

# THE CITADEL OF BETH-ZUR

A preliminary report of the  
first excavation conducted by the  
Presbyterian Theological Seminary,  
Chicago, and the American School  
of Oriental Research, Jerusalem,  
in 1931 at Khirbat et Tubeiqa

*By*

OVID ROGERS SELLERS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

- AJ JOSEPHUS, *Antiquities of the Jews*.  
 AJA *American Journal of Archaeology*.  
 BASOR *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research*.  
 BJ JOSEPHUS, *The Jewish War*.  
 BP FLINDERS PETRIE KT., *Beth Pelet I*, London, 1930.  
 CPP J. GARROW DUNCAN, *Corpus of Palestinian Pottery*, London, 1930.  
 G I }  
 G II } R. A. S. MACALISTER, *The Excavation of Gezer* (3 vols.), London, 1912.  
 G III }  
 Ger FLINDERS PETRIE KT., *Gerar*, London, 1928.  
 JPOS *Journal of the Palestine Oriental Society*.  
 PEFQ *Palestine Exploration Fund Quarterly Statement*.  
 PJB *Palästina Jahrbuch*.  
 RB *Revue Biblique*.  
 TBM-I W. F. ALBRIGHT, *The Excavations of Tell Beit Mirsim*, vol. I (The Annual of the American Schools of Oriental Research, vol. XII), New Haven, 1932.  
 ZAW *Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft*.  
 ZDPV *Zeitschrift des Deutschen Palästina-Vereins*.
- 
- EB Early Bronze, 3000–2000 B.C., Canaanite.  
 MB Middle Bronze, 2000–1600 B.C., Canaanite.  
 LB Late Bronze, 1600–1200 B.C., Canaanite.  
 EI I Early Iron I, 1200–900 B.C., Judges and Undivided Monarchy.  
 EI II Early Iron II, 900–600 B.C., Divided Monarchy.  
 EI III Early Iron III, 600–333 B.C., the Babylonian-Persian Period.  
 Since Greek influence predominated in this period, EI III in this book, except for rare cases, is not used.  
 H Hellenistic, 500–50 B.C., Greek influence predominant.
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The special abbreviations in chs. V and VIII are given in those chapters.

## FOREWORD

**T**HAT Beth-zur of the Bible was on the hill now called Khirbat et-Tubeiqa and not on the adjacent Burj-eş-Şur (popularly called also Beit Şur) Père Abel of the École Biblique in Jerusalem pointed out after a field trip with his students in 1924 (RB 33, 1924, pp. 208f). Within a year Albright with the students of the American School and Alt with the students of the German School visited the site and reached the same conclusion (BASOR no. 15, 1924, pp. 3f; no. 18, 1927, p. 9; PJB 21, 1925, pp. 22f). Each of the three made the identification without knowing of the work of the others, though to Abel must be given the priority. The basis on which these scholars made the identification was the pottery. Khirbat et-Tubeiqa showed Israelite and Hellenistic pottery, while Burj-eş-Şur produced only pottery of the Byzantine and later periods. On topographic grounds Dalman had made a similar conjecture from evidence he found in tracing the old main road from Jerusalem to Hebron, which ran between Khirbat et-Tubeiqa and Burj-eş-Şur (PJB 9, 1913, pp. 32f; see also ZDPV 54, 1931, p. 121). The technique of identifying sites in Palestine by pottery, however, had not been developed in 1913.

When the writer and his wife visited Palestine in 1928 they took a commission from President John Timothy Stone of the Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Chicago, to choose a site suitable for summer excavation. Beth-zur, because of its altitude and availability as well as its historical importance, seemed the most likely site. President Stone secured the necessary funds from enlightened donors and, upon recommendation of Professor Albright, who agreed to be the archaeological adviser of the expedition, the American School of Oriental Research in Jerusalem cooperated in the enterprise. This cooperation meant an addition of \$1,000 to the funds of the expedition, the use of the school building as headquarters in Jerusalem, and the use of camping equipment and scientific apparatus belonging to the school.

The work of excavating was begun on June 3, 1931, and completed on July 29. During this time members of the staff lived at the site in tents. As director I handled the finances, including the paying of the workmen and the giving of baksheesh for objects found. The most important member of the staff, however, was Professor Albright, who as archaeological adviser took the responsibility for the scientific conduct of the campaign and most ably handled all matters of diplomacy. To him I would express the deepest gratitude; for the generous contribution of his interest and labor made the expedition possible.

Other members of the staff who gave their services and to whom I am exceedingly grateful were: Professor Nelson Glueck, who took charge of the sorting of pottery and did some of the photography; Dr. Aage Schmidt, who not only did a large share of the drawing and photography



but also kindly secured for us the use of the camp equipment of the Danish Shiloh expedition; Dr. Cyrus Gordon, the recorder; Mr. Charles Nims and Mr. Milton Patterson, who handled most of the photography and assisted in the sorting of sherds; Dr. Aapeli Saarisalo and Professor Millar Burrows, who were not able to be present during the entire expedition but were most helpful in various phases of the work. We are indebted also to the surveyors: Labib Sorial, who executed the contour map (pl. I); William Gad, who drew the plans (pls. II, III); and Boulos M. el A'raj, who assisted in the map and in the bookkeeping. Special mention is due also to the head foreman Berberi and to Ode Giries, who conducted negotiations for the site and was one of the assistant foremen. Mukhtar 'Abd el-Qâder Yûsif of the clan Daud, which owned the hill and furnished our force of laborers, earned our thankful admiration by his friendly helpfulness at all times.

The writer would express here his gratitude also to President Stone, the Directors of the American Schools of Oriental Research, and the donors whose financial aid allowed the expedition to be undertaken; to Professor C. C. McCown, who as Director of the American School took charge of the preliminary arrangements; to the various archaeologists who visited the excavation and offered helpful advice, especially Professor Clarence Fisher and Père Vincent; to Wing Commander Baker for his interest and courtesy in making air photographs of the site; to the staff of the Department of Antiquities, especially to Mr. Richmond, Director of Antiquities, to Mr. Hamilton, Chief Inspector, to Mr. Iliffe Keeper of the Museum, to Mr. Lambert, who helped greatly with the coins, to Dr. Mayer, and to Miss Dixon; to Miss Marjorie Bentwich, who drew most of the small objects and prepared some of the plates; to Mrs. Saarisalo, who assisted in the drawing; to Mr. E. T. Newell, President of the American Numismatic Society, who gave invaluable advice on the coins and revised the manuscript of the last chapter; to Professor A. T. Olmstead, who looked over the records and the objects brought to Chicago and made numerous helpful suggestions; to Professor F. W. Shipley, who gave access to the Washington University numismatic collection and library; to Dr. D. T. Galanos of Chicago, who gave the resources of his dental laboratory for work on the coins; and to Dr. A. S. C. Clarke, who helped greatly in financial arrangements.

Brief accounts of the excavation have been published in *The Alumni Review* of the Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Chicago, vol. 7, pp. 116-125, BASOR 43, pp. 2-13, and *The Quarterly of the Department of Antiquities in Palestine*, vol. I, pp. 158f. We have not solved all the problems presented by material found. There will have to be further excavation on the site and the work of other expeditions doubtless will shed new light on our material. In this volume, with no pretense of completeness, we offer the principal results of our first campaign and our interpretations, which in many cases must be provisional.

O. R. SELLERS

Chicago, March 15, 1933.

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Fig. 1. AIRPLANE VIEW OF BETH-ZUR FROM THE NORTHEAST. The area on top of the hill has been excavated and filled in. Part of the market place (pl. II:5,A,+B) and the east gate (7,A) are shown. The expedition camp is in the distance.

## CHAPTER I

# THE HISTORY OF BETH-ZUR

**S**OME time in antiquity the inhabitants of the Land of Canaan gave to a hill the name Beth-zur, "the house of the mountain god."<sup>1</sup> The name was appropriate; for the limestone hill dominated the surrounding country and provided splendid natural fortification.

In the Early Bronze Age, before 2000 B.C., a few people were on the hill. Possibly they had a camp there or a few crude dwellings; but there was no extensive settlement.<sup>2</sup>

The serious settlement and the establishment of a town came in the latter part of the Middle Bronze Age (2000-1600 B.C.), when the Hyksos dominated Palestine and vigorously spread their type of Egyptian culture, leaving scarabs, stamped jar handles, bone-inlaid boxes, and amulets. Evidently the town was founded toward the end of the 18th or the beginning of the 17th century. It enjoyed a brief age of prosperity with the neighboring cities under governors appointed by the Hyksos kings. Then, about the time the Hyksos were expelled from Egypt and the Late Bronze Age emerged in Palestine (between 1600 and 1500 B.C.), Beth-zur suffered a catastrophe. Its buildings were burned or torn down and the population disappeared.

For three or four centuries the ruins remained uninhabited except by occasional squatters or campers, who left little of their characteristic pottery. But about 1200 B.C., when the invading Israelites overran this country and the Early Iron Age arrived, the tribe of Judah occupied Beth-zur with the surrounding cities (Josh. 15:58; cf. I Chr. 2:45). Houses arose, an abundance of pottery was made locally or imported, and Beth-zur waked to new importance. We have no literary record of its political or military history during the period of the Judges and the undivided monarchy (Early Iron I, 1200-900 B.C.), but the traces of violent conflagration during this period give mute evidence of fierce warfare. A little before 1000 B.C. the town once more was utterly destroyed and burned; for a century it lay desolate with only a few straggling inhabitants.

Again the strokes of the builders' tools sounded during the reign of Rehoboam toward the end of the 10th century, when the king after the loss of the Northern Kingdom felt the need of military garrisons and

<sup>1</sup> *Sur* must have been a primitive deity. Later the epithet, "stronghold, cliff, place of refuge," was applied to the Israelites' God. (Ps. 62:8; 89:27; 94:22; I Sam. 22:32:23:3; Is. 26:4 etc.) Beth-zur in later Hebrew may have been taken to mean merely "cliff house."

<sup>2</sup> We found from this period but a handful of sherds, mostly in one of the crevices in the rock at the top of the hill. Had there been an Early Bronze city we should have found much more than this.

included Beth-zur among the towns that he fortified (II Chr. 11:7).<sup>3</sup> The city continued in fairly prosperous condition until Nebuchadnezzar overran Palestine in the early days of the 6th century. Whether it was destroyed, as were many of the surrounding towns, or whether it merely suffered from the general national collapse we are unable to say; for there is no literary reference to inform us and the lack of general stratification withholds archaeological evidence. At any rate there was a complete cultural change when prosperity returned with the Persian period.

Foreign influence, even when the Persians were ruling, was largely Greek. Coins and pottery patterns came from the West rather than from the East. During the Persian-Hellenistic times Beth-zur entered its period of greatest importance. It was now a southern frontier town; for the Idumeans held Hebron.

The H builders, instead of laying their foundations on old ruins, sunk their trenches to bed rock, digging up and mixing the remains of former occupations. Thus they made strong buildings, though they spoiled a good deal of archaeological evidence.<sup>4</sup> In Neh. 3:16 there is mentioned, among those who helped Nehemiah rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, another Nehemiah, the son of Abzuk, the ruler of half the district of Beth-zur.

Literary records of the Maccabean times contain many references to Beth-zur. It was a small city (BJ I, 1:5); but as a military garrison its strategic importance was great (I Macc. 4:61). Under Antiochus Epiphanes it was flourishing. In 165 B.C. the Syrian general Lysias with 60,000 infantrymen and 5,000 cavalrymen was encamped beside the city. There Judas with a force of 10,000 defeated the Syrian army, killing about 5,000, accomplishing the complete demoralization of the forces of Lysias, and making possible the restoration, purification, and rededication of the temple with the establishment of the Feast of Lights. The temple at Jerusalem was fortified and so was Beth-zur, that it might serve as a citadel (I Macc. 4:28-61; AJ XII, 7:5-7). For a time Beth-zur, next to Jerusalem, was a source of worry to the Syrians (I Macc. 6:7, 26). Shortly after the death of Antiochus Epiphanes, the boy king Antiochus V, with Lysias in command of the army, came to punish the followers of Judas, against whom the renegade Jews of Jerusalem had made complaint. One of the chief items in the complaint was the Jewish fortification at Beth-zur (I Macc. 6:26). The Syrian force went first to Idumea and came north against Beth-zur.<sup>5</sup> Even after a long siege, however, Lysias was unable to take the citadel; for the

<sup>3</sup> That the list of towns is historical has been shown by Alt and Beyer; see Beyer in ZDPV, 1931, pp. 113-170.

<sup>4</sup> In more than half the baskets of sherds there was a mixture of MB, EI I, EI II, and H.

<sup>5</sup> The reason for this is evident; the southern ascent is not nearly so steep as the one from the north. See pl. I; figs. 1, 2.

inhabitants came out and burned his engines of war (I Macc. 6:31; AJ XII, 9:4). The Syrian army was taken away to meet Judas at Beth-zachariah.

Later, when Judas withdrew his army to Jerusalem to prepare for a siege, the Syrian army came to renew the siege at Beth-zur. This time the inhabitants were awed by the strength of the young king and, since there was a shortage of provisions owing to a sabbath year, they surrendered without resistance. Antiochus V sent out the people naked and established a garrison of his own in the city (I Macc. 6:48-50; AJ XII, 9:4-5).

During the following years of wars, treaties, and intrigues Beth-zur remained a Syrian garrison. Bacchides, while he was in command, fortified it again (I Macc. 9:52) and it became a place of refuge for the renegade Jews who were driven out of Jerusalem (I Macc. 10:14).

But Beth-zur changed hands again toward the end of the rule of Jonathan (145-143 B.C.). Simon camped against it and after a long siege received its capitulation. He drove out the renegade Jews and established a garrison (I Macc. 11:65-66). That he also fortified it anew is asserted in I Macc. 14:33.

All of this literary material was abundantly substantiated by the archaeological evidence uncovered in the excavation. The coins in particular show a flourishing city in the time of Antiochus IV (175-164 B.C.). Then the population seems to have diminished during the succeeding warfare. An increasing number of coins of Demetrius II (145-139 B.C.) and Antiochus VII (139-129 B.C.) indicate that the garrison was well occupied first by Syrians and then by Jewish soldiers, both of whom used the Syrian coinage (BASOR 43, pp. 11f).

The citadel also shows three phases of building with foundations of three successive fortifications, all late H. Possibly these foundations represent the fortifications of Judas, Bacchides, and Simon (BASOR 43, pp. 10f).

After Simon's fortification there are no literary references to the Beth-zur of the pre-Christian era. But the coins help us to piece out the history of the city. The comparative abundance of coins of Demetrius II and the scarcity of Alexander Balas coins are an indication of the former's superiority and ultimate triumph. The activities of Antiochus VII (I Macc. 15), who at first was friendly to Simon but broke with the Jews and made war against them, also had their effect on Beth-zur, where we found 10 of his coins, two of them beautiful silver ones (pl. XVIII:216, 217).

During the first part of the reign of Simon's son John Hyrcanus Beth-zur was important, as the coins show. But after he had Judaized



Fig. 2. BETH-ZUR FROM THE NORTH. The old Jerusalem-Hebron road went through the valley in the foreground and to the left around the hill.

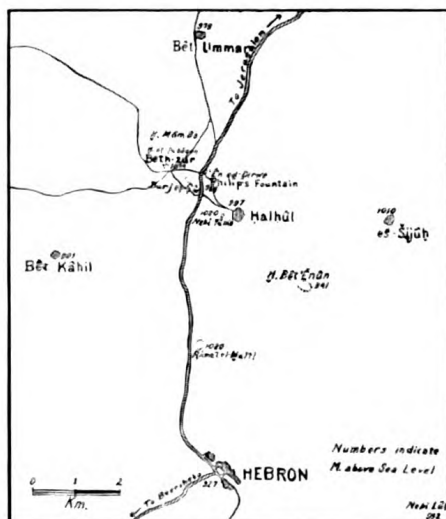


Fig. 3. MAP OF DISTRICT AROUND BETH-ZUR.

the Idumeans (AJ XIII, 9:1) Beth-zur no longer was a frontier stronghold. Its garrison was not needed and the population, which doubtless had lived largely on the money spent by the soldiers, rapidly dwindled. After John Hyrcanus only sporadic coins appear and no pottery after the 2d century B.C. was left in any appreciable quantity.

By Byzantine times a new city calling itself Beth-zur had sprung up on the hill to the SE and this site still carries the ancient name (see Foreword). As the new city was being erected the old Beth-zur furnished an excellent quarry. Stones of the city wall and of the house foundations were carried across the little valley to be used in the new edifices. Any general description of the new city's location would fit the old site. In the Medeba map Beth-zur is shown opposite Philip's Fountain.<sup>6</sup>

The history of the original Beth-zur, then, ends at the close of the 2d century B.C. The few coins and pieces of pottery left on the hill after that time were the loss of shepherds or casual occupants.

## CHAPTER II

### CHARACTER OF THE HILL

**T**HE contour map (pl. I) shows the appropriateness of the name Beth-zur. It is a conical hill commanding the old Jerusalem-Hebron road and difficult of approach from any direction. It is least difficult of access on the south, where the citadel stands only 22 meters above the valley, and most difficult from the north, where the summit is more than 100 meters above the valley. On the east the slope is gentle and doubtless there was a trail leading to 'Ain edh-Dhirweh. Numerous cisterns inside the city walls, however, show that after the Bronze Age the city was by no means dependent on this fountain for its water supply. The cisterns were kept clear until the decline of the city; for the pottery from these cisterns is almost entirely H, though important Israelite objects were found in some of them.

At present the slopes are terraced. On the east side, where we dug in two areas, we saw that the present terrace levels are modern, with retaining walls crudely built to hold the soil for agriculture. But these sides were terraced in ancient times with different street levels, presenting the appearance of a large *ziqqurat*. After the destruction of the city

<sup>6</sup> This shows that the identification of 'Ain edh-Dhirweh with the location of Philip's baptism of the Ethiopian eunuch was accepted in Byzantine times. Mr. Hamilton called our attention to this.



the debris fell from one terrace to the next lower, so that in time there was a gradual slope.

We were able to trace the wall for 150 meters on the SW slope (pl. I: 0 to -6; -C to +E). At the NW end of this section we were compelled to halt by the terms of our lease and at the S end the traces of wall disappeared. Doubtless this SE section suffered most heavily by the drafting of cut stones for the later Beth-zur, since it was the nearest point.

The structure marked "ed-Deir" on the NW side of the hill is the foundation of a Byzantine building.



Fig. 4. ENTRANCE TO ABANDONED MB TOMB. The walls show different phases of H and MB. Pl. II:3,A; taken from loc. 12.

## CHAPTER III

### MASONRY

**W**E began digging at loc. 1 (pl. II:3, A), where in a few spots there was outcropping rock. We numbered loci as they appeared, generally giving a number to a room or a section of street. The walls in the complex 1-19 (3, A) are mostly H with remains of some MB; e.g., the small section between 12 and 13 (fig. 4, foreground). A few EI I and EI II sherds were found in this area. At 13 there was a flight of steps cut down into the bed rock with two steps of separate stones (the shaded ones in pl. II: 3, A). All the pottery on these steps was MB, so that we expected a MB tomb. The chamber, however, (marked "Cistern" in the plan) was empty. The chamber may have served once as a cistern, though its being closed up in MB times makes this doubtful. The well cut steps would indicate mortuary purposes. On these steps, among MB sherds, were the bones of a bovine animal. It is possible that while the tomb was in preparation an ox or a cow fell into it and was killed, thus making the place ceremonially unclean and causing the stopping up of the empty chamber.

The enclosure 10 is a bin with plaster floor, H. The H walls of the complex are not all of the same date. At 6 the N wall was built on 30 cm. of older debris.

In the area 58-62 (3, +B) there was one of the rare opportunities of distinguishing EI III from H. Under a floor level which was H there were clearly EI III remains.<sup>7</sup> This was most apparent in 59, where there were 7 broken wine jars of EI III (fig. 5) in position, one of them containing an Attic tetradrachm (pl. XIV:1). The tops of these jars had been broken off in the smoothing out of the H floor. In the debris of this area there were also sherds of MB, EI I, and EI II. At the bottom of 62 there was a small level of pure MB. Probably the walls are in part MB with the early cut stones reused in the later foundations.

At 20-23, 229, 230, 244 also there was a mixture of sherds with the H prevailing.

