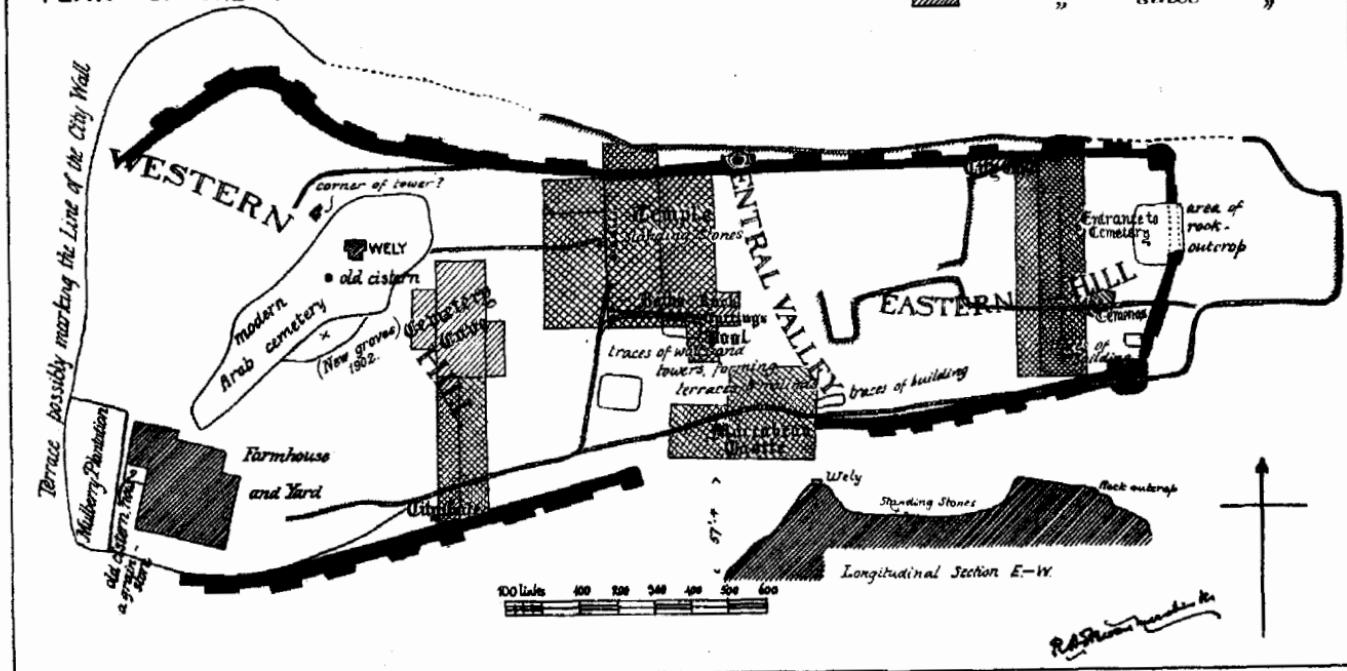


EXCAVATION OF CEZER

PLAN OF THE SURFACE

 Excavated before Report XI.
 " since "



THIRTEENTH QUARTERLY REPORT ON THE
EXCAVATION OF GEZER.

16 May—30 August, 1905.

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

§ I.—PRELIMINARY.

It will be remembered that in the winter of 1902–3, owing to the epidemic of cholera and consequent quarantine regulations, it was impossible to carry on the works for a period of two months and a half. By the courtesy of His Excellency Hamdy Bey, the Fund was permitted to add an equal period to the extended firman (which expired June 14th), and so to postpone the final completion of the works at Gezer until August 30th. The present report covers the end of the firman and the period of extension, thus closing the series of reports from Gezer that have been appearing for the last three years.

The work done has consisted of an extension of the trenches on the Western Hill, where an early cemetery of the highest importance has been discovered; of a search for an extension of the Troglodyte high place; and of some miscellaneous researches and examinations in various parts of the hill and its surroundings, to solve certain questions that have arisen from time to time in the course of the works.

§ II.—THE CEMETERY CAVE.

On Plate II will be found a ground plan of the most complicated system of caves that has yet been discovered on the hill. There is evidence that it was originally excavated by the pre-Semitic inhabitants as a dwelling place, like so many other caves found on the hill top; that it was subsequently utilised as a place of burial; and that it was most unfortunately discovered, many centuries after it had been closed and forgotten, by cistern-diggers, who entered it and looted its contents, leaving just sufficient for us to determine its character, period, and historical importance.

