

# ANCIENT GAZA

## INTRODUCTION

1. THE site of Tell el Ajjūl lies about four miles south-west of modern Gaza, on the edge of the Wady Ghazzeh, and near the high road which has led, all through the ages, from Africa into Asia. I had visited it and seen that it was of the Bronze Age, before we went to Gerar in 1926, but the extent of it was not realised till Mr. Starkey went over it in 1930. Preparations were then made, and some rooms built for our camp, before leaving Beth-pelet. These were occupied in October by some of our staff, only to find that malaria was rampant at that time of year, and at the beginning of the work more than a quarter of our labourers were in hospital in consequence. The rest of our staff had in November to turn off elsewhere, and to do more clearance of the Ramesside cemetery in the great fosse at Bethpelet.

2. It was not, then, till 17th December, 1930, that we could all reside at Tell el Ajjūl, and the work was carried on there till the latter part of April, 1931. The party consisted of Mr. R. Richmond Brown, Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Colt, Mr. L. Harding, Dr. G. Parker, Professor and Lady Petrie, Mr. G. F. Royds, Mr. N. Scott, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Starkey, Miss O. Tufnell, and Mr. J. G. Vernon. In particular we thank the professional help of Dr. Parker, who attended to the health of all the workers, and Mr. Royds, who did much of the surveying. Some of the photographs are due to the skill of Mr. Brown.

3. The malaria was so serious a hindrance, and had so depopulated this part of the country, that in March we appealed to the Department of Public Health. The valley was officially inspected by the malaria expert, and under our direction our men cut two and a half miles of canal, and filled up the pools. So far, this seems to have been effective in prevention, but the reclamation and benefit of all this region is not a matter which the Government should devolve on private enterprise, and it is hoped that the expenses of this needful service to the country will be returned.

The dating used in this volume is that which results from all the Egyptian sources, as fully stated in *Ancient Egypt*, 1929, p. 33, and 1931, p. 1. All other dating repudiates a part of the recorded material.

According to this latest revision of the dating, the XIIth dynasty ranged from 2584 to 2371 B.C. The XIIIth Egyptian dynasty lasted till 1918, XIVth till 1734, XVIIth till 1583. The Hyksos at the same time ruled in the Delta: XVth dynasty, 2371 till 2111, and XVIth till 1593.

## CHAPTER I THE HISTORICAL POSITION

4. BEFORE describing any details, it is well to outline the conditions of the site and the successive periods examined, in order to state the fixed points of dating.

The sand-dune region between the Tell and the coast is largely covered with Byzantine and early Arab pottery, which is seen at all the bare intervals between the dunes. Though we did not work there, much was brought up to us by the children during the short days of work in Ramadan. The periods of the finds were widely varied. On pl. xviii are a Hyksos toggle-pin (about 2000 B.C.), two fibulae with hand clutch (600 B.C.), Scythian triangular arrow heads of the same age, a disc from a finger-ring with the shield pattern of the Macedonians (100 B.C.), and dozens of finger-rings of later design (A.D. 400 to 1000?). The copper pins were mostly made with coiled heads, but many bore cubes with truncated corners. All of the copper and bronze here is in a peculiar condition, uncorroded but covered with a thin black patina. The metal remains quite flexible, even in the thinnest pins. This black coating on copper, formed close to the sea-coast, and exposed to the air for centuries, seems to be probably the oxychloride of copper. Great quantities of pins, over four thousand, were gradually

collected, and also very debased coins of early Arab style.

The whole region for miles seems to have been widely occupied, without leaving any mounds or ruins. Large quantities of early Arab coloured glazes were found, and all handed over to Mr. Richmond, Director of the Antiquity Department, for study.

A statue of Serapis, usually referred to Tell el Ajjūl (Cook, *Relig. Anc. Pal.*, p. 181) was actually discovered at Tell es Sanam, a small mound of Roman age, on the south side of the wady, near the coast. It was removed to Constantinople.

5. The site of Tell el Ajjūl. The general view from the top is on pl. ii. The valley of the Wady Ghazzeḥ spreads out here to 1,000 ft. wide, with a stream-bed along the northern side; when in flood the whole wady is filled. The sea is about a mile and a half from the Tell, and, on turning to look inland, one sees the Red House, so familiar in the War, a mile away in the opposite direction. The valley is an estuary silted up, for the natural valley is one-fifth as wide at a mile or two farther. The sea coming in so far would make this a port for small vessels, and there was none better between Egypt and Haifa.

6. For the outline of the city, see pl. lii. It stands on a sandstone hill, at the north side of the stream, and was thus defended, so that no fortification was made on the stream face, except scarping the hill. The stream itself formed the ditch on this side. The sandstone is a mass of ancient dunes, solidified by gypsum working up from below the soil, owing to long drought each summer. This gypsum forms nodules in the sand, and similar nodules are formed inside pottery within four thousand years. The nodules also occur in the marl over the sand.

The river face of the hill is shown in pl. ii, 2, broken down by weathering and quarrying. The natural slope of the Tell is seen in ii, 3, at the north corner, smothered with a couple of feet of sand blown over it. The fig trees have been planted in the last few years.

7. On the plan of the Tell, pl. lii, it is clear how largely it has been eaten out by denudation at the sides. It is, however, only in the deepest cutting of the hollows that the sandstone is reached, and the rest of the scoop is cut through the ruins. The north corner is the highest part, and thence westward it has been recently planted with fig trees. The rest of the Tell is regularly ploughed. As it was

proclaimed as an ancient site, the cultivators are only tolerated, and any part can legally be excavated.

