

EIGHTH QUARTERLY REPORT ON THE EXCAVATION OF GEZER.

1 March—31 May, 1904.

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

§ I.—PRELIMINARY.¹

THE work during the past three months was interrupted only on Good Friday and the following day. As will be seen from the plan (Plate I), a trench (partly excavated in the previous quarter) has been carried across the Eastern Hill from wall to wall; the greater part of the city wall on the south side has been traced; and a 40-foot trench has been commenced and partly carried over the Western Hill.

There are many drawbacks to pitting various sections of the mound with disconnected trenches, the chief being the difficulty of establishing the connection of corresponding strata, especially when a different number of strata are found in the débris of the mound in different places, as is the case at Gezer. On the Eastern Hill the average number is four; in the central valley I have found three at the north end, six at the south; the new trench on the Western Hill has revealed eight. But time and money fail to carry out the ideal method of trenching regularly from end to end; and as the period allowed by the Ottoman law was drawing to a close, the necessity became pressing to test the soil of the Western Hill, which is perhaps the most important part of the *tell*. The trench dug is the most westerly that can be carried right across the mound from north to south without encroaching on the modern cemetery.

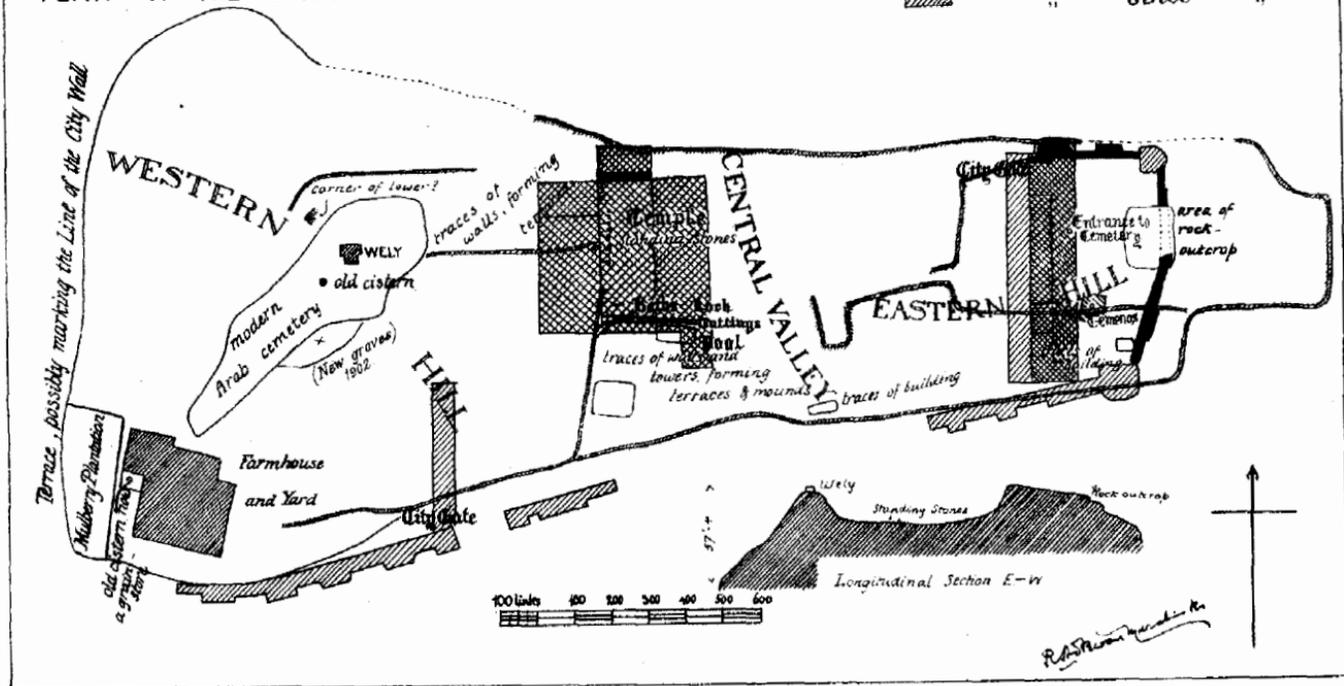
In point of results this quarter ranks high among the seasons spent on the excavation. It is satisfactory to record that a specimen

¹ [Through an unfortunate oversight—for which Mr. Macalister is in no way responsible—a sentence was inadvertently dropped at the commencement of the paragraph (p. 109, line 4), in the last report. "This particular cave" refers, in point of fact, to the large double cave at the north end of the ancient place of sacrifice, described and illustrated in the report of October 1903.—ED.]

EXCAVATION OF CEZER

PLAN OF THE SURFACE

Excavated before Report VI.
 " since "



of cuneiform writing has at last made its appearance. Where there is one tablet there can hardly fail to be more, and I shall probably concentrate most of the future work on the Western Hill, which has yielded this document, assuming, as seems not impossible, that funds will not be forthcoming to complete the excavation of the whole mound thoroughly within the period allowed by the law. Besides the tablet, a considerable number of objects of minor importance, but of no little interest, have come to light, as well as the Amorite city gate, the latter a very remarkable architectural monument.

The firman in its original form lapses on June 14th next. It has been announced in the Beirût newspapers that the application for its extension, made last Christmas, had been granted, but as yet no official intimation has reached the Office of Public Instruction or the British Consulate in Jerusalem.¹

§ II.—AN ADDITIONAL NOTE ON THE HIGH-PLACE ALIGNMENT.

The great alignment of rude pillar-stones remains uncovered, and is naturally the chief centre of attraction for visitors to the excavations. In April I had the pleasure of a visit from Dr. Max Blanckenhorn, Privatdocent of the University of Erlangen, who has made a careful study of Palestinian geology. From a minute scientific examination which he made of the pillar-stones an interesting fact was learned, namely, that all *but one* are of the local stone. The exception is the monolith numbered VII on Plate VII of *Quarterly Statement*, January, 1903. It shows peculiarities in its texture not found in the local stone, but shared by the limestone of Jerusalem and some other places; from one of these sources the stone must have come.

In archæology, as in every other science, the solution of one problem often leads to another, perhaps even more perplexing than the first. This observation of Dr. Blanckenhorn's very simply explains a groove cut over one face of the stone (shown in a sketch on the Plate already referred to), which has been a puzzle ever since the alignment was brought to light. It must have been cut to prevent the rope with which the stone was dragged from slipping off the head of the monolith.

¹ Since writing the above, an official telegram announcing the issue of the permit has been received at the Consulate.

But a far more difficult question is raised. Why did the Gezerites go to a distance for one stone of their series, when it would appear that the local stone was sufficient to fulfil all the requirements of their High Place? No answer can be given definitely to this question, and in the absence of any documents bearing on the history of the High Place it is unlikely that the true answer will ever be determined. A number of plausible guesses is all we can hope to put forward. Possibly some wealthy resident imported the stone from a distance at his own charge, in order to make a display of munificence. Possibly the stone was cut in some especially sacred locality—an interesting suggestion if we could be sure that Jerusalem was its actual provenance. Possibly it was a sacred stone from some other city or tribe, captured and set up in the Gezer Temple as a battle trophy, like the ark of Yahweh in the Temple of Dagon.¹

In any case this additional detail is confirmatory of the view I have always held, that the alignment is not the monument of one act of building, but the result of a growth, stone by stone, perhaps extending over a period of years.

§ III.—A PECULIAR ROCK-CUTTING.

Those who have followed this series of reports will have formed an idea of the frequency with which the rock underlying the strata of débris is found to have been cut or worked before any buildings were erected upon it. Caves, cisterns, quarries, scarps, cup-marks, olive-presses, are found at the bottom of almost every pit which is sunk through the later remains. These have nearly all a uniform character, and a description of one suffices to give an idea of a whole class.

One cutting, or rather group of cuttings, is, however, unique, and I am at a loss to formulate any theory to explain it. It consists of a rectangular area, 25 feet long and 15 feet 5 inches across, scarped in the rock to a maximum depth of 5 feet. The

¹ [On the Moabite stone Meshah boasts that he took from Nebo the הוה (האל) and *dragged* them before Chemosh. The reference here is possibly to pillars used as fire-altars; the stones in the Gezer high-place, on the other hand, having rounded tops, could not be so used. The verb employed is סָרַח, *cp.* especially 2 Sam., xvii, 13: "moreover if he withdraw himself into a city, then shall all Israel bring ropes to that city and we will *drag* it into the river," &c.—ED.]

long axis deviates by 8 degrees from the present direction of magnetic north. The surface of the rock dips toward the south, and (as the drawings show) the scarp has had to be eked out with rude masonry. There is a very slight fall toward the south in the floor of the scarped area.

