

FOURTEENTH QUARTERLY REPORT ON THE
EXCAVATION OF GEZER.

First of the Second Series.

18 March—9 May, 1907.

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PRELIMINARY.

EARLY in November of last year I landed in Palestine, and almost immediately proceeded to Constantinople to inquire into the progress of the negotiations for the new permit for the resumption of work at Gezer. While in Constantinople, I had opportunities of attempting to extend an interest in the work of the Fund, by lecturing at Robert College, and at the American College for Girls at Scutari.

I have to express my acknowledgments of the friendly courtesy with which Their Excellencies Hamdy and Khalil Bey received me in the magnificent museum under their control. I must also acknowledge the interest of the officials of His Majesty's Embassy, especially Mr. Fitzmaurice, who was in charge of the negotiations. Last, but not least, I have to render my cordial thanks to the Fund's staunch friend, Mr. Edwin Pears, for much help and kindness.

After finishing business in Constantinople I returned to Jerusalem, and a few days later set off for Safed—a diary of my visit there was contributed to the last *Quarterly Statement*.¹

¹ This contribution was shortened to reduce it to the available space, and in the process one or two errors have slipped in. I may be allowed to indicate the three principal places where misunderstanding is possible. On p. 95, line 19, *for* "remains, except" *read* "remains. There is." On p. 103, in the title of the figure, *for* "fine" *read* "firm." On p. 116, line 6 from bottom, *for* "ruin above described" *read* "ruin on the hill-top"—the description referred to not having been printed.

Towards the end of February I heard that the permit was shortly to be issued. Soon afterwards it was actually in my hands. A week or two had to be spent in necessary preparations and certain official routine, but as soon as possible I made my way to the mound.

I am happy to report that I found it exactly as I left it, no harm having come to any of the buildings that were left open at the close of the previous permit. This is to a large extent due to Mr. Murad's friendly care and interest. It is a matter for satisfaction that Surraya Effendi Al-Khalidi, who during the previous permit showed himself ready to further the interests of the Fund in every way possible, consistently with a scrupulous performance of his own duties as Commissioner of the Ottoman Government, has been re-appointed to the same office.

The actual work of excavation began March 18th, and, except for a couple of days at Easter, has been continued uninterruptedly. The weather has been propitious, although hot south and east winds have been prevalent and on some days made exertion not a little laborious. I have this time made a new departure, and built a hut to take the place of the tents in which the excavating party was formerly domiciled. On all grounds—comfort, economy, stability, and security—the change has been found an improvement.

It may be remembered that just at the close of the previous permit three remarkable tombs were found, which for various reasons I suggested might possibly be referable to the Philistines. I hoped that these might prove to be the outlying tombs of a cemetery, which, if it were actually Philistine, could not fail to afford results of the highest importance. The ground north, south, and east of these tombs was left uncut at the end of the permit. I immediately commenced at this promising spot, and ran a trench north of the tombs to the border of the mound: nothing, however, was found in that direction. A pit was then dug to the south of these, and two more tombs of the series were there found. Excavations are now proceeding to the east, but at the moment of writing the level of the graves has not been reached.

One pit has also been dug on the Eastern Hill.

As usual, in looking for one thing, another has been discovered. The trench cut northward from the tombs was found to contain an interesting foundation, apparently that of a Canaanite palace or fortress. Beneath it was another of the very early caves which

have been such a notable feature of the mound of Gezer. The most interesting "find" from the Eastern Hill has been a small stone altar (see below, p. 196).

On the whole, however, the objects discovered during the last two months have been of an "average" character.

I.—TROGLODYTE CAVE (No. I).

Just north of the "Philistine" graves was found the entrance to a small rock-cut chamber, which proved to be connected with others by doorways and passages. The plan is hardly worth publishing at present: it consists of a series of seven more or less circular chambers in a row. There are two entrances, one at each end: the southern is a circular roof-hole; the northern entrance, which admits to the largest chamber, is the most remarkable part of this otherwise not very interesting excavation. It is of the ordinary staircase form, such as nearly all these early cave-dwellings show; but it differs from all the others found hitherto in having a double staircase cut in the rock, radiating like the arms of a Y. Near it is an olive-press cut in the rock. At a period datable by the associated objects to the XIXth Egyptian Dynasty, the chamber to which this northern stairway gives access was discovered by well-sinkers, and deepened to about 19 feet below the level of the rock in order to serve as a cistern. This unfortunate accident, it will be remembered, had also occurred in the case of the great cave discovered on the Western Hill in 1905: and it will be seen to have occurred again in the case of the other cave which remains to be described in the present report. Of course if there were any deposits of value belonging to the earlier users of the cave, they naturally were all pillaged by the cistern-diggers. As a matter of fact, except some trifling fragments of pottery, nothing was found in the chambers.

The cistern, however, contained some interesting objects, chief of which was a fragment of an alabaster vase bearing the name of Rameses II. There was also one of the common plaques with 'Ashtoreth figured in relief upon it. The pottery was essentially identical with that found in the fourth city at Tel el Hesi, parallels having been found for nearly all the vessels on Plate IV of Bliss (*Mound of Many Cities*) and Fig. 174 of the same work. A plate has been drawn showing all these contemporary types, but it need not yet be published.

