

EXCAVATIONS IN THE ANCIENT TOWN OF BETHANY * **

This is the third year during which excavations are being carried on at Bethany, situated between kilometers 4½ and 6 on the Jerusalem-Jericho road. During this year some time was spent in further clearances in and around the ancient church and monastery of St. Lazarus, where more details of interest were discovered; for example, another mosaic floor of large plain cubes along the northern wall of the church and a tower built against the medieval northwestern buttressing pier of the church; also a masonry-built cistern and three ovens of medieval times at the eastern extremity of the medieval Benedictine convent, immediately south of the church. But most of the time since last

* ABBREVIATIONS: *AASOR*: *Annual of the American Schools of Oriental Research*; *ARP*: *Archaeological Researches in Palestine during the Years 1873-4*, two volumes, London, 1896-9, CLERMONT-GANNEAU; *ASE*: *Ain Shems Excavations (Palestine)*, Part V (Text), Haverford, 1939, E. GRANT and G.E. WRIGHT; *BASOR*: *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research*; *BRL*: *Biblisches Reallexikon*, Tübingen, 1937, K. GALLING; *CBZ*: *The Citadel of Beth-Zur*, Philadelphia, 1933, O. R. SELLERS; *CPP*: *Corpus of Palestinian Pottery*, London, 1930, J.G. DUNCAN; *EJ*: *Excavations at Jerusalem, 1894-7*, London, 1898, F.J. BLISS; *Guida*: *Il Museo della Flagellazione in Gerusalemme: Guida al Museo*, Jerusalem, 1939, B. Bagatti; *HES*: *Harvard Excavations at Samaria*, Cambridge, 1924, G. A. REISNER, C. S. FISHER, D. G. LYON; *IEJ*: *Israel Exploration Journal*; *JPOS*: *Journal of the Palestine Oriental Society*; *MMMN*: *Memorial of Moses on Mount Nebo*, Part III, Jerusalem, 1950, H. SCHNEIDER; *PAMGB*: *Palestine Archaeological Museum Gallery Book*, Jerusalem, 1943; *PEFAnn*: *Palestine Exploration Fund Annual*; *QDAP*: *The Quarterly of the Department of Antiquities in Palestine*; *QS*: *Palestine Exploration Fund Quarterly Statement*; *RB*: *Revue Biblique*; *SWP*: *Survey of Western Palestine: Memoirs I-III*, London, 1881-3, C. R. CONDER; *SWPSP*: *Survey of Western Palestine: Special Papers*, London, 1881; *TN*: *Tell en-Nasbeh II*, Berkeley and New Haven, 1947, J. C. WAMPLER and C. C. McCOWN.

** The plans and several of the photographs are by B. BAGATTI; the designs of the pottery by S. PAPARELLI; the majority of the photographs and all the cuts by R. DEAK. Information regarding new finds was supplied by A. DAJANI, the Inspector of Antiquities.

November (1951) until now (July, 1952) has been spent in studying an area 80 m. west of the medieval monastery, where the Custody of the Holy Land possesses about an acre of land now planted with olive trees (see Fig. 2). This site was acquired by the Custody of the Holy



Fig. 1. Ancient Bethany from the north. In foreground a terraced gully with olive trees; in center, from left to right: the two prongs of the ruined medieval tower belonging to the Orthodox Greeks, the olive grove belonging to the Custody of the Holy Land, the concrete wall belonging to the Passionists; in background, on left, a part of Abu Dis, through which the road to Bethlehem passes since 1948.

Land because of a tradition which localized there the house of Simon the Leper, in which Our Lord and His apostles were hospitably received and Lazarus, Martha and Mary were present.¹

¹ See *Mt.* 26,6-13; *Mark* 14,3-9; *John* 12,1-8; A. O'RAHILLY, *The Family at Bethany*, Cork, 1949, pp. 83-103.

A. THE HOUSE AND CHURCH OF SIMON THE LEPER

The tradition linking the house of Simon the Leper with *this site* seems to have originated in the 16th century. Father FRANCISCUS QUARESMI, O.F.M., one of many witnesses of this tradition, speaks of this place in the following terms: "Non longe a Bethania, ante illius ingressum, procedentibus ex Jerusalem versus meridiem, et viam, ubi locus offenditur ficulneae maledictae a Domino, ad laevam partem, parum extra viam, sese offerunt *ruinae antiquae cujusdam ecclesiae, quae ab omnibus in hisce partibus domus Simonis leprosi appellatur. Domus ista fuit postea a piis fidelibus in ecclesiam conversa...* In praesentia fere destructa, muro uno excepto, qui Dei benignitate adhuc in ejus memoriam conservatur; cum aliud non supersit, nihilominus a peregrinis et hujus regionis incolis invisitur... Domo Simonis pharisaei a laeva parte viae relicta, coeptum proseguendo iter versus Bethaniam, peracto itinere quantum jacet arcus, occurrunt magnae ruinae et ingentia vetustissimi castelli fundamenta, hoc enim illa prae se ferunt; proxima sunt nedum domui Simonis, sed etiam sepulcro Lazari: et tam haec quam illa et statim memoranda loca sunt extra montem Oliveti, tamen a latere ejus..."

Were it not for the fact that the Custody of the Holy Land possessed this field, even one thoroughly acquainted with the surroundings would have some difficulty in finding the spot in question. But with this field in mind this text becomes perfectly intelligible. Regarding the road in question it should be noted that the old road to Bethany forks off from the modern road, built in 1890, just before km. 4, where it climbs up the hill, runs along the southern side of the property of the Passionists, the field under consideration, the ruined medieval tower, the medieval convent of the Benedictine nuns and rejoins the modern highway between km. 5 and 6.

According to this same text the site of the house of Simon the Leper was marked by a church of which QUARESMI in the 16th century saw only a single wall. Even of this wall nothing was visible on the surface when excavations began. Upon enquiry the supposed site of

the church was pointed out to us in about the center of the western side of this field. There excavations actually brought to light a massive wall about 1.20 m. thick. Owing to its size, it would not be surprising if at one time it had been taken to be a wall of a church. Against this view it may be pointed out that the wall did not form part of an orientated structure. It comes from the northwest and runs downhill southeastwards, where there is another piece of wall forming an angle with it. It is built of rubble and contained a large medieval sherd. It could have been erected any time after that sherd was available. It would be difficult today to convince visitors that this wall had anything to do with a church or with a first-century house.

B. THE ANCIENT TOWN OF BETHANY IN GENERAL

When excavations began not a single trace of an ancient wall was visible on the surface. But the entire area was strewn with tiny bits



Fig. 2. The olive grove in which the excavations are being made, seen from the east. In the background: amongst the trees a glimpse of the Passionists' monastery; to right, the large orphanage of the sisters of St. Vincent De Paul; in front of preceding, to right, the house of the Anglicans.

of broken clay vessels, which is invariably a sure sign of an ancient site. Such sherds can be seen also in the fields on all sides of the site which we are excavating, especially in the Mohammedan cemetery on the south, in the property of the Passionists on the west, and in the fields sloping down into the valley on the north where there was at one time

a spring (see Fig. 1). Moreover, all over our field one could see white 2 cm. square cubes of mosaic pavements, which seemed to suggest buildings of some importance in Roman or Byzantine times.

The Arab watchman of this site did not encourage the writer to undertake any excavations in this field. The mosaics, he said, were all



Fig. 3. Rock-cut steps leading down to the large rock-cut cellar, seen from east. See Fig. 4.

broken and removed at the beginning of this century when the holes were dug for planting the olive trees and the stones were collected for building the wall enclosing the site; coins and other antiquities which were turned up in cultivating the field were collected by himself and

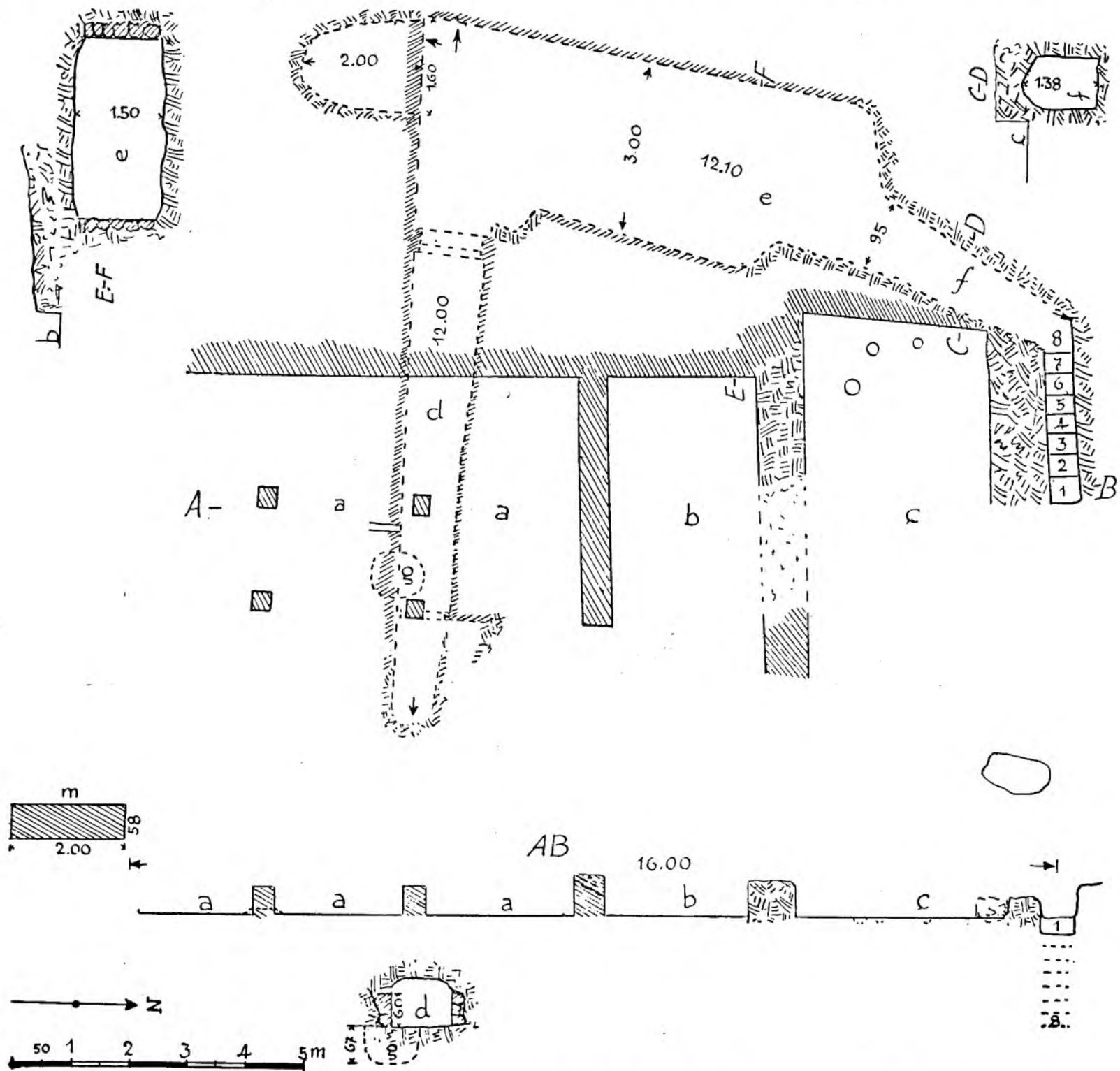


Fig. 4. The large rock-cut cellar in the northwestern sector of the olive grove.

others and sold; there was, in his opinion, very little or nothing to be found. He did, however, volunteer the suggestion that the northwestern part of the field had not been touched, because there the rock cropped

