

MADABA PLAINS PROJECT: TALL AL-'UMAYRI, 2000

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Introduction

An eighth season of excavation by the Madaba Plains Project occurred between June 19 and August 2, 2000, at Tall al-'Umayri, located about 10 km south of Amman's Seventh Circle on the Queen Alia Airport Highway at the turnoff for Amman National Park (Figure 1). It was sponsored by La Sierra University in consortium with Canadian University College and Walla Walla College and in affiliation with Andrews University.¹ This season, a team of forty Jordanians and sixty-seven foreigners, mostly from the United States, took part in the interdisciplinary project.²

¹Previous reports in *AUSS* include Lawrence T. Geraty, "The Andrews University Madaba Plains Project: A Preliminary Report on the First Season at Tell el-'Umeiri," *AUSS* 23 (1985): 85-110; Lawrence T. Geraty, Larry G. Herr, and Øystein S. LaBianca, "The Joint Madaba Plains Project: A Preliminary Report on the Second Season at Tell el-'Umeiri and Vicinity (June 18 to August 6, 1987)," *AUSS* 26 (1988): 217-252; Randall W. Younker, Lawrence T. Geraty, Larry G. Herr, and Øystein S. LaBianca, "The Joint Madaba Plains Project: A Preliminary Report of the 1989 Season, Including the Regional Survey and Excavations at El-Dreijat, Tell Jawa, and Tell el-'Umeiri (June 19 to August 8, 1989)," *AUSS* 28 (1990): 5-52; Randall W. Younker, Lawrence T. Geraty, Larry G. Herr, and Øystein S. LaBianca, "The Joint Madaba Plains Project: A Preliminary Report of the 1992 Season, Including the Regional Survey and Excavations at Tell Jalul and Tell El-'Umeiri (June 16 to July 31, 1992)," *AUSS* 31 (1993): 205-238; Randall W. Younker, Lawrence T. Geraty, Larry G. Herr, Øystein S. LaBianca, and Douglas R. Clark, "Preliminary Report of the 1994 Season of the Madaba Plains Project: Regional Survey, Tall al-'Umayri and Tall Jalul Excavations (June 15 to July 30, 1994)," *AUSS* 34 (1996): 65-92; Randall W. Younker, Lawrence T. Geraty, Larry G. Herr, Øystein S. LaBianca, and Douglas R. Clark, "Preliminary Report of the 1996 Season of the Madaba Plains Project: Regional Survey, Tall al-'Umayri and Tall Jalul Excavations," *AUSS* 35 (1997): 227-240; Larry G. Herr, Douglas R. Clark, Lawrence T. Geraty, and Øystein S. LaBianca, "Madaba Plains Project: Tall al-'Umayri, 1998," *AUSS* 38 (1998): 29-44.

²The authors of this report are especially indebted to Dr. Fawwaz el-Khraysheh, Director General of the Department of Antiquities; Ahmed esh-Shami and Rula Qusous, Department of Antiquities representatives; and other members of the Department of Antiquities, who facilitated our project at several junctures. The American Center of Oriental Research in Amman, directed by Pierre Bikai and assisted by Patricia Bikai, provided invaluable assistance. The staff was housed in Muqabalayn at the Amman Training College, an UNWRA vocational college for Palestinians. We give special thanks to its principal, Dr. Fakhri Tumulieh, for making our stay a genuine pleasure. The scientific goals

During the 2000 season we worked in five fields of excavation primarily at the western edge of the site (Fields A, B, and H), but also at the southern lip (Field L) and at the base of the southeastern slope (Field K) (Figure 2). Excavation centered on several periods of excavation. First, we traced the surfaces associated with the Early Bronze Age dolmen in Field K dated to about 3000 B.C. Second, we cleared two rooms of a major Late Bronze Age building in Field B from ca. 1400-1225 B.C. Third, we uncovered a house-shrine from our extensive Iron I city from about 1225-1000 B.C. in Fields A, B, and H. Fourth, we unearthed much more evidence for late Iron I at several locations on the site. Some of the evidence suggests a cult center near the southwest corner of the site in Field H. Fifth, we removed a portion of a late Iron II domestic pillared building from around 600 B.C. in Field B. And sixth, we exposed an isolated Hellenistic complex in Field L from the second century B.C. We will interpret the finds below field by field.

Field A: A House-Shrine from the Time of the Judges

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In Judg 17 a man named Micah and his mother melted down pieces of silver, made an image of YHWH, set it up in their house (or in an adjoining room) as a shrine, and hired a Levite to minister there. During the summer of 2000

and procedures of the project were approved by the Committee on Archaeological Policy of the American Schools of Oriental Research.

