

AREA C

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Area C was located in a saddle along the western shelf. A footpath followed the low point of the saddle (average level: 880.40 m. above sea level) between two low mounds on the shelf. From there, the slope dropped steeply to a second footpath and by a series of natural terraces (outcroppings of bedrock) to the *Wadi Heshbân*. Each of the mounds had short lengths of several walls exposed above the surface (see C. 4 below), and each mound had three high points (average levels, north mound, 884.94 m.; south mound, 882.15 m.). The Area was planned as an investigation of the defensive system of the *tell*, and in the expectation that the formation of the saddle was possibly due to an ancient gateway.

The season began by opening a probe trench on the slope below and north of the saddle, 10.4 m. northwest of Area C. This location was chosen to serve as a dump for Area C. The trench was sunk to a depth of two meters and located only surface wash. This seemed to make the spot safe to cover with excavation debris and incidentally served as a prophecy of things to come. The two pails of pottery contained forms field-dated as modern, Arabic painted and glazed wares, Byzantine, Roman and one possibly Iron II.

Initially two Squares were opened in Area C. The Area was extended to include a third and fourth Square in the third and fourth weeks of the season respectively. Squares 1 and 2 were planned as 6 × 8 m. rectangles. In the second week, it was discovered that the main east-west axis of the *tell* lay 3.85-2.72 m. south, so Squares 1 and 2 were extended to this line. The Squares which were tentatively planned as rectangles became trapezoids. Levels of the Area ranged from a low of 879.65 m. at the northwest corner of C. 1 to a high of 883.37 m. at the northeast corner of C. 4.

In each Square, the surface soil was labeled Locus 1. It was a

loose gray soil full of roots and heavily strewn with stones, especially in Squares 2, 3 and 4. The average depth was .25 m., but it reached 1.00 m. in Squares 3 and 4. The pottery included modern ware, but consisted predominantly of Arabic glazed and painted sherds. There were small quantities of Byzantine and Roman sherds as well. Virtually every one of the 43 pails of pottery recorded contained undistinguishable and unknown forms recorded as UD. The objects included the usual surface collection of nails and miscellaneous metal fragments. There were also a bronze ring and copper ring, a copper chain, and several faience beads. An unusual glass bead had three faience balls as decoration on the outside. Fragments of worked basalt appeared every week of the season; among them were a portion of a rubbing stone and part of a millstone. Three Arabic coins, one Byzantine coin and three unidentifiable coins were among the finds from Locus 1.

The first observable feature in the surface soil of C. 1 was an L-shaped wall (C. 1:2, 3), exposed through and partially hidden by Locus 1 (Plate XIII: A). The wall was of uncut field stones. Center fill stones were .05-.10 m. thick while facing stones were .20-.30 m. in diameter. The wall was traced northward from the south balk of C. 1 and extended 4.17 m. into the Square before making a right angle turn to the east. The east-west portion extended eastward through C. 2 (Wall 5) and C. 3 (Wall 2) for 15 m. and began to turn south in a broad curve as it entered the east balk of C. 3. The east face of the eastern north-south portion extended into C. 4 (Wall 4) from .30-.40 m. Its average width of 1.10 m. can be traced in the balk between C. 3 and C. 4 and it extends south into the south balk of C. 4, as it did in C. 1, thus forming a large U. For most of its length the remains of the wall were two courses high. At times, it went to four courses, and once to six courses. The levels of the top of the wall varied from 880.44 to 881.71 m. What may have been a sill and two large stones (average diameter, .50 m.) at the 1.70 m. point suggests a door or gate.

Pottery (10 pails) within the wall and immediately under it was Arabic glazed and painted ware, a few Byzantine and Roman sherds, and a number of UD's. No clearly modern pottery came from the wall but modern pottery was excavated in soil fills below the wall. The soil fill immediately under the wall appeared continuous with Locus 1, but since the top of the remains of the wall was level with the surface of Locus 1, one can make the simple observation that the wall construction and destruction antedated the present exposed soil surface. This point was indicated also by the stone fall on both sides of the wall throughout its length. It was largely covered by the surface soil.

