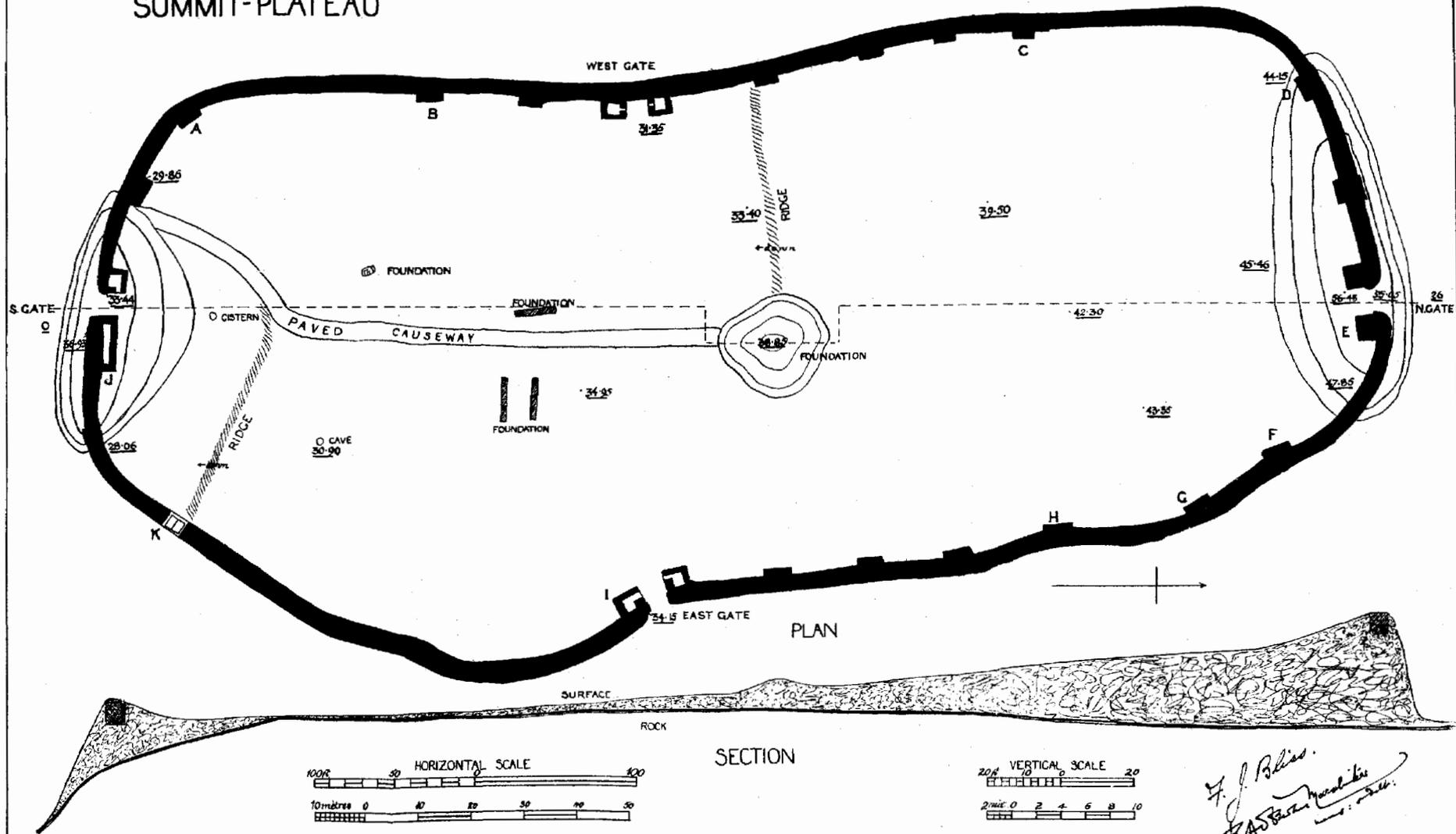


# TELL EJ-JUDEIDEH EXCAVATION SUMMIT-PLATEAU



## FIRST REPORT ON THE EXCAVATIONS AT TELL EJ-JUDEIDEH.

By F. J. BLISS, Ph.D.

