

THE CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PROJECT IN JORDAN SALVAGE EXCAVATIONS AT "TELL FAYŞAL", JARASH

by

Gaetano Palumbo, Khairieh 'Amr, Ali Musa and Michelle Rasson-Seigne

Introduction

In conjunction with the construction of a new highway between Amman and Irbid, a series of preliminary archaeological surveys were conducted in order to avoid unnecessary damage to archaeological sites. The first survey, conducted by Albert Leonard (1987), revealed the presence of a series of archaeological sites potentially threatened by the construction project. Unfortunately the road alignment was changed after the survey was completed, so that a second survey was necessary in order to detect more sites along the new alignment. This survey was conducted as part of the Cultural Resources Management (CRM) Project in 1987 (J. A. Greene, personal communication; Palumbo *et al.* 1993, this volume), and resulted in a series of recommendations aimed at protecting a few sites along the road alignment. One of these sites was a necropolis of rock-cut tombs on the slopes above the existing road to Jarash, two hundred meters to the north of the bridge on the Zarqa river.

This site was visited again by the CRM team (Ruba Kana'an and Cynthia Shartzter) in 1990, when the construction designs were finalized. During that visit, a decision was taken to proceed with the graphic and photographic documentation of the tombs, and recommendations to the contractor and project engineer were issued, in order not to cut the slope more than the project had provided for, thus saving most of the tombs from unnecessary destruction. Later that year, another visit by the CRM team (Abdul Sami' Abu Dayyeh, Ruba Kana'an, Gaetano Palumbo) noticed the presence of a structure below the existing road to Jarash. One corner of this structure, partially visible on the surface, was exposed by illicit dig-

ging. The stones removed from this corner were scattered further down the slope, and all of them were characterized by embossing and diagonal chisel marks. The pottery found around the building tentatively dated the structure to the second-third century AD. The visible remains were thought to be those of a structure measuring 6 x 8 meters, possibly a mausoleum. This hypothesis, however, proved to be incorrect (see below).

A salvage excavation plan was prepared, since the site lay exactly at the centerline of the new highway. The road alignment could not be modified without raising construction costs in an unacceptable way by the Ministry of Public Works. This, and the subsequent loss of the structure, demonstrated that pre-development intensive archaeological surveys should always be conducted before major construction projects. Another important point to raise is that a catalogue of known archaeological sites is essential in order to reduce the risk of accidental destruction of cultural heritage sites. In fact, as we learned at a later stage of work, the site had been noted—but not fully reported—at least twice: during a fieldwork visit in 1962 by the Deutsche Evangelische Institut (Stoebe 1964: 38-39), and by Jean Sapin during his survey of the Jarash region (personal communication). The fact that such an important structure was not recorded in the DAJ files, even if several people had been aware of its presence, is a strong argument in favour of the compilation of a National Inventory of Archaeological Sites. This catalogue, now in preparation at the Department of Antiquities Registration Centre with the assistance of ACOR, is based on a computerized database that will provide immediate informa-

tion about the presence of archaeological remains in certain areas (Palumbo *et al.* 1993, this volume). By knowing in advance where new development projects will be located, it will be very simple to produce a list of threatened sites. This will allow the DAJ to provide for the safety of the sites, if necessary, or for the organization of rescue projects. The agencies involved in the construction will also benefit from the register: information concerning the presence of archaeological sites within the project area, will allow them to modify their projects when possible, or to organize their work schedules in coordination with the archaeologists involved in the rescue projects.

EXCAVATIONS OF THE ROMAN STRUCTURE AT "TELL FAYŞAL" (G. Palumbo)

Excavations at "Tell Fayşal" (named after the Department of Agriculture plant nursery accessed by a secondary road built around the site) began near the only visible architectural feature, the southern corner of the structure, which was heavily disturbed by treasure-hunters (Pl. I, 1). The structure is located at Palestine Grid 234.030 180.670. Excavations were conducted by Ali Musa, of the Jarash office, assisted by 15 local workmen, over a four month period, from April 24 to August 31, 1991. Top plans and sections were drawn by Gaetano Palumbo and Lo'ay Mohammadiyah, with the assistance of Ruba Kana'an and James Mason. Abbas Khammash prepared the topographic survey of the area; Mr. Jacques Seigne and Dr. Pierre Bikai helped in the final architectural survey of the site and in the preparation of the elevation drawings.

The width of the building's external wall could be discerned at the damaged southern corner: 2.30m on the lowest, and 1.20m on the top courses (Pl. II, 1 and 2). Excavations proceeded at first on the outside, along the main walls, to establish the size of the structure, but it became immediately

evident that the building was much larger than expected, and that it had suffered major disturbances through time. The west wall was excavated for a total length of 18m and its height was between 2 and 3.5m, up to the existing paved road to Jarash, under which the rest of the wall and the western corner are still probably preserved. It is also possible that they were heavily disturbed during the road construction of the early 1960's. The south wall was excavated for a length of 29m and its height was comprised between 1.5 and 3.5m. The main entrance to the building was found along this wall, at approximately 17m from the south corner (Pl. IV, 1). This entrance was possibly located in the middle of the southern wall. Unfortunately this hypothesis could not be verified, since the east and north corners, and the entire eastern wall (together of course with the internal partitions) were bulldozed when the access road to the Fayşal nursery was built in 1964. The disturbance inflicted to the building by this road was massive, since at least 60% of the building was destroyed on that occasion, including almost all of the northern wall: only a very small portion of it was still visible during fieldwork, at the corner between the existing Jarash-Amman road and the beginning of the Fayşal road. This, however, allowed us to determine the internal dimension of the structure along its short axis: 29.10m, which gives a total size, including the external walls (1.2m thick on the top courses) of 31.50m. If we assume a central location for the main entrance, the length of the main external wall measured between 37 and 40m (Figs. 1 and 2). The area close to the main gate along the south wall was badly disturbed when two high tension electric poles were put there twenty years ago, the last of a series of disturbances before this final one.

Practically the entire area between the northern and southern walls, and between the main entrance and the eastern wall was

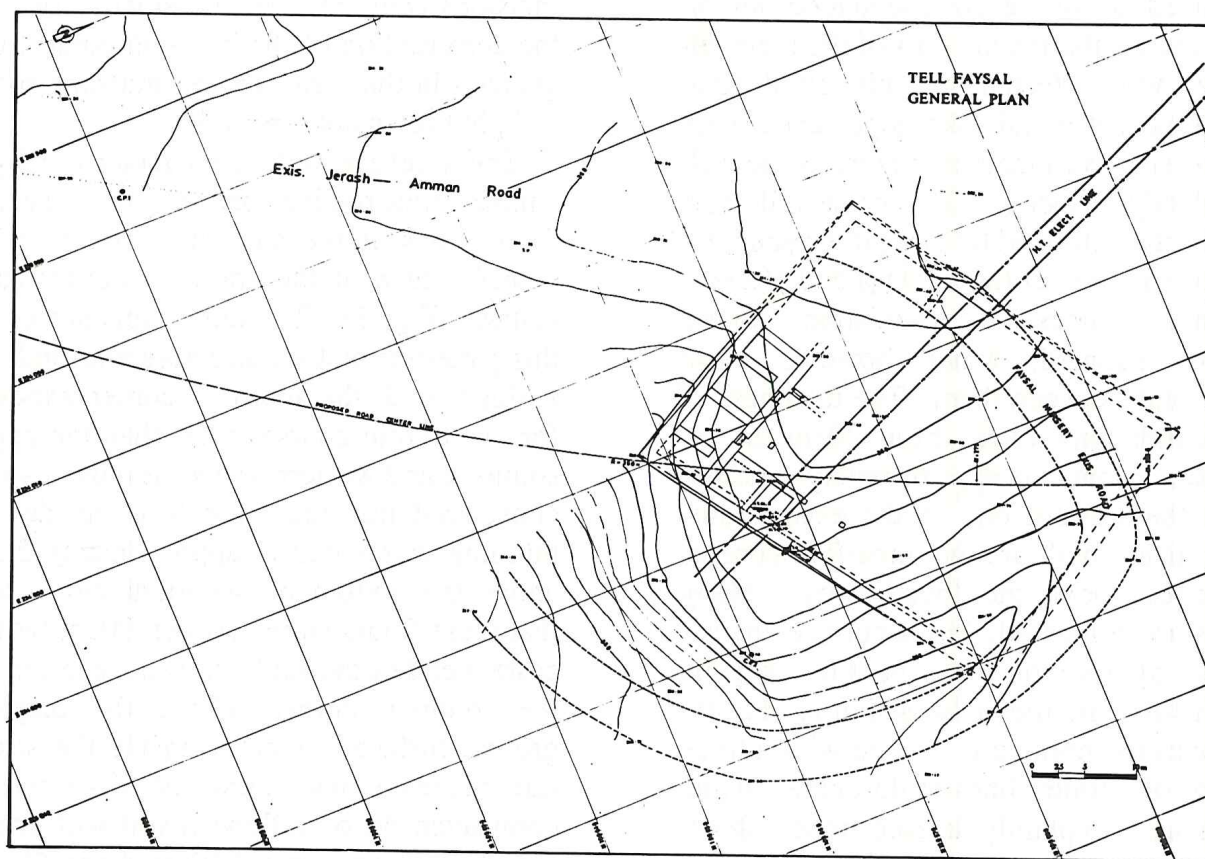


Fig. 1. General plan of “Tell Fayṣal” and reconstruction of the Roman building before the destruction (dashed lines). Survey and drawing by Abbas Khammash and Gaetano Palumbo.

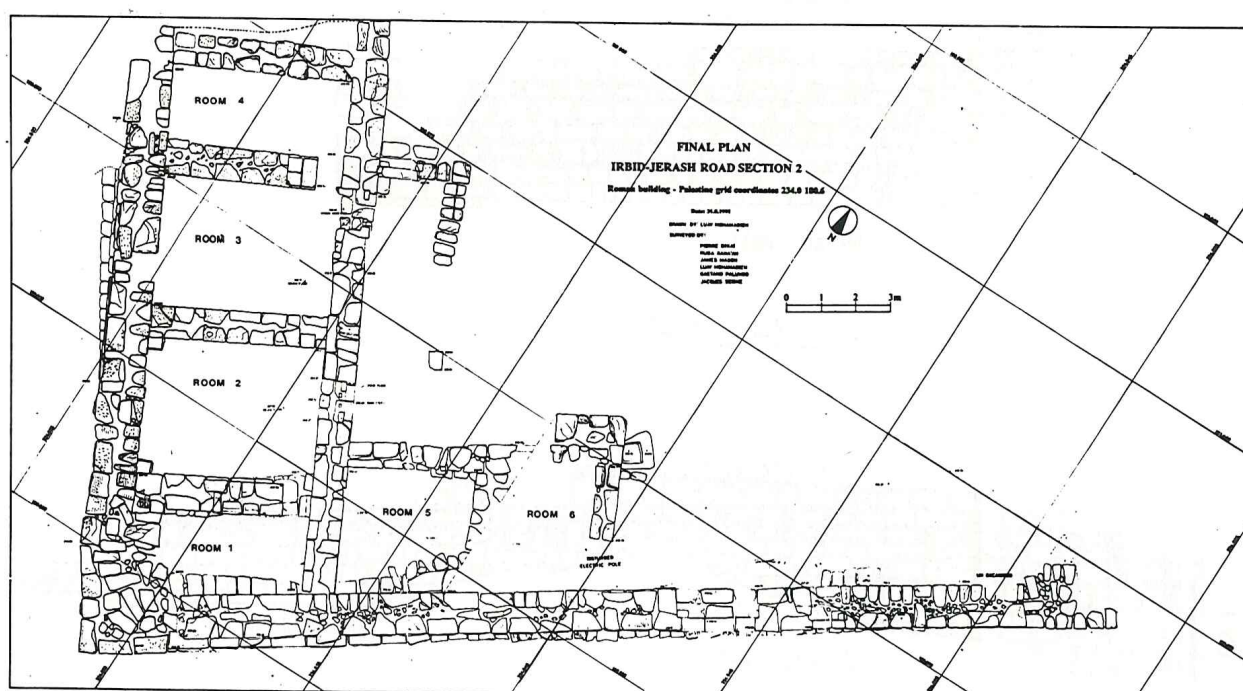


Fig. 2. Final top plan of the Roman building at “Tell Fayṣal”. Drawing by Lo’ay Mohammadiyah.

destroyed to or below foundation levels. Even the southern wall, east of the main entrance, was affected by this bulldozing, which gave it a stair-like appearance, with the last six/seven meters or more of the wall completely missing. The preserved west wall is characterized by one (at the southern corner) to three (at the western end of excavations) courses of foundation stones, roughly squared, which however leave some gaps between them. The thickness of the foundations varies from 30cm, at the southern corner, to approximately one meter at the western end of the excavations. More nicely built are the three/four courses of stones above the foundations. Many stones are embossed, with a cornice characterized by two or three parallel incision which surround the embossed area. In other stones the cornice is incised with a thick pattern of parallel lines at 45-degree angle. There are also plainly dressed stones, showing only this pattern of 45 degree inclined

incisions (Fig. 3). All the stones used for the construction of the building come from quarries in the area, where sandstone rocks of light brown color prevail.

