

Lorenzo Nigro
Sapienza University of Rome
lorenzo.nigro@uniroma1.it

Lorenzo Nigro

KHirbat Al Batrāwī 2020–2022: The Palace of the Copper Axes and the North-Eastern City Fortifications

Introduction

The site of KHirbat Al Batrāwī, a 3rd-millennium BC city discovered in 2004, has been systematically explored by the Expedition to Jordan of "La Sapienza" University of Rome since 2005 (Nigro 2006a, 2006b, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010a, 2010b, 2010c, 2011, 2012a, 2012b, 2012c, 2013a, 2013b, 2014a, 2016a, 2016b, 2017a, 2017b, 2020, 2021; Nigro and Gallo 2022; Nigro and Sala 2009, 2010, 2011; Nigro *et al.* 2008, 2010a, 2020). Archaeological investigations and restoration works were carried out under the aegis of the Department of Antiquities of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, with the support of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Italian Ministry of University and Scientific Research.

This preliminary report focuses on the discoveries of the sixteenth–eighteenth seasons (2020–2022), which

were carried out under the threat of the coronavirus, and which were devoted to the exploration of the eastern wing of the "Palace of the Copper Axes" and of the easternmost stretch of the impressive fortification system on the northern slope of the site.

KHirbat Al Batrāwī: a 3rd-Millennium BC City in Connection with Syria, Egypt, and Mesopotamia

Al Batrāwī (32° 05'12.74" N, 36° 04'16.41" E) is located in the Upper Wādī Az Zarqā' Valley, the easternmost affluent of the Jordan river (FIG. 1) and thus represents a pivotal junction of the main overland routes crossing the Levant (Nigro 2006a: 16–22, 2006b: 233–235, 2010b: 434, 2011: 62–63, 2012c: 610–612, 2017a; Nigro and Gallo 2022: 161–162).

At the beginning of the 3rd millennium BC, a major fortified city was founded on the top of the steep rocky

hill dominating a ford through the upper course of the river, giving access to a shortcut and leading to the Jordan Valley (Nigro 2006a: 16–22, 2006b: 233–235, fig. 1, 2009: 662, 2011, 2013a, 2012c: 610, Nigro and Gallo 2022). Upper Wādī Az Zarqā’ offered a relatively wide cultivable land, with the possibility for intensive cultivation along the riverbanks, while the hills west of the river were suitable for the cultivation of olive trees, lentils, and chickpeas (Nigro 2006a: 5–8, 2012c: 612, 2013a, 2017a; Nigro and Gallo 2022: 162). A country of about 20 km all around the site was its catchment area for subsistence farming (FIG. 2).

Recent investigations in sites such as Jabal Al Muṭawwaq (Muñiz *et al.* 2017a, 2017b; Polcaro and Muñiz 2014; Polcaro 2019) have shown that Al Batrāwī was founded as the outcome of a synoecistic process. Part of the population living along the river, and nomads living in the nearby steppe gathered in the newborn hilltop city, while another part inhabited small unfortified villages providing the agricultural base of the economy of the city (Douglas 2006; Nigro 2009, 2010b: 433, 2011: 62, 2012c: 611–612, 2013b: 191–192, 2021; Nigro and Gallo 2022: 162).

Al Batrāwī arose at a strategic crossroad on the routes of long-distance trade at the junction of the east-west route which crosses the Syro-Arabic Desert to Mesopotamia and the Arabian Peninsula and the south-north main route, later on named the “King’s Highway”, running upon the Jordanian Highlands from the Sinai, the Gulf of Aqaba and Wādī ‘Arabah (Nigro 2012c: 611, 2014b; Nigro and Gallo 2022: 162). The latter track allowed a direct connection with pharaonic Egypt, whose mining activities in the Sinai took place in the same period that the city flourished. Finds

from the “Palace of the Copper Axes” have shown how exchanges of luxury items with Egypt played an important role in the life of the city of Al Batrāwī (Nigro 2010a, 2012d, 2014c, 2015; Sala 2014; Nigro and Gallo 2022). In the opposite direction, the northern and eastern routes connected the site to Syria, Anatolia, and Mesopotamia.