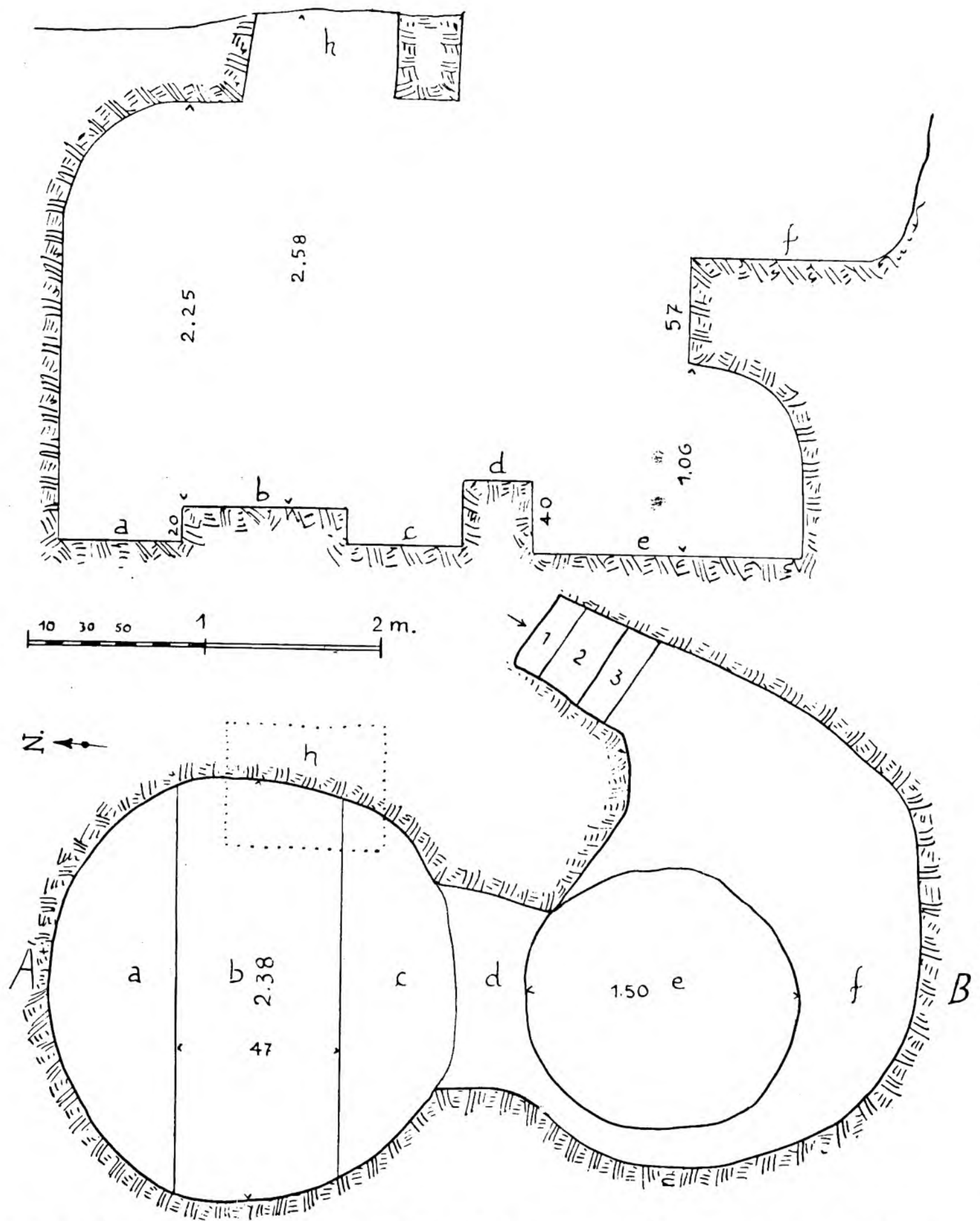


Fig. 5. Plan and section of one of the rock-cut pits near the center of the northern side of the field. Several rock-cut steps (1-3) lead down to a shallow depression on the northeast (f); from there one descends to a ridge which divides the pit into two parts; the northern part is 2.38 m. in diameter and 2.58 m. high in the center, where there is an opening (h) in the rock surface; the floor has a 20 cm. high and 47 cm. wide elevation in the center (b), with grave-like shallow depressions on each side (a and c); the southern part of this double pit (e) is 1.50 m. in diameter and 1.06 m. high.

out on the surface. Near the outcroppings of the native rock we actually began our clearances and almost immediately came upon a room paved with a lime composition about 20 cm. thick; in this floor were inserted



Fig. 6. The northeastern part of the olive grove after excavations, seen from the south. In the foreground the northern masonry wall, stone steps and stone still of a room; in the background, on left, floors consisting of a plaster composition; in center, three ancient pits and two ancient cisterns exist below the rock surface; on right, the dumps.

four bases of piers which supported the roof; of the piers two stones were still *in situ* on their bases; rubble walls were preserved on the west and north. Such lime floors were found in many other parts of this field. North of this room there are two more, then a staircase cut into the native rock (Fig. 3) leading down to a large rock-cut chamber

with masonry walls on three sides (Fig. 4); masonry was used in many of the other rock-cut loci to support the rock roofs, which nevertheless have caved in in many places. East of the pillared room we found several pits (Fig. 5) and cisterns cut into the native rock as well as some depres-



Fig. 7. The ancient cistern in the northeastern part of the olive grove, seen from the south; the silt beneath the stone steps contained some complete vessels.

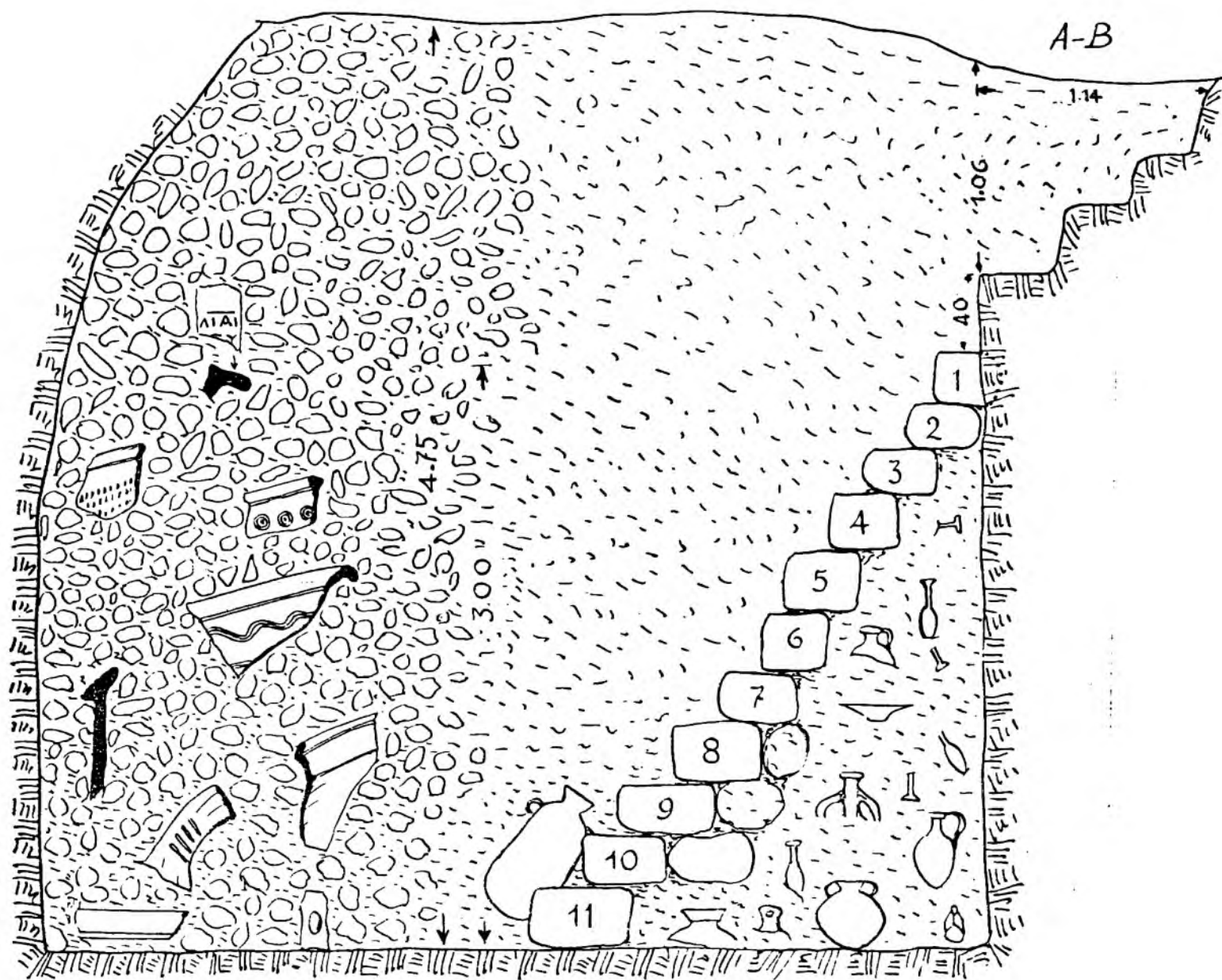
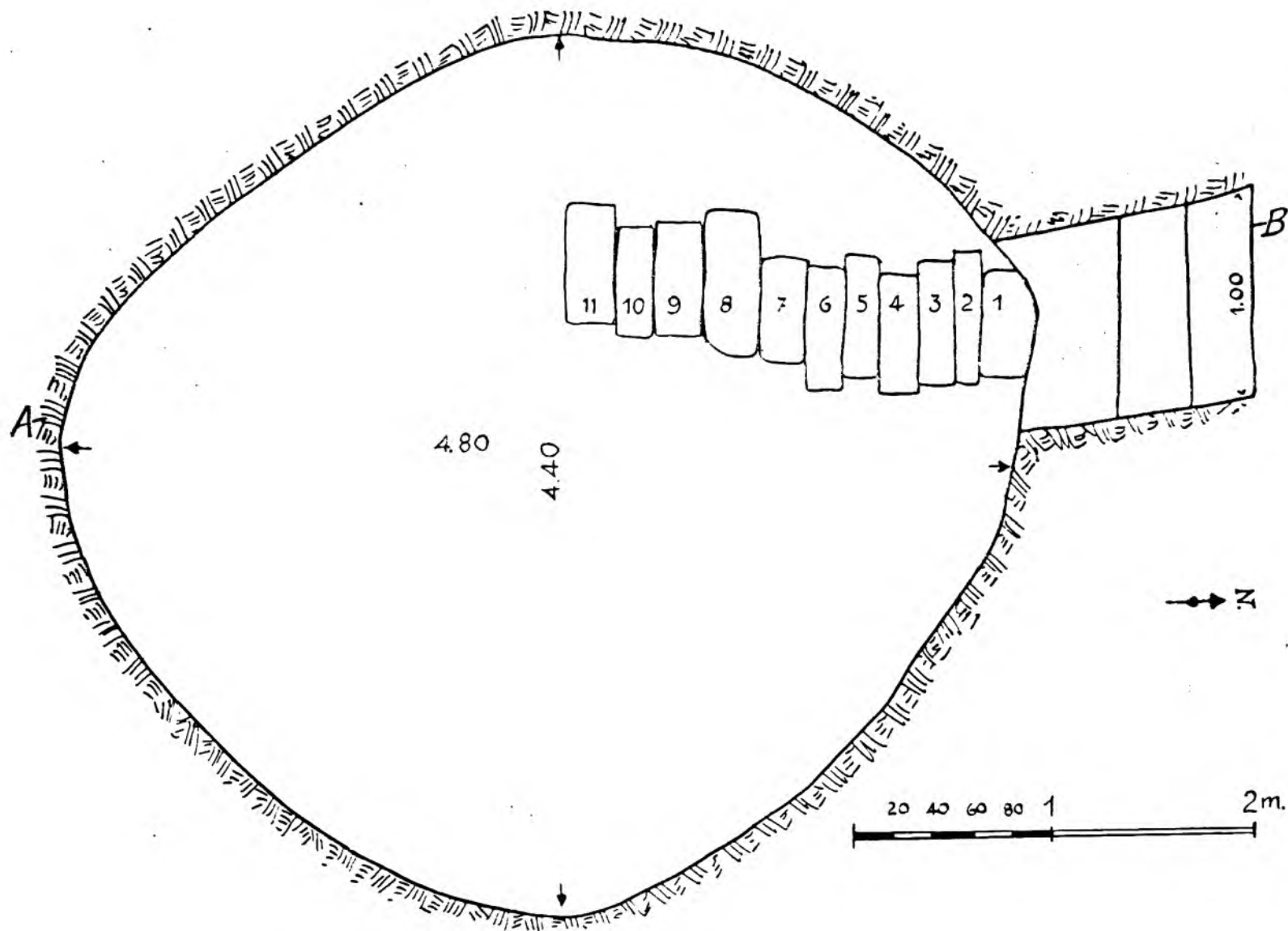


Fig. 8. Plan and section of the ancient cistern illustrated in Fig. 7.

sions in the rock surface lined with masonry (Fig. 6). South of the pillared room there is an oven and in the southwestern part of the field a group of eight caves, not to mention rock-cuttings and a few masonry walls on the surface.

Both above the rock surface and below it the earth was mixed with enough sherds of broken clay vessels to enable us to retrace the history of the site. The sherds in the earth above the native rock are generally a mixture of many periods but those in the pits and caves, especially those which were found closed, generally belonged to some well defined period. One of the most interesting groups of pottery comes from a cistern in the northeastern quarter of the field.