All that was dug this year was at the south corner, where a convenient ravine could be filled up level, and so compensate the cultivator with more land. Some digging was also done at the north-east gate. The Government survey marks are lettered by us from A to F on pl. lii. Our hutting is at the east corner.

8. Along the east and south-east sides we trenched to find the fosse, and the vertical outer side is marked by a border-line on liii. From that line the slope extended upward to the inner edge, which was the crest of the Tell. The whole of the upper part had been stripped by denudation, removing any city wall. There is no trace of a fosse on the south-west side, where the estuary supplied defence; but it doubtless extends on the north and north-west, heaped over with blown sand, so that we have not sought for it.

The old ground level outside of the fosse on the south-east side is covered with about 5 ft. of silt. The bottom of the fosse has not yet been reached, but it is probably 25 ft. below the outside, and 85 ft. below the inside. The slope up was about 150 ft. long at 34°. Fuller details will be given by future work (see sect. 51).

The comparative areas within ancient cities in Palestine were, in acres, Lachish 1 (Troy 2, Mykenae 3), Sandehanna 4, Jedideh 5, Zakarieh 9, Ophel 11, Taanak 12, Megiddo 12, Safy 20, Gezer 22, Ajjūl 33.

9. On excavating the south corner, the tops of the walls showed at only a foot or two down in some parts. In three of the chambers thus opened there were scarabs of Apepa I, the great Hyksos king, of about 2250 B.C. (pls. xiii, xiv, 3, 44, 143). These give a date for the latest buildings. No later occupation was found, except a few little patches of Roman and Arab pottery, and some xviii<sup>th</sup> dyn. shards. In the valley below were some graves of the early xviii<sup>th</sup> dyn., but so far, the dwellings of that time have not appeared.

10. Proceeding to earlier times, we must distinguish between the nomadic Hyksos and the Canaanites, whom they overran. The Hyksos in Palestine used the pottery of the period of the xi<sup>th</sup> dyn., as dated at Byblos, and daggers of Cyprus and of Crete. In Egypt their tombs have Egyptian and North Syrian pottery. They do not seem to have had any distinctive civilisation, nor any peculiar

object unless it be a recurved knife (xvii, 35), which is also found in their graves in Egypt (*Hyksos and Isr. Cities*, vi, 9). Even this may very likely be Cretan (see *Tools and W.*, xxv, 79). Without any distinctive belongings, they seem to have been nomads, using skin and wood vessels.

It is not therefore to the Hyksos that we must attribute the regularly built city and the fine and varied pottery: all this belonged to the Canaanite civilisation, which was overlaid by the Hyksos rule, like the Levantine ruled by the nomadic Turk.

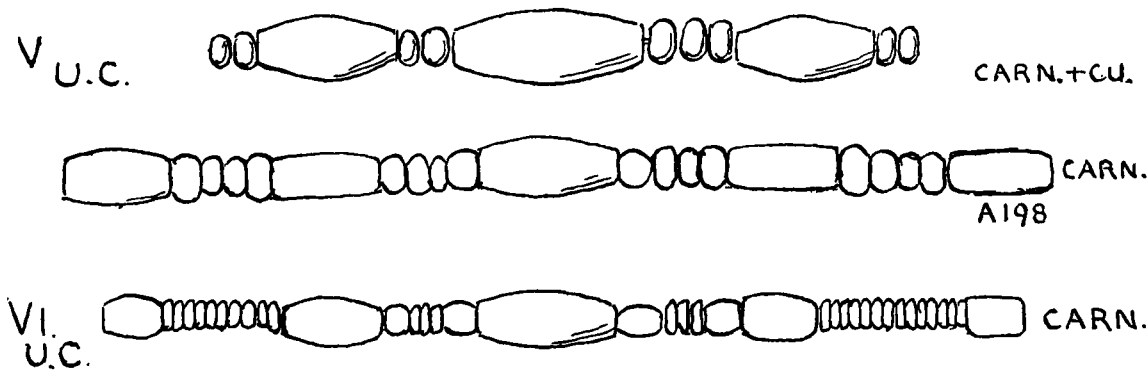
11. In the cemeteries we likewise see the distinction. The burials with horses obviously belong to the Hyksos, who introduced the horse to the West. Such burials are always extended at length, regularly composed. Other graves with similar pottery, both here and at Beth-pelet, have no horses, and the bodies are contorted, with the limbs irregularly spread, as if stiffened at death. They must, then, be those of Canaanites.

12. In the part of the city immediately below the Hyksos houses there is a burnt layer, at 726-44 ins. level. This may be due to the Hyksos conquest, or rather perhaps to the raid of Senusert III, when he reached Shechem, 2460 B.C. Below this are other buildings and pottery of Canaanite type, with scarabs of the xiith dyn., and others of the so-called Hyksos types. Now, as there are no industrial

13. In all this age of Canaanites and Hyksos, there has not appeared a single example of the button-badge, which distinguished the Syrians who formed the viith and viiith dyns. of Egypt. Such badges are known from Cilicia, Aleppo, and Bismiya in Mesopotamia. We can only conclude that the people who used them did not settle at the Wady Ghazze, but must have swept away any inhabitants there in the course of their conquest of Egypt. They are represented at Ajjul by an era of desolation.

This desolation period is marked by the denudation cutting away about 8 ft. of soil, as we shall next notice, and thus leaving the old door slabs standing isolated, when the tombs to which they belonged had been entirely washed away. All this implies a long period of neglect, and this was doubtless due to the attention of the conquerors being fixed on the wealth of Egypt.