The soil in the west balk of C. 2 appeared the same on both sides of Wall C. 2:5. In C. 3 the layer (Locus 4) on the north of Wall C. 3:2 averaged .30 m. higher than on the south (Locus C. 3:5), a change discernible in the east balk of C. 2 (Loci 6 and 8) with distinct fill layers appearing to the north of the wall and under it which did not appear south of it. In C. 3 and part of C. 2 it may have been a terrace or retaining wall. The gate or door in C. 3 suggests possible use of the wall as an animal pen. Excavation showed no floor associated with it and no foundation trenches were discerned. This probably precludes its having had any function as a house wall, though it might represent a courtyard wall of a house located further south and partially described in the next paragraph. Objects included a bronze pin, a bronze hook, a bronze nail, and a red copper Arabic coin of Saladin.

In the southeast corner of C. 2 was a wall of cut stones (Locus C. 2:10). It was preserved to a depth of four courses (1.10 m.) and extended north from the south balk 1.10 m. and west 2.75 m. from the east balk. Its west end formed a clear corner. This wall extended through the intervening balk into C. 3 (Locus C. 3:3). Here a number of stones were visible at the surface prior to excavation. Most noteworthy of these was a door jamb .85 m. high (top level, 881.40 m.) \times .60 m. wide \times .50 m. thick. Wall C. 3:3 extended 3.10 m. east from

the west balk, along the south balk and formed a corner extending into the south balk. However, .30 to .50 m. below the surface lay three more rocks in line with Wall C. 3:3, thus possibly extending this wall an additional 1.70 m. eastward. It is noteworthy that the door is in a north-south line with the door of the courtyard wall (C. 3:2). Structure C. 2:10-C. 3:3 was more deeply founded than the courtyard wall, the bottom of which was in the surface soil, while the base of Structure C. 2:10-C. 3:3 lay below the bottom of the surface soil. The deeper founding would be natural for a house wall in comparison with a courtyard wall formed of natural field stones. While the latter wall may also have served as a retaining wall or terrace in its northeast corner, it hardly seems accidental that it forms a U around the "house." No distinction in date between the two could be made from pottery evidence. One can only say that the fill layers (C. 2:7; C. 3:5 and 7) around the lower courses of Walls C. 2:10 and C. 3:3 contained Arabic glazed and painted wares, a few Byzantine and Roman sherds and one Iron III form besides numerous UD's. A final statement on the date of the "house" must await the dismantling of Walls C. 2:10 and C. 3:3 in the next season, but the wall pottery, plus its stones exposed above the surface, certainly suggested that it is Arabic. This was reinforced by Pail 82 (pottery dated as Arabic, possibly Roman and UD) from small stones between the larger stones of Wall C. 2:10 and the south balk, but this material was so close to the exposed ground surface that contamination remains a strong possibility.

C. 4 also contained part of a structure which was partially exposed before excavation began. The stones were partly dressed. It was composed of Walls C. 4:2 and 8 (Plate XIII:B), and probably 9 and 10. The east-west Wall C. 4:2 extended west from the east balk for 4.5 m. and was placed from 2.5 to 3.5 m. south of the north balk. It was preserved to a height of three courses at both ends, but only one course remained in place in the middle. The space above the lower course in the

middle was full of rock fall extending back north to C. 4:9, a rather indistinct east-west line of eight stones, 3.10 m. long, which may be fall from Wall C. 4:2. Wall C. 4:8 formed a right angle with Wall C. 4:2 and extended into the north balk at a point 2.20 m. east of the west balk. It was preserved to a height from two to six courses. Wall C. 4:10 joined Wall C. 4:8 at a right angle .40 m. south of the north balk. It extended into the north balk (at an obtuse angle) at an irregular vertical joint about 1.05 m. east of the west balk with an exposed length of 1.50 to 2.00 m. It was not bonded to Wall C. 4:8. Its exposed face is five courses high but the lowest exposed course may not be the bottom of the wall. The interior of this structure was not excavated initially because of the complicated rock fall appearing within the north and east balks and because the slope of C. 4 suggested that the south and west faces be exposed first. However, a small portion of the surface soil was removed to reveal a hard yellowish layer of fine textured soil similar to C. 4:3. The nature of this structure remains undiagnosed until it is fully excavated. Since the portion adjacent to the north and east balks of C. 4 is so limited, excavation only in the present Square may not provide the answer. However, further excavation might give a firmer date, which is presumably Arabic as indicated by the exposed rocks prior to any excavation in the Square, by the deep fill of surface soil south and west of it, and by soil layers, C. 4:3 (Arabic glazed and painted pottery; Arabic coin) and C. 4:5 which seemed to run up against (no discernible foundation trench) Walls C. 4:2, 8 and 10.

