

## THE ROLLING-STONE TOMB F.1 AT TELL HESBÂN

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During the 1971 season of excavations at Tell Ḥesbân, a number of tombs in the ancient cemetery to the southwest of the tell, lining a portion of Wadi Tala', were either explored or cleared.<sup>1</sup> The western bank of the wadi, or eastern slope of Gourmeyet Ḥesbân, was designated Area E, and a portion of the southeastern bank of the wadi became Area F. It is in Area F that a tomb with a rolling or circular stone disk, used to close the entrance, was found.

### *Discovery and Excavation of the Tomb*

The discovery was made by local villagers in the spring of 1970, according to the owner of the field where the tomb is located. It was these villagers who not only looted the tomb, leaving the interior totally disturbed, but also probably damaged its exterior architecture (Pl. I:1).

Preliminary work by the archaeologists included only the removal of a small amount of soil from the front of the tomb, in order to establish a "line" of tombs, that is, a possible row of tombs cut in the same stone outcrop. Tomb F.6 (an Early Roman type with loculi, or *kokhim*) is an example of those found by this method.

Actual clearance of this rolling-stone tomb, or Tomb F.1, began late in the season, August 5 through 20. Little information was thought to be gained from the interior because of the severe disturbance it had suffered. The excavator was merely to make preparations for architectural plans to be drawn and to salvage whatever possible.

<sup>1</sup>See S. Douglas Waterhouse, "Areas E and F," *AUSS* 11 (1973): 113-125.

On August 5 a sampling of sherds from the interior was made, and the removal of soil filling the forecourt was begun (Pl. I:2). It was not until the following day that the circular stone disk could be raised and set within the track, or runway, immediately before the entrance. The recent robbers had broken away the lintel of the doorway and pulled the stone disk back to an almost flat position to give them access to the central chamber.

Exterior and interior clearance was carried on simultaneously. Excavation of the forecourt (loci were numbered from la to lh) was completed on August 13 with the removal of two partial human skeletons in the southern portion of the runway (locus lc, Pl. VI:1, right end).

On August 9, interior clearance was started by cutting two trenches which intersected in the middle of the central chamber. Some of the soil had undoubtedly silted in, but most seems to have been intentionally pushed in at some time, probably to discourage those who would seek to rob the dead.<sup>2</sup> The trenches not only allowed the architects to make their drawings, but also divided the central chamber into four quadrants, providing a control for the recording of any objects or bones not found in the loculi. No stratigraphy was visible in the walls of these trenches, except for a thin clay layer at the very bottom, coating only the floor of a large square pit in the center of the chamber (locus 15). The quadrants, to be readily distinguishable from other loci and the loculi, were assigned capital letters after the locus number 2 (e.g. 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D). The loculi (*kokhim*), or horizontal burial niches, were given loculus numbers from 1 to 12; thus the first loculus at the right of the entrance was designated 1, etc. (see Fig. 1).

While cutting the intersecting trenches, loculi 2 and 3 were cleared. The dirt within the quadrants was removed next, along with the fill of the central pit which lay underneath them. Loculi 1, 3 to 10, and 12 were excavated last.

<sup>2</sup>"It was considered a religious duty to throw earth upon a dead body, which a person might happen to find unburied," according to William Smith, ed. *A Dictionary of Greek and Roman Antiquities* (London, 1870), p. 554. Also see Abraham I. Shinedling, "Burial and Burial Customs," *Universal Jewish Encyclopedia* (New York, 1940), p. 594.

The tomb's interior yielded more than expected in the way of material evidence, despite its condition. The looting by modern robbers was attested by a plastic bag found buried several centimeters deep in loculus 7. From all appearances—namely the greater amount of soil on the south side and the numerous skulls reconstructed from fragments that came from both north and south sides—the soil fill had been moved from the south side of the chamber to the north and back again by the robbers in their search for artifacts. Loculi 11 and 12 had been entered by sheep or goats, the split hoof prints being clearly visible. All human skeletal material was smashed, pottery was fragmented, and only a few small objects had been overlooked by the intruders.

### *Architecture*

The tomb is cut in the hillside almost two meters below the surface,<sup>3</sup> and it appears never to have had any means of easy access, such as stairs. The most outstanding feature is, of course, its circular stone door, measuring 1.26m in diameter by .36m thick. This stone, after being raised to its original position, could be rolled with some difficulty by one person (see Pl. II:1).

The level runway extends the full length of the forecourt, north-south along the front (west) of the tomb (Pl. II:2). It consists of a wall parallel to the front of the tomb, set forward just enough to allow the stone to roll between. This wall is divided into two sections by a space corresponding with the entrance. The wall has been broken down. The north section still partially contains four courses of stone, probably the maximum height, but the south only three. There is paving in the runway, which reaches the full north-south length of the forecourt; but the paving extends less than half a meter west (in front) of the runway wall. (See Pl. II:2; Fig. 1.)

The front of the tomb itself has been lined by a stone veneer, and like the runway wall, it too has been partly destroyed. It could contain at least one more course of stones, where now there are only three. The lintel, as already mentioned, was broken away by

<sup>3</sup>Reuben G. Bullard, "Geological Study of the Heshbon Area," *AUSS* 10 (1972): 129-141.

robbers. The exterior, as well as the interior, is devoid of inscriptions or cut decorations of any kind. A large number one (1) was cut over the entrance by order of the director to distinguish it as Tomb 1 of that area.

