

## The Third Season of Excavations at Buseirah

The third season of excavations took place at Buseirah, Southern Jordan from the 1st July — 31st August, 1973, under the direction of Mrs. Crystal Bennett, Director of the British School of Archaeology. The total area so far excavated is approximately 1,644 sq. metres. Work was concentrated on the complex of buildings on the "Acropolis" or Citadel where it seems certain now that there are three distinct periods of building, all representing very important structures, either palaces, temples or administrative headquarters, and all based on the "Assyrian Open Court" plan. This is most important as it is the first time this type has been recognised in Jordan and emphasizes the Assyrian influence in this country in the 8th — 7th C.B.C. — an influence which had already been attested in the Assyrian Annals, but which seemed confined to the payment of tribute and occasional military aid.

Exploration of the city's defences also continued, during the course of which a tunnel was found running into rock cut chambers, full of debris and under the defences. There are at least three periods in the history of the town's fortifications.

To the north of the "Acropolis", and on the lower terrace, were found three large stones, approximately 1,50 metres in length and between 50 and 85 cms. in width. These had been laid most carefully with very small stones put between the interstices. To the south of these stones was the top of a fine basalt Roman quern. The whole area had been enclosed. and a paved courtyard of irregular stones led up to it from the north. The Roman date of the quern suggests that the structure is not, as we had once hoped, an Edomite sanctuary or a burial ground for Edomite royalty, but probably a threshing floor of the Roman period. This is most valuable evidence for proving the occupation of the site in Roman times.

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