C. AN ANCIENT CISTERN IN PARTICULAR

I. DESCRIPTION (Figs. 7 and 8)

The cistern is 4.40-4.80 m. in diameter, and at present about 4.75 m. deep; its roof has collapsed; the interior is lined with two coats of plaster of which the lower one is gray in color, whilst the upper one contains a large proportion of sand. On the northern side of the cistern there is a staircase. The three upper steps, cut into the rock and about one m. wide, are outside the limits of the cistern. The remaining eleven steps are inside; they consist of flat stones laid over fine earth; only the uppermost stone is inserted into the wall of the cistern. In the silt beneath the steps many pottery vessels — some still complete — were found; they differ from those mixed with the earth and rubble which filled the rest of the cistern. These two groups of pottery are of special importance in our study of the history of this site and deserve special notice here.

II. POTTERY FROM BELOW THE STEPS OF THE CISTERN

From below the steps of the cistern come jars, flasks, pots and their lids, jugs and lamps.

1. JARS

No. 1893 (Fig. 9). This jar was found between the steps and the western wall of the cistern, close to the floor, in the silt over which the steps were built; it is almost complete; only the connection between the neck and shoulder could not be restored. The restoration in Fig. 9,

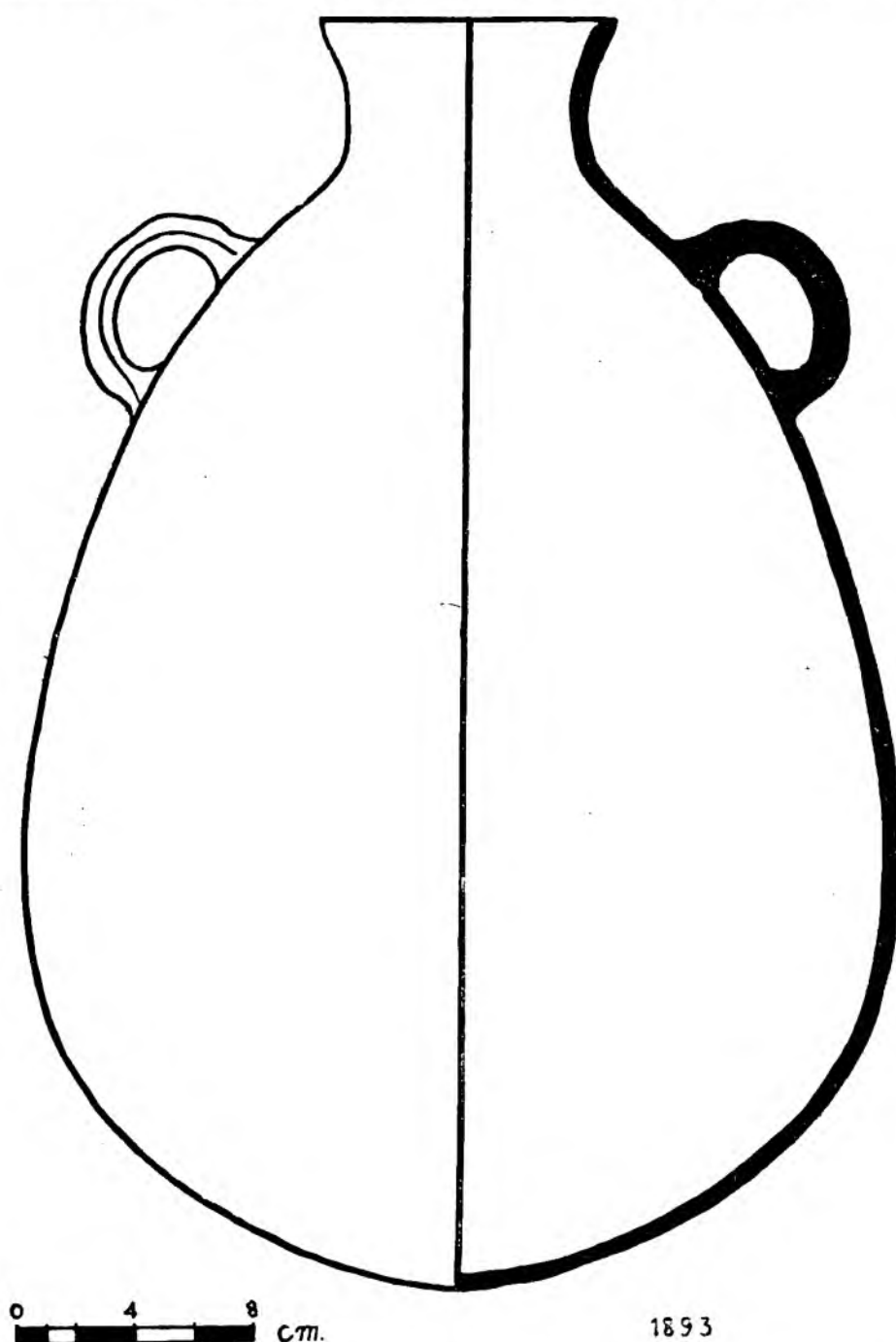


Fig. 9. Jar from older deposit in the ancient cistern planned in Fig. 8.

however, seems to be quite accurate. The thin ware ($4.4\frac{1}{2}$ mm.) is brick red; on the inner surface it is light red and on the outer surface there is a pink slip. The body is ovate with the wider end below. The bottom is rounded; the sides are slightly undulating, but there are no

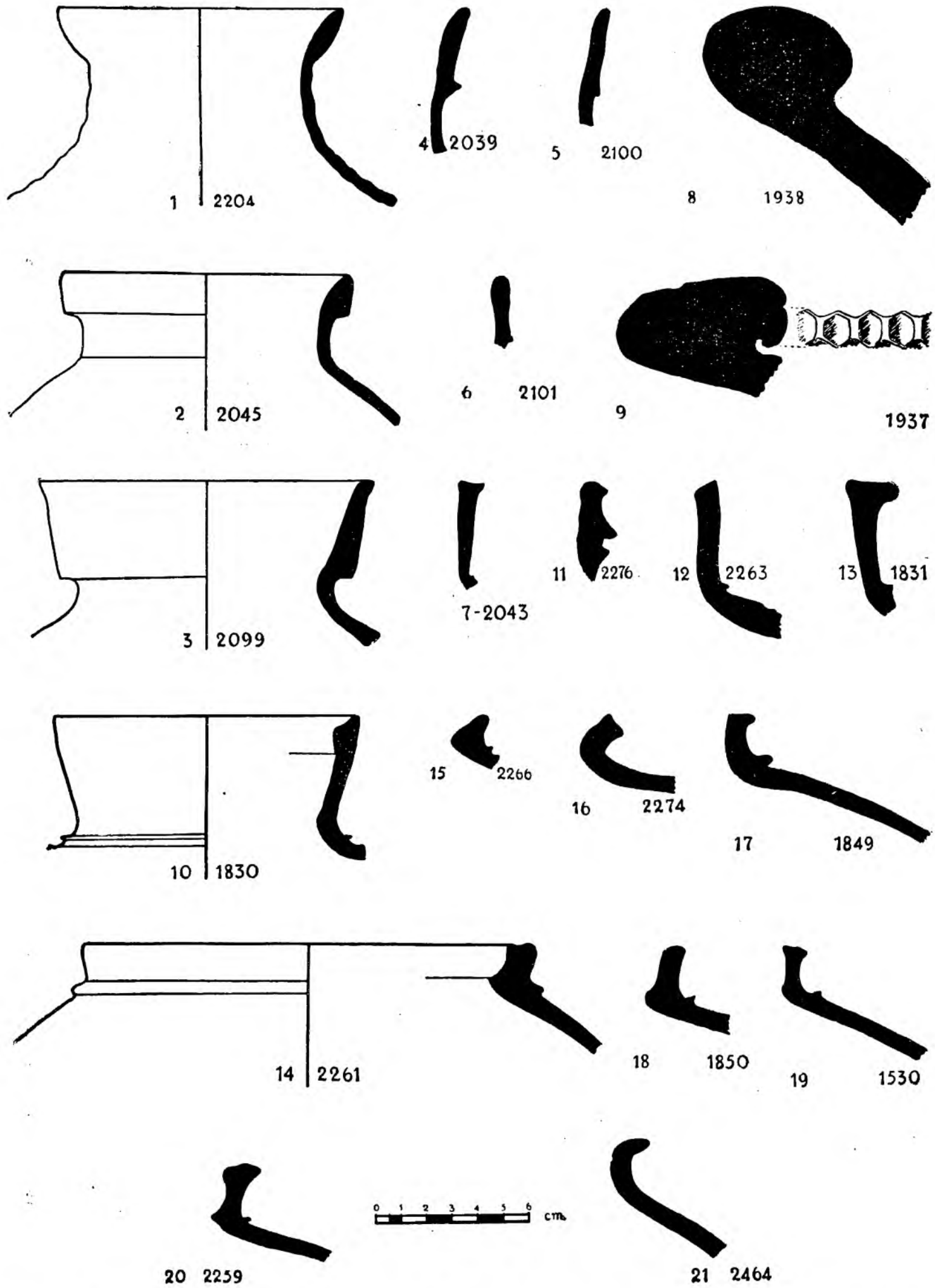


Fig. 10. Jar fragments from the older (1-7) and later (8-21) deposits of the ancient cistern planned in Fig. 8.

distinct ribs; the small handles attached to the shoulder are a flattish semicircle in section with a broad central ridge flanked by grooves; the mouth has out-turned lips.

This jar is of special interest, since it is the only one which could be almost completely restored and enables us to visualize the type of vessel to which many other similar sherds probably belonged.

J. C. WAMPLER² discusses the history of these "two-handled jars of bag-shaped body," which, he says, "apparently do not become common until about the 7th cent. B. C.... Thereafter this general shape has survived through many centuries down to modern times."

The type of rim on this jar occurred only a few times in our context. No. 2204 (Fig. 10,1) is another close parallel.

Much more common, however, is a reinforced rim, formed by a layer of clay of varying width and thickness folded on the outside of the rim and neck to form a kind of a collar. See nos. 2045, 2099, 2039, 2100, 2101 in Fig. 10,2-6. No. 2043 (Fig. 10,7) is another type found in this context.

All these types of rim have close parallels in the first century B. C. level of the citadel of Jerusalem.³

Jars with the same general form as ours were found at Beth-shemesh together with a hoard of coins belonging to Antiochus Epiphanes (175-164 B. C.). Regarding them E. GRANT and G. E. WRIGHT state:⁴ "The most interesting of the jars are nos. 7 and 8 on pl. XLIX (the latter is drawn on pl. LXIX, 5). The shape and the collared rim seem to be very typical of the Hellenistic period, having been found elsewhere at Samaria, Bethel (unpublished), Gilbeah, and Jerusalem. At Bethel this jar was found in large numbers in a Hellenistic phase, and Professor Albright has been able to trace the development of its type. The Beth-shemesh examples are especially important since the presence

² *TN* II, p. 9, parag. 39.

³ See C. N. JOHNS, *QDAP* XIV (1950), p. 145, Fig. 14,1.

⁴ *ASE* V, p. 146.

of the coins establishes their date either in or shortly after the reign of Antiochus Epiphanes.”

Like the jars so also all the other types of vessels found in the silt beneath the steps have a story of their own and it always leads us more or less towards the latter part of the Hellenistic period.