The southern wall is characterized by a similar construction pattern, with deeper foundations at the eastern extremity (five courses) than at the southern corner (one course) (Fig. 3). The only explanation for this pattern is that the structure was built on a slope, with the southern corner exposed for two to four courses more than the upper southern and western walls. It must also be considered that the floor level inside the building was found at approximately 2.5m above the bottom of the foundations, and that these floors were between 90cm (at the eastern end of the southern wall) and 2m (at the southern corner) above the original ground surface. A probe inside the structure revealed that below the floor was a compacted fill of yellowish soil with many pebbles and wadi gravel (Figs. 4 and 5). At

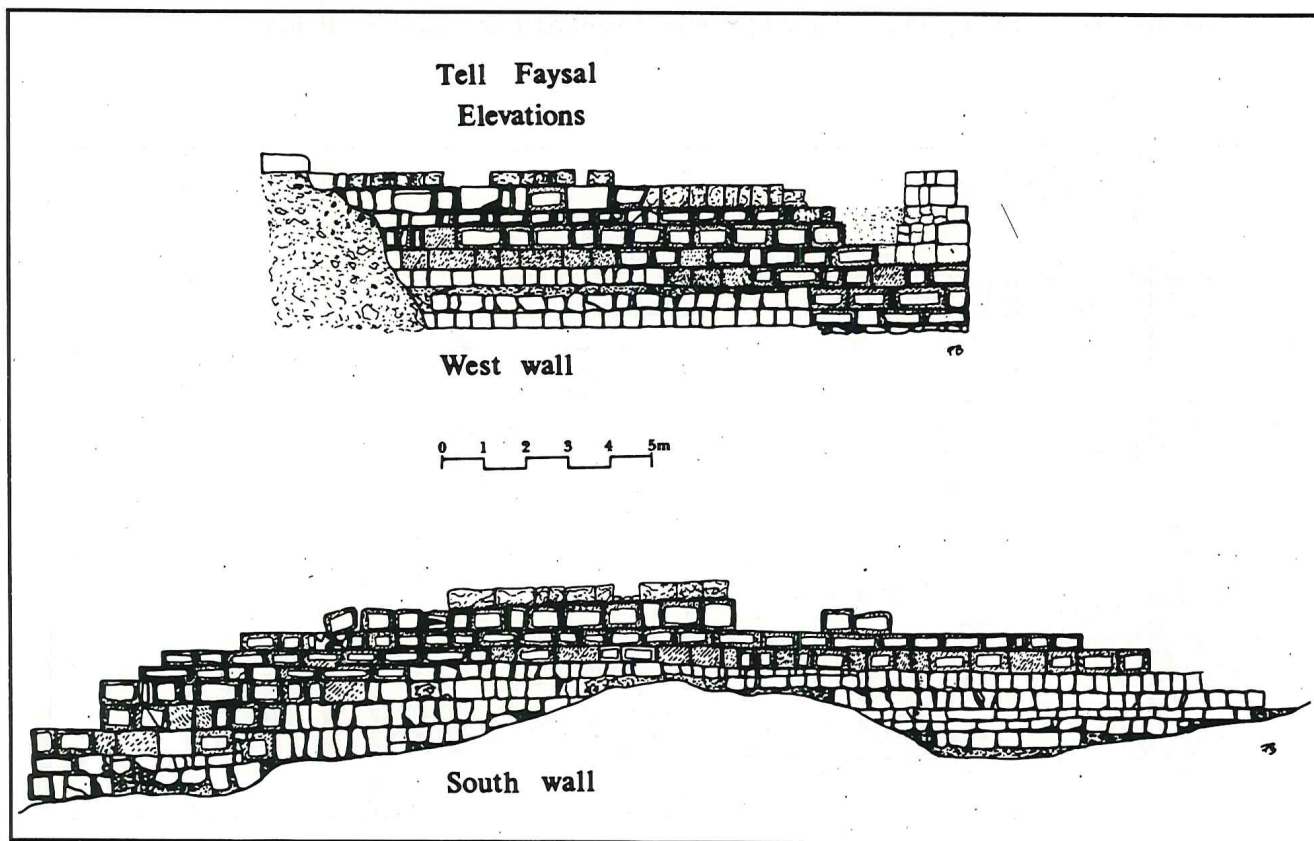


Fig. 3. Elevations of west and south walls. Drawing by Pierre Bikai.

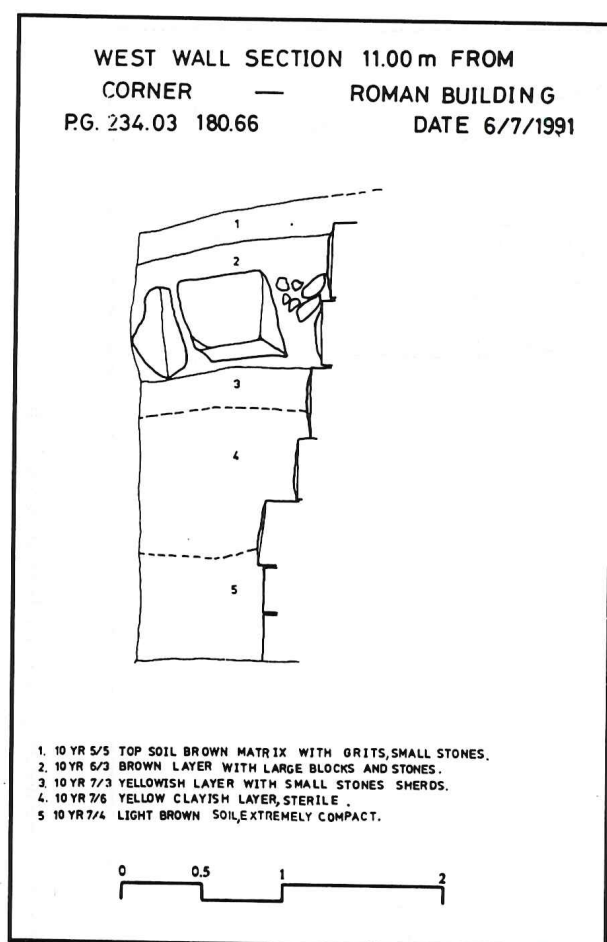


Fig. 4. Section to the outside of the west wall.
Drawing by Lo'ay Mohammadiyah.

floor level the main walls were 1.2m wide, reaching a maximum width of 2.3m, 40 to 50cm below the floors.

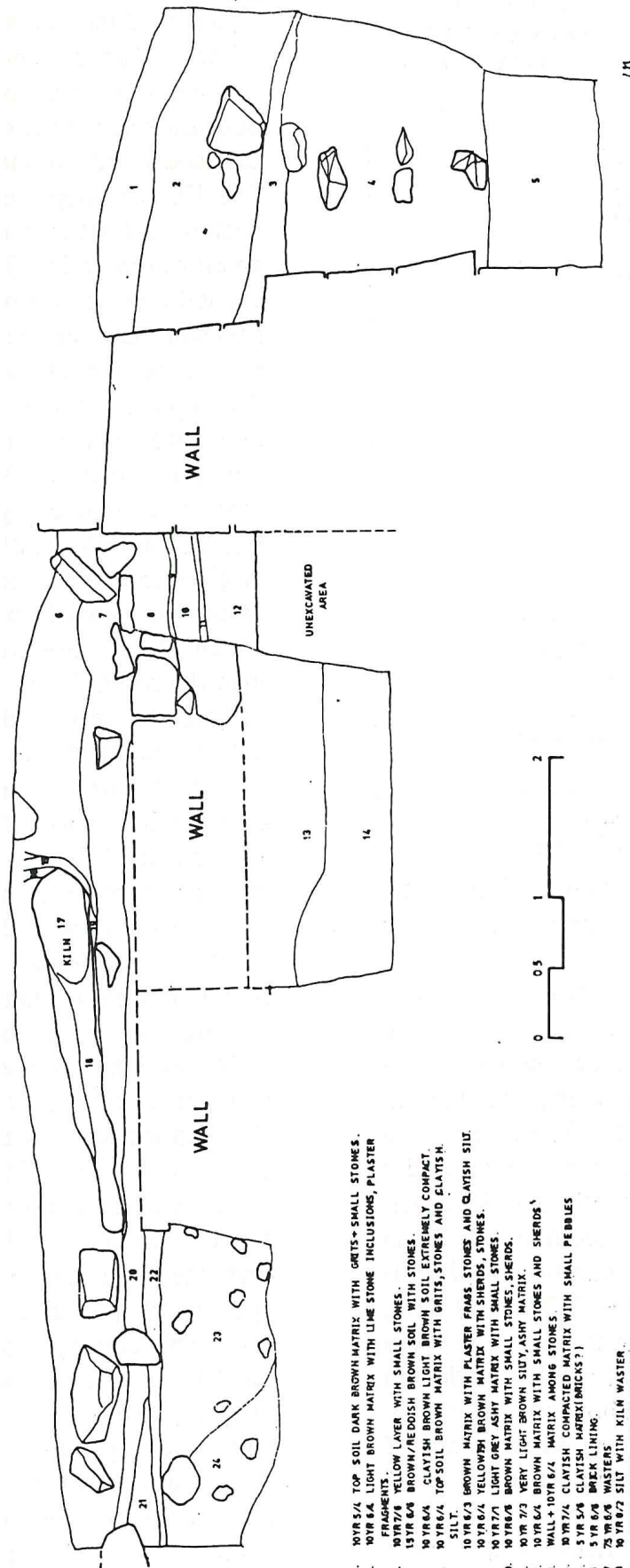
Inside, the building is characterized by a series of rooms which open into a central courtyard (Fig. 2). The best series of preserved rooms is found along the western wall (Pls. I, 2 and III, 1). There, the room close to the southern corner (room 1) did not have an opening directly into the courtyard, but into the next room (room 2), at the eastern end of the partition wall. Inside, room 1 measures 2.20m (N-S) x 5.10m (E-W). The door to room 2 is 80cm wide. The partition wall is 90cm wide and preserved two courses above the floor (Fig. 2). There is no embossing on any stone of the internal walls, but almost all of them have chisel marks at 45 or 315 degrees. Among the masses of sherds in this room were found three complete third century

juglets (see below).

Room 2 measures 3.83m (N-S) x 5.09m (E-W). The entrance from the courtyard was a double door, as evidenced by the two door sockets visible on the threshold. From the courtyard, found at an elevation of 258.30, two steps led into room 2. The beaten earth floor in this room was found at an elevation of 258.05. No communication existed between rooms 2 and 3. The partition wall between these two rooms was preserved for two courses above the floor. At the opposite corners along the main wall, two stone lined basins were found, measuring approximately 60 x 40cm. In the north basin a complete juglet was found (TF5; Fig. 9: 2 and Pl. V, 2), along with a number of glass and some iron fragments; the south basin was cleaned up to the layer of stones which stood, however, at a higher level than the room floor. Both basins had been completely destroyed by vandals. More pottery fragments were found in the debris of both basins; a stone spindle whorl was found in the debris of the south basin. Approximately 1.7/1.8m west of the northeast corner of room 2, at the base of the partition wall between room 2 and 3, several fragments of restorable pottery vessels were found, as well as many glass fragments, including a vessel ring base.

