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The Excavation of Tell Siran (1972)

by

Henry O. Thompson

From 17 April to 15 May, 1972, a sounding was made at Tell Siran, on the campus of the University of Jordan (Plate I, 1). It was planned as a training program for the third year students of the Department of History and Archaeology¹ who are majoring in archaeology. The dig was to be part of an ongoing program in which archaeology majors are required to do 100 hours of field excavation. In the past, this has been arranged through foreign expeditions digging in Jordan. The Tell Siran excavation was approached with the thought that it might serve as an outdoor laboratory for the Department's students, if the excavations there proved worthwhile. Initial planning was done by Dr. Adnan Hadidi and the writer. Dr. Hadidi made the original suggestion that Siran might be worth investigating.²

Prior to the decision to excavate, a surface survey of the mound was made by the third year students.³ Surface pottery included fabrics from the Ayyubid/Mamluk (12th-14th centuries A.D.), Umayyad (8th century) and Early

Byzantine (5th century) periods. There was one piece of Late Hellenistic (1st century B.C.) and a small quantity of Iron Age (6/7th century B.C.) pottery. These proved to be the horizons represented in the excavated fill with additional quantities of Late Hellenistic and a few pieces from each of the Late Roman and Late Byzantine periods.⁴ The results of the surface survey encouraged the decision to excavate the University's own tell⁵ and to exploit its convenience for the archaeological program. Unfortunately, with the exception of two (probably three) loci, all the excavated strata contained Mamluk pottery. However, the students learned the rudiments of digging, drawing, recording and handling artifacts which latter included the cutting (on a rock saw for one to one drawing) of potsherds and their registration. Thus the field laboratory concept proved its worth for student training. Hopefully, somewhere on the 85 dunam mound, future excavation might find undisturbed stratigraphy of the earlier periods, to add to the training value of the site.

(1) Dr. Abdl Karim Gharaibeh, then chairman of the Department, gave his support to the program.

(2) His support and advice are gratefully acknowledged. He also assisted several times during the excavation. Dr. Hadidi is Lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Jordan.

(3) They are Amin Jaber, Jom'a Kryem, Katrine Zriakat, Khalid Majali, Mahmud Bargawe, Marwan Abu Khalaf, Rose Akeel, Safe Haddad (Pl. IX, 2). Nabil Khairy, Tutor in the Department, also assisted with the work from time to time.

(4) The final reading of the pottery was done by Dr. James Sauer whose major assistance at this point is deeply appreciated.

(5) The writer does not know of another campus with its own ancient mound. This seems unique among universities although prehistoric pottery was discovered at the International Christian University in Japan and a tell on the farm (in the Beqa') of the American University of Beirut, is being excavated by Dr. Dimitri Baramki.

The tell (Plate I, 1) is heavily covered with pines, olives and figs. Some wheat and vegetables are also grown here, especially on the east side. The forestation is from a project (1944) of the Agricultural Experiment Station which owned the land before the University started in 1962. The name of the tell comes from the prior owner and has no known relationship to any ancient identification of the site. Discussion of the mound's recent history with Dr. Hassan Gharaibeh and Haj Hamdan Louzi of the Dept. of Agriculture, and the continuing portion of the Station, provided the information that prior to the tree planting in the '40's, from 6-8 buildings were visible on the mound. Their remains stood from ground level to as much as two meters high. None of these buildings are visible today. Their stones were used in the many terraces built for the trees and more recently for a guard house on the north edge of the tell. The walls of the old buildings were often dug below foundation level but Haj Hamdan could not be certain that all of the foundation remains had been taken. The terrace walls use natural field stone, roughly cut blocks and well dressed ones. The latter presumably came from door jambs and other special construction portions of housing. At least they do not seem numerous enough to have constituted whole buildings. The buildings are presumed Ayyubid/Mamluk in relation to the latest surface pottery combined with the rectangular nature of the stone. The latter contrasts with the squares used in Ottoman construction. But until foundations are found "in situ," this remains only speculation.

Mr. Mansour Bataineh, Director General,⁶ approved the project for the Department of Antiquities. The services of the

(6) Mr. Bataineh is now Ambassador in Abu Dhabi. His support is gratefully acknowledged.

(7) A special note of thanks should be recorded

Department's photography and conservation sections were also made available in addition to funds as part of the Department's continuing efforts to encourage student work in archaeology. The University's approval carried with it funding and the part time services of Mr. Ata Eleiwat, University Surveyor and Draftsman.⁷ Mr. Eleiwat provided the contour maps, the end of season plans, and all the final drawings published here. The American Center for Oriental Research provided the equipment for the dig. The writer served as director of excavations, functioning as University Professor in Archaeology (1971—1972) and Director of ACOR (1971—1972). Mr. Kham's Fahd Dadose, formerly of Jericho, now of Ruseifa, served as Technical man. The students provided all the physical labor. They were assisted from time to time by students from other classes and departments. Mr. Nabil Khairy of the Department of History and Archeology assisted on occasion with the supervision.

The Excavations

A slight depression on the northern edge of the tell was chosen for a dump site. Prior to this usage, a pre-dump probe trench 1x3 m., was opened to check for significant remains (Plate I, 2). The lower northern edge of the trench had levels of 1013.58 (NE) and 1013.42 (NW) while the upper corners were 1014.99 (SE) and 1014.98 (SW). At the northern end, bedrock appeared c. 0.20 m. down while the two meters to the south had a level stretch of bedrock so by the southern end of the trench, bedrock was 1.40 m. deep. On this level bedrock, a wall (Locus 3) crossed the trench, just below surface soil, Locus 1. It was made of rough field stone ranging from 0.10-0.50 m. in size.

here to Dr. Mahmoud Samra (Vice-President) and University President Dr. Abdl Salam Majali, for this support.

As found, the wall was partially collapsed down the slope. It was probably a terrace wall, an interpretation supported by the high humus content soil, Locus 4, behind (south of) the wall. Pottery from all four loci, including wall 3 when dismantled, included Ayyubid/Mamluk. Umayyad and Early Byzantine was also present, along with a few tessarae and animal bones. Most of the latter were too fragmentary for identification but those that could be distinguished were sheep or goat. Two objects came from the trench : No. 1 is a bronze knob (perhaps a weight for a scale balance) while No. 13 is an earring (Plate II, 1, 2).

The choice of a location for the main excavation was determined in part by the practical factors. The tell is largely open to the east of the tree line (Plates I, 2 ; III, 1). but this is a plowed field in use for agriculture. In addition, the surface sherds are few and disappear quickly as one moves down the slope into the shallow wadi. Among the few open spaces on the west, surface sherds were also few in number. Several caves and a huge cistern invited exploration but the caves were full of modern debris and the cistern had quite modern cement tops and steps.⁸ The flat top of the mound has an open space in the middle of the two dunam area. There was room for four 5 m. squares without endangering the trees or encroaching on the weather station. Four squares were laid out by compass to the east of the station. The two eastern squares were chosen for initial excavation (Pl. III, 1). The four squares were designated Area A to distinguish this area from future work.

The immediate surface was black gray with ash and loose soil. This presumably results from the burning of surface vegetation as observed earlier in the Fall and since

the end of this Spring's excavations. This darker soil quickly took on a reddish gray to brown red appearance with no apparent stratigraphic changes to bedrock, about 0.70 m. deep (with a range of 0.50-1.10 m. depth). Slight changes which became apparent in the balks after drying, may have been obscured by a large number of rocks. The excavation of what appeared to be unchanging fill was by mechanical depths in one and two meter wide strips across the square (east to west) and back again. The latest pottery was Ayyubid/Mamluk. In addition there was Umayyad, Early Byzantine (5th century), small quantities of Iron Age (6/7th century), 1 possible Late Byzantine sherd, 1 Late Roman, 1 possible Early Roman, 1 possible Late Hellenistic, 1 possible Early Hellenistic. Square 1 had several tabun fragments (cf. Loc. 5). About 150 loose tessarae were found in this fill along with numerous bones. Identifiable bones included sheep/goat and cattle. Bits of glass and heavily rusted iron were also found. Among registered objects (all from Square 1) were : No. 2, a triangular bead or amulet; No. 3, a broken spatula with a snake (?) motif; No. 4, a coin (Constantine II);⁹ No. 5, one half of one of the common basalt grinders; No. 6, a bronze disc (for a scale balance?, or half of a castanet? - there are three holes near the edge which might have been for the string of a scale or to fasten two halves of a castanet together); No. 7, the bronze bottle with the Ammonite inscription of Plate III, 2.

The inscription will be published elsewhere. Here we can note the eight lines of Phoenician script. Two lines consist of a single word each and complete the thought of the previous line. The inscription refers to the works of Amminadab, King of the Ammonites, the son of Ha-

(8) According to Gharaibeh and Haj Hamdan, it was an old cistern but repaired for modern use in the 1940's.

(9) The coins were read by Dr. Aida Aref of the University of Jordan. Her assistance is deeply appreciated.

siel'1(?), King of the Ammonites, son of Amminadab, King of the Ammonites. The works consist of a vineyard, gardens, a channel(?) and cisterns. The hope is added that he will enjoy a long life.

Amminadab I of the inscription is probably the King of the Ammonites noted in Cylinder C of Ashurbanipal's records, thus dating the inscription to c. 600 B.C.¹⁰ The bottle had a specific gravity of 3.64 which does not match solid bronze (c. 8.5), lead (c. 11.5) or other fabrics.

The tabun fragments noted for Square A. 1, Locus 1, may have come from the fragmentary tabun, Locus 5, found in the southeast corner of the square (Pl. IV, 1). It extended 1.20 m. from the east balk. The western end was broken away, 0.65 m. from the south balk which contained fragments of the coarse soft terra cotta walls of the tabun. The latest pottery within and immediately under the tabun, was Ayyubid/Mamluk. Umayyad and Early Byzantine were also present.

Square A. 1, Locus 2, was a semi-circle in the southwest corner (Pl. IV, 2). The "diameter" (corner of the square to the edge of the circle) was 1.20 m. though there is no present way of knowing the actual dimensions. In the horizontal, about one fourth of a "pie" appeared in the square. In section, it was composed of colored layers of red, black, and yellow soils. These may represent successive floors of a round hut, dug down into the ground and perhaps roofed over with brush or a tent. No roofing material of the "mud roof with straw binder" type was found. Below the lowest "floor" were a few irregularly placed stones and below these was a curious oblong or egg-shaped (in plan) layer of stone (Locus 4) which resembled a burial mound in appearance. But no bones were found. The

pottery showed no distinction from colored layer to layer although the latest material from the sub-floor rocks, was Early Byzantine. However, the sherds were so few in number that it seems doubtful this could serve for dating purposes, so the locus is assumed to be Ayyubid/Mamluk. No pottery was found in Locus 4, the stones of which were on bedrock.

Square A.1, Locus 3, is a 1 m. wall, of which 1.95 m. appears in the square. The eastern end of it extends for an unknown distance into the east balk. The extant remains are one course high and two courses wide except for a single large stone second from the western end (see Pl. V, 1). It is possible that this is the foundation of one of the buildings demolished for terracing stones but Haj Hamdan did not remember it specifically. In addition to whatever above ground walling it represents, it has a curious function in relation to Locus 7. Wall 3 is part of the ceiling for a room of Locus 7. It covers part of a square hole in the ceiling. Immediately to the south, hidden in the east balk, is apparently another wall filling another square hole in the ceiling of Loc. 7 (Pl. V, 2). Bits of mortar suggest the stones of these walls may have been laid on a dirt fill and set in place with the mortar to hold them together after the soil underneath was removed. The top of the extant wall remains are too even for them to have been merely wedged together while from below they give the appearance of an imminent fall. Wall 3 formed a right angle with wall (Locus) 6. In cleaning top soil from among the stones of wall 3, a few sherds were collected. They date to the Ayyubid/Mamluk and Early Byzantine periods.

Wall 6 was an irregular line of stone 0.90-2.20 m. from the east balk, c. 1.30 m. wide x 2.30 m. long, in a north-south line from wall 3 toward the north balk

(10) J.B. Pritchard *ANET*, (1950) p. 294.

(Pl. V, 1). Sectioning against it failed to reveal any foundation trench. After drawing it in plan, it was dismantled. The pottery was Ayyubid/Mamluk and UD (Undistinguished).

A "cistern" opening was noted under the western edge of wall 6 prior to its clearance. When the wall was removed, the opening was seen to be rectangular with a slight step at the northern end (Fig. 1). At least two other openings appeared - one near the western end of the tabun and the other near the northeast corner of the square. These are more rounded like the more traditional cistern entrance. In addition, wall 3 filled up the square hole mentioned above along with an unexcavated wall, as noted above, filling yet another square hole. It would appear that a series of cisterns (cf. Square A.2) existed here. Several of these were enlarged and connected to form a complex of rooms. The area under Square A.1 was designated A.1, Locus 7, while that under Square A.2, is Locus 9 of A.2.

Locus 7 is of irregular shape (Fig. 2) except for the "room" under wall 3. The walls of this area are plastered. The northern wall is constructed of stone and mortar. While the floor of the rest of Locus 7 and of Square A.2, Locus 9, is nearly level, here there is a large pit (Pl. VI, 1). One suspects that the plaster and the pit are the remains of an earlier cistern except that the constructed wall would argue for post-cistern construction. The cistern opening which appeared under the western edge of the tabun, at the south balk, marks a southerly extension of the room complex. Excavation stopped here at the end of the season (Pl. VI, 2).

A 1 m. wide trench was cut through the center of Locus 7, just under the rectangular opening which was used for entrance to the complex for the excavations. This trench extended from just under the south balk where excavation stopped at

the end of the season at the southerly expansion of Locus 7, to the door into A.2, Locus 9. After this trench had been cut, an extension was made into the plastered area with a section against the north wall and a north-south subsidiary balk that would have formed a section against the east wall, but work stopped at this point (Pl. VII, 1).

Immediately under each opening in the ceiling of Locus 7, was found a conical pile of fine dust. This probably represents the dirt which sifted down during the excavation of Loci 1, 3, 5, and 6 above. This fine soil flowed so easily it proved impossible to cut a section so the balk drawing (Pl. X) shows only a small portion of it. Below this fine soil was a hard layer varying from 0.01-0.05 m. thick. Soil below that was soft and appeared largely as tip lines running down from their high point under the ceiling openings.

The latest pottery of locus 7 was Ayyubid/Mamluk, with additional quantities of Umayyad and Early Byzantine. There was also a fragment of a Late Hellenistic lamp, and several UD pieces. A few tesserae and numerous bones were found. Identifiable bones included cattle, sheep/goat, and bird (fowl?). A skull fragment and the lower jaw of a child were found on the surface of the hard layer noted above. No other bones identifiable as human, were located and specifically, no other bones were found on the surface of the hard layer. This would suggest that this was not a burial in the normal sense of the word and the disarticulated and incomplete nature of the skull fragments would suggest that these pieces alone were thrown into the cave just prior to its final closing. A coin (Mamluk, "al-zahir") was found under the hard layer, and a circular basalt grindstone came from fill near the entrance.

Square 2, Locus 9, is an underground "room" c. 5.5 m. long (N-S) and 1.60-2.50

m. wide (Pl. VIII, 1, 2. Figs. 1, 2.). The ceiling is slightly vaulted. Where one enters through an arched crawl space (0.75 m. high x 1.60 m. wide) from A.1, Loc. 7, the ceiling rises in dome or bell shape to a round cistern entrance now blocked by a round stone and the overlying fill. This entrance is under the balk between Squares A.1 and A.2. The round stone is 1.20 m. above the bedrock floor. Moving north, the bedrock rises slightly and the ceiling drops to 0.75 m. above the floor and then rises again to 1.00 m. above the floor. At this northern end, there is a rectangular door in the west wall of the room. The door is 0.95 m. high x 0.70 m. wide at the bottom and 0.54 m. at the top. This west facing entrance - exit (unexcavated) is probably facing downhill since the bedrock above (the bottom of A.2) forms two steps going down to the west. There is also an entrance into Locus 9 from the plastered cistern, A.2, Locus 7. This is a broken hole just large enough to crawl through, 0.65 m. wide x 0.35 m. high. Another broken hole connects Locus 9 with cistern A.2, Locus 4, but this hole is only large enough to admit air, 0.20 m. high and wide. In the bedrock above, a small channel leads from the middle step to the lower one (Fig. 1). When first found, it was thought to be man-made, perhaps a channel to another cistern lower down. But the excavation showed it to be a natural channel in the bedrock. At its lowest point, there is a small hole, c. 0.02 m., which penetrates the ceiling of the underground room, Locus 9. It is difficult to determine if this hole was deliberately cut. The hole presently admits a small amount of light just inside the west door. The size and location of the hole suggests it is the result of natural water erosion while the other openings are surely man-made.

Most of the floor of Locus 9 was covered with a fine loose soil from 0.01-0.05 m. deep. Under the still blocked cistern

hole was a conical pile of dirt c. 0.25 m. high, presumably sifted in after the cistern entrance was closed. Another quantity of fill was found inside the west door c. 0.60 m. high at the door to 0.10 m. high at the east wall. No significant stratigraphy was found. The fill appeared to be wash from the now blocked west door.

The pottery from Locus 9 was Ayyubid/Mamluk, Umayyad and UD. In addition to a few tesserae, there were some unidentified bone fragments and a coin (Mamluk, late 14th century, inscribed "as-melek al-ashraf"). Inside the hole broken through from plastered cistern 7, was a piece of angle iron. This would seem to attest to fairly late use of the room, which is supported by the finding of a Turkish coin dated 1905 A.D. (1327 A.H.). It was struck in Istanbul. The east balk over the entrance to Locus 7 had a depression which along with the vertical lines of the balk over the edges of the cistern mouth also attest to its late open condition or reopening at the turn of this century.

The function of the room complex of Loci 7 and 9 remains obscure. One might speculate that the low ceilings are not conducive to comfortable human living but the labor involved in hollowing out this complex seems too excessive to spend on a mere animal shelter. Perhaps this was a human shelter used in time of war or other dangers.

The surface soil, Locus 1, and the underground room, Locus 9, of Square 2, have been described in relationship with Square A.1. Square A.2. Locus 2, was a rose red soil (clay? or plaster?) partly continuous and partly in scattered patches, over c. 2 m. of bedrock in the southeast quadrant of the Square. The initial pottery pail of this locus, had a small quantity of Ayyubid/Mamluk pottery but was predominantly Umayyad. The second pail was Umayyad and

possibly Early Byzantine. The small quantity of Ayyubid/Mamluk material in the first pail may have come from dirt sifted down around the plaster, so this locus is considered as very probably Umayyad in date. As such, it relates to Loci 5 and 6.

Square A.2, Locus 5 is a round hole 0.45 m. across x 0.55 m. deep, 1.55 m. from the south balk and 1.45 m. from the east balk (Pl. VII. 1; Fig. 1). As found, it was filled with reddish brown soil. The pottery is Umayyad with one piece of Byzantine. Locus 5 is separated from the rectangular Locus 6 by a thin wall of bedrock. A small hole connects the shallower (0.32-0.38 m. deep) Locus 6 with Locus 5. Locus 6 is 0.47 m. x 0.65 m. (N-S) at the top. As found, it was filled with reddish soil. The pottery was Umayyad with one Early Byzantine sherd. A large white sherd is significant for its date. Its importance lies in the red paint inscription, "to Suleiman" in Arabic (Pl. III, 3). The discussion turns on the pointed text which is usually considered to be late, i.e. 12th century, Ayyubid rather than Umayyad in date, and whether the red paint on white ware is Late Byzantine or Umayyad. The Umayyad date of the pottery ware is published by Dr. J. Sauer (p. 15).

The two holes of Loci 5 and 6 would seem to be too shallow for cisterns, and too deep for watering troughs for livestock (plus the physical fact that livestock would have had to kneel in order to drink from either hole). It is possible they were for grain or chaff storage. They might conceivably be wine vats but the walls and floor are rough and there is no sign of plaster. Nor is there any sign of an above ground wine press.

Locus 3 was a small cistern 0.20 m. from the east and north balks. As found, it was filled with reddish soil containing potsherds dating Ayyubid/Mamluk, Umay-

yad, Late Hellenistic, 6/7th century B.C., and UD. The cistern is quite small, 0.87 m. deep x 0.85 m. wide. While it could theoretically have been used for water, its small size may indicate grain storage.

Locus 4 is a cistern 2.50 m. from the west balk and 0.45 m. from the north balk. As found, a large round stone covered the mouth as a lid. The reddish brown fill appeared in a cone shaped pile 0.90 m. below the lid. This fill soil continued down with some irregular tip lines to a gray layer of clay representing the first of two layers of silt separated by sandy soil. This could presumably represent different periods of use. The pottery was consistently Ayyubid/Mamluk so no dating distinction could be made. Additional sherds were Umayyad, Byzantine, Late Hellenistic and UD. A few tesserae and a number of bones were also found. Among the latter were cattle, sheep/goat, & bird bones. Two groups of very fine bones were found in southern and southeastern edges. They may represent lizards. The northern edge of the cistern continues and either connects with another cistern (not apparent in the shape of the walls) or has two extra openings, blocked by stones but coming up under the northern balk of Square 2. Excavation stopped at this point. On the south edge of cistern 4 is the small hole noted earlier that connects with the underground room, Locus 9.

Locus 7 is a large cistern noted earlier (Pl. VII, 1, 2; Fig. 1). It is the only plastered cistern found, unless the room in A.1, Locus 7 represents the plastered remains of a cistern. Cistern 7 is also unusual in having a large square top and a bench 1.80 m. below the lip. The bench is 0.25 - .40 m. wide, i.e., wide enough to sit on (Pl. IX, 1). A portion of the plaster has chipped away showing stones set in the plaster, i.e., the bench is not a shelf in bedrock, or at least not all of it. It is, or at least part of it is, built of stone.

This presumably represents a secondary feature in the history of the cistern's use. This writer is not familiar with such benches in other cisterns. From the bench, the cistern drops another 0.70 - .90 m. deeper. The size of the cistern and the limitations of time dictated the excavation of only one fourth of the cistern. A large number of rocks made it extremely difficult to form a balk until the bench level was reached. As noted earlier, a hole is broken through the plastered wall on the west-southwest side, into the underground room Locus 9. One piece of pottery has a dark green glaze and is of porcelain quality. It probably dates to the Mamluk period. The usual quantity of Ayyubid/Mamluk pottery was present plus Umayyad, possible Early Byzantine, possible 6/7th century B.C., & UD. No tesserae were noted. Bones are sheep/goat. As noted earlier a Turkish coin, Object No. 11 (Pl. II, 2.) was found in Locus 7. The coin was near the top of the loose fill.

Concluding Postscript

As noted in the introduction, the excavation at Tell Siran worked with Ayyubid/Mamluk remains almost in entirety. The Umayyad loci in Square A.2,

and the possible/probable intrusion in the Turkish period into A.2, Locus 7 cistern, and thence into the underground room, Locus 9, are noted above. The Iron Age pottery supports the date for the Ammonite inscription in the 6/7th century B.C. It is tempting to think of Tell Siran as the site of Amminadab's gardens and temple, especially with the abundance of cisterns known on the site. However, the bronze bottle is so portable that it could have very easily been brought to the site at a later date.

Future excavation of the site should probably include excavation of Squares 3 and 4 in Area A and the extension of the work below ground south in Locus 7 (A.1), north in Locus 4 and west in (out of) Locus 9 (A.2). Hopefully, somewhere on the mound are undisturbed strata from the earlier periods. The most viable suggestion at the moment would seem to be a probe trench down the eastern slope (the plowed field) with a second one down the western slope near the weather station. A possible foundation near the University refuse dump on the southeast corner of the tell, might also be investigated.

Object List (1972)

1. Knob or Weight, from the Trial Trench Locus 4, Pail 6, 20 April 72 (Pl. II, 1) .

2. Bead or Amulet, A.1.3, Loc. 1. 22 April 72 (Pl. II, 2) .

3. Broken Spatula, A.1.3, Loc. 1. 22 April 72 (Pl. II, 2) .

4. Byzantine Coin (Constantine II), A.1.3, Loc. 1, 22 Ap, 72 (Pl. II, 2) . Note: The 4 coins found in the excavation were studied and indentified by Dr. Aida Suleiman Aref of the University of Jordan.

5. One half of a flat grindstone, A.I.4, Loc. 1 (Pl. III, 3) .

6. Bronze disc - ? balance for a pan scale?, or half a castanet?, A.1.5, Loc. 1, 23 Ap. 72 (Pl. II, 1) .

7. Bronze bottle shaped object with Ammonite inscription, A.1.7, Loc. 1, 27 Ap. 72 (Pl. III, 2) .

8. Mamluk Coin, A.1.21, Loc. 7 (Pl. II, 2) .

9. Circular grindstone, A.1.25, Loc. 7 (Pl. III, 3) .

10. Ostrakon "to Suleiman" in Arabic, A.2.17, Loc. 6, 8 May 72 (Pl. III, 3) .

11. Turkish coin, 1327 A.H., A.2.20, Loc. 7. struck in Constantinople (Pl. II, 2) .

12. Mamluk coin, A.2.26, Loc. 9 (Pl. II, 2) .

13. Earring, Trial Trench Loc. 2, Pail 3, 18 Ap. 72 Broken (Pl. II, 2) .

Henry O. Thompson

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A Ceramic Note on the Arabic "Ostrakon" from Tell Siran

by
James A. Sauer

Among the objects found during the 1972 excavations at Tell Siran was an Arabic "ostrakon" (potter's mark?)¹ (Plate III, 2). The "ostrakon," measuring ca. .08 x .11 m., is the body sherd of a jar, as its thickness, curvature, and shoulder ridge would indicate. The sherd is smooth and unribbed, and while it is buff-white colored on the exterior, it is light pink colored on the interior. "To Selim" or "To Suleiman" was painted in pointed Arabic on the exterior surface of the sherd (jar), prior to kiln firing, and thus it is not a true ostrakon. The color of the fired paint is reddish-brown.

The "ostrakon" came from Locus A.2:6, a shallow bedrock hole (ca. .32—.38 m. deep, .47 m. wide, .65 m. long) which was filled with reddish soil.² Locus A.2:6 produced none of the site's Ay-yubid/Mamluk pottery. Instead, it contained an essentially homogeneous assemblage of a distinctive red-painted pottery. This pottery, well attested at other sites, is usually of well-fired white, buff, or pink unribbed ware, and it frequently carries red- or brown-painted loops, spirals, wavy lines, or crossed lines.

Such red-painted pottery has been published from sites in Syria, Transjordan,

the Jordan Valley, and the hill country of the West Bank, but it has seldom been properly evaluated. The Tell Siran "ostrakon" can now be cited as another piece of evidence for dating it to the Umayyad period.

When the pottery was first published in the Jericho report of 1913, it was dated to the Byzantine Period,³ and in some reports this Byzantine dating has been perpetuated down to the present day.⁴ In the 1950 publication of the Mt. Nebo pottery, however, the pottery was dated to the late Byzantine—early Arabic (ca. 6th-8th century A.D.) period,⁵ and this Byzantine-Arabic dating has likewise been maintained in subsequent publications.⁶

There is, however, no substantive evidence for dating the pottery to the Byzantine (A.D. 324-640), or to the Late Byzantine (A.D. 491-640) period. The pottery from Jericho clearly could not be dated as early as the 4th-5th century A.D., but it could be dated by the unstratified Umayyad coins from the site.⁷ The pottery from Mt. Nebo was not present in the site's sealed and coin-dated Late Byzantine contexts, but it was well attested in the "open" contexts, which

(1) The "ostrakon" is now at the Amman Museum.

(2) Cf. H. O. Thompson, "The Excavation of Tell Siran," in this issue of *ADAJ*; cf. also A. Hadidi, "The Pottery from Tell Siran," forthcoming in the University of Jordan *Faculty of Arts Journal*.

(3) E. Sellin and C. Watzinger, *Jericho* (Leipzig, 1913), pp. 90-92, 160-168.

(4) E.g., B. Bagatti, *Excavations in Nazareth* (Jerusalem, 1969), p. 276; N. Glueck, *The Other Side of the Jordan* (Cambridge, Mass., 1970), pp. 164-165; B. Bagatti, *The Church from the Gentiles in Palestine* (Jerusalem, 1971), pp. 351-352; A. D. Tushingham, *The Excavations at Dibon (Dhibân) in Moab*, AASOR, Vol. 40 (Cambridge, Mass., 1972), pp. 76-77.

(5) H. Schneider, *The Memorial of Moses on Mount Nebo*, Part 3: *The Pottery* (Jerusalem, 1950), pp. 25-26, 43-49, *passim*.

(6) E.g., J. L. Kelso and D. C. Baramki, *Excavations at New Testament Jericho and Khirbet en-Nitla*, AASOR, Vols. 29-30 (New Haven, Conn., 1955), pp. 23, 32, 35; S. J. Saller, *Excavations at Bethany* (Jerusalem, 1957), pp. 214, 229, 272; M. Avi-Yonah, "Review of *A Byzantine Church at Khirbat al-Karak*," *IEJ*, 13 (1963), 346; F. Winnett and W. L. Reed, *The Excavations at Dibon (Dhibân) in Moab*, AASOR, Vols. 36-37 (New Haven, Conn., 1964), p. 56; H. J. Franken, "Palestijnse Archeologie," *Phoenix*, 17 (1971), 49.

(7) Sellin and Watzinger, *Jericho*, p. 169. Cf. J. A. Sauer, *Heshbon Pottery 1971* (Berrien Springs, Mich., 1973), p. 46.

could be dated by the site's Umayyad coins and Arabic inscriptions.⁸ Finally, the pottery has not appeared in controlled Late Byzantine contexts at other sites.⁹

While there is as yet no definite evidence for dating the pottery to the Pre-Umayyad (A.D. 630 - 661) period,¹⁰ there is virtually conclusive evidence for dating it to the Umayyad (A.D. 661-750), and especially to the late Umayyad (ca. A.D. 696-750) period. The pottery from the Amman Citadel "main house" would postdate slightly the Arab-Byzantine coin and the two early Umayyad coins which came from the filling for the house, and it could be dated by the (A.D. 696 ff.?) Umayyad coin which came from the floor of Room J.¹¹ The pottery from Usaïs could be dated by that site's A.D. 696 ff. Umayyad coins and A.D. 711/12, 718/19, 726 / 27, 731 / 32, 737 Arabic inscriptions.¹² The pottery from Heshbon was associated with two Arabic "ostraca," and it could probably be dated by the site's A.D. 674-81 "Byzantine" coin and A.D. 696 ff. Umayyad coins.¹³ Finally, the Tell Siran

"ostrakon" was not only found together with an assemblage of red-painted pottery, but it would even seem to be a piece of the pottery itself, with paint in pointed Arabic.¹⁴

Since there is no evidence for dating the pottery to the Early Abbasid ff. (A.D. 750 ff.) periods,¹⁵ it could be argued that a rather sharp break in ceramic traditions accompanied the A.D. 750 Abbasid takeover in Syria-Palestine. This Umayyad-Abbasid break was noted in the 1944 publication of the Kh. el Mefjer pottery, but it was obscured by the typological format and the "eighth century" terminology of that publication.¹⁶ The break also has been overlooked in several recent reports, where pottery types and assemblages from the Early Abbasid ff. (A.D. 750 ff.) periods have been dated to the Umayyad period or to the 8th century A.D.¹⁷

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(8) S. J. Saller, *The Memorial of Moses on Mount Nebo*, Part 1: *The Text* (Jerusalem, 1941), pp. 117-208, 275-276 278-285; Schneider, *ibid.*, Part 3: *The Pottery*, pp. 1-3, 43-49, *passim*. Cf. Sauer, *Heshbon Pottery 1971*, pp. 36-39, 45, 47.

(9) Sauer, *Heshbon Pottery 1971*, pp. 47-48 (cf. also Tushingham, *Excavations at Dibon (Dhibân)*, pp. 75-76).

(10) Cf. J. W. Crowfoot and G. M. Fitzgerald, *Excavations in the Tyropoeon Valley, Jerusalem*, PEFA, Vol. 5 (London, 1929), pp. 52-58, 81-84, 119-120; R. W. Hamilton, "Excavations Against the North Wall of Jerusalem," *QDAP*, 10 (1940-42), 11-19.

(11) G. L. Harding, "Excavations on the Citadel, Amman," *ADAJ*, 1 (1951), 7-16.

(12) K. Brisch, "Das omayyadische Schloss in Usaïs," *Mitteilungen des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts Abteilung Kairo*, 19 (1963), 165-168, 181-182; *ibid.*, 20 (1965), 159, 163-172.

(13) Sauer, *Heshbon Pottery 1971*, pp. 43-44 (cf. Errata). Cf. M. Rosen-Ayalon, "Heshbon Ostrakon III," *Andrews University Seminary Studies*, 11 (1973), 132; A. Terian, "Coins from the 1968 Excavations at Heshbon," *AUSS*, 9 (1971), 153-154, Nos. 20-27; A. Terian, "Coins from the 1971 Excavations at Heshbon," *AUSS*, forthcoming, Nos. 65-67, 181.

(14) The calligraphy of the "ostrakon" will be discussed elsewhere. It should be noted here, however, that several other dated Umayyad inscriptions attest pointed letters.

(15) Cf. F. Sarre, *Die Keramik von Samarra* (Berlin, 1925); R. Koechlin, *Les céramiques musulmanes de Suse* (Paris, 1928); D. T. Rice, "The Oxford Excavations at Hira," *Ars Islamica*, 1 (1934), 52, 54, 65-70; A. Lane, "Medieval Finds at Al Mina in North Syria," *Archaeologia*, 87 (1937), 20-21, 28-42.

Cf. Crowfoot and Fitzgerald, *Excavations in the Tyropoeon Valley, Jerusalem*, pp. 56-58, 84-86, 120; G. M. Fitzgerald, *Beth-shan Excavations, The Arab and Byzantine Levels* (Philadelphia, 1931), pp. 36-37, 48; D. C. Baramki, "The Pottery from Kh. el Mefjer," *QDAP*, 10 (1940-42), 65-104; R. de Vaux and A.-M. Steve, *Fouilles à Qaryet el'Enab Abu Gôsh* (Paris, 1950), pp. 79-80, 119-132; C. N. Johns, "The Citadel, Jerusalem," *QDAP*, 14 (1950), 160-162; J. Kaplan, "Excavations at the White Mosque in Ramla," *Atiqot (Eng.)*, 2 (1959), 111-113.

(16) Baramki, "Pottery from Mefjer," *QDAP*, 10 (1940-42), 65-104.

(17) F. E. Day, "Islamic Glazed Wares," in *A Byzantine Church at Khirbat al-Karak*, by P. Delougaz and R. C. Haines (Chicago, 1960), pp. 40-48; M. Rosen-Ayalon and A. Eitan, *Ramla Excavations* (Jerusalem, 1969); B. Mazar, *The Excavations in the Old City of Jerusalem* (Jerusalem, 1969), pp. 19-20; M. Ben-Dov, *The Umayyad Structures Near the Temple Mount* (Jerusalem, 1971), p. 37; M. Rosen-Ayalon, "Islamic Pottery from Susa," *Archaeology*, 24 (1971), 205-208; E. D. Oren, "Early Islamic Material from Ganei-Hamat (Tiberias)," *Archaeology*, 24 (1971), 274-277.

Recent Excavations on the Citadel of Amman

(*A Preliminary Report*)

by

Fawzi Zayadine

The Citadel of Amman, called Djebel el-Qal'a, is a natural rocky hill which, in its present state, stretches like an articulated arm in three sections; the first one extending north-south, while the two others are oriented east-west (see plan : Fig. 1). The highest terrace (or acropolis) is limited to the north by the well preserved Roman wall, reinforced by square towers. This side of the Citadel is strategically the weakest point because it is easily accessible from neighboring Djebel el-Hussein, which is today the best way to approach the ruins. Here, on the north side, are to be expected the strongest fortifications to resist any military attack. The city wall runs along the western edge of the hill where a gateway exists, facing the Arab Palace, and turns downwards to protect the southern side of the middle terrace and part of the lower terrace. A gateway is still visible between the middle and the lower terrace, from which a stairway descended to the colonnaded street. It is apparent that the southern section of the wall was restored in either the Byzantine or the Arab period, for it includes many Roman architectural fragments, and the tower close to the Heracles Temple was certainly built with stones and moulded cornices robbed from that magnificent monument erected in the time of Marcus Aurelius. The restored Roman city wall has been

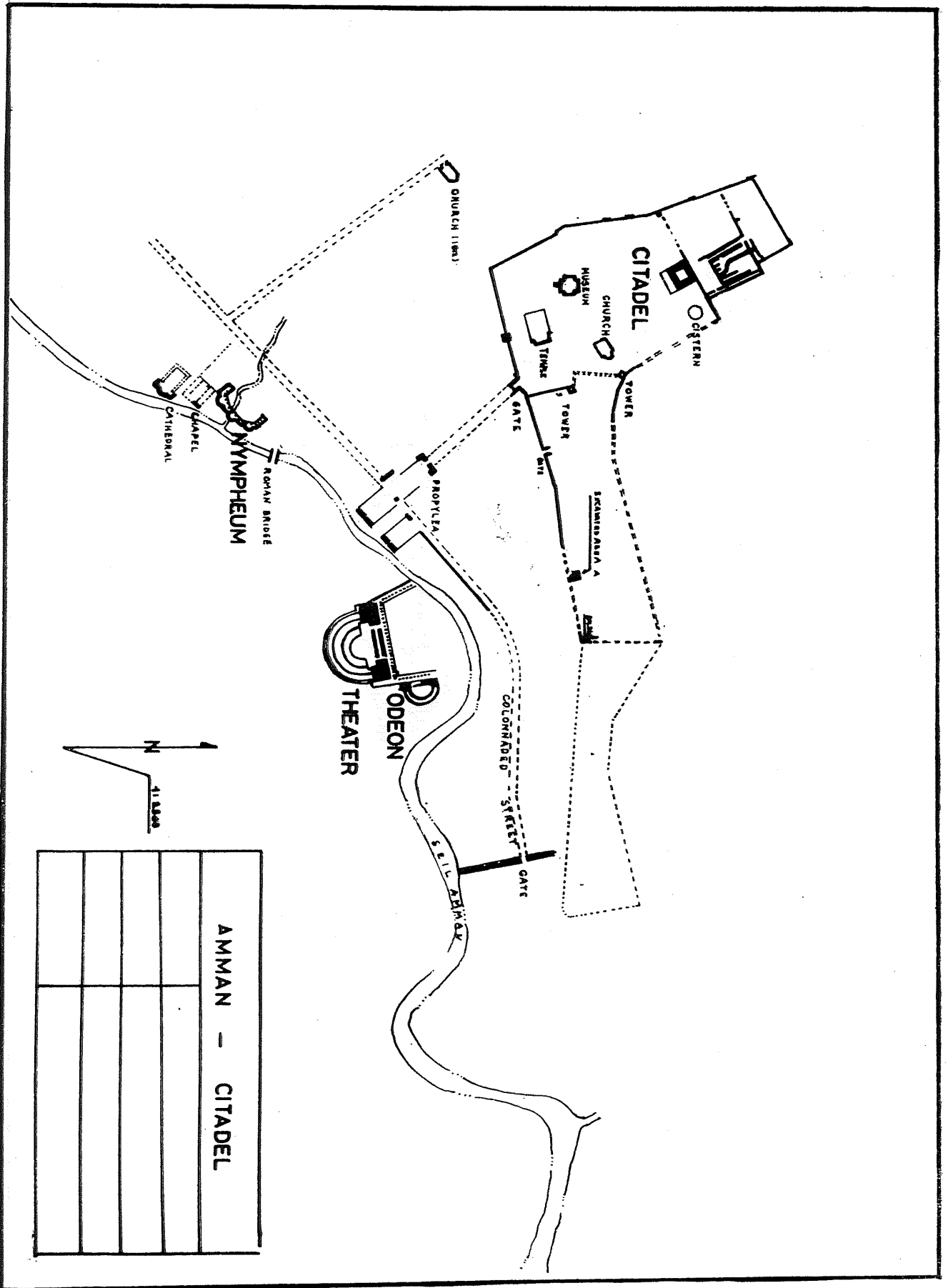
extended with rough uncut stones where it stopped in the lower terrace. (Pl. XI, 2) Some Roman architectural fragments were reused in the wall. On the south-eastern corner of the Citadel there are several city walls; the outer one is to be dated to the Iron II period for it is covered with Iron II sherds, while the two inner ones belong to the Early and Late Hellenistic periods, as demonstrated by the 1973 campaign. Along the north side of the lower terrace, a section of a city wall, built with large undressed boulders, may belong to the Iron Age. No walls are visible along the eastern slope of the upper terrace; modern roads and building operations have had much too destructive an effect on that side.

Though many explorers visited Amman in the 19th and early 20th centuries, the first survey of the ruins was published by Condor in 1889,¹ when the ancient monuments were still undisturbed by modern building activities. This was followed in 1904 by a much more comprehensive account published by H.C. Butler.² Thus, for a good description of the ruins, excavations were badly needed.

The first excavations to be conducted on the Citadel were sponsored by the Italian Archaeological Mission which started its first campaign in 1927 under the direction of G. Guidi. Work was carried

(1) C.R. Condor, *Survey of Eastern Palestine*, (1889), p. 19-65.

(2) H.C. Butler, *Ancient Architecture in Syria*, Div. II (1919) p. 34-62.



AMMAN - CITADEL	

Fig. 1

out on the upper terrace, inside the Roman precinct decorated with niches, and the Arab Palace. A Byzantine church was excavated to the North.

Guidi was succeeded by R. Bartoccini who directed many campaigns between 1928 and 1938 when he was interrupted by World War II. Bartoccini continued the excavations in the Roman precinct and the Arab Palace and moved to the so-called Heracles Temple, built in the second century A.D. and dedicated to Marcus Aurelius. Unfortunately, the final report on these excavations was never published and only some short notes are available.³ The Italian scholar was fascinated by the discovery inside the cella of the Heracles Temple of a protruding rock, smoothed at its top, which he identified with the "Sacred Rock" of the Ammonites.⁴ This rock shows no special features to identify it as a high place, similar to the well known high place of Petra. The surface of the rock was probably smoothed down by the Romans when the Heracles Temple was built. There is no visible sacrificial place, as claimed by Bartoccini. At any rate, it is clear that the Romans cleared out all previous structures before building the temple on bedrock.

In 1949, before the erection of the Jordanian Archaeological Museum, G.L. Harding,⁵ as Director of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan, undertook a sounding on the site which provided mainly an Umayyad house but also Byzantine, Roman and Hellenistic material. In October of the same year, a group of Ammonite sculptures⁶ was

discovered to the north-west of the upper terrace, outside the Roman city wall. One of these sculptures was the famous statue of Yerah'azar, probably a king of Ammon.⁷

G.L. Harding was also responsible for the discovery of the Adoni-Nur tomb,⁸ on the southern slope of the Citadel, opposite the Roman theater. This burial, which belonged to a servant or minister of Amminadab, is considered as a landmark in the archaeological history of Rabbat Ammon and the pottery collected from the tomb forms the most valuable group for any comparative study of Ammonite ceramics in the Iron II period.

Two Middle Bronze tombs were excavated by the Department of Antiquities in 1957, and 1958, the first one near the Arab Palace and the second close to the south-eastern corner of the Museum. Only the scarabs discovered in the two burials have been published by Dr. Ward,⁹ while the important collection of pottery, now exhibited in the Archaeological Museum, is still unpublished.

To obtain a better view of the Roman city wall on the northern arm of the Citadel, the Department of Antiquities cleared away the accumulated dump against its outer face. Important Iron Age and earlier structures were uncovered during the process of clearance. This led Dr. R. Dornemann¹⁰ of the A.C.O.R. to start stratigraphic digs in that area. His work, though made difficult by later disturbance of the archaeological strata, has greatly contributed to our knowledge of ancient Rabbat Ammon.

(3) Short reports on the digs are available in the files of the **Registration Center** at the Department of Antiquities.

(4) See "La Roccia degli Ammoniti," in "**Atti del IV Congresso Nazionale di Studi Romani**" Vol. I (1938) p. 103-108.

(5) **ADAJ**, I (1951) p. 7-61.

(6) **ADAJ**, (1951) p. 34-36.

(7) In November 1973 the author was able to examine the inscription with Father Starcky.

It appeared that the last name is to be read : **SNB**; This is the name of an Ammonite King mentioned in the Assyrian Annals in 733. Thus, two new kings are to be added to the Ammonite dynasty: Yerah'azar, son of Zakir son of Shanib. See my article in **Syria** (forthcoming).

(8) **APEF**, VI (1953) p. 48-72.

(9) **ADAJ**, XI (1966) p. 5-18.

(10) See his unpublished dissertation **The Cultural and Archaeological History of the Transjordan in the Bronze and Iron Ages**, Vol. I, Chicago (1970) p. 49ff.

Dr. Dornemann uncovered in Area III a layer of sterile huwwar which he identified as a Middle Bronze glacis, similar to the one discovered in 1953 at Tell Safut, and the sherds collected corroborate this dating. Two walls (E and F) come up against the glacis. These two walls intersect at an angle which suggests to Dr. Dornemann a gateway, a fort, or the junction of a city wall with a citadel. The latter solution seems the most probable, because, as I mentioned above, this point of the tell is the weakest and would probably have been strongly fortified.

This new discovery is crucial when one remembers N. Glueck's theory about the unsettled life in Transjordan during the Middle and Late Bronze periods. At least in the Amman area there was continuous settlement, even if the evidence for it is still scanty. The Late Bronze temple excavated by B. Hennessey at Amman Airport is further evidence to challenge N. Glueck's statement.

Below the Middle Bronze levels, R. Dornemann found Early Bronze sherds but no architecture related to that period.¹¹ Iron Age walls which once formed part of the fortification system were uncovered in many places outside the Roman wall; and a cave, cut in the rock, was also explored.

Excavations on the lower terrace (1968, 1972-73)

In 1968 the Amman Municipality proposed to convert the lower terrace of the Citadel into a national park. The project was not approved by the Department of Antiquities and a sounding at the site was undertaken to demonstrate its archaeological importance. This sounding was entrusted to the author who started work on May 8, 1968 with a force of 15 laborers, including two technical men. Drawing was executed by Ismail Hazzaz

and 'Ata 'Uleiwat, and the author acted as photographer. The work was interrupted from July 15th to August 30th to allow the author to participate in the Hesban dig and was resumed from October 1st to October 30th. A report of this first campaign was presented at the 9th Congress of Classical Archaeology held in Damascus in 1969.¹²

Excavations were started again in 1972 in the same area (A) from October 11th to December 7th, with 20 laborers, including one technical man. Mr. Kurt Langer acted as draftsman and surveyor and produced a grid of the lower terrace. In 1973, work continued in Area A from the first to the 30th of October and a new area (B) was excavated on the southeastern corner of the terrace. The report on this new area will be published in a forthcoming issue of the Annual.

