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Tell Johfiyeh: An Archaeological Site in Northern Jordan.

A Preliminary Report on the 2002 Field Season

By: Roland Lamprichs, German Protestant Institute of Archaeology, Amman (Jordan)

Introduction

Under the joint directorship of Dr. Roland Lamprichs (DEI-Amman) and Dr. Ziad al-Sa'ad (IAA-Irbid) the German Protestant Institute of Archaeology in Amman (DEI) and the Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology in Irbid (IAA) conducted a first season of archaeological excavations at Tell Johfiyeh from May 5th to May 26th 2002. The project aimed at studying the archaeology of Tell Johfiyeh, documenting its remains and increasing our general knowledge and understanding of the Iron Age and its material culture on the northern plateau. In a first step some basic information about the architecture, structure, stratigraphy and pottery-sequence of the tell as well as some materials for a reconstruction of an Iron Age (fortified) „farmstead“ should be obtained.

The excavation was carried out with the constant support of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan (DoA) and we would like to express our gratitude to its Director General, Dr. Fawwaz Khraysheh. We are also thankful for the help of Mr. Nasser Khassawneh, head of the Department of Antiquities, Irbid-office, and our representative Dia Tawalbeh who did an excellent job in the field. Strong logistic support was given to us by Dr. Ziad Talafah (Johfiyeh), the inhabitants of the modern village of Johfiyeh and our local workmen. Thanks are due to all of them.

Topography and research history

Tell Johfiyeh (Fig. 1) is situated about 7.5 km south-west of Irbid at the northern fringe of the modern village of Johfiyeh (UTM-Zone 36; UTME 7652; UTMN 35986). Its topographical location on a high ground about 793.04 m above sea-level provides the site with a good view over the hilly surroundings which are now characterized by different kinds of agricultural activities. Nowadays, the inhabitants of Johfiyeh mainly cultivate grain, olive- and fruit-trees (e.g. figs, apricots).

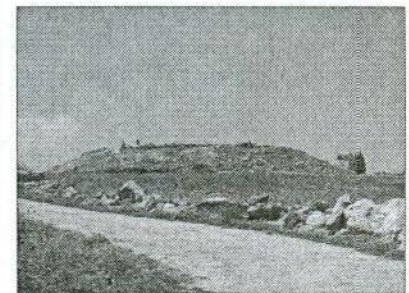


Fig. 1: Tell Johfiyeh: a site in northern Jordan

The archaeological site of Tell Johfiyeh proper covers an area of approximately 4000 sqm. The levelled top of the mound which is almost circular in shape measures about 950 sqm. The height of the mound above the surrounding fields is approximately 7 m (Fig. 2). Its orientation at the base is slightly east-west. A steep slope characterizes the upper and medium range of the mound, whereas the bottom range

partly seems to be levelled by terracing. Traces of ploughing found on the flat surface indicate recent agricultural activities on the top of the site. The slopes and surroundings are covered with a mass of huge to medium/large sized lime- and flintstones.

In contrast to similar structures found for example in Tell Beit Yafa, a site situated some 3.0 km to the north-west, the general state of preservation is good. Minor destructions by treasure hunters are found only on the slopes and on top of the mound. Erosion seems to be of almost no consequence.

Surface structures mainly consist of a nearly circular wall (height: up to 1 m; width: up to 0.8 m) surrounding the plateau of the site (Fig. 2). 'Openings' within this wall are situated in the eastern, north- and south-western parts of the tell only. Another wall at the foot of the mound, outlining roughly the limits of the tell, is still extant up to 2.5 m in height. Its width is more than 1 m. As we found out, this wall was rebuilt by the villagers of Johfiyeh not long ago due to farming activities.

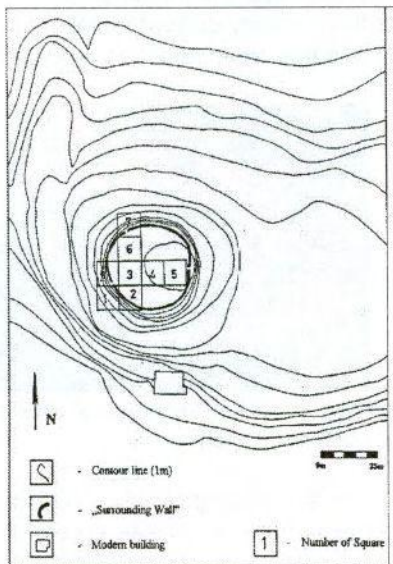


Fig. 2: Tell Johfiyeh: a topographic sketch

According to Glueck (1951a, 172; 1951b), who visited the site during his extensive 'Explorations in Eastern Palestine', Tell Johfiyeh was founded and used mainly dur-

ing the Iron Age I and II periods (c. 1200 BC – 586 BC). Following his analysis of surface finds only a few potsherds, dating from roman to medieval times, indicate a later settlement. Apart from Glueck, only Steuernagel (1926), Zwickel (1990, 309) and Palumbo (1994, 2.102: 2221.007) have mentioned Tell Johfiyeh in their essays and scientific compilations. The information given by them coincides in most parts with Glueck's description and interpretation of the site. Further archaeological investigations did not take place. It was only in 1995 that the hitherto published results were completed. Visits to the site and surveying of its neighbourhood in 1995, 1996, 1998 and 2000 by Dr. Ziad al-Sa'ad (IAA) and Dr. Roland Lamprichs (DEI) showed (Lamprichs 1996 a.b; 1997a.b; 1998; Lamprichs und Kafafi 2000) that in correspondence with Glueck's statements most of the pottery collected can be dated to the Iron Age. The remainder of the then identified pottery mainly dates to the Byzantine and Early Islamic periods. The archaeological surveys furthermore showed that Tell Johfiyeh and several other small Iron Age sites in the vicinity fit within a settlement pattern that is dominated by either Tell Husn or Tell Irbid. The results of a first season of excavations conducted in 2002 (3 weeks) can be summarized as follows:

Results of the first season

Within an artificial grid (10 m x 10m) eight squares (1-8) were defined and partly excavated (Fig. 2). Altogether an area of 210.5 sqm, covering the main parts of the mound, was opened during our first campaign in spring 2002 (Fig. 3). Trenches dug within squares 1 and 2 are situated on the slope of the tell (AREA 2). The other trenches (squares 3,4,5,6,7,8) are all located on the levelled, recently ploughed top of the site (AREA 1).

AREA 1

The remains found within the circular wall surrounding the flattened top of the mound (squares 3,4,5,6, 7,8) are almost exclusively of an Iron Age date. Only a few remains connected to a water reservoir found in the north-eastern part of square 5 and some wall-fragments found within and just below the topsoil of square 4 belong to the Late Byzantine/Early Islamic period. The medium sized water reservoir (2.5 m x 2.7 m x 3.5 m) is dated by an almost complete jar, found on its ground, to the same period of time (Fig. 4). Its plaster-covered walls, however, are of an earlier date and belong most probably to the Iron Age.



Fig. 3: Tell Johfiyeh (seen from the south)

Separated by a layer of brown soil from the sparsely documented Late Byzantine/Early Islamic occupation level (i.e. wall fragments in square 4), a reddish mud floor interspersed with a huge amount of chalky material was unearthed. Remains of this floor have been found in almost all excavated areas within the levelled top of the mound (squares 3,4,5, 6). Only the area of the water reservoir (north-eastern part of square 5) and the disturbed areas of square 7 and 8 showed no remains of this floor. Architectural remains to be connected with this floor are characterized by huge walls founded on an earlier level and simple wall additions forming small rooms or open „court-yards". The density of instal-

lations, finds and pottery found within this floor was altogether relatively high. The finds are exclusively of an Iron Age date and could be associated with different domestic activities. Among others we found fire-places, remains of a taboon, grinding stones (basalt), different kinds of pestles (basalt), mill-stones, a complete basalt-vessel (tripod), huge amounts of storage jars (collared rim), cooking pots, jars/jugs, bowls, looms, a bead and three arrow-heads made of iron (Figs. 5-7).

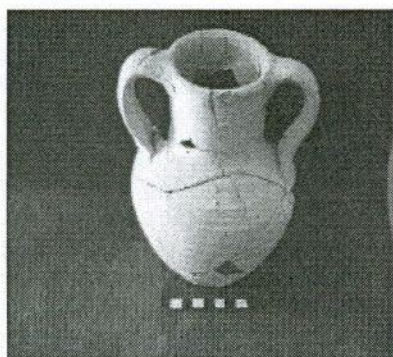


Fig. 4: Jar found on the bottom of a water reservoir (square 5)

Stratigraphically the mentioned floor is followed by a plaster of unknown function made of stone-slabs (squares 4,6). In other parts (squares 3,4,5) it is followed by some kind of hard brownish gravel containing more remains connected to domestic activities during the Iron Age.

AREA 2

In contrast to the situation described so far, the stratigraphy and material remains found on the south-eastern slope (squares 1,2) are different (Fig. 8). The excavated material is mainly of Late Byzantine/Early Islamic date. In addition some pieces of a Hellenistic and Roman date have been found. Pottery belonging to the Iron Age is only sparsely represented. The same applies to other finds. Non-Iron Age pieces like glass, metals and shells are dominating the assemblage found so far.

Concerning the excavated architecture it could be shown that the almost circular wall running around

the top of the site is not a recent addition made by the villagers of modern Johfiyeh. Several layers of huge unhewn limestones (c. 1.5 m) could be unearthed so far and the wall encircling the plateau might even continue down to the 'foundation level' of the tell. Anyhow, since a structure of still unknown function (terrace?), measuring almost 2.0 m in width, was put in front of it just 1.5 m below the surface we cannot give a final answer to that question now. Most probably the structure belongs to some kind of walk (along the battlements)/terrace leading to an 'entrance' (= disturbance in square 8) situated in the south-western part of the surrounding wall. A similar situation was observed in square 7 in the north-western part of the tell. After following the outer limit of this walk/terrace (square 2) down for approximately 2.7 m we reached a plastered floor of a room/house built in front of the massive walk/terrace using it as a reinforcement of its north-western wall. The room/building is measuring approximately 2.5 m x 4.5 m and was partly built of well hewn blocks sitting on a foundation of medium sized unhewn limestones. Its entrance was situated in the south-east. A worked lintel found not far away might belong to this entrance. Since the material found on the floor was not yet analyzed in detail, no exact date of the building could be given so far. It is most probably of a Late Byzantine/Omayyad date.



Fig. 5: Basalt-bowl with pestles (square 4)

POTTERY

In all, 17127 pottery sherds were collected within this season at Tell

Johfiyeh. 1492 pieces were classified as diagnostics (i.e. bases, rims, handles, decorated body sherds). Within the assemblage 20 wares could be distinguished belonging to two main groups. Wares 1 to 5 are all wheelmade, of coarse to fine fabric and most probably of Iron Age date. The colour varies from light buff to reddish brown. A grey core is characteristic for some of the larger pots. The temper is usually of small white, grey and brown grits. Nearly 85 % of the pottery found during this season could be assigned to one of these wares. The remaining 15 % of the pottery assemblage belongs to wares 6-20. The sherds assigned to this group are very heterogeneous and completely different to the ones mentioned above. They are most probably of a non-Iron Age date and do not belong to the main period of occupation. About 2/3 of these sherds belong most probably to the Late Byzantine/Early Islamic period. The rest (1/3) are a mixture of different wares representing most probably Hellenistic and Roman remains.