Access to the interior is gained by a small entrance .90m high by .60m wide. From this three steps lead down into the central chamber (see Pl. III:1), which is 3.10m by 2.90m square and 1.48m in height. There is a pit in the floor of this chamber, measuring 1.84m by 1.90m square and .26m deep; this creates a ledge or bench which is level with the floor of each of the loculi. Twelve loculi radiate from the chamber, four each in the south (Pl. III:2), east (Pl. IV:1), and north walls (Pl. IV:2). The loculi are very regular in shape, averaging .50m wide, .90m high, 2m long. The entrances of these loculi were, it seems, originally meant to be rectangular; however, some of the soft limestone has caved in, giving several a gabled look. The front part of the partition between loculi 11 and 12 has also fallen in (Pl. IV:2).

Before excavation was completed, several stones in the lower portion of the north section of the runway wall were reset with cement. The circular stone door was cemented in place, slightly rolled back from the entrance, to prevent its being moved by villagers or tourists. It was feared that the movement of the stone would in time irreparably damage it, since chipping of the edges occurred with every movement between the runway walls (a complete architectural drawing is given in Fig. 1).

### *Skeletal Remains*

Human skeletal remains were found outside as well as inside the tomb. All bone material was carefully sorted and labeled with locus or loculus numbers.<sup>4</sup> Because of the severely fragmented condition of long bones, only skulls, skull fragments, mandibles, and

<sup>4</sup>Our thanks to Robert M. Little, who graciously gave his assistance in the analysis of the skeletal material.

teeth were saved for analysis. All remaining material was reburied in Tomb 6 of the same Area.

During clearance of the runway, human skeletal remains were found in the southern end (locus lc, Pl. VI:1, right end). The remains proved to be those of a male adult approximately twenty-five and a male child about ten. Associated objects were a small bronze ring (H71 958), probably belonging to the child, a fragmented Early Roman lamp (H71 1239, Fig. 2:8), and a few scattered Early as well as Late Roman sherds.

Three possible solutions exist as to why the bones were deposited in the runway: a primary burial, the work of tomb robbers, or an act of desecration.

The first possibility, that of a primary burial, can be ruled out immediately. The skeletons were disarticulated, that is, mixed in such a way as not to allow for the existence of two bodies in such a small area. The skeletons were not complete as to the number or type of bones present. And finally, the Early Roman lamp was smashed as though broken after being thrown to the ground; it had not been carefully placed in the position in which it was found. It seems reasonable to conclude that the bones had originally been inside the tomb.

A second solution may lie in the workings of tomb robbers, ancient or modern. If it was a modern disturbance, such material would have been on or just under the surface; but these remains were nearly a meter and a half deep. Certainly the tomb had been looted in ancient times, hence the great amount of soil placed inside to reseal it—probably a pious act, by the ancients, of reburying the disturbed dead.<sup>5</sup> However, this too is not a satisfactory solution, because tomb robbers, whether ancient or modern, do not empty the contents of a tomb, leaving it outside. This would expose their clandestine activities to public view. Grave robbing has at times

<sup>5</sup>Along with F.1, other tombs which contained this same kind of Byzantine fill at Heshbon were F.5, F.6, F.8, F.14, G.10. See again Smith, p. 554.

carried stern punishment, even death.<sup>6</sup> Robbers always scatter and break material inside the tomb while sorting through to find valuables; such work must be done hurriedly, and time is wasted by throwing material outside.

Finally, but still unsatisfactorily, we may postulate that the tomb was desecrated. The Early Roman lamp sets the time in which the bodies were interred, and it could be assumed that the few Late Roman sherds, mixed up with the remains, give the period in which they were deposited within the runway. A portion of stone veneer was resting partly on the skeletons, which leads to the assumption that, while the tomb was being emptied, it was also being dismantled.<sup>7</sup> Perhaps in a frantic attempt to desecrate the tomb, the intruders tired after sufficiently wrecking the exterior and exposing several skeletons and then gave up, leaving the tomb open and vulnerable. If this happened in the Late Roman period, the bones in the runway could have been sufficiently covered by the Byzantine period to escape the notice of the pious ones and therefore would not have been re-interred.

Any stratigraphy which had been in the tomb was destroyed by robbers. Practically all bone material was smashed, and from the fresh appearance of the breaks this condition was brought about in modern times. The lack of stratigraphy is attested by the numerous skulls and mandibles reconstructed from pieces located at opposite

<sup>6</sup>An inscription from Nazareth regarding the violation of tombs reads (given in S. A. Cook, "A Nazareth Inscription on the Violation of Tombs," *PEFQS*, January 1932, pp. 85-87): "Imperial decree: it is my decision that tombs and graves which have been made for the cult of ancestors or children or relatives, that these remain undisturbed for ever. If then anyone lays information that someone has destroyed them or in some way or other has exhumed the corpses, or has malevolently transferred the body to other places to the prejudice of the corpses or has displaced inscriptions or stones, I ordain that against such an one there should be a trial just as in respect of the cult of mortals as in respect of that of the gods. For much more should one honor the dead. Altogether then, let no one be permitted to change their place. Otherwise it is my will that the offender undergo capital punishment for the violation of graves."

<sup>7</sup>This part of the veneer was clearly not torn off at the same time as the lintel, because it was buried beneath the area disturbed by the modern robbers.

sides of the tomb. The most dramatic examples are skulls S20 (from 2B, 2, 3, and 4), S22 (from 6, 7, and 10), and S30 (from 1, 3, and 7).<sup>8</sup>

Because of the lack of articulated skeletons and the fact that most bone was irreparably splintered, determination of the number of individuals interred and of their sex and age could be made safely only from mandibles. Analysis revealed 77 individuals (including the two from the runway, locus 1c), 34 of whom were male, 33 female, and 10 children. The ages ranged from 1½ to 60+ years. It is important to make a comparative breakdown of ages and sex, of the 77:

age 20 ± 15 under, 62 over,

age 30 ± 37 under, 40 over,

age 40 ± 43 under, 34 over,

age 50 ± 7 over;

of those over the age of 40, 16 are men and 18 women, and of those over 50, 3 are men and 4 women. The number of women living longer than men is so minor as to show a rather even life span expectancy. If the ages are averaged, the expected life span is roughly 32 years, but such averaging unfairly represents all those who lived well beyond 40 (see skeletal table, p.90).

