

so-called *ankh* is more like the usual altar placed between two figures on Syrian stones, and the winged disc is of the Perso-Assyrian form rather than the Egyptian.”]

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## NOTES ON OBJECTS FROM GEZER.

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### I. *Fifth Quarterly Report.*

As the Egyptian objects found at Gezer give the dating of the strata, it is most desirable to make full use of them by naming the periods whenever possible. In Mr. Macalister's paper of October, p. 301, Plate II, the Fig. 2 is the usual hinging toilet-knife of the XVIIIth dynasty; see the form in *Illahun*, Plate XIX, 33, the earlier form of the XIIth dynasty having a much smaller blade, see Plate VIII, 4, 5. The use of this tool has long been in question, but it seems likely that it was for trimming the hair (scissors being unknown); and the hinging back of it was for stretching little ringlets, wound upon it, on the same principle as a glove stretcher, so as to keep the ringlets in curl. The hinge and groove is often invisible owing to corrosion; and the knife seems then merely to have a spike on the back.

Plate II, Fig. 3, is a usual form of rasp in the XVIIIth dynasty, probably used for rasping dried bread, or possibly for carpentering.

Plate II, Fig. 5, is like a modelling tool of Roman age; but it might be a form of netting needle, the thread being wound round the middle. It is unlikely that arrow heads would be cast tang to tang, as the tang was always the filling neck of the mould.

Plate II, Fig. 10, is a well-known furniture knob of late period, for the top of the legs of stools or couches; the "solid rod of bronze," p. 302, seems as if it might be the connecting core-rod by which the rings which built up the legs were held together. Until we can have the dating of levels with these objects it will be difficult to settle their use. Such composite legs of furniture are not usual before the Greek period.

Plate II, Fig. 12, is the usual late Greek form of weight in Syria; half the Sandahannah example would be 72·5 grammes, and

quarter of this one is 65·9 grammes. This is the usual Phœnician unit, of which 14·5 grammes was the shekel (Maccabean); five shekels, or 72·2, was the unit of account, which came into use about 440 B.C., and is found stated in papyri; and 25 shekels was the mina. All weights need careful allowance for loss and gain, by wear and oxidation, before their accurate amounts can be stated.

Plate IV, Figs. 1, 4, 9, 11 (?), 12, 15, 17, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, are all of the XIIth–XIVth dynasties. No. 1 is certainly of Useratesen I. This group belongs to Stratum III. Figs. 5, 6, 7, 13, 22 (?) are of the XVIIIth dynasty, and belong to Stratum IV. Fig. 8 is of the XIXth dynasty.

Page 315.—The holes drilled in broken pottery cannot have been for riveting—at least, in Egyptian examples—as no corresponding rivets are known. It is probable that they were for lashing the pieces together with thongs of leather or cords. Every kind of fracture was dealt with in this way.

The “hole-mouths” have nothing to do with rivet holes. I defined them in *Tell el-Hesi*, p. 42, thus: “The opening is simply a hole cut in the vessel, without any lip, or turn, or decoration, beyond a slight thickening for strength in some cases.” I may add that the width of the hole-mouth is usually from a quarter to a half of the whole diameter of the vessel.

It is earnestly to be hoped that the whole of the objects of one stratum will be uniformly published together in plates. It is only thus that the ages of the strata can be ascertained, and thence the dating of various Syrian objects of which we do not yet know the history.

## II. *Eighth Quarterly Report.*

The scarabs (see Plate VI) are mostly of the Hyksos period, the XIVth to XVIth dynasties; none are certainly as early as the XIIth dynasty, or before that. No. 16 is a fine one of Khyan, the great king whose remains are found from Crete to Baghdad. Nos. 6 and 22 are of Thotmes III, in the XVIII dynasty. Nos. 24 and 25 are probably after the XIXth dynasty. No. 15 is not Egyptian. The general interest is in these pointing to a main intercourse between Palestine and Egypt under the Hyksos, of whom at present scarcely anything is known.

The large separate scarab (Fig. 9) is one of a well-known class of Amenhotep III, in this case conjoined with his queen, Thyi.