In 24-27 (3, 5; +C) there were some MB sherds at the bottom. Here was a clear case of H building on earlier structures. The wall at the W of 24 was a layer of stones on top of debris. Deep in 25 there were many EI I and EI II remains. In 28, where the debris was deep, there was a distribution from H at the top to MB at the bottom, though

<sup>7</sup> Notice that in this volume, because of the impossibility of making any clear-cut distinction between the so-called EI III and H, everything post-exilic and pre-Roman is called H, except in the very few cases where we have material obviously from the 5th or early 4th century.

there was no clear stratification. In this area all the walls were H, except the remains of earlier structures in 25 and 28. In the center of 26 was a cistern from which there came H and Roman pottery, indicating that the cistern had been used after the abandonment of the city.

An intriguing structure was that in 27 (fig. 6; shown at another angle in BASOR 43, p. 11). It is very much like that described by Mac-



Fig. 5. SEVEN EI III (EARLY H) WINE JARS. The tops are broken off for a later H floor level. Pl. II:3,+B; loc. 59.

alister as a Syrian bath at Gezer (G I, pp. 223-228), though not so extensive. There are similar tubs, benches, and basins. Two well preserved plaster-covered tubs are in design and size much like our modern bath tubs, with both ends vertical. Each had an outlet through a small hole in the bottom leading to the floor, which was plastered and drained so that the water could run out at the place where the words "Bath Room" are marked in the plan. At first we were inclined to take the structure as a bath room without question and the workers called it *hammâm*. The proximity of the cistern (26) seemed logical.

Two objects in the room, however, raised doubts. On the W wall, N of the large tub, is a basin standing higher than the tub and not large enough to admit comfortably a normal human body. (A similar basin

is shown in the foreground in G I, p. 227, fig. 113.) This could hardly be a bath tub. On the E wall, adjoining a bench, is a basin which may be a foot bath. There is a ledge on which the bather may have sat and in the front right hand corner is a depression opening through a hole in the front wall into a little quadrant shaped basin. Possibly the water used for the foot bath was perfumed and so was dipped up for reuse rather than being emptied on the floor.



Fig. 6. HELLENISTIC BATH ROOM OR DYE PLANT. From SE.

From the first, however, Mukhtar 'Abd el-Qâder Yûsif maintained that we had a dye plant, especially for hides. The large tubs may have been used for tanning and washing the hides. In the "foot bath" the hide or cloth to be dyed could be soaked in the dye in the lower part of the basin and then placed on the ledge, so that the valuable fluid would run down. The depression in the corner would allow the fluid to be saved without waste.

Twelve of these "foot baths" were found: loci 27, 192, 245, 271 (2), 246, 68, 57, 101, 116, 128 (2). Only the one in 27 had an outlet; the others had merely circular depressions to facilitate ladling out the fluid. In 271 the basin in the SW corner was older and probably was demolished

before the one in the SE corner (fig. 7) was built. The newer one was set in the wall, so that it would have been awkward for a bather to take his seat in it. On the theory that these basins were dyeing vats we may suppose that the earlier one, set in the room, was destroyed and that the later one was set in the wall, where it would not be disturbed by playing children or scuffling soldiers.<sup>8</sup>



Fig. 7. "FOOT BATH." Similar installations were scattered over the hill. This one is in the SE corner of loc. 271 (pl. II:3,+C).

In 128 (3;-B,-C) are two contemporaneous basins. It is possible but not probable that there would be two foot baths in one room. Two dyeing vats would be more plausible.

The majority of archaeologists who have visited the site or seen the picture of 27 prefer the bath room explanation. All the basins are H and they bear a resemblance to some of the baths found in Greek excavations (cf. *Annual of the British School at Athens*, XXV, pp. 98-100; *AJA* XXXI, p. 430). No trace of dye was found in any basin. In favor of the dye plant theory is the inconvenience of the tall basin in 27 and some of the smaller basins. The presence of many loom weights,

<sup>8</sup> These installations are wholly unlike the Israelite foot bath found at Samaria in 1931 and described by Mrs. Crowfoot in *PEFQ*, Oct., 1932, p. 179.

spindle whorls, and needles of the H period would indicate that there was an established textile industry on the hill, so that dye plants would be in order. The absence of remains of dye may be explained as due to the work of lime and rain water through two millennia.

The walls excavated E of the "bath room" are on a lower level. The upper walls (30, 33, 35, 36) are H. The lower walls (217, 218) probably are EI I, since the pottery in the lower debris was almost entirely from this period.



Fig. 8. PART OF THE MARKET PLACE. Loci 70,45,42,38,29 (pl. II:5,A). In the center is a room with plastered walls. The rough wall in front is late. The slab at the threshold is cement. A drain trough runs under this slab. The pillars mark the site of the inn.

On the lower level (5; B to -C) was a street, facing which was the market place. The rock furnished a natural W wall for the buildings. There must be more excavation to the N and E to determine the nature of 39-41, 43; 40 apparently is a passage way. In 29 (fig. 8) the remains of pillars indicate an inn with stalls for beasts on the ground floor and guest quarters above. Apparently 38 is another passage way. The plastered room 42 with a plaster slab at the threshold presents another problem; 45 also was plastered and a drain trough beginning in 45 and running under the slab indicates the use of these two rooms as a unit. The little wall running across 42 is late and entirely secondary.

Tentatively we accept the suggestion offered by Mr. John D. Whiting of the American Colony that these rooms were used for slaughtering and selling cattle.

At 46 and 48 there were shops. In 50 was the prototype of the saloon. Here were nine large wine jars set in a rock-hewn trench (figs. 9, 10). In front of this wine shop in the street were some large, shallow, circular holes cut into the rock. Evidently they are older than the H buildings and were filled when the street ran over them. Behind the wine shop



Fig. 9. STORE ROOM OF A WINE SHOP. LOC. 50 (pl. II:5, -B).

in the SW corner of 49 was a window 47 cm. wide and 69 cm. high. It was in an early H phase of building, since the walls of 51 obstructed it.

The complex at the S and W of the wine shop (1 to 5; A to -C) evidently represents living quarters and work shops of the population depending on the soldiers for trade. The area was occupied by earlier settlements, however; for it showed the usual mixture of MB, EI I, EI II, and H sherds. In 146 were found two small MB vases without handles (pl. V: 17, 18). Several silos and cisterns were contained in this area. The silo (marked "Cistern") in 151 had in it large hole-mouthed storage jars of EI II (pl. IX: 1-4).

From 24I, near the fortress, came the few LB pieces found in the excavation; they filled only half a basket.





Fig. 10. FIVE JARS FROM THE WINE SHOP.

Three shallow graves (146, 149), cut into bed rock in fan-shaped arrangement and covered with stone slabs (as shown in the middle grave in the plan), were interesting. The bones in the tomb at the W had been badly disarranged, perhaps by moles, which infest the hill.



Fig. 11. A HELLENISTIC GRAVE. The skeleton shows a complete breaking of the spinal cord just above the pelvis. The center grave of loc. 146, 149 (pl. II:1, -B).



Possibly, however, the body had been badly mutilated and only part of it was buried. In the other two tombs the skeletons were intact. There was no indication that any of the tombs had been rifled. The skeletons (examined by Dr. Canaan) showed late youth or early middle age with well-proportioned mesocephalism and no pronounced race characteristics. No objects were buried with the bodies. Two of the tombs were crossed by H walls and a floor level was over them. Pottery



Fig. 12. RUINS OF A HELLENISTIC OVEN.  
Loc. 271 (pl. II:3,+C).



Fig. 13. HELLENISTIC CELLAR. Loc. 113  
(pl. II:0,+C). This shows the second and  
third stages of the H fortification.

and structure indicated an early H date for the burials. It is probable that the bodies were of soldiers killed during a siege, when the city necropolis (which we have not yet located) was inaccessible. The men were of high enough rank to call for formal, individual burial, but the circumstances would not permit anything elaborate. The graves were covered and soon forgotten. The soldier in the center had been killed by a severe crushing of the lower spinal cord; possibly an elephant stepped on him (fig. 11).

The dominating edifice of the hill was the fortress at the center of the citadel, showing three phases of H fortification, as mentioned above. These phases may be marked at 53, 56, 231, 227, 228. In the center of the fortress (67) was a huge cistern, cut into the rock. The square

shaft is in the SW corner and leads down into a reservoir 4 m. deep. Originally the plan was 10x6 m. and later there was added an L 4x6 m. The extent of the cistern is indicated by the dotted lines at 67, 228 (I, +B). Beside a great amount of H pottery this cistern yielded some significant EI II material.

In 271 were the remains of a circular oven, set in a paved floor (fig. 12).

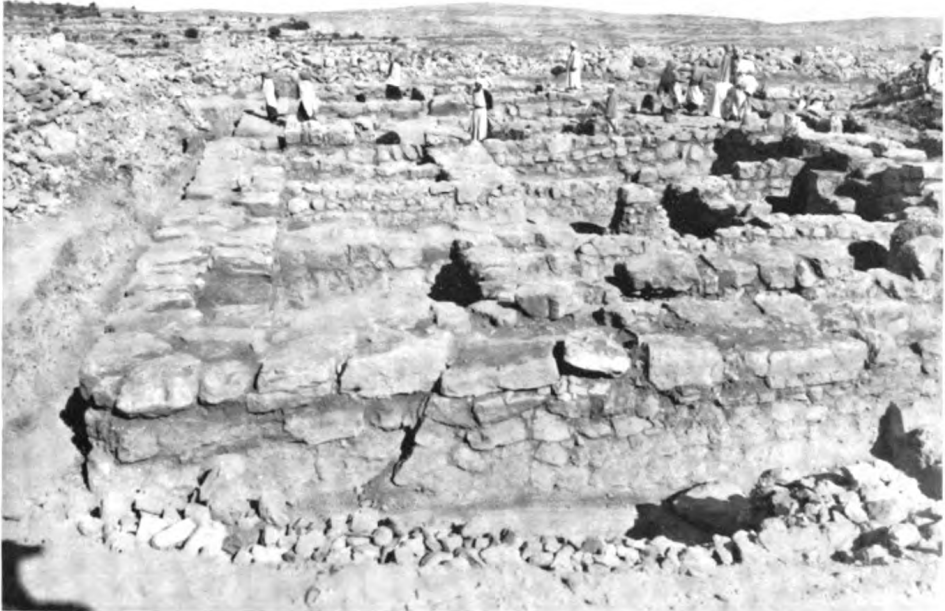


Fig. 14. THE SE CORNER OF THE FORTRESS. The camera faces W. The lower wall in the foreground is from the first phase of H fortification. The top course comes from the second phase. At the right center of the picture is a layer from the third phase.

The first phase of fortification is restricted to the top of the hill. Going W from 97, 78, 88 we find the second and third phases, built above earlier buildings, mostly EI I. Here, too, the H builders disturbed the older constructions by sinking their foundations to bed rock. Several times we judged from the pottery that we had a clear MB level only to find H pottery below it.

While the fortress has well defined E, S, and W walls, on the N it runs into the living quarters and shops. The slope on the N is steep, so that there was little likelihood of attack from that direction. In the area excavated at the N we found some stratification, which must be dated not later than the 10th century (BASOR 43, p. 7). In the next expedition we hope to extend the digging to this interesting area in the N and W.

The bare area shown in 1, 3; -C probably was the street. It had a few centimeters of loose debris with small remains of walls. This section, too, doubtless was denuded by the builders of Byzantine Beth-zur. The large cistern (204) was unique in having two shafts. There was some water in it and at the request of the owners we left it open to be used again.



Fig. 15. A SECTION OF THE FORTRESS. The camera faces N from the S fortress wall. The two rooms in the foreground are 64 and 65 (pl. II;1,A). The walls running E-W are mostly of the second phase; those running N-S of the third phase. In the crevice at the center of the picture (loc. 66) were found the few EB sherds. The structure at the top of the picture is a booth erected by the Egyptian foremen for their noon siesta.

What we take to be the E gate of the city, facing 'Ain edh-Dhirweh, is shown at 82, 83, 109, 110, 152 (5, 7; A, -B), figs. 17, 18. From this area there came a little MB pottery, more EI I, a great deal of EI II and H. Apparently there were early houses in this area, but in the H period the few remains of earlier houses were covered and there were built retaining walls, over which ran the main road entering the city. The inner projections of the walls (82) seem to be foundations for the city gate, which now is gone. This hypothesis is provisional and may have to be altered or abandoned when the surrounding area is excavated.

The area at 186, 187, 198, 199 (5, 7; -C) was not excavated to bed rock. The pottery from it was almost pure H, though as we went deeper a few EI II sherds appeared. In the corner of 186 was a unique press,



Fig. 16. SHOPS AND LIVING QUARTERS S OF THE FORTRESS. The camera faces SW. The hole in the left center is a silo of the EI II period (wrongly marked "Cist." in pl. II:1, -B; loc. 151). It contained broken storage jars of the hole-mouth type.



Fig. 17. THE EAST GATE. Apparently the walls were built to prevent the washing down of dirt and the road went over them. Most of the masonry is H.

consisting of three stones set together with a basin hewn in the resulting pillar. An outlet led into a plastered receiving basin. Various visitors thought this was for making wine or oil or *dibs*.



Fig. 18. PART OF THE EAST GATE. Pl. II:7,A, -B; loc. 152. The older walls were destroyed to make place for the H retaining walls. The rock-hewn trough leading to a small basin may be explained by future excavation, since the origin of the trough was not uncovered.

In the SW, loci 121, 133, 135, 137, 145, 145A, 145B, 156, 157, 254 (pl. II: o, -B; pl. III: o, -2; -B, -C), we had our best example of stratification, though we were not helped by burned levels. On top were some H walls. Below were some walls clearly EI I and still further down MB. In some sections, as between 133 and 134, the MB and EI I walls were confused. In the MB period there was evidence of damage (from siege or earthquake) and rebuilding. In 156 was a MB child's tomb, unfortunately empty.

The city wall here (see pls. III, IV) is 2.5 m. thick, dating from the 17th or early 16th century, as evidenced by the masonry and the pottery. In the wall are the foundations of a tower 6 m. thick, which has evidence of being rebuilt in the 16th century. Outside the tower is a distinctly H buttress.

At the SE end of the buttress there is a breach in the wall for 3.4 meters. At 32 there is again a MB wall with H repair. A peculiar fea-



ture of this is shown by stones G, H, and I (pl. IV). Here is a breach in a wall made of small stones repaired by the insertion of very large stones. The use of enormous stones by the H builders was a surprise to us. In some instances (e.g., fig. 19, top) what we at first took to be protruding rock proved to be the large stones of H mural masonry.



Fig. 19. HELLENISTIC CITY WALL. Pl. III, loc. 32. Here are seen six phases of construction.

An interesting section of the wall is shown partially in pl. III, loc. 32 and more completely by the photograph, fig. 19. Probably this part of the wall was the object of the most frequent attack during the Maccabean wars and therefore it had to be repaired often. Seemingly it was reinforced on the inside. Only a 12 m. section of this part of the wall is preserved; it furnished ready cut building material for the Byzantine city across the valley.

#### THE RESERVOIR

SE of the oft repaired city wall we found the entrance to what proved a reservoir far more interesting than the ordinary cistern. Evidently this was originally a natural cave with a small entrance. When this was first used, either as a cistern or as a shrine, there was hewn out a flight of broad steps (fig. 20). Later it was decided to enlarge the entrance. So a deeper shaft was cut at right angles to the first steps and a winding

flight of 26 steps with a balustrade was hewn, leading to the floor (figs. 21, 22). Undoubtedly the cave was used as a reservoir for a number of years; for on its walls are three layers of plaster. Then it must have been abandoned as a reservoir some time before the collapse of the city; for a second entrance had been cut at the S before debris had raised the floor level, and the breaks in the plaster had not been restored.



Fig. 20. FIRST FLIGHT OF STEPS LEADING TO RESERVOIR. The later, deeper shaft cut into them. The boy is standing in the deeper shaft.

As in the case of Hezekiah's tunnel, workmen dug from both directions. The S entrance is rectangular (fig. 24). There is a descent of two shallow steps and then a drop of 2 m. From there a curved shaft leads to the reservoir. Inside the reservoir the workers started one door and then abandoned it to make a new and higher one at the left.<sup>9</sup> The top of this met the shaft coming from the outside and there was made a hole large enough for a man to enter. The person coming into the cave or leaving it had to be fairly agile to negotiate the two sheer drops; but our workmen had no difficulty in climbing in or out. It is possible that the wall ran over the reservoir between the two entrances and that the Jews who burned the Syrian engines of war in the siege made their sorties through this passage.

<sup>9</sup>The sequence was pointed out to us by Dr. G. Welter.



Fig. 21. CIRCULAR STAIRWAY LEADING INTO RESERVOIR. The steps are rougher than the earlier steps, through which they were cut.

When the cave ceased to be used for holding water it rapidly acquired debris. Doubtless many a boy enjoyed throwing a big stone into the entrance and watching it roll down the steps. Practically all of the



Fig. 22. INTERIOR OF RESERVOIR. The camera faces NE. Beyond the balustrade the workman is descending the stairs.





Fig. 23. INTERIOR OF THE RESERVOIR. This shows two cuttings made in the S wall to connect with the shaft leading to the S slope of the hill. The niche at the right was abandoned and the one at the left made the connection. There is a round hole at the top of this left niche. The reservoir was filled with debris, all of which except the pile of stones shown in the picture was removed.

pottery that came out was late H, with an occasional early H object. A little Jewish coin with a Greek owl and Hebrew letters (pl. XIV: 9; fig. 72) was from this reservoir.

The size of this cave and its mouth kept it open for many years, though the S entrance was quickly covered. In fact, there was a small opening at the N when we found it—too small to admit the body of a



Fig. 24. SOUTH ENTRANCE TO THE RESERVOIR. Pl. III:1,E, facing SW.

boy, but good entrance for the toads that enjoyed the dampness. The last pottery that was thrown into it was Byzantine.

Much refuse went into the reservoir. We found bones of many animals: dogs, rats, cows, camels, goats, and donkeys. In the SW corner were found a few human bones and a skull, loosely covered by small stones—evidently a hasty secret burial to conceal foul play.

Another surprising find was a jaw bone, which we did not recognize but which was identified by Professor Aharoni of the Hebrew University as that of an *asinus onager*. This jaw bone has been given to the Field Museum in Chicago and is being studied comparatively. It will be treated in a future publication.

## CHAPTER IV

### POTTERY FORMS

EXCEPT for the post-exilic period, our investigation at Beth-zur owes far more to previous studies of Palestinian pottery than Palestinian pottery will owe to Beth-zur. If ours had been the first excavation in Palestine we should have produced disastrous confusion. The H builders in sinking their foundations so mixed up earlier



Fig. 25. CLASSIFYING THE SHERDS. Left to right: Nims, Patterson, Gordon (standing), Albright, Mahmoud.

pottery that there would have been a hopeless jumble except for the exact studies of Fisher, Vincent, and others. We were particularly fortunate in having as our archaeological adviser Albright, the foremost authority on the sequence of pre-exilic pottery, as shown by his recent publication of the pottery of the first three campaigns at Tell Beit Mirsim (TBM I). Consequently we were never in doubt about the approximate dates of the sherds which were being unearthed.

Of the EB pottery there was only enough to show that a few people had been on the hill in EB times. A handful of EB sherds was found in loc. 66 (pl. II: 1, A) and one thick, painted sherd beside the wall in loc. 31 (pl. III); see fig. 26, top. The general texture was like that of the J stratum pottery at Tell Beit Mirsim (TBM I, pls. 1, 2).

The MB pottery is much more extensive and represents the first real settlement on the hill. Since our MB pottery corresponds in general to that of the D stratum at Tell Beit Mirsim and the city was occupied in the MB age long enough to necessitate the repairing of the wall, we



Fig. 26. EARLY BRONZE AND LATE BRONZE FRAGMENTS. The upper three are EB; the two outside were found in the crevice in loc. 66 (pl. II:1,A). They are buff, the jar handle covered with thick, reddish slip containing fine grits. The center piece is gray with fine grits, covered with reddish slip and painted with irregular black lines. It was found by the wall in loc. 31 (pl. III:0,C). The lower half shows a LB lamp (cf. TBM I, pl. 14:3-7), the pointed base of a juglet with the sides pared rather than moulded (see TBM I, § 56), and the well-known decorations on the imported wishbone-handled bowls (TBM I §§ 63,64).