Soil layer C. 4:3 was immediately below the surface soil (Locus 1) throughout most of C. 4. This Locus 3 averaged a thickness of .10 m. Soil Layer C. 4:5 lay below it. It covered the entire Square with an average depth of .30 m. but was badly broken by many large stones. Pottery was predominantly Arabic glazed and painted ware with a few Byzantine, Roman and possibly Hellenistic forms. When C. 4:5 was cleared, Walls C. 4:12 and 13, and Cistern C. 4:7 were exposed.

Wall C. 4:12 in its preserved form, resembled a platform on which the Structure C. 4:2-8 was built. However, it formed a different orientation than the latter, suggesting that it was an earlier structure, though perhaps used by the builders of C. 4:2-8 as a foundation. Locus C. 4:12 was composed of flat stones which averaged $.40 \times .60$ m. Its exposed north-south length was 2.30 m. with its southwest corner 1.20 m. from the west balk and 3.70 m. from the north balk. More of C. 4:12 may be unexcavated to the north under C. 4:6, the soil layer below C. 4:5. While the west edge of C. 4:12 was distinct, the east edge was not, perhaps reflecting an earlier destruction.

At the southwest corner of C. 4:12 was a row of stones (at a few places, a second row was preserved) designated as Wall C. 4:13. Stones averaged .60 m. in size. Levels averaged 880.90 m. Like the northeast structure and Wall C. 4:12, Wall C. 4:13 remains of undetermined origin and use. However, several open spaces or crevices suggested the possibility that C. 4:13 was a covered water channel leading to Cistern C. 4:7.

The removal of C. 4:5 exposed the mouth of a cistern, designated Locus C. 4:7. Several stones blocked its mouth and prevented its being completely filled with debris. The mouth was .38 m. in diameter. The center was located 2.30 m. east of the west balk and 2.15 m. north of the south balk. When first entered it contained a cone of debris, the uppermost peak of which was 3.00 m. below the mouth. When excavated it proved to be 5.00 m. deep. There were 68 pails of pottery recorded from the cistern, the excavation of which was completed just before quitting time on the last day of excavations. Arabic painted ware dominated the ceramic horizon although Arabic glazed ware was also common. A few Roman pieces also appeared, along with the UD's. Several whole and restored vessels were registered as objects (Plates XXII and XXIII: A), among them two spouted jugs, three jugs, one jar, and a juglet. Among the objects was a Nabataean coin, one of three or four found in the 1968 excavations.

The excavation of Cistern C. 4:7 during the last week of

work precluded further excavation of the northeast structure, Walls C. 4:12 and 13, and Wall stubs C. 4:15 and 16. The latter two lay in the east and southeast quadrant of C. 4, below Locus 5. The cistern's location under Locus 5 suggested that it was contemporary with Walls C. 4:12, 13, 15 and 16 (if related to the northeast structure, it was the stage prior to the deposit of Loci 5 and 3). The cistern was carved in bedrock, suggesting that these other features may be founded on same. At least bedrock is not very deep in C. 4.

Layers Below the Top Soil Features

Below the top soil in each Square was a lighter yellow or gray soil extending over the Square. In C. 1, a probe trench was dug about .50 m. deep to what appeared to be a surface (Locus 4). In C. 2, Loci 6 (north of Wall C. 2:2) and 7 (south of Wall C. 2:2) were exposed. Attempts to follow these surfaces in each Square proved both deceptive and frustrating and eventually the soil of these loci was removed on a horizontal plane in 1.00 m. wide strips. Locus C. 2:6 was about .40 m. deep and a similar layer (C. 2:8) was exposed below it. An attempt to follow this layer ended with the same results. The possibility that this soil was erosion wash from further up the slope of the mound appeared to be substantiated by subsequent excavation. At the southwest corner of C. 1, these layers reached a depth of 3.50 m. below surface soil before the pottery made a definite consistent change to Roman (Plate XIV: B). This point was not reached in C. 2 before work there was terminated.

The surface of Loci C. 2:5 and 8 appeared to be "rippled" with a slope to the northwest, the "rippled" lines running from the southwest to the northeast. The excavation of Loci C. 2:5, 7, and 8 indicated that this "rippled surface" was composed of the top of tip lines of possible erosion wash which sloped to the northwest and tended to alternate between harder light colored layers and softer dark (almost ashy) layers. They varied a great deal in thickness. One measured .40 m. at one point while two meters further it lensed out and ended.