Eighteen seasons of excavations at KHirbat Al Batrāwī allowed the reconstruction of the history of this city from its first occupation at the eve of the 4th millennium BC (Batrawi I, Early Bronze I, 3300–3000 BC.), to the erection of the massive city walls and its transformation into a city, in Early Bronze II (Batrawi II, EB II, 3000–2700 BC), with a major temple on the easternmost terrace (Nigro 2008: 276–293, Nigro 2007: 338–339, 2009: 665–666, 2010c, 2013a: 494–496, 2017b; Nigro and Sala 2009: 381–383). This early city underwent a major destruction due to a tremendous earthquake towards 2700 BC, which left cracks in the earliest Main Inner Wall (MIW), but was immediately reconstructed with a monumental layout in EB IIIA (Batrawi IIIa, EB IIIA, 2700–2500 BC) (Nigro 2007: 349–358, fig. 8, 2008: 87–90, 245–268, fig. 3.37, 2009: 666–667, 2010a: 38, 2010b: 437, 2017b; Gallo 2014: 150, fig. 4). This flourishing city, to which the “Palace of the Copper Axes” belongs, was rebuilt in 2500 BC, at the beginning of Batrawi IIIb (EB IIIB, 2500–2300 BC). The latter and most flourishing and fortified city, which had up to four lines of defensive walls on the northern slope to protect it, was definitely destroyed by a fierce fire around 2300 BC (end of Batrawi IIIb, EB IIIB, 2300 BC) (Nigro 2008: 141–142, 2012b: 163–165, 2010a: 71–110, 2012d: 228, 2014d: 77–78, 2017b: 164, Nigro and Sala 2011: 88–89, 2012: 49–50; Nigro *et al.* 2010a, 2011; Gallo 2014: 158–160).

After a gap of about one century (2300–2200 BC), a small rural village occupied the ruins of what had been a flourishing city, during the last century of the 3rd millennium BC (Batrawi IV, EB IVB, 2200–2000 BC) (Nigro 2006a: 37–40, 2010b: 441–442, 2011: 73, 2012c: 616–617, 2021; Nigro *et al.* 2010a). Later, the *khirbah* was occupied briefly, during the Late Iron Age and by nomadic groups during the Umayyad and Abbasid periods. This chronological timeline (TABLE 1), based upon stratigraphy, and the absence of superimpositions, makes Al Batrāwī a reference site for the Early Bronze Age in the Levant¹.

Aims of the Sixteenth (2020), Seventeenth (2021), and Eighteenth (2022) Seasons

The sixteenth (2020), seventeenth (2021), and eighteenth (2022) seasons of excavations and restorations at KHirbat Al Batrāwī were devoted to the continuation of the exploration of the Early Bronze Age II–III monumental buildings discovered on the northern side of the *khirbah*, which, for their architecture, stratigraphy, and finds, beautifully illustrate the achievements of the earliest urban experience in Jordan during the 3rd millennium BC (Nigro 2013a; Falconer 1994; Braemer and Sapin 2001; Philip 2001, 2003; Prag 2001; Rast 2001; Greenberg 2002; Chesson and Philip 2003; Harrison and Savage 2003; LaBianca and Witzel 2007; Savage *et al.* 2007; Barge and Moulin 2008; Kafafi 2008, 2011; Genz 2010; Chesson and Goodale 2014; Paz and Greenberg 2016).

¹ Radiocarbon dates provide a chronology higher by about two centuries for EB III (Nigro *et al.* 2019). It is a choice of the present author to keep traditional chronology, awaiting new sampling and excavations at the site that may clarify the absolute chronology anchorage of the stratigraphy.

In Area B North, the exploration was focused on the Main Inner Wall and the Outer Wall (W.155) at their easternmost stretch (Nigro 2006a, 2008: 66–76, 2012b: 31–53). The quadruple fortification line narrows to two adjoining walls, as the built structures approximate the steep cliff to the east.

In Area B South, the excavations were carried out in the easternmost portion of the “Palace of the Copper” axes (also called “Area B South-East”), where a series of reconstructions of the Palace could be illustrated (Nigro 2008, 2012b).

The three seasons allowed the team to uncover another three rooms of the Palace: chamber L.976; Courtyard L.980/L.990; room L.1740/L.1750; in connection with Courtyard L.936 (Area B South-East), with their materials and phases (Batrawi II, IIIa, IIIb, corresponding to EB II, IIIA, IIIB). Immediately over and just under the surface layer EB IV dwellings were also excavated.

Defensive Works on the Northern Flanks of the *khirbah*

The defensive works are a major feature of the site of Al Batrāwī (Nigro 2006a: 153–223, 2008: 65–125, 2012b: 38–52, 2006b: 240–246, 2007: 349–358, 2009: 663–667, 2010a: 241, 2010b: 437–439, plan II, 2013a: 491–495 fig. 7, 2016b: 136–139, 2017b: 164–165, 2020: 49–50; Nigro and Sala 2009: 374–377; Nigro and Gallo 2022: 164–169). They run in parallel on three different terraces on the northern slope of the site from the central area of Gate L.160 to the huge outwork Bastion B.830 which protected the northwestern corner of the city and Gate L.860. On the opposite side of the fortification, the Main Inner Wall, built on the rocky edge of the hill, and the Outer Wall W.155, erected some meters down

Table 1. Archaeological periodization and stratigraphic phases at Kirbat Al Al Batrawī.