A full description of the cave and its contents, with sufficient illustrations, would fill a number of the *Quarterly Statement*. I must

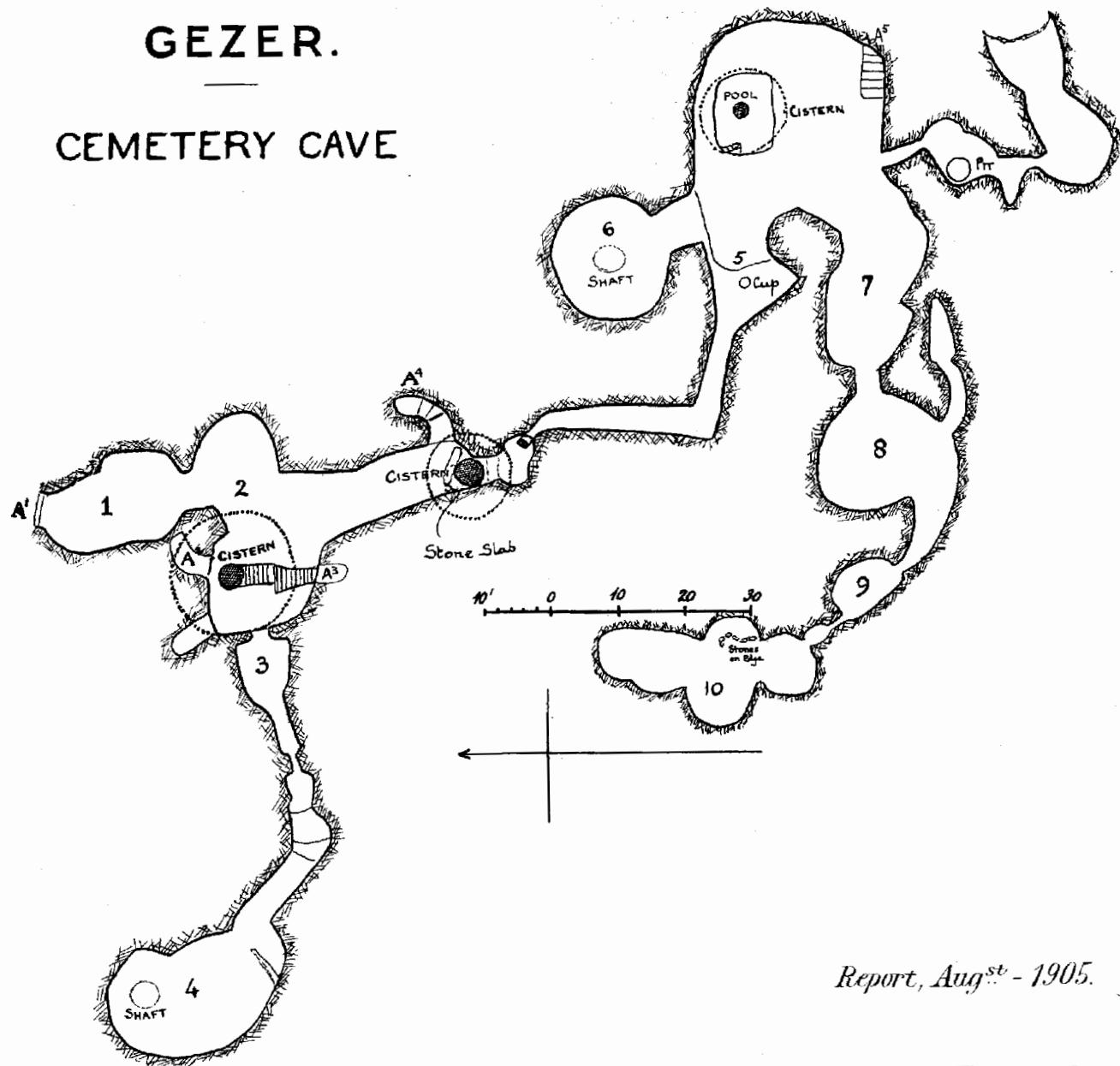
content myself here with a brief account, premising that an exhaustive report, with a complete series of photographs and drawings, is in preparation, and will when complete be submitted to the Committee of the Palestine Exploration Fund.

There are (as will be seen in the plan) numerous entrances to the system: we shall select the most northerly (A¹) and describe the cave and its contents in order, proceeding southwards.

At the entrance A¹, which is an irregular hole broken in the rock with three roughly-cut steps for descent, was found a small gold rosette. The chamber (1) to which it leads was empty, except for some scanty fragments of pottery (including pieces of large jars with ledge-handles). But this chamber is in itself of sufficient interest to make up for the meagreness of its contents. It is of a fairly regular oval shape, and, as will be seen from the special plan (Plate III), the floor is covered with a system of circular cup-marks. These marks are as mysterious here as elsewhere; but it is specially to be noticed that they have a regularity both of individual form and relative arrangement that is wanting in the majority of similar systems in other places. The cups are, with a few exceptions, carefully made, round, with vertical sides and flat bottoms; and they are arranged in three ovals, or, rather, horseshoes, surrounding a central space in the floor that has been left vacant. This has been made clear in the plan by means of dotted lines. It is, perhaps, an accident that the first ring contains nine cups (3×3); the second, fifteen (5×3); and the third, eighteen (6×3); though the long space in one corner of the outer ring where a cup could easily have been placed seems to show that there is something definite in the number. The two cups not included in the rings are shallow, irregular depressions which may be natural. There is also a straight row of four cups occupying a trench sunk a few inches below the floor along the eastern side of the chamber.

We shall at present desist from occupying space in speculating on the purpose of this chamber and its mysteries, and pass on through the low doorway that separates it from the next room of the cave. This is a wide—more or less square—apartment, with two independent entrances of its own (A² and A³). A² is a vertical doorway, approached by a continually deepening passage excavated in the rock; A³ is an oval opening in the roof of the cave with a rudely-built flight of steps leading down to the floor.