Fig. 6: Pottery bowl found in the southern part of square 5

The typological spectrum recorded in Tell Johfiyeh is restricted to 10 major (vessel) forms with several sub-types and numerous variations: for the Iron Age layers mainly (large) storage jars, jars/jugs, bowls and cooking pots are represented.

Summary and Outlook

After only three weeks in the field we are able to determine the following: Tell Johfiyeh is most probably the first excavated site on the north-Jordanian plateau where undisturbed Iron Age layers of more

than 3.5 m could be expected. Apart from the slopes and a small area on top of the mound reused as a water reservoir during Late Byzantine/Early Islamic times the (settlement) debris within the encircled wall belongs most probably exclusively to the Iron Age. Tell Johfiyeh might be a fortified farmstead of an Iron Age date reminding of one of the towers known from the Amman area. The architecture excavated so far within the inner circle (tower) consists mainly of small rooms re-using huge Iron Age walls of an earlier level by adding simple structures made of smaller stones. Some of the huge walls are extant up to 3.5 m. Installations and finds like fire places, taboos, storage jars, grinding stones, pestles, looms etc. are found in great numbers.

In order to get a sequence of Iron Age pottery for the first time on the plateau and to get more insights into the architectural and material remains of the Iron Age period the investigation of the site should continue in 2003.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all members of staff for contributing to the success of our first season in the field: Nabil Qadi (Irbid/Jordan); Katrin Bastert, M.A. (Amman/Jordan); Ute Koprivc (Remscheid/Germany); Arnd Kulla (Amman); Dr. Lutz Martin (Berlin/Germany); Elke Posselt, M.A. (Berlin/Germany); Gerhard Reimann (Offenbach/Germany) and Elke Smidt-Kulla (Solingen/Germany). The campaign conducted in 2002 was funded by the German Protestant Institute of Archaeology (DEI), Hannover/Germany and Yarmouk University, Irbid/Jordan.

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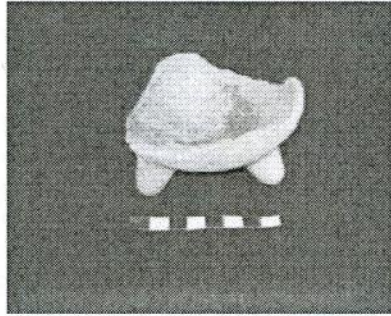


Fig. 7: Pottery (so called incense burner) found in square 3

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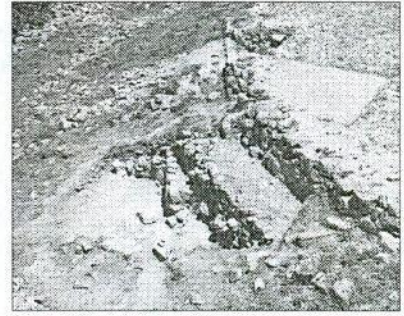


Fig. 8: The south-eastern „slope“ (view from south-west)

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Egyptian Scarabs Found at el-Balu'

By: Udo Worschech, Friedensau Adventist University, Friedensau (Germany)

The interest and presence of Egypt in the Transjordan can only be called cursory. However, the possible itinerary of a reconnaissance trip of Thutmose III soldiers into the country east of the Jordan (Redford 1982, 55-74; Kafafi 1985, 17-21) and the inscription of Ramesses II about his conquest of a city in Moab called Batra (*mu'bu b[w]trt*) are evidence of at least an occasional interest in that part of Palestine (Worschech 1997, 230f.). Even during the Middle Bronze periods there seemed to have been contacts with

the so-called *šū-tu* (Shet = later Moab? Ccf. Num. 24,17) and with the nomadic *š3sw* a few centuries later (cf. Worschech 1997, 229f.). The important stela from el-Balu' (Kerak region, Jordan) adds to the beginning interest of Egypt in Moab since it represents in an Egyptianizing style a „Shasu-Sheikh“ flanked by an Egyptian god and goddess (?). If the reading by M. Ward (1964, 5-29) of the badly preserved inscription above the figures is correct, the stela may date to the reign of Thutmose IV. (1412-1403

than 3.5 m could be expected. Apart from the slopes and a small area on top of the mound reused as a water reservoir during Late Byzantine/Early Islamic times the (settlement) debris within the encircled wall belongs most probably exclusively to the Iron Age. Tell Johfiyeh might be a fortified farmstead of an Iron Age date reminding of one of the towers known from the Amman area. The architecture excavated so far within the inner circle (tower) consists mainly of small rooms re-using huge Iron Age walls of an earlier level by adding simple structures made of smaller stones. Some of the huge walls are extant up to 3.5 m. Installations and finds like fire places, taboons, storage jars, grinding stones, pestles, looms etc. are found in great numbers.

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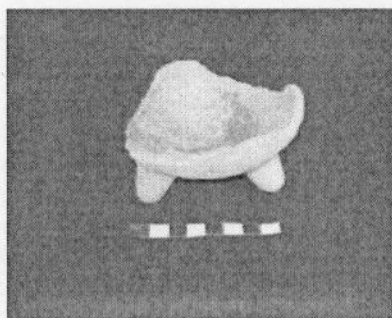


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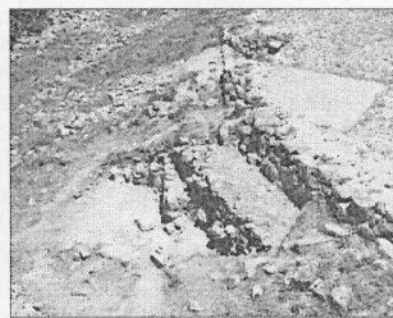


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BC), which is, however, questioned by H. Weippert (1985, 667), who suggests the 10th century as the time of origin for the stela.

This ties in chronologically with the find of a scarab dating to the time of Ramses IV (1156-1150), whose abbreviated prenom appears on a scarab (*wsr m3'tr' stp r' mn n*) which was found in a burial cave across Wadi el-Balu' in 2001 (Fig. 1; Worschech in press). Another scarab was given by a Bedouin woman to Kevin Wilson visiting el-Balu' in 2001. The scarab carries the prenom of Thutmose III (ca. 1490-1436 B.C.), *Mn -hpr- re*, and the title *ntr nfr nb t3[wj]* - „perfect God, Lord of the two countries“. Hence, there is further inscriptional evidence for the presence of Egyptians and/or for contacts between Moab and Egypt during the late Late Bronze and- Early Iron Age periods.

The burial cave in which the scarab dating to the time of Ramses IV was found contained more than 50 vessels dating to the Bronze and Iron Age periods known in Moab from surveys and excavations. One complete shallow bowl with concentric rings and a very deep bowl or krater may date to the very late Late Bronze or to the Early Iron Age period. Most objects (jars, jugs, and

juglets) date to the Iron II-III periods. During the excavations at el-Balu' sherds dating to this transitional and still enigmatic Late Bronze and Early Iron epoch came to light, confirming the presence of a small settlement at that time. However, there were no architectural features connected with the pottery.

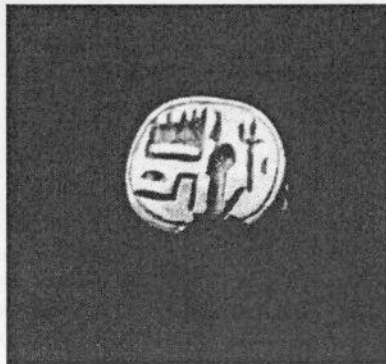


Fig. 1: Scarab dating to the time of Ramses IV

The span of time from Thutmose III to Ramses IV of about 300 years appears long. But the material and inscriptional evidence so far suggests that there were occasional contacts between Egypt and the slowly emerging sheikhdom which later became Moab. And although there is no overwhelming evidence for an intense Egyptian interest in that backwater area of Transjordan,

this evidence cannot be dismissed in further discussions concerning the evolutionary processes which accompany the emergence of small tribal states. It is likely that especially in the more or less culturally sterile country of Moab some answers pertaining to this process will be found in the future.

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The Hittites in Berlin

By: R.-B. Wartke, Vorderasiatisches Museum Berlin (Germany)

The Hittites have, for a long time, been a forgotten people, only known from a few stories in the Old and New Testament within the context of the indigenous (i.e. non-Israelite) population of Syro-Palestine. King David counted among his warriors Uriah the Hittite and Ahhimelech (1 Sam 26,6; 2 Sam 11,6; 23,39), and David fathered Solomon with Bathsheva, Uriah's wife. King Solomon also included Hittite women among his lovers (1 Kings 11,1), and Hittite women appear in the Bible as unusually attractive and were hence considered by the patriarchs as

temptation. According to the Table of Nations (Gen 10), the land Het can be localised somewhere north of Canaan. The geographical-political orientation in historical times was apparently concrete, since a Hittite ritual text from the 15th cent. BC mentions a land Kinahha (= Canaan).

However, apart from biblical research there was no historical interest in the Hittites. They remained widely unknown throughout the 19th cent. and any chronological or geographical classification was impossible. Those Hittite monuments which

were above ground remained mostly unnoticed or fully unrecognized. Herodotus (Histories II, 106) considered one Hittite rock relief - the relief from Karabel near Izmir - to be Egyptian or even Ethiopian.

The Hittites first emerged from the darkness of history in the 20th cent. With the beginning of the German excavations in Bogazköy in 1906 and the identification of the ruins with the capital Hattusas, the history of the Hittites began to take shape. A historical superpower, even attested by the Egyptians (battle of Qadesh in 1275 BC between Mu-

wa-talli II and Ramses II), came into the light of history. The great empire of the Hittites existed from the 17th cent. BC in central Anatolia, blossomed in the 14/13th centuries BC, collapsed shortly after 1200 BC, but lasted until the 8th cent. BC in the form of late Hittite kingdoms. Despite the success in Hittite studies and research, much of the history and culture in many areas remains poorly known. This may be one of the reasons for the abiding interest in the Hittites.

Following from the great success of the special exhibition 'The Hittites, the people of 1000 Gods' in Bonn (18/1 to 9/6/2002), it was made possible within a short time to show the exhibition also in Berlin. From 12/7 to 29/9/2002, the special exhibition will be presented in the 'Martin-Gropius-Bau' in joint cooperation with the 'Kunst- und Ausstellungshalle Bonn', the 'Martin-Gropius-Bau' (Berliner Festspiele GmbH) and the 'Vorderasiatisches Museum der Staatlichen Museen zu Berlin'. Archaeological finds from Hittite sites are hardly ever displayed outside of Turkey. It is therefore of special significance that for the first time 160 archaeological objects from 16 Turkish museums and collections were to be seen in Bonn and Berlin. Among the exciting finds there are limestone and basalt bas-reliefs from the Hittite Empire (14/13th centuries BC) as well as from the Late Hittite Period (10-8th cent. BC), numerous examples of captivating pottery from the 2nd mill. BC,

and a copy of the Hittite-Egyptian peace contract between Ramses II and Hattusili III in babylonian cuneiform (ca. 1259 BC), an enlargement of which hangs in the United Nations building in New York.