2. FLASKS

Along with the jars there were quite a few fragments of spindle-flasks. Fig. 11,1 illustrates the form, reconstructed from three fragments which really do not belong together. Fragment no. 1964 illustrates the

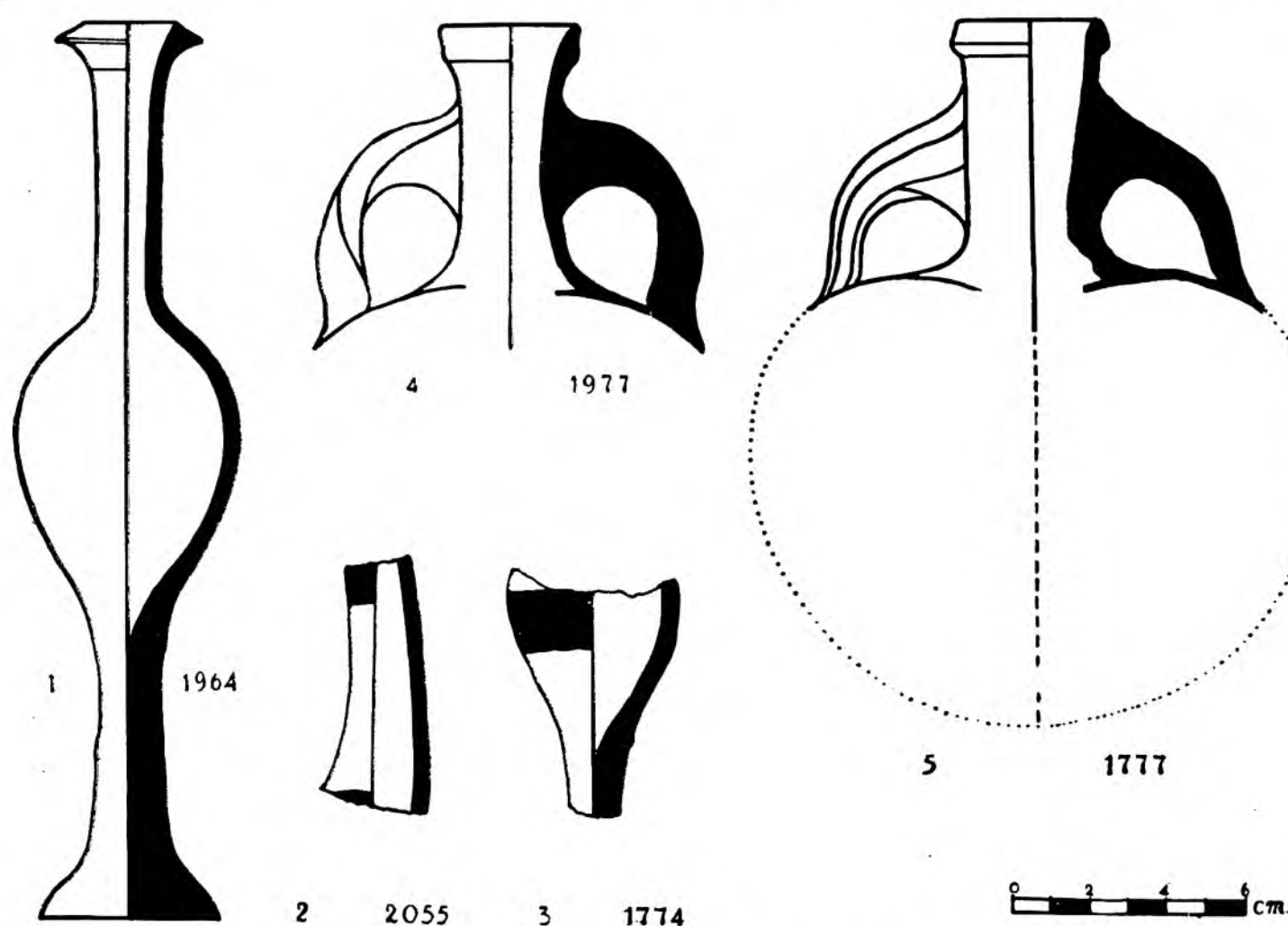


Fig. 11. Spindle- (1-3) and pilgrim-flasks (4-5) from the older deposit of the ancient cistern planned in Fig. 8.

spreading base and solid stem; a second, the thick-walled small body; and a third, the long neck terminating in a relatively wide splayed rim. Some of the fragments were painted; thus, for example, no. 1774

(Fig. 11,3), which has a black painted band 18 mm. wide around the lower part of the body; most of the black paint has peeled off leaving only a brown stain where the paint is missing. No. 2055 (Fig. 11,2) has two black bands around the neck. Numerous parallels from Hellenistic or Herodian contexts are indicated in *TN* II, p. 117, no. 1733; see the interesting discussion *ib.* pp. 49 f., parag. 40. To the preceding reference add *QDAP* XIV (1950), p. 145, Fig. 14, no. 7, for such flasks from a first century B. C. context in the citadel of Jerusalem. — In the Flagellation museum there are complete examples of such flasks found at Bethany at the beginning of this century. — We may add that fragments of these flasks, whose form is so characteristic that even small pieces can almost invariably be easily recognized, were picked up at many points of the field.

P. KAHANE⁵ thinks that these spindle-bottles (*unguentaria*) were undoubtedly designed for use as balsamaria. He notes that finds in city ruins (as here at Bethany) prove that they served not only for funerary purposes but also for domestic use. From the finds made especially at Beth-Zur and at 'Atlit he infers that the spindle-flask cannot be traced further back in Palestine than the first half of the second century B. C. Outside Palestine, however, "we can follow it uninterruptedly from the beginning of Hellenism at the end of the IV century B. C. until the I century A. D." He sums up his conclusions as follows: "We cannot state for certain when and whence this type of vase came into Palestine, but this does not seem to have occurred before the II century B. C.: spindle-bottles of the II century B. C. have been found at 'Atlit, Beth-Zur, possibly also at Samaria and Beth Yerah. It seems, however, that the real popularity and wide distribution of this class began in the I century B. C. only... In the course of the Augustan period the type slowly died out and was replaced by another, related shape: the piriform bottle. We may assume with confidence, that in the I century B. C., apparently in the main during the Herodian-Augustan Period, such balsamaria were exported from

⁵ *Pottery from Ossuary-Tombs*, *IEJ* 2 (1952), pp. 131-139.

Palestine, although this has not so far been proved. The survey of the development of this class allows us to formulate a clear answer to the problem of the relation between this type of vase (which was especially popular in Jewish tombs) and Hellenism: vases of this class originated outside Palestine, and their form is entirely Hellenistic. The type was brought to Palestine at a relatively late stage of its development and apparently at first by Gentiles or Hellenized Jews. During the I century B. C. it remained in domestic and funerary use by the Jews and by Gentiles; quite likely it also served for the export of unguents, mainly to Rome and Italy.”

In the preceding interesting discussion P. KAHANE shows familiarity only with the preliminary reports regarding the excavations at Tell en-Nasbeh; in the final report J. C. WAMPLER⁶ discusses this type of flask, his S 1733-4, and reaches the conclusion that it had put in its appearance in Palestine already before the Hellenistic period and may even go back as far as the fifth century B. C., though he admits that more information is needed to place them with assurance.

Nos. 1977 and 1777 (Fig. 11,4 and 5) are neck and shoulder fragments of water-bottles or so-called pilgrim flasks; the body, which was made of thin fragile ware, is invariably crushed to tiny fragments which make a reconstruction next to impossible; but the probable form is well known.⁷ Again we find good parallels in the first century B. C. level of the citadel of Jerusalem.⁸

3. COOKING POTS

The most common vessel of the layer beneath the steps was the cooking pot; it is represented by 6 more or less complete specimens and by the fragments of about 50 others. Along with these pots were found saucers which may have served as covers for the pots. The majority

⁶ *TN* II, pp. 49 f., parag. 40.

⁷ See *CPP* 87, O ff.

⁸ See *QDAP* XIV (1950), p. 145, Fig. 14,4, a. — See also *QS* 1935, p. 143,16; *EJ* Pl. XXV, 6; *CBZ* p. 45, Figs. 36 f.

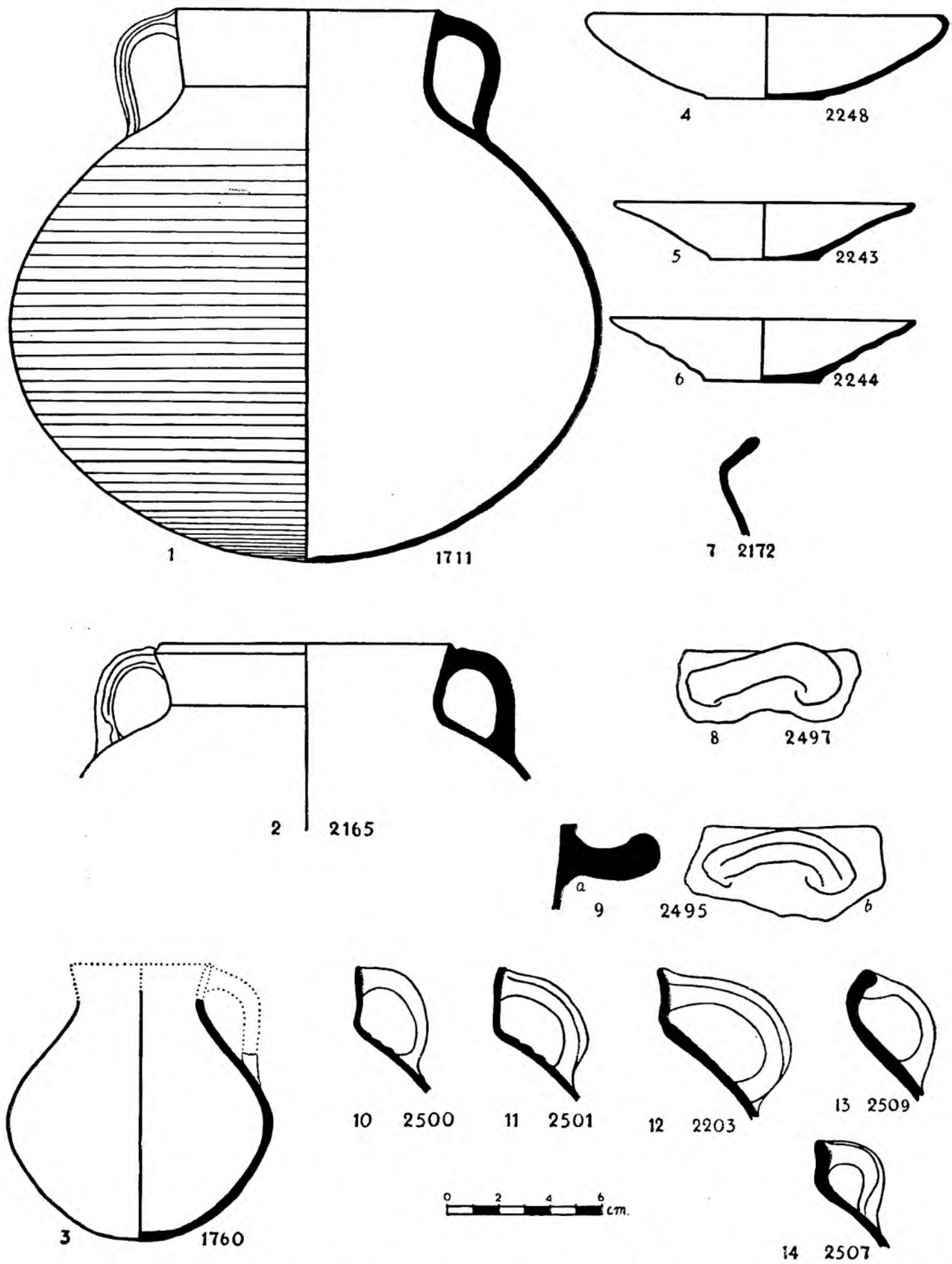


Fig. 12. Cooking pots and saucers from both the older (1-7) and later (8-14) deposits of the ancient cistern planned in Fig. 8.

of the pots resemble n. 1711 (Fig. 12,1). The body, of brown ware, is globular; the bottom and sides are faintly rippled; the top of the shoulder and the slightly splayed neck have a plain surface; the rim has a plain thin edge, a detail distinguishing these pots from all others. The handles, attached to the upper part of the neck and to the shoulder, are small and flat; one has a faint ridge. The total height of this pot is 21 cm; one other complete pot has the same height; a third is a little higher — 23 cm.; two others are somewhat lower; 19 and 18 cm. respectively. Large fragments of other pots suggest that some of them were larger than the largest complete one.

A cooking pot exactly like the ones from our cistern was found in a cave of Bethany in 1937; it is now on exhibit in the Hellenistic section of the Palestine Archaeological Museum (no. 862). The authorities of the museum have assigned this pot and the other objects associated with it to the second century B. C.

Similar pots have been found at various points in ancient Jerusalem; so, for example, "at the base of the old wall a few yards north-west of the gate near Siloam,"⁹ in a cistern on the property of the Assumptionists on Mount Sion¹⁰ and in the first century B. C. layer in the citadel of Jerusalem. This last group is especially important for fixing the date of the type. Regarding it C. N. JOHNS¹¹ writes: "Complete pots as (2a) were found *in situ*, in this case on the filling against the fourth course of the tower, and their mouths were covered with saucers as (3). Alongside them were broken but complete jars as (1) and bottles as (4b)... Clearly these forms at least were contemporary with the construction (finished by 29 B. C.). But all the types grouped in Fig. 14 were associated with the previous built as well..." In note 2 *ib.* he adds: "These types have lately been recorded from Jewish *kokhim* tombs on the Mount of Olives that can be dated to the first centuries B.C.-A.D. See P. KAHANE, 'Pottery types in Herodian tombs near

⁹ *EJ* pp. 261 ff. and Pl. XXV, 2.

¹⁰ *RB* 1914, p. 233, Fig. 13.

¹¹ *QDAP* XIV (1950), p. 144.