Room 3 had almost exactly the dimensions of room 2: 3.81m (N-S) x 5.08m (E-W), and the same plan, with the exception of the two basins. The door giving access from the courtyard is very similar to the one found in room 2, with the threshold higher than the floor inside (258.60, 258.30, respectively), provided with two door sockets. The entrance to room 3 was found blocked by reused stones taken from the building itself. One of them, broken in half, was originally a pillar base. A small door, also found blocked by later reuse, gave access to room 4. The door is placed at the east end of the partition wall between room 3 and 4, and is 80cm wide by 90cm

WEST SECTION OF SQUARES D3.D4 ROMAN BUILDING
AT PG. 234.03 180.66
4, 23, 29 / 7/1991



1. 10YR5/4 TOP SOIL DARK BROWN MATRIX WITH GRITS+SMALL STONES.
2. 10YR 6/4 LIGHT BROWN MATRIX WITH LIME STONE INCLUSIONS, PLASTER FRAGMENTS.
3. 10YR7/8 YELLOW LAYER WITH SMALL STONES.
4. 13YR 6/4 BROWN/REDDISH BROWN SOIL WITH STONES.
5. 10YR6/4 CLAYISH BROWN LIGHT BROWN SOIL EXTREMELY COMPACT.
6. 10YR6/4 TOP SOIL BROWN MATRIX WITH GRITS, STONES AND CLAYISH SILT.
7. 10YR6/3 BROWN MATRIX WITH PLASTER FRABS STONES AND CLAYISH SILT.
8. 10YR6/4 YELLOWISH BROWN MATRIX WITH SHERDS, STONES.
9. 10YR7/1 LIGHT GREY ASHY MATRIX WITH SMALL STONES.
10. 10YR6/8 BROWN MATRIX WITH SMALL STONES, SHERDS.
11. 10YR 7/3 VERY LIGHT BROWN SILTY, ASHY MATRIX.
12. 10YR6/4 BROWN MATRIX WITH SMALL STONES AND SHERDS.
13. WALL+10YR 6/4 MATRIX AMONG STONES.
14. 10YR7/4 CLAYISH COMPACTED MATRIX WITH SMALL PEBBLES.
15. 5YR 5/8 CLAYISH MATRIX(BRICKS?)
16. 5YR 6/8 BRICK LINING.
17. 7.5YR6/8 WASTERS.
18. 10YR6/2 SILT WITH KILN WASTER.
19. 5YR 6/4 BRICKS - BOTTOM OF KILN.
20. 7.5YR 6/4 MATRIX CLAYISH WITH STONES.
21. 10YR5/4 CLAYISH MATRIX WITH SMALL STONES.
22. 10YR7/3 SURFACE GREY ASHY MATRIX.
23. 10YR7/8 YELLOW-FILL CLAYISH EXTREMELY COMPACT MATRIX WITH SMALL STONES.
24. 10YR6/6 YELLOWISH FILL AS 23.

Fig. 5. Main section across the south wall, and along the late kiln in room 6. Drawing by Lo'ay Mohammadiyeh.

deep (Pl. III, 2). A millstone was found reused as part of the partition wall between rooms 3 and 4.

Also room 4 has similar dimensions to those of room 1: 2.20m (N-S) x 5.11m (E-W). Its floor was found at an elevation of 258.35. A large number of restorable pottery fragments were found in the room, as well as a coin of the emperor Marcus Aurelius, which gives a *terminus post quem* for the building of the second half of the second century AD. Five more coins were found in various areas of the building, ranging in date between the end of the second and the third century AD (see also below).

It is interesting to observe that the four rooms along the western wall are built as a mirror image. These two suites of a pair of rooms of unequal size parallel standard Roman barracks of the Principate. It is believed in fact that each pair of rooms was assigned to a *contubernium* (squad) of eight men—one room was for sleeping and the other for storage. The rooms in this structure are rather small, but still within the limits for Roman barracks (Webster 1985: 197-199).¹ Quite unexpected was the finding of another entrance with a threshold at 90 degrees angle from the entrance to room 3. Unfortunately this room could not be excavated because of time constraints.

Both of the two rooms found to the west of the main entrance are later additions to the building, even if they were probably built not many years later than the original structure. Room 5 is nearly square (3.68m N-S x 3.70m E-W), while room 6 is smaller, measuring only 3.60m (N-S) x 2.20m (E-W). A later kiln, probably Byzantine, was found in this room, sitting partially above earlier walls, and using the entrance to the room as the access to the kiln itself (see K. 'Amr report, below, and Fig. 6).

The courtyard probably had a portico surrounding the central area. Pillar bases

were found in front of the entrance (one still with the base of a square pillar sitting on it), and another between the entrances to rooms 2 and 3. Near the entrance to room 2, a complete third century juglet (TF8, Fig. 9: 6 and Pl. V, 1) was found together with a wooden button.

Squatter reuse of the building was evident in almost all the rooms. Under a later, heavy collapse, the pattern was usually that of ephemeral walls built of unhewn stones or reused from the building. Three out of five entrances were found blocked at a later stage, using stones robbed from the building. Another reuse was evident on the wall between room 3 and 4, where large, unworked stones were found on top of the original wall, beside a large basalt millstone, found in a good state of preservation on top of the wall (Pl. III, 2). Unfortunately this later phase of occupation was found very close to the surface and heavily disturbed, so that only a basic date between the Late Byzantine and the Mamluk period can be provided for this squatter phase. It is interesting to note the presence of a large number of hypocaust tiles found in these squatter levels, which may indicate the presence of a bath in the area. These tiles were also used in the kiln to separate the inner from the outer chamber.

Discussion

The position of this large Roman structure at the access of Wadi Jarash from the Zarqa river suggests that it was located along the main road from Philadelphia to Gerasa, less than two hundred meters north of the ford (or bridge?) on the Zarqa river, and where it is very easy to control any movement or traffic in the direction of Gerasa. The same function was served by, for example, the twin forts of Muḥattet el-Ḥajj guarding the *Via Nova Traiana* at its crossing of Wadi el-Mujib (Parker 1986: 55-58).

1. Thanks are due to S. Thomas Parker for helping to explain the function of the room suites.

This fact and the size of the structure suggest that this was a small fort or a watch post for the control of the main access to Gerasa from the south. The size of the structure is large enough (approximately 31 x 37m) to justify the identification of a *castellum* or a fort at "Tell Fayṣal".² The only preserved corner of the structure does not show signs of the presence of a tower, but this does not mean that the structure could not have military functions.³ Alternative hypotheses are that the building could have been either a caravanserai or a villa. In favour of these hypotheses is the presence of a large number of storage jars in "room" 1 (see below) and of several spindle whorls among the material culture remains found at the site. Additionally hypocaust tiles reused in the late kiln found in "room" 6 (see below), may have come from another building in the area or from a destroyed section of the main structure. Unfortunately the heavy destruction inflicted on the structure in the past thirty years, and the "salvage" approach used during the excavations of 1991 did not allow proper recording of the archaeological evidence.

The original construction date of the building is probably between the end of the second and the beginning of the third century AD, as evidenced by pottery and coins found in the rooms along the western wall. The main use, or at least the use that has left the most preserved traces should be dated to the middle of the third century AD, as discussed below by M. Rasson-Seigne.⁴ Byzantine and Islamic pottery sherds, and the presence of a Byzantine and Early Islamic kiln (see below), as well as evidence

of reuse of rooms (blocked doorways) and of the courtyard (ephemeral walls) show that the structure remained quite visible for a long time. It was used until at least the 12th-14th centuries AD, as indicated by sherds found on the surface. Unfortunately, with the exception of the kiln, there is no clear archaeological evidence for this squatter phase of occupation. At the end of excavations, CRM Planner Ruba Kana'an suggested to Mr. esh-Shafi' the possibility of avoiding the destruction of the building, by filling the excavated area with non-compacting material (wadi gravel) and leaving the structure basically intact below the new road. This solution was accepted, and by the end of the excavations the entire area was covered with gravel, and the new highway was built on top of the fort ruins, one meter above the level of the top walls. Unexcavated areas of the building still are preserved below the abandoned section of the road to Jarash. A more scientific excavation conducted there could provide the answers which cannot be given with the present data.

THE KILN (K. 'Amr)

The kiln in Sq. D4E ("room" 6) of the Jarash Road Roman Building was cleared on 26-27 August 1991. Only the lower part of the firebox, up to a height of around 50cm, was preserved. The structure was of a round, simple updraught type, where the fire was lit directly under the firing chamber in which the actual "baking" took place. The fuel was introduced through an opening to the northwest (see Fig. 6). This type of kiln is still in use in the region today.

2. See for example Qaṣr el-Aseikhen, Umm el-Walid and Khirbet ez-Zona (Parker 1986: 16-17, 41-43, 45).

3. S. Thomas Parker pointed out to the author that Roman forts built before the third century AD typically lack projecting towers, as Qaṣr el-'Uweined (dated to AD 198-211), Rujm Faidiyyeh, and possibly el-Ḥammam and el-Mutrāb

(Parker 1986: 17-19, 89-91, 100-103).

4. In S. T. Parker's opinion, these dates are good evidence for a military function of the structure, since its abandonment at the end of the third century AD corresponds to the Diocletianic military build-up along the edge of the desert, away from urban centers (Parker 1987).

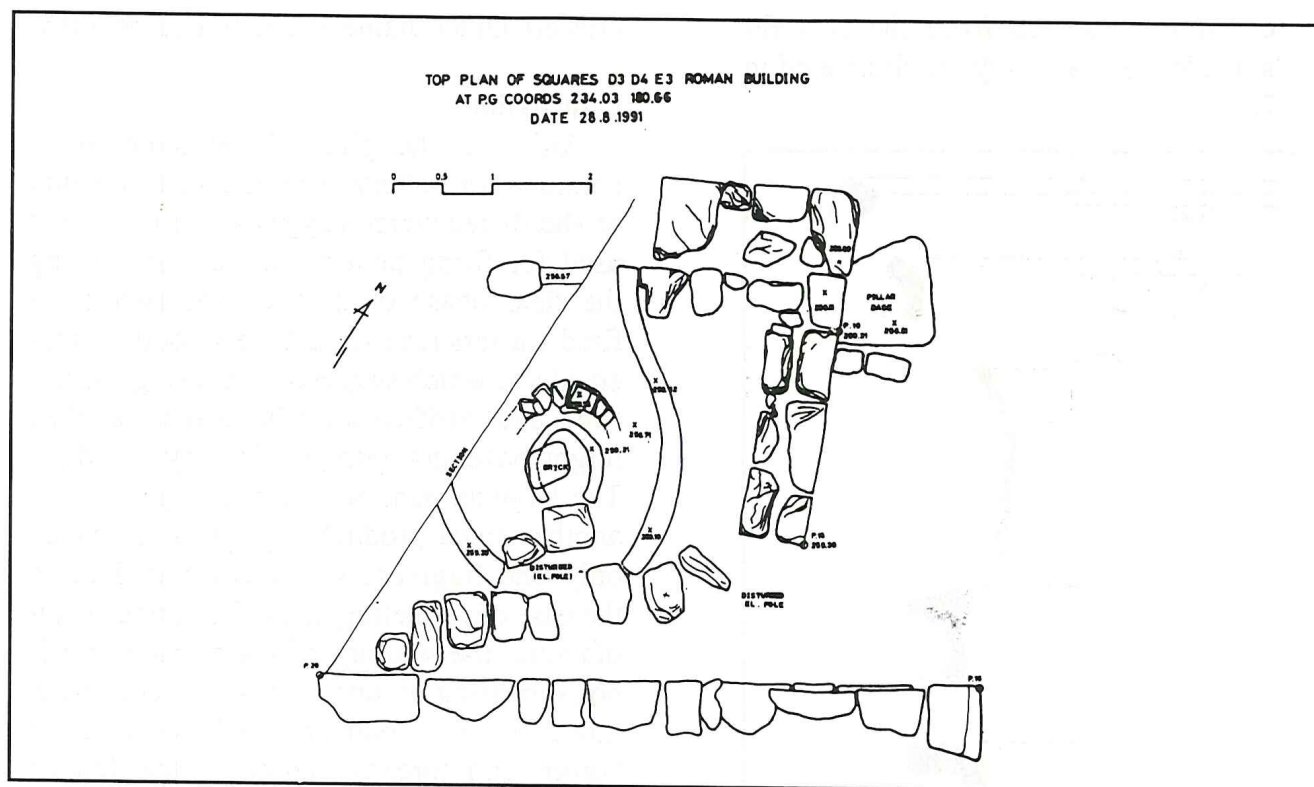


Fig. 6. Top plan of room 6 and late kiln. The "section" to the left of the drawing is that in Fig. 5. Drawing by Lo'ay Mohammadiyah.

Brick was used in the construction of the entire structure.