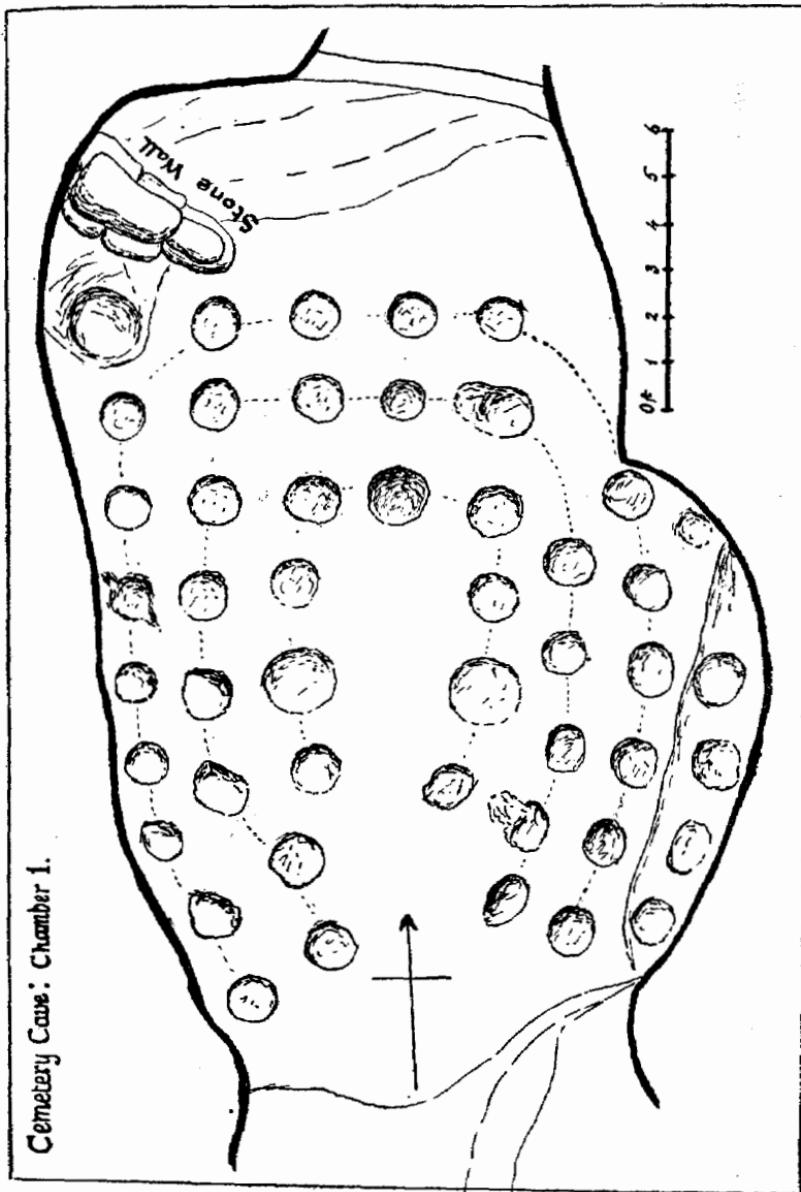
GEZER.



Report, Augst - 1905.

Palestine Exploration Fund.

Plate III.



This chamber had been entered and looted by the well-sinkers by a route we shall presently describe. Everything it may originally have contained had been stolen by them, with the exception of potsherds of no special importance, and one deposit, which they had fortunately overlooked, in the loose earth covering the staircase just mentioned. This deposit consisted of a fine gold armlet, three large scarabs (one in steatite, inscribed, and two plain in crystal and amethyst respectively) set in silver mounts, several beads, and two or three gold rosettes.

At the foot of the staircase a cistern is sunk in the floor of the chamber 24 feet deep. This cistern does not differ in form from the ordinary bell-shaped reservoirs that have often been mentioned in these reports; but that it is of earlier date than the great majority of these is shown not only by its position in a cave that must have been concealed about 2000 B.C., but also by the primitive character of the pottery vessels that had been lost in it and were discovered when it was cleared. Yet it can scarcely be part of the original scheme of the cave. It would appear that there was first a lower chamber, approached by a flight of steps beautifully cut in the rock; that this chamber was deepened into the cistern, and the steps built over and concealed with masonry, in order to make the mouth of the cistern truly circular. This masonry was found intact when the cave was opened, and the steps in the rock were not seen till it had been removed.

In the middle of the west wall of the chamber is a small circular hole, through which one squeezes into an insignificant chamber, No. 3 (that contained nothing of importance but one fine early jar with ledge-handles and adorned with red lines); beyond this is a tunnel, proceeding first westward and then turning northward till it reaches a large, more or less round, chamber (No. 4). Into this room the well-sinkers broke at some time, probably about the seventh or eighth century B.C.; they found the tunnel, and through it the large chamber just quitted, which they plundered; and then returning to the cave on which they had lighted (No. 4), they blocked up the mouth of the tunnel with large stones, cemented these and the rest of the walls of the apartment, built a shaft, and so turned the whole into a cistern.

Retracing our way through the tunnel and back to the second chamber, we find that southward from the latter runs a broad, short passage, at the southern end of which there is, on the left-hand

(east) side, a fourth entrance to the cave (A⁴). Just beyond this entrance further progress was blocked by an immense slab of stone, which, with great difficulty, was removed.