An unusual characteristic, which deserves special attention, is the presence of a metopic suture in six of the skulls (e.g., Pl. V:1).<sup>9</sup> An abnormally high occurrence of this kind strongly hints of an inherited trait, and hence probably a family use of the tomb. During the 1973 Heshbon season, two more skulls with metopic sutures were found in Tombs F.12 (Late Roman) and F.16 (Early Byzantine), as well as skulls 6 and 15 (both female) from Tomb F.38 (Early Roman

<sup>8</sup>All of the mandibles and skulls reconstructed from various locations within the tomb are as follows:

Mandibles: M4 (2A, 1, 3), M5 (2A, 2B), M6 (2A, 2D), M8 (2A, 1), M9 (2A, 2D), M13 (2B, 7), M14 (2B, 2D), M15 (2B, 2C), M62 (2A, 1).

Skulls: S18 (2A, 2B, 5), S19 (2A, 2D), S20 (2B, 2, 3, 4), S21 (2A, 3, 6), S22 (6, 7, 10), S26 (2B, 2C, 6), S30 (1, 3, 7), S31 (2A, 2B, 2), S32 (3, 5), S33 (2, 11), S36 (2D, 10), S39 (2,3), S41 (2A, 2), S42 (2B, 5).

<sup>9</sup>Skulls: S24 male, age 40+; S25 female, age 30+; S26 female, age 60+; S27 male, age 40+; S28 female, age 40+; and S29 child.

to Byzantine) found in 1976, showing a possible later extension of the F.1 family.<sup>10</sup>

Mandible M20 shows an unmistakable healed break at the chin (Pl. V:2). It was not merely a break, but one-fourth inch of bone and two teeth have been sliced out and ridges formed on each raw end, indicating prolonged rubbing before healing. No "normal" blow could account for such an injury. The mandible is that of a 40 year old male, and shows unusually strong muscular attachments. The teeth exhibit extreme wear from rough diet. A possible explanation for such a wound, muscular development, and diet could be that the man had been a soldier. It was found that a Roman short sword could remove such a chunk of bone.<sup>11</sup> Extreme muscular development and rough diet were common to the ancient professional soldier. This identification is further enhanced by the fact that Herod chose Heshbon as one of his settlements for veterans to protect his frontier.<sup>12</sup>

It has been the common opinion that the pit in the central chamber of a loculus (*kokhim*) type tomb is for the deposition of bones to accommodate new burials in the loculi.<sup>13</sup> A combination of evidence from the Heshbon cemetery and previously published tombs will help to establish the actual function of this pit. Its uses were: to allow one to stand upright in the chamber, to form a ledge or bench for the preparation of the dead, and to provide a sump for the drainage of water.

<sup>10</sup>Dewey M. Beegle, "Necropolis Area F," *AUSS* 13 (1975): 203-211. On pp. 204 and 209, Nitowski's identification and analysis is used. The skull from F.12 (a shaft tomb) is that of a child; from F.16 (also a shaft tomb) of a male 45-50 years old. That F.1 was a family tomb, there is no doubt; burial practices in Palestine from early periods dictated interment with the family, and burial apart from the family was a disgrace. See Gen. 25:7-10; 49:29-31; 50:13; II Sam. 2:32; I Kings 13:22; Shinedling, p. 594; Joseph A. Callaway, "Burials in Ancient Palestine: From the Stone Age to Abraham," *BA* 26 (1963): 74.

<sup>11</sup>Comparison of a Roman short sword (AUAM 64.087) in Andrews University's Horn Archaeological Museum with the mandible showed that such a sword could have inflicted the blow.

<sup>12</sup>Michael Avi-Yonah, *The Holy Land* (Grand Rapids, Mich., 1966), pp. 99-101.

<sup>13</sup>Jack Finegan, *The Archaeology of the New Testament* (Princeton, 1972), p. 185; Eric M. Meyers, "Secondary Burials in Palestine," *BA* 33 (1970): 20.

The first of the uses proposed is the most practical, simply to allow one to stand upright in the tomb. In the Heshbon tombs there was enough clearance between the bench and ceiling so that one could stand without using the pit.<sup>14</sup> However, in other tombs of this type, one cannot stand except in the pit, as in Tombs 5 and 6 at Kurkush (both rolling-stone tombs).<sup>15</sup> Tomb 5 has a 38-inch clearance between the bench and ceiling, while Tomb 6 has only 24 inches.

The presence of the pit forms a bench on three sides, and often on four sides. In some cases, such as Tombs II and III at Giv'at ha-Mivtar, the stairs lead directly into the pit, and one is unable to step from the stairs over to the bench.<sup>16</sup> Under these circumstances, if the central pit was used for the reburial of bones, one would be forced to step down onto the bones, not only to get into the tomb, but especially to use the loculi along the wall opposite the door. There are three alternative means of bone reburial: (1) ossuaries, used predominantly around Jerusalem; (2) pushing bones back toward the closed end of the loculus (*kokh*); (3) the use of a covered side pit. Tomb III at Giv'at ha-Mivtar contains two such small pits, apart from the central pit.<sup>17</sup> These were in the northeastern corner (containing more than two skeletons), and in the southwestern corner (containing eight skeletons), with no bones in the central pit. Whenever bones are found in the central pit, it is also generally noted that the tomb at one time or another had been robbed and shows signs of that disturbance.<sup>18</sup>

The bench is level with the floor of the loculus, and it has been found to hold ossuaries, pottery, and other funerary objects.<sup>19</sup> It is also highly probable that the bench held the body for burial preparation. This seems to be indicated in the New Testament

<sup>14</sup>Heshbon tombs: F.1, F.6, F.14, F.18, F.28, F.31, G.10.

