

UNIVERSIDAD AUTÓNOMA DE MADRID

Proceedings of the 5th International Congress
on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East

Universidad Autónoma de Madrid

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Congress on the Archaeology of
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V Congreso Internacional de Arqueología del Oriente Próximo Antiguo

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The Origins of the Halaf and the Rise of Styles

*O. Nieuwenhuysse, P. Akkermans, W. Cruells and M. Molist
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Programme - Programa

Tell es-Sultan/Jericho from village to town: A reassessment of the Early Bronze Age I settlement and necropolis

Lorenzo Nigro, Rome

Abstract

An overall reassessment of Jericho Early Bronze Age stratigraphy has been generated by Italian-Palestinian excavations in Area F (on the northern plateau), where previous expeditions already investigated interesting remains of the early urban settlement at Tell es-Sultan. Especially John Garstang's 1936 excavations, though remained largely unpublished, exposed a huge portion of the Early Bronze Age rural village, which gradually developed into a small town during Early Bronze IB. Finds, stratigraphy and architecture of such a village exemplarily illustrate the mechanisms and reactions which lead to the birth of an early urban society in the Lower Jordan Valley during the last quarter of the 4th Millennium BC.

Keywords: Jericho/Tell es-Sultan, Early Bronze I, Shrine, Proto-Urban development, socio-economic dynamics, cultural interactions, Egyptian influx, status symbols, apsidal buildings, domestic architecture, terrace wall.

1. Introduction

This paper is a brief summary of a research activity linked to the Jericho Project carried out by Rome «La Sapienza» Expedition to Palestine & Jordan and the Department of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage of the Palestinian National Authority,¹ which matches data gathered during the Italian-Palestinian excavations in Area F at Tell es-Sultan/ancient Jericho,² and the following reappraisal of the original documentation from previous Austro-German and British expeditions, respectively directed by E. Sellin and C. Watzinger, John Garstang and Kathleen M. Kenyon.³ Archaeological record from previous excavations was made available by the Palestine Exploration Fund, which I deeply thank,⁴ and it was basically taken out from original plans, drawings and diaries of John Garstang's unpublished 1936 season, when a large part of the Early Bronze I village on the northern *plateau* of Tell es-Sultan was excavated.⁵ Garstang's discoveries were put together with those made by Sellin and

¹ I wish to deeply thank Dr Hamdan Taha, Director General of Antiquities, for the constant engagement in the safeguard and protection of the heavy threatened archaeological heritage of Palestine, and for the friendly cooperation with our University.

² The Early Bronze Age dwelling quarter excavated on the northern *plateau* of the *tell* in years 1998-2000 (Nigro 2000; 2006: 5-6, 10-17).

³ For a summary of the excavations at the Tell es-Sultan see Sellin - Watzinger 1913; Garstang - Garstang 1948; Kenyon 1957; Marchetti - Nigro eds. 1998; 2000; Nigro 2006.

⁴ To the Curator Dr. Felicity Cobbing, and the Chairman of the Executive Committee Dr. Jonathan Tubb (The British Museum), I wish to express my deepest gratitude.

⁵ Garstang *et al.* 1935: 149-150, 152-153; 1936: 73-74; Nigro 2005: 15-18, figs. 3.7-3.9.

Watzinger, and K.M. Kenyon in Squares EIII-IV⁶ and Trench II, respectively to the south and to the north of Garstang's North-Eastern Trench, in order to obtain two plans for the two main stratigraphic phases so far identified in the Early Bronze I occupation at Tell es-Sultan; namely, according to the Italian-Palestinian periodization⁷, Sultan IIIa1 (Early Bronze Age IA; fig. 1) and Sultan IIIa2 (Early Bronze Age IB; fig. 2).⁸

The reconstruction of the original stratigraphy of this 60 x 20 m wide trench (fig. 3)⁹ allowed to fix more precisely the attribution of finds to their original contexts, and thus to examine the Sultan IIIa material culture in a more detailed diachronic perspective, depicting a very interesting picture of the earliest Bronze Age village grown on Tell es-Sultan.