Behind the stone was a second cistern with a wide mouth, occupying nearly the whole width of the passage; this well is about 11 feet deep. In the sides the tool marks display unequivocal signs of having been formed with flint rather than with metal implements. This well contained nothing but a few potsherds of primitive types. Beyond the cistern mouth is a small doorway, about 2 feet in height, leading to a chamber just large enough to turn round in. In the east side of this chamber is a small circular hole that can, with considerable difficulty, be squeezed through, after which we find ourselves in a tortuous creep-passage, about 30 feet long. This tunnel leads to an independent system of chambers.

Of these chambers, No. 5 is partly ruined, the roof of its eastern half having fallen in about 1450 B.C. This date is determined by the level to which the superincumbent débris has been disturbed. The floor of the western half of the chamber is raised by a step about 3 feet higher than the eastern half, and in the centre of this upper level is a cup-mark. There is a third cistern excavated in the eastern part of this chamber, and in the rock-surface above were cut a number of holes, apparently intended to allow surface-water to drain through and so to find its way to the cistern. The cistern is sunk in the middle of an oblong pool, with three steps descending to it. The pool seems to have been original, the cistern being an afterthought. Its shaft is built through the earth and silt with which the pool is filled.

Chamber 6, like chamber 4, had also been entered by well-sinkers about 600 B.C., who adapted it as a reservoir, deepening its floor to a level of about 30 feet below the rock-surface—about 20 feet below its original depth. They took care, of course, to loot the contents of the adjoining chamber 5, but fortunately the fallen rock had blocked the entrance to chambers 7 and 8, so that these were untouched. The first of these chambers contained a considerable number of pottery groups, with one or two new forms, forming in all a most valuable series of contemporary types; the second was also rich in pottery and alabaster, and it likewise contained a number of gold-mounted scarabs, a fine bronze-gilt kohl pencil, several beads, slips of ivory for inlaying, and other treasures. The small passage running south of chamber 8 descends

by a rather steep slope to a long, narrow cell, just about large enough to contain a human body. There were two bronze spearheads at the entrance to this passage, as well as a large number of jugs, but the passage and cell itself were empty.

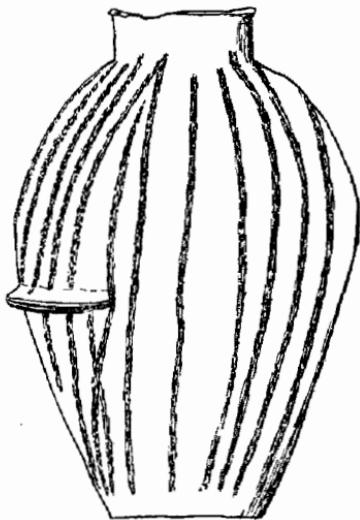
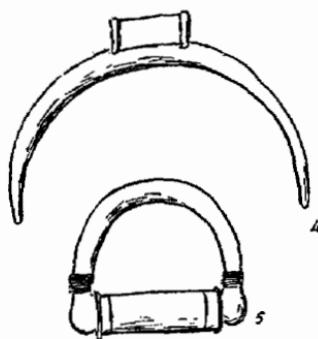
The chambers beyond 8 (9 and 10) contained nothing but potsherds, a mill-stone, and other traces of early occupation; apparently they were not adapted for sepulture. The row of stones on edge in a bay in chamber 10 is curious. The roof of 10 had fallen in. Neither did the small system proceeding south-east from 5 yield anything more important than one large jar containing a small human clavicle and two vertebrae. There is here a peculiar pit, 5 feet deep, with a hole in the roof corresponding to it.

Reserving for the full account already promised a detailed description of the entire series of "finds," we may for the present refer to Plate IV, where a selection of the most important are gathered together. These do not call for any lengthy description here. Fig. 1 is the gold armlet from chamber 2—a flexible strip, torn at one end (where are four holes for a now lost fastening); along the edge is a series of raised dots, repoussé. Fig. 2 is the gilt-bronze kohl pencil from chamber 8. Fig. 3 is a silver hairpin, and Fig. 4 a pendant crescent, also in silver, found associated with the gold armlet (Fig. 1). Fig. 5 is an ornament, consisting of a plain cylindrical bead, enamelled a green colour, with a sheath of gold at each end, set in a silver ring. This was also with the group containing the gold armlet. Fig. 6 is one of the numerous scarabs from chamber 8, important, as it seems to bear the name of Usertsen III. Fig. 7 is a remarkable vessel in black slate from chamber 8, and Fig. 8 is the fine painted jar from chamber 3.

The scarabs are all referable to the Egyptian middle empire, and while one or two might not be of much importance in dating the cemetery, their unanimous testimony may safely be accepted as demonstrating the interments to be of that period—*i.e.*, according to the majority of chronologists, about 2500 B.C.

