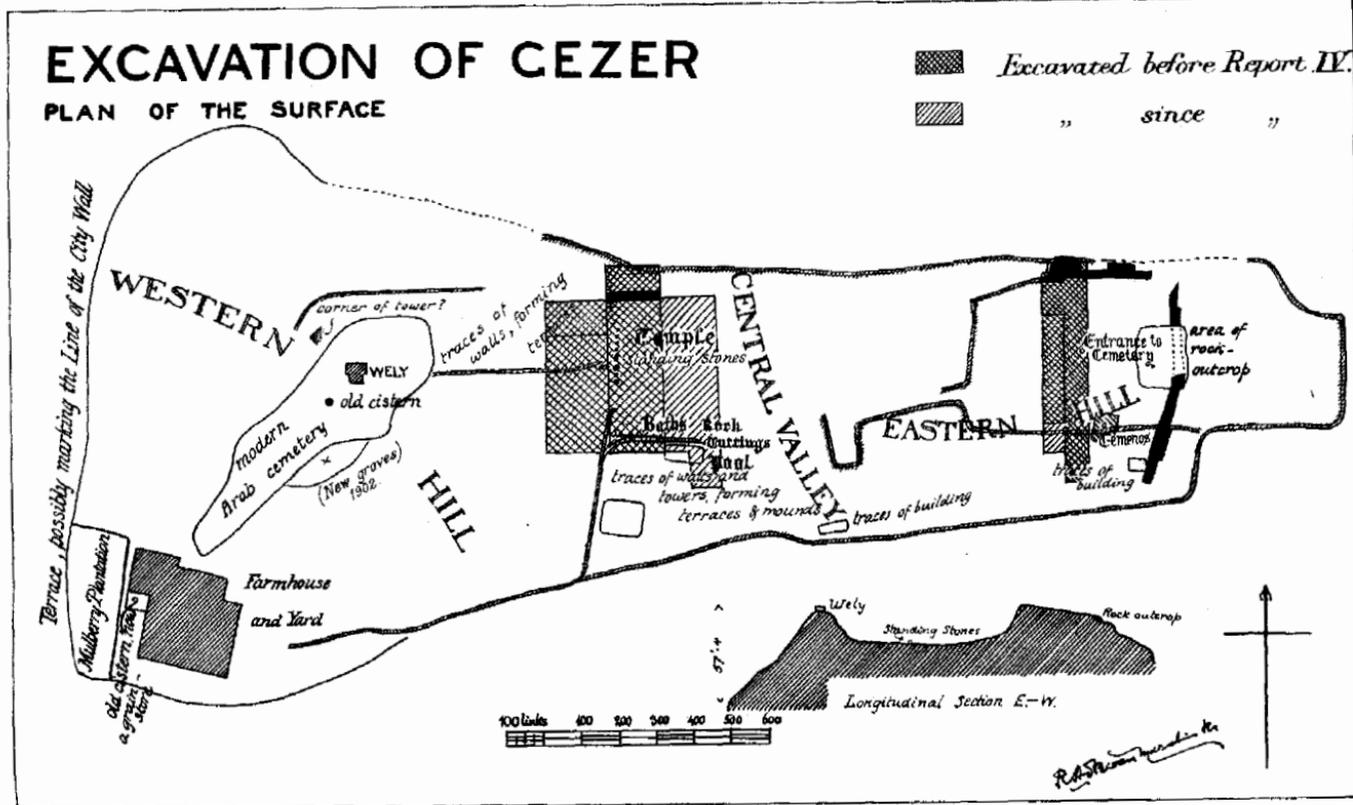


EXCAVATION OF CEZER

PLAN OF THE SURFACE

Excavated before Report IV.
 " since "



FIFTH QUARTERLY REPORT ON THE EXCAVATION OF GEZER.

(16 *May*—15 *August*, 1903.)

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

§ I.—SUMMARY OF THE QUARTER'S WORK.

THE discoveries made during the past quarter have been of considerable interest, though as none call for very lengthy description the present report will be shorter than usual. The work has advanced without serious interruption, five days only being lost, owing to a severe fever contracted by the foremen of the labourers.

The tell continues as prolific as ever in small objects of stone, metal, and pottery. Further material for the study of "lamp and bowl" deposits has been found, and evidence is now forthcoming connecting them with human sacrifice. The harvest of scarabs and other evidences of Egyptian influence is undiminished. Inscribed stones, including one of considerable interest, have come to light, holding out hopes that the tell may still contain written documents of importance. Several fresh caves have been opened and cleared with interesting results, the foundations of important buildings of various periods have been unearthed, and a cistern has been opened containing human bones furnishing further material for osteological study.

Probably the most important discovery, however, is a rock surface with cuttings and caves which there seems good reason to regard as a place of worship belonging to the aboriginal inhabitants, antedating the "High Place" of the Amorite cities.

§ II.—STONE AND METAL OBJECTS.

Alabaster.—Jugs and saucers (the latter of the type illustrated in Fig. 2 of the previous report) in this material are still frequent. The most remarkable alabaster vessel found during this quarter is a small squat jug, with extravagantly wide rim (Plate II, Fig. 1) discovered in fragments in the Seleucid stratum. This vessel is distinguished from the other alabaster jugs found on the tell by the

shape of the hollow of its interior, which is not merely a cylindrical hole bored through the middle of the vessel, but follows the curves of the exterior outline.

Several examples of a circular reel-like object in alabaster, with a convex top, flat bottom, and concave sides, perforated along the axis, have been discovered. They are about $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter and 1 inch high. These may be mace-heads of a different pattern from the normal form, or else may be intended for winding thread upon. They seem to be too heavy for spindlewheels (Plate II, Fig. 10).

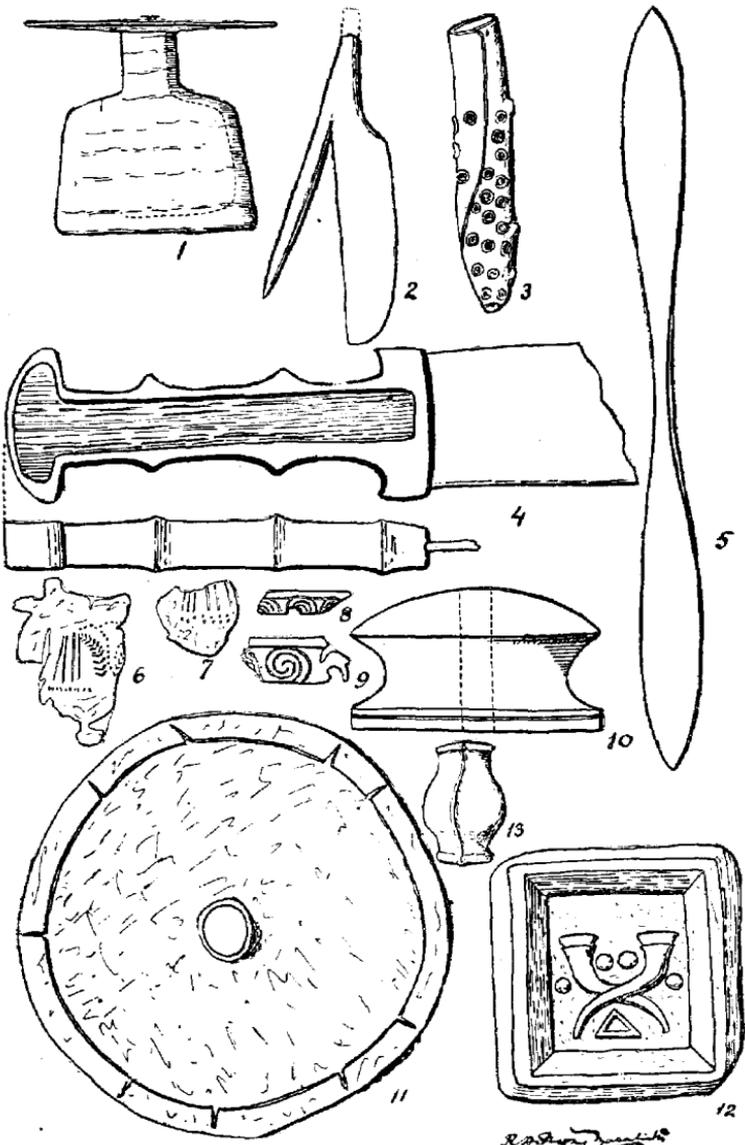
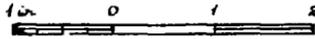
Draught-boards and Men.—I have noticed in previous reports that draught-boards were unaccountably missing from the antiquities on the tell. Some examples have at last been found, nearly all fragmentary, but enough to show that they were provided for playing a variety of games. One example, for instance, has but three rows of squares, while a perfect specimen from Tell Zakariya had no less than $12 \times 12 = 144$ squares. On this Gezer example certain squares are marked by a **X** laid over them; with this is to be contrasted a small fragment from Tell eš-Šâfi having the **X** on the intersections of the lines marking out the squares. It is unfortunate that most of the chequer-boards that have come to light in Palestine have been fragmentary, but enough remain to show that there were a large number of possible arrangements of the squares.