A cup-mark has been cut in each of the northern angles of the scarped area: the cups are 1 foot 6 inches across, 1 foot 4 inches deep. There are two larger marks of a similar character, 4 feet in diameter, in connection with the system, whose relative positions are marked on the plan. There are also two cisterns, one outside the area to the north, the other near to its southern extremity: the latter, which is of considerable size, has some rough steps at the entrance, suggesting that it has been deepened from a previous troglodyte cave. Several fragments of skulls, apparently of the thick type associated with the primitive inhabitants, were found in the northern cistern.

The north wall of the scarped area is continued westward, and a small cave has been cut in it at the point where it ends. This cave is oval, 11 feet long, 6 feet 9 inches broad, and 3 feet 8 inches high. There is another cup-mark in the floor of this cave, at the western end.

That the whole system of rock-cutting here described is very ancient is proved (as in the case of the large Place of Sacrifice) by the antiquity of the later débris that covered it.

Various attempts have been made, both by myself and my visitors, to guess at a purpose for this cutting. One or two of these suggestions are recorded here with the reasons against them in order to aid, by the process of exclusion, the determination of its true *raison d'être*. That it has some connection with primitive religion is very naturally the first idea which presents itself; and it derives a certain amount of colour from the fact that not only is it close to the troglodyte crematorium, but two cups in the rock to the east of the scarps seem to link the cup-mark system surrounding the mouth of that excavation with the scarps of the rock-cutting now under discussion. On the other hand we have already found what has been plausibly identified with a place of troglodyte worship, large enough to have served the requirements of the scanty population at that early date: it is not likely that a second would exist, and still less likely that the two should, in arrangement, be so dissimilar. It has also been suggested that the scarped area might

be a catchment basin for water for the cistern. This also is possible, but the shape of the area is against it: we should rather have expected it to be fan-shaped, with the cistern in the apex, and for the evidently purposeful position of the cup-marks in the northern corners of the area it would be difficult to imagine a reason. A last suggestion is that we may have here the comparatively elaborate courtyard of a house on which temporary structures were erected for summer use (precisely as in the modern village), with a cave for sleeping, and cup-hollows for holding vessels with rounded bottoms in an upright position. The corners of the scarps in which they are placed would offer an additional support to large vessels. Against this view might be argued that such a dwelling is not likely to be abnormal; if it were merely a house courtyard excavations comparable with it should be forthcoming in other parts of the *tell*. So far, however, it is a solitary specimen. Again, in the early times to which this cutting must be referred, large vessels were generally made with flat bottoms, and did not need the artificial support of cup-hollows and scarp-corners to make them stand upright.

§ IV.—BUILDINGS.

The city walls and gate excepted, all the buildings unearthed have been dwelling-houses and their appurtenances. The walls and gate form the subject of the following section: in the present a few words are all that need be said of the rest of the masonry remains.

As mentioned in Section I no fewer than eight successive strata of buildings were found on the Western Hill; the total depth of the débris was here 38 feet 6 inches, a depth nearly 10 feet greater than that found elsewhere in the mound—except, of course, in the great 50-foot reservoir.

The only noteworthy structure found in this mass of building was a granary, 12 feet long and 5 feet across. It is the chamber in which the man is seated in the accompanying photograph (Fig. 1). This granary contains rather more than a ton of corn—nearly 600 baskets full were carried away by the basket girls. The grain in this, as in all other granaries uncovered, is charred. In some cases this certainly is due to a fire at the granary—in one example the incinerated bones of a man, presumably the proprietor, were found among the ruins. In other cases the condition of the grain

is perhaps the result of what may be described as spontaneous combustion, which I am informed takes place when grain is incautiously left covered up for too long a time: a serious loss of this nature is said to have recently befallen an inhabitant of Beit Jibrin.

Another granary was found at the northern end of the trench on the Eastern Hill. This consisted of a number of circular structures, each about 5 feet in diameter, containing corn and *kursenni*—the latter a species of vetch used for camel food.

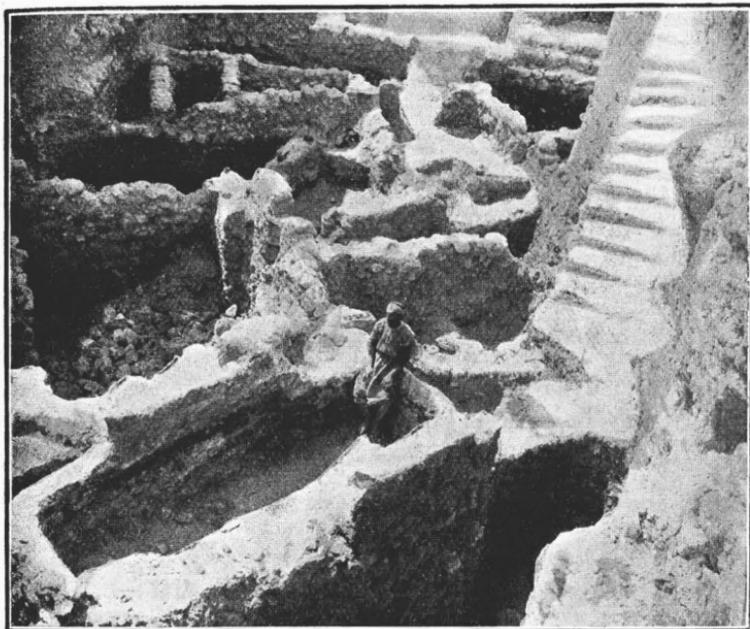


FIG. 1.—Granary.

§ V.—THE CITY WALLS AND CITY GATES.

The recent excavations have put us in a position to re-open the difficult question of the chronology of the city walls, with a more reasonable prospect of arriving at a solution of the problem than at any previous stage of the examination of the mound.

With reference to the plan on Plate I, I must remark that owing to the small scale it is impossible to represent any but the outermost wall. The inner walls run in a parallel course with it all

round the *tell*. Also it should be remarked that it has been found necessary to exaggerate the projection of towers, as if drawn in proper proportion some of them would not be distinguishable.

In discussing the chronology of the walls the fixed point from which we start is that already formulated in previous reports—that the rude earth rampart, with stone facing, sloping on the outside and vertical inside, which runs round the entire *tell* underneath all other débris, is the oldest fortification of which we have any traces. Whether to assign it to the pre-Semitic population or to the earliest occupation of the Semites was not clear until evidence was found confining standing stones to the religion of the Semitic people. As, fortunately for us, a *massébah* was found at a place where this ancient rampart was ruined, interrupting its course, it became clear that the rampart is earlier than the erection of the pillar-stone, and was out of use when the latter was set up. It may, therefore, be taken as definitely established that the earth rampart is a relic of the aboriginal inhabitants.

This point gained we now take the other walls into consideration. It is curious that the first question that presents itself is one which might be supposed so simple as to be unnecessary: namely, with how many walls have we to deal? That the answer to this question is not so easy as might have been expected, and that I myself was in error in the first answer that I gave to it, are among the evil consequences of being compelled to dig promiscuously in different parts of a mound instead of turning over the whole step by step.

In the *Quarterly Statement* of April, 1903, I enumerated three walls, exclusive of the earth-rampart. These were:—

I. A wall parallel with the outer wall but older (as the outer wall runs partly over it) and confined to the Eastern Hill. At the time of writing that report this wall had been found to stop abruptly with a fair face just inside the limits of the trench, and the expectation was recorded that in digging the next trench it would be found that this face would prove to be the eastern jamb of a gate. No trace of this wall was identified in the central valley.

II. A large wall with towers, obviously surrounding the whole mound and outside all other remains.

III. A wall parallel with the outer wall but confined, as it seemed, to the central valley. This was assumed to be of date

subsequent to the settlements on the Eastern Hill, and therefore later than the other walls.

The result of the most recent excavations has been to reduce these three to two. The walls numbered I and III in the above list are one and the same. The third is continuous with a large wall that had already been found in the trenches on the Eastern Hill, but which came to an abrupt end with a square-cut face and did not reappear again to the eastward. Owing to this interruption of continuity, and partly owing to its being associated with a stepped bath and some other later constructions, it was not at the time recognised as a city wall. As a matter of fact it overlaps (I), and with it forms a very large "hit-and-miss" gateway, resembling the Jaffa and Damascus Gates of Jerusalem. No doorposts were found, nor yet thresholds; owing to the fall of the rock the present top of the outer jamb is actually below the level of the foundation of the inner jamb—this will appear in a sectional elevation that will be published in the final memoir—and the gateway is extraordinarily wide. It is not therefore a matter of surprise that the connection of the two walls is not at first sight apparent. The clear space between the jambs of the gateway is nearly 40 feet wide, and the length of the tower containing it is nearly 148 feet. The total length of the Damascus Gate of Jerusalem is only 90 feet, and the breadth of the passage between it not quite 20 feet. There is no evidence to show how this gate was closed against intruders.