The authors wish to thank each member of the staff. The field supervisor for Field A was John Lawlor of Concourse University; square supervisors included Ahmed ash-Shami, Heather McMurray, Jürg Egger, and Joseph Rivers; assistant supervisors were Craig Curtis, Rob Holm, Ben Chambers, Fred Holcomb, Julie Kuehn, and Jonathan Elick. The cofield supervisors for Field B were Douglas R. Clark of Walla Walla College and Kent Bramlett of the University of Toronto; square supervisors included Carolyn Rivers, Matthew Jacobsen, Jonathan Ponder, and Jeff Younker; assistant supervisors were Adam Rich, William Frei, Kim Rolling, Leanne Rolling, Daniel Cotton, Janelle Worthington, and Dena Zook. The field supervisor for Field H was David R. Berge of Hebrew Union College; square supervisors included Don Mook, Dean Holloway, Niko Geneblaza, John Heinz, and Nicholas Jones; assistant supervisors were Shilpa Kurkjian, Nicole Igboji, Garrick Herr, Sally Holcomb, Patrick Rosa, Wayne Jacobsen, and Nathan Kemler. The field supervisor for Field K was Elzbieta Dubis of Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland; square supervisors included Marcin Bando, Pawel Lepiarz, Marzena Daszewska; assistant supervisors were Maja Bialkowska and Sebastian Kowalewski. The field supervisor for Field L was David C. Hopkins of Wesley Theological Seminary; square supervisors included Mary Boyd, Sarah Knoll, and Dick Dorsett; assistant supervisors were Kate Dorsett, Alexander Kreuzer, Paul Ritter, Megan Owens, Richard Manchur, Jason Schilling, Jason Tatlock, and Gina Rogers. Camp staff and specialists included Karen Borstad (objects), Joan Chase (physical anthropology and eco-lab), Nancy Igboji (cook), Denise Herr (pottery registrar), Warren Trenchard (computers and photography), Joris Peters, Angela von den Driesch, and Nadja Pöllath (paleozoology), Rhonda Root (artist), and Gloria London (ceramic technology). An affiliated survey was directed by Gary Christopherson, assisted by Tisha Entz and Margaret Dew.

our team may have excavated a house used similarly in Fields A and B (Figure 3). If so, it is the first such excavated domestic dwelling known to us with a shrine as an integral part of it.

In earlier seasons the northern half of a well-preserved building was found in Field B, called Building A (Figures 4-5). It dated to the time of the Judges (the Iron Age I, about 1200 B.C.). This season we excavated the remaining portions of the building in Field A. The first room at the front of the building (Room 1) seems to have functioned domestically. A ring of stones defined a small hearth in the middle; two small bins were laid against the south wall, while another one was located next to a pillar base along the north wall. A lower millstone (quern) lay on the floor near the hearth. Hundreds of broken pieces of pottery, including small jars and jugs, were strewn about the floor south of the hearth. All these finds suggest domestic activities in the house.

Domestic finds were also made in Room 3 (the westernmost room), where about seven large jars leaned against the north wall. These types of jars, called "collared pithoi" due to the distinctive raised molding at the base of the neck, are typical of highland village sites. A platform in the southwest corner may have held a ladder for access to the second story.

Although situated between signs of domestic use in Rooms 1 and 3, Rooms 2 and 4 produced finds that suggest cultic activities. Although we need to emphasize that cultic interpretations must be tentative, most archaeologists would have little hesitation in describing our finds as religiously significant. Room 2 was paved with flagstones and sheltered a smooth, rectangular standing stone set upright against its west wall. The stone showed no tool marks that could have given it its present shape.³ Natural deposits of calcium smoothed its exterior. Such standing stones are almost universally regarded as symbols of a deity.⁴ Directly in front of the standing stone, but lying down, was a similar but thicker natural stone covered with a similar calcareous deposit. It may have been used as an altar associated with the standing stone.

Room 4, jutting to the south like a small alcove, contained eight mysteriously arranged stones that were similar to, but smaller than, the two stones in Room 2. Seven uncut but smooth stones lay side by side along the south wall of the alcove, while another leaned upright against the wall. Although these stones are not as well shaped as the standing stone in Room 2, they are nevertheless similar to standing stones found

³R. W. Younker, L. G. Herr, L. T. Geraty, and Øystein S. LaBianca, "The Joint Madaba Plains Project: A Preliminary Report of the 1992 Season," 205-238.

⁴Compare the two standing stones and two incense altars in the most holy niche at the Arad temple to YHWH. M. Aharoni, "Arad: The Israelite Citadels," in *The New Encyclopedia of Archaeological Excavations in the Holy Land*, ed. E. Stern (Jerusalem: Israel Exploration Society, 1993), 84.

in cultic situations elsewhere.⁵ Why seven of the stones were lying down is uncertain. The row of stones separating them from the surface to the north must be removed to see whether the stones were intended to be lying down or had originally been upright. Likewise, we cannot profitably speculate on why there were eight stones (seven plus one). The stones were found at the end of the season and could not be as fully defined as we would have liked.

More broken pottery was found on the surface east of Room 1. Although no walls have yet been found in this location, the presence of three pillar bases suggests it may be another room and not the exterior of the building.

Field A was also noteworthy for finding three other phases of Iron I construction, but they consisted mostly of wall fragments and small patches of surfaces. More excavation will have to be done in the southern parts of this field before we can interpret the finds with confidence.

Field B: The Late Bronze Age Public Building and Later Structures

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Although one of the aims of Siegfried Horn's initial excavations at Hisban (biblical Heshbon) had been to discover the Amorite city of Sihon mentioned in Num 21, Late Bronze Age deposits (ca. 1550-1200 B.C.) eluded the excavators. Remains from the period are rare everywhere in Jordan, especially the central and southern parts of the country. Imagine our surprise when, in 1998, we began to excavate two rooms of a building that contained nothing later than LB pottery (Figures 6-7).

