

To sum up. I am inclined to refer the jar-handles to the eighth century B.C., though they may belong to the reign of Solomon. They can hardly be earlier, in spite of the extraordinary resemblance between them and the jar-handle from Tell el-Amarna. Future discovery can alone settle the question; palæography, it must be repeated, can tell us nothing.

While examining the jar-handles from Jerusalem in the Museum of the Palestine Exploration Fund I found an inscription on one of them that had never been noticed before. This is No. 42 (52). The word לְמֶלֶךְ above the winged disc is obliterated, and the disc itself is mostly gone. But below it can still be seen the two first letters of the name of the place from which the handle came. These are נב. There has been a third and last letter after them, which may have been ה, though there does not seem to be space for a wider letter than ה. In any case, the name must have been that either of the Judaite Nebo (Ezra ii, 29), or of the Benjamite Nob or Nobah (1 Samuel xxi, 1, &c.). In addition to the cartouche a concentric ornament has been stamped on the handle, and above the cartouche IV is incised.

September 21st, 1899.

INSCRIPTIONS FROM KERAK.

By Major-General Sir CHARLES WILSON, K.C.B., F.R.S., &c.

THE inscriptions, Nos. 1 to 9, were copied from tombstones that were found in a rock-hewn tomb near Kerak by the Rev. A. Forder, a few years ago, and are now in the Konak at Kerak. The notes are from some remarks on the inscriptions which were kindly communicated to me by Professor W. M. Ramsay, M.A.

1. ἐνθάδε ΑΚΓΩ ΖΟΜΙΝΟC ΒΟΠΙΧ ζήσας ἑτη λ'.

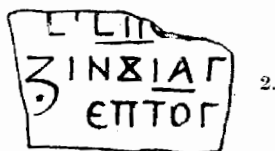
The names are not intelligible; "having lived thirty years." In the first line we should perhaps read EN + ΘΑ. The reading ἐνθα κατάκιτε (taking ΓΟ for ΤΕ) Δόμνος (commonly Δόμνος) Βορίχου seems too far from the copy.

The inscription is very roughly cut, and part of it is illegible.



2. A number ending with ς', six, then *ινδ* (ικτιώνος) *ια'*, the eleventh year of an indiction. The date was possibly τς', 306, or A.D. 412. Now 412·3 was an eleventh indiction.

The lower part of a broken stone.



3. *ἐνθάδε κείται* ΓΕΩΑΠΟΣ Θεοδώ[ρον ζ]ήσας ἔτη: probably ΓΕΩ[Ρ]ΓΙΟΣ.

"Here lies Georgios son of Theodore, who lived . . . years."

The date is probably the 4th century.

The upper portion of a broken stone.



4. ἐνθάδε κείται Σαναθ Φέλλου [ζή]σ[as] ἐ[τ]η ἐννέα [ἐ]τ[ους] τ'.

"Here lies Sanath . . . ? son of Phellus ? having lived nine years. In the year 300."

Kerak was in the province of Arabia where the era was 106, and this would give the date as A.D. 406, assuming that the date τ is complete. It is possible that one or two letters are lost at the end, but there did not appear to be any traces of broken letters. Perhaps also the wheels may have contained the symbol XP, as they were somewhat worn.

The upper portion of a stone.



5. [—] ζήσασα ἐτ[η] τρία ἐνθάδε κείται.

A fragment of a stone.



6. ἐνθάδε κίτ[αι] Μάξιμα ζησῶ[σ]α ἐτ[η] η'.

"Here lies Maxima, who lived eight years."

A perfect stone, fairly well cut.

7. [Σωσ]θένης ? ζήσ[as] αιδ' ? ἐτ[η] τέ[σσαρα] ? : perhaps ζήσα[ς] δ' ἐτ[η] τέ[σσαρα] with number twice : or ζήσα[ς] ιδ' ἐτ[η] τέ[σσαρα] καὶ δέκα].

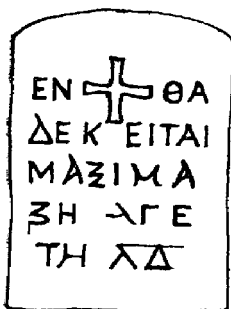
A fragment of a stone ; the letters are very high and badly cut.



6.



7.



8.



9.

CΠδ
ΔΗCΕΡΓΙΟΥ
ΠΡΕΤΡΑΓΙΔΑΙΛΙ
ΑΝΘΕΝΤΩΨ
ΕΤΕΙ

10.

ΕΠΙ
CΕΡΓΙΟΥ
ΤΟΥΟCΙΩ
ΕΠΙCΚΟ
ΠΟΥ

11.

ΧC
ΟCΘCΤΟΝΟΙ
ΚΟΝΤΟΥΤΟΝ
ΑΝΗΓΕΙ
ΡΕΝ

12.

+ΘΗΛΥΤΕΡΕCΤΟΛΕ
ΠΑΙΛΟCΛΟΥΕΛ
ΗΝΙΡ
ΕΛΛΑΧΕΝ
ΝΗΟΥΜ
ΕΝΘΑΔΕ
ΚΟΥΡΗ

13.

8. ἐνθάδε κεῖται Μάξιμα ζη[σ]ᾶ[σ] ἔτη λδ'.

"Here lies Maxima, having lived 34 years."

A complete stone, but the inscription is very rudely cut.

9. ἐνθάδε κεῖται Νοῖνα ζησα̂σ[σ] ἔτη.

"Here lies Noena, who lived . . ."

A fragment of a stone.

[All the above inscriptions probably date from the latter part of the fourth to the latter part of the fifth century A.D.]

10. An inscription in hexameters beginning *θηλυτέρα(αι)* (or *(αι)s*). Perhaps:—

θηλυτέραις τόδε[σῆμα]
 παιδὸν ἀ[ποφθιμένοιο]??

η
 ἔλλαχεν

.
 ἐνθάδε
 κουρη

This inscription is upon a slab forming part of the pavement of Aaron's Tomb on Mount Hor. The inscription has been laid face upwards and is almost completely worn away by the feet of pilgrims. The underlined letters are uncertain.

Nos. 11, 12, 13. These seem to read:—

σπουδῆ Σεργίου πρ[εσβυτέρου?] τοῦ ἁγίου Αἰλιανοῦ ἐν τῷ ως' ἔτει.

ἐπὶ Σεργίου τοῦ ὀσιω[τάτου] ἐπισκόπου.

Χ[ριστό]s οἱ θεῶ]s τὸν οἶκον τοῦτον ἀνήγειρεν.

The date ως', 806, is probably Seleucid, as that era is used very late. This would give A.D. 494. The Arabian Provincial era A.D. 106 would give A.D. 912, which is too late.

These three inscriptions are on a very fine mosaic at Medeba, which must be of about the same date as the great geographical mosaic in the Greek church at the same place.

December 8th, 1899.