14. Next before this movement there was a Copper Age civilisation. The many objects of this period were dated best by a string of large carnelian beads. These are not so finely formed, or so translucent, as those of the vth dyn., but they are much better than others at the close of the vith (see block). This fairly places them early in the vith dyn., about 3300 B.C. The beads were associated with pottery of a sort never found in the Canaanite or Hyksos



products of the Hyksos, it is very unlikely that they started scarabs in imitation of Egypt. It seems far more probable that all the so-called Hyksos scarabs were of Canaanite work, made before and during Hyksos rule. The term Canaanite is used here, as it is expressly said, in various places in the Old Testament, that those people occupied the coast-lands, while the Amorite was in the hill-country. So the best we can do is to name people of 2500 B.C. according to the records of 1200.

periods. The main type is the large ovate jar with flat base (xxvi. 1, 2, with 5, 6, 8), accompanied by flat-based bowls and cylindrical cups. All of this pottery is weakly baked, a pale drab ware, never reddened by strong heat. With such pottery were copper weapons, distinguished by their condition of slight surface change, without any split or lumpy oxidation. The rapier (xviii, 1), the dagger with skew handle (without pottery, but adjacent tombs of Copper Age), and the remarkable spear-daggers

(xix, 5, 6) which by the recurved tang were fitted with handles—all of these are unlike any weapons of later times. The large ovate pots sometimes have the slight vestige of a wavy ledge handle, linking them to the Neolithic.

15. The tombs of this age, in their best type, have square entrance shafts about 8 or 10 ft. deep; a thick slab of limestone (xi, 1), covers the doorway (xi, 2) of a domed rock chamber. In relation to these, the tombs at Gezer, called Canaanite, have circular entrance pits, and not square as above.

It is some of these tombs which have been entirely swept away by denudation (xi, 3). In the foreground is one door slab, A; beyond that another square door slab, B, with the floor of the tomb and a jar lying exposed. All of the earth around these slabs was loose silt and, after the denudation of the marl tomb, the slabs had been left standing in the open. In the flooding and desolation there was no man about to overthrow them, or to utilise them, though such large slabs were scarce.

16. The type of these tombs is most like that of the iird to vth dyns. in Egypt, as at Bashkatib, Meydum, and elsewhere. From this, and the beads, the Copper Age in Palestine may well be equated with the Copper Age of the Old Kingdom in Egypt. Probably this civilisation perished in the middle of the vith dyn., when the owners of the button-badges began to appear in Egypt. Not a single detail of the tombs or objects of this civilisation survived into the Canaanite period of the Egyptian Middle Kingdom. For the works of the Copper Age, see Chapter VI.

The settlements of the preceding age, the Neolithic, do not occur at Ajjūl, but have been found in the neighbourhood at Beth-pelet; these have been studied, and placed in order, by Mr. Macdonald in his work with us last year, and are being published in *Beth-pelet* ii.

CHAPTER II

THE HYKSOS PERIOD

17. THE Hyksos invaders intruded on the Canaanite civilisation; the only really distinctive remains of that people are the burials with horses, and pit tombs with loculi. Many other burials may be of the same race, but not distinguishable from the Canaanite burials. The destruction of the bones by ancient plunderers and by decay often prevents the

distinction being drawn from the attitude of the skeletons.

The best example of horse burial is in tomb 411. The plan is in pl. lvii. Evidently of the same class are the other tombs, 246, 407, 406, 263 on the same plate, 210 on pl. ix, 247 and 445 not drawn (see vii). The views of 210 and 411 are on viii, and of 263 and 407 on x. The heads were laid in any direction, and in five instances there are two bodies in one loculus, always feet to feet. These suggest a custom of wife burial, but in 407 a multiple burial seems clearly due to pestilence, as a man had a boy within his arm, and a woman had another child. Perhaps, then, all multiple burials were due to pestilence. The bodies were always laid full length, and usually composed regularly. Sometimes the legs were bent, as 407 (x, 3).

18. What the upper part of these tombs may have been is a difficult question. They were evidently family tombs, from the number of bodies together. There was no trace of fallen roof in the pits; had they been originally domed, no denudation could have prevented most of the roof falling in, yet the filling was ordinary silt. There was never any trace of a central pillar to support a timber or brushwood roof. Yet if the tomb were filled up with earth, it would be an awkward matter to dig down and clear part of the side for additional loculi.

19. The total of types of pottery in these graves is as follows: 6 N 8; 18 K 1<sup>u</sup>; 23 E 1, 4; 23 J 7; 34 B<sup>1</sup>, <sup>s</sup>; 35 P 4, 6; 35 Q; 38 B<sup>2</sup>, <sup>s</sup>; 38 C 2; 38 G 4; 38 N<sup>1</sup>, <sup>u</sup>; 38 O<sup>6</sup>; 38 P 4; 43 D 4, 6; 43 E, E 4; 43 F 3; 51 B 6; 51 G 4<sup>u</sup>; 51 G 11; 60 H 9, 13; 60 Q 3, 3<sup>u</sup>; 74 O, O 3, 3<sup>u</sup>, 3<sup>u</sup>, O 5, O 11, O 13; 89 A; 91 A 1. These types seem to extend over all the early and middle Hyksos age.

The toggle-pin is usual, and scarabs are found in most of the tombs.

20. Burials of asses are also found, as tomb 101, (see viii, 5, 6, and ix). These four asses were sacrificed and placed at a rather higher level than the human burial.

