

## RECENT ACQUISITIONS

By J. B. HENNESSY

The Society for Biblical Archaeology has recently acquired a small but interesting collection of antiquities from Palestine and Transjordan.

The group contains representative objects of the Proto-urban, Early, Middle and Late Bronze Ages, the Iron Age and the Roman and Byzantine periods. In time the group spans the years between ca. the 33rd century B.C. and the 6th century A.D.

Most of the pieces are typical of their period; but some deserve special comment. About half the collection comes from Bab-edh-Dhra', a very large cemetery of the Proto-urban period and the Early Bronze Age.<sup>1</sup> The site is situated at the entrance to the Lisan on the eastern shore of the Dead Sea in Transjordan and has received previous attention from a number of explorers and field workers.<sup>2</sup> It is only within the past five years, however, that the great archaeological wealth of the place has been evident.

Bab-edh-Dhra', apart from being the only large Early Bronze Age cemetery known in the general area of Palestine and Transjordan is also important for having added a distinctive variant to the ceramic industries of the Proto-urban period.

The deep bowl (fig. 1:1) with its line of fine incised plastic ornament below the rim and slightly concave lower body is typical. The same type of decoration can be seen on fig. 1:3, and the handle of fig. 1:6. The tall conical projection inside the bowl, fig. 1:4, is a well known feature of some bowls from the upper Chalcolithic graves of Tell Far'ah<sup>3</sup> in northern Palestine but does not occur in the geographically closer Proto-urban deposits of Jericho.

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1. Paul W. Lapp: *The Cemetery at Bab-edh-Dhra', Jordan, Archaeology, Vol. 19, No. 2* (1966), pp. 104-111.

See also: S. Saller: *Bab-edh-Dhra', Liber Annus XV* (1964-1965), pp. 137-219.

2. W. F. Albright: *BASOR* 14 (1924), pp. 5-7; 95 (1944), pp. 3-13.

3. R. de Vaux: *Revue Biblique*, LIX (1952), p. 581, fig. 12: 4, 5, 12.

The Proto-urban B juglet (fig. 1:15) is of special interest. Only three other examples of this type are known to the writer; one from Gerzeh in Egypt, one from Jericho and the other from Tarsus in Cilicia. They have been widely discussed<sup>4</sup> and are an important link in the absolute chronology of the areas concerned. It is unfortunate that the exact context of the Bab-edh-Dhra' example is unknown, but the widening of the distribution of the type to include Transjordan is of interest.

The Middle Bronze Age bowl, fig. 2:27, probably from Tekoa, is a comparatively rare type. Comparable bowls with scroll or spiral handles have been found at Megiddo,<sup>5</sup> while a similar type of bowl in wood occurred in the Middle Bronze Age tombs at Jericho.<sup>6</sup>

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4. J. B. Hennessy: *The Foreign Relations of Palestine During the Early Bronze Age*, London, 1967, pp. 27-28, 37, 47, pls. XIX: 1, 2, 3; XXXI;  
H. J. Kantor: *JNES*, 1942, pp. 174-213 and the Chronology of Egypt in R. W. Ehrich: *Relative Chronologies in Old World Archaeology*, Chicago, 1954, fig. 1:37.
5. *Megiddo II*, pls. 38: 10; 45: 17, 18.
6. *Jericho II*, p. 460, fig. 242:1.

