PROCEEDINGS
of the

FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS
ON THE ARCHAEOLOGY
OF THE
ANCIENT NEAR EAST

Rome, May 18th-23rd 1998

Edited by

Paolo Matthiae
Alessandra Enea, Luca Peyronel, Frances Pinnock

Roma 2000
Coordinating the MB I Pottery Horizon of Syria and Palestine

Lorenzo Nigro, Rome

0. Introduction

Notwithstanding the strong increase of archaeological investigations in the Levant during the last decade, some fields of research still remain far from a scholarly adequate level of knowledge; this is the case of the reciprocal chronological setting of Syria and Palestine, based upon comparison and interrelation of their ceramic horizons.

After the - at his time - gigantic work of C.I.F. Schaeffer (1948), very few attempts have been made to correlate stratigraphically Syro-Palestinian sites, on the basis of the occurrence of similar features of material culture, and, when available, of other pieces of evidence useful to date strata. However, this seems the main clue in order to face properly the hard task that is the chronological setting of the two regions in a convincing way. While the only comprehensive study on Palestinian pottery is nowadays thirty years old; the ceramic horizons of Syria only now are starting to be studied outside the limits of each individual site. This is particularly true for those areas of southern Syria (Hauran and Julan), which are obviously quite important for the study of the relationships with Palestine. The unbalanced situation in respect of archaeological investigation among the two regions has long hampered a full understanding of their cultural relations. However, since from a correct historical perspective it appears clearly that Syria had a

---

1 Several speculative attempts, which are of course supported by convincing evidence grasped in a limited realm (specialised pottery productions; inscribed scarabs, etc.), extended improperly to a largest compound, have been put forward (e.g. Bietak 1991; Ward - Deyer 1994; Weinstein 1995); chronologies thus obtained - i.e. bypassing the problem of inter-site stratigraphic correlation - have raised legitimate criticisms (Dever 1992; Weinstein 1996), since they do not allow an exhaustive comparison of material culture horizons. A good epitome of this trend are those chronological or stratigraphical correlations based upon the occurrence of painted and specialised pottery wares (such as the Khabur Ware, the Tell el-Yahudiyeh Ware, etc.). Actually, this kind of evidence is mostly unapt to be exploited for chronological links, since luxury or symbolic items have long and complex uses (especially if you have to distinguish between containers and their content). Without entering the puzzling debate on Middle, Low or Ultra-Low chronology in the Levant (see Weinstein 1995), this paper starts again from material data, trying to properly evaluate the intermingled fields of pottery horizons and stratigraphy.

2 Amiran 1969.


4 The unique overall study of the MB I culture in Syria-Palestine is that of P. Gerstenblith (1983), which, however, especially as regards the analysis of pottery horizons, combine a very wide perspective with a general lack of stratified materials.

5 A typical example of this preconceived point of view is the identification of a "northern influx" in sites located in Northern Israel, such as Tell el-Qadi (Dan) or Tell Waqqas (Hazor), which actually belong to the same central Syrian cultural horizon.
leading role in respect of Palestine in the Bronze and Iron Ages, it seems, hence, quite odd to speak of a "northern influx" for sites located today in northern Israel. The core of the problem is, thus, the dearth in the published record of reliable archaeological sequences with comparable stratified materials.

An unexpected development has been provoked by the extraordinary results of the Austrian excavations at Tell ed-Dab'a in the Nile Delta; however, the chronological assessment proposed by M. Bietak has raised strong criticisms. A third chronological system has been proposed by J. Weinstein. The debate is largely speculative still today, being based upon limited pieces of evidence promoted to the role of definitive chronological keys, in front of the constant increase of archaeological record, which, however, is still scarcely representative of ancient cultural horizons. Notwithstanding this, a comprehensive correlation of comparable pottery horizons from reliable stratified contexts has not yet been put forward.

An even stronger impulse has been brought about by data provided by the extended exploration of MB I-II layers at Tell Mardikh/ancient Ebla, in Northern Syria, which allows more satisfactory comparisons within a highly reliable stratigraphic sequence.

This paper is an attempt of illustrating the MB I	extsuperscript{ii} pottery horizon of Inner Syria on the base of the Ebla sequence, and to grasp its interconnection with that of the major Palestinian sites.