IN the heart of the Shephelah there is a chain of hills from five to six miles long, running N.N.E. from Beit Jibrin. The range terminates abruptly to the north in the bold Tell Zakariya, 1,214 feet above the sea, and 350 feet above the Vale of Elah or Wady es-Sunt, which sweeps around its eastern and northern sides. The southernmost hill is Tell ej-Judeideh (1,297 feet), from the summit of which the ground drops somewhat gently to the Wady of the same name, near Beit Jibrin. Between these two hills are several others, separated by saddles, notably Khurbet 'Askalûn (1,185 feet) and Khurbet 'Okbur (1,223 feet). From all the summits there is a magnificent view of the Philistine plain, and also of the Judæan hills. Situated near the border, between the Hebrews and the Philistines, this range was naturally of strategic importance, commanding as it did at least one of the great highways to Judæa. We have described the fortress, probably Jewish, excavated by us at Tell Zakariya. The present report announces the discovery of a fortification at Tell ej-Judeideh. Traces of large buildings are also found at 'Askalûn and at 'Okbur.

My first visit to Tell ej-Judeideh was made in June, 1897, when I was led by its commanding position and by the ancient types of pottery shown on its surface to include it in the area asked for excavation. Before we moved camp from Tell es-Sâfi, late in November, 1899, I rode over to the place and spent an hour or two in a study of the superficial indications, with a view to laying out the work. The Tell itself, *i.e.*, the accumulation of *débris*, occupies the south end of the southernmost hill of the range first described. The main axes of the Tell are directed to the cardinal points. The top is fairly level, with a slight mound at the south end and with a more decided mound at the north. The line of the city wall, either along its outside or its inside face, could be traced almost entirely

around the edge of the Tell. In general, only one course of stones appeared, but in several places from two to three courses were seen to crop up above the surface of the slope. Indications of one tower were observed. I decided that in the short time available before the winter rains I should confine myself to working out the fortification, and to determining the depth and nature of the accumulation.

Work was begun Monday, November 27th, and continued till Saturday, December 16th. Allowing for the time lost in consequence of the rain, and for the time taken in restoring the ground, the number of days devoted to excavation was not greater than 14, with an average of 17 men a day. The main results of the work are shown in the plan now submitted. The city wall follows the natural contours of the hill, the face being slightly curved in many places. At the north and south gates the curve is very pronounced. Gateways were found at the north, south, and east, and proof of a fourth was found at the west, though the sill itself has been removed. Twenty-four towers were excavated, projecting inward from the inside face. The eight towers flanking the four gateways were probably all hollow, but the remaining 16 are mere buttresses of solid masonry.

Levels were carefully taken on the top of the Tell, and the results are shown on the plan and section. The surface levels are marked in feet and decimals of feet, with reference to a point on the slope outside the south gate, which point is taken as zero. As I have stated, the summit is fairly level, the rise between the north base of the south mound and the south base of the north mound being only 17 feet, or about 1 in 40. At the point marked "cistern," near the south gate, rock is seen within a foot of the surface. Shafts were sunk at the points marked 34·95, 33·40, 39·50, 42·30, and 43·35, with the following results :—

At point 34·95	rock was found at	5½	feet.
” 33·40	”	6½	”
” 39·50	”	12	”
” 43·35	”	15	”
” 42·30	”	16	”

At the last point there were 3 feet of virgin soil on the rock, giving an accumulation of only 13 feet. Thus at no point between the north and south mounds have we any great amount of *débris*. South of the gentle swelling in the centre of the Tell marked "foundation" the accumulation appears to range from 1 foot to  $6\frac{1}{2}$  feet, while to the north of this point it is somewhat greater, ranging from 12 to 15 feet. In two of the shafts ribbed ware, probably Roman, was found to a depth of 2 or 3 feet, but otherwise the pottery was Jewish and pre-Israelite, including some of the very earliest types. One large jar with the characteristic "Amorite" ledge handles was found near the rock. This was apparently buried with a purpose, but unfortunately it was cracked and could not be removed whole. At the north mound the accumulation appears to be about 30 feet.