Archaeological Period	Egypt	Absolute Chronology	Site Period	Stratigraphic Phases								
				Area B-North	Area B-South	Area A-West	Area D	Area E	Area F			
EB I	Pre-Dynastic 0 Dynasty 00 Dynasty	3400–3000 BC	Batrawi I	-	-	cup-marks	-	-	cup-marks			
				Phase 5b-a Main City-Wall; City-Gate L.160 and L.860	-	Phase 5 Palace of Copper Axes (Pillared Unit L.1750)	Phase 6 W.225+W.227	Phase 4 unexcavated	Phase 4b-a City Wall W.705	Phase 4 Temple F1 (cella L.500)		
EB IIA	I Dynasty	3000–2850 BC	Batrawi IIa									
EB IIB		2850–2700 BC	Batrawi IIb									
Earthquake												
EB IIIA	III Dynasty IV Dynasty	2700–2500 BC	Batrawi IIIa	Phase 4b-a Main City-Wall; Outer Wall W.155	Phase 4b-a Palace of Copper Axes (Pillared Unit L.1740)	Phase 5b-a W.225+W.227						
EB IIIB	V Dynasty	2500–2350 BC	Batrawi IIIb	Phase 3c-b Four Lines fortification Main City Wall + Outer Wall W.155 + Scarp Wall W.165 + Exterior Wall W.827)	Phase 3d-b Palace of Copper Axes (Pillared Unit L.1730)	Phase 4b-a W.225+W.227	Phase 3c-a Tower D1; city wall and blocked postern	Phase 3 burnt layer E.702+E.703	Phase 3 Reconstruction of Temple F1			

Stratigraphic Phases									
Archaeological Period	Egypt	Absolute Chronology	Site Period	Area B-North	Area B-South	Area A-West	Area D	Area E	Area F
Destruction by fire									
EB IVA	VI Dynasty	2350–2200 BC	Batrawi IVa	Phase 2h -	Phase 2h -	-	-	-	-
EB IVB	Intermediate VII–X Dynasties	2200–2000 BC	Batrawi IVb	Phase 2g-e Yard L.914 + L.1030 + L.1065	Phase 2d-a Embankment W.199 + W.811	Phase 3d-a House L.240; House L.50	Phase 2d-a Rectangular structure and installations	Phase 2 -	Phase 2c-a House L.530; Unit L.520; House L.540
				Phase 2d-a House L.910 + House L.1010	-	Phase 2 Later building activities	-	-	-
Later Periods	-	2000 BC–1900 AD	Batrawi V	-	-	-	-	-	-
Contemporary frequentation	-	1900–2009 AD	Batrawi VI	Phase 1 Erosion	Phase 1 Erosion	Phase 1 Ephemeral frequentation	Phase 1 Erosion	Phase 1 Erosion	Phase 1 Ephemeral frequentation

on the slope, gradually converged (Nigro 2009: 663–664, 2010b: 434–436, 2011: 64–66, 2012c: 613–617, 2020: 49–50, 2006: 175–177, 2008: 63–87; Nigro and Gallo 2022: 167–169; Nigro *et al.* 2010b).

During the three seasons 2020–2022 a 15 m long stretch of the fortification was brought to light in this easternmost stretch (FIG. 3). The MIW turns slightly northwards 10.67 m from Gate L.160, and then it runs for another 16 m to the east. As the originally parallel Outer Wall does not turn, the latter gradually joins the outer face of the MIW. In the last 7 m so far exposed, the two walls run adjoined, and the Outer Wall has a walkway on top, the clayish floor of which was in some spots still preserved (FIG. 4). This may explain double/flanked city-walls known from several fortified centers of Early Bronze II–III Southern Levant (*e.g.*, KHirbat Az Zayraqūn, Tall Ta’anek (Douglas 2007: 30, figs. 4, 14–18, 26, plans 6–9, phase 2; Lapp 1964: 7–12; Nigro 2008: 93–94, 2012b: 41).

Under a thick layer of collapsed stones (F.1552) and limestone squared blocks, sometimes cut through by pits, the MIW was preserved at a height of about 3 m, possibly because it was supported by the Outer Wall leaning against it. The lower foundation course of the Outer Wall was brought to light at the bottom of the structure, showing that the wall gently turns southwards to join with the Main Inner Wall (FIG. 4).

