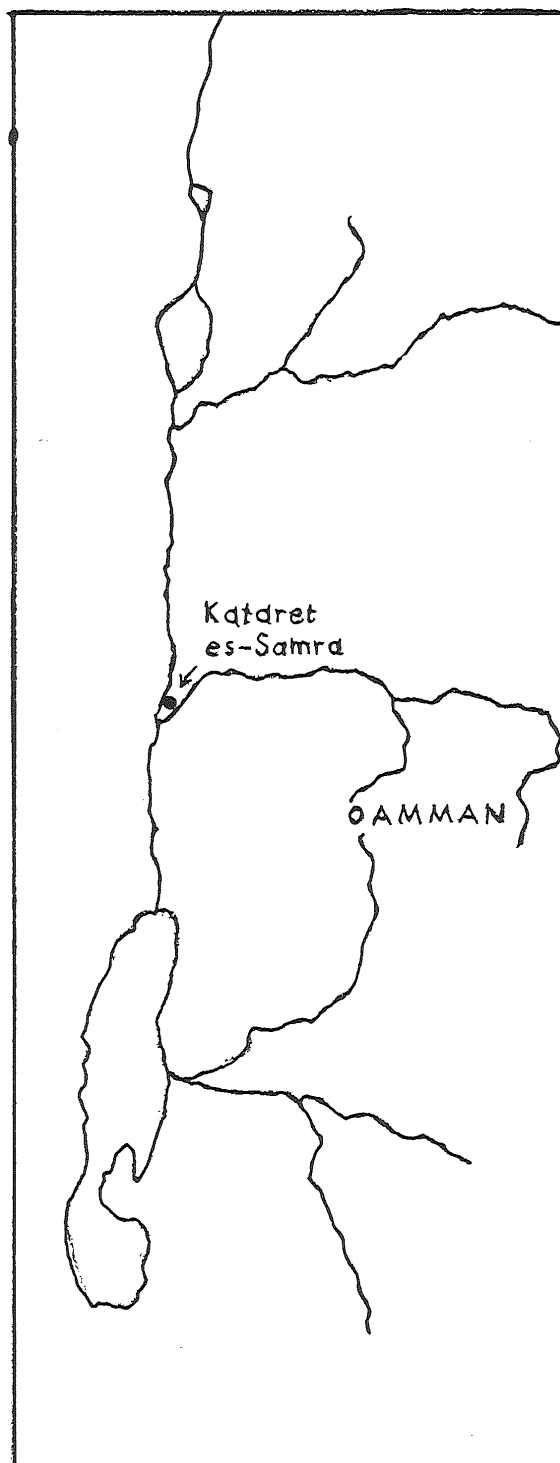
## Methodology

When we arrived at the site some of the features of the earlier excavations had survived the erosion of the past two winters, and portions of the tomb floor (above our Loc. 2015), a small loculus on the eastern side of the tomb (our Loc. 2016), as well as an (east-west) north balk, and a diagonal balk running south-west to north-west, were still visible (Fig. 3). In order to gain an understanding of the natural geological stratigraphy of the area, prior to beginning a new sounding, the north balk of the earlier excavation was recut and dressed, producing a section (Pl. XLVIII, 2) which illustrated the natural breakdown of the *huwwar* formation with a sandy, wind-blown soil filling the interstices left by the *huwwar* shift

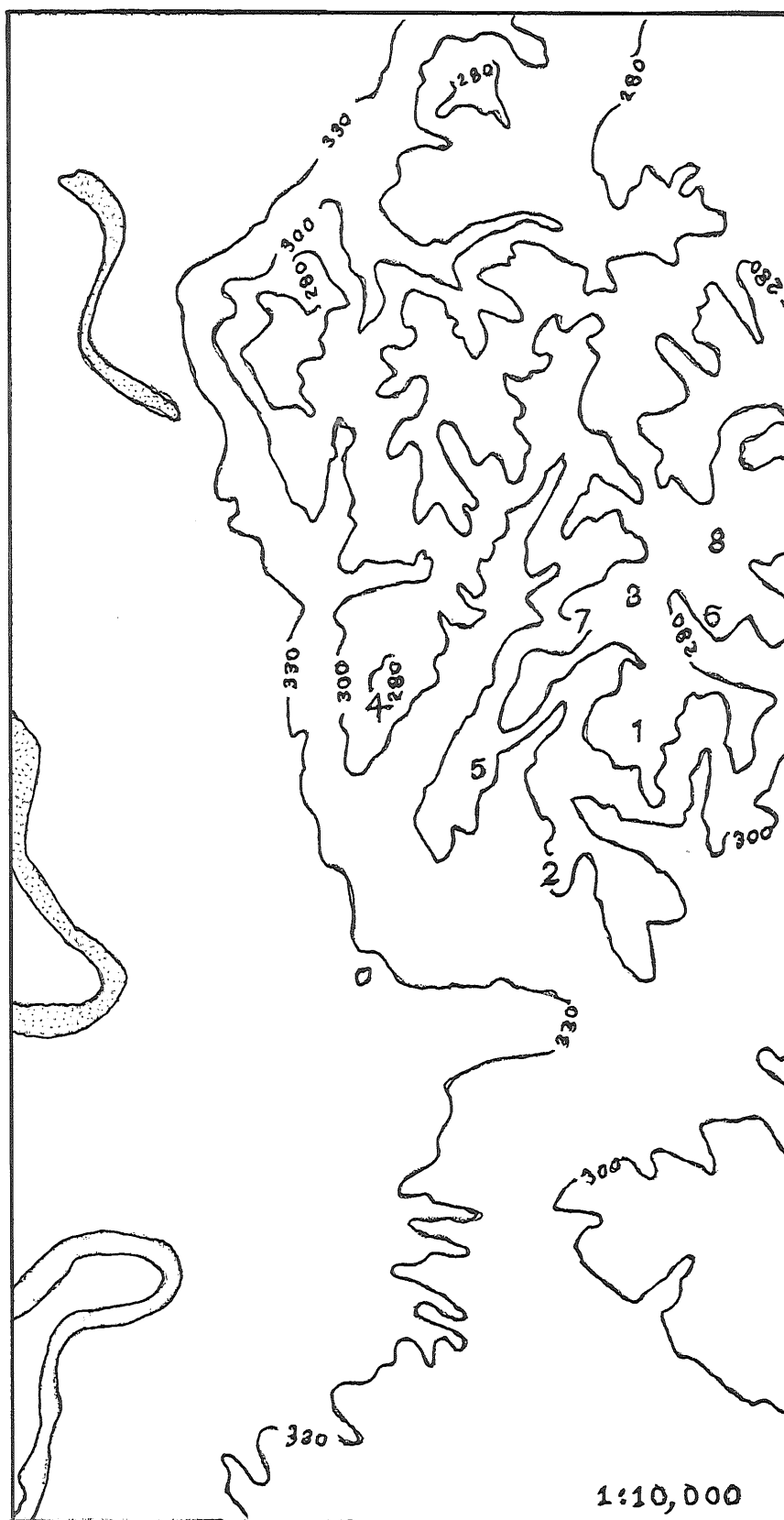
In the course of extending this clean-up operation along the existing, diagonal "west balk" we gained our first clue that not all of the archaeological deposit from this tomb had been recovered. Here, below the mixture of *huwwar* collapse and wind-blown sand, was a thin (5 - 10 cm.) band of brown soil from which protruded a bowl which still contained small fragments of bone ( Pl. XLIX, 1 ), all