The area selected for the first campaign was almost in the middle of the lower terrace, inside the city wall and about 70 meters east of the end of the Roman wall. Originally, two squares (1 and 2) were plotted, each 5 m. by 5 m. with a one meter balk in between. The area was extended by two other squares to the north (3 and 4). The balks were removed later to allow a better understanding of the architectural remains. In 1972, no new squares were dug, and work was concentrated on checking the previous stratigraphy. Five strata have now been determined:

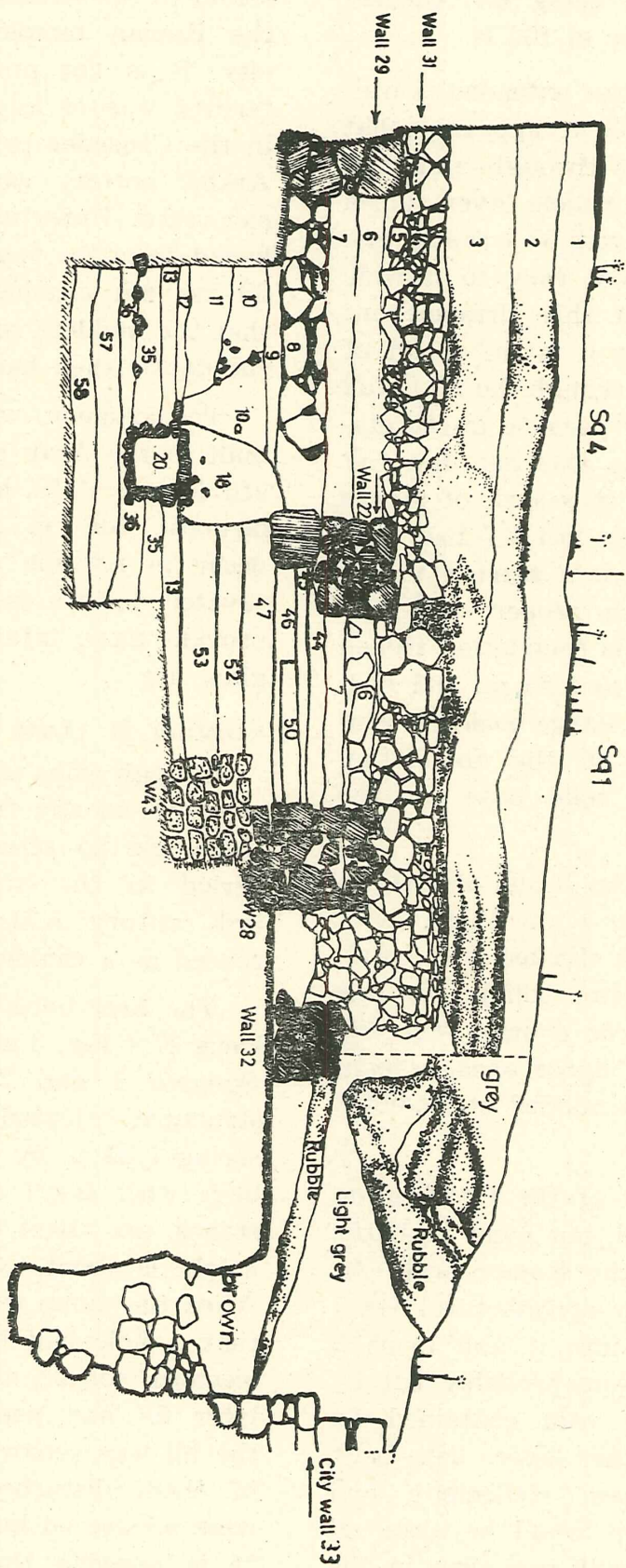
Stratum I

A thick layer of accumulated debris (loc. 1-3) covered the whole excavated area (see section A'-A: Fig. 2), probably washed down from the middle terrace. It contained large quantities of mixed pottery sherds and, in some places (mainly locus 2), wall plaster, painted with red or blue. Since this plaster was found east of wall 31, it probably came from the destruction of that wall.

(11) *Ibid.* p. 50.

(12) *AAS*, XXI (1971) p. 152.

AMMAN CITADEL EXCAVATION
1968 & 1972



SCALE 1:50
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KHAYYAT

Fig. 2

Many coins found in the accumulated debris prove that this layer was deposited between the 4th and the 9th centuries A.D., the latest coin being an Abbasid filis struck in Damascus in 162 H.

When Square 1 was extended southward to reach wall 33, it appeared that loci 1-7 had been cut through and part of wall 31 robbed. A rubble layer sloped down from wall 31 to wall 33 (see section A'-A; Fig. 2). It is not easy to provide a good explanation of this phenomenon; one may imagine that it is the result of previous excavations, though the fill is full of potsherds. Another possible interpretation is that the dump was cut down at a width of 2 meters, in search of stones to build wall 33. When loci 1-7 had been cut through, the builders started to dig the foundation trench proper, which is 1 m. to 1,50 wide. This foundation trench was excavated down to 2,50 m. and bed-rock was not reached. Large boulders were put in the bottom of the foundation trench to provide a solid base for the wall.

The wall itself (Fig. 3 and Pl. XI, 1) was originally about 4 m. thick, built with undressed stones chinked with smaller ones. To give better solidity to this curtain wall, the lower courses were 20 cm. thicker than the upper ones, a technique which has been noticed at medieval Hesban.¹³

Wall 33 was part of the fortification system of the Citadel, but most probably of later date than the Roman wall. As stated above, Roman architectural fragments are included into it and locus 2 of Square 1 which was probably cut by the builders of the wall contained an Abbasid coin. The other layers date back to Byzantine, Roman, Hellenistic and Iron periods. Thus it could be assumed that the wall was built sometime in the

9th century A.D. Arab historical sources mention no building activity in the area and Muqaddisi¹⁴ (9th century A.D.) refers to the Palace of Goliath (probably the Roman temple) as dominating the city. It is not probable that the lower terrace was of any strategic importance in the Crusader period since no medieval Arabic pottery was found in the area excavated. Unfortunately, the sherds collected from the foundation trench of wall 33 are not conclusive, for it is obvious that the builders refilled that trench with the debris they had removed.

To conclude, wall 33 was probably built in the Arab period, probably in the 9th century A.D., but its existence is problematic for no architecture or floors occur in relation to it in the area excavated. Future excavations will certainly provide more information about its original use.

Stratum II (Late Roman period)

Though coins of Byzantine period were collected, mostly from Square 2, locus 3, there are no structures related to that period in the area excavated. In the 3rd century A.D. the whole area was reused as a cemetery.

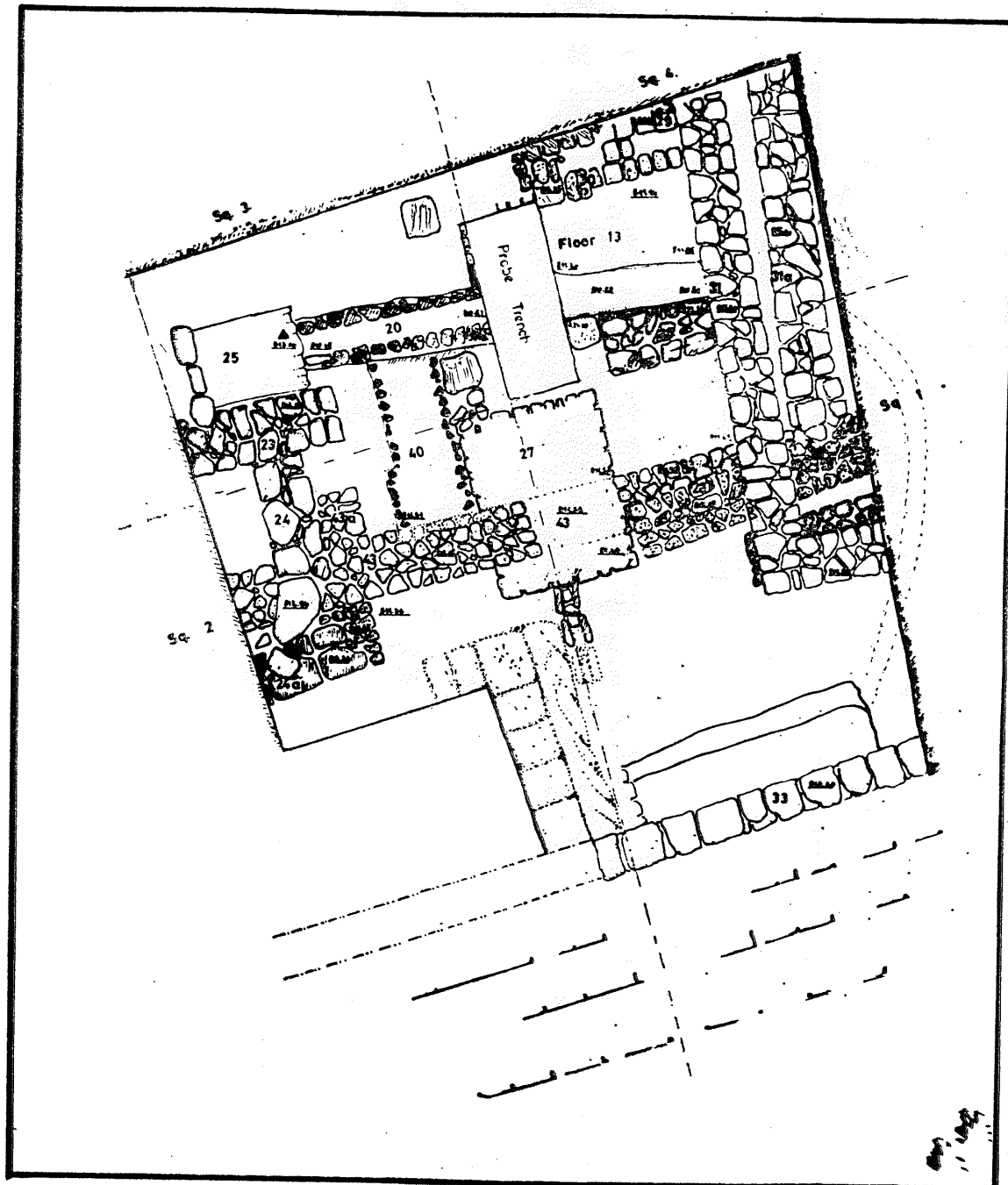
The first burial to be discovered was locus 27 (Fig. 3 and Pl. XII, 1) between Squares 1 and 2. It is a rectangular structure, oriented north-south and measuring 1,10 m. by 3,17 m. The side walls, built with small and medium undressed stones, are about 0,50 m. thick and their height is about 1,40 m. in several places. When the dump was removed, it appeared that a hole had been dug in the southwestern corner of the burial and that later fill had penetrated into it. When the fill was removed, human bones, most of them disturbed by ancient robbers, were uncovered but no skull was present. It is possible that most of the bones

(13) Andrews University Seminary Studies, XI (Jan. 1973), No. 1, p. 91.

(14) Ahsan at-Taqasim, translated by Miquel, Institut Français de Damas, (1963) p. 205.

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Excavation: 1968 / 72 / 73



Legend

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|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Roman phase 1 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arabic |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roman phase 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hitt. phase 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hitt. phase 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Iron age phase 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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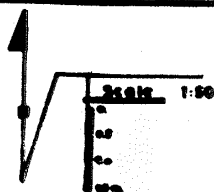


Fig. 3

disintegrated due to the action of infiltrating water. The thick ashy layer in which the bones were found suggests that the corpse was put into a wooden coffin. An iron handle (Pl. XII, 2; No. 51) and many nails were found in the same layer. The funeral deposit consisted of a lamp (No 40) which was lying in the northeastern corner of the burial and two glass bottles found in the southwestern side (Pl. XIII, 1, XIV, 1, Nos 39-40).

A channel, about 30 cm. wide and 40 cm. deep, comes out of the southern wall of the burial and runs southwards; it was originally covered with flagstones and its sides lined with rubble covered by a hard cement. Like the channel, locus 20 (see below), this one was cut by the foundation trench of wall 33.

Traces of plaster were found on the western side of the burial, and a shallow hole in the ground near the south-western corner suggests that there was water filtering through the burial, and was running out through the channel already mentioned. In this case, it is clear that locus 27 was originally a drain, collecting water from superimposed houses which belong to Stratum IV (Hellenistic period). When the drain was removed in 1973, an inscribed Rhodian jar-handle, dated to 150-100 B.C. (Pl. XIV, 2) was discovered in the western wall. It appeared also that the whole structure was built through walls 28 and 28a of the Iron period (see below) which were robbed down to floor 13. The floor itself which was covered with an ashy layer was undisturbed.

Locus 27 is comparable to another burial of the same period, locus 25 (Fig. 3 and Pl. XV, 1). In the north-western corner of Square 3, another burial was excavated in 1968. This is a rectangular chamber of 0,80 m. by 2,50 m. (inside measurement) covered by a barrel vault

1,60 m. high. The side walls of the chamber were built with roughly squared boulders, while the vault is of well-dressed limestone, smoothed inside with a boss and draft outside. A channel (locus 20) runs through the chamber and continues eastwards, covered by flagstones except inside the chamber.

The vault was entered from the eastern side, which was blocked with slabs, and the dump accumulated inside it was not very thick. No bones were found for they had disintegrated by the action of infiltrated water through the channel, though both western and eastern mouths were blocked with stones and thick mortar when the chamber was used for the burial. Four unguentaria and a lamp (No 44) were found in the chamber (Pl. XII, 2).

Like locus 27, locus 25 was originally a drain, and the vault was added when it was reused as a tomb in the Roman period. The barrel vault is slightly distorted because the chamber is not exactly rectangular and was not originally built to support a vault.

Pottery objects from tombs (loci 25 and 27) indicate a date in the early 3rd century A.D., while the drains and channels belong to Stratum IV (Hellenistic period).

About one meter east of locus 25, the channel is cut through by a pit extending north-south and filled with rubble stones (locus 40: Fig. 3) 1 m. wide and 0,50 m. deep. The purpose of this trench is quite mysterious. One may suppose that it was prepared to be a channel, running into locus 25, but was never completed. When the Romans reused the burial locus 25, they refilled the trench with rubble stones, for many sherds dated to the 3rd. century A.D. were found in the fill.

A Burial in a cooking pot

On November 26th, 1972, a cooking pot, dated to the 3rd century A.D.¹⁵ was uncovered in Square 1, about 45 cm. below wall 31 and above wall 32. This cooking pot (Fig. 4 and Pl. XV, 2.) was cracked but was restored in situ. It contained soft brown soil and the tiny bones of a human fetus. This is the first time that such a burial appears in the area excavated, but in 1968 a similar cooking pot with fetal bones was discovered in the dump north of the city wall, during clearing operations of the Department of Antiquities.

The Roman tombs of Stratum II clearly mean that the area excavated was outside the city wall in the 3rd century A.D. and provide a good indication of the extent of the Roman city in that period. This was not the case in earlier periods where heavy occupation has been recognized in the area.

Stratum III (Roman)

To the east of Squares 1 and 4, parallel to the eastern balk a wall extending north-south was excavated in 1968 (locus 31). This wall is standing to a surviving height of 0,70 m. and is 1 m. wide (Pl. XVI, 1). It is built of roughly faced stones and has been robbed to the south, probably by the foundation trench of wall 33, as mentioned above. The general plan (Fig. 3) shows that this wall turns to the east at a right angle.

Wall 31 was set in locus 4, a hard surface running over both squares 1 and 4 and disturbed by 3rd century A.D. pits. Its foundation trench dug in that surface, was about 30 cm. wide. From it came a fine *terra sigillata* sherd.

In the 1972 campaign, the eastern balk was trimmed back one meter. When this operation was completed, another wall almost parallel to wall 31 appeared, of

the same width (1 m.). To the south this wall was robbed, probably in the late Roman period, as indicated by the pottery.

Both walls 31 and 31a are of uncertain purpose; they may belong to a large building which will be excavated in future campaigns.

To date wall 31 four pieces of evidence should be considered :

1) The wall runs over Hellenistic and Iron Age II walls, and should therefore be later than the Hellenistic period.

2) It was out of use in the third century A.D., since a cooking pot containing a fetus was discovered near its southern end.

3) The floor into which it was dug (locus 4) contained Nabataean and Seleucid coins. The Nabataean coins date back to Aretas IV (9 B.C.-40 A.D.). In this case, wall 31 is later than 40 A.D.

4) The *terra sigillata* fragment discovered in the foundation trench is not to be dated later than the 1st century A.D.

Thus, it is reasonable to conclude that the wall dates in the second half of the first century A.D. It is not possible in the actual circumstances to date wall 31a, because its relation to wall 31 is not clear yet.

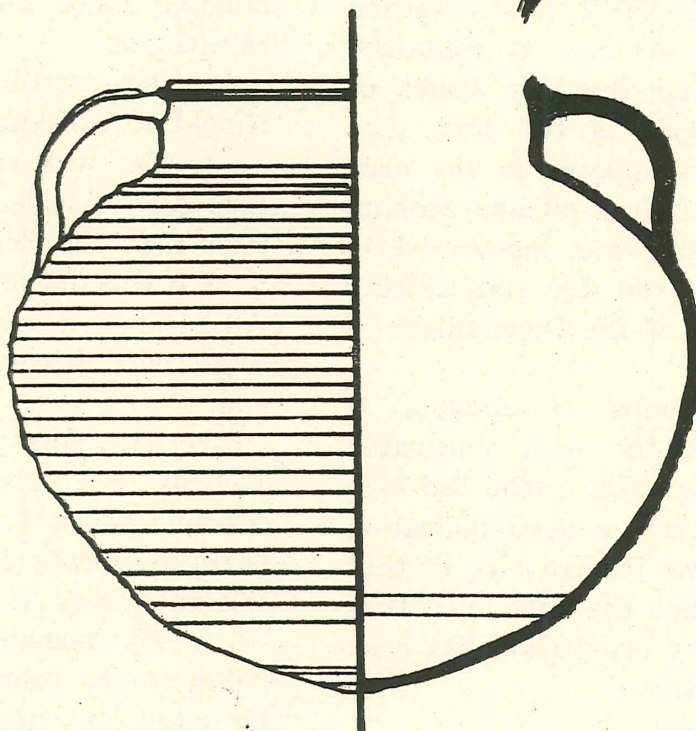
Stratum IV, Phase 1 (Hellenistic period)

Pure Hellenistic pottery began to appear with locus 5 in Square 4, a hard surface, about 40 cm. thick, broken in some places by late Roman pits. This surface ran up against walls 22 and 29. An inscribed Rhodian jar-handle (Pl. XII, 2) of the second century B.C. was found with a bulla or seal impression representing a centaur holding a bow¹⁶ (Pl. XXVI, No. 31).

Below locus 5, locus 6 was hard packed grey soil, partly disturbed by later pits. It yielded late Hellenistic pottery similar to that of locus 5.

(15) For parallels see J.A. Sauer, "Heshbon Pottery, 1971", Andrews University, 1973), p. 24-25 and Fig. 2, 45-50.

(16) A man armed with a bow of the same style appears on Phoenician coins of the 4th century B.C. (Hill, *Catalogue of Greek Coins, Phoenicia*, Pl. XIX, 17 and XLI, 11-12).



SCALE 1:3

AMMAN
Citadel

No 59
1972

Handwritten signature or initials.

Fig. 4

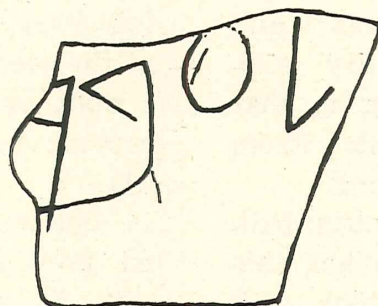


Fig. 5

When locus 6 was removed, there appeared a very smooth and regular plaster floor (locus 7) running up against walls 22 and 29. This floor was laid over a thick layer of boulders and rubble (locus 8) which formed a solid base for it. Iron II sherds of the 7-6th century B.C. came from locus 8.

Four walls, of almost the same elevation, are connected with the Hellenistic Stratum IV, phase 1:

Wall 22 extends east-west with a preserved height of 0,70 m. and a thickness of 1 m. Two roughly squared stones of about 50 x 70 x 50 cm. included in the wall but protruding to the north about 20 cm. and not on the same level as the wall, belong to an earlier stratum (Stratum V). In line with wall 23, wall 22 is covered by walls 31 and 31a and should extend underneath them.

To the north, parallel to wall 22, is wall 29 which is very fragmentary and which stands above wall 30 of the Iron Age (Stratum V).

In squares 2 and 3, two walls belong to the Hellenistic period. These are walls 23 and 24, the former extending east-west, and the latter north-south, meeting at right angles. Both are preserved to one course only & are built of large undressed blocks, some of them measuring as much as 107 by 70 cm. To the south, wall 24 meets wall 24a which is fragmentary and which was probably extended by wall 32, below wall 31. These walls represent a large building which is still unidentified.

Stratum IV, Phase 2

When locus 25 was cleaned out (see above), a channel appeared in the middle, extending east-west (locus 20). To obtain more information about its extent and structure, a probe trench 3,50 m. by 1,50 was dug down in Square 4 (see Pl. XVI, 1). This probe trench was started from

locus 9, a hard surface of the Iron II period, associated with Stratum V, phase 1. It was proved that the Iron Age II loci from 9 to 36 were cut by the foundation trench of the channel, which is 1,50 to 1,57 m. wide, and 0,80 m. deep, as shown by section A'-A. (Pl. XVI, 2).

The channel proper is 0,55 m. wide and is 0,45 to 60 m. deep. Its sides are lined with slabs of 0,38 by 0,30 m. and coated in the bottom of the channel with a thin layer of hard cement (Pl. XVII, 1). Slabs of undressed limestones measuring 0,90 by 0,50 m. cover the whole conduit, except in the vaulted chamber, locus 25. Small mortared stones are fitted in the gaps between the covering slabs. The whole work looks like a well-built and solid achievement which could be easily serviceable today. In 1972 the terminus of the channel was found when the eastern balk was trimmed back, and its whole run to the east was cleared when a section of the slabs was removed in Square 4. It is now easy to follow the conduit which curves underneath walls 31 and 31a and comes to wall 33 where it is cut off by the foundation trench of that wall. There is no doubt that originally the channel ran through the city wall of that period, probably down to the valley.

Four sculptures from the channel

On October 1968, the work stopped when the probe trench reached the covering slabs of the channel and the author left the country to join the French Institute of Beirut. Later on, some of the slabs were accidentally removed and four double-faced sculptures appeared,¹⁷ built into the side walls of the channel (Pl. XVIII, 1) and covered by the flagstones in the section between the barrel vault and the probe trench (Pl. XVII). These heads were removed by the Department of Antiquities¹⁸ and exhibited in the Ar-

(17) They were noticed by R. Dornemann : "The Cultural and Archaeological History...", p. 405.

(18) S. Tell, *ADAJ*, XII-XIII (1967-1968) p. 9-12 (Arabic).
F. Zayadine, *AAS*, XXI (1971) p. 152 and Pl. XLI.

chaeological Museum. They were probably taken from an important building belonging to the Iron II period (see plan: Fig. 3) Since these heads are to be dated to the end of the 7th century B.C., they are related to the structures excavated in Stratum V, phase 1. More slabs were removed in 1972 in the hope that new architectural fragments would come out but this hope was disappointed.

Dating of Stratum IV

From pottery sherds, Rhodian jar-handles and coins, it is clear that Stratum IV belonged to the Seleucid period which began in Philadelphia in 218 B.C., when Antiochus II took the city from Ptolemy IV, king of Egypt. Two coins of Antiochus Epiphanus (175-164) were found in Square 2, locus 5 and the two Rhodian jar-handles are to be dated to about 150 B.C. Though there are no traces of burning, this stratum was probably destroyed in about 100 B.C. by the Macabees, and the city flourished again in the first century B.C. when Pompeius put it in the League of the Decapolis. The dating of the water channel is not yet precise. Since it is cut through Iron Age strata, it is obvious that it was built later than the 7-6 century B.C. The four heads mentioned above are good evidence for this statement since they were reused as building stones, below the covering slabs. Late Hellenistic sherds, mainly of cooking pots, were found inside. But section A'-A clearly indicates that wall 22 of the Seleucid period was built over the southern edge of the channel's foundation trench. In this case, it is evident that the channel was constructed before the wall. On the other hand, no connection whatsoever has been found between the Hellenistic walls and the water channel. It is possible that this conduit belonged to an earlier phase of Hellenistic building which has to be determined in the future. The fill in the

channel's foundation trench was not helpful in solving the problem for it was full of Iron Age sherds. The builders undoubtedly refilled the trench with the same soil they had removed, mixing late and early Iron Age material.

Stratum V, Phase 1 (Iron Age II)

An important collection of Iron Age II pottery came from locus 8 in Square 4 which was interpreted as a foundation for the Hellenistic floor 7. Below locus 8 a hard surface was uncovered, consisting of packed *huwwar* (locus 9) which is connected with three parallel walls. These are from south to north: walls 28, 22a, and 30, which were badly damaged by the Hellenistic occupation. Locus 9 yielded an inscribed Iron Age sherd (Fig. 5 and Pl. XX, 3).

Wall 28, extending east-west, runs underneath wall 31 and part of it is included in that wall (see section A'-A) It is built with medium size rubble stones and only two courses are preserved. The drain locus 27 was dug through it and wall 40 cuts its extension to the west. Wall 28 covers wall 43 which belonged to phase 2 (see below).

North of wall 28, wall 22a is covered by Hellenistic wall 22 and was robbed by the foundation trench of the channel (locus 20). Only three roughly dressed stones are still in situ, protruding about 20 cm. north of wall 22. The largest of these stones measures 70 x 40 x 65 cm. and a similar stone in Square 3 may belong to the same wall. An extension of this wall is probably to be expected, running underneath walls 31 and 31a.

Wall 30 is also covered by Hellenistic wall 29 and was badly damaged by robber trenches. Only one course is preserved and two of the stones protrude to the south, which could mean that the wall turned at a right angle in that direction.

Dating

Stratum V, phase 1 is to be dated on the basis of the pottery and epigraphical

material to the end of the 7th century B.C. and the beginning of the 6th century B.C. The pottery seems to be earlier than the group from the Hesban dig, published by J. Sauer. It was suggested that the four sculptured heads mentioned above are probably related to this period, though no architectural fragments in association with these sculptures were uncovered, except for a round stone which might be a column base with central shallow depression and which was found built into wall 22. In general, the poor material of the walls of phase 1, described above, indicates that no important official building was situated in the area. The sculptures could have been brought from another area, namely the upper terrace where palaces and temples should have existed. But since the channel seems to run over a great distance, it is hard to understand why the builders put these heads in a position close to the end of the channel and not in the upper section, if they brought the heads from far away. On the contrary it seems more probable that they found the sculptures while digging the foundation trench of the channel in the Iron Age II stratum and built them into the channel. Further investigation of this stratum should certainly reveal structures of a more important nature.

Stratum V, Phase 2

Below locus 9, a fill about one meter thick was deposited, consisting of limey soil mixed with rubble, mud-bricks and wall plaster, especially in loci 12 and 53 which lay right above floor 13. This fill certainly originated from the destruction of phase 2.

A fine plaster floor 20 cm. thick is the most important feature of phase 2, extending over the whole excavated area (Pl. XVIII, 2). It was first recognized in the probe trench and we have already mentioned that the channel was dug into this floor. Its composition is mainly of sterile crushed lime, hard-packed and nicely smoothed. In the 1973 campaign

this floor was uncovered between walls 28 and 30 in a small strip south of wall 28. It appeared that this surface slopes from south to north. Wall 43 is directly associated with floor 13, for the plaster comes up against its southern face. Though this was damaged in the Stratum V, phase 1 period and by locus 27, which cuts through it, it could be traced over a distance measuring 8,50 m. From the southern side, a layer of burning about 15 cm. thick was found above the floor and seems to extend over the whole surface. The Hellenistic drain and channel were built directly over this layer of burning. A depression in the floor is partly visible underneath the modern stairway leading to the dig. It is noticeable that the burnt layer extends only over the southern part of the excavated area and not over the northern part. The explanation for this depends largely on the interpretation of the architectural remains of phase 2. Since no wall was met over a distance of 5 meters, it is probable that the area north of wall 43 was an open courtyard, while the southern part was a building roofed with wooden beams. No definite evidence is available to provide an idea of the original function of this important building and no objects were found in the burnt layer except for a couple of sherds.

Dating

The pottery from above floor 13 is definitely 7th century B.C. not very different from that above floor 9. But the pottery below floor 13 (loci 35, 36, 57, 58) is different in forms and technique. The 9th century B.C. is the latest possible date for this group, and figurine No. 56 (Pl. XX, 2) is of an earlier type. Since no pottery was found in the floor itself, the occupation in phase 2 could be reasonably dated between the 9th and 7th centuries B.C. most probably, in the 8th century B.C. It is still too early to relate the destruction of phase 2 to any historical event in the area, but it could

be tentatively associated with the Assyrian attacks on the country.

Stratum V, Phase 3

This phase has been recognized in the probe trench only, below floor 13. Four layers (loci 35, 36, 57, 58) of ashy grey soil

yielded 9th and 10th century B.C. sherds and some probably Iron I sherds. Though there are no visible architectural remains in the probe trench this heavy fill must belong to an occupation phase earlier than the 8th century B.C.

The Finds

Stratum II (Roman Period)

Exc. No.	Provenance	Description	Plate
38	A,1,27	Glass bottle, globular body, rounded base, irridescent blue and yellow surface. Height 3,5 cm.	XIII
39	A,1,27	Glass bottle, similar to 38. Yellowish surface. Height 4 cm.	XIII
40	A,1,27	Pear-shaped lamp burned nozzle, nob handle, buff ware, traces of red slip. Length 7 cm.	XII
51	A,1,27	Iron handle of a box or wooden coffin.	XII
44	A,1,25	Moulded lamp, decorated with circles. Central hole broken, Burned nozzle, buff ware.	XII
45	A,1,25	Unguentarium, oval body, flat bottom, rounded out-flaring rim, buff ware, red-dish paint over neck.	XII
83	A,1,25	Unguentarium; same type than 45. Fragmentary.	XIII
59	A,1,4	Cooking pot used as a burial for a human fetus. Globular ribbed body, groove over rim, pinkish ware, traces of burn. Height 21 cm.	XV, 2 Fig. 4

Stratum IV (Hellenistic Period)

15	A,2,5	Bronze coin of Antiochus IV Epiphanus. obv. head of king, rev. victory upon a chariot. Inscription : ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ	XXVI
31	A,4,5	Seal impression on bitumen, depicting a winged centaur, holding a bow. Diam. 2 cm.	XXVI
53	A,4,5	Inscribed Rhodian jar-handle, decorated with a rose. Creamy surface, pinkish ware. Greek inscription: ΕΠΙ ΠΑΥΣΑΝΙΑ ΥΑΚΙΝΘΙΟΥ	XXII

Exc. No.	Provenance	Description	Plate
64	A,1,27	<p>The eponyme occurs in 180—150 B.C. (See <i>Samaria-Sebaste</i>, III, p. 382).</p> <p>Rhodian jar-handle, creamy surface, pinkish ware, Greek inscription:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ΕΗΙ [ΑΡΧΙ]ΒΙΟΥ ΕΜΙΝΘΙΟΥ</p> <p>To be dated 150-100 (<i>Samaria-Sebaste</i>, III, p. 381).</p>	XXIV

Stratum V (Iron Age)

The finds of the Iron Age period which are varied and representative of the period demonstrate the importance of the area in that period. They consist of animal's figurines, potters' marks, an ostrakon, human figurines and sculptures. Most of them were discovered in a stratified context and certainly help to fix the date of the stratum they came from.

Animal Figurines

No. 65 (Pl. XIX, 1) is a horse head which came out from the dump, outside the square in an unstratified context. But it certainly belongs to the Iron II period. Since it is hollow inside, it was probably attached to a kernos and liquid was poured through the mouth. Two parallel incisions on the muzzle represent the reins and the prominent eyes are marked by semi circular lines. This type of figurine is typical of Iron Age II and was found at Hazor in Stratum V¹⁹.

The bronze head of a bull (No. 37, Pl. XIV, 1) was discovered in Square 2, locus 2 which was a mixed layer, but the head must date to the Iron II period. It was probably attached to some bronze vessel. In the central depression on the forehead an inlay was probably inserted.

From N-S Balk, Locus 6 came what is possibly a horse head.²⁰ (Pl. XXIV, 2) This was also a mixed layer, but the

figurine betrays the technique of many Ammonite animal figurines. The reins are represented by painted lines in red-brown over a red-orange slip. The eyes are applied pellets.

Potters' marks :

No. 63 (Pl. XIX, 2) is a jug handle of red-orange surface and dark core, marked with a cross which could be compared to a tau. This potter's mark is very common at Hazor²¹ and dates back to the 9th-7th century B.C. Our handle came from Square 2, locus 52 (see section A'-A) which overlies floor 13 and could be dated to the 7th century, B.C.

No. 62 is a jar rim of greyish ware marked with a seal impression consisting of two letters (?) (Pl. XIX, 2). The one to the left is E shaped, and the other is like an I, separated from the first one by a zigzag line. The type of the ware is undoubtedly Iron Age. The rim came from Square 1, locus 53 which was a destruction layer overlying floor 13.

The inscribed sherd was probably part of a jug, covered with a red slip outside and black inside (Pl. XX, 3 and Fig. 5). It came from Square 4 locus 9, a hard surface in relation with wall 30. The context is late 7th Century B.C. The inscription reads: l'br; it was certainly tempting to read the last letter as a dalet (l'bd) and restore a kin's name (Cf. l'bd Am-

(19) *Hazor*, III-IV, Pl. CLXXVI, 24; CCCLVI, 1.

(20) *QDAP*, XIV (1950) Pl. XIII, 1.

(21) *Hazor*, III-IV, Pl. CCXXXI, 21; CCLVI; CCXXXIV etc...

minadab). But the stem of the last letter is too long for a dalet and fits much better a resh. The name *abri* is well known from the Bible (1Ch. 24, 27). It is not clear whether the *ain* is closed or not, for the top of the letter has been broken off.

Human Figurines

No. 36 (Pl. XIV, 1) is probably the head of a horse rider which was discovered in Square, 1, locus 3, a mixed layer. The horse rider is wearing the Syrian conical cap with many ribbings. The globular eyes are prominent and the mouth is represented by a horizontal incision.

This type of figurine is well known from Amman and the surroundings. A similar head is published by R. Dornemann²² and is said to come from the Amman Citadel.

The fragment of a female figurine (No. 60, Pl. XX, 1) shows a woman holding her breast with the right hand. The

wrist is decorated with bracelets. A lock of hair in the form of a volute is seen over the breast.

This type of figurine was cast in two parts, face and back put together and backed, and must be of later date than the plaquette type (see following). It was discovered in Square 1, locus 47, which belongs to Stratum V, phase 1.

Of a different type is No. 56 (Pl. XX, 2). This is the plaquette type, moulded with one mould. The legs are pressed together and the ankles decorated with torques. Parallel incisions mark the toes. The pudenda are represented by an incision.

This type is well known from Palestine and appears at Megiddo,²³ Tell Beit Mirsim,²⁴ Hazor²⁵ and Taanach.²⁶ It came from below the plaster floor locus 13 and dates probably from the 9th century B.C. (Square 4, locus 36).

Stratum V (Iron Age II)

Exc. No.	Provenance	Description	Plate
36	A,1,3	Head of a horse-rider wearing a conical cap. The ears are protruding, the mouth is marked by a horizontal incision. The nose is slightly damaged. Red-brown gritty ware. Height 4 cm.	XIV, 1
37	A,2,3	Bronze Bull head; a dent is seen in the forehead. Height: 3 cm.	XIV, 1
56	A,4,36	Lower part of a female figurine. Ankles decorated with torques. Grey ware, large white grits. Height : 5 cm.	XX, 2
60	A,4,47	Female figurine. Right hand holding the breast, lock of hair over the breast, wrist decorated with bracelets. Red surface outside, black inside. White grits.	XX, 1

(22) *Op. Cit.* Pl. 79, 1.

(23) *Megiddo Tombs*, T. 24 B, Pl. 107 : 1.

(24) *Tell Beit Mirsim*, II, Pl. 26 : 8; *III*, Pl.

(25) *Hazor*, III-IV, Pls. CCLIII, 11 and CCCLVI, 8.

(26) *Sellin, Tell Ta'annek*, Fig. 47.

Exc. No.	Provenance	Description	Plate
65	Unstratified	Height: 4 cm. Horse head. Hollow inside, probably belonged to a libation pot. Pinkish ware, many grits.	XIX, 1
82	N-S balk removal L. 6	Height 6 cm. Horse Head, reins indicated by painted lines, Orange Ware; Brown paint.	
83	A,4,9	Inscribed sherd: l'br. Red surface outside, black inside, white grits.	XX, 3 Fig. 5

The Double Faced Heads

No. 1 (J. 11688). Height 30 cm., Width 24 cm., Depth 15 cm. (Pl. XXI).

The hair, tied up by a band, is represented by strands, radiating from a central hole. Twelve locks of hair appear on the forehead. The oversize ears are B-shaped and are protruding on each side. Earrings, consisting of a crescent and three pendants are hanging down from each one. Eyelids and eyebrows are marked by incisions which once had inlays. The flat necklace, framed by two rounded bands, had beads inlaid with precious stones or ivories.

On face A, the left eye is *in situ* and is engraved on the back with the letter *resh*. Face B has two eyes *in situ*, the left one engraved with a *zain* and the other one with a *waw*. No letters are incised on the beads of face B.

There are two holes of 3,5 cm. in diameter and 2 cm. in depth on the top and bottom of the sculpture.

No. 2 (J. 11689). Height 30 cm. Width 23 cm. Depth 16 cm. (Pl. XXI-XXII).

The hair is represented by parallel incisions. About fourteen locks are in relief on the forehead. The earrings are similar to No. 1.

On the damaged nose of face A, there are clear traces of burn. There are two eyes *in situ* on the face, the left one inlaid with ivory. It bears the letter *samek*, while the right one bears the letter *beth*.

The left eye of face B has two ivory inlays and bears a mysterious sign which could be the sign *nefr* flanked by two *uraei*. A similar sign appear on an Egyptian seal²⁷ of the 7th-6th centuries B.C.

Two holes of 3,5 cm. in diameter and 2,5 cm. in depth are in the top and bottom of the sculpture.

No. 3 (J. 11690). Height 30 cm. Width 23,8 cm. Depth 16,2 cm. (Pl. XXII).

This cracked head is of different style than the two others. The band holding the hair is much larger; the ears and side strands of hair are not protruding on each side; the face is larger and the chin much thicker.

On face A the right eye bears the letter *qaf* and two of the three beads of the necklace bear the letter *samek* and an inverted *beth*.

Holes on the top and bottom of the

(27) J. Vercotter, *Les objets égyptiens et égyptisants du mobilier funéraire carthaginois*,

Paris (1945) p. 134, No. 164.

head of 4 cm. in diam. and 2 cm. in depth are found.

No. 4 (J. 11691) (Pl. XXIII).

Fragmentary head, similar to type 1. No eyes or beads are preserved.

Parallels

Double-faced sculptures are not very common in the area. An ivory figurine from Nimrud²⁸ represents a double-faced nude female which was probably used as a stand. Similar bronze stands occur in Syro-Phoenician art in the Iron Age II.²⁹ They must also be compared to double-faced Hathor heads from Cyprus Pl. XXV which were used as capitals. These Hathor capitals are influenced by Egyptian Hathor heads or double or quadruple face. As can be noticed from Pl. XXV these caryatids consist of two distinctive elements : the head proper, with voluted locks of hair, and the capital which is a miniature naos. Both elements are cut from the same block. No such capital exists on the Citadel's heads. One may suppose that the capital was cut in a different block and fixed to the head by means of wooden pin engaged into the hole. But this hole is too shallow to support a heavy stone capital. In fact, if the heads were intended to be used as caryatids, the two elements should be cut together.

The best parallel to our sculptures is an ivory plaque from Nimrud,³⁰ depicting the so-called lady at the window (Pl. XXIV). Though of finer workmanship, this carved ivory shows the same type of hairdo (especially of head No. 3) and the same inlaid eyes and eyebrows. No doubt that the ivory depicts a lady looking out of her balcony. But to my knowledge, nobody has suggested that this figure is of architectural origin

and not simply decorative. Otherwise it is not understandable why the artist has represented the head only and not the body across the columns of the window. In other words, the lady at the window is the exact representation of a window, decorated with a female head.

The heads of the Citadel could better fit as part of a window than as capitals : the shallow hole at the top and bottom of the head is sufficient to fix them to the soffit of a window or balcony, and the double faces suggest that they were to be seen from inside and outside. Such windows existed in Syria or Phoenicia, since the ivory of Nimrud was manufactured in one of these countries as indicated by the Phoenician letters engraved on the back. It should be remembered that the Ammonite heads had Phoenician letters on the backs of the eyes and beads. In this case one may suggest that some of the ivories of Nimrud were probably carved in Ammonite workshops and granted as tribute to the Assyrian Kings. This suggestion is not hazardous when one considers the amount of Ammonite sculpture discovered in the area and locally carved.

Dating

Since the heads were rebuilt into the channel, their date is conjectural. But they must belong to one of the two strata of the Iron II period identified in the dig. Both Stratum V and VI show very poor building material compared to the heads. But this argument should not to be taken into consideration when we remember that the walls would have been plastered over.

The ivories of Nimrud which are the most striking parallel to the Citadel's heads date probably to the 8th century B.C. Pottery heads discovered at Car-

(28) M.E.L. Mallawan, *Nimrud and its Remains*, I, No. 146.

(29) P.R.S. Moory, *Levant*, V (1973) p. 83-90.

(30) M.E.L. Mallawan, *Nimrud and its Remains*, II (1966) p. 522 and Fig. 429.

thage³¹ are dated to the 7th century B.C. The real problem is that the heads of the Citadel are of two types : No. 1 22 and 4 are of the Hathor type, while No. 3 is of the Syro-Phoenician tradition as indicated by the Nimrud Ivories and the heads found at Carthage. In this case the heads may belong to two different periods. No. 3 could be of earlier date than the three others, for one of the beads bears a closed **beth** and the left eye a classical **qaf**. On the other hand the **samek** of the bead is very similar to the one on the left eye of No. 2. In this case the difference of style may be only a difference of workmanship. The script of the letters is dated by P. Bordreuil (see his article p. 37ff. of this issue) to the 7th century B.C. They may belong then to Stratum V which overlies Stratum VI, and which is dated to the 7th-6th centuries B.C. More digs will certainly allow to fix a much precise date for these important sculptures.

General conclusions

Though carried out in a limited area, the Citadel excavations help us to draw the following conclusions :

1) Except for the extension of the Roman city wall, dated in the early Arab period, the area excavated was not occupied in that period. Byzantine structures are also missing but much debris of the 4th-5th century A.D. exists.

2) In the 3rd century A.D., the lower terrace was evidently outside the city wall since a necropolis lay in the excavated area.

3) Important occupation in the 1st century A.D. was revealed, consisting of architectural remains, coins and pottery. Nabataean coins indicate that Petra's caravans were certainly active in Philadelphia.

4) Traces of heavy occupation in the Hellenistic period are discernable all over the area. Houses with plaster floors were provided with drains and channels. Painted pottery, Rhodian jar-handles and coins point out that the main occupation occurred in the 2nd century B.C. This occupation probably ended during the Greco-Hasmonean wars.

5) The most important occupation belongs to the Ammonite period (Iron Age II). Three phases are now clearly determined by floors or architectural remains. It is probable that this area was a residential quarter in the Ammonite period while the acropolis or upper terrace was occupied by temples and palaces. This stratified Iron II occupation is extremely important for the archaeological history of Rabbat Ammon, when we recall that the Iron Age material discovered in the upper terrace was in an unstratified context. We are now able to gain information about an unknown part of ancient Rabbat Ammon.

F. Zayadine

The Department of Antiquities

(31) S. Moscati, *L'épopée des Phéniciens*, Paris (1971) Figs 57, 58, 59.

Inscriptions des Têtes à Double Face*

Par
Pierre Bordreuil

Pour identifier et dater ces lettres, le principal critère est offert par les trente documents ammonites publiés jusqu'ici.¹ Ce sont des sceaux pour la plupart, et ce fait n'est pas sans importance : puisque les lettres étudiées ici sont incisées sur des pierres dures, selon une technique proche de celle qui était utilisée par les graveurs de sceaux, c'est parmi les sceaux ammonites que l'on pourra trouver les correspondances les plus significatives.

Tête 1, face A, oeil gauche : (Fig. 1, 1)

Ce type de **resh** se retrouve sur le cachet XVII² (= Vattioni 217)³, qui date du septième siècle.⁴ Un **dalet** serait ici peu vraisemblable; en effet, sur les documents ammonites, la tête de cette lettre est régulièrement fermée. Il existe des **dalet** ouverts avec haste en araméen d'Egypte au début du cinquième siècle (**K.A.I.**, 267s.)⁵, sur la stèle de Carpentras (**K.A.I.**, 269), mais on verra que cette date ne paraît pas convenir pour l'ensemble des lettres qui vont être examinées ici.

Un **waw** est exclu, même s'il peut trouver quelque analogie dans les inscrip-

tions araméennes **K.A.I.**, 24, 214ss., car les **waw** des cachets ammonites sont d'un type différent, comme on le verra plus loin.

Tête 1, face B, oeil gauche : (Fig. 1, 2)

Le **zayn** que l'on trouve ici n'est attesté sous cette forme qu'une seule fois à ma connaissance dans l'épigraphie ammonite sur l'inscription VII de la fin du huitième siècle 6. Le même type de **zayn** est toutefois connu par **CIS**, II,4 (+ 725) et sur l'inscription de Nérab (= **KAI**, 225) du septième siècle.

Tête 1, face B, oeil droit : (Fig. 1, 3)

Ce type de **waw** est connu par l'inscription ammonite VII dont on vient de parler⁷. Il est attesté aussi sur le cachet XI du début du septième siècle (= Vattioni 194) et sur le cachet XV (Vattioni 195). On pourrait lire un **Kaph** d'après le cachet XVIII, mais cela paraît exclu en raison de la forme du **kaph** qui va être examiné maintenant.

Tête 2, face A, oeil droit : (Fig. 1, 4)

Le **beth** que l'on trouve ici est à rapprocher de **CIS**, II,75 au début de septième

continué à numéroter à la suite.

(3) Cette mention renvoie à F. Vattioni, "I sigilli ebraici", *Biblica*, 50, 1969, p. 357-388.

(4) N. Avigad, *Seals and Sealings*, *IEJ*, 14, 1964, p. 190-194 (p. 193).

(5) H. Donner - W. Rölling, "*Kanaanäische und Aramäische Inschriften*", 2^e éd., Wiesbaden, 1968.

(6) Dans un article à paraître dans *Syria*, F. Zayadine corrige ainsi les lectures précédentes (Barnett, *ADAJ*, I, 1951, p. 34-36; Aharoni, *IEJ*, 1, 1951, p. 222) : ... Yerah'azar fils de Zakir(?) fils de Shanib. S'il s'agit d'une statue royale, comme on le croit, l'inscription daterait de la fin du huitième siècle, Shanib étant mentionné en 733 av. J. C. dans les Annales assyriennes et Bodel en 701.

(7) Cf. Yellin-Kallai, *IEJ*, 3, 1953, p. 123-126 (p. 123).

* Voir l'article de F. Zayadine p. 33ss.

(1) Ils se répartissent ainsi : trois inscriptions sur pierre, un ostrakon écrit à l'encre, deux cylindres et vingtquatre cachets, en général scaraboides. L'inscription de Kérak, qui date du début du troisième siècle et celle de Araquel Emir, dont l'écriture remonte au quatrième siècle (cf. J. Naveh, *The Development of the Aramaic Script*, Jérusalem, 1970, p. 50 et 62ss.), ne sont pas comptées parmi ces trente documents. Sur l'épigraphie ammonite, cf. en dernier lieu : G. Garbini, "La lingua degli Ammoniti", *AION*, 20, 1970, p. 249-258, p. 97-108; P. Bordreuil, "Inscriptions sigillaires ouest sémitiques", I, *Epigraphie ammonite*, *Syria*, 50, 1973, p. 181-195; F. Zayadine et H.O. Thompson, "The Ammonite Inscription from Tell Siran", *Berytus*, XXII (1973) p. 115-140.