<sup>15</sup>C. R. Conder and H. H. Kitchener, *The Survey of Western Palestine*, 2 (London, 1882): 339-340.

<sup>16</sup>V. Tzaferis, "Jewish Tombs at and near Giv'at ha-Mivtar, Jerusalem," *IEJ* 20 (1970): 18-32, Figs. 3, 4.

<sup>17</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 19, Fig. 4.

<sup>18</sup>B. Ravani, "Rock-Cut Tombs at Ḥuqoq: The Excavations," *Atiqot*, 3 (1961): 125.

<sup>19</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 123; Robert H. Smith, "The Tomb of Jesus," *BA* 30 (1967): 87-88.

account concerning the placement of the body of Christ before its final interment.<sup>20</sup>

The third use of the central pit, that of a sump, is most clearly attested by Tombs F.1 and F.6 at Heshbon.<sup>21</sup> At the bottom of the pit, a washed-in clay layer several centimeters thick was found which contained sherds but no bone fragments of any kind. Since the floor of the loculus is level with the bench, the pit prevents water from running back on to the bodies.

### *Tomb Parallels*

F.1 was the first rolling-stone tomb found east of the Jordan river. In 1974 a second, also at Heshbon (G.10), was excavated.<sup>22</sup> Our present research has documented 61 tombs (including the two at Heshbon) that used a rolling-stone for the entrance closure.<sup>23</sup> Of

<sup>20</sup>Mark 16:5 and John 20:12; E. L. Sukenik, "The Earliest Records of Christianity," *AJA* 51 (1947): 351.

<sup>21</sup>The discussion between D. Waterhouse and D. Beegle in their excavation reports in *AUSS* concerning the sump theory is probably best settled by J. Davis's statement: "The fact that silting occurred outside the sump area may be due to ground shifting as a result of earthquake activity or to the tomb masons' merely following an old but ill understood architectural tradition" ("Areas F and K," *AUSS* 16 [1978]: 132).

<sup>22</sup>James H. Stirling, "Areas E, F, and G.10," *AUSS* 14 (1976): 101-106.

<sup>23</sup>Other rolling stone tombs not used as parallels:

Abu Gosh (2 tombs), F.-M. Abel, "Deux tombeaux à meule à Abou Ghoch," *RB* 34 (1925): 275-279.

Kh. Malhah (8 tombs), Rushmia (1 tomb), Shefa 'Amr (1 tomb), Conder and Kitchener 1:315, 329, 339.

'Ayun Heiderah (1 tomb), Kh. Heiderah (1 tomb), Kh. Esh Shih (3 tombs), Mâlûf (1 tomb), Sûrafend (3 tombs), Yâsûf (1 tomb), Conder and Kitchener, 2:6, 30, 33, 62, 123, 378.

Bethphage (2 tombs), Sylvester J. Saller and E. Testa, *The Archaeological Setting of the Shrine of Bethphage* (Jerusalem, 1961).

Deir Dibwan (2 tombs), mentioned in correspondence from Joseph Callaway.

Gezer (8 tombs), R. A. Stewart Macalister, *The Excavations of Gezer*, 1 (London, 1912): 320, 332, 334, 368, 376, 377, 381, 387.

H. Midras (2 tombs, one of which is a parallel) Amos Kloner, "H. Midras (Kh. Durusiya)," *IEJ* 27 (1977): 251-253.

Jerusalem — Herodian Family tomb, Finegan, p. 198.

Jerusalem — École Biblique Française (1 tomb), Conrad Schick, "Discoveries North of Damascus Gate," *PEFQS*, 1890, pp. 9-11.

Jerusalem — Sanhedria Tomb 19, Julius Jotham-Rothschild, "The Tombs of Sanhedria," *PEQ*, January-April 1952, pp. 23-38.

the 61, only 17 are similarly constructed with interior loculi (*kokhim*): two at Nazareth,<sup>24</sup> four at Kurkush,<sup>25</sup> one at Mughar Esh Sherif,<sup>26</sup> one at Khirbet Ibreiktas,<sup>27</sup> one at Heshbon (G.10), three at Silet edh-Dhahr,<sup>28</sup> one at el-Mejdel,<sup>29</sup> and those not of a purely loculus architecture: one at Deir ed-Derb,<sup>30</sup> the tomb of Queen Helena of Adiabene in Jerusalem,<sup>31</sup> and one at Wadi er-Rababi.<sup>32</sup> The 17th, which bears the most striking resemblance with regard to exterior construction, is one at H. Midras (Kh. Durusiya).<sup>33</sup> It is important to notice the similarities in detail, because this tomb and F.1 exhibit the most elaborate exterior architecture of all such tombs. First is the presence of a paved forecourt. In F.1 the paving extends less than half a meter beyond the runway wall, while at H. Midras the court is completely set with stone. Perhaps this would indicate that the jagged paving of F.1 was never finished. The retaining wall of H. Midras, almost complete, illustrates how F.1 could be restored. H. Midras also has the second wall, like the veneer of F.1, against the stone outcrop in which the tomb was cut.

Tel 'Eton (1 tomb), David Ussishkin, "Tombs from the Israelite Period at Tel 'Eton," *Tel Aviv*, 1, (1974): 109-127.

Tell en-Naşbeh (1 tomb), Chester C. McCown, *Tell En-Naşbeh*, 1 (New Haven, 1947): 118.

Beit Jibrin (1 tomb), Warren J. Moulton, "A Painted Christian Tomb at Beit Jibrin," *AASOR*, 2-3, for 1921-22 (New Haven, 1923), pp. 95-104.