Fig. 1: Goddess Kubaba, Karkamis, Basalt, 8/7th cent. BC, Ankara (copyright T.C. Kulturministerium – Generaldirektion für Denkmäler und Museen, Ankara)

Berlin's 'Vorderasiatisches Museum' has been able to add certain items to the exhibition through various additional loans: basalt bas-reliefs from Sam'al/Zincirli, some cuneiform texts (e.g. three further original fragments of the Hittite-Egypt peace contract, a horse-training text (Kikkuli-text), a Sumerian-Akkadian-Hittite word-list, and some letters from Kanesch/Kültepe as well as from Tell el-Amarna). This may draw attention to wider Hittite and late Hittite objects which are to be found in Berlin's 'Vorderasiatisches Museum' (in the Pergamon Museum) at the so-called 'Museum Island'.



Fig. 2: Installation of the lion-hunt orthostat from Malatya-Arslantepe, 9th cent. BC, Basalt, Ankara (O. Teßmer)

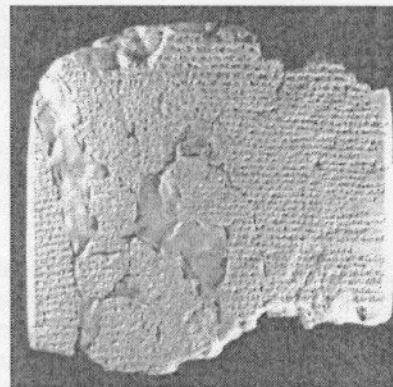


Fig. 3: Hittite-Egypt peace contract between Ramses II and Hattusili III (copy), ca. 1259 BC, Bogazköy, original in Istanbul (copyright T.C. Kulturministerium – Generaldirektion für Denkmäler und Museen, Ankara)

Donors to the Library



We would like to express our thanks to the following institutions and persons who have made donations to our library:

German Archaeological Institute (DAI), Berlin (Germany); American Center of Oriental Research (ACOR), Amman (Jordan); Friends of Archaeology, Amman (Jordan); Prof. Dr. Andreas Hauptmann, Bergbau-Museum Bochum (Germany); Bernhard Lucke, Brandenburg Technical University, Cottbus (Germany); Prof. Dr. Friedbert Ninow, Friedensau Adventist University, Friedensau (Germany); Prof. Dr. Udo Worschech, Friedensau Adventist University, Friedensau (Germany).

We would like to extend our thanks to the Gertrud-und-Alexander-Böhlig-Stiftung for their generous support, and to the German Society for the Exploration of Palestine (Deutscher Palästina-Verein; DPV), who subsidized our library in 2002 again with 1000 EUR.

Tell el-Fukhar

By: John Strange, University of Copenhagen (Denmark)

Tell el-Fukhar is situated on a spur into Wadi Shellale which cuts its way from south to north between Irbid and Ramtha in northern Jordan. It is one of a cluster of tells: Tell es-Subba, Tell Umm er-Rijlen, Tell Zeraqoun and Tell el-Fukhar, which together testify to occupation at least from the Chalcolithic to the Byzantine Ages, undoubtedly due to the copious water source Ain Shellale nearby. The site lies at the junction of the north-south route from Mesopotamia to Jordan and the west-east route from Tiberias to Der'a. In the years 1990-93 a Scandinavian team under the direction of first Magnus Ottosson from Uppsala University and later the author from the University of Copenhagen conducted four campaigns at Fukhar. This summer a small Danish team under the direction of the latter tries to clear up some problems identified in working with the material for publication.

The site was chosen partly at the instigation of Prof. Dr. Siegfried Mittmann who worked at Khirbet Zeraqoun on the other side of the wadi, and partly because Magnus Ottosson showed interest in excavating the site. As so very often, we did not find what we looked for, but a lot of other things with some surprises thrown in. While Magnus Ottosson concentrated on the fortifications at the north-west side, the author went to the upper part of the site and excavated a 10 m x 10 m trench from top to bedrock to determine the history of Tell el-Fukhar. We identified stratified deposits from EB II until the Hellenistic period (albeit with some breaks) with some activity later on.

The oldest stratified deposits from the Early Bronze Age II were a fine floor made of ashlar between two walls, our knowledge is however limited due to the size of the sounding: 2 m x 2 m square. Above it we found eight more floors from the EB II-III testifying to a rich city culture

simultaneous with Khirbet Zeraqoun. But because we found EB IB-pottery in the fills, we believe that the town was founded in this period and must be the „mother tell“ of Khirbet Zeraqoun then being an extension when Tell el-Fukhar was too small to hold all the activities in the EB II period. This summer our primary goal is to find this EB IB village which we believe to be at the lower end of the tell, close to the wadi, because the surface finds there contain a very large percentage of EB-sherds.

After the Early Bronze Age we have a gap partly filled in by a very early Middle Bronze Age grave with two skeletons, a man and a woman, and possibly also some walls testifying to activity in this period. Tell el-Fukhar was again inhabited from the Late Bronze Age I A – around 1500 BC, to judge from a number of Chocolate-on-White fragments and other pottery from this period. Also some imports from this period were found in the destruction layer of the major edifice of the next phase, a large public building, probably a palace from the LB IIB period (c. 1300-170 BC). This palace, although we excavated only a fraction, was at least 25 m long and was lying along the southern crest of the tell with a courtyard in front of it. It was built on massive foundations of large stones and had walls of mudbrick. An upper storey of it had crashed down when the building was destroyed towards 1200 BC. The entrance to the palace was a little withdrawn from the facade with a finely made staircase and a strong „tower“ and showed it to be a Bit Hilani. It was not, like so many other buildings in Jordan, an Egyptian type governor's residence. Still it is tempting to put the palace in connection with the reassertation of Egyptian power in the Ramesside period which is testified by the Egyptian stelae found nearby and the possible identification with Zarqu

from the Amarnaletters proposed by Jens Kamleh. Apart from the size of the building also the finds in the debris were interesting, consisting of import wares from Mycenae and Cyprus and heirlooms from an earlier period, among them a small female figurine pendant of glass showing a nude pregnant goddess of the Hathortype, together with other imports from Mesopotamia. This palace was contemporary with a massive city wall at the northern side of the tell.

The palace was in its last phase inhabited by squatters and was finally destroyed probably in an earthquake. Immediately above, with foundation-trenches cut into the walls of the palace, we found a village from the Transitional Late Bronze/Iron Age period, with another village of a different layout on top of it. Both villages cast light on the period; among other things connections with the Gaza area in the form of a Philistine sherd and a cooking pot could be observed. The site was abandoned in the 11th century BC.

After a hiatus of more than 400 years the tell was again occupied, this time by a possible Persian government installation with some buildings and a great number of silos lined with stones. They were however all empty, so the purpose of the complex remains obscure.

In the Hellenistic period Tell el-Fukhar was dominated by a large Hellenistic villa with 16 rooms, some with fine floors made of cobbles covered with mud-plaster or even ashlar, all around a courtyard, and built upon the walls of an earlier Hellenistic settlement. In connection with the villa we found two dumps where locally produced Hellenistic pottery derivative from the Iron Age/Persian pottery was mixed with fine Hellenistic tableware from the 3rd century BC. This may give us a better dating of the local Iron II C and Hellenistic

pottery and may result in a better understanding of the Ptolemaic period in Jordan as a whole.

Our main task this summer is, as said above, to find the EB I B village, but also to learn more about the Late Bronze Age and the Transitional Late Bronze/Iron Age period.

We then hope, after having studied the finds, to have a moderately clear picture of the history of Tell el-Fukhar which may turn out to be one of the important towns in northern Jordan in antiquity.

Third Survey Season in the Aqaba region, Southern Jordan

By: Lothar Herling, University of Heidelberg (Germany)

The German Institute of Archaeology (Orient Department) carried out a third season of field research in April 2002 in the region east and south of Aqaba. Exploration of this area had commenced in 2000 (Herling 2000).

One of the central objects of this final campaign, the conclusion of the Wadi Umm Harraq survey (see map in Schäfer and Hofmann 2001, 12), was successfully achieved. Again a considerable number of hitherto unknown Epipalaeolithic and/or Pre-Pottery Neolithic sites was found and numerous lithic implements were collected (Fig. 1). Other sites, which had been discovered during the preceding campaigns, were revisited in order to record any changes which may have had occurred since. The discovery of seasonal hunting camps augments our image of this wadi which runs into the Disi mud pan – a wadi which has been, in archaeological terms, as yet almost unknown.

Besides the exploration of Wadi Umm Harraq this year's activities centred on the completion of information gathered at other sites of varying date which had been discovered during the preceding campaigns. Due to the participation of the geologist Dr. J.O.W. Grimmer the provenance of the raw material flint of a Palaeolithic find spot near the „back road“ leading to the Aqaba Port could be established.

Also the site of Khirbet Rizqeh was revisited, and some of the „sandstone slabs blocked out in human form“, found by D. Kirkbride, were

recovered and documented in the Aqaba area as well as in Amman.

Moreover, we revisited the petroglyph site of al-Jaredieh close to the Saudi Arabian border, which had been discovered by our team in 2000. The enlargement of the survey area resulted in the discovery and recording of further Thamudic inscriptions as well as numerous animal representations.

The same applies to another petroglyph site near Aqaba first explored in 2001; the petroglyphs, predominantly of animals, are mainly to be found on the surfaces of relatively small rocks. Fig. 2 shows an ibex attacked by a hunting dog with erect ears and curled tail.

The dangers archaeological sites are exposed to even in the remote areas of the Aqaba region may be exemplified by Ain esh-Sharia (Fig. 3) near Titin. Since our first visit in 2000 numerous disturbances by robbers have occurred at this settlement in the midst of a wadi. Among other things a well below a horizon of ashes has been disturbed. Vessel sherds discovered in this well date the settlement to the Late Byzantine/Umayyad Period.