This season the floors of the building were finally reached, but only after we had carefully dug through 3.5 m (about 12 feet) of debris below the top of the highest wall. This makes it the best-preserved LB building anywhere in the southern Holy Land. Moreover, the walls, at least 1 meter thick and constructed of nicely hewn stones (some in the rough shape of bricks), reflect a more important function for the building than mere domestic use. The floors of the two rooms were made of beaten earth with a step up to Room 2 (the western one) from Room 1. Unfortunately, no finds, except a bone lying on the surface of Room 2, emerged to help us determine a function for the building or the rooms. However, a doorway in the north wall of Room 1 probably leads into another part of the building, so future seasons may be able to find more clues. The destruction debris which filled the rooms was

⁵Although later in time and somewhat smaller, the row of standing stones in the Iron II gate at Dan comes to mind. A. Biran, *Biblical Dan* (Jerusalem: Israel Exploration Society, Hebrew Union College, Jewish Institute of Religion, 1994), 204.

only partially burned, but included clays and silts from the ceiling and roof, as well as masses of decayed bricks and hollow spaces, perhaps from wooden beams which have since rotted away. The massive amount of destruction debris implies at least one more story of bricks above the presently preserved stone structure.

Finds were rare in the destruction debris too, but a Mycenaean pottery sherd dates the destruction to the Late Bronze Age. The rest of the pottery suggests a date in the fourteenth and early thirteen centuries B.C. The inhabitants seem to have reused the fortifications built at the end of the Middle Bronze Age (sixteenth century B.C.). Indeed, the inhabitants may have been the same group of people. If so, they may be identified with the Canaanites or Amorites whom the Bible identifies as the inhabitants of the land prior to Israel's arrival. However, to connect the remains at 'Umayri with Sihon of Heshbon is not proper until much more evidence is at hand.

Elsewhere in Field B, a series of surfaces was found outside Building B, the four-room house (Figures 8-9). They may have belonged to a roadway or open space outside the houses in the area. Refinements to the Iron I phasing were also accomplished, showing that in its original phase Building B had no south wall for its courtyard (Figure 10, minus the stone wall at left). There was thus a broad entrance to the house from the south. Later, the south wall was constructed, enclosing the courtyard but retaining an entrance at the southeast corner (Figure 10). This entrance probably led to a large refuse pit that contained over 15,000 bones, mostly from the edible portions of various types of animals. However, the pit also contained two lion bones and one example from an Asian brown bear, a relative of the North American grizzly bear and the only species of bear known from the Holy Land in antiquity. The presence of pig bones, representing about 4 percent of the total, is of interest given biblical and other prohibitions concerning pigs.

The last of the late Iron II building fragments from about 600 B.C. was removed this season. It consisted of a row of three segmented columns with crude stone walls, or "quoins," between. In a previous season a large holemouth pithos had been removed from the eastern room of this building. This season, a second pithos, completely preserved (Figure 11), was found buried deep in the ground, with the floor of the house running up to its very top. Unfortunately, nothing was found inside the vessel except the bones of a small rodent unable to get back out once it had fallen in. Indeed, because the mouth had been covered with a large pottery sherd, the vessel was found completely empty with no earth inside. Iron I strata are now exposed in this area.

Technical construction workers helped us reconstruct part of Building B for the benefit of visitors. They did so with low maintenance, yet reasonably authentic, materials. Thick wooden posts were erected to support thick wooden beams constructed horizontally as rafters to hold up the ground-floor ceiling (also the floor of the second story). Thin wooden poles were laid over the rafters in the western part of the building and tightly secured atop the beams, then soaked in a sealant to protect them from rot. The eastern part of the house remains open, with only the posts and rafters visible. Canes from the Jordan Valley were coated with sealant and lashed to the wood below. A layer of cement about 15 cm thick (6 inches) was poured on top. The cement was colored and textured with soil from the surrounding fields to give it the look of hard mud. "Mud bricks" made of cement mixed with soil were fabricated in metal forms and placed above the walls as they would have been in antiquity. Only five courses of bricks were laid. The purpose of the reconstruction is to give visitors an idea of what the house would have looked like. A portion of the perimeter wall, against which the house had been built, was also reconstructed with stone to provide a sense of how people lived in an early Iron I town. Standing on top of the house and looking down at the fortification system, including the rampart and moat, gives one a feeling for the strength of ancient fortification systems. Workers also cleared out the moat at the bottom of the fortification system. The result is a dramatic view of the site from the west. 'Umayri is rapidly becoming an interesting site for tourists to visit.

Field H: Late Iron I Floors and Iron II Structures

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Field H is located at the southwestern corner of the site and was originally laid out to unearth the southern part of the large Ammonite administrative complex from the end of the Iron II period. This was largely accomplished in previous seasons. Although most of the research questions for the summer of 2000 comprised the testing of small areas, making many of the finds fragmentary, there were three features which were of more general interest.

A short segment of a very thick wall, ca. 2.5 m wide and dating to the early Iron I period (ca. 1200 B.C.), was found at the western edge of the site (Figure 12). It ran parallel to the early Iron I perimeter wall known from Fields A and B farther north after it had curved into the town (Figure 3). It is possible, therefore, that the two walls form an opening or gate complex. We cannot be certain of this suggestion, but future excavation should be able to

confirm or disconfirm it. Only a few gates from this time period have been found in the Holy Land.

Earlier we had found the largest room of the administrative structure and traced a splendid plaster surface throughout the room. This season, when we began to excavate beneath the surface, we noticed that the plaster did not seal against the walls of the room, but instead was cut by foundation trenches for the walls. This meant that the plaster floor was earlier than the administrative complex. Several layered surfaces were found in the room, all cut by the later walls. The earliest (lowest) surface we encountered was made of tightly packed cobblestones. It may have been part of a major building for which only one wall has been found. But we have cleared only a small portion of the pavement, ca. 2.5 x 4 m in size. The pottery suggests that it belonged to the late eleventh to tenth centuries B.C. The subsequent surfaces probably belonged to the same building as it was altered through time.

