

are dated from about 1400 to 1000 B.C.<sup>1</sup> The position of group No. 1 with reference to the base of a wall is shown on the plate. Here we have two vessels, first a small bowl (similar to the lowest bowl in group No. 2), somewhat tilted; second, a large jar with four handles, also tilted on its side, so that one handle rests within the bowl. For a somewhat similar combination of jar and bowl, *see* Plate IV, *July Quarterly*. In group No. 4 we have a long cylindrical jar, placed upright on its pointed bottom; the mouth is closed by a bowl, not inverted, on which rests a small jug. The shape of the jar is new to us, but the associated vessels appear to be early Jewish. Another form of jar-burial (obtaining also at Tell el-Hesy) was found at Tell es-Sâfi. A large jar was found resting on its side, the mouth broken away to admit of the insertion of two jugs and a bowl, which were found within. It was packed with fine earth and contained small bones, apparently of birds. The report from Tell es-Sâfi will refer to a jar-burial antedating the examples just mentioned.

TELL EJ-JUDEIDEH, *December 4th*, 1899.

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### THIRD REPORT ON THE EXCAVATIONS AT TELL ES-SÂFI.

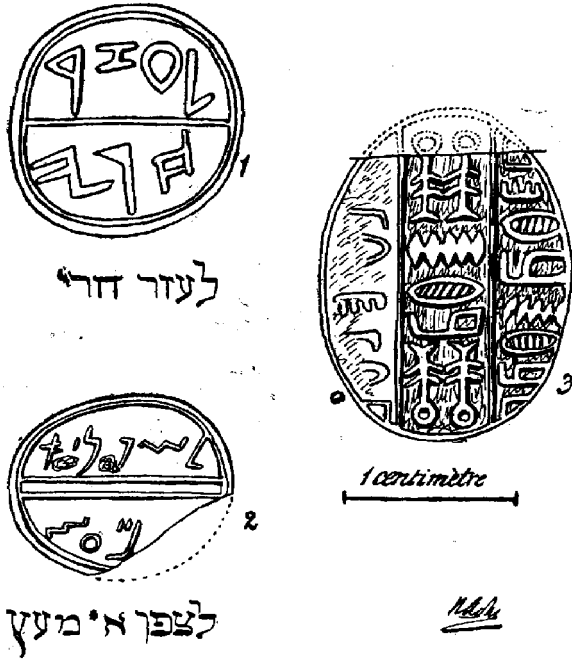
By F. J. BLISS, PH.D.

THE Tell es-Sâfi excavations were resumed October 9th and continued to November 22nd, when preparations were begun for moving camp to Tell ej-Judeideh. During this period an enormous quantity of soil was turned over, but unfortunately with very few results. In my report in the *July Quarterly*, p. 191, I called attention to the difficulties attending excavations on this site:—"The south end is occupied by the modern graveyard, the modern village rules out the north portion, while another graveyard is found over a great part of the narrow plateau extending to the north-east. We are thus

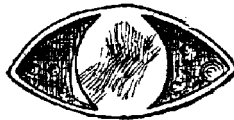
<sup>1</sup> *See* "Mound of Many Cit'cs," p. 84.

confined to the steep slopes above the wall, to a portion of the north-east plateau, and to a narrow section across the summit, east and west, between the southern graveyard and the modern town. The last portion does not give us a free hand as it is divided into three fields by lofty and dense hedges of cactus, the central field being planted with vegetables. The graveyard at the important south end will, of course, prevent our searching for the ancient Acropolis, but even if the tombs did not exist the earliest remains could not have been examined here without digging through the foundations of Blanche-Garde."