Special thanks are here given to Dr. Adnan Hadidi, Director of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan; Dr. James A Sauer, Director of the American Center for Oriental Research; and Dr. Khair Yassine, Director of the excavations at Tell Mazar.

Accommodations were generously arranged by the Department of Agriculture of Jordan University at their field station in the *ghor*. The help given to us there by K.W. Langer-Rujufian, Pr. de Polacky, is gratefully acknowledged.



1. Map of the Jordan Valley indicating the position of Kataret es-Samra, just to the north of the confluence of the Rivers Zarqa (Jabbok) and Jordan.



2. Kataret es-Samra, plan of the survey area.

that remained of the original funerary offering. It was evident that we were dealing with a second locus, similar to the one on the eastern side of the tomb, but differing from it in the fact that its roof had collapsed, severely crushing its contents.

At this point we began our vertical excavation. Although, for the sake of control, twenty-three loci were utilized in our work (all but four in an area c.  $1\frac{1}{2}$  x  $2\frac{1}{2}$  M. in the northwestern corner of the area) they can here be combined into four major groups (Fig. 3):

Locus 2001. Top soil. (cf. Loc. 2019).

Locus 2002. A mixture of pebble to cobble-size *huwwar* chunks mixed with sand-size wind and waterbourn soil, definitely the result of the natural breakdown of the cliff. Inside the tomb this collapse had been aided by the original cutting of the tomb; while its proximity to the edge of the *katarrah* finger hastened the slippage of material outside the tomb. (cf. Loc. 2009, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2018).

Locus 2003. Archaeological deposit, from the western locus (c. 1.00 x 1.50m) of the tomb, consisting of skeletal and ceramic material crushed by the collapse of the roof to a maximum height of 10 cm. The soil matrix consisted of *huwwar* collapse and grainy, brown soil. (cf. Loc. 2004, 2005, 2008, 2012, 2014, 2022, 2023).

Locus 2007. The primary grey *huwwar* of the *katarrah* formation itself, which forms the floor of the tomb and its loculi. (cf. Loc. 2015, 2017).

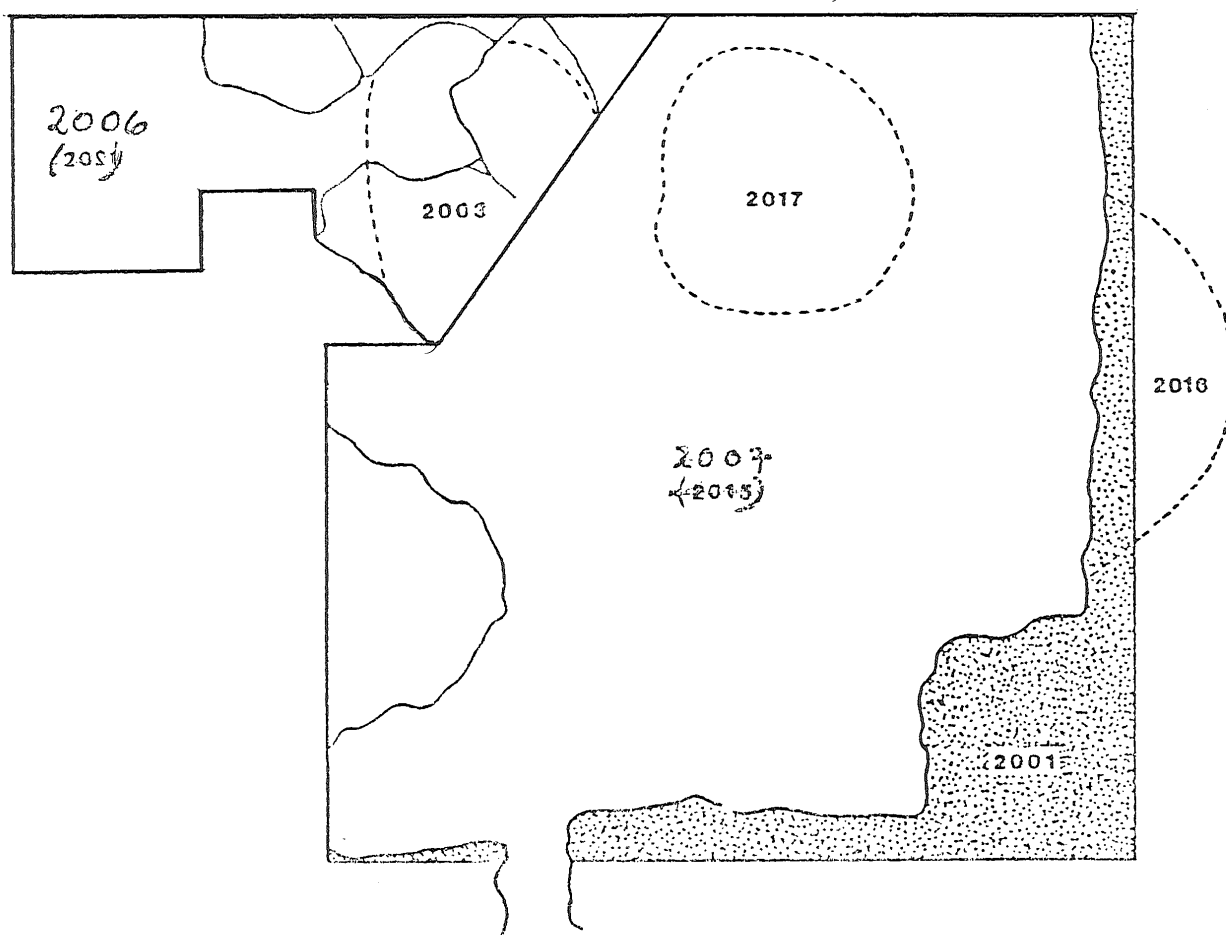
Locus 2006. Material representing the natural breakdown of the geological formation outside the tomb. (cf. Loc. 2020, 2021).