This identification disposes at once of the *relative* chronology of the city walls. There never was any doubt that the outer wall is later than Wall I, as, in one place exposed, and possibly in more, it is carried over its ruined upper surface. The relation to the outer wall to Wall III was always more doubtful: but now that Walls III and I are shown to be identical, it becomes clear that the outer wall, as a whole, is the latest fortification, and that I and III together form an earlier protection, which henceforth we may speak of as the inner wall. The earth rampart for the greater part of its course seems to lie between these two walls; at the city gate above described—which to distinguish it from that newly uncovered we shall speak of as the north-eastern gate—it crosses under the inner wall and for a space becomes the innermost of the three.

Their *absolute* chronology is, however, not so easily arrived at. We start with three literary references to the fortifications of Gezer that have come down to us—the passage in 1 Kings ix, 16, which seems to imply (but not necessarily) that Solomon built or repaired them; 1 Maccabees ix, 52, which states that Bacchides fortified Gazara; and 1 Maccabees xiii, 48, which tells us that Simon made the city “stronger than it was before.” The first of these is uncertain, and does not definitely inform us that Solomon had anything to do with building the city walls; the excavation has shown that no universal fire was caused in Gezer by the King of Egypt, and, perhaps, all that Solomon had to do was a certain amount of local rebuilding and repairs.

In any case, if these passages allow us to look for Solomonic, Seleucid, and Maccabean workmanship in the city walls, we must confine our search to the outer wall; for we now have evidence that the inner wall was ruined and overlaid with later débris long before the time of Solomon. House walls run over its present top, and in a chamber of one of the houses, right above the eastern jamb of the southern city gate, was found a magnificent scarab of Amenhotep III and Queen Thii, a drawing of which will be found in the section devoted to the scarabs discovered during the quarter (Fig. 9). A second scarab found in the débris above the wall at the north-east gate is even more unexpected. It bears the name of Khyan, and if its evidence could be accepted absolutely it would push the date of the ruin of the inner wall to a period at least 500 years before the time of the Tell el-Amarna letters. We may, therefore, fairly call the inner wall the fortification of the earlier Semitic occupation, and the outer that of the later. It may be taken as axiomatic that at no time would the city be without a wall; the date of the final destruction of the inner wall must therefore be within a year or two of the date of the erection of the outer.

I have several times expressed a distrust of the chronology afforded by scarabs, and still await confirmatory evidence of the conclusions arrived at in the above paragraph. For the present we can only say that everything points to the high antiquity of the inner wall. And here I can only hint at a deduction that will follow from the establishment of this result. In the trench on the Western Hill I have said that eight strata of buildings were found. Three of these were later than the inner wall, and lay over it; in the lowermost of these three the scarab of Amenhotep III was

found.¹ Two were contemporary with the wall, and were entered by the gate which will presently be described. Three were below the level of the gate, and therefore older. Of these three only the lowest showed pottery definitely comparable with the pottery of the troglodytes. If the inner wall was already ruined in 1500 B.C. to what date are we to assign these lower strata? These latest chronological results seem to push the troglodytes back well into the fourth millennium B.C.

The present is not the place to enter into elaborate minutiae respecting the masonry of these walls; this will form a subject of discussion in the final memoir. I need only refer in this report to some details of construction. The inner wall, notwithstanding its high antiquity, is on the whole superior in workmanship to the outer. It has—to judge from the comparatively short length so far exposed—long narrow towers of small projection at intervals of 90 feet in its course. These towers seem to be regularly set out and built to a regular plan.

Not so the second wall, which is a curious patchwork of good and bad masonry. There is no definite order in its towers, which as a general, but not universal, rule are alternately of deep and of shallow projection, and occur at irregular intervals. There are better dressed corner-stones to be found in some of these towers than has been noticed anywhere in the inner wall; some of these corner-stones have drafts with shallow bosses at the centres. But these are individual cases, and the average of the masonry is inferior.

It has many evidences of repatching and rebuilding, a thorough study of which would at present occupy too much space. I have already described and illustrated the very curious north-east tower, in which a solid square block of masonry seems to have been inserted, without bonding, in place of a simple angle, and a sloping curved wall afterwards thrown round it to mask the joints (*see Quarterly Statement*, April, 1903, Plate II). As there are well-dressed stones in the square tower which the original builders would hardly have intended to hide, we must, I think, regard these as two separate constructions to be assigned to different periods; and we may tentatively call the square towers Solomonic (possibly) and

¹ Of course the possibility of contemporary houses being built on the top of the wall, as seems from the story of Rahab to have been the case at Jericho, must not be forgotten.

the rounded coverings which mask them the work of Bacchides or Simon. The south-east angle is identical with this; and in the course of the sides three similar rounded towers have been unearthed, two of them certainly, and one probably, enclosing an original square tower: in one of the former cases the square tower is again an insertion, as shown by the straight joints.

No gate has yet been found in the outer wall, but in the inner wall, in addition to the north-eastern gate, a very remarkable structure has during this quarter been uncovered at the south end of the Western Hill trench. This we shall refer to as the southern gate.

Plate II bears a plan and sectional elevations of the southern gate; the following description may be given.

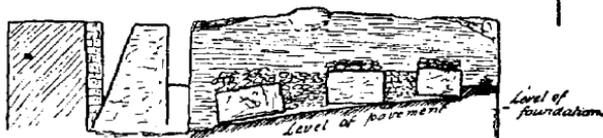
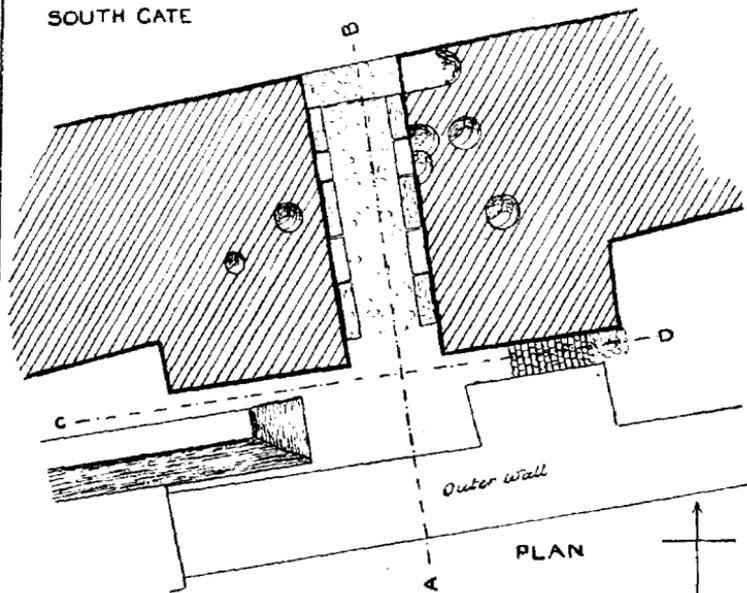
Though the wall as a whole is of stone, the gateway consists of a passage-way between two solid towers of brick. The bricks are sun-baked, and, with a few exceptions, very friable; they are of various colours, white, red, and (principally) buff. The bricks measure (with a certain latitude either way in each dimension) 15 inches by 11 inches by 4 inches. They are laid without any regular attempt made to break joints, in consequence of which wide vertical fissures occur throughout the masses of brickwork.

The passage is 9 feet wide and 42 feet 4 inches long. It is roughly paved with stones; the pavement rises gradually from outside to inside, and at its inner (northern) end terminates in a step 2 feet high and 5 feet 6 inches broad, some of the stones in which are highly polished by the tread of feet. When first uncovered it was found to be blocked by a roughly-built stone wall, clearly erected to support a paved street that ran over the brick towers in later times.

On each side of the passage-way the wall is masked for a height of about 6 feet by three massive slabs of stone, set on edge, with rough masonry resting upon them and between each pair. On the west side the slabs are respectively (from outside inwards) 8 feet 10 inches, 8 feet 3 inches, and 7 feet $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches long; on the east they are 8 feet 6 inches, 8 feet $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and 6 feet $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The interspaces between each pair of stones average about 6 feet 5 inches. Behind these stones the faces of the brick towers run. The two outermost stones show evidence, in splintering and other marks, of having been submitted to a powerful fire: probably whatever wooden barrier closed the gate was erected in their

EXCAVATION OF CEZER

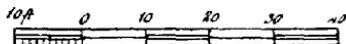
SOUTH GATE



SECTION AB



SECTION CD



Edwin H. Rieupeur

neighbourhood and was burnt at some capture of the city. There is no evidence of the nature of this barrier nor of the manner in which it was secured.