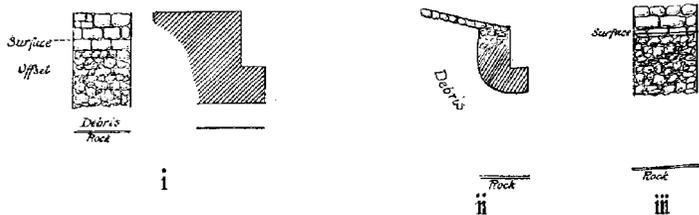
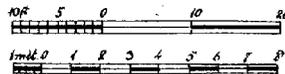
An examination of the city wall proves that this was built after most of the *débris* now found on the Tell had accumulated. Three shafts were sunk on the slope along its outside face, and the results may be seen on Plate II, above the heading "Specimens of Masonry." Specimen i shows two courses of rude rubble above the surface, each course about 18 inches high; one course of rude rubble below the surface resting on 6 feet of small uncoursed rubble, between which and the rock are 3 feet of *débris*. Four feet from the base of the wall a footing of 3 feet projection occurs. Specimen ii shows a cross-section of the wall at another point. Here the outside face stands for 7 feet below the present surface, the lower  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet being a footing, which rests on  $9\frac{1}{2}$  feet of *débris*. The wall here, as at numerous other places measured, is 10 feet thick, but the inner half consists merely of one course of stones resting on the surface, between which and the rock there must be 15 feet of *débris*. Specimen iii shows three courses of rubble from 12 to 22 inches in height, above the surface, resting on 7 feet of small uncoursed rubble, between which and the rock are 8 feet of *débris*. Thus we find the outside face built on an accumulation above the rock, ranging from 3 to  $9\frac{1}{2}$  feet. As the wall does not rest on the rock, its outside face must have had some underground foundation; the ground-line at the time

of building appears to have been the line between the coursed and the uncoursed rubble, which is practically the present ground-line. Hence the accumulation in the Tell, except at the north and south mounds, appears to be hardly any greater than at the time when the wall was built. When the wall itself was destroyed the stones appear to have rolled down the slopes, which are steep at every side. In a trench 135 feet long and about 4 feet deep, excavated along the inside face, this was seen at many points to rest on *débris*.

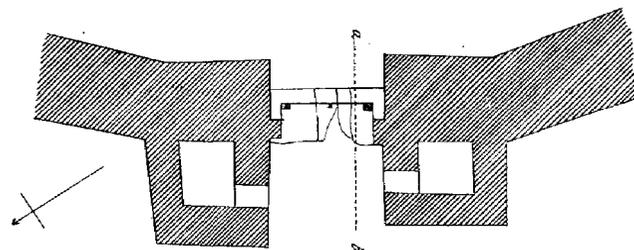
The ground-line at the gates is determined by the levels of the door-sills. Rock was not searched for immediately under the north mound, but its level can be assumed with safety. Immediately to the north of the north gate, at the point marked 26, rock crops up at the surface; at the point marked 42.30 rock was found at a depth of 16 feet, or 26 feet above the zero point. These two points, then, north and south of the mound, are at the same level, and it is not probable that in the 225 feet between them there is much change of level. The surface of this mound at a point above the door-sill is at the level 55.05, or 29 feet above the assumed rock-level. The door-sill is 5 feet below the surface, or 24 feet above the rock. These 24 feet represent the accumulation of *débris* before the gate was built. As the maximum accumulation on the flat part of the Tell is only 15 feet, it would appear that an especially important building had existed here in early times. The upper 5 feet of *débris* burying the door-sill was caused by the destruction of the wall, and consists mainly of fallen stones. The low south mound appears to be due merely to the destruction of the gate and towers.

We may now describe the wall in detail. It has a uniform thickness of 10 feet, except at the places where it is strengthened by inner buttresses. It is built of rude rubble, brought to courses above the surface, and laid without mortar. The stones are roughly dressed, and much weathering has obliterated all tool-marks. As stated above, the towers all project inwards from the inside face. Some are roughly bonded into the main wall; the rest are without bond. The entire outlines of two towers