A strategic point of the study was the comparison of data from the *tell* with those collected in the necropolis, which included very famous and important tombs (such as Kenyon's well known tombs A94, K1, K2, and the very important Garstang's Tomb A).¹⁰ Very interesting patterns were noticed in the tombs to be re-interpreted in the light of the transformation of the village on the *tell* into a small town at the beginning of the Early Bronze Age.

The importance of the site at this crucial transformation of the early Palestinian society depended not only on the generous natural resources of the Jericho Oasis, but also on its location at one of the main crossroads of the Ancient Near East, opened to the influences both from North and East mainly across the Jordan Valley, and from South and West up to the Egypt. Its geographical centrality does make Tell es-Sultan a favourable observatory where the different cultural facies of the EB I (the North-eastern, Central and Southern Transjordanian ones, and the Central Palestinian one) met, overlapped and merged together, offering an invaluable setting for a coherent and satisfying archaeological definition of this period.¹¹ The meeting and combination in Jericho of the different Palestinian and Transjordanian Proto-Urban horizons produced a new original culture, which would have generated, at the beginning of the third millennium BC, the first fully urban society of the region.

2. *Sultan IIIA1 (Early Bronze IA, 3300-3200 BC): The settlement of a new community of farmers*

After the occupation of at least a part of Tell es-Sultan during the Chalcolithic Period (a cornet base and a churn were found by K.M. Kenyon in Trench I,¹² a

⁶ Hennessy 1967: 6-15; Kenyon 1981: 314-325.

⁷ Marchetti - Nigro eds. 1998: 13-14; Nigro 2006: tab. 1.

⁸ These phases roughly correspond to Garstang's Levels VII (Sultan IIIa1, EB IA) and VI (Sultan IIIa2, EB IB). See Nigro 2005: 16-17, notes 2-3.

⁹ Nigro 2005: section IV, figs. 3.2-3.6.

¹⁰ Kenyon 1960: 16-40 (Tomb A94); Kenyon 1965: 8-27 (Tomb K2), 27-31 (Tomb K1); Garstang 1932: 18-21, 41-42 (Tomb A).

¹¹ Nigro 2005: 2-6, note 2. For a general overlook of the various EB I horizons see Philip 2001: 170, 203-207.

¹² Holland 1987: 22.

flint hammer and a fan scraper were retrieved by the Italian-Palestinian Expedition in Area F),¹³ when the main settlement in the Jericho Oasis was possibly represented by Tell el-Mafjar,¹⁴ in the second half of the 4th millennium BC a new group of breeders and farmers settled at Tell es-Sultan, where they found the much favourable environment of the Oasis.

The earliest EB I rural village at Tell es-Sultan was dug by J. Garstang in the north-eastern sector of the *tell*, where circular huts were brought to light on top of at least three terraces sloping from west to east, towards the Spring and the Oasis.¹⁵ A small, but important portion was excavated by Kenyon in Trench II¹⁶ and in Square EIV.¹⁷

The two lowest terraces of the village were separated by a considerable terrace-wall (fig. 4), which from many respects represents the main topographic feature of the north-eastern area of the *tell*.¹⁸ It was in fact identified by all of the Expeditions,¹⁹ and in the successive phase of the following urban period (Sultan IIIb/Early Bronze II) it was superimposed by the very city-wall.²⁰

2.1. The earliest settlement (Sultan IIIa1, EB IA)

The earliest settlement consisted of juxtaposed circular huts in mud-bricks laid upon foundations of undressed stones and slabs,²¹ with sunken floor and a possible straw or adobe dome (as still used in some regions of inner Syria), usually flanked by installations (such as circular silos, stone platforms) and frequently –if not always–grouped in couples.²² The westernmost house consisting of 177-173 opened into a courtyard (176) with a circular silos and a fireplace. To the south, there were two large apsidal buildings (170, 175), with a stone platform (179) attached (fig. 5).²³ A major house, in the middle of the excavated area, comprised two circular huts (187, 394) and a rectangular structure (388+399), standing against the north-south terrace-wall and delimited to the north by another major structure called «demarcation wall». In the «L-shaped» courtyard (396+397) of the house there were a silos and a

¹³ On the debated issue of the presence, or not, of a Chalcolithic occupation at Tell es-Sultan see North 1981; Garfinkel 1999.