Fig. 27. MIDDLE BRONZE FRAGMENTS. For snake decoration cf. TBM I, pl.13:27; for triple jar handle see CPP, 101; for carinated bowl TBM I, pl. 9:5-7. Rings in red paint separated by zigzag lines are characteristic of MB; cf. CPP, p. 18.

may suppose that the city was established in the Hyksos age (i.e., the 17th century) and continued into the 16th century.

Of this age we found only one unbroken piece (pl. V: 17), a unique vase influenced by the imported alabastra, of which no. 16 (pl. V) is an example. We found enough broken pieces, however, to draw a number of vessels (pls. V, VI).

The LB pottery consisted of only a few sherds and a broken lamp

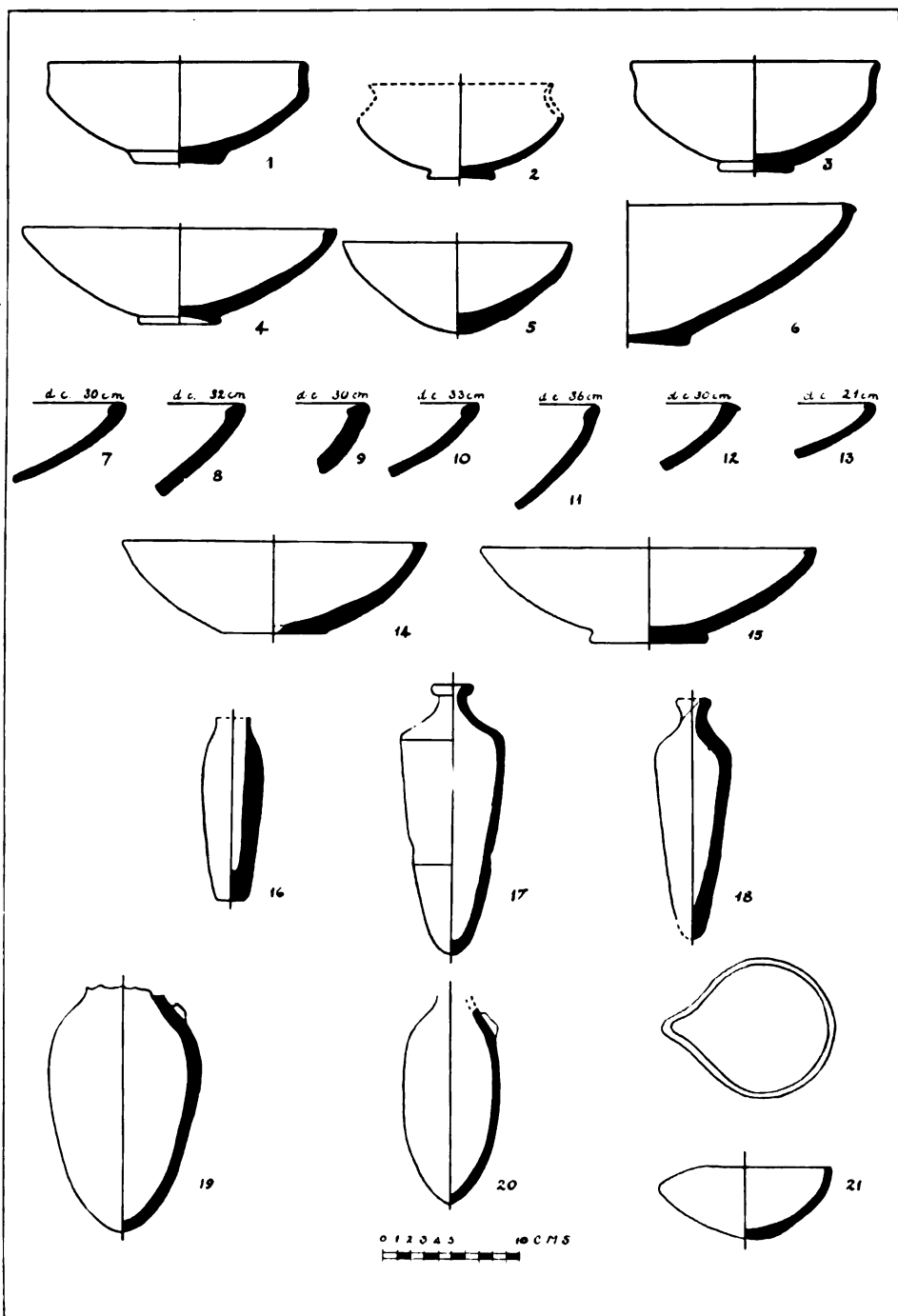


PLATE V. MIDDLE BRONZE FORMS

Most of these are similar to forms found at Tell Beit Mirsim, stratum D. For 1-3 cf. TBM I, pl. 9:5-7; pl. 42:4-6. The carination of 2 may not be so sharp as shown in

which could be put together (fig. 26, bottom), all found in loc. 251 (pl. II: 1, A). It is not improbable that we missed a few LB sherds without distinctive features in other loci, but had there been any appreciable amount we should have noticed them. We may be certain that there was no LB occupation of the excavated area.



Fig. 28. MIDDLE BRONZE FRAGMENTS. The similarity to Tell Beit Mirsim stratum D pottery may be seen by comparing these pieces with TBM I, pls. 8-13. Round, concave bases, pl. 11:22-25; pointed bases, pl. 9:8-10; double handle, pl. 13:1,2; other handles, pl. 10:9; combing, pl. 11:18-21; wavy lines, pls. 10:14, 11:8; trumpet base, pl. 10:19.



Fig. 29. EARLY IRON I FORMS. Chalices, lamps, juglet, and strainer (drawn in pl. VII). For these types see TBM I, pls. 25,51.

the conjectural lines. For 4,6,14,15 cf. TBM I, pl. 43:10-14. 5 is not a common MB shape, but the rounded base occurs in MB bowls (G III, pl. CLIV: 1,2). 7-13 are rims of characteristic MB bowls. 16 is an alabastron with the top broken; cf. TBM I, pl. 43:1. 17 and 18 are unique vases; the former was the only whole MB vessel found. 19 is a small water jar similar to the larger one shown in TBM I, pl. 8:1. 20 is the common pointed juglet. 21 is a characteristic lamp; cf. TBM I, pl. 43:3,4.

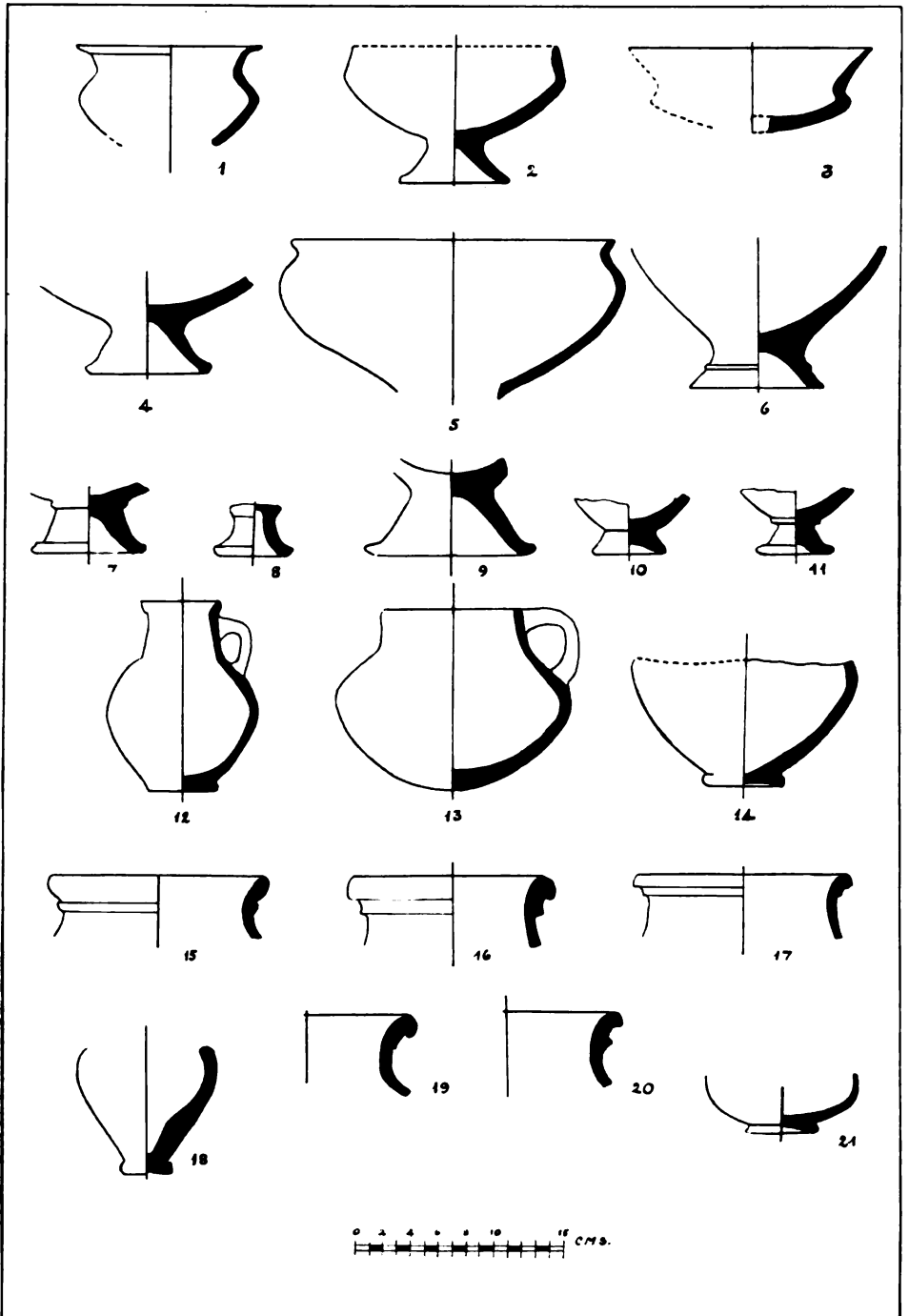


PLATE VI. MIDDLE BRONZE FORMS

1-11 are examples of the carinated bowl. Probably 1 and 5 were trumpet-footed, like the others except 3. For a discussion of this type see TBM I §§33,34; for 3 cf. *op. cit.*,

Sherds of EI I were abundant; but we found only one unbroken piece of pottery, a lamp shown in fig. 29. A comparison with the pottery of Tell Beit Mirsim (TBM I, ch. V) shows that we have many of the B<sub>1</sub> and B<sub>2</sub> types, but an almost complete absence of B<sub>3</sub>. The B<sub>2</sub> types were most plentiful. Evidently the city, which had been deserted during the LB period, attracted a few settlers early in the EI I age. The population increased until some catastrophe wiped out a large part of the city



Fig. 30. EARLY IRON I POTTERY. For the forms see TBM I, pls. 25,26,50,51. The thumb markings are unusual.



Fig. 31. EARLY IRON I FORMS. For the lug handle cf. TBM I, pl. 25:14. The dish at the left has the chordal burnishing; cf. TBM I, §87; pl. 51:17. The painted pieces seem Philistine. Rims at the right are from large bowls and cooking pots.

and there was a small population until the EI II revival under Rehoboam.

Though in most places the H builders destroyed all previous stratification, in a few areas (pl. II, loci 33, 217 in the NW; 48-51 in the market place; and particularly 146, 150, 151 S of the fortress) there was something left of an EI II stratum with burning between it and the H debris above. There was an abundance of EI II sherds, though not a great

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pl. 10:6. 12 is a jug like that shown in *op. cit.*, pl. 9:4=pl. 42:10, except that the top of the handle is lower. The left side of the base is incorrectly drawn. 13 is similar to G III, pl. LXV:33, though more squat. For 14,18,21 cf. TBM I, pl. 45:19-24. For the jar mouths, 15-17,19,20 cf. *op. cit.*, pl. 10:1,2; pl. 45:4,8.



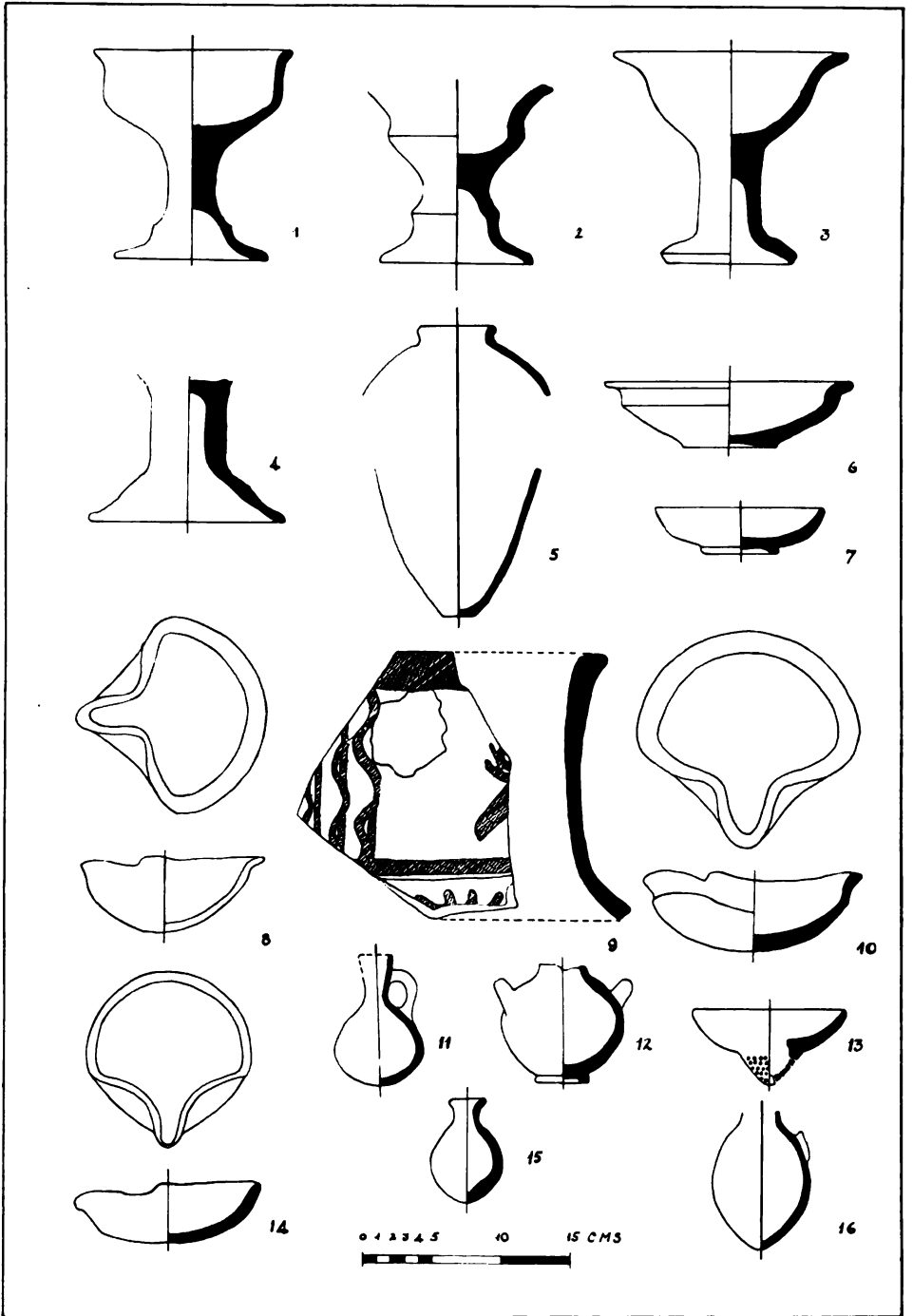


PLATE VII. EARLY IRON I FORMS

The chalices, the lamps with rims and round bases, and the juglets are well known types.

variety. In the area around loc. 151 were found fragments of approximately 100 hole-mouth jars. In the silo at this locus (marked "Cistern" in the plan) were 18 jars, all broken but three permitting reconstruction. We found no unbroken vessel of the EI II period.



Fig. 32. EARLY IRON II SHERDS. Ring-burnished bowls; water decanters with depressions in handles; flat bottomed lamps; ribbed jar handles.

By far the most important pottery at Beth-zur was the H. The city reached the height of its glory during the H age and was not occupied in later times. Since very little of the H pottery of Palestine has been published, we feel that we have made a little contribution to the knowledge of this period. It is true that most of our forms have parallels in

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For 6,7 cf. TBM I, pl. 51:13-16,19. The strainer, 13 (photograph in fig. 29) is unusual, but almost certainly EI I; apparently it was a separate utensil and not part of a jar. The size of 5 should be four times as large as shown. It is a huge storage jar, of which we found only the top and bottom. It is light reddish buff and doubtless had handles. 9 is only a little less than half actual size. It is buff clay with yellow buff slip and decorations in red, shading from orange to dark red. 5 was drawn on a scale 1/10, 9 on a scale 1/1. all the others 2/5; separate scales should have been indicated for 5 and 9.

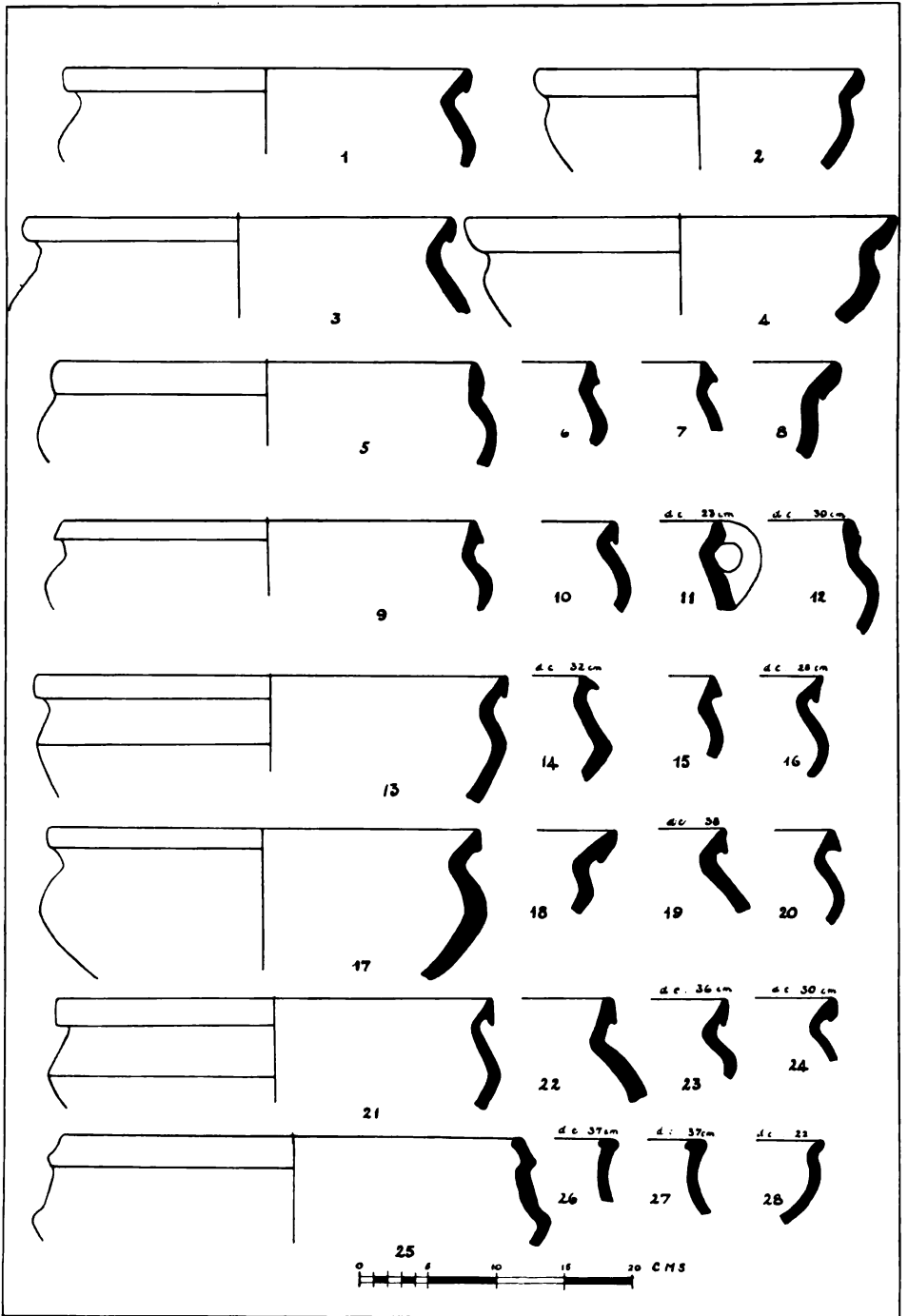


PLATE VIII. EARLY IRON I FORMS

Most of these were found in the EI I stratum north of the fortress (pl. II; I, +C).