### The Funerary Deposit

As has been noted, the archaeological deposit in the western locus (2003) had been severely crushed, evidently in antiquity, by the collapse of its roof. In spite of this damage, the original presence of at least four skulls, relatively few longbones, and an admixture of animal bones could be determined (Pl. XLIX, 2), while eight vessels could be restored (Fig. 4). The fact that the human skeletal material was completely scattered around the small locus; combined with the presence of animal bones in at least one of the bowls, and in scree associated with other vessels, suggests that the material remains found in the locus had been moved there secondarily, from the floor of the main chamber during the course or subsequent interments. This suggestion is strengthened by the fact that some of the vessels exhibit ancient breaks and the missing portions could not be found in the locus deposit.

### The Ceramic Material (cf. Fig. 4)

We know from the earlier excavations that the main chamber of the tomb contained material as late as LB II, but the pottery from the western locus must be considered a separate, closed deposit, sealed and provided with its own *terminus ante quem* by the collapse of the



3. Simplified top plan of the Late Bronze Age tomb at Kataret es-Samra, indicating the position of the major Loci mentioned in text.

loculus roof. Because of the nature of the deposit, evidently transferred to the loculus from the floor of the main chamber (which need not have been done at one time) we must first look at the pieces individually in an attempt to place each vessel in its proper position within the ceramic development of the Bronze Age, in order to propose, if possible, a *terminus post quem* for the group as a whole. Our task will be complicated by two factors, both of which point out the state of our knowledge of the internal development of Late Bronze Age Syro-Palestinian ceramics. First, the group does not include any of the forms or fabrics usually considered to be type-fossils for specific phases of the local ceramic development. Second, it does not contain imported Cypriot or Aegean wares upon which the Palestinian archaeologist has relied so heavily in the past, in spite of the 'circular' fact that the chronology of the Aegean world is almost solely based on occurrences of its pottery in Near Eastern contexts. Compounding these problems is the scarcity of 'secure' Late Bronze Age deposits from the East Bank.

## Dipper Juglet (A)

### The beginnings of the Middle Bronze Age

- 6 This development can be readily seen by comparing *APHL* Pls. 33 (M.B. IIA), 34 (M.B. IIB-C) and 46 (L.B.).
- 7 For "classic" <sup>4</sup>flat-bottomed M.B. IIA examples, cf. O. Tufnell, "The Courtyard Cemetery at Tell El-'Ajjul, Palestine," University of London, *Bulletin of the Institute of Archaeology*, No. 3 (1962), pp. 1-46, Groups 1 and 2 (her M.B. I). For later M.B. examples, cf. Jericho Tomb A38 (*Jericho I*, Pl. 136:29), M.B. phase iii; Hazor Tomb/Locus 6207 (*Hazor II*, Pl. CXI:7), M.B. II; Hazor

witnessed a tremendous expansion of vessel types of which small, easily-stoppered juglets are one of the most common. The "dipper juglet," which was perhaps to become the most prolific of these small forms, appears at the very beginning of the period and enjoys a long history, well into the Iron Age. The generally accepted development of this form is that M.B. IIA examples are characterized by an ovoid body and, more important diagnostically, a flattened base. During M.B. IIB-C the shape of the body becomes much more attenuated and the earlier, flattened base is drawn out into a point. This type continues into L.B. I where, evidently as a reaction to the earlier, pointed shape, a more truncated body begins to gain in popularity; and it is this "dumpy" form that becomes standard for L.B. II.<sup>6</sup>

The flattened base of the Kataret es-Samra juglet might at first glance suggest a date early in the Middle Bronze Age, but this morphological characteristic is not necessarily restricted to this period, for it does in fact continue, albeit infrequently, throughout the Late Bronze Age,<sup>7</sup> making an exact chronological assignment difficult. The abraded surface of the juglet, unfortunately, precludes recourse to surface treat-

Tomb/Locus 9024 (*Hazor I*, Pl. CXX:7), M.B. II; and Megiddo Tomb 912B (*M. Tbs.*, Pl. 35: 7, 8, 10) dated M.B. II (A), but for problems with L.B. II contamination, cf. pp. 69, 72. A long chronological range is given for the early red-burnished juglets of similar form from the Megiddo tell, cf. *Meg. II*, Pl. 7: 20-24 (Stratum XV), and 12:5 (Strata XIV - XII).

L.B. I examples with flattened base include the painted example from Megiddo Tomb II00B (*Meg. Tbs.*, Pl. 47:12), note the Bichrome jug on

ment for aid in clarifying this chronological question, and so it is considered best to assign the vessel to the Late Bronze Age, preferably to the earlier centuries of this phase.<sup>8</sup>

### Two-handled Jar (B)

The large, ovoid jar with two handles and a distinct base is a relatively uncommon vessel form in the repertoire of the Palestinian potter. A morphologically similar form with a single handle, however, is quite common and traces its heritage at least as far back as the M.B. IIB-C period. In fact it is often difficult, if not impossible, to differentiate L.B. I examples of this single-handled variant from those of the latter part of the Middle Bronze Age.<sup>9</sup> L.B. IIA examples resemble their predecessors but, according to Amiran,<sup>10</sup> jugs with shoulder handles do not continue into L.B. IIB. Therefore, although the popularity of the form spans the M.B. IIB-C through L.B. IIA periods, it

fig. 111 and Pl. 48.15. A juglet with a longer neck than the Kataret es-Samra piece is seen in Tomb 26 at Megiddo (*Meg. Tbs.*, Pl. 58:16) and dated L.B. I. Other variants of this form appear at Megiddo (*Meg. II*, Pl. 50:8, Tomb 3028, Strata IX-VIII), Hazor (*Hazor III-IV*, Pl. CCXLIII:15) dated L.B. I, and Lachish (*Lachish IV*, Pl. 78:783 (Loc. 6029) and Pl. 86:995 (Locus 1504). The last two examples are included in Tufnell's dipper Class B. Cf., however, p. 192 where this type "falls outside the normal repertory of the site" and pp. 193 and 255 for her parallels to earlier M.B. pieces.

