

REPORTS AND NOTES BY R. A. S. MACALISTER, ESQ.

I.—ON CERTAIN ANTIQUITIES IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF BEIT
JIBRÎN.

THE moorland hills around Beit Jibrîn are rich in antiquities of certain types, not perhaps in themselves of great interest, though testifying to a much larger population and more extensive cultivation than at present, and therefore of historical value.

The majority of the structures to which this note refers are circular on plan, about 12 feet, more or less, in diameter; they are built without cement, of stones measuring every way about 2 feet. Inside is always a floor of small stone chips and pebbles. The majority are ruined to mere shapeless heaps of stone, or are disintegrated to their lowest course. In the wall of one, part of the sill-stone of a door was found, used as building material.

They recall the *manâtir*, or watch-towers, still erected in vineyards, of which many examples are to be seen near Bethlehem and elsewhere; but I have seen no modern example built of such large stones as are the ancient specimens, nor is the circular form so exclusively selected by the modern builders. There is no trace of terracing or other evidence of cultivation to be detected about the majority of the structures to which attention is here called, and if they be actually vineyard towers they must be very old. They exist in very considerable numbers, and often are found in small groups of six or seven. I trenched across one at Abu Haggên, but found nothing. Like the *manâtir* they were doubtless roofed with boughs. It is possible that these structures may have been dry-stone hovels, like the bee-hive cells of Scotland and Ireland, or the *nawâmîs* of the Sinai peninsula.

I found two or three similar structures rectangular on plan. The proportion of this type to the circular is very small.

On the top of a conspicuous hill to the south of Tell Sandahannah is the foundation of a building¹ of large dry-stone blocks. It seems to have been a watch-tower of some kind, but there is

¹ Plans of these structures have been drawn, and are deposited in the office of the Fund.

nothing from which we may deduce its exact purpose or its age. There is a similar structure on a hill-top near Tell ej-Judeideh.

Further, the hills in the district mentioned at the head of this note are intersected in all directions by walls which probably mark old boundaries. They consist invariably of rows of large round stones laid side by side. To plan them would be an endless and probably a profitless labour.

There is one wall¹ stretching over a long low hill southwards from Tell Sandahannah. It stops abruptly at each end; and it is difficult to guess the purpose for which it was built. Near the



STONE IN WALL NEAR TELL SANDAHANNAH.

northern end is lying the stone here sketched; it seems to be Roman, and prepared for an inscription which, unfortunately, was never cut on it.

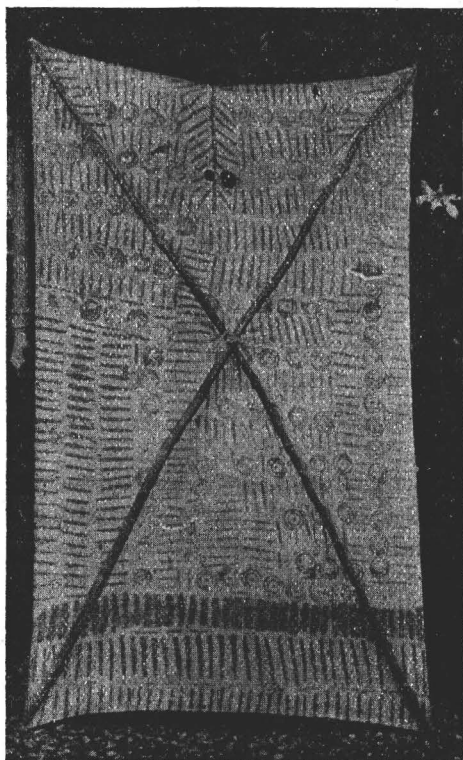
II.—THE BIRAK ESH-SHINANÎK.

As a pendant to the paper on "Sport among the Bedawîn," contributed by Mr. Jennings-Bramley to the *Quarterly Statement* of October, 1900, I present a plate of two photographic views of a sporting implement which I purchased from a native of Zakariya, and which I have not seen described elsewhere.

It consists of a sheet of cloth, about 4 feet 6 inches by 3 feet 9 inches, stretched on two crossed sticks whose ends fit into little pockets formed by sewing over the edges at each corner of the cloth. The centre of the cloth is ingeniously tied to the intersection of the sticks by gathering it round a small pebble and

winding a string round the neck of the pocket enclosing the pebble; the ends of the string are then secured round the sticks.