Marisa, Gezer, and Samaria; but the work of Macalister and Bliss was done before the technique of dating by pottery was fully developed and Samaria had so much more important material that its H pottery was worthy of only comparatively slight attention. Dr. Fisher and Père Vincent, however, know the H forms and helped us in many instances.

In our classification, as has been noted, we make no attempt at distinction between EI III and H, calling all post-exilic pottery H to the Roman period. It was easy to see that there was no break between the

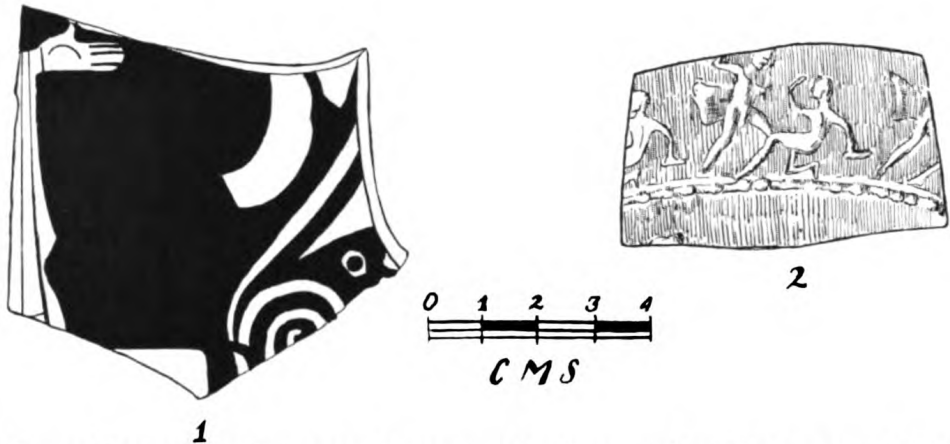


Fig. 33. HELLENISTIC DECORATED POTTERY. 1 is a fragment found in the street debris immediately S of the fortress (loc. 241). It is on fine red clay with black paint, typical early 5th cent. Greek; cf. Ger., pl. XLVI:4. 2 is a fragment of a raised frieze on the body of a bowl, Megarian ware, a repeated scene of combat between two warriors or boxers; found in loc. 28, near the "bath room."

supposed EI III or Persian period and the period of Greek political control of Palestine. Culturally from the early part of the 5th century on Palestine was dominated by Greece. The few objects showing Persian influence are almost negligible. There is no change in pottery forms or other objects at the coming of Alexander. That conqueror did not introduce Greek culture into Palestine. He may have promoted it; but he found plenty of it there ahead of him.

A few pieces were clearly early in this period; e.g., the wine jars in loc. 59 (pl. II: 3, +B). We thought we could detect a development from coarser to finer texture during this period; but we were not able to trace any development in forms. Possibly future excavation will show some sequences within this time. (See Iliffe's article *Pre-Hellenistic Greek Pottery in Palestine*, in *Quarterly of the Department of Antiquities in Palestine*, Vol. II, pp. 15-26, pls. V-IX.)

It is noteworthy that there is a distinct break between our EI II

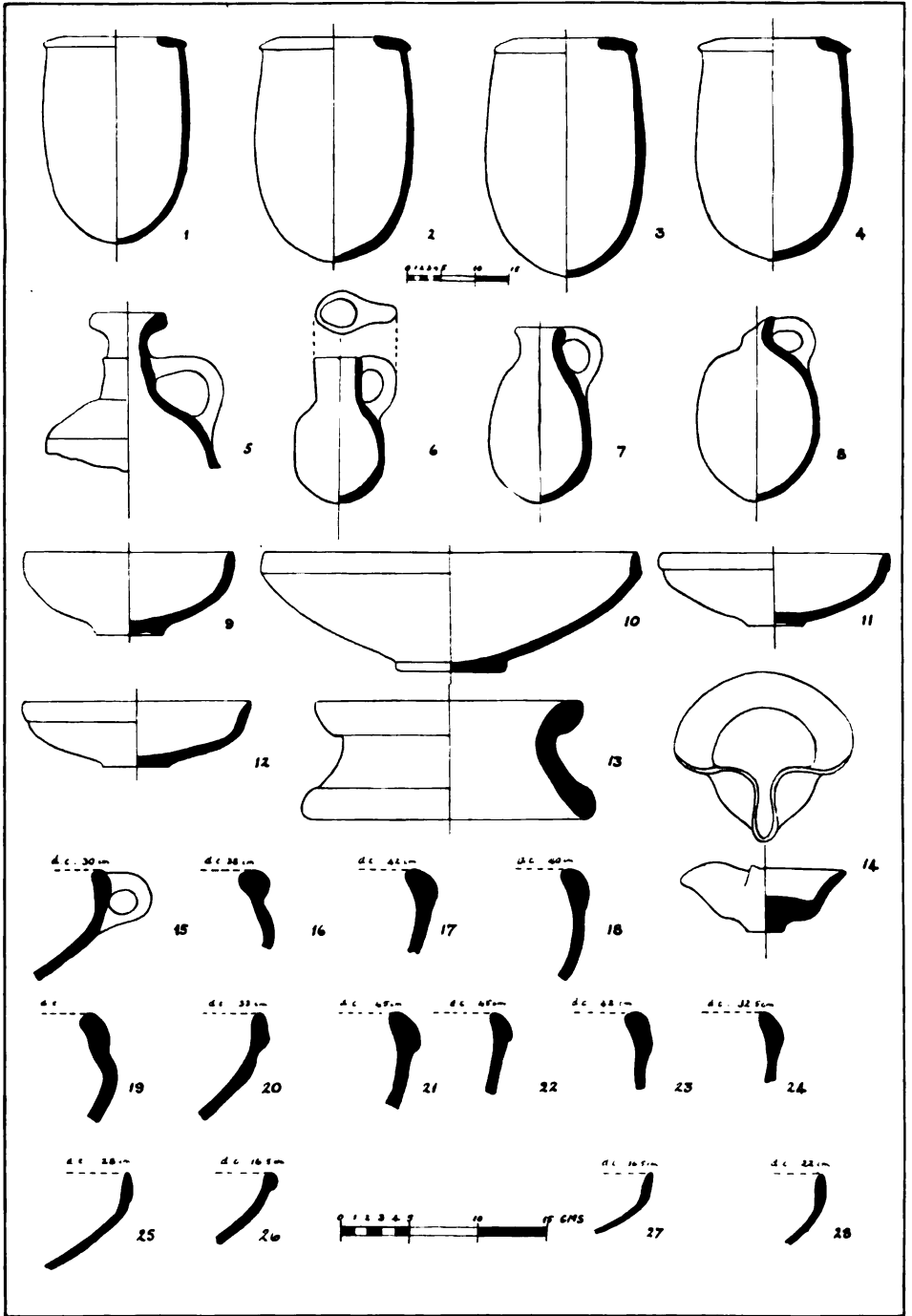


PLATE IX. EARLY IRON II FORMS

1-4 are buff hole-mouth jars, all found in loc. 151 (pl. II:1, -B), 3 in loose debris and the others in the silo; cf. TBM I, pl. 52:1-9. 5 is a water decanter, gray with buff slip, the others in the silo; cf. TBM I, pl. 52:1-9.

and our H. There were no transitional types at all. So, though we found evidence of conflagration only in a few places, there is no doubt that the city was depopulated about the time of Nebuchadnezzar's invasion and remained uninhabited until the end of the 6th century or the beginning



Fig. 34. HELLENISTIC STORAGE JAR.  
Drawn in pl. XII:8.



Fig. 35. SLENDER HELLENISTIC JAR AND  
FRAGMENT WITH ROPE DECORATION AND  
GEM IMPRESSION.

of the 5th. Thus it adds some evidence in support of the Biblical representation of the exile and the subsequent restoration.

Our H pottery (pls. X-XIII, figs. 33-42) gave us a good representation of storage jars, cooking pots, jugs, vases, pitchers, bowls, flasks, and lamps. Even from this period, however, we found very few whole pieces.

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originally burnished, like that shown in *op. cit.*, pl. 59:5. For 6-8, all reddish buff and vertically burnished, cf. *op. cit.*, pl. 69. For 9-12, red surfaced bowls with ring burnishing, cf. *op. cit.*, pl. 61. For 13, a buff jar stand, cf. *op. cit.*, pl. 71:7,10. The flat bottomed lamp, 14, is typical; *op. cit.*, pl. 70:1-9. 15-28 are well known EI II rims; cf. *op. cit.*, pls. 60-64.

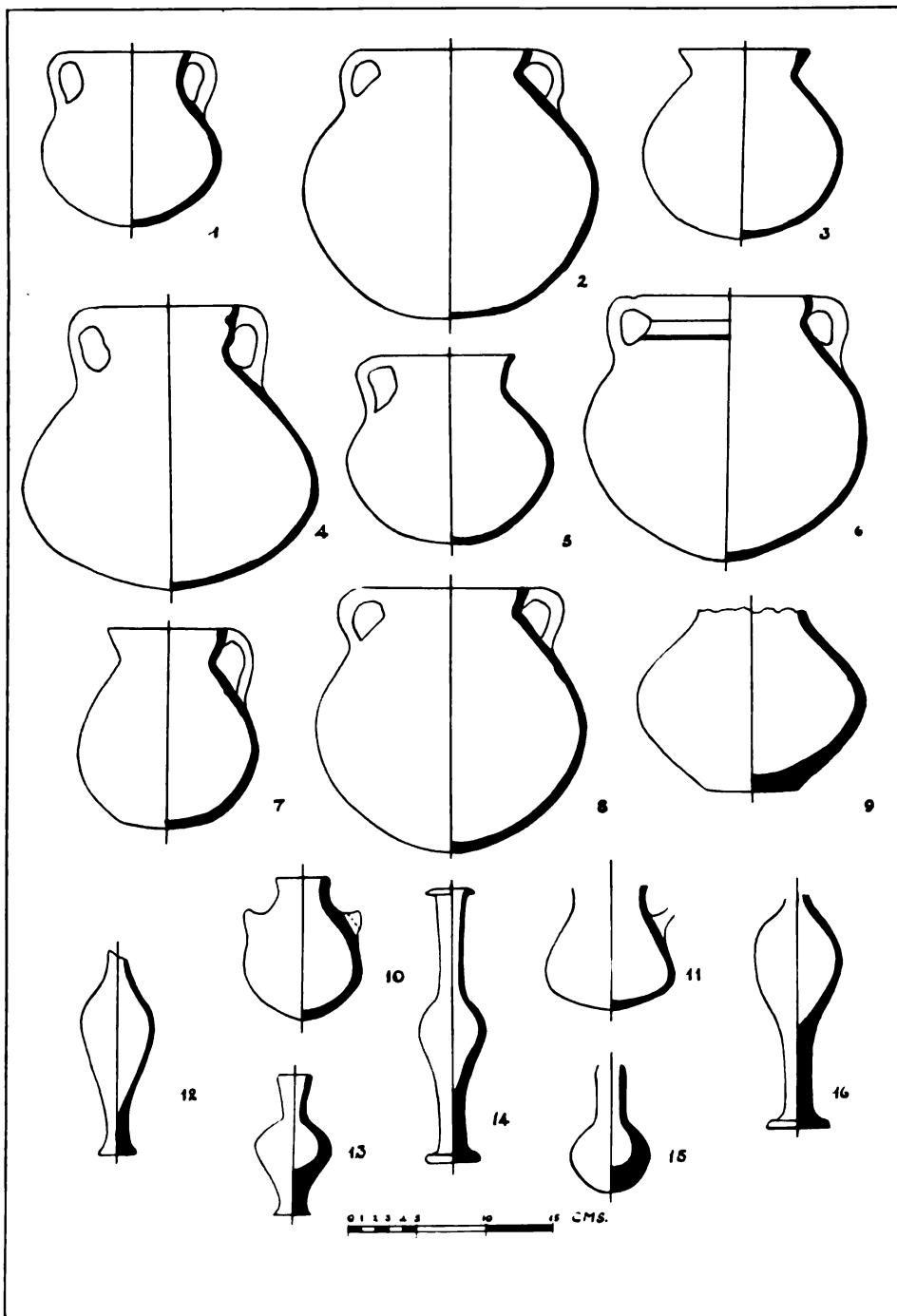


PLATE X. HELLENISTIC FORMS

1-4,6,8 are cooking pots, dark brown with white grits; cf. the "LI" pots in CPP 32. 5,7 are jars of the same texture and may have been used for cooking. Possibly, too, the



Fig. 36. HELLENISTIC PILGRIM FLASKS, PITCHERS, AND JUGLETS.



Fig. 37. HELLENISTIC PITCHERS AND PILGRIM FLASK.

cooking pots were used to carry water; for 1,5-7 come from the cistern at loc. 204 (pl. II:1,-C). 9 is a pot, light brown with fine white grits and yellowish creamy slip, from loc. 4 (pl. II:3,A). 10 is a squat juglet with two tilted lug handles, in shape like the EI I juglets shown in TBM I, pl. 51:4,5; CPP 55 *passim*, but much inferior in workmanship to the earlier. It is buff to pink with fine grits. It was found in loc. 7 (pl. II:3,A) on the first day of digging. 11 is a reddish brown juglet. 12-15 are small vases, buff with fine grits. 16 is dark gray with lighter and darker bands.



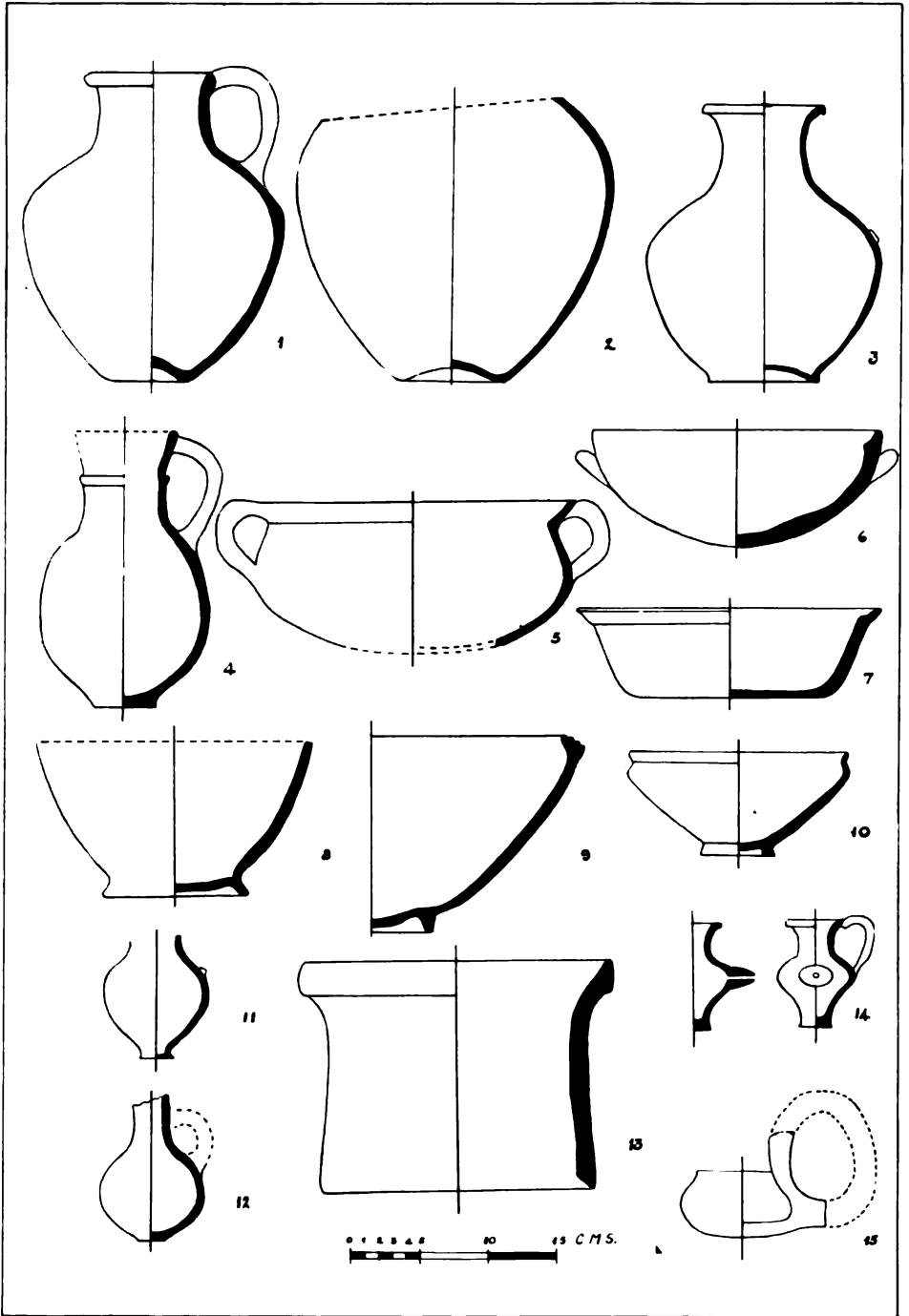


PLATE XI. HELLENISTIC FORMS

1-3 are pitchers, pinkish buff, with concave bases. Fragments of pitchers of this design were found in great quantities in the cisterns. 4 is a graceful flat-bottomed pitcher,



Fig. 38. HELLENISTIC HANDLES AND RIMS. The pointed decorations are puzzling. Two similar fragments were put by Bliss and Macalister as XVI Dynasty (CPP, 4, under *Decorated Fragments* toward the end of the book). The texture and provenance of these sherds show them to be H. Possibly there is Persian influence. The Rev. Paul S. Newey says he has seen similar decorations on pottery in ancient ash heaps near Urumia. At present we need more material for comparative study.



Fig. 39. HELLENISTIC BOWLS, VASES, AND FRAGMENTS. The triple handle was found at Gezer and put by Macalister as "Second Semitic" (G III, pls. CXLIX: 12, CLV:4). Our specimen, covered with a white slip, has the H texture and was found in H debris. The wavy band and the bow knot handles are worthy of notice.

also pinkish buff. Cf. the Hellenistic pitchers found at Samaria, CPP 36. 5 is a cooking pot, shallower than those in pl. X. 6 is a buff bowl with unpierced lug handles. 7 is a dark reddish brown bowl, in places smoked to bistre. 8 is a bowl (top missing) decorated with broad incised strokes down the side, reddish buff. 9 is a bowl with four creases in the rim. 10 is a carinated bowl (cf. the one from Samaria "LI," CPP 23), gray with bistre slip inside and partly outside. 11 has a thin black slip and 12 traces of a red slip. 13 is a ring jar-stand, buff, unique in form. 14 is a small spouted vase, like one found at Marisa (CPP 64, line 3). 15 is a small bowl with a large handle.

