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7

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AND  
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## 3. Thessaly, The Thessalian League, ca. 180 – 27 B.C.

*obverse*: Head of Zeus crowned with oak r.*reverse*: Athena Itonia r., in field ΘΕΣΣΑ ΛΩΝ

AR, stater, weight – ? diameter – ?

Bibliography: *Catalogue*, p. 5, No. 4<sup>17</sup>.

## 4. Attica, Athens, ca. 480 – 404 B.C.

*obverse*: Athena's head wearing Attic helmet, decorated with olive leaves, eye en face;*reverse*: Owl r., in field to l., spray of olive and crescent, in field to r. ΑΘΕ

AR, tetradrachm, weight – 13,75 g, diameter – 20,0 mm;

SNG Delepierre 1424 – 1459; SNG Cop.31–40.

Bibliography: *Catalogue*, p. 4, No. 1<sup>18</sup>.

## 5. Sicyonia, Sicyon, ca. 430/20 – 390/80 B.C. (Pl. I, 5)

*obverse*: Chimaera l., in field below ΣΕ*reverse*: Flying dove r., All in olive-wreath.

AR, stater, weight – 11,55 g, diameter – 20,0 mm;

SNG Delepierre 1936; SNG Cop.31.

Bibliography: *Catalogue*, p. 4, No. 2<sup>19</sup>.

<sup>17</sup> The data included in the Catalogue as well as lack of drawing does not allow for precise identification of the coin described. As for now, it has not been identified in the collection of the National Museum in Cracow.

<sup>18</sup> The drawing of the described coin does not allow for a more precise date setting. Very low weight of the coin leads us to believe that it might be a forgery. Unfortunately, the described coin has not been identified among the items presented in the National Museum in Cracow.

<sup>19</sup> I assumed the dating of the coin after C. M. Kraay, *Archaic and Classical Greek Coins*, Berkeley – Los Angeles 1976, p. 99 f. Also in this case I was not able to identify the described coin among the items in the collection of the National Museum.

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# FUNERARY SITES IN THE VICINITY OF TELL EL-'UMEIRI

Season 1994 of the Madaba Plains Project\*

During four seasons of work the hinterland surveys of the Madaba Plains Project have located and registered 133 sites within 5 km of Tell el-'Umeiri. In this number there were 38 sites with funerary features<sup>1</sup>. In addition to standard recording procedures, one Roman/Byzantine cemetery (Site 3) and several large cemeteries of the period were intensively surveyed and mapped in 1987 by Howard Krug<sup>2</sup>. Small excavations were

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<sup>1</sup> L. T. Geraty, *An Overview of Goals, Methods, and Findings*, Madaba Plains Project 1, 1989, p. 10; Ø. S. LaBianca, *An Introduction to the 1987 Tell el-'Umeiri Hinterland Surveys and Excavations*, Madaba Plains Project 2, 1991, p. 267; R. G. Boling, *Site Survey in the El-'Umeiri Region*, Madaba Plains Project 1, 1989, pp. 98–188; R. W. Younker, *The Judgement Survey*, Madaba Plains Project 2, 1991, pp. 269–334; G. Christopherson, *Madaba Plains Project: Regional Survey Sites. 1989*, Madaba Plains Project 3, f.c.; G. L. Christopherson et al., *Umeiri Survey Sites*. Unpublished manuscript. University of Arizona, 1992; Methods used by Madaba Plains Project were presented in Polish by B. Dąbrowski, *Madaba Plains Project. Współczesna ekspedycja archeologiczna w Palestynie*, Munus Amicitiae. Studia archeologiczne poświęcone pamięci Olgi Hirsch-Dydzek, Kraków 1994, pp. 83–102.

<sup>2</sup> H. Krug, *The Necropolis at Tell el-'Umeiri (East)*, Madaba Plains Project 2, 1991, pp. 356–369.

launched at an EB IV – MB II cemetery, Site 73, under the direction of Howard Krug and Douglas Waterhouse<sup>3</sup>. In 1992–1993 the Department of Antiquities of Jordan excavated another EB IV–MB II cemetery half a kilometer southeast of 'Umeiri under Mohammed Waheeb's direction<sup>4</sup>.