The firebox was dug into previous deposits of compacted reddish brown soil, a common practice that helps the efficient retention of heat. The firebox floor was not paved but was formed by levelling the soil into which the firebox was dug. It is difficult to determine whether the sole (stacking floor) support was a central pillar or a "tongue" connected to the back wall, as the crucial area where the connection might have been was destroyed by a pit for an electric pole prior to the discovery of the kiln. Both types of sole support were common at Jarash and throughout the Roman/Byzantine empires (see Cuomo di Caprio 1978/9; Jerash II 1989; Peacock 1982: 67-73; Zayadine 1986). The size of the extant support—original width of 80cm, the outer bricks are a later reinforcement—suggests a "tongue" support, i.e. a bilobate kiln plan, as such a small central pillar core would not have been efficient in supporting a stable sole.

Two distinct fill levels were found inside the kiln. Both had substantial amounts of brick fragments and light density green silicious slag.

The upper fill was of gritty reddish brown soil, 14cm in maximum thickness. It contained 23 pottery sherds (three diagnostics, Fig. 7: 1-3), one pottery over-fired waster and one thin clear body glass fragment. The pottery ranged in date from late Byzantine to early-mid Islamic (no. 1 may be dated to the 11th century).

The lower fill was of light grey ash, 14cm in average thickness. It contained 20 pottery sherds (two diagnostics, Fig. 7: 4, 5) and one pottery over-fired waster. The pottery was almost purely late Byzantine in date (the sherd illustrated in Fig. 7: 5 may be residual, compare Fig. 11: 5). There was a line of bricks for the reinforcement of the sole support lying on top of this fill.

The Pottery

A total for 43 pottery sherds, including two over-fired wasters and only five diag-

nostics were recovered from the two fill levels inside the kiln. They are illustrated in Fig. 7.

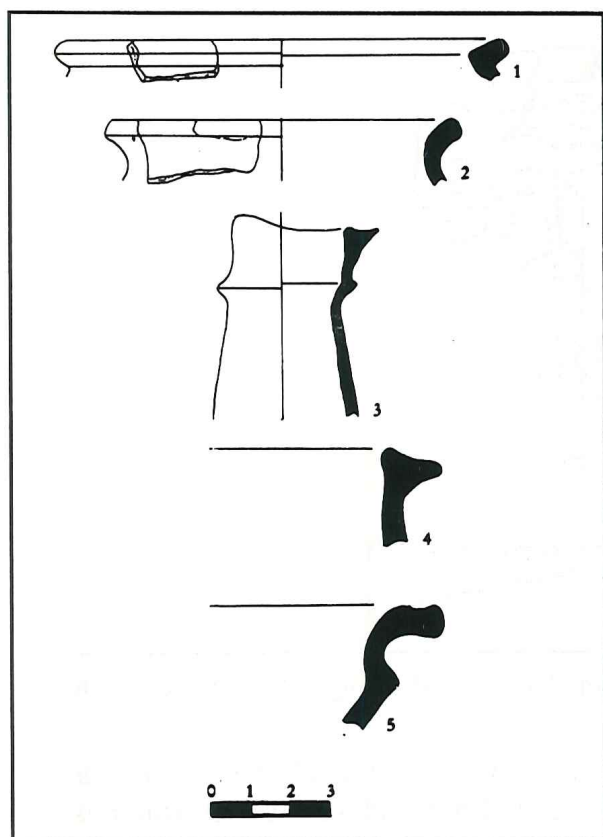


Fig. 7. Ceramic material from the kiln excavation. Drawings by Khairieh 'Amr and Gaetano Palumbo.

Fig. 7: 1. Cooking pot rim. Hard red ware. Many small sand inclusions. Diameter 11cm. Middle Islamic.

Fig. 7: 2. Globular bowl rim. Hard unevenly fired red-grey ware. Thick black core. Many small sand and lime inclusions. Diameter 8.5cm. Early Islamic.

Fig. 7: 3. Juglet rim. Medium hard red ware, grey interior. Thin grey core. Black slip exterior. Many small-medium lime inclusions. Outer diameter 3.5cm. Late Byzantine.

Fig. 7: 4. Krater rim. Hard dark grey ware. Some small-medium lime inclusions. Outer diameter 25cm. Late Byzantine.

Fig. 7: 5. Krater rim. Badly burnt and in-

crusted. Outer diameter 27cm. Late Roman.

Conclusions

Although the plan of the structure is common for pottery kilns, the small amount of sherds recovered suggests that it was not used for firing pottery, at least not during the final phase of its use. The two over-fired wasters recovered have smooth rounded edges, which suggests that they got over-fired and vitrified after breakage, i.e. they might have got into the fuel by accident. The large amount of silicious slag indicates another silica product, e.g. glass, of which only one fragment was recovered. Due to the ease of re-melting glass for further manufacture, the scarcity of glass fragments is not surprising around a glass furnace (note, however, the abundance of waste glass "drops and threads" found at the Jalame glass factory, Weinberg 1988: 35).⁵ An argument against the structure being a glass furnace is the presence of the sole support, which would be redundant in the case of a glass furnace (compare the glass furnace at Jalame, Weinberg 1988: 33). One possibility is that the structure originally served as a pottery kiln, the wasted products of which were dumped outside the excavation area and therefore not recovered by the excavators. The structure was then converted for glass manufacture when the workshop could not withstand the competition from the industrial pottery manufacture centre at Jarash during the Early Islamic period (see Jerash II 1989; Zayadine 1986).

The structure shows at least two phases of use, indicated by the line of bricks reinforcing the sole support, placed on top of the lower Late Byzantine fill. As such structures need frequent repairs, the two phases might have been chronologically close to each other. The fact that the lower fill was not cleared prior to the reinforcement indicates that there was no need for a

5. I am grateful to Drs Margaret O'Hea and Robert Schick for drawing my attention to this reference.

large firebox during the later phase. The sole support might have been converted to a "glass manufacture tool" support (no fragments of what may have been a sole were recovered).

In summary, the kiln was built into the fill covering the Roman fort some time after the destruction of the building, most probably during the Late Byzantine period. It may have changed function from pottery to glass manufacture during the Early Islamic period.

LE MATERIEL CERAMIQUE PROVENANT DE LA FOUILLE DU "FORTIN" A TELL FAYŞAL (A. M. Rasson-Seigne)

Abstract

The pottery found at the excavation of the fort at "Tell Fayşal" is a typical assemblage of the mid third century AD. At least sixty small jars of a type unparalleled so far were found in "rooms" 1 and 2 (Fig. 8: 1). In these rooms a few small, complete juglets were also found (Figs. 8:2-3; 9:2, 3, 6). Only in "rooms" 1 and 2 complete or reconstructable pottery material was found, while only pottery sherds, even if in large quantities, were recovered in other areas of the structure.

In general, the pottery assemblage is that of daily use. Lamps are rare. The one in Fig. 10:3 is usually dated to the second century AD. Finally, two fragments of zoomorphic vessels were found (Fig. 10:1-2), representing the head of a bird or cock.

Parallels for all the pottery illustrated here, with the exception of the small jar in Fig. 8:1, are found especially at Jarash and in third century AD contexts.

Le matériel céramique

Tel qu'il nous a été confié,⁶ le matériel

céramique provenant de la fouille réalisée au lieu dit Tell Fayşal comprenait une dizaine d'objets complets et une centaine de sacs de tessons. Sur ces cent sacs, une bonne vingtaine ne comportait aucune indication relative à la provenance et à la stratigraphie ou bien ces indications étaient détériorées et donc, inutilisables.

Un premier coup d'oeil sur l'ensemble du matériel et les informations fournies par les fouilleurs faisait penser qu'il s'agissait là de matériel du II^{ème} s. ap. J.-C. ce qui rendait son étude intéressante, le II^{ème} siècle étant mal connu dans la région de Jarash. Une étude un peu plus détaillée obligeait à rectifier cette première impression et à placer la plupart des formes représentées au milieu du III^{ème} siècle ap. J.-C.

Si l'on fait exception de quelques tessons byzantins intrusifs provenant sans doute de la réoccupation tardive du site (cf. G. Palumbo), l'ensemble du matériel semble homogène. Le manque de données stratigraphiques et d'informations précises concernant le contexte archéologique ne permettent pas de distinguer des niveaux d'occupation distincts. Les quelques commentaires qui suivent essaieront de décrire ce lot de céramique, important par la quantité mais aussi par la diversité des formes représentées.

Le catalogue, dans lequel on trouvera, quand le cas se présente, les parallèles connus et datés provenant de la région de Jarash, renvoie à l'illustration réalisée par E. Obiedat.

Ce qui apparaît en premier lieu, c'est la masse considérable de tessons appartenant à une seule et même forme: une sorte de petite jarre de stockage. De couleur beige ou gris clair elle est dépourvue d'anses. Son corps est cylindrique avec une épaule carénée et une large ouverture terminée par une

6. A la demande de Dr Gaetano Palumbo (CRM), M Ali Musa, alors inspecteur des Antiquités de Jarash, nous a confié pour étude et en vue de pré-

parer le dossier de publication, l'ensemble du matériel céramique trouvé lors de la fouille du "fortin" au lieu dit Tell Fayşal.

lèvre rabatue. Le fond est en ombilic (Fig. 8:1). Une seule jarre, à moitié conservée, fournit le profil complet. De l'ensemble des fragments, le nombre des vases peut être estimé à soixante au moins.⁷

Cette soixantaine de jarres, brisées anciennement, provient exclusivement des "rooms" 1 et 2, dans lesquelles ont également été retrouvés les seuls vases complets de la fouille.

De la "room" 1, proviennent deux cruches (TF 2, Fig. 8:2 et TF4, Fig. 8:3); de la "room" 2, une cruche (TF 12, Fig. 8:4), une petite bouteille (TF 7, Fig. 9:1), une cruchette (TF 5, Fig. 9:2), une grande bouteille (TF 10, Fig. 9:4) et ce que l'on peut interpréter comme un bouchon de jarre (TF 16, Fig. 9:3).

Du "courtyard" près de la porte de la "room" 2 provient la cruchette TF 8 (Fig. 9:6).

Un autre vase complet est malheureusement sans contexte de découverte, mais comme seules les "rooms" 1 et 2 contenaient du matériel bien conservé, on peut penser que la cruche TF 1 (Fig. 9:5), qui est d'ailleurs du même type que les précédentes, faisait partie de cet ensemble.

A part quelques tessons supplémentaires non identifiables, les "rooms" 1 et 2 ne contenaient pas d'autre matériel céramique.

La grande quantité de céramique restante provient de tous les autres sondages. A partir de ce matériel très fragmentaire, aucune autre forme complète n'a pu être reconstituée.

On ne sera pas sans remarquer la différence essentielle offerte par les rooms 1 et 2 et les autres structures de ce bâtiment: dans les unes, seul du matériel bien conservé a été retrouvé en place, dans les autres, le matériel était réduit à l'état de tessons.

L'ensemble du matériel recueilli, complet ou non, appartient bien au registre de la céramique connu au III^e siècle ap. J.-C.

en Jordanie. Les nombreuses fouilles de structures romaines ont fourni un matériel en tous points semblable (cf. bibliographie ci-dessous). C'est une vaisselle d'usage quotidien, aux formes communes: cruches et cruchettes, plats, jattes, marmites, jarres, etc.

On remarquera toutefois la rareté des lampes qui font généralement partie de la vaisselle courante et représentées ici seulement par un petit fragment (TF 29) et un exemplaire pratiquement complet (TF 13). De plus, à l'exception du petit fragment de lampe ronde au bandeau décoré d'oves typique pour le III^e siècle (TF 29, Fig. 10:4), la seule lampe complète (ou presque) appartient à un type de lampe plus ancien, bien représenté en Jordanie: c'est une lampe moulée, de forme oblongue, à large trou de remplissage, petite anse-tenon et bec en "éventail" (ici, l'extrémité du bec est cassée). Le trou de remplissage est entouré de deux anneaux en relief. Le bandeau est décoré de pampres disposés autour du trou de remplissage. Une feuille de vigne orne le départ du bec (TF 13, Fig. 10:3). Cette lampe "hérodienne tardive" est datée traditionnellement du II^e siècle ap. J.-C. (Sussman 1970: 7; 1972; Iliffe 1945: 24, Pl. VIII: 155; Rosenthal and Sivan 1978: 97 no. 391).

Récemment, une lampe identique a été trouvée lors de la fouille de sauvetage d'une tombe de Jerash, au bord de la route de Souf (Smadeh, Rasson-Seigne et Seigne 1992: Fig. 6C).