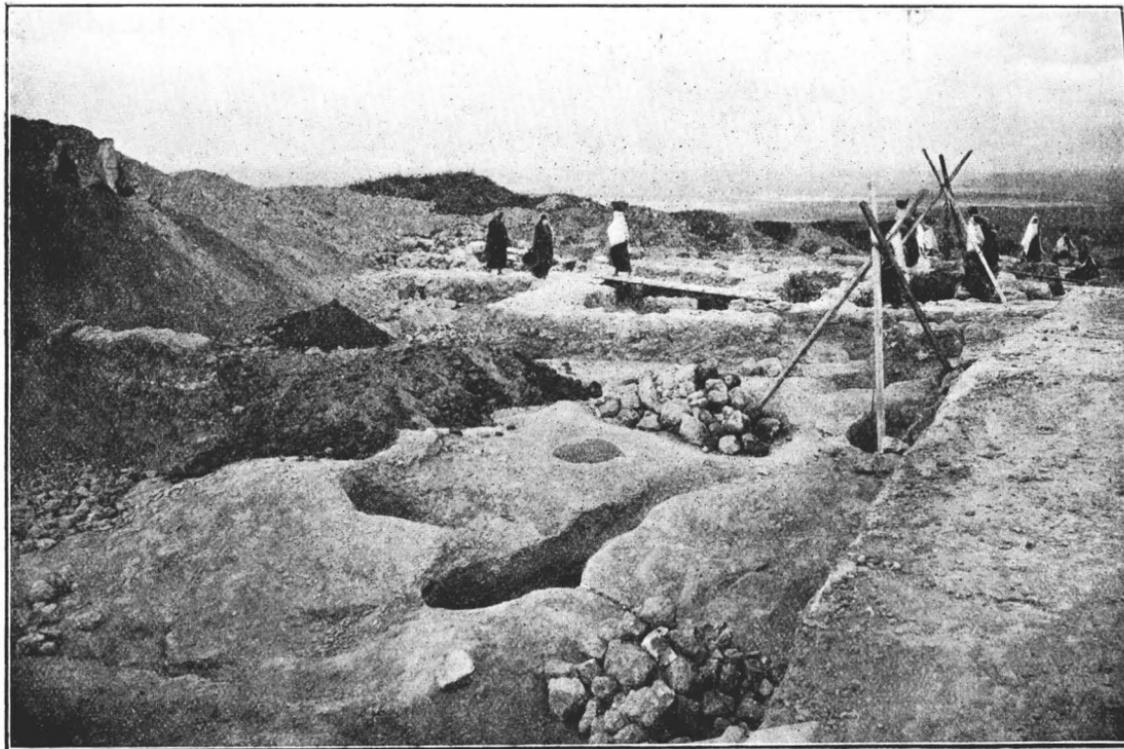


FIG. 1.—Rock Surface above Cave II.

II.—TROGLODYTE CAVE (No. II).

Some distance north of this cave was found another, of much greater interest, although the deposits within it could not compare in importance with those found in the cave on the Western Hill. The first point to notice about it is the large number of entrances with which it is provided. This is well shown by the photographic view (Fig. 1) which represents the rock-surface just above.

In the foreground will be seen three holes, which are pierced through the roof at the southern end of the chamber; the crane behind these is erected over another; the gangway, across which one of the women is walking, spans a fifth; there is a sixth behind the freshly heaped pile of earth to the left of the picture; and just under the nearest of the old walls in the background is another perforation in the roof. From the chamber into which all these holes open a tunnel runs northward to a second chamber; where this tunnel meets the second chamber the roof has fallen in, making an opening, over which the second crane is erected. There is, however, an independent entrance to this second chamber, over which will be seen a beam supporting a pulley in the background, to the right. The photograph is taken from the south, and looks slightly west of north over the plain of Sharon.

There is also a tunnel running westward from the principal chamber, connecting this system with another group of two chambers that had been discovered some time ago (now covered by the "dump-heap" to the left in Fig. 1). I suspect that this connexion is accidental: the hole by which the tunnel enters the previously discovered system is so small, and so high up in the wall, that it escaped notice when the chamber into which it opens was cleared out.

The appearance of the interior of the principal chamber—which is entered most easily by a flight of rock-cut steps beneath the gangway in Fig. 1, already mentioned—will be realized by an examination of Fig. 2, to which I beg to draw attention.

This photograph is looking southward from just inside the stepped entrance, so that the bright light in the background of the picture will be understood to be coming through the three openings in the foreground of Fig. 1. It will be noticed that the cave is divided into two approximately equal parts by a broad ridge on the floor (which I have indicated by the word "Ridge" and by