1. Pottery as a Chronological Indicator

In order to draw a reliable picture of the ceramic relationships among Syria and Palestine during the archaeological phase which covers the first quarter of the second millennium BC, the following observations have to be postulated:
1. that in the archaeological documentation pottery, due to its large diffusion, is the better piece of evidence suitable for comparing cultural horizons;
2. that, notwithstanding regionalism in pottery production, mainly evident at the basic formal/typological level of analysis, Syria-Palestine was a strong cultural unity during the Middle Bronze Age (a general consensus does exist on this point);
3. that in order to have an extra-site/regional reliability a ceramic sequence must have been obtained in a largely excavated site; that means a site

9 The few historical reference points for a reasonable chronological setting of available stratigraphies are listed by Weippert 1988: 206-212; a synopsis stratigraphic table is offered by Mazr 1992: 193-196, tab. 4.
10 Matthiae 1997 with updated bibliography.
11 For the periodisation of the Middle Bronze Age adopted in this paper see table. Middle Bronze I (Syria: 2000-1800 BC; Palestine: 2000/1950-1800 BC); Middle Bronze II (Syria 1800-1600 BC; Palestine: 1800-1650 and Middle Bronze III, 1650-1550 BC).
with a solid stratigraphic grid and a variety of archaeological contexts (commonly called a “key” or “reference-site”);

4. that in order to combine cultural phases in a historical-archaeological perspective one has to take into account a complete pottery horizon, with a particular attention to the technological features, by means of petrographical analyses, and then considering the typological variety;

5. that a strict and careful functional subdivision of the wares has to be adopted, rejecting the simplistic comparison of mere vases shapes, often misleading in the case of unspecialised productions, like the Simple Ware, etc.

Even keeping in mind these points, to draw out the diachronic developments of the pottery horizons of Syria-Palestine during the Middle Bronze Age here would be impossible, with so many ceramic productions and types to be discussed. Therefore, this is just an attempt to co-ordinate the two sisters countries, starting from the key sequences of Ebla and Hama, which in the last years have enlightened our knowledge of inner Syria\textsuperscript{12} and looking for Palestinian interconnections.

\section*{II. Middle Bronze IA (2000-1900 BC)}

\subsection*{II.1 Archaeological Contexts and Stratified Pottery Assemblages}

Syria - The discovery of the Archaic Palace in the northern Lower Town of Ebla, where a complete series of superimposed floors with \textit{in situ} materials has been brought to light, has provided a reference pottery assemblage for the beginning of the Middle Bronze Age. The sequence of Area P has been further corroborated by the excavation of a series of roughly contemporary private-houses in Area T,\textsuperscript{13} while the repertory of types has been enlarged with the vessels retrieved in the graves in the inner slope of the western ramparts (Areas V, Z, AA).\textsuperscript{14} The Archaic Palace is an impressive foundation dating from around 2100 BC.\textsuperscript{15} It is built over EB IVB layers, and its first architectural phase has given ceramic materials of the very beginning of the Middle Bronze Age. Two building phases, with the addition of a new wing to the east, occurred during Middle Bronze I (probably around 1950 and 1900 BC). Thus, the complete sequence of structures and related materials, which spans over the last century of the Early Bronze Age and the first century of the Middle Bronze Age, has provided one of the most reliable pottery assemblages for the very beginning of the Middle Bronze Age in northern inner Syria. A more advanced phase

\textsuperscript{12} Matthiae 1995a; 1995b; 1997; Nigro 1998a.

\textsuperscript{13} Area T, which is located in the Lower Town North-West of Tell Mardikh (Matthiae 1993a: 634-637), has provided a continuous EB-MB stratigraphic sequence. A distinct assemblage of the very beginning of the Middle Bronze has been found, comprising small jars and proto-collared bowl (Matthiae - Pinnock - Scandone Matthiae (eds.) 1995: 452-453, nn. 350-354).

\textsuperscript{14} See Baffi Guardata in these proceedings.

\textsuperscript{15} Matthiae 1994: 36-37; 1995a: 659-681.
of this period (MB IA) is represented by the pottery of Hama level H5\textsuperscript{18} and by some vessels from Graves III and VI of the same site;\textsuperscript{17} the ceramic assemblages of these tombs show close relationships with those of the graves excavated in the inner slope of the ramparts at Ebla.\textsuperscript{18}

Palestine - The initial phase of MB I,\textsuperscript{19} identified for the first time by Albright at Tell Beit Mirsim stratum G,\textsuperscript{20} is represented by the ceramic materials from Tell el-Mutesellim (Megiddo), strata XIV-XIII A,\textsuperscript{21} Ras el-‘Ain “pre-palace” phases X20-X19,\textsuperscript{22} and Tell el-‘Ajul “Courtyard Cemetery”.\textsuperscript{23} At Tell el-Qadi (Dan) this phase is illustrated by the pottery assemblages of some graves;\textsuperscript{24} the same horizon is attested to in Tell Balatah (Shechem), level XXII.\textsuperscript{25} Recently the excavations at Tell Ishtar have provided a basic assemblage for the very beginning of the period (Area C, phases A–B).\textsuperscript{26}