One of the goals of the 'Umeiri hinterland survey directed by Øystein S. LaBianca was a greater involvement in cemetery excavations and surveys in the 1994 season. The Polish Archaeological Mission organized by the Levant Foundation Poland took part in this project<sup>5</sup>. The strategy of the Polish mission, after several modifications, was to concentrate the research within one kilometer of the tell. First, an intensive survey of Tell el-'Umeiri's slopes and adjacent hills was launched<sup>6</sup>. Every feature was recorded with a special focus on natural caves which might have been used in antiquity as tombs and/or dwelling sites. Three places on the southern and south-eastern slopes of the tell were chosen for excavations: an almost completely filled cave, which at its entrance yielded sherds from many periods, including one from the Late Bronze Age; another partly filled cave with a slightly exposed, hewn entrance at the tell's south-eastern foot; and a U-shaped structure which some of us thought was another hewn cave opening, a large cist, or part of the tell's fortifications (fig. 1). Our second task was to continue researching the cemetery, Site 135, south-east of 'Umeiri, which during the Department's excavations produced one of the richest EB IV tomb repertoires in the southern Levant<sup>7</sup>.

#### EB IB MEGALITHIC TOMB (US 0.11)<sup>8</sup>

The U-shaped structure on the south-eastern slope of the tell turned out to be a most unexpected discovery. It constituted an isolated megalithic tomb where some individuals were buried along with 20 vessels dating back to EB IB<sup>9</sup>. The structure itself was built mostly of slab-like boulders. It was 3.2 m long, 2.7 m wide and 2 m high and was oriented

<sup>3</sup> D. Waterhouse, H. Krug, *The Cemetery at Um el Kumdom*, Unpublished manuscript, Andrews University, 1993.

<sup>4</sup> M. Waheeb, *The Electrical Resistivity Survey at EB IV/MB II Cemetery near Tell el-'Umeiri*, Unpublished manuscript, Department of Antiquities of Jordan, fc.; M. Waheeb, G. Palumbo, *Salvage Excavations at a Bronze Age Cemetery near Tell el-'Umeiri*, ADAJ 37, 1993, pp. 147–163.

<sup>5</sup> Bogusław Dąbrowski was a Field Director for Cemetery Survey and Excavations. The other team members were: Elżbieta Dubis, Maryla Kapica from Jagiellonian University, Ewa Świniarska, Ewa Wiewiórka, Agnieszka Zysek – students from Warsaw University, Tomasz Bocheński and Dorota Dąbrowska – all from Poland, Muriel Geroli from Milano University, Italy, Howard Krug from Andrews University, USA, Frank Reschke from Germany, Sarah Spangler from Canada.

<sup>6</sup> The Survey was supervised by Tomasz Bocheński.

<sup>7</sup> M. Waheeb, G. Palumbo, *Salvage Excavations...*, p. 153.

<sup>8</sup> The "US" stands for "Umeiri Survey", the first digit stands for the site number, and the second digit, stands for the feature number. The US 0.11 excavation was supervised by Elżbieta Dubis of the Jagiellonian University at Cracow, Poland. She was assisted by Muriel Geroli of the University of Milan, Italy.

<sup>9</sup> B. Dąbrowski, Ø. S. LaBianca, E. Dubis, *Megalithic Tomb at Tell el-'Umeiri, Jordan*, Biblical Archaeologist 57, 1994.