A collection of 13 small water-worn pebbles, each about the size of an ordinary ivory card-counter and three times as thick, was found in the lower Jewish stratum. These had evidently been collected on the sea shore, and carried thence to the city, perhaps to serve as draughtmen, or as counters to assist calculation (like the pellets of an abacus).

Miscellaneous.—It is difficult, if not impossible, to tell of what the fragment figured on p. 302 formed a part. It is of heavy, close-grained brown slate, $6\frac{3}{4}$ inches long. The sides converge upwards, the top being $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches broad, the bottom $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The fragment is $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches deep. The top bears a longitudinal groove, semicircular in section, and another crossing it transversely and stopping it $\frac{3}{8}$ inch from the end. The sides display a number of holes and triangular and square depressions, from which it would appear that the fragment was broken from the object to which it belonged in ancient times, and that an attempt was made to secure

EXCAVATION OF CEZER

MISCELLANEOUS OBJECTS



Robertson

it in position by fish-plates and dove-tail rivets. There are, however, one or two holes that cannot easily be thus accounted for, and I

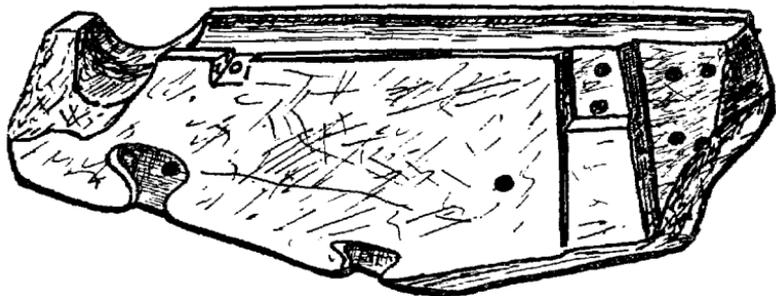


FIG. 1.—Stone Fragment.

do not think that enough remains to enable us to determine exactly to what the fragment belonged.

Bronze.—In the second report (p. 39 *ante*) I described fragments of a pottery tray or dish, covered on its upper surface with a lining of bronze. This description I must now correct. Examination of similar fragments subsequently found lead me to the conclusion that in these objects we are to see the remains of vessels in which bronze was melted for casting, the apparent bronze lining being the waste material remaining after the metal had been poured into the moulds. The vessels show marks of fire, and are (as might be expected) of thick coarse pottery.

The melted bronze was poured into stone moulds, several specimens of which have already been found and described. Arrowheads were sometimes cast in pairs, joined end to end, and afterwards cut separate. This is shown by a curious example found in fragments, in which the separation had not been effected (Plate II, Fig. 5).

A solid rod of bronze, 1 foot $8\frac{3}{4}$ inches long, broken into three pieces, was found in a cistern. This was possibly a sceptre. Two examples (one fragmentary) have been found of a curious tube with perforations. This I cannot explain unless it be a chape or cap for the end of a lance (Plate II, Fig. 3). Equally difficult to assign to its purpose is a knife with a projecting spur at the back, found in fragments on the rock (Plate II, Fig. 2).

The other bronze objects enumerated in this quarter's catalogue are of the species usually found—fibulæ, arrow- and spearheads,

axes, rings, pins, needles, &c. These need not be individually mentioned. The only other bronze object calling for reference is a fine sword-handle, with part of the blade remaining, from the lower Jewish stratum. The sides of the hilt were hollow and inlaid with bone plates, fragments of which still remained when the object was discovered, though they rapidly disintegrated (Plate II, Fig. 4).

Iron.—A spearhead, $7\frac{1}{4}$ inches long, and a large fibula are the only objects in iron that need be mentioned. The latter type of object is rare in this metal.

Lead.—In the Seleucid stratum was found a square weight of lead (Plate II, Fig. 12), resembling one already found in the upper town at Tell Sandahannah. The latter bore an inscription, in place of which the Gezer example is stamped with two cornucopias and the letter Δ , no doubt a numerical sign. The Sandahannah weight has two knobs at the side, apparently indicating that it was meant to weigh double the standard; the similar Gezer weight should weigh four times the standard, or double the Sandahannah weight. The actual weights are respectively 145 grammes and 263.60 grammes, which is a sufficiently close approximation to the required proportion. Vessels made of lead are rare, so that a small jug $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches high, made in two halves welded together, is worth mentioning (Plate II, Fig. 13), as is also a circular disc $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter, with the edges turned back and a round hole in the centre (Plate II, Fig. 11).

Silver.—Within 3 feet of the rock was found a curious pendant or locket (Fig. 2). It is circular, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in diameter. The object

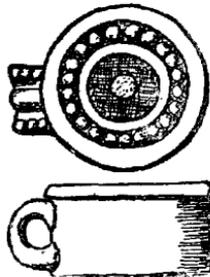


FIG. 2.—Silver Amulet.

resembles a pillbox with a loop attached for suspension to the sides. The centre of the ring is enamelled—deep blue with a white spot in the middle—and round the enamel runs a ring of

small knobs. The box when found was full of white earth, quite different from that in which the object was embedded.

Gold.—Several torn and crushed fragments of gold leaf were found in a hoard belonging to the late Canaanite or early Jewish period. These had probably been torn off a statue or some such object; several of them show delicate *repoussé* linear and spiral ornament (Plate II, Figs. 6–9).

§ III.—POTTERY.

Miscellaneous.—Three different objects, all from the Seleucid stratum, must here be referred to. The first is the neck of a



FIG. 3.—Terra-cotta Statuette.

vessel surmounted by a strainer, resembling a modern pepper-caster. The second is a fragment of a fine multiple lamp. The third is a charming figurine in terra-cotta, representing a mother suckling her infant son. The upper half of the statuette alone remains; it is 3 inches in height. The mother's figure is attired in chlamys and himation, the latter drawn back, revealing the hair confined by a band; the child's figure is undraped.