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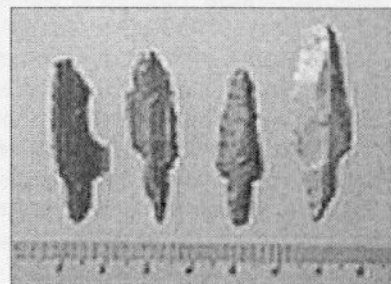


Fig. 1: Selection of arrowheads from various sites in the Wadi Umm Harraq



Fig. 2: Petroglyph of a hunting dog attacking an ibex



Fig. 3: The Late Byzantine/Umayyad settlement Ain esh-Sharia

Fellows in Residence and Associated Fellows (January – November 2002)

- Team members of the DAI-excavation in Aqaba, conducted by PD Dr. Klaus Schmidt, Deutsches Archäologisches Institut (DAI), Berlin (Germany).
- Ms. Susanne Bänziger, Lindau (Germany).
- Helmut Becker and Jörg Faßbinder, München (Germany).
- Prof. Dr. Ricardo Eichmann, Deutsches Archäologisches Institut (DAI), Berlin (Germany).
- Dr. Margarete van Ess, Deutsches Archäologisches Institut (DAI), Berlin (Germany) and her excavation team 'Uruk' (Iraq).
- Mr. Mohammed Farajat, Aqaba (Jordan).
- Prof. Dr. Hans Georg K. Gebel, Freie Universität Berlin (Germany).
- Ms. Sonja Heinrich (Germany).
- Mr. Lothar Herling, Universität Heidelberg (Germany), DAI-excavation in Aqaba (Jordan).
- Prof. Dr. Ulrich Hübner, Universität Kiel (Germany).
- Team members of the joint excavation at Tell Johfiyeh: Ute Kopvric, Dr. Lutz Martin, Elke Posselt, Gerhard Reimann, Elke Smidt-Kulla.
- Ms. Elisabeth Katzy, Tübingen (Germany).
- Ms. Miriam Krcmar, Tübingen (Germany), trainee at the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) office, Amman (Jordan).
- Mr. Arnd Kulla (curate), German Protestant Institute of Archaeology (DEI) in Amman (Jordan).
- Ms. Sigrun Meyer, München (Germany), trainee at the German Embassy in Amman (Jordan).
- Ms. Inka Potthast, Restoration Workshop in Irbid, Konstanz (Germany).
- Ms. Claudia Rammelt (Germany).
- Dr. Wernfried Rieckmann and team members of an excavation in Wadi Mujib, Theologische Hochschule Friedensau (Germany).
- Mr. Ralf Riens, Restoration Workshop in Irbid, Konstanz (Germany).
- Prof. Dr. Beate Salje, Vorderasiatisches Museum, Berlin, and Dr. Gerwulf Schneider, Freie Universität Berlin (Germany).
- Scholar holding a travel scholarship from the German Archaeological Institute (DAI): Dr. Ruth Bielfeldt.
- Scholars holding travel scholarships from the German Protestant Institute of Archaeology (DEI): Dr. Phillip Bonse, Dr. Volker Drecoll, Dr. Raik Heckl, Dr. Andreas Kunz, Dr. Johannes Thon.
- Ms. Claudia Schreiber, Bad Salzuflen (Germany).
- Prof. Dr. Stefan Schreiner, Universität Tübingen (Germany).
- Mrs. Elke Smidt-Kulla, Solingen (Germany).
- Mr. Gerhard Thiel, Ilona-Grundmann-Filmproduction, Wiesbaden (Germany).
- Dr. Karel Vriezen, University of Utrecht (Netherlands) and his excavation team.
- Dr. Ralf B. Wartke, Vorderasiatisches Museum, Berlin (Germany).
- Dr. Stephan Westphalen, Universität Göttingen (Germany).
- Ms. Anja Wünsch and Mr. Jan Weintz (Germany).
- Prof. Dr. Donny Youkhanna, Department of Research and Studies, State Board of Antiquities and Heritage, Baghdad (Iraq).

The First 125 Years: German Society for the Exploration of Palestine, 1877-2002

By: Ulrich Hübner, President of the DPV, University of Kiel (Germany)

The *German Society for the Exploration of Palestine* ('Deutscher Verein zur Erforschung Palästinas', inofficially abbreviated as 'Deutscher Palästina-Verein' = DPV) was founded in Wiesbaden on September 28, 1877 on the initiative of the school teacher Karl Ferdinand Zimmermann (1816-1889) from Basel, Albert Socin (1844-1899), a Swiss orientalist from the University of Tübingen (Fig. 1), and the German Old Testament scholar Emil Kautzsch (1841-1910) from the University of Basel (Fig. 2). The first volume of the journal 'Zeitschrift des Deutschen Palästina-Vereins' (ZDPV) was published in 1878 (Fig. 3). The number of members increased fast, because the society united the German research on Palestine for the first time, while membership was neither restricted by political barriers nor by denominational differences. Thanks to its positive development the society was able to set up a Palestine library in addition to its publishing work, and via an exploration fund several projects in Palestine were sponsored or even executed by the society. Thus for example the Siloah-Inscription in Jerusalem could be recovered by Conrad Schick in 1880 (Fig. 4), and the eastern area of Jordan was mapped by



Fig. 1: Photography of Albert Socin (1844-1899)

Gottlieb Schumacher on an assignment for the society during the years 1884-1914. In cooperation with the German Orient Society ('Deutsche Orient-Gesellschaft') excavations were executed by Hermann Guthe in Jerusalem in 1881 and in Megiddo from 1903 to 1905 by Gottlieb Schumacher and Carl Watzinger. In addition numerous topographical and ethnological surveys were organised and published, for example the first coloured edition of the Mosaic Map of Madeba by P. Palmer and H. Guthe in 1906 (Fig. 5). In 1965 this map was restored by H. Cüppers (Trier) and H. Donner (Goettingen) assigned by the German Society for the Exploration of Pa-



Fig. 2: Photography of Emil Kautzsch (1841-1910)

lestine. Beside the ZDPV the society published the bulletin 'Mitteilungen und Nachrichten des DPV' (MNDPV, Fig. 6) from 1895 to 1912, and a number of minor monographs titled 'Im Land der Bibel. Gemeinverständliche Hefte zur Palästina-kunde' was published.

The ethnological and archaeological collections which the society had gathered were destroyed in Leipzig together with the society's archives and library during World

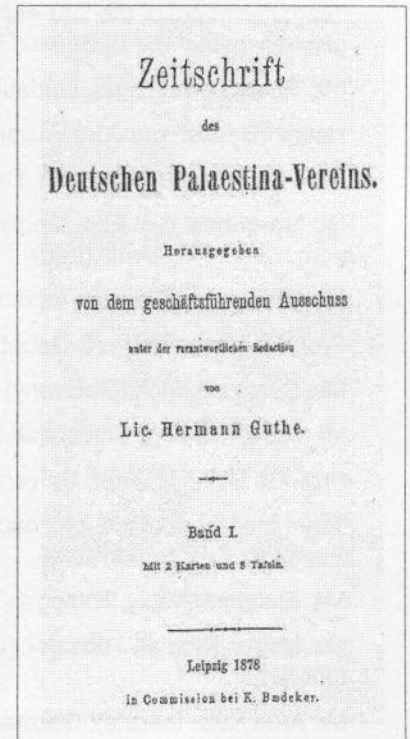


Fig. 3: Cover of ZDPV 1 (1878)

War II. About 200 photographs (on slides) were preserved after all and have been digitalized by now. They are accessible via internet under the following address: <http://www.holyland-photographs.uni-halle.de/Sammlungen/DVEP.html>.

In 1949 the society in Leipzig was forced by the government to break up. Martin Noth refounded the society and the journal in Bonn in 1959. Under his chairmanship and his successors O. Plöger, H. Donner and H. Weippert the number of members in and outside Germany has been growing continually. Today the society has more than 400 members worldwide. Both library and archive were restored by and by.

The goal the „German Society for the Exploration of Palestine“ has set for itself is the scientific exploration of the history and culture of Palestine. For this purpose the society or-

ganises a scientific colloquium every two years, where discussion topics are chosen by the members. With lectures and discussions as well as many opportunities for discourses these meetings are a platform which serves the members' mutual information. The annual journal ZDPV, published by the society, is free for members. The essays deal with topics of archaeology, topography, iconography, history of religion, ethnology, and with philological-epigraphical questions concerning the history and culture of Palestine. There are also book reviews and news which are of interest for the members. Since 1969 'Abhandlungen des Deutschen Palästina-Vereins' (ADPV) have been published by the society. They come out in irregular intervals in form of monographs and deal with the same topics as the journal. The society has permanent contact to other societies and institutions, such as the Department of Antiquities of Jordan and the German Protestant Institute of Archaeology of the Holy Land in Amman.



Fig. 5: Logo of the „Deutscher Verein zur Erforschung Palästinas“

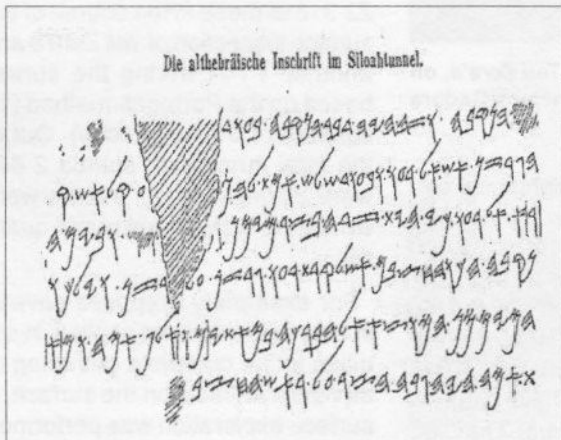


Fig. 4: Siloah-Inscription from Jerusalem



Fig. 6: Cover of MNDPV 3 (1897)

Tall Zera'a in the Wadi al-'Arab

By: Dieter Vieweger with contributions by Jens Eichner and Patrick Leiverkus

The ruins of the Decapolis city of Gadara fascinate by their archaeological relevance as well as their extraordinary scenic location. The city is majestically sited on the northeasternmost mountain spur of Transjordan high above the Sea of Galilee, jutting out into the Jordan valley. If one looks to the north, the hot springs of *Hammat Gader* in the Yarmouk valley can be spotted. Looking to the west, the view extends from the arable land of the nearby village to as far as Mount Tabor in Galilee. Looking to the south, one discovers an unusually fertile valley: the *Wadi al-'Arab*. Nevertheless, its relevance for the antique city of Gadara and its pre- and post-classical and subsequent development has hardly been paid any attention to until now (Hoffmann 1999). The *wadi* and the trade route running through it are dominated by a remarkable settlement – the *Tall Zera'a*.

For the next ten years an integrated study of the western *Wadi al-'Arab* and the exploration of the urban center *Tall Zera'a* will be the main research work of the Biblical-Archaeological Institute Wuppertal. The regionally oriented formulation of questions and the interplay of various factors within a region and thereby questions relevant to the cultural development of that region covering several millennia – leads to an archaeology of a landscape.

The exploration, excavation and conservation of the antiquities to be found in *Tall Zera'a* will be focal points of the archaeological project. The excavation of *Tall Zera'a* will be realized in a close and trusting cooperation with Dr. Karel J.H. Vriezen (University of Utrecht/Netherlands).

Concerning the exploration of the western *Wadi al-'Arab* the following questions will be central points of interest:

- Generally speaking the investigation of the landscape of the *Wadi*

al-'Arab in its entirety is at stake. In this context the relations between the centre, the *Tall Zera'a* and the surrounding area play an essential role. Particularly it is of interest how the inhabitants adapted their strategies for survival to the given circumstances of the valley in the course of the millennia, that is, how they reacted to changes in their resources. The exploration of agricultural methods, flora and fauna, geology (water, rock formations and soil types), trade (streets, infrastructure) and the strategic significance of the valley will help to fathom the historical development of the *tall*.