Another remarkable burial is a large mass of bones, dissevered, placed nearer the mouth of the tunnel, 590 (see pl. vii, 2). This mass of bones has been left for an anatomist to separate; I observed a large horse skull, also ass, gazelle, ox, and human bones. The human skulls were apart from vertebrae; an arm was complete from fingers to ball of the humerus, but without scapula. A leg of an ass was similarly dissevered. The fine horse burial, 411,



had only one leg in place ; three had been removed, the hinder-legs by chopping away the sides of the pelvis. This custom of removing limbs needs further examples, and comparisons from other lands, before we can know its meaning.

A late Hyksos burial in the lower city had elaborate strings of ostrich shell beads, forming a chest ornament ; the position on the body is seen in vii, 3 ; a larger view of a group behind the back is in vi, 4.

CHAPTER III

THE CANAANITE PERIOD

21. IT may be an assumption to call this age Canaanite, as the earliest localisation of the name, linked with Gaza (Jud. i. 18), and with the sea (Num. xiii. 29), is nearly a thousand years later than the city with which we are dealing. Yet we do not know of any change of population between the periods, except the Egyptian invasion which scarcely altered the inhabitants.

The distinctive feature in the burials is the random position of the limbs, apparently due to burying the body as it stiffened in death. This is seen in pl. x, 406, and in the well-preserved tomb 550 at Beth-pelet, pl. xvii. The latter is absolutely of the Hyksos period, as eight types of the pottery are identical, and five others closely like those in the city at Ajjūl. The forms of the tombs at Beth-pelet were bilobate (Bp. xvii, xviii), but here no such tombs have been found. The most usual type is simply a circular pit, and half as often a long grave ; only rarely is there a square pit. The period of all of these is fixed by the types of pottery, contemporary with the Hyksos. A remarkable tomb was lined with rough stones (xi, 5), like one at Gezer, and fallen into it were parts of a cement slab, with fine facing, which had apparently covered it to about 5 ft. across. Also a cubical block of sandstone (xi, 6, xxxvi) faced with stucco ; a hole vertically through it seems intended to hold a staff or standard of some kind. This is the only surface monument of the Bronze Age known (Jerusalem Mus.). Other burials of the late Hyksos type are found inserted in the city houses and grain pits ; but all their types are later than those in the houses, of xvith or xviith dynasty.

22. The buildings, so far as excavated in about a fiftieth of the city, are of excellent construction ; the bricks are of a hard yellow clay, and of large size, up

to twelve times the bulk of a modern brick. Often they are laid as headers extending through a 22-in. wall. The clay mortar is so strong that a lintel of a door is formed of only two bricks held up by the setting (see pl. i, frontispiece. This is between rooms J and D, pl. liii). The general appearance of the ruins is given on pl. iii. Each view has a letter at the margin A-E, repeated at the identical point in the next view. This forms a panorama taken from station B in the plan, pl. liv. A-C are in the later part at a higher level, C-E are in the earlier part at a lower level. In iii, 1 and 2, is seen a long wall facing a street ; this street runs on to the right hand until the clearance stops blankly at the unopened ground. From that point is taken the street view iv, 1, looking back along this street. A little to the left of the street is the highest part remaining of the uncleared ground. That is around survey mark B, of which the staff is visible ; from that point the panorama, iii, was taken.

In iv, 1, the street line has not yet been cleared to the bottom, but only a little below an old level, at which a drain was made in the middle of the road. The brick lining of the square drain is left standing up. In iv, 2, 3, the successive rooms of the main house are shown, looking south-west from room A M, and north-east from J.

23. The general plan of the south corner of the Tell is given on pl. liii. The rooms are necessarily lettered in the order in which they were cleared out. The numbers over 500 are the level in inches above sea of the top and base of the walls, or the ground surface. The numbers under 100 are those of burials. The wady side runs along the upper margin. A row of buildings bordered it, with a street from point B northward. A main road branched from that running east, as in iii, 1. The solid black walling is that above the burnt level, xvth dyn., the dotted lines are later additions ; the open outlines to the left are below the burnt level, of the xiith dyn. At the north-east end are many grain pits sunk in the sandstone, the stores of the xiith dyn. Burials of the xiith dyn. were made in them, including that of Hor-ka. Later burials disturbed these, and walls of houses were run across the old graveyard. The old dune sandstone here is about 750 level, and slopes down to the left hand to 583.

The main house is a square block, A, AB, H, J ; this opened into an annex from J to D, Y, C (door in i ; hearth in C, vi, 2). This house was altered

later, and a cattle trough built above the hearth room. The entrance was up the lane AA into room A, so much broken down that it is obliterated. The burial between G and J was inserted after the place was abandoned.

24. The lane AA led also to a shrine at AF. The plan of this is added below on double scale. Referring to the level numbers, the worshipper stepped up from the ground 261 level on to the step, 768. Here he could wash his feet on the bench of shells, 780 (see v, 2). The water ran down into a drain pit lined with stone, 765. From the clean shell platform he stepped on to the clean white stucco floor, and so passed into the lobby, which had successive raised flooring from 761 to 768. Thence he passed to the shrine, floored with plaster at 760. This is best seen in the view looking back to the entrance, v, 1. The connection with the plan is given by the corresponding levels on the view. The sides of the shrine were white plastered, without any paintings or ornament. None of the common pottery figures of gods were found, nor any place for a statue. It was as bare, simple, puritanical, as the most fervent Wahaby could wish. Is this a primitive cult of North-West Arabia, which was adopted by Judaism and Islam? The ablutions before prayer were likewise provided at Serabit (*Researches in Sinai*, 105) before the Law at the Exodus.