L.B. II examples include: Hazor Tombs 8144 (*Hazor II*, Pl. CXXXI:21) and 8065 (*Hazor II*, Pl. CXXXIX:8); and Megiddo Tomb 989 A: 1 (*M. Tbs.*, Pl. 16:24) but note p. 40 (L.B. I), and Tomb 989 B: 1 (*M. Tbs.*, Pl. 19:6). For the General Form, cf. also *Hazor III-IV*, Pl. CCXCVI: 8 (Locus

occurs most frequently during L.B. I when it was often utilized by workshops producing vessels decorated in the Bichrome style.<sup>11</sup> Although slight traces of both red and black paint still adhere to the abraded surface of the Kataret es-Samra piece, the temptation to attribute the vessel to the (elaborate) Bichrome style is resisted and it is considered, less specifically, simply as a vessel with bichrome decoration. An L.B. I date for the jar is here suggested since in L.B. II the ovoid form tends to become more compressed, and the handles are set higher on the shoulder.<sup>12</sup> Not only is the two-handled variant most common in L.B. I, but also at this time the body shape and handle placement are closest to the Kataret es-Samra Jar.<sup>13</sup>

### Lamp (C)

The oil Lamp with single, pinched spout is probably the most easily recognizable form

2011), L.B. II?

8 Cf. the L.B. I examples cited in note 7 above.

9 Compare *APHL* Pl. 46:1 (L.B. I) with 34:6 (M.B. IIB-C).

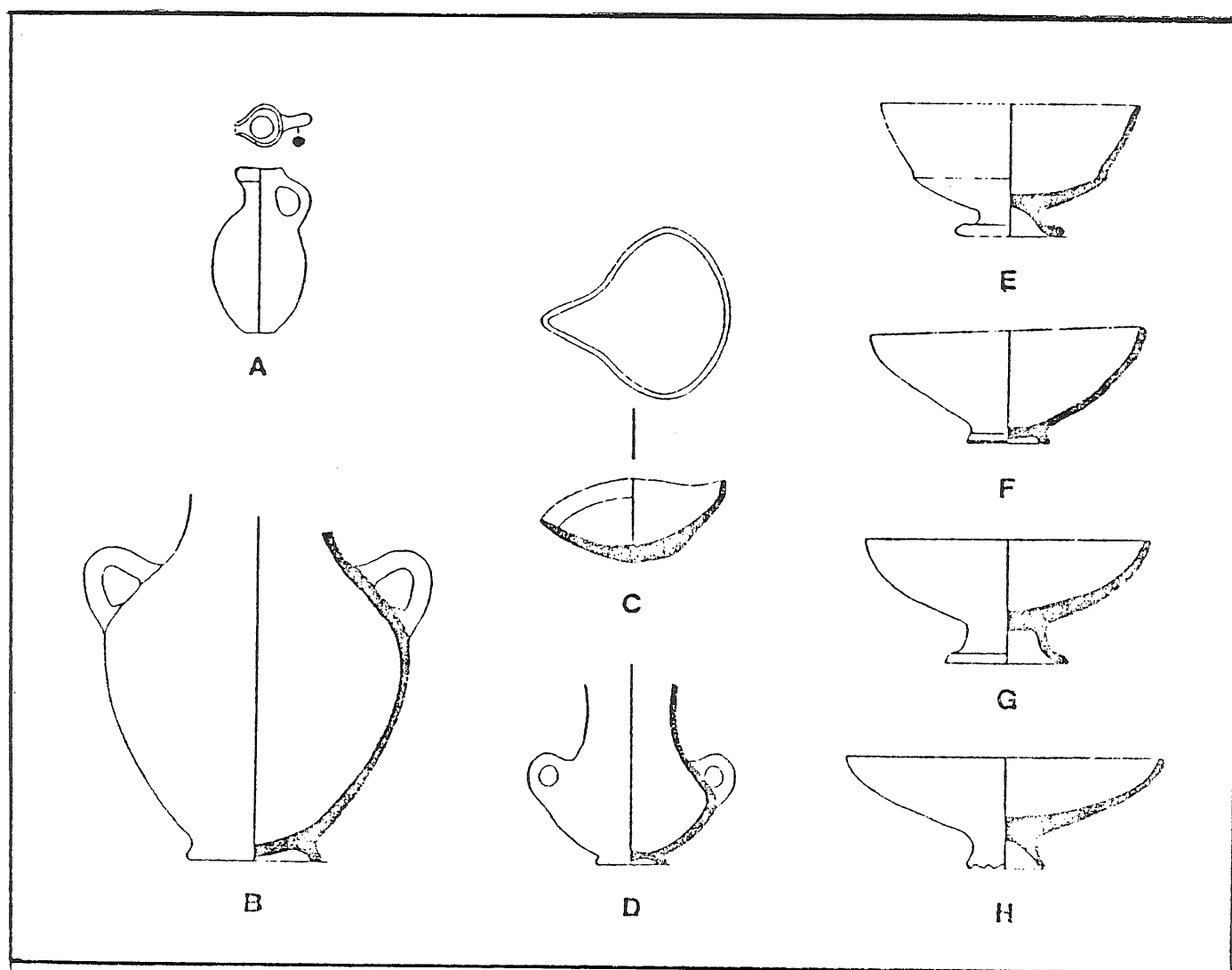
10 *APHL*, p. 146.

11 C. Epstein, *Palestinian Bichrome Ware*, Brill (Leiden), 1966, Pl. II: 9-12, her jug type A. i. e (p. 8). For L.B. I examples from Tomb 1100 at Megiddo, cf. *M. Tbs.*, Pls., 46:15, 16 and 48:1,2.

12 *Hazor II*, Pl. CXX:20, Locus 6215 (Area C, Stratum IB).

13 At Megiddo, cf. Tomb 1178 (*M. Tbs.*, Pl. 53:2), L.B. I; and Tomb 855 (*M. Tbs.*, Pl. 44:3), L.B. I. At Beth Shan, cf. E. Oren, *The Northern Cemetery at Beth Shan*, Brill (Leiden), 1973., Tombs 42 (fig. 31:4) and 59 (fig. 26:10), both dated L.B. I.