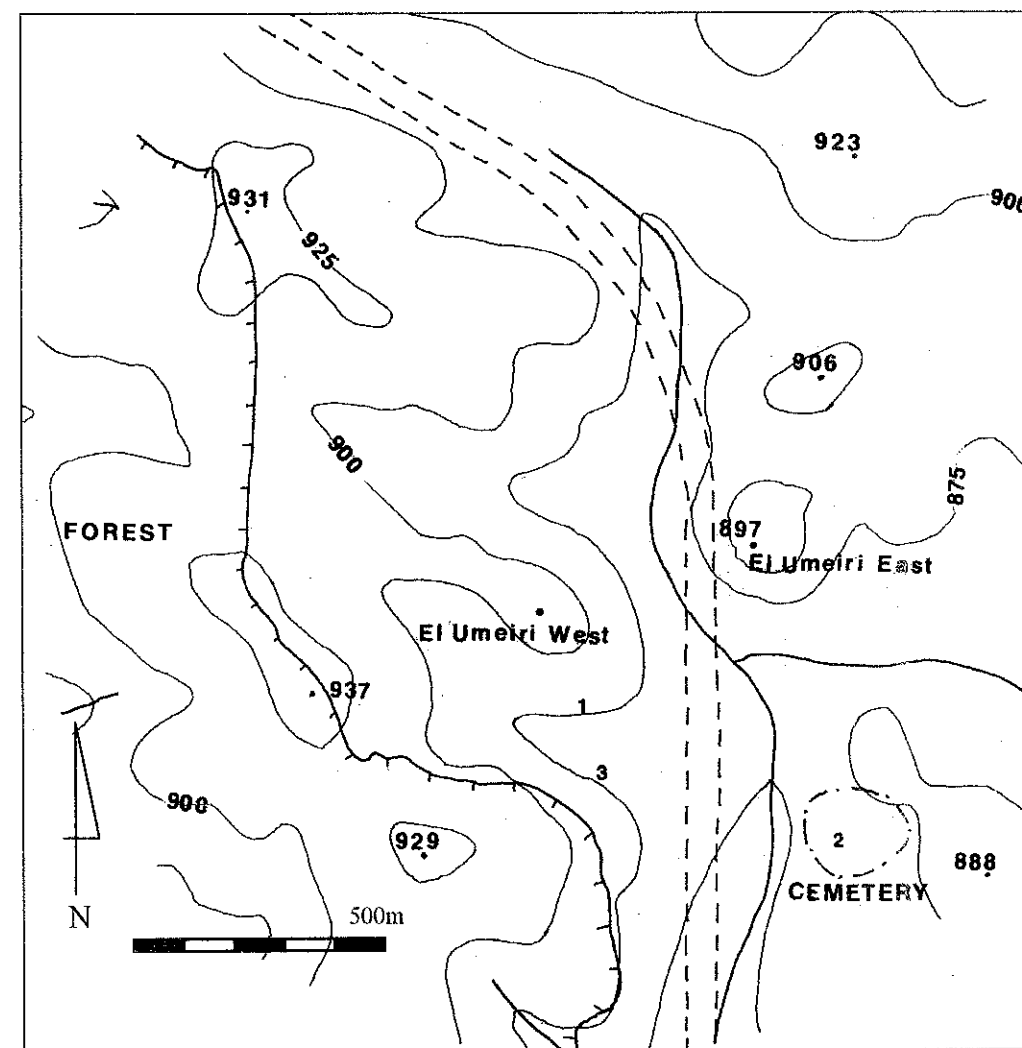


Fig. 1. Map of the region of Tell el-'Umeiri:  
1 - EB IB megalithic tomb; 2 - EB IV/MB II cemetery; 3 - MB II C tomb

East-North-East. The interior itself measured 1.9 m x 1 m x 1.8 m (fig. 2). We assume that the structure was originally covered by horizontal capstones, or wooden beams – which are now missing – giving it a dolmen's appearance. The arrangement of some inner features, close to the entrance – a hole in the southern boulder and an upright stone facing it – suggest that the interior was divided into two chambers, one on top of the other, probably by means of wooden beams (fig. 3). The front side of the structure, now open, was at least partially built over, probably creating a kind of a "porthole".