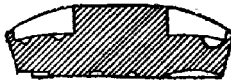
We have already reported on the large clearance made on the north-east plateau, where rude walls enclosing three standing stones, perhaps representing the remains of an early place of worship, were found. It seemed best, on our return, to attack a point more within the centre of the town and near to the Acropolis. The crops having been reaped in the western field of the series of three just mentioned as lying between the Wely and the town, we were able in July to sink several shafts to determine the nature and depth of the accumulation. In this field we have since made a large clearance to the rock, 80 feet by 60 feet, and on the average about 16 feet deep. Allowing for the space to deposit the earth, this was about as large an excavation as the field would permit. The pottery showed three strata—Jewish, late pre-Israelite, and early pre-Israelite. The extreme paucity of Arab ware in the upper stratum was curious considering the proximity to Blanche-Garde, and the fact that much Arab stuff was found in the neighbouring field. Walls were found at two different levels, in some cases still enclosing small rooms, two of which have doors. The construction is of the rudest, far worse than anything found at the north-east plateau. In fact, the houses appear to be quite as wretched as the hovels of the modern village. Some jars and bowls, the stamped jar-handle No. 3 (Cut II, p. 18), numerous flints, four scarabs, a few ordinary Egyptian amulets, a Babylonian cylinder, and the slate object resembling an eye (*see* Cut III), but evidently, from the markings on the back, cut out of some larger stele, were



II.—Seals impressed upon Jar-handles.



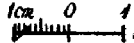
TOP



SECTION



BOTTOM

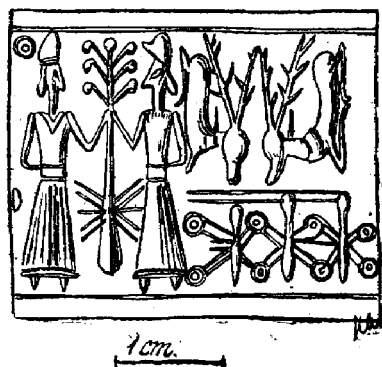


M. H.

III.—Figure of an Eye, in polished black marble.



IV.—Scarabæi from Tell Zakariya (1-2) and Tell es-Sâfi (3-6).



V.—Seal Cylinder.

the only discoveries. The scarabs (Cut IV) 3 to 6 were all found at a depth of about 8 feet; 3 is of green jade, 5 and 6 are of bluish-green paste, 4 is slate. Nos. 1 and 2 were found at Zakariya. No. 1 is of bone, and includes the cartouche of Thothmes III; No. 2, on which appear the characters found on 3 and 5, is of paste. The cylinder (Cut V) shows stags *couchant*, back to back, and a tree, on each side of which is a male figure grasping the trunk.

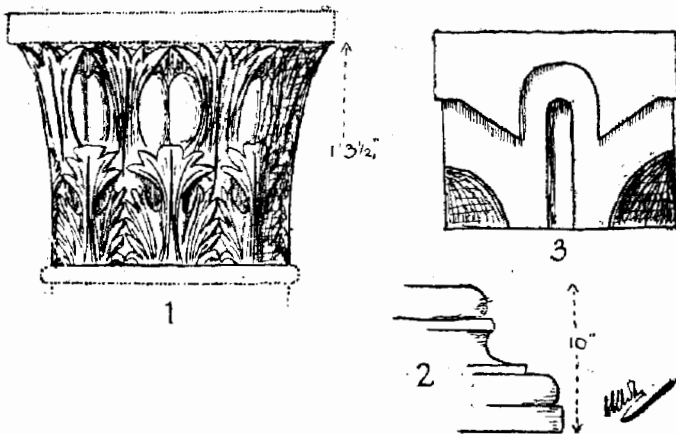
So few were the results from this large clearance that we decided on another method for testing the field to the east. This field occupies a position almost in the centre of the ancient town, at a point about equi-distant from the east and west walls. Even had the Tell been unencumbered this would have been a point to be chosen for digging. Here we sank a series of shafts, 12 feet square and 16 feet apart, in three lines, each including four shafts, except the western line, on which there were but three, making 11 in all. These shafts were sufficiently large and sufficiently near together to make it extremely improbable that we should miss any important building. The idea was that if any such building were struck it would appear in more than one shaft, and we could then extend our digging to the spaces left between the shafts; or if a stratum of tablets appeared we could easily follow it in the same way. We thus hoped practically to exhaust the possibilities of an area 68 feet by 96 feet, which was the maximum area that could be excavated in this field, making allowance for space for depositing the earth against the enclosing cactus hedge. Rock was found at an average depth of 19 feet. Making the proper allowance for batter, we thus carefully examined over 25,000 cubic feet of soil, or about one-fifth the quantity which would have been excavated had we cleared out the whole area to the rock. The results were even more unsatisfactory than those from the western field. A few rude walls, generally of uncoursed rubble, were found at various depths, but with the exception of one late wall immediately under the surface, these were not found to extend from shaft to shaft. Signs of mud-brick walls and a rude pavement also appeared. Almost all the pottery was in fragments. The soil had been