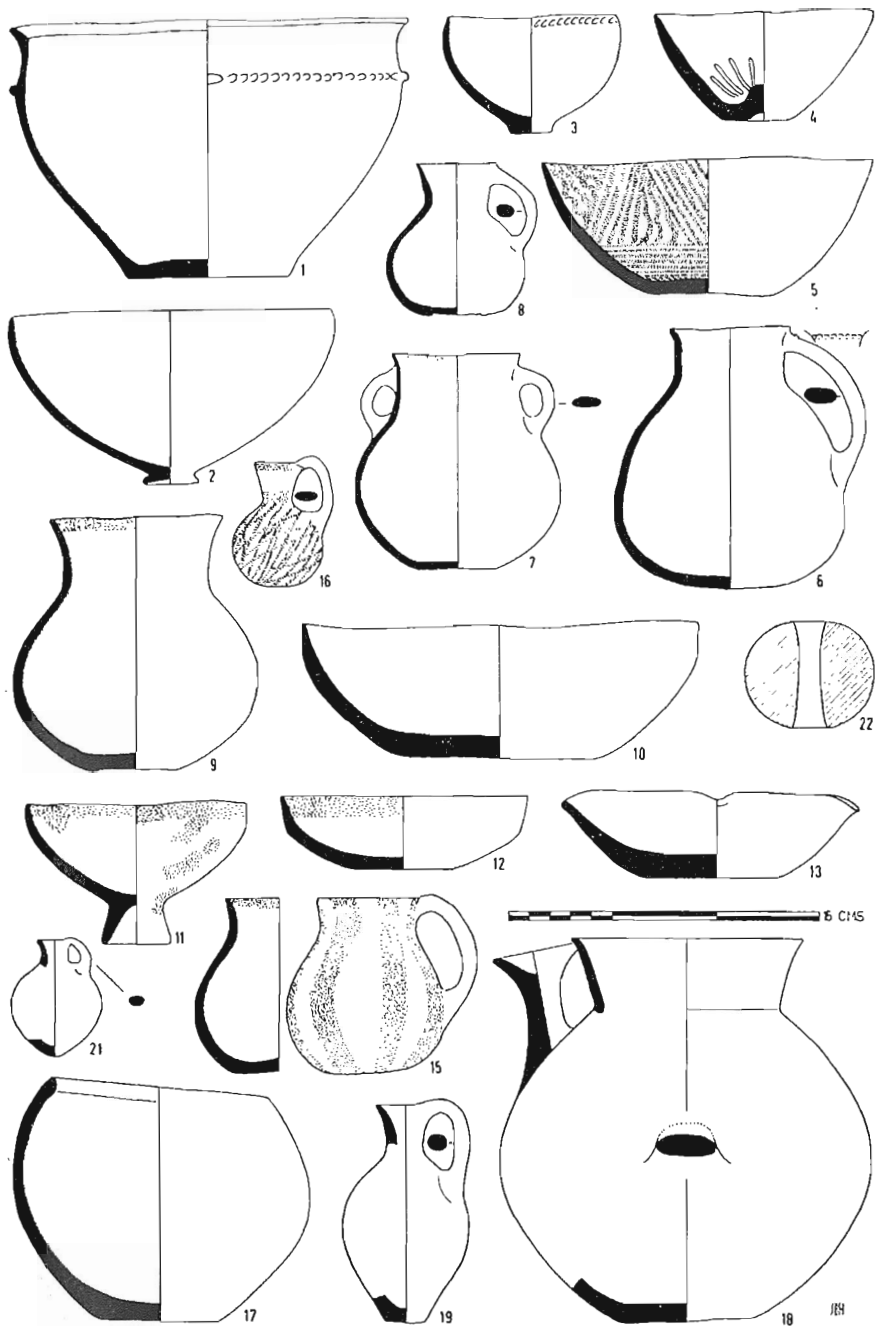
## CATALOGUE

Nos. 1-11, 14-21 are formed without the use of a wheel.