(2) Les documents ammonites ont été numérotés par G. Garbini en chiffres romains, et j'ai

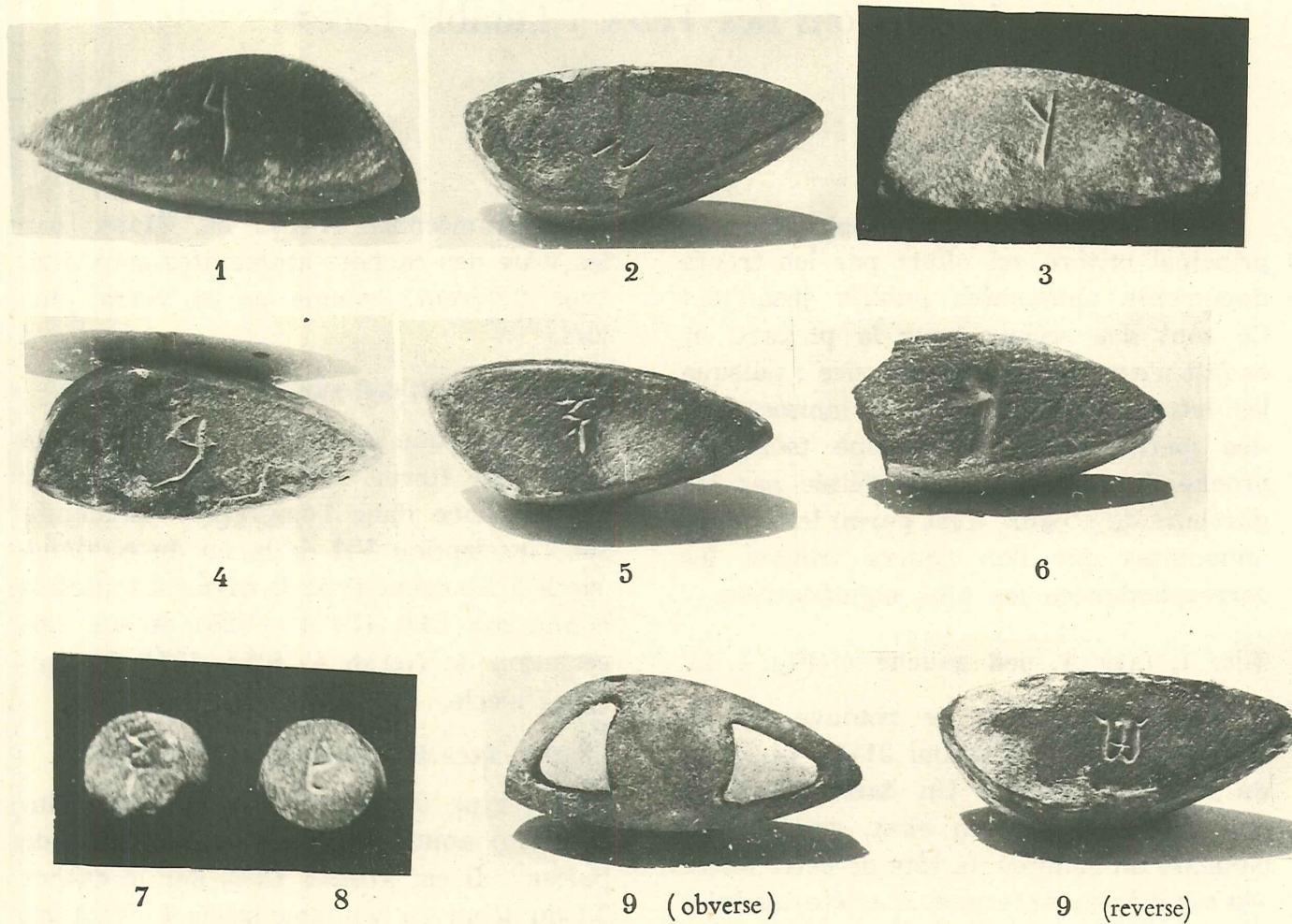


Fig. 1

							4		resh.
			2						zayn.
			4	4		4			waw.
					4				kaph.
9	9	9						9	beth.
I	III	VI	VII	XI	XIV	XV	XVII	XVIII	

lettres ammonites -

Fig. 2

siècle 8, et du cachet ammonite **XVIII**, seconde moitié du septième siècle.

Tête 2, face A, oeil gauche : (Fig. 1, 5)

Ce **samek** gravé a l'endroit, et dont la tête est formée de quatre segments, correspond assez exactement à **CIS**, II, 75.

Tête 3, face A, oeil droit : (Fig. 1, 6)

Cette lettre, qui est un **kaph**, se distingue des autres lettres par l'épaisseur de son trait. Son aspect général se rapproche de certains **kaph** de l'inscription ammonite **XIV** (Citadelle d'Amman), de l'inscription araméenne **KAI**, 214 du début du huitième siècle et des briques de Hamat qui datent du milieu du septième siècle.⁹

Tête 3, face A : élément de collier :
(Fig. 1, 7)

Le **samek** est ici gravé à l'envers et sa tête est formée de quatre segments (Cf. **CIS**, II, 75), deux caractéristiques qui se retrouvent sur le cachet Vattioni 33 (huitième ou septième siècle).

Tête 3, face, élément de collier : (Fig. 1, 8)

Le **beth** est aussi gravé à l'envers. Ses meilleurs parallèles sont connus par les cachets ammonites **I** (= **Vattioni** 98 qui

provient d' Amman et date vraisemblablement de la première moitié du septième siècle) **III** et **VI** (= respectivement **Vattioni** 103 et 116). Cf. aussi **CIS**, II, 77 et les inscriptions de Sfiré (= **KAI**, 222-224).

On peut tirer de cet examen les conclusions suivantes : les parallèles qui ont été représentés se situent entre 800 et 600 environ; c'est entre ces dates et vraisemblablement au début ou tout au moins dans la première moitié du septième siècle, que ces lettres ont été gravées.

On ignore quel était le but poursuivi par celui qui a gravé ces lettres. Incisées sur la face interne de chaque pierre, ces lettres n'étaient pas destinées à être vues; peut-être chacune servait-elle de point de repère destiné à loger chaque pierre dans la cavité qui lui avait été assignée. En même temps, ces pierres dures, présentant une surface lisse, ont pu donner à quelque apprenti graveur l'occasion de se "faire la main", ce qui expliquerait certaines maladroitures, par exemple le trait exagérément épais du **kaph** et la gravure maladroite du second **beth**.

Bibliographie

(Fig 2)

I: Cf. F. Vattioni, "I sigilli ebraici" **Biblica**, 50 1969, pp. 357-388, n° 98; photo dans C.C. Tey, **AASOR**, 2-3, 1921-1922, pp. 103-105, fig. 1.

III: cf. F. Vattioni **art. Cité**, n° 103; photo dans A. Reifenberg, **Ancient Hebrew Seals**, Jérusalem, 1950, n° 40; nouveau cliché dans "Inscriptions sigillaires ouest sémitiques, I: épigraphie ammonite", à paraître dans **Syria**.

VI: cf. F. Vattioni, **art. cité**, n° 116; photo, dans A. Reifenberg, **ouvr. cité** n° 36.

VII: cf. G. Garbini, "lingua degli ammoniti", **AIUON**, 20, 1970, p. 251 et n. 4; photos dans R. D. Barnett, **ADAJ**,

1, 1951, pp. 34 ss. et pl. XIII, et R. T. O'Callaghan, **Orientalia**, 21, 1952, pl. XXVI.

XI: cf. F. Vattioni, **art. cité**, n° 194; photo dans Ph. C. Hammond, **BASOR**. 160, 1960, p. 39.

XIV: photo dans S. H. Horn, **BASOR**, 193, 1969, p. 3, fig. 1.

XV: cf. F. Vattioni, **art. cité**, n° 27; photo dans N. Avigad, **IEJ**, 14, 1964, pp. 190-194, pl. 44 B.

XVIII: cf. F. Vattioni, **art. cité**, n° 220; photo dans M. F. Martin, **RSO**, 36, 1964, pp. 207s., tav. I, 2.

202, N° 15 & 152.

(9) Cf. J. Naveh, **ouvr. cité, supra**, n. 1, fig. 2:1 et n. 25.

(8) Cf. K. Galland, "Beschriftete Bildsigel des Ersten Jahrtausends v. Chr. vornehmlich aus Syrien und Palästina", **ZDPV**, 64, 1941, p. 121-

Excavations at Jawa, 1973

A preliminary Report

S. W. Helms

The site Jawa, about 15 kilometers northeast of the pumping station H5 on the IPC pipeline, was described by F. V. Winnett in 1950.¹ G. W. L. Harding, a member of that expedition, noted in the records of the Jordanian Department of Antiquities that Jawa, the fortified settlement in Wadi Rajil, might date to the Early Bronze Age. He also informed the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem under whose auspices the present writer surveyed the site in 1966² and again in 1972. The results of the surveys showed that Harding's date was relatively accurate and a first season of excavations took place at Jawa in the summer of 1973.³

Region

The region about Jawa is part of the Basalt Barrier straddling the most direct east — west route between Mesopotamia and the Levant. It consists of a volcanic outflow originating in Jebel Druze to the north and other volcanic peaks to the south. Rain, ca. 200 mm. annually, comes only during the winter months and springs are rare. Even those existing today are often insufficient. Modern land-use entails some agriculture under very difficult conditions and pastoralism which is the major industry.

This desert region received some attention after the first World War when pilots noted structures along their route east from Azraq.⁴ It was supposed that these structures indicated an early permanent population there. No dating was apparently attempted at that time. Since then, up to 1950 and subsequent surveys, only N. Glueck⁵ passed near the site without, however, seeing the fortified town. The area stretching from near Damascus as far south as the Nafud Desert of Saudi Arabia was therefore quite unknown as far as pre-Roman occupation was concerned.⁶

Jawa (Fig 1, site plan)

The settlement at Jawa is built on a rock outcropping with Wadi Rajil on the east and a subsidiary wadi to the west, the latter forming a natural catchment basin. The entire site is fortified with two lines of walls enclosing an upper and lower town. To date, six main gates and many posterns have been found. Within both lines of fortifications are the remains of houses and at the highest point in the upper town was built a rectangular 'citadel'. The catchment basin beside the town was closed off at its southern end by a stone dam retaining a large water reservoir fed by run-off from surrounding

(1) F. V. Winnett, "An epigraphical expedition to North-Eastern Transjordan" *BASOR* 122 (1951)49ff.

(2) S. W. Helms, "Jawa: An Early Bronze Age Fortress?" *Levant* V (1973)127ff.

(3) The excavations were sponsored by the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem, supported by the School and a travel grant from the Central Research Fund of London University. The writer is grateful to the Jordanian Department of Antiquities and its representative for the support and assistance offered him in the field and in Amman. The team in 1973, as during the 1972 survey, consisted of the writer, Mr. A. G. Walls architect and Miss. L-A. Hunt site-supervisor.

Mr. Abdel Jalil 'Amr and Mr. Hussein Qandil were the Department of Antiquities' representatives.

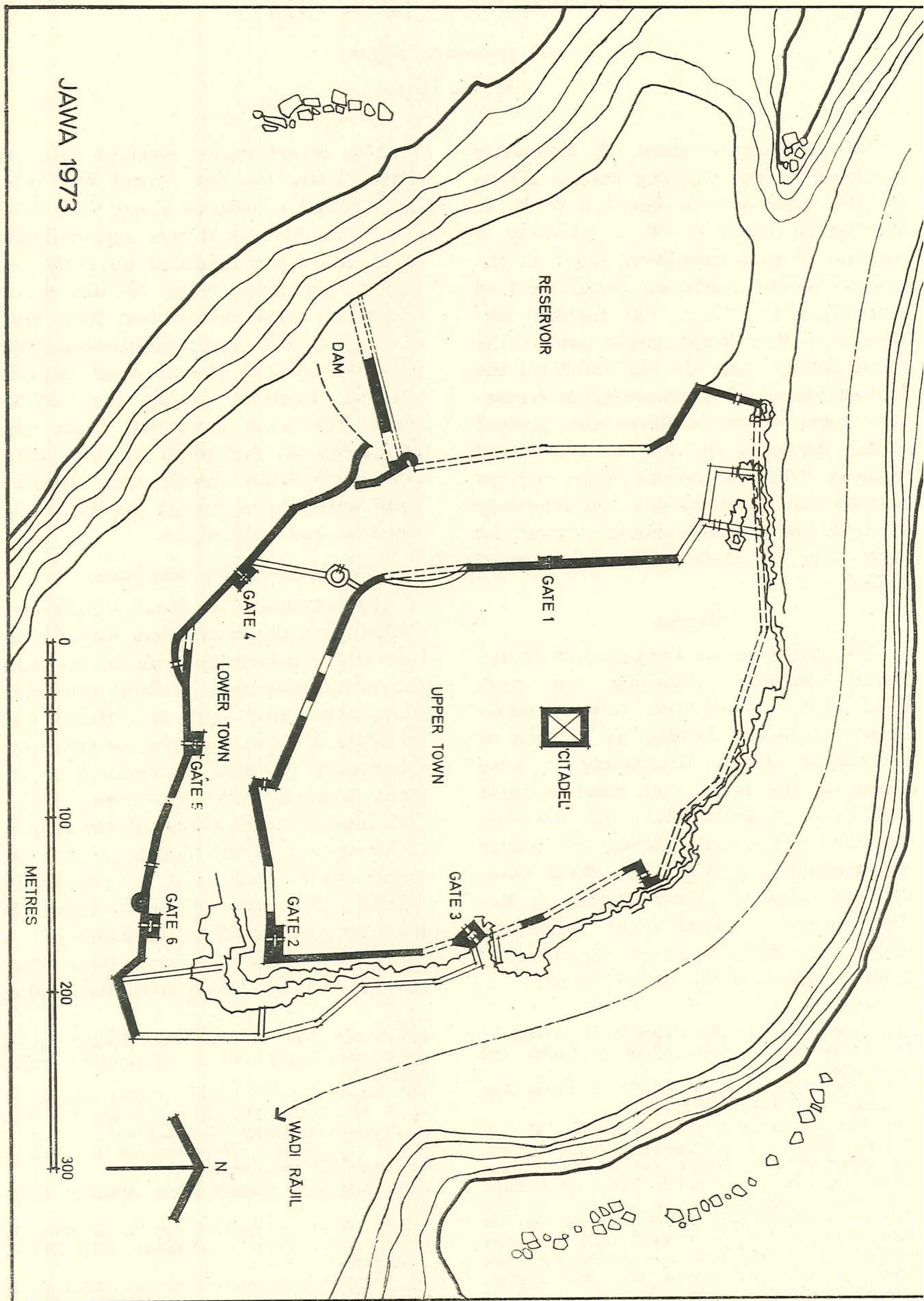
(4) Result were published, among others, by: R. A. Maitland, "The 'Works of the Old Men' in Arabia" *Antiquity* I (1927)127ff.

L. W. B. Rees, "The Transjordan Desert" *Antiquity* III (1929)389ff.

A. S. Kirkbride, "Desert Kites" *JPOS* 20 (1946) 1ff.

(5) N. Glueck, "Explorations in Eastern Palestine", IV, Part I, *AASOR* XXVIII-XXV (1952)30ff.

(6) Many explorers recorded such sites in the region. See for instance, H. C. Butler, *Ancient Architecture in Syria, Div. II* (1910).



JAWA 1973

Fig. 1

hills and possibly redirected water from the main wadi.

The fortifications of the upper town consist of long straight walls with occasional offsets, enclosing the highest ground at the site. The exterior face of the walls is made of large basalt boulders, roughly coursed; the interior of smaller ones; while the core is rubble filled. Over four metres wide and battered on both faces, the fortifications stand up to five metres above the ground today.

Three of the six gates occur in this line, gate (1) having been excavated and planned. The gate is a single chambered structure with two sets of internal buttresses, the outer projecting beyond the curtain. This type of gate is known in the Levant during the Chalcolithic period⁷ and the Early Bronze Age.⁸ The other gates at Jawa appear to be multi-chambered and in some socket stones are still in situ.

Houses within the upper town which have been excavated are semi-rounded or 'apsidal' in plan.⁹ Some of these were built onto the fortifications which were still in use. The houses represent the last known occupation of the fortified town.

The fortifications of the lower town are essentially similar to those of the upper, although less well preserved. Their original width has not been established with certainty, but it must be in excess of three metres. The walls enclose the gentler western and southern slopes of the site and join the upper fortifications at the north and south-east. A series of rounded towers may have been built against

the outside of the lower line;¹⁰ while a round straddle tower was built over an apparently internal fortification wall dividing the lower town. Three of the six gates mentioned above occur in this line, the lower fortifications.

Houses within the fortifications are similar in plan to those behind the upper line and likewise were built close to the town wall after that had partly collapsed. Again these houses appear to be the last occupation.

The dam across the catchment basin must be contemporary with the town. It is ca. 14 metres wide, the internal face being straight while the downstream side consists of a curved revetment. This dam could have also functioned as a causeway across the wadi to the lower town. At present the large reservoir, ca. 250 x 150 metres, is dry; but clearly it must have retained sufficient winter rain to support the population of the town. The apparent over-crowding during the last phase of occupation there perhaps exceeded the capacity of the dam to provide water and this may in part explain the subsequent abandonment of the town.

The 'citadel' is the latest structure at Jawa. It is rectangular in plan, ca. 28 x 25 metres, and consists of three sections: a southern wing with a door leading to a chamber in which an oven was found, three transverse roofed corridors, and a series of oblong roofed cells in the north. The roofing is made up of stone slabs on cantilevers supported on stone piers. Elements of a second floor have been found.

(7) D. Ussishkin, "The 'Ghassulian' Temple in Ein Gedi and the Origin of the Hoard from Nahal Mishmar" *BiAr* XXXIV (1971) 23ff.; fig. 12.

(8) R. P. de Vaux, "Les fouilles de Tell el-Far'ah" *Revue Biblique* 69 (1962) 212ff.; Pl. XXI.

(9) Apsidal houses appear at many sites in the Levant and are dated to the Proto-Urban period there.

(10) For Early Bronze Age examples see: J. Marquet-Krause, *Les fouilles de 'Ay (et-Tell)* 1933-1935, Plate C.

K. M. Kenyon, *Digging up Jericho*, p. 178; Pl. 35A.

R. Amiran and Y. Aharoni, *Ancient Arad*: introductory guide to an exhibition held at the Israel Museum, January - April, 1967.

R. Amiran in Volumes of *IEJ* for preliminary reports and notes and news.

Conclusions

On the basis of the artifactual material recovered and the structural/stratigraphical phasing, the following preliminary sequence of events may be suggested:

1) Jawa was occupied during the Chalcolithic period (ca. 3750-3350 BC) when a large probably unfortified village was built. The evidence for this comes from below the town walls, from thick ash levels over which the fortifications were built later.

2) The fortifications of both towns, as well as the dam were built during the Late Chalcolithic period. This was perhaps still before ca. 3350 BC.

3) The town population grew so that houses were built more closely together and partly on the fortifications. This occurred during a period contemporary with Proto-Urban (A)¹¹ in the Levant

and Hama K¹² in Syria, ca. 3350 - 3050 BC. The town was abandoned by 3000 BC.

4) After a long gap in occupation the 'citadel' was constructed on the ruins of the earlier town. This occurred during the Middle Bronze Age, that is after ca. 1900 BC.

5) The next occupation, after a very long gap, is indicated by Safaitic inscriptions and rock drawings on and near the site. No evidence for structures dated to this era has been found.

A corollary of these conclusions may be that urbanisation in the Levant beginning shortly after the end of the town at Jawa, may have been influenced by direct immigration from the Basalt Barrier where it is likely that more town sites will be found.

S. W. Helms,

British School of Archaeology, Jerusalem

London, December, 1973

(11) K. M. Kenyon, *Jericho I*, (1960). Note especially Tomb A 13; fig. 21/4.

(12) E. Fugman, *Hama, L'Architecture des périodes préhellénistiques*, (1958)31; fig.30:6B979.

A possible New Link between Egypt and Jordan During the Reign of Amenhotep III

by

William A. Ward

The large commemorative scarab shown in Plate XXVII 1, 2, 3. would hardly attract notice were it not for its find-spot, for it is yet another example of the lion-hunt scarabs of Amenhotep III of which no less than 108 are already known.¹ The scarab is broken so that the head and half the back are missing and only two-thirds of the text remains. The size of the fragment is 60 x 50 x 17 mm, with a rather large string-hole 11 mm. in diameter. It is made of hard limestone which is described as "blackened or burned".²

This scarab was purchased by the Jordanian Department of Antiquities in October, 1972, from a resident of the town of Wadi Musa, two miles east of Petra. It was discovered on a mound called Qla' et-Twal which overlooks Wadi Musa to the south-east. This is the second lion-hunt scarab to be found north of Egypt, the other having been excavated at Lachish some years ago.³ Indeed, so few of the hundred-odd specimens of this scarab can be given a provenance - only 11, and even some of these are doubtful - that for this reason alone the example from Wadi Musa deserves mention.

Since this object has no known archaeological context, it would be futile to attempt to assay what historical importance it might have beyond a very general statement which must of necessity deal only with possibilities. It is, first of all, one more hint that East Jordan was at least partially occupied by a sedentary population in the first half of the Late Bronze Period. Scholars have generally followed Glueck's lead in assuming that this area was nomadic from around the 19th to the 14th centuries B.C., with a new agricultural people strongly entrenched there from the 13th century onward.⁴ It is now evident from recent finds that this view will have to be modified in that some areas east of the Jordan river seem to have maintained a settled population throughout the Middle and Late Bronze Periods.⁵ Since Qla' et-Twal is a tell, it may well be that it was occupied during the reign of Amenhotep III.

Secondly, this scarab is a possible new link in Egypto-Jordanian relations, material for which is scant indeed for the Eighteenth Dynasty. While there is no evidence of Egyptian military activity east of the Jordan river prior to the

(1) Collected in C. Blankenberg-Van Delden, *The Large Commemorative Scarabs of Amenhotep III* (Leiden, 1969), Chap. II C.

(2) I am indebted to Dr. F. Zayadine of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan for permission to publish this object and for information concerning its description and find-spot.

(3) C. Blankenberg-Van Delden, *op. cit.*, No. C 87. For details of the archaeological context, see O. Tufnell, *Lachish II. The Fosse Temple* (Oxford, 1940), pp. 22, 69.

(4) Glueck's extensive work appears in *AASOR* XIV, XV, XVIII, XIX, and is summed up in

his general work *The Other Side of the Jordan* (New Haven, 1940). Glueck slightly modified his earlier views in his last statement on the subject in D. W. Thomas (ed.), *Archaeology and Old Testament Study* (Oxford, 1967), pp. 443f.

(5) For some of the evidence with references, see my summary in *JESHO* 15 (1972), 55. To this may be added the current excavation being carried out by the Jordanian Department of Antiquities at Sahab, seven km. east of 'Amman, where a MB II tomb has been discovered as well as structures going back to the 13th century B.C.

reign of Ramses II,⁶ there is scattered evidence of trade relations during the earlier part of the Empire. This consists primarily of Egyptian scarabs and stone vessels from 'Amman itself and a nearby Bronze Age temple. This, together with cylinder seals of diverse origins and some splendid Mycenaean pottery from the latter site, shows that 'Amman was an important trade center from at least the 15th century B.C. onward.⁷

It may be no accident that the first tangible information found in Egyptian texts about East Jordan comes from the reign of Amenhotep III. In his Nubian temple at Soleb, there are listed several localities situated in "the land of the Shasu," that is, East Jordan.⁸ The commemorative scarab from Wadi Musa may thus give added weight to some kind of Egypto-Jordanian connection during this king's reign, vague though this may be. In the light of our present knowledge, this connection was not a military one in spite of Amenhotep's list of "captured" enemies at Soleb, a theme which must often be interpreted in a figurative rather than a literal sense.

That a royal commemorative scarab should be found so far afield as Wadi Musa at first sight seems odd, given the

scanty evidence of relations between Egypt and Transjordan throughout the Empire. However, two points should be taken into consideration. First, Wadi Musa is located just off the ancient "king's highway" (Trajan's Road) which the modern highway follows from Aqaba, north through 'Amman, and on into Syria. It is of some interest that, with the exception of some Egyptian material in the Jordan Valley itself, Egyptian objects from Transjordan are usually found at sites along this route. But whether they arrived there by direct trade cannot be answered at present.

Second, commemorative scarabs of various content issued by Amenhotep III have been found at Gezer, Lachish, Ugarit and Serabit el-Khadim,⁹ all sites of major importance in Egyptian relations with western Asia. Since the reign of Amenhotep III was generally peaceful until his later years, it is evident that his commemorative scarabs may have been sent to important towns by way of a "public announcement" of unique events during his reign. In this case, it may be that the tell of Qla' at-Twal was one of some significance in the early 14th century B.C., a suggestion which only excavation can verify.

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(6) See W. A. Ward and M. F. Martin, *ADAJ* 8-9 (1964), 20f., and K.A. Kitchen, *JEA* 50 (1964), 66f.

(7) Among other studies, see J. B. Hennessy, *PEQ*, 1966, 155ff.; G.R.H. Wright, *ZAW* 78 (1966), 350ff.; V. Hankey, *AnnBSA* 62 (1967), 135ff.; *idem*, *Arch. Anzeiger*, 1967, 298ff.; W. A. Ward, *ADAJ* 8-9 (1964), 47ff.; *idem*, *ADAJ* II (1966), 5ff. An excellent general bibliography

on excavations at 'Amman is given by E. K. Vogel, *HUCA* 42 (1971), 7f.

(8) J. Leclant, in S. Schöot, *Göttinger Vorträge*, *NAWG*, 1965, 205.; R. Givon, *Les bédouins Shosu des documents égyptiens* (Leiden, 1971), pp. 26ff.; W. A. Ward, *JESHO* 15 (1972), 50ff.

(9) C. Blankenberg-Van Delden, *op. cit.*, nos. A 40, A 42, B 2, and C 82.

Rujm Al - Malfuf South

by

Henry O. Thompson

On 21 Oct 72, several volunteers gathered under the writer's direction to begin excavation of Rujm (tower or heap) al-Malfuf (a round heap of stones) South (Plate XXVIII, 1). The excavation was sponsored by the Friends of Archaeology and the Department of Antiquities of Jordan. The equipment was supplied by the American Center for Oriental Research.¹ The volunteers worked for varying periods, some for an hour and some for many hours but the help of each was appreciated. Outstanding in her efforts was Ms Betty Elliott, who served as records keeper and opened her home for refreshments, medical aid, pottery washing and storage and recording. Her continual assistance is gratefully acknowledged.²

The tower is located on Jabel Amman between Abu Tammam and Mutanabi Streets, near Zahran Palace, on the southwestern side of Jabel Amman, one of the original seven (now 17) hills of Amman, the ancient Rabbat Ammon, capital of the Kingdom of the Ammonites, from the 13th to the 6th century B.C. On the northern side of Jabel Amman, is the larger (22m. diameter) Rujm al-

Malfuf excavated in 1969.³ The work there discovered Roman pottery down to bedrock both inside and outside the tower. This put into question the practice of calling the tower runis along the western border of Amman, "Ammonite", after the ancient Ammonite kingdom, following primarily the work of Nelson Glueck.⁴ There are 19 of these towers ranging from the Beqaa Valley in the north to Naur in the south. No. 19 is a recent addition to the list, discovered in the excavations at Khirbet al-Hajjar in 1972.⁵ The Hajjar tower was the second excavated but the first to give excavation evidence for an Iron Age date for the towers. Rujm al-Malfuf South is the second to yield an Iron Age date.⁶

Area A

Two trenches were opened against the outside of the tower (Fig. 1). The second of these, Square 2 (1.5 x 3 m.) had two strata. Locus 1, the surface layer, had a piece of Ayyubid-Mameluke pottery and several small bits of Byzantine ribbed ware, in addition to the 6-7th centuries B.C. Iron Age II sherds. This red crumbly soil lay over a dark brown, hard packed soil, Locus 2, over bedrock. The sherds

(1) The Friends of Archaeology are a group of Jordanians and others in Amman, Jordan, who are interested in the antiquities of Jordan. They sponsor lectures and tours relating to archaeology. They have sponsored three excavations, including Rujm al-Malfuf South and a tomb excavation at Khirbet Yajuz in February and March, 1972. Dr. Bastiaan Van Elderen Director of the ACOR graciously loaned the equipment for the dig. His assistance is gratefully acknowledged.

(2) Additional Volunteers were Hanna and Sabah abu Sir; Chris Alleman, Anthony and Jim and Mimi Amine, Andrea, Barbara and Fuad Attalah, L. Dean Brown, Lois, Mimi and Mo Brubeck, Mary Doherty, Laurie Ellis, Aubrey Elliot, Lillian Foster, Mildred and Nancy Halland, Jomha Kryem, Linda Lovegren, Abba and Lisa Majaj, Khalid al-Majali, Charles, Gwen, Kirsten, Michael and Urban Peachey,

David Peterson, Majda, Mickey and Zayd Ra'ad, Beth, JoNell and Timothy Smith, David and John Undeland, Carl Uzazi, Rinehart and Sjoerd Westra.

(3) Roger S. Boraas, "A Preliminary Sounding at Rujm al-Malfuf (North)," *ADAJ*, XVI (1971), p. 31-46.

(4) Glueck, "Explorations in Eastern Palestine," *AASOR*, XXV-XXVIII (1951). George M. Landes, "Ammon, Ammonites," *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible I* (1962), and, "Material Remains of the Ammonites," *The Biblical Archaeologist*, 24 (1961).

(5) Henry O. Thompson, "The 1972 Excavations of Khirbet al-Hajjar," *ADAJ*, XVII, (1972) p. 47-72.

(6) Dr. James Sauer has examined the pottery sherds from the excavation. His assistance is gratefully acknowledged. Dr. Bert De Vries drew the plans, as noted in (Fig. 1). His assistance is deeply appreciated.

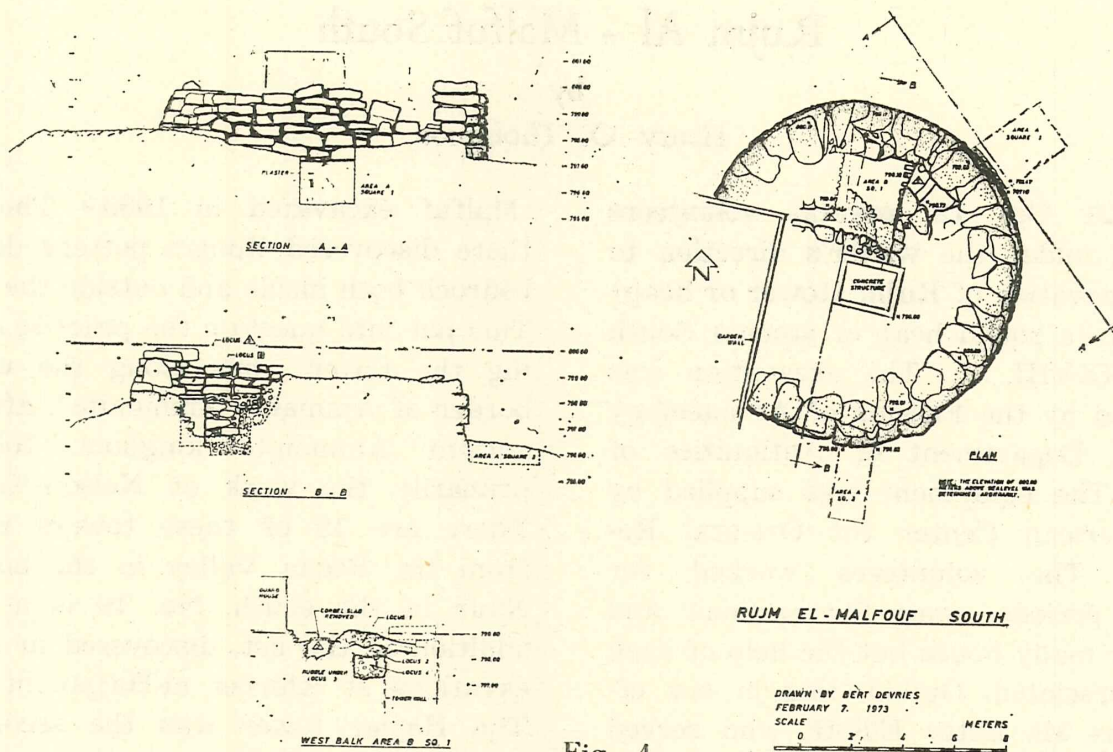


Fig. 1

were 6-7th centuries Iron Age. In both loci, the sherds were few and small, suggesting casual fall rather than occupation, in contrast to Square 1. Square 2 is on the south side of the tower which of course would be hot in the summer. Square 1, on the northeast side, would be a cooler area and closer to what might have been a door in the tower.

Square A.1 had six loci. The square was plotted as 1 x 3 m. but the side along the face of the tower was expanded to 2 m. Locus 1 was a gray dusty soil with much rock tumble, with rocks ranging from 0.02-45 m. However, these rocks, and those encountered later, do not appear to be tumble from the tower, the unhewn slabs of which range up to 1.5 m. in length and 0.50 m. in thickness. Locus 1 potsherds included one Ayyubid-Mamluk and several bits of Byzantine ware, while the balance was 6-7th century Iron Age. Locus 2 was a red crumbly soil similar to Locus 1 in Square A.2. It was under Locus 1 and over Loci 3 and 4. The red crumbly soil had 1 piece of Ayyubid-Mamluk pottery several Byzantine fragments; Iron II and UD (un-

distinguished) pottery plus about half of a basalt grinder. Locus 3 was a heavy dark brown soil in the outer half (northeast) of the trench. A slingstone, two Byzantine sherds, Iron II and Iron I sherds were found in this layer. Since Locus 4 seems to be an occupation layer, this Locus 3 may have been the first wash layer laid down after the tower went out of use.

Locus 4 was a gray soil filled with bits of plaster and a great many 6-7th century B.C. sherds. The plaster presumably came from the outer wall of the tower where a number of rocks were still covered with it (Plate XXVIII, 2). This may suggest that there was a brush lean-to or tent pitched against the tower. The tower wall may have been plastered to keep out lizards and scorpions. Present interpretation for Locus 4 is that it represents 6-7th century occupation, perhaps by a family of a soldier or by off-duty troops. It is possible, however, that the presence of the plaster fragments in the soil of Locus 4 means that this locus accumulated after the abandonment, i.e., when the plaster on the tower wall was no longer maintained and so fell off. The

large number of sherds, however, argue for use of the area and the plaster was probably normal fall.

Locus 5 was a very hard heavy brown rocky layer over bedrock. It was nearly sterile but the few sherds found were 6-7th century material. Pockets of red clay over portions of bedrock, and sticking up into the brown soil, were collectively labelled Locus 6.

Area B

On top of the tower is a small concrete structure dating from ca. 1958, used as a guard house by the Jordanian army. It is of interest to note this continuing use of what was probably an ancient Ammonite watchtower! A single trench, 1.5 x 3 m., was plotted as Square 1, between the concrete structure and the north wall of the tower. Several tower wall stones were toppled off here. We were not able to determine if this was done in 1958, or at some more ancient time. Square B.1 was later expanded to the east when numerous boulders made the 1.5 m. trench too narrow to work in. This expansion to 2.00 m. wide, uncovered Wall 6, on which more below. In February, 1973 some additional cleaning expanded Square B.1 to the west and uncovered Wall 7. Thus Square B.1 cut through a small room formed inside the tower. One assumes that a cross wall lies still buried under the concrete structure.

Locus 1 was a loose red soil with many stones, covering the square. Another slingstone was found here. Among the potsherds were several Ayyubid-Mamluk and Byzantine pieces along with quantities of 6-7th century and Iron I. Locus 2 was a loose reddish brown soil, a shade grayer than Locus 1, and difficult to distinguish from Locus 1. It probably covered the excavated area except for Locus 3. This Locus 2 contained a slingstone, a round stone disc (possibly some kind of rubbing tool), 3 Byzantine sherds and quantities of 6-7th century pottery. An unusual piece of pink clay

may represent some kind of plaster with one side very smooth and the other rough, as though it had been against a stone surface. Loci 1 and 2 lay against a rebuild of Wall 6, which appears to continue under the modern guard house. This upper section of the wall was formed of large flint boulders presumably taken from the outer tower wall. In a niche below the top course of these large rocks, was a lime encrusted Byzantine juglet (Plate XXX, 1, 2). It seems to have had a slip, now partially flaked off. The slip and tiny mouth, suggest a perfume juglet. Perhaps the rebuild in Wall 6 represents an early 5th century family living in the tower remains. Locus 2 did not seem to be an occupation layer as such, however, and may simply represent washed in fill after the original 6th century abandonment of the tower.

Locus 3 is a curious construction of undetermined function. Several thin flat slabs of rock formed a corbel roof over a cavity 0.70 m. wide (N-S) x 0.55 m. deep x ca. 1.85 m. long (Plate XXIX, 1). It looks very much like a grave but no bones or artifacts were found except for a few sherds in the fill at the bottom. Of the latter, a few were Byzantine but most were 6-7th century B.C. As can be seen in the section drawing of the west balk, the sides were constructed of 3 or 4 courses with the top course drawn in from each side to support the corbel slabs. Since the latter were rather loosely fitted, it is not clear whether the Byzantine sherds fell in after construction or if the construction itself is Byzantine. For the moment, we must assume the latter although the stratigraphic lines of Loci 1 and 2 were lost in the rocky debris before reaching Locus 3. The east end was unclear in the debris in front of the modern guard's house, while the west end had been destroyed by the garden wall shown in the top plan of the tower. Locus 3 seems

to lie over and possibly in the debris of Locus 4 although the area under Locus 3 was not excavated.

Locus 4 was a hard brown soil with many stones, 2.25 m. deep. under Locus 2 and going down to bedrock, which served as the floor of the original tower. Near the top of the locus was a single sherd of Attic black glazed ware while the balance of the fabrics were Iron I (11-12th century) and Iron II (6-7th). These fabrics, plus the 6-7th century materials from Area A, are interpreted as dating the original tower to the 6-7th centuries B.C. However, the Iron I material was in sufficient quantity to provide evidence for an Iron I presence in the area. It is possible that the tower originated in the earlier period and was reused in the later, but this would have involved a very careful cleaning down to bedrock, at least in the limited area of our excavation. The digging at this point, benefitted from the help of Ali Abd el-Rassul, one of the best technical men available. There was no additional stratification visible in the lower portions of Locus 4.

Locus 5 is a stairway of three steps inside the tower wall, (Plate XXIX, 2) on the east edge of Area B. Surface soil over the steps contained Byzantine sherds as well as Iron I and II. The soil is assumed to be equivalent to Locus 1 over the rest of the square. Small quantities of soil from behind the first step and from under the lowest step, contained only 6-7th pottery. It is possible that the Byzantines built the stair in conjunction with their rebuild of Wall 6, so that the steps were set directly on fill from the earlier use of the tower. However, the bottom step forms a corbel type of arch over the doorway in the north end of Wall 6. This arch was at the bottom of Locus 2 and at the top of Locus 4, as well as being at the top of what is presumably the Iron Age portion of Wall 6. Thus one could argue that the

stair is original to the tower. If this is true, we have here the first definite stairway of the Ammonite towers. One could assume a ladder from the bedrock floor to the top of the doorway in Wall 6, and thence the stairs led to the top of the tower.

Wall 6, as indicated earlier, was rebuilt in early Byzantine times, with slab boulders from the tower wall. The earlier phase of the wall (2.25 m. high), dates to the 6-7th century, judging by the fill of Locus 4 against Wall 6. The section B — B (see Fig. 1) shows the doorway between Wall 6 and the outer tower wall. It also shows several large rocks helping to form the inner jamb of the door while Wall 6 as a whole was built of rather small rocks (7 courses) in the Iron Age phase. These smaller rocks, 0.10-.25 m., also characterize Wall 7.

Summary

Rujm al-Malfuf South is one of 19 towers along the western border of ancient Ammon. It has a diameter of 13 m., about average for the towers which range from 8 — 22 m. The large flint blocks are roughly coursed so that course numbering is irregular. However, up to 8 courses remain above ground with another 3 below ground, at least in Square A.1. The extant remains stand 2 — 5 m. high on a small knoll. Area A, Square 1, suggests occupation on the outside of the tower in the 6-7th century B.C. Excavation inside the tower indicates the use of the bedrock as a floor for the tower which was probably built in the 6-7th century though the presence of Iron I potsherds suggests some type of Iron I presence in the area. The reuse of Wall 6 in the Byzantine period suggests a domestic rather than military use. The few Ayyubid-Mamluk sherds found in the area probably represent a casual visit rather than occupation.

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Some Bronze Coins From Amman

by

Adnan Hadidi

The coins catalogued in this article were recovered during the excavations of the Roman Forum at Amman between 1964 and 1967. The writer wishes to acknowledge his debt of gratitude to the Rev. Fr. Augustine Spijkerman of the Studium Biblicum Franciscanum, Old City-Jerusalem for helping in the identification and reading of these coins.

The following abbreviations are used :

Babelon--E. Babelon, *Les Rois de Syrie, d' Arménie et de Commagene*, Paris 1890;

Hill Arabia--G. F. Hill, *Catalogue of the Greek Coins of Arabia, Mesopotamia and Persia in the British Museum*, London, 1922;

Hill Phoen.--G. F. Hill, *Catalogue of the Greek Coins of Phoenicia in the British Museum*, London, 1910;

Sylloge--Sylloge Nummorum Graecorum, Part 35 (Syria: Seleucid Kings) Copenhagen, 1959;

Walker--J. Walker, *Catalogue of the Arab-Byzantine and Post-Reform Umayyad Coins*, London, 1959;

Wroth--W. W. Wroth, *Catalogue of the Imperial Byzantine Coins*, 2 Vols, London, 1908.

Hellenistic and Nabataean Coins (Plate XXXI)

1. Seleucid:

Obv. Veiled Female bust r.

Rev. ↑ Elephant's head l. Inscr. : above, ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ; below, ANTIOXOV. Serrated edge. Pierced. Attributed to King Antiochus III (223-187 B.C.).

Babelon, p. 56, n. 424sq.; Sylloge, n. 184sq.

2. Seleucid:

Obv. Head of King Demetrius I r., diademed.

Rev. ↑ Stern of galley r.; above, in three lines, inscr.:

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ 'ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΥ 'Λ [? Δ Ν Ρ] ,
below, ΤΥΡΙΩΝ 𐤏𐤍𐤕𐤍.

Date not entirely clear: NP = 154 = 159/158 B.C.; or possibly, NP = 159 = 154/153 B.C.; cf. Babelon, p. 98, n. 770 and p. 99, n. 777.

3. Seleucid:

Obv. Head of Antiochus VIII Gryphus (125-96 B.C.) r., diademed.

Rev. ↑ Zeus Uranius, standing facing. Inscr.: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ' ANTIOXOV ' ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ.

Babelon, p. 189, n. 1450.

4. Seleucid:

Very worn, damaged and heavily encrusted. Just a suggestion that it might be a coin of King Antiochus XII Dionysus; rev.-type: Zeus, nude to waist, standing l.; cf. Babelon, p. 208, n. 1579sq.

5. Seleucid:

Very worn, obv. blank; on rev., apparently Apollo standing l.

6. Sidon, an Autonomous Coinage:

Obv. Bust of Tyche r., wearing turreted crown and veil.

Rev. ↑ War-galley l., stern terminating forward in volute, aphlaston at stern; above, in two lines: ΛΒΝ' ΣΙΔΩΝΙΩΝ; below, Phoenician inscr. 𐤌𐤁𐤍' 𐤏𐤍𐤕𐤍; the date (BN = 52 = 60/59 B.C.) is not entirely sure but very probable, cf. Hill Phoen., p. 162, n. 125.

7. Nabataean:

Very worn. rev., perhaps, a Nike walking l. similar type has been hypothetically attributed to king Aretas II (100-96 B.C.).

8. Nabataean:

Obv. Bust of King Aretas IV r., laureate.

Rev. ↑ Two cornuacopiae crossed and filleted; between the horns, unclear letters. Cf. *Hill Arabia*, p. 9, n. 27 sqq.

9. Nabataean:

Obv. Busts r., jugate, of King Rabbel II and Queen Gamilath. (71-106 A.D.).

Rev. ↑ Two cornuacopiae crossed and filleted; between the horns, inscr.

15 / 1

h / b

Cf. *Hill Arabia*, p. 13, n. 3sqq.

10. Nabataean:

Obv. Busts r., jugate, of King Rabbel II and Queen Gamilath (71-106 A.D.).

Rev. ↑ Two cornuacopiae crossed and filleted; between the horns, inscr.

15 / 1

h / b

Cf. *Hill Arabia*, p. 13, n. 3sqq.

Roman Coins (Plate XXXII)

1. Roman Imperial:

Obv. Youthful bust of Emperor Commodus (180-192 A.D.). draped; inscr. around, beginning l.

below: AVP.KOM MOΔOCKAIC

Rev. ↓ Bust of goddess Asteria, mother of the Tyrian Herakles, veiled and surmounted by a star; inscr. around, beginning l. below:

ΦΙΛ.Κ. CV ΘΕΑΑΚΤΕΡ ΠΙ

in exergue, remainder of inscr. around r. (Size 23mm.) Similar obv. in H. Mattingly and E. A. Sydenham, *The Roman Imperial Coinage*, 1930, Pl. X, n. 206. Similar rev. in *Hill Arabia*, p. 39, n. 12.

2. Roman Imperial:

Obv. Bust of Emperor Marcus Aurelius r., bearded, radiate, undraped; inscr. around, beginning l. below: A.KAIC.M.AVP.ANT.C

Rev. ↓ Bust of City-goddess r., draped, wearing turreted crown; inscr. around, beginning l. below: ΦΙΛΑΔΕΛΦΕΩΝΚΟΙ. CVP. (Size 18mm.).

3. Roman Imperial(?):

Obv. Youthful bust of Emperor r., most probably Elagabalus (218-222 A.D.).

Rev. Apparently City-goddess standing l., holding in l. cornuacopiae. Coin is much worn; it is impossible to say whether the inscription is in Greek or Latin.

4. Roman Imperial:

Obv. Bust of Emperor Licinius (307-323 A.D.) r., laureate, wearing cuirass; inscr. around, beginning l. below: IMPLICINIVSPFAVG.

Obv. Legionary eagle between two standards; inscr. around, beginning l. below: SPQROPTIMOPR INCIPI; exergue unclear (Size 19 mm.).

5. Roman Imperial:

Obv. Bust of Emperor r.; inscription illegible.




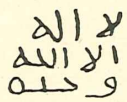
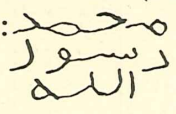
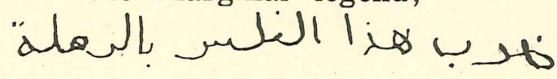
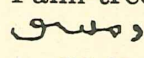
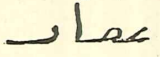


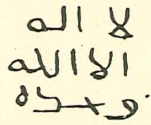
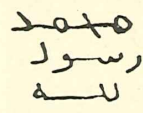
Rev. Victory, walking l., holding wreath; details obscure. Fourth Century A.D. (Size 13mm.).

Byzantine and Islamic Coins (Plate XXXIII)

1. Obv. Bust of Emperor Justinus I (518-527 A.D.) r., beardless, wearing diadem, cuirass and paludamentum; inscr. around, beginning l. below: DNIVSTI NVSPPAVG.

Rev. M, on l., star; on r., cross; above, cross; beneath, ; in exergue, CON (mint of Constantinople). Cf. Wroth, p. 14, n. 29.