The towers remain standing to a total height of about 16 feet. They are simply masses of brickwork, or rather (as it would appear from an examination of places where the surface is destroyed) of rude rubble masonry faced with a more or less thick shell of the brickwork already described. Covering the surface of the bricks are remains of a facing of lime. The lengths of the towers are 28 feet 5 inches and 27 feet 7 inches respectively. The projection of the western tower is less than that of the eastern (respectively 7 feet 10 inches and 13 feet 2 inches), because the whole gate is not set at right angles with the general course of the wall.

One of the most puzzling features of the towers are the circular pits in their present tops. These are marked in the plan: they range from about 4 feet to about 6 feet in diameter, and in depth from a few inches to nearly 5 feet. Some are imperfect and interfere one with another. I thought at first that they were of later date than the original building, and excavated for grain-stores by the inhabitants of the houses built above the wall; but an examination of the bricks show that they form part of the original design; no trace of grain was found in any of them; and as it happened a small grain-store was found belonging to the upper stratum, and partly superposed on one of the pits. They are either too deep or too shallow to afford cover to archers. No other explanation of their use, feasible or inadmissible, has occurred to me.

Another detail which I cannot yet explain (though further excavation westwards may throw light upon it) is the bank of brickwork, faced with lime, that runs parallel to the wall at the western side, and stops abruptly just west of the jamb of the gate. It is vertical on the inner face, oblique on the outer face of the end, and is evidently older than the outer wall, which partly runs over it. At present I can only guess that it may be a more conspicuous fragment of the Pre-Semitic wall than has yet come to light elsewhere, and, in fact, perhaps the western jamb of the gate of this wall. Nothing to correspond has been found in the eastern side: here, in the place where it was expected, was found instead an inward-projecting tower of the outer city wall, intercepting between it and the older brick tower a flight of 12 rudely-built

stone steps, of 1 foot 3 inches tread and 6 inches rise (more or less). These descend to about the level of the tops of the rows of large slabs inside the gate, and no doubt were the steps of a street of later date that ran on at that level past the old gateway. It was found to continue between the brickwork bank and the inner wall, and is marked in the Section C D.

At one point (the indication of which will be found in Section A B) the brickwork on each side of the entrance is corbelled out just below the present tops of the towers. This seems to suggest that the entrance at this place was spanned by a false arch of brick, which possibly formed one support of rows of stone or wooden lintels laid longitudinally. Except this slight trace, there is no evidence to indicate how the passage was roofed, if, indeed, it ever was provided with a cover.

I have omitted from the plan a number of ancient pavements found, partly overlapping one another, around the outsides of the towers, especially on the eastern side of the eastern tower. These clearly antedate the towers, and have no radical connection with them.

The approach to this gate was along the valley road from Kubâb to Abu Shûsheh *via* 'Ain Yerdeh. Near Abu Shûsheh, just under the village threshing-floor, is a mass of projecting rock which divides the head of the valley into two. The southern branch runs to the village, and afterwards proceeds to Saidûn; the northern branch makes straight for the gateway. I sunk a shaft in the valley in search of an old pavement or possibly a heap of rubbish thrown out from the gate, but found nothing. There is a roadway quarried in the rock on the eastern side of the mound that may be the approach to the north-eastern gate. A similar roadway runs up Tell es-Şâfi, but as the gate of the city on that mound was not discovered, the connection of the roadway with the approaches to the city was not clear.

§ VI.—THE CUNEIFORM TABLET.

The tablet¹ was found in a comparatively late stratum, contemporaneous with the early part of the period of the Hebrew monarchy, in the trench on the Western Hill, about 150 feet north of the southern city gate. It is hard baked, of compact black clay;

¹ For photographs of the tablet and for a discussion of its contents, see below, pp. 229, *sqq.*

unfortunately there are a good many cracks in its texture, and since uncovering the outer surface has shown a regrettable tendency to scale off in one place. Both faces are convex, and both inscribed. One edge is blank; on the other the lines of writing of each face are carried round till they meet. The top is lost, and also one of the lower corners; the writing is a good deal mutilated in consequence. The dimensions of the tablet as we have it are, length $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches, breadth $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches, thickness, $\frac{3}{8}$ inch.

On one face is a band, $\frac{3}{8}$ inch wide, free from writing, and separated off by a horizontal line above and below. Upon this are stamped four seal-impressions. At the right-hand end are two impressions, end to end, of a seal representing two figures facing one another (one of them bearded) wearing long robes, with uplifted hands adoring a winged figure (perhaps a flying scarabæus). Between them is a *crux ansata*. At the left-hand end are two impressions, side by side, of a seal bearing the figure of a palm tree. Enlarged drawings of both these seals will be found in Fig. 2. The four seal-impressions are all stamped with their upright axes parallel to the lines of writing.

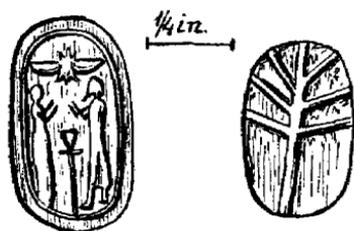


FIG. 2.—Seals impressed on the Gezer Tablet.

Below this $\frac{3}{8}$ band of seals are three lines of writing above the fracture, of which the first alone is perfect. Above the band are four lines of writing, all imperfect at the ends owing to the loss of the angle of the tablet.

The second face is completely covered with writing, divided in the middle by a horizontal stroke; above the stroke and under the fracture are five lines of writing, the lower two being perfect; the two next above have been injured slightly, while of the first only the beginning survives. Below the stroke are eight lines of writing; the last of these is a short line of a few characters only, at the end of the sentence; the other seven are all more or less mutilated at the end by the fracture of the angle.

§ VII.—AN INSCRIBED WEIGHT.

The weight described in this section (Fig. 3) is of the now familiar dome shape with a flat base, of a compact purplish stone resembling in texture jasper or basalt, weighing 11·3 grammes, and bearing the inscription **18**. It comes from the latest pre-exilic or the earliest post-exilic débris: its exact position was in the narrow indefinable layer between the two strata of building.



FIG. 3.—Inscribed Weight.

This object is of special importance in that it throws light on a long series of weights with similar inscriptions found from time to time in Palestine, which will no doubt be added to in future explorations, and introduces us to a system of numerical notation which has not, I think, been hitherto tabulated.

The series of weights is as follows:—

	Grammes.	
(1) Gezer	18 =	11·3
(2) Jerusalem ...	118 =	24·5 (<i>Z.D.P.V.</i> , v. 337).
(3, 4) Zakariya ...	78 =	{ 44·6 } (<i>Excavations in Palestine</i> , pp. 145, 146). { 45·6 }
(5) Jerusalem ...	Λ8 =	46 (<i>Z.D.P.V.</i> , v. 337).
(6) Jerusalem ...	T =	90 (<i>Bliss, Jerusalem</i> , p. 267).
(7) Tell el-Judeideh [?] 8 =	93	(<i>Excavations in Palestine</i> , p. 146).

I must acknowledge my indebtedness to the kindness of Professor Dalman, of Jerusalem, who promptly answered the inquiries I addressed him for the references and figures relating to Nos. 2 and 5 of the series, of which I had no note in the camp.

It is obvious from the above table that, allowing for small inaccuracies, No. 2 is meant to weigh double, Nos. 3, 4, 5, four times, and Nos. 6, 7, eight times the amount of No. 1. It is also

obvious that the constant sign, **8**, is a symbol for the standard; and that the variable signs, **I**, **II**, **Λ**, or **Γ**, **T**, all numerical indications of the multiple of the standard represented by the weights that respectively bear them.

We might, *à priori*, assume, with a fair approach to certainty, that in the Gezer weight **I** denotes unity, whence it follows that **II** is 2, **Λ** or **Γ** 4, and **T** 8. This assumption seems to be confirmed by a weight recently published by Professor Torrey (*see Quarterly Statement, ante*, p. 179), practically exactly half the Gezer weight, and bearing a Hebrew word meaning "half." The standard is evidently the Babylonian light silver shekel, which differs by a decimal or two only from the Gezer weight. It follows that the explanation of **8** which has been previously given, as for *ou = uncia*, is untenable.¹

The weights inscribed **ננה** must be referred to a different standard altogether, as they cannot be made to fit arithmetically into this series. The torpedo-shaped weights already described by me (*Quarterly Statement, July, 1903, p. 197*), seem, however, to belong to the system. One of these, weighing 8.68 grammes, had a cross cut on the base. A similar mark has been found on a dome-shaped weight from the upper stratum, during this quarter, weighing 7.05. The average of these is 7.86, which is slightly short of $\frac{2}{3}$ of the **8** standard. It is possible, therefore, that **+** may represent $\frac{2}{3}$. Further discoveries will, it is hoped, extend the numerical system thus indicated.