much disturbed in quite recent times, as a modern Arab coin was found at a depth of 10 feet, and many signs of filled-up pits appeared. To a depth ranging from 6 to 8 feet there was much Arab pottery intermingled with older styles. The peculiar Jewish styles were not in much evidence, the wall being chiefly pre-Israelite, including a stratum on the rock of the earliest types. In this stratum were found the extraordinarily thin flint knives and the thick scrapers for skinning animals, characteristic of the lowest city at Tell el-Hesy.

The buried jar, containing smaller vessels, has been mentioned with other groups described in the Tell Zakariya report. These were all of the later pre-Israelite type. Up to the present season the earliest examples of buried vessels belonged to dates no earlier than the Phoenician period. However, 2 feet below the group just mentioned was found a very large jar, 33 inches high, showing some of the characteristics of the ware called by Petrie "Amorite," which antedates the Phoenician ware: beautifully curved neck, shoulder with cable moulding, disc base, and comb-facing, formed by an instrument with very wide spaces between the teeth. It stood upright, was empty, and was covered by a fragment of a dish, also of "Amorite" type showing the finer form of comb-facing.

So discouraging were the results from this field, which, by its position, appears to indicate an important part of the ancient city, and was proved by the pottery to represent a series of occupations from the very earliest times, that we decided it would not be wise to dig further in the remaining, or eastern field, in which we had already sunk three shafts; or to test two small fields, which represent the rest of the available space between the cemetery and the modern village. Neither did it seem worth while to return to the north-east plateau, where we had made a large clearance, and where the only important result had been the discovery of the supposed temple. In other words, the spaces available for excavation at Tell es-Sâfi had been sufficiently tested. The question now arises, from which part of the Tell came the statuettes, pottery masks, figures, and other interesting objects found in the rubbish heap? Apart from a

few small stone fragments, from one of the 11 shafts just described, fragments which may possibly be the legs of small figures, nothing resembling these statuettes has been dug up. The objects from the rubbish heap appear to indicate a civilisation superior to anything suggested by the constructions we have excavated. We are obliged to conclude that the important portions of the city lie under the southern cemetery, which immediately covers the ruins of Blanche Garde (itself probably superposed on the ancient Acropolis) and under the modern village. In the courtyards of the houses and lying loose in the streets we observed several architectural fragments. Especially



VI.—Architectural Fragments found in the Village of Tell es-Sâfi.

to be noticed are a debased Corinthian capital (No. 1 in Cut VI), two Attic bases of common type (No. 2), a fragment of a marble column with filleted flutings, and a rather early Romanesque capital (No. 3). A later Roman capital, founded on the Corinthian type, and showing the eight-pointed cross of the Knights of St. John in a circle just under the abacus, is lying beside the Wely on the north-east plateau.

On the plan of Tell es-Sâfi, north of the large cemetery, may be seen the mark *z*. This indicates the ruins of a tower, cropping out from the surface, at an angle of the field where we sank the 11 shafts. This was visible at the time of my visit

to the place in 1891. In describing the city wall traced by us, I stated on p. 195 of the July *Quarterly*: "At *b* five courses crop up above the surface, and this is probably the part seen by Dr. Petrie, and rightly taken by him to be part of the ancient rampart." My report was written under great pressure, while the work was going at full speed, and I must be pardoned an inaccuracy. Petrie's note of the masonry seen by him is as follows (*see* his "Tell el-Hesi," p. 62):—"Tell es-Sâfi: Walling of shallow drafted blocks with flat faces, long-stroke dressing." "This (the long-stroke dressing) is done with an edge or point, without showing any breadth of cut; the strokes are somewhat curved and in groups of parallel cuts. . . . It is the dressing of the wall at Tell es-Sâfi; this being surrounded by Amorite or early Jewish pottery . . . is probably the old Philistine fortress of Gath" (p. 36).