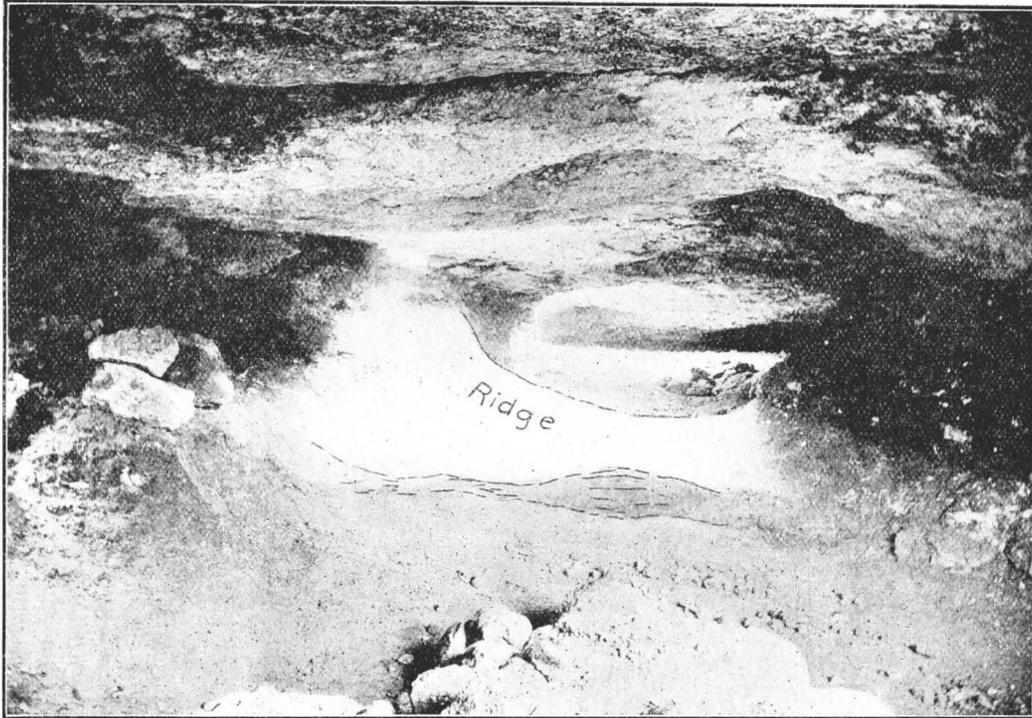


FIG. 2.—Interior of the Cave.

emphasizing its outline). It was noteworthy that Troglodyte pottery was found on the floor of each of the subdivisions, but *not* on the floor of the ridge—which, being between 5 and 6 feet in breadth, is not an insignificant area. On the other hand, the later pottery by which, as we shall see, the Cave-dwellers' remains were overlaid, was deposited on the ridge equally with the two divisions on each side of it. This suggests to me that in Troglodyte times the cave was two independent chambers with separate entrances, and that in the First Semitic period the partition between them was quarried away, leaving only its base.



FIG. 3.—Bowl from Troglodyte Cave.

The history of this cave was exactly the same as that of others which have occupied our attention from time to time. The excavation was originally a dwelling-place of the pre-Semitic Troglodytes. The pottery found on its floor was of the same type as that associated with the *burnt* remains in the Crematorium (see *Quarterly Statement*, October, 1902, Plate 9): I need not therefore describe it here at length. I must not, however, omit to notice an exceptionally fine bowl, 8 inches high, 10 inches across, represented in Fig. 3. It is of the yellow-brown, porous, gritty ware characteristic of the

Troglodyte vessels, is made without the potter's wheel, and has a spout (now broken) and two ledge-handles. It is ornamented in a way almost exclusively distinctive of the Troglodyte pottery—with a white wash of lime-cream or some similar substance, on which are roughly painted groups of vertical red lines. With the pottery were throwing-stones, no doubt stored for ammunition in case of an unwelcome intruder (human or animal) entering the cave; and the usual flint knives.

Secondly, the cave was adapted as a burial-place in the First Semitic period¹: and a large quantity of pottery was then deposited in it, as well as one or two other things. A considerable number of wine-jars were placed in the cave. That they were deposited with wine in them was indicated by two things—first, they were standing upright; and secondly, inside almost every one of them was found a small jug. This obviously had been placed to serve as a dipper, floating on the surface of the wine: as the fluid dwindled, through the porosity of the jar, the dipper gradually sank to the bottom.

Beside the pottery, there were found one or two pins and knives of bronze; a quartzite mace-head; a pile of slips of ivory and of porcelain, much broken, which had evidently been used for inlaying in some [wooden?] object that had completely perished; and, perhaps most remarkable of all, three ostrich eggs. The latter had evidently been deposited as offerings with the deceased buried in the cave.

Thirdly, the cave, after being closed and forgotten, was re-discovered by cistern-diggers. No doubt if gold and silver, or other precious objects, had been deposited with the dead in this cave (as in the contemporary and otherwise similar cave on the Western Hill), they were then appropriated by the discoverers, who left only the pottery and rusty bronze, to them valueless, for the benefit of their successor about 3200 years later. For the pottery found in the cistern which these intruders dug was sufficiently distinctive to date their work about the thirteenth century B.C. The cave itself was unsuitable for a water-store; they therefore sunk the cistern as a deep excavation in the floor, and built up a shaft through the cave chamber—ruins of which remained—from the mouth of the cistern to the opening in the roof, for which they were responsible. This opening is that over which the crane nearest

¹ For an explanation of this term see a later section.

to the spectator in Fig. 1 is erected. I ought to have mentioned that, of the three roof-openings in the foreground of the same figure, the circular one to the back was not in the original design of the cave. It was evidently cut with the intention of making a vat for an olive-press, but the depression was incautiously deepened too much, and so broke through to the cave below.

III.—THE CANAANITE CASTLE.

In the background of Fig. 1 will be seen a number of walls, or rather the foundations of walls, erected over the cave which has