On doit enfin attirer l'attention sur deux fragments de vases zoomorphes dont il ne reste chaque fois que la tête (TF 11, Fig. 10:1) et TF 14, Fig. 10:2). Dans les deux cas, il s'agit d'oiseaux. La forme générale est moulée et dans le cas de TF 14, les yeux et le plumage sont représentés par des incisions. Les deux têtes sont munies d'une petite crête rapportée (coq ?). Seules les têtes

7. Nous devons ce travail minutieux de tri et de remontage à M Gabriel Humbert (I.F.A.P.O.).

ont été conservées. Il est donc difficile de connaître la forme générale de ces vases et donc leur usage éventuel. On peut cependant mentionner que le bec de TF 11 est percé.

Les parallèles fournis par les fouilles de Jérash, comme par celles de sites proches, permettent de placer le matériel découvert au III^{ème} siècle.

Les deux monnaies mises au jour lors de la fouille confirment cette datation. L'une, trouvée dans la room 4 est de Marc Aurèle (161-180), l'autre, trouvée dans le carré D4, est une monnaie de Caracalla (213-217).

Les formes céramiques découvertes à Tell Fayçal sont donc bien connues et relativement bien datées. En l'absence de toutes informations plus précises sur le contexte archéologique et la stratigraphie, il serait hasardeux d'essayer de dater plus précisément ce lot de céramique.

L'élément nouveau, et pour lequel il ne semble pas y avoir de parallèles publiés à ce jour, est cette petite jarre de stockage trouvée en si grand nombre dans les "rooms" 1 et 2.⁸ Sa seule présence, en grand nombre, permet de supposer que les salles 1 et 2 du bâtiment, étaient destinées au stockage.

Catalogue

T.F. 1. (Fig. 9:5) Hors contexte. Cruche complète. Pâte grise. Ht.: 14 cm, diam. ouv.: 3,2 cm. Panse ovoïde côtelée; col haut et étroit; embouchure évasée, lèvre amincie; anse sur le col et sur l'épaule; base légèrement surélevée, circulaire et plate.

T.F. 2. (Fig. 8:2) C4, loc. 2, objet n° 12. Cruche complète. Pâte orange clair. Ht.: 13,8 cm; diam. ouv.: 3 cm. Panse ovoïde, côtelée; col haut et étroit, embouchure évasée, lèvre amincie; anse sur le col et sur l'épaule; base peu élevée, circulaire

et plate.

T.F. 4. (Fig. 8:3) C4, loc. 1, objet n° 10. Cruche presque complète (lèvre cassé). Pâte brune. Ht.: 10,5 cm. Panse globulaire très légèrement côtelée; col étroit; embouchure évasée; anse sur la lèvre et sur l'épaule; base plate. Fisher 1929-30: 51, n° 20 (2^{ème} moitié du III^{ème} s. ap. J.-C.); Oweis 1985: 87, n° 27.

T.F. 5. (Fig. 9:2) B4, bassin nord. Cruchette presque complète. Pâte brun rouge. Ht.: 10,3 cm; diam. ouv.: 2,8 cm. Panse globulaire lisse, col haut et étroit, lèvre évasée; anse sur le col et sur l'épaule; base légèrement surélevée, circulaire et plate.

T.F. 7. (Fig. 9:1) B4, loc. 3, objet n° 19. Petite bouteille presque complète (lèvre ébréchée). Pâte brune. Ht.: 11 cm, diam. ouv.: 3,4 cm. Panse ovoïde légèrement côtelée dans sa moitié inférieure; col étroit, évasé, lèvre amincie; base légèrement surélevée, circulaire et plate. Al-Qudat 1981: 41; Kraeling 1938: 553, Fig. 32: 8 et 9 (1^{ère} moitié du III^{ème} s. ap. J.-C.).

T.F. 8. (Fig. 9:6) C3, floor. Cruchette complète (un trou ancien dans la panse). Pâte brun-rouge. Ht.: 8,8 cm, diam. ouv.: 4,2 cm. Panse globulaire légèrement côtelée; col court et étroit, évasé, lèvre plate; base plate.

T.F. 10. (Fig. 9:4) B4. Bouteille (fond manque). Pâte brun rouge. Ht. cons.: 20,5 cm, diam. ouv.: 4 cm. Panse cylindrique côtelée; col haut et étroit, lèvre évasée, soulignée par un ressaut et terminée par une rigole, anse sur l'épaule et au bas du col.

T.F. 11. (Fig. 10:1) D3/4, loc. 12, objet n° 5. Fgt. de vase zoomorphe. Pâte rouge, trace d'engobe rouge. Ht. cons.: 5,5 cm. Tête d'oiseau avec crête sur le sommet de la tête, incisions pour marquer l'oeil et pour suggérer le plumage.

T.F. 12. (Fig. 8:4) B4, loc. 3, objet n° 20.

8. On peut toutefois noter la présence de quelques tessons semblables dans une tombe hypogée de la nécropole nord-ouest de Jérash, fouillée récem-

ment par le Département des Antiquités, mais dont les résultats ne sont pas encore publiés.

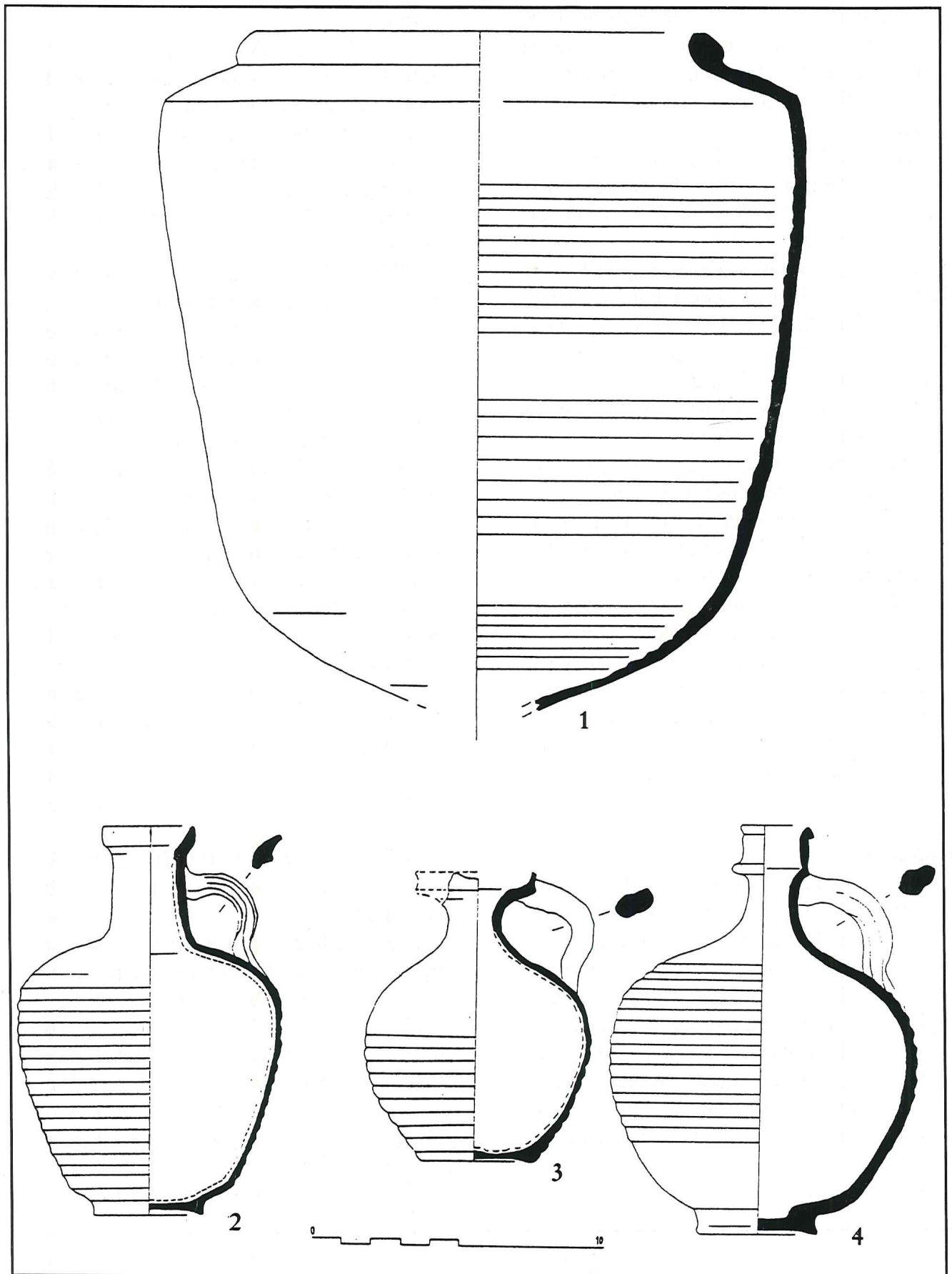


Fig. 8. Ceramic material from "Tell Fayṣal". Drawings by E. Obiedat.

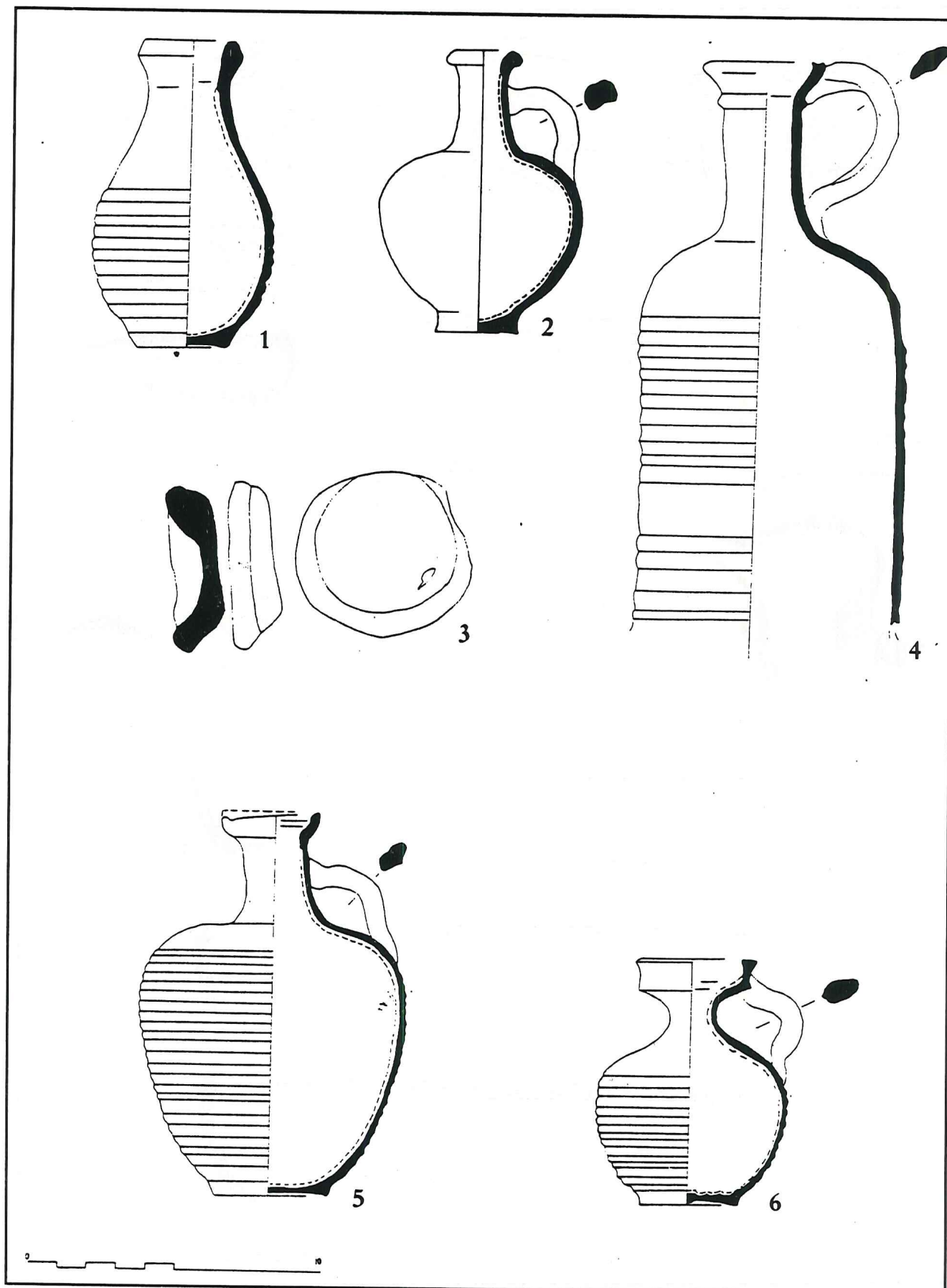


Fig. 9. Ceramic material from "Tell Fayşal". Drawings by E. Obiedat.