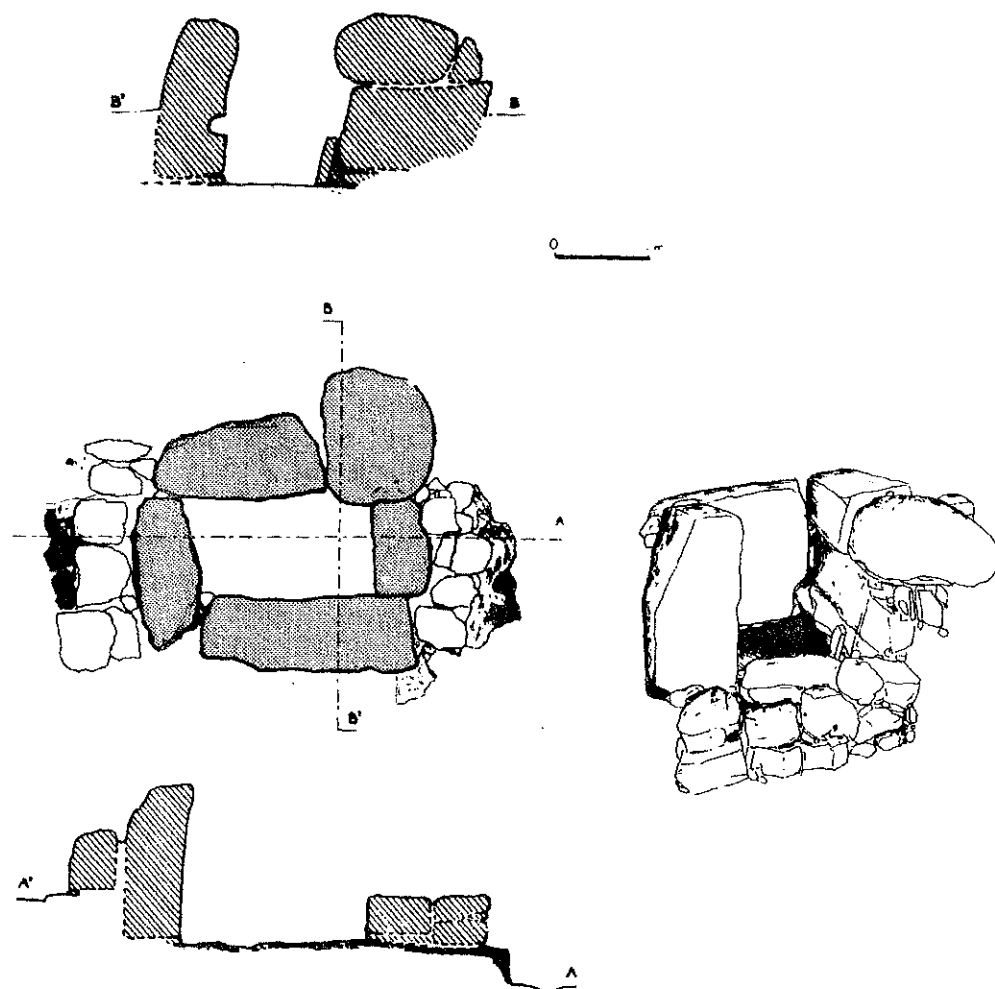


Fig. 2. EB IB megalithic tomb: top-plan, A'-A – West-East section, and B'-B – South-North section and view from east site (E. Dubis)

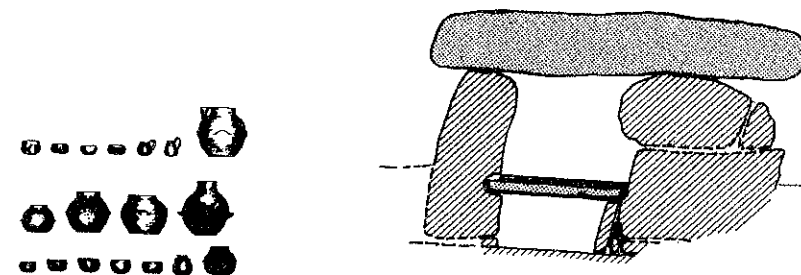
These characteristics imply that the structure is a variation of Type E, the “double-chamber type”, in Zohar’s simplified classification of dolmens<sup>10</sup> based on Epstein’s earlier typology<sup>11</sup>.

The interior contained an impacted bone heap, with some traces of articulation, of some twenty individuals, judged by the number of skulls. Bones were apparently pushed toward the rear. Twenty complete vessels were found among them. They included nine

<sup>10</sup> M. Zohar, *Megalithic Cemeteries in the Levant*, (in:) O. Bar Yosef, A. Khazanov [eds.], *Pastoralism in the Levant: Archaeological Materials in Anthropological Perspectives*, Madison, WI: Prehistory Press, 1992, pp. 44–46.

<sup>11</sup> C. Epstein, *Dolmens Excavated in the Golan*, Atiqot (English Series) 17, 1985, pp. 23–25

medium to large necked jars of which some had ledge handles and columns (a column of one jar was spouted), two juglets, and nine small cups. Some line painted sherds were also found. Pottery, which can be preliminarily dated to EB IB, was deposited in two levels separated by a layer of earth that seemed to coincide with the supposed organic division between the upper and lower chambers (see reconstruction fig. 3). Additionally, a few flint tools, two scrapers, two rows of beads, and three spindle whorls were uncovered.



The immediate context of the structure is not known since the excavations of the exterior have not been completed. What was uncovered were small irregular boulders sitting on flattened bedrock abutting the structure one meter below its present top and traces of plastered floors sealing against this structure.

As for the distant context, the megalith is isolated and does not belong to a dolmen field; at least no megaliths have been found in its immediate vicinity. The only other collapsed dolmen in the ‘Umeiri region was found ca. 2 km west of the tell (Site 56). One more possible dolmen was recorded at Site 93<sup>12</sup>. So far the tomb is one of the few similar megalithic constructions in the Levant, which contained an undisturbed assemblage of bones<sup>13</sup>. It was the only one, as it seems, which contained such a mass of original interment of human skeletons along with a very well preserved and homogeneous pottery repertoire and other objects<sup>14</sup>. Unlike other dolmens, the tomb has not been robbed perhaps because it lost its dolmen’s prominent image: it was partially covered by eroded soil moving down the slope and was lacking the typical horizontal lid. These facts drew people’s attention away from this structure as a potential treasure place.

The task for the 1996 season will be to finish the excavation of the exterior of the structure, ascertain if it was covered by tumulus or cairn, whether it had stone circles surrounding it etc. and to examine the megalith’s place in the cycles of sedentarization

<sup>12</sup> G. L. Christopherson et al., *Umeiri Survey...*; R. W. Younger, *The Judgement Survey*, Madaba Plains Project 2, 1991, pp. 269–334.

