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.¹ 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.² 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'ah³ in northern Palestine but does not occur in the geographically closer Proto-urban deposits of Jericho.

² W. F. Albright: BASOR 14 (1924), pp. 5-7; 95 (1944), pp. 3-13.
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 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, while a similar type of bowl in wood occurred in the Middle Bronze Age tombs at Jericho.

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;


**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.
   Bab-edh-Dhra', Transjordan. Ca. 33rd-31st centuries B.C.
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.

Bab-edh-Dhra', Transjordan. Ca. 33rd-31st centuries B.C.

Bab-edh-Dhra', Transjordan. Ca. 33rd-31st centuries B.C.

Bab-edh-Dhra', Transjordan. Ca. 33rd-31st centuries B.C.

Bab-edh-Dhra', Transjordan. Ca. 33rd-30th centuries B.C.

Bab-edh-Dhra', Transjordan. Ca. 33rd-30th centuries B.C.

Bab-edh-Dhra', Transjordan. Ca. 32nd-30th centuries B.C.

Bab-edh-Dhra', Transjordan. Ca. 32nd-30th centuries B.C.

Bab-edh-Dhra', Transjordan. Ca. 30th-26th centuries B.C.

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.

Bab-edh-Dhra', Transjordan. Ca. 30th-28th centuries B.C.

Bab-edh-Dhra', Transjordan. Ca. 31st-29th centuries B.C.

20. As No. 19. Height 8.9 cms.


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.


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.


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.


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, as No. 37. 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.


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.


46. As No. 45. Jericho area. Ca. 3rd century A.D.