On the Levantine coast this phase was barely identified, although the Egyptian XI\textsuperscript{th} Dynasty’s enterprises towards Syria-Palestine started well before the beginning of the XX\textsuperscript{th} century BC.\textsuperscript{27} Few data are available from Ugarit,\textsuperscript{28} and Byblos,\textsuperscript{29} while further south Tell el-Fukhar (Accho),\textsuperscript{30} Tell el-Mubarak, Tell el-Bureg, Tell Faliq, Tell edh-Dhurur,\textsuperscript{31} and Tell en-Nami\textsuperscript{32} and

\textsuperscript{15} Fugmann 1958: fig. 109. An overall reassessment of the MB I pottery materials from Hama has been recently proposed by the present writer (Nigro 2000).

\textsuperscript{17} Apart from Grave X, the pottery assemblages of the Middle Bronze tombs of Hama included more vessels than those published by E. Fugmann in the final report of the pre-classic periods (Fugmann 1958: pl. X). According to the excavation records (presently in the National Museum in Copenhagen) in Grave I, which housed several burials, 92 vessels were found; Grave II yielded 90 vessels, while 57 vessels have been found in Grave VI and 30 in Grave III. These graves provide a \textit{terminus ante quem} for the chronology of the MB fortification system as well, pointing to the very beginning of the period (Mardikh III A1, 2000-1950 BC).

\textsuperscript{19} Middle Bronze I corresponds to Albright’s MB II A (Mazar 1992: 175); the use of MB I has to be preferred, not only because it follows what is now generally called EB IV, but also because it permits an easier terminological correlation with Syria.

\textsuperscript{20} Albright 1932: 14-18, pls. 6-7; 1933: 67-75, pl. 4; 1938: 17-25; Eitan 1972.

\textsuperscript{21} Kempinski 1989: 45-49, fig. 20; ceramic materials from tombs wrongly attributed to strata XV, XIV have to be included into this group (Loud 1948: pls. 10-17; Kenyon 1958).

\textsuperscript{22} For the stratigraphy of the Acropolis see Beck - Kochavi 1985: 29-30; on the pottery assemblages of MB IA (levels X20-X19 in Area X) see Beck 1985: 181-190, figs. 1-4.

\textsuperscript{23} Tufnell 1962.

\textsuperscript{24} Ilan 1995: 120-121.

\textsuperscript{25} Toombs 1972: 102.

\textsuperscript{26} Paley - Porath 1993, 610-612.

\textsuperscript{27} According to Egyptian and Syrian sources, Byblos is yet the main reference site for examining the relationships with Egypt in this period (Helck 1994).

\textsuperscript{28} Only few shapes attributed to the phase Ras Shamra II,1 = “Ugarit Moyen 1” can be confidently identified as MB I forms (Schaefier 1949: fig. 99, nn. 27-29).

\textsuperscript{29} The most famous find from this period is the so-called Montet-jar (Montet 1928: 111-125; 1929: pls. LX-LXXI), which, however, gathers objects dating from the XX\textsuperscript{th} to the XVIII\textsuperscript{th} century BC (Tufnell - Ward 1966; Porada 1966).

\textsuperscript{30} Dothan 1976; 1993: 20.

\textsuperscript{31} Kochavi - Beck - Gophna 1979.

\textsuperscript{32} Artzy 1995: 19-22.
Ashkelon\textsuperscript{33} show how intense was the urban development of the Levantine coast during this period. Since the vast majority of pottery materials from the above mentioned sites comes from secondary contexts (i.e. fillings in the massive earthworks of the defensive systems), few complete stratified assemblages are available.

II.2 Technological and typological features of MB IA ceramic horizon

Despite the difference in social organization of the two regions during the last quarter of the Early Bronze Age, when the crisis of urbanisation seems to affect Palestine more than Syria,\textsuperscript{34} only a slight chronological “delay” distinguishes Palestine at the beginning of the Middle Bronze Age,\textsuperscript{35} in any case, in respect of EB IV, the initial MB I pottery horizon exhibits a shared standardisation of techniques, which together with the growth of mass-produced vessels indicates that a new technological tradition had developed.