¹⁴ A site recently explored by the Palestinian-Norwegian Expedition directed by Hamdan Taha and Randi Haaland (Taha *et al.* 2004).

¹⁵ Nigro 2005: 23-34.

¹⁶ Kenyon 1981: 146-147, pls. 100a, 249a; Nigro 2005: 113-114.

¹⁷ Kenyon 1981: 315-321, pls. 313a, 323e, g, h, j; Nigro 2005: 120-122.

¹⁸ Nigro 2005: 23-25; 2006b: 353-354.

¹⁹ Sellin - Watinger 1913: fig. 10; Kenyon 1981: pls. 313-314; and the unpublished plans of Garstang's 1936 season published in Nigro 2005: figs. 3.8-3.9.

²⁰ See Garstang *et al.* 1936: pl. XXVIII.

²¹ See Nigro 2005: fig. 3.17.

²² A kind of architecture attested to in many EB I northern Palestinian sites, such as Yiftahel, Tel Teo, Meser, Megiddo, Tell esh-Shuna, Jebel Mutawwaq, Tell Um Hammad (Braun 1989; Enea 1996), up to the Lebanese coast (see the examples from Dakermann, near Sidon, and Byblos; Saidah 1979; Dunand 1973, 217-233, 244-246) on the one hand, and the southern Syria on the other hand (Khirbet al-Umbashi; Braemer-Échallier 2004: 63-64).

²³ Nigro 2005: 25-27, figs. 3.15-3.19.

tannur (fig. 6).²⁴ A noteworthy evidence was that uncovered to the east of the terrace-wall, in a sector which will be largely obliterated by erosion and following building activities connected to the road which cuts Tell es-Sultan. Here, at least three domestic units consisting of circular huts («Ring Ofen», 271, 254), rectangular fences, silos and fireplaces were brought to light²⁵. In Kenyon's excavations, the same earliest phase of the rural village is represented by the precinct ZZG and the already mentioned terrace-wall (ZZE-ZZT)²⁶, that is the southward prosecution of that dug by Garstang in Level VII, which bordered to the east the middle terrace of the village in Squares EIII-IV (Phases DD-R)²⁷, and by the circular huts OBM and OBO unearthed in Trench II²⁸, which were preserved in a very bad state in respect of those excavated by Garstang, due to the erosion of the northern slope of the *tell*²⁹.

2.2. The ceramic inventory of Sultan IIIa1

The ceramic inventory of this initial phase it is characterized by hemispherical bowls and bowls with straight sides, juglets and small jars with lug handles, and storage jars with everted rim.³⁰ In the earliest layers the commonest decoration is incised, notched or punctuated (this latter a distinguished feature of the Southern Transjordanian tradition, such as in the EB IA Bab edh-Dhra' pottery inventory), while in a mature phase of development of the settlement, it is noteworthy the first appearance of Line-Painted Ware, a specialized production which in the following phase will become a distinctive indicator (fig. 7).³¹ Large containers such as storage jars and vats are conversely characterized by a white or cream wash and a wavy band slip.³²

2.3. Garstang's Shrine 420

In a later phase of the Sultan IIIa1 period, at the north-eastern edge of Garstang's Trench, just underneath the Early Bronze III city-walls, a small roughly rectangular-shaped shrine with a bent-axis entrance on its long side was built: Shrine 420, the so-called Garstang's «Babylonian Shrine» (fig. 8).³³ It was erected within the dwelling quarter but in an area deliberately separated from the houses

²⁴ Nigro 2005: 28-30, figs. 3.20-3.25.

²⁵ Nigro 2005: 32, figs. 3.26-3.27.

²⁶ Kenyon 1981: 315-321, pl. 313a.