Jerusalem' (in Hebrew), in *Jewish Hellenism*, a forthcoming volume dedicated to H. J. LEWY, p. 86." Since then P. KAHANE has taken up the same problem in English.¹²

Of the various types occurring in tombs with ossuaries P. KAHANE discusses only two. His "A" type, a closed pot, "with a more or less protruding belly, rounded base, and low neck with two handles (Pl. 7D)" is more like our no. 2165 (Fig. 12,2), which is distinguished from the first group of pots by its shorter neck and wider rim characterized by a groove; this type is rare in the silt beneath the steps, but quite common in the rest of the cistern and elsewhere on the site. KAHANE rightly points out: "it is obvious at once that the shape of a vessel which is defined to such an extent by utilitarian requirements, must have points in common with cooking-pots of earlier as well as of later periods. We may thus trace back this type through the Iron Age into the Late Bronze Age. Undoubtedly the Hellenistic variant is different from that of the Late Iron Age, just as the latter differs from the Early Iron and Bronze Age types; the development is marked mainly by a change in the proportions of the vessel, but the important point is that the development is a *gradual* one and, what is still more significant, type A shows no elements of a form which are specifically Hellenistic... It should also be noted that it was this type... which persists, without any essential changes, throughout the Imperial Roman, Byzantine and Arab periods. The conclusion to be drawn from this is evident: type A belongs to the tradition of the Canaanite-Israelite cooking-pot. The form it assumes in the Late-Hellenistic-Herodian Period is only *one* phase in the steady evolution of this type, an evolution which we may follow through from the Bronze Age to the Arab Period. The question whether this type occurs also outside the Jewish sphere, may be answered in the positive with considerable probability on general grounds; but as far as we can see, there is no clear evidence

¹² See *IEJ* 2 (1952), pp. 125 ff. The cooking pot is discussed there on pp. 128-131.

for the ethnic evaluation of the specimens found at Beth-Zur and at Samaria."¹³

No. 1760 (Fig. 12,3) has the same texture as the preceding and is also blackened by fire, which indicates that it too was used for cooking. Its neck is missing; it had only one handle; it resembles the vessels found at Beth-Zur in an Hellenistic context.¹⁴

4. SAUCERS

Fragments of thin-walled saucers were especially common in this context and rare in other parts of the field. No. 2244 (Fig. 12,6), of light red ware with white grits, flat base, outsplayed rippled sides, has a rounded edge. No. 2243 (Fig. 12,5), a little smaller than the preceding, reddish white on the interior, plain light brown on the exterior, has a rounded fold at its edge. No. 2248 (Fig. 12,4), of red-black ware, with white inner and gray outer surface, has an incurved rim which is not folded. Such saucers were found in the first century B. C. layer of the citadel of Jerusalem, where they served as covers for cooking pots;¹⁵ it is not unlikely that our saucers served the same purpose.

5. JUGS

Two complete jugs and fragments of several others were found.

No. 1763 (Fig. 13,1) is ovate in form. The concave base has a small rounded projection in the center and around it a spirally incised line. The body has a faint ripple; the neck is cylindrical; the rim spreads beyond the neck; the flat handle is attached to the rim and top of the shoulder. The ware is thin (3-5 cm.) and red, full of white grits; the exterior is covered with a creamy slip (yellow-white).

No. 1889 (Fig. 13,2) resembles the preceding jug very closely.

¹³ Consult also J. C. WAMPLER, *TN II*, pp. 30 f., parag. 8 ff., especially 11, regarding "deep-bodied and narrow-necked pots."

¹⁴ *CBZ Pl. X*, 5 and 7. For the type consult also the group of one-handed pots discussed in *TN II*, p. 28, parag. 79 ff.

¹⁵ *QDAP XIV* (1950), p. 145, Fig. 14,3.

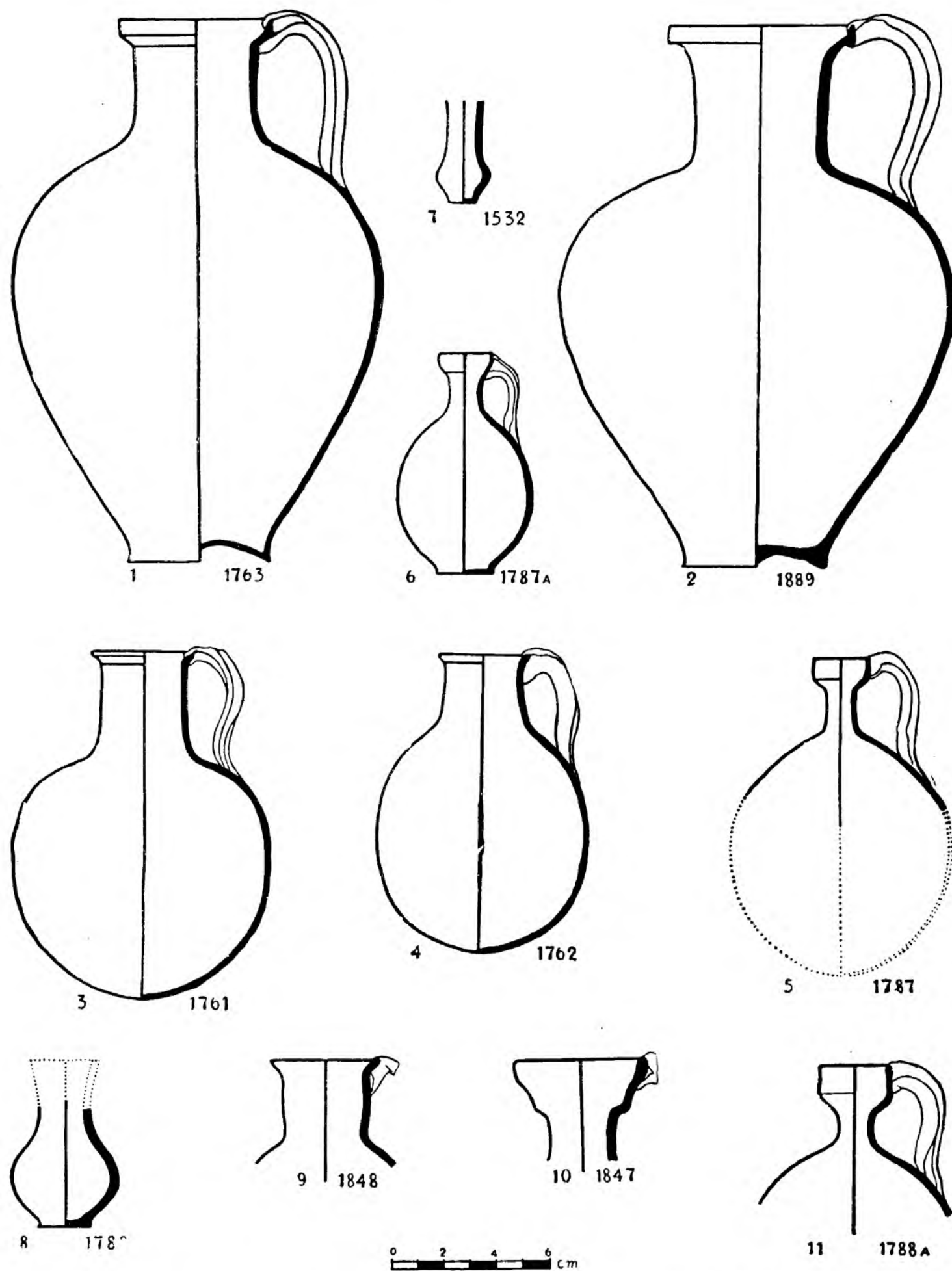


Fig. 13. Jugs and juglets from the ancient cistern planned in Fig. 8; all from the older deposit except no. 7.

To judge from other fragments there were very probably two more jars like the two complete ones. — Several bases, rims and body fragments resemble the preceding ones very closely, but evidently belong to somewhat different vessels. — Four sherds with a painted band either beneath the neck (one) or around the body (three) either in black-brown or brown-red probably also come from jugs, but their ware is quite different from that of the first group.

The first two (or four) jugs seem to have very close parallels in a first century B. C. level in the citadel of Jerusalem.¹⁶ Among the Hellenistic fragments from Beth-Zur there seems to be one of this type.¹⁷

6. JUGLETS

About three dozen juglets were represented mostly by small fragments but several were complete. The largest complete juglet is no. 1761 (Fig. 13,3). It has a globular body, rounded below and faintly rippled on the sides; the neck is cylindrical; the everted lips are splayed; the irregularly formed handle is attached to the rim and the shoulder; the exterior has a light brown slip. — No. 2184 is a fragment of the lower part of a somewhat larger juglet of gray hard ware with white grits; the sides have low rounded ribs. — No. 2185 is a base fragment which closely resembles that of the first juglet, though the bottom shows a tendency to form a small flat part; the ware is gray, the surfaces brown.

The second complete juglet, no. 1762 (Fig. 13,4), has an ovate form with the widest part below. The rounded bottom is carefully smoothed and the sides are somewhat rippled; the surface is covered with a creamy slip. — Five more fragments of the lower parts of juglets are treated in the same way as this complete one; the bottom in each case is carefully polished so that it is very smooth to the touch; four have the same creamy colored exterior surface as the preceding one, whilst the ware

¹⁶ *Ib.* 4, c.

¹⁷ *CBZ* p. 45, Fig. 36, the second in third row.

and inner surface differ slightly in each case: no. 2177 has light brown ware and a yellow to white interior, whilst near the middle of the exterior it has ribbing; no. 2176 is made of light brown ware with the same color on the interior; two other small fragments are of ashy gray ware, one of these (2179) is dull white on the interior and the other dark gray. The fifth group of fragments (nos. 2187-8) has a gray to light brown core, light brown interior and a pink to white exterior. — Two other fragments of rounded bases with a tendency towards ribbing differ from all the vessels examined so far.

To the juglets which are rounded below belong two other varieties: no. 2190, of light gray ware tinged lightly with red on the exterior, has ribbing near the middle; the top is missing; no. 2186, of gray white ware with more pronounced white exterior, is also very incomplete.

Nos. 1787 and 1788 A (Fig. 13,5 and 11) illustrate a large group of juglets of which usually only the rim, neck, a piece of the handle and possibly a part of the shoulder are preserved intact (at least 15), whereas the piriform body is invariably crushed; since no fragments of flattened bases were found we presume that the bottom was always round.

Since this is one of the types of vessels which, it seems, P. KAHANE¹⁸ proposes to study more in particular in a future article we need not anticipate him. It suffices for the moment to note that J. C. WAMPLER¹⁹ calls this type (S 835) "mainly Hellenistic and Roman," and that in the citadel of Jerusalem it occurs in the first century B. C.²⁰ — Fragments of such juglets turned up at many points of the field which we are clearing.

Only two of our juglets have flat disk bases: nos. 1787 A and 1788 (Fig. 13,6 and 8 respectively); the first is almost complete, the second is without the upper part of the neck.

¹⁸ See *IEJ* 2 (1952), p. 128.

¹⁹ *TN* II, p. 25, parag. 62.

²⁰ *QDAP* XIV (1950), p. 145, Fig. 14,4, b.

The two fragments of necks with a larger diameter than those of all the preceding juglets (nos. 1847-8; see Fig. 13, 10 and 9) probably belonged to larger vessels (flasks).

7. LAMPS

In our context we have two fragments of the folded lamp and one fragment of the bow-shaped spout of a lamp (see Fig. 8, below the stairs). Again we may note that the first century B. C. level at the citadel of Jerusalem produced the folded lamp type.²¹ At Beth-shemesh this type of lamp occurred in a context assigned to the time of Antiochus Epiphanes (175-164 B. C.). This led E. GRANT and G. E. WRIGHT²² to conclude: "Since the Beth-shemesh specimens are dated in the second century B. C., there can no longer be any doubt that the type is Hellenistic, probably first made not far from 200 B.C." They²³ refer to similar material from Samaria and Beth-zur which seems to confirm their view. — J. C. WAMPLER²⁴ observes, regarding the origin of the folded lamp, that both the LI and the Hellenistic periods are indicated, but the latter is better represented. — At Bethany this folded lamp occurred also in a pit a little to the north of the cistern in connection with LI or Persian Age material; but in the cistern the two fragments are associated with a fragment of the bow-shaped lamp; this may indicate that the two types overlapped.

The bow-shaped fragment of hard brown ware, decorated in relief by a row of three large and eight small pellets arranged between two parallel lines, belongs to a type which has frequently been called Augustan. C. C. McCOWN²⁵ discussed this type thoroughly and assigned to it a date between 100 B.C. and 300 A. D.

²¹ *Ib.* 5.

²² *ASE* V, p. 146.

²³ *Ib.* note 4.

²⁴ *TN* II, p. 46, parag. 20.

²⁵ *Ib.* p. 57, B.