As the wall at *b* has evidently been exposed for years, and as we had proved it to be part of the ancient rampart, whereas the tower at *x* appeared to me clearly to belong to an enclosure about the fortress of Blanche-Garde, I took it for granted that it was the former which was identified by Petrie with the city wall. However, a comparison of the masonry at both places with his description shows that the walling seen by him was the one at *x*. At *b* the stones all have rough faces and are pock-marked. The tower at *x* has been robbed of its facing stones, but two, though dislodged, have not been removed, and they correspond to Petrie's description, showing a shallow-drafted face and long-stroke picking. As stated above, the remains of the tower project from the corner of the central field, the ruins rising some 4 feet above the surface. We found it trenched about on three sides; as the upper facing stones have been removed we sank a shaft at the north-east angle, finding two courses of plain-faced stones, 16 and 18 inches in height respectively, the lower being a footing resting on foundation work of rude, unfaced rubble. The stones are roughly dressed with the comb-pick. Owing to its ruined condition, the dimensions of the tower could not be absolutely ascertained, but the trenches dug for removing the facing-stones permitted us to gauge the extent of the face at 25 feet, which

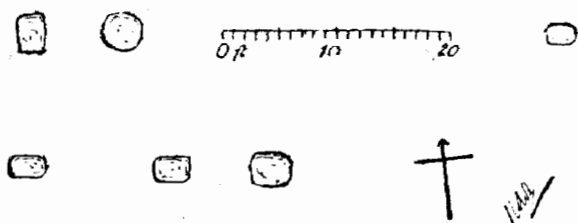


must be correct within a foot or two. In this same way the sides were measured to the point where they run under the cemetery at about 21 feet. Along the face we found traces of a gate, 10 feet wide, *i.e.*, a door-socket with jamb, rude sill, and signs of a second jamb. In a shaft sunk a few feet from the corner of the tower rock was found at 20 feet below the surface. The level of the sill is practically that of the adjacent part of the field, and 7 feet above the top of the foundation work below the footing found in the shaft at the angle. We thus have two limits between which the ground-level at the period of the tower must have lain, and for the extent of accumulation above the rock at the same period. If the door-sill indicates this ground-level, then when the tower was erected the field must have had its present level. In other words, on this hypothesis the tower represents the latest construction at this point. If the rude foundation work represents the ground-level of the tower, then we must assume a flight of steps leading down from the gate to a depth of 7 feet. It was impossible to test this theory without removing a dense cactus hedge—an impracticable task. Militating against it is the fact that the two courses found above the rubble are roughly dressed, have no drafts, and were hence probably always under ground. Even on this theory of a lower ground-level we must assume an accumulation above the rock of 13 feet of *debris*; hence in no case can this building be relegated to the earliest period. Unfortunately we had only two examples of the upper facing-stones to study, and only one of these is whole. This measures 20 inches high by 37 long, the drafts are 2·75 inches in width. It is a corner stone. The face-dressing is that described above, but the rough inner surfaces show marks of the comb-pick. No mason's marks were found, nor signs of the unmistakable fine diagonal chiselling of the Crusaders. Mortar is found in the rough core of the wall, as well as clinging to the inner sides of the dislodged stones.

Notwithstanding the absence of peculiar Crusading marks we relegate this tower to the Crusading period for the following reasons:—(1) It occupies a position to which Blanche-Garde probably extended; (2) the door-sill probably indicates its

ground-level, which is the same as that of the present surface of the field, showing that there has been no accumulation of *débris* since the tower was built. It is a matter for regret that the only building found at Tell es-Sâfi, showing well-dressed stones, could not be thoroughly examined, as all but a small part of it is under the cemetery, and as this small part has been molested.

Just outside the ancient city wall is a field east of the north-east plateau and at a considerably lower level. This field is flat, and we thought it might represent an extra-mural occupation, or possibly a cemetery. A few shafts proved the former theory to be correct, pottery being found to the rock. As this occurs at a maximum depth of 7 feet below the surface the occupation must have been slight. Cropping out from the



VII.—Remains of Alignments, Tell es-Sâfi.

surface was found a roughly circular stone, and a scraping of the ground revealed five others, forming two lines running almost directly east and west. The largest is 41 inches in diameter. Careful trenching failed to reveal any others. These stones appear to be parts of two parallel alignments (Cut VII).