Ceramic finds, albeit scanty, have confirmed the already consolidated reconstruction of the development of the city of Al Batrāwī fortifications: the Main Inner Wall was the first built defensive line and it was erected at the beginning of Early Bronze II (*ca.* 3000 BC); the Outer Wall was added to the former after a terrible earthquake had struck it and brought the superstructure made of bricks down at the beginning of

EB IIIA (*ca.* 2700 BC). A further fortification structure (Scarp Wall W.165) was added in Early Bronze IIIB (2500–2300 BC), partly incorporating a round outwork or tower (W.185) overlooking the entrance to the city built in EB IIIA (*ca.* 2700 BC) and fallen out of use².

After the final destruction and the abandonment of the city, its ruins were regularized when a new group settled it in EB IVB (2200–2000 BC). The huge collapsed city-walls were transformed into a stone revetted rampart and a series of dwellings arose on the hilltop. The new settlers were shepherds and agriculturalists (Nigro 2011: 73, 2012c: 616–617, 2021: 295–298; Nigro *et al.* 2010a). We do not know their necropolis—as for the former inhabitants of Al Batrāwī, it has been suggested that the burial place of the EB II–III city elite was in a village to the west, where the funerary rites reserved to high rank people were performed (Nigro *et al.* 2010a; Nigro 2021: 299).

Further Exploration of the “Palace of the Copper Axes”

Excavations in Area B South-East revealed the southern limit of Courtyard L.1046 and allowed the exploration of the easternmost unit of the complex organized on court L.936 and Hall L.1730/L.1740/L.1750 (FIG. 5), originally identified during the first seasons at the site (Nigro 2008: 158–162, figs. 4.53–4.60, 2012b: 169–188, 2007: 353, 2009: 668–669, fig. 13, 2010b: 440, 2011: 70–72; Nigro and Sala 2010: 248). This space was accessible from Courtyard L.1046 and from a secondary passage (L.464) connecting it to the

² Such a round tower is comparable to a similar defensive structure at KHirbat Al Karak (Fortification C; Greenberg and Paz 2005: 94–96, figs. 1–2, 5–6; Greenberg *et al.* 2006: 249–267; Nigro and Gallo 2022: 167–169).

street running beside the Main Inner Wall (Nigro 2008: 160–162, figs. 4.58–4.60, 2012b: 176).

During the 2021 season, the southern wall (W.1289) of Courtyard L.1046 was further explored. It was a terrace wall, leaning against a step cut in the bedrock. Courtyard L.1046 was a rectangular open space which was the centre of the Eastern Pavilion of the palace, accessible through central corridor L.1050 with a rectangular hall on its northern side (L.430) (Nigro 2013b: 198–204, 2016b: 139–149, 2017b: 162–164, 2012b: 179–181). The floor of the court was made of a layer of yellowish beaten clayish marl and by the emerging bedrock and lasted in use for the whole life of the palace.

The eastern wall of the courtyard, W.1187 was further explored in its southern extension, where a blocked door (L.992) was identified (with two yellowish bricks indicating the threshold on its eastern side: W.1759), connecting Court L.1046 with Hall L.1750. W.1187 was then interrupted and joined a curved structure (W.969) abutting into the southeastern corner of L.1046, and encompassing a blind chamber (L.976), possibly hosting a wooden staircase or a light well. The small chamber (0.95 x 0.94 m) was delimited by the round wall (W.969) to the north, and by wall W.973 to the west, and wall W.983 to the east.

In the 2022 season, the expansion of the dig eastwards allowed it to explore almost completely the southern half of the second row of rooms of the Eastern Pavilion. Here, courtyard L.936, with the two semi-circular installations, oven T.413 and silo S.931 (Nigro 2007: 353, 2009: 668–669, fig. 13, 2010b: 444, 2008: 158–159, figs. 4.53–4.57, 2012b: 175–176) opened towards a rectangular room (L.1750 in Phase 5, L.1740/L.990 in Phase 4, and L.1730 in Phase 3) with

a double pillared entrance. In Phase 4, in the southwestern portion of the hall a rectangular (4.2x2.1m) room (L.980) was built (FIG. 6). This room was built using the southern wall of the pavilion (W.989) as the rear wall. Its eastern wall (W.1715) rested upon two previous structures: an original Phase 5 partition wall or bench (W.1733) and a Phase 4 structure (W.1719). Room L.980 had two flat bases inside to support wooden pillars for the ceilings (W.985³ and W.1757) and was connected to the upper floor of the palace in this courtyard (L.990/L.1740, L.1730). Another bench or a step made of two bricks (W.1751) was set against a substantial wall (W.1735), with an adjoined oblique wall (W.1739), leaning on bench W.1733. In the eastern section of the dig, wall W.1737 was uncovered made of regularly cut stones and re-employed bricks, parallel to W.1187 and attributed to Phase 4 (EB IIIA); it rested upon an earlier structure (W.1755) made of bricks and laying on floor L.936. This structure was the eastern limit of the unit (FIG. 7).