2. Obv. Bust of Emperor Justinus I (518-527 A.D.) r., beardless, wearing diadem, cuirass and paludamentum; inscription obliterated: [DNIVSTI NVSPPAVG].

- Rev. ↓ , on l.A, on r., (Price of 5 nummid). Mint of Constantinople. Cf. Wroth, p. 16, n. 40.
3. Obv. Emperor Constans II 641-668 A.D.), beardless, standing facing holding in r. long cross, in l. globus cross; he wears crown with cross and long robes; inscr. around, beginning l. below (only partly preserved): [ε]NT TO[NIKA].
- Rev ↓ ; inscr.: at l., effaced; at r., faint traces of $\begin{smallmatrix} N \\ \epsilon \\ O \end{smallmatrix}$; above, cross; in exergue, upper sections of two letters: 1B. (Size 17 mm.).
- Similar types in Wroth, p. 268 (Struck ca. 641-651 A.D.).
4. Arab-Byzantine:
- Obv. Nearly blank; probably Imperial figurine standing to front; details obscure.
- Rev. ↓ (?); M; symbol above, unclear; inscr. r. and l.: illegible; in exergue, , Dimashk = Damascus. Similar types in Walker, p. 6sq. Struck ca. 650 A.D.
5. Umaiyyad:
- Obv. Inscr. in three lines (only partly visible):
- 
- Rev. ← Inscr. in three lines (only partly on the flaw): 
- Thick fabric; further details obscure. (Size 13 mm.). Similar types in Walker, p. 207 sq. Struck ca. 700 A.D.
6. Umaiyyad:
- Obv. Palm-branch within a dotted circle; around, marginal legend same as supra, no. 5, obv.
- Rev. ↓ within a dotted circle; remainder of the marginal legend;
- 
- (size 15 mm.). Similar types in Walker, n. 855sq.
7. Umaiyyad:
- Obv. Within two concentric circles, usual inscr. in three lines.
- Rev. ↑ Palm-tree; traces of Kufic inscr.:  Dimashk. Similar types in Walker, P. 249, n. 819.
8. Umaiyyad:
- Obv. Bearded figure of Caliph, standing facing.
- Rev. ↓ Transformed cross on steps; in field r., downwards:  = Amman.
- Similar types in Walker, p. 138, n. 126 sq.
9. Umaiyyad:
- Obv. Within a square, inside a beaded circle, usual inscr. in three lines (only partly visible).
- Rev. ↑ Within a plain square, inside a beaded circle, a small fish facing l.; around, usual inscr. Similar types in Walker, p. 217, n. 686 sq.
10. Byzantino-Arabian:
- Obv. Three Imperial figures standing.
- Rev. ↑ ; : from l. above, anti-clockwise: THBEPI O; at r., clockwise:  = Tiberias.
- Similar types in Walker, p. 15, n. 43 sq.
11. Umaiyyad:
- Obv. Within a circle, usual inscr. in three lines: 
- traces of letters outside the circle.
- Rev. Within a circle, usual inscr. in three lines: 
- Similar types in Walker, p. 207 sq.

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A Cultic Slab at Damiya

by

Joan Undeland

On a casual visit to the Damiya dolmen field, a large limestone slab with hollows around the perimeter was found (see Plate XXXIV, 1). Located on Dr. James Swauger's survey map of the Damiya dolmens,¹ the slab is approximately 10 meters north-north-east of dolmen 2 and 18 meters south-east of dolmen 3 (see Figure 1). The slab is oriented on a true north-south axis. The neighboring dolmens are also oriented north-south but do not have the exact north-south orientation of the slab.

The slab is a monolith of dark gray limestone, which is seamed with ferrous material (see Plate XXXIV, 1 and Fig. 2). Maximum measurements are 3.22 meters north-south and 2.30 meters east-west. The slab varies in thickness between 26 and 8 centimeters. The surface of the slab has been heavily pocked by erosion and some of the stone has broken away (see Plate XXXIV, 2). The slab is partially supported by small stones and appears to have been level originally. At present, it tilts to the west at an angle of approximately 30° (Plate XXXIV, 1). Some of the supporting stones are still *in situ* and other are visible on the slope below the slab. At no point does the slab rest on the natural surface of the slope.

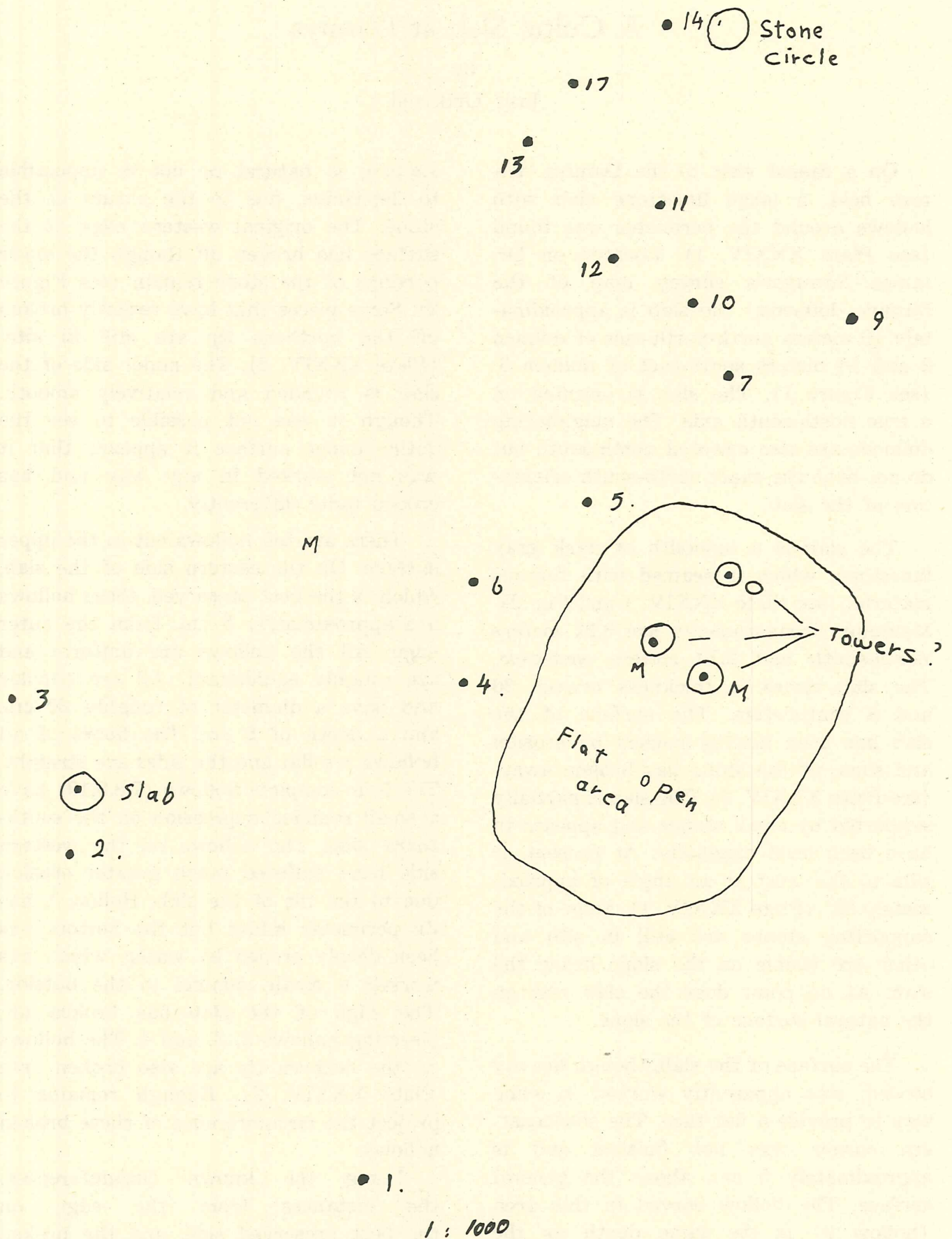
The surface of the slab, though heavily eroded, was apparently worked in some way to provide a flat face. The southeastern corner was not finished and is approximately 5 cm. above the general surface. The hollow carved in this area (hollow 9) is the same depth as the others. The slab shows evidence of shaping on the eastern edge though whether this

shaping is natural or not is impossible to determine, due to the nature of the stone. The original western edge of the surface has broken off though the lower portions of the stone remain (see Figure 2). Some pieces that have recently broken off the northern tip are still *in situ* (Plate XXXIV, 2). The under side of the slab is rounded and relatively smooth. Though it was not possible to see the entire under surface it appears that it was not worked in any way and has eroded quite differently.

There are ten hollows cut in the upper surface. On the eastern side of the slab, which is the best preserved, these hollows are approximately 8 cm. from the outer edge. All the hollows are uniform and are roughly equidistant. All are circular and have a diameter of roughly 20 cm. and a depth of 5 cm. The floors of all hollows are flat and the sides are straight. The four complete hollows (7,8,9,10) have a small rounded depression on the southern side. The hollows on the western side have suffered much greater erosion due to the tilt of the slab. Hollow 1 has its perimeter intact but the bottom has been deeply eroded by water, which has worked a small channel to the outside. The edge of the slab has broken off, bisecting hollows 2, 3, and 4. The hollows on the northern tip are also broken (see Plate XXXIV, 2). Enough remains to project the circumference of these broken hollows.

Using the known circumferences, the distances from the edge on the best preserved side, and the broken pieces still *in situ*, one can reconstruct the probable shape of the original slab

(1) Swauger, James, "1962 Survey of Three Dolmen Sites in Jordan," chart, page 9.



After Swager, Sheets 1 and 2

Fig. 1

(see Figure 3). From this it can be seen that the slab was most likely a symmetrical egg shape with hollows 5 and 10 on the north-south axis.

Any interpretation of the slab must attend extensive research. Certain observations, however, should be mentioned as possible starting points. First, the slab is clearly artificial. The odds against ten uniform geometrically shaped hollows ranged on the perimeter of a symmetrical slab are astronomical. Second, it appears that the slab had some cultic significance, perhaps as an offering table of some sort. All features of the slab point to extreme care and effort in execution. Some very strong motivation was necessary.

Though the Damiya slab appears to be unique there are certain parallels that can be cited. The first and most obvious are the "cup hollows" which are found in many places in greater Palestine.² Most notably, these cup hollows have been observed at Mureighat,² Damiya,³ Um Qeis,⁴ in the Yarmuk Valley,⁵ and below the lowest Mesolithic level at Jericho.⁶ Many of these hollows may be natural; those at Jericho almost certainly are.⁷ That primitive man attributed magical or cultic significance to these quite remarkable phenomena seems likely. He did not, after all, have a geologist or a paleozoologist to explain them. From this, imitation is a rather short step.

The hollows at Jericho provide an especially interesting field for conjecture. They are very similar to the ones at Damiya in size and shape, though, judging from photographs, those at Damiya seem to be slightly deeper. The appearance of the natural slab at Jericho again resem-

bles the Damiya slab. Abutting the slab at Jericho is a walled platform, thought by the excavator to be a shrine.⁸ Though perhaps not significant, the stones of the wall again resemble the stones under the Damiya slab. That the platform at Jericho is later than the slab is clear from the stratigraphy, though how much later is not clear. The excavator has unusually clear evidence for dating the platform shrine to the Mesolithic period (Carbon 14: 7800 B.C. \pm 210). That the structure at Damiya combines the elements visible at Jericho is at least a possibility.

Other possible parallels might be the stone kernoi found during the excavations at Mallia on Crete.⁹ These kernoi are much more sophisticated in both shape and technique but the basic idea is the same; hollows carved around the perimeter of a rounded slab. There is a remote possibility that the Damiya slab may be a sort of proto-kernos but to the author's present knowledge, no links exist.

The Damiya slab does not seem to be culturally related to the surrounding dolmens, either from the point of view of position or technique. The position of the slab in relation to the dolmens seems to indicate a relatively earlier date for the slab unless it was erected on a "better be safe than sorry" basis by a different people. At present, the slab is dominated by the other features of the area (see Figure 1). It is considerably lower than the nearest dolmen and is found on the southern fringe of the dolmen field. It is dominated by the cleared area and the towers above it on the hill. It is a considerable distance from the concentrations of dolmens to the north. If the

(2) Condor, C.R., *Survey of Palestine*, page 150.

(3) Dajani, Rafik, "Excavations in Dolmens," page 58. Some "altars" are cup hollows; personal observation.

(4) Personal observation.

(5) Stekelis, M., "A New Neolithic Industry: the Yarmoukian of Palestine," page 1.

(6) See Plate 5A in Kenyon, K., *Archeology in the Holy Land*.

(7) The excavator does not mention the hollows. See Kenyon, K., "Excavations at Jericho," pp. 88-110.

(8) Kenyon, K., "Excavations at Jericho," page 100.

(9) Personal observation. Also see Plate 27, Alexiou, Stylianos, *A Guide to the Minoan Palaces*.

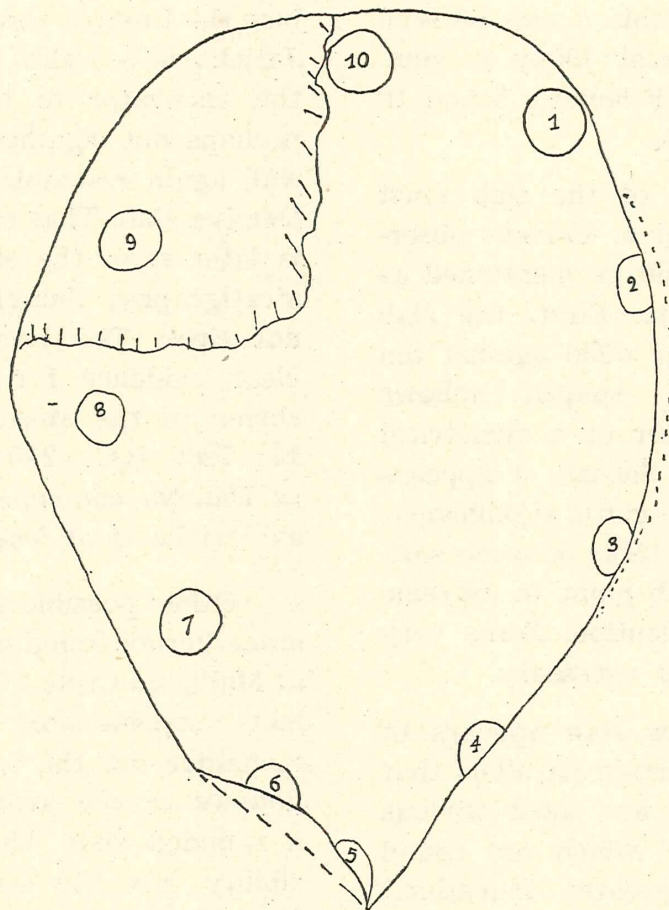


Fig. 2

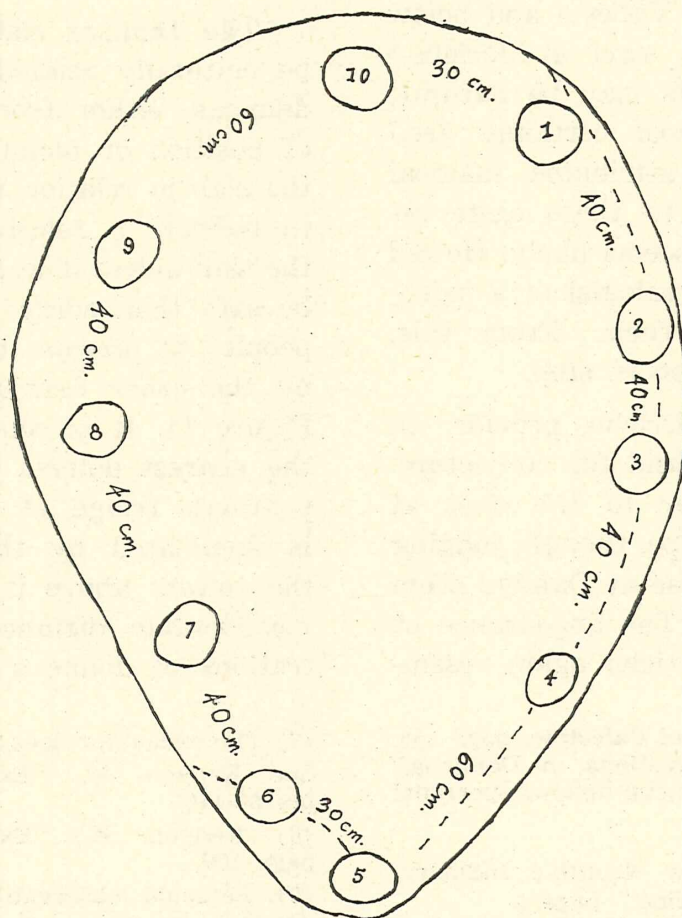


Fig. 3

dolmens existed when the slab was constructed, it is difficult to imagine why the builders placed it where they did. Its position vis-a-vis the natural features of the slope is much more satisfactory, placed as it is in front of a rocky outcrop overlooking the valley (see Plates XXXIV, 1, XXXV, 1).

The previously mentioned technical features of the slab differ at most points from those of the dolmens. The slab has

eroded differently as well. It seems clear that it was made by a different, though possible contemporary people. Any attempt to date the slab is premature. If, however, a relationship can be established between the slab and the Mesolithic levels at Jericho or the kernoi of Greece, this could give us a bit of sure ground in the maze of conjecture concerning the cup hollows and the dolmens themselves.

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A Greek Inscribed Altar from Amman

by
Adnan Hadidi

The lower part of a Greek inscribed altar was discovered in the debris near the stairway of the west portico of the Roman forum at Amman in 1968. Carved in hard *mizzi* limestone, the fragment is 1,25 m. wide and 0,40 m. thick. The inscribed panel is 1,10 m. by 0,35 m. Except for five partly damaged letters in the second line, the inscription is well

preserved. Very scanty and faint traces of a few letters in the lowest part of the panel, may indicate the presence originally of a third line. This is, however, extremely difficult to ascertain, (Plate XXXV, 2 and Fig. 1). The preserved letters average 0,035 m. in height.

The inscription reads:¹

ΕΑΝΤΙΣΕΥΡΕΘΗΠΛΟΙΝΩΝΗ
ΛΑΧΑΝΑΕΠΙΤΩΒΩΜΩΤΙΘΩΝΔΩΣΗ

"If anyone is found washing or placing vegetables on the altar he shall give ..."

It is evident at a first glance that there are at least three styles of lettering represented in this inscription: the Tall Narrow, the Oval, and the Revived Square Alphabet as given by Welles.² On stylistic grounds the inscription should be dated very late second or early third century A.D.³ This date is further supported by the fact that this inscribed altar fragment was discovered near the forum's west portico which is a later construction in the late second century A.D., and by the discovery of two Greek inscribed architrave blocks near the eastern vomitorium

The inscription reads:¹

Ἐάν τις εὐρεθῇ πλοίωνων ἢ
λάχανα ἐπὶ τῷ βωμῷ τιθῶν δώσῃ

of the theater which as reported, date the construction of the three porticos of the forum to 189-190 A.D.⁴

It seems that the present inscription was the work of an unskillful cutter, or else was done in haste. There is also the possibility that the inscription was done by two different cutters. There is a lack of consistency in certain of the letters, especially in A, which in the first line has a horizontal bar, and throughout the remainder of the inscription a slanting one. The examples of S are also different. In the first line it is rectangular while in the second line it is rather curvilinear.

(1) The writer wishes to acknowledge his debt of gratitude to Mrs. Gladys S. Weinberg of the Museum of Art History and Archaeology at the University of Missouri and Prof. Robert H. Smith of the Department of Near Eastern Archaeology at the College of Wooster Ohio, for helping in the reading and translation of this inscription.

(2) For a study of the classification and the

chronology of the Greek epigraphical alphabets in the Roman East, see C.B. Welles, "The Inscriptions," in C.H. Kraeling, *Gerasa, City of the Decapolis*, 1938, pp. 355ff., Figs. 8-16.

(3) Cf. *Ibid.*, pp. 358ff., Figs. ii, 12, 13.

(4) Cf. Fawzi Zayadine, "A Greek Inscription from the Forum of Amman-Philadelphia A.D. 189" *Annual of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan*, 14 (1969), pp. 34ff., Pls XXI - XXIII.

In order to make sense of this inscription, the word $\kappa\lambda\omicron\acute{\iota}\nu\omega\nu$ in line 1 on this altar fragment is being interpreted as a local spelling for $\kappa\lambda\acute{\upsilon}\nu\omega\nu$ 'washing'. Possibly, the word was pronounced "plinon" and the $\omicron\upsilon$ diphthong was used for υ .

Regarded as a whole, the present fragment indicates that little attention was paid in contracting the workman or workmen who were responsible for the cutting of this public inscription. It is very clear that these workmen did not understand Greek very well.⁵

(5) On the question of the low quality of public inscriptions during the Roman period in Palestine, see J. H. Iliffe, "The $\Theta\Lambda\text{NAT}\omicron\varsigma$ Inscription

from Herod's Temple," *Quarterly of the Department of Antiquities in Palestine* 6 (1936), p. 2.

Rock - Cut Tombs at Rajib

by
Ghazi Bishch

Three rock-cut tombs, situated at Rajib (ca. two kilometers east of "the Cave of the Seven Sleepers"), were brought to light at the end of May, 1973. The discovery was made during work on the "green belt highway", which runs south of the villages of Abu Alanda and Rajib to Marka, when a bulldozer accidentally cut into the rear wall of a loculus on the south side of a tomb (tomb 1, cf. fig. 1). The discovery was reported to the Department of Antiquities and Mr. Ali Sa'idi, the inspector of Antiquities of the Amman region, immediately went to the site and supervised the initial clearing operations; From Tomb 1 he was able to recover three pottery lamps (Pl. XXXVI, 1) from the sockets in the chamber walls, two broken candlesticks, a small pottery vessel, and a few bronze objects.

In Loculus 4 of Tomb 1 there was a small opening (ca. 0,15 m. in diameter), which looked into an adjacent tomb (tomb 2). Mr. Sa'idi however, was not able to continue his work because of another urgent assignment, so the writer replaced him as the supervisor of the excavations. When work continued, it was found that the small opening had been enlarged to permit one to crawl into Tomb 2. It was soon evident that Tomb 2 had been robbed recently, since the lid of the sarcophagus which it contained, had been partially removed, and since traces of footprints were visible in the central chamber and loculi.

In Tomb 2 also, a small opening, enlarged later, led into the loculus of yet another tomb, 3 (cf. Fig. 1).

The three tombs were situated on the slope of a hill, and their entrances faced south. When the entrances had been opened by trenches from the outside, the excavation of the tombs was carried out through the entrances. The contents of the tombs were sifted, and in Tomb 2, two soil layers were revealed by a stratigraphic section through the central chamber (cf. below).

Tomb 1

The entrance to Tomb 1 was rather low (ca. 0,70 x 0,65 m.), so that one has to stoop down when entering it. Behind the entrance, which was blocked by a large slab strengthened by smaller stones, was a chamber reached by one rock-hewn step. The chamber was filled with loose brown soil which had silted into the tomb through the entrance, and with limestone blocks which had fallen down from the roof. The chamber, roughly cut into the soft limestone, measured 7,80. from north to south, and 8,00m. from east to west, with a maximum height of 2,50m. There were thirteen loculi cut into the side walls of the chamber, ca. 0,30m. above the floor level. The average measurements of the loculi were: 1,70m. depth; 0,70m. width; 0,95m. height. Loculi 1 and 2; however, measured 1,90 x 1,60 x 1,50 m. and they contained more than one burial. In the southwestern corner of the central chamber was a rock-cut pit (ca. 1,55m. dep) which was covered with a rectangular slab. It contained neither bones nor pottery, but it may have been intended for additional burials, or for collecting of bones of decomposed burials (to allow for prolonged use of the tomb).

In addition to the objects recovered

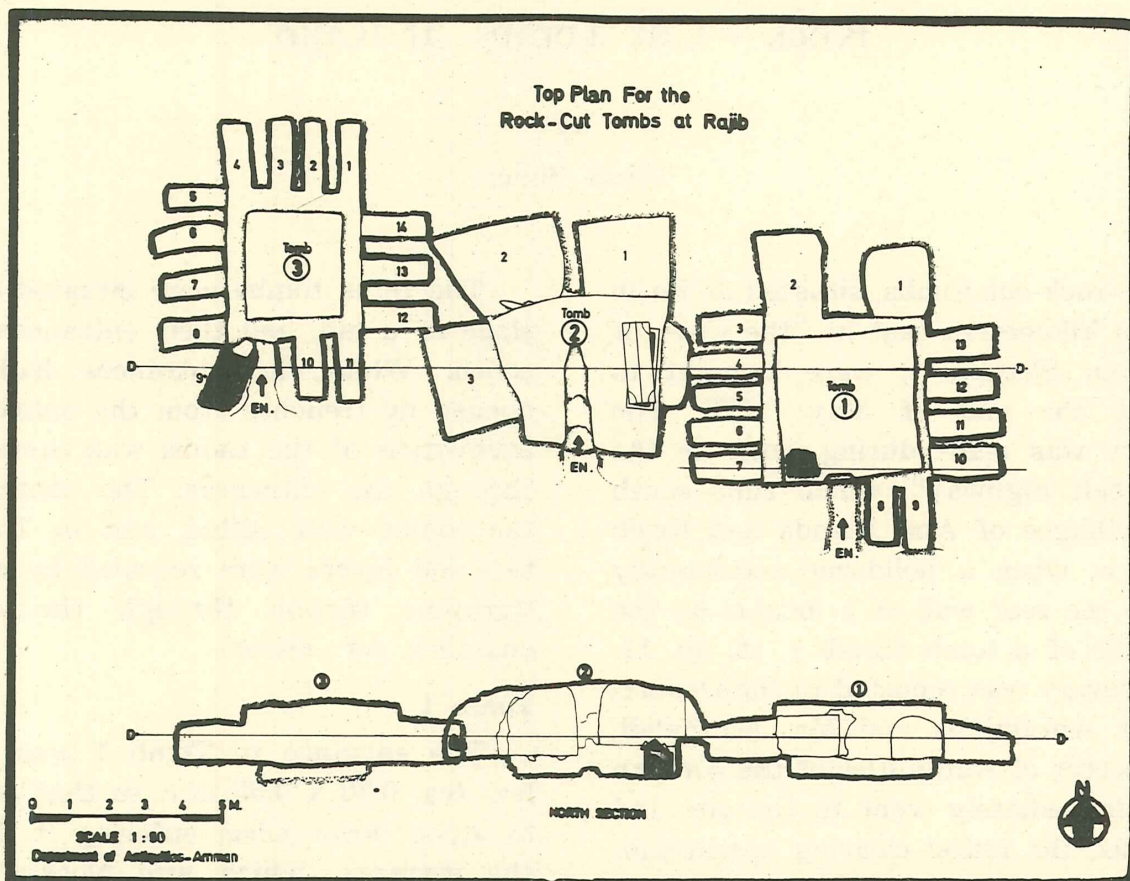


Fig. 1

by Mr. Sa'idi (cf. above), a cooking pot¹ and a small ribbed vessel came from Tomb 1. (Pl. XXXVI, 2) the most diagnostic objects for dating the tomb would be the lamps² (Pl. XXXVI, 1) which would indicate that the tomb was probably in use during the 1st and 2nd centuries A.D.).

Tomb 2

The entrance to Tomb 2 was blocked on the outside by a stone slab. Since the slab was not properly adjusted, loose soil had worked its way into the tomb, and this soil sloped down into the chamber from near the top of the entrance. Four roughly cut steps led down from the entrance to the floor of the chamber. The

chamber was cut irregularly into the soft limestone, and it contained two layers of stratification:

- A. Huwwar layer, ca. 0,35 m. thick.
- B. Hard brown soil layer, under the huwwar layer.

Opening off from the chamber were three alcoves (or bays) two on the north and one on the west (cf. Fig. 1) Each of the alcoves contained more than three burials, but no complete skeleton were recovered. Along the east (unfinished ?) wall of the chamber was a heavy limestone stercophagus, which had the following dimensions: 2.10 m. length; 0,72 m. width; 0,62 m. height. The lid of the sarcophagus had a pitched roof

(1) The cooking pot with round body, sharp shoulder, and low, vertical neck, might be dated to the first century A.D. (cf. **QDAP** X, (1940) p. 32, Fig. 16 No. 7).

(2) Several examples of Herodian lamps occurred in the burial cave of Silet edh-Dhahr (for references and dating discussion, cf. **BASOR Supplementary Studies** 15-16 (1953), p. 31; cf. also **Atiqot**, III (1961), p. 136-138.

and acroteria at the corners. It would seem that the sarcophagus had been brought into the tomb after it had been constructed elsewhere.

From the huwwar layer in the chamber came a pottery lamp (Pl. XXXVII,1,No.2) and two bronze coins of Philip the Arab (A.D. 244-249; Pl. XXXVII, 2; Nos. 1, 2). The sarcophagus produced a gold earring (Pl. XXXVIII, 1; 7), a moulded lamp (Pl. XXXVI,1No. 1) two badly corroded bronze coins, (Pl. XXXVII, 2; No. 3, 4), fragments of green glass, small iron nail heads, and fragments of decayed wood. Since the objects from the huwwar layer would seem to be later in date than those from the sarcophagus, two distinct burial periods could be reconstructed for Tomb 2. The first, during which time the sarcophagus would have been placed in the tomb, would be dated by the moulded lamp to the first third of the 2nd century A.D.³ The second would be dated by the two bronze coins and the pottery lamp to the middle of the third-century A.D.

Tomb 3

The entrance to Tomb 3 was blocked by a stone slab, but the chamber was filled near the entrance with crumbled rock and silt. The chamber was 7,15 m. square, with a maximum height of 2,90 m., and it had the characteristic sunken floor surrounded by benches. Fourteen loculi radiated from the side walls (cf. Fig. 1), and they all contained disintegrated human bones. The loculi usually measured ca. 1,70 x 0,95 m., and some of them were blocked partially by stone slabs. Loculus 9 located immediately to the west of the entrance, was sunken into the floor of the chamber, and it measured ca. 1,55 x 0,80 x 1,65 m. Lamp sockets were carved into the walls of the chamber between the loculi.

Objects from the tomb included glass, bronze, iron, and pottery fragments, a bronze buckle, a gold earring with pendant and a few beads (Pl. XXXVIII Nos. 5 and 8). The pottery lamp fragments (Plate XXXVIII, 2) would point to a late 3rd century A.D. date for the tomb.⁴

Rock-Cut Tombs

At Rajib (1973)

The contents of the tombs and their positions as follow;

No.	Tomb	Position	Contents
1	I	Socket	Lamp: Herodian; Spatulate nozzle; round flattened body with central filling-hole. Both nozzle sides and ends seem to have been trimmed with a knife. Pl. XXXVI, 1.
2	I	Socket	Herodian lamp: as No. 1. Pl. XXXVI, 2.
3	I	Central floor	Piriform bottle: Neck is tall and slightly bulging; rounded base; flaring rim. Pl. XXXVI, 1.
4	I	Socket	Lamp: Bowed nozzle; knob handle; ridge around filling-hole is pinched. Pl. XXXVI, 1.
5	I	Central floor	Lamp: Broken.
6	I	Central floor	Lamp: nozzle.

(3) IEJ, XII (1962), p. 194, Fig. 4.

(4) ADAJ. XVII (1972), p. 82, No. 1, Pl. III, fig. 2.

No.	Tomb	Position	Contents
7	I	Central floor	Lamp: Broken
8	I	Central floor	Candlestick: broken.
9	I	Central floor	Cooking pot: Rounded body; slightly protruding belly; low, vertical neck; two handles. Pl. XXXVI, 2.
10	I	Central floor	Vessel: Ribbed body; flat base; vertical neck. Pl. XXXVI, 2.
11	II	Locus I	Iron fragment and iron nail heads; Bronze ring; Interlooped bronze circles badly oxidized; Tiny cylindrical dark green bead. Plate XXXIX, 1.
12	II	Locus III	White-Creamy glass fragment, Iron flat object with two knobs; fragments of iron and twisted bronze bracelet; Beads: Plate XXXIX, 2.
13	II	Central floor	Candlestick: Broken, very low firing temperature.
14	II	Central floor	Two bronze coins of Philip the Arab: obv; head of emperor, Rev; Tyche. Pl. XXXVII, 2, Nos. 1, 2.
15	II	Central floor	Lamp: Nozzle smoke blackened; Handle slightly, bent up; filling hole encircled by two ridges, chevron pattern and parallel strokes on shoulder Plate: XXXVIII; 1, No. 2.
16	II	Sarcophagus	Moulded Lamp: Orange buff ware with red slip; bowed nozzle; flat base; knob handle; pomegranate and pine cone decoration around filling-hole, which is encircled by a ridge. Plate XXXVIII, 2, No. 1. Gold earring: Plate XXXVIII, 1, No. 7.
17	II	Sarcophagus	
18	II	Central floor	Cooking pot, Red ware; ribbed body and ring base; broken.
19	III	Locus I	Iron fragments: Heavy headed iron nails with traces of decayed wood attached to them; Iron ring. Two Beads: One is tiny cylindrical green bead; the other is dark green.
20	III	Locus II	Iron fragments; two iron nails; Interlooped iron circles: Small bronze bracelet with two rings attached to it. Pl. XXXVIII, 1, No. 2.
21	III	Locus III	Iron rod ends in wooden attachment round which bronze Sheet is wrapped; use unknown (Pl. XL, 1).

22	III	Locus III	Bronze buckle (Pl. XXXVIII, 1, No. 5).
23	III	Locus III	Gold ear-ring with pendant (Pl. XXXV III, No. 8).
24	III	Locus VI	Glass bracelet (Pl. XXXVIII, 1, No. 1) and two Iron fragments.
25	III	Locus VII	Iron nail heads; Glass fragments of green- bluish colour; Widely ribbed Sherds and bronze breast pin.
26	III	Locus VIII	Bronze ring; Glass fragments; Widely ribbed sherds.
27	III	Locus IX	Ribbed Sherds and glass fragments.
28	III	Locus X	Iron fragments; Thin circular bronze sheet pierced in the center.
29	III	Locus XI	Few Sherds and glass fragments.
30	III	Locus XII	Iron fragments.
31	III	Locus XIII	Glass fragments of pale-green and green- bluish colour.
32	III	Locus XIV	Lamp Broken; Nozzle smoke-blackened (Pl. XXXVIII, 2, No. 1); Iron and glass fregments.
33	III	Central floor	Lamps nozzle: A band of Chevron patterh between filling-hole and spout; Dot-in- circle decoration on both sides of nozzle (Pl. XXXVIII, 2, No. 2).
34	III	Central floor	Lamp fragments; Buff ware; Knobs around Shoulder (Pl. XXXVIII, 2, No. 3).

Ghazi Bisheh

The Department of Antiquities

A Byzantine Tomb from Na'ur

by
Sabri 'Abbadi

The discovery of a tomb at Na'ur¹ was reported to the Department of Antiquities on March 25th, 1973. Na'ur is a flourishing village situated about 15 Km. west of Amman, on the main road to Jerusalem. Sherds of the Arab, Byzantine, Roman and Iron I and II periods have been collected from the area. A square tower, built of megalithic stones and similar to many Ammonite towers, lies about 2 Km. to the south-east of the village.

The tomb was located on the eastern slopes of the Wadi, in an area which has many shafts and caves. A cemetery is certainly to be placed in the area, and some of the caves could date back to the Iron Age, since many sherds of that period are scattered around.

The newly discovered burial was a shaft-tomb, whose entrance was blocked by a large cover-stone which fitted into the opening. The cover-stone which measures 1.88 m. by 1.00 m. and 0.50 m. on thickness, had, two rectangular notches at the bottom to help in lifting it with an iron bar. It seems that the cover-stone was quarried out from the near-by rock, for a trough, corresponding to the dimensions of the cover-stone is to be seen in the vicinity.

Unfortunately, when the Department's officials reached the spot the cover-stone had been lifted and the burial searched by tomb robbers. Nevertheless, it was decided to dig; the operation was entrusted to the writer.

Description of the burial:

Roughly rectangular in shape, the chamber measured 5.25 m. by 4.75 m. and it contained 5 graves (plan Figs. 1-2, and Pl. XLI, 1). The largest grave measured, 2.20 m. by 1.15 m. (No. 1). An atrium corresponding to the opening of the tomb but of larger size, separated grave No. 1 from Nos. 3 and 4. Two graves were situated on the western side of the chamber (Nos. 5 and 6), and they were separated from the rest of the grave by a bench, 0.75 m. high.

Probably the entire tomb had been Plastered at one time, for traces of Plaster were noticed on small section of the ceiling at the western end.

The Finds:

Although the tomb was plundered by modern robbers, some objects were discovered during the excavations. In addition to the fragmentary skeletal remains, there were pottery lamps, beads, bronze bracelets and rings, a bronze nose ring, a bronze cross, a bone spindle whorl, and some illegible bronze coins

Dating:

Since the coins were badly corroded, they are of no help in dating the tomb. The only possible evidence would be the two lamps. Lamp No. 1 could be dated to the 3rd century A.D.,² while No. 2 is typical the Byzantine Period (6-7th century A.D.).³ The bronze cross⁴ is also common in Byzantine tombs especially from Pella. In this case, it is probable that the tomb was first occupied in the Later Roman Period and again later in the Byzantine Period.

(1) About Na'ur see: **AASOR**, XXV-XXVIII (1951), p. 221; **ZDPV**, 77 (1961) p.46; 77 (1961) p.56 ff; 76 (1960) p.113-114.

(2) **QDAP**, (1950), Pl. XXV.

(3) **Pella**, pl. 84, No. 368, and p. 219.

(4) **Pella**, pl. 68 and p. 228.

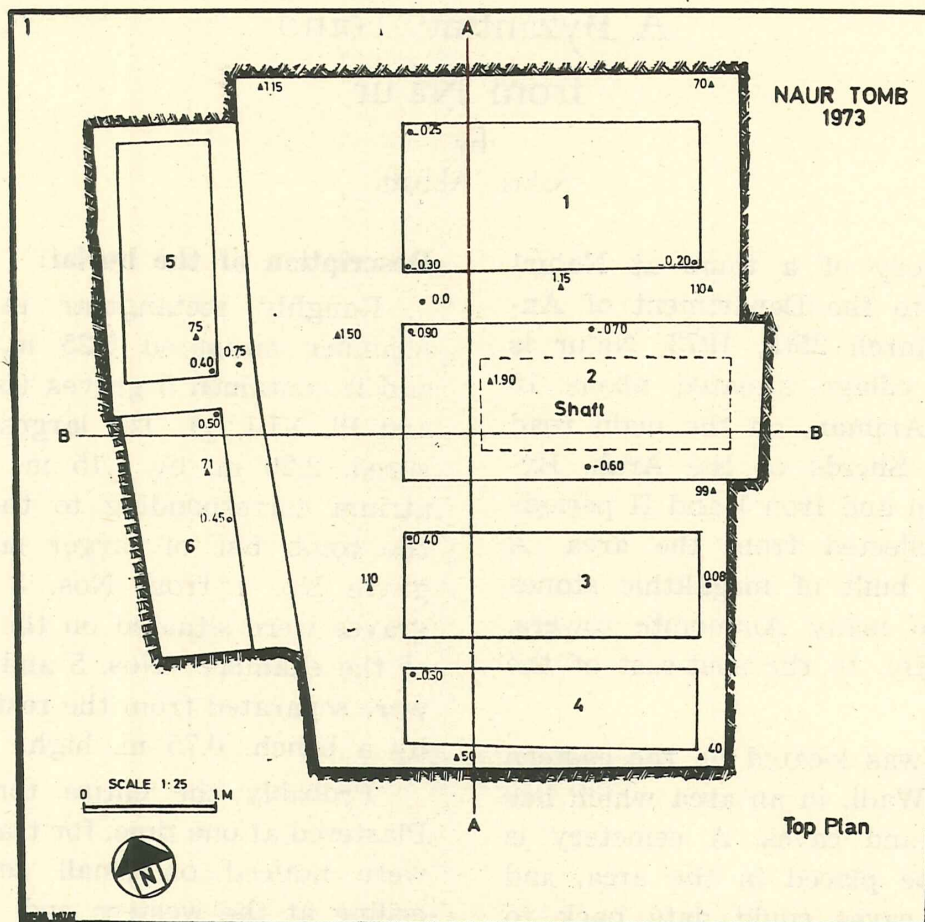


Fig. 1

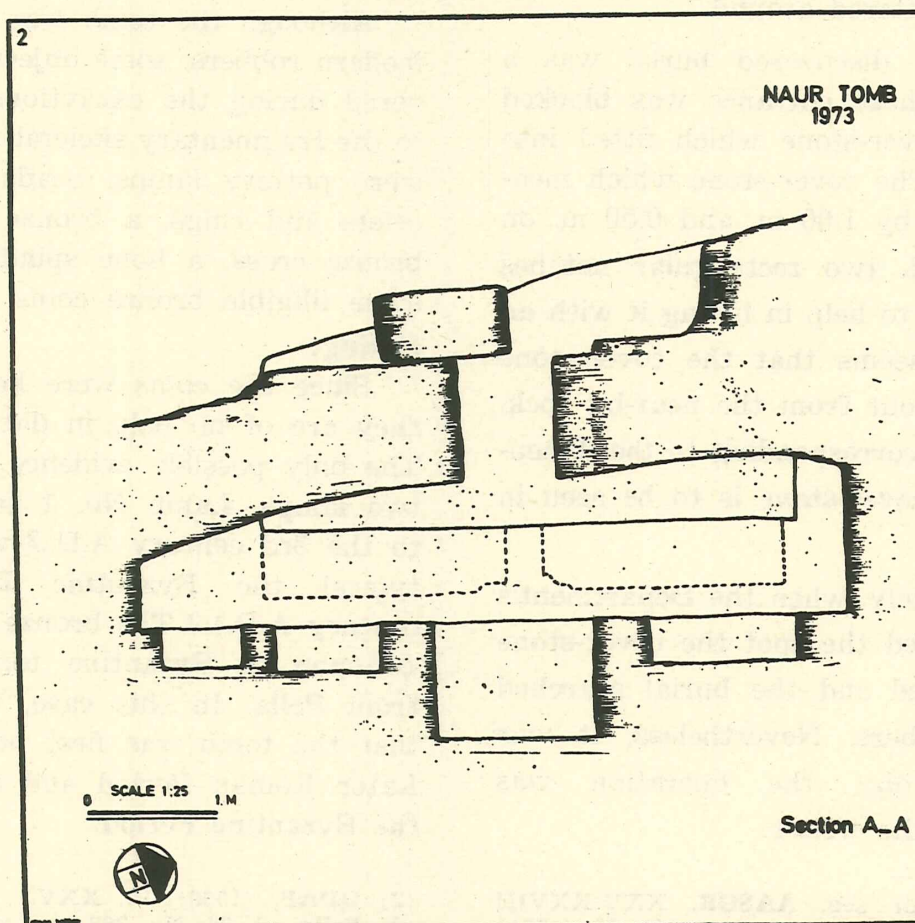


Fig. 2

Description of finds

<u>No.</u>	<u>Provenance</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Plates</u>
1	Loc. 2	Intact pottery lamp, red ware, round shape with semi-circular nozzle and vertical handle, decorated with two bands. It contained arrow head elements. Surface decorated with dents.	XLII, 1
2	Loc. 3	Intact pottery lamp, creamy ware almond shape, ring around the main hole, decorated with relief bands.	XLII, 1
3	Loc. 1	Group of beads of different sizes, shapes and colour.	XLII, 2
4	Loc. 3	Bone spindle whorl, circular shape, with a hole in the centre, decorated with groups of small circles. Two incised circles around the central hole. No decoration on the other side. Dia. 4 cm.	XLII, 2
5	Loc. 1	Bronze Cross, small, broken from the hanging ring. length 2,2. cm.	XLII, 2
6	Loc. 4	Group of beads of different size, shapes and colours.	XLII, 2
7	Loc. 5	Three bronze nose rings.	XLII, 2
8	Loc. 3	Bronze spatula, broken on one end. Length 10. cm.	XLII, 2
9	Loc. 1	Bronze bracelet.	XLI, 2

S. 'Abbadi
The Department of Antiquities

Excavation at Meqablein

by
A. Jalil 'Amr

On a high small knoll (Pl. XLIII, 1) to the north-western side of the modern village of Al-Meqablein,¹ which itself stands on a mound 3 km. to the south-west of the Jordan broad-casting service, lies a rock-cut opening described by one of the villagers as an "important archaeological cave." The discovery seems to have instilled in the dwellers' minds an obsession to prove themselves better than the antiquities men by entering the cave in an attempt to find gold. This had been indicated by the presence of burnt papers and wood inside it. The Department of Antiquities undertook digging and clearance of the area belonging to Mohammad Es-Salik on June 13th, 1973 under the direction of the writer with eight workers. The photographer and the registration staff of the Department visited the dig from time to time.

The work area was divided into two trenches. The first one was 4,80 x 3,91 m. and 2,30 x 4,80 m. for the second one. In this later trench we found walls and mixed pottery sherds.² The finds of the first trench, that contains the rock-cut opening which I just mentioned were simply rubble 1,80 m. deep. Pottery sherds with a Jordanian half piastre, found at a depth of 1,50, were put aside.

Stratification, therefore, and the above mentioned pottery sherds were not taken into consideration, except for some rims and pottery handles found immediately on the rock surface of the cave. They date back to the Byzantine and Late Mamluk periods (see Pl. XLVI). Light from the said opening was not sufficient

to see the inside of the cave until three more rock-cut openings were found.

These four openings roofed with large slabs of stone (see Pl. XLIII, 2) helped when opened in seeing that the inside of the cave was divided by arches and cross vaults. The situation, however, was not clear until a third trench to the north of the two former trenches was opened. It was 4,15 x 6,35 m. The entrance we found in this northern trench was closed by stones of different size. The rock surface of the cave and its entrance in this trench area were levelled and plastered to form a floor for a mosque, but that floor had been disturbed and broken on the east side (see Pl. XLIV, 1). A wall of about 10,10 m. on the south side of the trench was found. It contained a plastered niche or Mihrab, one meter deep by one meter wide (Pl. XLIV, 1). A small part of the same plastered wall on the eastern side was found, and this helped in giving the exact size of the room. According to the pottery rims and handles found on its plastered floor, it is dated to the Mamluk period (ca. 13th Century A.D.).

Neither pottery sherds nor bones were found in our cave, except for heavy dust and rubble which had percolated through, and covered a considerable area inside the cave itself. The cave is divided into two equal sections by arches which were built to support the roof. These arches, according to the technique of building, date back probably to the Turkish period, a little known period in the History of Jordan. The springers of the arches were built with rubble and mortar.

(1) In his book "The Survey of Eastern Palestine" I, p. 184, Condor spells the name Al-Meqablein as "El-Makabelein". L. Harding

spells it "Meqabelein", QDAP, XIV (1950) p. 44
(2) Iron Age, Roman, Byzantine, and Umayyad sherds were found around the dig area.

CONCLUSION

A fairly careful examination of the site indicates that the area was populated from about the 4th millennium B.C.³ down to the Mamluk period (13th Cent A.D.) The cave we dug is one of the several large caves which dated back to the Iron Age.

Many other caves have been opened and used as stores by the villagers. The site in general contains many archaeological features, mainly of the Early Bronze and Iron Ages. The Iron Age remains indicate its occupation when the Ammonite were at their Zenith (1200-600

B.C.). A tower built from massive blocks of flint is standing not far from the dig (see Pl. XLIV, 2). Another watch tower built on the facing north-western mound seems to belong to the same period.⁴ (see Pl. XLV, 1-2). Many of the pottery forms and sherds resemble those found in tombs at Sahab and Amman which dated to the Iron Age.