From the technological point of view, considerable transformations are: 1) the use of the fast wheel; 2) the common use of a wooden tool (a stick) to smooth and regularize the vessel surface; 3) the constant employment of combed bands as decorative motives in crucial turns of ceramic shapes; 4) the systematic coating of vessels with slips, usually made of the same clay as the fabrics; 5) changes in clay preparation and treatment, exemplified by the increased employ of mineral sand tempers instead of straw.\textsuperscript{36}

II.2.1. Ordinary productions

Simple Ware - In the assemblage of the Archaic Palace at Ebla, the most distinctive open form is the slightly carinated bowl with thick walls and vertical simple rim. At Hama in Level H5 the same bowl is characterised by a thinner profile.\textsuperscript{37} It is made of a fine textured whitish-green fabric, tempered with a black mineral sand.

\textsuperscript{33} Stager 1993: 104-105.
\textsuperscript{34} The economic foundations of the EB urban society were rooted at a deepest level in Syria than in Palestine: Mathiae 1988; 1993b: 529-530; Dever 1989: 226; Nigro 1994a: 26.
\textsuperscript{35} Data available are yet insufficient to determine the exact duration of this gap; however, a conventional time span can be fixed of c. 50 years. Actually, this chronological difference is not homogeneous in the whole Palestine, since Galilee and the Esdraelon Valley seem to share Syrian chronology. Especially at Tell el-Mutesellim the definitive chronological setting of the EB-MB layers (namely levels XV-XIIIIB) remains an unsolved problem. This challenge was rightly raised by K.M. Kenyon (1958), recalled by A. Kempinski - I. Dunayevsky (1973), but never properly faced by archaeologists.
\textsuperscript{36} Some EB highly specialised fabrics with vegetal and mineral tempers, however, remain in use, as it is shown by conservative functional classes, such as Preservation Ware.
\textsuperscript{37} This type is attested to at Hama in Graves VI and II (Fugmann 1958: pl. X, 5B747; and the unpublished specimen 5B605).
Some specimens present a wavy incised or combed decoration,\(^{38}\) which also occurs in a series of small jars with thickened rim and biconical shape,\(^ {39}\) clearly reminiscent of EB IV decorative motifs.

Medium size jars with grooved rim continue a strong EB IV Eblaic tradition (recalling the so-called water jars with a triple grooved rim).\(^ {40}\)

Small jars of Simple Ware have everted rim and collared neck;\(^ {41}\) similar types are also attested in the burials of the same period. Large jars, usually without neck, have horizontally expanded rim and recall the hole-mouth shapes of EB IV.\(^ {42}\) Thescrabbled wavy decoration may be considered a trait of continuity in respect of the EB IV tradition, while combed horizontal bands are a peculiar decoration of the Syrian MB horizon (it is noteworthy that this decorative pattern already appears in some EB IV ceramic families of Palestine).\(^ {43}\)

Another diagnostic type is the small jar with double everted rim, which is largely attested to also in the final phase of EB IV, especially in the Euphrates Valley.\(^ {44}\)

Miniature Ware is characterized by pedestals with disk-bases: the shapes are small bottles, large trefoil-mouth juglets, small biconical bowls.\(^ {45}\)

MB IA diagnostic Simple Ware jugs are either of a fine yellowish ware with a large trefoil-mouth, or of a coarser fabric, decorated as the corresponding jars with three combed parallel bands.

Another common shape, attested to in the Graves of Hama, is the jug with cylindrical combed and incised neck and square rim.\(^ {46}\)

On the upper floors of the Archaic Palace (= MB IA2, Hama H4) another distinctive open shape appears, that is the carinated bowl, with short everted rim, imitating a metallic prototype. It will become a reference type for MB I in Syria.\(^ {47}\)

A kindred - almost contemporary - type is the so-called proto-collared bowl, which exhibits a rounded carination and a corrugated or grooved everted rim.

---

\(^ {38}\) TM.91.P.841/1 is one of six identical bowls retrieved in a bothros (F.5242) excavated in the Square of the Cisterns in Area P South. This votive pit is surely dated, on stratigraphic grounds, to Mardikh IIIA1, i.e. to the very beginning of the Middle Bronze Age (Marchetti - Nigro 1997: 2-3; Nigro 1998b: 24). A second bothros in the same area and in an analogous stratigraphic situation has provided two other complete bowls of this kind (TM.94.1012/1-2).

\(^ {39}\) Fugmann 1958: pl. X, 5D25 (Grave III); this type, which sometimes has no neck, is also attested in the burials of the beginning of Middle Bronze Age at Ebla (Burial D16: Baffi Guardata 1988: fig. 4:11) and is always made of a coarse reddish or brownish clay, tempered with mineral sand and organic materials (Matthiae - Pinnock - Scandone Matthiae 1995: 452, nn. 350-352).

\(^ {40}\) Mazzoni 1982: 173.