Some were quite indistinct when moist and could only be seen later in the balks. This erosion wash was rich in pottery, objects and bones.

C. 1 produced 194 pails of pottery from the three loci and C. 2 produced 93 pails. The Arabic painted and glazed wares predominated, with modern, Byzantine, Roman, a few Iron Age sherds and the inevitable UD's. However, as the excavation penetrated deeper (Loci C. 2:6 and 9), the standard painted and glazed wares decreased in frequency while different styles of both paint and glaze became more numerous. Noteworthy in this connection also is the observation that a fine white ware, glazed on both sides with designs in blue, virtually disappeared in these lower levels.¹⁰ The expedition's first whole vessel came from C. 2:9. It was an Arabic vase of gray-green clay with a string-cut base and stood 62 mm. high, 60 mm. in diameter.

Among the objects were nails, pins, and rods, with bronze more common than iron. A number of glass and faience beads appeared, and fragments of worked bone. Noteworthy is an early Christian bone doll with a face carved on the wider upper flat surface of a somewhat spatula-shaped form, of which the blunt point was originally inserted into a cloth body (Plate XXIII:D). A lead pendant, only preserved in part, showed what appeared to be the figure of a man who seemed to be hurling a sling stone or who is an archer (Plate XXIII:C and Figure 5). Among the bronze coins, one Nabataean and another possibly Nabataean were of special interest. A coral bead may indicate Nabataean contacts, since the nearest known source of coral to Heshbon is the Gulf of Aqaba. Among the other coins, all of bronze, were six unidentifiable ones, eight Arabic coins and one Byzantine coin.

The eastern portion of C. 2:8 was a .50 m. thick layer of soft dark (almost ashy) soil which extended into C. 3:4 (see

¹⁰ This latter pottery may be imitation of Chinese porcelain of a post-12th century date (Arthur Lane, *Early Islamic Pottery* [New York, 1948], pp. 3, 7, 32), although a local workman claimed that it came from Iran a century ago. The Lisbon Museum of Ancient Art displays it as 14th-century Persian ware from Sultanabad.

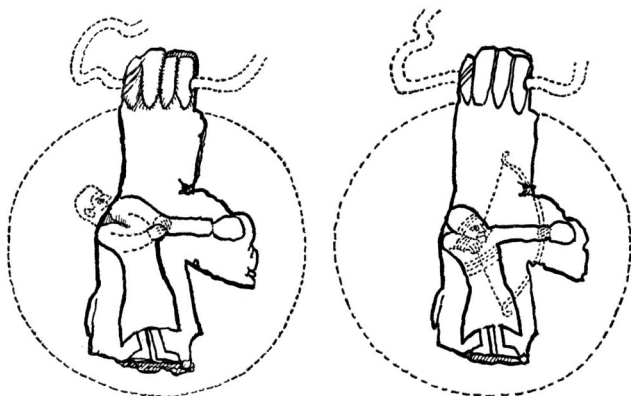


Figure 5. An artist's alternative reconstructions of the design on a lead pendant. The extant fragment shows a human figure either as a slinger or an archer. The shape and full size of the original pendant are unknown. For a photograph of the object see Plate XXIII: C. (Drawing: Greg Constantine)

the courtyard wall described above). In the latter, it was dug quite carefully and successfully separated from the soil above and below it in a probe 2-3 m. east from the west balk. The pottery was the usual mix (Arabic painted and glazed wares dominant, with a few modern, some possibly Byzantine, some Roman, and an occasional Iron Age sherd). Halfway across the Square the soil changed to wash impossible to discern by layers. In the north balk of C. 3 the change appeared to be a robber trench. Before the nature of this change was interpreted, a few large cut stones appeared. The line they formed was so vague that after determining the lack of any foundation trench or discernible stratigraphy against them, they were removed. At the base of these stones a portion of an oven and a fire pit were uncovered as well as what was presumably the first living surface found in Area C. This surface, designated Locus C. 3:8, was from 1.90 to 2.20 m. below C. 3:1 and was traced in an excavated area 0-1.15 m. south of the north balk, and 0-1.50 m. west of the east balk at a level of 880.35 m. The small size and the uncertain stratigraphy of the "robber

trench" made it difficult to determine the stratigraphic relationship of Locus C. 3:8 within our series of tip lines without further excavation. The same was true of Locus C. 3:11, a layer *ca.* .20 m. higher. It was traced from 0-2.00 m. west of the east balk and from 2-4 m. south of the north balk. It was bounded on the north by the fire pit mentioned above and on the west and south by a rough line of stones tilted in the soil as though representing the fall of a single course of stones off a wall to the west (possibly Wall C. 3:9). It was designated Locus C. 3:10.