4. Restored L.B. pottery from the western loculus of the tomb at Kataret es-Samra.

in Syro-Palestinian ceramics, and the one that can show the longest continuous typological development.<sup>14</sup> Although this long development makes the lamp an important element in providing a broad indication of date for a certain deposit, the evenness of progression in such a simple form does not make it a good tool for use in fine dating. It is, therefore, simply considered here as "L.B." with an admittedly subjective preference for the earlier part of the period.

### Amphoriskos (D)

The vessel here termed an "amphoriskos," a form considered by Amiran to be a jug-like variant of her "biconical amphoraekrater,"<sup>15</sup> is a type which does not appear to possess an independent Middle Bronze ancestry. It seems rather to be a Late Bronze Age combination of biconical forms which can themselves be shown to be directly or indirectly related to M.B. prototypes. Since the amphoriskos appears in both L.B. I and II contexts, an isolated vessel cannot be confidently assigned to a particular chronological subdivision, yet two morphological traits do seem to characterize the development of the shape. In L.B. I the neck and mouth are much wider than in L.B. II, while the transition between the shoulder and the rim is much less constricted in L.B. I than in the L.B. II examples.<sup>16</sup>

In dating L.B. painted wares, recourse is often made to the degree of "degeneration" of

the decoration, and while traces of a metope panel in both red and black paint do remain on the poorly preserved surface of the Kataret es-Samra vessel, they are simply not sufficient to allow categorization by decoration. Although the upper portion of the piece was broken in antiquity and not placed in the loculus, on the basis of the morphological criteria noted above, the Kataret es-Samra amphoriskos would seem to fit most comfortably within the L.B. I period.<sup>17</sup>

### The Open Forms (E-H)

The remainder of the restorable pottery from the western loculus consists of relatively simple, open forms: a carinated bowl (E); two bowls (F and G) with curving profiles and differing from each other mainly in the type and height of their bases; and a partially preserved vessel (H) which is here considered to have been a chalice.

Bowl E, in its carinated profile, readily betrays a Middle Bronze ancestry. It is a type that appears at least as early as Kenyon's Group II of the Jericho M.B. tombs,<sup>18</sup> and follows a slow, typological development into, and through, the Late Bronze Age. Amiran succinctly describes the process of degeneration in the carination of this form,<sup>19</sup> but the Kataret es-Samra piece does not, unfortunately, fit easily into the generally accepted scheme. Note that while Bowl E does possess a rather marked

14 *APHL*, Pls. 59 and 100.

15 *APHL*, p. 147.

16 A convenient comparison is *APHL* Pls. 47:5 (L.B. I), 47:9 (L.B. IIA) and 47:14 (L.B. IIB).

17 Cf. Megiddo Tomb 78 (*M. Tbs.*, Pl. 42:18), L.B. I. Compare also examples at Beth Shan in Tomb

27 ( *NCBS*, fig. 36) dated "LBI-II," and Tomb

29 (*NCBS* fig. 36:21,22), dated L.B. II.

18 Bowl Type D (Flaring Carinate) *Jericho* I, p. 269, and Fig. 120:10, 11.

19 *APHL*, p. 129.

carination, it does not share the "folded" ridge customarily found on the more pronounced M.B. II/L.B. I examples.<sup>20</sup> On the other hand, the lower portion of the bowl of the vessel does have considerable horizontality, a feature that could be considered more characteristic of the M.B. examples than those of L.B. II.<sup>21</sup> Such traits could suggest the placement of the vessel within the L.B. I sphere.

The height and type of the base of "Vessel E" causes additional concern. High, delicate bases occur frequently in the Middle Bronze Age,<sup>22</sup> but with the advent of the Late Bronze Age a simplification of this type of base begins, at the same time that the lower ring-base is becoming common and the concave disc-base is well on its way to the predominance that it will demonstrate in L.B. II.

The combination of the various morphological elements of this piece is curious: close parallels are difficult to produce, and the vessel

does not fit readily into existing typological compartments. Assignment to L.B. I is done so here, with some hesitation.<sup>23</sup>

Bowl F, slightly asymmetrical vessel with rounded profile, has only a single, major, diagnostic feature: its low, slightly outspayed, ring-base. The ring-base is a common element on a variety of bowl types during the M.B. IIB-C period, a position which is maintained through L.B. I. Toward the end of the L.B. IIA period, however, the ring-base begins to decline in frequency finally succumbing to the challenge posed by the concave disc-base which had been steadily gaining in popularity from at least as early as M.B. IIB-C.<sup>24</sup> The fact that rounded bowls with low ring-bases were so commonly included in funerary assemblages throughout the Late Bronze Age, denies the form much of its chronological integrity, and it is perhaps more prudent to be cautious and not attempt to associate such a simple vessel shape with a specific subdivision of the period.<sup>25</sup>

20 Cf. *APHL*, Pl. 27:7, 10 (M. B. II) and Pl. 39:1-3 (L.B. I).

21 This is, admittedly, subjective reasoning. L.B. I examples can have fairly diagonal lower bowl profiles (cf. *Hazor* I, Pl. CXV:2; *Hazor* II, Pl. CXVI:8; and *Hazor* III-IV, Pl. CCXLIII), but the reverse does not seem to hold true, i. e. L.B. II forms do not seem to have the sub-carination horizontality of *KS409*.

22 Most noticeably on the pedestal jars that form such a characteristic facet of Kenyon's M.B. Jericho groups II-V. (*Jericho* I, pp. 269-70).

23 This eclectic juxtaposition of morphological elements makes the piece difficult to parallel. The base is closest, typologically, to the high bases on the series of L.B. I burnished bowls (cf. *inter alia*, *Megiddo* II, Pl. 61:15; *NCBS*, fig. 28: 12,21).

than anything else, but the *Kataret es-Samra* bowl does not share the very high point of carination exhibited on these earlier pieces.

Elaborately rolled "toes," not completely unlike that on the present piece, can be seen on several of the examples from Tomb 42 at Beth Shan (*NCBS*, fig. 28:10, 11).

24 *APHL*, pp. 91, 125.

25 Among the numerous examples assigned to L.B. I, cf. those from *Megiddo* Tomb 78 (*M. Tbs.*, Pl. 45:20), Tomb 855 (*M. Tbs.*, Pl. 43:18), Tomb 1145B (*M. Tbs.*, Pls. 50:3, 52:4) and Tomb 4 (*M. Tbs.*, Pl. 54:4). L.B. II parallels, however, are not uncommon and similar forms were found in Phase 2 of the cellar of the Eastern Building in Field XIII at Shechem (*BASOR* 204, Dec. 1971, p. 12 and fig. 8) dated to the Amarna Period.