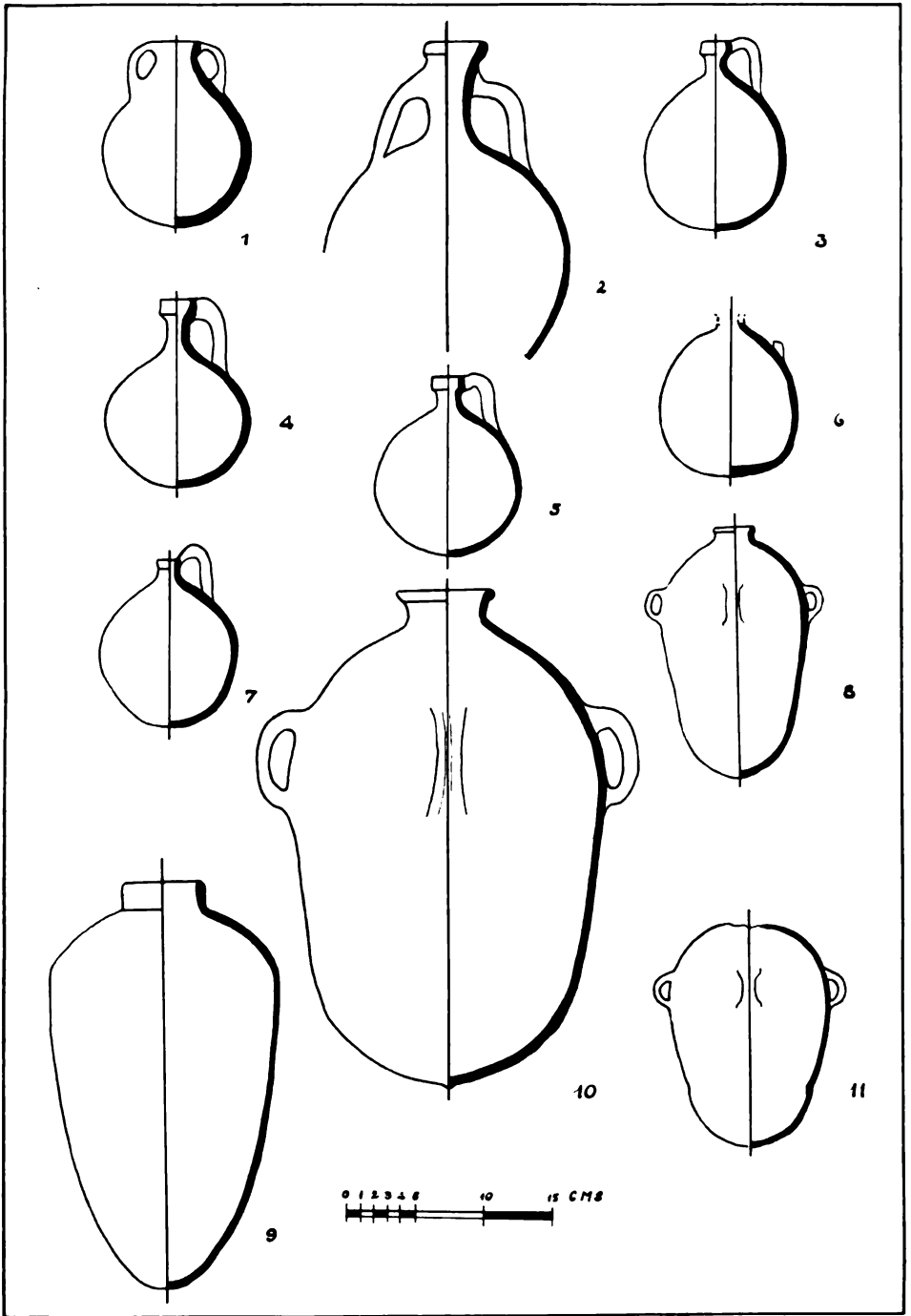


PLATE XII. HELLENISTIC FORMS

1,2 are pilgrim flasks, both reddish buff and crudely made. 3-7 are piriform juglets, buff (cf. the H "handled bottles" shown in CPP 59). 8-11 are large storage jars, all of



Fig. 40. FRAGMENTS OF HELLENISTIC  
BLACK PAINTED BOWLS. The larger ones  
are drawn in pl. XIII.

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smooth, red clay. 9 has a reddish buff slip. 8 and 11 should be shown four times as large as they appear and 9 and 10 twice as large. 8, which was found in a silo wrongly marked "Cist." in loc. 215 (pl. II:3, -B), is shown in fig. 34. 9 was found in loc. 24 (3, +C), near the "bath house." 10, 11 are wine jars found in the wine shop in the market place, loc. 50 (5, -B). They are shown partially reconstructed in fig. 10.

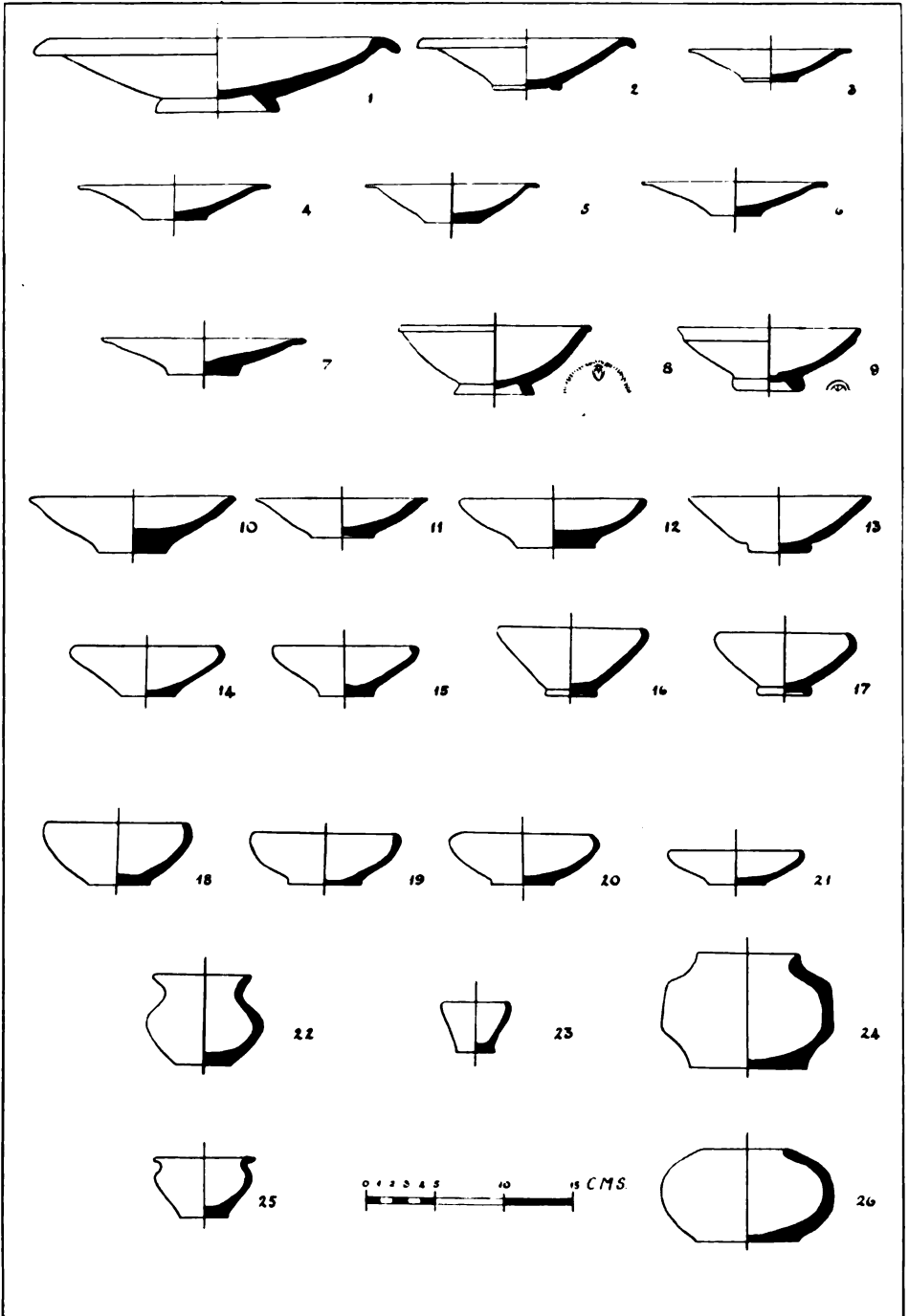


PLATE XIII. HELLENISTIC BOWLS

1 has the black polish and the Samian wave of H type; cf. the similar "LI" bowls from Samaria, CPP 2. 2 is similar in shape, reddish buff with red slip inside and partly



Fig. 41. ELEVEN HELLENISTIC AND TWO BYZANTINE LAMPS. The H lamps were completely folded and much smaller than most EI II lamps. Most had flat bottoms, though a few were round. The Byzantine lamps were found in the reservoir (loc. 44). They were moulded and bear the characteristic Byzantine vine decorations; but they carry over the old folding motive in design.



Fig. 42. HELLENISTIC LAMPS. These lamps, moulded in two forms and stuck together, are from patterns imported from Greece from the 5th century on. They did not immediately replace the folded lamp and in the Beth-zur period both patterns were used. We found in typical H debris a moulded lamp with its spout in a folded lamp.

outside. 3 is brownish gray; 4-7 reddish buff. 8 is a black polished bowl of Megarian type; 9 also is black polished with a rosette impressed in the center (photograph in fig. 40); for decorations cf. CPP 14. 10-21 are well-known H types, buff or reddish buff, mostly crudely made and skew (photograph of 17 in fig. 39). 22-26 are uncommon tiny bowls, all buff; 24 and 26 are drawn  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times too large.

## CHAPTER V

### STAMPED JAR HANDLES

FROM three periods (MB, EI II, and H) came representative stamped jar handles. All of the few MB stamped handles bore impressions of typical Hyksos scarabs, with designs mostly of curved lines and no lettering (drawings in fig. 50: 1, 3, 11, 14, 15; photograph in fig. 43; a better half-tone from the same photograph is shown in BASOR 43, p. 5).

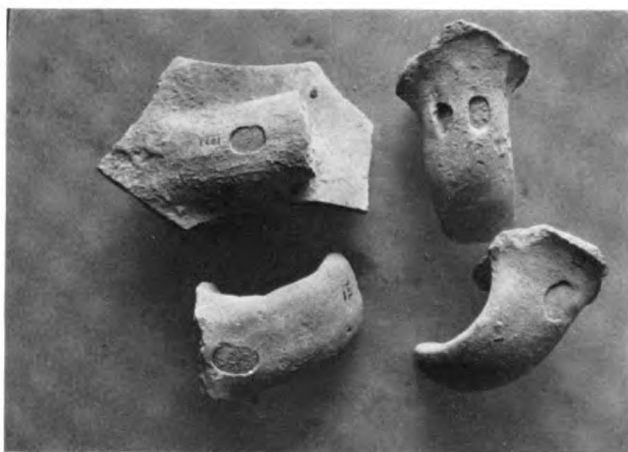


Fig. 43. MIDDLE BRONZE STAMPED JAR HANDLES. The impressions are made by Hyksos scarabs. These impressions are drawn in fig. 50:1,3,11,14,15.

On EI II jar handles 11 stamps were of the "winged scroll" type, with the inscription *lam-melek*, "of the king," and the district. Two were from Hebron, one from Ziph, and one from Mamshat; the others were illegible. Five were stamped with the rosette, common in pre-exilic Judah (fig. 44).

From the H period came a great number of decorated jar handles. Some were stamped with seals or gems (figs. 45; 50: 9, 10; 56: 6-11) and a few had crosses or crescent indentations.

By far the most important handles found at Beth-zur were those of Rhodian wine jars. Evidently the Syrian soldiers preferred the wine of Rhodes to the Palestinian vintage and imported it in large quantities. Twenty-three stamped Rhodian jar handles were found and, while the number is not imposing, these handles from Beth-zur will have to be

considered in any future study of the subject. Here we offer a list of these handles with notations of other localities where they have appeared.<sup>10</sup>



Fig. 44. EARLY IRON II STAMPED JAR HANDLES. The four at the left show the rosette; the five at the right have the "winged scroll" with the royal inscription. The upper right one shows also the concentric circles, scratched after the clay was hard.



Fig. 45. HELLENISTIC STAMPED JAR HANDLES. These have seal or gem impressions. The two at the left show crude quadrupeds; the others rather vague standing human figures (cf. fig. 56:6-11).

### RHODIAN JAR HANDLES FOUND AT BETH-ZUR, 1931

Letters indicate other locations where similar handles have been found: C = Carthage, G = Gezer, J = Jerusalem, L = Lindus in Rhodes, M = Marisa (Tell Sandaḥannah), P = Pergamum, S = Samaria. The loci are shown in pl. II.

<sup>10</sup>This list was prepared by Albright and collated by Nims. The following works were consulted: MARTIN NILSSON, *Explorations Archéologique de Rhodes, V, Timbres amphorique de Lindos*, *Bulletin of the Royal Danish Academy of Sciences*, 1909, pp. 37-180, 349-539; G. M. FITZGERALD, *JPOS* 1928, pp. 7-11; BLECKMANN, *Zu den Rhodischen eponymen Heliopriestern*, *Klio*, 1912; MACALISTER, *Rhodian Jar Handles of Tell Sandaḥannah*, *PEFQ* 1901; G II, pp. 351-363; E. FABRICUS and C. SCHUCHHARDT, *Inschriften von Pergamon II*, Berlin, 1895, pp. 423ff; G. A. REISNER, *Harvard Excavations at Samaria*, Cambridge, 1924.



## A. HANDLES SHOWING POTTERS' NAMES

1. Amyntas, Ἀμύντα, expedition number 303, loc. 91 (0, +B). Laurel wreath on right. J, G, M, S, C, P, L 42.
2. Antimachus, Ἀντιμάχου, exp. no. 264, loc. 80 (not marked on map; in 1, +B, near loc. 78). Caduceus. J, G (inscription not clear), M, S, C, P, L 55.
3. Aristogitus, Ἀριστογείτου, exp. no. 48, loc. 20 (3, +B). P, L 96.
4. Aristocles, Ἀριστοκλεῦς, exp. no. 559, loc. 152 (7, A). Round with rose. J, G, M, S, C, P, L 100.
5. Zoilus, Ζώϊλου, exp. no. 315, loc. 113 (0, +C). P.
6. Theumnastus, Θευμνάστου, exp. no. 260, loc. 51 (3, -B). J(?), S.
7. Callias, Καλλιῶς, exp. no. 267, loc. 45 (5, A). Four stars. J, M, S, C, P, L 269.
8. Creon, Κρέοντος, exp. no. 560, loc. 67 in cistern (1, +B). G (ΚΡΕΟΝΤΟΥ ΠΑΝΑΜΟΥ), M, S, C, P, L 283.
9. Pausanias, Πausανία, exp. no. 147, loc. 42 (5, A). Rectangular with rose below. J, G, M, S, C, P, L 351.
10. Polyxenus, Πολυξένου, exp. no. 562, loc. 136 (0, -B). Four stars. S, L 359.

## B. HANDLES SHOWING EPONYMS (preceded by ἐπί) AND MONTHS

1. Aratophanes, Ἀρατοφάνεως, month Καρνείου. Two specimens, exp. nos. 261, 558, loci 51 (3, -B), 43 (5, +B). J, G, M, S, C, P, L 68.
2. Aristeus, Ἀριστέως, no month, exp. no. 1094, loc. 260 (1, +C). S, L 84.
3. Aristidas, Ἀριστίδα, month Καρνείου, exp. no. 564, loc. 147 (1, -B). Elsewhere written Ἀριστείδα or Ἀρσιείδα. J, G, S, P, L 82.
4. Aristodamus, ἱερέως Ἀριστοδάμου, month Παναμος (!), exp. no. 1137, loc. 141 (1, +C). J, G, S, C, P, L 99 (L 99, 8 has the same legend, 'ἐπ' ἱερέως Ἀριστοδάμου.)
5. Ariston, Ἀρίστωνος, month Ἀγριανίου, exp. no. 555, loc. 67 in cistern (1, +B). M, S, C, P, L 115.
6. Archelaidas, Ἀρχιλαΐδα, month Ἵτακινθίου, exp. no. 302, loc. 113 (0, +C). J, M, S, C, P, L 135.
7. Xenophantus, Ξενοφάντου, month Πανάμου, exp. no. 265, loc. 82 (7, A). J, G, S, C, P, L 341.

## C. MISCELLANEOUS HANDLES

Two illegible; only a few traces of letters, exp. nos. 561 and 563, loci 67 in cistern (1, +B) and 91 (0, +B).

Three with month names only, exp. nos. 901, [θεσ]μοφορί[ου], circle

with lily; 1061, Πανάμου in rectangle; 1190, Καρνείου in rectangle. Respective loci 144 (0, +C), 204 in cistern (1, -C), 211 (not marked in map; in 2, -B).

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The eponyms found on handles in Carthage must antedate 146 B.C. Bleckmann dates the handles at Pergamum before 180 B.C. While the evidence from the Beth-zur handles is not conclusive, it would indicate that Bleckmann's date is too high. Of the 18 handles which can be read, 15 were found at Pergamum and 13 at Carthage. On the evidence of the



Fig. 46. STAMPED RHODIAN JAR HANDLES.

coins and the literary references it is certain that the flourishing period of the Syrian garrison at Beth-zur was between 165 and 143 B.C. It is hardly likely that the Jewish soldiers after the latter date, when they had the stronghold, would import Rhodian wine. It is most probable that this wine was brought for the use of Syrian soldiers during the Maccabean wars.

On the other hand, it may be said that there may have been a Syrian garrison in Beth-zur under Antiochus III (the Great). Ten of the coins certainly are of that king and possibly a dozen more, now listed as of Antiochus IV, should be ascribed to him (see ch. VIII, coins 79-92). So it is possible that there was a garrison of Syrian soldiers there between

200 and 180 B.C. and that all of the Rhodian wine imported came during this period, when the soldiers were not engaged in much fighting and had time for leisurely drinking.

It would seem, however, that the time of the Maccabean wars is more likely. The handles were scattered all over the excavated area—in the fortress, in shops, and in the gate. Most likely the jars were imported when the Syrian soldiers occupied the whole top of the hill, not

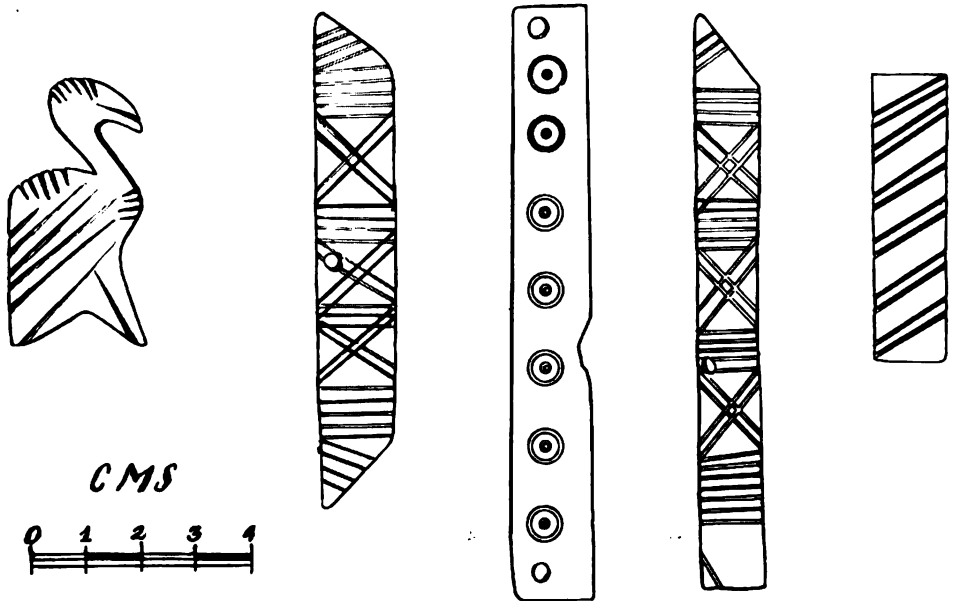


Fig. 47. MIDDLE BRONZE BONE INLAYS.

when there were a few Syrian soldiers in a Jewish community. When the country was devastated by the Maccabean wars, too, there would be a shortage of native wine of good quality, so that there would be a demand among the officers for a potable import. These considerations, combined with the fact that out of the 15 handles found at Beth-zur and Pergamum 13 were found also at Carthage would be in favor of lowering 180 B.C. as the terminus ad quem of the Pergamum handles.

Until there is more evidence and study, we can merely hold that the Rhodian handles listed above must be dated between 200 and 143 B.C., and that probably all should be dated in the latter half of this period.

## CHAPTER VI

### LAPIDARY WORK

FROM MB there appeared a number of pieces of bone inlay similar to that found in the D stratum of Tell Beit Mirsim. A unique piece was a conventional representation of a bird (fig. 47).

Possibly from MB, too, was the figure on the handle of a bone cosmetic spoon.