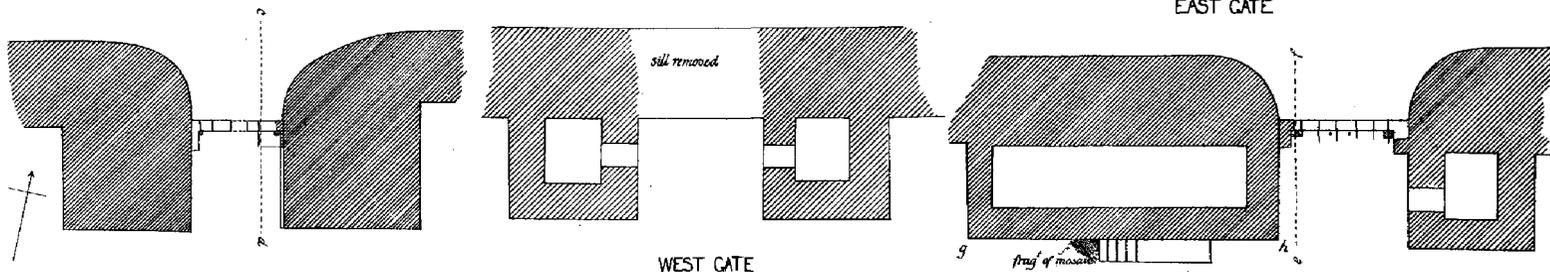
# TELL EJ-JUDEIDEH EXCAVATION DETAILS OF THE WALL



SPECIMENS OF MASONRY



section on *ab*  
EAST GATE



WEST GATE

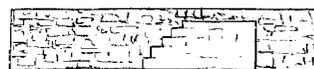


section on *cd*

NORTH GATE



section on *ef*

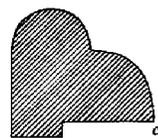
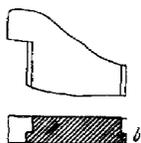
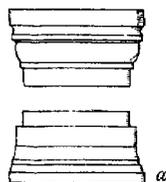


elevation of *gh*



elevation from south

SOUTH GATE



MISCELLANEOUS FRAGMENTS

*F. J. Bliss*  
*Excavation*

appear on the surface; lines of stone, or in some cases a single stone, gave us a hint as to where to dig for seven or eight others, and the rest were found by trenching. Twenty-four towers were found in all. These are all the towers of which any traces remain, as an exhaustive search for others was conducted. This search was rendered somewhat difficult by the thick scrub which grows along the edges of the Tell. It appears probable, however, that towers must have existed in the spaces between A and B, C and D, I and J, and perhaps between E and F, and G and H. The towers appear to have been laid out without any especial regard for spacing. Omitting the spaces just mentioned, as well as the openings for the gateways between the flanking towers, the spaces between the towers are as follows:—Six range from 35 to 37 feet; five range from 40 to 44 feet; one is  $46\frac{1}{2}$  feet; three range from 50 to 52 feet. With the exception of the tower flanking the south gate to the east, which is 34 feet long, the faces range in length from 13 feet 6 inches to 15 feet 2 inches; the standard measurement appears to be 14 feet, as 17 out of the 23 measure within 3 inches of this number, eight being 14 feet exactly. The projections of the solid buttresses range from 3 feet 3 inches to 4 feet 11 inches. The chambers in the towers flanking the gates measure about 6 feet by 7 feet, with walls from 3 to 4 feet thick; exception should be made of the long tower at the south gate, which contains a chamber 28 feet long. The towers flanking the north gate are drawn as though solid, no chambers having been found in them, but it is quite possible that these are ruined below their ground level.

The south gate (*see* Plate II) is fairly well preserved; the east jamb stands to a height of about 7 feet, its ruined top being only 1 foot under the surface. The masonry is better squared and dressed than that of the main wall, the comb-pick dressing having been used. The door-sill consists of several slabs of stones, 14 inches wide; the gate was double, as shown by the central bolt-holes, as well as by the two sockets for the door-posts, which measure 16 inches by 10 inches and 14 inches square respectively. The opening is 10 feet in width. Search for steps leading outward from the gate was unsuccessful. A

pavement was found inside the gate. At about the level of this pavement there is an entrance to the small flanking tower at the west. No entrance was found to the long tower to the east; this tower, however, contains a chamber, 28 feet long by 7 feet broad; it is approached by a flight of steps (*see* elevation, *g, h*), which is ruined 14 inches below the top of the remains of the tower; hence we infer that this tower had been ruined below the level of its flooring, and consequently below the level of the door from which it was entered. At the base of the steps was found *in situ* a very small portion of mosaic, in white and red tesserae, 1 inch square. The exterior wall of the tower is at this point covered with plaster, held in place by an inner coating of potsherds, showing the broad ribbing of Roman or Byzantine times. The pottery found in connection with the excavation of all the gates showed these same types.