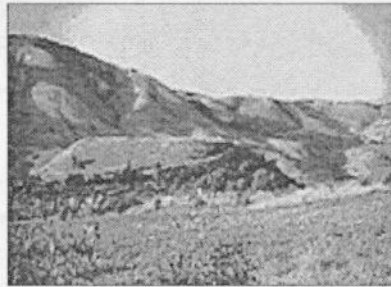


Fig. 1: South view of *Tall Zera'a*, on the mountain spur ancient Gadara (Photo: D. Vieweger)

- *Tall Zera'a* and its neighboring settlements *Khirbet Bond* (map reference according to the 1:25,000 Transjordan Series: 2128.2233, see Hanbury-Tenison 1984, 389, No 007) and *Tall Kinise (Ra'an)* (2191.2271; Hanbury-Tenison 1984, 391, No. 052) have been inhabited for a long time. They left traces of settlement from the Early Bronze Age continuing well into the Arabian Middle Ages. Therefore, within this clearly defined and relatively secluded region significant knowledge about the long-lasting development of settlement can be expected.

- *Tall Zera'a* was a privileged place of settlement in northern Palestine. Consequently, a continuous stratigraphy is expected as a result of the excavations planned on the

tall, which can in turn be used as a referential stratigraphy for the city of Gadara and especially its prehistory and late occupation in the Middle Ages.

- The relation between the urban center of Gadara and its environs will also produce new aspects of the urban history of classical Gadara. The urban centre was dependent on its surroundings. In this respect, problems relating to the social life in the *Gadara/Umm Qeis* region can be addressed in a sensible way.

Results of the first season

A. Survey

The survey area covered the whole *tall* and all its slopes. In all, 127 survey squares of 20 m x 20 m size were examined, i.e., 5.08 ha. Altogether 24 059 sherds (plus many vestiges of Roman-Byzantine roof tiles) were found and catalogued, 22 318 of these in the course of the surface inspection of *Tall Zera'a* and another 1 741 during the survey based on the Portugali-method (15 squares of 5 by 5 m each). Out of the total number of sherds 2 847 were diagnostics. All sherds were evaluated both in quality and quantity.

For exemplary purposes several survey methods were applied: in addition to the complete gathering of all visible artifacts on the surface, a surface exploration was performed according to the guidelines described by Portugali 1981 (which implied the examination of the *tall* surface to a depth of about one shovel). The focus here was on the question of whether the Portugali-method, apart from a quantitative increase in the amount of artifacts, also allowed an essentially different qualitative prediction. Finally, we tested whether the results of the complete *tall* survey could have been achieved without the substantial amount of energy spent, that is, by using

random or directed sampling methods.

First of all the chronological classification of the pottery gathered substantiates a long period of settlement activity on *Tall Zera'a*, which reaches from the Early Bronze Age well into the Ottoman period (we will publish the results of the survey in the Annual of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan and in the *Zeitschrift des Deutschen Palästina-Vereins* as soon as possible).

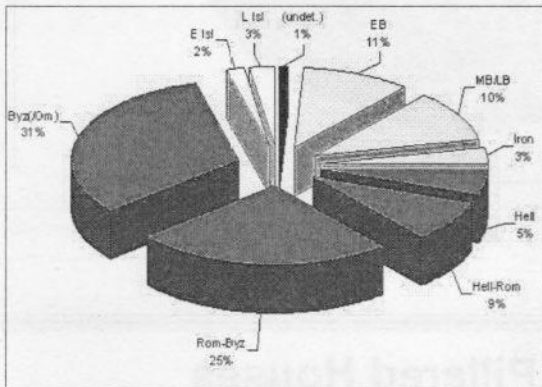


Fig. 2: Chronological classification of all pottery found on *Tall Zera'a* (excluding the Portugali survey).

Geoelectric Tomography

Within the scope of the geophysical exploration of the *tall* geoelectric mapping, two-dimensional as well as three-dimensional tomographic techniques were brought into action in order to

- be able to plan archaeological excavations in advance and to develop exact strategies for the planned excavation,
- acquire knowledge of not-excavated areas also, and
- leave undisturbed larger excavation areas for coming generations.

For the purpose of the geophysical exploration a LGM 4-Point Light iC and a Geolog 2000 GeoTom were used. On *Tall Zera'a* more than 50 profiles in various configurations could be measured. Below there are two outcomes which will be published beforehand:

The first measurement shows a profile (in dipole-dipole configuration) which runs across the *tall* in

an eastwest direction and yields essentially geological insights. For this 63 electrodes were positioned at a distance of 2 m. In the profile shown below a cultural layer of 5 to 6 m thickness can be recognized, showing a low-ohmic value (up to 100 Wm to the max.) below the dried-up surface which, as expected, appears as a high-ohmic anomaly (more than 160 Wm). An important observation of our survey confirms the enormous thickness of the cultural layer of *Tall Zera'a*. The cistern found in the south-east of the *tall*, which has a depth of 5.75 m, reaches up to the actual *tall* surface directly above the cistern's round brickwork arch and is built on bedrock.

In the east, bedrock almost reaches up to the surface. Since the *tall* as a whole slopes slightly toward the east, drainage occurred in that direction. – Probably the remarkable downgoing double-conic (low-ohmic) area at meter 32.0 is connected with the functioning of the artesian well.

On the west slope about 20 parallel placed profiles were plotted and measured with 50 electrodes at 0.5 m distance. Here the dipole-dipole configuration was used as well in order to ensure a better resolution of the screen process prints. In this way, a location of the walls on the *tall*'s slopes should be possible. On the surface they cannot

be localized. In the model illustrated below two high-ohmic anomalies can be traced at meter 4.0 and 11.0, lying up to 2 m below the surface. Since these anomalies occur in all 20 parallel profiles, it can be assumed that they are related to the remains of wall structures. Detailed analyses – especially the three-dimensional modeling of measurement values – are currently under way.

Acknowledgments:

First of all the authors would like to express their gratitude to the Department of Antiquities of Jordan, especially its Director General, Dr. Fawwaz Khraysheh, for his constant support. We are also extremely thankful for the help of Mr. Wajeh Karasneh, director of the Department of Antiquities Irbid, and the inspectors Mr. Omad Obeidad (Umm Qeis) and Mrs. Lina Khreis (Irbid).

The survey also received strong support from the German Protestant Institute, Amman. We gratefully acknowledge the effective help of its director, Dr. Roland Lamprichs.

It gives us great pleasure to thank the institutions and foundations which provided generous support for our project: the Stiftung Mittelsten Scheid (Wuppertal) and the companies Akzenta and Erfurt-Rauhfaser Wuppertal. Without their donations our work would have been impossible.

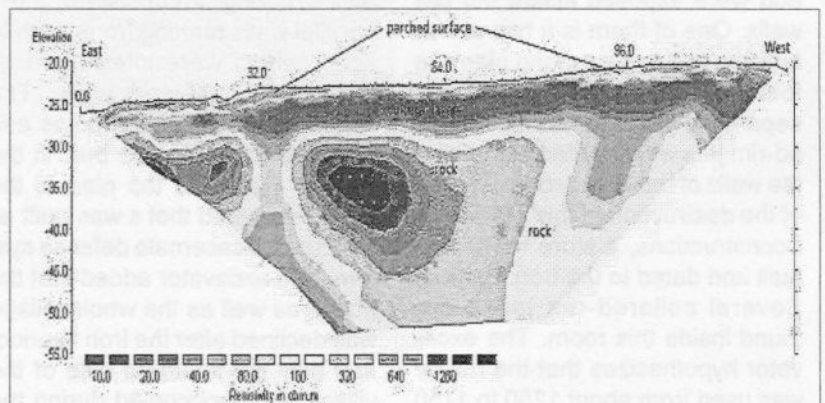


Fig 3: East-west profile of the *tall* plateau (Iteration 4, RMS-fault = 24.5)

The joint planning of investigations in the Umm Qeis region and the simultaneous realization of archaeological projects with the Deutsches Archäologisches Institut Berlin (Dr. Günther Schauerte; Dipl.-Ing. Claudia Bührig) proved to be a success.

We would like to thank all staff members for their hard, valuable and keen work: Jessica Agarwal (Potsdam), Adelheid Baker (Bielefeld), Katrin Bastert-Lamprichs, M.A. (Amman), Jens Eichner (Wuppertal), Christian Hartl-Reiter (Schwerin), Ute Koprivc (Remscheid), Patrick Leiverkus (Wuppertal), Dr. Armin Rauen (Wallerfing), Gerhard Reimann (Offenbach) and Till Winzer (Düsseldorf).

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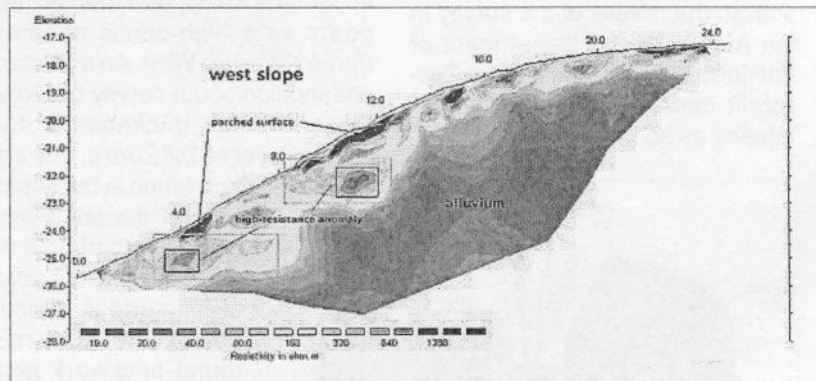


Fig. 4: West slope profile (Iteration 4, RMS-fault 12.9)

A Short Comment on the Iron I Pillared Houses

By: Zeidan Kafafi, Yarmouk University, Irbid (Jordan)

Several Iron I structures explained as domestic architecture were excavated mostly in northern and central Jordan.

At Tell Irbid, phase 1, the city wall was rebuilt and more domestic constructions associated with a wine press were built.

A four room house and a larger house were excavated at Tell 'Umeiri and several objects were encountered inside them. Two houses dated to the LBII/Iron I period were exposed inside the city walls. One of them is a two-storey building and has a ground plan of a four-room house with post bases separating the long rooms. Collared-rim jars were posted along-side the walls of the broad room. On top of the destruction of this LBII/Iron I constructions, a store room was built and dated to the Iron I period. Several collared-rim jars were found inside this room. The excavator hypothesizes that the house was used from about 1250 to 1150 BC.