25. Nor is this shrine alone, but a smaller shrine is seen towards the south. Outside this was a more elaborate shell bench (xii, 6) with a central drain. This led into a large jar beneath, which was disclosed by our excavation (xii, 5). The under-cutting was done preparatory to removing the bench in sections. These were built together and shown in our July exhibition.

26. At the top of the plan is an oblong kiln, the floor of which is at 666. The view from the south end, looking towards the draught hole, is in vi, 5. The supports were very large bricks, set on end. The plan is given in pl. lii. Along the best preserved side were four flue holes, at 28 ins. over the floor, rising 20 ins. to the remaining top of the wall. The spring of the entry arch remained, but the whole of the table for the pottery was decayed (see sect. 49).

In the lower level, at the left on liii, is a circular kiln, in room DF. This had the pierced table for the pottery (vi, 3); below that was brick corbelling to support the table over the furnace (vi, 4). The same form of kiln is now used in the potteries at Gaza. The date of this kiln must, however, be before the

building of the rooms of the xiith dyn., as they would block the wind from the draught hole. Another circular kiln, much damaged, is to the west of this in DK. It has been emptied, to far below the walls around, so it is also older than the buildings. The wasters from these kilns have not yet been found.

27. In the same region are two privies. One in DK is given in vii, 5. The hole in the seat opens into a pit about 6 ft. deep lined with rough stone. At the doorway in the plan is drawn a thin wall; this is part of an earlier building, at a lower level. The whole chamber is 112 × 50 in. Far west at DP is another privy, which had a large jar below it.

28. Besides the fire hearth in the large hall, C, vi, 2, there was another south of that at the limit of the present work, at level 756, shown on vi, 1.

In the room X was a bath; the inner end, for a length of about 8 ft., was about 3 ft. below the outer end; the whole surfaces were covered with white plaster. Another bath lay between this and the small shrine; about a foot height of the walls remained, and that was covered with white plaster like the floor. A puzzling place is at AY, a corner of a house. The ground is about 750 level; on entering a narrow doorway, a step up is at 792; on ascending, a 1-in. plastered floor at 781 is seen with a slightly lower portion on the right. Being so much raised, it cannot be a bath; is it possibly a kind of shrine?

29. In DR there are two square pits sunk in the native sandstone. Around the southern one is a walling of brick. The sandstone here is at 583 level, forming the floor of the room. In DR a cattle trough was built at a higher level, in a re-use of the room. Similarly, in later uses of rooms AS and C, cattle troughs were added. When the city was declining, the disused buildings were evidently used for stables, just as is the case at present in Gaza.

The Greek letters on various parts show to what group of brick sizes the walls belong. The varieties of bricks are shown in diagram, pl. li, with the letters which serve to distinguish them. The practical use of the letters is to indicate what walls belong to a contemporary group of building (see sect. 48).

CHAPTER IV

OBJECTS OF THE CANAANITE PERIOD

30. FROM the preceding details of the city, it is clear that the Canaanite was at the same standard,

in the general comfort of life, as the Judaeo-Greek population of two thousand years later. The layout of the buildings is quite equal to that of the Seleucidan Sandehanna.

The small objects which are of the same age should now be noted. Nearly two hundred scarabs were found, and these are of the greatest value for dating the deposits. They are here grouped according to the position of finding. The upper level of the city is marked as level II, the top dust being level I. The chamber in which each was found is stated by the letters below on the right.

31. Pl. XIII. The seven small scarabs, 2–8, found in Q are useful as dating those types to Apepa I. 21 is a cylinder with cross lines. 23 is of a Treasurer Senba, who also appears on a stele at Leyden, of a Fayum family (*Lieb.*, 371), and on a Vienna stele, 69 (*Lieb.*, 353). The delicately cut scarab, 26, in a thin gold frame, is of the great scribe of the Treasurer Nehes-kap, “a negro of the king’s household,” a man already known on a coarse scarab (*Scarabs*, xvii, BD). The type of the haematite cylinder, 33, is well known (see Hayes Ward, 83–88, 95, 99, 899, but this most resembles 900, of Syro-Hittite work, though none of these are as well engraved as no. 26; 900 is from Kul-tepe in Cappadocia). 35, with two men and daggers, recurs in 54.

Level II. 43 is a carnelian bead with the name Amenemhat finely engraved, but proved by the reversed A to be of Canaanite workmanship.

It was with the silver crescent in a grain pit, AT, on the edge of the wady, levelled 760–659. The others here were picked up during the work, 44 of Apepa I, 45 of Ysaanen or Ysaan of the sea, a new Hyksos name.

32. Level III. This is the level under the burnt layer, probably of xiith dyn. 67 reads “maker of *rb* Ptah-mery.” *Rb*, or *lb*, is supposed to be the name of a vase; but as the vase here is represented as tied up, it more likely refers to the contents, possibly an abbreviation of *laboneh*, incense. The types 68–72, 77, all occur in the xiith dyn. (see *Illahun*, ix, x). The other modified Egyptian types, which are usually called Hyksos, are more probably of Canaanite work, especially as we have no proof that the Hyksos were already in touch with Egyptian style during the xiith dyn.

33. Pl. XIV. The scarabs from the cemeteries have the tomb number at bottom right hand. No. 93 is of Sma-ka-ra, of whom two scarabs of quite a different style are known (sc. xx, Q, R). The 291

group is only from a common burial ground, and not of a single period. 113 reads *yaz sna’ mera* “May Yaz comfort Mera”; *sna’*, comfort, literally “make smooth,” applies both to mind and body, as in the royal name *Ra-sna’-ab*: “May Ra comfort the heart.” The name Yaz probably refers to a Tyrian god, as Yazebaal (Jezebel), or “Yaz is lord,” came from Tyre.