²⁷ Nigro 2005: 120-121.

²⁸ Kenyon 1981: 146-147, pls. 100a, 249a; Nigro 2005: 113-114, figs. 4.5-4.6.

²⁹ In Trench I K.M. Kenyon excavated a terrace-wall called «EO», which she attributed to the latest Neolithic phase (Stage XXXII; Kenyon 1981, 96, pls. 77-78, 229a). Actually, it is in a similar strigraphic, structural and topographic location in respect of the Garstang's terrace-wall in the North-Eastern Trench, and may thus be considered another terrace-wall belonging to the earliest Early Bronze Age village (Nigro 2005: 111, pls. 4.2-4.4).

³⁰ Nigro 2005: pls. 1-3, 20-21, 25-26, 29, 31, 33, 36.

³¹ Sala 2005a: 174-175.

³² Sala 2005a: 176-177.

³³ Garstang *et al.* 1936: 73-74, pl. XLIa; Garstang - Garstang 1948: 78-79, fig. 8; Nigro 2005: 33-34; Sala 2005b.

by the erection of a north-west/south-east «demarcation wall». Shrine 420 represents a cult structure for both its architectural features and the kind of the related finds. A large plastered dais with some circular depressions («cup-marks») was built at the north-western end opposite to the entrance, while a continuous plastered bench lines against the walls of the other sides of the room. A niche, not noticed by Garstang, was just in front of the cup marks in the dais of the shrine. It seems thus possible that at least some of the cult furnishings, found in the same level and associated by Garstang to the shrine, namely, a stone smoothed object of oval section, tentatively interpreted as a *massebab*; a small libation altar; two limestone bases, and two other betyls,³⁴ were originally placed into the niche.

2.4. Early phases of use of the necropolis (end of Early Bronze IA)

A parallel very important set of information was collected in the necropolis. It is of course impossible here to take into consideration all data made available by Garstang's and Kenyon's excavations. Kenyon excavated eight tombs used during the Early Bronze I, located in cemeteries A and K, just north and west of Tell es-Sultan.³⁵ Garstang had already brought to light two tombs, Tomb A and Tomb 24, west of the *tell* (around 100 meter north of Tawahin es-Sukkar), which may be included into Cemetery K, since they belong to the same typology (a carved cave with a central pillar supporting the collapsed roof). Especially, Garstang's Tomb A has provided a continuous stratigraphy through the entire Early Bronze Age.³⁶

Together with Kenyon's Tombs K1 and A94,³⁷ Garstang's Tomb A illustrates, with its construction and earliest utilization (layer 4), the beginning of frequentation of the area of Tell es-Sultan by a community of semi-nomads, which was gradually settling nearby the spring of 'Ain es-Sultan around 3300 BC.³⁸

The pottery found in the lowest layers in these tombs is, in fact, the earliest found in Jericho for the Early Bronze Age.³⁹ Moreover, the funerary custom with skulls piled up against the walls and the long bones in the middle of the cave, may even support the hypothesis that some of the earliest burials were brought from another cemetery by people settling at Tell es-Sultan.⁴⁰

2.5. Egyptian contacts

Garstang recovered from the bottom of his Early Bronze I levels (Level VII), at the eastern edge of his trench,⁴¹ two Egyptian or Egyptianizing ceremonial

³⁴ Garstang *et al.* 1936: 73-74, pl. XLlib.

³⁵ Polcaro 2005b.

³⁶ Polcaro 2005a.

³⁷ Kenyon 1960: 16-40 (Tomb A94); Kenyon 1965: 27-31 (Tomb K1).

³⁸ Nigro 2005: 198-199.

³⁹ Kenyon 1955: 113; Nigro 2005: 16, note 3.

⁴⁰ Kenyon 1957: 95-100.