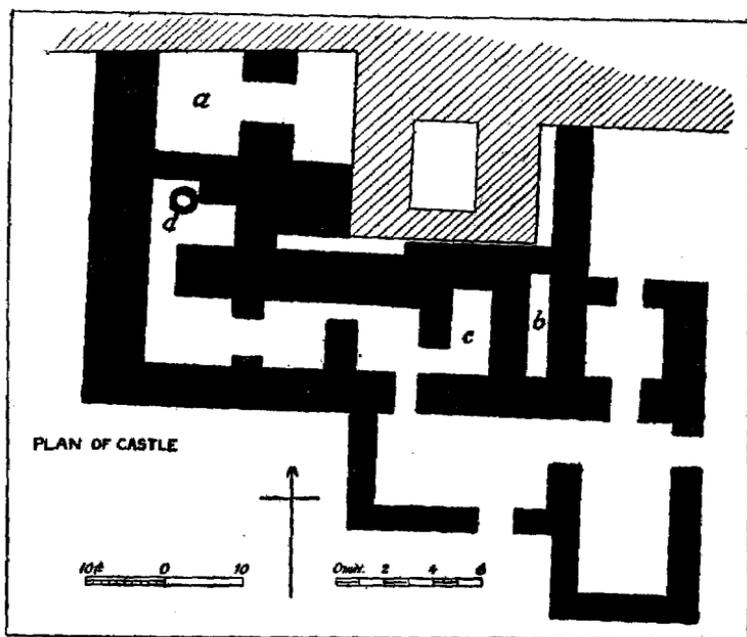


FIG. 4.—Plan of Castle.

just been described. These walls are not built directly on the rock: there is an accumulation of two to three feet below them, containing the foundations of yet older buildings. The few indications of date which the objects found in and about this building afforded pointed to the thirteenth century B.C. as its approximate period.

It was evident that the building stood in the city, probably as an open ruin, for all the later centuries of its history. For this

reason no later walls (except the insignificant remains of a hut or two of the Maccabean period) were found above its level. The derelict condition in which the so-called "Goliath's Castle" at Jerusalem remained (until its comparatively recent adaptation into the basement of the *École des Frères*) is exactly comparable with the fate of this building. So probably was the fate of the "House of Baal" at Samaria.

This unfortunate circumstance sufficiently accounts for the fact that in a building evidently so important practically nothing was found. One corner of the building had been uncovered so long ago

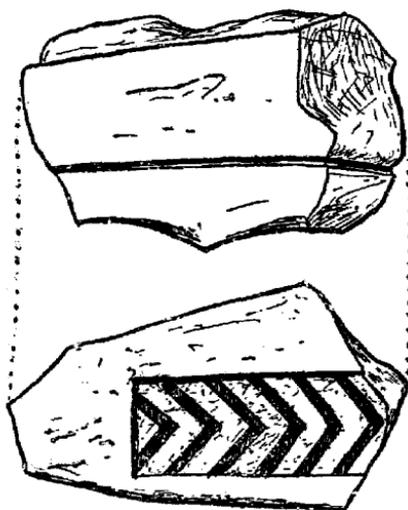


FIG. 5.—Fragment of ornamental stone found in the Castle.

as October, 1902, and in the chamber *a* (Plan, Fig. 4) a number of objects were then found—two fine axe-heads and a spear-head of bronze, some fragments of pottery, a three-legged stone dish, and an alabaster vase, together with a nondescript fragment of stone ornament. This is represented in Fig. 5. It is a block of a polished green stone, resembling serpentine, $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches long, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches high, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick. On one side is a sunk panel containing a number of incised chevrons. A line is drawn across the other side and round the fractured edge.

The rest of the building was practically entirely destitute of antiquities.

In the absence of any indication as to the personality of the first occupant of this castle, which is certainly the most elaborate residence yet found in Gezer, it would be undesirable to indulge overmuch in fantastic speculations. So all I will venture to say about an idea that has crossed my own mind is this: that if anyone chose to maintain that this was the dwelling-place of the king Horam who rashly opposed himself to Joshua at Lachish,¹ he might reasonably claim that the date and the evident importance of the building were points in his favour, and that nothing to oppose his view has yet been unearthed here or elsewhere on the mound. While saying this I must, however, make quite clear that such an identification is mere guess-work: there is this possibility, but that is all that can be said. Personally, I am inclined to hope that it is *not* the palace of Horam, or of any other king, for if it were, the chance of finding an undisturbed royal library would be diminished!

The plan sent herewith (Fig. 4) shows how the building was laid out. The inner city wall²—which is at least a thousand years older than the castle, and had already been superseded by the outer wall when the castle was built—was adapted as the north side of the structure. It is built round one of the internal towers of this wall, as the plan shows. There is little to call for notice in the plan, which speaks for itself. The comparative regularity with which the walls are laid out is the first point that attracts attention. Another point is the great thickness of the walls, which ranges from 3 feet 3 inches to 9 feet—the latter is the greatest thickness of any wall yet found in the *tel*, with the exception, of course, of the city ramparts themselves. There are no architectural details calling for attention—not a scrap of ornamental stone of any kind was found, except the stone Fig. 5, which is evidently a part of some small object, and has nothing to do with the architecture of the building. No means of approach to the narrow chamber, *b*, is visible. I suspect that there was a doorway from *c*, but the partition wall is ruined to below its threshold. The same suggestion may be made respecting a doorway from *d* to *a*. The circular structure in *d* is probably a hearth. A general photographic view of the foundations will be found in Fig. 6.

East of the castle there seems to have been a large open courtyard, which probably belongs to it; but, as I am not altogether certain on this point, I have omitted it from the plan.

¹ Joshua x, 33.

² Represented by a *hatched* line on the plan.