Two corresponding offsets protruded respectively from wall W.1737 and W.1187 framing a 7m wide porch, with two pillars in the passage, set on 0.5m long limestone slabs, and each placed at 1.5 m from the 0.5m thick offset and at a distance of 3m from one another (FIG. 8)

The excavation of the Pillared Unit L.1750 in the southeastern half of the Eastern Pavilion of the “Palace of the Copper Axes” provided a full stratigraphy of the palace, showing that while courtyards kept the same floor across phases, rooms were rebuilt by raising their pavements during at least three main stages of use (Batrawi IIb, IIIa, IIIb).

³ Slab W.985 measured 0.39x0.41m and lay 1.40m north of wall W.989. It was interpreted as a pillar base.

Stratigraphy of the Eastern Pavilion

In the South-Eastern Unit the earliest floor was that of L.936 and L.1750 (inside the pillared room), which apparently was in use during the latest part of the Early Bronze II (Batrawi IIb, EB IIB, 2850–2700 BC). After the collapse of the building, following the earthquake which destroyed the city at the end of Batrawi II, a debris layer with ashes (F.1748/F.988) was sealed by a compact floor made of gray clay (F.1740/L.990). This was further raised by a stratum of pebbles and smashed bricks (F.1744/F.987) and covered by the last floor of the L-shaped space, L.1730. The upper floor (L.980) lays 0.52 m above the lower one (L.980 at 657.49 m, and L.990/L1740 at 656.97 masl). The stratigraphy of Courtyard L.980/L.990 has thus shown three main phases of the palace: the original one, in period Batrawi II, one referable to Batrawi IIIa, and the other to Batrawi IIIb.

Finds

Finds from Hall L.1730/L.1740 are basically limestone (KB.21.20; KB.21.28) and marble mortars (KB.21.38) of relatively small dimensions devoted to grinding and pulping for food transformation (FIG. 9). Two spindle whorls (KB.21.19, KB.21.36) made of pottery and four bone awls (KB.21.10, KB.21.31, KB.21.32, KB.22.72) also suggest weaving and sewing activities (FIG. 10). A broken worked bone (KB.22.70), a goat metacarpal decorated with transversal and crossed bands of parallel incisions, might be a piece of a magic wand or a flute. A fragmentary nacreous shell (KB.22.66) is an import from the Red Sea.

A peculiar find, retrieved in L.976, is a fragmentary rim of a hole-mouth jar made of a reddish-brown local fabric with an incised sign (FIG. 11), possibly depicting an animal (a bee or a catfish,

fishes that in antiquity were living in the Az Zarqā‘ River)⁴.

Restorations

During the three seasons in 2020–2022 extensive restoration works were carried out on the northern fortifications along the Main Inner Wall and in correspondence of Gate L.860. A huge cut through the inner face of the wall was restored by rebuilding the masonry with a slight inset. The bottoms of the structures were reinforced with traditional mortar, and a series of damaged spots of the “Palace of the Copper Axes” were also refurbished with the well-established technique in Al Batrāwī that fixes walls at the height they were found and protects them from rain-wash through the realization of underground drains. The whole area of the palace has been restored, except the easternmost rooms of the Eastern Pavilion, which will be refurbished in the 2023 season.

Conclusions

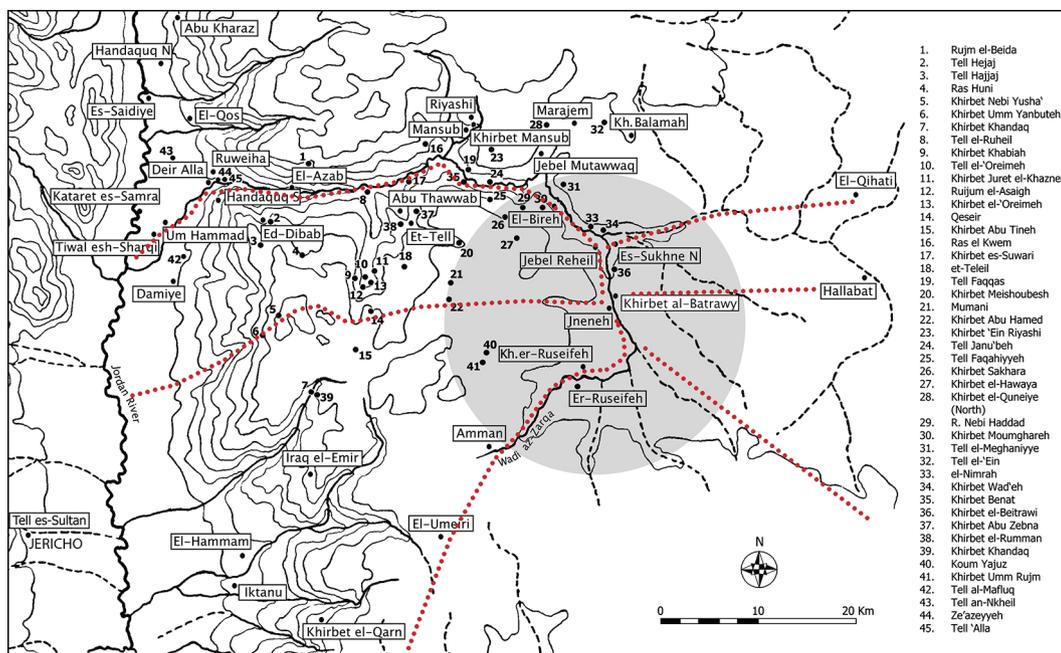
The sixteenth (2020), seventeenth (2021), and eighteenth (2022) seasons at KHirbat Al Batrāwī contributed to a deeper and more detailed knowledge of this ancient city of Jordan, of its monumental defensive system, its palace, and its inner general layout, as well as its