This cave explains a circumstance which had long perplexed me, as it must have puzzled those who have followed the foregoing series of reports with care. I refer to the frequency with which middle empire scarabs have been found in the upper strata of the mound. The discovery of the cave about 600 B.C. must have let loose a flood of scarabs over the city, and the excavator has been hard pressed to explain how Usertsen I and other early scarabs

EARLY CANAANITE TOMB DEPOSITS



1cm 0 1 2

(figs. 7, 8, half the scale)

g. brown-mcvillic

came to be associated with late débris of the Assyrian period. The explanation now put forth is reasonable and sufficient. The cave must have been extraordinarily rich before the cistern diggers found it.

The historical conclusions which these deposits indicate are of high importance. I have several times stated my suspicion that the Egyptian interference with South Palestinian, or at least Gezerite, affairs must be put back considerably earlier than the reign of Tahutmes III, who is the first monarch of whose relations with Egypt there is evidence on the Egyptian side. We now have a cemetery, thoroughly Egyptian save that the bodies are not embalmed, about a thousand years behind Tahutmes. This indicates the influence of Egyptian civilisation at that remote period.

But according to the modern school of historical critics, a quite different civilisation ought to be looked for in the débris of this period. This is that of Babylonia, the kings of which claim to have exercised dominion to the Mediterranean. This civilisation (according to those chronologists who reject the evidence of Nabona'id regarding the date of Naram-Sin) came to an end at or about the date to which we have assigned the cemetery, and some dregs, at least, of Babylonian influence might have been expected in the deposits. Nothing of the kind, however, can be recognised. We do not yet know exactly what to infer from this fact, but apparently we are shut up to three hypotheses: future discoveries must be awaited before we can choose between them—

(1) The Babylonian domination never extended so far south as Gezer.

(2) The Babylonian domination was brought to a close, not by the Semitic (Canaanite) immigration so much as by an unrecorded Egyptian conquest.

(3) Nabona'id was right after all, and the Babylonian rulers must be put back to a date earlier than the earliest débris on the mound of Gezer.

However this may be, the discovery of an early burial place with so many Egyptian objects cannot but be regarded as of peculiar importance.

§ III.—AN EGYPTIAN STATUETTE.

In the second stratum on the Western hill the houses were found to contain a number of circular pits sunk through the

Plate V.



Palestine Exploration Fund.



EGYPTIAN STATUETTE.

underlying débris to the rock. In these pits were great quantities of broken pottery mingled with cooked sheep and goat bones; in all probability these were midden or ash pits. One or two new or unusual forms were indicated by the fragments of pottery, but, with two exceptions, nothing of especial interest was discovered in them.

The exceptions were (1) a small stone tray on three feet, probably meant for grinding grain ; and (2) an Egyptian statuette of polished grey granite.

Front and side views of the latter will be found on Plate V. It is $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches in height, and represents a man kneeling, sitting upon his heels. He wears a mantle, with embroidered border, folded over the breast and held in position by the hands, which are disproportionately large.

Over the thighs of the figure is a hieroglyphic inscription in two lines, which reads :—



*Stn htp dⁱ Pth Skr n k[?], n
 N sb[?]tw 'stp w[?]d r[?] ib m[?]h[?]rw*

“ May Ptah Seker give a royal offering to the double of the justified,
 Nu-sba-ua-sotep-uat-ra-ab.”

There is considerable doubt about the reading of some of the characters marked with a query, which are badly formed owing to the difficulty of working in granite.

§ IV.—TWO REMARKABLE TOMBS.

Among the works carried out during this quarter has been the opening of a pit to the east of the Troglodyte high place, described in the *Quarterly Statement* for October, 1903, p. 317. The purpose of this pit was to determine whether any extension of the cup-marked rock surface, which might contain details that could assist in the solution of some of its puzzles, still remained hidden by the unexcavated earth.

The result of this work was a singular example of the complete unexpectedness that is so characteristic of the mound of Gezer. After about a week's dull and disappointing work, two graves were discovered, the contents of which raise some very interesting questions.

These graves are built vaults, about 9 feet long, 3 feet across, and 3 feet deep. They are made of small stones, covered on the inside surface with lime cement, streaked down with the fingers of the mason. The floor of one grave is the bare rock surface; the other, which is at a slightly higher level, is paved with smooth flat stones. A row of heavy cover-slabs laid across the top of the walls of the vaults, and cemented over, closes the tomb. The long axis of each tomb is east and west.

When the cover-slabs were raised, each tomb was found to contain a skeleton: the first was much decayed, but appeared to be a male, with the head pointing westward; the second, which was in rather better preservation, was a female, with the head directed towards the east. The bodies were extended, lying on the back.