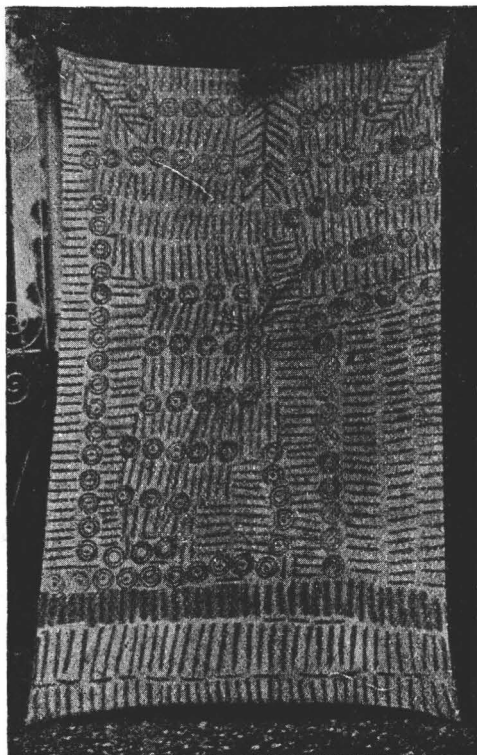
The dried skin of a fox's head is sewn to the top of the cloth, and the surface of the cloth is ornamented with strokes and concentric circles. The latter are printed on in ink by means of a die cut out of soft limestone clunch. The palm leaf is conspicuous among the designs; this is a favourite luck sign, painted



over doors of houses and worked in tatu on women's faces. I cannot, however, discover that the other signs, or the fox-head, have any other special meaning; the manufacturer's statement, that it is simply to make the object eccentric-looking, is as likely as any theoretical explanation to be correct. When the designs are dry on the cloth it is dipped in dirty water in order to stain it and prevent it being too conspicuous.

Finally, special attention must be called to two small holes cut about three-quarters of the way up in the cloth.

The method of employment is as follows:—The sportsman, intent on partridge shooting, crouches behind the widespread cloth, which he shakes up and down slightly. The partridge is alleged to be a bird so inquisitive that it approaches near to find out what this peculiar object is. The sportsman can then watch



the birds with his eye through one hole, while with his gun through the other he fires at them.

The name of the implement is *Birak esh-Shinanir*, that is “standard or flag of the partridges.”¹

¹ The “flag of the partridges” was frequently used by Hassan, who went with me and Mr. Hornstein to Moab in 1899. In my journal for April 5th of that year, I wrote:—“On the way up (the hills east of Jordan) Hassan shot

III.—A NOTE ON WEST PALESTINIAN DOLMENS.

In the *Quarterly Statement* of July, 1901, p. 231, I have spoken of the Beit Jibrin dolmen as "the first example of a megalithic sepulchral monument discovered in Western Palestine." I regret that Père Vincent's excellent paper on the "Rude Stone Monuments of Western Palestine," published in the April "Revue Biblique," did not reach me till after my note had been printed, as I should not then have claimed for my own discovery the honour of priority, which properly belongs to the finds of the Dominican Fathers of Jerusalem. I was unaware till I read Père Vincent's paper that the Abu Dis and other dolmens had been noticed so long before the Beit Jibrin monument was found, and I trust I will be forgiven the implied slight I have unintentionally cast on the discoveries of other investigators.

IV.—ADDENDA TO THE LIST OF RHODIAN STAMPED JAR-HANDLES FROM TELL SANDAHANNAH.

The following handles were found after the list published in the *Quarterly Statement* for January and April, 1901, had been despatched to the Fund office. The plate of alphabets, &c., having been sent with the list, and not being available for reference when the present appendix was drawn up, the paleographical details given in column 8 of the list could not be tabulated, and are therefore here omitted:—

a partridge with the aid of a stalking cloth—a rough representation of a bird of prey, something like a large shield, which he held in front of him as he advanced, and planted upright on the ground when within shot. The effect of the shield was to frighten the bird and keep it cowering on the ground whilst Hassan advanced and finally fired through a hole in the cloth." When not in use the cloth and two sticks were carried separately.—C. W. W.