Fig. 48. DECORATED HANDLE OF A BONE COSMETIC SPOON, 2ND MILLENNIUM B.C. This seems to be the work of an artist in Palestine acquainted with Egyptian design. For details see the drawing, fig. 49.

metic spoon (figs. 48, 49), though Baron von Bissing, the foremost living authority on material of this kind, would date it c. 1000 B.C. or a little earlier; i.e., EI I. Unfortunately this object was found in a mixture

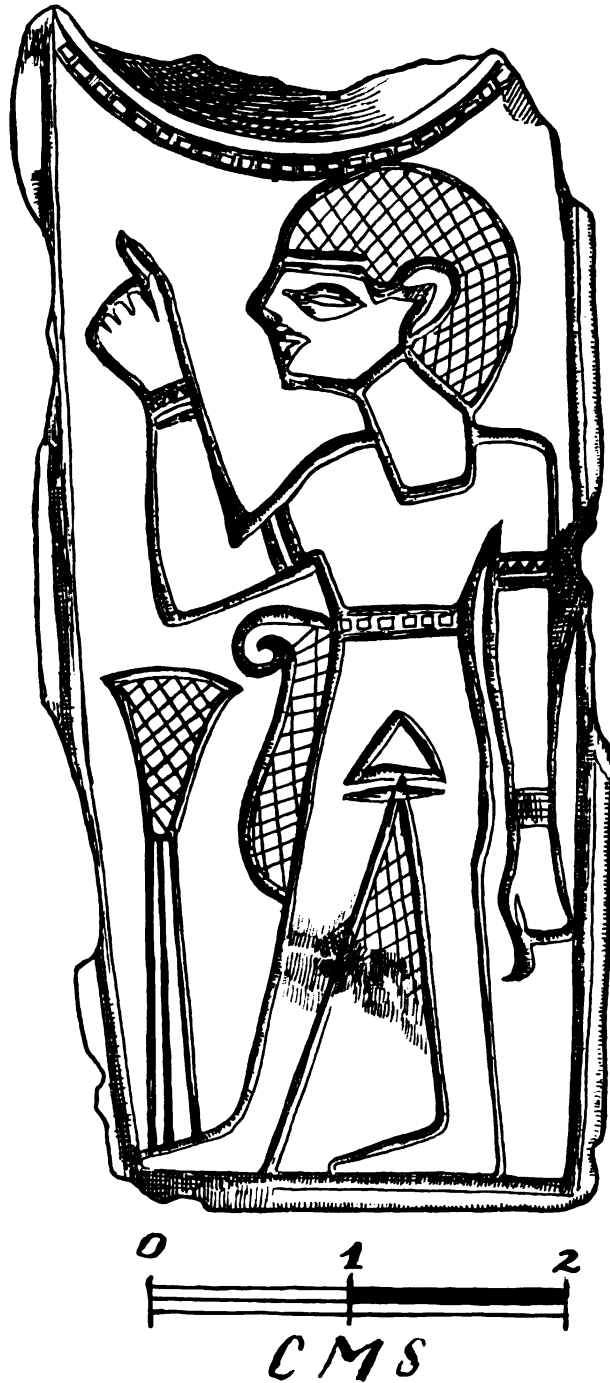


Fig. 49. ENLARGED DRAWING OF SPOON HANDLE SHOWN IN FIG. 48. The person is standing in ceremonial attitude before what seems to be a horned altar. Some object is held between the thumb and forefinger of each hand. A lotus bud grows by the right foot. The belt, armbands, and bracelets may be separate decorations or parts of a thin garment. What the design at the crotch signifies is not known.

of MB and EI I sherds (pl. II, loc. 28; 3, +C) and not enough similar art has been found to date it comparatively. All who saw it in Palestine were inclined to take it as a work of Canaanite art with Egyptian influence. At any rate it is local work. Though it looks Egyptian at first



Fig. 50. MISCELLANEOUS OBJECTS WITH DESIGNS. Hyksos scarab impressions on MB jar handles are shown in 1,3,11,14,15. 9 is a seal on a bronze ring. 10 is a gem impression on a jar handle of H pattern. 6 is a scarab, probably XXth Dynasty, bearing the name of Rameses II. 7 is a poorly wrought paste scarab. 8 is a round and flat scaraboid. 2 is a cylinder seal with its impression. 4 is the impression of an irregular cylinder seal. 5 shows a side and two ends of a rectangular seal, the other side of which is smooth. 12 is the drawing of the seal impression, "Of Ge'alyahu, the son of the king," photographed in fig. 52. 13 is another seal impression, illegible.



Fig. 51. TWO SCARABS. Left, one of Rameses II, probably after his date. Right, a crude paste scarab, probably influenced by the widely copied Tuthmosis III design, but with the beetle and the *mn* sign interchanged. These scarabs are drawn in fig. 50:6,7.



Fig. 52. SEAL IMPRESSION. "Of Ge'alyahu, the son of the king." Drawn in fig. 50:12.

glance, it has some elements which are decidedly non-Egyptian; e.g., the altar and the crotch decoration.

From EI I is a broken steatite scarab (figs. 50:6, 51 left) showing the Pharaoh driving his chariot and the hieroglyphs *mu'a-ré'*, Rameses II.

The scarabs of Rameses II were widely copied during his dynasty, the XIXth, and into the XXth. Probably our example is of the latter dynasty (BASOR 43, pp. 7f). It was found in good EI I context in loc. 90 (pl. II: o, +B).

EI II yielded part of a limestone cosmetic bowl (fig. 53:5) and four

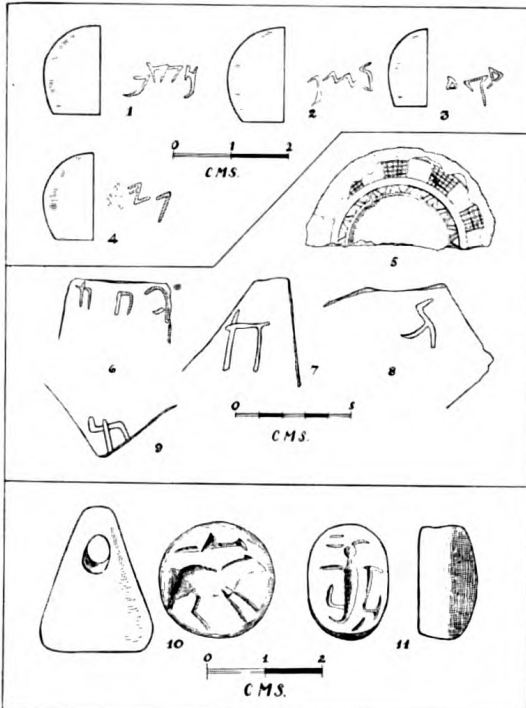


Fig. 53. MISCELLANEOUS OBJECTS WITH DESIGNS. 1-4 are inscribed EI II stone weights, photographed in fig. 54. 5 is part of a cosmetic bowl, EI II. 6-9 are letters on H pottery: 6, probably 'ht; 7, h; 8, possibly g or if upside down s; 9, t or possibly m. These are photographed in fig. 55. 10 and 11 are H seals.



Fig. 54. INSCRIBED WEIGHTS, EI II. The two above are inscribed *nšf* and weigh 9.54 and 9.8 grams respectively. The one at the lower left is inscribed *py[m]* and weighs 7.18 gr. The lower right is inscribed *bq'* and weighs 5.8 gr.

inscribed weights: two "nešefs," a "pim," and a "beqa'" (figs. 53: 1-4, 54; see also BASOR 43, p. 9).<sup>11</sup> Also from this period came two seal impressions. One (fig. 50:13) shows only part of some marginal letters. The other (fig. 50:12) is quite clear and reads *lg'lyhw bn hmlk*, "of Ge'alyahu, the son of the king." It was found in the fortress cistern, loc. 67. We have no idea of the identity of this prince, whose name

<sup>11</sup> Père Barrois, who visited the excavation and gave us valuable suggestions, already has included mention of these weights in footnotes to his splendid work, *La métrologie dans la Bible*, RB 40 (1931), pp. 185-213; 41 (1932), pp. 50-76. Our "nešefs" are the 8th and 9th to be found; the "pim" is the 4th known example, slightly lighter than the other three (RB 41, p. 68). Likewise our "beqa'" is the 4th and slightly lighter than the other three (RB 41, p. 69).

now emerges after being lost for centuries. The name, as pointed out by Dr. B. Maisler, who spent a week with us at the excavation and made repeated short visits, undoubtedly is to be connected with Igal, *yg'l*, short for *yg'alyahu*, a descendant of Jehoiachin mentioned in I Chr. 3:22. Both names mean, "It is JHVH who redeems."



Fig. 55. INSCRIBED HELLENISTIC FRAGMENTS. The upper left may be a *q* and the right center a *w* (upside down). The middle bottom one probably is not a letter. The others are drawn in fig. 53:6—9. These are rather early occurrences of this Aramaic form of letter. The contemporaneous Jewish coins have the pointed Hebrew characters (pl. XVIII: 236—252).

From H came several pieces of pottery with letters scratched before the baking of the clay (figs. 53: 6—9; 55). There was also a good alef, which is not shown.

Several seals, which seemed to be H, came from pure H or mixed context (figs. 50:2, 4, 5; 53:10, 11; 56:3, 5). The designs are not clear in meaning; most of them are badly cut or much worn. A bone die with rounded edges is so irregular that with it one could never throw a five (fig. 56:4). A gem impression tops a small conical piece of clay (fig. 56:2).

It is impossible to date accurately all the uninscribed weights and



the beads. The stone weights may be either EI II or H; the glass weights evidently are H (fig. 58).

The excavation yielded a great many beads; but the lack of stratification made dating hazardous and we can add nothing to the classification of beads given under the head of *Beth-Pelet Beads* at the end of CPP. One interesting glass pendant showed a human face; it is undoubtedly H (fig. 56:1).

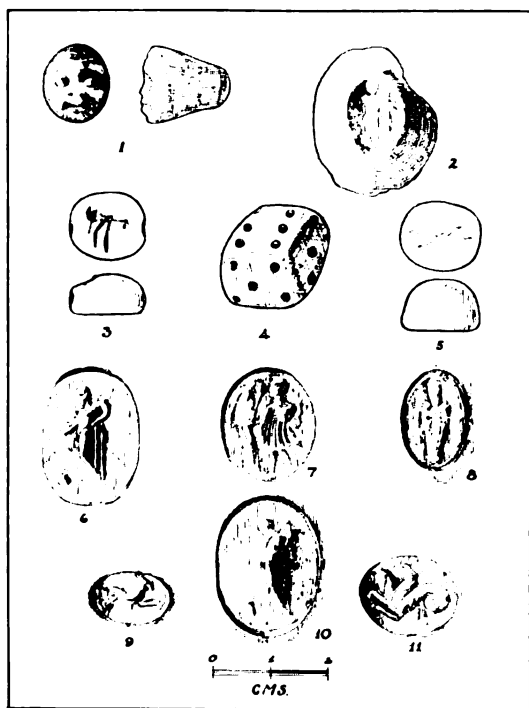


Fig. 56. HELLENISTIC OBJECTS. 1 is a glass bead with a grotesque human face. 2 is a gem impression on a separate piece of clay. 3 and 5 are crude seals. 4 is an irregular bone die so shaped that the five never would come up. 6-11 are gem impressions on H jar handles (cf. fig. 45).

We found quantities of bone spatulae (fig. 57, top), all seemingly H. Similar spatulae, belonging to the neo-Babylonian-Persian period, have been found on the other side of Arabia, so that we may have here one of the few contributions of Persia to the post-exilic culture of Palestine. Reuther, in *Die Innenstadt von Babylon (Merkes)*, pp. 32f and fig. 40, has a discussion of these spatulae, which like ours are 10-14 cm. long, and concludes that they were used for eating. It is our opinion, however, in general agreement with the best archaeologists in Palestine, that these

pieces of bone were cosmetic implements. The dull end was used for spreading the eye paint and the pointed end for defining it.

Mention should be made here of the hundreds of ballista balls—flint spheres about the size of base balls—found throughout the city (see G II, p. 369). Since these balls were used in slings and other throwing machines from very early times down through the Maccabean period and are found in abundance in practically all Palestinian excavations, those that we found merely confirm the other evidence that there was

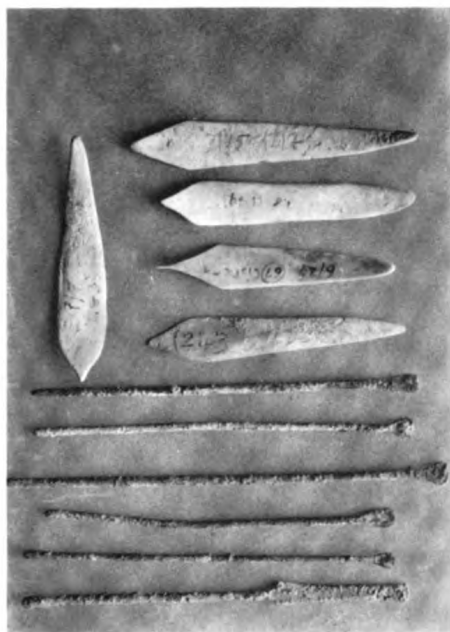


Fig. 57. SPATULAE, BONE AND BRONZE. The bone are the Perso-Babylonian type and the bronze Hellenistic. They were used for putting kohl around the eyes.

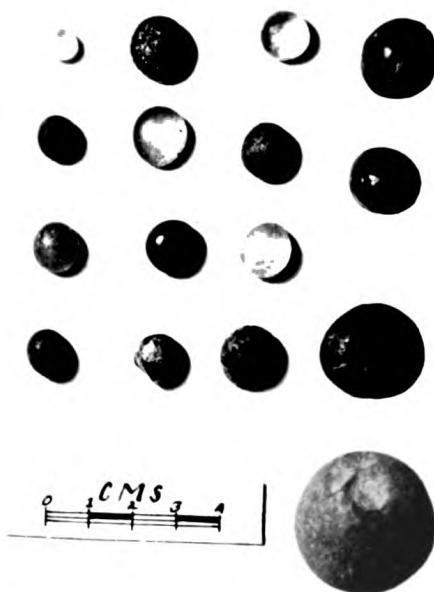


Fig. 58. GLASS, HAEMATITE, AND LIMESTONE WEIGHTS, UNINSCRIBED.

a great deal of fighting around the city. Probably most of the flint balls at Beth-zur were thrown during the Maccabean wars; but undoubtedly many of them are to be dated much earlier.

We found also a few game pieces of bone, like those shown in BP, pl. 39, nos. 453-5. Clearly they are EI I.

The only divine image that we found, except those stamped on coins, was the head of a very crude Astarte figurine of EI II. Beth-zur was a military post without much time for religion.

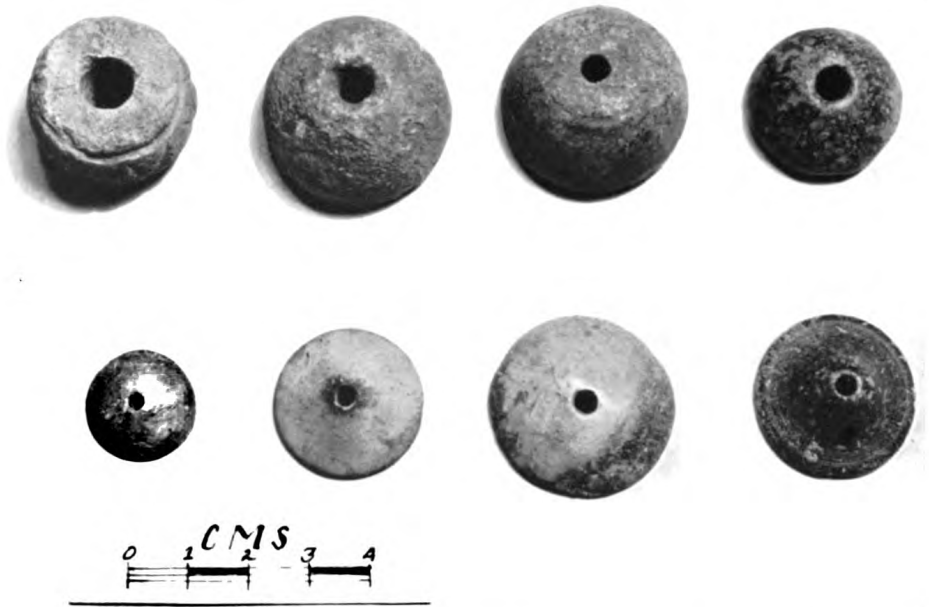


Fig. 59. SPINDLE WHORLS AND BUTTONS. Cf. G III, pl. CXXXII.

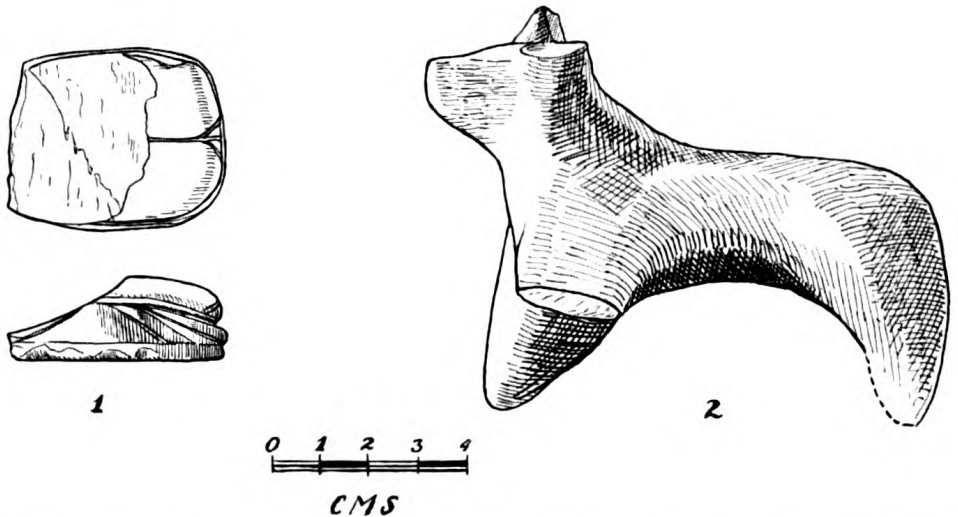


Fig. 60. SLATE SCARAB AND CLAY ANIMAL. The scarab had been used as a polisher, so that the inscription was obliterated. The animal is of a type widely found in EI II excavations.



Fig. 61. BEADS AND PENDANTS. Probably all stages of the occupation of Beth-zur are represented in these decorations. The two bone pendants probably are EI II or earlier. The glass beads are mostly H, though some may be EI II. The carnelian, agate, steatite, shell, slate, and limestone beads cannot be located with certainty. Doubtless they extend from MB to H. The fragment at the bottom is of blue paste with white hemispheres containing dark blue hemispheres inlaid (cf. Ger., pl. XXII).

## CHAPTER VII

### METAL

OWING to our lack of stratification our pieces of metal were not particularly significant. Like the pottery they gave evidence of the reliability of the literary records; but in many cases they could not be dated with certainty. By comparison with metal objects found at Gezer, Gerar, and Beth Pelet we find apparently MB, EI I, EI II, and H (figs. 62-70).

One interesting metal object was an iron trident, of which a photograph is not available. It came from H context in loc. 43 (pl. II: 5, +B). Whether it was ceremonial or purely utilitarian we could not say. It

was 44.5 cm. long with a 5 cm. spread to the prongs. On the end of the handle was a knob.

The bronze objects were cleaned in a solution of caustic soda with a zinc contact. They came out well and in some instances could be polished. They do not hold their polish long, however, and quickly gather a green crust. All the iron was oxidized clear through and could not be cleaned beyond the brushing off of the dirt.

Since many of the metal patterns in rings, needles, weapons, and tools persisted through more centuries than did pottery forms, we could not

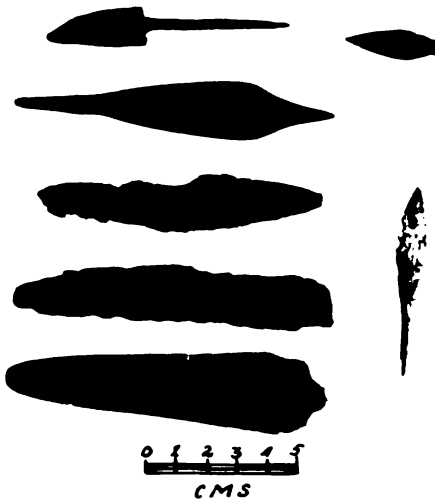


Fig. 62. BRONZE ARROW HEADS AND SPEAR POINTS. Probably MB to EI II (Ger., Ch. V).



Fig. 63. IRON RING, KNIVES, CHISELS, HOOK, AND KEY.

be positive about most of the dates; but without much doubt most of our metal material was H.