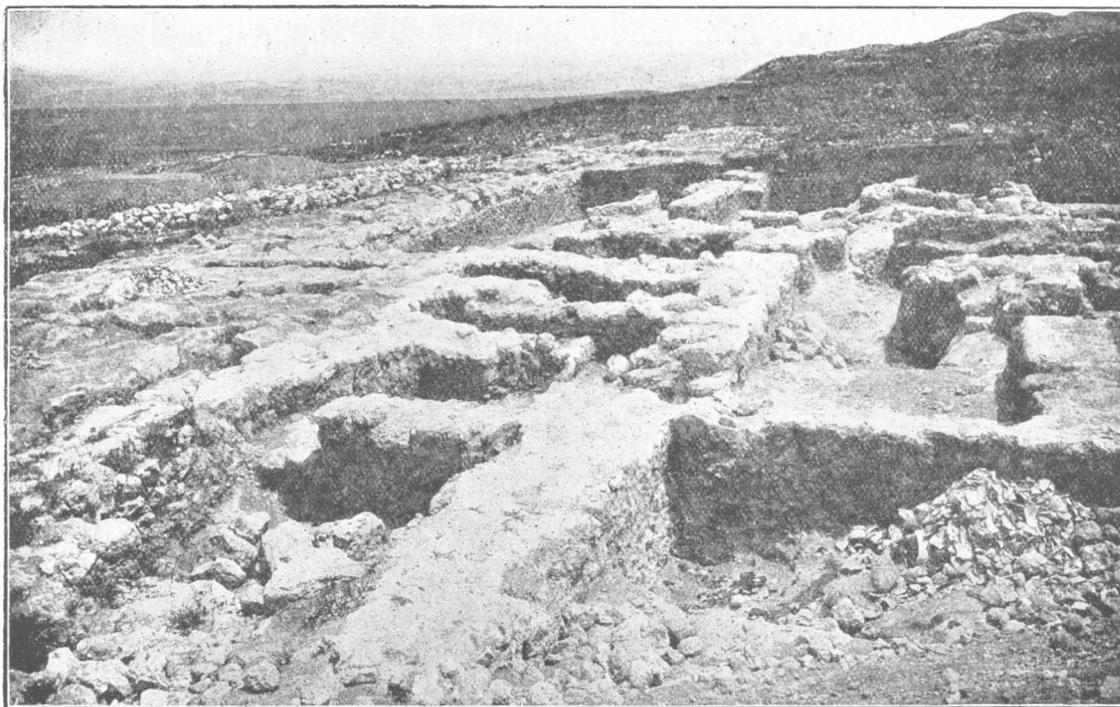


FIG. 6.—View of the Foundations of the Castle.

IV.—THE ALTAR.

This very interesting object (Fig. 7) was found built into the foundation of a wall dating about 600 B.C. It appears to have been used merely as a building-stone.

It is a four-sided block of limestone, 1 foot 3 inches high.



FIG. 7.—Stone Altar.

The top and bottom are approximately $10\frac{1}{2}$ and 9 inches square respectively; but these are only the average dimensions of the sides, which are not regularly cut.

The angles are prolonged upwards for an additional $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches as rounded knobs—no doubt the “horns” of the altar. The top is

very slightly concave, so as to hold perhaps an eighth of a pint of liquid.

Unfortunately there is no inscription or device of any sort on the sides of the stone.

V.—THE GRAVES.

The new graves of the "Philistine" series resemble those previously found. The first is a built enclosure, 6 feet $9\frac{7}{8}$ inches long, 2 feet $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches broad, and 4 feet 3 inches deep. It was

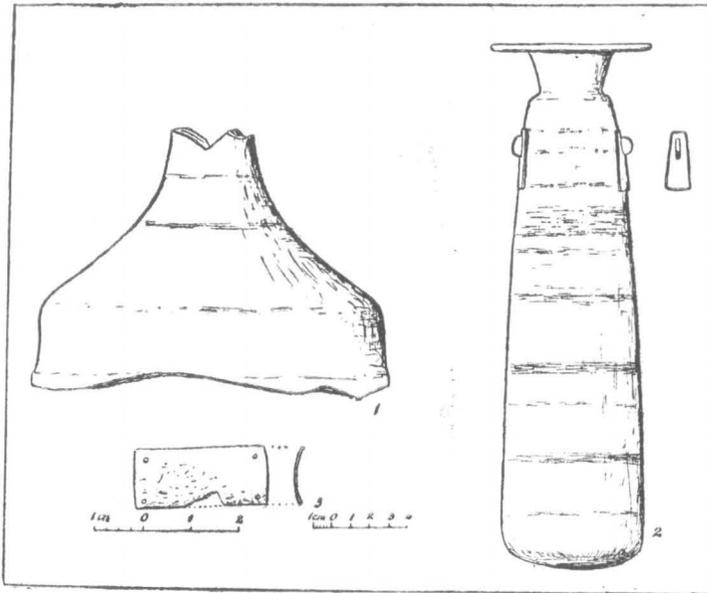


FIG. 8.—Objects from Grave No. I.

covered with a series of four massive cover-slabs, and lined with cement. Like the others, its axis lay east and west: the head of the body was to the east. There was a single interment in the tomb: a small and, I think, not full-grown person, barely over 5 feet in height. The bones were so rotten that it was impossible to measure them, even *in situ*; with the exception of the right humerus, which I was able to preserve, and which measures 289 millimetres, they were all in a condition resembling soft putty.

The deposits in the tomb were meagre, and could not for a moment compare in richness with the previously found interments

of the same group. They consisted of a considerable quantity of mutton and chicken bones, evidently the remains of food deposits, which were heaped up in the space between the head of the body and the east wall of the tomb; the broken fragments of the neck of a jar of compact light reddish-brown ware (Fig. 8, no. 1), which were lying among the food-bones; fragments of alabaster, which together made two vessels—the type of both is shown in Fig. 8, no. 2; and a small plate of silver, with perforations for threading, probably the ornament of a belt or some such garment (Fig. 8, no. 3).