The Jordan Museum contains an Iron and bronze mirror, pottery figurines and rings found by the department of Antiquities in a tomb at Al-Meqablein in 1964. The resemblance of these objects and the material found in Amman and Sahab is also visible.⁵

A. Jalil 'Amr

The Department of Antiquities

(3) flint arrow-heads and fan scrapers were found on Tel Et-Tweihin which is to the east of the modern village of Al-Meqablein.

(4) The Arabic meaning for Al-Meqablein is "The two things facing each other", therefore,

Condor explained its meaning as "The two watch towers facing each other." Condor, **"The Survey of Eastern Palestine,"** I, (1889) p. 184.

(5) **QDAP**, XI (1945) p. 67, and **QDAP**, XIII. (1948) pl.XXXV, 1 and 6.

Archaeological Notes
and News

The North Mausoleum at Um Qeis

(Pls. XLVII — XLVIII)

The site of the North Mausoleum was cleared by the Department of Antiquities in 1969. It is located to the northeast of the Bath of Herakleides on the edge of the steep northern slope which goes down to the Yarmuk river. The building was constructed of fine-grained basalt blocks which were smoothly finished on the exposed faces and joining edges, but left rough on the hidden surfaces. The fact that many of these stones are strewn far down the steep slope indicates that the building tumbled in an earthquake. In addition, the northeast corner of the building has been completely removed in order to create access to a cave several meters under the foundation of the building. As a result of these destructions, only a small portion of the building stones are left *in situ*. With some effort, however, a large number of the tumbled stones could be recovered from the slope.

Two building phases are clearly evident. The original structure - the western portion of the building - consisted of a nearly square platform - 6.38 x 6.25 meters - on which the superstructure of the mausoleum was built. The platform was built up by means of a limestone foundation which extends 55 cm. beyond the wall on the lower (north) side. The platform consists of smooth basalt paving stones set on a three course high perimeter wall with the edges of the platform cantilevered 34 cm. beyond the perimeter wall and beveled on the bottom. Centered in the platform is a crypt for a single burial (2.14 x 1.15 m.). The bottom of the crypt is 1.74 m. below the platform; it is not clear from the remains how high it was built up.

The superstructure of the mausoleum was set on this platform with its outside dimensions matching those of the peri-

meter wall. Of this structure only two stones remain in place on the southeast corner of the original platform. The outside faces of these long stones are beveled along the top. The fact that the top faces of these stones are unfinished indicates that additional courses were set on them. Because traces of cement indicate that this wall was only 85 cm. thick, these additional courses must have had vertical faces up to the height of the roof. Not enough remains of this superstructure to give further reconstructive description. There is no evidence of an entrance or an access stairway connected with this phase of the building.

At a later date the platform was extended 2.70 m. to the east, including a four step 5.00 m. wide stairway. This extension was carefully joined to and matched with the original platform (cf. south elevation), although the stones in the perimeter are shorter and differ in thickness from those in the original. The stairway leads onto a rough limestone pavement.

Nearby are some basalt column fragments including an ionic capital with flat volutes. If this capital was used in the building, it would indicate a late Roman date. Several meters to the east of the stairs is a dated funeral inscription enclosed in a Roman cartouche on a large basalt stone. If the assumption that this inscription was originally a part of this structure is correct, at least one of the phases of the mausoleum can be dated accurately. (cf. Dr. Fawzi Zayadine's publication of this inscription in this issue).

Bert De Vries

*American Center of Oriental
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A Dated Greek Inscription from Gadara - Um Qeis

(Pl. XLIX)

This Greek inscription is engraved on a basalt lintel of 1,50 by 0,50 m. lying near the south-eastern corner of the mausoleum which was surveyed and described by Dr. Bert De Vries (*supra* Pl. XLVII-XLVIII). Most probably, the lintel belongs to the ruined mausoleum, since the inscription is obviously funerary. Inside a tabula ansata of 1,50 m. by 0,31 m. is the main text, while the date and the word "year" are incised on the right and left top of the lintel, outside the frame itself (Pl. XLIX, 2).

The main text consists of three lines of rounded letters, 6-8 cm. high, with one ligature on the third line (NH). Smaller letters occur at the end of lines 1 and 2, and on both sides of the main inscription.

Greek Text:

ΕΤΟΥΣ		
	COIΛΕΓΩΤΩΔΙΕΡΧΟΜΕΝΩ	ΗΙΥ
ΑΡΑ	ΟΙΟCEIΗΜΗΝ ΟΙΟCEIΜΕΙΕCΕ	ΤΕΧΝΙ
ΒΙΟΥ	ΧΡΗCΑΙΤΩΒΙΩΩCΘΗΤΟC	ΤΟΥΕΡ ΓΟΝ

ΕΤΟΥC	
	Σοῦ λέγω τῷ διερχομένῳ·
ΑΡΑ-	οἶος εἶ ἡμην, οἶος εἰμεῖ εἶσε.
ΒΙΟΥ	Χρησαί τῷ βίῳ ὡς θνητός.

Translation:

"To you I say, passer-by:
As you are, I was; as I am you will be.
Use life as a mortal".
Work of Arabios, the artist.
Year 418 = 355-356 A.D.

Dr. S. Mittmann, who first published the inscription in his survey of Northern Jordan,¹ failed to notice the word "year" which is rather worn but which could easily be restored as shown on Pl. XLIX, 2. He considered the letters "HIY" to be marks of the stone cutter.²

The date should be calculated on the basis of the Pompeian era, as is indicated by the coins of the city³ and by the many inscriptions of the Decapolis.

The inscription, though not in verse, is a typical Graeco-Roman epigram, and thus the word "τεχνύτης" may refer to one of the famous poets or comedians of Gadara whose origin, as indicated by his name (Arabios), may have been oriental. But it could also refer to the architect who built the tomb.

F. Zayadine

The Department of Antiquities

(1) *Beiträge zur Siedlungs Und Territorialgeschichte des Nördlichen Ostjordanlandes*, Wiesbaden, 1970, p. 176-177.

(2) *Ibid.* p. 177.

(3) See H. Seyrig, *Antiquités Syriennes*, VI p. 47-48.

A L. B. Stamp Seal from Jordan

(Pl. L, 1)

The discoid of putative marble purchased at Rabbath-Moab (Jordan) in November 1969 is of interest since it shows a suckling motif of a long horned goat and its young. The sun orb supported by the crescent moon lies in the top right quarter of the field. A leafy branch before the dam suggests a woody terrain. The motif has interest first for shape. Datable from the 15th-14th century B.C., it shows the beginning of a revival of the stamp seal use in the face of the decline of cylinder seal in Southern Syria and in face of the competition of Egyptian scarab use. Its shape as its motif suggest certain connection with Aegean World. The shape is discoid, which was of some frequency at the end of the M.M. age in Crete and the L.M. age. In this case the connection with the Aegean World was through the Helladic Greece, although both shape and

style is more connected with Crete than with the Greek Mainland. There are two stylistic features which suggest connections with both Crete and Helladic Greece: the engraving of the young goat, like the head and the horns of the dam and like the movement of both, mother and young, is of the careful naturalistic content. The body of the mother on the other hand has been engraved in that manner of the talismanic goat subjects of L.M. II Crete. This for Helladic Greece or the Syrian World of the 14th c. B.C. would not be an anomaly, as it would have been in Minoan Crete of the 15th c. B.C.

The addition of the sun orb, supported by the crescent moon suggests a religious symbolism which fits the natural character of the theme.

V. E. G. Kenna

Excavations at Petra

(April 1973)

A joint campaign of excavations at Petra was financed by the Naturhistorische Gesellschaft of Nurnberg, thanks to the initiative of its President, Dr. Manfred Lindner, who edited an excellent book on Petra and the Nabataean civilisation¹. The work of excavation was directed by Dr. F. Zayadine, of the Department of Antiquities assisted by Mr. Bassim Rihani and Mr. Mohammed M. Khadija. Members of the German Society, together with Austrian volunteers were of great help in the excavation.

The area selected for the dig was the western slope of the Khubtha cliff, which has some of the largest tombs of Petra, usually described as the "Royal Nabataean Necropolis." The main object of the excavation was to improve our knowledge of the sequence of occupation in that area. Four sites were investigated :

I. Tomb No. 813, at the end of the Siq facing the theater, decorated with half crowsteps, a cavetto cornice and pilasters, was searched in ancient and modern times. Nevertheless, we decided to excavate it, in hopes of finding inscriptions. Only two loculi out of eleven were cleaned out and on the first day our intuition proved to be right for a fragmentary Nabataean inscription appeared in the second loculus to the left, when entering the tomb (Pl. L, 2). It reads : "mnku... nbt" which means : "Maliku (king) of the Nabataeans". It is clear from the cement on the back of the slab that it was fitted into a wall, maybe the one closing the loculus. The king here mentioned is probably Malichos II (40-70 A.D.), son of

Aretas IV. In another loculus was found fragmentary wall plaster inscribed with two letters (**resh** and **tet**) suggesting the name of Aretas, as supplementary evidence of a royal burial in the tomb. Such a conclusion is reasonable when one remembers that the name of Uneishu, a Nabataean minister was inscribed on a slab, in a nearby tomb of the same style (No. 808). A courtyard decorated with columns extended in front of tomb No. 813 and a triclinium is cut on the north western side of the portico.

II. In area A, situated at the beginning of the stairway leading up to the Urn Tomb, a cave was excavated. This turned out to be a small dwelling, provided with a forecourt cut out of the rock and a stairway, leading to the roof. The cave, which was plastered inside, contained many household wares and implements : a wine amphora, two jugs, two lamps, a mortar, a pestle, and a glass bottle. Fragmentary mill stones were recovered in the courtyard, with a jar lid and a broken marble idol (Pl. L, 3). The whole group belongs to the beginning of the 4th century A.D. and it is tempting to consider that the cave was abandoned after an earthquake.

III. Area B, about 50 meters northwest of area A, yielded a Nabataean house of the 1st c. A.D., overlooking the Wadi Musa. When this house was destroyed, a channel, running into a reservoir was built through its southern and northern walls. In the bedrock which was smoothed off and used as a floor, a shaft was cut. This led to a large chamber containing many burials. Only two of them

(1) Petra und das Königreich der Nabatäer, München, 1974.

could be excavated. Mixed with some disturbed bones lying over the slabs of a grave were a silver coin of Obodas II (30-9 B.C.) and two gold nose-rings. In the graves themselves, many pottery objects were discovered, including fragmentary fine decorated Nabataean plates of the early type. The earlier graves could be dated to the beginning of the 1st century B.C.

IV. In area C, situated east of area B, a shaft tomb was investigated. It consisted of a square shaft leading to a chamber containing four burials, dug down in the rock. Only an unguentarium of the spindle type was associated with a fragmentary skeleton.

Though very short (two weeks only), this campaign proved to be fruitful in revealing a sequence of occupation at Khubtha from the 1st century B.C. up to the beginning of Byzantine period (4th century B.D.). The inscription discovered in tomb No. 813 is not complete but suggests that the Royal tombs of the Nabataeans are to be located in the Khubtha area. It is hoped that the excavations could be continued in that area and a full report is to be published on the work already accomplished.

F. Zayadine

Excavations of Byzantine Churches and Mosaics in 1973

During 1973 work continued on the Byzantine churches and their mosaics in the Madaba area by the Department of Antiquities. Bastiaan Van Elderen, director of the American Center of Oriental Research, supervised the work with the assistance of Mahmud Rusan, inspector of antiquities in Madaba.

CHAPELS OF THE VIRGIN MARY AND ST. ELIANOS

In central Madaba a small Byzantine chapel has been used as a private house and storage garage for the past 75 years. The oval-shaped chapel contains a mosaic floor, almost intact, with three Greek inscriptions. Each inscription mentions the name of the Virgin Mary. The property was abandoned in late 1972 and in early 1973 the Department of Antiquities was able to clean out the room and expose the mosaic (Plate LI). A date-line in one of the inscriptions dates the floor in A.D. 662/663.

In the same operation the mosaic floor in the Chapel of St. Elianos, located nearby, was cleaned and exposed (Plate LII). This floor is dated in A.D. 595/596.

In 1974 further excavations in the vicinity of these two chapels have exposed a portion of the main east-west street of Byzantine (and Roman) Madaba which lies between the two chapels. This street and the chapels will be part of the Department's preservation and restoration of the antiquities in this part of Madaba.

GHISHAN CHURCH

In the Spring Mr. I. Ghishan, a resident of Madaba, accidentally discovered a mosaic floor about 30 cm. below

the surface of his backyard. This site is located east of the Byzantine church identified as the Cathedral in Madaba, excavated by the Department in 1968.¹

During April and May the apse, presbytery, a portion of the nave and a portion of the south aisle of a Byzantine church were uncovered in the Ghishan property. Unfortunately, the remainder of the basilica was in neighboring property and under modern walls. The walls in the northeast corner of the Ghishan property were built over the apse wall of the church (Plate LIII, 1). Four courses of the ancient wall were preserved in the modern walls. No traces of the floor in the apse were found. A large portion of the presbytery was uncovered and its floor was made of alternating blue and white tiles with a circular design in the center which was badly mutilated (Plate LIII, 2).

Only the east portion of the nave could be uncovered and its mosaic floor contained designs and figures typical of middle sixth century Byzantine churches (Plate LIV). The large portion of the mosaic floor in the south aisle consisted of an ordered sequence of diamond-shaped designs. The existence of an earlier floor below was also ascertained. The south wall of the church was a meter wide and very well constructed.

The discovery of this church brings the number of Byzantine churches in Madaba to fourteen. There is evidence that all of these contained mosaic floors. This concentration of Byzantine churches and their close proximity to each other are subjects for closer investigation.

(1) ADAJ 14 (1969), pp. 16-67 (Arabic).

THE MA'IN AREA

Near the main intersection in Ma'in a local resident discovered a mosaic floor when digging a drainage trench around his house. Further investigation and excavation identified the floor as part of a Byzantine church but nearly all of the architecture and mosaic had been destroyed a number of years ago when the modern house was built. Traces of early Islamic occupation were identified above the small portion of the church preserved.

At Deir, near Ma'in, excavations in November and December uncovered the remains of a Byzantine monastery complex. The complete floor plan of the small church or chapel was uncovered. The walls were preserved to a height of one or two meters. The entire area—apse, side aisles, presbytery, and nave—was covered with a mosaic floor containing geometric figures and interlaced designs. An inscription in the east end of the nave mentions the name of Theodorus "the most glorious and illustrious" and the one-line inscription on the altar table contains the name of John "the sinner." On the south side of the church is a complex of rooms only partially excavated in 1973. These appear to be the installations related to the monastic community. Future excavations will completely expose the complex and hopefully identify the various rooms and their functions.

This site was not occupied after the Byzantine period. The destruction of the buildings may have been occasioned by an earthquake, possibly in the seventh century, since a male skeleton was found in the north aisle under fallen stones from the north wall.

AJLUN AREA

In the Ajlun area traces of a Byzantine church were found at Deir as-Smadiyah during the construction of a mosque in the Spring of 1973. At Farah a portion of a Byzantine mosaic floor was found as part of a modern house. Military occupation of Mar Elias has exposed portions of mosaic floors, presumably from Byzantine churches on the site.

The year 1973 was very productive in the new evidence regarding the Byzantine period. The heavy concentration of Byzantine churches, in various parts of East Jordan as well as in the Madaba area, and their elaborate mosaics and architecture suggest an extensive population possessing wealth and artistic appreciation. Further study of the art, liturgy, theology, and demography of the area becomes essential in the light of these new data.

Bastiaan Van Elderen

American Center of Oriental Research

Amman

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.

C-M. Bennett

British School of Archaeology

The Excavations at Tell Hesban, 1973

The third season of excavations at Tell Hesban, Madaba District, was carried out from June 25 to August 10, 1973, with a staff of 57, of whom 48 were foreigners and 9 Jordanians. Half of the staff had served at Hesban before, either in one or both previous seasons which had been conducted in 1968 and 1971. In addition to the staff about 140 other Jordanians were employed by the expedition. The Hesban expedition was again sponsored by Andrews University, Michigan, USA, and was supported by the American Center for Oriental Research in Amman, by Calvin Theological Seminary and several private donors. It carried out its work under a license granted by the Department of Antiquities of Jordan with the assistance of five employees of the Department. The help and support of the Department of Antiquities, and especially of its director-general, Yacoub Oweis, is gratefully acknowledged by the expedition. As in previous seasons Siegfried H. Horn of Andrews University served as director and Roger S. Boraas of Upsala College as chief archaeologist.

The results of this third season supported and modified the conclusions reached from the previous work. The seasons of 1968 and 1971 had produced evidence that Hesban had been occupied from the 7th century B.C. to the Mamluk period, but architectural remains had been found only from the Roman, Byzantine, Omayyad and Ayyubid-Mamluk periods. This time evidence came to light pushing the history of Hesban back to the 12th century B.C., because strata as well as a wall belonging to the Early Iron Age (12th-11th century B.C.) were discovered in two areas on the mound.

To the later Iron Age period (7th-6th century B.C.) belong a hard, smooth layer

of plaster, 30 centimeters thick, which was discovered in Area B below ten meters of debris. It is probably the bottom of a water reservoir, of which parts of the eastern retaining wall also came to light in the form of a plastered header-stretcher wall and several sections of plastered rock scarps, all having originally formed a continuous waterproof wall of about 15 meters in length.

The Hellenistic Age is represented by various architectural remains, especially by a perimeter wall surrounding the acropolis. From the Roman period date among other structures a monumental stairway which originally may have given access to a large public building, such as a temple, of which foundation walls and decorative stone work was discovered in various places.

The Byzantine period is especially represented by the ruins of a Christian church of which parts had already been excavated during the two previous seasons. A large part of the ruins of that church has now been laid bare, including many fragments of multi-colored and plain white mosaic floors, as well as a fine courtyard paved with well-cut flagstones.

The most prominent structure of the Islamic period excavated this season is an elaborate bath installation of Mamluk times built on top of the western end of the ruins of the Byzantine church. The furnace, hot and cold water basins, the bath room with a stone water basin, a heated tile floor and plastered walls, as well as the entrance hall are reasonably well preserved.

Several Roman and Byzantine tombs were discovered in the ancient southwestern cemetery of Hesban. They had been robbed in medieval times but still

produced several glass vases, whole pottery vessels, lamps and various other objects of utility and art.

A team was in the field all the time studying the surrounding area of Hesban in a radius of 10 kilometers. Ancient sites were explored by recording all visible ruins and collecting potsherds from the surface in order to place Hesban's ancient history in its right environmental and

ecological perspective. Also the Roman road from Hesban, which in Roman times was called Ebus, to er-Rame, the ancient Livias, was traced. On this process several milestones, so far not noted by earlier explorers, were discovered, as well as the ruins of ancient rest stations and guard towers.

All in all, the 1973 season of excavations at Tell Hesban has been most successful and rewarding.

Siegfried H. Horn,

Director Andrews University

Heshbon Expedition

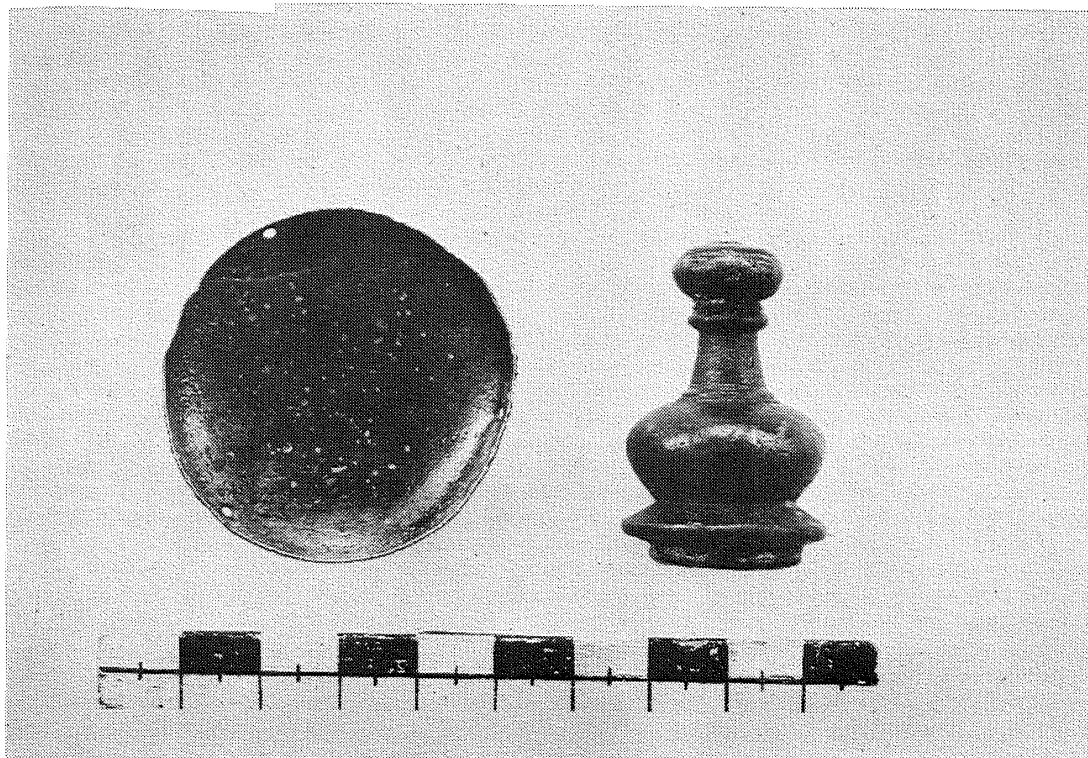
PLATES



1. Tell Siran from the North.



2. Tell Siran Trail Trench Showing level bedrock and wall 3.



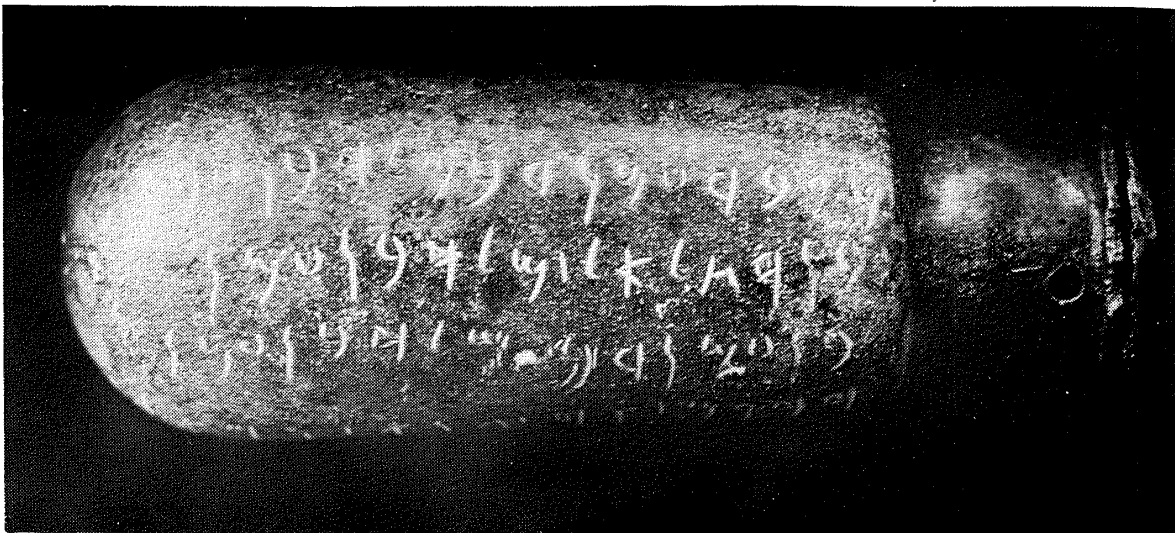
1. Objects from Tell Siran - On the left a concave bronze disc. The knob may be a weight



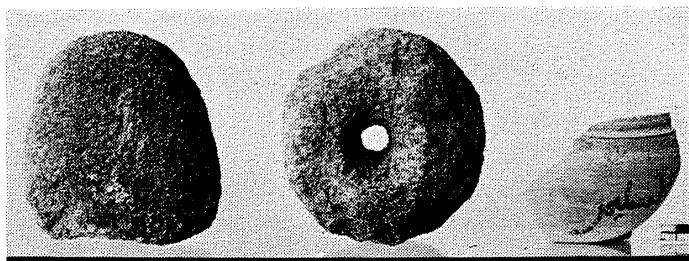
2. Objects from Tell Siran. From left to right : an earring, a bead, a spatula, coins.



1. Tell Siran A. I (on the left) and 2. The University weather Station is in the background.



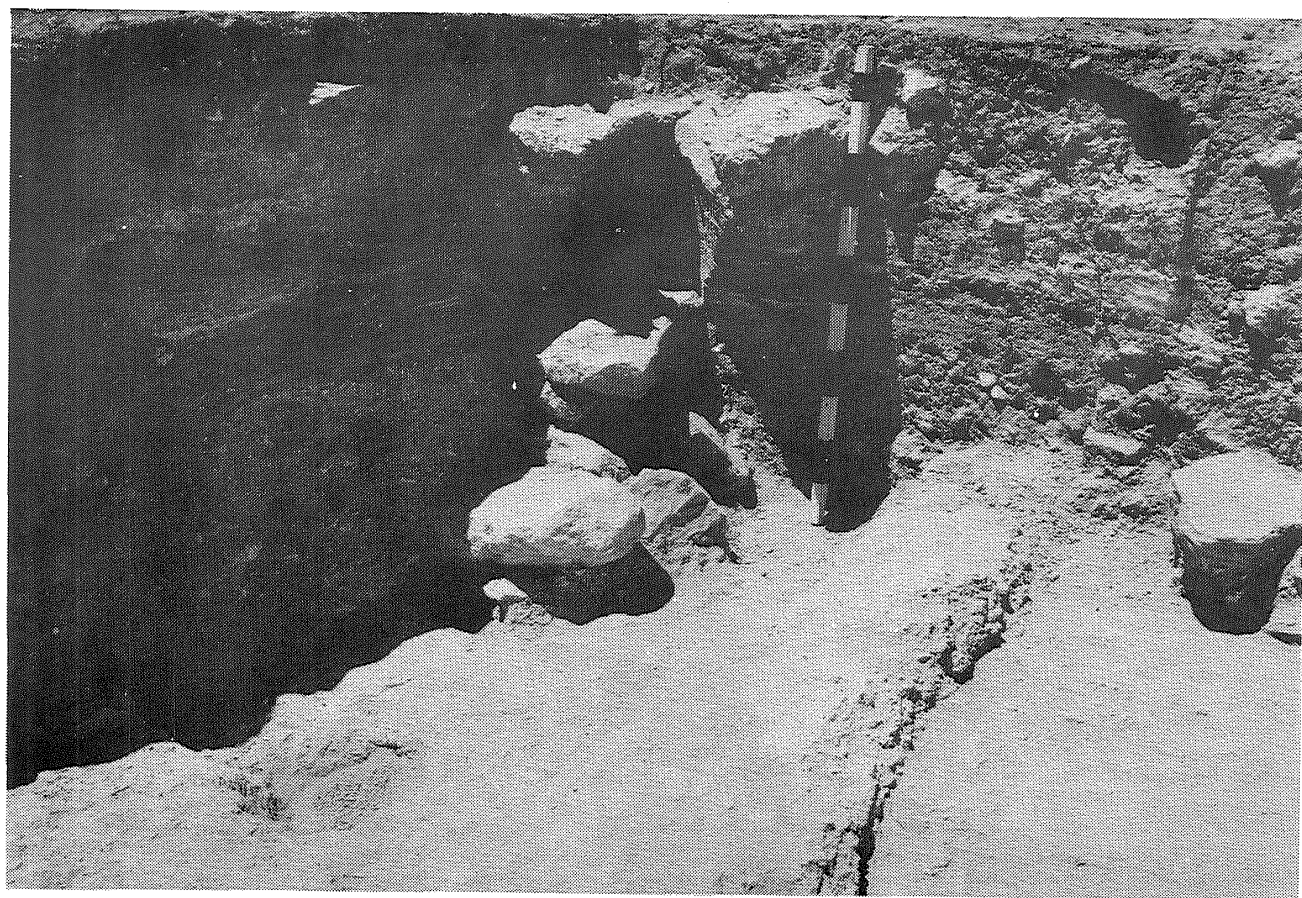
2. Tell Siran - The Ammonite Bronze Bottle.



3. Objects from Tell Siran - from left to right : a flat grinder, a round grinder, an Ostrakon.



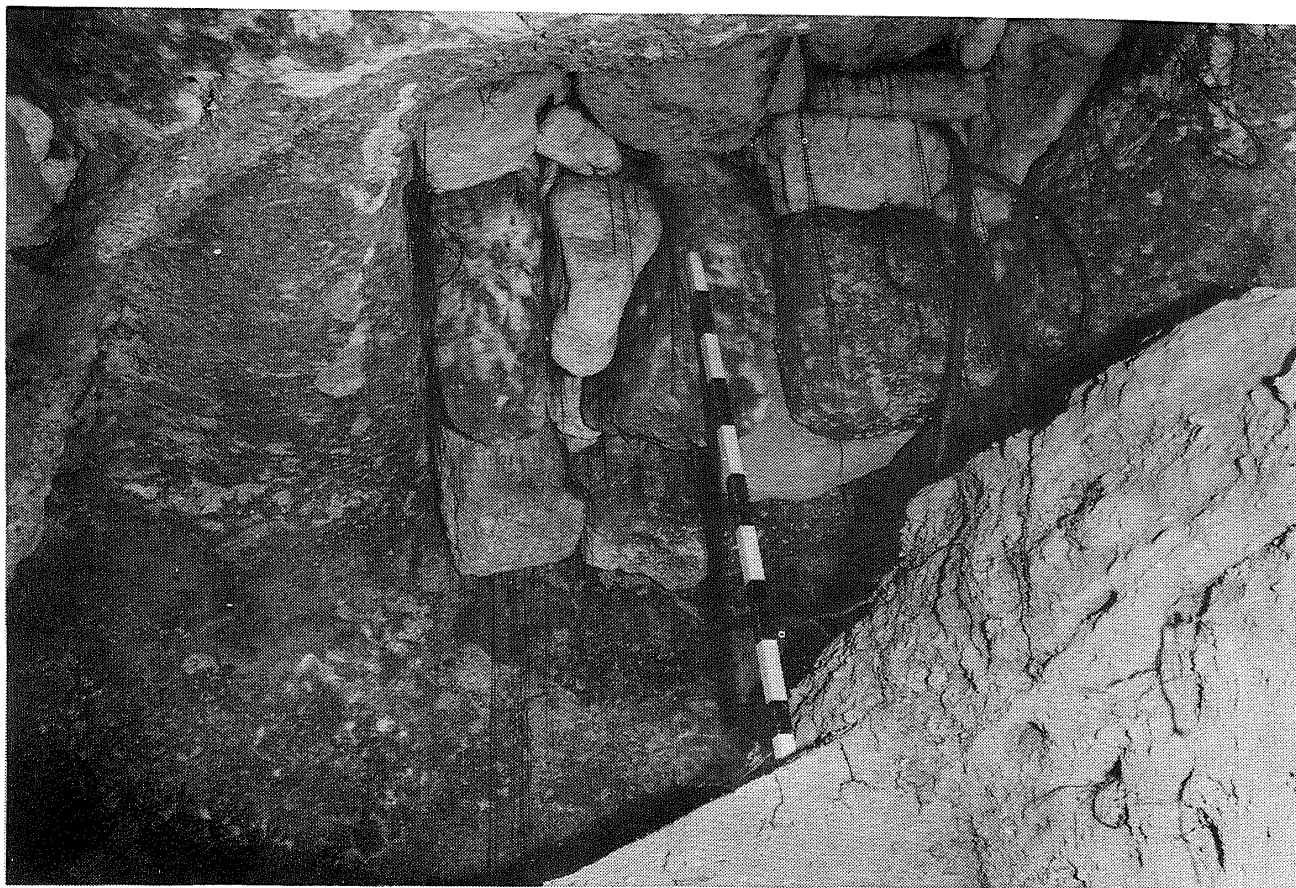
1. Tell Siran A. 1, Loc. 5, the Tabun



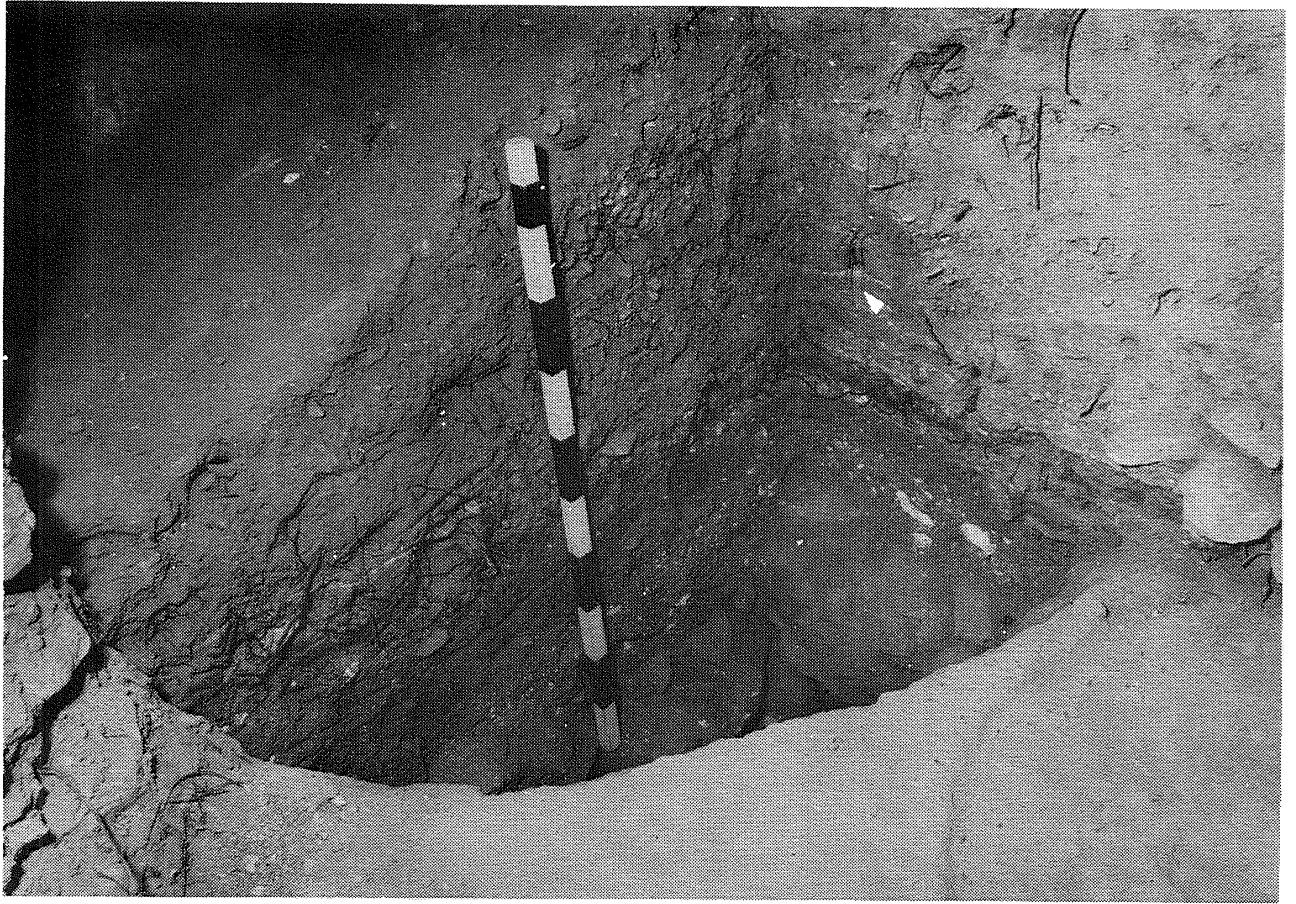
2. Tell Siran A. 1, Loc. 2 and 4



1. Tell Siran A. 1, Loc. 3 (wall under the meter stick), 6 (wall to left of meter stick) and 5 (the partially excavated tobun in the upper right corner).



2. Tell Siran A. 1, Loc. 7, part of the ceiling



1. Tell Siran A. 1, Loc. 7, showing the deep pit below floor level of the plastered "room".



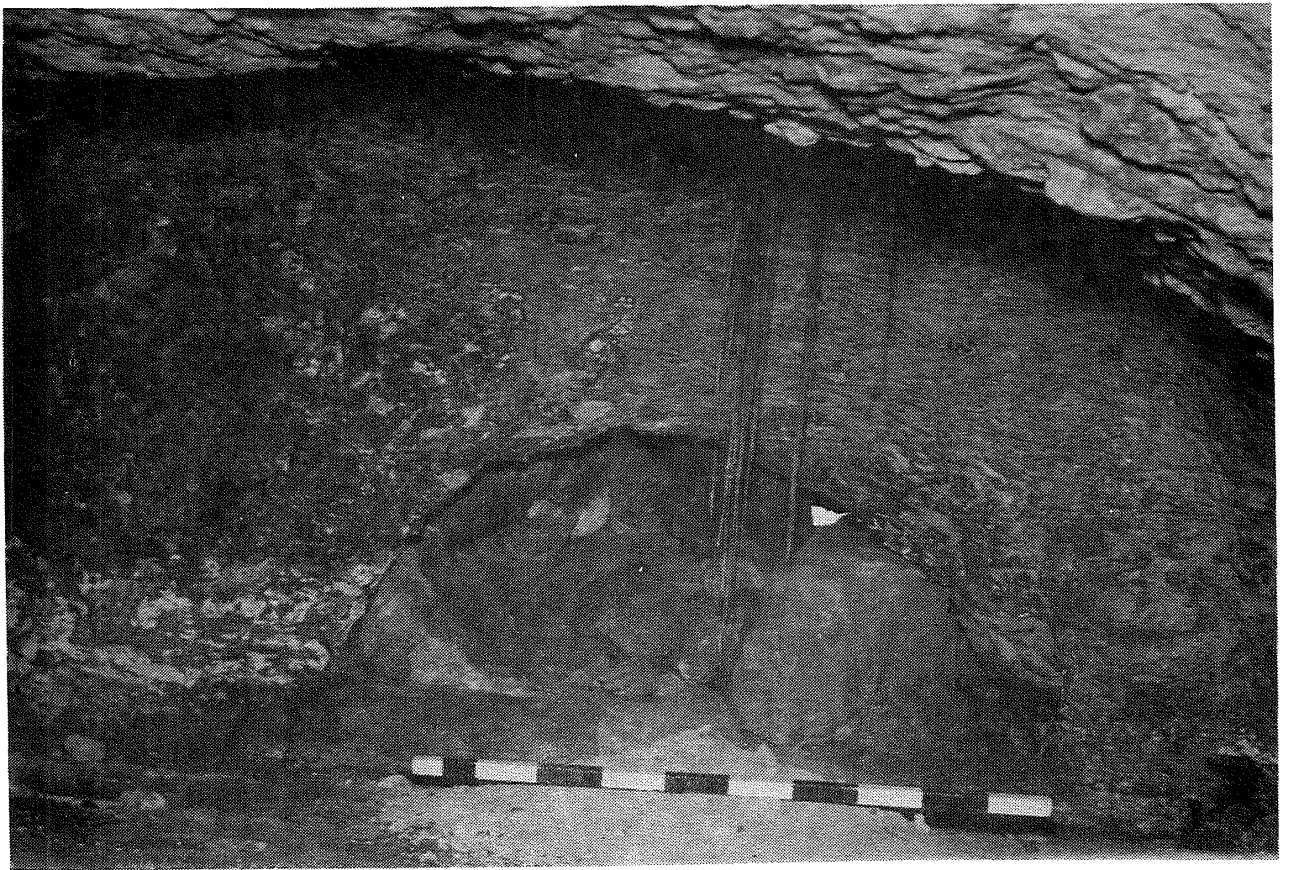
2. Tell Siran A. 1, Loc. 7. showing unexcavated extension to the south.



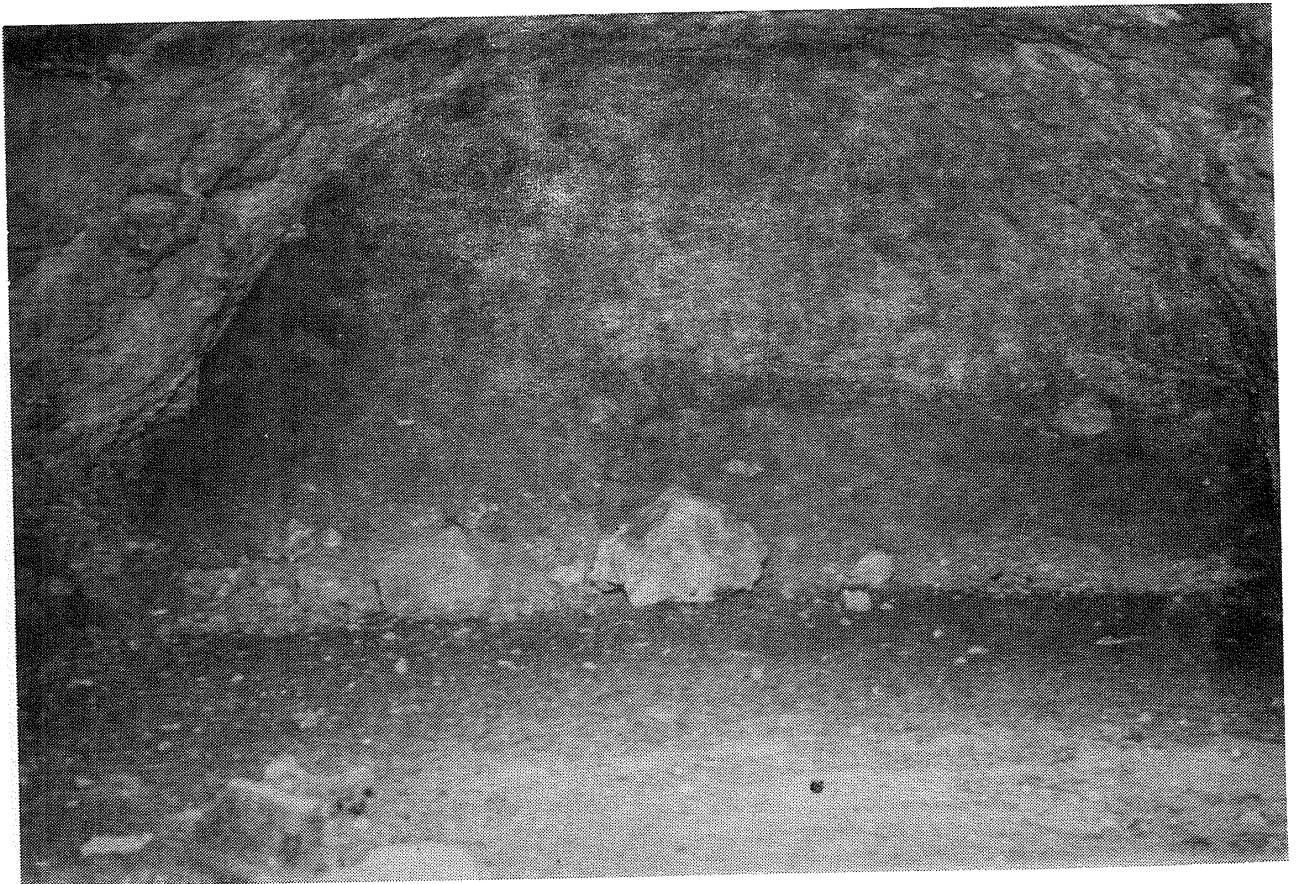
1. Tell Siran, A. 2, Khalid al-Majali beside cistern 7, Right center, Loc. 5 and 6, left foreground, cistern 4, left background, cistern 3.



2. Tell Siran A. 2, Loc. 7. top prior to excavation



1. Tell Siran A. 2, Loc. 9, prior to the excavation of the entrance to A. 1, Loc. 7.



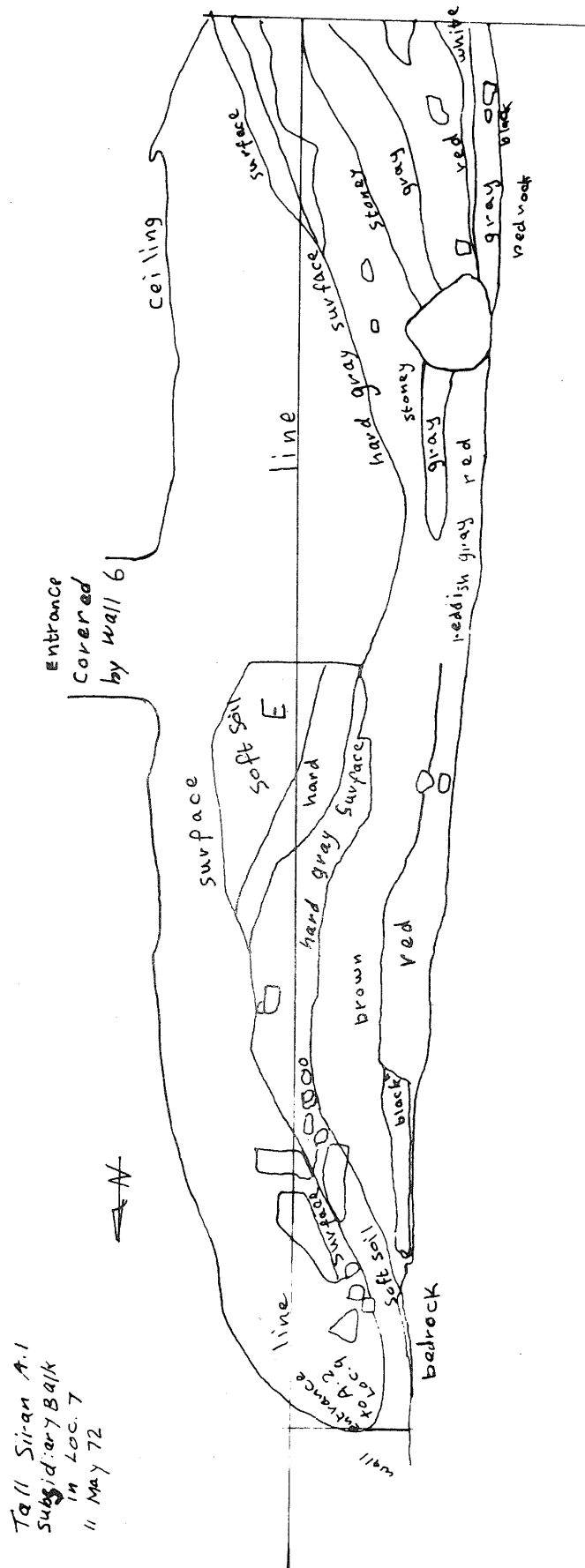
2. Tell Siran A. 2, Loc. 9, North end before excavation.