Nos. 126–40 all come from late cemeteries, not from the early groups. Site 291 is a remarkable mass of human and animal bones crushed together, about 15 in. deep and 5 or 6 ft. wide. As there was no respect or order shown, and six gold hair-rings (xv, 3) and many scarabs were included, it was probably a plague pit. xviiiith dyn.

141–2 are from a cemetery of the xviiiith dyn. in the valley, tomb 801.

Unknown positions. These were brought up by workers as casually found: 143 of Apepa I; 144 from a grave about 110–119 of Oa “the great,” one of the sea kings, *mu*, of the xvith dyn.

171–2 are seals of red and white limestone, probably foreign.

189 Rahetep, was bought, not from Ajjul. It is the best out of all the examples of this king.

197 is a domed seal of haematite, with a rude figure of a quadruped.

34. JEWELLERY. XV, 1. Silver crescent pendant, found with carnelian bead inscribed Amenemhat. From the fine work, probably Amenemhat I; but as this is Palestine work (by the reversed A), it may not keep step with Egypt.

xv, 2. Gold pendant, embossed, and covered with granules; in form of a falcon with wings curved upward. Only eight examples of granulated work are known as early. Weight 125.4 grs., Babylonian unit (Jerusalem). Found in roadway, pl. iv. This had evidently been dropped by a lady, and lost in the mud. It lay there perfectly bright and unaltered, till in lowering the road our workmen found it in a lump of earth, and of course brought it up.

xv, 3. Gold hair-rings, of usual form (*Objects of Daily Use*, xvii). These were all in a mass of crushed bones, human and animal, with scarabs of early xviiiith dyn. (see above, sect. 33). The weights are, 117, 63.3, and 62.4 grs., Babylonian. With these was a dump of rough gold.

xv, 4. Gold toggle-pin 78.3 grs., ear-rings 77.9 grs., scarabs (see 113 above), and string of carnelian beads. From grave 2 in the city (Jerusalem Mus.). The gold is of the Syrian necef unit.



xv, 5. Half of a bar of quartz carved with a lion head at the end. The other half is exactly similar. It was found in one of the port-holes of the tunnel. The purpose is unknown; possibly a girdle fastener (Jerusalem and London).

xv, 6. Two gold ear-rings (85.5 grs.), with gold and stone beads on the bar. Carnelian beads, and scarab 89. From tomb 187 (New York).

An electrum toggle-pin, with plain square shank, was in the town (London).

A plain band of silver was across the forehead of a child in grave 1 in the city. With scarab 112 and pottery (Jerusalem).

35. BRONZE. From Rooms in city. xvi, 1, Thin dagger with wide end (broken) from AC. 2, Curved knife, of Hyksos period. 3, Thick dagger, N, level 761. 4, Thick dagger, AW. 5, Thin dagger, D 784, rivet holes. 6, 7, Toggle-pins. 8 (New York), 9, Tweezers. 10-15, Needles. 16, Spear butt. 17, Unknown tool. 18, Wide lance head. 20, Link. 21, Bracelet (?). 22, Double hook. 23, Adze with binding (New York). IRON. 24, Knife, top. 25, Large knife, AG. 26, Nail top. 36. XVII. xiith dyn. Low city. 27, 28, Copper rods. 29, Needle. 35, 36, Rods. 30, Thin dagger (Jerusalem). 31, 32, Daggers. 33, Dagger with rivets for handle. 34, Hyksos curved knife (see sect. 8). 38-9, Lance heads. 40, Whetstone.

XVIII (see 47, 46, 30, 2, 41, 42). Bronze knife, grave 804, xviiiith dyn. 43, Chisel. Small objects, (see sect. 3).

XIX. Tombs, Hyksos Age. 41, Half-socketed dagger (see *Beth-pelet*, xi, 82). 42, Thin dagger. 43, Chisels (41-3, Jerusalem). 44-5, Toggle-pins. 46-9, see Copper Age, sect. 56.

XX. Upper City. 50-61, Lance heads. 69, Small thin dagger. 71, Block of bronze. 72, Similar block of pottery, of unknown use. 73, Bronze rod. 74-80, Toggle-pins. 81. A spiked cylinder, too small for a weapon, possibly a spiked wheel of a model chariot. 83, Chisel. 84, Adze, found in a pit full of rubbish in the plain (Jerusalem). 85, 86, Rymers. 70, Needle.

XXI. Hyksos Tombs. 88-96, Bronze toggle-pins. 97-8, Others of bone. 100-105, Lance heads. 98, 104, Of unknown use.

37. 99, 107, Seated figure of Hor-ka (pl. xxii). This is of hard grey limestone, 7.8 ins. high, base 6.3×3.8. The face and front edge are bruised and worn. The right eye has the eyebrow ridge and outer corner cut sharply, the other eye not so worked.

The hands, in the usual position on the knees, are poorly done. The heavy ridge coming forward from the ankle bone is un-Egyptian. The whole work is a good imitation, but not truly Egyptian. The same is true of the inscription, where Ptah-seker is written serek, transposing two signs. It reads, "The devoted to Ptah-seker, Intendant of the guard of the interior, Hor-ka." The interior may refer to a province or to the palace. Along the front edge are traces of signs more than half worn away, and not intelligible.