\(^ {41}\) Nigro 2000: 85, fig. 1:18-19.

\(^ {42}\) Ibid.: 86: fig. 1:26.

\(^ {43}\) Holland 1980.

\(^ {44}\) Peltenburg et al. 1995: 12.

\(^ {45}\) Marchetti - Nigro 1997: fig. 6:17-20.

\(^ {46}\) Nigro in press: 325, pl. LIII:1-3.

\(^ {47}\) Ibid.: 297-299.
The metallic origin of both these shapes was pointed out at by Albright, who, on the basis of the silver and bronze specimens found in the Montet Jar at Byblos (dating to the final part of MB IA), named it “Gublite bowl”.48

The Gublite bowl is attested to earlier in Syria than in Palestine, where it appears during the second phase of Middle Bronze I.49 The metallic inspiration of this form is also demonstrated by its large diffusion among Red-Slip Ware and Black Burnished Ware, two kindred productions imitating metallic vessels, which were spread respectively, the former, over the Levantine coast and Palestine, and the second, over inner Syria, during the first quarter of the IIInd millennium BC.

Kitchen Ware - This ceramic class is barely known during MB IA. Cooking pots and platters are made of a rough fabric, fired at a low temperature, which often results in a reddish brown colour in section. Open shapes are commonly coated with a thick slip, while surface burnishing is rare. Common types are bowls or platters (diam. exceeding 30 cm) with hammer-like rim and ring base, and globular pots with grooved body, with everted rim or with a hole-mouth. The latter type is specially in Palestine a clear EB IV reminiscence of shape. To this class also belong the so-called incense-burners with high fenestrated cylindrical pedestal50 and, only in Palestine, a group of round basins with flat base, straight walls and outer rope-decoration below the rim.

Preservation Ware - Hole-mouth jars continue to be favourite shapes both in Syria and in Palestine also during the first phase of the MBA, with a clear increase of types decorated by a fingered ridge applied around the mouth. Common storage jars have a shallow everted neck, with embolded or outfolded rim. As regards manufacture, evident changes are a gradual substitution of vegetal with mineral tempers and the realization of big *pithoi* with convex bottom; the standard rope-like applied decoration or incision on the shoulders descends in fact from the impression usually left by the rope used in building up the *pithos*. The most noticeable change of jar shapes is thus the progressive abandonment of flat bases, in favour of convex bottoms. A diagnostic MB IA jar type, attested to both in Syria51 and in Palestine,52 has a horizontally expanded rim.

II.2.2. Specialised Productions

Red-Slip Ware - Red-Slip Ware is a highly distinguished production, which is mainly attested to on the coast and in Palestine during MB IB (1900-1800 BC); during MB IA only few vessels made of this ware are known, which, however, testify to its metallic descent, since they are clear imitations of bronze or silver jugs and bowls.53

---

50 Marchetti - Nigro 1997: 18, fig. 7:33-36.
53 Such as pitchers, globular jugs, Gublite bowls, or short juglets with large triple mouth.
Black-Burnished Ware - In inner Syria a similar role was performed by the Black Burnished Ware, another specialized production, probably descending from the EB tradition of Metallic Ware. However, when compared with its EB forerunner, which was named "metallic" for the physical characteristics of the clay after firing, MB Black Burnished Ware results completely different, since its pastes are fragile, and only the outer thick highly burnished slip is aimed to imitate a metallic surface, possibly silver. The range of shapes is limited, including bottles and juglets with inner stepped rim, carinated bowls, and inturned rim bowls. Black Burnished Ware seems to be mainly a funerary production, having been retrieved almost exclusively in tombs or burials. This feature may depend on the content of BBW vessels, possibly a precious stuff (drugs, oils, perfumes, salt, sulphur, frankincense), to be included in funerary assemblages.

II.2.3. Painted Productions

Inner Syrian Common Painted Ware - Common Painted Ware is scarcely attested in MB IA, even though vessels decorated with horizontal bands and vertical strokes on the neck and the rim are well known, which belong to a rather conservative painted tradition, which recalls EB IV band motives. In the earliest MB levels of Alalakh Common Painted Ware is attested to also on slightly carinated bowls with high pedestal bases, where a typical decoration is the frieze subdivided by tryglyphs and butterfly motives.

Palestinian Common Painted Ware - As regards Palestine, distinctive motives of common painted ware are concentric circles, inscribed within horizontal bands on jugs and jars; sometimes wavy lines and figured decorations are present, like on the jugs from Ginosar. The favourite colour is dark brown or black, but also cyan and red are used. Bichrome decorations is a typical feature of the coastal production during this period.