1. Tell Siran A. 1, Loc. 7, the hole is cut through the plastered wall and into Loc. 9 (the underground room).



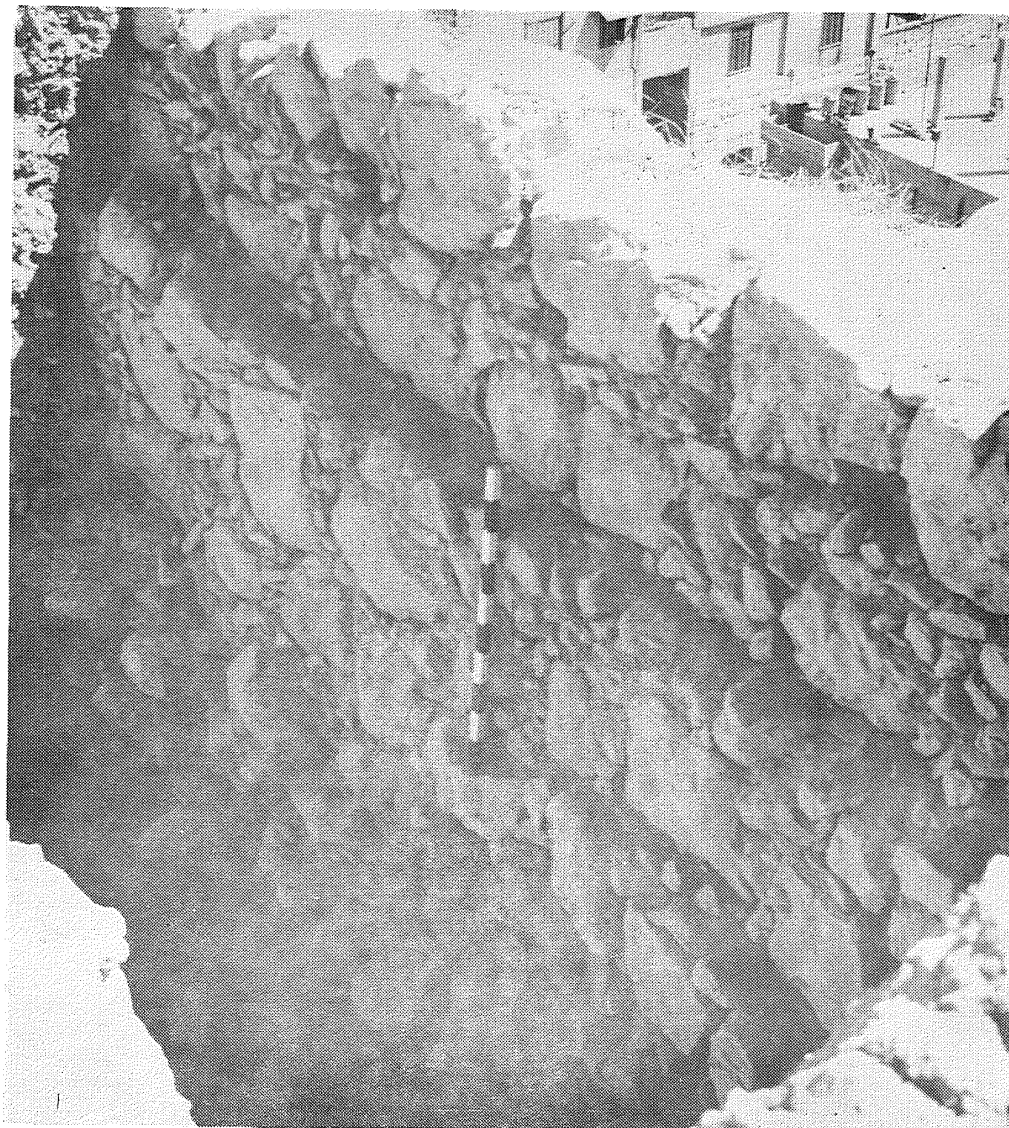
2. The Students who excavated Tell Siran



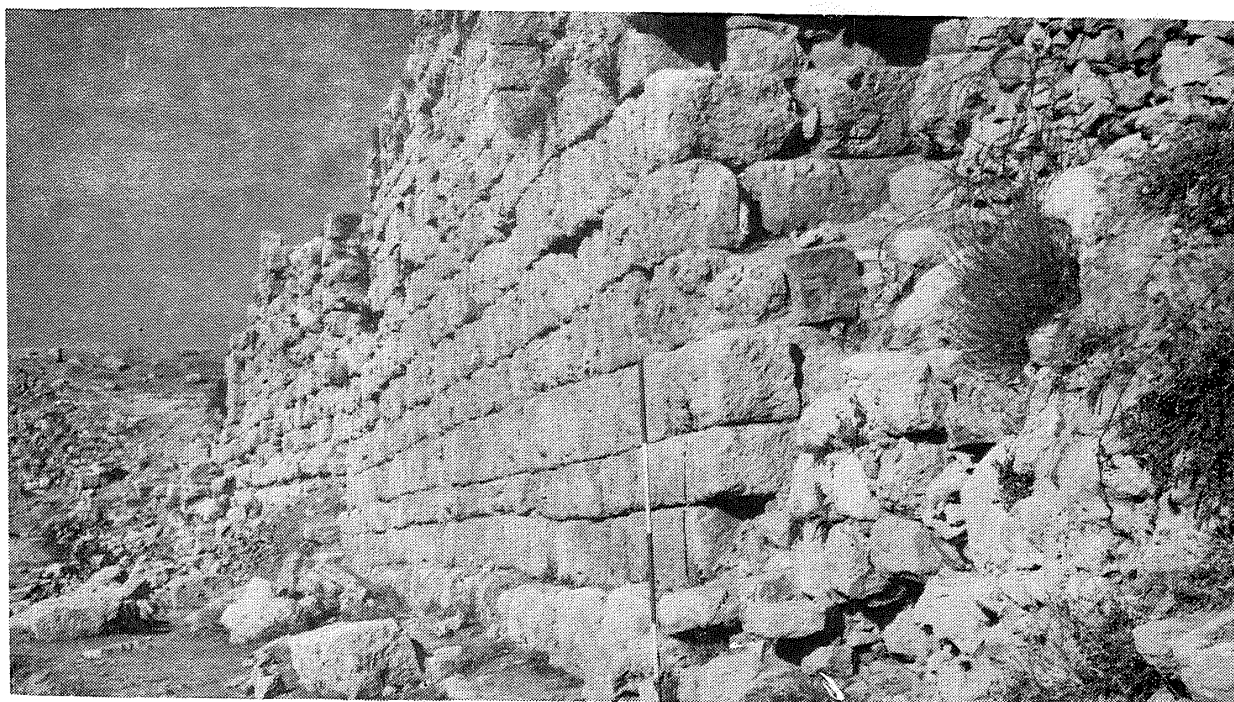
Tall Siran A.1
Subsidiary Balk
in Loc. 7
" May 72

Scale: 1.25

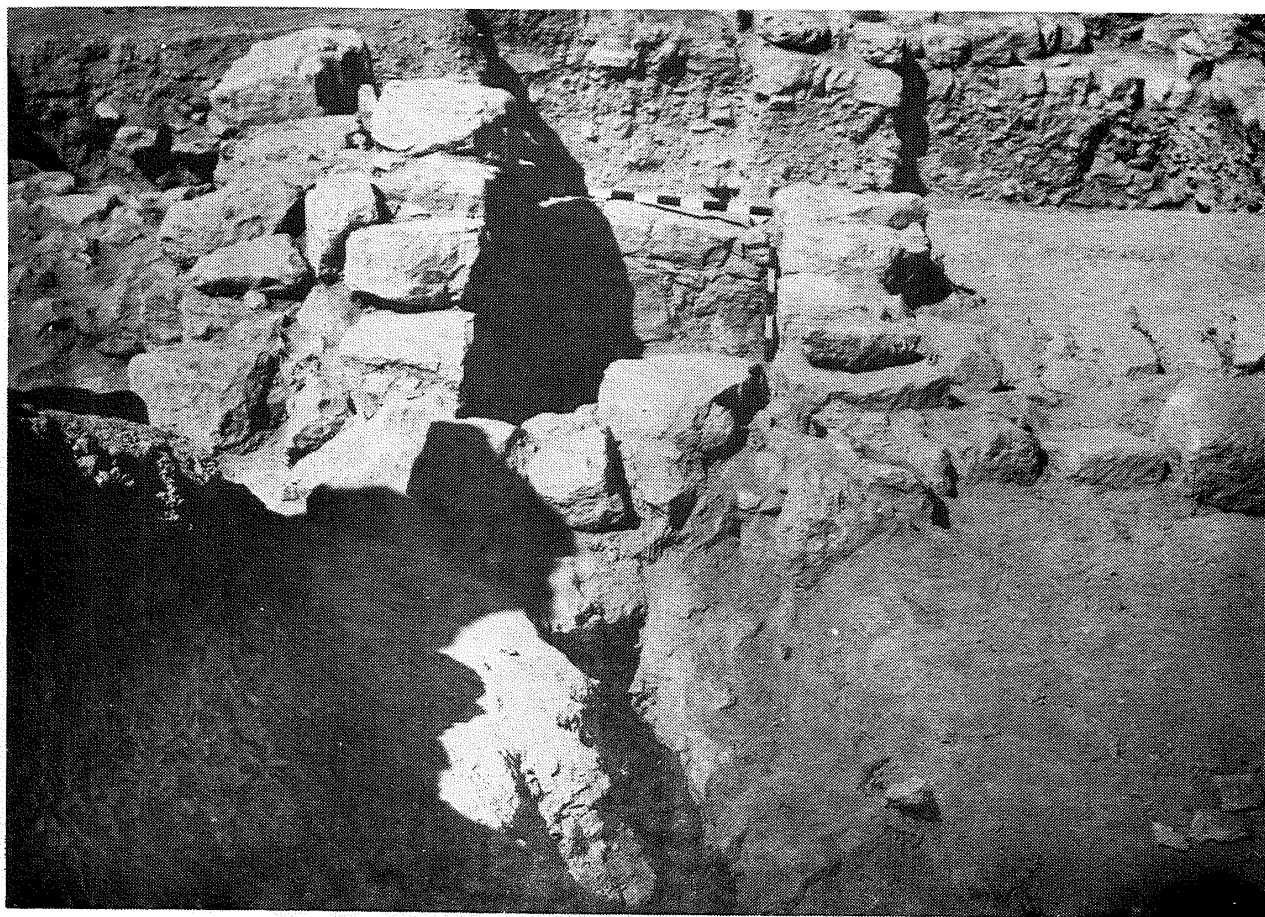
Rose Akel
Amin Jaber



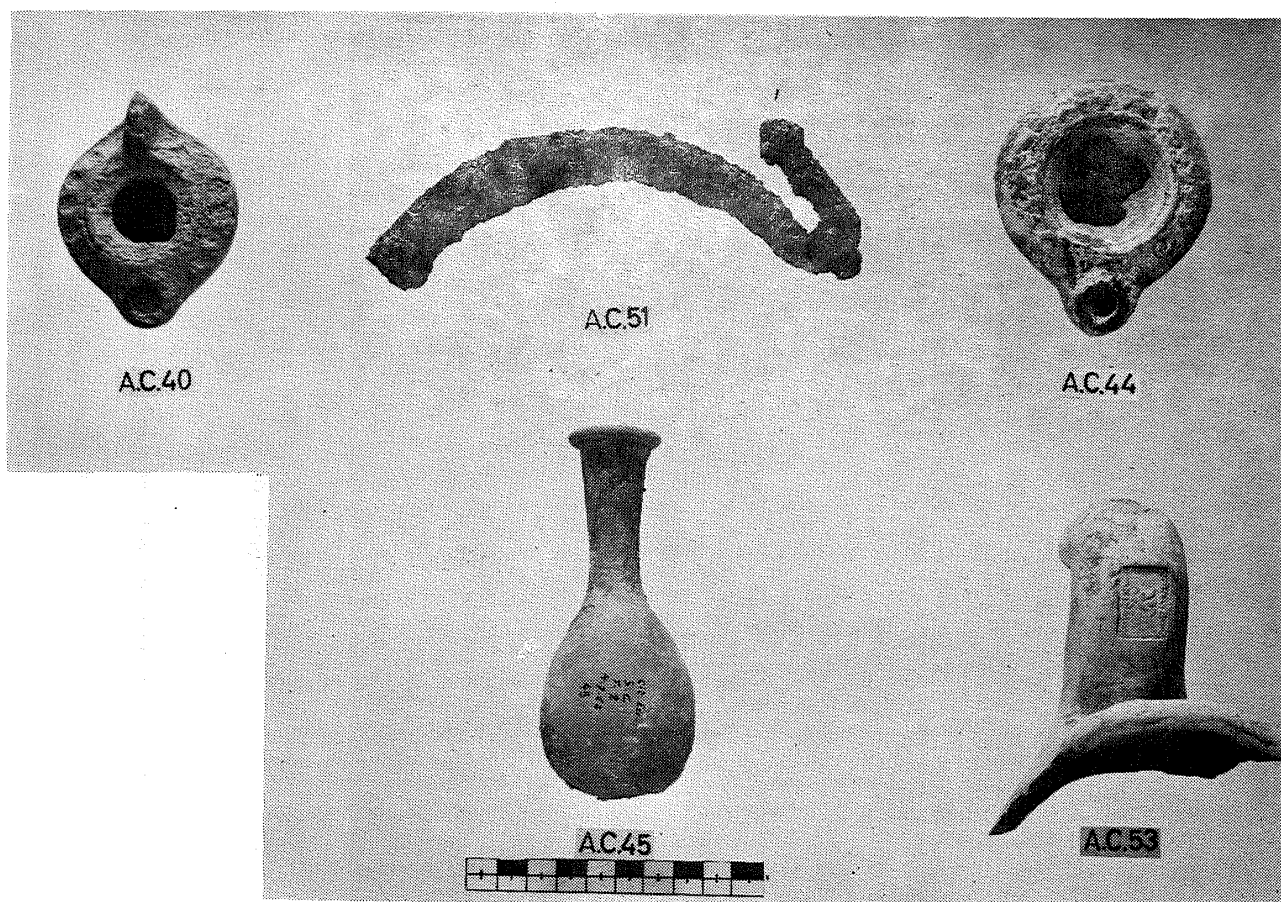
1. Foundation trench of city wall 33



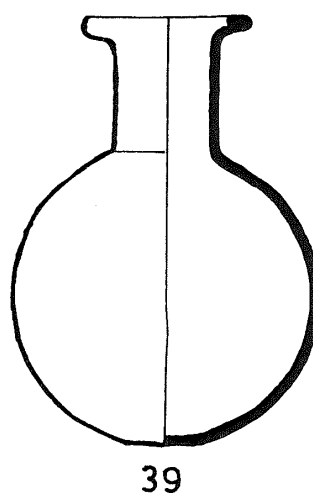
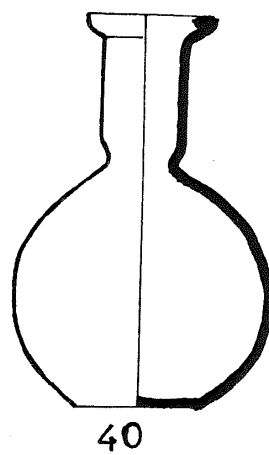
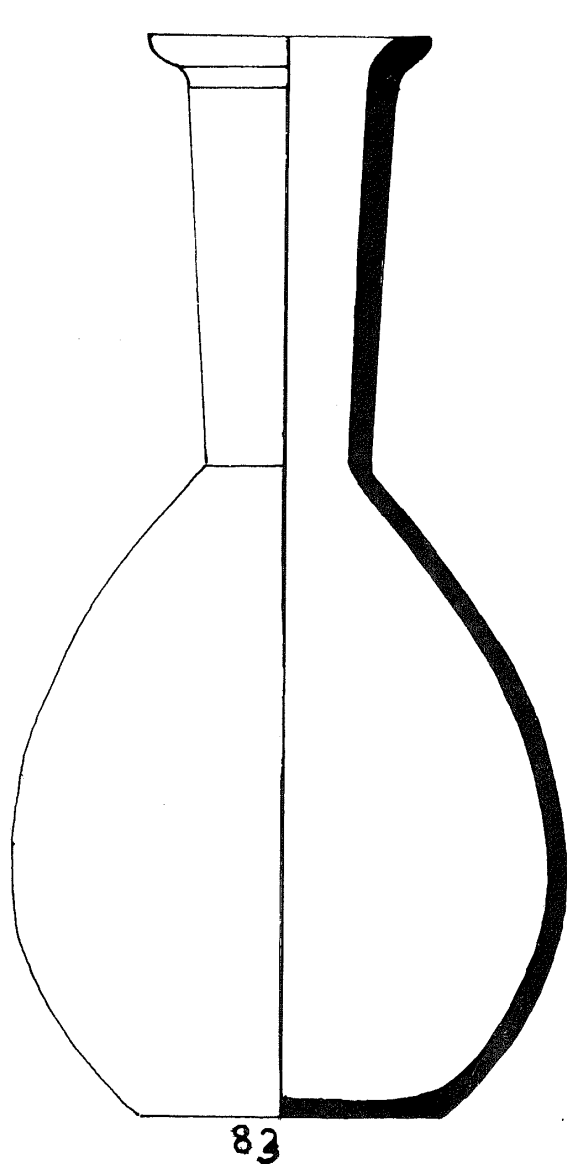
2. End of Roman city wall



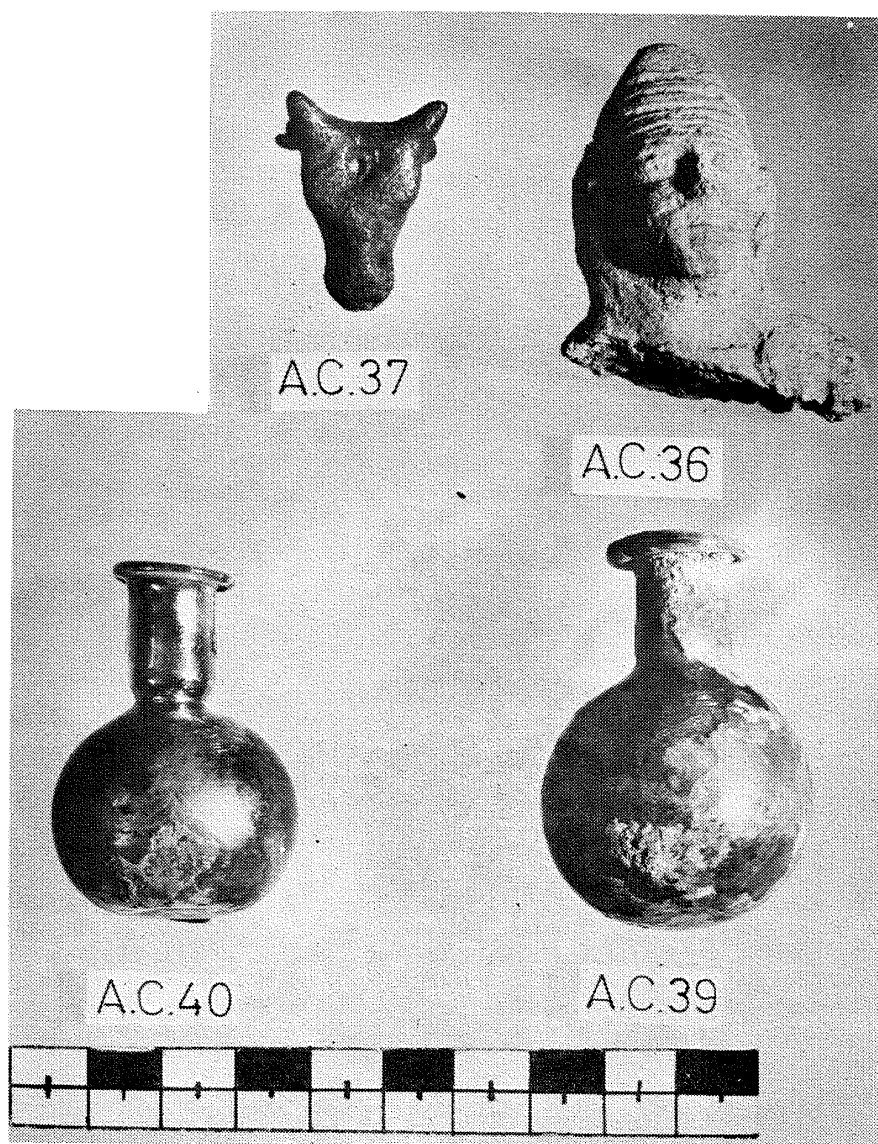
1. Area, A, sqs. 1 - 2, Loc. 27 (Looking North).



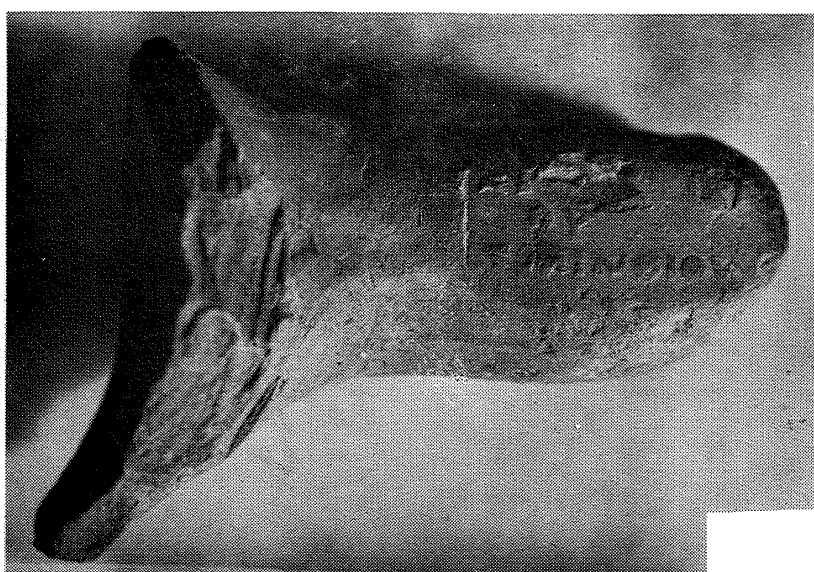
2. Objects from Area A



Long



1. Objects from Area A.



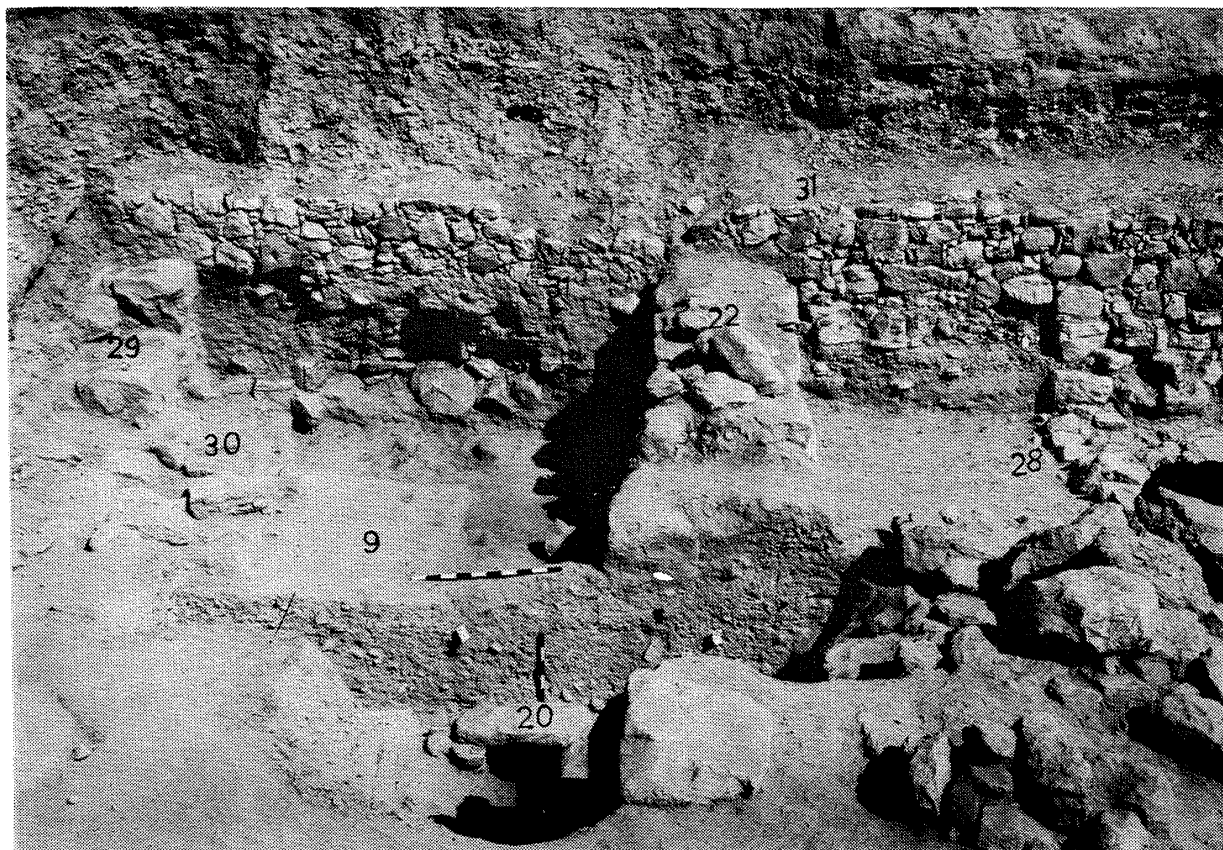
2. Rhodian Jar - handle.



1. Channel and Roman Vault (looking west).



2. Roman cooking - pot.



1. General View of Area A. (looking East).



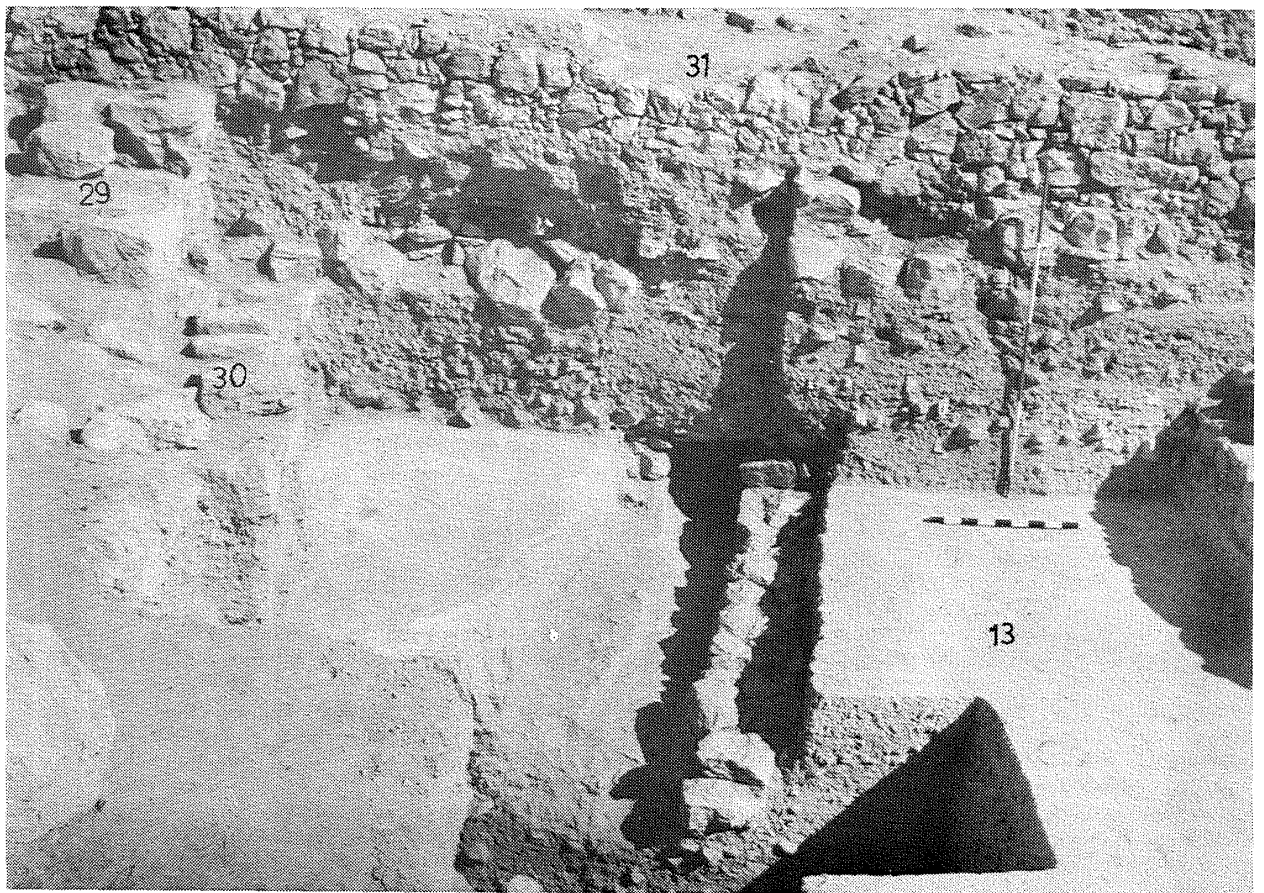
2. Channel Covered by slabs cut through Iron Age floor 13.



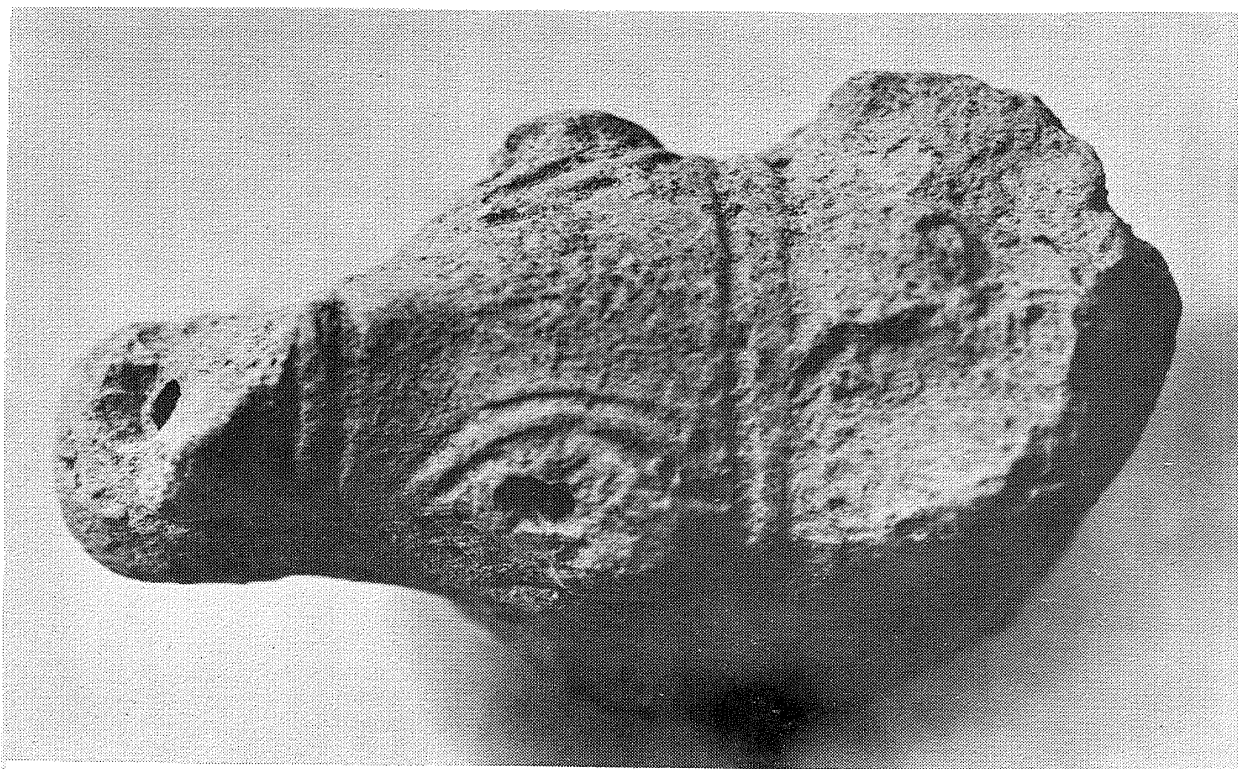
1, Channel and Roman Vault (looking west).



1 Head built into the channel.



2. General view of Area A. floor 13 is cut by the channel (looking west).



1. Horse head.



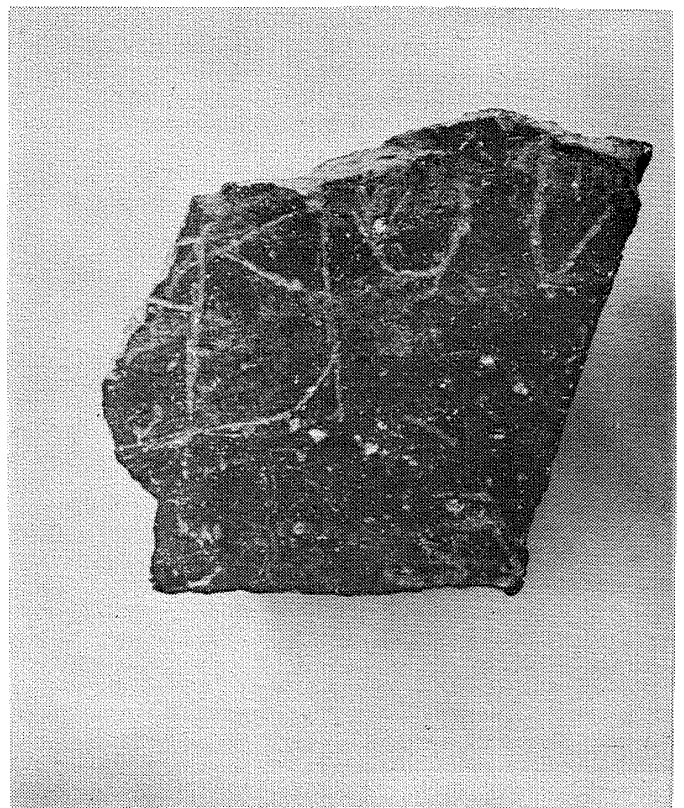
2. Iron Age potter's marks.



1. Mother - goddess holding her breast



2. Figurine.



3. Inscribed Iron Age
sherd from Loc. 9.



1. Head No. 1, Face A. (J. 11688).



2. Head, No. 1, Face B. (J. 11688).



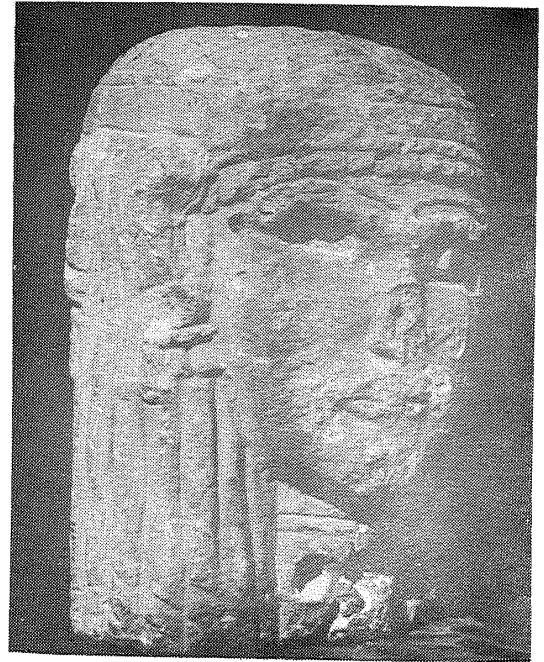
3. Head No. 2 Face A. (J. 1189).



4. Head No. 2 Face B. (J. 1189).



1. Head No. 2, Side View.



2. Head No. 2, Side View.



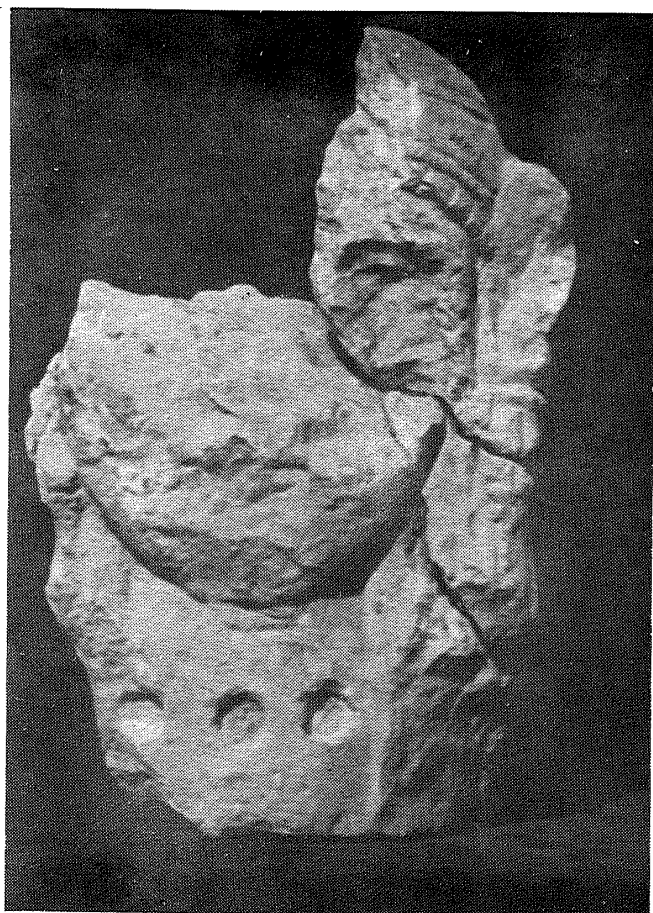
3. Head No. 3, Face B. (J. 11690).



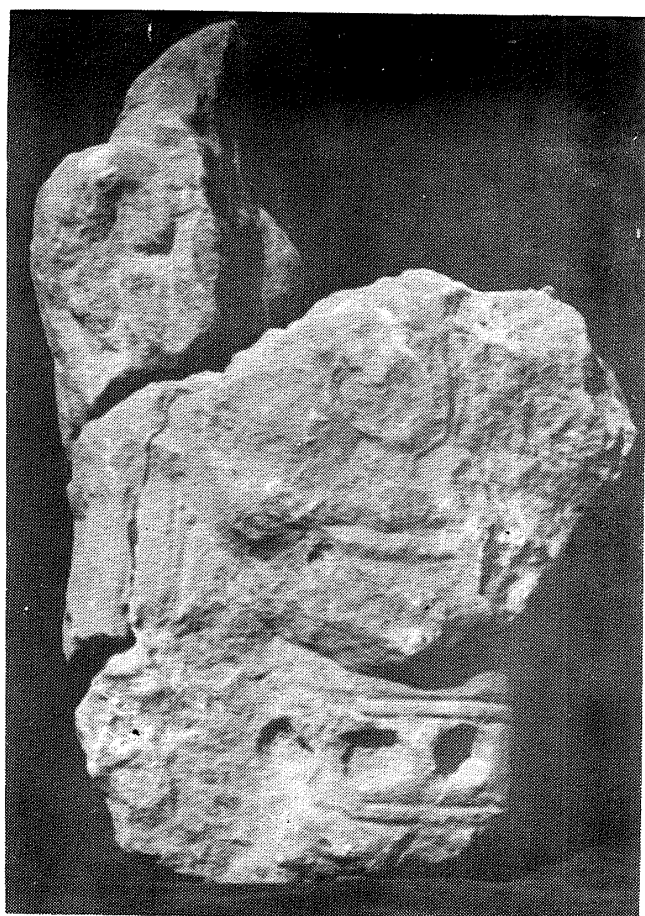
4. Head No. 3, Face A. (J. 11690).



1. Head No. 4, Side View



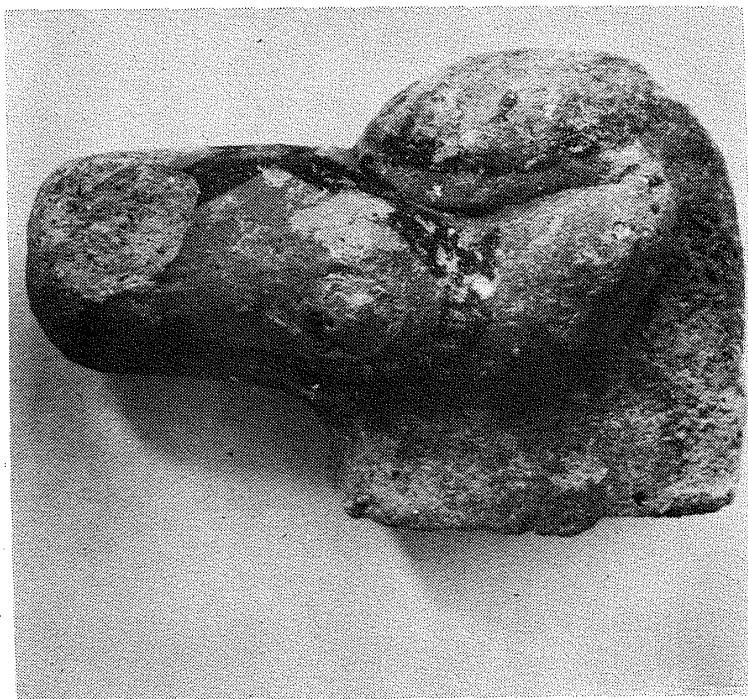
2. Head No. 4, Face A.



3. Head No. 4, Face B.



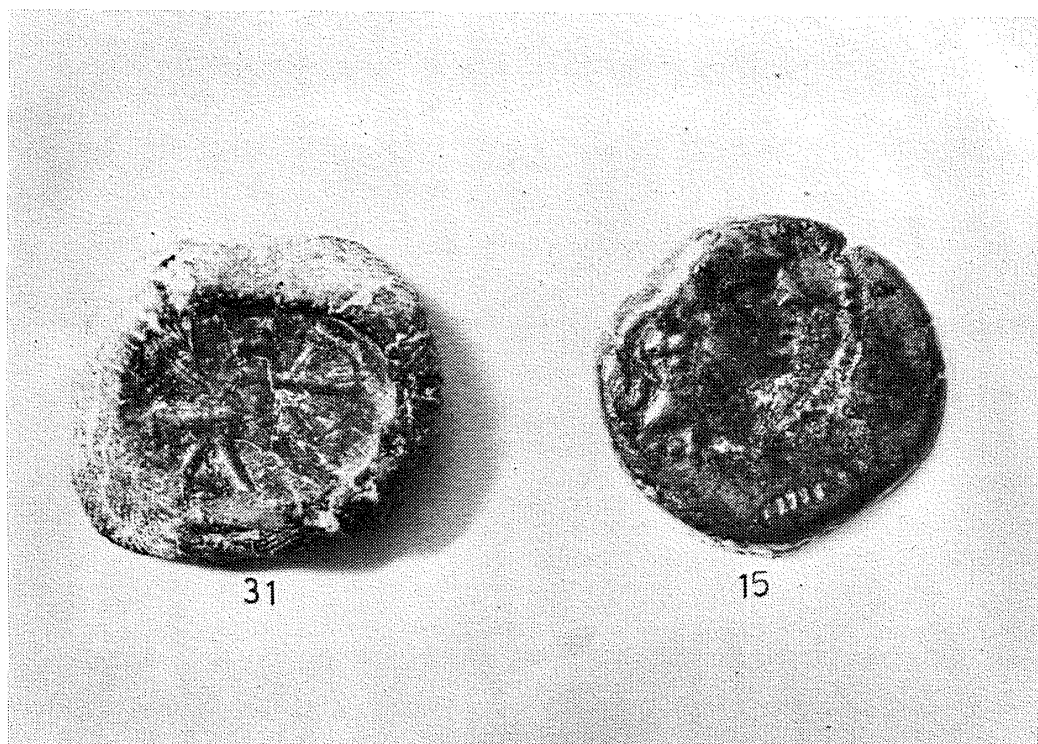
1. Lady at the window, Nimrud. (Iraq Museum).



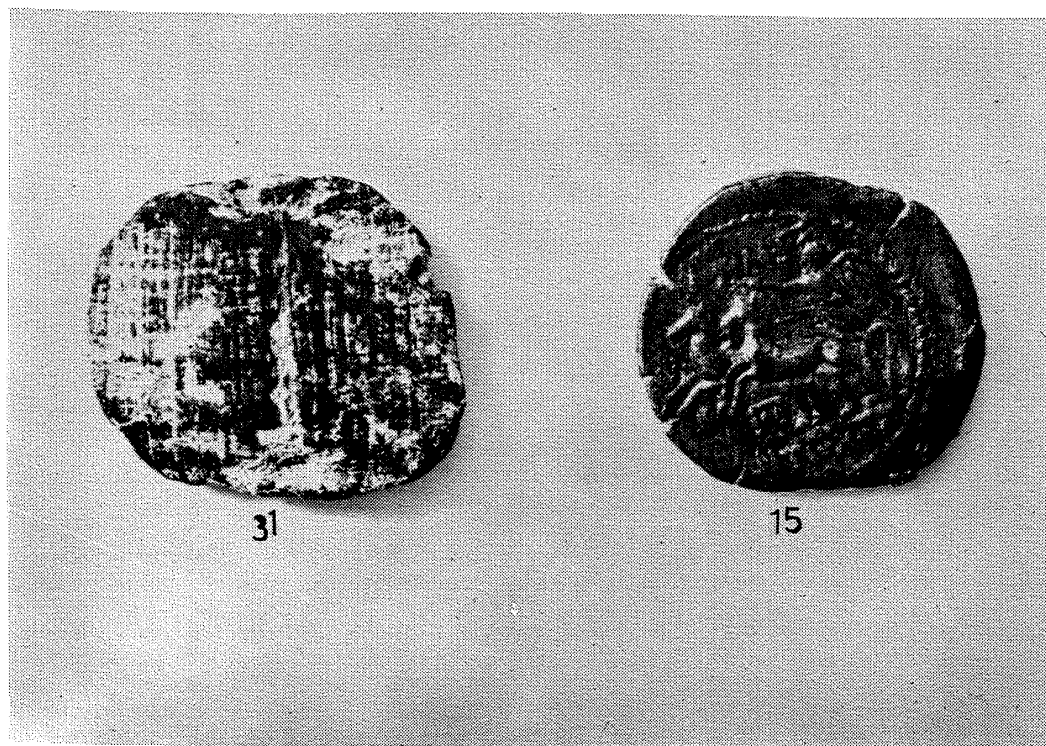
2. Pottery figurine



Hattian Capital from Cyprus. (Musée du Louvre).



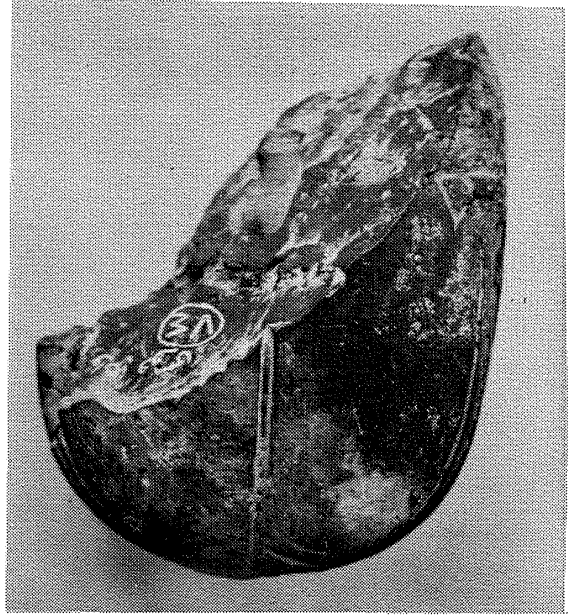
1. Seal impression (31) and bronze coin of Antiochus IV (15)



2.



1.



