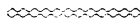


the side of the shaft, leads into the tomb chamber. The chambers are of various shapes but they have an average floor area of 4.79 square m. The roof is generally about 1 m high. These tombs produced almost five hundred catalogued objects exclusive of beads. It is probable that all the tombs had been cut in the middle Bronze I (Intermediate EB-MB) period. Five of them still contained material which could be assigned to this period, such as four-spout lamps, small barrel-like jars, and a javelin head with curled tang. Fourteen of the tombs had been used in the Middle Bronze II period. In one tomb, T 15, which produced 129 catalogued objects, three phases of use within the MB II period could be distinguished. It had been used for the burial of 14 people before it was finally sealed. The most distinctive of the tombs were the 7 which contained burials from the Late Bronze period, and a rich variety of painted pottery. Imported Bilbils and a delicately fashioned wishbone-handle bowl appeared along with the typical LB painted ware of Palestine. These well equipped tombs provided the first evidence for a LB occupation at el-Jib.

At the very close of the season there emerged at the northwest of the tell a portion of a building with walls 1.70 m., thick and a well-plastered floor. Its foundation had been laid in the Iron I period, probably early in the twelfth century. This important building will provide a principal objective for another season of work at el-Jib.

James B. Pritchard



CONDENSED REPORT OF THE 1960 BEITIN EXPEDITION

The Fourth campaign at Beitin (ancient Bethel) was conducted from May 26 to July 19, 1960 by the American School of Oriental Research and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Professor James L. Kelso was the Director and his assistant was Professor Theophilus M. Taylor. This campaign, like the former ones, failed to locate Jeroboam's Temple, but we did make a sensational find in uncovering the mountain top sanctuary of the earliest inhabitants. It was located at the north-west corner of the site. Here on the bare rock of the ridge we found the flint tools used in butchering the animals, the sherds of the broken vessels used in the feast and the blood of the sacrificial animals still staining the rocky ledge. (We used the American Federal Bureau of Investigation test for blood and checked an area over seventeen meters in length.). Part of the rock surface had been calcined by the sacrificial fires. No human bones were found, only animal ones. The earliest pottery was about 2500 B.C. Directly upon this bedrock a small temple was erected with its doorway opening to the East. This building was used in the latter part of Early Bronze and in Middle Bronze I. Just north of it was what appeared to be a large haram or sacred open area of Middle Bronze II B with a colonade along the south wall.

Directly upon the walls of the temple a new type of city-gate was erected in Middle Bronze II B. This gate-way was "U" shaped. One entered from the east, went westward through a narrow corridor, then turned south up four steps to a platform, then turned east up two more steps and finished the "U" pattern, finally going south again through the city wall and into what appears to be a temple-palace complex. This city-gate gave access to the northwest corner of the city. The gateway structure was a rhomboid, whose north wall was 11.64 mters, the east wall 9.7 meters and the west one 9.2 meters. The building had no south wall of its own but was built directly against the north wall of the city. The gateway was destroyed about the middle of the 16th century B.C. and never rebuilt.

The west wall of the city which terminated at this gate was similar to the north wall found in 1957. It was 11.5 meters wide with semi-dressed stone on each face and great interlocking stones for the core. The massive rock pile which interfered with our clearing of the gateway complex again interfered with a detailed study of the west wall. It had been built in two units, one going from the northwest corner of the city toward the south and the other coming up from the south. The two were not quite in line and we do not know whether or not the northern or poorer unit was a reconstruction. We found the same wall again much farther to the south where it went through the basement of an Arab house. We dug in the yard and found the complete wall in excellent condition. The earliest houses built against all sections of the west wall were MB II B.

During the 1957 campaign we had located the foundations of the south gate of the Roman city just south of the village's best spring. This season we worked on the steep hillside just north of the spring and sank a large test pit. At once massive Byzantine, Roman and Hellenistic walls appeared and below them a crude wall built in Iron I. This wall was sunk into a meter or so of ash and burnt brick. Directly below it appeared the south wall of the MB II B city and perhaps even one section of a gateway. The wall was still standing over 3 meters high although heavy burnings showed that fighting had been desperate at this point. Many broken water jars were everywhere and also better pottery, especially late Bronze, for the wall was not broken through until the beginning of Iron I.

One purpose of the expedition was to train future archaeologists; eight professors and about twenty-five college and seminary students served at least part time on the staff. Dr. Awni Dajani and Mr. Farah S. Ma'ayeh were most helpful. One feature of the summer was an audience with King Hussein who graciously invited our staff as well as that of the two other archaeological groups to his palace at Amman.

James L. Kelso