No gate has been found in the city wall. From the position of the city it appears likely that the main entrance was either from the south, leading directly into the Acropolis, or on the line of the modern approach to the village at the point *a*, where a bit of the old wall is exposed. As at the latter point rock is found almost immediately under the surface, and the wall utterly gone north of the point *a*, there was no hope of finding a gate. Mr. Macalister observed a road 16 to 18 feet broad, cut in the rock ascending the hill from the west and

striking the *col* at a point south of the Wely. At this point it seems to turn north, as signs of a causeway appear leading towards the Tell. At a point somewhat east of the spot where this road should strike the city wall we sank a shaft. The lower part of the wall here consists of stone, the upper of mud-brick. Fallen brick was found to a considerable depth in front of the masonry. We deepened the shaft about 3 feet below the line where the mud-brick ceased, as this line indicated the minimum depth at which the door-sill should be found, and drove a tunnel west. As the tunnel was over 4 feet high, it was impossible that the door-sill should be above the level of its top, and it seemed unlikely that we should fail to strike the jamb of the gate, on the supposition that the sill was below the bottom of the tunnel. After tunnelling some 50 feet, operations were suspended owing to objections made by the Fellahin to our tunnelling in the vicinity of the cemetery, as they utterly failed to see that between the tunnel and cemetery there existed a wall 10 feet thick! So once more were our plans frustrated by the practical difficulties existing at Tell es-Sâfi.

Since September 7th, when we arrived at Zakariya after our summer's break, our camp has been pitched at four places. The first was under the olive trees near the well. The villagers gave us a hearty welcome, and prepared several feasts in our honour. At first we greatly suffered from the heat. On our return to Tell es-Sâfi we used the old camping ground until the approaching storms forced us to change the camp to a more sheltered position at the east of the Tell. Here we remained till November 24th, when we moved to Tell ej-Judeideh. Our experiences of Tell es-Sâfi had not been very happy, and on that Friday came a crowning touch. The large jar, which not only represented the only important result from the 11 shafts on which we had expended so much toil, but which was the only large specimen of early pre-Israelite ware we have ever found almost entirely whole, had been hauled up 20 feet to the surface, and safely transported to the camp. A man was detailed to carry it to Tell ej-Judeideh. Fearing some accident on the way, we photographed it the day before leaving. And then the unexpected happened. After the tents had been taken down, and when several camel-loads had gone

off, a little girl perched on the hillside above the camp accidentally loosed a large stone, which came crashing down right on to the precious jar. Of course, it was dashed to pieces, but all the fragments were preserved and packed in a box.

In our week's work at Tell ej-Judeideh we have been tracing the fortifications, having found many towers, a gate, &c. The accumulation of *débris* is not great, but the pottery shows some of the earliest types. On the surface we have picked up a fragment of a Royal jar-handle with the place-name gone, and a fragment of a scarab. The camp is pitched in a hollow, not far from the summit. Owing to the successful diplomacy of Showkat Effendi, the Imperial Commissioner, we have had no trouble with the landowners. We are about two miles from Beit Jibrin, where we hope to do some work next season. On the whole, the health of the party has been good.

TELL EJ-JUDEIDEH, *December 4th*, 1899.

*Corrigenda in Previous Reports.*

QUARTER.	PAGE.	LINE.	FOR.	READ.
April	.... 95	13 from bottom	scaballed	scabbled.
	" 99	4 "	revet	rebate.
	101	25 "	coin-rubbers	corn-rubbers.
	" 107	11 from bottom	priming	pruning.
	108	8 "	are	is.
	" 107	21 "	bronzes	tweezers.
July	.... 108	1	in	with.
	" 176	4	נוף	נוף.
	179	13, 14	tower	town (thrice).
	183	5	fine	five.
	185	10 from bottom	Aryan	Ægean.
	" 185	4	שכנה	שוכה.
	" "	16	lower	lower line.
	" "	8 from bottom	13	9.
	" "	5 "	10	9.
	190	12, 22, 31, 36	Key	Key.
	195	5 from bottom	paces	faces.
204	3	five	fine.	
October	.... 326	4	Τεωργίου	Τεωργίου.
	328	5	שפס	שפס.
	328	12	About a dozen fragments	Fragments of about a dozen replicas.
	333	4	amethyst	amethyst.