Painted Ware.—Two fragments are deserving of mention. The first is a sherd with a curious animal figure painted upon it in red

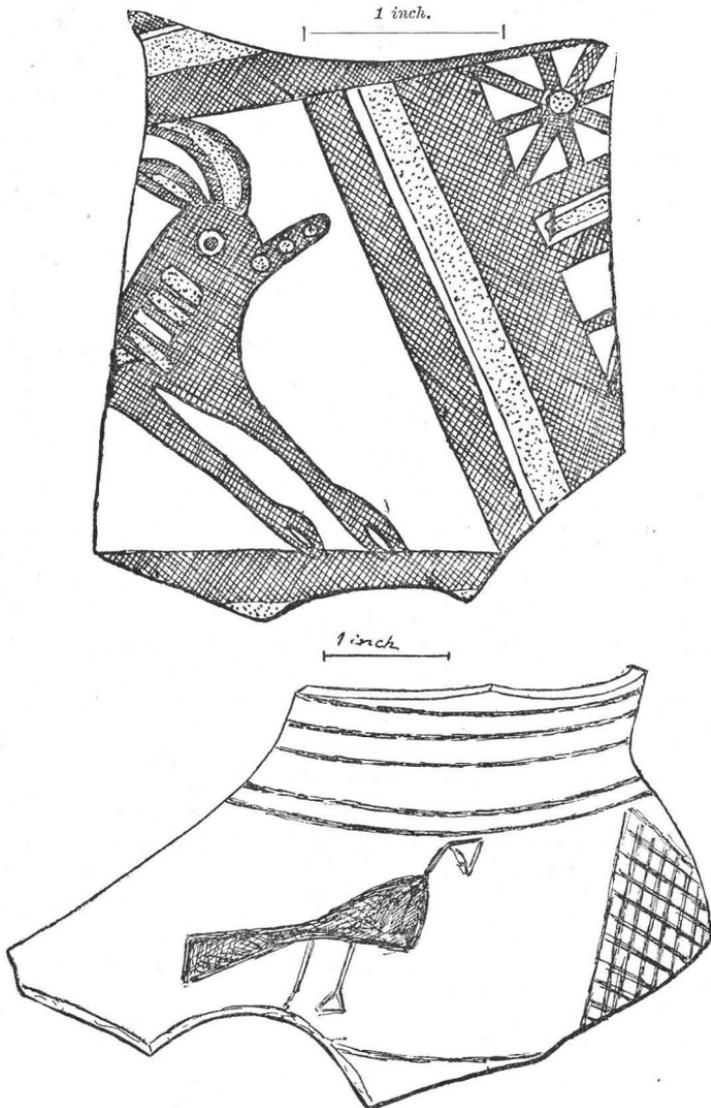


FIG. 4.—Two Fragments of Painted Ware.

and black. The second is part of a vase of brick-red ware, bearing figures of peacocks and frets in dark Indian-red lines upon it.

Animal Figures.—These continue to be common, mostly in fragments. A goat's head with long horns is the most novel and striking specimen.

Stamped Jar-handles.—One more handle with a Hebrew stamp has been found, but, like the others, it is hopelessly illegible; I do not think it was ever stamped with sufficient clearness to be read. A considerable number of jar-handles with Rhodian stamps were found in the upper strata; the inscriptions of these will be tabulated in the concluding memoir. The following, however, may be given here, as they are of especial importance, being a pair of handles from one amphora; they show the name of the magistrate and of the merchant together, and afford one more datum for the determination of the chronological order of the governors of Rhodes. Each stamp is oval, with a rose in the centre. The inscriptions are:—

ΕΠΙ ΑΡΙΣΤΟΔΑΜΟΥ ΒΑΤ[ΡΟΜ]ΙΩΝ (*sic*)
ΙΠΠΟΚΡΑΤΕΥΣ

§ IV.—LAMP AND BOWL DEPOSITS.

A few further observations have been made on the subject of this puzzling foundation rite.

In the first place, it is to be noticed that the deposits are generally found under the ends of walls—that is, at the corners of houses or chambers, or just under door-jambs. There are occasional exceptions to this rule, in which the deposit is found under the middle of a wall; in all probability these exceptions are apparent rather than real, a doorway having formerly existed over the site of the deposit, but having disappeared owing to the wall being ruined below its threshold.

Secondly, it would appear that the rite at which these deposits were made involved the pouring of some liquid into the deposited vessels. This is to be inferred from the frequency with which the vessels are made watertight by a kind of lime cement smeared over or pressed into any cracks that may exist in the pottery. This is seldom if ever to be seen in vessels found elsewhere on the tell, but is a peculiarity of the members of lamp and bowl groups.

This liquid most probably was either blood or grape-juice, which latter in toned-down sacrificial rites often takes the place of blood; for evidence is gradually accumulating that these foundation

deposits are primarily sacrificial, and that a human victim was immolated in the original form of the rite. In my last report I have referred to the discovery of infant bones buried under the corners of house walls. In the accompanying plate (III)¹ a very striking connecting link is illustrated, bridging the gap between the deposited infants' bones and the lamp and bowl groups.

The wall in which this deposit was found belonged to an early Canaanite stratum. The deposit consisted of the following nine members :—

(1) A pointed-bottomed jar, about 2 feet in length, lying on its side, exactly under and flush with the western face of the wall, and found, when opened, to contain the bodies of two infants (probably twins). This is the first time that two infants have been found in one jar. The mouth of the jar had been broken in order to permit of the insertion of the bodies.

(2, 3) Two shallow bowls with moulded rims, deposited above the jar, No. 1.

(4, 5) Two plain hemispherical saucers, one inside the other, and both inside the bowl, No. 2.

(6) A jug with a round mouth and one handle, standing upright behind the jar, No. 1, and consequently under the middle of the wall.

(7, 8) Two lamps, one inside the other, placed between No. 1 and No. 9.

(9) A small jug with one handle, placed beside No. 6.

On the plate are diagrams of the various members of the deposit, and of the method of their arrangement.

This elaborate deposit, which is quite the most important yet found, seems to indicate an evolution in the foundation-rite that may be outlined as follows :—

(*a*) A sacrifice in which an infant was built into the wall, probably (if analogy with the customs of other countries and races be reliable) alive.

(*β*) The previous slaughter of the victim and the deposition of the body in a jar, as in the temple sacrifices.

(*γ*) Addition of other vessels of pottery to the jar containing the body, possibly containing food for the victim.

¹ [Photographic views of this pottery group will be reproduced in the concluding Memoir.]

(δ) Addition of a permanent symbolisation of the act of sacrifice, consisting of a lamp, typical of fire, and a bowl or bowls containing blood or some substitute for it.

(ε) Omission of the human victim and retention of the symbols.

That the lamp and bowl deposits have a certain parallelism with the infant sacrifices is perhaps indicated by the fact that at Tell el-Hesi, where the infant jars were filled with fine sand, the lamp and bowl groups were also filled with sand or fine earth. At Gezer, on the other hand, where the infant jars are not so filled, the lamp and bowl groups with fine earth in them, differing from the earth with which they are surrounded, are distinctly exceptional, although within two hours' walk from the site of Gezer, on the ground where Ramleh stands now, an inexhaustible supply of sand could be obtained if it were considered indispensable for either purpose.

§ V.—EGYPTIAN OBJECTS.

The Egyptian objects found during the past quarter are of the same classes as those described in previous reports—fragments of saucers made of paste covered with green enamel and ornamented with brown lines, beads, figures of Bes and other divinities, Horus-eyes and other amulets, and scarabs.

Hardly a day passes in which some evidence of Egyptian occupation or influence is not forthcoming, whether the work happens to be in progress in the earlier or in the later strata. Until the discovery of historical inscriptions no very certain conclusions can be drawn from this, but judging from the distribution of objects from Egypt it seems certain that that country was dominant over Gezer throughout its history as no other foreign nation seems to have been. Of the hypothetical "Land of Muşri" (which ought to be revealing some evidence of its existence through Solomon's marriage with its supposed princess) no trace has yet been found.

Scarabs apparently were imported to serve as seals, a possession for which there probably was as great a craze in the east in ancient as in modern times. This is possibly the reason why hardly any have been found with royal names. Their use as potters' stamps for jar-handles has already been described and illustrated; during this quarter I have found examples of weaver's weights bearing impressions of scarabs, which is a novelty, as well as a fragment of a jar-stopper with such an impression stamped upon it three times.

