

## TELL IRBID

by  
C.J. Lenzen  
and Alison McQuitty

The municipality of Irbid's expansion programme for the business district of the city required the removal of major sections of *Tell* Irbid during the summer of 1984. As a consequence, rescue excavation was conducted by the Department of Antiquities and the authors.

The *tell* is the focal point of the modern city and is visible for a considerable distance. Following 1921, the top of the *tell* was levelled and municipal and government buildings were built on top. Throughout the period from 1948 until today, the *tell* and the surrounding area has gradually been developed.

The 1984 rescue excavations concentrated on gaining a stratigraphic history of the *tell*. Two stratigraphic probes were excavated along with two tomb areas.

The two tomb areas excavated were located on the east side of the *tell* near the tombs excavated in the 1960's. Neither of these contained *in situ* material. The only material cultural remains recovered were potsherds dating from the early Bronze through Hellenistic period.

The two stratigraphic probes excavated were on the north side of the *tell*

across the massive wall which surrounded the ancient city and on the west side of the *tell* (Pl. LVI: 2). The wall surrounding the *tell* was made of large basalt boulders and was rebuilt during the Iron IA period. The building of the wall occurred in all probability during the Middle Bronze Age. On the west side of the *tell* domestic installations dating from the Late Bronze Age and Iron I periods were excavated.

In addition to the excavated trenches, the *tell* and surrounding area were surveyed by the authors. The pottery collected indicates extensive occupation during the Early Bronze, Late Bronze, Iron Age, Roman, Byzantine and later Islamic periods. Minimal pottery evidence indicates Chalcolithic and early Islamic occupation.

The recently conducted work on *Tell* Irbid and the surrounding area form an integral part of the "Irbid/Beit Ras Project."

C. J. Lenzen  
Alison McQuitty  
Irbid, Jordan