The site of al-Lahun is located c. 80 km to the south of Amman on the northern edge of the Wadi Moujib. The excavator argues that by the end of the 2nd mill. BC a pastoral group settled in this fertile spot and established a village with a casemate wall. The archaeological excavations conducted at the site revealed several houses and one of them of the type known as *pillar house*. This house was erected on top of the north-western part of the village and was about 10 m wide and 8 m long. It consists of three parallel walls running from north to south which were interrupted by transverse east-west walls. The house consisted of six rooms and had only one entrance built in the eastern wall. The top plan of the house indicated that it was built as a part of the casemate defense system. The excavator added that the house as well as the whole village was declined after the Iron I period, and only the southern side of the village was reoccupied during the Iron II period. In addition, it has been

proposed that the *pillar house* may have served as a residence of the village *sheikh*. Based on the excavated pottery assemblage inside this house, it has been attributed to the Iron Age I.

Pillar houses have also been excavated at many other Iron I sites in Jordan, such as Sahab, Jawa South, Medeinet Mu'arradgeh, Medeinet 'Alya, and Ghareh.

The site Kh. al-Mudayna al-'Aliya is situated on the eastern edge of the al-Karak plateau, approximately 19 km to the north-east of the city al-Karak. The site, dated by the excavator to the late Iron I period, is relatively large and covers around 2.2 ha. A number of 34 or 35 buildings built of unworked stones and ascribed as domestic houses were excavated during the archaeological fieldwork conducted at the site. Two distinct types of *pillar houses* were recognized, the four-room house and the L-plan. But the excavator cited that other house plans such as the simple pillared broad

rooms should not be excluded. The houses had a single storey and had been roofed by reed mats, covered by a layer of clay carried over wooden beams.

Kh. 'Ara'ir (Aroer) is situated on the northern bank of the Wadi Moujib, 4 km to the east of the modern Madaba-Kerak road. The excavator argues that the site served neither as a town nor as a settlement but as a fortress to guard the King's Highway. According to the Mesha Stela text, it ought to be a part of the kingdom of King Mesha in about 850 BC. The site was first settled during

the Middle Bronze Age I (Level VI) by semi-nomadic people practicing agriculture. After that it was abandoned till the end of the Late Bronze Age and the beginning of the Iron Age (Level V) when houses were erected. However, King Mesha destroyed these buildings, and a new fortress and a reservoir were constructed (Level IV). Apparently the settlement experienced another period of abandonment from the 7th cent. to the 3rd cent. BC and was then reoccupied during the Hellenistic period (Level III).

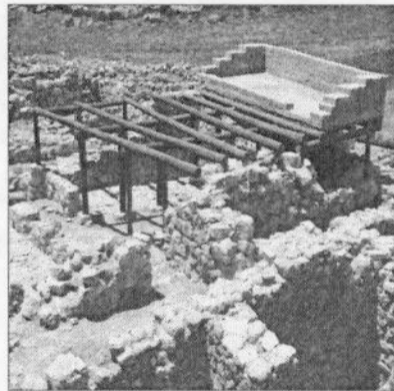


Fig. 1: Reconstructed four-room house, Tell 'Umeiri

Two New Finds in the Siq of Petra

By: Ueli Bellwald, Intermonument restauro Bellwald, Amman (Jordan)

I. The Leftover of the first German ever having visited Petra

In May 1999, during phase III of the Siq Project of the Petra National Trust, an inscription was found carved into the northern cliff of sector 12, about 100 m below the block monument with the Eye Betyl (Fig. 1). Only after the intense cleaning of the bedrock during the restoration work of phase IV in July 2001 this unfinished inscription could be identified and interpreted. It is framed by an equally unfinished *tabula ansata* and reads 'germanos' which means 'the German' (Fig. 2). As this man is called 'the German', he must have been the only German of his social group; hence the name of the area he originated from became his name or nickname. As it is carved into a *tabula ansata*, a frame type which doesn't show up in Petra before the Roman annexation, it is very probable that the author came to Petra as a soldier of the Tertia Legio Cyrenaica. After Julius Apollinarius, by whom a letter written to his father in Karanis in Egypt is preserved, Germanos would have been, therefore, the second legionnaire of the Tertia Cyrenaica known to have served in the Provincia Arabia Petraea. It is very probable that legion was involved into maintenance work of the paved street in

the Siq. This presumption is based on the different patterns of the first repairs to be distinguished in the pavement. The slabs used were still of limestone, but accurately cut into a distinctive rectangular shape. The type of limestone used and the dimension of the flag-stones is the same as for the pavement of the colonnaded street, which was built after the Roman annexation in 106 AD. This statement is totally confirmed by the small finds. The pottery shards and the coins found below the slabs of the repaired patches prove that these repairs were done in the early 2nd cent. AD. In this period, following the Roman annexation in 106 AD by the emperor Trajan, the Via Nova Traiana between Bosra and Aila/Aqaba was built from 111 to 114. It is therefore most probable that the repairs in the pavement were executed to connect the street in the Siq with the new superior 'highway'. The engraving with the initials of the Tertia Legio Cyrenaica in sector 17 of the Siq may well be a hint to the identity of the project executors.

II. The *Castellum Divisorum* of the Terracotta Pipeline

An outstanding hydraulic installation bearing witness for the constant adaptation of the water supply system

to the changing requirements of the city came to light in a natural recess of the southern cliff below Khubtha Fault 6 in sector 23. Already discovered in winter 1999 during phase III of the project, it was thoroughly excavated and restored at the beginning of phase IV in spring 2001. The result of such an undertaking was quite simply overwhelming as it showed up, that a real *castellum divisorum* could be excavated, and even more and better than this, with its internal mechanism fully preserved and, third lucky chance, showing different stages of use. The results of the thorough investigation may be summarized as follows:

When the water pipe was built in the last quarter of the 1st cent. BC it crossed Khubtha Fault 6 on a semi-circular arched aqueduct (Fig. 3). Due to the height of its crest, the construction in masonry overlapped the downstream abutment in the bedrock as a channel, in which the pipe was embedded.

After a long period of use a second branch was added to the original pipeline. The reason for this addition was an intensified development of the area opposite the theatre, to the east of the main street, where a public reservoir had to be built. For this purpose, a partition chamber was built directly below the aque-

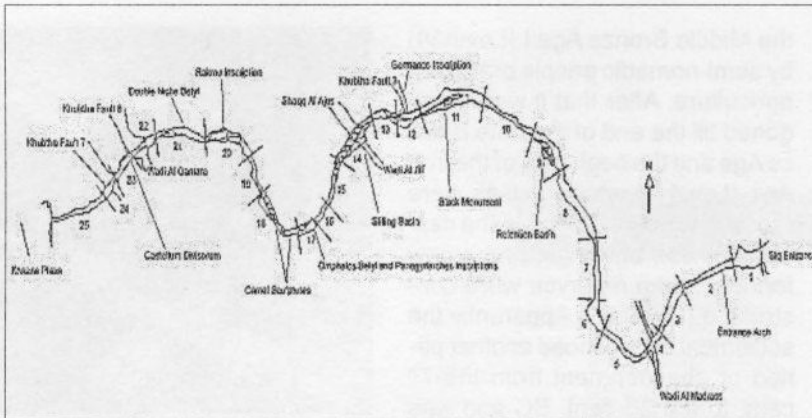


Fig. 1: General map of the Siq with the sectors and inlets as established for the implementation of the project and with the location of the most important monuments.

duct of Khubtha Fault 6 (phase 1). It had a slightly irregular square plan and was set upon the channel in which the pipe was embedded, its front identical with the front of the channel. The entire construction had a maximum height of 128 cm and was covered with sand stone slabs. As the channel was fully incorporated into the chamber, the interior was divided into two basins, the smaller and lower one being the existing channel, the bigger one adjacent to the cliff with its bottom 18 cm higher. Inside the chamber the original pipe was removed from its embedment. Downstream of the chamber four single pipes (i.e. 1.6 m) were replaced by new ones with a diameter reduced by 2 cm. Due to this reduction the volume of the inflowing water exceeded the absorbing capacity of the outlet into the old lower pipe; hence it was dammed up in the lower basin and after a while spilled over into the upper one. There it had to be dammed up until it reached the level of the outlet into the newly added pipe. This installation functioned as a self regulating mechanism: Only if the water pipe above the partition chamber was working with full capacity, the inflowing water reached the second basin and thus was supplying both discharges. It is, therefore, absolutely clear that the original lower pipe still had first priority, whereas the upper, additional pipe was of secondary importance (phase 1, Fig. 4. 5).

In a later period this installation was changed: The bottom of the upper basin was elevated to the level of the outlet into the added pipe by a sandstone slab. Upon this new bottom a new pipe with a diameter of only 10.5 cm connected the upper pipe with the original pipe at the lower abutment of the aqueduct. From this connecting section of the secondary pipe a spillover pipe was built down to the first pipe which it reached only outside the chamber. A thick layer of lime covering the entire interior of the chamber shows that this mechanism was constantly leaking and never functioned properly. The alteration of the *castellum*

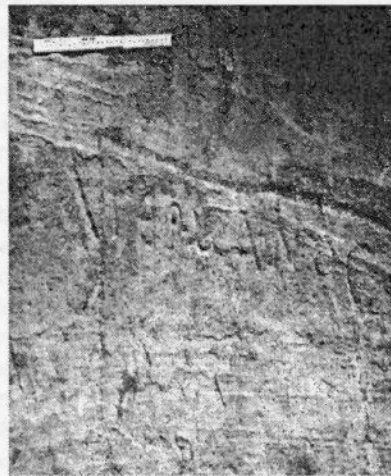


Fig. 2: The 'germanos' inscription in its tabula ansata, carved into the northern cliff at the end of sector 12, only about 1.2 m above the water pipe.

divisorum bears witness for a new priority among the water conduits: With the new division of the water the upper pipe became more important, whereas the lower, original pipe only got a remarkably reduced discharge (phase 2, Fig. 6).

It seems that for a last period of use the water pipe should have got back its original form with only the lower conduit in function. For this purpose the upper pipe was disconnected and the original inlet and outlet of the lower pipe were reconnected with new pipes. As these new pipes, some of them fully preserved with their entire section, don't show the slightest trace of a lime deposit, it is highly probable that the reestablishment of the original aqueduct never functioned (phase 3).

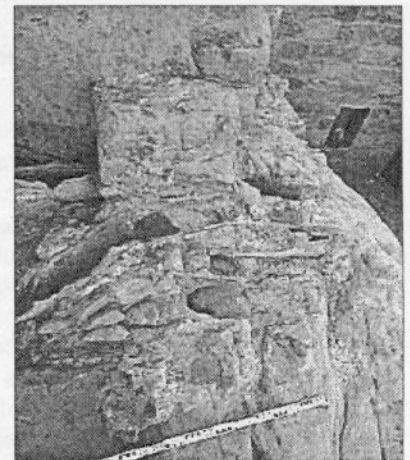


Fig. 3: The *castellum divisorum* at the downstream abutment of the aqueduct. View from above with the downstream enclosure wall in the centre. The pipe at the bottom is the original conduit; the one on top is the added branch. The diagonal pipe between the other two is the spillover connection from the upper branch into the original aqueduct, executed in phase 2.