<sup>13</sup> M. Stekelis, *Les monuments mégalithiques de Palestine*, Archives de l’Institut de Paléontologie Humaine, Mémoire 15. Paris: Masson et Cie, 1935.

<sup>14</sup> Pottery was found inside dolmens at ed-Damiyeh, see Kh. Yassine, *The Dolmens – Construction and Dating Reconsidered*, BASOR 259, 1985, pp. 63–69.



and nomadization in the 'Umeiri region<sup>15</sup> and its direct relation to the tell itself. The tell's northern slope (Field C) yielded a high loop handle juglet of the same shape and ware. It was dated to EB III but it was definitely EB I<sup>16</sup>; additionally, the southern slope (Field D) yielded a few possible EB I sherds. These facts imply that in this period a settlement began, reaching its apex in EB III, and was abandoned by the beginning of EB IV<sup>17</sup>.

#### EB IV CEMETERY/CAMP (US SITE 135)<sup>18</sup>

When no permanent settlement existed at the tell or in its vicinity from EB IV to MB IIB, two cemeteries flourished in this period, one at Umm el-Kumdom, 3 km south of Tell el-'Umeiri, and the other one half a kilometer south-east of the tell.

The 'Umeiri cemetery (Site 135) was discovered in the summer of 1992, during the construction of a large water reservoir. Salvage excavations and an electrical resistivity survey were conducted by Mohammed Waheeb from the Department of Antiquities in 1992–1993<sup>19</sup>. In the summer of 1994 a survey and excavations of the cemetery were continued to the south of the reservoir by the Madaba Plains Project<sup>20</sup>. The extent of the cemetery seems to be some 500 m North-South, and 400 m East-West for a total of approximately 20 hectares. It is estimated to contain from several hundred to several thousand shaft tombs and cistern-shaped installations (fig. 4). During the Department's and MPP's excavations, 10 tombs with squared and rounded shafts and 20 cistern-shaped installations have been excavated and/or identified, mostly in the area of the reservoir. Eight tombs dated to EB IV, one to MB IIB, one was not datable. In five tombs (fig. 5), unearthed by the MPP, one jug, six lamps, one bronze dagger, and one spindle whorl were found.

Most of the so-called "cisterns" contained sherds dated to EB IV. EB IV tombs and cistern-shaped installations seem to have been contemporaneous as they seldom cut each other.

The presence of those so-called "cisterns" was supposed to be an indication that a permanent EB IV settlement might have existed nearby<sup>21</sup>. Another proposal, originally expressed by Ø. S. LaBianca, is that these installations suggest that the cemetery itself

<sup>15</sup> J. W. Hanbury Tenison, *The Late Chalcolithic to Early Bronze I Transition in Palestine and Transjordan*, BAR International Series 311, Oxford 1986, pp. 244–250.

<sup>16</sup> L. G. Herr, *Pottery*, Madaba Plains Project 1, 1989.

<sup>17</sup> L. G. Herr, *Excavation and Cumulative Results at Tell el-'Umeiri*, Unpublished manuscript. Canadian Union College, forthcoming.

<sup>18</sup> The 1994 Madaba Plains Project excavation of the cemetery was supervised by Maryla Kapica and Howard Krug. They were assisted by Sarah Spangler.

<sup>19</sup> M. Waheeb, G. Palumbo, *Salvage Excavations...*; M. Waheeb, *The Electrical...*

<sup>20</sup> The site was mapped by Valentino Gligorov.

<sup>21</sup> M. Waheeb, G. Palumbo, *Salvage Excavations...*, p. 153.