⁴ The similarity with the catfish sign used to write part of Narmer’s name (*cf.* Umm al-Qaab, Abydos (Kayser and Dreyer 1982: 263, fig. 14–15, nr. 40); Zawiyet al-Aryan t. Z401 jar fr. (Dunham 1978: 26, Pl. XVIb 2/2–4; Kayser and Dreyer 1982: 263, fig. 14–15, nr. 37; Van den Brink 2001); Hierakonpolis jar fr. (Kayser and Dreyer 1982: 263, fig. 14–15, nr. 43), as exemplified by the one from Tall al ‘Areini (Yeivin 1963: 207–208, fig.1–2; Kayser and Dreyer 1982: 263, fig. 14–15, nr. 41; Weinstein 1984: 64), cannot be proven because the hypothesized head of the catfish is broken. Animals such as snakes and scorpions were present in the imagery of pottery in the “Palace of the Copper Axes” (KB.11.B.1054/4 and KB.11.B.1054/1; Nigro 2013b: 201, 2016b: 143, fig.12–13, 2010a: 103, sherd 1054/79).

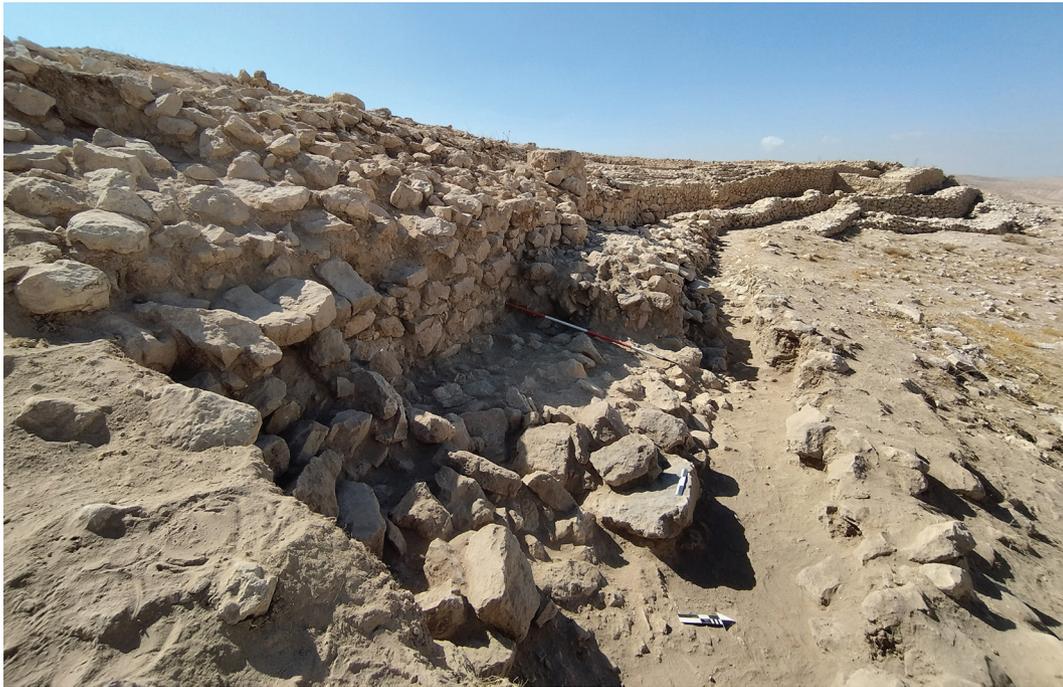
history, economy, and social organization in the Early Bronze Age II–III. The Batrawi IVb village has provided a wide set of finds illustrating the material culture of the Intermediate Bronze Age in the Upper Wādī Az Zarqā’ (TABLE 1).