A considerable number of uninscribed specimens have, however, also been found, showing that scarabs were not only used for seals; they had probably the same value as amulets in Gezer as in Egypt.

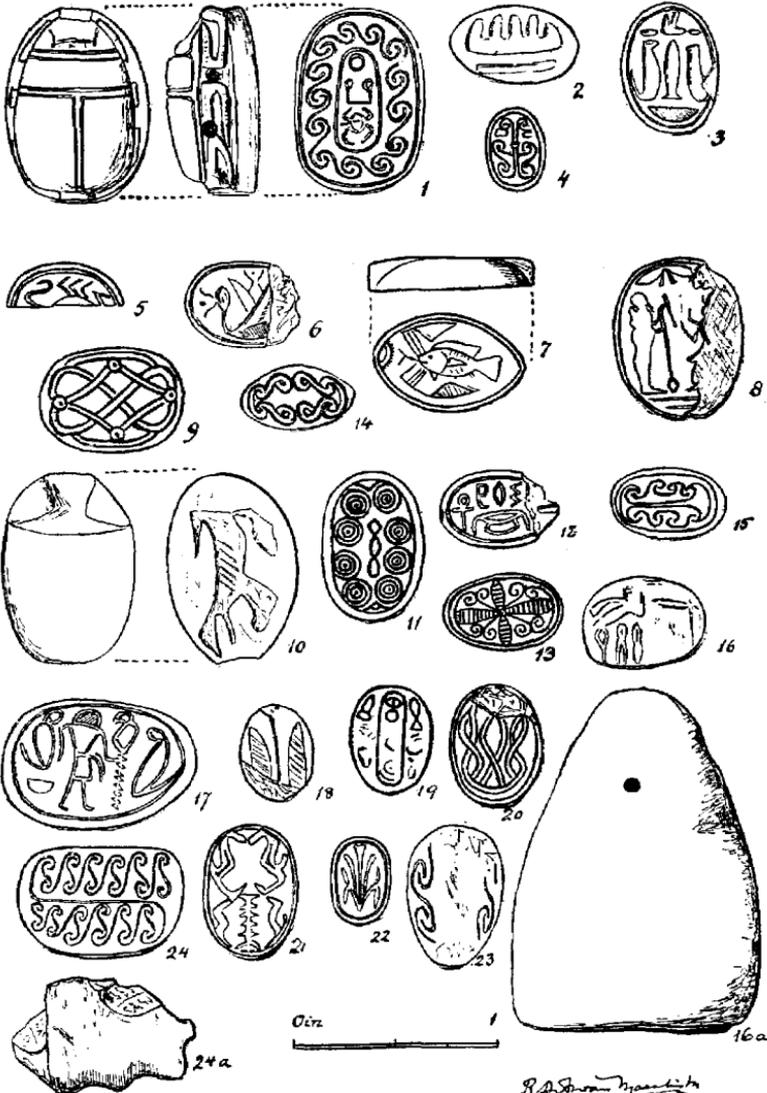
As in the previous report I can best display the scarabs discovered during the quarter in tabular form:—

No.	Fig. on Pl. IV.	Stratum.	Material.	Device, &c.
1	1	III	White steatite ..	K'ḥpr-r' in an oval (P Usertesen I).
2	2	III	Green enamelled paste.	<i>mn.</i>
3	3	III	Green enamelled paste.	<i>hn</i> between two uræi, <i>nb</i> below; above indistinguishable (probably a flying scarabæus).
4	—	III	Green enamelled paste.	No device.
5	4	III	Steatite	Symmetrical ornament.
6	—	IV	Blue enamelled paste.	No device.
7	—	IV	Blue enamelled paste.	<i>imn</i> (Amen).
8	5	IV	Green enamelled paste.	A scorpion (half broken away).
9	6	IV	Green enamelled paste.	A bird.
10	7	V	Diorite	A fish.
11	10	VI	Limestone ..	A lioness.
12	—	From a cistern	Amethyst ..	No device.
13	8	From a cistern	Ivory	Divinity with worshipper.
14	—	From a cistern	Hæmatite ..	No device.
15	—	From a cistern	Hæmatite ..	No device.
16	—	From a cistern	Green serpentine	Simple pattern 
17	—	Depth not noted	Hæmatite ..	No device.
18	—	Depth not noted	Jade	No device.
19	—	Depth not noted	Amethyst ..	No device.
20	—	Depth not noted	Amethyst ..	No device (a gold mount remaining on this scarab).
21	9	Depth not noted	Stone	Ornamental pattern.
22	11	Depth not noted	Steatite	Ornamental pattern.
23	12	Depth not noted	Steatite	<i>nb</i> and other characters.

The scarab-seals on jar-handles are, as will be seen, of the usual kind—principally symmetrical interlacing ornaments characteristic of middle empire scarabs. The most remarkable of the series is Fig. 17 on the plate, found impressed, not on a jar-handle, but on the top of a weaver's weight. Fig. 16a represents a similar weight

EXCAVATION OF CEZER

SCARABS (1-12) & STAMPS (13-24)



(drawn to half the scale of the plate) with the seal on its crest. Fig. 24a is the fragment of a bottle-stopper (also drawn to half scale) which has already been mentioned; Fig. 24 is the seal itself.

A small green enamel paste figure of Isis and Nephthys and a curious little statuette in the same material of two cats are the only other Egyptian objects found this quarter requiring illustration.

§ VI.—INSCRIBED STONES.

Several fragments of clunch bearing devices, and two with writing, have been found in the Seleucid stratum this quarter. Of the former the most curious is a fragment with three palm trees. Another seems to represent a portion of a seated figure on a chair.



FIG. 5.—Inscribed Stone.

The two stones with writing are more interesting. The first (Fig. 5) bears two rudely scratched figures of animals and the opening letters of the Greek alphabet, ΑΒΓΔΕ. The first four letters are repeated, with the capital Α substituted for the uncial Α. Underneath the first of these letter-rows were evidently written the opening letters of the Hebrew alphabet, אבגדה, but unfortunately a fracture of the stone has carried away all but the first and last of these.

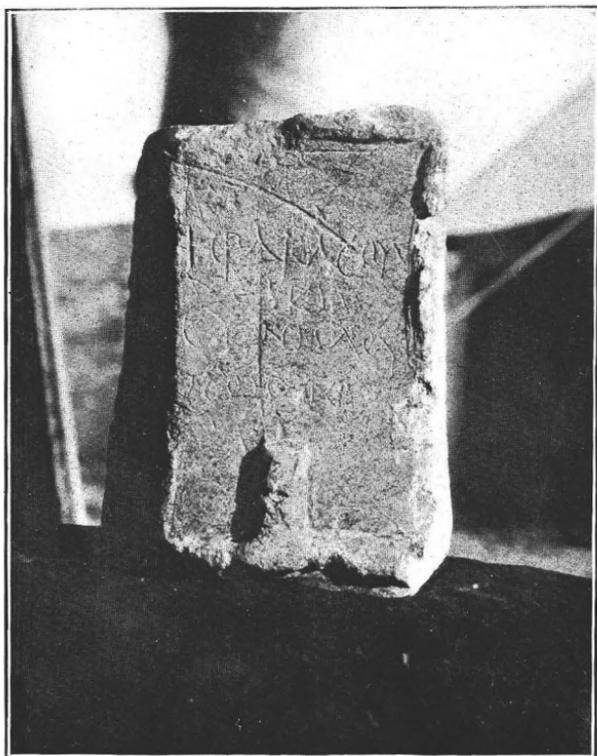


FIG. 6.—First Face.