Levantine Painted Ware - The existence of a painted luxury production (wine jugs with horizontal bands and hatched frieze decoration) can be surmised on the basis of few occurrences. In the following period it can be identified with LPW, also assuming the circular motives of Palestinian Common Painted Ware.

55 Two specimens retrieved in the Faviida F.5238 (Marchetti - Nigro 1997: fig. 7:30-31) have the same shape of the silver carinated bowl from the Tomb of the Lord of the Goats (Archi - Matthiae 1979).
58 Amiran 1969: fig. 103.
59 Amiran 1969: fig. 111.
60 See, for instance, Artzy 1995: fig. 2.4, the specimen on the right.
III. Middle Bronze IB (1900-1800 BC)

III.1. Archaeological contexts and stratified pottery assemblages

The following phase of development of the ceramic horizon, named Middle Bronze IB, is illustrated by various sets of stratified ceramic materials.

Syria - The initial and central stages of the MB IB sequence are represented by the ceramic inventory of Hama H3 and some of the Silos (nn. 10, 12, 13, 16) excavated in the same site.61 Eleven rock-cut tombs from the road of Selimiyah, with rich pottery assemblages,62 and Tomb I of el-Mishrifeh/Qatna63 can equally be attributed to this phase.

At Ebla three main ceramic assemblages illustrate MB IB. The first group is represented by pottery from the building directly overlying the Archaic Palace, called the Intermediate Palace, only partially excavated in 1993-1997.64 At least two structural phases have been identified in the Intermediate Palace, before the construction of the Northern Palace.65 The pottery found in the filling between the two floors is virtually identical to that found in the earliest strata of the favissae of Area P South. The second Eblaic group is in fact represented by pottery assemblages from Cistern F.5327 and from the lower layer of Cistern F.5238, two votive pits discovered in the Sacred Area of Ishtar, which were used for throwing food offerings and objects dedicated to the great Syrian goddess.66

More than 800 complete vessels were retrieved in these favissae in a highly reliable stratigraphic sequence, since both these sacred deposits were sealed by the floor of the square in front of Temple P2.

The third ceramic assemblage from MB IB Ebla is that from the Tomb of the Princess, the earliest MB royal hypogea discovered below the Western Palace.67 It has provided a homogeneous inventory of 75 complete vessels. Stratigraphic observations within the filling and the structural phases of the Royal Tombs allow to state that this hypogeum was sealed before Pharaoh’s Hotepibra (1770-1760 BC) ascent to the throne of Egypt.68

---

62 I wish to deeply thank dr. Abd er-Rasek Za’azaq, director of the Archaeological Museum of Hama, who has allowed me to take vision of the ceramic materials found in these tombs and to mention them.
63 du Mesnil du Buisson 1927a, 1927b.
64 This building is completely covered by the Northern Palace: Matthiae 1995a: 675-676.
65 Four soundings have been excavated inside the northern boundary wall of the Northern Palace within rooms L.4005, L.4011, L.4035 and in the Throne Hall L.4038, leading to the identification of the Intermediate Palace foundation walls: Matthiae 1995a: figs. 7, 19.
68 Recent criticisms to Hotebibre’s scepter as a reliable chronological piece of evidence (Ryholt 1997; 1998) are not based upon a direct examination of this object, neither on a direct analysis of its decoration. On the basis of a direct scrutiny, the Egyptian origin of the piece is certain. Its chronological and historical significance for the archaeology of Syria-Palestine has been stressed many times by G. Scandone Matthiae (1979; 1987; 1995; 1997). The outcome of this retrieval for the ceramic chronology of Syria-Palestine have also been analysed by the present writer (Nigro in press: 35-38), since it
Palestine - MB IB (Albright’s MB IIA-B) marks the complete establishment of Palestinian MB urban society. All the major sites of the region become fortified towns in this period.\(^69\) The MB IB horizon is represented by the pottery assemblages of Tomb 1181 at Tell el-Waqqas (Hazor),\(^70\) al-Kabri stratum 5,\(^71\) Tell el-Mutesellim (Megiddo) strata XIII-A-XII,\(^72\) Tell Balatah level XXI,\(^73\) Ras el-‘Ain strata X18-X17,\(^74\) Tell es-Sultan Period IVa,\(^75\) Tell el-Gazari stratum XXII,\(^76\) Tell Beit Mirsim stratum F,\(^77\) Tell Ifshar Area C, phase C.\(^78\)

When the coast is taken into account, this phase is attested to at Ugarit,\(^79\) Byblos,\(^80\) Berytus\(^81\) and in the nearby necropolis of Lebe’a, Ruweise,\(^82\) Qarayé and Kafer Djarra,\(^83\) at Tell el-Fukhar (Acco),\(^84\) Tell en-Naami\(^85\) and Tell el-‘Ajul.\(^86\)

III.2. Technological and typological features of MB IB ceramic horizon

III.2.1. Ordinary productions

Simple Ware - As regards open shapes, MB IB pottery assemblage is characterized by the bowl with high carination and everted rim, which lasts in use until the end of MB II, thus providing only an approximate chronological indication.