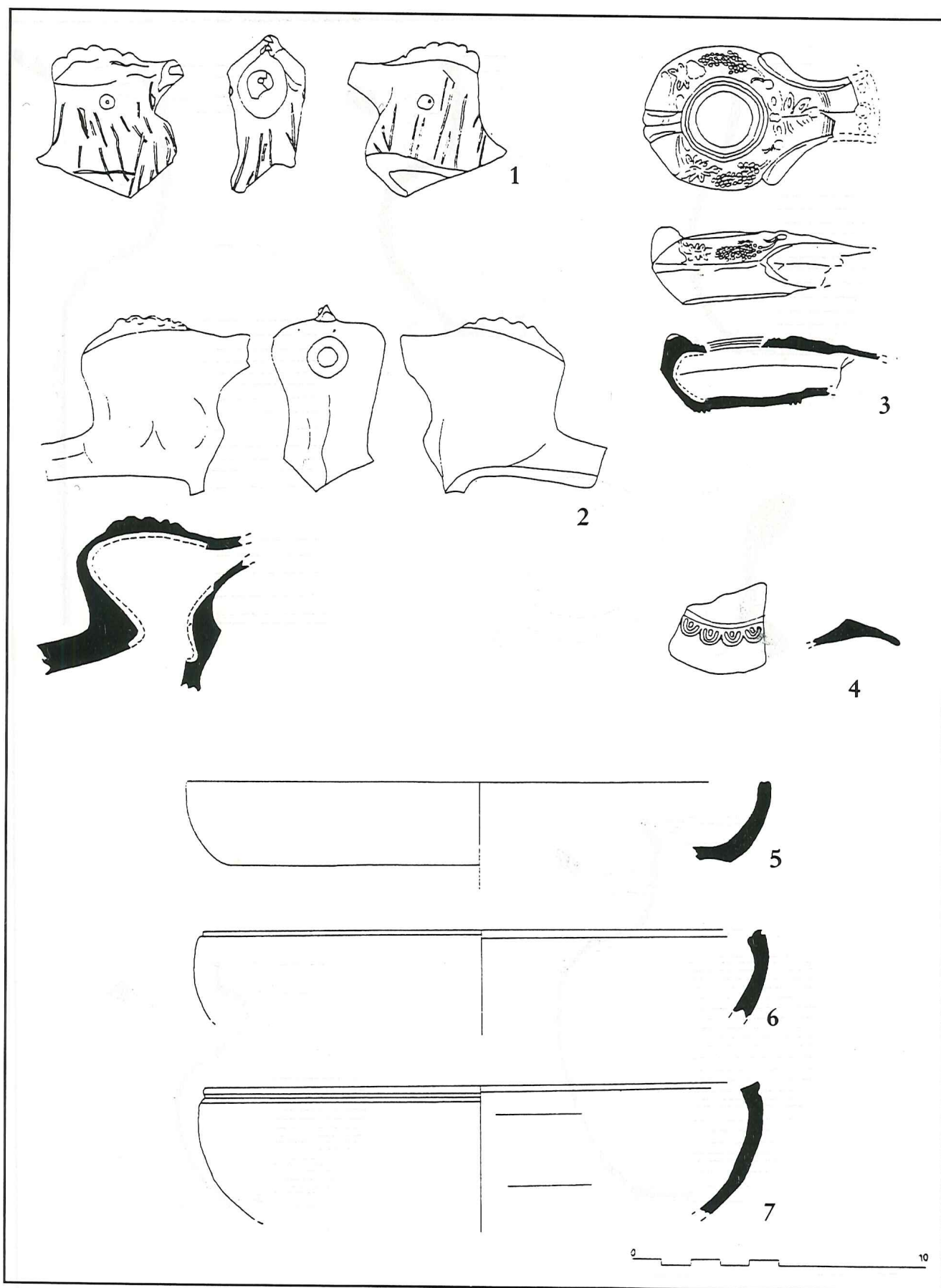


Fig. 10. Ceramic material from "Tell Fayşal". Drawings by E. Obiedat.

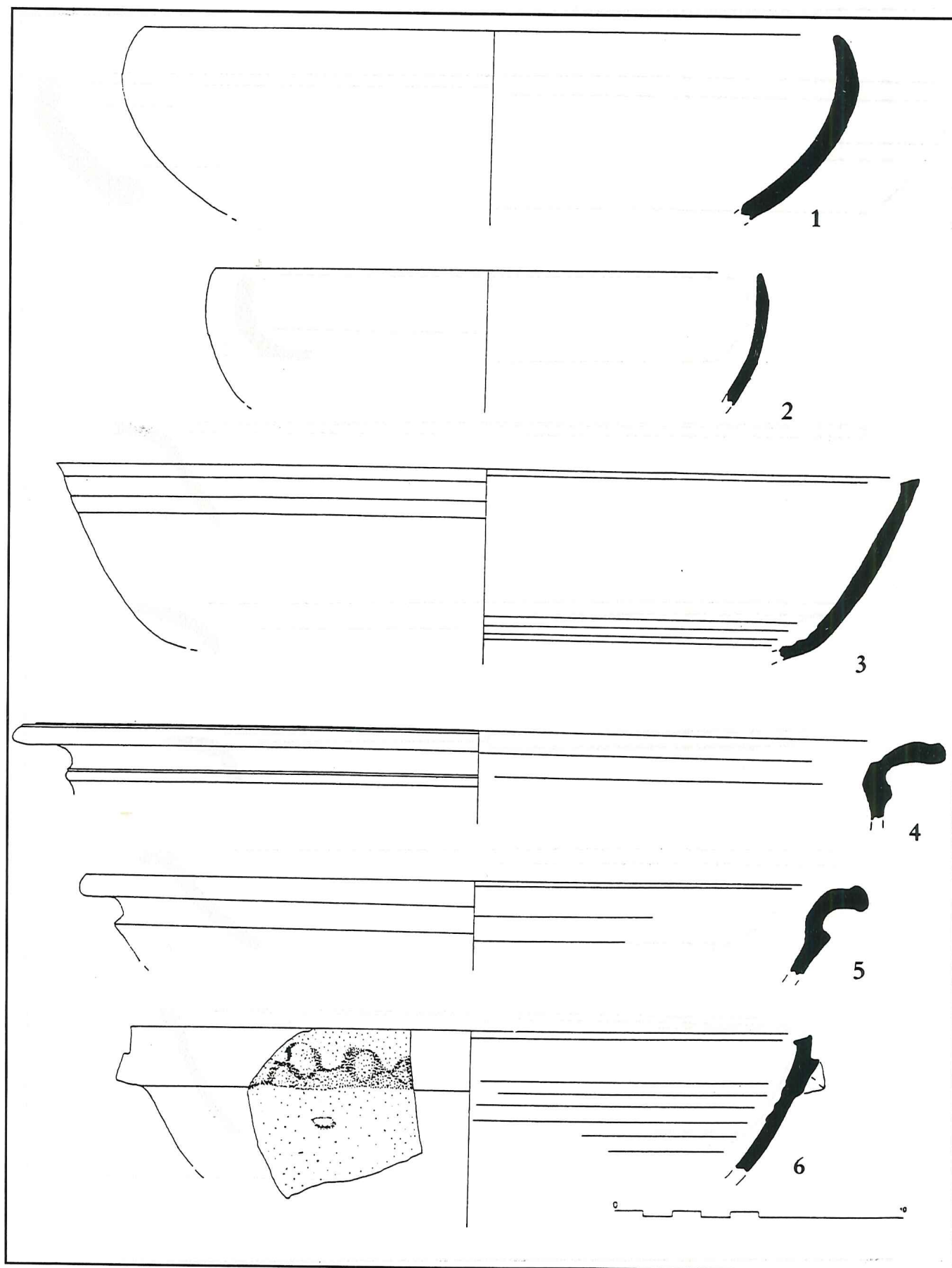


Fig. 11. Ceramic material from "Tell Fayşal". Drawings by E. Obiedat.

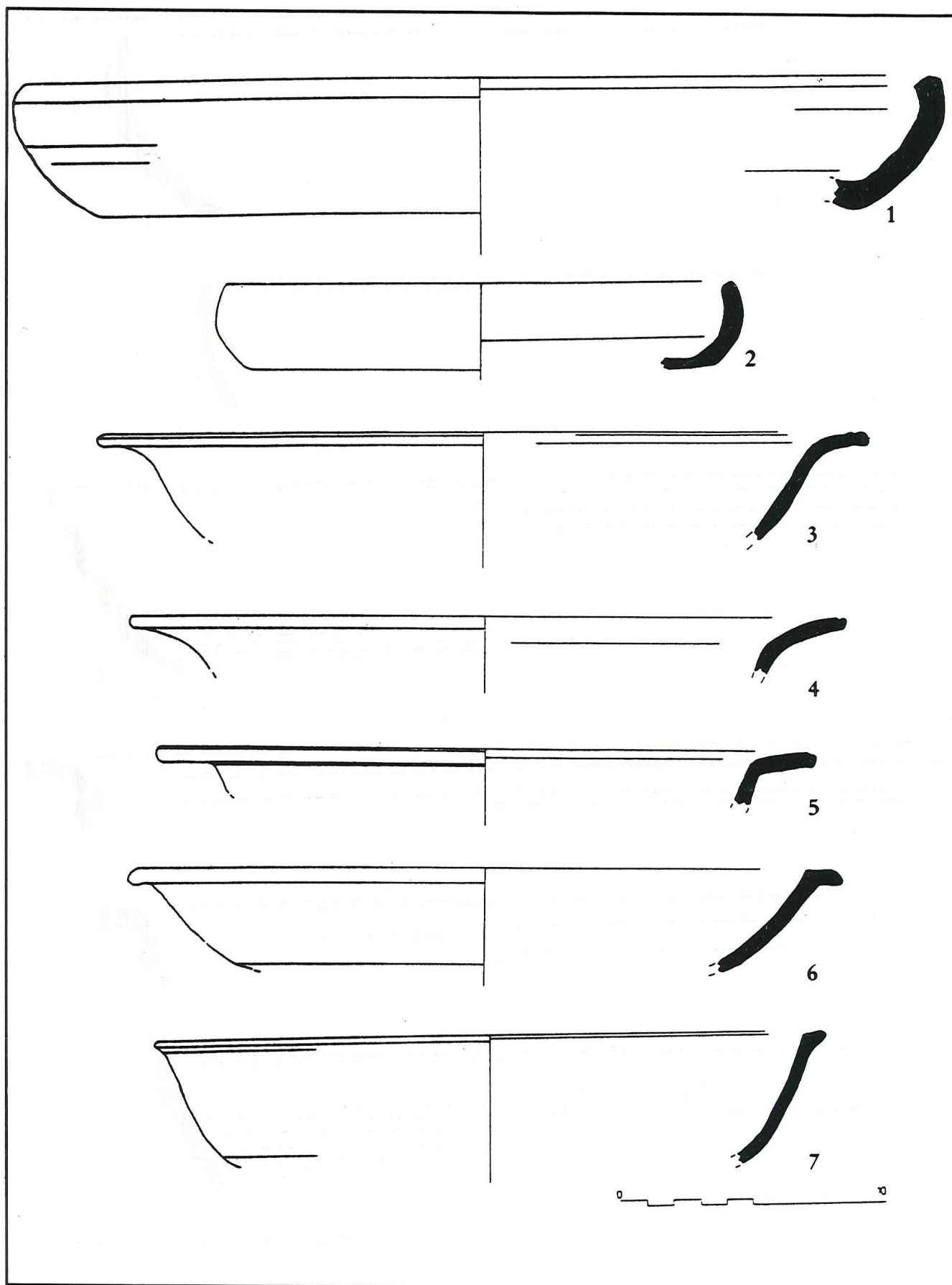


Fig. 12. Ceramic material from "Tell Fayşal". Drawings by E. Obiedat.

Cruche presque complète. Pâte brun rouge. Ht.: 15 cm, diam. ouv.: 2,5 cm. Panse globulaire côtelée; col haut et étroit, embouchure carénée; anse sur l'épaule et sur la lèvre; base légèrement surélevée, circulaire et plate.

T.F. 13. (Fig. 10:3) F3, loc. 2, objet n° 13. Lampe, bec cassé. Pâte brune. L. cons.: 7,5 cm; diam. max.: 5,2 cm. Bandeau décoré de pampres; une feuille de vigne sur le départ du bec flanqué de deux volutes. Trou de remplissage circulaire bordé de trois anneaux en relief. Petit tenon portant une dépression médiane. McCown 1931: 9, Fig. 4.