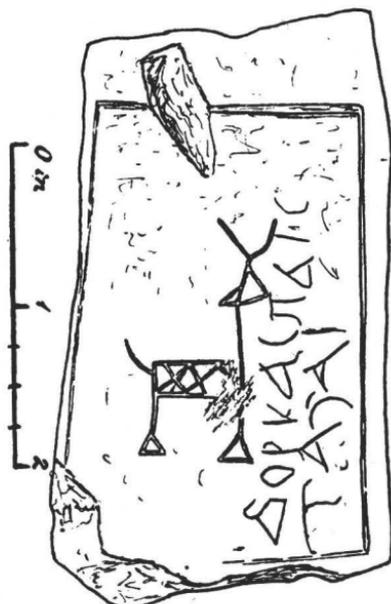


FIG. 7.—Fourth Face.

This is all probably merely a schoolboy's or idle person's scribbling. Much more curious is the second of the inscribed stones. It is a block of clunch, $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches high, $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches broad, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick. These are the *mean* measurements, for the object is irregularly formed and not one of its sides or ends is truly rectangular. It has all the appearance of being a small votive object in the form of an altar, and such I take it to be. All four faces are inscribed in Greek.

The first face (Fig. 6) is recessed within a much broken frame; a tongue projects upwards over the face of the panel from the lower border, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long, $\frac{3}{8}$ inch across. The inscription is easily legible:

ΗΡΑΚΛΕΟΥΣ
ΝΕΙΚΗ
ΕΥΝΗΛΟΥ
ΠΟΗ[Σ]ΙΣ

But the interpretation is not so easy. *Νείκη*, "a quarrel, judicial dispute, battle," does not seem to make any intelligible sense: so far as I can see the second word must be meant for *νίκη*, "victory," and the whole must imply that the object is "the workmanship of Eunêlos" in acknowledgment of a "victory" of some kind which he has gained and ascribes to the favour of Hêracles. The fourth letter of *ποίησις* (for *ποίησις*) is the only damaged or doubtful character on this face; it has been lost by a fracture of the stone.

The second face is similar to the first, but broader; it also has a frame surrounding it with a projecting tongue below, in this case \perp -shaped. The writing on this and the two remaining faces reads vertically from bottom to top; that on the first face is in four horizontal lines. At the top is a device of random lines which I am totally unable to explain or describe; the drawing, which has been prepared with the aid of a camera lucida, shows its nature. The lower right-hand corner of this face is broken off, and some letters lost of the inscription, which runs as follows:—

ΕΥΝΗΛΟΥΙΩ
ΝΟC
ΙΔΩ
ΙΝΑCΙΟΥ
ΕΟΡΤΗ
* * * ΚΙΟΥ

In the first two lines we have again the name of Eunēlos, with that of, probably, his father Iōn. The fourth and fifth lines mean "the feast of Inasios," which is not very illuminating. In the middle is **IAΩ**, the Greek form of the Hebrew Divine name **יהוה** which is surely unexpected on an altar dedicated to Hēracles; it can only be explained as an illustration of the overlap of creeds, and of the influence of the religion of the Yahweh-worshippers on the Greek settlers in the town. The last line might be restored in many ways. It is tempting to think of *'Αλλείου*, the name upon the boundary stones; but no restoration can be more than a doubtful guess.

The third face bears four lines of writing within a simple ornamental border. The writing is much worn, and no grammatical or, indeed, intelligible sequence of words seems to emerge from such of the letters as are still decipherable (asterisks denote letters which are broken from the stone):—

ΔΤΑΦ[ΗΧ?]ΕΙ
ΤΟ * ΝΙΚΑ *
ΟΝ[ΟΙΧ?] * ΧΕ[ΡΩ ?]
ΧΟ[ΡΤ?] * ΝΑC

The above unpromising result is the fruit of several hours spent over this part of the inscription under different conditions of illumination.

On the fourth face (Fig. 7) is a rude representation of a gazelle, and an inscription in two lines. The inscription gives the name:—

ΔΟΡΚΑΣΠΑΙC
ΤΑΤΑΙ

"Dorcas, child of Tatai," the latter name being so rudely scratched that its decipherment is doubtful. The gazelle is obviously a canting allusion to the name Dorcas. This side is apparently palimpsest, a faint **Δ** between the horns of the gazelle being a surviving letter of a previous inscription, of which there are not wanting other traces, though the face has been carefully smoothed to prepare it for the reception of the existing writing. Similar traces, but less definite, appear in the third face.

The stone would thus seem to have been a votive model of an altar, dedicated to Hēracles by Eunēlos, son of Iōn, which subse-

quently fell into profane hands, by whom the various incoherent scribbles about "the feast of Inasios" and "Dorcas, child of Tatai," were added. The inscription on the third face may possibly be magical.

§ VII.—CAVES AND CISTERNS.

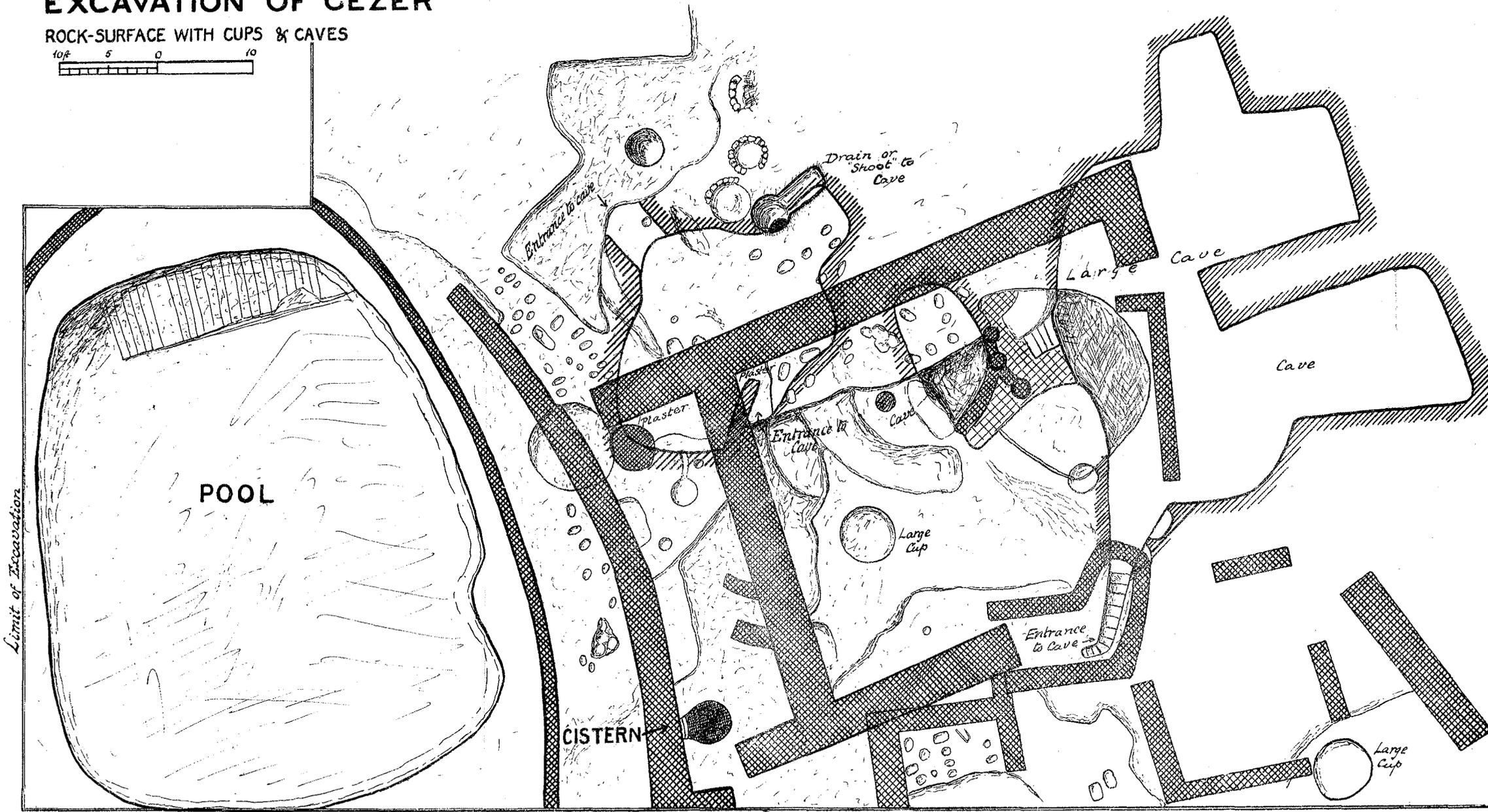
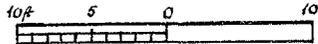
The caves and cisterns continue to be found in undiminished numbers, and are usually so prolific in objects of one class or another that the discovery of an entrance to such an excavation is generally hailed with delight by the gang of workmen in whose section the cave happens to be. No new light has been thrown on the troglodyte inhabitants; two or three examples of troglodyte dwellings, with the characteristic staircase at the entrance, have been found, but in each case the cave had been subsequently deepened and turned into a cistern. The most remarkable cave-deposit found was one already alluded to in "Notes and News" of the last number of the *Quarterly Statement*. The cave was an excavation of the usual irregular, low-roofed type which we have now learned to associate with the troglodyte dwellers in Gezer, approached by a narrow staircase cut in the rock. The main chamber had in later times been cleared out, and contained nothing characteristic, potsherds only being found in the débris; but in a small chamber at the side was found a series of 15 vessels, nearly all perfect, some small jugs a few inches long, some fine jars 2 feet or more high, and one or two dishes. They were empty, and did not seem to have been deposited with any other purpose beyond mere storage. One of the dishes, a magnificent flat tray, in red ware, 1 foot 5 inches in diameter, had been broken before being deposited—a wedge-shaped fragment being knocked out of the rim—and repaired by riveting, the holes for the rivets being bored through the pottery on each side of the lines of fracture. This method of repairing the more valuable pieces of pottery was well known in Palestine, and several examples have been found—the most remarkable being a jug that had been broken into at least a dozen pieces, some of which were found heaped together, all displaying several rivet-holes round the edges. The rivets were probably bronze, but no example has yet been found *in situ*. I am inclined to suspect (if I do not misunderstand the published description) that the "hole-mouths" which have been enumerated as one of the characteristics of Amorite pottery are in reality rivet-holes.