Bowl G differs from F in that it is slightly more open, and has a higher, outsplayed foot, almost approaching a "pedestal." As has been noted above, the pedestal-base is most frequently utilized in the M.B. ceramic repertoire where it is quite common on closed forms, but rarely appears on open shapes other than the popular carinated chalice.<sup>26</sup> The antithesis is true in the Late Bronze Age when such high bases are reserved almost exclusively for open, rounded chalices.<sup>27</sup> This bowl, however, loses much of its chronological value since it can be demonstrated to be equally at home in both LBI and LBII contexts.<sup>28</sup>

The foot and base of vessel H were broken in antiquity and if the piece was whole when it was originally placed in the tomb, it was not intact when it was transferred to the western loculus. In spite of the loss of its most characteristic and diagnostic feature, the vessel, is here classified as a chalice on the basis of its wide and shallow bowl, the angle of the curve of the surviving portion of the

base, and the extreme thickness of the junction between the top of the base and the bottom of the bowl, all features that would be more suitable if the vessel were reconstructed as a chalice rather than a bowl.

Although chalices with both carinated and rounded profiles appear in the M.B. IIB-C period,<sup>29</sup> the carinated variant does not seem to survive the transition into L.B. I, for it is almost exclusively the rounded profile that we find throughout the Late Bronze Age. Amiran's emphasis<sup>30</sup> on the difficulty of assigning an individual vessel of this form to a specific L.B. subdivision is a point well taken. The traces of concentric burnishing on the Kataret es-Samra vessel do not help in assigning the piece to a particular subdivision of L.B., since this type of decoration can be demonstrated to appear as early as M.B. and to persist throughout the Late Bronze Age.<sup>31</sup>

In addition to the eight restorable vessels described above which constitute the bulk of

26 *APHL*, Pl. 27: 21-24. For its use on chalices with rounded profiles cf. Pl. 28:13-15.

For M.B. examples of the hemispherical bowl with relatively high base, cf. those from Jericho Tomb H 13 (*Jericho* I, fig. 209:1) and the "Porcupine Cave" at Hazor (*Hazor* I, Pl. XCIV:3), Locus 9038. The latter context is, however, said to have been mixed with L.B. material (*Hazor* I, p. 103).

27 The point at which a footed bowl becomes a chalice is a moot one, and the possibility is left open as to whether this vessel should be considered a chalice rather than a footed bowl.

28 L.B. I: Cf. Megiddo Tomb 73 (*M. Tbs.*, Pl. 65:4) dated "L.B. I?" and *APHL*, Pl. 40:3 (= *Megiddo*

II, Pl. 54:17, Stratum IX). L.B. I-II: Beth Shan Tomb 27 (*NCBS*, fig. 35:16 & 18). L.B. II; Beth Shan Tomb 29 (*NCBS*, fig. 39:9).

29 *APHL*, pp. 95-98.

30 *APHL*, p. 129.

31 M.B.: cf. *Hazor* I, Pl. CI:2, 3 and 4. L.B. I: cf. *Hazor* I, Pl. CXXII:17. L.B. II: cf. *Hazor* I, Pl. XCI:18, (Locus 6136, Shrine), *Hazor* II, Pl. CXXV:7 (Locus 6179), and Beth-Shan Tomb 29 (*NCBS*, Fig. 39:11).

Note, however, the occurrence of a similar form in the cellar of the Eastern Building in Field XIII at Shechem, where it is considered to be "rare" in its Phase 2 (i. e. Amarna Period) context (*BASOR* 204, Dec. 1971, fig. 8).

the ceramic material from the western loculus, three sherds (two bowl rims and a footed base) were also found in the deposit (Fig. 5: 1-3). Although these fragments do not greatly aid in distinguishing the chronological parameters of the loculus material, they are included here for the sake of completeness, and also to convey an impression of the scrambled nature of the deposit. Human and animal bones were scattered and mixed with both intact and broken vessels, as well as sherds. This was, evidently, the result of a rather unceremonious transfer of funerary material from the floor of the main chamber of the tomb to the small loculus. The question of whether this shift was accomplished at one time is not, unfortunately, clear. The small dimensions of the loculus might argue for a single transfer; but the position of vessel H, with its funerary offering intact, at the internal edge of the loculus could suggest transfer over a period of time.

Our search for an upper chronological bracket for the Kataret es-Samra tomb has not unfortunately, yielded as definitive an answer as perhaps might be desired, partly because of the difficulties in dealing with small funerary assemblages of ordinary, local vessels. However, the frequency of reasonable parallels between the Kataret es-Samra loculus material and L.B. I contexts at Megiddo, Hazor and Beth Shan would seem to allow an L.B. I date for the majority of the pieces. I think, therefore, that it can safely be proposed that the material from the Western loculus excavated in 1978 indicates a *terminus post quem* of L.B. I for

32 The high, concave disc-base (Fig. 5:8) although not the norm, is not unique (cf. *Hazor I*, Pl. CXXVI:20). The linear painted storage jar is very common at Hazor (cf. *inter alia*, *Hazor II*, Pl. CXXXIX:16, Tomb 8065).

the use of the tomb, while the finds excavated by the Jordan Survey team in 1976 show that the tomb continued to be used as a burial place into the L.B. II period.