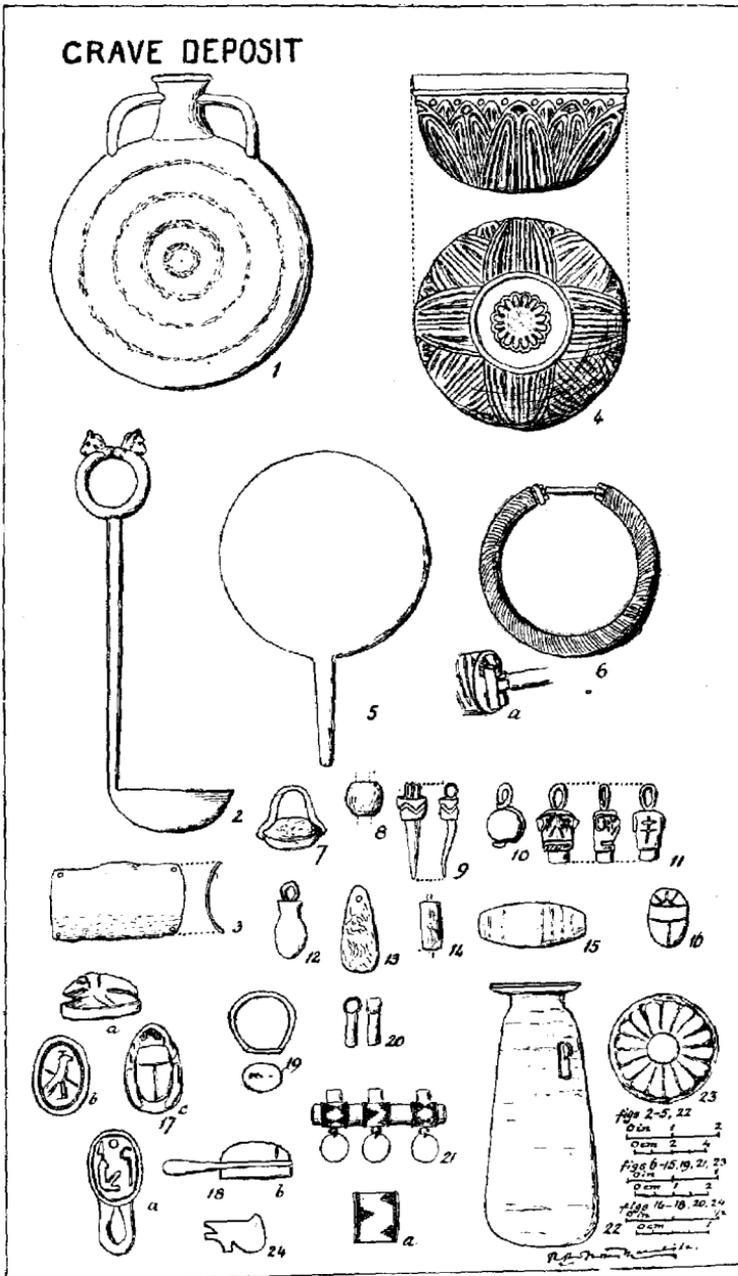
The second grave was of far greater importance. It was that of a woman, apparently, so far as I could judge, about thirty years of age, with strongly marked features. The bones were in a much better state than those from the other tombs of the series, and I have hopes that they may give us some information as to the race to which this puzzling and unexpected group of tombs belongs.

The dimensions of the grave are: length 9 feet 0 $\frac{1}{4}$ inch, breadth 2 feet 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches, depth 3 feet 9 $\frac{3}{8}$ inches. The great *length*, which characterizes all these tombs, will not escape notice. Like the others, it is of rude masonry, lined internally with plaster, and covered with a row of, in this case four, massive stone cover-slabs, themselves covered over and embedded in plaster after having been laid in position.

The body had evidently been deposited at full length, with the head to the east; but the bones were not continuous. The head was completely dis severed from the neck, and was lying on its right side on the breast, the top of the head facing west. I thought at first that I had a case of intentional post-mortem mutilation, such as Prof. Petrie found at Naqada; but when I found (on further removing the earth that had filtered through the roofing slabs and covered the deposits) that one of the radii was dissociated from its companion ulna, and was lying, with one of the femora, out of all connexion with the rest of the body, and that the sacrum was between and under the knees, I came to the conclusion that the displacement of the bones was to be attributed to rats, whose burrows were very much in evidence inside the tomb.

The contents of the tomb, which are represented together upon Plate I, were as follows:—

(1) A large and fine lentoid jar of light reddish-brown ware, with burnished circles surrounding the central points of the two



sides. The neck and handles are of the pattern usual in such vessels. The height is 14 inches or 35·5 centimètres. Owing to its size, it has been necessary to draw it to a smaller scale than the rest of the objects on the plate.

This vessel was found upside down *above* the silt with which the tomb had become filled, and immediately under the easternmost cover-slab. That the tomb had been specially opened after the silt had accumulated, to deposit this jar, is highly improbable, and there were no signs of this having been done. We are constrained, I think, to adopt the ingenious explanation that was suggested to me by the foreman—namely, that in a succession of heavy rains the tomb filled with water, which floated the jar (originally, of course, laid on the level of the rest of the interments) and washed in silt underneath it.¹ The jar, in that case, must originally have been deposited in the south-eastern corner.

(2) About the middle of the eastern end of the tomb was a silver ladle, 21·2 cm. ($8\frac{1}{4}$ inches) long. It has a shaft rectangular in section, with chamfered edges; ending upward in a ring, in the top of which rise two representations of lions' heads; and downward in the bowl of the ladle, which is set at right angles to the shaft.