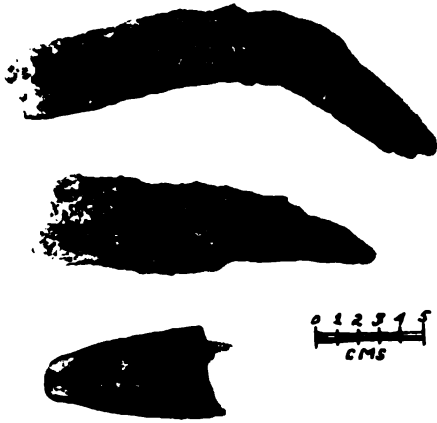


Fig. 64. IRON PICKAX AND PLOW POINT, BRONZE PLOW POINT. The iron may be EI 1 (Ger., p. 15, pl. XXVI; G III, pl. CXXVIII:1-6.) The bronze probably is H.



Fig. 66. IRON NAILS AND LANCE POINTS.



Fig. 65. METAL OBJECTS. At the top are a bronze bracelet, a bronze chain, and a bronze handle (G III, pl. XCV:8). Below is a bronze pretzel-shaped object of uncertain use. The two bolts are of bronze. The two almond-shaped objects are lead sling stones of the Graeco-Roman type.



Fig. 67. JEWELRY. Upper left: gold ring, found in a dump. Upper right: silver ring. Lower left: bronze trinket, conventionalized serpent or fish. Lower right: fragment of bronze band, decorated with swimming (?) bird of EI II type.

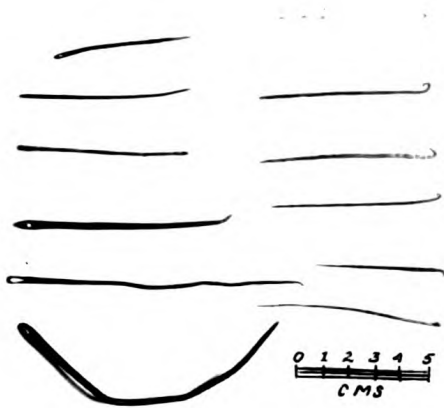


Fig. 68. BRONZE NEEDLES, BODKINS, AND CROCHETING NEEDLES, EI I TO H (Ger., p. 14; pl. XXIV; G III, pl. CXXXIII).



Fig. 69. BRONZE TOILET ARTICLES. Fibulae and fibulae pins, EI II (Ger., p. 11; G II, p. 79f.; G III, pl. CXXXIV). At the upper right corner is a small pair of bronze tweezers, which cannot be dated (G II, p. 115; G III, pl. CXXXV; BP, pl. XXI, 542, 91). The "needle with eye in shank" (Macalister) or "toggle pin" (Petrie) may be MB or later (BP, pl. XXII). The spatula is the late H type (G II, p. 116) with the two holes as a unique feature. At the lower left are bronze bars ending in 4 points; we are uncertain as to their use.



Fig. 70. RINGS. At the upper right is a silver earring of uncertain date, EI I-H (G II, p. 101). Below it is a bronze finger ring with a "dummy" signet (G II, p. 100). The other rings and the fragment of the bracelet are bronze. Probably all are H, though some may be earlier.



Fig. 71. WORKMEN AT THE CLOSING FEAST.

## CHAPTER VIII

### COINS

**M**OST significant of the finds from the Hellenistic period were the coins. Altogether 279 coins came from the excavation—scattered through the fortress and the surrounding building foundations, in cisterns, and a few imbedded in walls. There were no hoards and on only two occasions were two coins found together.

It was necessary to exercise care that only coins actually found on the site were accepted; for if we had shown any interest in coins brought from neighboring hills we should have been flooded with irrelevant Roman and Arabic coins, which are found in profusion throughout Palestine and offered for sale to tourists. We are sure that all the coins accepted, with the possible exception of two or three, were dug up in the excavation.

With the permission and advice of the Department of Antiquities we cleaned the coins with gratifying results. All the bronze coins found were covered by a green crust, so that very few of them could have been identified without treatment. They were soaked from one to three days in a strong solution of caustic soda with a zinc contact. Then they were cleaned with a wire brush and a rag. Some of the coins required several treatments; but all came out well enough to be identified except the few which had been burned or so much damaged before they were lost that identification was impossible. A few of the coins were so badly struck that they remain uncertain, but it is possible to put them in general classifications, such as Ptolemaic or Seleucid. The silver coins were cleaned in a few seconds by immersion in the caustic soda solution and contact with aluminum.

The coins give striking confirmation to the references to Beth-zur in I Macc. and Josephus and also throw further light on the history of the city. The coins may be classified as follows:

#### GREEK AND IMITATION GREEK

Attic tetradrachm, (c. 450 B.C.) . . . . .	I
Imitation Attic drachm (Bef. 430 B.C.) . . . . .	I
Palestinian obol . . . . .	I
Philisto-Arabian obols . . . . .	2
4th cent. Tyrian coin . . . . .	I
4th cent. Sidonian coin . . . . .	I
Barb. imitation of Alex. the Gt. gold coin, bronze . . . . .	I
Rhodian coin (304-166 B.C.) . . . . .	I
Late 4th cent. Hezekiah coin . . . . .	I 10



**PTOLEMAIC**

Ptolemy I (312-285 B.C.) . . . . .	6	
Ptolemy I or II . . . . .	3	
Ptolemy II (285-247 B.C.) . . . . .	32	
Ptolemy III (247-222 B.C.) . . . . .	5	
Ptolemy IV (222-205 B.C.) . . . . .	1	
Ptolemy VI (182-181 B.C.) . . . . .	2	
Ptolemaic uncertain . . . . .	4	53

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**SELEUCID**

Seleucus III (225-223 B.C.) (?) . . . . .	2	
Antiochus III (223-187 B.C.) . . . . .	*10	
Antiochus IV (175-164 B.C.) . . . . .	*124	
Antiochus V (164-162 B.C.) . . . . .	2	
Alexander Balas (151-146 B.C.) . . . . .	2	
Demetrius II (146-137 and 129-125 B.C.)	13	
Antiochus VII (137-129 B.C.) . . . . .	10	
Alexander Zebina (125-123 B.C.) . . . . .	1	
Cleopatra Thea and Antiochus VIII (123- 96 B.C.) . . . . .	1	
Seleucid uncertain . . . . .	8	173

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**MACCABEAN**

John Hyrcanus (125-106 B.C.) . . . . .	16	
Alexander Jannaeus (105-78 B.C.) . . . . .	2	18

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<b>HEROD THE GREAT</b> . . . . .	1	
<b>A. D. ROMAN</b> . . . . .	13	
<b>ARABIC</b> . . . . .	7	
<b>HOPELESS</b> . . . . .	4	

The coins bear evidence to the Greek influence in Palestine during the 5th century B.C. and the following years. As we should expect, there is a predominance of Ptolemaic coins during the years when South Palestine was under Ptolemaic rule. With Antiochus III, who took Palestine for Syria, the Seleucid coinage comes sharply into the ascendancy. Then Antiochus IV is responsible for about 40% of all the coins found. Without doubt Beth-zur held its largest population and enjoyed

\*Fourteen coins (nos. 79-92) here classified as Antiochus IV may belong to Antiochus III.

its greatest commercial activity during and immediately after the reign of Antiochus Epiphanes, when his coins were the standard. As Beth-zur changed hands during the following years we find a marked decrease in the number of coins. John Hyrcanus was the last ruler under whom Beth-zur was at all important. When he added Idumea to the Jewish domain and Beth-zur ceased to be a frontier town the population melted away. Only sporadic coins from close to the surface or from cisterns are found after his reign. So the coins give out just as literary references to Beth-zur cease.

## CATALOG OF THE COINS

The following abbreviations will be used: Gr, S. W. GROSE, *Catalogue of the McClean Collection of Greek Coins*, Cambridge, 1929; Hi, G. F. HILL, *The Greek Coins of Palestine (Catalogue of the Greek Coins in the British Museum)*, London, 1914; MA, J. N. SVORONOS, *Les Monnaies d'Athènes*, Munich, 1923-1926; Ma, FREDERIC W. MADDEN, *History of Jewish Coinage*, London, 1864; MGR, ERNEST BABELON, *Traité des Monnaies grecques et romaines*, Vol. I, Paris, 1907; NKP, J. N. SVORONOS, *Τὰ Νομίσματα τοῦ Κράτους τῶν Πτολεμαίων*, Athens, 1904-1908; RSAC, ERNEST BABELON, *Les Rois de Syrie, d'Arménie et de Commagène*, Paris, 1890. Many of the identifications were made by Lambert and Newell, who from their knowledge of the texture of the coins were able to make distinctions not possible from the study of illustrations and descriptions. The manuscript of this chapter was revised by Newell.

1. Silver Attic tetradrachm, early 5th cent. B.C. (MGR xxxv, 15; MA Pl. 9, Nos. 7-8). Found in a wine jar in an early Hellenistic level, loc. 59, pl. II, B+, 3. When found it had the appearance of lead, but when cleaned proved to be good silver. The gash in it indicates that someone had suspected its genuineness in ancient times.  
     25 mm. 14.92 gm.  
     Ob. Head of Pallas Athene. 3 olive leaves on helmet.  
     Re. Owl, head right with face to front. Olive sprig. Crescent. AΘE.
2. Silver imitation of Attic drachm, before 430 B.C. (MGR cxxv, 1-5).  
     14 mm. 3.98 gm.  
     Ob. Head of Pallas Athene.  
     Re. Owl, olive sprig, and crescent. AΘE.
3. Silver Palestinian obol, imitation Greek. Probably from mint at Gaza, 5th or 4th cent. B.C. (Cf. MGR cxxiv, 10.12.14).  
     Ob. Helmeted head.  
     Re. Owl and olive sprig. Under sprig behind owl a round letter, which may be the middle letter of AΘE or the initial letter of 'Z, Gaza. (Cf. MGR cxxv for general type. The letter in this place is peculiar.)



PLATE XIV. COINS: GREEK AND IMITATION GREEK, PTOLEMY I.

4. Silver Philisto-Arabian obol, 4th cent. B.C. (Cf. MGR cxxii, 10-12).  
 10 mm. 0.63 grm.  
 Ob. Janiform head. Dotted border.  
 Re. Owl, olive sprig, and crescent. Square dotted border.
5. Silver Philisto-Arabian obol, probably 4th cent. B.C. Crude imitation of Greek. Badly damaged.  
 7 mm. 0.42 grm.  
 Ob. Helmeted head.  
 Re. Owl and olive sprig.
6. Silver Tyrian hemiobol, early 4th cent. B.C. (Cf. MGR cxxii, 6.9.18).  
 7.5 mm. 0.23 grm.  
 Ob. Dolphin. Dotted border.  
 Re. Hippocampus. Dotted border.
7. Silver Sidonian trihemiobol, early 4th cent. B.C. (MGR cxix, 8-14).  
 10 mm. 0.57 grm.  
 Ob. Sidonian galley, struck off center so that it looks like a prow. Above should be the Phoenician form of the letter Beth.  
 Re. King of Persia battling with a lion, seizing the lion by the beard with the left hand and holding a dagger in the right. Between them the Phoenician form of the letter 'Ain.
8. Bronze barbaric imitation of Alexander the Great gold stater. (Enc. Brit. 14th Ed., Vol. 16, Pl. I, opp. p. 618, No. 13; HEAD, *Coins of the Ancients*, Pl. 27, No. 3).  
 16.5 mm. 3.22 grm.  
 Ob. Head of Athena.  
 Re. Winged goddess.
9. Silver Jewish coin, late 4th cent. B.C. No other occurrence of this coin is known.  
 7 mm. 0.21 grm.  
 Ob. Blank.  
 Re. Well executed owl. Before the owl in old Hebrew letters יְהוֹקִיָּה, Hezekiah, who may be the Jewish Ezekias, a high priest and a friend of Ptolemy I, mentioned by Josephus, *Contra Apion* I, 187-189.<sup>12</sup> Behind the owl

<sup>12</sup> That ἀρχιερεὺς without the article need not mean "the high priest" is pointed out by H. St. J. Thackeray, *Josephus*, Vol. 1, p. 238, London, 1926. Cf. Josephus' use of τοῖς ἀρχιερεῦσιν, *Vita*, 21. We are indebted to Prof. A. T. Olmstead for calling our attention to this Hezekiah.

is  $\aleph \aleph \aleph \aleph$ . Taking the four plainly legible letters, this would seem to be  $\aleph \aleph$ ; but it is hardly likely that a Jewish priest would put his own name in juxtaposition with that of the Deity. The best explanation seems to be that of Albright, who would read  $\aleph \aleph \aleph \aleph$ , Yehoḥanan = Ḥonnai = Onias. If this is correct the coin shows the names of Onias, who was *the* high priest at the time of Ptolemy I, and Hezekiah, who was *a* high priest, possibly the treasurer. At any rate, we have a Jewish coin still showing the Attic influence, before the Lagide coinage became predominant. For the significance of this coin see Albright in JPOS 12 (1932), p. 265.



Fig. 72. ENLARGED PHOTOGRAPH OF COIN No. 9.

### PTOLEMAIC COINS

All these coins have on the reverse the inscription ΠΤΟΛΕΜΑΙΟΥ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ, of *Ptolemy king*.

#### PTOLEMY I (SOTER), 312–285 B.C.

10. Silver tetradrachm. (Cf. Gr, pl. 363, 13; NKP 196–208).  
28.5 mm. 14.55 grm.  
Ob. Portrait of the king wearing diadem and aegis.  
Re. Eagle with folded wings and thunderbolt in claws. Before eagle monogram  $\aleph \aleph$  (= ΠΤΤ?).
11. Bronze coin. (Cf. NKP 157<sup>a</sup>, 630.638.641.642).  
15 mm. 4.76 grm.  
Ob. Head of Alexander the Great.  
Re. Spread eagle. Part of inscription legible.

12. Bronze coin. (Cf. NKP 167.)  
 15 mm. 8.4 gm.  
 Ob. Head of Alexander the Great, probably with elephant hide headdress. Cf. No. 16.  
 Re. Spread eagle and partially legible inscription. Trident counterstruck on left wing, an unusual feature in a coin of this size.
13. Bronze coin. (Cf. NKP 167-172.)  
 19 mm. 4.32 gm.  
 Ob. Head of Alexander the Great.  
 Re. Spread eagle with helmet under wing at left.
14. Bronze coin. (Cf. NKP 271-301.)  
 28 mm. 15.35 gm.  
 Ob. Bearded head of Zeus.  
 Re. Spread Eagle. Monogram  $\Lambda$
15. Bronze coin similar to 14.  
 27.5 mm. 13.52 gm.

#### PTOLEMY I OR PTOLEMY II.



16. Bronze coin. (For ob. cf. NKP 106-154; for re. NKP 178.)  
 23.5 mm. 8.17 gm.  
 Ob. Head of Alexander the Great with elephant hide headdress. Dotted border.  
 Re. Eagle with folded wings. At left stalk of grain under letters  $\Delta$ I.
17. Bronze coin.  
 19 mm. 7.74 gm.  
 Ob. Like 16.  
 Re. Spread eagle. Inscription not clear. (Cf. NKP 156-188.)
18. Bronze coin. Bad condition.  
 14 mm. 3.48 gm.  
 Ob. Probably head of Alexander the Great.  
 Re.  $\Pi$  in front of spread eagle. (NKP 641.)

#### PTOLEMY II (PHILADELPHUS), 285-247 B.C.

19. Silver tetradrachm. Somewhat burned. (Cf. NKP 664-697.)  
 26.5 mm. 13.88 gm.  
 Ob. Portrait of king wearing diadem and aegis.  
 Re. Eagle with folded wings. Club and monogram  $\Psi$  of mint of Tyre.



PLATE XV. COINS OF PTOLEMY II.

20. Silver tetradrachm. Like 19, but broken and badly damaged.  
27 mm. 12.48 grm.
21. Large bronze coin. (Cf. NKP 765 ff.)  
36 mm. 45.04 grm.  
Ob. Bearded head of Zeus. Hole in center.  
Re. Cornucopia and monogram  in front of spread eagle.
22. Bronze coin. (Cf. NKP 377.)  
23 mm. 9.63 grm.  
Ob. Head of Alexander the Great in elephant hide head-dress. Hole in center.  
Re. Spread eagle. Dotted border. Hole in center.  between Eagle's legs.
23. Bronze coin. (Cf. NKP 842.)  
23 mm. 11.66 grm.  
Ob. Bearded head of Zeus-Ammon. Dotted border. Hole in center.  
Re. Eagle with folded wings. Dotted border. Hole in center. Club of mint of Tyre.
24. Bronze coin. Like 23, but lacking dotted border on ob.  
23 mm. 11.81 grm.
25. Same as 24.  
23 mm. 11.12 grm.
26. Like 23.  
24 mm. 10.56 grm.
27. Like 23.  
23 mm. 11.19 grm.
28. Like 24.  
23 mm. 10.55 grm.
29. Like 24.  
23 mm. 10.35 grm.
30. Like 24.  
23.5 mm. 11.76 grm.
31. Like 24.  
23 mm. 9.87 grm.
32. Like 24.  
24 mm. 11.71 grm.
33. Like 24, but Zeus head smaller. Suggestion of a letter between eagle's legs.  
23 mm. 10.18 grm.



34. Bronze coin. Bad condition. (Cf. NKP 572, 589.)  
 26 mm. 11.56 gm.  
 Ob. Bearded head of Zeus.  
 Re. Partly legible monogram  $\Sigma$  and  $\times$  with a shield between them, in front of spread eagle. Counterstruck trident on eagle's left wing.
35. Like 34. Bad condition. Letter  $\Lambda$  between eagle's legs. (NKP 581.)  
 26 mm. 12.27 gm.
36. Like 34. Monograms not legible.  
 26 mm. 9.36 gm.
37. Like 34. Possible monogram  $\text{A}$  in front of eagle. (Cf. NKP 560.)  
 27 mm. 15.81 gm.
38. Bronze coin. (Cf. NKP 560.)  
 27 mm. 15.81 gm.  
 Ob. Bearded head of Zeus.  
 Re. In front of spread eagle a shield, above which is the monogram  $\Sigma$ . Between legs the letter O (=8 of regnal years, 277 B.C.). Dotted border.
39. Bronze coin. (Cf. NKP 527).  
 30 mm. 27.41 gm.  
 Ob. Sparsely bearded head of Zeus. Dotted border.  
 Re. Monogram  $\text{TI}$  in front of eagle with folded wings. Dotted border.
40. Bronze coin. Same type as 39. Bad condition.  
 29 mm. 22 gm.  
 Ob. Bearded head of Zeus.  
 Re. Eagle with folded wings. Large counterstruck trident.
41. Like 40, but no trident.  
 31 mm. 24.78 gm.
42. Same type as 39.  
 30 mm. 23.72 gm.  
 Ob. Bearded head of Zeus. Hole in center.  
 Re. Between eagle's legs date  $\Lambda E=35$  (35th yr. of reign of Ptolemy II, 251 B.C.). Hole in center.
43. Same type as 39.  
 30 mm. 23.72 gm.  
 Ob. Bearded head of Zeus. Hole above center.  
 Re. Eagle with folded wings. Possibly monogram in front of eagle and letter between legs, but not clear. Hole in center.

44. Like 43. Not clear.  
28 mm. 22.11 grm.
45. Small bronze coin. (Cf. NKP 842.898.)  
14.5 mm. 2.8 grm.  
Ob. Bearded head of Zeus-Ammon. Dotted border. Hole in center.  
Re. Cornucopia in front of eagle with folded wings. Thunderbolt in claws. Hole in center.
46. Similar to 45, but spread eagle.  
16 mm. 3.01 grm.
47. Similar to 45.  
19.5 mm. 5.68 grm.  
Ob. Bearded head of Zeus-Ammon. Very small hole.  
Re. Eagle with folded wings. Club of mint of Tyre. Very small hole.
48. Like 47, but dotted border on both sides.  
20.5 mm. 5.93 grm.
49. Like 47, but very large hole on ob. and medium hole on re.  
19 mm. 5.6 grm.
50. Similar to 34. Very bad condition. Hardly anything legible.  
27.5 mm. 16.62 grm.