A clue to the relative chronology of Loci C. 3:8, 11 and 10 was the Wall C. 3:9. An irregular line of stones 2.5 m. long and extending into the north balk, it bordered Locus C. 3:8 on the west and paralleled Wall C. 2:10 with a very narrow (.05-.15 m.) foundation trench between them. A similar foundation trench separated Wall C. 3:9 from Locus C. 3:7, a soil layer apparently continuous from C. 2. This continuity was probably true of C. 3:5 as well. In the eastern portion of C. 2, Locus 9, the same black layer referred to above was noted. Below it was what appeared to be harder brown soil with flecks of *hwawar*, gravel and charcoal. It was isolated in excavation but the pottery was the same mix as the rest of C. 2:9. This "layer" later appeared in the balk to be composed of three layers, each of *ca.* .20 m. thickness. The division between them was so vague that lines could not be traced for accurate drawing. The difference between the level of the sub-surface soil in C. 3 south and north of the courtyard wall (C. 3:2) was noted earlier. On the south this sub-surface soil was designated C. 3:5. Below Wall C. 3:3 (the Arabic "house"), C. 3:5 was made up of several tip lines of wash. These could not be traced to the north, but merged into a general wash, including several pockets of pebbly soil. This was merged with Layer C. 3:4 under Wall C. 3:2. A harder brown soil was exposed .75 m. below Wall C. 3:3 at the west balk. It rose to the bottom of Wall C. 3:3 at 2.25 m. east of the west balk, where it stopped abruptly on an almost straight north-south

line. The soil to the east of this straight line could not be distinguished from Layer C. 3:5. This indistinct wash continued to the east balk with no further surfaces distinguishable. Layer C. 3:7, however, could be traced to the north balk and to Wall C. 3:9, though C. 3:7 was separated from Wall C. 3:9 by the foundation trench described earlier. This wall would thus appear to be later than Layers C. 3:7 and 8. A probe trench (C. 3:6) was dug from the east balk to the straight line of Layer C. 3:7's termination to try to relate stratigraphically Layer C. 3:7 and the eastern portion of C. 3:5, and also to determine the bottom and possible extension of Wall C. 3:3. The soil in this probe exposed neither tip lines nor surfaces and was not distinct from C. 3:5. The clarification of the stratigraphy of C. 3 depends upon further excavation next season.

C. 3:4, 5, 6 and 7 (1.10 m. of which was removed in clarifying the relationship to the foundation trench) produced 47 pails of pottery all with the same mix. Arabic painted and glazed wares again predominated. A few possible Byzantine, some Roman, a few possible Hellenistic, Iron III and Iron II pieces added to the picture. Definitely modern pottery appeared only in C. 3:4, but the UD's were numerous throughout these loci. C. 3:4 produced a bronze Arab coin, a green stone pendant, half a cosmetic palette of gray black stone and the upper part of a wide handle of a red-clay jar containing a rectangular Latin seal impression, of which the inscription reads: *C(aius) Bellici(us) Zmaragdi(us)*.¹¹ The handle shows that the original vessel had had a diameter of 430 mm. From Locus A. 3:6 came part of a Rhodian jar handle with the inscription ONΑΣΙ[. Among the known names of Rhodian potters which begin with these letters are: ONΑΣΙΟΙΚΟΣ and ONΑΣΙΜΟΣ.

Excavation of C. 2:9 disclosed a line of stones in the northwest corner of the Square just 2.10 m. below the surface,

¹¹ See the article by Volker Langholf on this seal on p. 230 of this number of the *AUSS*.

extending south from the north balk at a point .80 m. east of the west balk, and running northeast-southwest to the west balk 1.70 m. south of the north balk. This was subsequently designated Wall C. 2:11. The field stones varied from .20-.50 m. in diameter. Levels were at an average of 878.18 m.