Nablus (1 tomb), F.-M. Abel, "Notre exploration à Naplouse," *RB*, 31 (1922): 89-99, 129.

Tel Baruch (1 tomb), J. Kaplan, "The Archaeology and History of Tel Aviv-Jaffa," *BA*, 35 (1972): 66-95.

<sup>24</sup>Asad Mansur, "An Interesting Discovery in Nazareth," *PEFQS*, 1923, pp. 89-91; P. B. Bagatti, *Excavations in Nazareth* (Jerusalem, 1969).

<sup>25</sup>Conder and Kitchener, 2: 339-340; M. Ralph Savignac, "Visite aux fouilles de Samarie. A travers les nécropoles de la Montagne d'Éphraïm," *RB*, n.s., 7 (1910): 113-127.

<sup>26</sup>Conder and Kitchener, 2: 142.

<sup>27</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 31.

<sup>28</sup>O. R. Sellers and D. C. Baramki, "A Roman-Byzantine Burial Cave in Northern Palestine," *BASOR*, Supplementary Studies, nos. 15-16 (1953).

<sup>29</sup>Conder and Kitchener, 2: 202.

<sup>30</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 314; Savignac, pp. 113-127.

<sup>31</sup>Finegan, pp. 199-202.

<sup>32</sup>R. A. Stewart Macalister, "The Rock Cut Tombs in Wady er-Rababi, Jerusalem," *PEFQS*, 1901, pp. 148-149.

<sup>33</sup>Kloner, pp. 251-253.

The track of F.1 is level, while that of H. Midras is slanted toward the entrance, making closure of the tomb automatic.<sup>34</sup> The rolling stones themselves differ only slightly in size; the one in F.1 is 1.26m in diameter and .36m thick, while that at H. Midras is 1.80m in diameter and .32m thick. The interior of the two tombs does not differ in architectural style but in type of construction. H. Midras, rather than having its *kokhim* carved out of the stone outcrop, has them built out of cut stones. By extending one of the *kokhim* of the back wall, a second chamber was added later which contained arcosolia. The pottery from both tombs attests the same period of use.

### *Pottery and Objects*

Because of the severely disturbed nature of Tomb F.1's interior, very few loci had a clear, unmixed pottery reading. Loculi 3, 4, and 5 had pure Early Roman sherds, as well as the central pit, locus 15. All other loci (interior and exterior) are mixed, but contain Early Roman sherds (see pottery reading by locus p.91).

The predominance of reconstructed pottery is Early Roman, with four from the Late Roman period; only sherds were found from the Byzantine period (Fig. 2). One large jug was restored from pieces found in the central chamber and the exterior court (Fig. 2:6). As previously noted, an Early Roman lamp found with the skeletons in the southern end of the runway (locus 1c) provides a date for those remains (Fig. 2:8).

It is clear from the pottery and architectural style that the tomb was constructed in the Early Roman period.<sup>35</sup> It continued in use through the Late Roman period, but the few scattered Byzantine sherds should not be considered as constituting evidence for the use

<sup>34</sup>The rolling-stone tomb at the École Biblique Française in Jerusalem also has a slanted track.

<sup>35</sup>Rolling-stone tombs with loculus (*kokhim*) interior construction and which can be dated to the Early Roman period from ceramic evidence are: H. Midras, Nazareth, Silet edh-Dhahr, Heshbon (G.10). Non-rolling-stone *kokhim* tombs supporting the Early Roman date, to name a few: Heshbon F.6, F.8, F.14, F.18, F.28, F.31; Ravani, T.I, T.II, T.IV; L.Y. Rahmani, "Jewish Rock-Cut Tombs in Jerusalem," *Atiqot*, 3 (1961), Figs. 8, 9, 10; Tzaferis, T.I, T.II, T.III, T.IV; McCown, T.2, T.4, T.6, T.8, T.71.

of the tomb for burials in that period, but probably only the act of resealing against violation as mentioned above.

Aside from the reconstructable pottery, 36 small objects were found, although most of them fragmented. These objects were not expected in view of the recent vandalism suffered by the tomb. The kinds of objects represented, when compared to those of the other tombs of the same type at Heshbon (F.6, F.14, F.18, F.38, and G.10), exhibit a popular pattern for burial furnishings for this period. The objects found are as follows: nine beads, four black buttons, five ivory hairpins, one gold earring, one bronze bell, one glass bottle, one ceramic box fragment, one wood fragment with iron nails, five rings (one iron, one silver, three bronze), and eight bracelets (two iron, two glass [Pl. VI:2], four bronze).

## SKELETAL TABLE

Age	Children*	Female	Male	Total
1½	M23			1
2	M30/31 M38, M39			3
2½	M24			1
4	M19			1
5	M48, M68			2
7	M61			1
8	M60			1
10			M2	1
13			M13	1
14		M63		1
17			M14	1
20			M5	1
25		M10, M62, M67	M1, M15, M58, M73	7
30		M18, M28, M46, M50, M52, M53, M76	M11, M25, M41, M57, M59, M65, M69, M74	15
35		M22, M37, M42, M71	M6, M43	6
40		M17, M27, M45, M70, M77	M7, M9, M20, M29, M40, M44, M49, M51, M72	14
40+		M33	M34	2
45		M8, M12, M75, M78	M4	5
45+		M3	M26, M64	3
50			M32	1
50+		M56	M16, M36	3
60		M55		1
60+		M21, M66		2
Adult		M35, M47, M54		3
				—
				77

\*Child too young to determine sex

## POTTERY READING BY LOCUS

## EXTERIOR

## Locus, Loculus

- 1 1 possible Arabic, Byzantine, Late Roman, Early Roman dominant, 7th-6th B.C.
- 1a 1 possible Arabic, Byzantine, 1 Late Roman, 2 Early Roman
- 1b none
- 1c few Late Roman, Early Roman
- 1d few possible Byzantine, Late Roman, Early Roman, few 7th-6th B.C.
- 1e Late Roman, Early Roman
- 1f Late Roman, Early Roman, few 7th-6th B.C.
- 1g Late Roman, Early Roman, few 7th-6th B.C.
- 1h Early Roman, 7th-6th B.C.