**PTOLEMY III (EUERGETES), 247-242 B.C.**

51. Large bronze coin. (NKP 993ff.)  
35 mm. 34.6 grm.  
Ob. Bearded head of Zeus-Ammon. Dotted border. Two holes, one in center (ear) and one in neck.  
Re. Eagle with folded wings. Club of mint of Tyre. Dotted border. Hole in center.
52. Bronze coin.  
24 mm. 10.52 grm.  
Ob. Bearded head of Zeus-Ammon, struck upper left of center. Dotted border.  
Re. Double cornucopia in front of spread eagle. Dotted border.
53. Bronze coin. (Cf. NKP 996).  
20 mm. 5.15 grm.  
Ob. Bearded head of Zeus-Ammon. Hole in center.  
Re. Eagle with folded wings. Between legs monogram  $\Sigma$ .  
Hole in center.



PLATE XVI. COINS OF PTOLEMY II, PTOLEMY III, AND PTOLEMY IV.

54. Similar to 52, but smaller.  
22 mm. 9.86 gm.
55. Bronze coin. Bad condition. May be Ptolemy II.  
19 mm. 5.36 gm.  
Ob. Bearded head of Zeus.  
Re. Spread eagle. Inscription not legible.


**PTOLEMY IV (PHILOPATOR), 222-205 B.C.**

56. Silver didrachm. (Cf. NKP 1211a ff.)  
21 mm. 6.77 gm.  
Ob. Portrait of king wearing diadem and aegis. Dotted border.  
Re. Eagle with folded wings. On thunderbolt in claws  
PA (101) = 211 B.C. Dotted border.

**PTOLEMY VI. (EUPATOR), 182-181 B.C.**

57. Bronze coin.  
28 mm. 20.88 gm.  
Ob. Bearded head of Zeus. Hole in center.  
Re. Two eagles. Line border. Hole in center.
58. Like 57, but broken.  
28 mm. 17.4 gm.

**UNCERTAIN PTOLEMAIC**

59. Bronze coin. Bad condition. Probably Ptolemy II (NKP 589).  
28 mm. 16.55 gm.  
Ob. Bearded head of Zeus.  
Re. Spread eagle. Between legs T. Before eagle traces of monogram  (?).
60. Badly damaged bronze coin.  
25 mm. 14.17 gm.
61. Probably unstruck piece of bronze metal intended for Ptolemaic coin.  
30 mm. 11.7 gm.
62. Badly damaged bronze coin.  
17 mm. 4.28 gm.  
Ob. Bearded head of Zeus.  
Re. Faint traces of spread eagle. Hole in center.

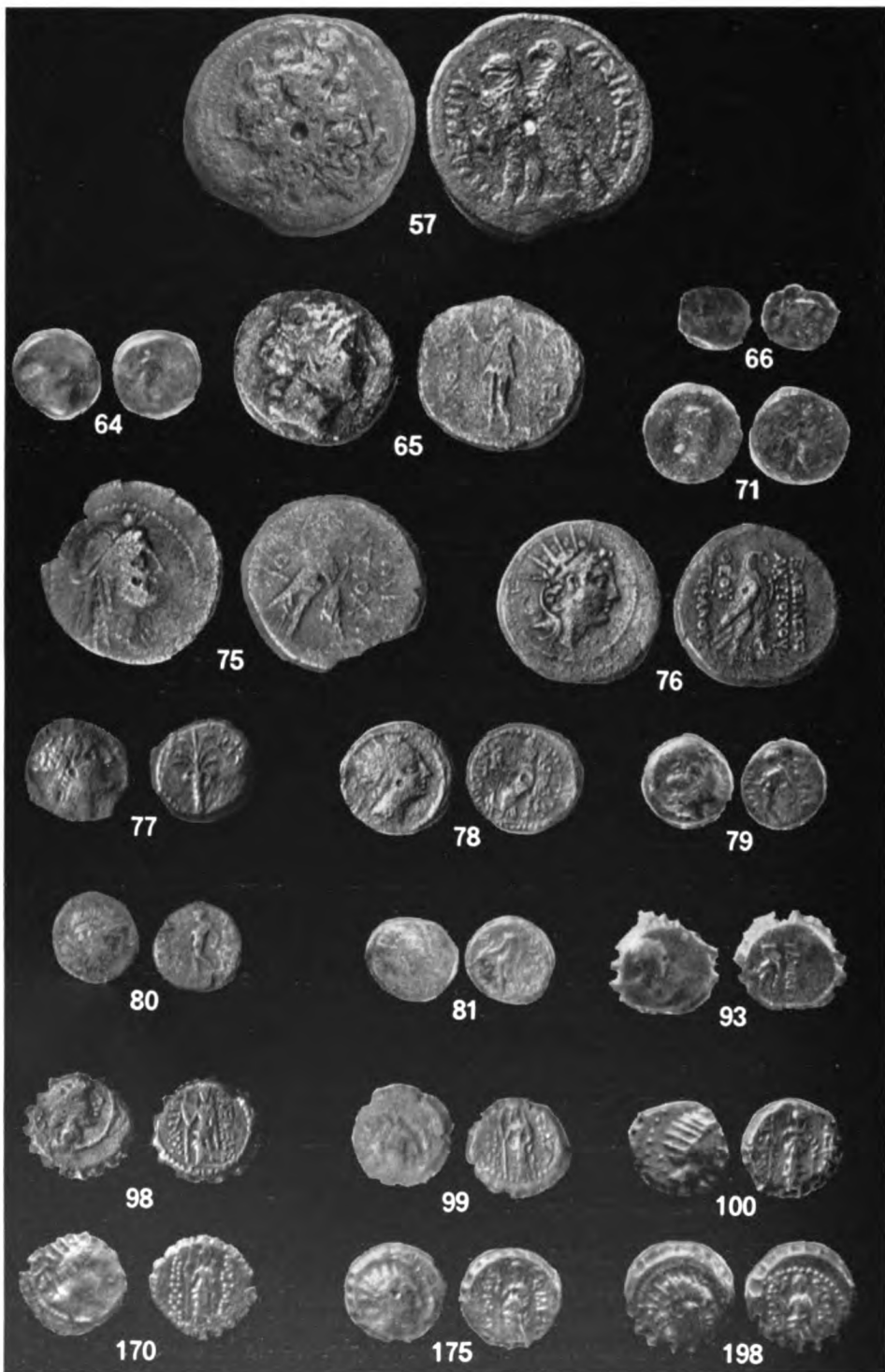


PLATE XVII. COINS OF PTOLEMY VI, SELEUCUS III, ANTIOCHUS III, AND ANTIOCHUS IV.

## SELEUCID COINS

### PROBABLY SELEUCUS III (SOTER), 225-223 B.C.

63. Hemichalcus. (Cf. Gr 336, II.)  
10 mm. 1.17 gm.  
Ob. Head of king.  
Re. Standing Apollo with bow in left hand. Faint inscription.
64. Like 63.  
11 mm. 1.57 gm.

### ANTIOCHUS III (THE GREAT), 223-187 B.C.

65. Bronze coin. (Cf. RSAC X, 4.20.)  
23 mm. 11.54 gm.  
Ob. Portrait head of the king as Apollo with laurel.  
Re. Peculiar standing Artemis with short tunic and a spear or staff in the left hand. Partially legible ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ, ANTIOXΟΥ, of king *Antiochus*.
66. Dilepton. (RSAC X, 6, Nos. 405-413.)  
10 mm. 0.78 gm.  
Ob. Badly struck. It should show laureled head of king as Apollo, facing rt.  
Re. Naked Apollo facing lft., holding in rt. hand an arrow and in lft. hand a bow resting on the ground.
67. Like 66.  
10 mm. 2.35 gm. (These coins vary in wt. and thickness.)
68. Like 66.  
10 mm. 1 gm.
69. Like 66.  
10 mm. 2.16 gm.
70. Like 66.  
10 mm. 2.75 gm.
71. Like 66, but broader and with clearer ob.  
13 mm. 2.31 gm.
72. Like 66. Ob. has dotted border.  
11 mm. 1.59 gm.
73. Like 66. Badly struck, later partially melted. May be Seleucus III.  
11 mm. 2.26 gm.
74. Like 66. Double struck re.  
12 mm. 1.86 gm.

ANTIOCHUS IV (EPIPHANES), 175-164 B.C.

75. Chalcus. (Cf. RSAC XIII, 7.)  
24 mm. 8.68 gm.  
Ob. Head of Isis with diadem and sun-disk between horns.  
Dotted border. Hole in center.  
Re. Partially legible ΒΑΣΙΑΕΩΣ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ ΘΕΟΥ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥ, of king *Antiochus the manifest god*. Eagle with folded wings facing rt. Hole in center.
76. Chalcus. (Cf. RSAC XIII, 14-17, XIV, 16.)  
22 mm. 9.11 gm.  
Ob. Head of king with radiate crown. Dotted border.  
Re. ΒΑΣΙΑΕΩΣ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ ΘΕΟΥ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥ. Eagle with folded wings facing rt. Small hole in shoulder.
77. Hemichalcus. (RSAC XIII, 12.)  
15 mm. 2.73 gm.  
Ob. Portrait of king with diadem. Hole in center.  
Re. Suggestion of inscription ΒΑΣΙΑΕΩΣ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ.  
Palm tree. Dotted border.
78. Chalcus. (RSAC XIII, 2.3.) C. 170 B.C. Struck at Babylon or Seleucia-on-the-Tigris.  
15 mm. 4.7 gm.  
Ob. Head of king with radiate crown. Hole in center.  
Line border. Behind head monogram  $\hat{\chi}$  (= "one Chalcus").  
Re. Seated goddess facing lft. Marsh bird in front. Long scepter in her lft. hand. In her rt. hand small Victory, holding crown in extended rt. hand. Hole in center.  
Dotted border. ΒΑΣΙΑΕΩΣ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ.
79. Hemichalcus. (RSAC XIII, 11).  
[Mr. Newell thinks that this is likely a coin of Antiochus III.]  
11 mm. 2.45 gm.  
Ob. Head of king with diadem.  
Re. Naked Apollo standing with arrow in rt. hand and in left bow resting on the ground.
- 80-92. Like 79, varying from 10 to 12 mm. in diam. and from 1.41 to 2.6 gm. in wt.  
[Some or all of these may belong to Antiochus III.]
93. Hemichalcus. (Cf. RSAC XIII, 11.) Mill edge.  
14 mm. 2.73 gm.  
Ob. Head of king. Hole in center.

Re. ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ. Naked Apollo standing with arrow in rt. hand and in left bow resting on the ground. Small hole in center.

94. Like 93, but no holes and on re. dotted border.

13 mm. 1.28 grm.

95. Like 93.

13 mm. 2.26 grm.

96. Like 93, but very badly struck. Possibly Demetrius II.

13 mm. 2.3 grm.

97. Like 93.

12 mm. 2.73 grm.

98-198. Hemichalcus. (RSAC XIII, 9; Nos. 572-574.) 30 different dies.

Diameters vary from 12.5 mm. to 14.5 mm. Average diam. is 13.6 mm. Weights vary from 1.56 grm. to 3 grm. Average wt. 2.45 grm.

Ob. Head of king with radiate crown. A few coins show the small hole in center. Most have dotted border, some line border, a few no border. The crowns vary in pattern. All these coins should have behind the head the monogram  $\hat{B}$  traces of which may be seen on Nos. 98 and 170. No. 100 probably is a local imitation.

Re. ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ. Some of the lettering in dots. Standing goddess (Hera according to Babelon) facing front. Headcloth dropping to shoulders. Robe with tight waist and skirt reaching to ground. Spear in right hand and shield resting on ground in left. Most coins have dotted border, a few have the hole in center.

ANTIOCHUS V (EUPATOR), 164-162 B.C.

199. Dilepton. (Cf. RSAC p. cxiv and XV, 13.) Mill edge.

13 mm. 2.52 grm.

Ob. Head of king as Apollo with laurel. Dotted border. Small hole in center. Monogram  $\hat{B}$  behind head.

Re. ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ. Naked Apollo seated on omphalos. Arrow in rt. hand and in left bow resting on ground. Small hole in center. Dotted border.

200. Similar to 199.

14 mm. 2.6 grm.

Ob. Laureled head of king as Apollo. Dotted border. Small hole left of center.





PLATE XVIII. COINS OF ANTIOCHUS V, ALEXANDER BALAS, DEMETRIUS II, ANTIOCHUS VII, ALEXANDER ZEBINA, CLEOPATRA THEA AND ANTIOCHUS VIII, JOHN HYRCANUS, ALEXANDER JANNAEUS, HEROD THE GREAT, AND RHODES.

Re. Apollo with bow and arrow seated on omphalos. Hole below center. Aplustre between inscription ANTIOXOT and dotted border.

ALEXANDER BALAS, 151-146 B.C.

201. Dilepton. (Cf. RSAC XVIII, 1.)

14 mm. 1.6 gm.

Ob. Portrait of king wearing diadem. Border of dots widely separated.

Re. Standing Zeus. Palm in left hand and with rt. placing wreath over name of Alexander. Inscription ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ partially legible. At left ΓΑ, perhaps for Gaza.

202. Dilepton. (Cf. RSAC XVII, 16; Gr 339, 10.)

14 mm. 2.9 gm.

Ob. Head of king with laurel. Hole in center.

Re. Apollo with bow and arrow seated on omphalos. Part of name Alexander legible. Hole in center.

DEMETRIUS II, 146-137 and 129-125 B.C.

203-215. Dilepton. (RSAC XIX, 12.)

Diameters vary from 13 to 15 mm. Weights vary from 1.75 to 3.22 gm.

Ob. Head of king.

Re. ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΥ. Standing goddess (Demeter according to Babelon) facing front. Headcloth dropping to shoulders. Long, form-fitting robe. Long scepter or spear in rt. hand.

ANTIOCHUS VII (EUERGETES OR SIDETES), 137-129 B.C.

216. Silver tetradrachm. (Gr 340, 14; 341, 2; RSAC XXI, 12.)

28 mm. 13.75 gm.

Ob. Head of king wearing diadem. Dotted border.

Re. Eagle with folded wings. ANTIOXOT ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ. Club and monogram  $\Psi$  of mint of Tyre, above which is  $\hat{\rho}\epsilon$  (for *ιέρá*). In claws three pronged "rostra" of war galley.  $\Sigma$  between legs. Behind eagle monogram  $A\Sigma$  over date  $\Gamma O P$  (177) = 135 B.C. Dotted border.

217. Silver didrachm. (Gr 340, 15; RSAC XXI, 7.)  
 20 mm. 6.62 gm.  
 Ob. Head of king wearing diadem. Dotted border.  
 Re. Eagle with folded wings. ANTIOXOT BΑΣΙΑEΩΣ. Club  
 and monogram of mint of Tyre below monogram  $\text{ϜE}$ .  
 At back of eagle's neck palm branch. Under it monogram  
 $\text{A}\Sigma$  and date HOP (178) = 134 B.C.  $\text{Ϝ}$  between legs  
 (see EDGAR ROGERS, *Second and Third Seleucid Mints  
 of Tyre.*)
218. Hemichalcus. (RSAC XXI, 11.)  
 14 mm. 2.51 gm.  
 Ob. Lion head. Line border.  
 Re. Standing club. BΑΣΙΑEΩΣ ANTIOXOT ETEPEΓET.
219. Hemichalcus. (RSAC XXII, 1.)  
 14.5 mm. 2.71 gm.  
 Ob. Lotus flower on a stalk. Dotted border.  
 Re. BΑΣΙΑEΩΣ ANTIOXOT ETE. Under anchor date AHP  
 (181) = 131 B.C.
220. Like 219. Broken and inscription not legible.  
 15 mm. 1.97 gm.
221. Like 219. Inscription not legible.  
 14 mm. 1.79 gm.
222. Like 219. Inscription partly legible. Only A of date legible.  
 14 mm. 2.57 gm.
223. Like 219, but date at side of anchor.  
 15 mm. 2.32 gm.
224. Like 219, but date not on coin, which was too small for die.  
 13 mm. 2.36 gm.
225. Like 219. Recorded, but lost before it was measured and weighed.

ALEXANDER ZEBINA, 125-123 B.C.

226. Chalcus. (Cf. Gr 341, 5-9; RSAC XXIII, 3.4.)  
 21 mm. 7.11 gm.  
 Ob. Head of king. Dotted border.  
 Re. BΑΣΙΑEΩΣ AAEΞANΔPOT partly legible. Zeus, naked  
 above hips, seated on throne. Lower part of body draped.  
 Wreath-bearing Victory on extended rt. hand. Left hand  
 resting on scepter. Badly struck.

CLEOPATRA THEA AND ANTIOCHUS VIII (GRYPUS), 123-96 B.C.

227. Hemichalcus. (Cf. RSAC XXIV, 2-4.6.)

14 mm. 2.36 grm.

Ob. Head.

Re. Partially legible inscription, which should be ΒΑΣΙΛΙΣ-  
ΣΗΣ ΚΛΕΟΠΑΤΡΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ. Stand-  
ing figure. Tiller.

UNCERTAIN SELEUCID

228-235. All small lozenge-shaped coins of the dilepton style with in-  
scriptions very faint or altogether missing.

Diameters vary from 8 to 11 mm. Weights vary from 1.03  
to 1.58 grm.

BRONZE JEWISH COINS

It is noteworthy that Beth-zur yielded none of the bronze coins commonly assigned to Simon Maccabaeus (e.g., Ma pp. 46-51). Since Simon fortified the city, we should expect a good selection of his coins to be found there, especially so when we see that the Seleucid rulers of the Maccabean period and John Hyrcanus are well represented with coins. At Marisa and Gezer, the other two Maccabean sites which have been excavated, there was also a lack of the so-called Simon coins. The arguments for ascribing the coins with "in the fourth year of the redemption of Zion" to Simon, though generally accepted, have not been at all conclusive from the standpoint of style or epigraphy. The lack of these coins at Beth-zur, Marisa, and Gezer makes it certain that these coins belong to the First Revolt, 69-70 A.D. (See BASOR 43, p. 13.)<sup>13</sup>

JOHN HYRCANUS, 125-106 B.C.

236-251. Bronze coin. (Ma pp. 53ff.) These 16 coins represent 16 dif-  
ferent dies.

Diameters vary from 13 to 15 mm. Weights vary from 1.52  
to 2.25 grm.

Ob. Double cornucopia. Poppy bud. Dotted border.

Re. Wreath enclosing inscription

יהוחנן הכהן הגדל וחבר היהודים

*John the high priest and the community of the Jews.* Coins  
239 and 240 instead of יהוחנן have החבר, which is bad Heb-  
rew (Cf. Ma p. 54, n. 2).

<sup>13</sup> An article on this question is promised by H. WILLRICH, ZAW, NF 9, p. 193, n. 1.

ALEXANDER JANNAEUS, 105-78 B.C.

252. Bronze coin. (Ma p. 69).

13.5 mm. 2.2 grm.

Ob. Double cornucopia. Poppy bud. Dotted border.

Re. Wreath enclosing inscription

יהונתן הכהן חנניל וחב'ר היהודים

*Jonathan* (another name of Alexander) *the high priest and the community of the Jews*. On account of imperfect striking or later smashing the last seven letters do not appear.

253. Probably a late imitation of another Alexander Jannaeus coin.

(Cf. Ma p. 66, No. 1.)

14 mm. 0.95 grm.

HEROD THE GREAT, 37-4 B.C.

254. Bronze coin. (Ma pp. 89.90.)

16.5 mm. 1.85 grm.

Ob. Double cornucopia. Dotted border.

Re. Anchor. Faint lettering, probably  $\omega\text{PH}$ , retrogressive reading for Herod.

#### RHODIAN COIN

255. Bronze coin. (Cf. MGR CXLVII, 1.6.7.8.9.11; *Monnaies Grecques, Collection du Colonel Allotte de la Fuÿe*, Paris, 1925, No. 571.)  
304-166 B.C.

17.5 mm. 2.78 grm.

Ob. Head of Helios facing front. Wavy hair.

Re. Not clear.

#### A. D. COINS

These are unimportant bronze coins of well-known types lost on the hill after Beth-zur ceased to be a city.

256. Valerius Gratus (Hi XXIV, 1). 257. Agrippa I (Hi XXVI, 1).

258. Antonius Felix (Hi XXIX, 18). 259. Diocletian. 260.

Constantine. 261. Constantine. 262. Constantius II. 263.

Constantius II. 264. Valentinian I. 265. Valentinian II.

266-268. Uncertain Roman. 269. Mameluke. 270. Late

Bahri. 271. Mohammedan, probably Mameluke. 272-273.

Uncertain Arabic. 274. Abassid. 275. Late Mameluke.

#### UNCERTAIN COINS

276-279. These coins are so badly damaged that they cannot be classified.

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