The most remarkable and important excavation—setting aside the caves found in connection with the new high place, to be described in a following section—has been a cistern, which, like the cistern already illustrated and named the “Second Burial Cave,” was used as a depository for human remains. In a separate paper (printed in this issue of the *Quarterly Statement*) is an osteological account of the remains themselves: here I need only describe the excavation. It is of the usual bell-shaped or rather cylindrical form with slightly domed roof, and a single circular shaft in the centre of the ceiling. The depth is 20 feet, the diameter 16 feet 6 inches. In the centre of the floor is the usual hollow for the collection of dregs and impurities. Silt had accumulated to a depth of 2 feet before the bodies were thrown in, and very little except a few potsherds, rather early, some nondescript fragments of bronze, and a scarab (Plate IV, Fig. 8) was found in this lower stratum. Above the silt was a stratum of bones, mingled with large stones, to a depth of 1 foot 11 inches. The bones were nearly all human, but the common domestic animals, and also the deer and gazelle, were represented. The state of the bones, which were all disarticulated, showed that the bodies had not been buried (as they unquestionably were, notwithstanding their haphazard arrangement in the Second Burial Cave), but thrown into water, where they had floated about and macerated before finally settling down. Above the bone stratum was another course of alluvial silt, 3 feet 4 inches deep. The most curious feature of the cistern is the series of cup-marks cut in the rock all round its mouth, which are too small to be of any use for watering cattle or any similar purpose. One other instance of a cistern-mouth surrounded by a group of small cup-marks has been found on the tell (in this case nothing extraordinary was found in clearing the cistern), and a third exists on an adjoining hillside. With one exception—the leg-bones of a small goat—none of the bones bear any mark of fire, otherwise I should have been tempted to consider this cistern as having been adopted by the temple authorities as a receptacle for refuse and the remains of human and other victims. More probably it was used as a plague-pit; among the many stories and rumours that gossip circulated during the cholera epidemic last year were tales of the disposal of the bodies of victims of the disease by casting them into cisterns.

While on the subject of deposits of human remains I may here refer to a curious discovery at the south end of the Temple trench

EXCAVATION OF CEZER

ROCK-SURFACE WITH CUPS & CAVES



Limit of Excavation

Limit of Excavation

R.A. St. John

in the early Canaanite stratum. This was a bank of solid, compact earth about 7 feet long and 1 foot wide, containing within it a number of bones. These consisted of 11 human skulls, several long bones, and a quantity of cows' teeth; there were no other bones, and the heads had certainly been severed before being piled up. They were interspersed with stones and potsherds. Unfortunately the long bones were all splintered, and the earth in which the skulls were embedded was so hard that it was found a practical impossibility to recover them except in small fragments.

§ VIII.—THE SUPPOSED ROCK-CUT HIGH PLACE.

On Plate VI will be found a plan of the rock surface about 120 feet south of the alignment of pillar stones. It will be seen that over an area of about 90 feet north to south, 80 feet east to west, maximum dimensions, the whole surface is covered with cup-marks and hollows ranging from a few inches to 5 or 6 feet in diameter; and that underneath it is a series of three remarkable caves.

The plan, with the explanations here given, will make a detailed description unnecessary.¹ The outlines of the caves are indicated by hatched lines; walls immediately overlying the rock-surface are cross-hatched. These walls are with one possible exception all later than the period of the cup-marks; not only will several examples be noticed of cups being partly concealed by them, but in nearly all there has been time for an accumulation of earth of at least 1 foot deep, to cover the rock-surface before the walls were built. This earth contained sherds of the oldest types of pottery — that associated with the troglodyte dwellings, and a layer of burning covered its top in some places, as though vegetation had been burnt off its surface before the building commenced. Three strata of building overlay the walls shown in this plan; a good idea of the high antiquity of the rock surface will be obtained from these data.

The one exception which has been referred to in the preceding paragraph is a curved wall of very rude masonry, built with small stones set in mud, enclosing an L-shaped space around a rock-cut staircase leading to the largest of the three caves presently to be described. This wall appears contemporary with the staircase with which it is associated, and with the exception of one or two

¹ [Photographs of the supposed High Place are held over until the concluding Memoir.]

insignificant fragments whose purpose can no longer be discovered, is the only wall of the group founded on the rock itself.

The cup-marks exposed are in all 83 in number. One of these, partly concealed by a large wall, is 8 feet in diameter and 9 inches deep. Two more, one of them at the north end of the system and one in the middle, are 6 feet in diameter. Two others are 3 feet in diameter; these are at the western side of the system, and have the peculiarity of being partly surrounded by small standing stones set on end and cemented together with mud—exactly resembling the circle described and illustrated in the first of this series of reports. Beside them is a third structure of a similar nature partly surrounding a natural hollow in the rock which seems to have been adapted for the same purpose as the artificial hollows, whatever that may have been. The remaining cups are all small, on an average 6 or 8 inches across and 5 inches deep. A few are of the familiar circular saucer-shape; the majority, however, are of a form that I have not seen elsewhere, except in another small group on this tell—rectangular in outline, and shaped like the segment of a cylinder, the two long sides of the hollow being vertical, the short sides curving regularly downwards to the middle. In two cases there is a deeper hollow at one end of a cup, and in two cases four cups are cut so close together that they form a composite group. One cup, circular in form and rather larger than the average, has a channel leading to it.