(3) In the north-eastern corner was a curved plate of bronze, $6\frac{1}{2}$ cm. ($2\frac{1}{2}$ inches) in length, similar in appearance, no doubt also in purpose, to the silver plate from the first tomb.

(4) West of the original place of the jar, and close by the head of the deceased, was a beautiful hemispherical silver bowl, 11·5 cm. ($4\frac{3}{8}$ inches) in diameter. It is decorated with a rosette on the base, and an elaborate pattern of lotus leaves in low relief—not repoussé, for the interior, except for four concentric circles drawn round the centre, is plain—on the sides.

(5) Just west of the ladle was a plain bronze mirror, 17·5 cm. ($6\frac{7}{8}$ inches) long. This had no ornament on the reverse side, and the drawing sufficiently represents it. It is interesting to notice that it had been deposited in a cloth case, and a few fragments of the cloth—enough in all, perhaps, to cover a space the size of a

¹ The process would, of course, be gradual, as the tomb is not so impervious as to hold water for any considerable length of time. This is the fatal objection to an attractive modification of the theory that occurred to me—namely, that the body had been deposited in liquid, like that of King Tabnit at Sidon.

postage-stamp—still remained adhering to one side of the mirror. The cloth was rather coarse, with 11 threads to the centimetre in the warp, and 19 in the woof.

(6) On each of the wrists was a gold bracelet, 2 inches in external diameter, consisting of a hollow tube of gold having a delicate spiral twist running along its whole length. The ends of the tube are closed with flat plates, to which are fastened the loops by which the bar closing the bracelet is fastened. This bar has a loop at each end, which fits between the loops on the bracelet: at one end it is free, at the other it is held in position by two narrow strips of gold running past the loops inside and outside. It thus swings as on a hinge. The rivet by which the free end was secured is unfortunately lost.

At the right side of the body, about the level of the elbow, had been placed a miscellaneous collection of beads. They must have been of a very ornate description; but a good many of them were made of a gum-like paste, and had disintegrated. Drawings of those that could be recovered are on the plate (coloured drawings have also been sent to the Fund Office). They may be described thus: (7) A seal-shaped stone, I think an onyx, with convex back and flat base, polished smooth—no device on the base. Set in a silver loop. (8) Spherical bead of black paste. (9) A peculiar ornament, consisting of a splinter of flint set in a silver mount—on the mount a zigzag line is traced, and the loop for suspension is beaded. (10) A spheroidal bead of yellowish crystal. A silver wire is passed through the perforation, the lower end looped into an L to make it catch: the upper end is then coiled, twisted round itself, and carried round the outside of the bead. The point of this end is broken off, but it seems ultimately to have been twisted into the L-shaped end. (11) A very remarkable bead of haematite. A silver loop is passed through it, for suspension. The bead is three-sided, and has been cut into the semblance of a Gorgonian human head. The eye-balls are represented by projecting knobs. The triangle of the eye is of great size, and the art displayed is strangely reminiscent of that of some savage South Sea Island tribe! (12) Pendant bead of an opaque bluish stone. The grooves near the top do not go round, but are notches cut out of the sides. (13, 14) Two beads, one cylindrical, the other a drop-shaped pendant, of a warm reddish-brown gum, covered with bright yellow lines. This very friable and perishable material was apparently

used for other beads, of which only traces remained. (15) A very handsome barrel-shaped bead cut from a fine agate.

Besides the beads, there were three scarabs in the hoard. These are represented for clearness' sake at double the scale of the beads in the plate. Fig. 16 is a small scarab of amethyst: the sides and base are plain. Fig. 17 is represented in three aspects in the plate, *a*, *b*, and *c*. It is a small but rather clumsily cut specimen of jade, possibly not Egyptian in origin: it bears a figure of a hawk within an oval border. Fig. 18 is of steatite, and bears the legend *hk-M^ct-R^c*. It is enclosed within a silver loop, fitting tightly round the legs of the beetle (as shown in Fig. 18*b*); it will be noticed that when suspended the characters were upside down, as though they were without meaning for the owner of the ornament.

The minute representation of the Horus-eye, Fig. 24, also belonged to this hoard. It is of the same material as the gum-paste beads, Figs. 13, 14.

A little below the hoard of beads was the silver signet-ring, Fig. 19; it probably had been on one of the fingers of the deceased, but the bones had disappeared. There had been a device on the signet, but the silver was so corroded that it was found quite impossible to decipher it.

The small object, Fig. 20, is a tube of gold, with a loop at the top. It is here represented to the same scale as the scarabs, *i.e.*, double the scale of the beads. This was found about the place where the femora should have been, had they not been disturbed. I suspect it was the fastening of a pendant bead that has disappeared. I thought at first it might be the missing rivet of one of the bracelets, Fig. 6; but the tube is just too wide to fit through the loops of the bracelet-hinge.

Fig. 21 is the most beautiful of all the objects deposited in the tomb. It is a cylindrical bar of polished jasper, 3.7 cm. ($1\frac{7}{16}$ ins.) in length. Upon it are three gold belts, with a little loop of gold above each, and below each smaller loops, from which depend discs of gold. The belts are ornamental on their surface with a delicate pattern of pellets—a ring of pellets round each edge from which, at intervals, project triangles over the surface. It will not escape notice that in the two outer belts the triangles correspond, in the central belt they alternate. The enlarged drawing, *a*, shows the details of this ornamentation. Though this object was found about the feet of the skeleton, I believe it originally had some connec-

tion with the string of beads, the remains of which have been described.