1. View of the ancient city of Al Batrawī with its massive fortifications dominating the Wādī Az Zarqā’ at the end of 2022 season, from the north (photo © “La Sapienza” Expedition to Jordan).



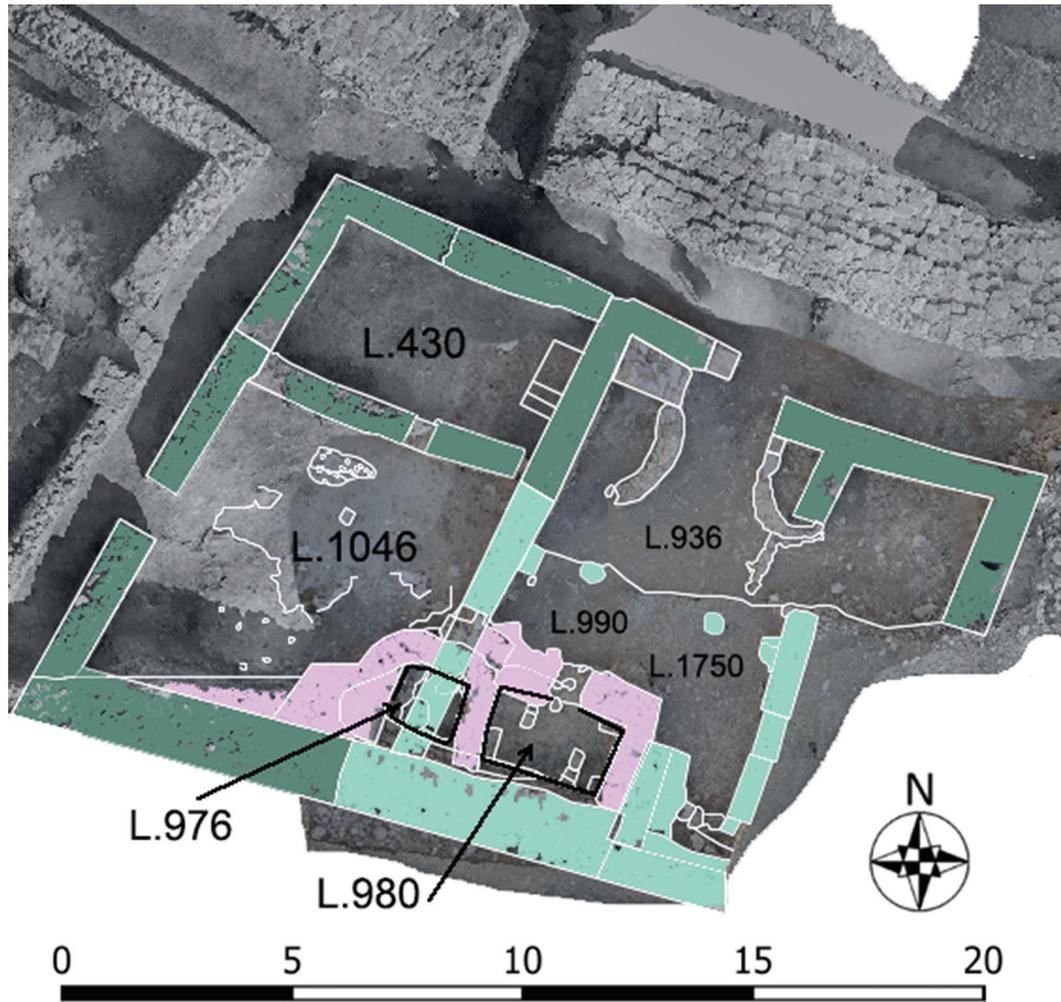
2. Map of the region of Al Batrawī with the contemporary sites of the area under the city’s influence (image © “La Sapienza” Expedition to Jordan).



3. The Early Bronze Age II-III Main Inner Wall (on the left) and Outer Wall (on the right) adjoined in the easternmost stretch of the northern fortifications (2022) (photo © “La Sapienza” Expedition to Jordan)



4. View of the Main Inner Wall and the Outer Wall with the pathway on top of the latter in the easternmost stretch of the northern fortifications; from the north (photo © “La Sapienza” Expedition to Jordan).



5. Plan of the South-Eastern Unit of the Eastern Pavilion of the “Palace of the Copper Axes” (light green: original plan of Batrawi IIb; lilac: Batrawi IIIa and IIIb addition of chamber L.976 and room L.980) (image © “La Sapienza” Expedition to Jordan).