## LIST OF CASTS AND MOULDS.

RECEIVED FROM DR. BLISS, SEPTEMBER, 1899.

*Abbreviations* :—T.Z. = Tell Zakariya.

T.S. = Tell es-Sâfi.

R.H. = Rubbish Heap at Tell es-Sâfi.

M. = Mould.

C. = Cast.

1. M. of weight (grammes 10), inscribed. White limestone. Sent before. T.Z.
2. M. of weight (grammes 9·45), inscribed. Dark red stone. Sent before. T.Z.
3. C. of No. 2. Note that scaling on sides of letters represents scaling on stone.
4. M. of red-stone seal. R.H.
5. M. of white agate seal. R.H.
6. M. of another white agate seal. R.H.
7. Wax impressions of markings on base of 4, 5, 6, with markings on greenish-grey seal, also from R.H.
8. Wax impression of limestone (white) cylinder. T.S. Depth, 10 feet.
9. C. pottery slab. T.Z.
10. C. pottery slab. T.Z.
11. C. jar-handle, Samaritan inscription. T.S. Not deep.
12. C. rude figure of woman and child. R.H.
13. C. green enamelled Ushabti fragment. R.H.
14. C. rude figure of pregnant woman. R.H.
15. C. figure with Semitic features. R.H.
16. C. Mycenaean (?) figure. R.H.  
(The last three are hollow.)
17. C. head of Silenus. R.H.
18. C. rude horse and rider. R.H.
19. C. small mask, fragment. R.H.
20. C. of four fragments of slabs, Assyrian (?). R.H.
21. C. of three fragments of figures : one holding asp to breast, Cleopatra (?); one holding asp to thigh; one of Ægis with Gorgon head. R.H.
22. C. jar-handle, with figure hunting a stag. R.H.
23. C. in red wax from stone mould of bell, showing clappers.
24. Ditto in plaster, clappers not shown. R.H.
25. C. rude archaic head. T.S. Depth about 20 feet, or level of bases of monoliths.
26. C. scarabs, 1-4, Plate VIII, July *Quarterly*. T.Z.
27. C. scarabs, 5-8, same plate. T.Z.
28. C. five scarabs. T.S.
29. C. five Babylonian gems. T.S.

30. Painted casts of four Egyptian amulets ; one bone Phoenician figure ; one wooden object. T.S.
31. Wax impression of Hebrew inscription on jar-handle from R.H. Sent before. As sharp as possible, considering state of original.
32. Impression of bit of clay stamped with seal. R.H.
33. Two painted casts of grotesque heads in blue and yellow glass, with one obscene figure, same material. R.H.
34. C. small Greek head. R.H.
35. C. small archaic Greek head. R.H.
36. C. fragment of stone corbel with head, wearing lion's skin. R.H.
37. C. fragment of statuette. R.H.
38. C. rude head. T.S. Depth, 10 feet.

Sixty-four moulds and casts in all.

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## THE ROCK-CUTTINGS OF TELL ES-SÂFI.

By R. A. STEWART MACALISTER, M.A.

THE extraordinary energy displayed by the ancient inhabitants of Tell Zakariya in hollowing the hill that bore their stronghold—an energy shared by their contemporaries at Atraba, Beit Jibrin, and other places in the neighbourhood—arouses expectations of the existence at Tell es-Sâfi of works similar to those I have already described in the *Quarterly Statement* (1899, p. 25). This expectation is largely disappointed ; the rock-cut chambers of Tell es-Sâfi have not nearly the interest of those at Zakariya, and a detailed account of them would be of little value for a scientific discussion of the subject as a whole. I hope to show, however, that the remains of ancient rock-working at Tell es-Sâfi are by no means devoid of interest or of importance, and therefore propose to devote the present paper to a consideration of the principal examples, dividing them into groups similar to those into which I classified the Zakariya cuttings in the paper already referred to.

### *Chambers.*

The chambers of Tell es-Sâfi are of small interest, and I shall therefore clear the ground by cursorily describing them first. Not reckoning about half a dozen small chambers