Wall C. 2:11 unfortunately lay at the bottom of the stairway for the Square, making it difficult to excavate a perpendicular trench against it. An attempt was made to trace the tip lines of fill from the south balk to establish any potential relationship with Wall C. 2:10 (Plate XIV: A). Tracing the tip lines over such a long distance (11 m.) was quite difficult, but it seemed clear (as noted earlier) that Wall C. 2:10 was built upon wash layers backed up to the southeast by this wall. This presumably accounted for the direction of the flow of the layering of wash discussed above in relation to the "rippled layers." The difficulty of tracing the tip lines, plus deployment of supervisory personnel, combined with an excavation tactic to stop work in C. 2 until C. 1 should be in phase with it. The halt of excavation in C. 2 later proved to be the limit of excavation there for the 1968 season.

It was assumed that Wall C. 2:11, extending as it did into the west balk of C. 2, would eventually be exposed in C. 1. This proved to be the case in the course of removal of C. 1:6 wash, 2.50 m. below the surface (2.10 m. below a point level with the ground surface at the northeast corner). In C. 1 it was designated Wall C. 1:7. It extended from the east balk at a point 2.50 m. south of the north balk and ran 8.00 m. to the southwest to a point 1.50 m. east of the west balk and 2.50 m. north of the south balk (top level 877.75 m.). It was two courses wide and three courses deep, although on the west end only one course was preserved. The usual difficulty of tracing tip lines was overcome after a perpendicular probe trench 3 m. from the north "end" exposed a *huwuar* and stone surface (C. 1:9) running under the wall. Surface C. 1:9 was traced to the west and north balks and along a subsidiary east-west balk. In the process, two 1.00 m. wide subsidiary balks against

Wall C. 1:7 were removed layer by layer. At the deeper layers Roman ware became more frequent and even dominant. In a small triangle formed by Wall C. 1:7, the east balk and the center subsidiary balk, soil layers were excavated, with the lower ones producing Roman and UD pottery. Subsequent removal of the four stones on the southwest end of Wall C. 1:7 produced Roman and UD pottery. This evidence from beneath it presumably confirms the Roman date of Wall C. 1:7.

A probe into Surface C. 1:9 exposed 2.40 m. of Wall C. 1:13, a crudely constructed north-south wall of small stones running parallel to and 2.00 m. west of the east balk, and under Wall C. 1:7. The probe extended 3.50 m. along the center subsidiary balk and 3.50 m. north to a point perpendicular to Wall C. 1:7. It reached a depth of .20 m. Removal was delayed because it interfered with dirt removal traffic to the stairs along the north balk. This delay proved to be the terminus of excavation in the north half of C. 1. The pottery from Surface C. 1:9 was Roman and UD, with a number of Iron III pieces. Two pails contained three pieces of Arabic ware (the latter paint and glaze wares noted above); but with possible contamination from the nearby traffic of basket boys, these three sherds were discounted and the locus was considered Roman in date.

In the southeast corner of C. 1 excavation reached a hard *hwawar* and stone layer (Locus C. 1:10), similar to Surface C. 1:9 in consistency. In the southeast corner (where it was almost .40 m. thick), its top level was 878.10 m. A pebbly fall (also evident on the east face of Wall C. 2:11) made it impossible to trace Layer C. 1:10 to the face of Wall C. 1:7, but it appeared to come down to a level with the bottom of the wall. The pottery was Roman, Iron III, UD and possibly Hellenistic. Excavation of Layer C. 1:10 stopped at a Surface C. 1:11 along the center and the east balk. Surface C. 1:11 probably runs under Wall C. 1:7. Layer C. 1:10 extended along the south balk 3.30 m. west of the east balk. At this point it ran over Wall C. 1:8. Excavation of Layer C. 1:10 also exposed tops of two walls, C. 1:12 and 15. The first was

traced north from the south balk for 3.25 m., almost parallel to the east balk, and was from .75-1.00 m. wide. It was made of small stones tightly packed together except for about $.25 \times .25$ m. at the north end. Its west face was excavated to a depth of .60 m. but the bottom was not reached this season. The top had a level of 877.70 m. Since it was under Layer C. 1:10, it is presumed to be Roman or earlier in date pending further excavation.

Wall C. 1:15 was an irregular line of stone of varied size and shape with three courses preserved at the north end (top level 877.53 m.) where it touched Wall C. 1:14, and one course preserved at the south end. The excavated portion was 3.00 m. long, .36-.40 m. wide, paralleling Wall C. 1:12, 1.50-2.00 m. (north end) and 2.25-2.60 m. (south end) west from the east balk, and .50 m. north of the south balk. Since it was also under Layer C. 1:10, it presumably was Roman or earlier in date. Its northernmost stone had an irregular hole which may have been a badly weathered door socket, suggesting a door or gate in connection with Wall C. 1:12.