The surface above the cobbles, also dating to the late eleventh to tenth centuries, contained an extensive layer of smashed pottery, including jars and smaller vessels. Mixed in with the pottery were fragments from a cultic stand (Figure 13). Not enough of the vessel has been found so far to suggest how it looked in its entirety, but it may have been a ceramic shrine model that supported an incense burner. Flanking one of the openings and facing each other were two tall human figurines, one with what appears to be a male head, and both having bodies with a single breast, the outer one as they would have faced each other in the stand. Not enough research has been performed as yet to comment on these apparent hermaphroditic forms. Nearby, in 1998, we found fragments from one or more life-sized human statues, including an eye, an ear, a chin, a shoulder, parts of arms. Although from a later phase, the objects were in an obvious secondary deposit—that is, none of the pieces could be found to fit together. They could have originally come from the same deposit as the cultic stand or from another cultic deposit. Indeed, the shoulder piece had an opening much like the opening flanked by the figures from this year. Although other more mundane artifacts were found on the same surface, the cult stand would seem to suggest a religious function for this area of the site.

Into the early Iron I wall described above, the inhabitants of the late Iron II and early Persian settlement (ca. 550 B.C.) dug out a small storeroom ca. 1.5 x 2 m in size. When they encountered the wall, they carefully pulled out the boulders to form their chamber (Figure 12). One of the boulders proved too large and too deep to remove. It was chiseled out to form the southwest corner of the chamber. Fragments of jars found in the bottom of the room suggest its function as a storeroom.

Field K: The Early Bronze Age Dolmen

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Uniwersytet Jagiellonski, Krakow, Poland

A dolmen was uncovered in the 1994 season with twenty burials and copious objects inside, including complete pottery vessels and jewelry from EB IB (ca. 3000 B.C.).⁶ This year it continued to produce interesting results. Dolmens, structures made out of very large stones (Figure 14), are found throughout the Mediterranean basin, but none has produced any significant finds. Thus, although thousands were known when ours was discovered, it went a long way toward explaining the mysteries of their function and date. Even though our dolmen lacks the typical capstone of most structures, it was preserved with the burials intact because it was built on a slope and had been buried in debris washed down from the settlement above. During the 1996 and 1998 seasons the dolmen also produced multiple exterior plastered and semiplastered or pebbled surfaces which dated to the same period. This is the first time in the entire Mediterranean basin that patterns of use have been associated with the exterior of a dolmen. We counted seven layered surfaces.

This season four squares were laid out surrounding the dolmen, to trace the extent of the exterior surfaces and to see if they could be associated with other structures or features. Work in 1998 had traced the primary surfaces at least 8 m away and had discovered a cobble hearth, a stone table or platform, and the bottom part of a large EB storage jar embedded in one of the surfaces.

Generally the farther we proceeded from the dolmen the weaker the surfaces became, and we found no evidence for associated structures. The surfaces gradually disappeared. In the two squares to the east of the dolmen we discovered very well-made plaster floors. The surfaces also incorporated bedrock, as we had discovered in previous seasons. For the first time, we examined the area immediately south of the dolmen and found a flat area of bedrock, apparently used as a surface, because the sharp areas of the bedrock had been worn somewhat smooth. One square to the northwest, about 12-16 m away, produced the weak remnant only of one surface, and that one soon disappeared. Apparently the ceremonial activities associated with the dolmen were performed completely outside and relatively close to the structure.

It is tempting to tentatively suggest that the dolmen we found in Field K, and perhaps all dolmens, could be part of the social system of the people whom even the Bible refers to as ancient, the *repha'im* and *nephilim*. The former is a term meaning "the healthy ones" and seems to be used by a few Ugaritic texts to refer to dead people.⁷ The latter, "the fallen ones," refers to

⁶Herr et al. 1996:75-76.

⁷W. T. Pitard, "The *Rpum* Texts," in *Handbook of Ugaritic Studies*, ed. W.G.E. Watson and

the people of the distant past. The biblical usage for both terms seems to suggest people of renown who lived (and died) long before Israel arrived in Canaan, the "heroic age," so to speak. Because the dolmen seems to reflect the celebration of important people in the Early Bronze Age, when the largest cities and towns were built throughout ancient Palestine and long before the arrival of Israel in Canaan, it is possible the dolmens may have reminded Israel of these legendary people.

Field L: The Southern Edge

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One of our goals from the beginning of excavation at 'Umayri in 1984 was to examine a shallow topographic depression near the center of the southern edge of the site (Figure 2). On either side of the dip the wall lines of the apparent fortifications are clearly visible with large boulders to the west and a wide line of smaller stones to the east. Ground-penetrating radar produced anomalies that seemed to suggest the presence of a casemate wall to the west of the dip. We began excavations here in 1998 with three squares and discovered remains of a Hellenistic structure on top of the late Iron II/Persian buildings and surfaces. This season we opened two new squares and deepened one begun in 1998 in hopes of delineating the Hellenistic structure more fully. Excavated Hellenistic structures are relatively rare in Jordan.

The most extensive Iron I remains emerged 5 m downslope (south) and parallel to the lip of the site. Builders erected a narrow (.63-.73 m) two-row wall preserved to a height of 1.15 m. The stones were very neatly laid in a "tight" masonry style. Artifact-poor fill behind the wall contained nothing later than late Iron I ceramics. The absence of living surfaces associated with the wall suggests that it functioned as a terrace.

Several walls from the late Iron II/Persian period were in line with walls of the same date found in 1998. They were also reused when the builders of the Hellenistic period constructed their buildings. These walls were not excavated this season.