CONCLUSION

The evidence of all the types of vessels found in the silt beneath the steps of the cistern leads us to a date in the first century B. C.

III. POTTERY FROM ABOVE THE STEPS OF THE CISTERN

South of the steps and above the same the rest of the cistern, from the floor to the top, was filled with rubble mixed with pottery which differed greatly from that found below the steps. Most abundant were the wide rimmed bowls; associated with them were rouletted and terra sigillata wares. Closely related to these were a few heavy rimmed vessels, of which one has a Greek inscription; with this one we shall begin our more detailed account.

1. MORTARIA

Nos. 2251-2 were the only fragments of a thick-walled (14-17 mm.) mortarium with a wide (56 mm.), heavy and slightly curved projecting rim of dark-brown ware. On the rim an inscription is stamped in such a way that one has the interior of the vessel on his left in reading it (see Fig. 8, left of stairs, topmost fragment). It consists of two lines; the first contains four Greek letters and the second two; the last two letters have been damaged by the fracture of the rim at that point. But in a cave in the southwestern part of the field a third fragment (no. 3139) was found with the identical letters and the very same arrangement and all of the letters intact, though, in this case, two of the letters on the right are somewhat faint, due to the fact that the stamp was placed over the slightly raised central ridge of the rim. This second inscription must be read with the interior of the vessel at one's right. The first inscription has a horizontal bar above several letters and this seemed to suggest an abbreviation; but the second one has such lines both above and below; they were evidently made by the frame which enclosed the inscription and can be seen on stamps and

impressions preserved in the museum of the Flagellation, Jerusalem. All of these details are interesting.

The inscription. — The letters are: ΛΙΑΙ||ΤΥ, that is, Liaity, probably the genitive ΛΙΑΙΤ(Ο)Υ: of Liaitos, a proper name, indicating the maker of the mortarium, as is supposed in other cases. It is not certain whether our two fragments belong to two different vessels or whether the stamp was repeated twice on the same rim, as on one preserved in the museum of the Flagellation in Jerusalem, where the name Diophantoubos occurs twice.²⁶ On fragments preserved in the Palestine Archaeological Museum we find the names: Domnus, Dioi... eikos, (B)rim..., Timokletos and Eutyches. The first is assigned by J. H. ILIFFE²⁷ to the middle or the second half of the first century A. D. In that connection ILIFFE observes that "such mortarium rim stamps are common on Roman sites in Western Europe... They fall into a well-established chronological series by shapes from the early first to the fourth century A. D." — The second is from a cistern at Beit Nattif, where the context suggests a third century A. D. date.²⁸ The other three are from Sebastia, Jebel Faradis (Frank Mountain) and Abda respectively.²⁹ This practice of potters to stamp mortaria rims with their names is but a continuation of an earlier practice to put their names on jar handles or on the bottom of vessels, etc.³⁰

Significance. — The presence of an inscribed object in a more or less sealed context is important for the chronology of that entire context; if such stamped rims belong to the period extending from the first century to the fourth we may expect that the rest of the material in this context is more or less of that same period.

²⁶ *Guida* p. 90, no. 134.

²⁷ *QDAP* II (1933), p. 124,7.

²⁸ See D. C. BARAMKI, *QDAP* V (1936), p. 7, Fig. 2.

²⁹ *PAMGB* pp. 60 f., nos. 1356-8.

³⁰ See *ib.* pp. 21 f., nos. 887-892, regarding Rhodian wine-jar handles; p. 31, no. 1003, regarding a lamp from Petra; p. 41, no. 1155: lamp from Jerash (2nd cent. A. D.); p. 43, no. 1185: lamp from Petra; pp. 57 ff., nos. 1335, 1338-40, 1349: terra sigillata pottery; p. 61, no. 1360: tile.

2. WIDE-RIMMED BOWLS

No. 1796 (Fig. 8, center, illustrates a similar sherd) serves to illustrate one variety of the wide-rimmed bowl. Its ware is gray and hard; its surfaces are brown; on the exterior numerous white grits are visible; there are also patches of a white slip. On the preserved fragment there are four horizontal bands of combing: three are straight and one is wavy. Over the combing at one point there is the stump of a handle. The rim projects very slightly inwards, where its edge is thin, and especially outwards, where it projects beyond the walls of the vessel about two cm.; its upper surface has a wavelike profile. This characteristic rim is abundant not only in the cistern but all over our site.

Quite different from this cyma rim is the flat rim with an edge projecting upwards and downwards marked by a groove just inside this edge; this too is illustrated in Fig. 8.

3. ROULETTED SHERDS

The fragments of broad-rimmed bowls were associated with sherds whose outer surface is covered with very numerous and a great variety of nicks; these are often very faint, but in some cases they are quite bold; this treatment of the surface is now quite commonly called rouletting. The rims and parts of the surfaces of such sherds are often covered with a dark red to black paint. — Form and painting indicate the close relation of other vessels without rouletting to those which are rouletted.

4. TERRA SIGILLATA WARE

Along with the preceding there was also a sprinkling of usually bright red highly polished sherds, which at times have preserved in the center of their interior a stamp or *sigillum* and for this reason this whole very characteristic class is called terra sigillata ware.

5. DISCUSSION

This same grouping of pottery sherds is found at several other points on our site. Also at many points of ancient Jerusalem such

groupings have been found; there the contexts have suggested a late Roman and early Byzantine, that is, a third to fourth century date for such wares.³¹

A word of caution, however, may be in place here, for in the group of caves in the southwestern corner of our field, we are finding, at the moment at which we are writing this, the same types of pottery as in the later section of our cistern, and in these caves there is pottery which has usually been assigned to the sixth century, for example, many varieties of jugs with nicks, which are quite different from the rouletting discussed above.³² Moreover, a coin found in one of these caves belongs to the sixth century (571/2 A.D.) and seems to confirm the sixth century date for at least some of the pottery in the adjoining caves. Regarding the Sigillata wares it has already been pointed out by others that they persisted into the sixth century;³³ the same holds regarding rouletted wares.³⁴ In favor of the 3rd to 4th century date of the ware from our cistern is the fact that in the cistern we found none of those later wares of the caves.

6. JARS

Besides the aforementioned types there were also fragments of other vessels which exhibit details slightly different from those noted in the lower level. The rims of jars in this level are more varied than in the earlier level. The collar still survives; no. 2276 (Fig. 10,11) illustrates a collar with a deep groove around its center and a sharp ridge directly below it; no. 1830 (Fig. 10,10) has the reënforcement inside the mouth instead of on the outside; it also has a sharp ridge at the joint between the neck and the shoulder; both details may be observed on jars of

³¹ See J. W. CROWFOOT and G. M. FITZGERALD, *PEFAnn* V (1929), pp. 29 f., 73 ff.; R. W. HAMILTON, *QDAP* X (1944), pp. 11, 31 ff., 45; C. N. JOHNS, *QDAP* XIV (1950), p. 156, note 3; R. DE VAUX and A. - M. STEVE, *Fouilles à Qaryet el-'Enab = Abu Gosh, Palestine*, Paris, 1950, p. 20.

³² See *MMMN* III, pp. 96 ff.

³³ *Ib.* pp. 103 ff.

³⁴ See *PAMGB* pp. 34 f., no. 1086.

corresponding date found outside the northern wall of Jerusalem.³⁵ No. 2263 (Fig. 10,12) is a rather plain and thick, almost upright, neck with a splayed rim, whilst no. 1831 (Fig. 10,13) has a wide projecting rim.

Another group of jars has only short necks, whose rim may be plain (no. 1850, Fig. 10,18), projecting only outwards (no. 1849, Fig. 10,17), or both outwards and inwards (no. 1530, Fig. 10,19), with a cyma molding and projection on the interior near the base of the neck (nos. 2259 and 2261; Fig. 10,20 and 14).

A third group is without a neck, with an out-turned rim around the mouth, which is either splayed (no. 2266, Fig. 10,15), or curved with rounded (no. 2464, Fig. 10,21) or grooved edge (no. 2274, Fig. 10,16).

A fourth group consists of heavy jars without a neck having the thick rim folded back onto the shoulder; no. 1938 (Fig. 10,8) is one variety with the rim rounded on top; no. 1937 (Fig. 10,9) is a second variety with a flat top and a band along the outer edge marked by vertical finger impressions.

Such short-necked or neckless jars were found also outside the northern wall of Jerusalem.³⁶

7. COOKING POTS

The rims of cooking pots also have forms which did not occur in the lower level, especially the pot with horizontal handles attached to the side of the vessel beneath a plain flat rim (see nos. 2497 and 2495; Fig. 12,8-9). But also the pots with vertically attached handles exhibit rare forms of rims, which can be studied best in Fig. 12,10-14. There was no complete cooking pot in this level and the sherds of such vessels were also fewer.

³⁵ See *QDAP* X (1944), p. 31 for further details regarding such jars.

³⁶ *Ib.* p. 49, Fig. 23,1-6.

8. JUGS

There was one rim, neck and handle of a flask in cooking pot ware (no. 1961). A complete "jug" of this type from Saffuriyeh is on exhibit in the Roman section of the Palestine Archaeological Museum (no. 1087).

Another fragment (no. 2453) belonged to a trefoil-mouthed vessel. In the Byzantine section of the Palestine Archaeological Museum (no. 1778) there can be seen a complete "trefoil-mouthed globular jug" which was recovered on the museum site.³⁷

9. LAMPS

No. 1516 is a fragment of a lamp with a bow-shaped spout, similar to one found below the steps; it is believed that this type of lamp was still in use up to the third century, as we noted in speaking of the other fragment.

No. 1887 is a fragment with pronounced ribs or corrugations interrupted on one side by a scroll in relief, reminiscent of the scroll-knob of Hellenistic lamps.³⁸

No. 1888 is a fragment with fine linear ornaments on the surface; from the wick-hole onwards we see: a ladder across the spout, then one in the center of the spout at right angles to the first; below and at the sides of this, spirals; groups of lines alternate with arches around the central opening.

Four more fragments are so insignificant that it is rather hazardous even to suggest the type from which they come, though two seem to be parts of the lower half of slipper shaped lamps; the third, a part of a round bodied lamp; the fourth, a bit of a cone-spouted lamp.

³⁷ See *QDAP* I (1932), Pl. XV, 4; Pl. XVI, 8; see also *PEFAnn* V (1929), p. 75, (8), where a similar jug is noted amongst the ware peculiar to the third-fourth century A. D.

³⁸ See *HES* I, pp. 319 ff.

IV. STONE VESSELS

Fragments of stone vessels come from both below and above the steps and from many points of the field. Some of them evidently belonged to mugs of the same type as the one from Hizmeh on exhibit in the Roman section of the Palestine Archaeological Museum (no.988). In the *Gallery Book* it is called a "dry measure" and assigned to the Herodian period. The text adds: "They are found in various sizes and are usually knife-pared vertically. They are made of the same kind of soft local limestone as the Jewish ossuaries, which is easy to work. Many specimens were found in the excavations at St. Pierre en Gallicante, and are now in the Museum of Notre Dame de France, Jerusalem."³⁹ On Ophel⁴⁰ (the ancient Jerusalem) fragments of such soft stone vessels were "common in the Roman stratum..." "They were first cut roughly into shape by means of chisels with narrow blades (about half an inch broad). Similar chisels were used in shaping the ossuaries, which were doubtless made by the same workmen. Both on the vessels and on the ossuaries the chisel-marks were then smoothed away, except where they would not normally be seen — underneath the flat bottoms of the latter, and inside the spreading trumpet-like feet of the former. The stone vessels were smoothed upon a lathe; but there is one class of stone vessel which was not thus finished. It appears to have been used even into Arab times, as fragments were found in cisterns in association with Arab pottery. It is a flat-bottomed mug, with sides slightly expanding like the sides of a barrel. It is trimmed down with a chisel or knife, but never smoothed off. There is a handle under the lip, consisting of a projecting vertical rectangular disc perforated with an oval opening. Plate XVI, Figs. 4 and 5, show fragments of vessels of this kind, the first illustrating the appearance of the sides, the second a specimen of the handle."

³⁹ See *PAMGB* no. 1092 for the Herodian date of these knife-pared limestone cups. Several are illustrated in *Jérusalem* 1912, p. 195, Fig. 3; *RB* 1914, pp. 235 ff., Figs. 15 and 15 bis.

⁴⁰ See *PEFAnn* IV (1926), pp. 147 ff.