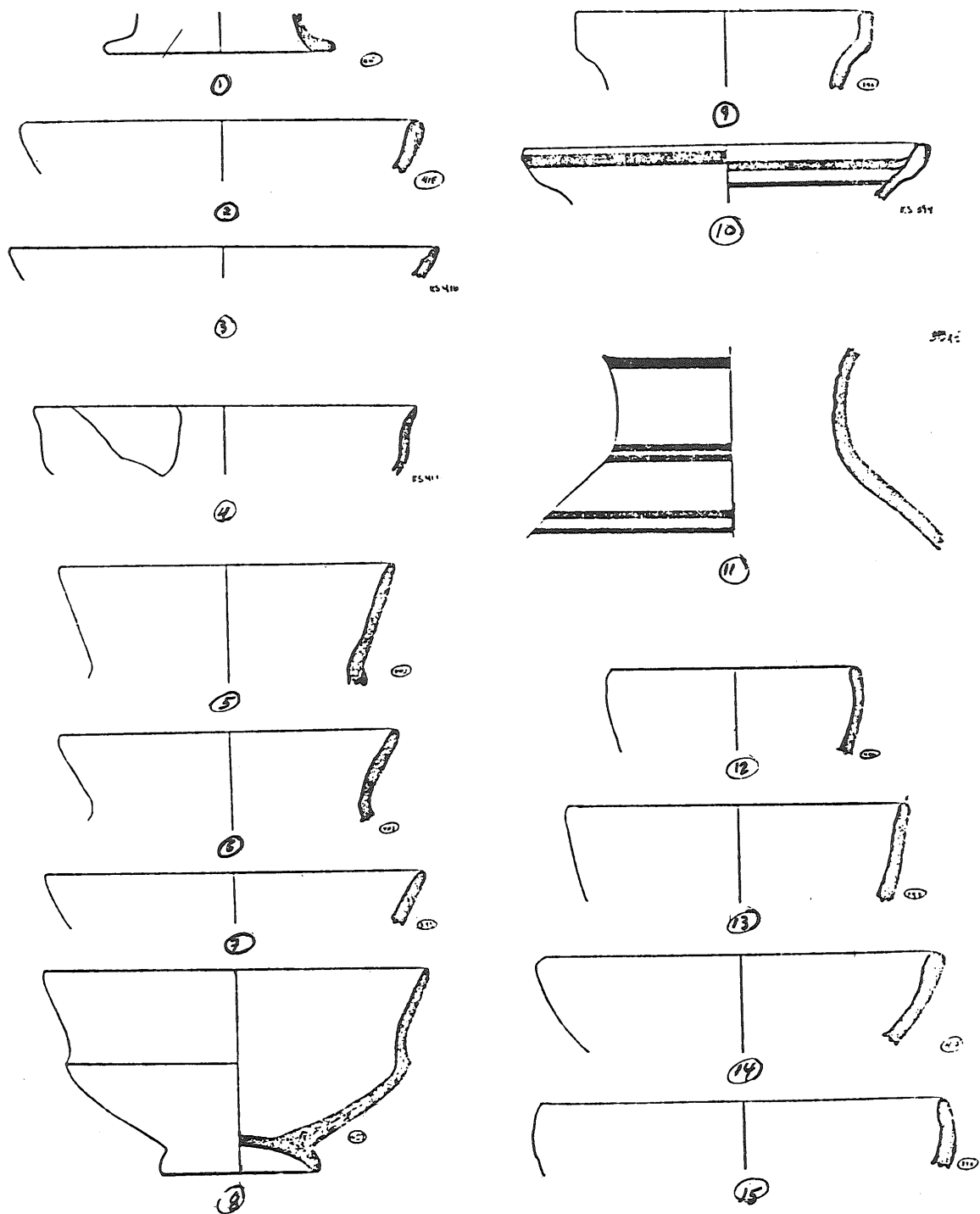
### Evidence for additional tombs

In the course of our excavation, another deposit of pottery was encountered (Fig. 5: 5-15). This material came from several loci of mixed *huwwar* that were definitely *outside* the original outline of the present tomb, and beneath a deep covering of "topsoil." This material all appears to be homogeneously L.B. II in date,<sup>32</sup> and would indicate that either the present tomb, or another tomb in the immediate vicinity, had been disturbed during antiquity. Since ancient disturbance, as opposed to the modern clandestine digging, was not noted by the 1976 excavators, we may have here evidence for the presence of another L.B. tomb on the same *Katarrah* finger, offering the possibility that we are, in fact, dealing with a cemetery, rather than an isolated burial at Kataret es-Samra.

### Survey

Additional support for the hypothesis that an L.B. cemetery exists at Kataret es-Samra came from our inspection of an adjacent *katarrah* finger (Fig. 2, our Site V). Here, in an area which had been the object of relatively recent clandestine digging, was found a small scree of sherds. The majority of these pieces were non-diagnostic body fragments of a coarse buff fabric, but they did include the rim and side of a burnished white-slipped L.B. I carinated bowl (Fig. 5:5).<sup>33</sup>

33 Cf. *inter alia*, *Megiddo II*, Pl. 61:5. The burnished, white-slipped bowl is one of the local type-fossils of the L.B. I period (cf. *APHL*, p. 125) and appears in many of the previously cited L.B. I contexts at Megiddo, Hazor and Beth Shan.



5. L.B. fragments from Katāret es-Samra. Nos. 1-3 from the western loculus; No 4 from "site" V; and nos. 5-15 from outside the Site II tomb, but beneath a thick covering of top-soil.

The presence of these sherds, in an area otherwise totally devoid of surface artifacts, would suggest the existence of another tomb to the northwest of the one excavated by us this season. The fact that this material included a fragment of a white, burnished bowl, one of the standard type-fossil for L.B. I, would agree well with the early date that has been proposed for some of the vessels from the western loculus of the Site II tomb.

The material gathered during our pilot season at Kataret es-Samra, therefore, presents the strong possibility that during the Late Bronze Age the faces of the *katarrah* cliffs, too barren for either agriculture or grazing and too steep habitation, were utilized by the people of the area as a convenient burial ground.

To identify the site from which these people came, to bury their dead in the grey *katarrah* cliffs, we need not search very far. A short distance to the northwest of Site V, and

separated from it by a deep *wadi*, stands "Tell" Kataret es-Samra (Fig. 2, Site IV) which, at 275 M. below sea level, is the highest point in our survey area, affording the site a fine view over the *zor* and western *ghor*. The flat summit of this "tell," as it is labelled on many maps, exhibits a heavy sherd and flint cover, including a substantial range of local L.B. pottery as well as imported Cypriot L.B. I (W.P. V-VI) and L.B. II (W.S. II and Base Ring) wares. The proximity of the "tell" to the tomb, combined with the presence of both L.B. I and II material in both areas, offers the hope that continued work at Kataret es-Samra will provide us not only with the rare opportunity to study a Late Bronze Age, Transjordanian occupation site in complex with its cemetery, but also to refine our knowledge of the development of local L.B., forms and fabrics on the east bank of the Jordan River.

(The results of the survey portion of the initial season at Kataret es-Samra will be continued in a forthcoming issue of *BAŞOR*.)