Due to the total lack of well datable small finds, the absolute dating for the succession of the construction phases cannot yet be established. Before the discussion of an approximate chronology, another intervention affecting the water pipe has to be presented: Wherever in the lower half of the Siq the water pipe

could still be found its crown was destroyed. All pipes were broken with parallel rims, the width of the opening being a constant 12 cm (Fig. 7). If big boulders had caused the destruction, the opening would never have been so regular, and below projections of the cliff elements with a fully preserved top would have survived. Therefore, the opening was intentional; its reason was the tremendous reduction in the inner diameter of the pipes by lime deposits which reduced the discharge of the aqueduct in a non-acceptable way. For increasing the hydraulic radius and hence for re-assuring a controlled water-flow the only intervention possible was the opening of the pipes at their crown, changing the originally closed pipeline into an open gravity-flow channel. The same intervention affected the aqueduct of Eupalinos on Samos, reducing its cross-section to 75 %. Regarding the Siq aqueduct, the chronological parameters for the rescue measure are the coin of Hadrian found in sector 18 as a *terminus post quem* and the earthquake of 363 AD, after which the terracotta pipeline remained in ruins, as a *terminus ante quem*. Linking the construction phases of the *castellum divisorum* with the opening of the water pipe and its chronological parameters, it is obvious that phase 1 had to be built before the rescue intervention; otherwise the discharge in the chamber wouldn't have been sufficient for a spill-over into the upper

basin. Therefore, phase 1 could have been built even before the coin of Hadrian got stuck in sector 18. When the opening was done, the later added upper branch remained untouched, as proven by the long sections with fully preserved cross-section along the cliff of the outer Siq. Phase 2 was executed at the time when the original pipe had to be opened. Now the later added, narrower branch, for which the remarkably reduced discharge was still sufficient, had first priority, and the lower branch only got supply from the small spill-over pipe. Un-

fortunately, only very restricted areas on the wadi bank opposite the theatre have so far been excavated. A clear date for the development of this area for residential purpose is, therefore, not yet established. But the preceding use of the area as a necropolis and the very thin lime deposit in the upper pipeline rather refer to a late dating for both phases 1 and 2. The reason for the last phase 3 remaining incomplete might well have been the earthquake of 363 AD.

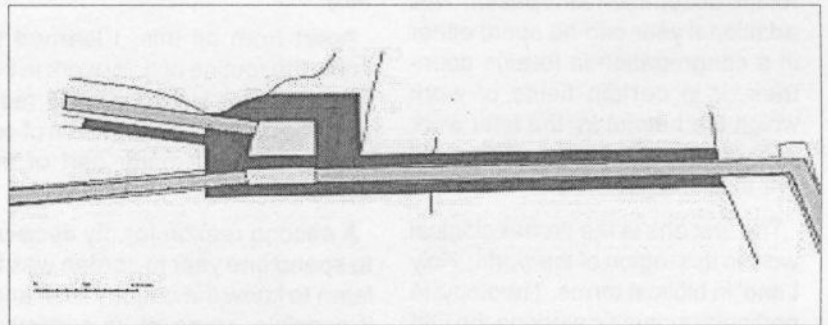


Fig. 5: Reconstruction of the aqueduct and the *castellum divisorum* during phase 1, plan (drawing U. Bellwald).

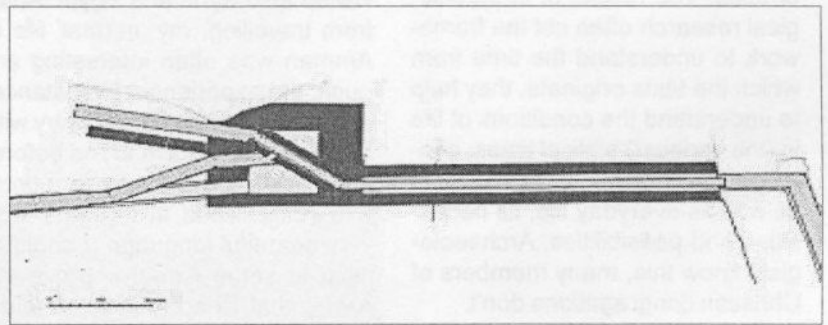


Fig. 6: Reconstruction of the aqueduct and the *castellum divisorum* during phase 2, plan (Drawing U. Bellwald).

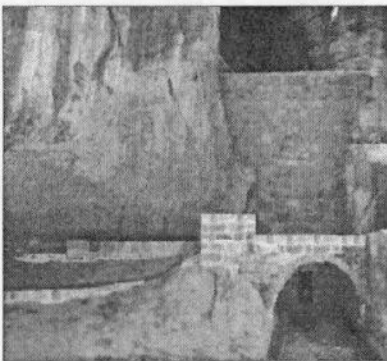


Fig. 4: The semicircle arched aqueduct of the water pipe and the *castellum divisorum*, southern elevation (photoshop reconstruction U. Bellwald).



Fig. 7: Section of the terracotta pipeline along the northern cliff of the Siq in sector 21. At the joints the position of the single elements is fixed with shards from broken pipes.

One Year as a Theologian in the German Protestant Institute of Archaeology, Amman

By: Arnd Kulla, German Protestant Institute of Archaeology, Amman (Jordan)

It was one year ago when many people asked me, being quite puzzled: 'Why do you as a theologian, as a curate, go to Jordan? And why are you going to work in an archaeological institute?'

My first answer was to explain the possibility of a voluntary, additional year following the curacy, the two and a half years of practical training for the occupation as a pastor. This additional year can be spent either in a congregation in foreign countries or in certain fields of work which are helpful for the later work as a pastor. - 'But why to Amman?' For three reasons:

The first one is the archaeological work in this region of the world, 'Holy Land' in biblical terms. Theology, in particular scientific work on the Old and New Testament, has to be much more than the mere analysis of texts. The results of archaeological research often set the framework to understand the time from which the texts originate, they help to understand the conditions of life in (the various!) biblical times, concerning general historical situations as well as everyday life, its necessities and possibilities. Archaeologists know this, many members of Christian congregations don't.

During my time in the DEI I was able to obtain a general view of some results of present archaeological research in the region, as well as of some of its methods. This was possible, on the one hand, because of much editorial work I have done in these 12 months, work on a book about the greater Petra region and also on two issues of our Newsletter, 'Occident & Orient'. The opportunity of visiting the 'Second International Conference on the Tower of Babylon and the Ziqqurat of Borsippa' in Baghdad in March enabled me to learn much more, and not only from lectures but also on the excursions to some of the

most important archaeological sites in Iraq.

On the other hand I could (for the second time after a couple of years) gain some experience in practical archaeological work, when I took part in the joint excavation of the DEI and the Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology of the Yarmouk University, Irbid, in Tell Johfiyeh in May.

Apart from all this, I learned to know the routine of daily work in the institute – for instance while reorganizing some compartments of our library, another major part of my work.

A second reason for my decision to spend one year in Jordan was to learn to know the country itself and, if possible, some of its surroundings. So I used my holidays to see as much of Jordan as possible and visited also Syria and Egypt. Apart from travelling, my 'normal' life in Amman was often interesting enough: the experience, for instance, of being a stranger in a country with a culture little known to me before, an Islamic country, and a country with a difficult and, at the same time, very beautiful language (I could at least to some extent improve my Arabic that I had learned before). Particularly amazing for me was that in contact with many and very different people I almost always had the feeling of being welcome, here as well as in the other Arabic countries I had the chance to visit.

But despite the friendliness of the people, I remained a stranger – of course. I had expected this, and so I was interested in the work of the German Speaking Congregation in Amman – a third reason for me to spend a year in this city. By living in an Islamic country as a foreigner and as a Christian, I understood the special importance of the congregations abroad, in which people can meet who have the same religion

but share also one cultural background and speak the same language. For this reason, the German Speaking Congregation in Amman was a place for me to feel at home. I was glad to be able to do some occasional work there, celebrating services or sometimes playing the guitar. It is the work in a Christian congregation that I have learned and that I am looking forward to when leaving for Germany in the end of September. There, in Solingen, I am going to work as a pastor from 1st October.

I can't deny that I am particularly happy to come back to my wife who has staid in Germany during this year (apart from two visits in Amman) – and I know that she is looking forward to my return as well. But I would not miss these last 12 months, and I *will* miss a lot when I am back in Germany, in particular many people I learned to know, in the institute and elsewhere...

What I am going to take home with me is, apart from my *argile* and some other things, a suitcase full of good experiences and pleasant memories – of the people I met and of this beautiful country as a whole.

And so I am sure to come back, sooner or later, maybe with a group of interested members of my congregation in Germany, but at any rate not again without my wife.

Report from the Dresden Ethnographic Museum 'Japanisches Palais'

By: Annegret Nippa, Ethnographic Museum Dresden, Germany

The Dresden Ethnographic Museum, founded in 1875, is most famous for its Pacific collections. The former directors and curators were mainly concerned with this area of the world, or with Africa, South-America and North- and East-Asia. None of them collected items from the Near East systematically. The Near Eastern collection entered the museum more or less accidentally. It was never exhibited or put into public discussion. Anyhow, there are three important different groups of objects to talk about:

- a painted room from Damascus,
- a collection of about 250 carpets from nomadic and village provenance,
- Peter Schienerl's collection of amulets and jewellery.

Before telling the story of the first one, the Qa'at ash-Shamiya, a few words have to be said about the collection of carpets and of amulets which are to be presented more thoroughly in a later report: Between 1978 and 1988 Wilhelm Müller, a Dresden artist, who was known to his close friends as a specialist of carpets, was engaged by the museum to collect old carpets sold privately or at rare auctions. As there was not much trade between the GDR and the West, the carpets he bought are at least from the time before 1940. They document both the history of Near Eastern non-urban carpet production and the German choice and taste of carpets in the first half of the 20th century.

In winter 2001/2002 the museum received a major part of Peter Schienerl's (1940-2001) collection of books, postcards and prints, metal vessels, jewellery and amulets about which he had published many articles.

Both fields, the carpets as well as the Schienerl collection, are subject of actual research.

Qa'at ash-Shamiya

The most intriguing piece of the museum's Near Eastern collection is a more or less completely preserved wooden wall and ceiling decoration of a room dated by an inscription to 1325 H, i.e. 1810 AD. In 1930 the museum received more than a hundred single panels, frames, and two wings of a door as a present by Hellmuth Fritzsche. He was an art historian at the academy of fine arts in Dresden and a nephew of Karl Ernst Osthaus (1874-1921) who bought this room in 1898. Before Osthaus became interested in modern design, art, and architecture, he had travelled throughout the Near East studying the bazaars and buying handicrafts. While being in Damascus he tried to buy one of these fashionable oriental rooms used at that time to decorate the European gentleman's retreat room. During his stay none was available, and Osthaus asked the German consul Lütticke to look for it. Lütticke for his part asked Hermann Burchardt to keep his eyes open. (Burchardt travelled between 1893 and 1909 through the Near East and North Africa. As far as we know, he has for several years been living in Damascus from where he undertook his travels. He left about 2000 glass plates which were given to the Ethnological Museum Berlin in 1911. There are not more than two articles published by himself, a small book on his last journey to Yemen has been published by Eugen Mittwoch. In 1996 the author of this article published a series of about one hundred photographs from Baalbek taken by Burchardt at the turn of the century: *Lesen in alten Photographien – aus Baalbek, Völkerkunde-museum der Universität, Zürich.*)

Osthaus finally received the precious object one year later. But as he had changed his interests he put

the bundles of wooden panels up into the attic. There they were found after his death. One of his heirs, H. Fritzsche, knowing the Dresden Ethnographic Museum as a place appreciated by contemporary artists as for example Ludwig Kirchner, offered the room to the museum as a present.