⁴¹ Garstang *et al.* 1936, pl. XXXVI:24-26; Garstang - Garstang 1948, 79.

mace-heads and a possible stone palette. These items, characteristic of the late pre- and proto-dynastic period in Egypt, provide one of the most important inter-cultural links for the first Early Bronze occupation at Tell es-Sultan.⁴²

Moreover, the presence of two Egyptianizing vessels, the so-called «lotus vases», retrieved in the EB IA layers of Kenyon's Tombs A114 and K1 testify to the particular relationship between Tell es-Sultan and the emerging Egyptian reign, which will have such a prominent role in the development of the first urban culture in Palestine.⁴³ A relationship due, on one hand, to the position of Tell es-Sultan on an important crossroad in the Jordan Valley, on the other hand, to the numerous resources of the Oasis and the Dead Sea, that through Jericho had to be exported (namely, salt and sulphur from the Dead Sea, bitumen, dates).

2.6. Jericho in the Early Bronze IA: the settlement of a rural community

Summing up data from the necropolis and the *tell*, Sultan IIIa1 (Garstang's level VII, Kenyon's Phases DD-R in Squares EIII-IV) illustrates a clear example of sedentarization of an agricultural community, when only some of the people seasonally using the necropolis settled on the *tell*. At the beginning the dwelling was sparse, with circular huts irregularly displaced on different terraces, the only common work being a series of terrace-walls, which enucleated an area for a shrine. This rural village, however, rapidly flourished, as it is also shown by some noteworthy finds.

3. Sultan IIIa2 (Early Bronze IB, 3200-3000 BC): the full growth of proto-urban village

The passage to the following stratigraphic phase, called Sultan IIIa2 (Early Bronze IB) is indicated by the reconstruction of the major north-south terrace-wall,⁴⁴ with a new course of stone foundations (already brought to light by the Austro-German Expedition),⁴⁵ and by the east-west boundary wall delimitating the Shrine terrace (fig. 2).

3.1. The Proto-Urban settlement (Sultan IIIa2, EB IB)

The original rural village with circular huts displaced on various terraces without a clear order underwent a progressive growth, distinguished by the addition of rectangular houses, sometimes with rounded corners, and great apsidal buildings (fig. 9), within a neater partition into compounds of rectangular or trapezoidal shape.

In the sector excavated by J. Garstang⁴⁶, where Sultan IIIa2 is represented by his «level VI»; the major feature was a street (158+174) running south-west/north-

⁴² Garstang *et al.* 1936: pl. XXXVI:24-26; Garstang - Garstang 1948: 79.

⁴³ Sal 2005a: 177-178.

⁴⁴ Now Kenyon's wall ZA (Kenyon 1981: 322). Parr differently interpreted this structure as a first fortification wall of the proto-urban settlement (Parr 2000: 391-392).

⁴⁵ Sellin - Watzinger 1913: fig. 10.

⁴⁶ Nigro 2005: 35-41.

east (fig. 2), which demonstrates the changing status of the settlement, gradually transforming into a large village. This street, 2 meters wide, will be continuously used during the whole urban period at Jericho, even though with some drastic changes in its northern end after the construction of the Early Bronze Age III city-walls.⁴⁷

A few structures were identified in the uppermost western terrace, where, however, a major compound (164, 166) flanked the street. In the westernmost House 167+168 a Line-Painted *amphoriskos*, a Band Slip small jar, and a Red Slip juglet with loop handle, refined with net burnishing, were retrieved,⁴⁸ as well as six storage jars, some with band slip decoration.⁴⁹ The storeroom, one of the earliest excavated at the site, may be considered a demonstration of the increasing agricultural capacity of the Jericho community. Burnt barley, lentils and grapes were in fact found, according to John Garstang's Field Diary, in another jar of room 168.⁵⁰

In the central terrace, on the eastern side of the street, several domestic units were identified. From north to south: House 161, a large courtyard 162+169, with a huge stone grinding slab, possibly used by the inhabitants of the composite House 362+372+379+374.⁵¹ The latter was a tripartite domestic rectangular unit which also included round hut 362, which is the later reconstruction of previous hut 394. The house was directly leaning on the north-south terrace-wall, and communicated with two courtyards. In what was the rear open space (380), there were a silos (378) and a tannur (384), while inside the main room 372+379+374 a limestone mortar was found of a type which will be a classic domestic tool during the whole Early Bronze Age at Jericho (fig. 10).⁵² Among pottery vessels from this house, a net burnished Red Slip *amphoriskos* is particularly noticeable.⁵³