The Hellenistic structure was our primary goal this season and we succeeded in exposing a large room or courtyard measuring about 5 m wide by at least 12 m long (the northern wall has not yet been found). Two surfaces were used with the room, one on top of the other. The lower floor produced many ceramic objects, including several hand-made juglets (Figure 15). The upper surface seems to have converted the western wall of the room into a support wall for a portico facing west, because around one of the pillar bases

were found four Hellenistic lamps (Figure 16). Other features, such as possible bins, existed to the east of the room, but more needs to be excavated before they are understood clearly. This building seems to have been part of an isolated farmstead whose inhabitants cultivated the area. Elsewhere in our region, especially at Hisban, the ruling group seems to have been the Hasmonean dynasty in Jerusalem.⁸ Future seasons will see further clearing of the building.

⁸ W. K. Vyhmeister, "The History of Heshbon from the Literary Sources," in *Heshbon 3: Historical Foundations: Studies of Literary References to Heshbon and Vicinity*, ed. L. T. Geraty and L. G. Running (Berrien Springs: Andrews University/Institute of Archaeology, 1989), 1-24.

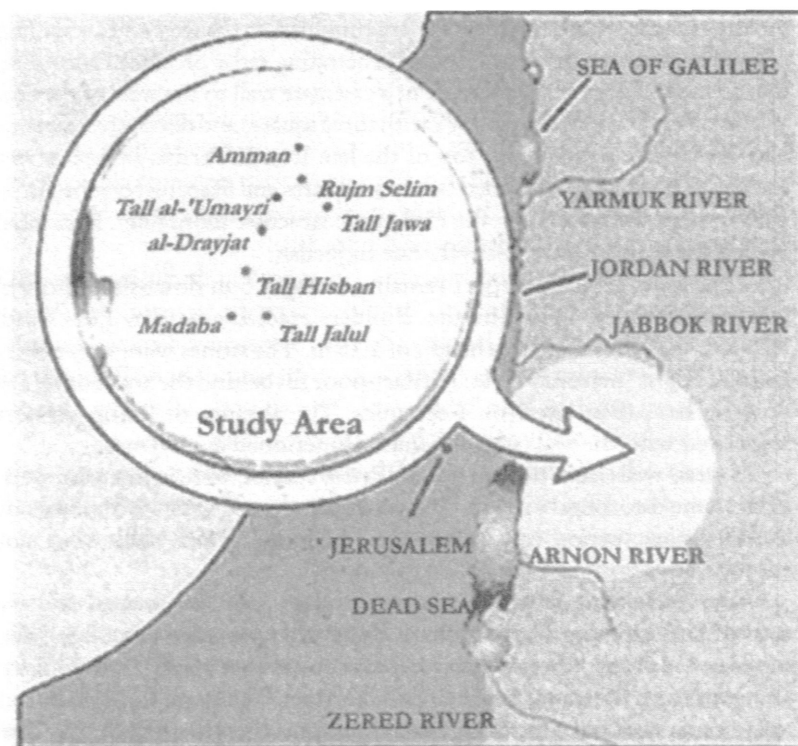


Figure 1. Madaba Plains Project region including Tall al-'Umayri.

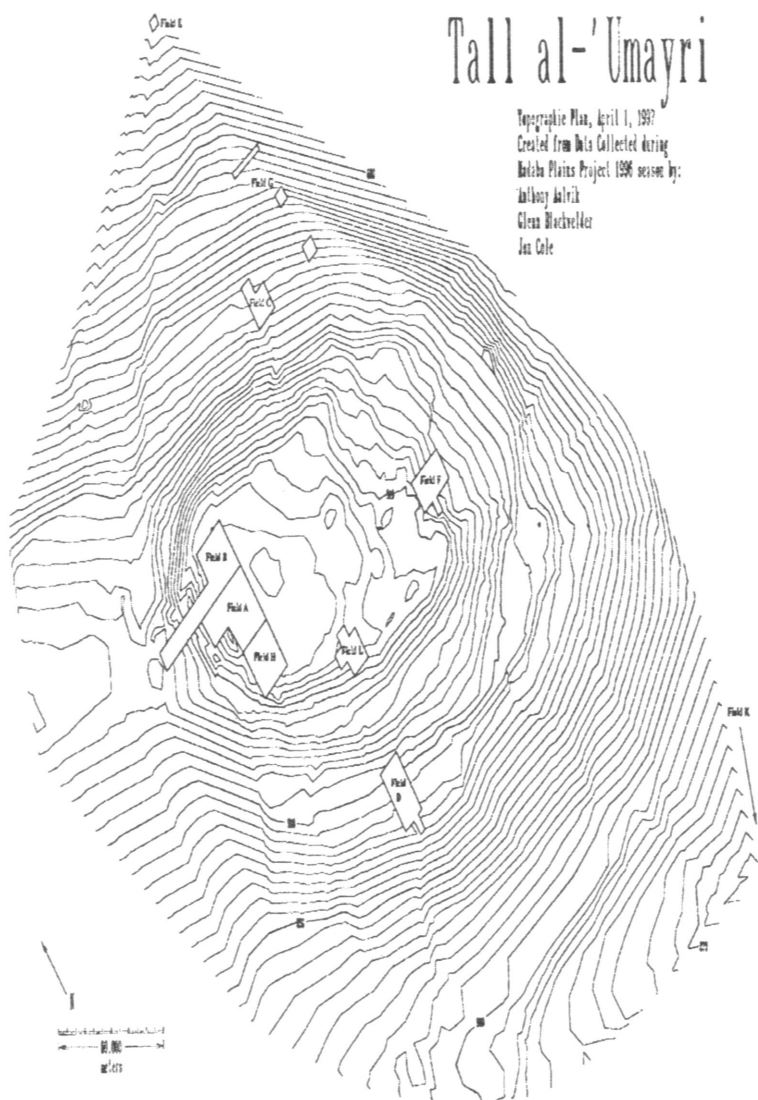


Figure 2. Tall al-'Umayri: Topographic map with fields of excavation through the 2000 season.