No.	Shape of Seal.	Size of Seal, in centimetres.	Condition of Seal.	Device.	Position of Inscription relatively to Device.	Inscription.
308	Rectangular	— × 1·9	Beginning broken off, surface scaled.	—	—	[[] NOT [[]]
309	"	4·4 × 1·6	Perfect	—	—	ΕΠΙ ΑΡΙΣΤΟΜΑΧΟΥ ΤΑΚΙΝΘΙΟΥ
310	"	4·4 × 1·45	"	—	—	ΕΠΙ ΑΝΔΡΟ ΝΙΚΟΥ ΑΡΤΑΜΙΤΙΟΥ
311	"	— × 1·35	End broken off, much worn.	—	—	ΑΣ * Ο[
312	"	4·65 × 1·8	Very badly stamped ..	—	—	ΕΤΤΑ * * * ΟΥ []
313	"	4·1 × 1·6	Perfect	Bunch of grapes.	To left ..	ΑΙΝΟΥ
314	"	3·25 × 1·5	Worn	—	—	ΑΓΗΣΙΛΑ
315	"	— × 1·6	Beginning broken off, end worn.	Square frame	Inside ..	[TH[[MY[[ON[
316	"	3·4 × 1·6	Worn	—	—	ΕΠΙ ΣΤΡΟ * * ΤΟΥ ΠΑΝΑΜΟΥ
317	Oval	— × —	Half broken away ..	Rose	Surrounding ..	[ΠΥΘΟΔΩΡ[

No.	Shape of Seal.	Size of Seal, in centimetres.	Condition of Seal.	Device.	Position of Inscription relatively to Device.	Inscription.
318	Oval ..	— × 2·6	Side broken away ..	Rose	Surrounding..	[Ε]ΠΙ·ΕΥΔΩΡΟΥ Δ[ΑΛΙΟΥ]
319	Rectangular	3·75 × 1·58	Slightly chipped ..	Caduceus ..	Under ..	ΑΝΤΙΜΑΧΟΥ
320	Oval ..	2·25 × 0·95	Perfect	—	—	ΩΩΥ
321	Rectangular	3·9 × 1·4	Smearcd	—	—	ΕΠΙ [Δ?] ΗΜΟ Κ]ΡΑΤ[ΕΥΣ []
322	Oval ..	— × —	Nearly all broken away	All gone ..	Surrounding ..	[Ε]ΠΙ Μ[
323	Circular ..	3·2 diam.	Worn	Rose	Surrounding, reading out- wards.	ΕΠΙ ΑΡΙΣΤΟΚΡ[ΑΤ?]ΟΥ ΑΡΤΑΜΙΤΙΟΥ
324	Oval ..	2·5 × —	Smearcd, half broken away.	„	Surrounding ..]ΤΟΧ[Μ?
325	Rectangular	4·1 × 1·55	Slightly smearcd ..	—	—	ΜΟΛΒ[ΡΙΝ?]ΟΣ ΘΕΣΜΟΦΟΡΙΟΥ
326	„	— × 1·6	Badly stamped, begin- ning broken off.	—	—	[ΕΠΙ Ε]ΕΝΟΦΩΝ [ΤΟΣ] []ΟΥ
327	„	3·2 × —	Top smearcd	—	—	[] ΦΙΛΑΙΝΙΟΥ
328	„	3·7 × 1·6	Worn	Caduceus ..	Above ..	ΔΡΑΚΟΝΤΙΔΑ

There was also a duplicate of No. 88, which, however, was too worn to enable me to determine the nature of the device. It is curious to find the caduceus in 328 associated with ΔΠΑΚΟΝΤΙΑΑ, which at Sandahannah and elsewhere, so far as I know, has always hitherto been connected with an anchor.

The reviewer of the *Quarterly Statement* in the "Revue Biblique" has reminded me that I have overlooked Guthe's find of jar-handles of this type in my list of previous discoveries in Palestine of antiquities of this class. I regret the oversight. A jar-handle from Tell es-Sâfi must also be included. It was published in the *Quarterly Statement* of October, 1899, as bearing a Samaritan inscription, and really the letters look more like Samaritan than anything else. I have carefully re-examined it in varying lights, and have had to confess myself beaten by it: no doubt it is a Rhodian handle, though the inscription is illegible. It shows a caduceus, the head of which appears in the cut. I have also seen a handle with an illegible stamp, picked up at Abu Shusheh.

V.—THE NICOPHORIEH TOMB.