The east gate had been blocked up, showing that at some period after its construction this entrance was no longer used. The city wall does not round inwards towards the gate, as in the case of the north and south gateways. The gateway was double, the post-sockets measuring 17 inches by  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches and 16 inches by 10 inches respectively. The opening is 10 feet 3 inches long. As the entrances to the flanking towers are 2 feet 8 inches above the level of the sill of the gateway, these towers must have been approached by steps from the pavement found within the gate, though no such steps were found. No signs of steps were found leading down the slope outside the gate. The door jambs consist of rude rubble, in contrast to the better masonry at the north and south gates.

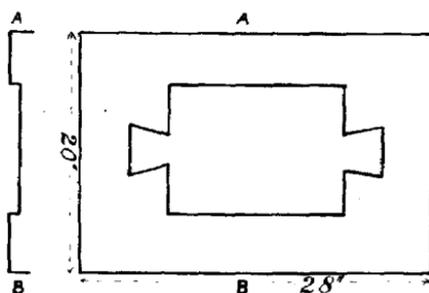
The north gate is very well preserved, the north jambs standing to a height of about 5 feet, their ruined tops having been found immediately under the surface. The jambs are dressed with a chisel pick, making long strokes; no mortar appears to have been used. The east jamb is eaten away by a series of furrows, plainly caused by the overlapping of iron sheets, with which the gate-post must have been plated; this jamb also contains a socket for the insertion of a transverse

bolt for securing the gate. The sill is 14 inches wide; the gate-opening measures 8 feet 7 inches, or some 18 inches less than the north and east gates. As mentioned above, no chambers were found in the flanking towers, but we have proved that the entrance to the large tower at the south gate was several feet higher than the sill, hence the towers in question may be ruined below the chamber-levels, though no steps were found. Unsuccessful search for steps leading down the very steep slope to the north was made. Beyond the north mound, outside the city wall, the hill trends to the north-east for about 1,000 feet. Rock crops up here and there, and the accumulation of *débris* is very slight, hardly 5 feet at the most.

The two hollow towers, only 14 feet apart, at the west, directly opposite the two towers flanking the east gate, strongly suggest that a gateway once existed here also. The level to which the wall is here ruined relative to the tower entrances admits of the supposition that the door-sill has been removed. There may possibly have been a fifth entrance at the point K, as two large slabs of stone were here found on the line of the city wall.

As to the date of this wall, we have shown that it represents the latest construction on the Tell after most of the *débris* now found had accumulated. This *débris* contains some of the earliest types of pre-Israelite pottery. The pottery found in connection with the gates and their flanking towers, however, is Roman or Byzantine. Similar types are found scattered over the surface of the Tell and also to a slight depth below the surface. The mosaic at the south gate cannot be earlier than the Roman period. Unfortunately the architectural fragments are very few, but all appear to be late. These are figured on Plate II; *b*, *c*, and *d* were found near the south gate; *b* appears to be a portion of a window. Unsuccessful search was made for fragments which might have fallen outside the gate. The two fragments marked *a* were found near the "foundation" in the centre of the Tell; they are evidently the base and capital of a column. On the surface of the north mound above the gate was found the stone

shown in the cut. It is 28 inches long by 20 inches high, with  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch sinking in the centre. It appears to have been designed for an inscription, but as the surface is perfectly smooth with no signs of lettering nor of holes for the insertion of a metal plate, the intention was evidently abandoned.<sup>1</sup> From the indications shown by the excavation of Tell ej-Judeideh up to date, we gather that the place was inhabited in early pre-Israelite times, as well as in the Jewish period, and was fortified during the Roman period, or even later. No signs of an earlier fortification have been found. The superficial wallings marked "foundations" probably date from this last period, as well as the "paved causeway," also superficial, although it should be noticed that this does not appear to lead to the south gate.



Stone found at North Gate.