FIG. 4.—Inscribed Weight (reduced to half).

During the writing of this report, one more inscribed weight of the same stone, shape, and approximate size came to light. A facsimile of the inscription is given in Fig. 4.² This can only mean

¹ [Professor Petrie writes (in a private communication): "There can be no doubt that **8** is *ovγγια, uncia*, from dozens of Byzantine weights in Egypt." —Ed.]

² In this and other figures, when the scale is not expressed or the dimensions not stated in the text of the report, the object is represented full size.

רבע, "quarter," though the ב seems to be of a form new to epigraphy, lacking the characteristic stroke to the right. The weight is probably meant to be half the כזה weights, but it is rather too heavy; it scales 6·11 grammes, while half the heaviest known כזה weight would be 5·105.¹

§ VIII.—POTTERS' STAMPS AND OTHER SEALS.

Hitherto the only legible potters' stamp in Hebrew from Gezer has been the example published July, 1903, p. 204. Special interest therefore attaches to a new specimen from the Hebrew débris on the



FIG. 5.—Hebrew Seal on Jar Handle (reduced to half).

Eastern Hill. It is remarkable, in the first place, for the arrangement of its letters. These are five in number, and instead of being, as usual, in a horizontal line, they are placed between the angles of a pentacle (Fig. 5). On Plate LVI, No. 44 of *Excavations in Palestine* will be found a somewhat similar example. I well remember the difficulty I found in deciphering the latter seal, which was found at Tell Zakariya, when I was drawing the Plate in question. It did not even occur to me that the symbols in the angles of the pentacle might be letters, and as the Plate shows I detected nothing letter-like in their configuration. However, the Gezer example suggests that in the light which it affords a re-examination of the Zakariya handle (now in the museum at Jerusalem) is desirable. This I hope to effect at the first convenient opportunity.

For the sake of clearness and accuracy the drawings are made double size with the aid of a camera lucida, and reduced by half in printing.

¹ [It seems more probable that the legend should be restored to read כקע ("half" shekel). The weight of the stone constitutes a difficulty, unless it be half the Phœnician shekel (14·5 grammes); but on the thorny subject of weights and measures generally it is well to remind ourselves how frequently the use of unfair weights is condemned (*e.g.*, Deut. xxv, 13-16; Am. viii, 5; Lev. xix, 36; Ezek. xliv, 10). The writing is not old, possibly of about the Maccabean period.—ED.]

The Gezer stamp itself is by no means easy to deal with. The only really distinct characters are two *yods*, occupying adjacent spaces. As it is unlikely that this letter should be doubled in the course of a name we conclude that the one *yod* is the initial, the other the final character. Following this welcome clue we obtain, so far as I can make out, **יִישָׁבִי**, though recording considerable doubt in the case of the **ו** and the **ב**: the latter letter, indeed, appears to be reversed, like the *yod* on some of the Royal stamps from Ziph. If this reading be correct the name must be an abbreviated form of **יִישָׁבִיָּה** (Josibiah), which is found in I Chron. iv, 35.¹

Two stray specimens of the Royal stamps have also to be recorded. They are both of the two-winged type. With the most minute examination I could not detect a single letter of the inscription on the first: of the second enough could be made out to show that the stamp belonged to the "Memshath" series.

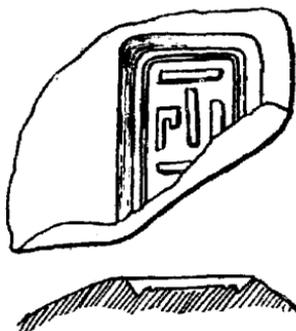


FIG. 6.—Clay Seal Impression (reduced).

One other seal-impression, from the topmost stratum, stamped on a bit of black pottery has come to light. It bears a geometrical device of some kind. The bottom is broken away (*see* Fig. 6).

To make up for the remarkable poverty of Gezer in stamps with Hebrew inscriptions, there is a striking wealth in jar-handles

¹ [One of the *yods* is certainly a **ב**, and the **ו** is probably **ל**, the **ש** might possibly be **צ**. Hence read **לִישָׁבִי**, *i.e.* **לִישָׁבִי**. A personal name is expected, so **ישָׁבִי** may be an ethnic from Sibmah, **שִׁבְמָה** (**שִׁבְמָה**), near Heshbon. If it is the place-name itself, one may note that the modern representative, *Sumia* (Conder, *Quarterly Statement*, 1882, p. 9), has preserved the **י**. It is curious that if the legend be reversed, one *could* read **ירשלים** (Jerusalem) with **ל** reversed. The writing suggests the *late* rather than the *early* monarchy.—ED.]

with scarab seals and stamped handles of Rhodian amphorae. Of the former many are indecipherable: the most interesting examples discovered during the past quarter are described in a later section. The Rhodian handles, of which by now nearly as many have been found as at Tell Sandahannah, are reserved and will be published all together in the concluding memoir on these excavations. I may, however, mention one handle which shows a detail I never saw on any other. It originally read **ΑΓΟΡΑΝΑΚΤΟΥ ΠΑΝΑΜΟΥ**. At the end of the month of Πάναμος the seal would, of course, be out of date and useless; but in order to save the trouble of cutting a fresh seal it was adapted to serve a fresh term of usefulness during the intercalary month *πάναμος δεύτερος*, by squeezing **ΔΕΥΤΕΡΟΥ** in very small letters into a narrow space under the original writing.

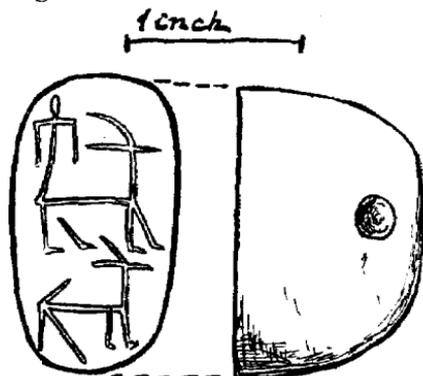


FIG. 7.—Rude Limestone Seal.

In early Hebrew monarchy débris on the Western Hill was found the limestone seal shown in Fig. 7. It is oval, with a perforation for suspension at the top—not penetrating through: there are two corresponding depressions, one on each side, but they do not meet—and on the base a puerile representation of a man and two gazelles. It is curious that the same design, very similarly treated, occurs on a tablet found more than a year ago in rather later débris in the neighbourhood of the temple trench: a drawing was sent to London at the time, but it has not yet been published. In Fig. 8 will be found a scarab and two conical seals of basalt, obviously all the work of one craftsman, which were found in a group in débris of the same period. These show somewhat

similar devices. On the scarab is an ibex, attacked by what seems to be a wolf: notice the star under the body of the ibex. The seal marked *b* in the figure seems to bear a stag: I take the curious forked object above the stag's back to represent horns. There appears to be a star under the stag's body also. The second seal perhaps represents a man and two gazelles, conventionalised into two animals, one with four legs the other with six.

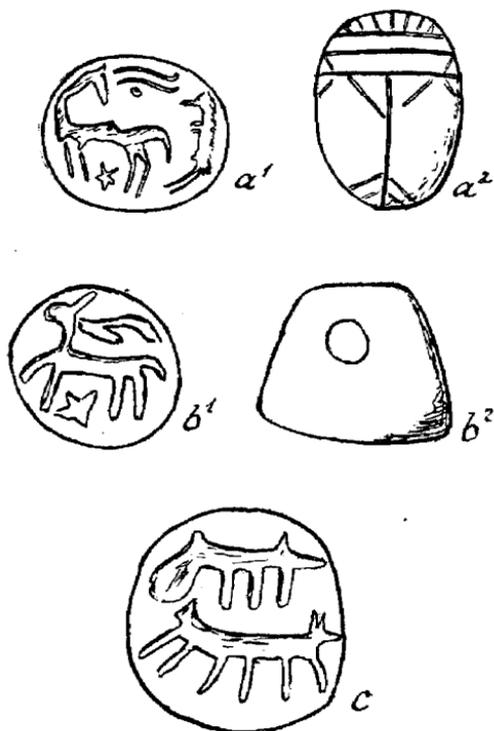


FIG. 8.—Scarab (*a*) and Seals (*b*, *c*) in basalt (reduced).