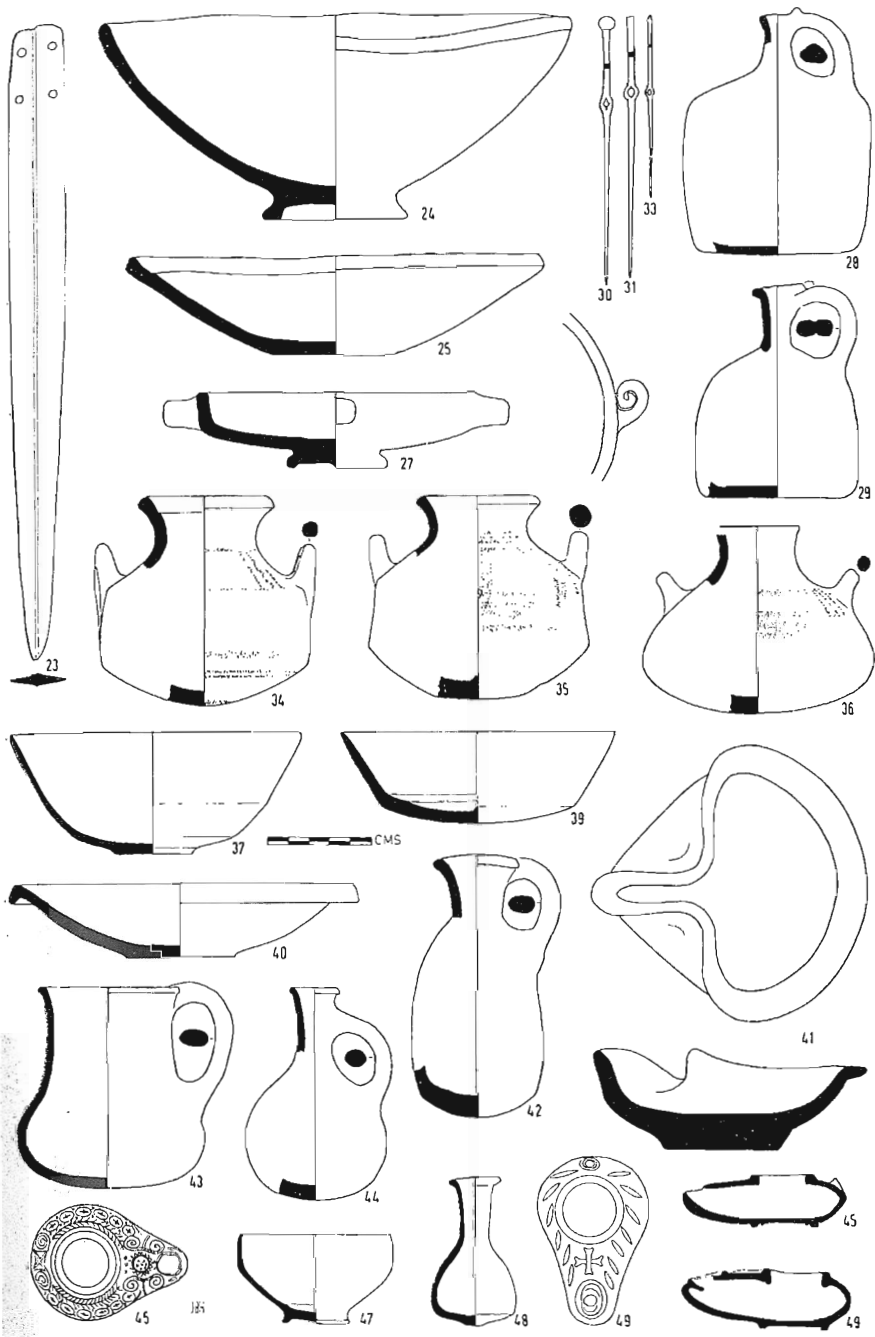
Nos. 12, 13, 24-29, 34-44, 47, 48 are made with a wheel.

Nos. 45, 46, 49 are moulded.

1. Proto-urban A bowl with incised and plastic ornament. Well mixed clay with many medium and tiny grits and some finely chopped straw; fired orange-buff. Lightly burnished red slip, inside and out. Rim diameter 18.8 x 20.6 cms.; height 12.5 cms.  
Bab-edh-Dhra', Transjordan. Ca. 33rd century B.C.
2. Proto-urban A bowl. Well-mixed clay with some large and many medium and fine grits and chopped straw; fired orange-buff. Lightly burnished slip inside and out. The slip is mottled, red, brown and black. Rim diameter 15.5-16.2 cms.; height 8.40 cms.  
Bab-edh-Dhra', Transjordan. Ca. 33rd-31st centuries B.C.
3. Proto-urban A bowl with stab ornament around rim. Well mixed clay with a great many medium and fine grits; fired buff. Wet slurry. Rim diameter 8.4 cms.; height 5.6 cms.  
Bab-edh-Dhra', Transjordan. Ca. 33rd-31st centuries B.C.
4. Proto-urban A bowl with incised ornament inside. Clay as No. 1. Wet slurry. Rim diameter 10.80 x 11.00 cms.; height 5.35 cms.  
Bab-edh-Dhra', Transjordan. Ca. 33rd-31st centuries B.C.