The large diffusion of this diagnostic form in functionally differentiated archaeological contexts epitomizes the great success of mass-produced shapes during MBA. However, what can be considered a hallmark of the period in inner Syria is the so-called collared bowl, possibly another metallic imitation descending from the Gublite bowl with vertical grooved rim and

allows to link the stratified assemblages of Tell Mardikh with Egyptian absolute chronology (it was associated with a complete pottery assemblage, illustrating a ceramic horizon well known from other stratified contexts of Mardikh IIIIB).


Maer 1997.

Kempinski - Niemeier 1990: 5, stratum 5.


Toombs 1972: 103.

Beck 1985: the same phase is also illustrated by materials found in the ‘30 (Hilffe 1936; Ory 1937).


This is the earliest MB stratum attested to at Tell el-Gazari; stratified deposit from this stratum have been brought to light in Field V (“High Place”), stratum 3, and Field VI, stratum 12: Dever - Lance - Wright 1970: 42-43, pl. 32:1-15. Dever (ed.) 1986: 8-9, 16-19, pls. 1-3.

See bibliography on note 17: strata G-F pottery assemblages were not distinguished by Albright.

Paley - Porath 1993: 610.

Ugarit Moyen 1: Schaeffer 1949: pl. 1.

To this phase belong the pottery assemblages of the Royal Tombs, studied in a very preliminary way by O. Tufnell (1969).


Guignes 1937; 1938; 1939.


Tufnell 1962.
distinct biconical body. The collared bowl is widely spread over Inner Syria, but almost absent on the coast and in Palestine. It lasts in use until the earlier part of Middle Bronze II, disappearing around 1700 BC.

As regards closed shapes, the diagnostic MB IB type is the jar with double everted rim, as exemplified by the funerary furniture of the Tomb of the Princess, where this vessel represents more than 50% of the entire assemblage. In spite of small differences in rim diameters (8-13 cm), the height of these jars varies from 20 to 50 cm; they usually present one to three combed bands on the shoulders, sometimes with a scrapped wavy decoration in between. In Inner Syria they always have a rounded bottom, thus being usually associated with cylindrical pot-stands. Contemporary Palestinian jars usually have a slenderer body and frequently a pedestal base. Moreover, they are always provided with a couple of vertical handles, which instead do not appear at all in Syria.

Simple Ware jugs have a high neck and rim-handle, with a cylindrical section. Other popular Simple Ware jug types are the trefoil-mouth pitchers, or the jugs with cylindrical neck, outfolded rim and globular body. A morphological trait shared by several types of jugs is the disk-base, clearly depending on their function of containers of liquids.

_Kitchen Ware_ - Kitchen Ware is another important realm for pottery phasing. MB I materials from Ebba and Hama show again a strong similarity and a limited typological variety.

Among open shapes, the diagnostic type of MB I is a large bowl or dish with hammer-like inturned rim and disk- or ring-base; the body is coated with a thick reddish-brown slip (SYRS/6), horizontally burnished (radial burnishing is instead a typical feature of MB II).

Cooking pots usually have a carinated profile with simple everted rim and often a grooved surface (in order to absorb heating variations). Sometimes an incised decoration is present on shoulders.

A very diagnostic KW type of this period is the so-called incense-burner, a kind of fruit-stand with cylindrical fenestrated pedestal, and carinated upper dish. The MB IB type has a shaven surface and a single small triangular window below the dish. The everted rim of the latter is usually incised by a series of inner grooves, while its bold carination

---

87 Earlier examples of this shape are known from Hama (Nigro 2000: fig 2:1): Silos 16: 3B913, 3B912, 3H982 (Nigro in press: pl. LVII: 6, 8, 3); Silos 17: 3A898, 3A900, 3A895, 3A897, (Nigro in press: pl. LVII: 1, 3, 4, 16); Silos 15: 3B926, (Nigro in press: pl. LX: 1). The first stage in the development of this shape is represented by specimen found in Tomb 1 at Hama (5A791, 5A792) and by bowl 8M102 from the tomb of Murek, which can be called proto-collared bowls.