## INTERIOR

- 2 few Byzantine, Late Roman, Early Roman dominant, 7th-6th B.C.
- 1 1 possible Late Roman, Early Roman
- 2 Byzantine body sherds, Late Roman, Early Roman, 7th-6th B.C.
- 3 Early Roman
- 4 Early Roman
- 5 Early Roman
- 6 Late Roman, Early Roman, 7th-6th B.C.
- 7 Late Roman, Early Roman dominant
- 8 Early Roman, 7th-6th B.C.
- 9 none
- 10 Byzantine, Late Roman, Early Roman dominant
- 11 none
- 12 none
- 15 Early Roman

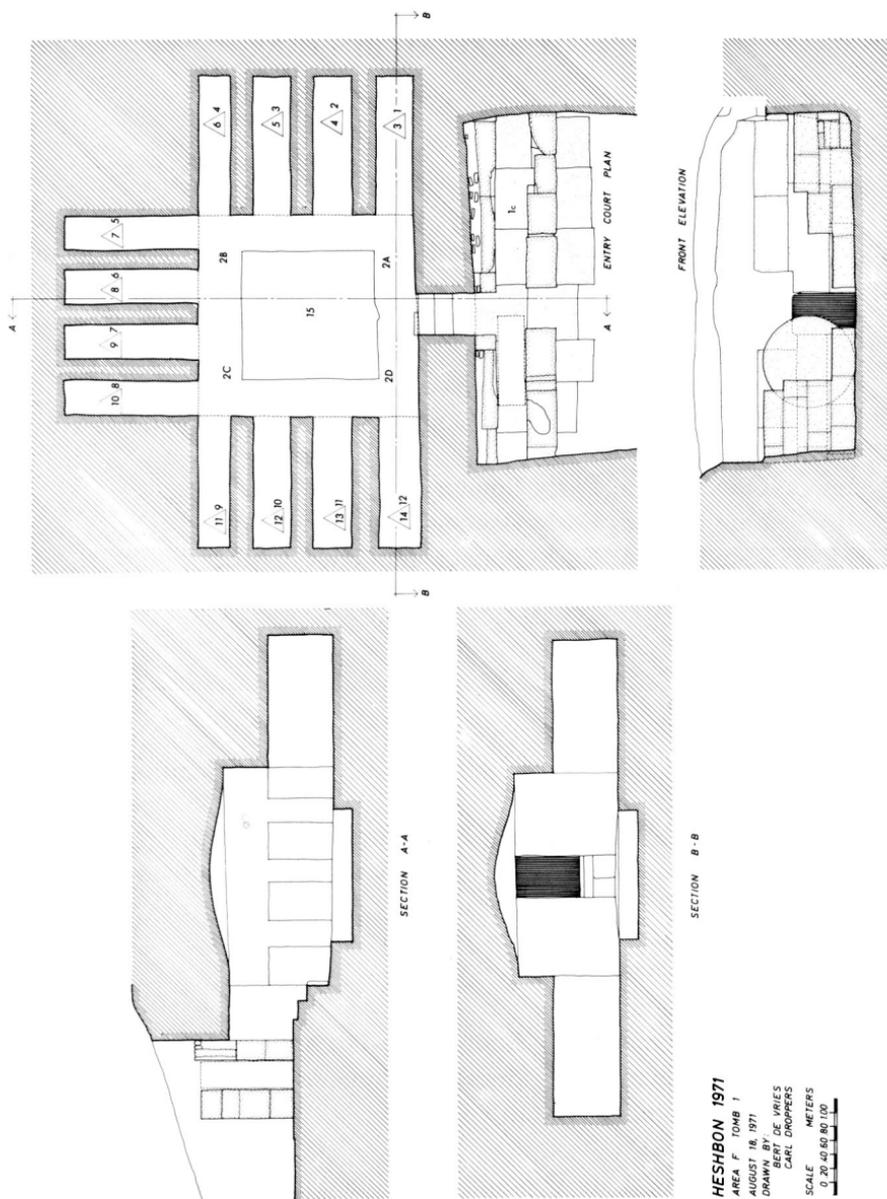
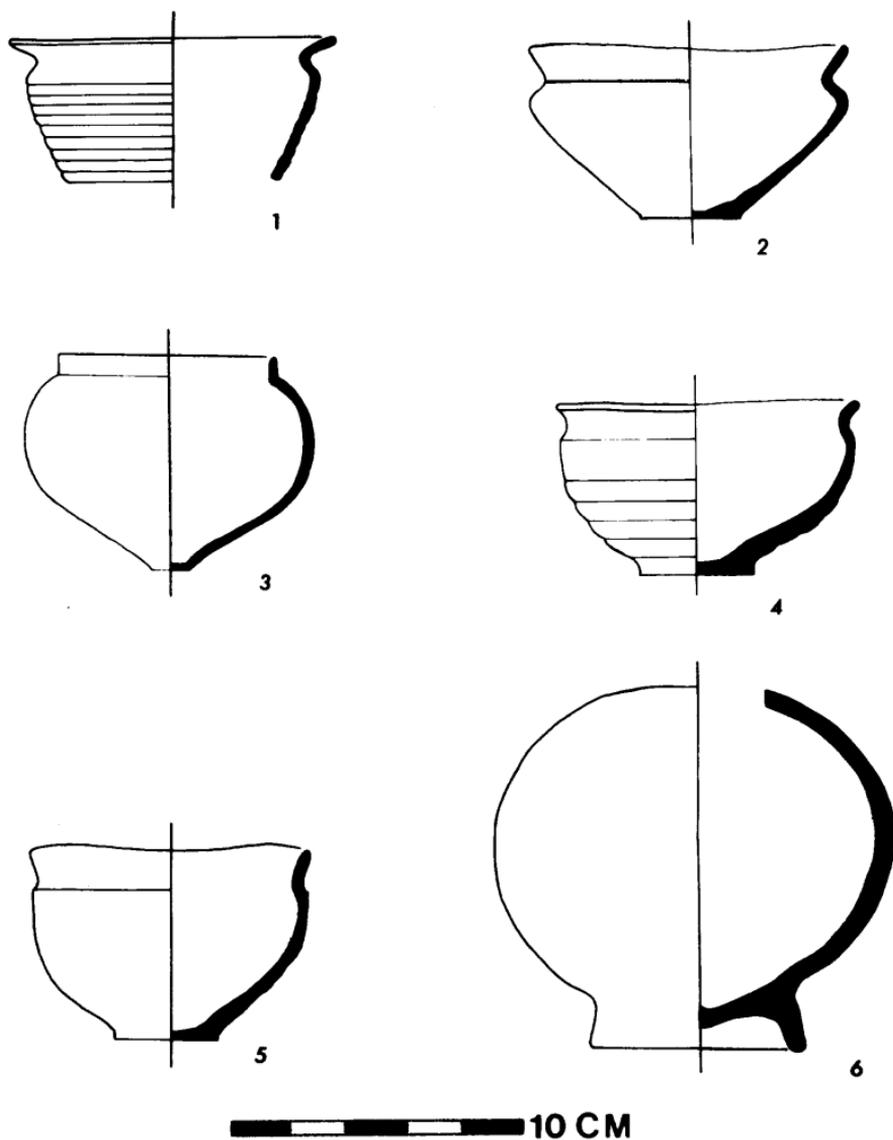
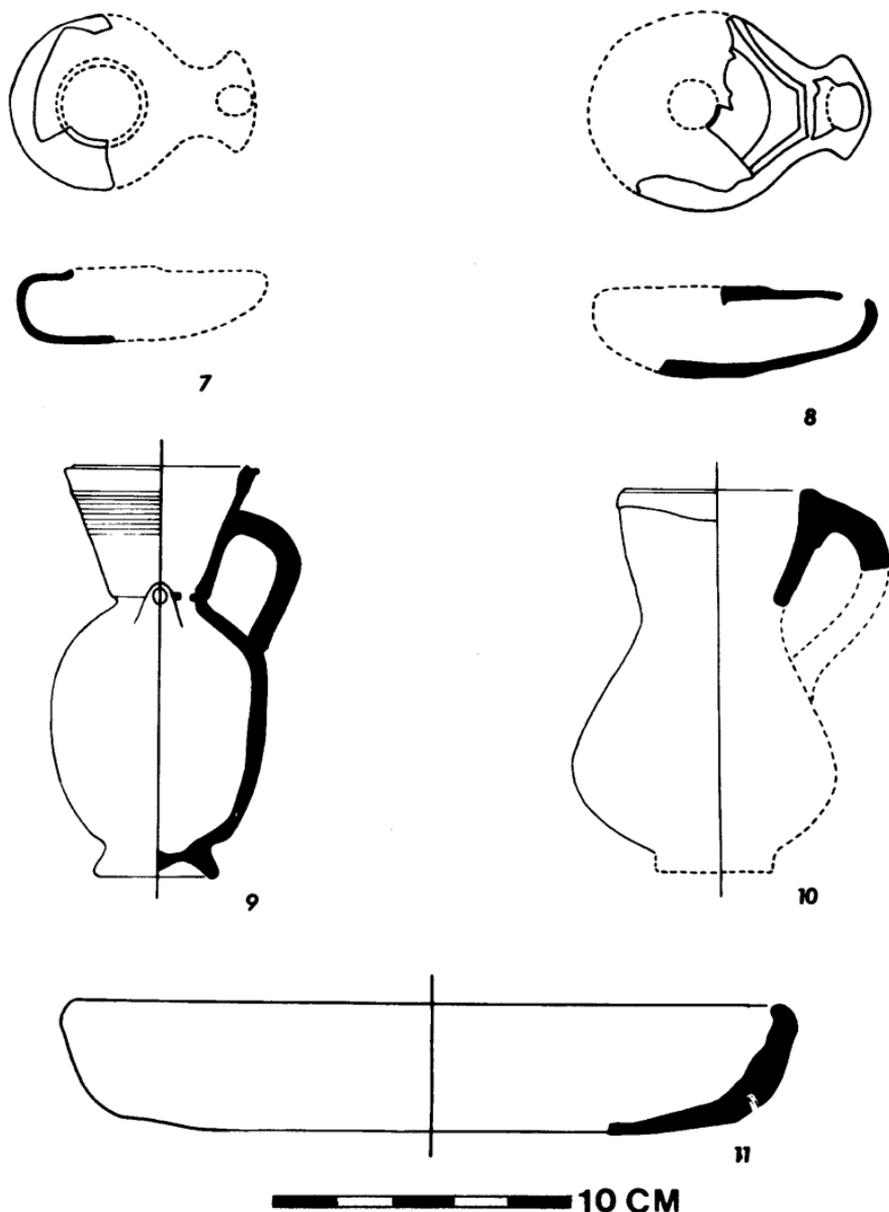


Fig. 1. Plan and sections of the Rolling-Stone Tomb



1. Bowl (1247/71.813) Early Roman—2A—7.5YR-7/4 pink over 10YR-6/1 light gray
2. Bowl (1244/71.810) Early Roman—2B, 4—10YR-6/2 light brownish gray mixed with 5YR-6/3 light reddish brown
3. Bowl (1245/71.811) Late Roman—2—5YR-7/4 pink and 5YR-7/6 reddish yellow
4. Bowl (1243/71.809) Early Roman—2—5YR-7/6 reddish yellow
5. Bowl (1109/71.526) Early Roman—2A—5YR-7/6 reddish yellow
6. Jug (1242/71.808) Late Roman—1g, 2—2.5YR-6/4 light reddish brown

FIG. 2 is continued on the next page.