In the southern sector, structures excavated by Garstang were completed by Kenyon in Squares EIII-IV (Phases Q-N - Sultan IIIa2, EB IB), who uncovered some rectangular buildings with rounded corners, and, a huge apsidal building (fig. 9) probably destined to a some kind of community or at least extra-familial functions, an archetypal sign of a growing social complexity.⁵⁴

The implemented social complexity is also testified to by the increased retrieval of status-symbols, such as limestone and calcite mace-heads, both on the

⁴⁷ Garstang *et al.* 1935: 152-154, pl. XXIII. The southward prosecution of the street of the EB II-III dwelling quarter has been identified by the Italian-Palestinian Expedition in Area F (street L.437, then L.307; Nigro 2000: 22-23, figs. 1:15, 1:17-18; Nigro 2006: 5-6, 10). The street first turned slightly to north-east and then, cause of the erection of the city-wall to the north, sharply bended to north-west and ran westwards, where it was first unearthed by Sellin and Watzinger in the south-eastern corner of Square E6 (Sellin - Watzinger 1913: 36-38, fig. 17, pl. II).

⁴⁸ Nigro 2005: 36, pl. 5.

⁴⁹ Nigro 2005: 37, pls. 6-7.

⁵⁰ Nigro 2005: 37, note 18.

⁵¹ Nigro 2005: 38.

⁵² See e.g. for comparisons the specimens found by the Italian-Palestinian Expedition in Building B1 (Marchetti - Nigro eds. 2000: 132, fig. 3.16) and by K.M. Kenyon (Kenyon 1981: 166, 363, pls. 107, 194b).

⁵³ Nigro 2005: fig. 3.37, pl. 8.

⁵⁴ Kenyon 1981: 322-325, pls. 313b-314; Nigro 2005: 122-124.

site and in the necropolis and, by the diversification of pottery assemblages again both on the *tell* and in the contemporary tombs.⁵⁵

3.2. The «Double Shrine» of Sultan IIIa2

As regards the cultic compound it is also transformed in Garstang's Level VI, with the addition of a second room to the east (447)⁵⁶, which, in spite of the lower location of the second room, makes the plan of the shrine roughly similar to other Palestinian «double» temples of the same period (such as that of Tell el-Mutesellim, stratum XIX [J-3]).⁵⁷

3.3. The Necropolis in the Early Bronze IB and the Burial of a Chief

As far as the necropolis is taken into consideration, significant changes in the burial custom are noticed in the EB IB strata of the major familiar tombs of cemeteries A and K. In Garstang's Tomb A, a distinguished burial, the earliest in primary deposition, shows a personage with raised arms and flexed legs.⁵⁸ In between the legs a mace-head was found, while the gesture of the arms, as well as the general position of the dead, as rightly pointed out by A. Polcaro, from the one hand clearly state his rank, at least within the familiar group if not within the whole community, and, on the other hand, find a meaningful comparison in the Stele of Arad,⁵⁹ where a standing figure raises his hands, and, in the meantime another, in the same position, is lying upon a rectangular platform, similar to those attested to in EB IB tombs at Jericho. The same gesture is visible in the only other EB I iconic representation on a graffito in the stone paved courtyard of the temple of stratum XIX at Tell el-Mutesellim,⁶⁰ as well as in some figures on seal impressions from Bab edh-Dhra'.⁶¹

The association to this distinguished burial of a piriform mace-head suggests the lineage of chief for the dead (we have already seen such status symbols before).

3.4. Economic and Social Growth of Sultan IIIa2

Such important finds also hint at a gradual but substantial transformation of the site productive and economic capability, which attests to its political status as a centre progressively inserted in the Early Bronze IB exchange routes, at a very important junction on the shore of the Dead Sea in the Southern Jordan Valley, where salt, bitumen, sulphur, animal bones, and especially copper were exchanged.