D. THE PERSIAN PERIOD

Near the base of a masonry wall to be seen in the background of Fig. 14 was found a fragment of a jar (no. 1306, Fig. 15), whose ware, 5 mm. thick, has a slaty black color, whilst its surfaces are a buff



Fig. 14. Locus near the eastern side of the olive grove, seen from the north. At the foot of the masonry wall in the background, in front of the tree on the left, was found a handle with a "Jerusalem" stamp impression. Near the left end of the wall there is a small clay oven (not visible). In the earth the sherds were predominantly medieval.

brown; the handle attached to the shoulder of the vessel is flat below and slightly curved on top; at its upper end there is a circular stamp impression 19 mm. in d. (Figs. 15 f.); the stamp consists of a pentacle between whose arms there are five letters of the ancient Hebrew alphabet,

which are all quite clear and with the aid of similar impressions can be read with certainty. Fig. 16a gives the form and order of the letters as they are on the handle viewed by one looking towards the rim of the vessel. Here the letters have the form which they should have had on the original stamp and must be read clockwise in order to make out the word which they represent. Fig. 16b illustrates how the impression should have been made and in this case the letters must be read counter-clockwise. This fact and the poor impressions of many of the letters at first caused great difficulty in deciphering the individual letters and consequently also in making out the word for which they stand.

Credit for the correct reading of most of the letters is due to W. F. ALBRIGHT, who was able to see and study the two found at Gezer and 21 others found by DUNCAN on Ophel. In his opinion "the forms of the letters are awkward, and no longer sharply defined and correct in appearance, like the Hebrew letters on pre-exilic seals."⁴¹ "The forms of the characters" are "transitional" and remind "us of seventh and sixth century script on the one hand and of somewhat later Aramaic forms on the other. Hebrew gives way to Aramaic about 400 B.C."⁴² "Irregularities in the appearance of the characters in different impressions," he says, "show that the archaism was sometimes attempted without success, just as in the case of later Jewish coins."⁴³

Anent this last remark of ALBRIGHT, E. L. SUKENIK observes:⁴⁴ "I do not think that this remark is quite in place for this period. As seen from ALBRIGHT'S reproduction in the plate accompanying this article, the writing is in the normal old script without any trace of an attempt at archaizing. The irregularities in the characters of the different impressions are due to different stamps being used, some of them being worn out or not having the letters clearly cut. The stamp impressions should not be judged by comparison with seal impressions.

⁴¹ *JPOS* 6 (1926), p. 101.

⁴² *The Archaeology of Palestine and the Bible*, 1932, p. 175.

⁴³ *Ib.* p. 223, note 124.

⁴⁴ *JPOS* 13 (1933), p. 228. — For a description of the forms of the letters see D. DIRINGER, *Le Iscrizioni Antico-Ebraiche Palestinesi*, Firenze, 1934, pp. 131 f.

In the case of the latter the seal, belonging to an individual and not in frequent use, would naturally make a clear impression, whereas the former, being public stamps and often used, became worn out sooner, and their impressions consequently show irregularities.”



Fig. 15. The handle with the “Jerusalem” stamp impression (natural size).

Even after most of the letters had been made out it was still difficult to determine the word which they formed; this was due in part to the fact that one or the other letter remained doubtful, then because it was not certain whether the inscription had to be read from left to right or *vice versa*, finally because it was not certain with which letter the word began. By a happy intuition E. L. SUKENIK⁴⁵ hit upon the reading: JERUSALEM, which looks so convincing that it is now commonly accepted. Today we are accustomed to call these impressions “Jerusalem stamps.”

⁴⁵ *Op. cit.* p. 228.

The spot in which the Bethany stamp was found suggests that it belongs to the oldest material recovered on the site. This material belongs to the Persian period and makes it probable that our stamp also belongs to that period. The forms of the letters do not contradict this evidence, although DIRINGER⁴⁶ reached the conclusion that paleographically they cannot be dated even approximately. He nevertheless asserts that these stamps must be assigned to the pre-exilic period; but on what grounds is not evident. — ALBRIGHT originally thought that the stamp referred to *Shelemyau*, i. e., Shelemiah, whom Nehemiah had appointed superintendent of the temple treasury in about the year 432 B. C.; this naturally led him to assign these stamps to the second half of the fifth century B. C.;⁴⁷ he has now adopted SUKENIK'S

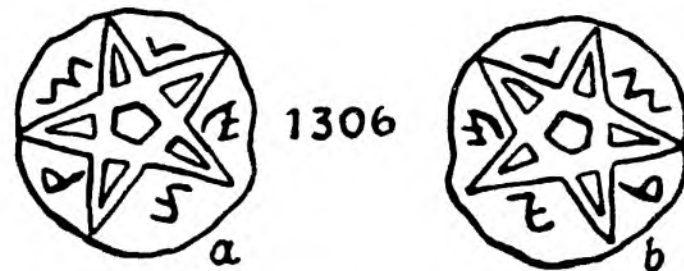


Fig. 16. The stamp impression of Fig. 15:
a) as on the handle;
b) as on the original stamp.

reading, but still retains a date in “the Persian and early Hellenistic periods.”⁴⁸ — Such a date seems to find support in the context in which most of these stamps were found on the Ophel Hill (Jerusalem); at least in the publication⁴⁹ they are classed with the post-exilic material. In short, most scholars, whatever their reasons may be, assign these stamps to the Persian period.⁵⁰

Until now such Jerusalem stamps have been found only in the post-exilic territory of Judah (Tell Zakariya, Gezer, Jerusalem, Tell

⁴⁶ *Op. cit.* p. 136.

⁴⁷ *JPOS* 6 (1926), pp. 100 f.; *Archaeol. of Pal. and the Bible*, pp. 174 ff.

⁴⁸ *The Archaeology of Palestine*, Penguin Books, Harmondsworth, 1949, p. 143.

⁴⁹ *PEFAnn* IV (1926), p. 191.

⁵⁰ See L. - H. VINCENT, *RB* 56 (1949), p. 294; C. C. McCOWN, *TN* I, p. 154; K. GALLING, *BRL* col. 338.

en-Nasbeh and Bethany). It is generally believed that they "must have something to do with the fiscal organization of Judah, like the royal jar stamps of the seventh century B. C."⁵¹

The discovery of this Jerusalem stamp of the Persian period along with other material of this period⁵² in the field at Bethany which we are now clearing has some bearing also on the text of 2 *Esdras* 11,32, where we are informed that among the places occupied by the children of Benjamin after their return from the Babylonian exile was one called "Anania;" this, as ALBRIGHT pointed out years ago,⁵³ is the same place as the New Testament Beth-ania.

E. NEW DISCOVERIES IN THE ANCIENT CEMETERIES

Since our last report at least four more ancient burial sites have been discovered or become known; one is on the property of the Passionists, west of the ancient town; a second near the modern Jerusalem-Jericho road, south of the town; and two more on the hill to the north of the town.

I. THE TOMB AND CISTERN ON THE PROPERTY OF THE PASSIONISTS

1. THE SHAFT-TOMB

On March 19, 1952, in removing some earth from among the trees east of their monastery at Bethany, the Passionists came across a tomb. The matter was reported to us and we were invited to study the find. With their kind permission we herewith publish the results.

The burial place in question was cut into the native rock. Access to the chamber was obtained through a shaft in the roof of the same (Fig. 17). Approximately 34 cm. beneath the rock surface there is a ledge on each of the long sides of the shaft; these ledges supported

⁵¹ See ALBRIGHT, *JPOS* VI (1926), pp. 93 ff.; V (1925), pp. 17 ff.

⁵² See *La Settimana Santa a Gerusalemme*, 1952, pp. 16-20, especially Fig. 4.

⁵³ *BASOR* No. 9 (Febr. 1923), pp. 8-10; *AASOR* IV (1924), pp. 158-160.

stone slabs about 14 cm. thick which served to close the mouth of the tomb; to prevent earth from penetrating into the interior the chinks around and between the covering slabs were closed with smaller stones. After removing the slabs one can see and penetrate into the interior of the chamber (Fig. 18). To aid one in entering and leaving the tomb



Fig. 17. The entrance to the shaft-tomb east of the monastery of the Passionists.

two small niches were cut into the eastern and northern sides of the shaft respectively to serve as footrests. About 1.10 m. beneath the lateral ledges one reaches a central ridge between the tombs, which is about 40 cm. higher than the bottom of the tombs but still some 10 cm. lower than the tops of the graves; it is 35 cm. wide and 1.79 m. long (Fig. 19).

To the north and south of this ridge there are recesses with rounded tops (arcosolia); the one on the north contains two graves and the one on the south only one. Each grave is about 50 cm. deep, 40 cm. wide and about as long as the central ridge; the partitions between the graves are 20-30 cm. thick. The individual graves had no covering slabs. The two graves on the north were filled with bones; they contained

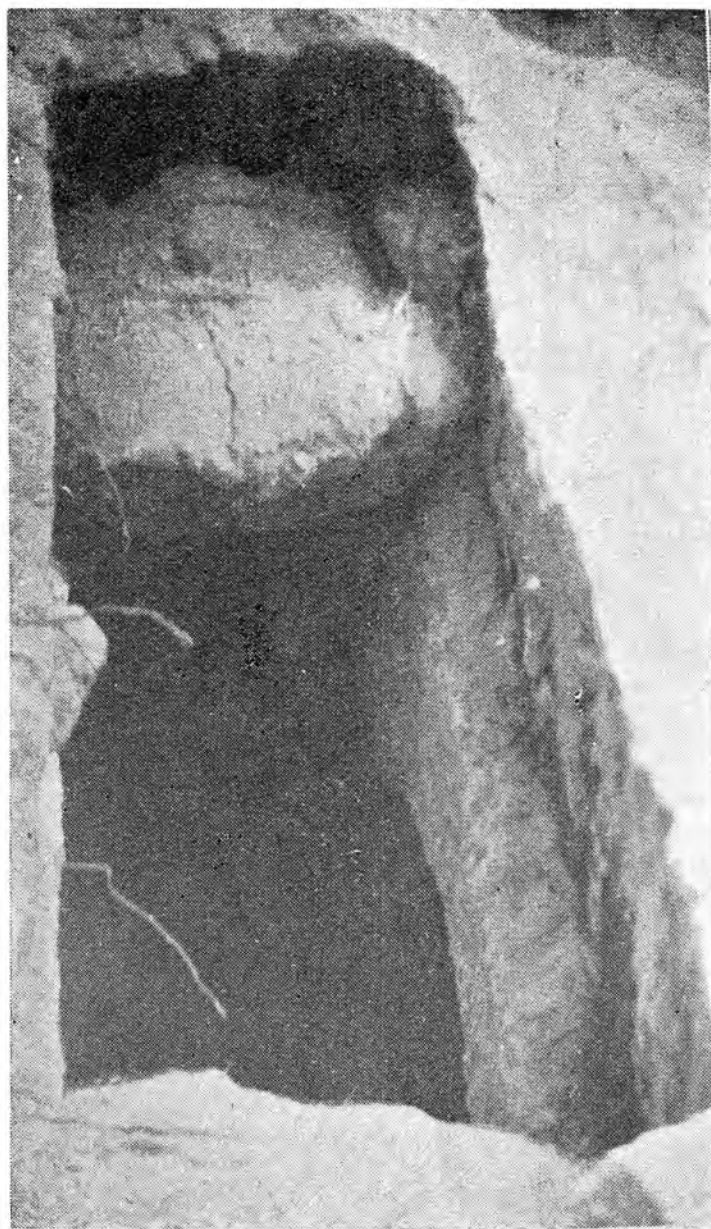


Fig. 18. A glimpse of an arcosolium in the tomb of Fig. 17.

no other object. The grave on the south, however, contained not only bones but also a number of small objects (Fig. 20): 11 clay lamps, two glass flasks, some iron bracelets, bronze finger-rings, two bells and a small coin (probably of the fourth century A. D.). The lamps are all of the candlestick type with rays around the central opening;

10 are large and one is small. One of the glass flasks is complete; it was standing against a stone at the western end of the grave; one stone here probably served as a headrest; the other flask is broken. The entire chamber measures about 2.30 m. from north to south; 1.79 from east to west; and is 75 cm. high above the graves or about 1.24 m. high from the bottom of the graves to the top of the arch.