The following notes are designed to supplement, not to supersede, the valuable account of this monument contributed soon after its discovery by Dr. Schick to the *Quarterly Statement* (1892, pp. 115 *et seq.*):—

I. *Kasr el-Asafir*.—This small building is not described by Dr. Schick, being, as he says, of no great interest. It is rectangular, standing almost exactly east and west (prismatic compass reading of the long axis 271°). The outcrop of rock on which it is built is about 7 to 8 feet in maximum height above the surrounding ground; it is roughly scarped. The doorway of the building has been in the east side, but it is broken out, and is now merely an irregular hole. At the west end is a recess with a well-turned arch over it; the recess is 2 feet 6 inches across and 11½ inches deep. The floor is choked up with grass-grown earth and stones. The cores of the walls are composed of small stones set in mud, and are faced with hammer-dressed roughly-squared stones, set in cement with very wide joints between them. On the stones of the arch just referred to are

marks of comb-dressing, but there is nowhere else any trace of finer dressing in the building. There is nothing to show how the building was roofed; the two long walls, especially that on the south side, are ruined almost to their foundations. The greatest height of wall remaining—at the east end—is 10 feet. The recess in the outside of the west wall is probably accidental.

The dimensions are:—Length, 17 feet 8 inches; breadth, 14 feet 6 inches (internally). Thickness of walls, from 2 feet 5 inches to 3 feet 5 inches.

The building, on the whole, bears considerable resemblance to the small seventh century cratories on the western islands of Ireland and Scotland—that is, in its present ruined state. It seems from Dr. Schick's plan to have been more perfect in 1892, and to have had a rather different appearance. The analogy suggested is, of course, merely intended as an aid to description, and no connexion is drawn between the Kasr and the buildings cited. The specimen of masonry shown in the drawing¹ is from the inside of the west wall.

II.—On a projecting knob of rock, scarped all round, 16 feet east of the Kasr el-Asafir, is a cup-shaped mark $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep, $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches across; and across a neighbouring and similar knob is cut a channel. These may be the remains of an ancient cup-mark system destroyed when the rock was prepared for the reception of the building.

III. *The Rock Scarps north of the Kasr el-Asafir* (see plan facing p. 117 of the *Quarterly Statement* for 1892).—Dr. Schick's plan gives an excellent idea of this complicated system of cuttings. In the following points I venture respectfully to differ from him:—

(1) The shading of the rock-scarp south and east of Kasr el-Asafir should be on the other side of the line.

(2) I do not think there is sufficient evidence for the existence of steps at the south end of the isolated rectangular mass of rock.

(3) In the extreme south-east corner of this mass of rock is a shallow trough, apparently a rock-cut olive press, partly hidden by earth.

(4) In the corner of the higher portion of this mass of rock, just north of the north-west corner of the place marked "formerly

¹ This drawing (with a plan of the building) is deposited in the office of the Fund.

steps," is a small cistern, about 10 feet north to south by about 8 feet east to west, with barrel-vaulted roof; lined with cement throughout.

(5) The "water-channel" indicated west of the mass of rock is no longer to be traced with certainty, having become clogged and concealed with fallen stones.

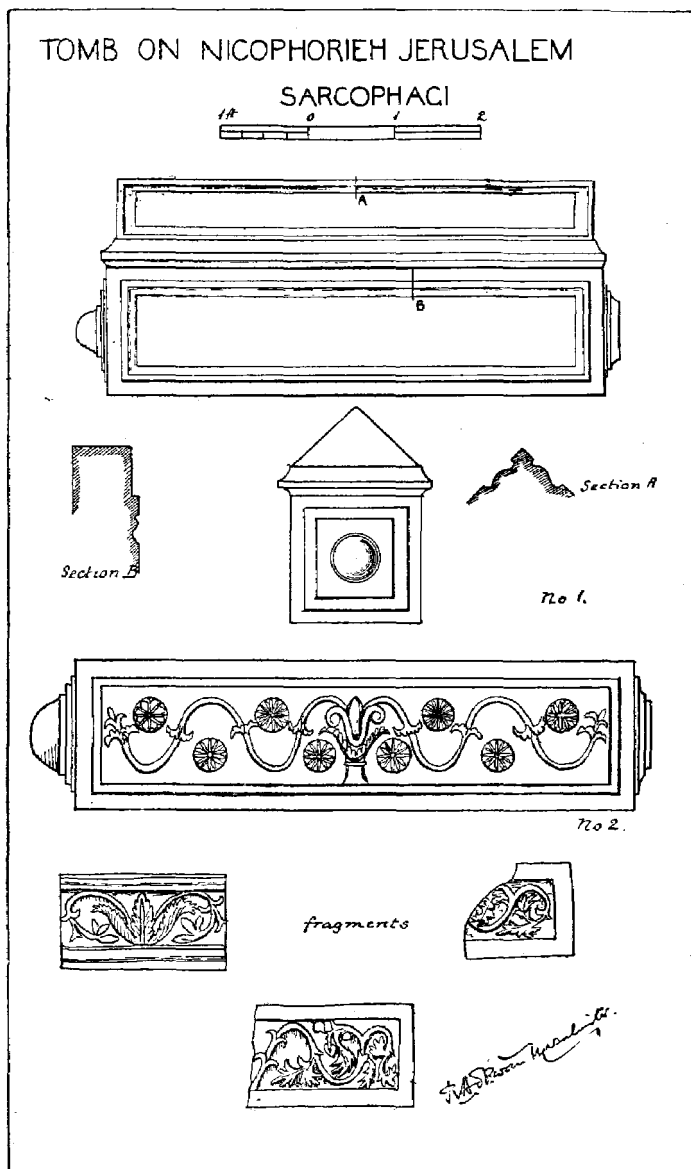
(6) The lines of scarping surrounding the isolated mass of rock are so irregular and lacking in design, that I cannot feel satisfied that they are anything more important than an ancient quarry. The rectangular sinking marked "grave" (6 feet 10 inches long, 2 feet 4 inches across, 3 to 4 feet deep) seems to me merely the hole from which a block or blocks have been removed. The double scarp running westward from it consists of a low southern wall 1 foot high, a horizontal step 2 feet 3 inches wide, and a deep drop, excavated to 7 feet 4 inches, but apparently going deeper.