⁵⁵ Nigro 2005: 200.

⁵⁶ Nigro 2005: 35.

⁵⁷ Finkelstein - Ussishkin 2000: 38-52; fig. 3.11.

⁵⁸ Polcaro 2005a: 59-68.

⁵⁹ Amiran - Ilan 1972: fig. 87.

⁶⁰ Loud 1948: pl. 273.

⁶¹ Lapp 2003: 541-546, figs. 18.16-17.

3.5. Ceramic Standardization and Typological Segmentation of Sultan IIIa2

Also the ceramic horizon of Sultan IIIa2, reflects the implementing dynamics of an emerging Proto-Urban community. Pottery specialization, wares standardization and typological segmentation are evident beside the common forms of Simple and Preservation Wares. Moreover, a remarkable presence of Line-Painted Ware, which characterizes also the funerary assemblages of the contemporary layers in tombs, is among the main diagnostic elements of the material culture of this phase.⁶² Such phenomena are also detectable in other important site and necropolis of Palestine, namely: et-Tell (namely, Tombs B, C e G),⁶³ the Ophel Tomb 3 of Jerusalem⁶⁴ and Tell en-Nasbeh.⁶⁵

4. Jericho: a favourable environment for an Early Urban Development

The Jericho material culture, stratigraphy and architecture, as well as the many other distinctive features of the earliest settled growing community of Sultan IIIa2, individuate an archaeological horizon which, though enriched by several outer incomes (from Transjordan, the North and the South-West, including Egypt), flourished locally, firmly setting a favourable socio-economic basement upon which, around 3000 BC, without a major break, the fortified town of Sultan IIIb (Early Bronze II) will rise.⁶⁶

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⁶² Sala 2005a: 174-175.

⁶³ Marquet-Krause 1949: pls. XLII-XLV, LVI-LVII, LX-LXIV.

⁶⁴ Vincent 1911: pls. IX-X.

⁶⁵ Wampler 1947: pl. 12:204-206.

⁶⁶ Nigro 1996-1997.

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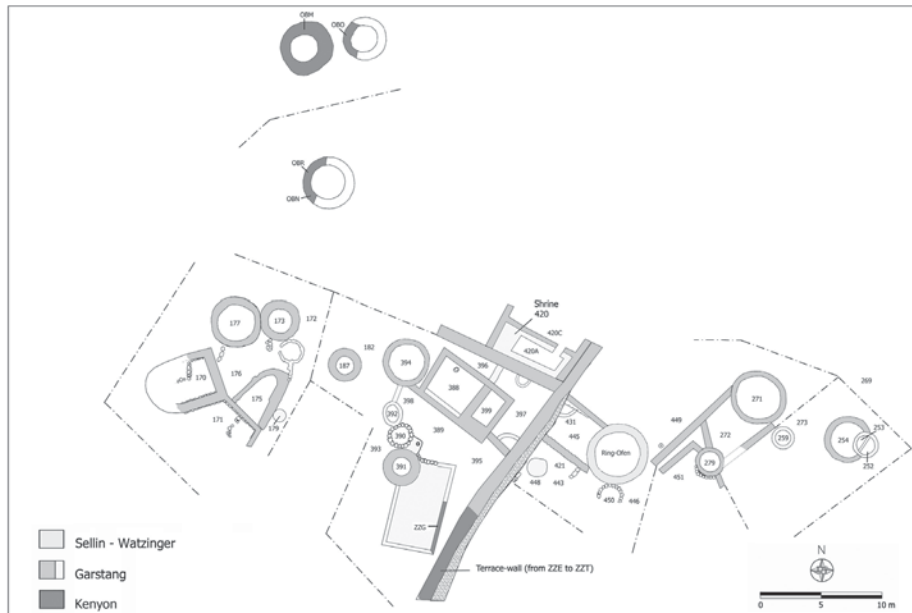


Fig. 1: General plan of Sultan IIIa1 rural village (EB IA).