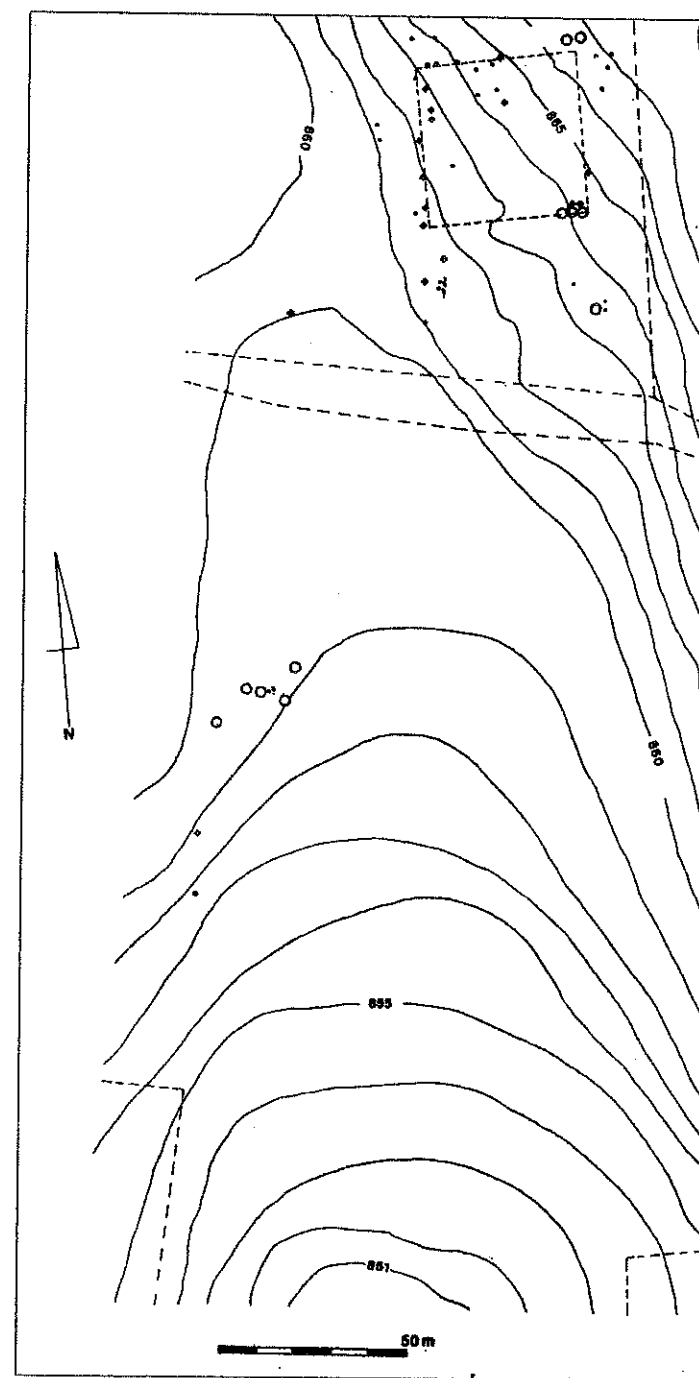


Fig. 4. Plan of the EB IV/MB II cemetery (Maryla Kapica)

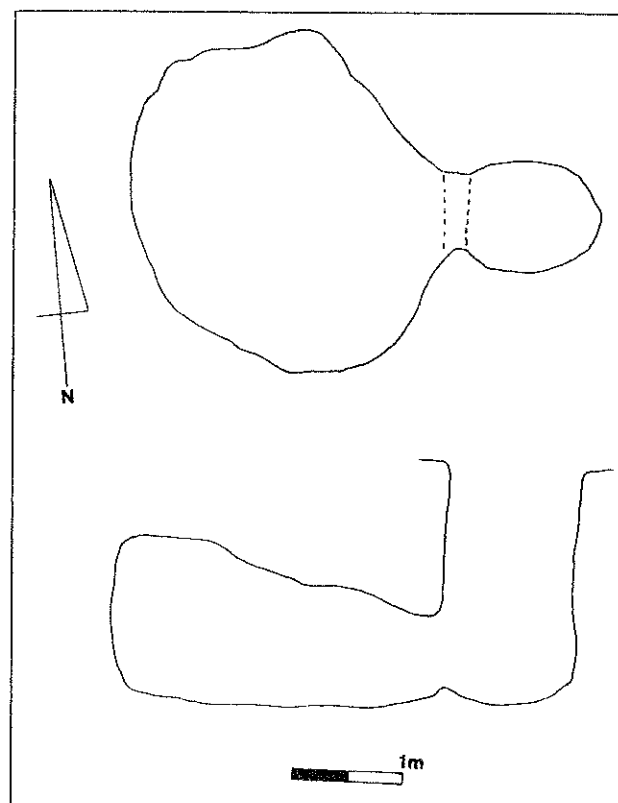


Fig. 5. Plan of the EB IV/MB IA tomb (Maryla Kapica)

served as a settlement, i.e. a seasonal campsite, or a homing ground for transhumant nomads. A similar idea was presented by Mattanyah Zohar of the Hebrew University about an earlier low intensity period in Palestine, namely EB I. He wrote, "we might see in the ritual centers, characterized by their megalithic cemeteries, a sort of substitute for the towns, filling the role of those particular functions in the life of the pastoral nomads which in other periods would have taken place in towns"<sup>22</sup>. We suggest that what Zohar proposed for EB I megalithic sites can also be accepted for 'Umeiri EB IV-MB II cemetery (Site 135), i.e. it was also a kind of a rallying point for pastoral nomads. Some evidence which supports such interpretation can be given. First of all, there is the presence of the EB IV cistern-shaped installations among the contemporaneous tombs. These installations probably served as silos, storage cavities, or the like. The installations' depth is approximately 2 meters or less; some of them had their openings covered with a blocking stone. A few human bones were found in two installations<sup>23</sup>. Secondly, the number of tombs appears to be half that of the cistern-shaped

<sup>22</sup> M. Zohar, *Megalithic Cemeteries...*, p. 55.