As mentioned above, the pottery strewn over the surface includes Roman ware, but many earlier types are found, among which are several mutilated fragments of jar-handles showing the winged figures with which Hebrew inscriptions dedicating the jar to the king are always associated. One jar-handle with the stamp of a Hebrew seal was picked up on the surface by Showkat Effendi. It contains two proper names in two lines divided by two parallel bars. The first name is clearly **הושע** —Hosea. The absence of the **ל** of possession is unusual. The second name appears to be **צפן**, though the first letter is somewhat doubtful. Assuming this reading, we have a

<sup>1</sup> Similar stones, some inscribed, some uninscribed, are found in Byzantine ruins in North Syria.

name which appears on stamp No. 2 figured on p. 18 of the *January Quarterly* for the current year. This seal has two lines of writing; the upper line reads **לְצִפְנָה**, with a vertical mark between the two last letters; the lower reads **מֵעֵץ**, with a fracture before the **מ**, allowing space for one more letter. Taking the vertical mark as a hyphen and supplying the missing letter we read **לְצִפְנָה אֲבִמֵּעַץ**, though we admitted that neither word appears as a name in the Old Testament. The discovery of the Tell ej-Judeideh seal appears to justify the reading of the first name as **צִפְנָה**.

I may now describe several sites in the Shephelah, some of which are included in our permit.

*Khurbet 'Okbur.*—This is on the range described at the beginning of the report, about midway between Tell Zakariya



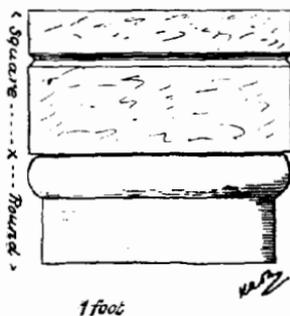
Stamp on Jar-handle.

and Tell ej-Judeideh. Its top is 1,223 feet above the sea level. The chief ruins belong to an irregularly-shaped building on the summit of the hill, having a maximum length north and south of 75 paces, and a maximum breadth of 50 paces. The top was not levelled for the building, as it follows the natural slopes. It is divided into chambers; the walls average 4 feet in thickness, are built in mortar, and the masonry consists of medium-sized stones, about square. Several smaller buildings of similar construction are found on the slopes. The pottery is all Roman or Byzantine (including a roof-tile), and Arab. Two late capitals and two column bases are found among the ruins. Cisterns and oil presses appear. A note in the "Memoirs" states that the ruins appear to be Byzantine, but suggests that

the site may be more ancient. As rock is found at the surface immediately outside the building, and as it appears in a cistern within the building at a depth of only 3 feet, it seems to me that the site was unoccupied before Roman or Byzantine times. Though included in our permit it does not appear to me to be worth excavating.

*Khurbet Nuweitif.*—This is written Nuweith on the map and in the "Memoirs," but two persons, one the chief Sheikh of Beit Nettif, pronounce it Nuweitif. It is situated on a hill about a half mile to the north-east of 'Okbur. Here are found heaps of stones, an oil press, and cisterns, but the depth of soil is very slight, rock cropping to the surface everywhere; hence excavations would hardly pay, though the site is available.

*Khurbet 'Askalân.*—These ruins crown a hill less than a mile south of Tell Zakariya. Except at the south, the sides of



Sketch of Capital at Kh. Askalân.

the hill are very steep. The ruins consist of a large square building, measuring 75 paces north and south, by 60 paces east and west, with an extension 50 paces long to the south. Within the building may be seen the capitals and parts of the shafts of two columns, clearly *in situ*. Judging from the level of the rock exposed at a point within the building further south, I concluded that they must be about 10 feet high, and that they are founded on the rock. The *débris* here cannot be more than 7 feet, and is due to the destruction of the building, which thus appears to be the only building erected on this site. Within the enclosure is a natural cave which has been made

into a cistern. The sides are in places lined with small round rubble covered with plaster which is fixed in place by potsherds of Roman or Byzantine make. The broken rock-roof has been repaired with a vault. There are two openings, one circular and one oblong. The surface pottery is Roman or Byzantine. Stones have recently been taken from the ruin for building purposes. Excavation would probably reveal nothing ante-dating Roman times, but owing to a confusion of this site with Ascalon-on-the-sea it was not granted us.