With regard to the distribution of the cups, it is to be noted that with one remarkable exception they are all cut on projecting tables of the rock surface, which is here remarkably irregular in outline and split up by deep hollows, perhaps partly artificial, though in any case very slightly so. The one exception is a large circular cup situated in the middle of one of the deepest hollows at the western side of the system.

The most suggestive detail in connection with the group is to be seen close to the series of cups surrounded by standing stones. This is an orifice, too narrow to admit a full-grown man, leading into the roof of one of the three caves underneath the rock-surface. This orifice is 1 foot wide, cut at the bottom of a cup-mark 2 feet 8 inches wide, 3 feet 6 inches deep; a rectangular drain 4 feet 6 inches long, 2 feet 2 inches wide, leads into it from the north-west. It is obvious that this cave was used as the receptacle for some material poured into it through the orifice.

The caves are excavated under the steep eastern face of the principal rock-table of the system, on which the largest number of cup-marks are congregated. Commencing with that to the south, the first is 32 feet long, 20 feet broad, and 8 feet in maximum height. The plan is irregular; the greatest length from north-west to south-east. No certain indications of chisel-marks are to be detected in the friable limestone in which it is cut. There are three entrances, including the narrow orifice described in the preceding paragraph. One is a tall, narrow doorway on the east side, approached by a narrow passage sloping downwards; the left hand (southern) side of this doorway is built up with rough rubble masonry set in mud. The second is a narrow creep-passage under a projecting shelf of the rock-table, which, if necessary, could easily be concealed. The floor steps upward about 2 feet in the apsidal projection, into which the narrow orifice opens.

The second cave is a small hollow sunk in the rock, only about half-covered by the rock-table, and lined on the northern and eastern sides with crude masonry. There are two broad, shallow, circular cup-marks in the floor of the cave. It is 14 feet 2 inches long (the eastern 7 feet of which is open and uncovered), and 9 feet broad.

The third cave is a very extraordinary excavation. It is, roughly speaking, a large rectangular chamber, its northern half divided by a projecting partition into two bays; from the western of these bays another projects westward. The present maximum dimensions of the excavation (exclusive of the small westward bay) are 36 feet by 38 feet, height of roof 11 feet 6 inches. Apparently it was originally longer towards the south; but a subsidence seems to have at some time taken place whereby the rock roof was cracked and partly fell in, after which a wall of rude masonry was built along the whole south side supporting the remainder of the roof. This cuts the small second cave off from the cave under discussion; originally they seem to have formed one excavation. A flight of steps leading downward through the fractured entrance to the cave has been made in this wall, but a narrow staircase, bent at right angles at the top and enclosed in a rude wall, on the eastern side, is evidently the original approach to the cave. In front of the end of the partition is an excavation in the floor (not yet fully cleared out) apparently a pool or cistern; this is not indicated on the plan. The floor of the cave was originally care-

fully worked smooth, but except round the walls it has been broken up and deepened to a depth of about 9 inches, possibly by treasure-seekers of a later generation.

Unfortunately nothing was found in this cave to give any hint as to its purpose or age. The potsherds were not very distinctive, and all the antiquities had evidently been washed in with later silt; two iron arrowheads, for instance, were undoubtedly of a period long subsequent to the original excavation. The small figure of two cats referred to above was also found here. The walls showed no marks of metal tools; the indications sharply preserved on some parts of the soft rock-surface rather seemed to point to wooden, flint, or horn implements, as the marks indicated the existence of serrated edges in the tools such as no metal chisel would have had. On the inner wall of the western bay occurs a **X** clearly cut, and above it a mark like **V**; these are the only other traces of the ancient occupants of the cave.

The principal observation remaining with regard to this cave is its remarkable similarity in plan to the important cave at Tell Sandahannah, No. 34 of the detailed list in *Excavations in Palestine*, pp. 248-250, Plate 102. The Gezer cave is simpler, but the essential details—a rectangular chamber partly divided by a projecting partition, and with subsidiary chambers opening off the bays—are identical in both.

It may be assumed that this system of rock cuttings had some use to those who originally made it. If so, it must have served some simple economic purpose or else one more esoteric. It is impossible, so far as I can see, to assign any economic purpose that will suit all the indications; there are important elements in the system that would be equally useless if we are to regard it as a place for fulling, for watering cattle, for pounding corn, or for pressing olives. On the other hand, little or nothing is known about the religious rites of the aboriginal inhabitants of the country; and if the second hypothesis be entertained the exact purpose of the various members of the system cannot as yet be assigned with any approach to certainty. If, however, we may call in the aid of Semitic analogies—and how far Semitic religion may not be modelled on pre-Semitic beliefs we cannot say—a very consistent series of suggestions may be brought forward. That cup-marks have some sacrificial significance may be admitted as at least probable, though how they were exactly used may be for

the present dismissed as an indeterminate question. In the southern cave I would see an adytum, with a secret entrance that could easily be concealed from the *profanus vulgus* (the large eastern entrance is perhaps a later work, though of this there is no direct evidence), and with a "shoot" whereby sacrificial blood and other offerings could be committed to the gods of the underworld. In this connection it is remarkable that a considerable number of pig-bones—an animal whose remains very seldom occur elsewhere on the tell—were found inside the cave. The large double cave was possibly a residence for the priests, but this can only be regarded as a guess.

A word may be added about some of the later structures and excavations to be seen indicated on the plan. The large wall, 4 feet 2 inches thick, partly enclosing a square space, is evidently the foundation of a building of great importance: it is one of the finest pieces of masonry yet uncovered on the mound. It is certainly much later than the rock-surface; in one place a plaster floor has been laid down previous to its erection on the surface of the rock, and fragments of it remain on each side of the wall. There are five round stones, four inside the enclosure and one outside, apparently connected with this building. Possibly they are the foot-stones of wooden posts or columns.

The mouth of a cistern will also be seen in the plan. This has not yet been completely cleared. It is evidently an old troglodyte dwelling adapted as a cistern, for the steps still remain at its mouth.

One of the most remarkable discoveries yet made on the tell is the enormous pool at the south of the rock-surface. It is 46 feet wide and 57 feet long, and at the moment of writing has been cleared to a depth of 22 feet; there is nothing to show how much deeper it may not be. The date of this pool is very difficult to assign; that it remained open till the latest period of occupation is evident from the total absence of walls and of antiquities in the earth with which it was covered. But whether it was excavated in the Seleucid period or was an older reservoir handed on from generation to generation of the city's inhabitants—like the so-called Pool of Hezekiah in Jerusalem—is a question on which decisive data are not yet forthcoming. The latter seems the more probable, as the successive strata of building superposed to the walls indicated on the plan all dip towards the pool as though they had grown up

round it. It was found to be filled with large stones, many of them drafted and moulded—the cast-away materials of some building which had apparently been pulled down. Probably they came from the large square building already mentioned, or from one of the buildings in an upper stratum.

ADDENDA.

April, 1903.—Page 118, line 13 below the stave of music, for “concave” read “convex.”

Page 124, line 4 from end, the Egyptian sign  is misprinted ; also on page 125, line 2, after  add (for ).

July, 1903.—Pages 209, 210. The objects shown in Figs. 8 and 10 are not bone, but ivory.

Pages 216–218. I find that I was misinformed as to the names of some of the water-sources referred to in this section, though the argument is not affected thereby. The well called *Bir et-Tirâsheh* should really be named *Bir el-Balad*; the name in the text, which ought to be spelt *Bir et-Tayâsheh* (without *r*), properly belongs to a more distant well, north of *Bir el-Lusiyeh*, and not entering into the discussion.

REPORT ON THE HUMAN REMAINS FOUND AT GEZER,
1902–3.

By Professor A. MACALISTER, M.D., F.R.S.

PORTIONS of human skeletons have been obtained from four localities:—

- (1) From the deepest stratum, lying immediately upon the rock.
- (2) From the second stratum.
- (3) From the area of the great standing stones on the horizon of their bases.
- (4) From a cistern on the east side of the “High Place.”