<sup>23</sup> M. Waheeb, G. Palumbo, *Salvage Excavations...*, pp. 148-149; Fig. 2 b on p. 150; Pl. 12 on p. 163.

installations. Thus to call the site a cemetery exclusively is improper. It was a multifaceted site and its funerary dimension, perhaps, was not the most substantial.

Thirdly, where were the camps or rallying points for the EB IV population if only 25% of EB IV cemeteries were located close to settlements of the same period?<sup>24</sup> However, one should bear in mind that Palumbo warns that some "isolated" EB IV cemeteries might have had undiscovered settlements in their proximity.

Finally, in central Transjordan, there existed an ethnographical phenomenon of places which served both as funerary sites and as safe equipment storage during the Late Ottoman Period. These were the so-called "sacred stone circles" reported by Conder<sup>25</sup> and Tristram<sup>26</sup>, and Ibach<sup>27</sup>. In this twofold use, sacred stone circles may find a parallel in an EB IV cemetery/camp.

Further research of the cemetery should concentrate on such aspects as a thorough analysis of the character of the cistern-shaped installations (more of them should be excavated); locating other non-funerary features contemporaneous with tombs in the cemetery (area between the tombs should be excavated to bedrock); and a study of dozens of cupholes of undetermined age found in some areas of the site. Finally, can this twofold pattern be observed in other EB IV cemeteries in Palestine? And did any other cemeteries dated to other periods of nomadization also constitute rallying points/camp sites?

#### MIDDLE BRONZE AGE IIC CAVE TOMB (US 0.8)<sup>28</sup>

The next period at Tell el-'Umeiri, MB IIC, witnessed the rise of a new, fortified settlement. A hewn cave tomb (fig. 6) with stepped entrance at the southeastern slope of Tell el-'Umeiri seems to belong to this period of intensification. It was partly excavated in the summer of 1994. It contained at least 15 articulated skeletons including one large skeleton, possibly a male, laid in a semi-niche, and four children laid on the cave's floor among other skeletons; two children had bracelets on their forearms.

Several intact vessels were found. They included: two ring based bowls (one platter bowl and one carinated bowl), two round bottomed jugs, one ring based chocolate-on-white jug, three dipper juglets, four jars, and one lamp with traces of burning. A worked ring base fragment served as a stand for one of the dipper juglets. One dipper juglet was found inside a jar.

<sup>24</sup> G. Palumbo, *The Early Bronze Age IV in the Southern Levant. Settlement patterns, economy, and material culture of a "Dark Age"*, *Contributi e Materiali di Archeologia Orientale* III. Roma: Università degli Studi di Roma La Sapienza, 1990, p. 76.

<sup>25</sup> C. R. Conder, *The Survey of Eastern Palestine*, Palestine Exploration Fund, London 1889.

<sup>26</sup> H. B. Tristram, *The Land of Israel: A Journal of Travels in Palestine, Undertaken with Special Reference to Its Physical Character*, London 1865; Ø. S. LaBianca, *Hesban I. Sedentarization and Nomadization: Food System Cycles at Hesban and Vicinity in Transjordan*, Berrien Springs 1990, pp. 83, 228.

<sup>27</sup> R. D. Ibach Jr., *Hesban 5. Archaeological Survey of the Hesban Region: Catalogue of Sites and Characterization of Periods*. Berrien Springs 1987.

<sup>28</sup> The excavation was supervised by Dorota Dąbrowska. She was assisted by Frank Reschke.

Most of the factors indicate that the group should be dated to MB IIC. We cannot exclude, however, that it belonged, at least a part of it, to the very beginning of LB I. The shortened body of the dipper juglets and the form of the carinated bowl might suggest this.

The excavation of the cave is hoped to be completed in 1996.