*Khurbet Shuweikeh.*—This is outside the limits of our permit. The ruins are very disappointing; they cover an area 300 paces long by about 75 paces wide, crowning the summit of a ridge and extending somewhat down its sides. There are no signs of any large buildings, the remains appearing to indicate small houses. The masonry is of the rudest rubble. Several vaulted cisterns appear. I made a careful examination of the pottery, and among numerous Roman or Byzantine and Arab fragments recognised only two that might possibly be Jewish. As the soil is hardly more than 5 feet deep, and is due to the destruction of the houses now seen in ruins, excavations would probably reveal nothing more ancient. Further along the ridge to the west are the ruins of *Khurbet 'Abbād*. Here we have several large enclosures with the rock cropping up inside and all around. Pottery all late. In the list of sites visited by him in Palestine and noted at the end of his "Tell el-Hesi," Dr. Petrie says in regard to Khurbet Shuweikeh, "all of late date." The name Shuweikeh appears to have preserved the ancient name Shocoh, and the identification with the Shocoh of 1 Sam. xvii, 1, has been generally accepted on the ground of position. That Shocoh had a certain importance is proved by the discovery of the handles of jars at Jerusalem, at Tell es-Sâfi, and at Tell Zakariya dedicated to the king by this town. While a similarity of name and the general correspondence of position should be strong elements in identifying a given ruin with an ancient site, the nature of the ruin should be taken into account. Thus Petrie's examination of Khurbet 'Ajlân, where the *débris* is slight

and indicates a late period, has made it impossible any longer to hold to the identification of this site with Eglon. I confess that my examination of the ruins at Shuweikeh; where the slight depth of soil (and that evidently a late accumulation) is in striking contrast with the extensive Jewish remains at Tell es-Sâfi and at Tell Zakariya, has considerably shaken my faith in the identification with Shocoh. It should be remembered that Tell Zakariya has by no means been proved to be Azekah. Tell Zakariya rises from the Valley of Elah, is within three miles of Shuweikeh, and would suit the conditions for the position of Shocoh as given in 1 Sam. xvii, 1. The excavations have proved it to be an important site in Jewish times. Its ancient name has been lost; if this were Shocoh it may have been in later times transferred to the neighbouring site. This suggestion, however, is offered very tentatively.

*Tell Yarmâk.*—This Tell rises from the high land some three miles north-east of Tell Zakariya, and is not included in the permit. It measures about 500 paces around its base. It consists of a lower mound, which appears to have been surrounded by a wall, with a smaller mound superposed. The lower mound appears to rise some 25 feet above the surrounding country, but as rock is seen in a cistern only 4 feet below the surface near the base of the upper mound, the accumulation of the lower mound cannot be great; in other words, the town was built on a natural hill. The upper mound is about square with a side of 60 feet, and rises some 20 feet above the lower. It appears to be due to the destruction of a large stone building, divided into chambers with walls 4 feet 6 inches thick. The surface is almost entirely covered with fallen stones which would render excavation difficult. The pottery is almost entirely Roman or Arab: I found only two fragments which may be Jewish. Roman pottery is found in the plaster coating the sides of a vaulted cistern. To the west of the hill are several acres of ploughed ground, strewn with Roman pottery, showing that the settlement was extensive. This Tell has been identified with Jarmuth, but there are no signs that it was a Jewish site.

*Tell Sandahannah.*—This Tell is about one mile south of Beit Jibrin, its summit being 1,098 feet above the sea. It has the regular Tell shape: fairly level top and sloping sides. It appears to have been surrounded by a wall. The top measures about 200 paces by 150 paces, and I estimated the accumulation at 30 feet. Roman pottery is scarce, the rest appears to be early Greek. I found no Jewish types, but these would probably appear in the lower strata. After completing the work at Tell ej-Judeideh, we shall probably make some excavations here, as the permit includes this site.

At Tell ej-Judeideh we seemed to be far more in the wilderness than we were at our other camping places. The tents were placed in a hollow of the hill not far from the summit, and the white spots of canvas, contrasting with the green scrub of the hillside, made a brave show from Beit Jibrin. Our post station was Deir Abân, and it took our messenger almost three hours to reach the station. As the train from Jaffa does not arrive till about half past three, it was after dark before he could return to camp. One day he was sent to Jaffa for some money, riding the donkey as far as the station. He was to return the same day, but night came and no messenger. When the second night began to fall and the man did not appear, I prepared to ride out in search of him, but just as I was ready to mount, the glow of a cigarette appeared over the slope, and the faithful Friday (his literal name) rode into camp. It seems that he had been arrested in Jaffa on the charge of having recently committed a crime in Jerusalem, but fortunately he found a friend at court, who was able to establish an *alibi* for him. However, he missed the train, and was full of anxiety for the fate of the donkey left at Deir Abân. The animal had been kindly cared for by the stationmaster.