6. General view of the South-Eastern Unit of the Eastern Pavilion of the “Palace of the Copper Axes” with the added rectangular room L.980; from the south (photo © “La Sapienza” Expedition to Jordan).



7. The eastern wall W.1737 of the South-Eastern Unit of the “Palace of the Copper Axes” made of well-cut limestone blocks of the dimensions of regular mud bricks; from the west (photo © “La Sapienza” Expedition to Jordan).



8. Aerial view of the South-Eastern Unit of the “Palace of the Copper Axes” with the porch L.1750 and the added rooms L.980 and L.976; from the west (photo © “La Sapienza” Expedition to Jordan).



KB.21.B.3



KB.21.B.9



KB.21.B.21



KB.21.B.23



KB.21.B.24



KB.21.B.12



KB.22.B.63



KB.21.B.4



KB.21.B.33



KB.21.B.38



KB.21.B.20



KB.22.B.56

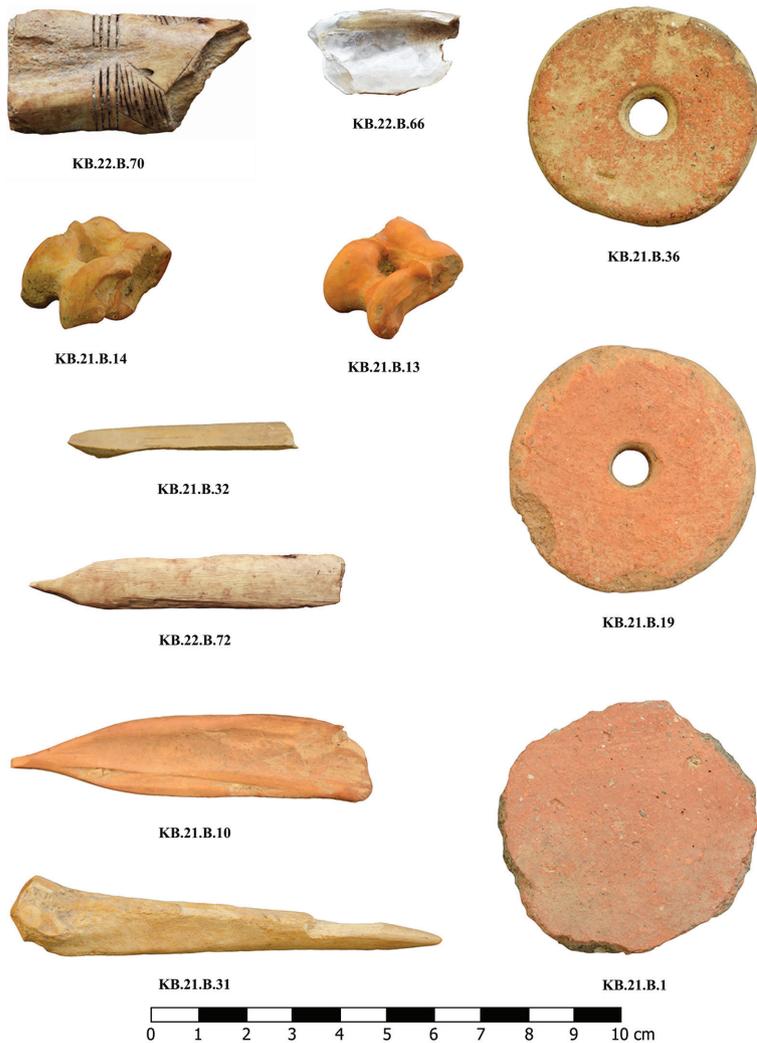


KB.21.B.28

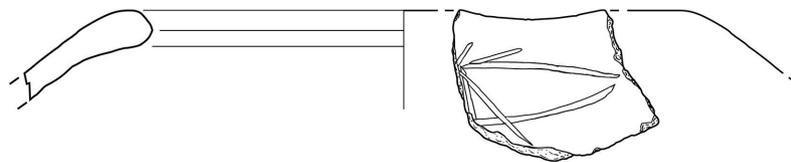


KB.22.B.42

9. Stone tools from the South-Eastern Unit of the palace (photos © “La Sapienza” Expedition to Jordan).



10. Bone tools from the South-Eastern Unit of the palace, plus two spindle whorls made of pierced pottery sherds, a symbolic worked bone, a fragmentary nacreous shell, and a pottery disk or token (photos © “La Sapienza” Expedition to Jordan).



KB.21.B.972/10



11. Pottery fragment (rim of a hole-mouth jar) with incised sign hinting at an animal (a bee or a catfish) similar to the sign used to write the name of Narmer (drawing and photos © “La Sapienza” Expedition to Jordan).

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