(1) Unfortunately the bones found in the deepest stratum were fragmentary. They were parts of two skulls, both unusually thick; with them were fragments of limb bones too small to indicate the exact stature, but enough to show that the individuals were under

the middle height. The skulls seemed to have been moderately broad, but were too incomplete for measurement.

(2) From the second stratum came an anomalously-shaped female skull, spheno-cephalic, with a length-breadth index of 78, flattened at the lambdoid region and somewhat flat-topped. It belonged to a woman probably over 45 years of age. There were no whole limb bones with it, only some broken fragments.

(3) From the temple area the skull was a fairly capacious well-formed male skull, which in all characters was comparable with those of the next group.

(4) The remains of 18 individuals were found in the cistern; of these 14 were men, two were women, one a child of about 12 years, and one an infant. In this cistern the bodies were not disposed in any order. They were found, not on the rock floor, as in the cistern described last year, but upon a thick layer of clay silt about $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet deep. They mostly lay directly under the mouth of the cistern, and many large stones had fallen in with and over them. Above the stony layer about 3 feet of earth had been washed in at a subsequent period. The bones of the skeletons were not found together, but there was no sign of artificial dismemberment. It seemed rather as if they had lain in the water of the cistern and had become separated in the ordinary course of decomposition, becoming washed asunder in the course of the periodic inflow of water during the rains. In character the skulls closely resembled those in the last burial cistern. The male skulls were ellipsoidal, capacious, some a short broad ellipse in *norma verticalis*, others a little narrower. The indexes of the three widest were 76.5, and those of the others ranged from 73 to 75. The female skulls are somewhat ovoidal with indexes of 76. In all, the foreheads are rounded, most prominent medially at the metopion, the brow ridges are moderate, the occipital regions are generally slightly flattened and the sides steep.

In all those in which the facial bones have remained the facial region was elongated and narrow, though wide at the cheekbones, the palate rounded, the teeth large, and in those of advanced age much worn, the lower jaw oblique, with somewhat receding chin. The orbits were wide and the nasal region long and narrow, the nasal bones being fairly high-pitched.

The long bones, though in bad condition, were sufficiently sound to be measured when exposed *in situ* before being lifted. From

these we obtained definite data as to stature. One male skeleton must have been a few mm. over 6 feet in height, but the others were much shorter and ranged from 5 feet 4 inches to 5 feet 9 inches. The females were about 5 feet 2 inches and 5 feet 3 inches respectively. None of the femora were pilastered, but two were platymeric. The neck angle of the femur was very variable in both sexes. The tibiæ of six of the skeletons showed the small flexion facets due to extreme bending of the ankle, and extensions of the flexion surfaces were well marked in the knee and hip joints. None of the tibiæ were platymeric.

The race to which these bones belonged must have been in almost all physical characters identical with that represented by the fellahîn who are the present inhabitants of this portion of the land. I have been able to make a considerable number of observations on the physical characters of the fellahîn of this district, and have been very much struck with the singularly close conformity between them and their ancient Semitic predecessors. Among the workpeople on the tell and the inhabitants of the neighbouring villages both facial and other characters closely correspond to those of the Amorites. The average male stature here is between 5 feet 6 inches and 5 feet $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches, but I have seen three men over 6 feet in height. The female stature ranges from 4 feet 11 inches to 5 feet 6 inches. The heads of the men are almost all dolichellipsoid, with rounded foreheads only moderately prominent at the frontal eminences, but bulging medially. The brows are fairly heavy, often rising at their lateral end, and scarcely ever synophryous; the noses for the most part prominent and fairly straight, with large cartilages and alæ, but with narrow nostrils. In a few the nose is slightly aquiline, very rarely concave. The inter-orbital width is considerable, and the columna nasi wide. The malar regions are moderately prominent, giving a width to the lower orbital region of the face. The chin is weak, tending to recede owing to the obliquity of the jaws; the lips fairly thick and often prominent; the eyes usually fairly large and prominent, with irides ranging in colour from yellow-brown to dark blackish brown. Facial hair is not very abundant or general, in colour ranging from dark brown to black; where there is a beard, it is short and curly.

There are, of course, a number of exceptions. One man from Zakariyeh has peculiarly Mongolian features—a wide flat face, and

oblique eyes with epicanthal folds. Two others have low-bridged noses, somewhat concave in outline. One especially has a deep fronto-nasal notch and a short nose very prominent at the tip.

The female faces are proportionally wider and shorter than the males. The head outlines are more ovate and more rounded in the occipital region. The foreheads are generally flatter, the noses seldom quite straight or high-bridged, usually flatter at the upper bony portion, and widening to the alar region. The nostrils are, in consequence, often more oblique than in the males. The chin is small and rounded, its apparent recession exaggerated by the habit of keeping the mouth open. The eyes have irides varying from very dark brown to black, but in two girls they are of a very light yellowish brown colour. I have not seen any blue eyes even in those with the fairest hair. The blackest eyes here are in some small women who may be of gipsy origin. The hair is usually dark brown or black, with a slight inclination to curl on each side of the forehead. In one, however, the hair is distinctly fair, and in another it is of a light chestnut brown colour. Well-formed, slender, aquiline noses and symmetrical features are the exception, the standard of good looks being distinctly lower among the females than among the males. The photographs¹ taken represent very well the extreme ranges of characters met with, as well as the most prevailing types of face.

As the men often sit on the ground with knees and ankles acutely flexed, it is probable that they, like their Amorite prototypes, possess the flexion facets above mentioned in these joints, which are of the same nature as those described in the Panjabi by Professor Havelock Charles.

In the foot I note that in the majority the great toe is set straight on the metatarsal, not bent outwards in the way described as normal by Dr. Joseph Griffiths; in the males the second toe appears generally to be a little longer than the first, but this is not the case in the females. The general physique of the Palestinian fellahin seems in all respects superior to that of the Egyptian. This is especially marked in the muscular development of the shoulders and of the calves of the legs.

[P.S.—Just as this report was finished a number of skeletons have been found in another cemetery near the temenos described

¹ [A number of the most characteristic are held over until the final Memoir.—ED.]

in an earlier report. The bones are in bad condition, but as far as I have been able to examine and measure them, they are quite comparable with those above described, and seem to belong to the same Semitic race.]

THE TOMB OF NICANOR OF ALEXANDRIA.¹

By Miss GLADYS DICKSON.

At the north end of the Mount of Olives, beside the carriage road on the east side of the road in the field belonging to Mr. Gray Hill and adjoining his house on the north, an interesting tomb has recently been opened.

The tomb consists of four independent groups of chambers (in this description numbered in order I to IV from north to south), ranged round an entrance vestibule.

The *vestibule* is open, and possibly had pillars in front (like *Mughâret el-'Anab* and the "Tombs of the Kings"), but this is uncertain, and requires excavation to determine. The roof, which is now broken down, was 9 feet 9 inches above the floor. The Chamber-groups I and III open off the vestibule by small doors on a level with the floor; II and IV by doors sunk below that level, at the ends of deep rectangular depressions.

Chamber-group I consists of a single main chamber with four subsidiary chambers opening off it, the doorways to which are arched, surrounded by square reveals.

Chamber-group II is very elaborate. The central chamber is roofed with a barrel vault. This is the only chamber in the system with a raised bench running round the walls. This bench is $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches high. The group is unfinished; on the south side of the sinking leading to the entrance from the vestibule, a doorway is blocked out; and in the north-east corner of the main chamber is a square sinking in the floor, with another blocked-out doorway at its east end. Round the main chamber are nine small doors, alternately round-headed in square reveals, and square-headed without reveals. These are lettered *a* to *i* on the plan, beginning at the right hand; *a* is round-headed.

¹ See *Quarterly Statement*, January, p. 93, April, pp. 125-131.