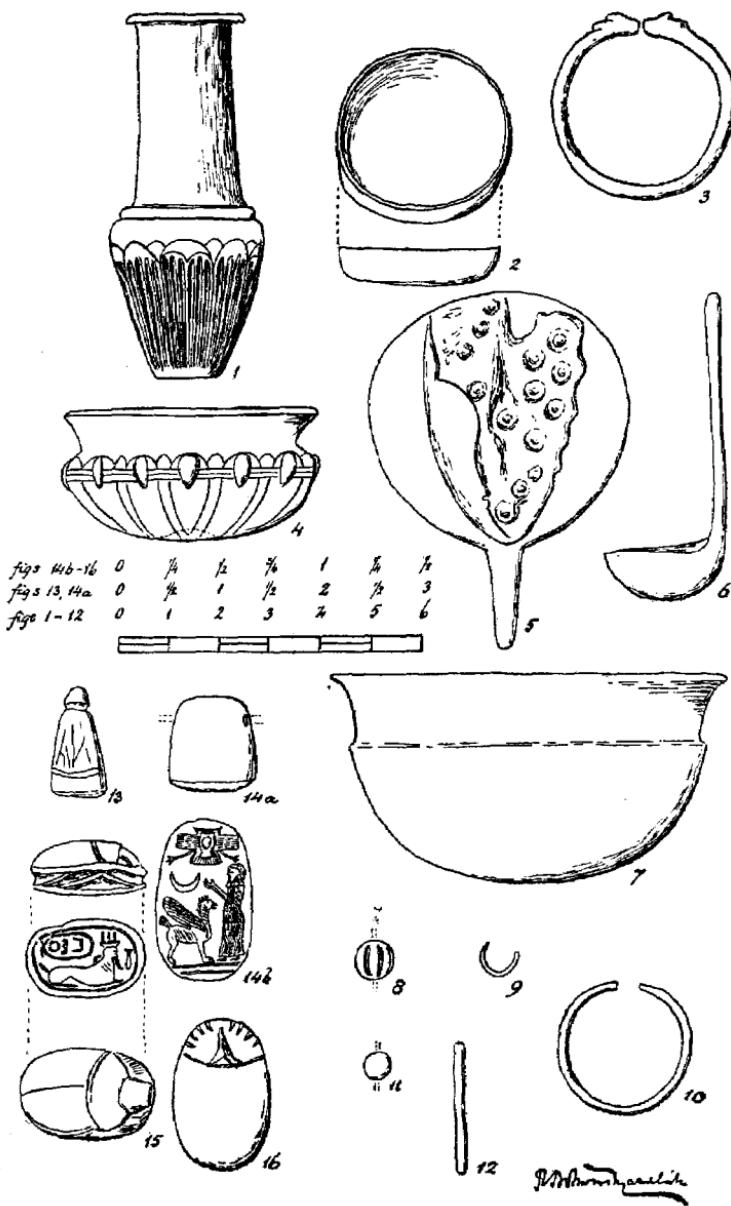
FIG. 1.—Agate Scaraboid from a Grave.

The forearms of the female were crossed over the abdomen, but the position of the male could not be accurately determined, owing to the decay of the bones.

A remarkable series of deposits were laid round the bodies. In the first grave there were some fine alabaster vessels of large and small size, at the feet and sides, as well as a delicate little vase of glass, and a fragment of a glass bottle fitting into a bone case. A beautiful agate scaraboid, with an interesting Assyrian-like design of a priest (?) holding two winged figures at arm's length, and trampling on a third, with a winged disc above (Fig. 1), and a remarkable little four-handled vessel in black pottery, were also found in the tomb.

Even richer was the deposit in the second grave, the principal objects in which will be found on Plate VI. Close to the head,

PHILISTINE (?) TOMB DEPOSITS

*P. M. Kenyon*

on the right side, was a silver vessel with fluted sides and long, cylindrical neck (Plate VI, Fig. 1); on the left side, in the upper corner, was a fine bronze bowl (Fig. 7). Lower down, on the left side, was a beautiful, though unfortunately much decayed, silver bowl, with repoussé and incuse ornamentation (Fig. 4), and in the corresponding place on the left side a bronze hand-mirror, having a bunch of grapes (?) in relief on the back (Fig. 5). On the right upper arm was a bronze bracelet (Fig. 10); on each ankle a silver anklet (Fig. 3). The bronze ladle (Fig. 6) was close to the mirror, and the small silver saucer (Fig. 2) at the feet. There were a few fragmentary vessels of alabaster, resembling those from the first tomb, but much decomposed. In sifting the earth were found a couple of beads (Figs. 8, 11), an XVIIIth dynasty scarab bearing the name of the IVth dynasty king, Men-kau-ra (Fig. 15), and a splendid Cornelian seal (Fig. 14) bearing the figure of a priest adoring a winged disc, with underneath a crescent and a sphinx.

In each tomb was a fragment of an iron knife; and in each, in addition to the human bones, were a few sheep-bones, in the first tomb at the feet, in the second at the head, of the human body.

The presence of iron in each of these tombs forbids us to date them much older than 1000 B.C., and with this date accords the evidence of the pottery and other objects in the surrounding débris. But they contrast in every possible particular with the other tombs of about this date found in the course of the investigation of the Gezerite cemeteries. They may thus be compared:—

NEWLY-FOUND GRAVES.

1. Interment in built vaults.
2. Bodies outstretched.
3. Pottery practically absent.
4. No religious emblems (except engravings on seals).
5. Bodies decked in ornament.
6. Expensive deposits, such as silver vessels and large alabaster pots.
7. Food deposited with the body.
8. A hand-mirror deposited in the tomb.

OTHER GEZERITE TOMBS.

1. Interment in caves in the rock.
2. Bodies contracted.
3. Pottery abundant.
4. Figurines of Ashtoreth, &c., found.
5. No evidence of ornament on bodies.
6. Silver entirely absent and alabaster meagre.
7. This practice apparently by 1000 B.C. attenuated to a symbol.
8. Such an object unheard of.