Though Beit Jibrin is quite a town, we could buy nothing there but hens, eggs, barley, and *samm* (native butter). Most of our stores had to come from Jerusalem. Fortunately we found excellent bread at Beit Jemâl. The chief man at Beit Jibrin belongs to the family of the 'Ûzzy, who hold sway over the whole district. He was an old friend of the Khakli family, to

which our Commissioner belongs. His friendliness showed itself in invitations to dinner on two successive Sundays. Low tables groaned with platters of meat, rice, and vegetable stews, with some sweets, all of more or less indigestibility. We rejoiced in the etiquette which demanded that our servants and guards should squat at our table, and we were glad to have them take the lion's share in clearing the plates. These dinner parties are a diplomatic necessity, but the invitations are exceedingly indefinite as regards time. Last summer we rode over one Sunday to 'Ajjûr, to accept an invitation to an early lunch given by another member of the 'Úzzy family in a beautiful orange grove. At noon a slight refectation was brought in, of which we partook frugally, as the real luncheon was said to be imminent. When the "early lunch" finally appeared, after five o'clock, our appetites were certainly in a condition to do it justice.

During the heavy storms in December our camping ground became a field of mud, and we used the boards which had lined many a tunnel in underground Jerusalem to make a plank-walk between the tents. A capital stable was made for the horse and donkey by clearing out an old tomb-chamber, in which the Tell Zakariya people also found refuge. Most of our workpeople came from that place, though a few belonged to Deir Nakhkhâs, a neighbouring village, to which the Tell belongs. The people tried a game of bluff in sending up a crowd of men to begin ploughing on the Tell long before it was necessary. However, they desisted after a few hours, and gave us no further trouble. The slopes of the Tell contain ancient graves, some of which have been rifled for treasure. The surface indications are very slight. Though our main efforts were directed to determining the line of the fortifications, we made a few attempts to find an unrifled grave. On the principle of setting a thief to catch a thief, we employed a man who evidently had been at the business before, though this he would not explicitly acknowledge. Several clues seemed to be promising, but unfortunately our search was unsuccessful. I hope we may have better luck later on. We hoped to store the camp at Beit Jemâl, but, owing to an increase in the school,

the Superior was not able to accommodate us, though he expressed genuine regret. [However, our goods found safe shelter in the house of a friendly peasant at Zakariya.

BEYROUT, *February 2nd*, 1900.

### THE LOST INSCRIPTION OF EUGENOS IN THE WADY ER-RABABI.

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

I HAVE been engaged during the last fortnight in making a study of the rock-tombs in the valley known in familiar conversation as the Valley of Hinnom. It is impossible for me to get my notes into order for publication, and to complete my plans, in time for the April *Quarterly Statement*; but one result of my examination of these monuments seems worth separate notice. This is what, if I am not mistaken, is the rediscovery of the inscription of Eugenos, copied by Schultz, and afterwards lost sight of. The epigraphists in Jerusalem had no idea that it still existed. It reads as follows:—

+ ΜΝΗΜΑ ΑΜΑ ΦΕΡΟΝΤΑ ΤΟΥ ΕΥΓΗ  
ΝΟΣ ΚΟΜΙΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΠΑΤΡΟΣ  
ΑΓΙΑΣ [CΙ  
ΩΝ]

It is not incised but painted in red, and the colour, especially at the ends of the lines, has suffered much injury from weathering. A facsimile of this, as of the other inscriptions, will be presented in due course, but meanwhile I may say that the **NH** of **ΜΝΗΜΑ** is a monogram.

*Tentatively* I would propose the following verbatim:—

Μνήμα ἄμα φέρον τὰ τοῦ Εὐγενος [*sic*] ὁ Κομίου τοῦ πατρός.  
"Ἀγίας Σιών.

"Tomb bearing at once the [names] of Eugenos the son of Komios [and] of his father. Belonging to Holy Sion."