Horned animals of the deer kind seem to be a favourite subject of Palestinian seals, and several examples from different places have now been found. Whether this be an accident or something analogous to personal or family badges is a question on which we must await further light. Possibly it may not be too far-fetched to quote the Biblical expressions about a person's "horn being exalted" in this connection.¹

¹ [The possibility that the gazelle and deer were sacred to Ashtôreth may also be mentioned.—Ed.]

§ IX.—STONE OBJECTS.

The two stone objects of greatest interest found during the quarter (if we except two or three very rude figures which do not at present call for detailed notice) have been a small table of offerings and the fragments of a very fine limestone chequer-board. The first of these objects is of reddish limestone, square, with slightly bevelled edges (the upper being the widest face). It was $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches square, and $\frac{7}{8}$ inch thick; a little less than half of the object is broken away and lost. In the upper face were five hemispherical depressions $1\frac{5}{12}$ inches in diameter arranged in a quincunx. It will be remembered that a similar object, of large size, was found at Tell el-Judeideh; that specimen must have been intended always to remain in one place, while the Gezer example is small and portable.

The chequer-board resembles one found at Tell Zakariya in having a large number of squares marked (*see Excavations in Palestine*, p. 144), but differs in both the number and disposition of the chequers. The Zakariya example is square, and has $12 \times 12 = 144$ chequers; the Gezer board measures $12\frac{3}{4}$ inches by $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches by $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches thick, and has $16 \times 11 = 176$ chequers. An interesting study could be made (as I think I have remarked in a previous report) of the variety of Palestinian draughts-boards; there must have been a large number of different games played, as hardly two are found with the chequers similarly disposed. The Gezer board, it should be said, has lost one corner. Both these objects come from the post-exilic stratum.¹

In an earlier stratum—that containing the scarab of Amenhotep III, and in one of the remarkably prolific chambers of that stratum lying over the southern gate of the inner wall—was found a singularly interesting hoard of pebbles, clearly the stock-in-trade of a lapidary. They are about 70 in number, and nearly all are in process of being manufactured into weights of some definite shape. The following catalogue may be submitted: where not otherwise stated the pebbles are of hæmatite:—

¹ [For Egyptian draughts-boards and draughts-men reference may be made to an interesting article by Mr. W. L. Nash, in the *Proceedings of the Society of Biblical Archaeology*, 1902, pp. 341-348.—Ed.]

(1) Five pebbles of a compact greenish stone, apparently hornblende; two polished by water wear on the surface, and not worked in any way; one shuttle-shaped stone which apparently fractured while being perforated for a bead; a fragment resembling the head of a polished celt; a small polished pointed fragment.

(2) Eight irregular pebbles of hæmatite on which no work has yet been done.

(3) One similar pebble on which a flat face has been prepared by chipping preparatory to polishing.

(4) Nine pebbles like No. 3, but with the flat face more or less polished. Little or no work done elsewhere on the surface of the stone.

(5) Three pebbles with two such faces polished, the stone having a wedge shape.

(6) Five pebbles illustrating the formation of a torpedo-shaped stone weight. In one there are three principal planes polished, the stone being prismatic in shape; the back is then worked down gradually, and the ends reduced. An apparently complete example weighs 6.4 grammes.

(7) Six pebbles illustrating the formation of a parallelepiped; one of these is jasper, one diorite, one agate, two hornblende, and one hæmatite. The diorite and agate, which seem to have received their final polish, and are very handsome stones, weigh respectively 9.4 and 21.82 grammes.

(8) Nine pebbles in process of being brought to a cylindrical or conical shape by continuously polishing away angles until a curved surface is obtained. A few of these show a small hole in the middle of the end surface, apparently made by some kind of lathe. Five specimens which seem to be sufficiently near completion to make their weights of value amount to 26.09, 20.32, 16.22, 15.35, and 12.82 grammes.

(9) Cylindrical pebble with one side polished smooth, weight 11.77 grames.

(10) Conical pebble of basalt, base, top, and one side polished smooth, weight 23.59.

(11) Fourteen pebbles illustrating the formation of dome-shaped weights. A spherical stone is selected and the base ground down; the dome-shape being arrived at by a gradual process of smoothing off the angles between facets. One of the series is exactly hemispherical, like a פָּבֵי weight recently published by Professor Barton,

of Bryn Mawr (*American Oriental Society*, vol. xxiv, p. 386); all the others are of the same shape as the weight illustrated in a previous section. The most complete of this series is the largest, which weighs 44.75. The two smallest of the series, which are also the smallest of the hoard, are also nearly finished, they weigh 2.31 and 3.64 respectively.

It will be noticed that several of the above weights fall into the series already described in Section VII. Others must be referable to another standard.

In addition to weight-making, one lapidary also manufactured polished amulets of shell. Three pieces of shell, the raw material, were found in the hoard, and one small finished amulet, of which, however, he had had the misfortune to break the eye after the drilling was finished.

Before leaving the stone objects I may make a passing reference to a small limestone box, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches square and $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches deep, divided into three compartments, possibly for keeping different kinds of cosmetics or some such substances apart. It was found in the topmost stratum.

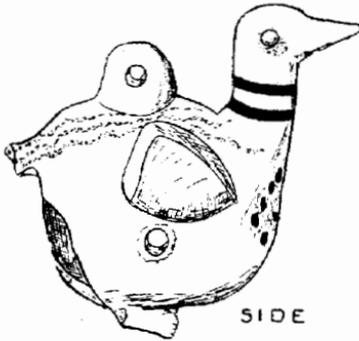
§ X.—POTTERY OBJECTS.

By far the most curious objects in pottery found during the quarter have been discovered in the stratum of buildings above the southern gate—a region that proved rich in remarkable antiquities.

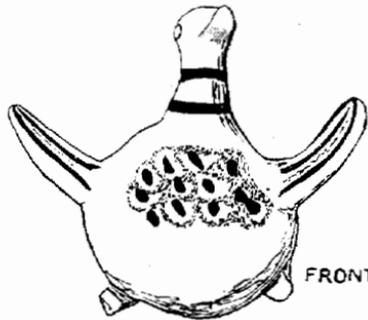
On Plate III four aspects of the model of a bird, apparently a duck, are shown. It is of light yellow pottery, hollow, with short expanded wings, and with legs doubled up and attached to the lower side of the body along their whole length. The figure is ornamented with painted black and red straight and zigzag lines, reproduced in the drawing—the red colour being represented by dots. On the breast is a curious red network, with a black dot in the centre of each space. The eyes (as is almost always the case with animal figures of the kind from Palestine) are small pellets, moulded separately and stuck on; there is a small patch of red colour surrounding them. On the back is a loop for suspension, and under each wing is a perforation. It is curious how often such perforations are found in the sides of animal figures unearthed on the *tell*: this detail is well shown in a fragmentary hollow figure of a sitting animal with curled tail found in the top stratum.