Fig. 2: General plan of Sultan IIIa2 proto-urban village (EB IB).

Stratigraphic phases of Tell es-Sultan	Necropolis	Tell				
		Garstangs levels	Kenyon's phases			
		North-Eastern Trench	Squares EIII-IV	Trench I	Trench II	Trench III
Sultan IIIa1 (BA IA)	Tomb A (layer 4) Tombs A13, A84, A94, A114, A124, A130+A61, K1	VII	DD-R	(wall EO)	XIII-XIV	XI-XIII
Sultan IIIa2 (BA IB)	Tomb A (layers 3-2b) Tombs A13, K2	VI	Q-N		XV-XVI	XIV-XV

Tab. 1: Stratigraphical correlation between the EB I phases identified by the two British Expeditions directed by J. Garstang (1930-1936) and K. M. Kenyon (1952-1958) at Tell es-Sultan and in the nearby Necropolis.



Fig. 3: General view of Garstang's North-Eastern Trench at the end of 1936 excavations, from south-west; at the bottom, the Neolithic structures (208+461+463) of level XI (courtesy of Palestine Exploration Fund).



Fig. 4: The north-south terrace-wall excavated by J. Garstang, separating the two lowest terraces of the Sulatn IIIa (EB I) village, seen form east (courtesy of Palestine Exploration Fund).



Fig. 5: The western sector of the Sultan IIIa1 (EB IA) village excavated by J. Garstang, with the circular Houses 173 and 177, and the apsidal House 175 (courtesy of Palestine Exploration Fund).



Fig. 6: House 394+388+399, from south-west; on the right, the workers excavating the eastern face of the north-south terrace-wall; in the central background, Shrine 420 (after Garstang - Garstang 1948: pl. XI,a).

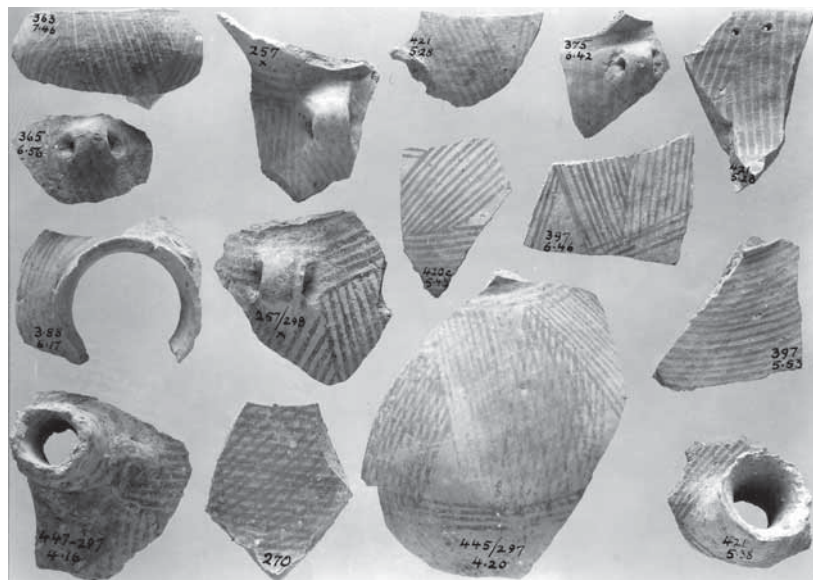


Fig. 7: Line-Painted Ware from Garstang's North-Eastern Trench (courtesy of Palestine Exploration Fund).



Fig. 8: Shrine 420, from north-west; to be noted, the large plastered dais with circular depressions on the western side of the cella and the possible traces of a cultic niche in the western wall (courtesy of Palestine Exploration Fund).



Fig. 9: The big apsidal building excavated by K. M. Kenyon in Squares EIII-IV (Phases Q-N) in 1952-1958 (after Kenyon 1981: pl. 174).



Fig. 10: The rectangular House 372+379+374, from south (courtesy of Palestine Exploration Fund).