(7) Beside the scarped rocks indicated in the plan there is an irregular floor of limestone, 45 feet north-west from the north-west angle of Kasr el-Asafir. This shows traces of having been artificially smoothed, and is terminated eastward by a straight side, 10 feet long, apparently worked. The face of this side is not vertical, but bevelled.

IV. *The Cave under the Isolated Mass of Rock.*—To my eye this appears to be the artificial enlargement of a wide and shallow natural cavern. The eastern portion shows no sign of artificial working; it is 17 paces or about 30 feet wide at the entrance. The inner portion is a roughly rectangular chamber, 7 feet 9 inches in height and 21 feet 4 inches across. The eastern side is quite open, and on the other three sides are rectangular recesses, extending to 1 foot 3 inches of the roof.

V.—The tomb-chambers, to which Dr. Schick seems to have had difficulty in obtaining access, have their long axis practically north and south, the entrance facing north. There is a modern iron gate at the door, which formerly was secured by a large rolling-stone about 6 feet in diameter and 18 inches thick. This still remains in the channel in which it ran. The entrance leads downward by a slope and two steps to a vestibule, 13 feet 3 inches by 13 feet (but not quite rectangular). A doorway 4 feet 1½ inches long leads to a small room, covered with a barrel-vaulted roof. This room is about 7 feet 8 inches by 5 feet 8 inches. There are

it stand the handsome sarcophagi represented on the Plate. There are two of these remaining: one is plain, with simple panelling



worked on the sides; the other has a floral scroll and rosettes. The latter has lost its cover, and the loss has been supplied with three fragments of other covers, not apparently intended to be associated with the sarcophagus on which they stand or with each other. The chamber is 24 feet 8 inches long, 9 feet 8½ inches across. Beyond it are two rough chambers, apparently unfinished: the first has a bare rock surface on the walls, supplemented with inserted stones when irregular, and in the jamb of the door. The second was apparently an old entrance (perhaps for workmen), as its roof consists of movable blocks of stone, apparently supporting earth.

The walls in all the principal chambers and passages are lined with marble slabs. The doors were closed by slabs cut to fit the reveals. These slabs are still lying about the tomb.

A sufficient number of the fragments of carved stones lying about outside the tomb have already been published by Dr. Schick. To attempt to fit them into their places in a hypothetical surface structure would, I am convinced, prove a rather more hopeless task than restoration of the Mausoleum of Halicarnassus. They are mostly fragments of egg-and-tongue and other classical ornaments, volutes, acanthus leaves, and various mouldings—nearly all of a very debased or provincial type.

I prefer to abstain from speculation as to the persons for whom this tomb was intended. In the absence of inscriptions all such speculation is mere guesswork, impossible to disprove or to substantiate.

HILL OF "JEREMIAH'S GROTTTO," CALLED BY GENERAL GORDON "SKULL HILL."

By Dr. CONRAD SCHICK.

1. In 1842, O. Thenius suggested, on various topographical grounds, that this hill was Calvary, where Christ was crucified. In 1883 the late General Gordon came to the same conclusion from quite other reasons. He founded his opinion on the contour line 2,549 feet above the sea (Ordnance Survey of Jerusalem, $\frac{1}{2500}$ plan, 1864-65), which has roughly the form of a skull,