T.F. 14. (Fig. 10:2) D3/4, loc. 6, objet n° 2. Fgt. de vase zoomorphe. Pâte brun/gris, noyau rouge. Ht. cons.: 6 cm; l. cons.: 5,5 cm. Tête d'oiseau avec crête sur le sommet.

T.F. 16. (Fig. 9:3) B4, loc. 2, objet n° 17. Bouchon. Pâte brun rouge Ht.: 2 cm; diam.: 6,1 cm.

T.F. 17. (Fig. 10:5) D3/4, loc. 3. Lèvre de coupe carénée. Pâte rouge, traces d'engobe rouge foncé. Diam. ouv.: 18 cm. Falkner (unpublished): Fig. 7: 76 (IIIème s. ap. J.-C.).

T.F. 18. (Fig. 12:2) D3/4, loc. 1. Bord de plat, lèvre incurvée. Pâte rouge orange. Diam. ouv.: 22 cm. Falkner (unpublished): Fig. 12: 165 (IIème au IIIème s. ap. J.-C.); Seigne *et al.* 1986: 68, Fig. 17: 2 (milieu/fin IIIème s. ap. J.-C.); Kraeling 1938: 558, Fig. 36: 2 (fin IIème/début IIIème s. ap. J.-C.).

T.F. 19. (Fig. 11:5) D3/4, loc. 1. Lèvre de jatte. Pâte rouge noyau gris. Diam. ouv.: 25/30 cm env. Kraeling 1938: 569, Fig. 46: 116.

T.F. 20. (Fig. 13:6) D3/4, loc. 3. Lèvre de marmite. Pâte rouge clair, départ de panse côtelée. Diam. ouv.: 14 cm.

T.F. 21. (Fig. 12:7) D3/4, loc. 3. Lèvre de plat. Pâte rouge, engobe rouge plus foncé. Diam. ouv.: 26 cm.

T.F. 22. (Fig. 13:7) D3/4, loc. 4. Lèvre de marmite. Pâte grise. Diam. ouv.: 16 cm.

T.F. 23. (Fig. 10:7) D3/4, loc. 4. Lèvre

de plat. Pâte rouge à coeur gris. Diam. ouv.: 22 cm.

T.F. 24. (Fig. 12:3) D3/4, loc. 5. Lèvre de jatte ou assiette à marli. Pâte rouge, engobe rouge/orange (nombreuses particules de calcaire). Diam. ouv.: 32 cm env.

T.F. 25. (Fig. 13:4) D3/4, loc. 6. Bord de marmite panse côtelée, anse pincée. Pâte rouge clair. Diam. ouv.: 15 cm.

T.F. 26. (Fig. 11:1) D3/4, loc. 7. Bord de bol/jatte à paroi incurvée. Pâte rouge, engobe rouge sur la face extérieure. Diam. ouv.: 22 cm. Kraeling 1938: 565, Fig. 42: 28.

T.F. 28. (Fig. 11:2) D3/4, loc. 7. Bord de bol/jatte (id. ci-dessus). Pâte rouge clair, engobe rouge/orange sur la face ext. Diam. ouv.: 20/22 cm. Falkner (unpublished): Fig. 9:128 (fin IIIème début IVème s. ap. J.-C.); Kraeling 1938: 563, Fig. 41:189.

T.F. 29. (Fig. 10:4) D3/4, loc. 8. Fgt. de lampe ronde, bandeau décoré d'oves. Pâte rouge clair, engobe rouge foncé. Seigne *et al.* 1986: 68, Fig. 17:10 (milieu/fin IIIème s. ap. J.-C.).

T.F. 31. (Fig. 11:3) D3/4, loc. 8. Bord de bol à lèvre biseautée. Pâte grise, inclusions de calcaire. Diam. ouv.: 30 cm. Kraeling 1938: Fig. 41:54.

T.F. 32. (Fig. 13:1) D3/4, loc. 8. Gobelet (?) (profil complet). Pâte brun/rouge. Diam. ouv.: 10 cm.

T.F. 33. (Fig. 12:4) D3/4, loc. 8. Lèvre marli (jatte/assiette). Pâte rouge. Diam. ouv.: 26 cm.

T.F. 34. (Fig. 12:5) D3/4, loc. 8. Lèvre d'assiette à marli. Pâte rouge à coeur gris (nombreuses inclusions de calcaire), traces d'engobes rouge. Diam. ouv.: 26 cm.

T.F. 35. (Fig. 14:11) D3/4, loc. 8. Col de jarre, pâte brun/rouge à coeur gris. Diam. ouv.: 12 cm.

T.F. 36. (Fig. 14:10) D3/4, loc. 8. Col de jarre. Pâte chamoix. Diam. ouv.: 11 cm.

T.F. 37. (Fig. 14:9) D3/4, loc. 8. Col de jarre et départ de panse. Pâte beige. Diam. ouv.: 12 cm. Falkner (unpublished): Fig.

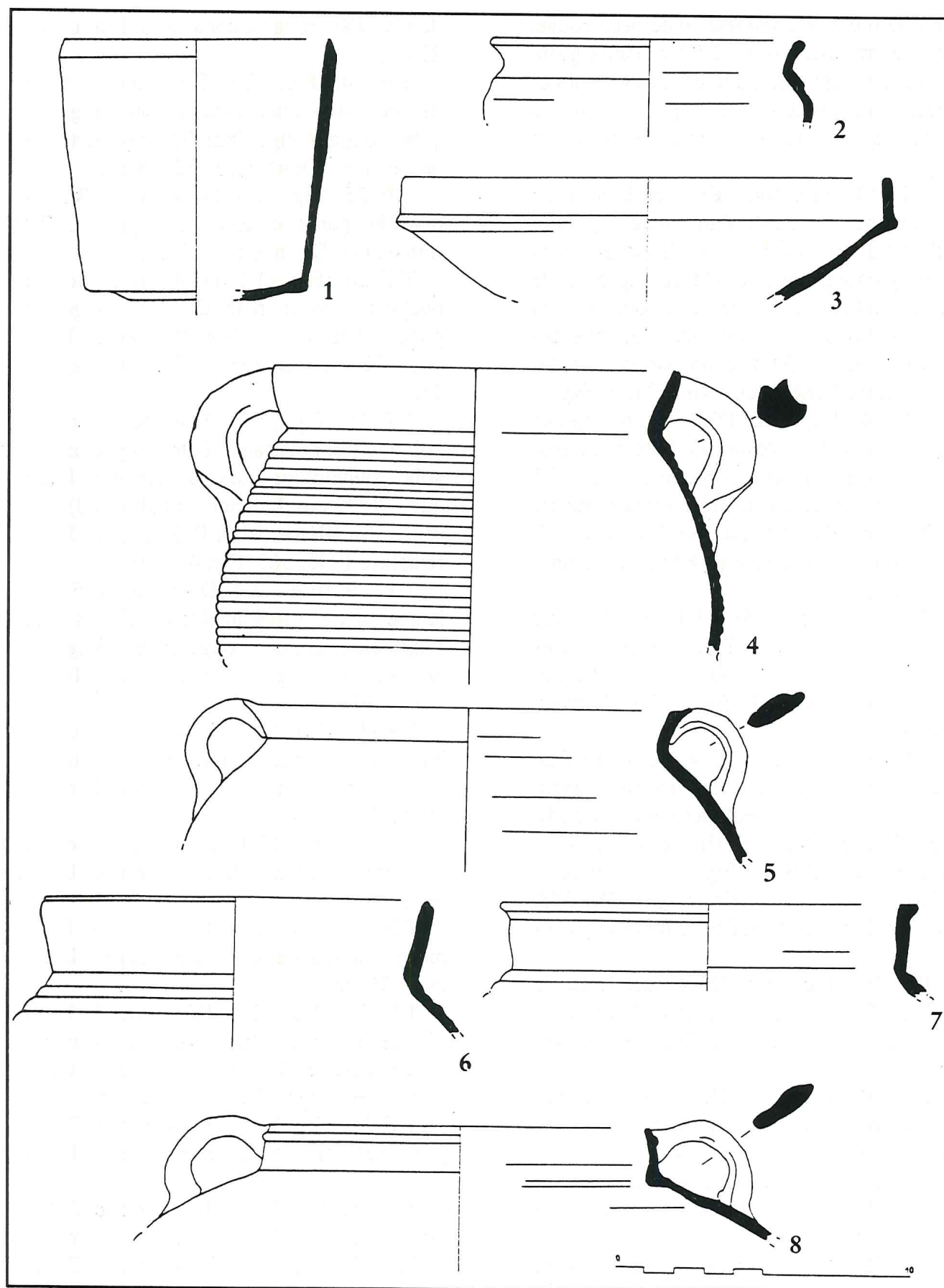


Fig. 13. Ceramic material from "Tell Fayşal". Drawings by E. Obiedat.

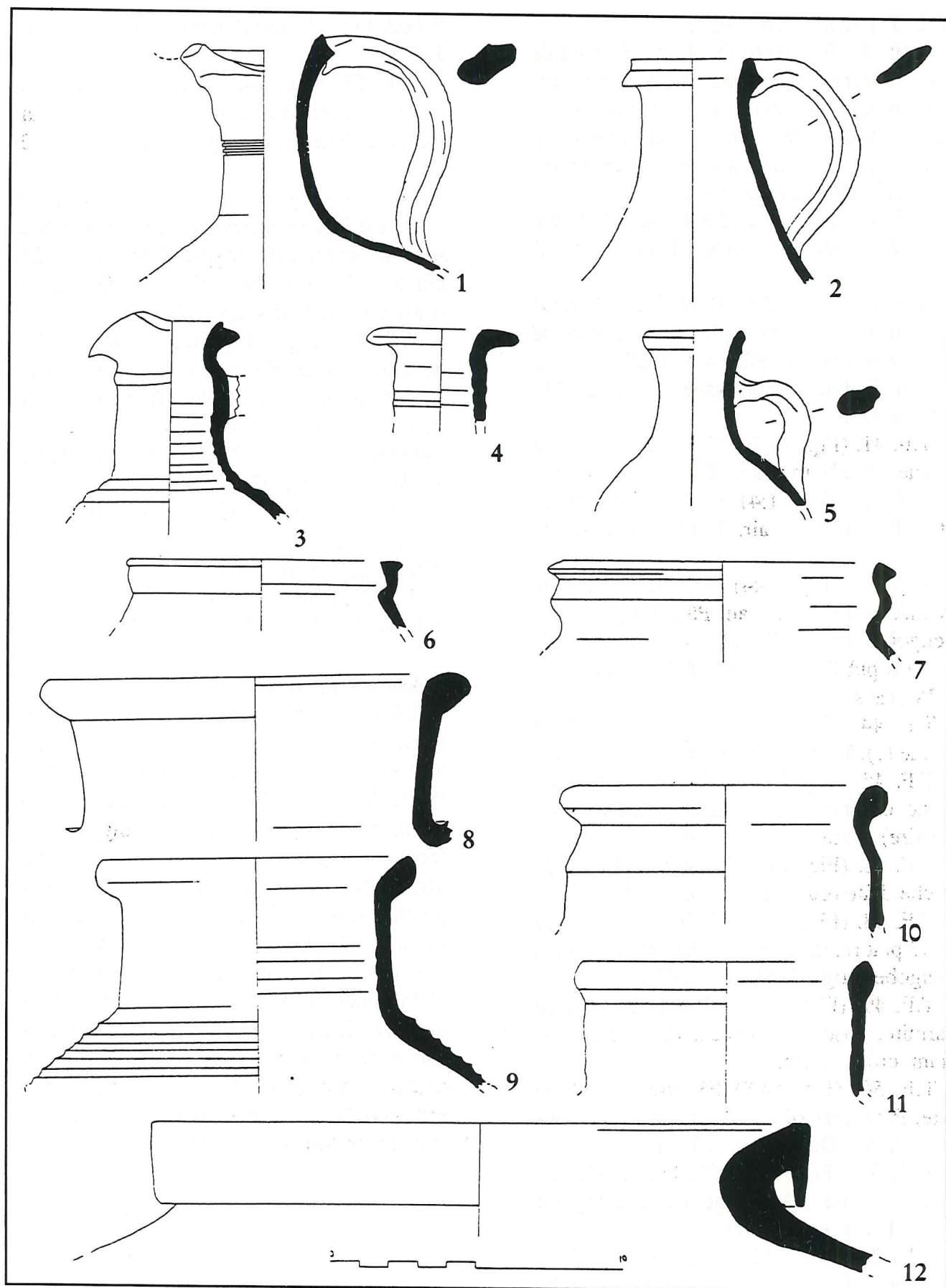


Fig. 14. Ceramic material from "Tell Fayşal". Drawings by E. Obiedat.