Figure 3. Tall al-'Umayri: Overall plan of the late LB to Iron I remains in Fields A, B, and H. Most of the architecture is from the earliest phase (LB/Iron I) but the Pillared Room and the wall fragments to the west of it are later in Iron I.

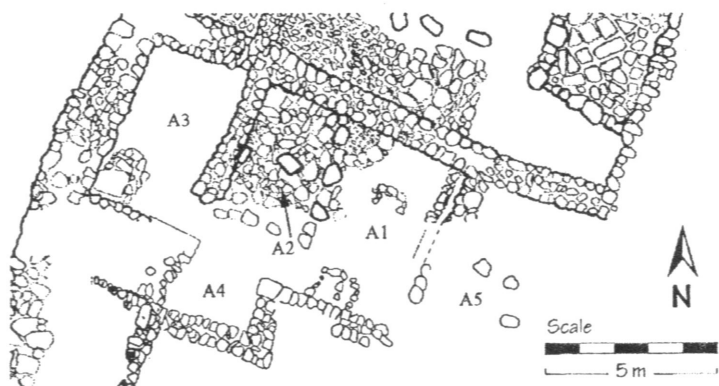


Figure 4. Tall al-'Umayri: Plan of Building A from the LB/Iron I period located in Fields A and B. The perimeter is at far left.



Figure 5. Tall al-'Umayri: Photo of Building A from the south.

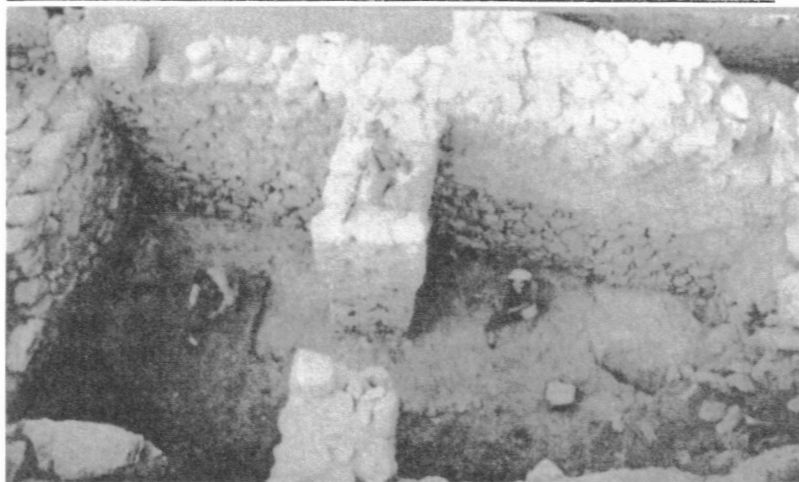


Figure 6. Tall al-'Umayri: The two rooms of the LB building in Field B viewed from the north.



Figure 7. Tall al-'Umayri: Looking from the western room of the LB building in Field B through the door, illustrating the excellent masonry and preservation of the walls. The upper courses were consolidated with cement in 1998 to protect the walls from destruction.

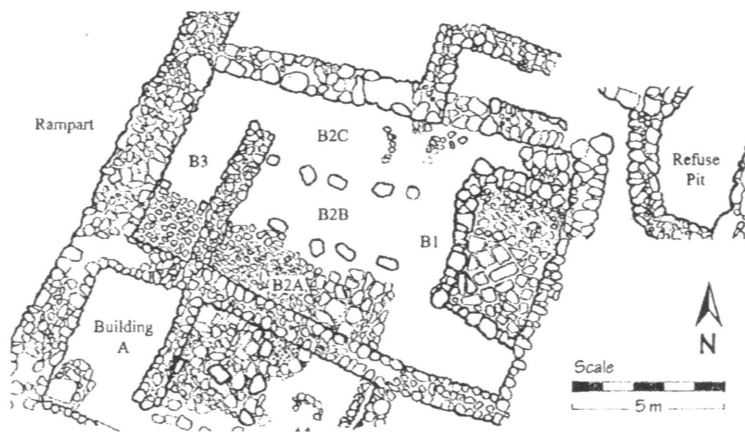


Figure 8. Tall al-'Umayri: Plan of the LB/Iron I four-room house in Field B.

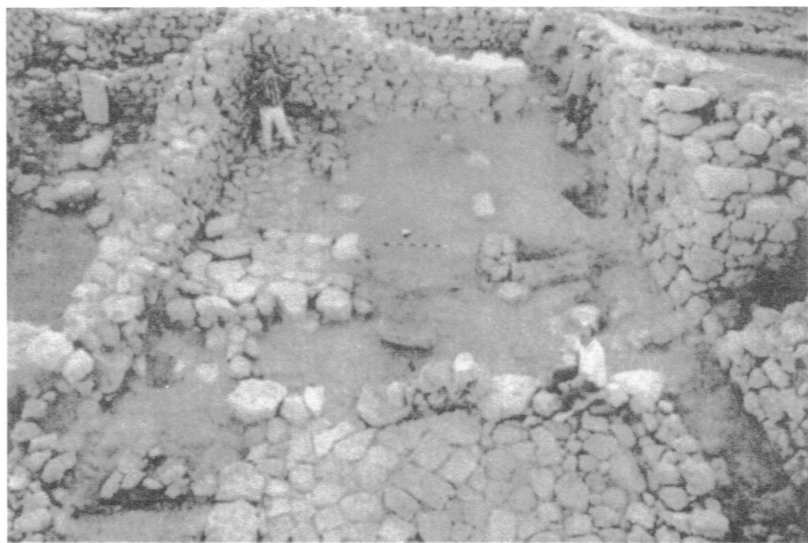


Figure 9. Tall al-'Umayri: LB/Iron I four-room house in Field B, looking west. The broad room is barely visible at the back.

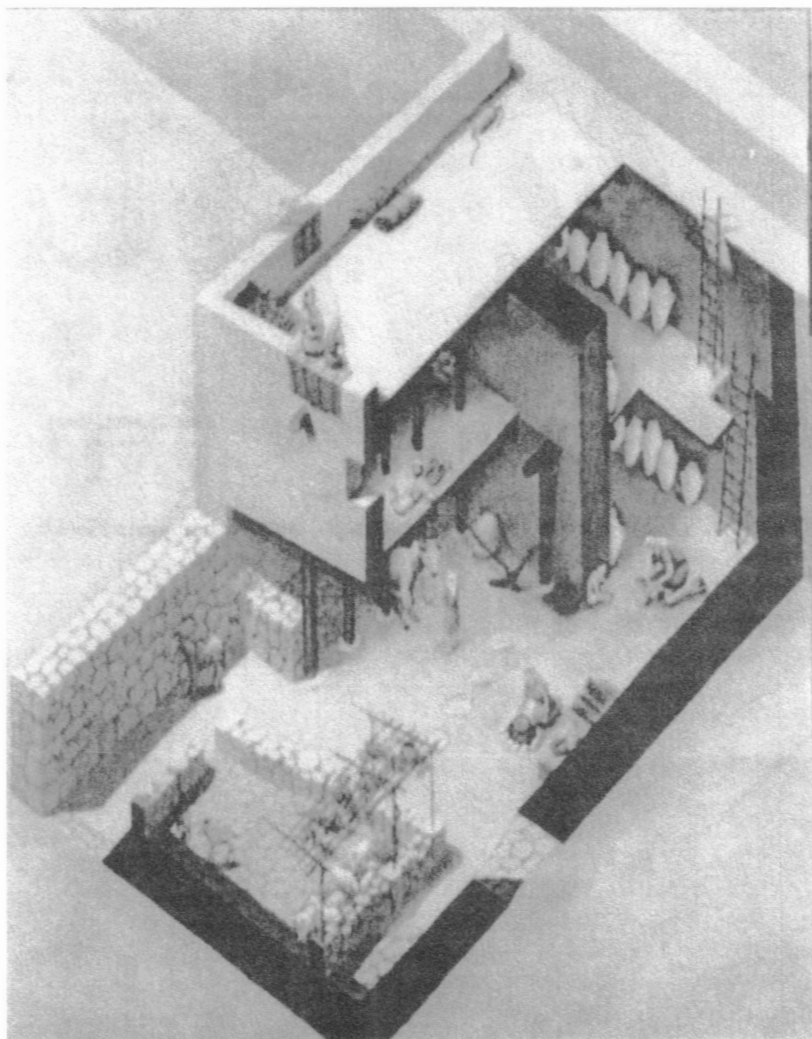


Figure 10. Tall al-'Umayri: Artist's reconstruction of the four-room house in Field B based on the finds made on the floors and in the destruction debris (Rhonda Root, artist).

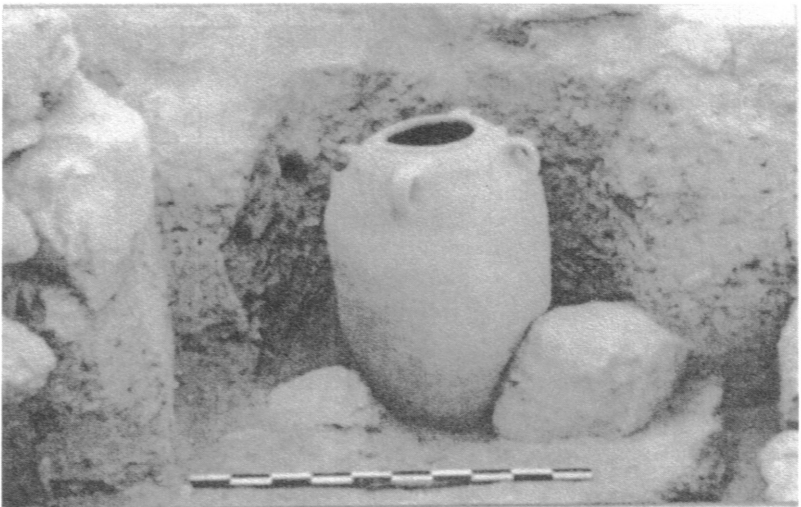


Figure 11. Tall al-'Umayri: Late Iron II holemouth pithos sunk into earlier earth layers, including the foundation pit surrounding the vessel. The original surface (at left) ran up to the mouth.

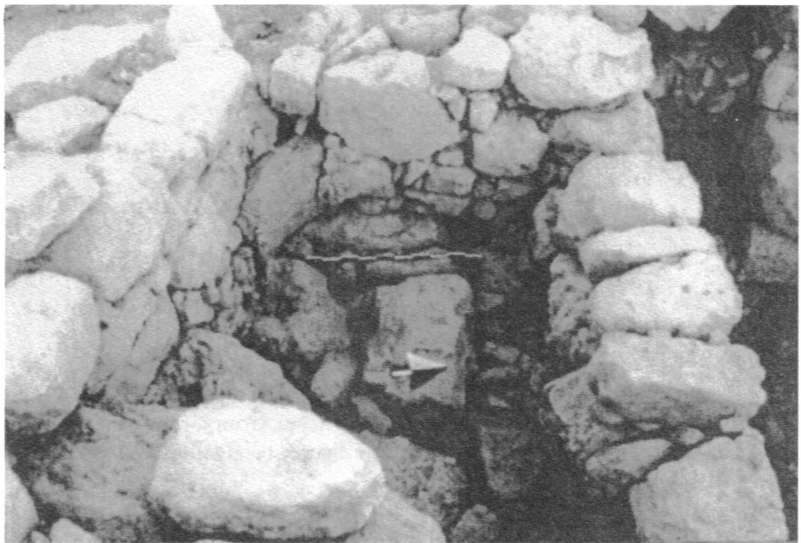


Figure 12. Tall al-'Umayri: Thick early Iron I wall (left and under the meter stick) in Field H that paralleled the perimeter wall after it had turned east (see Figure 3). A small storage chamber was carved out of the wall and a new northern face was built on to the right of the meter stick.

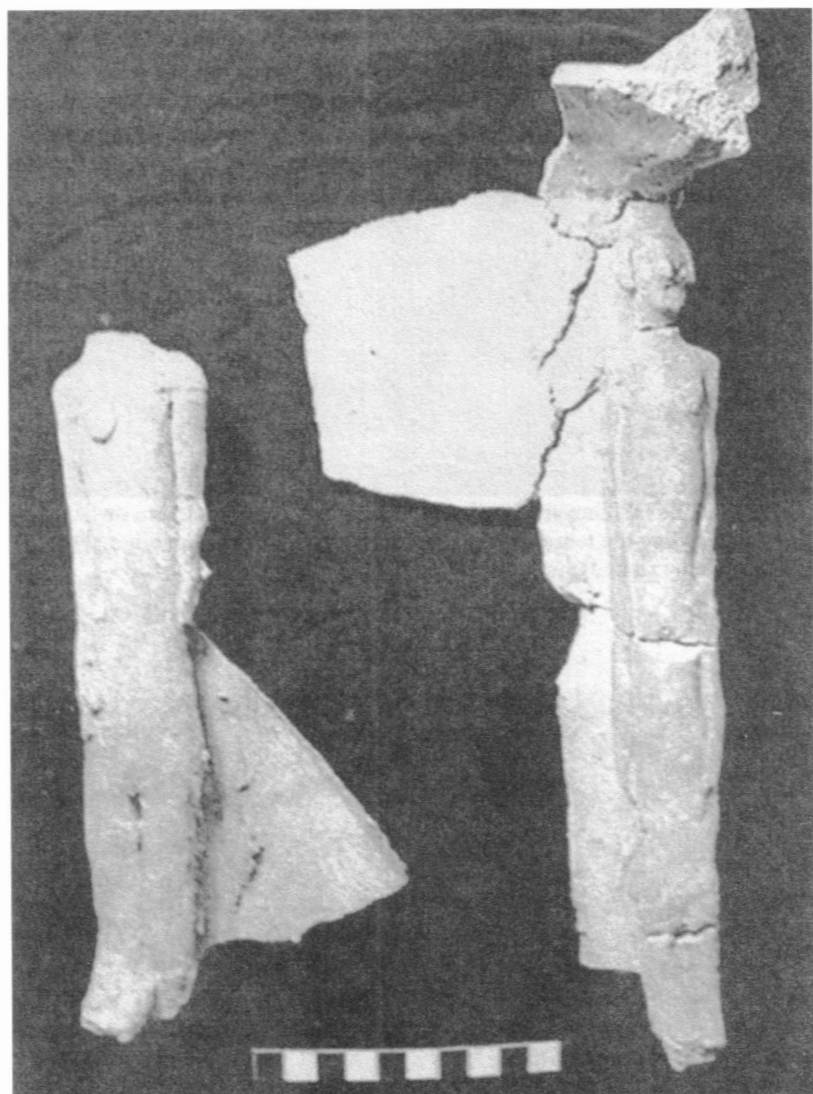


Figure 13. Tall al-'Umayri: Some of the fragments from a ceramic cult stand found on a late Iron I floor in Field H. The figures originally faced each other across an opening.



Figure 14. Tall al-'Umayri: The dolmen and surrounding surfaces in Field K. Note the very fine plaster surface in the center.

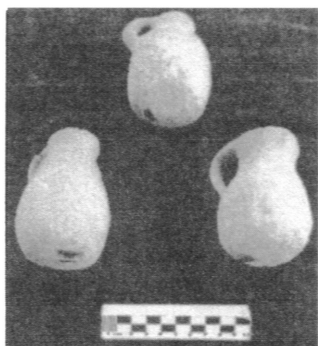


Figure 15. Tall al-'Umayri: Three complete, handmade Hellenistic juglets from Field L. Several other more fragmentary examples were found.

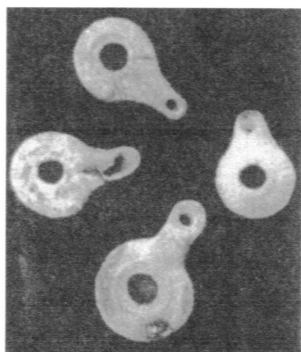


Figure 16. Tall al-'Umayri: Four Hellenistic lamps from Field L.