Fig. 22 is an alabaster vase resembling those found in the other grave, but smaller. It was in the north-west corner of the grave.

Fig. 23 is a silver disc, which must have been deposited at the western end of the grave, but it somehow worked upwards among the silt, like the jar, No. 1. The ornament upon it, a plain rosette, is in repoussé.

The deposits in this tomb resemble those in the other woman's tomb of the same series so remarkably, that the coincidences cannot be accidental. Both had a ladle, a mirror, a silver bowl, and a string of beads with scarabs, *and they occupied approximately the same relative positions in the tombs.* The first tomb had a bronze pot which this lacked; in its stead (and in the same position) was the pottery jar. The first woman had anklets, the second bracelets; and the first had a rather larger number of alabaster vessels than the second. But these minor differences were the only serious points of contrast.

It may be interesting to recapitulate the points in which these remarkable interments differ from those of the contemporary Semitic tombs:—

(1) They are *built* of masonry, not hollowed as caves in the rock.

(2) The bodies are laid at full length, not in a contracted position.

(3) Orientation is carefully observed, not (as in cave tombs) absolutely neglected.

(4) The deposits in the tombs are of artistic value.

(5) The tombs are within the city walls—all the others (except some of the first Semitic period) are outside them.

(6) There is comparatively little *pottery* with the dead, whereas pottery forms the majority of the objects in the Semitic tombs.

I have hopes that yet more of this extremely interesting cemetery may be discovered, which may throw further light upon it. For the present I can only say that if these be not Philistine tombs, I am quite unable to say what they may be. If they be so, one of the minor achievements of the Palestine Exploration Fund will be the rescuing of this ancient race from a cruel injustice. A "Philistine" has become a proverbial term for a person impervious to art influences. But it is beginning to appear as though, among

all the successive races occupying Gezer, the Philistines were the only people (with the exception of some stray Egyptian settlers) who either cared about art, or had the slightest skill in its practice.¹

VI.—THE NOMENCLATURE OF THE PERIODS OF DEVELOPMENT OF CIVILISATION IN PALESTINE.

In the course of putting the results of the excavation of Gezer together in their final form—a work on which I am now actively engaged—I have had occasion to consider carefully the subject of the names to be given to the various periods of Palestinian culture. The names which were adopted by Dr. Bliss and myself in *Excavations in Palestine*, “Early” and “Late Pre-Israelite,” “Jewish” “Seleucidan,” I now see, with wider experience, to be open to various objections. Too much stress is laid by them on the results of the Hebrew immigration, which did not affect the progress of culture to the extent supposed, and cannot be said to have had any obvious influence on the development of civilisation in Gezer at all.

In Gezer we have five well-marked stages of culture. There is first the rude semi-, if not complete, savagery of the cave-dwellers. Then follows a rather more advanced race, among whose remains are to be found twelfth dynasty Egyptian scarabs. Another stage, as well-marked as the two preceding, ends with the eighteenth dynasty. The fifth stage runs on to about the period of the Assyrian conquest of the Israelite kingdom, but, as a good many gradual changes can be traced in its long course, it is capable of sub-division into two or more sub-periods. Lastly, there is the post-exilic stage, where the native art receives a strong Hellenic bias.

The difficulty of finding a name for these various periods lies in the absence of any geographical or racial term that accurately denotes the whole of the region over which the civilisation in question extended. The names “First, Second (etc.) Palestinian” at first attracted me, but they are open to the objection that Palestine properly means Philistia only. “Canaanite” is, for a similar reason, to be avoided. The terms I have at last decided upon are “Pre-Semitic,” to denote the Cave-dwellers and their level of civilisation. “First” to “Fourth Semitic” for the subsequent pre-exilic periods. For the post-exilic period (in which

¹ See further remarks below, on pp. 240-243.

special characteristics previously unknown make their appearance) a more special name seems desirable. Perhaps "Maccabean" or "Ptolemaic" are as good as any—they are certainly more applicable, to Gezer at least, than "Seleucidan." But if we were to call this the "Hellenizing" period, we should use a term that at once is descriptive, and avoids the names of people who, though no doubt they tried to influence the art-evolution of the time, had really little to do with the actual process of development.

THE SITE OF THE ACRA.

By SIR CHARLES WATSON, K.C.M.G., C.B., R.E., M.A.

SINCE the publication of my article on "The Site of the Acra at Jerusalem" in the *Quarterly Statement* for January, 1906, there have been several papers on the subject, *i.e.*, by the Rev. W. Birch in the number for April, 1906, by the Rev. J. M. Tenz in the same, and by the Rev. J. C. Nevin in the numbers for July and October, 1906. I have also received several letters with regard to the matter, and have been asked to give some further information respecting the question.

In order to elucidate the following remarks, an outline plan of Jerusalem is annexed, in which details not required for a consideration of the subject of the Acra have been omitted for the sake of clearness. On this plan there are marked with small circles the sites proposed by the various writers above mentioned for the Acra.

Site No. 1 is that which was, I believe, first suggested by Doctor Robinson, and which has been supported by General Sir C. Warren, Colonel Conder, and others. The position shown is that indicated in the plate opposite page 37 in Sir C. Warren's work *The Temple or the Tomb*, and marked thereon as "Zion or Acra." It agrees with the position marked as "Acra or Millo" in the plate of Ancient Jerusalem, given at page 334 in Colonel Conder's *Handbook of the Bible*.