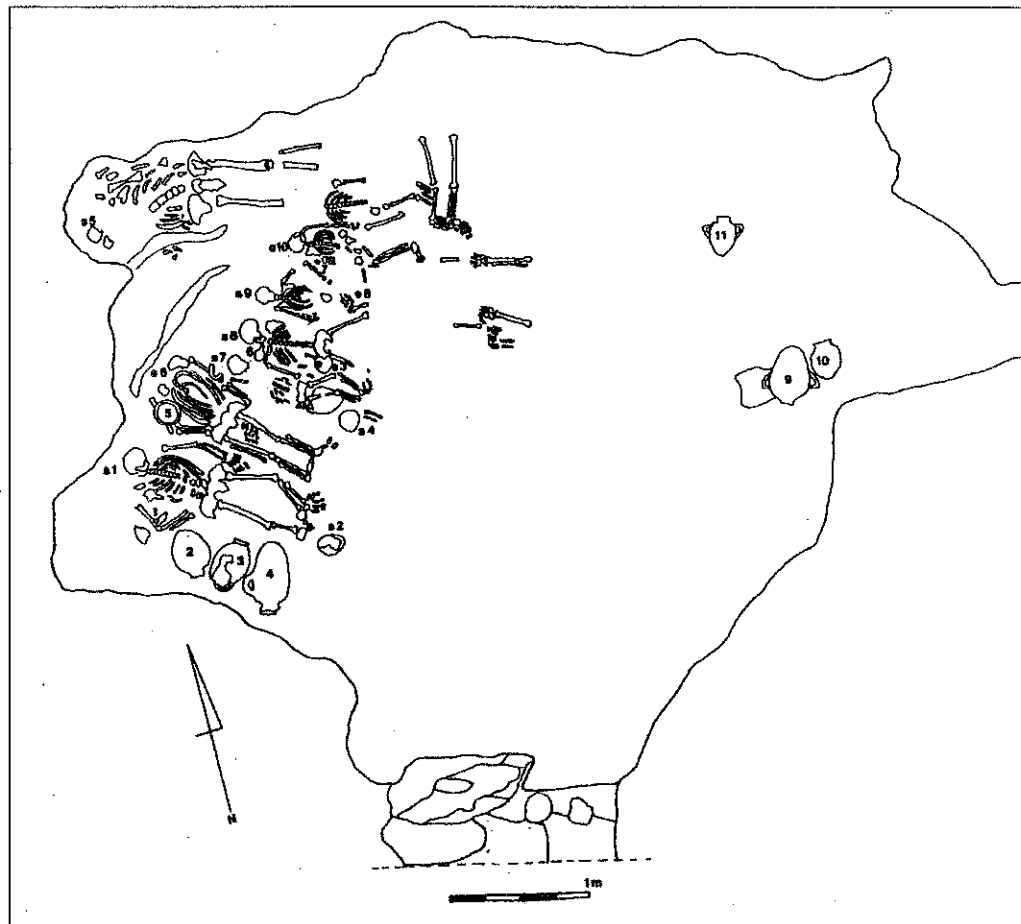


Fig. 6. Plan of the MB IIC tomb (Muriel Geroli)

### LATE BRONZE AND IRON AGES

Despite a very careful survey no apparent Late Bronze or Iron Age tombs have been located. Tombs from these periods have usually been difficult to find<sup>29</sup>. Two caves on

<sup>29</sup> W. E. Rast, *Tombs, Kinship Indicators and the Biblical Ancestors*, Eretz-Israel 23, 1992, p. 119, note 32.

the southern slopes of the tell and east of Field D, US 0.2 and US 0.3 yielded some LB sherds. After excavating, Cave US 0.3 appeared to be natural with no human intrusion<sup>30</sup>. Cave US 0.2 awaits further research. In the previous years two locations have been proposed for possible Iron Age tombs. One was a partly filled tomb 3 with benches at Site 3, surveyed in 1987 and still waiting for further examination. The other was a tomb at Site 135 which has been bulldozed<sup>31</sup>. Both locations are within 500 m of Tell el-'Umeiri.

### FUNERARY SITES OF LATER PERIODS

More than 30 funerary sites, i.e. the majority of cemeteries and occupational sites with tombs in the 'Umeiri region, belonged to the Roman and the Byzantine periods. A preliminary study of these sites employing a combination of Geographic Information System technology and statistical analysis was done by Gary Christopherson. Four probability models were constructed, which allows for some preliminary conclusions concerning environmental and social factors involved in the locational strategies for funerary sites. Two conclusions will suffice. First, Roman and Byzantine tombs in the 'Umeiri region tend to be located within a specific environmental context. Second, there is a high degree of clustering among tombs which is perhaps indicative of social factors in settlement locational strategies<sup>32</sup>.

Further research of the Roman and Byzantine funerary sites in the 'Umeiri region will pursue various social theories for the location of tombs.

<sup>30</sup> The cave excavation supervisor was Elzbieta Dubis.

<sup>31</sup> M. Waheeb, personal communication.

<sup>32</sup> G. Christopherson, *Four Probability Models for Sites with Tombs from the 'Umeiri Regional Survey*. Unpublished manuscript. University of Arizona, 1994.