7. Lamp-Herodian (1240/71.806) Early Roman—2B—5YR-6/6 reddish yellow
8. Lamp (1239/71.805) Early Roman—1c—10YR-6/1 gray
9. Strainer jug (1040/71.643) Early Roman—2B—10YR-5/2 grayish brown and 5YR-6/6 reddish yellow
10. Jug (1241/71.807 Late Roman—2, 6—5YR-7/6 reddish yellow and 7.5YR-8/4 pink wash
11. Bowl (1248/71.814) Late Roman—2A—7.5YR-7/6 reddish yellow with 10YR-5/1 gray and 2.5YR-5/6 red paint



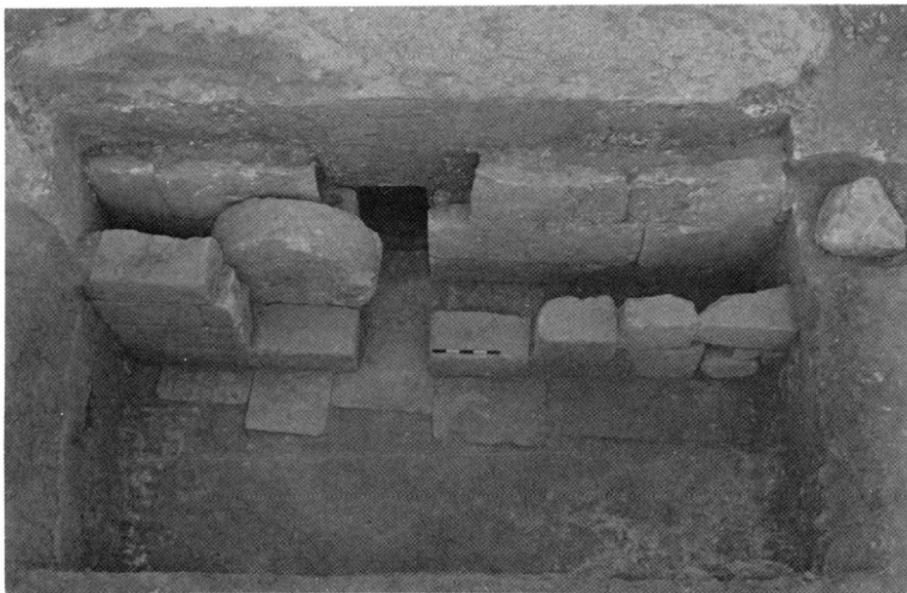
1. Exterior before excavation, showing rolling-stone pulled back and lying almost flat.



2. Exterior during excavation, before rolling-stone was raised and placed in its track.



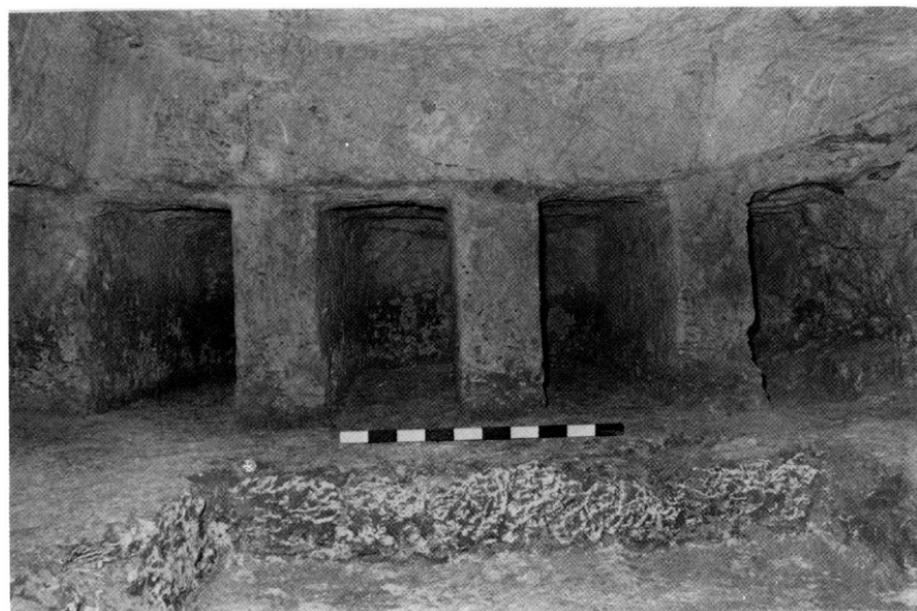
1. Excavator, Eugenia Nitowski, emerging from tomb entrance, illustrating size of doorway and rolling-stone.



2. Excavation of tomb exterior completed.



1. Interior view: west wall with doorway.



2. Interior view: south wall.



1. Interior view: east wall.



2. Interior view: north wall.



1. Skull fragment with metopic suture.

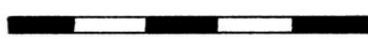


2. Mandible (M20) showing healed break.



1. Detail view of the track in front of the tomb, holding the rolling-stone.



 5 CM

2. Black glass bracelet found inside the tomb.