These fundamental points of difference force us to the conclusion that we have here to do with the interments of an entirely different race from any with which we have dealt hitherto. The fragmentary

and rotten state of the bones is deeply to be regretted, as we have thereby lost valuable corroborative evidence of this conclusion. The objects deposited seem to me much more suggestive of the early civilisations of the west than of the south and east, and I feel it not unreasonable to ask the question, Are we, at last, in personal touch with the Philistines? The date, the exotic character of the deposits, the fundamental differences between these and the native graves, and the presence of iron, all seem to unite to make an affirmative answer not improbable. Again we must await future discoveries for confirmation or rejection of this suggestion; but for the present it may be put forward as a possible working hypothesis.

Close to the first grave described above was found the skeleton of a man of considerable stature, an interment which, though not enclosed in a vault, must be considered as belonging to the same series. The skeleton was outstretched and lying on its back. An alabaster pot, identical in character with those found in the other tombs, was close to the head. A plain gold ring, placed at the right side of the neck (perhaps a part of some pendant from a head-dress), two bronze fibulae and a bronze pin, were found on the body. Two very peculiar details characterised this interment. The first was a thin plate of silver that had evidently been inserted between the teeth and the inside of the cheek on the right-hand side. It covered from the right canine teeth to the last molars, and was bent to follow the curve of the jaw. Such an object has never previously come within my experience, and I can only guess that it may have been a device to prevent the teeth from fretting a sore or ulcer that may have existed inside the cheek. The second detail was the presence of sheep-bones, which we have already seen to characterise the two other tombs just described. In the present instance, however, almost if not quite the entire sheep had been deposited, and it had been placed *under the knees* of the deceased.

§ V.—BUILDINGS.

No buildings of any special interest have been unearthed during the quarter, but an extension eastwards of the excavations containing the walls, whose plan was published in the last report (*ante*, p. 197), has revealed further details in the structure. These consist of (1) the completion of the easternmost of the two circular

structures marked *f*; three other structures of similar character, further east; and at the easternmost extremity of the excavated portion, bases of columns similar to, and opposite, those marked *ee* in the plan referred to.

The objects found around this structure, when datable, are all referable to the period of Amenhotep III. The marriage scarab, for instance (*ante*, p. 186), came from this neighbourhood. Among them was a fine "Bügelkanne," which gives us a valuable point of departure for the dating of pottery decorated in this particular style. It was 7 inches high.

There is nothing special to add to the account of the foundation sacrifices mentioned in the last report.

§ VI.—A PECULIAR-MARKED FLINT.

At the same date-level as the preceding was found a flint knife or axehead with, on one side, a hard calcareous incrustation. The



FIG. 2.—Inscribed Flint.

maximum length of the object is $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches. On the calcareous incrustation certain marks are scratched, represented faithfully in the accompanying figure (Fig. 2), in drawing which the camera lucida has been used. It is most regrettable that the flint was fractured in ancient times, and that the other half is missing, for the marks raise very curious questions that might have been completely solved had we the entire object before us.

There are three marks on the stone. The first is a Phœnician *nun*, *reversed*; the second looks like part of a *caph* in the same

alphabet, also reversed; the third, which is underneath, is a bifid scratch in finer lines, which may be the leg of a man, the horn of a stag, or the completion of almost any other design that might have been scratched on the missing half.

If this be actually an inscription in old Phœnician letters—and if not I cannot imagine what it may be—two far-reaching consequences appear to follow from the discovery. First, we learn that the Phœnician alphabet was in use 400 years before the Baal Lebanon inscriptions, hitherto the earliest specimen of the script known. Secondly, we gather that at that early date the direction of writing was left to right, or at least boustrophedon!

But the doubtfulness and fragmentary nature of the object must be fully recognised. Had we the missing portion, it might appear that the peculiar marks are merely part of some decoration. Nothing but further research can satisfactorily answer the questions which they raise.

§ VII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

I may mention, in conclusion, three interesting objects, two of pottery and one in bronze, found in various places.

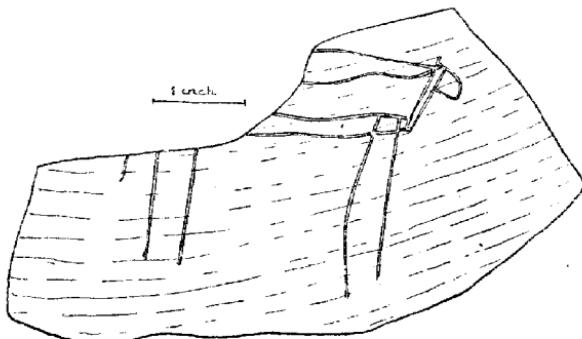


FIG. 3.—Fragment of Pottery with Inscribed Stag.

The first (Fig. 3) is the sherd of a large comb-faced vessel, bearing a mark scratched upon it. As a general rule, these marks are conventional geometrical signs; in this case it is a fairly large figure of a stag or antelope. I have already commented on the fondness of the Gezerites for representing stags in seals. The date of this object is about 2000 B.C.

The second is a large bowl (Fig. 4), found in many fragments, which had the peculiarity of having no less than 20 handles. This was slightly later in date—say about 1500–1800 B.C.