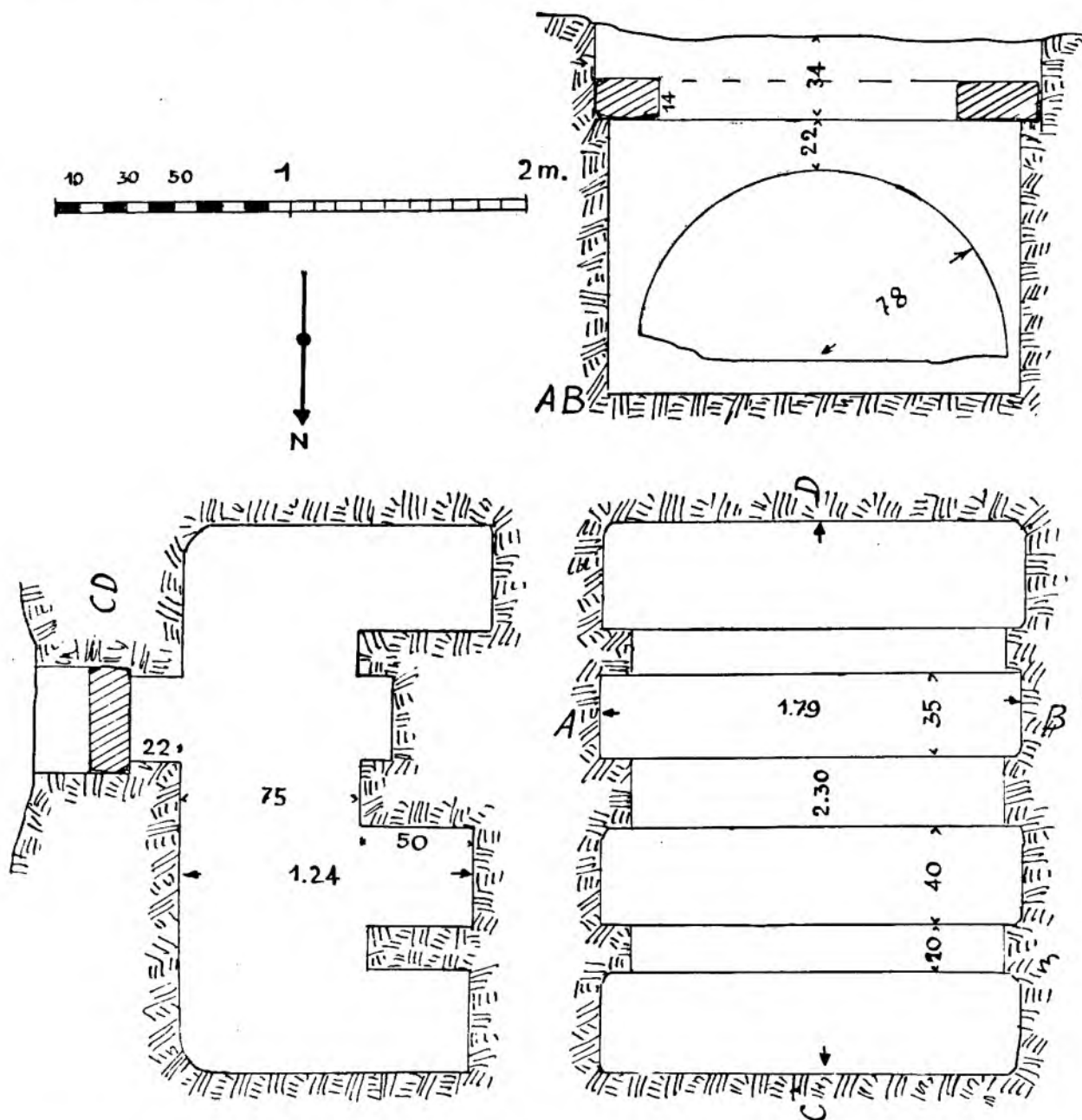


Fig. 19. Plan and sections of the shaft-tomb east of the monastery of the Passionists.

In form and contents this tomb resembles the ones found beneath the western wing of the medieval monastery at Bethany and published in detail in last year's *Annual* (pp. 191-226). There is, however, one important difference between them; those tombs were reached through

an opening in one of their sides, whereas this tomb is reached through an opening in its roof, which characterizes it as a so-called "shaft-tomb." Other shaft-graves are known from Bethany; one group of four is a short distance to the east of the ancient church, on the south side of the road; the lead coffins in two of them serve to date them to about the middle of the third century A. D.⁵⁴ But those shaft-graves differ from the one under consideration by the fact that they lack the arcosolia at the sides of the central shaft. The closest parallel for our tomb from Bethany is the one on the crest of the hill to the north of the tomb of Lazarus cleared by A. DAJANI, the Inspector of Antiquities, in July, 1952.

Shaft-graves were in use all over Palestine since the Persian period, that is to say, since about the fifth century B. C.⁵⁵ The variety with arcosolia on two sides of the entrance-shaft has been assigned to Christian times. C. R. CONDER⁵⁶ assigned such tombs to the twelfth century A. D. CLERMONT-GANNEAU,⁵⁷ however, pointed out that they were in use in the Byzantine period. Speaking of one in the neighborhood of Midieh, at a place called K'bur el Yahud, he observes: "The rectangular grave opens directly into the vault, which consists of two arcosolia (*demi-cupolas*), arranged symmetrically to right and left... The tomb presents a striking likeness to the one with a Greek Christian inscription that I have described a short way back (pp. 356 ff.)..., and both are strikingly reminiscent of certain tombs at Kokanaya in Northern Syria, which are well known to be of the Christian period. Cf. particularly the one represented in Plate No. 96

⁵⁴ See *QDAP* IV (1935), pp. 96 f., nos. 8 and 9, and p. 150. — In nearby Bethphage such shaft tombs of the Christian period ornamented with crosses are reported by A. BARROIS in *RB* 1928, p. 262.

⁵⁵ See especially K. GALLING, *PJB* 1936, p. 79; regarding the location of such tombs in and around Jerusalem see *ib.* pp. 82 f., Fig. 22: "S"; they are in Cb, Ccd and Dd; see pp. 87,89; regarding such tombs in Palestine in general see also *SWPSP* p. 280.

⁵⁶ *SWP* II, pp. 322,341 ff.

⁵⁷ *ARP* II, p. 376.

of M. de Vogüé's *Syrie Centrale*. The epitaph cut on this is exactly assignable to the year 368-369 of our era."

Such a date is confirmed by the contents of the tomb on the Passionists' property at Bethany. Similar material was found in the shaft-graves near the so-called tombs of the Kings in the northern part of Jerusalem.⁵⁸

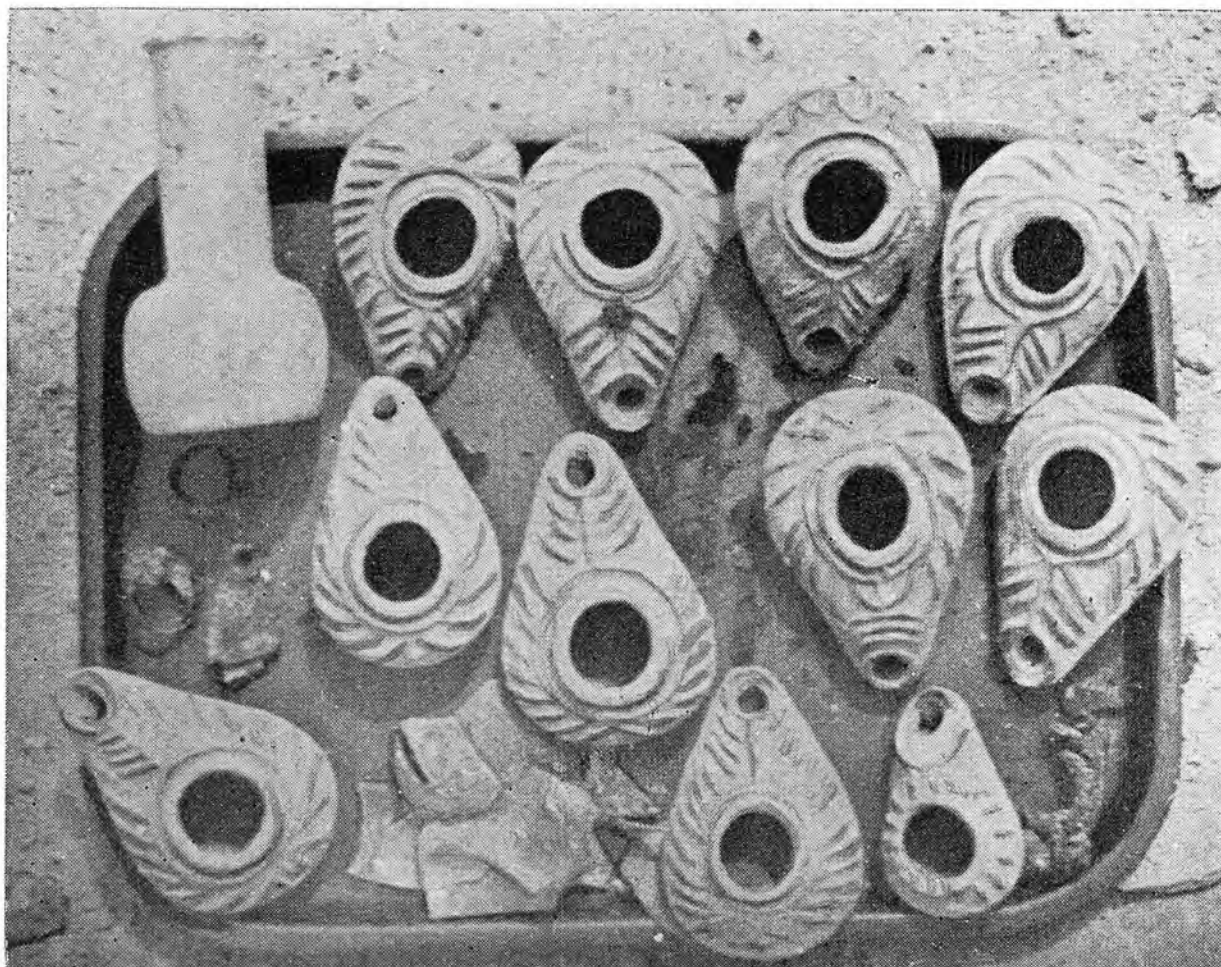


Fig. 20. Clay "candlestick" lamps, glass flasks and metal rings from the shaft-tomb east of the monastery of the Passionists.

The Christian character of such tombs was inferred from the crosses incised on some of them, for example, on the one at Kh. el-Habis, described as follows by CLERMONT-GANNEAU:⁵⁹ "It consists of two loculi with demi-cupolas, joined together, access being gained by a square opening hollowed out of the horizontal surface of the rock. Each of the vaults has a cross carved on it; one of them..."

⁵⁸ QDAP IV (1935), pp. 170 ff.: 2/3-5th cent. A. D.

⁵⁹ ARP II, pp. 355 f.

has in addition a short Greek inscription consisting of two words, accompanied by crosses, the whole being deeply incised: MIMORIN GEORGIO(U), "Tomb of George." — On March 1, 1951, we saw a cross carved above the arcosolium of such a tomb a little west of Abud; a similar grave at Kh. 'Attarah, west of km.12-13 on the Jerusalem-Nablus road, is also decorated with a cross (seen April 12, 1951). Also the tomb on the northern hill of Bethany is decorated with a cross. While the crosses serve to fix the Christian character of such tombs in Palestine, we must welcome any evidence which helps to fit these monuments into a definite historical context; the tomb of the Passionists provides such evidence.⁶⁰

2. CISTERNS

A few meters north of the aforementioned tomb the Passionists came across the plastered edge of a cistern or pool. The presence of many trees on that spot makes clearances difficult. Many other cisterns were found when the Passionists built their monastery and in work on their property. In this connection we may note that everywhere in the village old cisterns have been restored to use and others are constantly coming to light.

II. DISCOVERIES NEAR THE JERUSALEM-JERICHO ROAD

A short distance east of the fork at which the new road to Bethlehem branches off to the south several new houses are being built. In each case a cistern was found. In preparing the catch-basin for one cistern two small painted ossuaries decorated with incised rosettes were found (July 1, 1952). The discovery was reported to A. DAJANI, the Inspector of Antiquities, who removed them to his office in the Palestine Archaeological Museum where they can be seen.

⁶⁰ Also the tomb on the northern hill of Bethany is dated by the numerous objects found in it, but especially by the coins, which belong to the period from the third to the sixth century; the last is from about 539 A. D.

III. DISCOVERIES MADE ON THE NORTHERN HILL

In July, 1952, on wakf property, located on the crest of the hill north of the tomb of Lazarus, a rock-cut shaft-tomb was discovered and reported to A. DAJANI, the Inspector of Antiquities, who found it intact. He is preparing a detailed study of the same. — When we visited it, it had already been filled in again. Nearby are ancient cisterns and near them many cubes and sherds. One of these cisterns, recently cleared by A. DAJANI, is on the property of the mukhtar. In visiting it we accidentally heard of a columbarium found years ago which has by far the largest niches seen by the writer in any columbarium of Palestine. We were told that the room was filled with bones and pottery, but no trace of the antiquities remains.

This survey of recent discoveries made at Bethany shows that much can still be learned about the ancient site. Excavations are continuing.

FR. SYLVESTER J. SALLER, O.F.M.