## C A T A L O G U E

### Restored Vessels from the Western Loculus (Fig. 4):

- A. KS407. Wheelmade. Moderately-well levigated clay. Core: 5YR 6/4 (Light Reddish Brown) to 5/4 (Reddish Brown). Black and white mineral grit to 2mm. Traces of slip on exterior 10YR 8/2 (White) mottled to grey. H. 14.9 cm., W. 07.5 cm., D. (rim) 03.3 cm.
  
- B. KS414. Wheelmade. Well levigated clay. Core: 5YR 7/6 (Reddish Yellow). White grit to 1mm. Slip: traces of 2.5YR 6/6 (Light Red) on exterior. H. 32.7 cm., W. 23.5 cm.
  
- C. KS412. Wheelmade. Moderately-well levigated clay. Core: 7.5YR 6/4 (Light Brown). Black and white mineral grit and straw casts to 2mm. Slip: int/ext, 7.5YR 8/6 (Reddish yellow). Traces of burning at spout. H. 06.8 cm., Rim: 14.1 x 15.3 cm.
  
- D. KS413. Wheelmade. Well levigated clay. Core: between 7.5YR 7/4 and 8/4 (Pink). Black grit to 1mm. Slip: exterior 2.5YR 4/6 (Red), interior as core. Traces of black paint (metope pattern?) on shoulder. H. 15.3 cm. W. 17.0 cm.
  
- E. KS409. Wheelmade. Well levigated clay. Core: 7.5YR 8/6 (Reddish yellow). White and black mineral grit to 1mm. Traces of slip int/ext, 7.5YR 8/2 (Pinkish White). H. 11.5 cm., D. 20.2 cm.
  
- F. KS408. Wheelmade. Well levigated clay. Core: 7.5YR 7/4 (Pink). White and black

mineral grit to 1mm. Slip: int/ext 10YR 8/3 (Very Pale Brown). Traces of secondary burning on interior. H. 10.0 cm., W. 22.0 cm.

- G. KS410. Wheelmade. Well levigated clay. Core: 5YR 5/6 (yellowish Red) to 2.5YR 6/6 (Red). Black and White mineral grit to 1mm. Slip: int/ext, 2.5Y 8/2 (White). H. 10.2 cm., W. 23.0 cm.
  
- H. KS411. Wheelmade. Well levigated clay. Core: 10YR 7/3 (Very Pale Brown) to 7.5YR 8/6 (Reddish Yellow) just below slip. Slip: int/ext, 2.5YR 5/8 (Red). Circular Burnish. H. 09.3 cm., W. 25.6 cm.

### SHERDS FROM OR ASSOCIATED WITH THE TOMB (Fig. 5)

- 1. KS415. Site II. Wheelmade. Well levigated clay. Core: 7.5YR 8/4 - 7/4 (Pink). White and grey grit to 1mm; frequent sand-sized straw casts. Slip: traces of 10YR 8/1 (White). Very abraded.
  
- 2. KS418. Site II, Loc. 2002. Wheelmade. Well levigated clay. Core: between 7.5YR 6/6 (Light Brown) and 6/4 (Reddish Brown). Very frequent black, and occasional white, grit to 1mm. Surfaces: Plain.
  
- 3. KS416. Site II. Wheelmade. Moderately well levigated clay, but very soft and lightly fired. Core: between 7.5YR 8/6 and 7/6 (Reddish yellow). Occasional sand-sized white grit, frequent straw casts, 3 - 5 mm. Surfaces: as core. Very abraded.
  
- 4. KS406. Site V. Wheelmade. Very well levigated clay. Core: white. Sand-sized



- white and red-brown grit, occasional fine straw casts. Slip: int/ext, White (No Munsell equivalent). Circular "wheel" burnishing int/ext.
5. KS402. Site II. Wheelmade. Well levigated clay. Core: near 7.5YR 7/2 (Pinkish Grey). Sand-sized white grit, infrequently to 1 mm.; fine straw casts. Slip: int/ext, 10YR 8/3 (Very Pale Brown).
  6. KS403. Site II. Wheelmade. Core: 2.5YR 6/4 (Light Reddish Brown). Sand-sized white grit, occasionally to 1 mm. Slip: traces int/ext, 10YR 8/2 (White).
  7. KS399. Site II. Wheelmade. Well levigated clay. Core: 7.5YR 7/6 (Reddish yellow). White and grey sand-size grit to 1 mm. Traces of slip, 10YR 8/2 (White) on int/ext surfaces.
  8. KS401. Site II. Wheelmade. Well levigated clay. Core: 2.5YR 6/6 (Light Red). Sand-sized white and grey grit. Slip: interior, 5YR 7/6 (Reddish yellow); exterior and under base, 10YR 8/3 (Very Pale Brown).
  9. KS396. Site II. Wheelmade. Well levigated clay. Core: 10YR 8/4 (Very Pale Brown). Very fine straw casts. Slip: interior, 10YR 8/2 (White); exterior, 5YR 4/3 (Reddish Brown). Possible brown radial slashes of paint on top of rim.
  10. KS394. Site II. Wheelmade. Well levigated clay: 10R 6/6 (Light Red). Core: grey to 2mm. White and grey grit to 1mm. Slip: int/ext 7.5YR 8/4 (Pink). Paint: linear decoration int/ext, 5YR 4/3 (Weak Red).
  11. KS395. Site II. Wheelmade. Well levigated clay. Core: 7.5YR 7/4 (Pink). Sand-sized white grit, fine straw casts. Slip: int/ext, 10YR 8/3 (Very Pale Brown). Paint: exterior, linear decoration, 7.5YR 4/2 (Weak Red).
  12. KS400. Site II. Wheelmade. Well levigated clay. Core: 7.5YR 8/4 (Pink). White and grey grit to 2mm; straw casts to 1mm. Slip int/ext, as core.
  13. KS397. Site II. Wheelmade. Well levigated clay. Core: 7.5YR 6/4 (Light Brown). White and grey grit occasionally to 1mm, very fine straw casts. Slip: int/ext, 7.5YR 8/4 (Pink).
  14. KS417. Site II, Loc. 2018. Wheelmade. Moderately well levigated clay. Core: 5YR 6/6 (Reddish yellow). White, grey and red sand-sized grit; infrequent fine straw casts. Slip: int/ext, between 7.5YR 6/4 (Light Brown) and 5/4 (Brown).
  15. KS398. Site II. Wheelmade. Poorly levigated, very soft fabric. Core: 7.5YR 8/4 (Pink). Grey and white grit to 1mm; frequent straw casts to 4mm. Slip: int/ext, 2.5YR 5/4 (Reddish Brown).

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