Wall C. 1:14 was an east-west line of well dressed stones partially exposed under Wall C. 1:7, and Surface C. 1:11. It was of undetermined length under Surface C. 1:11, but the west end (top level 877.11 m.) was 3.75 m. west of the east balk. Wall C. 1:14 was excavated to a depth of .35 m. but its bottom was not exposed in the 1968 season. Its founding and function must be determined in future excavation.

Wall C. 1:8 was first exposed by a probe trench along the west balk. Subsequent excavation showed it extended from the west balk (top level 876.97 m.) 4.40 m. north of the south balk, to the south balk, 2.55 m. east of the west balk. It was composed of large (.20-.90 m. diameter) field stones and appeared to be one course wide and three to four courses deep on the southwest face when excavation stopped at the end of the season. The northeast face was not yet exposed. The pottery from the soil that was found with the lowest courses was Roman. The date is confirmed also by its presence under

Wall C. 1:7 and Layer C. 1:10. When it first was exposed, it was thought to form a right-angled corner with Wall C. 1:7. The removal of the southernmost stones of the latter indicated no bonding and no direct contact between the two walls.

In summary, Area C's Arabic occupation (counting from the top down) has two or three phases. Phase A is the U-shaped wall and the Building C. 2:10-C. 3:3 within it, plus the northeast corner structure in C. 4. The unity of the latter is assumed for convenience since nothing definitive beyond the bonding of Walls C. 4:2 and 8 can be demonstrated at this point.

Phase B is represented by the fill in the cistern. If the interpretation of its relationship to Walls C. 4:12 and 13 is correct, these features would also be part of Phase A. The great bank of wash in C. 1 and C. 2 might stand with Phase B, or represent a prior period of erosion. The limited pottery evidence and tenuous stratigraphic connection between C. 3 and C. 4 (it is presently unclear whether C. 3:5 = C. 4:3 or 5, both, or neither) do not allow dogmatism at this point. The filling of the cistern and the build-up of the bank would seem to go hand in hand. However, the extensiveness of the bank of wash might suggest an intermediate period prior to Phase B. The difficulty with the latter thesis is the unknown quantity of time necessary to accumulate these tip lines of wash. The Area C dump was built to impressive size by human labor in seven weeks. If all of the fill in C. 1 and C. 2 comes from natural erosion from upper slopes, there is no currently available measure for the time necessary.

The Roman stratum of Area C, which is the second period of this Area so far discerned, remains still largely unexcavated, although it was exposed in C. 1. At least two Phases would seem to be represented with Wall C. 1:7 as Phase A. Phase B would be the earlier Loci C. 1:9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 8. Since the character and function of Wall C. 1:8 is not yet clear, one can note that it might represent a Phase C on the grounds that it was covered by Layer C.1:10. This remains for future investigation.

It is of interest to note that the Byzantine period is not yet clearly represented in Area C except by some pottery and coins in the wash layers.

AREA A

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Area A is located inside the highest architectural perimeter of the mound. The level at the top of the perimeter is mapped at 895.00 m. above sea level. Exposed architectural features on this part of the mound indicated the presence of some major structure—temple, church, palace? Three column bases plus the foundation stone of a fourth base provided some orientation and an east-west line was drawn in alignment with them. This east-west axis was fixed to pass through a depression (a possible gateway or entrance) on the east side. It continues to the western side of the mound and forms the south balks of all four Squares in Area C. The north-south axis was fixed to pass through a depression on the south edge of the elevation and thus integrates with Area D constituting the west balks of all three Squares there (Fig. 1).

Four Squares, measuring six by eight meters (with a one-meter balk between them), were excavated in Area A. Squares 1 and 2, their north balks being the east-west axis, and the west balk of Square 2 being the north-south axis of the *tell*, were opened at the beginning of the excavation. Squares 3 and 4, lying south of Squares 1 and 2, respectively, were opened at the end of the first week of digging. All four Squares were excavated at different times during the succeeding weeks with work in only two Squares going on simultaneously.

Description of the Excavation

Square 1: Prior to the excavation there were scattered stones on the surface (some partially exposed), but they were