EXCAVATION OF CEZER

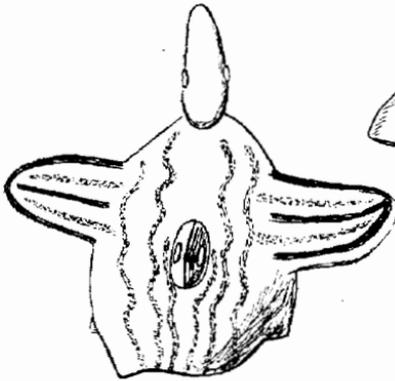
BIRD FIGURE



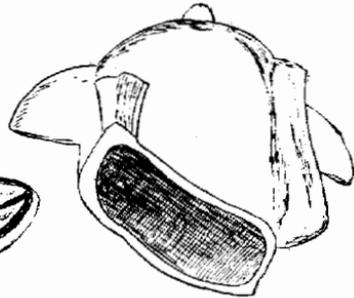
SIDE



FRONT



TOP

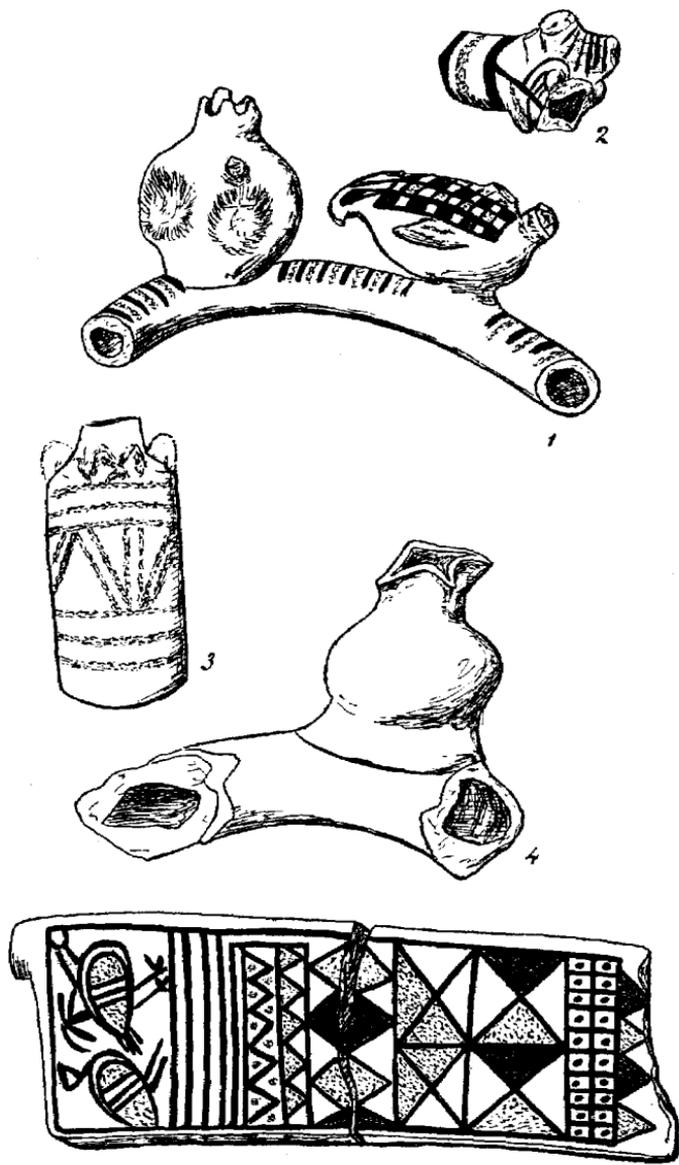


BASE

Edwin M. ...

EXCAVATION OF CEZER

GROUP OF POTTERY OBJECTS



The singular group of fragments, some of which are illustrated on Plate IV come from the same place. Fig. 1 is the segment of a circular tube of pottery. If complete the circle would have an internal diameter of $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches; about one-third of the circumference remains. The diameter (external) of the tube is $\frac{7}{8}$ inch. The pottery is of a light Venetian red colour; the upper half of the tube is ornamented with short strokes, alternately red and black. Attached to the tube, and with hollow bodies communicating with its hollow, are alternate figures of birds and pomegranates, one of each remaining on the fragment now being described; there seem to have been three of each. The pomegranate is represented by a little jar, with mouth pinched in and having four points, and with four hollows in the sides. There appears one attachment of a handle, but no second attachment, so it is not clear how the handle was completed. The bird is of the same general character as that above described. It has lost its head, but on the other hand preserves the curious flat fish-like tail. The pomegranate is covered with a dark red wash, the bird ornamented on the back with a chequer of red, black, and uncoloured squares.

The above description assumes that when unbroken the figure was a perfect circle. But it is possible that it terminated in an animal's head like that shown in Fig. 2; the neck is just such a hollow tube, similarly ornamented; the diameter is, however, a full inch, which is a little too large, so that the head cannot belong to No. 1. The object as remaining is 2 inches long; the nose is broken away.

Fragments of another object identical with No. 1, but of larger "bore," were also found. One pomegranate remained, in all respects similar to that figured. No additional light is thrown by it on the question of the completion of the handle. A considerable fragment of a much larger curved tube was with the group; this also was painted with black and red strokes, but shows no signs of having had figures attached to it. These tubes are complete below, so they are not saucer-rims as at first sight they might be taken to be; as a matter of fact (as though to point the contrast), the much broken remains of a saucer-rim was actually found in the same place, with fragments of one pomegranate projecting from it.

Fig. 3 represents a small cylindrical jar with very narrow mouth; the lip and two ear handles which formerly stood on the shoulders

are broken away. It is ornamented with pale red lines and zigzags painted on a cream-coloured slip.

Fig. 4 represents one of two fragments of an object similar to Fig. 1, but larger and coarser. The curvature shows that the internal diameter of the circle was much the same as that in Fig. 1, but the external diameter of the tube is slightly over $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The pottery is thick and gritty, black in the broken sections, and covered all over with an Indian red wash. There were apparently five figures standing upon the circle, probably all pomegranates like that figured. These, as in the previously described example, communicate with the hollow of the tube.

It is possible that these objects were lamps, a wick projecting through the narrow mouths of the pomegranates and communicating with oil with which the circular tube was filled. Similarly arranged lamps, standing on circular rims, were discovered at Tell es-Sâfi and Tell Sandahannah, and will be found described and illustrated in *Excavations in Palestine*.

In Fig. 5 is shown the lid of a pottery casket. One end is broken off; the other end shows a horn that fitted into a socket in the mouth of the casket. The surviving portion, which is broken into two fragments, is $7\frac{1}{4}$ inches long, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches broad, and $\frac{5}{8}$ inch thick. The pottery is of a Venetian red colour, with a cream-yellow slip; the upper surface bears in black and red the ornamentation shown in the Plate.

Some fine examples of painted ware have been discovered during the season, but for the present they need not be illustrated. Half of a large spindle-whorl was also found; it bore two rudely-scratched bird figures. This object was found in the uppermost stratum.

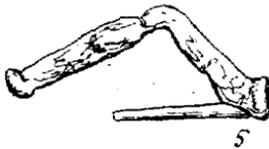
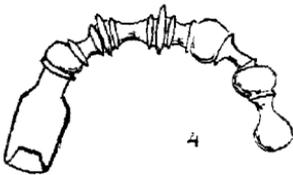
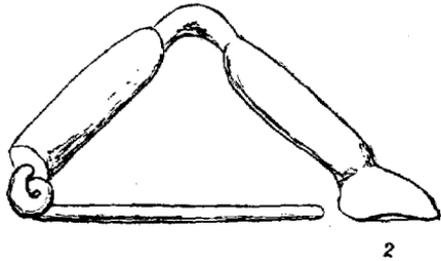
§ XI.—METAL OBJECTS.

Some of the most interesting metal objects are gathered together on Plate V. In addition to these I may mention that a fine collection of tools in iron has been brought together from the upper strata, and will be treated of on a later occasion.

Fig. 1 represents a bronze pin (fourth stratum) of a type very common here and at Lachish, though unknown in the Shephelah *tells*—a cylindrical tapering pin, with the taper of the shaft interrupted at from quarter to half-way down from the head by an eyelet hole. This kind of pin has already been illustrated

EXCAVATION OF CEZER

METAL OBJECTS



W. F. Storer

in the present series of reports (*see Quarterly Statement*, October, 1902, p. 328). The example now figured is curious for having a small gold ring running through the eye—possibly the first link of a chain by which the pin was attached to the person and preserved from loss.

Figs. 2-5 are fibules of the common safety-pin type, Fig. 2 (uppermost stratum) being illustrated on account of its unusual size, Fig. 3 (found on the rock) because of its perfect state of preservation—a very rare circumstance—Fig. 4 (uppermost stratum) on account of its bold and handsome moulding, which is also unusual, and Fig. 5 because it is a singularly interesting example of the overlap of bronze and iron. The back of the fibula in the latest example is iron; instead of the usual spring at the base of the pin there is a socket, into which a bronze pin is slipped. The bronze was no doubt found more flexible. I have never in Palestine or elsewhere seen a similar object.

Equally interesting from the same point of view is the fragment of bracelet from the sixth stratum shown in Fig. 6. This had a double bronze wire wrapped round it. The marks of iron corrosion, when carefully studied, show that an iron wire was wrapped round likewise, alternating with the bronze. This also is unique in my experience.

Fig. 7, from near the rock on the Western Hill, is apparently a bronze fish-hook; I do not remember any precedent for the peculiar position of the barb.

Fig. 8 represents a small pellet of lead found in tracing the south side of the outer wall. It has an anchor stamped on one side and a snake on the other. Similar pellets, though without the stamps, were found at Tell Sandaḥannah.¹

A collection of bronze and iron arrowheads together with a number of stone balista balls and iron nails were found in a heap just outside the south gate. The series is interesting, as it shows

¹ The labourer who turned this object out of the ground said to me, "We have found a bit of lead with a *dôghbis* upon it." Enquiry elicited that by *dôghbis* he meant a tadpole. The word seems worth recording, as I have found it unnoticed in both Lane and De Sacy, and (what is more to the point) unknown to my Lebanon foreman and to several of the best scholars of colloquial Arabic whom I have consulted, some of whom have spent all their lives in the country. The man from whose lips I heard the word is from El-Kubâb, but the Zakariya people tell me that they know and use the word likewise.

the variety of types used in the country at one time.¹ No doubt we have here the tangible remains of a skirmish, but it would be an anachronism to yield to the temptation of connecting the skirmish with an endeavour to force the southern gate. The use of iron, and of barbed bronze arrowheads, proves that the skirmish must have taken place in the Maccabean period, a thousand years after the southern gate had been covered up and forgotten. It is possible—indeed probable—that these arrowheads are relics of one of the combats in which Gezer was involved during the Judæo-Syrian wars; possibly that in which Simon Maccabæus captured the city (1 Macc. xiii, 43 *sqq.*).

