

AN HERODIAN TOMB AT WADI EL BADHAN

INFORMATION was given by Mahmoud el Ali on December 25th, 1950, stating that while working on his land at Irak el Ramle in Wadi el Badhan¹ he struck an opening blocked by a stone; he removed the stone and crept into a big hall cut in the rock and full of debris, with kokhim radiating at the other three sides.

The tomb is cut in the rock and consists of three parts, A, B and C. (see plan, Fig. 17).

PART A: HALL

The hall was destroyed anciently, but it would have been of great interest in its being one more example of the type partly cut in the rock and partly built. Well-dressed stones had been taken by the owner and used for building purposes, and nothing was found in this hall but lower parts of two sarcophagi beside each other on the floor on the east (Fig. 6), with two oil lamps (nos. 7 and 8) near by.

PART B: THREE ROCK-CUT CHAMBER TOMBS

Chamber Tomb I. In the northern end of west wall of the hall (Part A) is a small opening that was blocked with a stone, leading down by two steps to the chamber. One sarcophagus measuring 210 × 64 cm. was found; beside it lies an ossuary of ordinary type made of soft limestone decorated with usual rosette pattern.² Neither was *in situ*, having been removed and searched probably by the owner, but a few bones were scattered around on the floor.

Objects discovered are:

1. Three oil lamps, as no. 3.
2. Six pottery lachrymatory bottles, as nos. 9 and 10.
3. Three cooking-pots,³ as no. 14.
4. Glass tear bottles and unguentaria,⁴ nos. 15–20.
5. Two glass bracelets, no. 25.

Chamber Tomb II. Through a low passage cut in the rock we crept from chamber tomb I to chamber tombs II and III.

Objects discovered are:

1. Four oil lamps, as nos. 4–6.
2. Five pottery bottles, as nos. 11–13.
3. One cooking-pot, as no. 14.
4. Glass objects: bottles nos. 21–23.
5. Bronze handle, no. 28.
6. Four bronze pieces, no. 27.

¹ Irak el Ramle, Wadi el Badhan: Map Ref. 187: 178, 50 metres west of Nablus–Jiftlik road junction.

² QDAP, Vol. IV, no. 4, 1935, 'An Ancient Tomb Chamber at Wa'r Abu Es-Safa near Jerusalem.' See also Sukenik, *A Jewish Tomb-Cave in the Kedron Valley* (Tarbiz, 1931).

³ *Palestine Museum Record*, 'Mt. of Offence (Silwan) rock-cut tombs.' Tomb II, Chamber 2, Photograph no. 4, R. no. 25.333 (not yet published).

⁴ QDAP, Vol. XII, Pl. XX, 'Glass objects, Nabatean Tomb at Amman.'

The presence of a bronze handle and four bronze roundels is of interest here, because they indicate that one of the burials had been in a wooden coffin, the wood of which has since rotted.

Chamber Tomb III. Could not be cleaned because it is completely filled with debris, and is now under the road to Talluza.

PART C.: KOKHIM CHAMBER

In the northern wall of Part A (hall) is an opening cut in the rock (used previously as a door) leading down to a large chamber tomb containing fifteen Kokhim radiating from the other three sides of the chamber. (See plan, Fig. 6):

Kokhim nos. 1-3 had head rests, but not the others.

Kokhim nos. 9-12 had countersunk ledges in the front, but only one cover-stone was found for no. 12.

Kokhim nos. 4-8 had nothing special about them.

The only Kokhim used for burying were nos. 13, 14 and 15. They were found to contain human bones, and few other objects:

Kokhim no. 13 contains one oil lamp (no. 1).

Kokhim no. 14 contains one oil lamp (no. 2).

Kokhim no. 15 contains two bronze bracelets (no. 26) and glass perfume bottle (no. 24).

Dating. The pottery, lamps, bottles and cooking-pots, and also the glass indicate the first centuries B.C.-A.D. as limits of date, or if the evidence of the Herodian type lamps and bottles be accepted as valid, then perhaps a closer date of c. 50 B.C.-A.D. 50 could be postulated.

The line drawings of pottery here reproduced are by Mr. Subhi al Muhtadi.