At that time the Ethnographic Museum was located in the 'Zwinger', its whole space densely filled. Even the aisles were used as exhibition space. So, the parcel was left packed. Fortunately – as we know today: Having been built up in the Zwinger, it would have been destroyed during World War II as other items of the museum which could not be removed in time for the recovery procedure in 1941.

After the war the museum moved into the 'Japanisches Palais', also badly damaged by bomb attacks. Again, there was not enough space to exhibit the museum's collection in a proper manner. As in the time before the room was left aside, still wrapped up.

In 1997, mere curiosity was the reason why the author, just having become the new director of the museum, wanted to have a closer look at a certain 'Aleppo Room' which she had found mentioned years before. At last freed of its packing paper, a Dresden newspaper from 1941, it was a big surprise and also a bit of a nightmare, since the museum is spatially and economically still in bad condition. All the walls and the ceiling are complete. There are not many museums which own an entire room like this, except the Museum of Islamic Art, Berlin, with its famous Aleppo Room and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York where another room from Damascus can be found.

During the research of the archives of the museum and those of

Karl Ernst Osthaus in Hagen its history came to light. The room Osthaus had bought from Damascus was named later by some of the museum's curators as 'Aleppo-Zimmer', according to the famous Aleppo Room in Berlin, referring to it as a stylistic category and not due to its origin.

Despite all problems of space and money work on the Qa'at ash-Shamiya was started in order to bring it back to life. Luckily, Anke Scharrahs could be found, a well trained specialist for this kind of restoration. Whenever there will be some money, she will be engaged for continuing this time consuming work. The first task is the fixing and then cleaning of the crackling surface. Due to the long time of being unused and not exhibited it has never been restored, which guaranteed the original condition. New methods of restoration, improved by learning from former faults and by the ongoing process of chemical analysis, will help to prevent unwanted changes in colour or in the appearance of the surface as it happened with similar rooms restored in the first half of the 20th century.

Being compared in its quality with examples presented in other museums or even with those ones still existing in Damascus, the room is a delicate example of the so-called 'Turkish Rococo'.

With the support of the 'Ethnographic Salon', the friends of the

Dresden Museum, founded in 1998, the first wall could be erected and temporarily exhibited in an upright position. And in the same manner we hope to continue the work – needing a lot of external help.

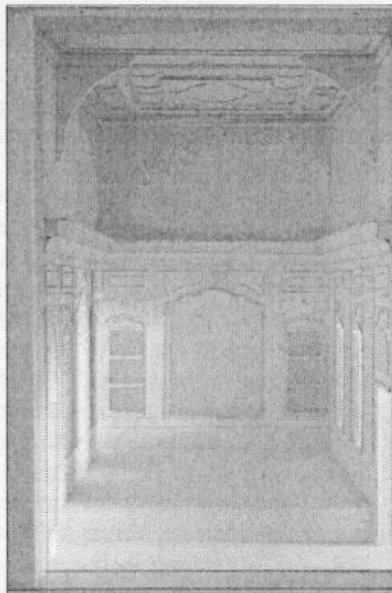


Fig. 1: Model of the Dresden Damascus-Room, made by the architects Antje Werner and Ulrike Siegel.

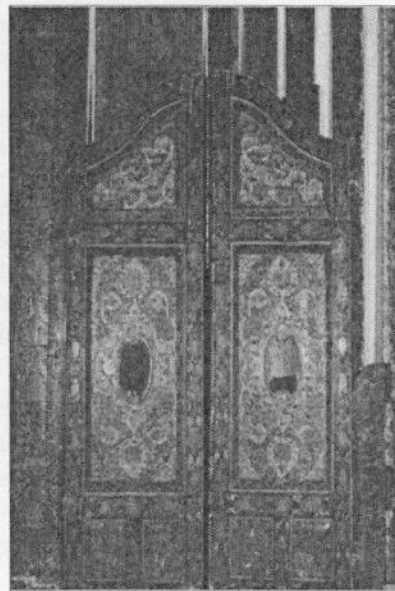


Fig. 2: The „Mirror-Door“ of a wall cupboard, behind it other panels of the Damascus-Room.

A Shrine of Belet-Ekallim in the Palace of Qatna?

By: Mirko Novák, University of Tübingen (Germany)

The first excavations at the site of Tall Mishrife, which is identified with the important Middle and Late Bronze Age city of Qatna (cf. Klengel 2000 for an overview on the political history and importance of Qatna), were conducted by the French archaeologist Robert Comte du Mesnil du Buisson between 1924 and 1929. The first campaign was conducted in 1924, the following three from 1927 to 1929 (cf. du Mesnil du Buisson 1926, 1927a+b, 1928, 1930 and 1935). The largest of the investigated areas was situated at the north-western edge of the upper town and labelled as *Butte de l'Église* (Fig. 1). Du Mesnil du Buisson distinguished three different

units within this complex, which he identified as „Palace“ (in the east), „Temple of Belet-Ekallim (NIN É-GAL)“ (in the south-west), and „High Place“ (in the north-west). The reason for the identification of the south-western unit as a temple was a number of cuneiform tablets found in its north-eastern corner. The texts give a list of the inventory of a sanctuary of the goddess Belet-Ekallim, who was designated as the „Lady of Qatna“. Nearby other objects were found, like an Egyptian sphinx of Ita, daughter of king Amenemhet II (12th dynasty; cf. du Mesnil du Buisson 1928, 10f. pl. XII) and fragments of another Egyptian statue (Fig. 2; for the distribution of the ob-

jects cf. du Mesnil du Buisson 1928, pl. VII). Since the north-eastern part of the „Temple“ was separated from the rest of it by two channels (Fig. 3), du Mesnil du Buisson labelled it the *Sanctuaire*. Adjoining to it to the East a small chamber was situated, the so-called *Saint des Saints*.

In 1994 a new excavation period has started in Tall Mishrife. The excavations were conducted by the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums of Syria (cf. al-Maqdissi 2001). In 1999 the project was enlarged by a cooperation of the DGAM with the Universities of Udine and Tübingen and is now co-directed by Dr. Michel al-Maqdissi, Dr.

Daniele Morandi Bonacossi and Prof. Dr. Peter Pfälzner (cf. al-Maqdissi et al. in press). The German excavations have focused on Operation G which is situated in the western wing of the *Butte de l'Église*, the „Temple of Belet-Ekallim“ and the „High Place“.

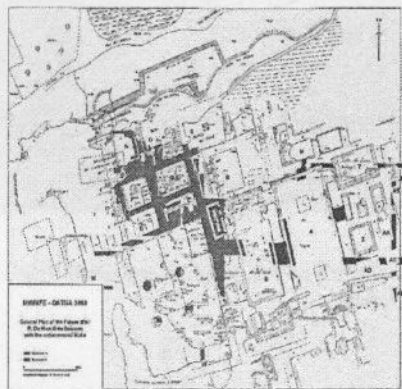


Fig. 1: The Palace of Qatna

A re-evaluation of the architecture and a comparative analysis of the architectural layout made clear that both the „Temple“ and the „High Place“ should be interpreted as parts of the huge palace rather than as separate buildings (Novak and Pfälzner 2000, 262ff.). The spatial organisation shows striking similarities to that one of the palace of Zimri-Lim in Mari, mostly in the central representational wings. The so-called „Temple of Belet-Ekallim“ is typologically related with Court 106 in Mari. This thesis was confirmed by the results of the excavations in 2000 and 2001, which made also clear that the unit was a monumental roofed column hall, covering an area of 37 m x 37 m (cf. Novak and Pfälzner 2000 and 2001). But how does it go together with the objects found there by du Mesnil du Buisson, mostly the tablets with the „Inventory“? Either they derived from some other place and were transported to the palace for any unknown reason, or they may indicate that there has been a sanctuary inside the palace to which they have belonged.

The name of the goddess Belet-Ekallim (written NIN É.GAL-*lim*) means „Lady of the Palace“. Originally she was an independent goddess and patroness of palace and

king (for Belet-Ekallim cf. Behrens and Klein 2000). From the Old Babylonian period onwards she became more and more a subordinated aspect of Ishtar while her adoration spread all over the Near East from Anatolia to Elam. As e.g. textual evidence proves, she was worshipped together with Ishtar-sha-Ekallim („Ishtar of the Palace“) in a sanctuary inside the palace of Mari. Thus it seems likely that a similar shrine existed in the palace of Qatna, too. This is irrespective of a possible existence of a separated temple of the goddess outside the building. Since the „Inventory“ makes us believe that Belet-Ekallim has been the main goddess of Qatna, such a building should have existed.

But is there any evidence for it? The unit of the palace in which the tablets have been found was identified as the temple of Belet-Ekallim on the base of its mentioning in the texts. Thus the title „Lady of Qatna“ was interpreted in the sense that she has been the goddess of the city, worshipped in her own sanctuary. But since this building turned out to be a part of the palace, the existence of an independent temple is not attested archaeologically any more. So what about the textual evidence? The mentioning of a *bitu* „temple“ may refer to a shrine inside the palace instead. Since she was the patroness of the king's family palace her adoration may have taken place within the palace, just like in Mari. It is therefore not really sure that she has been the main goddess of Qatna at all.

Anyhow, it seems likely that there was a shrine inside the palace to which the objects of the „Inventory“ have belonged. This shrine may be identified with the small chamber in the northeastern corner of the column hall, labelled as *Saint des Saints* by Du Mesnil du Buisson.

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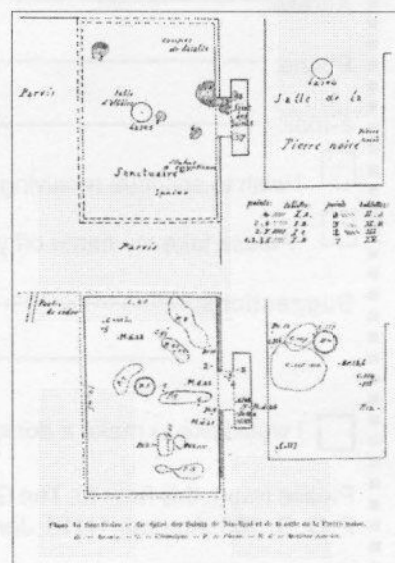


Fig. 2: The so-called *Sanctuaire* of the „Temple of Belet-Ekallim“ with the distribution of the objects found there (du Mesnil du Buisson 1928, pl. VII)

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Fig. 3: Hall C („Temple of Belet-Ekallim“) with *Sanctuaire* after the re-excavation in 2000, seen from north-east