38. 114, Amulets. 112, Leaden figure of Hathor, found with lance heads, 257, and 109, ear-ring (?). 108, Ring, grave 13. 110, Needle, tomb 257. 116. Bronze wig curler, xviiiith dyn. 117, Razor, group 291, xviiiith dyn. 118, Egyptian axe, found alone in pit, xviiiith dyn.

39. XXII, XXIII. BONE applied. The pattern of the box, as found and as restored, is given in xxii (Jerusalem). It is drawn in xxiii, 5. Also a smaller box 263 (London). Another box with birds, as the large one, is in New York. Such applied work with bird figures was found in the Hyksos deposit (see *Sedment*, xl, xli, at Univ. Coll.). XXIII, 1, Segment of ivory, for gaming (?). 2, Mother of pearl ring. 3, Ivory stud. (1-3 xiith dyn.) 4, Bodkin. 6, Beads. 7, 9, Needles. 8, Pin. 10, Uraeus on pin. 11, Die, of pyramidal form known in Palestine. 12, 15, 16, Slips for decoration. 13, Buttons (?). 14, Disc for attachment. 17, Slips from a box. 18-24, Slips for decoration. 25, from top of Tell.

40. XXIV, XXV. Alabaster vases. These are usually of Egyptian alabaster, but many are of Syrian work. XXV, 1, may be the base of a tazza. 2 seems to be the bottom of a large pilgrim bottle, carved as if cased with rush or string; the stone is black and white porphyry. 3 is the base of a large trachyte vase, of xiith dyn. 4, A rude bowl of basalt. 5, A typical xiith-dyn. vase from Egypt. 6, A rude bowl, Syrian. 7, 8, Tazzas of gypsum of Egyptian xviiiith-dyn. shape; from Beth-pelet. These are proved to be Syrian work by two arcs of circles struck on the base of one, in a tentative marking of the block; no Egyptian used compasses. 9, 10, 11 are imitated from Cretan types. 9 was with 39, which is Syrian. 12 to 20 would be possibly Egyptian, but the flatted base of some looks more like Syrian work. 21 seems to echo the Copper Age forms of pl. xli. 22 is incomplete, a neck-piece has been ground to fit it. 23, 24, 27, 28 may be



Egyptian, but 25, 26 are Syrian. 31, 32, 33, 35, 36, 37 are kohl pots which are probably Egyptian, as the Syrian used a tube or horn, which was later adopted in Egypt under Tehutmes III. 38, 39 are certainly Syrian, by the work and form of handle.

On XXIV the large maul is of hard limestone; next to it the hafted pick is of basalt; both are from the Hyksos level of the city. At the base of the plate is a rude head of pottery, an elementary head of limestone, and a horse's head and neck of brown pottery showing the kind of mane of the Hyksos horses. The little dove pendant is in xxi, 14. Below is a bossy bead of silver. At the end is a pottery wheel of a model waggon of xiith dyn. (see pl. 1, 99).

CHAPTER V  
POTTERY

41. XXVI, XXVII. SELECTED examples of pottery. Nos. 1, 2, 3, 5, 13, 16 are of the Copper Age. In the Bronze Age the earlier stage is marked by the shoulder handle, as 4, 6, 7, 10, 23; the handle joining to the top of the neck is later. The knob on the handle in 10, 23 is for the thumb to prevent it slipping when tilted over. The forms of this period are the best. In the next stage the forms are clumsy, as 24, 25, 40. In the later Bronze Age of the xviiiith dyn. the Egyptian jar 12, without handle, appears. The earlier forms are suave and unified, as in 6; later there is a fashion of abrupt lines and breaks in the curves, as in 18 or 26. The thin brown pottery of Cyprus or North Syria, 35-38, is an imitation of leather work, which was largely imported into Egypt under Tehutmes III. The ox-form bottle is Cypriote. The incised patterns, 45, have usually been credited to the Early Bronze Age; but they are found here all through the time from Apepa back to the xiith dyn. On pl. xxxvi it appears that the origin is from a wreath pattern, 1, 2, 3, coarsely copied.

42. XXXVII-L. The additions to the Corpus of Pottery follow the system already adopted. The general type number is at the left side of the page, the subtype letter and variety number are at the right top of each drawing. The place reference is at the right base of the drawing.

This notation follows that on the site plans, LIV, LV, *Top* refers to the loose earth of about 2 ft. above the walls. II is the Hyksos level of the xvth dyn.; separate chambers have a single letter, or

have A or B prefixed to that. III, or with C or D prefixed, is the xiith dyn. level (beneath the burnt stratum), which is planned with outlines on pl. liv. The references of CD often have the level in inches added, from 583 up to about 730. The actual burnt stratum is between 726 and 744 level. The simple numbers between 1 and 500, and of 800 upwards, are tomb numbers, as on LV plan, and LIX to LXI registers. For instance, in XL, type 28 N 3 is found in tomb 163, in chamber AQ of Hyksos age, and in chamber DF at 675 level.

On Register LIX are stated the Copper Age types, which are very few. There are only the flat-based bowl with bands, 6 R; the tiny cup, 10 Z; the flat bowl without bands, 22 N 6; the flat bowl with slight bulge, 24 F; the cylindrical cup, 29 Z; the great ovate jars, 30 G, some with a spout, 30 J; the wide-necked jar, 33 M, with handles; rarely without, 30 H; and the similar bottles, 69 L; these are the total of this age, while not one of these appears later. There was an entire break in the history of form, and also of fabric, as the material is all soft buff or drab paste, lightly baked. This age was parallel with the pyramid period of vth and vith dyns. in Egypt.