5. Proto-urban B bowl. Clay as No. 1. Wet slurry. Decoration inside in matt purple-brown paint. Rim diameter 15.5 x 16.4 cms.; height 6.5 cms.  
Bab-edh-Dhra', Transjordan. Ca. 33rd-31st centuries B.C.
6. Proto-urban A jug with applied plastic ornament on handle. Clay as No. 1, but more grits. Wet slurry. Height 12.6 cms.  
Bab-edh-Dhra', Transjordan. Ca. 33rd-31st centuries B.C.
7. Proto-urban A jar. Clay as No. 6. Thin matt red slip over outside and inside rim. Height 10.3 cms.  
Bab-edh-Dhra', Transjordan. Ca. 33rd-31st centuries B.C.
8. Proto-urban A jug. Clay as No. 6. Wet slurry. Height 7.4 cms.  
Bab-edh-Dhra', Transjordan. Ca. 33rd-31st centuries B.C.
9. Proto-urban A jar. Clay as No. 1. Burnished and polished red slip on exterior and inside rim. Height 12.3 cms.  
Bab-edh-Dhra', Transjordan. Ca. 33rd-31st centuries B.C.
10. Proto-urban A—Early Bronze Age I bowl. Clay as No. 6. Burnished and polished red slip on exterior and inside rim. Rim diameter 18.7 x 19.2 cms.; height 6.6 cms.  
Bab-edh-Dhra', Transjordan. Ca. 33rd-30th centuries B.C.
11. Stemmed bowl. Proto urban A—Early Bronze Age II. Clay as No. 1. Wet slurry. Decoration in thin matt red paint. Rim diameter 10.7 x 11.00 cms.; height 6.9 cms.  
Bab-edh-Dhra', Transjordan. Ca. 33rd-30th centuries B.C.
12. Proto-urban A—Early Bronze Age I bowl. Clay as No. 6. Burnished plum-red slip on exterior and inside rim. Rim diameter 11.9 cms.; height 3.6 cms.  
Bab-edh-Dhra', Transjordan. Ca. 32nd-30th centuries B.C.
13. Proto-urban A—Early Bronze Age I lamp. Clay as No. 6; but fired brown. Wet slurry. Made with aid of tournette. Rim diameter 13.7 cms.; height 4.15 cms.  
Bab-edh-Dhra', Transjordan. Ca. 32nd-30th centuries B.C.
14. Early Bronze Age I-III small spouted jar. Pushed up ledge handles. Clay as No. 6. Wet slurry. Rim diameter 7.5 x 8.1 cms.; height 6.00 cms.  
Bab-edh-Dhra', Transjordan. Ca. 30th-26th centuries B.C.
15. Proto-urban B juglet. Finely mixed clay with many medium and tiny grits; fired orange-buff. Wet slurry. Decoration in thin matt, red-brown paint. Height 8.5 cms.  
Bab-edh-Dhra', Transjordan. Ca. 33rd-32nd centuries B.C.
16. Early Bronze Age I-II juglet. Finely mixed clay with some medium and many tiny grits; fired orange-buff. Wet slurry. Thin matt red painted decoration. Height 6.00 cms.  
Bab-edh-Dhra', Transjordan. Ca. 31st-29th centuries B.C.
17. Early Bronze Age I-II, hole-mouth jar. Clay as No. 6; but fired brown-buff. Thin matt red wash. Finished on tournette. Rim diameter 10.75 cms.; height 11.85 cms.  
Bab-edh-Dhra', Transjordan. Ca. 30th-28th centuries B.C.
18. Early Bronze Age I-II jar with pillar handle. Clay as No. 1. Thin, burnished plum-red slip. Height 18.5 cms. Finished on tournette.  
Bab-edh-Dhra', Transjordan. Ca. 31st-29th centuries B.C.