18:235 (IIIème s. ap. J.-C.).

T.F. 38. (Fig. 10:6) D3/4, loc. 8. Bord de coupe carénée. Pâte rouge à coeur gris, engobe rouge plus clair sur la surface extérieure et coulures sur la face intérieure. Diam. ouv.: 20 cm. Falkner (unpublished): Fig. 7:78 (IIIème s. ap. J.-C.).

T.F. 39. (Fig. 13:2) D3/4, loc. 11. Lèvre de pot/bol. Pâte brun/rouge. Diam. ouv.: 12 cm.

T.F. 40. (Fig. 13:5) D3/4, loc. 13. Bord de marmite anse non pincée et départ de panse non côtelée. Pâte rouge. Diam. ouv.: 16 cm. Falkner (unpublished): Fig. 29:340 (IIIème s. ap. J.-C.).

T.F. 41. (Fig. 14:2) D3/4, loc. 13. Col de cruche. Pâte brun rouge. Diam. ouv.: 4 cm.

T.F. 42. (Fig. 11:4) E3, loc. 3. Lèvre de jatte. Pâte rouge clair. Diam. ouv.: 32 cm (?).

T.F. 43. (Fig. 14:4) E3, loc. 4. Col de cruche, lèvre en anneau. Pâte rouge, traces d'engobe rouge. Diam. ouv.: 5,2 cm. Falkner (unpublished): Fig. 26:311 (IIIème s. au IVème s. ap. J.-C.).

T.F. 44. (Fig. 14:6) E3, loc. 4. Col de cruche (?). Pâte rouge. Diam. ouv.: 10 cm.

T.F. 45. (Fig. 14:3) E3, loc. 5. Bord de coupe carénée. Pâte rouge (inclusions de calcaire). Diam. ouv.: 18 cm.

T.F. 46. (Fig. 14:7) E3, loc. 5. Lèvre de cruche. Pâte rouge. Diam. ouv.: 12 cm.

T.F. 48. (Fig. 12:1) F3, loc. 1. Lèvre de grand plat rond, incurvée. Pâte rouge, traces d'engobe rouge. Diam. ouv.: 42 cm.

T.F. 49. (Fig. 13:8) F3, loc. 2. Bord de marmite, anse non pincée. Pâte brun/gris. Diam. ouv.: 12 cm.

T.F. 50. (Fig. 14:8) F3, loc. 1. Col de jarre. Pâte chamois à coeur gris (inclusions de calcaire). Diam. ouv.: 15 cm.

T.F. 51. (Fig. 14:1) C3, loc. 2. Col de cruche et anse. Pâte rouge, traces d'engobe rouge. Diam. ouv.: 6 cm.

T.F. 52. (Fig. 12:6) E2, loc. 1. Bord d'assiette à marli. Pâte rouge, engobe rouge. Diam. ouv.: 30 cm. Falkner (unpub-

lished: Fig. 11: 150 (IIIème au IVème s. ap. J.-C.).

T.F. 53. (Fig. 14:5) E2, loc. 1. Col de cruche, étroit avec anse sur le col et sur l'épaule. Pâte brun/rouge. Diam. ouv.: 3,2 cm.

T.F. 54. (Fig. 11:6) E2, loc. 2. Bord de casserole à paroi incurvée et feston rapporté sous la lèvre. Pâte rouge. Diam. ouv.: 25 cm env. Clark *et al.* 1986: 248, Fig. 20:7 (milieu/fin IIIème s. ap. J.-C.).

T.F. 56. (Fig. 14:3) Hors contexte. Col de cruche, bec trèflé, anse (cassée) sur le col, départ de panse côtelée. Pâte rouge, engobe rouge. Ouv.: 6 cm x 4,3 cm. Falkner (unpublished): Fig. 25:308 (milieu IIIème au IVème s. ap. J.-C.).

T.F. 57. (Fig. 8:1) C4, loc. 1. Petite jarre (?) carénée sans anse, fond en ombilic. Pâte beige. Diam. ouv.: 15 cm.

T.F. 58. (Fig. 14:12) C4, loc. 1. Lèvre de doliom. Pâte beige. Diam. ouv.: 24 cm.

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G. Palumbo
K. 'Amr
A. Musa
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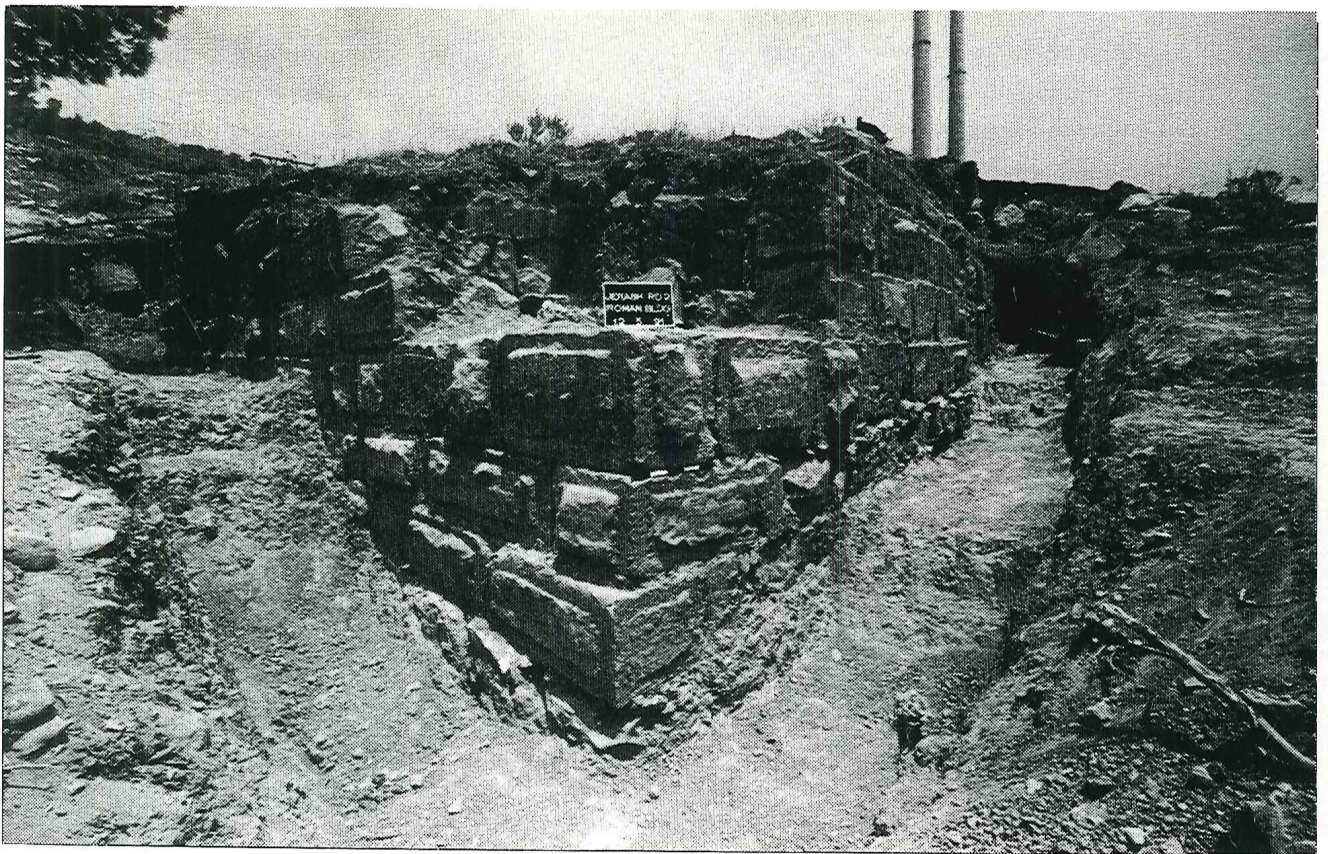
1. "Tell Fayşal" at the beginning of excavations, April 1991.



2. "Tell Fayşal" at the end of excavations, August 1991.



1. West wall of the structure close to the southern corner.



2. Southern corner of the structure, during excavations.



1. "Rooms" 1, 2, 3, and 5 during excavations, as seen from the electric pole before its removal, June 1991.



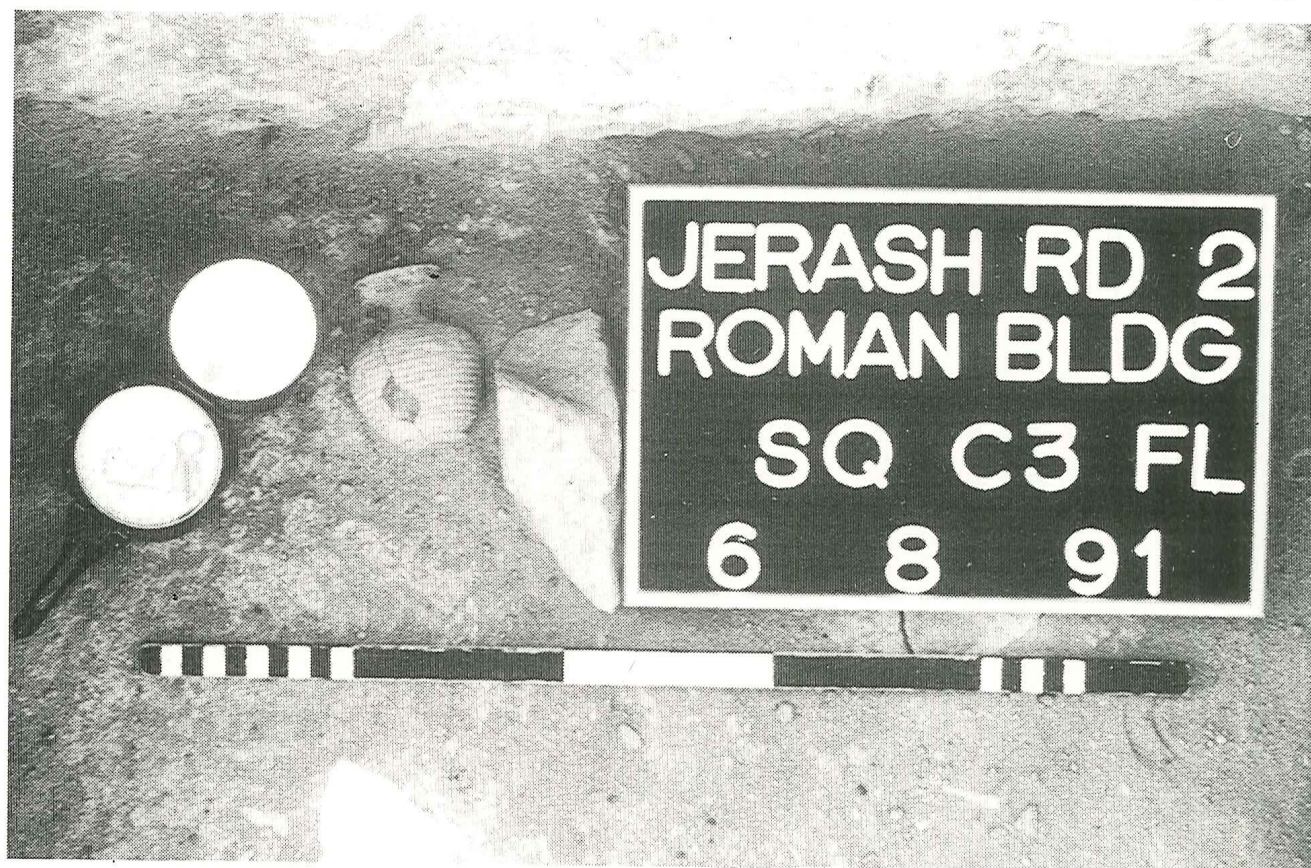
2. Partition wall between "rooms" 3 and 4. Note the reused millstone and the blocked door between room 3 and 4. View towards south.



1. Particular of the main entrance to the structure, along the southern wall.



2. Excavations were conducted at the same time as road construction, often in difficult conditions.



1. Complete juglet on the floor of the courtyard near the entrance to "room" 2 (see Fig. 9:6).



2. Complete juglet in the north basin of room 2 (see Fig. 9:2).