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INVENTORY OF OBJECTS

(Items marked * are not illustrated)

<i>Serial No.</i>	<i>R. No. w</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Provenance</i>	<i>Material</i>	<i>Fire</i>	<i>Slip or Smooth</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1*	440	Lamp, hand-made	Kokh. 13	Greyish	Med.	—	Smoked nozzle.
2	441	Lamp, moulded	Kokh. 14	Buff	Hard	Traces of smooth	Smoked nozzle.
3	442	Lamp, moulded	Ch. I	Buff	Hard	Smoothed	Smoked nozzle. (Fig. 16.)
4	443	Lamp, decorated ¹	Ch. II	Light red	Hard	—	Smoked nozzle; attached handle. (Fig. 16.)
5	444	Lamp, large size	Ch. II	Cream	Hard	Smoothed	Smoked nozzle.
6	445	Lamp	Ch. II	Cream	Hard	Smoothed	As no. 2 (Fig. 16). One other example.
7	446	Lamp ²	Hall	Light brown	Med.	Grey slip	Smoked nozzle; Hellenistic. (Fig. 16.)
8	447	Lamp	Hall	Brown	Hard	—	Smoked nozzle; medieval. (Fig. 16.)
9	448	Bottle ³	Ch. I	Red	Hard	Grey slip, smoothed	Black-painted on rim and neck, pitted; incrust. (Pl. XI, no. 79.)
10*	449	Bottle ⁴	Ch. I	Red	Hard	Red buff, smoothed	Traces of brownish-red paint on rim and neck; pitted. Three other examples.
11	450	Bottle	Ch. II	Red	Hard	Cream buff, smoothed	Faintly ribbed, horizontally on body, spirally on neck; pitted; one other example. (Pl. XI, no. 78.)
12	451	Bottle	Ch. II	Buff	Hard	Smoothed	Brownish-red paint on rim and neck. (Pl. XI, no. 80.)
13	452	Bottle	Ch. II	Grey	Hard	Cream, smoothed	Black-painted on rim and neck; two other examples. (Pl. XI, no. 81.)
14	453	Cooking pot	Chs. I and II	Red	Hard	—	Three other examples. (Fig. 16.)

¹ QDAP, Vol. I, no. 2, 1931, 'A Rock-Cut Tomb at Nazareth,' Pl. XXXIV, no. 2.² *Ibid.*, Photograph 2, nos. 1 and 2.³ (a) *Palestine Museum Record*, Acre, Vol. II, 'Sheikh Ezz-ed-Din Cemetery, exc. in 1942' (not yet published);

(b) 'Kidron Valley, Cave Tombs, Jerusalem, cleared in 1941' (not yet published).

⁴ *Ibid.*

INVENTORY OF OBJECTS—(continued)

<i>Serial No.</i>	<i>R. No. w</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Provenance</i>	<i>Material</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
15*	454	Tear bottle	Ch. I	Glass	Long neck; grooved out-turned rim; flattish base.
16	455	Tear bottle ¹	Ch. I	Glass	Cylindrical neck; flaring rim; flat base. Iridescent. (Pl. XI, no. 82.)
17*	456	Kohl bottle	Ch. I	Glass	Semi-circular; grooved out-turned rim; flat base
18	457	Bottle	Ch. I	Glass	Pear-shaped; long-narrow neck; out-turned rim; flat base. (Pl. XI, no. 86.)
19	458	Bottle	Ch. I	Glass	Pear-shaped; short neck; thick ringed rim; flat base. (Pl. XI, no. 83.)
20	459	Unguentarium bottle	Ch. I	Glass	Eight vertical grooves round body; ringed flaring rim; flat convex base. (Pl. XI, no. 84.)
21	460	Tear bottle ²	Ch. II	Glass	Pear-shaped; long-tubular neck; flaring rim; flattish base. One other broken. (Pl. XI, no. 85.)
22	461	Bottle, candle-stick type	Ch. II	Glass	Long thick neck; flat base; flat rim. (Pl. XI, no. 87.)
23	462	Bottle	Ch. II	Glass	Flat base. Iridescent. (Pl. XI, no. 88.)
24	463	Perfume bottle	Kokh. 15	Glass	Spindle shape; bulging middle, tapering to base and mouth; out-turned rim. One other fragment. (Pl. XI, no. 89.)
25*	464	Two bracelets	Ch. I	Glass	D. 4 cm. One other example.
26*	465	Two bracelets	Kokh. 15	Bronze	Open ends, D. 3 cm.; the other ends D. 5 cm.
27*	466	Four bronze pieces	Ch. II	Bronze	Rounded; D. 0.045 m.m., with knob at centre and four around rim.
28	467	Handle (rounded)	Ch. II	Bronze	Closed, with an iron ring as a tie.

¹ QDAP, Vol. IV, 1935, Pl. XXX, no. 7, 'An Ancient Tomb Chamber at Wa'r Abu Es-safa.'

² *Ibid.*, Vol. XIV, 1950, Pl. XXIX, no. 357, 'Roman Tomb, Amman.'

³ *Ibid.*, Vol. IV, Pl. LXXX, no. 16. Cf. *Palestine Museum Record*, Jerusalem, 'Deir Abu Tur Tomb Cave, Grave 1, cleared in 1932' (not yet published).