19. Early Bronze Age II juglet. Finely mixed clay with some medium and many tiny grits; fired orange. Burnished red slip. Height 10.5 cms. Bab-edh-Dhra', Transjordan. Ca. 30th-28th centuries B.C.
20. As No. 19. Height 8.9 cms.
21. Early Bronze Age III juglet. Clay as No. 19 but fired orange-buff. Very thin, lightly polished orange slip. Height 5.65 cms. Bab-edh-Dhra', Transjordan. Ca. 2750-2450 B.C.
22. Early Bronze Age I-III alabaster mace-head. Diameter 6.25 cms.; height 5.1 cms. Bab-edh-Dhra', Transjordan. Ca. 3000-2500 B.C.
23. Intermediate Early Bronze Age—Middle Bronze Age bronze dagger with four rivets. Length 30.7 cms. Bab-edh-Dhra', Transjordan. Ca. 2450-1950 B.C.
24. Middle Bronze Age II bowl. Finely mixed clay with some large, many medium and tiny grits and finely chopped straw; fired buff. Wet slurry. Warped. Rim diameter 22.3 x 23.6 cms.; height 9.85 cms. Tekoa. Ca. 18th-16th centuries B.C.
25. Middle Bronze Age II bowl. Clay as No. 24; but fired orange-brown. Wet slurry. Rim diameter 19.7 cms.; height 4.85 cms. Tekoa. Ca. 18th-16th centuries B.C.
26. Middle Bronze Age II bowl. As No. 25; but clay fired grey-buff. Rim diameter 21.9 x 22.6 cms.; height 4.5 x 5.3 cms. Tekoa. Ca. 18th-16th centuries B.C.
27. Middle Bronze Age IIC bowl. Finely mixed clay with a few medium and some tiny grits; fired brown. Poorly fired. Burnished brown slip. Rim diameter 13.4 cms.; height 3.65 cms. Tekoa. Ca. 1625-1550 B.C.
28. Middle Bronze Age IIC juglet. Clay as No. 27; but fired grey-black. Burnished black slip. Height 11.4 cms. Tekoa. Ca. 1625-1550 B.C.
29. Middle Bronze Age IIC juglet. Finely mixed clay with a few medium and many tiny grits; fired orange. Thin, burnished orange-red slip. Height 10.2 cms. Tekoa. Ca. 1625-1550 B.C.
30. Middle Bronze Age IIC toggle pin. Knob head. Length 12.95 cms. Tekoa. Ca. 1550 B.C.
31. As No. 30 but plain head. Length 12.55 cms.
32. As No. 31. Length 13.55 cms.
33. As No. 30, but tiny pomegranate head. Length 8.80 cms.
34. Late Bronze Age II pyxis. Well mixed clay with a few medium and many fine grits; fired orange. Thin, lightly polished cream slip. Decoration in thin matt purple-red paint. Height 10.15 cms. Hebron area. Ca. 13th century B.C.
35. Late Bronze Age II pyxis. Well mixed clay with numerous tiny grits, sandy; fired buff. Thin, lightly polished buff slip. Decoration as No. 34. Height 9.8 cms. Hebron area. Ca. 13th century B.C.

36. Late Bronze Age II pyxis. Well mixed clay with some large and medium and many tiny grits; fired brown. Thin, lightly polished purple-red slip. Decoration in thin matt black and white paint. Hebron area. Ca. 13th century B.C.
37. Iron Age II bowl. Well mixed clay with numerous medium and tiny grits; fired brown, orange, and grey in patches. Wet slurry. Rim diameter 14.1 x 14.5 cms.; height 5.9 cms. Hebron area. Ca. 8th-7th centuries B.C.
38. Iron Age II bowl, as No. 37. Finely mixed clay with some tiny grits; fired brown, orange and red in patches. Wet slurry. Hebron area. Ca. 8th-7th centuries B.C.
39. Iron Age II bowl. Finely mixed clay with many medium and tiny grits; fired brown. Thin, lightly polished brown-red slip inside. Rim diameter 13.2 cms.; height 4.4 cms. Hebron area. Ca. 8th-7th centuries B.C.
40. Iron Age II dish. Finely mixed clay with a few medium and some tiny grits; fired orange. Hard. Wet slurry. Rim diameter 16.5 cms.; height 3.55 cms. Hebron area. Ca. 7th century B.C.
41. Iron Age II lamp. Well mixed clay with some large and many medium and tiny grits; fired orange-brown. Wet slurry. Rim diameter 13.2 cms.; height 4.9 cms. Hebron area. Ca. 8th-7th centuries B.C.
42. Iron Age II dipper juglet. Finely mixed clay with many medium and tiny grits; red fired orange-buff. Thin, lightly burnished orange slip. Height 12.6 cms. Hebron area. Ca. 8th-7th centuries B.C.
43. Iron Age II jug. Well mixed clay, sandy with a great number of tiny grits; fired red-brown. Wet slurry. Height 9.75 cms. Hebron area. Ca. 8th-7th centuries B.C.
44. Iron Age II juglet. Clay as No. 43, but fired black. Thin, lightly burnished black slip. Height 10.25 cms. Hebron area. Ca. 8th-7th centuries B.C.
45. Roman lamp. Length 7.9 cms. Jericho area. Ca. 3rd century A.D.
46. As No. 45. Jericho area. Ca. 3rd century A.D.
47. Roman bowl. Extremely finely mixed clay with a few medium and tiny grits; fired orange-brown. Rim diameter 7.35 cms.; height 4.35 cms. Petra. Ca. late 1st century B.C.—1st century A.D.
48. Roman bottle. As No. 47. Height 7.25 cms. Petra. Ca. late 1st century B.C.—1st century A.D.
49. Byzantine lamp. Length 8.1 cms. Jericho. Ca. 4th-6th centuries A.D.