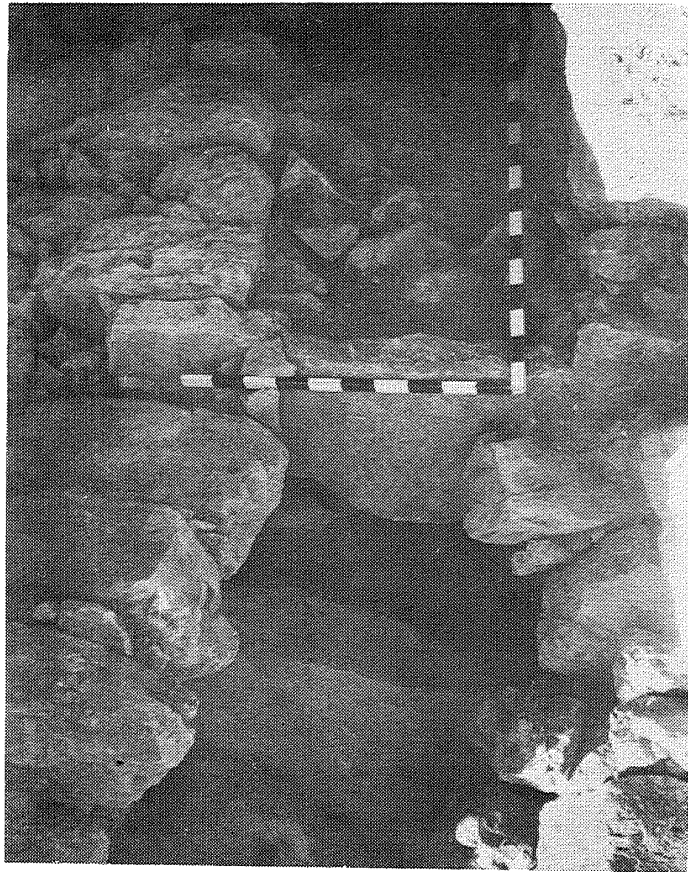
2.



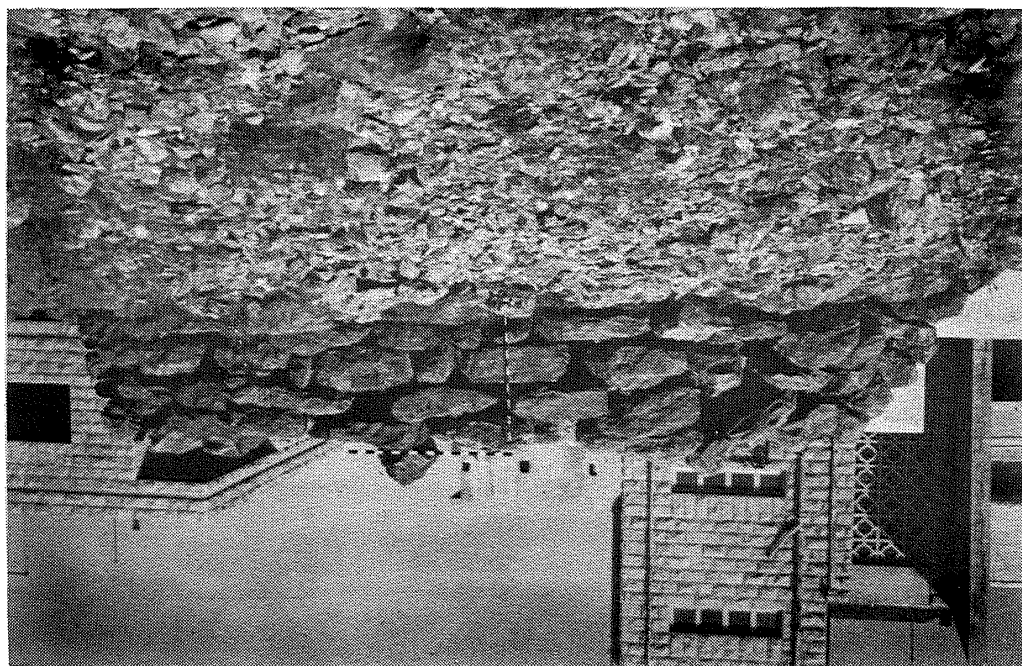
3. A scarab from petra



1. Area B, Locus 3, with corble slab "in situ"



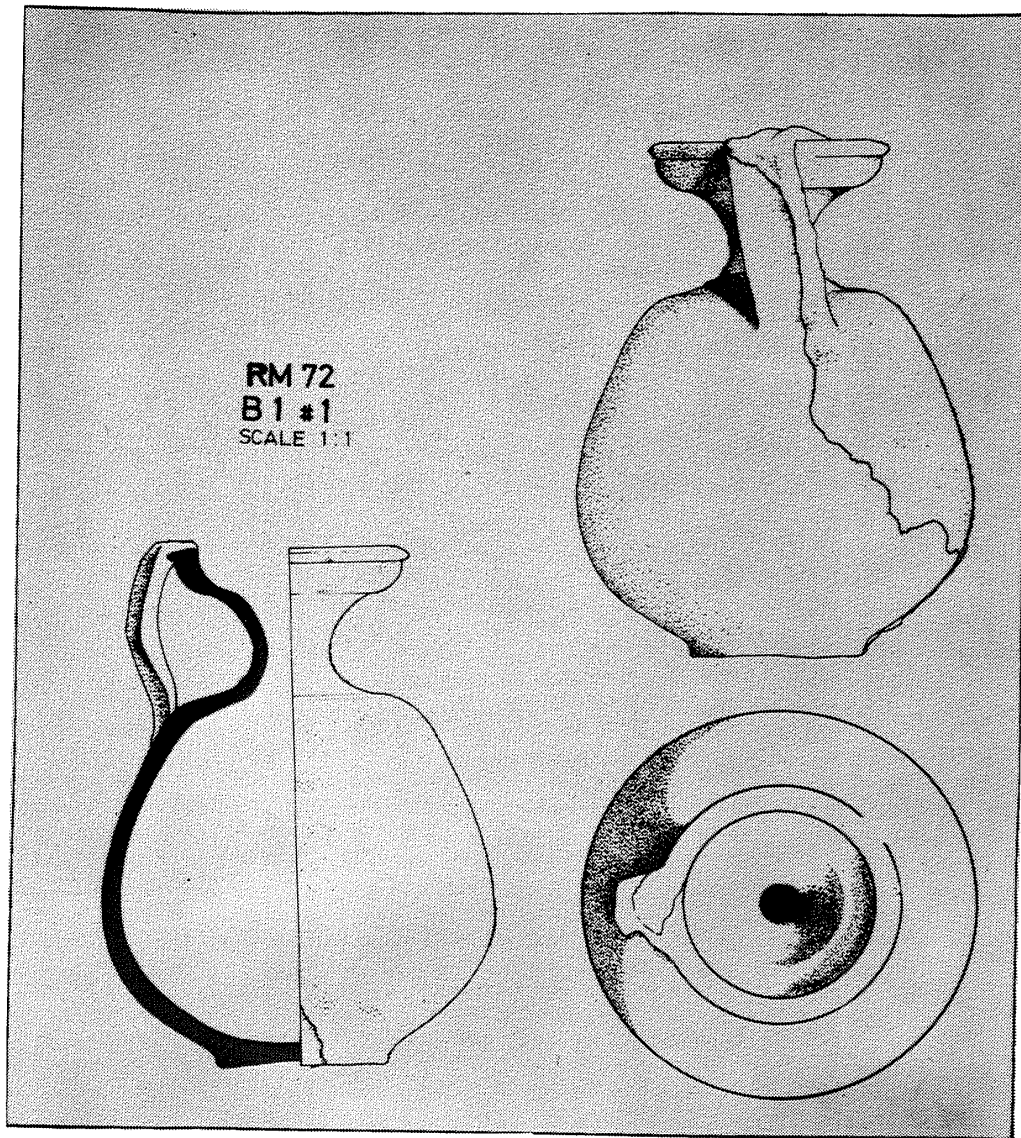
2. Area B, stairway, Locus 5, and wall 6 (upper right).



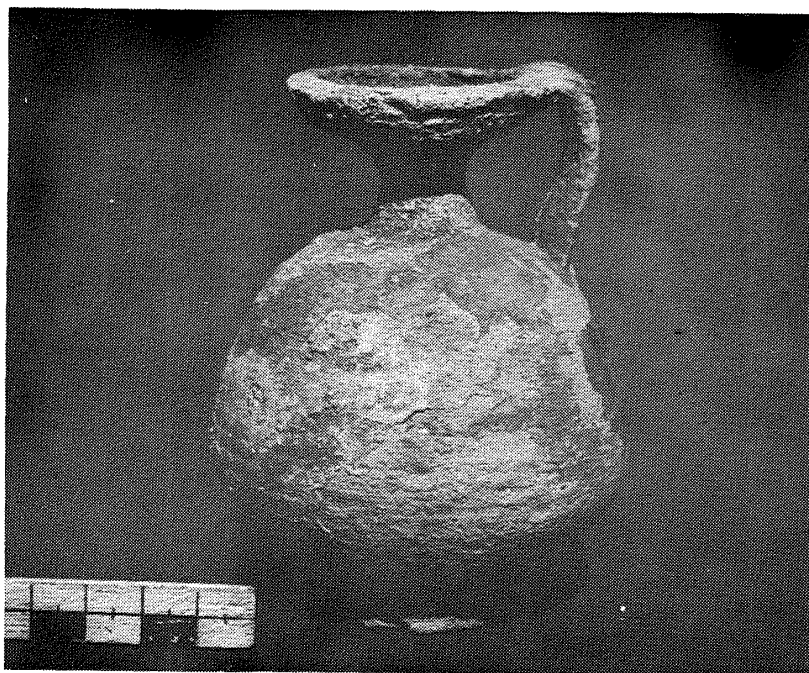
1. Rujm el-Malfuf South (looking west).



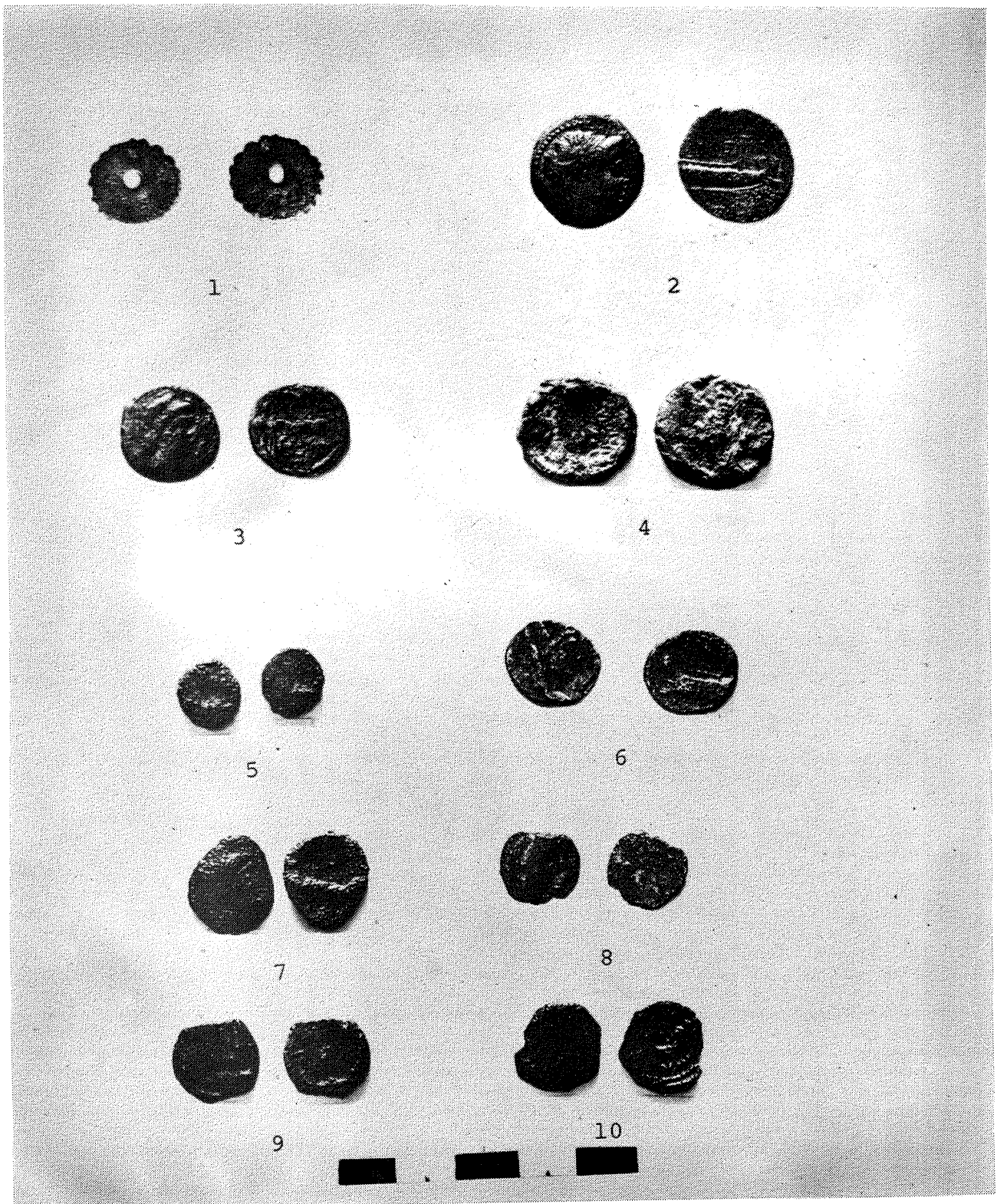
2. Area A, Square 1, the plaster on the tower wall.



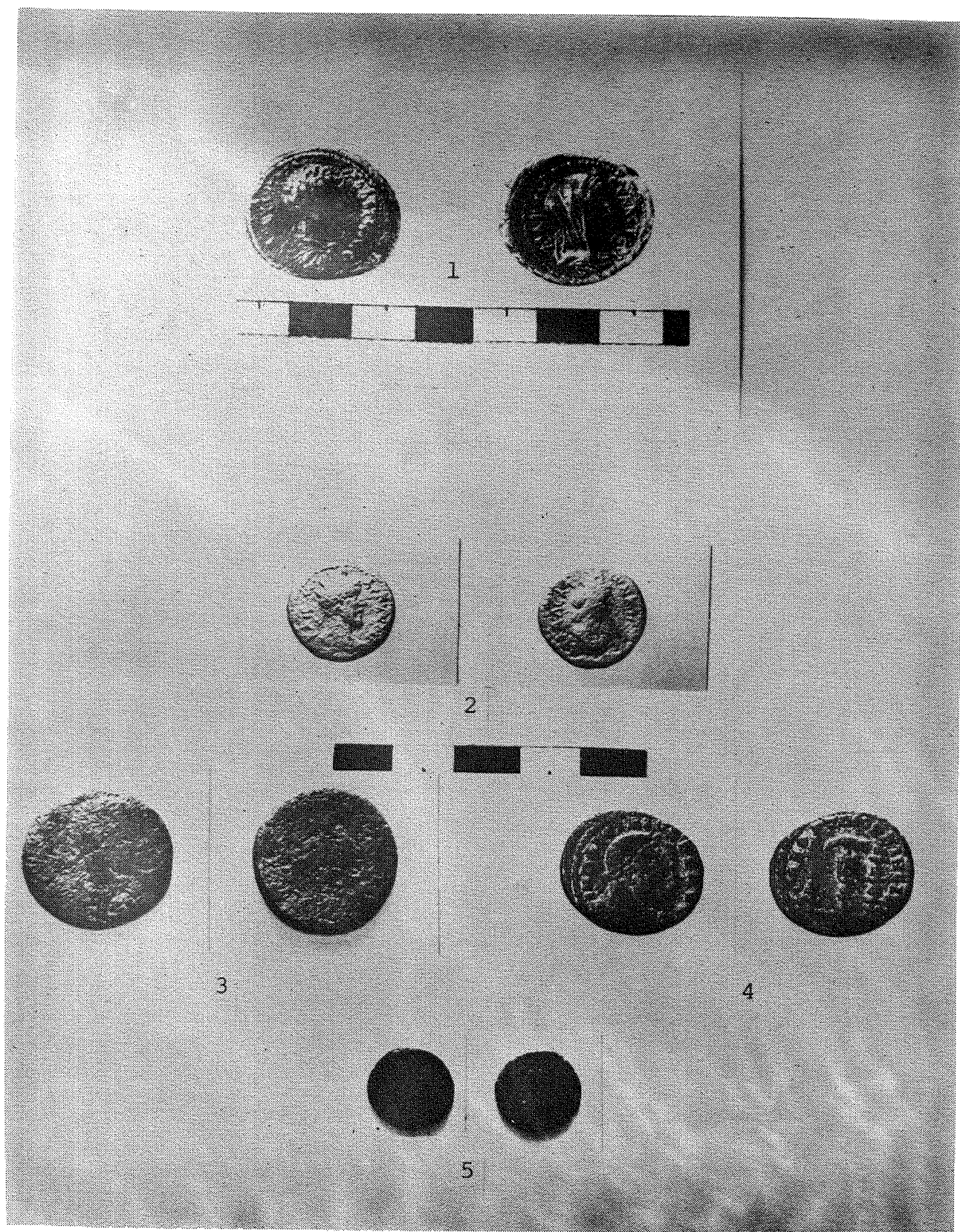
1. Byzantine juglet.



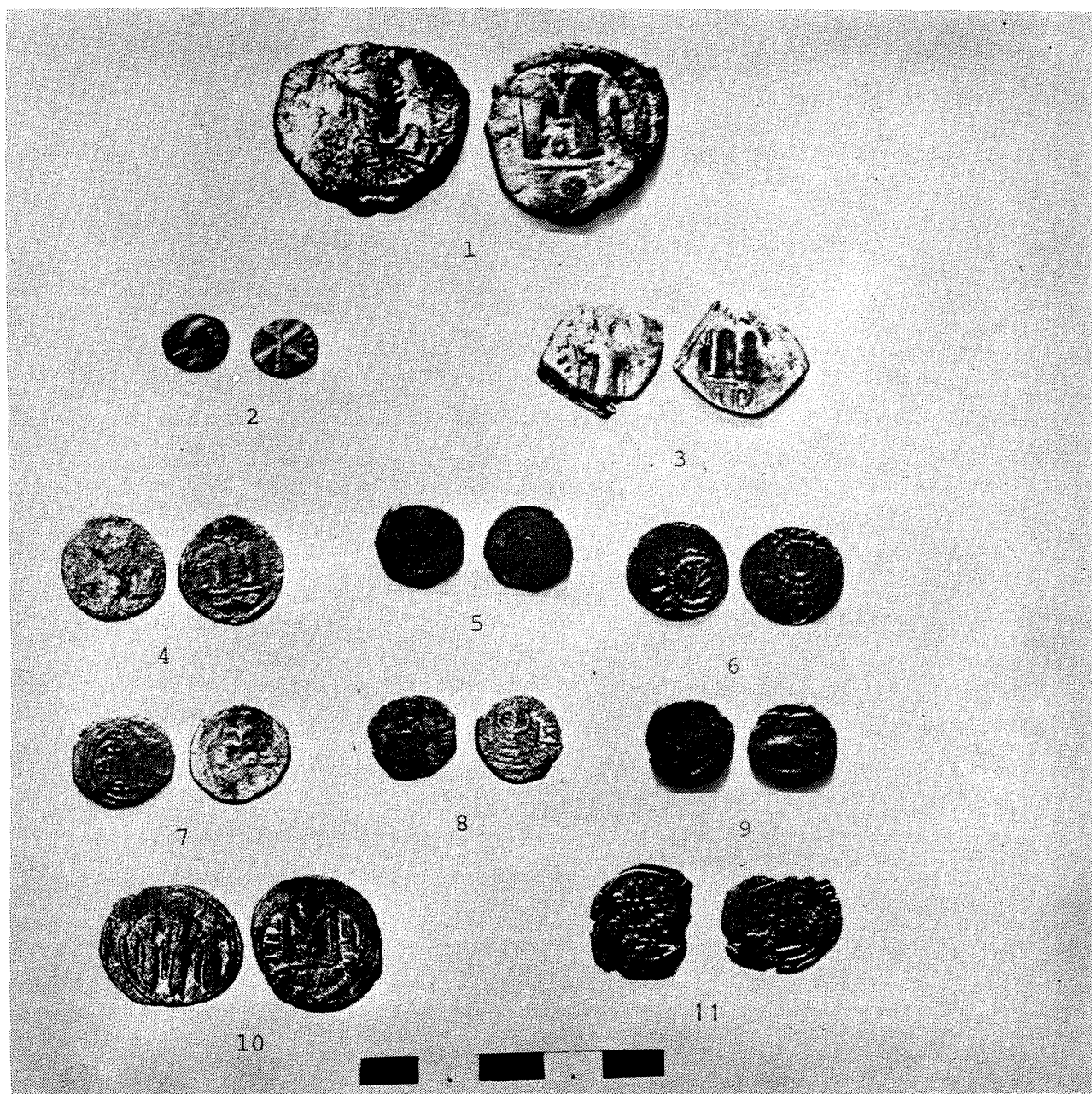
2. The Byzantine "perfume" bottle.



Hellenistic and Nabataean Coins from Amman.



Roman Coins from Amman



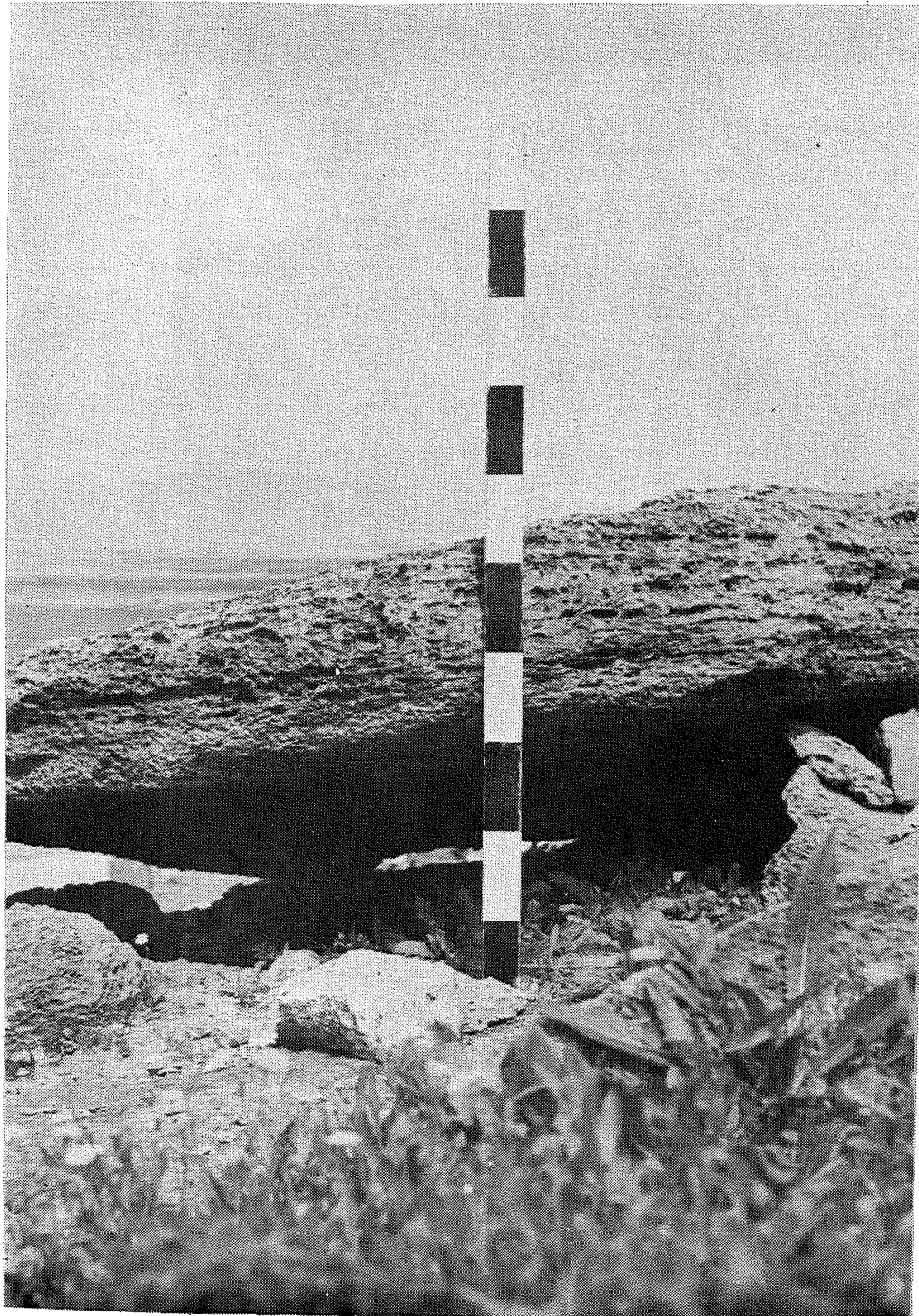
Byzantine and Islamic Coins from Amman.



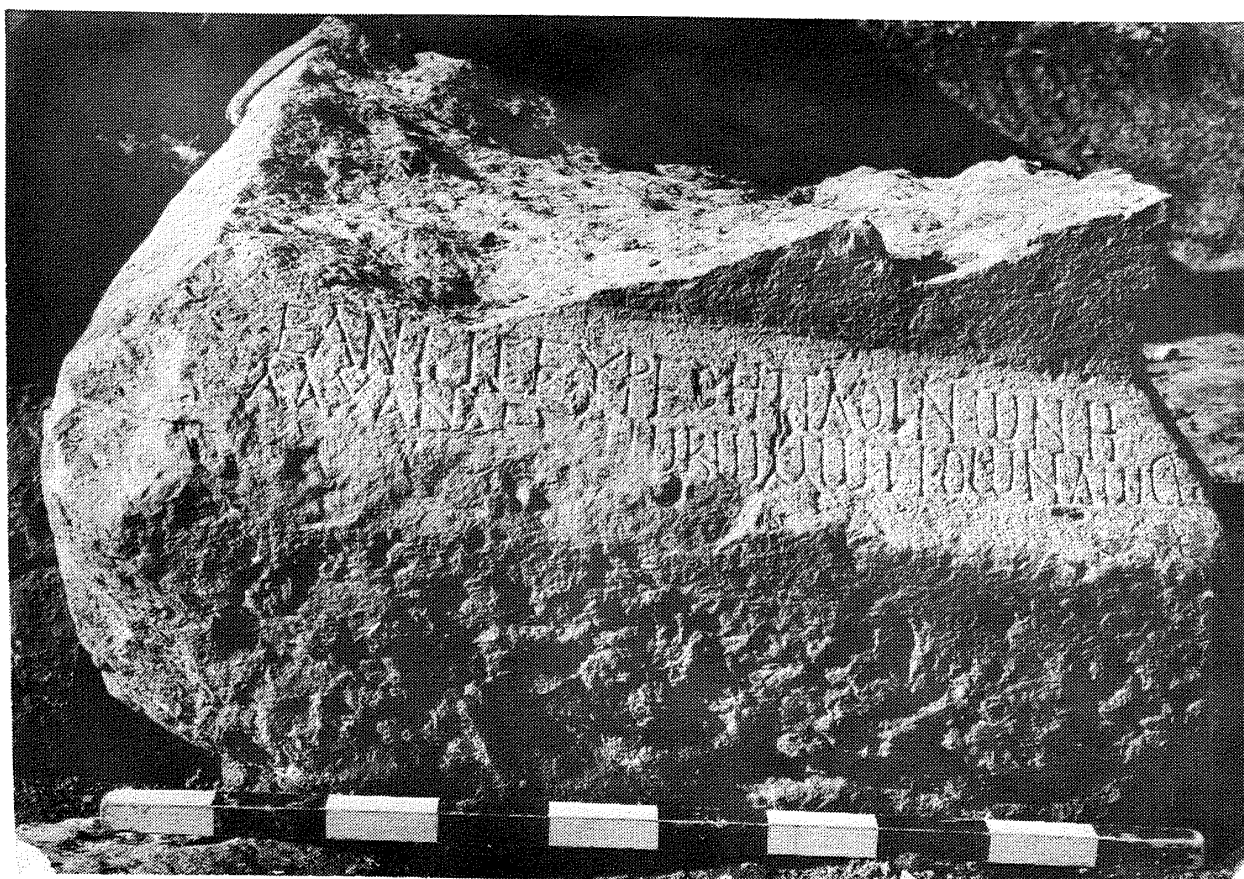
1. Damiya Slab from the east Showing hollows 7, 8, 9, and 10.



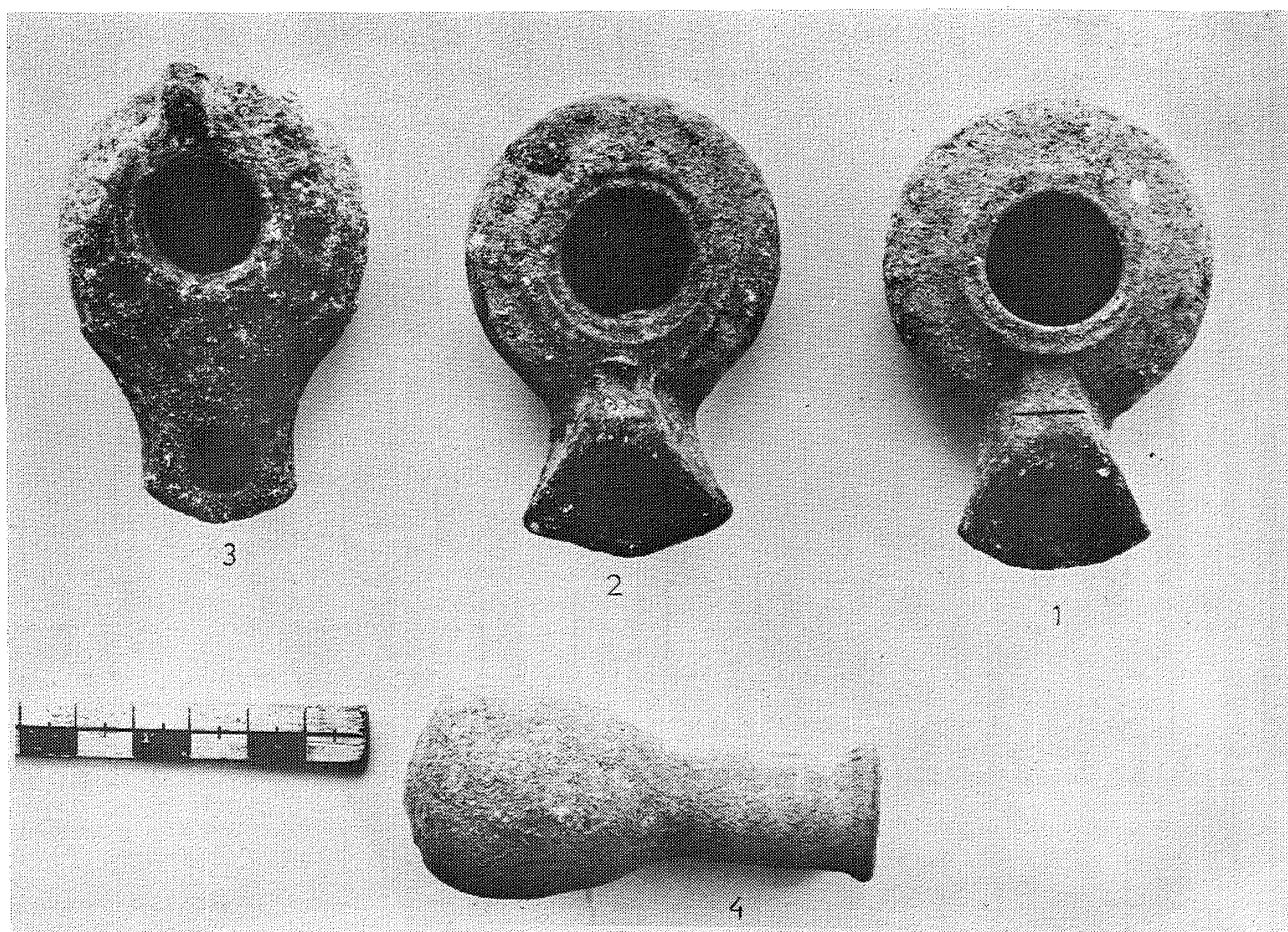
2. Slab from the north Showing recent break, hollows 5 and 6.



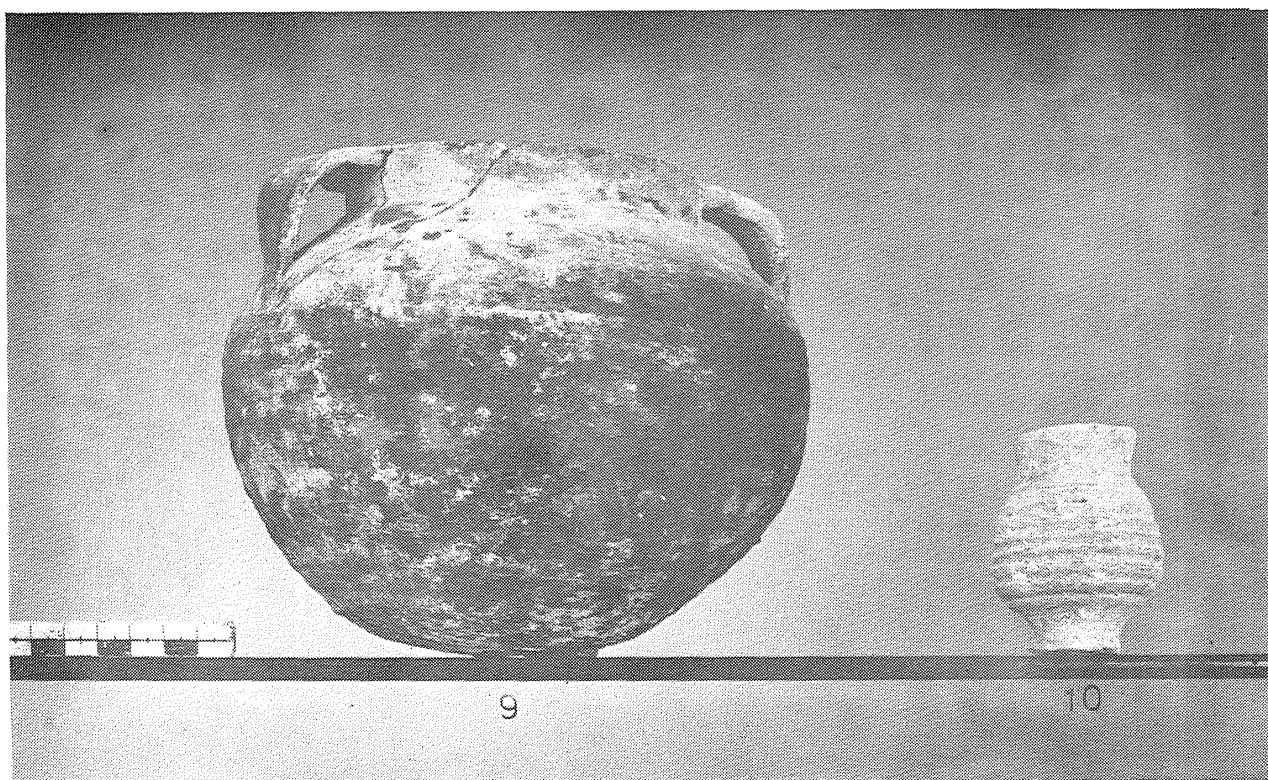
Slab from the South - east Showing remains of platform (right) and extent of tilt.



Inscribed altar from Amman.



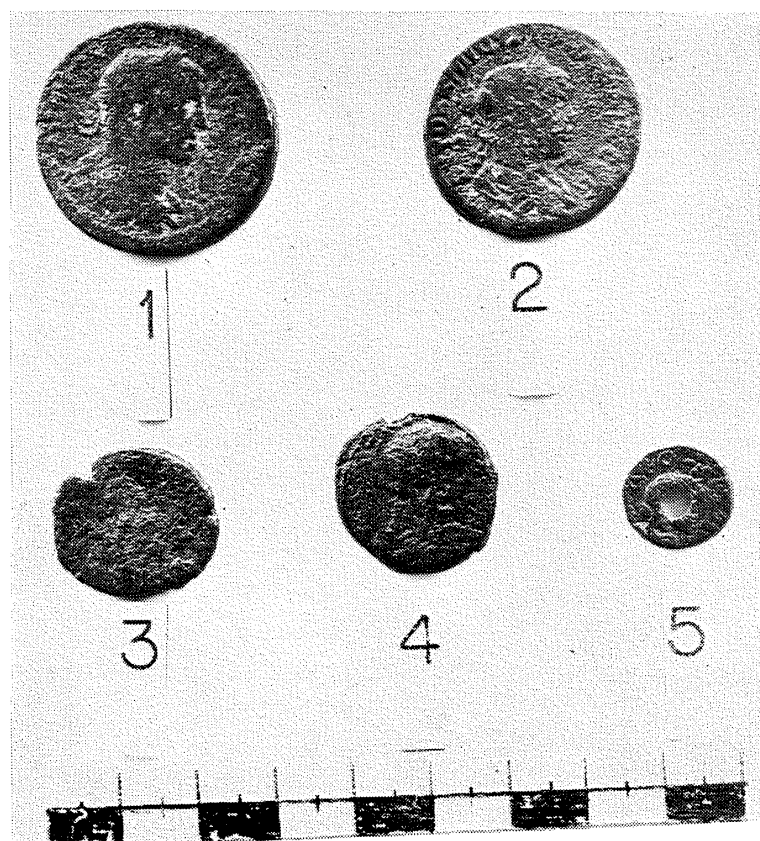
1. Pottery objects from rock - cut Tombs at Rajib.



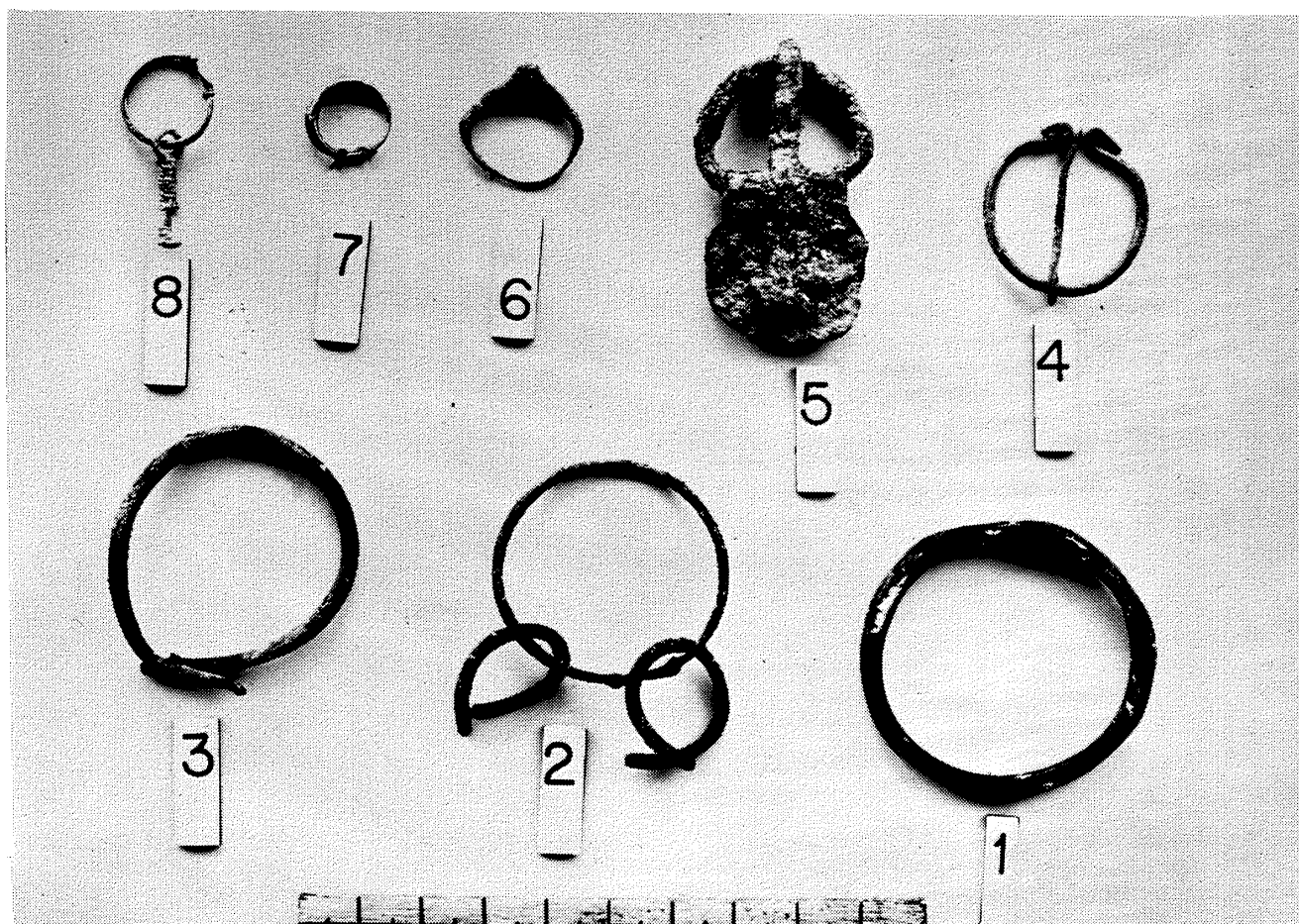
2. Rajib Tombs. Pottery objects



1. Two lamps from Rajib tombs .



2. Rajib Tombs. Bronze coins.



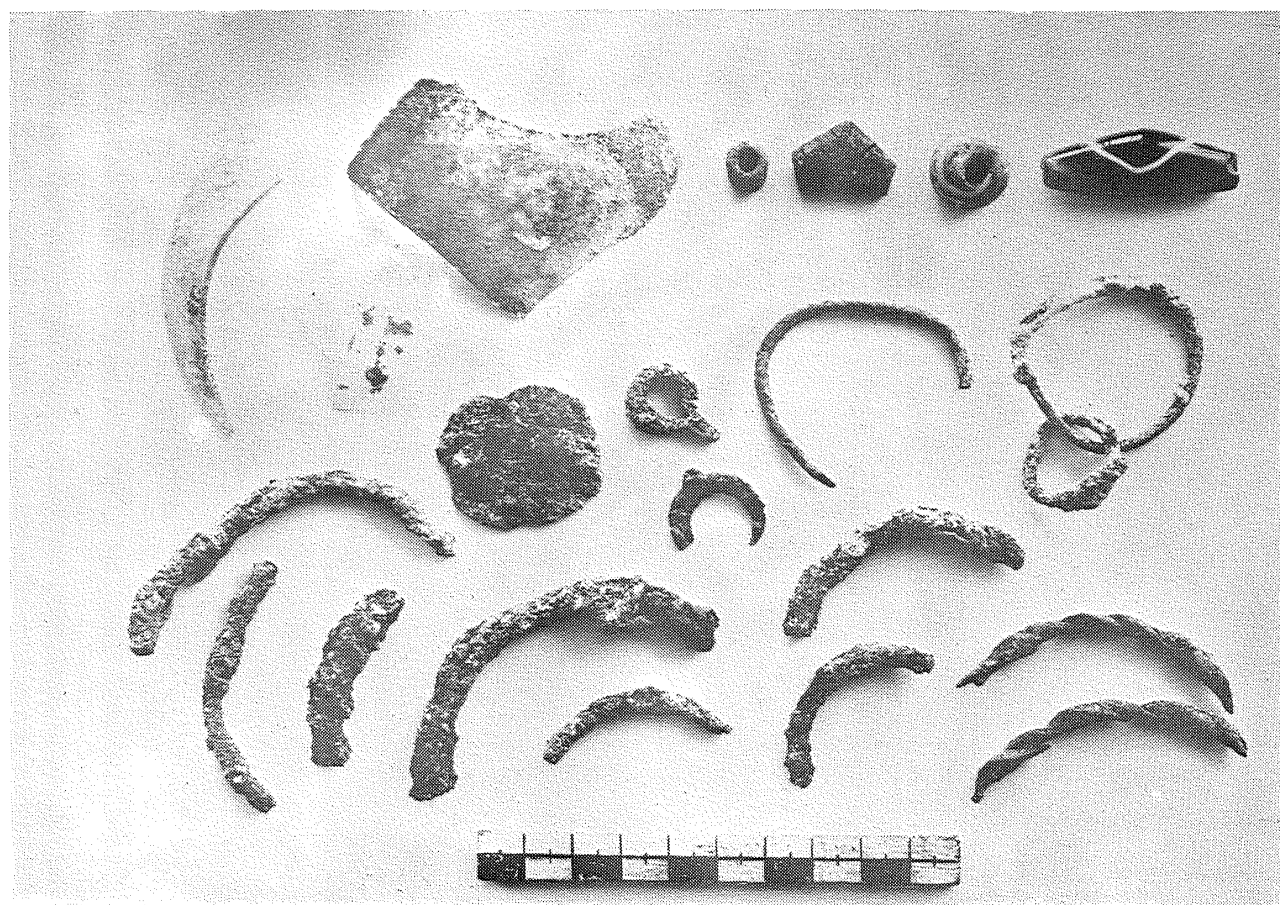
1. Rajib Tombs. Metal objects



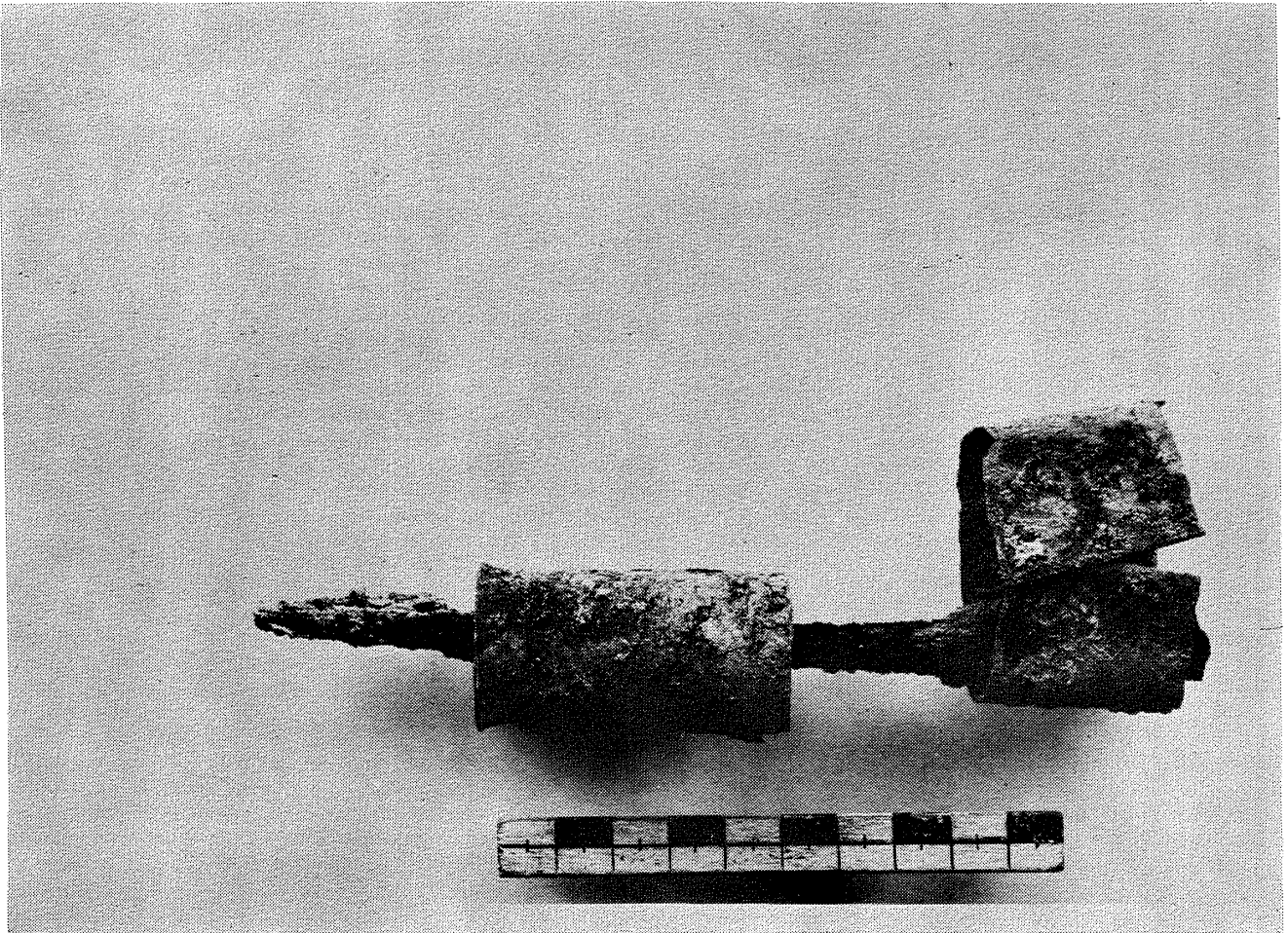
2. Rajib Tombs. Fragmentary lamps Nos. 1 - 3.