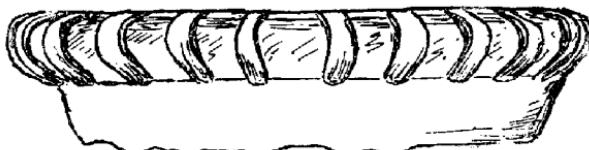


FIG. 4.—Rim of a Bowl with Twenty Handles.

The bronze object (Fig. 5), which is about the same date as the last, is a pulley. The spindle revolved on two pivots, which

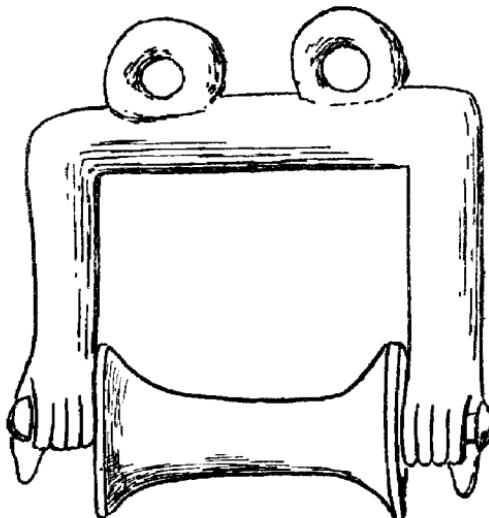


FIG. 5.—Bronze Pulley.

rotated in bronze hands at the end of an arm bent into three sides of a square. To the side opposite the spindle are attached two loops for threading a cord or rope.

§ VIII.—CONCLUSION.

The firman for the excavation of Gezer has lapsed, and it is now my pleasing duty to express my grateful acknowledgments to all to whose kind help and encouragement a great measure of the success that has attended the work is due.

Their Excellencies Hamdy Bey and Khalil Bey, the learned Director and Sub-Director of the Imperial Ottoman Museum, have throughout shown a personal interest in the work, and a willingness to meet the desires of the excavator, which deserves most grateful thanks.

His Excellency Yusif Pasha el-Khaldi, the distinguished ex-mayor of Jerusalem, who, it will be remembered, was for a time Government Commissioner for the excavation at the beginning of the work, has followed its developments with an enlightenment and appreciation that illustrate the well-known width of his knowledge and accomplishments, and that have been a source of great encouragement to the director of the excavation.

To Surraya Effendi el-Khaldi, the Imperial Commissioner, acknowledgments are abundantly due for the great courtesy he has invariably shown, and for his readiness to fall in with all suggestions or requests on the part of the excavator so far as his obligations to the duties of his office permitted him to do so.

The name of Mr. Dickson, the British Consul at Jerusalem, is already well known to readers of the *Quarterly Statement* as that of one deeply interested in the work of the Fund, and I here need only say that he has taken a far more than official care of the interests of the Society, and that it is largely due to him that the work has advanced with singularly few obstacles. By frequent visits to the excavations he has kept himself *au courant* with its progress, and he has been ready at any moment to put fully at the Fund's disposal his time, energies, and great knowledge and experience of the East and its ways whenever the least difficulty arose. I should also mention Mr. J. Folanga, the Vice-Consul at Jaffa, who has also on more than one occasion rendered valuable official service.

The chief difficulty of carrying out an excavation single-handed lies in the absence of counsellors when archæological problems present themselves. I have, however, been fortunate in finding friends in Jerusalem to whom I have rarely turned without enlightenment in difficulties. I cannot sufficiently express my obligations to the Dominican fathers of Saint-Étienne, especially the Rev. Pères Lagrange, Vincent, Sejanoné, and Savignac; to the Rev. Père Germer-Durand, of Notre Dame de France; and to Professors Barton, Paton, and Schmidt, the successive directors of the American School of Archæology, during the progress of the

works. These have all been ready to put their learning freely at my disposal, and have given me full access to the libraries under their control—a privilege which I have found invaluable.

Last, but by no means least, there is one to whom the Fund owes an incalculable debt. This is Mr. Serapion Murad, the administrator of the estate upon which Gezer is situated. The extent of his services can only be estimated by picturing what the difficulties of the work would have been without him. It is not too much to say that one of the greatest obstacles in the way of Palestinian exploration is the character of the natives on whose labour the explorer depends. A sophisticated savage is notoriously the most difficult of persons to deal with, and to no one does the description apply more exactly than to the Palestinian fellah. From the moment when the excavator settles down in their midst, when negotiations about the price of crops and the rate of wages involve him in a bewildering atmosphere of greed and false-swearings that it seems degrading to be associated with, to the closing day, when the breaking up of the camp collects an unmanageable crowd of sharp-eyed loafers in search of neglected odds-and-ends, he is to the village a providential windfall, to be squeezed to the farthest possible point. The villagers devote their mental energies to devising petty pilferings and to inventing ingenious tricks for extorting small sums on various pretexts, while in the background there is the omnipresent dealer seeking what he may devour. From all these troubles Mr. Murad has been a protection. He has not only put the site freely at the disposal of the excavator, but he has used his great influence with the fellahin to keep them from being unduly troublesome, and he has always been ready with advice whenever annoyances arose. Besides all these valuable services, he has done much, by keen interest in the work and by pleasant personal companionship, to lighten the solitude of camp life.