Of the age of the xiith and xvth dyns., the types found in the city are listed on lxii in parallel lines, so as to show how far the types were continuous. Only about a tenth of the varieties continued alike in both stages. This may be due to the Hyksos movement arresting part of the Canaanite civilisation, while pushing in fresh elements from the north.

The whole system of pottery registration will have, of course, to be recast in the future, when the varieties are all known and dated. In the present age of growth of study, all that can be done is to have a storage system for keeping the material accessible and comparable, until there is no prospect of further additions. In this year's work the Copper Age types are all new to us, as well as many later varieties.

43. The painted pottery, pls. xxviii-xxxv, is numbered continuously for convenience of reference. As being distinctively different from the known products of Palestine (where we only meet with crude daubs in red, like 104), the connection with other lands is of much historic meaning. Only two or three scraps, of the quality here found, are recorded from other sites. The reason may be that very few of the towns before 2000 B.C. have yet been widely cleared: moreover, Gaza was the most important trading city, and had almost the only good port. None of this pottery is known in Egypt, which

points to its rise being in the poor age of the xiii<sup>th</sup>-xviii<sup>th</sup> dyns., when trade was restrained.

It is evident that all from 1-20 belong to one group, and probably others on to 33. A rather coarser cross-hatching goes from 37-51, which is probably of the same region; compare the fish on 5 and 51. Among these is obviously one piece of Palestinian style, 43. Where does this grand class originate? The pottery itself is boldly formed, of fine hard paste, with perfectly smooth face. The weaving plait pattern is almost peculiar to the Mediterranean: it is found in Egypt, Crete, Rhodes, Italy, Spain, and Britain (*Dec. Pat.*, lxvi), rarely in Sumeria, crudely in Susa, but it does not appear in Cappadocia. The union-jack square, 5, 27, 28, occurs in Cyprus (*D.P.* YM 9); but the shaded diagonal, 30, is both Asiatic and Western (*D.P.* YO, Q). The disc cut into eighths is in Egypt, Cilicia, Crete, and Italy (*D.P.* OB, C). The Maltese Cross, 23-26, is archaic at Susa, and is in Crete and Italy (*D.P.* SA to L). Therefore, all these are Mediterranean designs, but some may be Asiatic. The latitude is limited by the palm tree, 6, which extended to Cilicia and Assyria, but precludes North Syria or Cappadocia. Altogether Cilicia seems to be the most likely source for this work, and this is in accord with the high state of civilisation of the Keftiu soon after this period.

No. 4 fragment has lost the head of the bird, but a head of the same style was found, probably from the same jar, and is here added. No. 5 is the largest, and nearly all the figures remain; possibly the rest may yet be found in the pit. It is very peculiar in having two figures of birds, faintly traced in red, on the backs of the other figures. The inner line of the body is marked with black dots. These birds fit too closely to their position to have been outlines for a disused design.

44. XXXI. Nos. 41, 42, from a bull figure, probably belong together. The bird figures, 44-46, are spirited, and belong to the preceding style. The cross-lined style 47-51 is coarser.

No. 54 is a crude notched pattern on a raised cross and circle, apparently the top of a heavy, coarse lid for a jar. Of xi<sup>th</sup> dyn.

Nos. 55-62 are of a remarkable class of ware; the surface creamy white and glossy, the body quite white, the colouring chocolate, with burnt sienna bordering in 62. It is the finest ancient fabric known. The source is Mediterranean, by the spiral 59. The chequers, 56, is Cappadocian and South

Anatolian. The nearest comparison is that from Gordion, but the colouring is not quite the same.

The coarse patterns 63-77 are probably local imitations of the finer wares. The large jar, 78, of which the outline is below, looks more like the regulated style of Hittite work.

45. XXXIV is of Cypriote ware of the usual forked-handle type (see xxxviii, 19). Here also are pieces of the same pattern, but much finer in painting and thinner in body, painted with red, as well as black, with detail not known on Cypriote ware, as 85-90. These seem to belong to a class of Anatolian (? Cilician) work, which was copied in Cyprus. The limit between the original and the copy is not yet defined. Many pieces of the black ware with red lines parallel were found, 102, 103, and this extends back to the xi<sup>th</sup> dyn. The lines were evidently put on with a row of brushes fixed together. A large vase of the same kind was found at Beth-pelet (see *Corpus*, 68, R 2).

46. XXXV. A few pieces of Palestinian decoration were found, 104-108. 106, 107 are different vases, but serve to explain each other. These are far inferior to the later examples of the sixth dyn. from Beth-pelet. 112, 113 are examples of the serpent ascending the handle of a vase. 114 is a bird-spout. 115, 116 are of different bowls, but serve to explain the pattern; this form of lotus is probably of the Assyrian period; both pieces were found on the surface. On the surface also were scraps of Philistine ware, 118, and of the red polished flasks of xviii<sup>th</sup> dyn., thus agreeing with the ruins being earlier than that date. The Arab painted pot, 120, was also on the top.

For pls. xxxvi-1, see after xxvii described before.

47. LI. Many weights were found in the city, nearly all in the upper level, of the Hyksos age. The interest lies in the evidence of trade. The Egyptian qedet is the largest class, as might be expected on the frontier. The necef of Syria is common, but the khoirine is very scarce. The beqa may be from any source, as it was the Egyptian gold weight, and is also found in Sumeria and at Mohenjodaro.

48. The sizes of bricks are a valuable clue to the connection of different buildings in a town. Many bricks were measured, and are dealt with here as in the volume *Beth-pelet I*. A diagram is formed of the length and width (in inches along the sides), and, on marking in the results, it is seen how certain groups can be distinguished. The numbers refer to the