§ XII.—EGYPTIAN OBJECTS.

As in previous reports, the scarabs (collected together on Plate VI)² can most conveniently be described in tabular form:—

No.	Fig. on Pl. VI.	Stratum.	Material.	Device.
1	1	Under III	Steatite ..	Figure.
2	—	„	Amethyst ..	No device.
3	—	„	Crystal ..	No device.
4	2	„	Steatite ..	Symmetrical pattern (the middle lost, the scarab being broken into three pieces).
5	3	„	„ ..	Symmetrical pattern (upper 'nh broken away).
6	4	„	„ ..	Ring (nearly all broken) flanked by 'nhs.
7	5	III	Limestone ..	Lion.
8	6	III	Steatite ..	Mn-hpr-R' nfr ntr (Thothmes III).
9	—	III	Amethyst ..	No device.
10	7	III	Steatite, blue enamel.	Symmetrical pattern.
11	8	IV	Steatite ..	Symmetrical arrangement of a large number of symbolical characters.
12	9	IV	Steatite, yellow enamel.	Symmetrical pattern. Two palm branches on the back of the scarab.
13	10	IV	Steatite ..	Uræus, <i>nfr</i> , &c.
14	11	IV	„ ..	Seated figure, uræus, &c.

¹ [This plate has been held over until the concluding Memoir.]

² [In the Plate all are reduced to about half-size, except 19, which is only quarter-size.—ED.]

EXCAVATION OF CEZER

SCARABS



Re-Shauli A.

No.	Fig. on Pl. VI.	Stratum.	Material.	Device.
15	12	IV	Steatite, green enamel.	Bird on lotus branch (?).
16	13	IV	Paste, blue enamel.	<i>Nb</i> and other devices.
17	—	IV	Diorite ..	No device.
18	—	IV	Basalt ..	No device.
19	14	IV	Steatite, yellow enamel.	Symmetrical pattern.
20	15	IV	Clunch ..	Rude scaraboid : animal figure.
21	16	V	Greyish limestone in gold setting.	<i>Hq-smt-w H-i-'n</i> [Khyan]. In margin symmetrical arrangement of ' <i>nh</i> ' and <i>nfr</i> .
22	[See below]	V	Paste, green enamel.	Rings of Thii and Amenhotep III.
23	"	V	Paste, blue enamel.	Kneeling figure.
24	"	V	Paste, green enamel.	Device obscure.
25	—	VI	Diorite ..	No device.
26	17	VI	Steatite, green enamel.	Two figures, one wearing the crown of Upper Egypt. In margin, symmetrical arrangement of ' <i>nh</i> ' and <i>sn</i> (?). On back of scarab, branch of a lotus.
27	[See above, Fig. 11A]	VI	Basalt ..	Wolf attacking ibex.
28	18	VII	Steatite ..	Figure on back of a camel (or giraffe ?).
29	19	VII	Grey steatite ..	Rudely-scratched representation of two birds (?), and a sphinx.
30	—	Picked up on surface.	Paste, green enamelled.	Fragment, apparently inscribed <i>Imn</i> (Amen).
31	—	"	Paste, green enamelled.	Fragment, nothing of device left but ☉.
32	—	"	Amethyst ..	No device.
33	20	"	Diorite ..	Spiral pattern.
34	21	"	Paste, green enamelled.	Seated figure, &c.
35	22	"	Steatite ..	<i>Mn hpr B' Imn</i> [compare No. 8].
36	23	"	" ..	Lotus flower and <i>nfr</i> in a ring.
37	24	"	Paste, green enamelled.	Conventionalised figure.
38	25	"	Steatite ..	<i>Imn</i> (?).
39	26	"	" ..	Ā bee, <i>nb</i> , and symmetrical ornament.
40	27	"	Diorite ..	Winged figure with symmetrical ornament, similar to the last.

Considerably over a hundred scarabs have now been found at Gezer, as against less than 50 from the *tells* in the Shephelah.

This is an interesting testimony to the intensity of the Egyptian domination over the city now undergoing exploration.

Of the scarabs catalogued above the most interesting is No. 21, bearing the name of Khyan—one of whose scarabs has also been found at Knossos in Crete—and No. 22, the great scarab of Amenhotep III and Thii. This is shown separately in Fig. 9. It is $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches long, and bears the rings and royal titles of the King and Queen. Two smaller scarabs, shown in the same figure, as well as a few spherical beads and a draughtsman, all of the

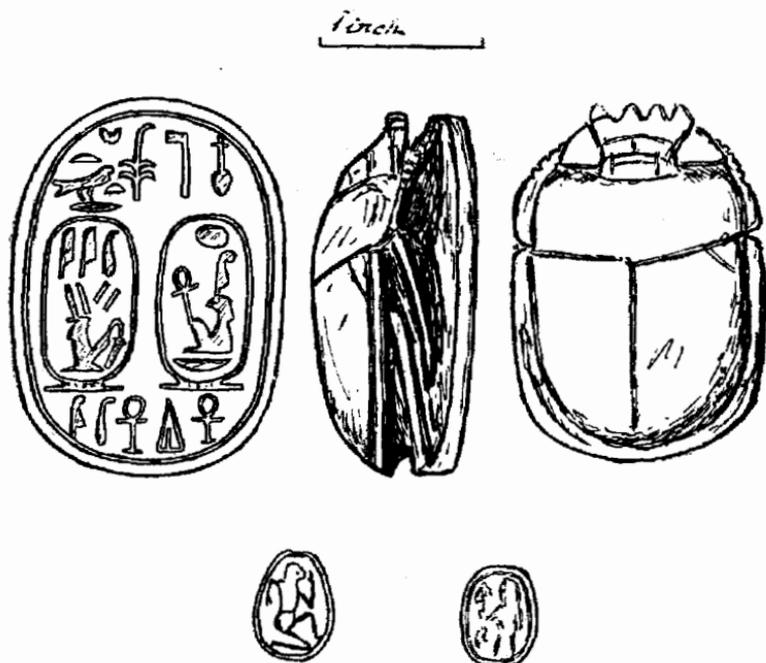


FIG. 9.—Scarab of Amenhotep III and Thii, and two other Scarabs found with it.

characteristic Egyptian green enamelled paste, were found together with the large scarab. Of the smaller scarabs, one in blue enamelled paste, represents a kneeling figure; the other, in paste green enamelled, is much disintegrated, and I can say only that it seems to represent two standing figures.

In Plate VI, Figs. 28-30, are represented the only jar-handle scarab stamps that need detain us. Figs. 28 and 29 were from the third, Fig. 30 from the fourth, stratum.

The only other Egyptian objects found during the quarter that deserves mention is a little block of carnelian on which a sphinx is delicately carved. It was found in the fourth stratum. Another minute sphinx in blue enamelled paste was found in the rubbish outside the southern city gate.

The remaining Egyptian antiquities do not call for detailed notice. Several of the common small enamelled amulets in the shape of god-figures have been discovered at different levels. It is evident that at all times the most popular Egyptian divinity in Gezer was the god of dancing and other pleasurable excitement, Bes. At least two—I ought, perhaps, to say three or four—of his figures are found to one symbolising any other deity.¹

§ XIII.—CONCLUSION.

With this report the second year's digging comes to an end. As the preceding report consisted almost entirely of a recapitulation of the work done from the beginning, I need not here give a retrospect of the year's results as I did at the end of the first 12 months. The mound has throughout shown a curious tendency to unexpectedness in the harvest it has yielded: on some subjects on which we had been hoping that it would offer testimony it has as yet remained silent, while in others it has given a fulness of information beyond what we would have dreamed. It has now been proved that cuneiform tablets are to be found within it, though where they are it is, of course, impossible to say till they actually come to light. Surely it is not too much to ask that subscribers and others will make a special effort to aid the Fund during the one more year that the work can be prosecuted, to examine as much as possible of the five-sixths of the débris of whose contents, precious though they unquestionably are, we are as yet perfectly ignorant.

¹ [See further below, Professor Petrie's notes on "Egyptian Objects."]