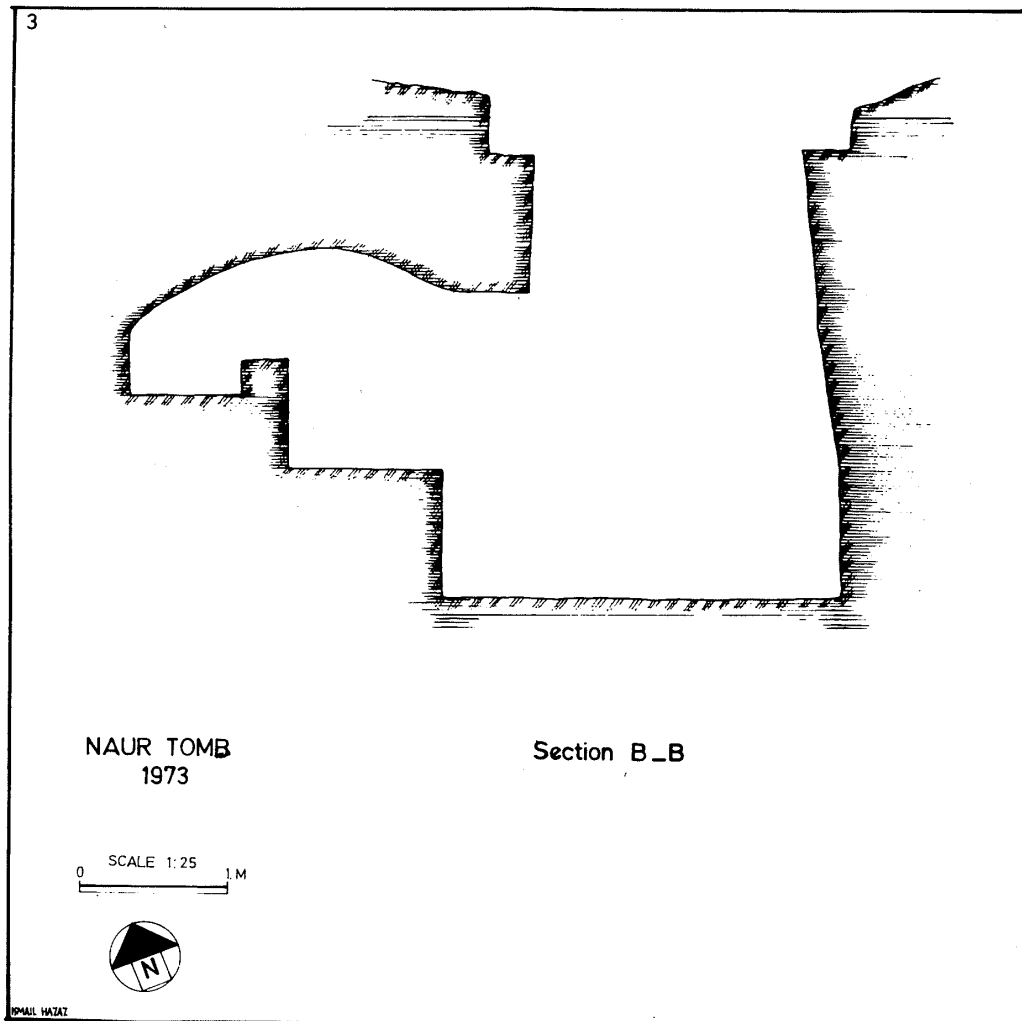
1. Rajib Tombs. Metal objects.



2. Rajib Tombs. Metal objects.



Rajib Tombs. Iron Rod



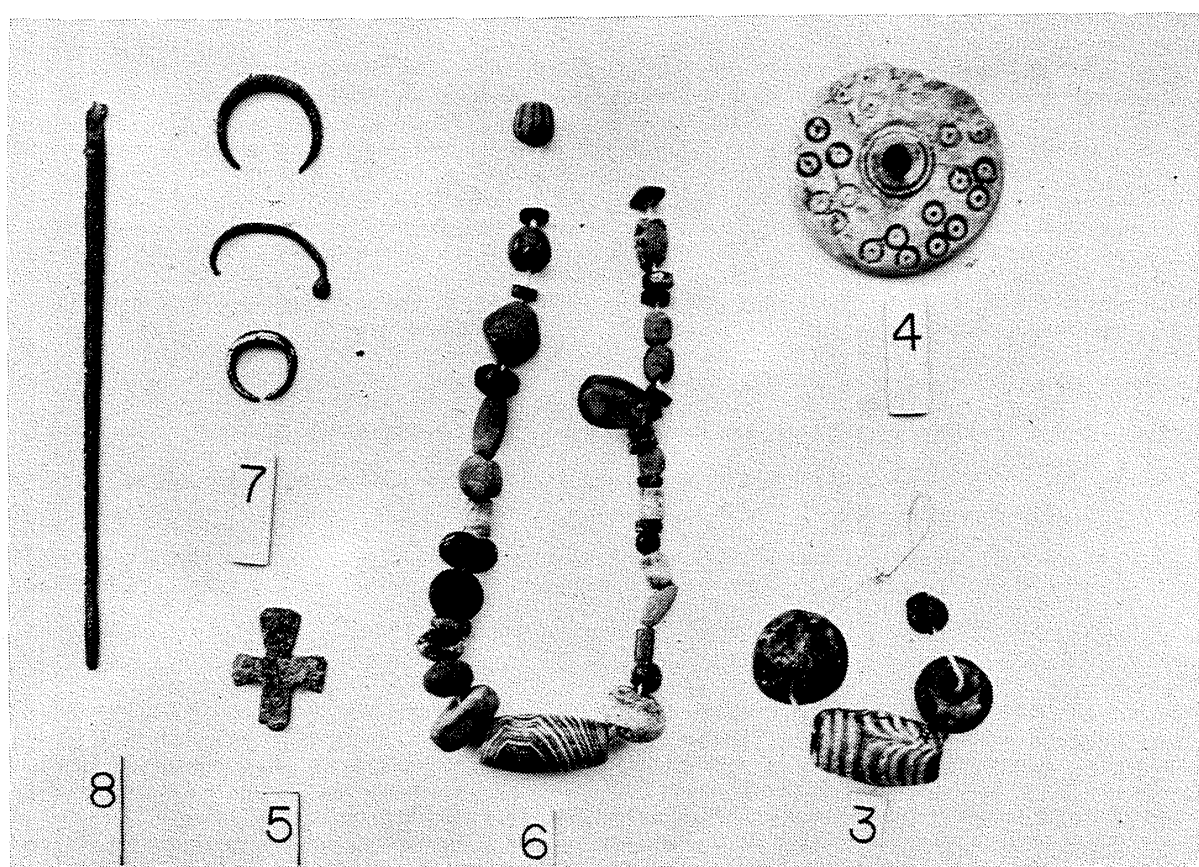
1. Na'ur Tomb - Section B - B.



2. Bronze bracelet.



1. Na'ur Tomb - Pottery lamps.



2. Na'ur Tombs - Small objects.



1. General View of Megablein. The arrow indicats the excavated area.



2. large slabs of stone covered the roof.

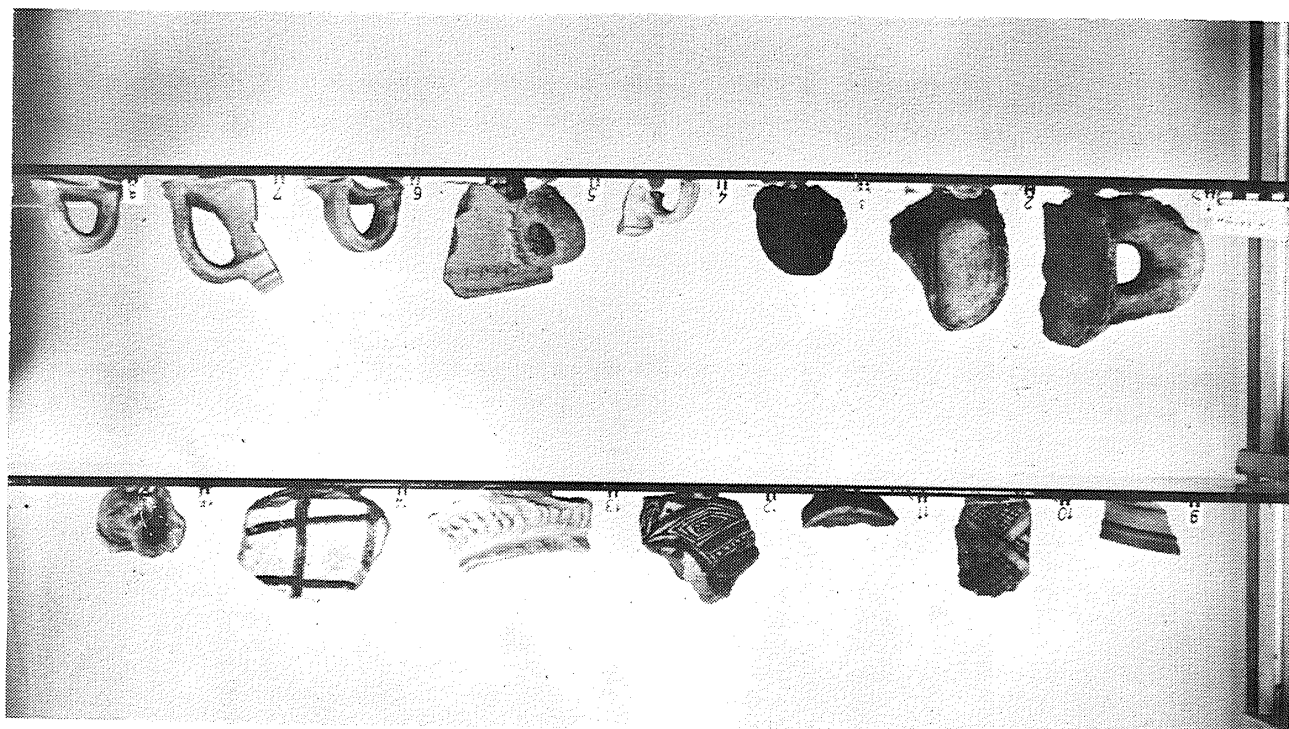


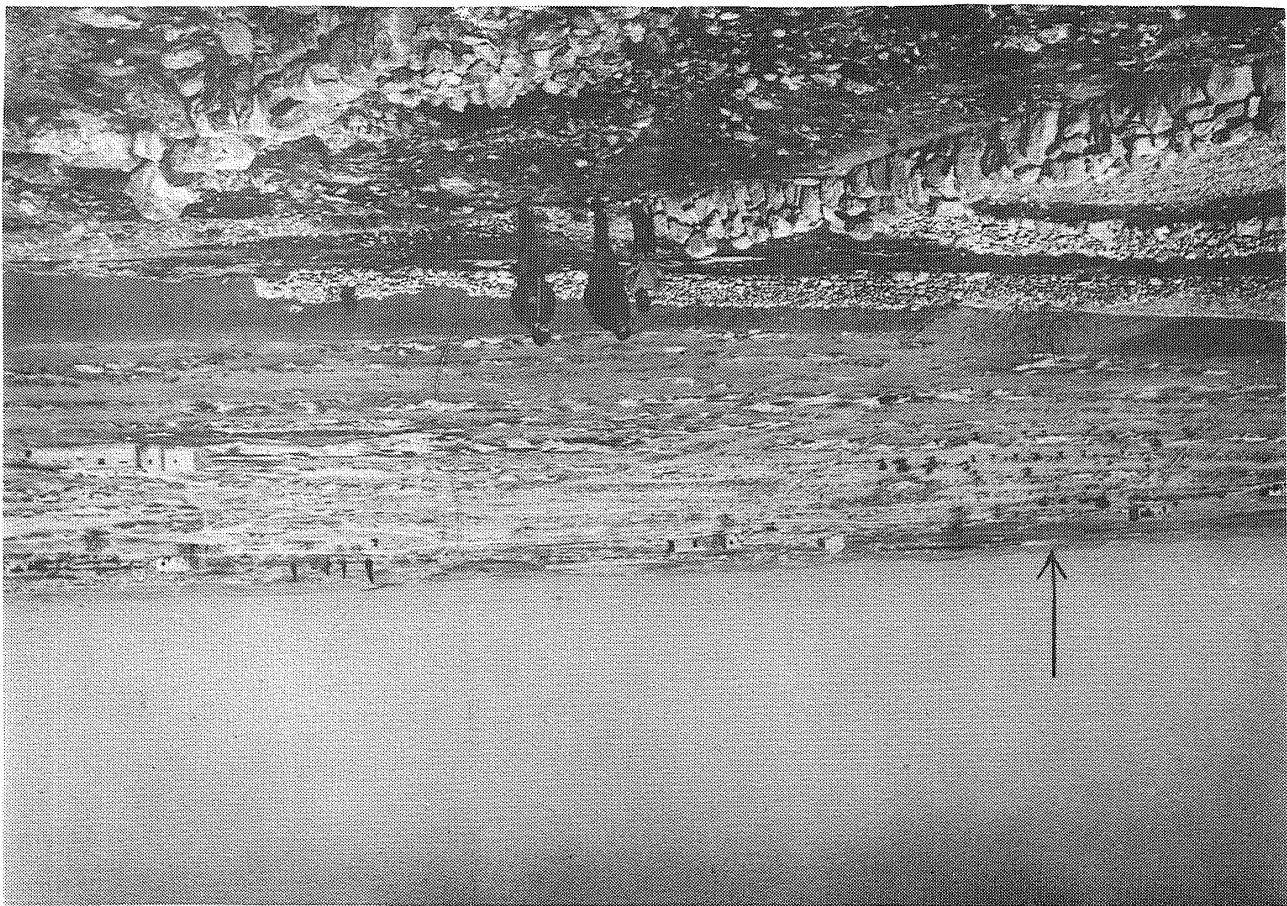
1. General View of the Mosque (looking South) .



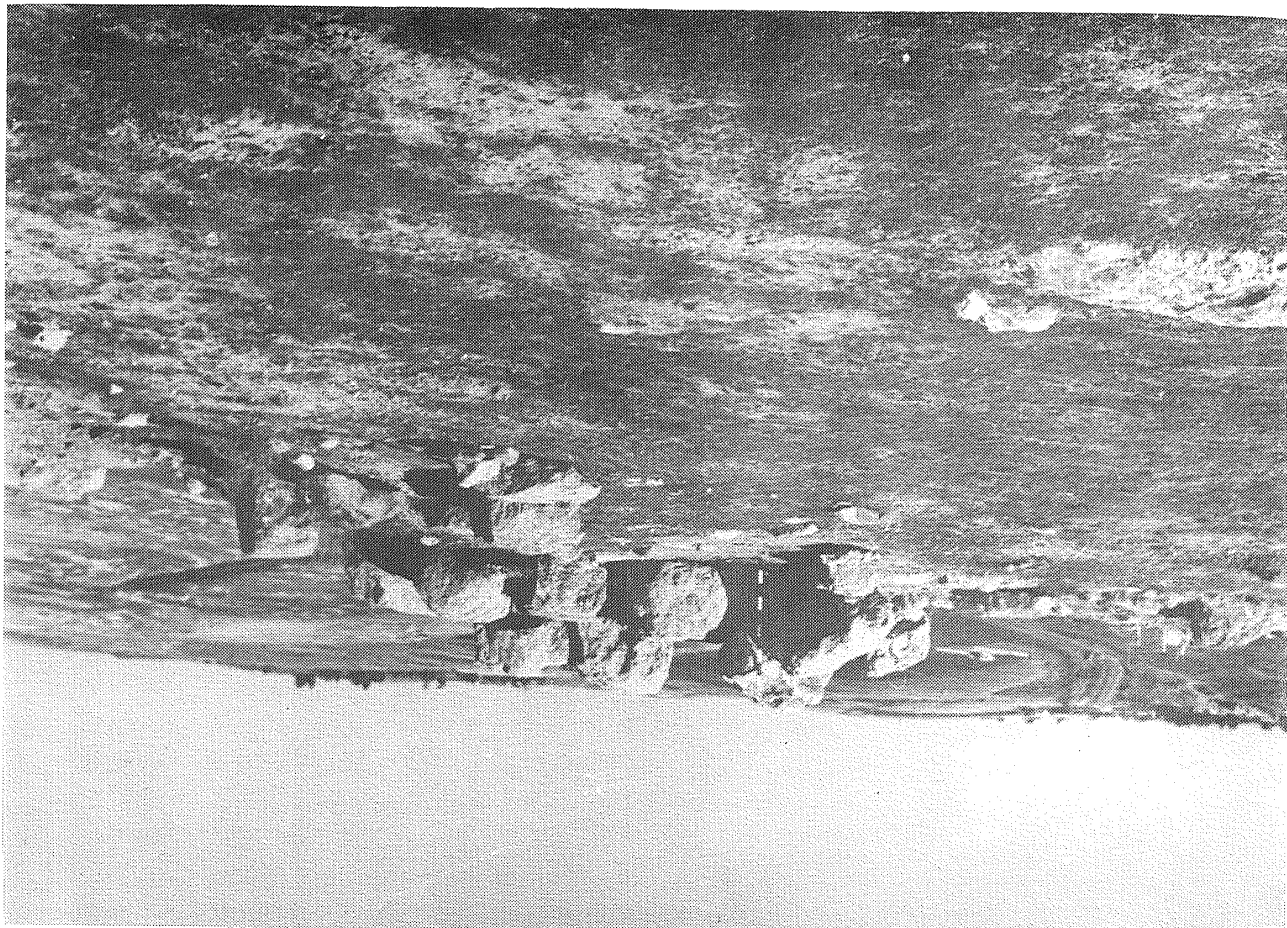
2. One eastern face of a tower Standing not far from the dig.

Pottery rims and handles found on the rock Surface of the cave.

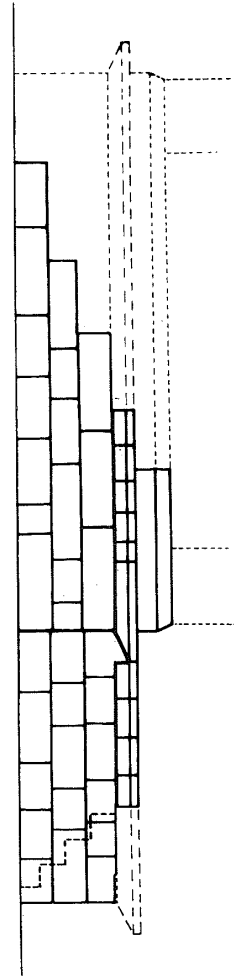




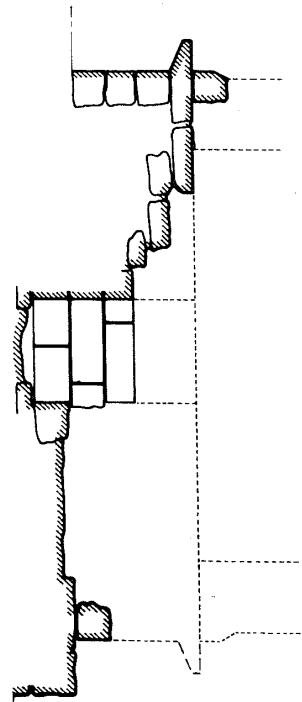
1. General View of the north - western watch tower.



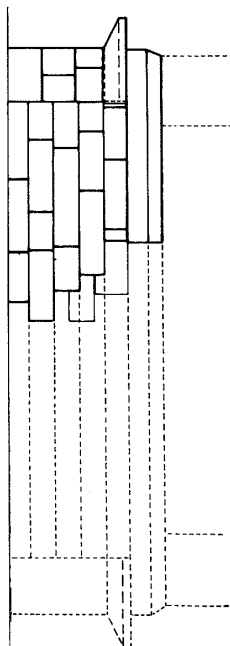
2. The remains of the north - western tower.



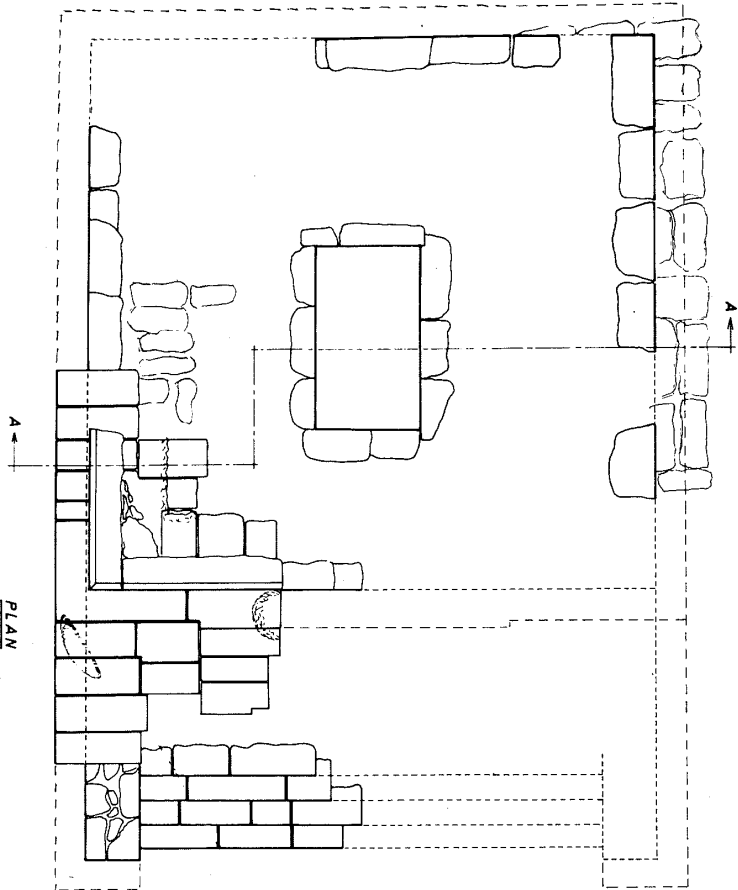
SOUTH ELEVATION



SECTION A - A



EAST ELEVATION
STAIRWAY

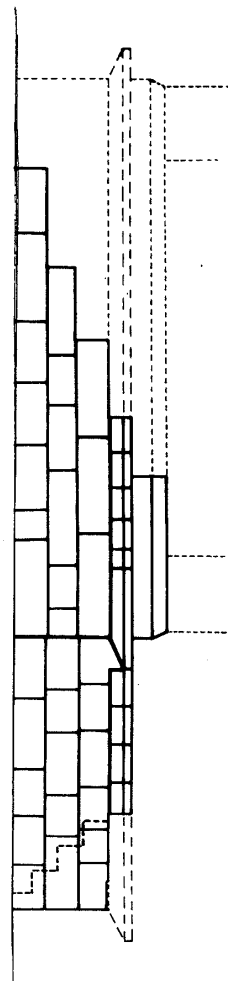


PLAN

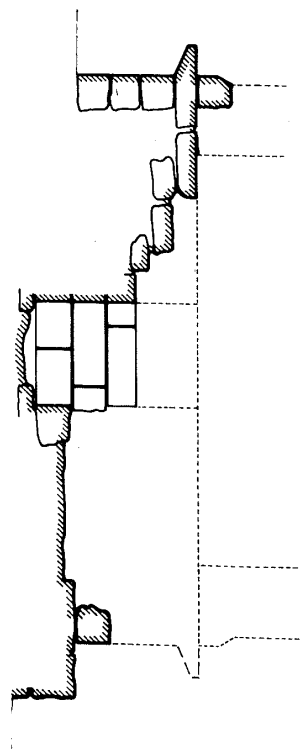


NORTH MAUSOLEUM - UM QE'IS

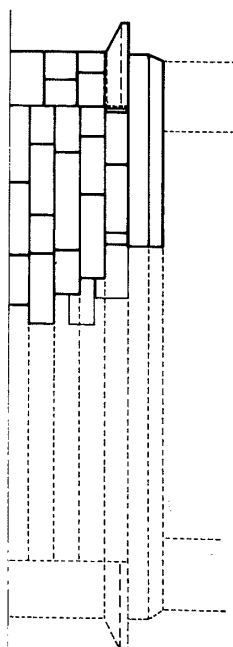
DRAWN BY BERT DEVRIES
JULY 3 1973
SCALE METERS
0 50 100 150 200 250 300



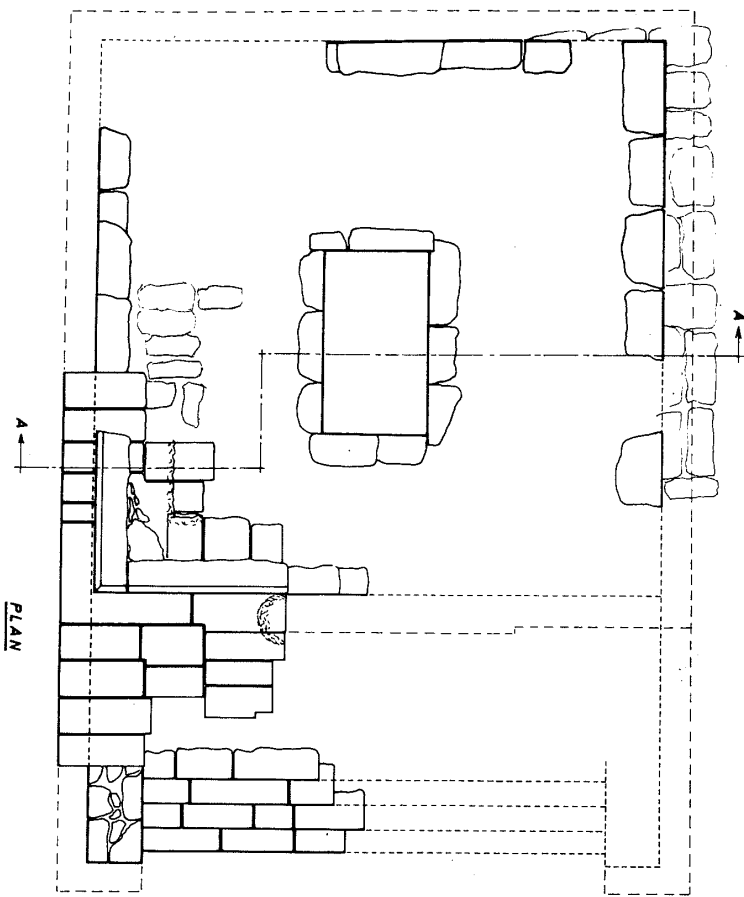
SOUTH ELEVATION



SECTION A - A



**EAST ELEVATION
STAIRWAY**



PLAN



DRAWN BY BERT DEVRIES
JULY 3 1973
SCALE METERS
0 50 100 150 200 250 300

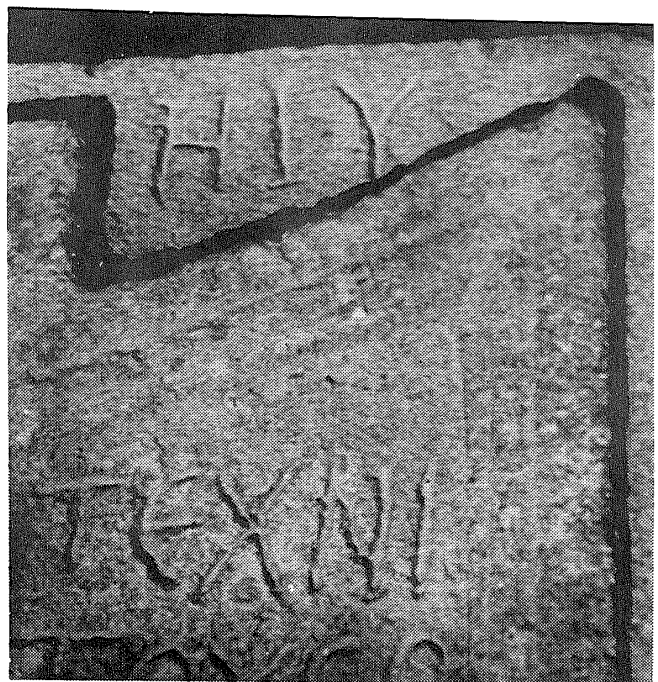
NORTH MAUSOLEUM - UM QEIS



1. Greek inscribed lintel from Gadara - Um Qeis.



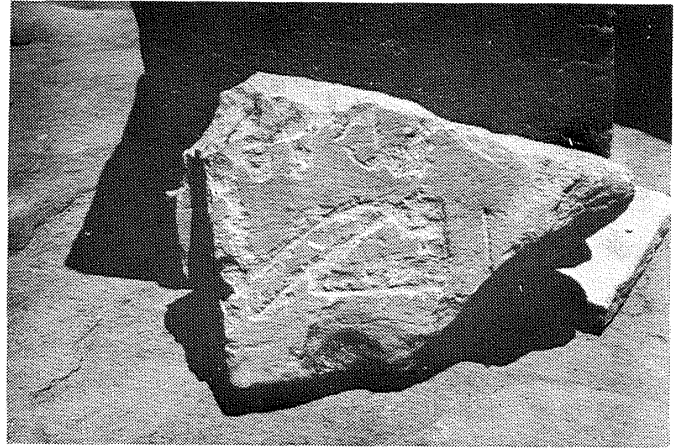
2. Detail of the left top



3. Detail of the right top.



1. A Seal from Rabbat Moab (Jordan).



2. Petra. Nabataean inscription from tomb 813.



3. Petra. Marble idol from area A.



A portion of the mosaic floor in the Virgin Mary.



A Section of the mosaic floor in the Chapel of St. Elianos.



1. The apse of the Ghishan Church.



2. The paved floor in the presbytery of the Ghishan Church.



A portion of the mosaic floor in the nave of the Ghishan Church.



برج الملفوف (عمان) قبل اجراء الترميمات



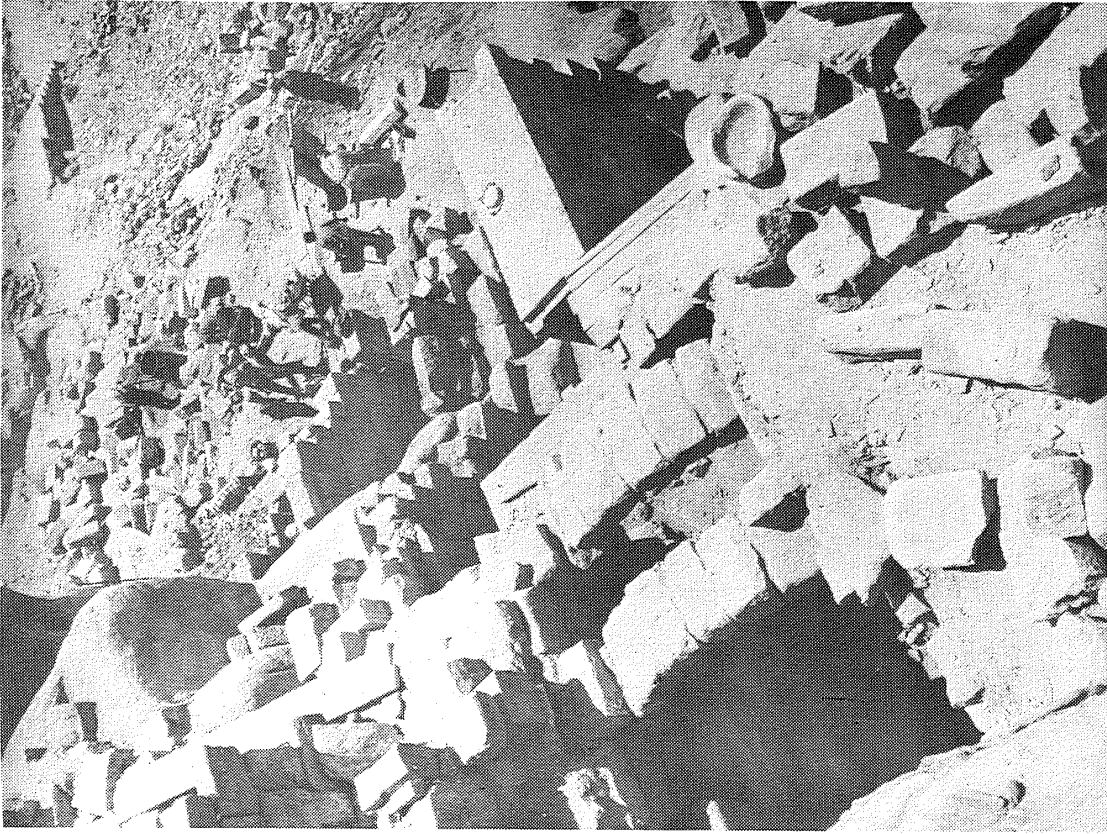
برج الملفوف (عمان) بعد التنظيفات والترميم



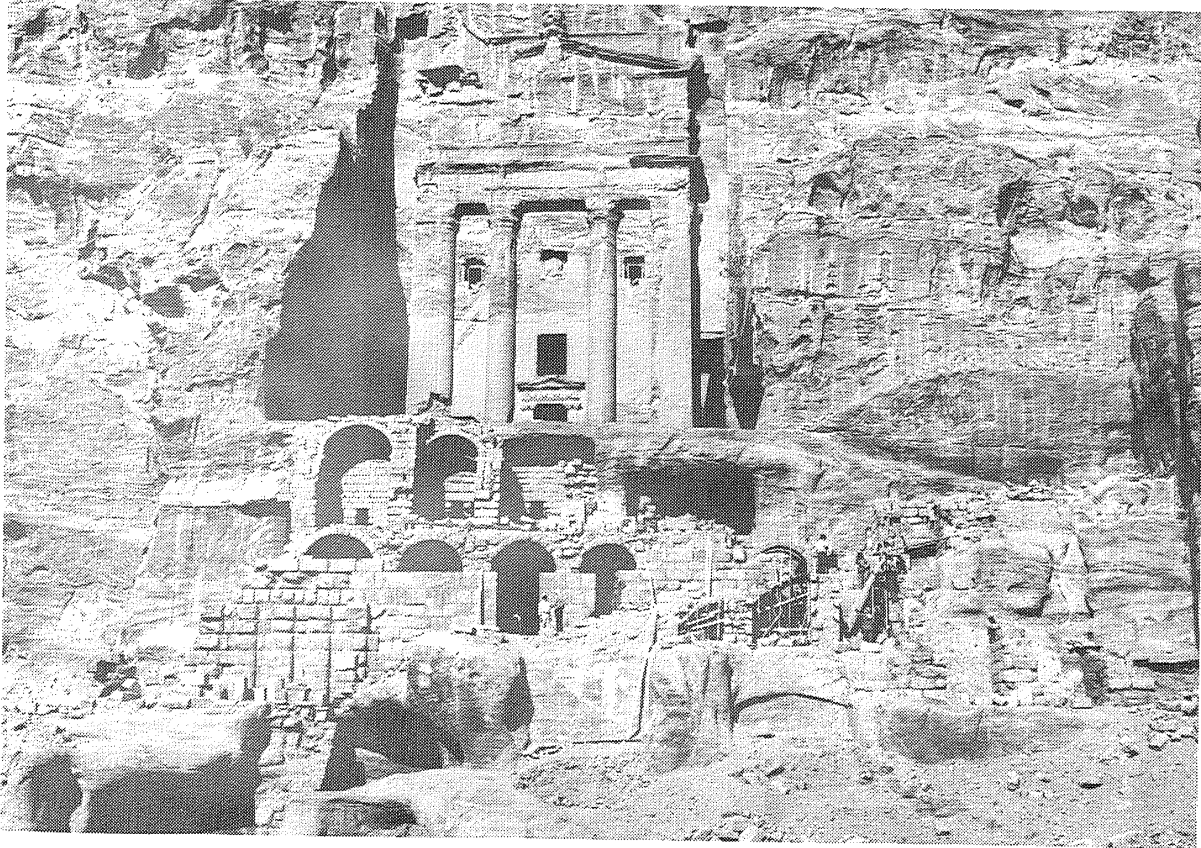
أ - المدرج الصغير (الاوديون) الاقواس الجنوبية - عمان



ب - المدرج الصغير (الاوديون) القوس الرئيسي خلف المسرح - عمان



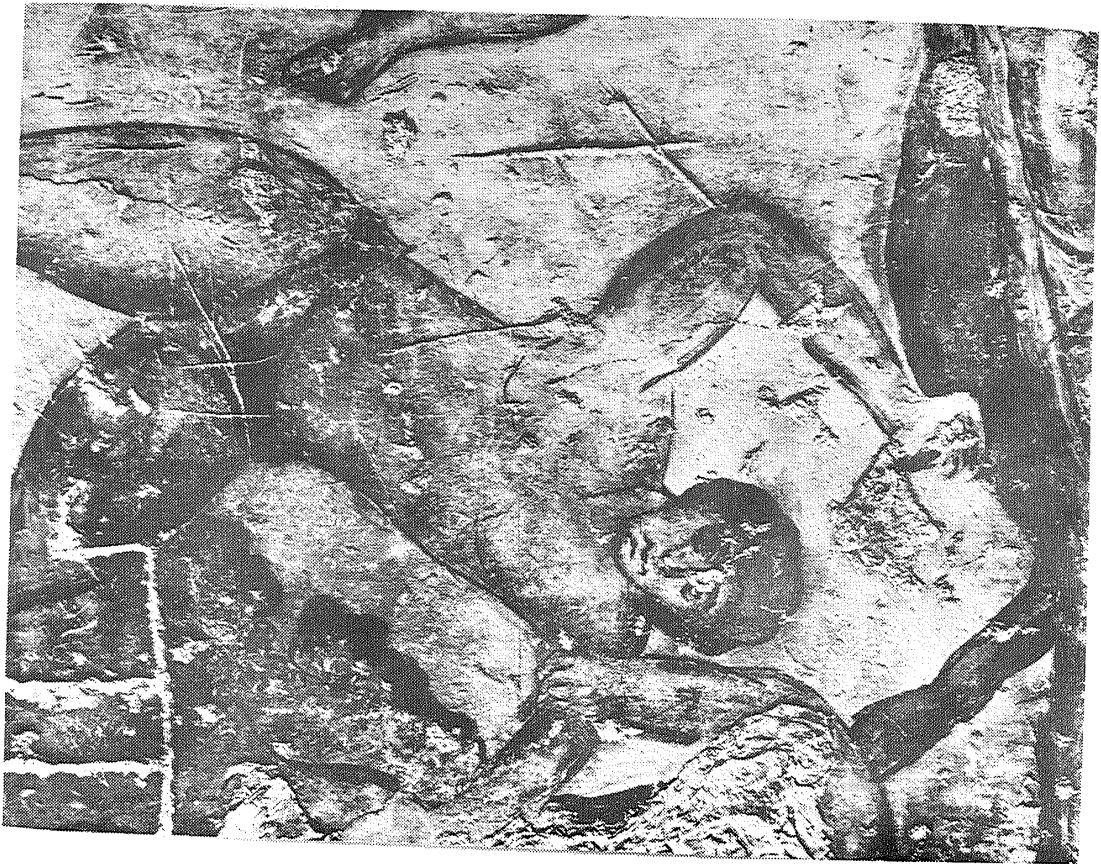
منظر للاقبية أمام مبنى المحكمة بالبتراء



منظر لمبنى المحكمة بالبتراء بعد ترميم الواجهة



رسومات من قصير عمره (القصور الاسلامية الصحراوية)



رسومات من قصير عمره (القصور الاسلامية الصحراوية)



المدرج الجنوبي بجرش - الكشف عن الجدار الخلفي للمدرج



المدرج الجنوبي بجرش - ترميم مدخل المرحلة الثانية



الواجهة الجنوبية للمدرج الجنوبي بجرش



الواجهة الجنوبية للمدرج الجنوبي بجرش

٧ - القصور الاسلامية الصحراوية :

أ - الحرات : تم قصارة جميع الجدران الاسمنتية الداخلية من نفس نوع القصارة الاصلية .

ب - قصير عمرة : لقد أكملت البعثة الاسبانية تنظيف الرسومات داخل القصر وظهرتها نهائيا واصبحت ظاهرة (لوحة رقم ٥) وستحضر بعثة ترميم لاكمال ترميم نفس القصر الاموي وتقوية جدرانه .

٨ - البتراء : لقد بوشر في تنظيف مبنى (المحكمة) وظهرت الاقواس السفلى بعد أن أزيل الطم جميعه وكذلك جرى ترميمها ودعم الجدران ثم اكمال العمل في الغرف السفلى وظهارها وكذلك تم الكشف على السلالم الاصلية الموصلة الى اعلى مبنى المحكمة (لوحة رقم ٦) وسيتم اكمال العمل خلال سنة ١٩٧٤ .

المتاحف :

قامت دائرة الاثار العامة بشراء قطع وملابس قديمة وكذلك خزائن وذلك لتنفيذ اكمال مشروع المتحف الشعبي في الجناح الغربي لمبنى دائرة الاثار بالمدراج الروماني والذي ينتظر اتمامه في نهاية سنة ١٩٧٤ . وكذلك تم صيانة وتحسين المتاحف المحلية في مأدبا واربد .

المهندس يوسف العلمي

المساعد الفني لمدير الاثار

الجنوبية وانتهى العمل من الجانب الشرقي ولم يبق من الواجهة الجنوبية سوى الجزء الغربي (لوحة رقم ٣) .

ب - المدرج الجنوبي : لقد بوشر في تنظيف المداخل الخلفية للمرحلة العلوية من المدرج وتم دعم الجدران الجانبية لها وترميم الاسقف لامكانية اعادة المقاعد العلوية المفقودة (لوحة رقم ٤) وكذلك تم كشف حول المدرج من الخلف بعرض ٣ - ٤ امتار لسهولة الوصول الى هذه المداخل وسيتم العمل خلال السنتين القادمتين .

٥ - الكرك : نتيجة لفصول الشتاء الماضية فقد انهار جزء من سور القلعة الخارجي في الجهة الشرقية عند مدخل المدينة وقد تم بناء جدار استنادي كامل وجرى ترميمه وسيتم ترميم باقي الجدار خلال عام ١٩٧٤ .

٦ - قلعة القطرانة : لقد جرى اتفاق مع الحكومة التركية على المساهمة في ترميم هذه القلعة وخصص مبلغ وكذلك تم وضع خطة عمل ورسومات لترميمه وبوشر بها في نهاية هذا العام على ان يستمر خلال سنة ١٩٧٤ .

منجزات دائرة الآثار العامة

سنة ١٩٧٣

المهندس يوسف العلمي

الحفريات الأثرية :

تجد تفاصيلها في باب :

(Archaeological Notes and News)

(صفحة ٧٧ - ٧٨) .

الصيانة والترميم :

١ - عمان :

أ - المدرج الصغير (الاوديون) بعد انتهاء الترميم في المدرج الكبير وكذلك ساحة الفورم اتجهت النية لدعم وترميم المدرج الصغير المسمى (الاوديون) والذي كان يعتقد انه كان مغطى بالسابق (هذه النظرية تحتاج الى دراسة وثبات) . فقامت الدائرة بترميم القوس في الجهة الجنوبية (لوحة رقم ١ - أ) وكذلك دعم موقع المسرح وخلف المدرج وكذلك الاقواس في الجهة الشمالية من الجدار المحيط بها والذي كان محاذي السيل ورفعت عدة مداмик وكذلك تم دعم القوس الرئيسي مع اجراء تنظيفات داخلية (لوحة ١ - ب) .

ب - برج الملفوف : لقد جرت حفريات اثرية في هذا البرج في سنة ١٩٦٩ باشراف الدكتور روجر بوراس (Roger Borrás) (١) وقد قامت الدائرة بتنظيف الموقع وكان القصد

تجويله وجعل زيارته سهلة بالنسبة للزوار واستغلاله كموقع سياحي ممكن الوصول اليه بمدينة عمان وقد اتبع في تجويله نفس اسلوب البناء القديم وعملت الجدران الخارجية على نفس الطراز وبنفس الحجارة وكذلك عملت سلاسل حجرية بنفس الطريقة (لوحة رقم ٢) وهو يمثل نموذج لعدد من الابراج التي كانت محيطة بمدينة عمان . وسيتم اكمال الحفريات في البرج نفسه خلال سنة ١٩٧٤ .

٢ - السلط : بعد أن تمت عملية استملاك منطقة قلعة السلط ولتسهيل الوصول اليها جرى فتح طريق موصل للقلعة مع تنظيفها لظهارها وجعلها في وضع جيد .

٣ - مأدبا : لقد كشفت ارضيات فسيفسائية لعدة كنائس مما استوجب تنظيفها وترميمها وقد نقلت بعض ارضيات القطع الى كنيسة الرسل واجريت لها الترميمات اللازمة وتجميعها كما سيتم خلال العام القادم اكمال السقف فوق جميع المنطقة وكذلك جرى ترميم عدة ارضيات في مناطق مختلفة بمأدبا كما تم ترميم كنيسة المخيط خارج مأدبا .

٤ - جرش :

أ - بوابة عمان (قوس النصر) لقد اكمل ترميم واجهة هذا الاثر من الجهة الشمالية جميعها وكذلك الواجهة

(١) راجع مقاله حول هذا البرج في حولية دائرة الآثار العامة

رقم ١٦ سنة ١٩٧١ (صفحة ٣١) .

فهرس المحتويات

منجزات دائرة الآثار العامة سنة ١٩٧٣

اعداد المهندس يوسف العلمي

القسم الاجنبي صفحة ٥ - ٨٨

اللوحات صفحة ٨٩ - ١٤٣

لجنة التحرير :

الاستاذ يعقوب عويس - مدير دائرة الآثار العام

الدكتور فوزي زيادين

السيدة لينا السعدي

الآنسة روز حبايبة

قيمة الاشتراك السنوي :

ديناران اردنيان - ترسل باسم مدير عام الآثار .

تقبل المقالات حتى اول تشرين الثاني / نوفمبر من كل سنة وترسل باسم محرر الحولية :

مديرية الآثار العامة

ص.ب ٨٨

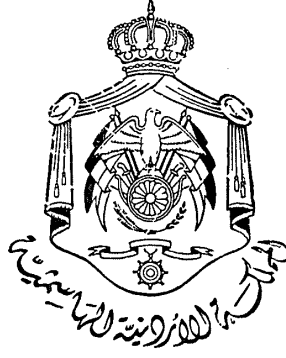
عمان

الآراء المطروحة في المقالات لا تمثل رأي دائرة الآثار بالضرورة . المؤلفون مسؤولون عن تدقيق مقالاتهم .

الطابعون

جمعية عمال المطابع التعاونية

عمان - هاتف ٣٧٧٧١



حولية دائرة الآثار العامة

١٩٧٣

الثامن عشر

دائرة الآثار العامة

عمان

المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية