

II. Report of the Excavation at the Southern Harbour of Sūkās

August 27th-November 9th 1960

By soundings on the foreland south of Mīna Sūkās, the southern harbour, there appeared in August 1960 some architectural remains of a sanctuary dating from the 6th-2nd centuries B.C.¹ After the excavation of these remains two trial trenches towards the east were put at work at the end of the month, in the following named the northern and the southern. In the northern one assemblages of pottery vessels appeared on August 28th, and, when later on the excavation area was extended, they proved to mark the western limit of the field of deposits mentioned below.

In the months of August, September, October and the first part of November excavation work went on in the sectors D 7, E 7, F 7, G 7, H

7, J 7, G 8, G 9 and H 9. The field of deposits was uncovered in the sectors G 8, G 9 and H 9 North. As a measuring system a grid-pattern of 10 by 10 m large square sectors had been laid out at either side of a north-south-going base line between the sectors of the 8-range and the 9-range, staked out on August 28th (see above p. 6 fig. 2).² The levelling zero was fixed at 5.39 m above sea-level, the plane of sight being 1.45 m above zero. This holds good of all work plans and drawings, which have been numbered with Arabic numerals, 1, 2, etc. For a numbering of the objects found in the sectors Roman numerals have been used, but such numbers were also employed for collective finds appearing in the sectors.

I. Secondary Graves

A description of the secondary graves is here omitted, as the Graeco-Phoenician burials were published 1979 in Sūkās VI.³

II. Secondarily Deposited Ashlar Blocks

In the sectors G 8 and G 9 seven ashlar blocks were uncovered, numbered K 1-7 (figs. 5-9). They seem to have been placed without any order. They occurred at the same level as the

Late Bronze and Early Iron Age deposits and in one case, K 3, resting directly upon these (figs. 8-9). It was not possible to state if they were deposited upon a recent surface after sand drift,

1: See now Publications of the Carlsberg Expedition to Phoenicia 7: P.J. Riis, Sūkās VI, Copenhagen 1979, 33-68.

2: See Sūkās VI, 7 fig. 2.

3: Op.cit. 9-32.

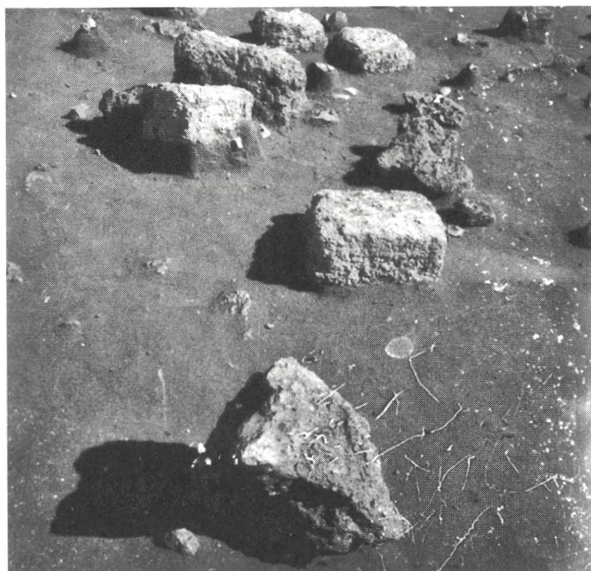


Fig. 5. The ashlar blocks K 1-5 seen from the south-west.

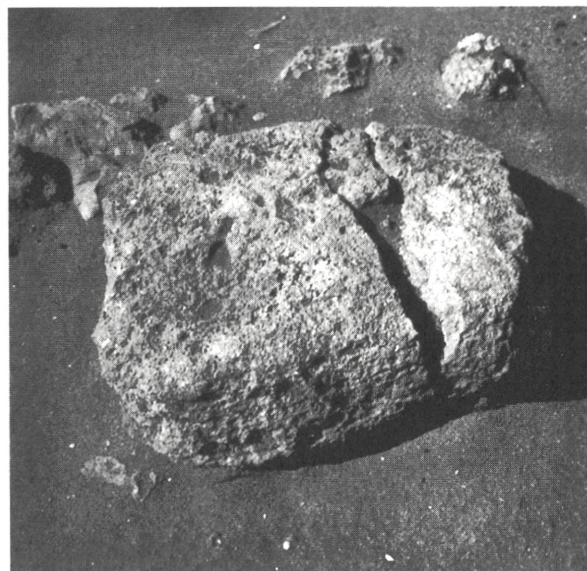


Fig. 6. The ashlar block K 6 seen from the east.

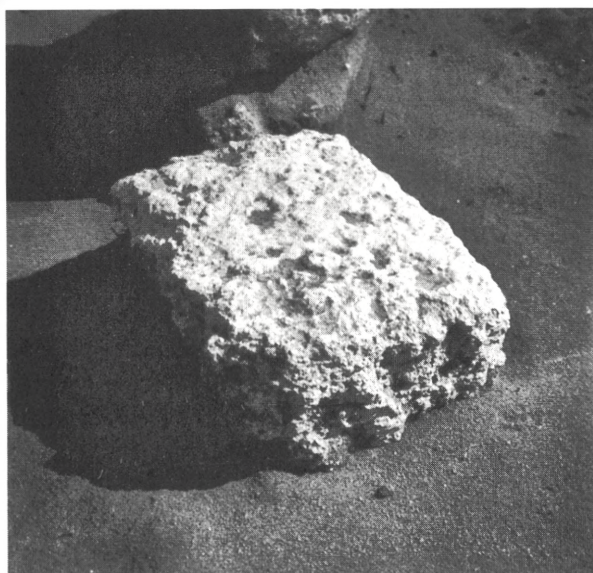


Fig. 7. The ashlar block K 7 seen from the west.



Fig. 8. The field of deposits in sectors G 8-9 seen from the east, to the left the assemblages F, E and J, to the right the ashlar blocks K 1-5.

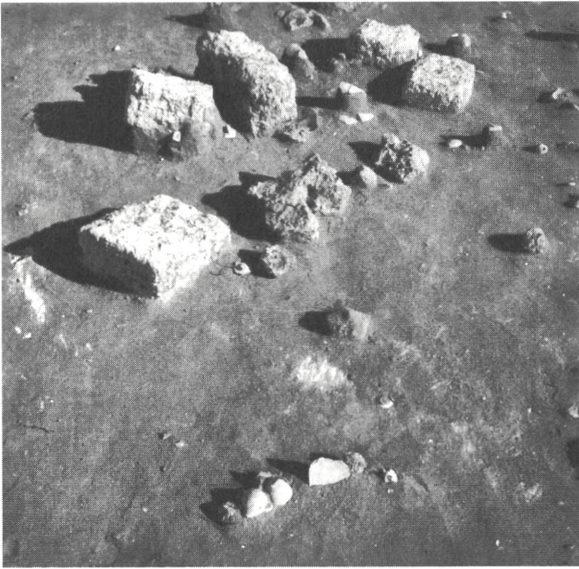


Fig. 9. Assemblage J and the ashlar blocks K 1-5 seen from the south.

or if they were put down by digging, or if they have sunk into the sand. However, a sand drift

seemed unlikely as the eastern parts of the field of deposits did not appear to have been exposed. Nor is it possible to decide from where the ashlar blocks have come, if they belong to the remains of destroyed buildings to the west, or if they originate from the quarries observed at the northern side of the foreland.⁴

The measures of the blocks are the following:

K 1 height 0.23 m, length 0.50 m, width 0.45 m
 K 2 height 0.23 m, length 0.43 m, width 0.40 m
 K 3 height 0.33 m, length 0.65 m, width 0.40 m
 K 4 height 0.15 m, length 0.53 m, width 0.38 m
 K 5 height 0.16 m, length 0.43 m, width 0.40 m
 K 6 height 0.20 m, length 0.63 m, width 0.50 m
 K 7 height 0.18 m, length 0.45 m, width 0.33 m

As there was no case of undisturbed graves under the ashlar blocks and no sherds later than the Early Iron Age, it seems evident that the blocks were not deposited in connection with the burials.⁵

III. The Late Bronze and Early Iron Age Field of Deposits

The excavation in the sectors G 9 and G 8 made it clear that the primary installations there were a series of deposits dating from the Late Bronze or Early Iron Age (fig. 8); but already at this point it must be discussed if we have to do with interments, and it should be emphasized that a final answer is impossible before an exact dating of the entire material and a subsequent understanding of the period's religious customs. It is to be stated that in

no case proof was provided for interpreting these deposits of small vessels as sepulchral. On very rare occasions during the excavation remnants of human bones appeared, but never as the contents of one of the said vessels of Late Bronze or Early Iron Age date.⁶

So, a definition of the character of these pottery assemblages seems difficult; but it is also dependent upon the determination of the different vessel types. Grosso modo two groups of

4: Op.cit. 6-7 figs. 1-2, 34 figs. 95-96.

5: In Sūkās VI, 20 and 13-14 it was suggested that the blocks K 1-6 were parts of a boundary wall, a kenotaph or a constructed monument belonging to one of the Graeco-Phoenician graves, whereas K 7 was possibly a

sepulchral cippus. Another explanation was attempted above Chapter I, 7 and 9 fig. 4.

6: A paragraph on the bones found in G 9 SE is here omitted, as they were correctly ascribed to the Graeco-Phoenician burial Sūkās VI, 29 no. 31.

shapes may be distinguished: 1) the smaller vessels including small bowls, “fruit stands”, amphoriskoi and juglets, 2) the larger vessels including amphorae deposited in a broken state. In several cases the smaller vessels seem to have contained liquids, which could be seen from the cementing of the sand in the vessels. Two kinds of sand were found, the loose and that cemented together, the limit between the latter and the former often indicated by a horizontal surface corresponding to the position of the vessel in the surrounding sand; we may then with certainty speak of liquid contents. Other vessels, few however, contained burnt organic material. This holds particularly true of the vessels CCCXI (see Chapter III, Class VI A: 3661) and CCXCVI (Class III B: 3555/1) with burnt minor fruits, probably lentils and other small seeds; but only very seldom such contents occurred in the vessels. In other, more numerous vases there were among the grains of sand quite small amounts of charred material, in one vessel rarely more than some twenty particles. None of these could be determined as carbonized fruits; but it is equally certain that they were no burnt bones. Accordingly it seems indisputable that the pottery deposits served a cultic purpose and that group 1 could not be defined as sepulchral.

It is without any doubt that the vessels in all cases were buried in the sand. Different deposit levels could not be ascertained; but within the assemblages the placing of the individual vessels could vary vertically up to 0.30 m. Also the occurring of stones at several assemblages is a sign of digging. In several cases the stones seem to have been placed on top of the assemblage after the filling-in of the pit, as the stone often lay at a higher level than the vessels.

As to group 2, the larger vessels, they were in

most cases big amphorae with a pointed bottom and with the largest diameter at the upper part of the belly. It is important that the entire excavation did not produce any complete specimen of this type of vessel, and that these larger jars always appeared as made brittle by fire, often with the bottom as the most brittle part. It is true that also other vessels presented such features, but rarely more than a few within a group, and it is here mostly the so-called “fruit stands” that have traces of open fire. It might seem, therefore, that with the group of large vessels we approach the category of cinerary urns, if we are at all allowed to speak of urn graves. In not a few cases there was around the vessels remains of charcoal and other carbonized organic material, but only where special conditions of preservation manifested themselves, e.g. under the Graeco-Phoenician grave uncovered on September 22nd,⁷ where the clay contributed to preserve, and similarly in the deposit CCCCLXVI (see below, assemblage M), where a bowl placed upside down over a stone had helped to protect the charred material. This leads to the question of preservation of bones. As already mentioned no remains of burnt bones were found in connection with the early pottery deposits, and on the whole bones seem to have been preserved only with particular protection. Also the Graeco-Phoenician graves had been severely damaged by the percolation of humic acid and in addition possibly salt water; the bones could thereby get a character resembling that of burnt bones.⁸

Looking at the plan of the excavated part of the field of deposits (pl. II 1-4) we realize that the pottery concentrations were most intense in sectors G 9 Southeast and H 9 Northeast, where they seem to mark a central area, the deposits thinning out radially from there. Towards

7: Sūkās VI, 27-28 no. 30.

8: Some remarks on the Graeco-Phoenician burials nos. 32 and 27 are here omitted, see Sūkās VI, 29 and 22.

the north and the west it is easier to distinguish the individual deposits than towards the east. Where the concentrations are closer, a distinction can only be made after a determination of the accessories of a single deposit.

Such single deposits may be exemplified by the following enumeration, A-O.

A. CCCCL (3328/1-10), G 9 SE (fig. 10). Two fragmentary "fruit stands" (Class XIII B: 3328/1-2), the bottom of a flat open bowl

(Class XI A: 3328/3), side and bottom of a small bowl with detached rim (Class XII A 2: 3328/4), handle and side fragment of a juglet (Class V C: 3328/5), bottom and handle of a small biconical pot (Class VIII B 2: 3328/6), a flat clay disk with rounded side (3328/7), and an ovoid stone with a mark of boring at one end, presumably part of a drilling apparatus (3328/8). Around the deposit there were four stones of head-size, twenty small snail shells

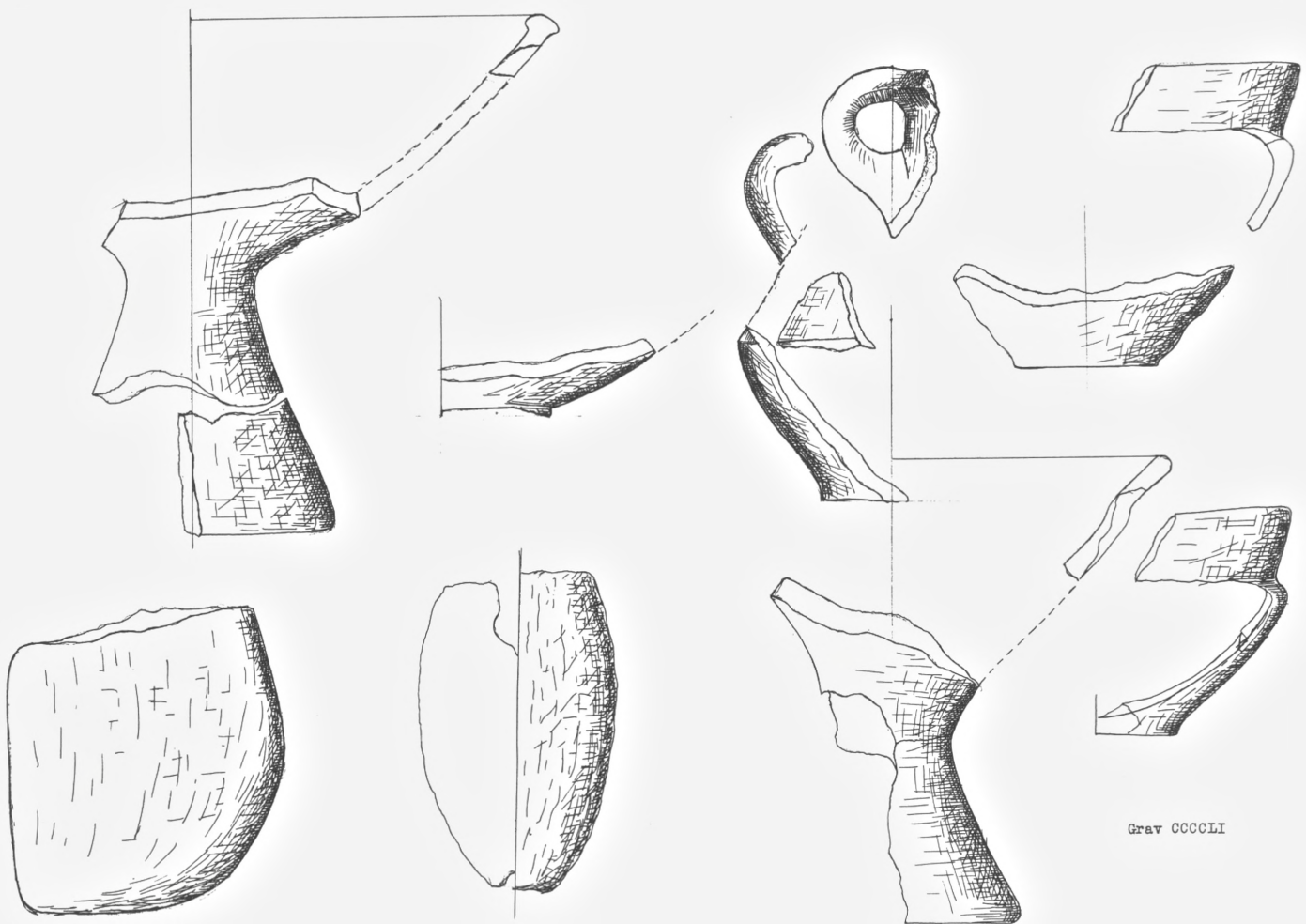


Fig. 10. Vessel types from assemblage A. 1:2. Drawn by J. Jensen.

(3328/9) and a series of indefinite sherds (3328/10).

B. CCCXXXIII (3137/1) + CCCXXVIII (3329/1) + CCCXXIX (3165/1), G 9 NE. Oinochoe (Class VI A: 3329/1), small biconical pot (Class VIII C 2: 3165/1), and sherds of a large amphora (Class II B 1:3137/1).

C. CCCCLXXXVIII (3394/1) + CCCCLXXXVII (3792/1-3) + CCCXC (3783/1) + CCCXCI (3806/1-2), G 9 NE. "Fruit stand" (Class XIII A 4: 3792/2), juglet (Class VI A: 3783/1), side of vessel with handle (Class XII F 2: 3806/1), small shell of a murex (3792/3) and several smaller sherds (Class XIII C 2: 3394/1, Imp. III A: 3792/1, and trumpet-shaped neck of vase: 3806/2).

D. CCCCLXV (3625/1-26), H 9 NW. Juglet (Class VI A: 3625/1), "fruit stand" (Class XIII C 4: 3625/2), handle of large amphora (Class II B 1: 3625/3), and, on top of the deposit, a big stone.

E. CCCCLXXXIII (3171/1), G 9 SE (fig. 8). Large amphora (Class II: 3171/1) and one smaller vessel, the deposit having been disturbed by a secondary burial.⁹

F. CCCCLXXX (3187/1-9, 3198/1), G 9 NE/SE (fig. 8). Amphoriskos (Class III B: 3198/1), juglet (3187/1), bottom sherd with ring foot (3187/2), and sidesherds (3187/3-9).

G. CCCCLXXXIX (no no.), G 9 NE, small assemblage of vessels (no no.).

H. CCCXCIII (3780), G 9 NW. Sherds of amphora (Class II: 3780).

J. CCCCLXXXVI (3767/1, 3782/1-2), G 9 SW (figs. 8-9). Two small vases (Class I C: 3782/2, Class VII B 1: 3767/1) and an amphoriskos (Class III B: 3782/1).

K.-N. The assemblage in the southeastern angle of the excavated part of H 9 provides also some evidence. It obviously consisted of several deposits, at least two, probably four, and seems

to be a good starting-point for an examination of the character of the deposits.

K. CCCXXI (3657/1) + CCCXXII (6184/1 = SH 100) + CCCXXVIII (3648/1) + CCCXXIX (3642/1) + CCCXLV (3570/1), H 9 NE. Two small amphorae (Class III B: 3657/1, Class III E: 3648/1), two oinochoai (Class VI A: 6184/1 = SH 100, 3570/1) and a bowl with foot (Class XIII A 4: 3642/1).

L. CCCXXXIII (3600/1) + CCCXXXIV (3658/1) + CCCXXXV (3595/1) + CCCXXXVI (3599/1) + CCCXXXVII (3176/1-6) + CCCXLII (3641/1) + CCCXLIII (3626/1) + CCCXLIV (3580/1) + CCCXLVI (6155 = SH 87) + CCCXLVII (3572/1), H 9 NE (fig. 11). Amphora (Class II: 3600/1), amphoriskoi (Class III B: 3572/1), jugs (Class VI A: 3641/1, Class VI C: 6155 = SH 87, Class VII D: 3176/4, Class VIII B 1: 3580/1), "dipper" (Class IX A: 3658), bowl on foot (Class XIII A 4: 3176/3),



Fig. 11. Assemblage L seen from the west.

9: The Graeco-Phoenician grave Sūkās VI, 23 no. 28.

and the bottom of a vessel (Class XV C: 3176/2).

M. CCCXL (3654/1) + CCCXLI (6159 = SH 91) + CCCCLXVI (3554, 3563, 3568, 3582, 3584, 3586, 3588, 3593, 3607, 3610, 3638, 3640, 3672, 3680, 3708, 3725, 3726, 3741, 3757, 3795, 6258 = SH 113), H 9 NE (figs. 12-14). Jar (Class I B 2: 3726/8), amphora (Class II A: 3741/1), amphoriskoi (Class III B: 3757/1, 3726/1, 3582/1, Class III E: 3554/1), crater (Class IV A: 3640/1), oinochoai (Class VI A: 3654/1, 6159 = SH 91), jugs or oinochoai (Class VII B 1: 3672/1, Class VII B 2: 3638/1, 3726/1, Class VII C 1: 3725/8), mugs (Class VIII C 2: 3725/10, Class VIII E: 3586/1), "dippers" (Class IX A: 6258 = SH 113, Class IX B: 3726/3), bowls (Class XI D: 3726/6, Class F 2: 3584/1), "fruit stands" (Class XIII A 4: 3554/4, 3563/1, 3568/3, 3568/5, 3607/1, 3708/1, 3725/7, 3741/9, Class XIII B 2: 3741/11, Class C 4: 3568/1-2, 3568/4, 3741/2-3, 3741/6), bowls or "fruit stands" (Class XIV A: 3554/3, 3568/6, 3568/8-9, 3741/12, Class XIV C: 3568/7, 3726/11, 3741/10), and bottoms of vessels Class XV A: 3725/6, Class XV B: 3725/1, 3725/4-5, 3726/2, Class XV C: 3554/5, 3725/5).

N. CCCXVIII (3644/1) + CCCXLVIII (3618/1) + CCCXLIX (3567/1) + CCCCLXX (3637/1, 3483/1) + CCCCLXXI (3438/1, 3446, 3670) + CCCCLXXIII (3559/1) + CCCXCIX (3621/1), H 9 NE¹⁰. Sherds of a large amphora (Class II: 3446), amphoriskoi (Class III B: 3438/1, 3567/1, 3621/1, 3637/1, 3670/1), oinochoai (Class VI A: 3783/1, Class VI B: 3618/1), bowl (Class XII B 1: 3559/1) and bottom of vessel (Class XV A: 3644/1).

A counting of the shapes represented in the assemblages K-N gave the following result:

1) At least 18 "fruit stands" of varying shape (Classes XIII A 4, B 2, C 4, XIV A and C:

3554/3-4, 3563/1, 3568/1-9, 3607/1, 3708/1, 3725/7, 3741/2-3, 6, 9-12). Four rim profiles are represented. Seven or eight of the specimens were made brittle by fire.

2) 4 large amphorae, all of them fragmentary and made brittle by fire (e.g. Class II A: 3741/1) (fig. 12). As mentioned above it seems that in several cases the deposit had been grouped around a jar of this shape. A similar jar was regarded as the leading type in layer V at Tall Abū Ḥawām, and apparently the shape played the same role in the excavated part of the field of deposits at the southern harbour of Sūkās, as a further development of the type cannot be observed within the material found there.

3) One smaller jar, a handled vessel (Class IV A: 3640/1). Pots of this type are apparently not represented elsewhere in the field of deposits. The vessel was made brittle by fire and may have served the same purpose as the above-mentioned amphorae.

4) One urn with cylindrical neck (Class I D 2) (fig. 13). Vessels of this kind are very rare within the assemblages, apparently occurring only in G 9 and H 9. The vessel was not damaged by fire.

5) 6 biconical jugs with handles (Class VIII B 1) and a few sherds from vessels of the same type. Such vases belong to the most commonly used in the deposits, and not seldom they have a little content of burnt organic material.

6) 14 amphoriskoi with pointed bottom (Class III B). This shape, which offers many small variations, belongs equally to the most frequent within the field of deposits.

7) 5 juglets with handles (e.g. Class VII B 1: 3672/1), a shape also represented with different varieties, several of them provided with a trefoil mouth (Class VI).

8) 6 juglets with handles (e.g. Class VII B 2:

10: CCCCLXXVII must be omitted here as it was part of a Graeco-Phoenician burial, Sūkās VI, 29 no. 34.

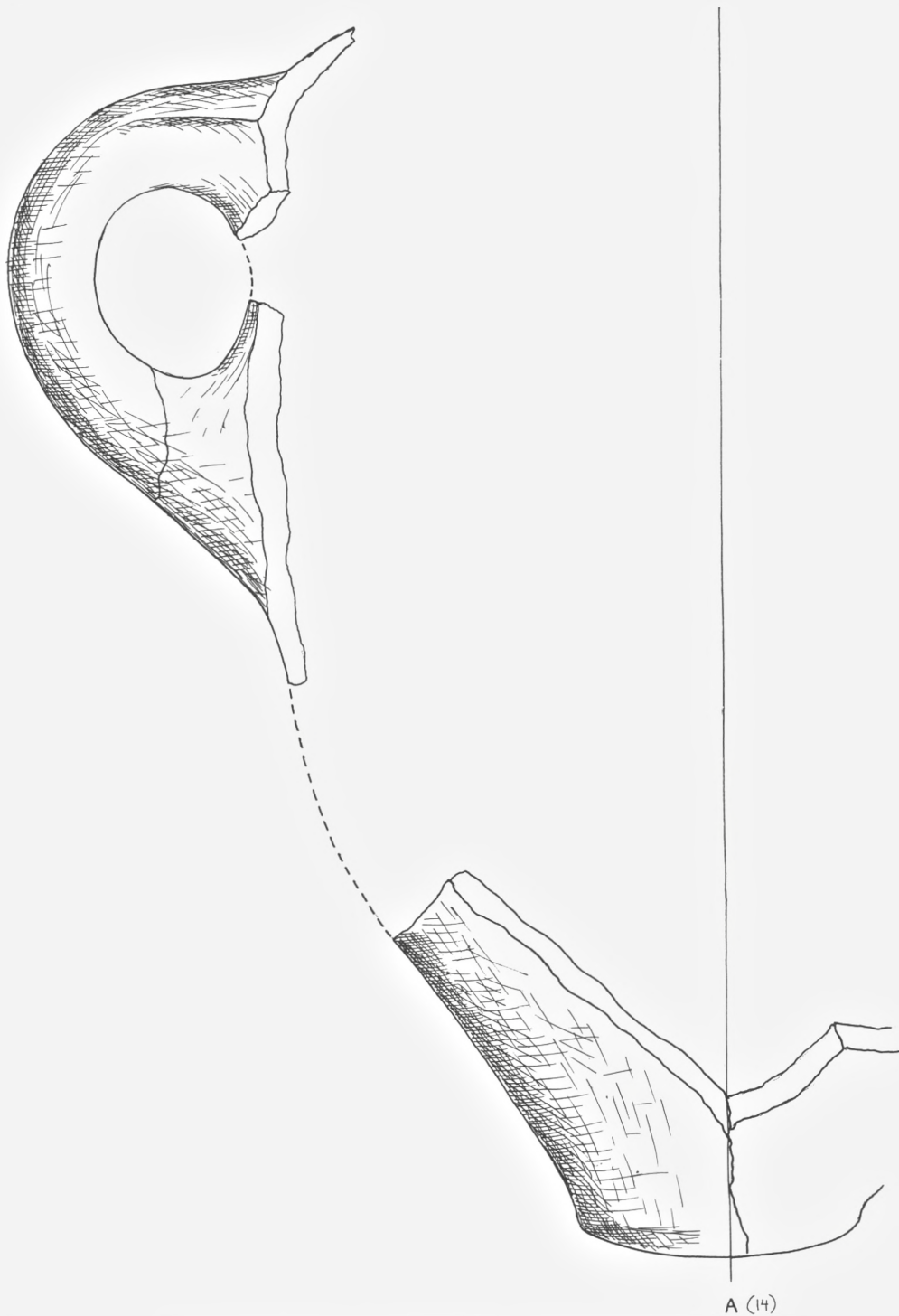


Fig. 12. Amphora from assemblage M. 1:2. Drawn by J. Jensen.

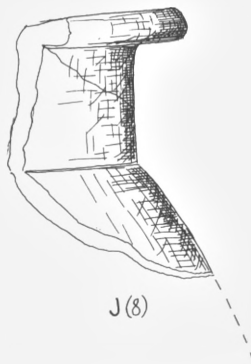


Fig. 13. Fragment of jar from assemblage M. 1:2. Drawn by J. Jensen.

3726/1). This shape is very close to the preceding one and is represented by several specimens throughout the field of deposits.

9) 6 bowls with detached rim and two handles (e.g. Class XII F 2: 3584/1). Vessels of this shape, often fragmentary, are rare in complete state within the field of deposits.

10) 14 smaller, flat bowls (e.g. Class XI B: 3726/6, Class XI F 2: 3584/1), several of them made brittle by fire.

11) 3 fragments of lamps (Class XVII), if not rims of “fruit stands” (Class XIV), all of them with the rim faintly detached.

12) One juglet with handle and pointed bottom (Class VI). This shape is close to the so-called “shaved dipper”. In the entire field of deposits only this specimen occurred.

13) One “shaved dipper” (Class IX A: 6258 = SH 113). This typical Late Bronze Age shape is represented by several specimens in the field of deposits.

14) One jug with tall neck (Class V C) (fig. 14), deposited in a fragmentary state. The vessel had not been made brittle by fire.

15) One bowl with detached rim (Classes

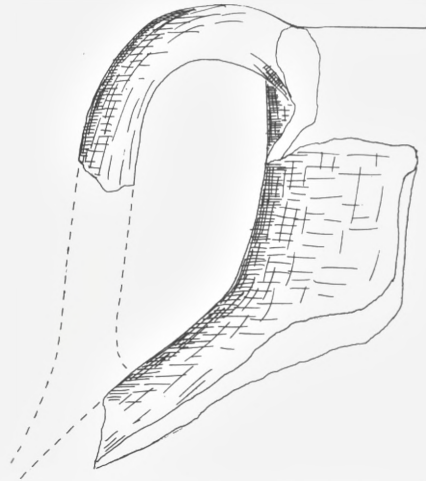


Fig. 14. Fragment of jug from assemblage M. 1:2. Drawn by J. Jensen.

XII A 2, B 2, C 2 or F 2 e.g. 3584/1), a shape very frequently appearing in the field of deposits.

This enumeration seems in all essentials to cover the contents of the assemblages K-N; a remainder of half a score of vessels is represented by the indeterminable sherds turned up contemporaneously. If the larger vessels made brittle by fire are regarded as the primary part of the deposits, the here undertaken division of the material seems to indicate that the group of assemblages probably consisted of at least four deposits (K, L, M and N), perhaps five or six. It appears as certain – to judge from their great number – that the so-called “fruit stands” always accompany the jar; the same holds also good of the amphoriskoi, and it is confirmed by the finds outside the assemblage. Nevertheless, it is impossible to state how the other shapes were distributed, for with exception of the said three shapes one cannot tell what actually belonged to a typical deposit. Nor is it possible to delimitate the individual depos-

its from one another when they occurred packed together as in the assemblages K-N.

O. A depositing of the same character seems to have taken place in G 9 SE immediately to the stone range of a Graeco-Phoenician burial.¹¹ This assemblage, LXXXVII (6143 = SH 79, 3266/1-5, 3281/1-4) + XLIX (3315/1) + L (no no.) + XXXIX (6075 = SH 49) (fig. 15), included a jar with an inscription on the handle (Class II B 1: 6143 = SH 79), and it is therefore important to define its relation to the other pots. Around and over the jar a series of vessels were discovered: some bowls or “fruit stands” (Class XIV A: 3266/1-2, 3315/1 and no no.), bottom and side of a smaller open bowl (Class XI A 3: 3281/1), and an amphoriskos with pointed bottom and containing burnt organic material (Class III B: 6075 = SH 49). It seems certain that at least these vessels have been deposited together with the jar, the primary piece of the assemblage, an amphora made brittle by fire, of the same type as the above-mentioned one in Tall Abū Ḥawām V. The vessels have apparently been put down near a stone, ca. 0.30 m large, which was uncovered in the same level as the pots. To judge from the circumstances of the find the deposit does not differ from the others in the area. So it, too, is datable to the Late Bronze Age or the Early Iron Age (for the inscription see Chapter IV).

P. Another deposit of importance comprises the numbers XXVI (3362, 3368/1-4, 6205 = SH 128) + CCLVIII (no no.) + CCCXLII (6205 = SH 128) + CCIX (3668/1-8) + CCCLXIV (3632/1), G 9 SW/SE-H 9 NW/NE. A wall bracket appeared here in fragments numbered XXVI and CCCXLII (Class XVIII: 6205 = SH 128) and may indicate the extension of the deposit, for it was found as two disconnected pieces. Similar objects are not rare in the Levant;

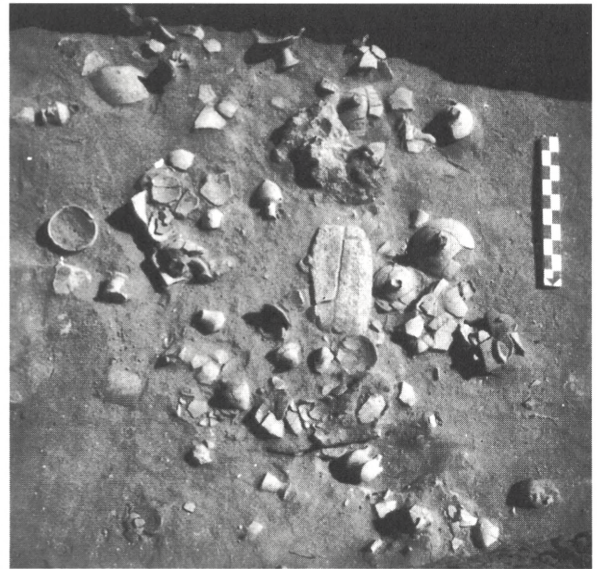


Fig. 15. Assemblages Q and O seen from the north.

examples may be quoted from Rās Šamra and Tall Abū Ḥawām.¹² The specimen has a wavy-line decoration, which is also the case with the others. The depositing seems determined by the occurrence of a large amphora of the above-mentioned type (Class II A: 3368/1-4) and a number of juglets with handles (e.g. Class VI A: 3632/1). Moreover the find comprised some bowls (Class XI A 3: 3668/1, Class XI B 1: 3362/2, Class XI F 2: 3362/1).

Q. LVI (6040 = SH 20, 3703/1-12) + CCCXLIX (3125/1) + CCCCL (3172/1, 3186/1-9) + CLXI (6058 = SH 36) + LXIV (3295/1) + LIX (3316/1) + CXLIV (6110 = SH 71) + CLXV (6095 = SH 57) + XLVIII (6060 = SH 38), G 9 SE (fig. 15). In addition to the bull vase (Class XIX A: 6040/1 = SH 20) the assemblage may have comprised an amphoriskos (Class III:

12: Ugaritica II, Paris 1949, 212-213 fig. 88, QDAP 4 1935, 37 no. 228.

6095 = SH 57), oinochoai (Class VI A: 3125/1, 6058 = SH 36), another juglet (Class VII: 3172/1), a mug (Class VIII B 1: 6060 = SH 38), bowls or “fruit stands” (Class XIII A 1: 6110 = SH 71, Class XIII A 4: 3316/1, Class XV: 3295/1).

The following objects are of importance with regard to the problem of dating the field of deposits:

Lamps (Class XVII). They constitute a comparatively large group, but broadly spoken there is only one type with tiny variations. All specimens are so-called saucer lamps, mostly with flat bottom. All of them have a faintly detached rim, flattened and outwards bent; but in no case this rim becomes a large collar as the one characteristic later on. Most distinct is the rim on a lamp from locus CCXCVIII (Class XVII B: 3591/1), which also in other respects corresponds to one from Tall Abū Ḥawām.¹³ Apparently there was no one which allows a rather advanced date, even if the features in some cases point down in time. The following pieces may be enumerated: CCLXXIX (Class XVII A: 3646/1), CCLII (Class XVII A: 3233/2), CCXII (Class XVII D: 3175/1), CCXCVIII (Class XVII B: 3591/1), CXXXVI (Class XVII B: 3643/1, Class XVII D: 3643/2), CXXXV (Class XVII A: 6097 = SH 59), CLXXXVIII (Class XVII: 3327), CXC VII (Class XVII: 3388), and one in CCCCLXXVI (Class XVII: 3412 or 3724/35). Only that from CCLXXIX seems to have been made brittle by fire.

Bull Vases (Class XIX A). Of such vases a complete example and the heads of two others were found in the field of deposits: LVI (6040/1 = SH 20, CCCXLI (6207 = SH 107) and CCCCLXXVIII (3788/1). LVI probably belongs to the following collective deposit: but

it seems impossible to refer the two heads to any definite deposit.

Stirrup-jars (Imp. II B). This shape was represented by at least four apparently imported examples: CCXLIII (6137 = SH 78), CCLII (3233/1), CCLXIV (3422/2-3) and one found immediately under LXVII (3724/48).¹⁴ To these may be added sherds found in H 9 N, ca. 0.40 m under the recent surface (3724/40), and others (see Chapter III, Imp. II).

Bowls with wish-bone handle (Imp. III A-B). Cypriote fragments turned up in the same level as the deposits (Imp. III A: 3242/1, 3724/17, 9064/1). Others came from loci CXCIX (Imp. III B: 3401/1), CCCCLXXXVIII (Imp. III A: 3792/1) and CCCCX (Imp. III A: 3132/1).

Figurines. The hind part of a Mycenaean bull figurine was found at CCVII (Imp. II F: 3371). A fragment of a locally made figurine turned up in H 9 NE in the same level as the deposits (Class XIX C: 6410 = SH 122).

“*Shaved dippers*” were discovered at loci CCCXCII (Class IX A: 3168/1), CCCCLXVI (Class IX A: 6258 = SH 113, Class IX B: 3726/3), CCCXX (Class IX A: 3633/1) and CCCCLXXXII (Class IX B: 3790/1).

Pyxides (Imp. II A). As local imitations of Mycenaean pyxides two pieces must be mentioned: CCCCLXXXIV (3766/1) and CCCCLIX (3441/1).

Without pretending to have dealt exhaustively with the question of dating we may state that the field of deposits chronologically seems to cover a rather limited span of time, and this impression is enhanced by the uniformity of the pottery. If a rough parallel must be drawn, the deposits appear to belong to essentially the same general period as stratum V at Tall Abū Ḥawām. Although a slight chronological differ-

13: QDAP 4 1935, 45 no. 279.

14: The stirrup-jar SH 78 was in Sūkās II, Copenhagen 1973, 8 by Miss G. Ploug compared with one from

Beth-Shan, BSA 62 1967, 127-128 pls. 28-29, whereas P.J. Riis, AASyr 11/12 1961/2, 140 note 2 referred to AJA 42 1938, 549-550 pl. 28.9, of LH III C date.

ence might be supposed between the central and the peripheral parts of the field, it is out of question that more than a few pots could be later than stratum V, e.g. some of the amphorae (see Chapter III, Class II B 1);¹⁵ but the analogies with objects in stratum V are more numerous.¹⁶

IV. *The Sounding in G 7 South*

After the removal of the architectural remains in the western part of the excavation it was decided at the end of October to undertake a sounding in G 7 S down to the rock in order to obtain an understanding of the genesis of the place.

This dig began with a partial uncovering of a layer of clay (layer 2) (fig. 16), which had been reached when the architectural remains were removed. It was ascertained that the layer had not, as first believed, been artificially added, but was an old surface, which could be traced under the entire field of deposits. Its highest point in the area laid free by the excavations in the sectors G 7-9 happened to be situated near the dividing line between G 8 and 9 at level 2.19 (0 = 5.39 m, plane of sight 1.45 m).¹⁷ From there the layer sloped distinctly towards the east, whereas it flattened more towards the west. In G 9 NW the Graeco-Phoenician burials were resting directly upon this layer; but in G 9 SE they were found about half a metre or even more over it.¹⁸ The work in the sounding lasted from October 29th to November 8th. The following strata could be distinguished:

1. A surface layer of dune sand in which both the architectural remains, the Graeco-Phoeni-

To conclude it should be pointed out that the above-mentioned difference between the central and peripheral parts also seems to reflect a change in the custom of depositing, as the more recent deposits looked much more simple, i.e. comprising fewer shapes, but still concentrated around large amphorae.

cian graves and the pottery deposits of the Late Bronze and Early Iron Ages appeared. It has not been possible with some certainty to indicate any real stratification within this about 1-1½ m thick layer. In places, especially in relat-

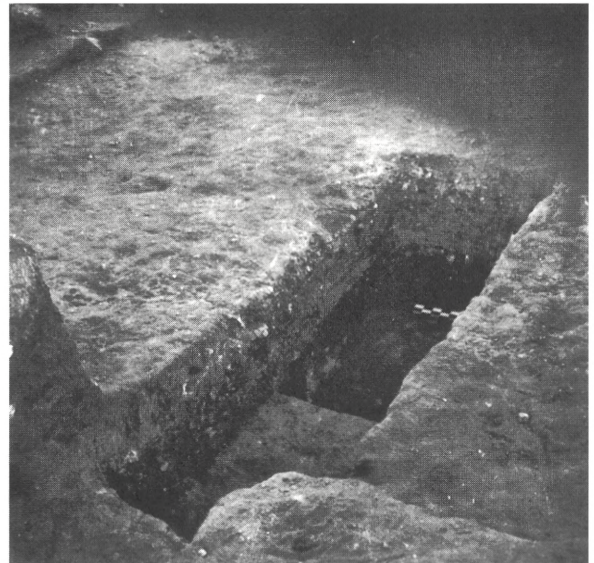


Fig. 16. Layer 2 in sector G 7 and the sounding with layers 3 and 5 seen from the north-east.

15: Also the bottom CCCCLXXXI (Class VIII B: 3226), which resembles that of a large amphora, see QDAP 4 1935, 9 fig. 13. On the chronology of Tall Abū Ḥawām, see BASOR 124 1951, 25.

16: Op.cit. 36 nos. 226 and 224, 37 nos. 228-229, 41 no.

247, 42 no. 253, 45 no. 279, 46 no. 283, 47 no. 288, 48 no. 291 and 54 no. 318.

17: See Sūkās VI pl. I: 4.65 m above sea-level.

18: Cf. Sūkās VI pl. I: burials 22 and 29.

ion to the buildings, an ancient surface level could be defined, but this was only indicated by artifacts, not geologically determined.

2. A layer of hard grey sandy clay, the layer 2 mentioned above (fig. 16), on the whole archaeologically sterile; but sometimes Graeco-Phoenician graves had been dug into it.¹⁹ The layer contained a few scattered stones, but apparently no cultural remains. How the layer came into existence is difficult to say; but its homogeneous character may suggest that it had been deposited by water, either through irrigation or through the influx of sea-waves. That it seems to be thinner towards the east and there has a greater content of sand speaks in favour of the latter explanation. The transition from this stratum to the underlying one is rather diffuse.

3. A dark greyish brown clayey culture layer, in which a few combed Early or Middle Bronze Age sherds were found (cf. Chapter III, Class XVI B). In addition a covered fire-place could be seen in the south wall of the sounding. It was marked 3 a, b, c and d; the letter *a* indicates reddish brown, archaeologically sterile sand, *b* a black clayey burnt layer, *c* a dark reddish brown clayey sand layer, and *d* a grey clayey sand layer. In the stratum also several small concentrations of lime could be seen.

4. A dark brown culture layer, also containing a few combed Early Bronze Age sherds (e.g. Class XVI B: 3464/1).

5. A reddish brown sand layer, in general archaeologically sterile (fig. 16). However, a fire-place was uncovered in the south wall and at the temporary bottom of the sounding, about 0.20 m below the upper border of the stratum (figs. 17-18). It consisted of stones of hand-size and compact remains of burnt material, as well as the jaw bone of an indefinite small animal and a few snail shells. At some places in the layer, otherwise looking very homogeneous, rather diffuse lime concentrations occurred.

6. A reddish brown greasy, very clayey layer, corresponding to layer 84 in Tall Sūkās, the deepest one.²⁰ The layer contained scattered stones and a few potsherds, among them several combed ones of Bronze Age date; but one had a wash of brown colour and might be regarded as Chalkolithic or at least of the Early Bronze Age (Class XVI C: 6295/1). Moreover a few, almost solitary bone splinters occurred in the layer, also two bronze fragments, possibly of a ring, and a mace-head of stone (Chapter III, Metal B and D: 3763/1, Stone B: 3162/1).

The rock appeared at level 506, i.e. 1.78 m above sea-level²¹ (figs. 19-20).

19: E.g. Sūkās VI, 16-17 no. 20 pl. 1.

20: See Sūkās III, Copenhagen 1974, 6: top levels 4.44-4.74 m above sea-level.

21: That is about 2 1/2 m lower than at Tall Sūkās, see Sūkās III, 6: 4.00-4.32 m above sea-level.

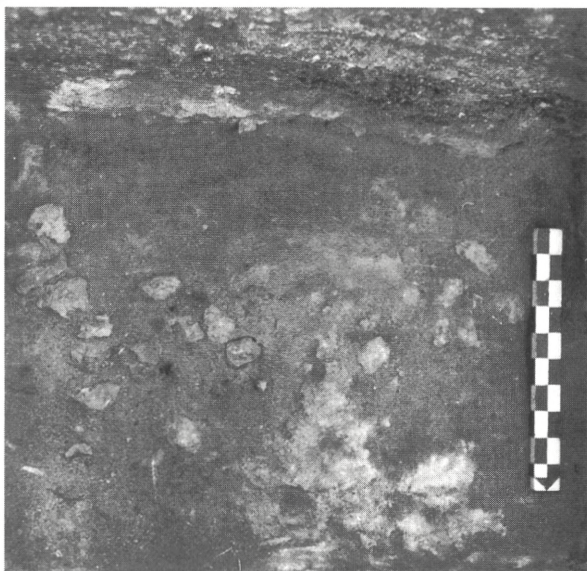


Fig. 17. Layer 5 in the sounding with the fire-place seen from the north.

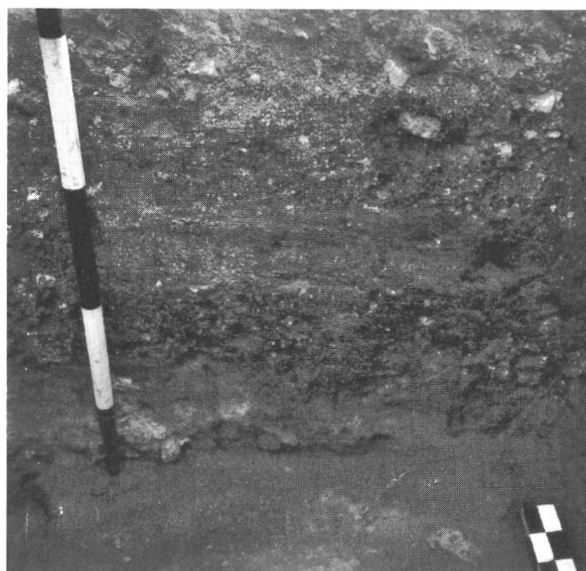


Fig. 18. The south wall of the sounding and layer 5 seen from the north.



Fig. 19. The west wall of the sounding and the rock seen from the east.

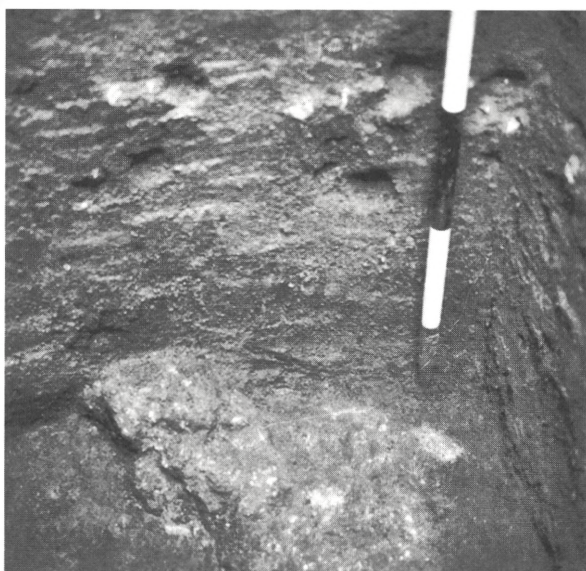


Fig. 20. The east wall of the sounding and the rock seen from the west.