88 Nigro 2000: 89-90, fig. 2:2-5. In the following period the same function will be possibly achieved by the carinated bowl (actually a small jar) with high flaring rim (Matthiae 1979a: figs. M:6, N:2).

89 A good comparison, again in the realm of funerary equipment, is offered by the tombs of Baghuz on the Euphrates, where the vast majority of pottery finds are double rim-jars (du Mesnil du Buisson 1948: passim).

90 Amiran 1969: 102-103, fig. 102-103, pl. 31:1, 4.

91 By contrast, in the following period (MB II), these jugs always have bar-handles, with a shallow oval section.

92 Marchetti - Nigro 1997: fig. 10:23.

93 Ibid.: figs. 7:33-35, 10:19-22.
sometimes becomes a prominent ridge. Cylindrical pedestals are of two types with indented ridges or incised and hatched bands; a general decrease of plastic decorations (largely attested to especially at Hama) occurs during this phase.

Preservation Ware - As far as the Preservation Ware is concerned, a technological standardization is shown by the progressive abandonment of porous raw tempered fabrics, commonly attested to during MB IA, in favour of finer mineral sand tempered pastes, which often result in fabrics with a reddish-grey core. MB IB storage jars have a slightly everted collared rim and are made of a whitish fabric (10YR8/1). A new type appearing in this period is the dolium with swollen rim and plastic rope-ridges applied, exemplified by the specimens found in stratum H3 at Hama.95

III.2.2. Specialized productions

Various specialized wares imitating metallic prototypes are known from Syria and Palestine in this period. In Inner Syria MB IB metallic productions are the Black Burnished Ware and the Orange/Red Burnished Ware, though metallic shapes are occasionally attested to also among Simple Ware vessels (usually for stepped rim bottles) and Kitchen Ware (carinated bowls). In Palestine the repertoire of metallic imitations is represented first by the Red-Slip Ware (MB I-II), which is gradually substituted by the Black-Burnished Ware.96 This change is well exemplified by a bowl type with two long bar-handles around the rim, ring base, and highly burnished brown slip, found in the Favissa F.5238 at Ebla.97 This piece of evidence is especially suitable for Syro-Palestinian ceramic interconnections because it finds close parallels in several Palestinian sites, such as Tell el-Mutesellim (level XII),98 Ras el-‘Ain,99 Tell es-Sultan (tomb Group I). Another Simple Ware specimen of a similar shape, retrieved in the Favissa F.5327, finds a comparison in a tomb of ‘Ain Samiyah.100 At Ras el-‘Ain this type of bowl was found in locus 7195 of Palace 1 (Stratum X17), the dating of which fits very well the chronology of the lower layer of Favissa F.5238 at Ebla (around 1850-1825 BC).

Black Burnished Ware - The most frequent metallic shape is the bottle with inner stepped rim, cylindrical neck, ovoid or pear shaped slender body and ring-base, made either of Simple Ware or Black-Burnished Ware.101 The type lasts also in the following period, with several transformations, being related to the Black Burnished Ware pear-shaped juglet, largely attested to in southern Levant, too often confused with the well known Tell el-Yahudiyyah Ware juglets, a slightly later production, possibly originating from southern Syria (Hauran and Julan), where it is widely attested in tombs. The confusion between these two specialized productions is perhaps at the base of several misunderstandings in chronological interconnections.

94 Ibid.: fig. 10:18.
95 Fugmann 1958; fig. 120:3A26.
96 Amiran 1969; 94-95, 106-107.
97 Marchetti - Nigro 1997; 18, fig. 7:29.
98 From T.3162: Loud 1948: pls. 15: 15, 116: 18. This tomb was ascribed to level XIV, however, as suggested by K.M. Kenyon (1969: 26-29), it is highly probable that it was sunk into stratum XIV from level XII.
99 Beck 1975: 54-56, fig. 4:17; 1985: 192, fig. 5:1.
100 Dever 1975: fig. 3:4.
Black Burnished Ware vessels are coated with a thick black slip, and refined by means of circular and vertical burnishing; a frequent type at Ebla is the round bowl with profiled inturned rim, and ring-base.  

Orange Burnished Ware - Another peculiar metallic production, which makes its appearance in Inner Syria during MB IB can be named Orange Burnished Ware. Its typological inventory comprises only jugs and juglets. At Ebla and Tell Nebi Mend, a peculiar shape with pronounced shoulder and small arched handle, is attested to. The orange fabric is coated by a reddish slip, with horizontal and vertical burnishing.

A similar ceramic production is attested to also in the Levantine coast, and one may suggest to find there its homeland; it seems a specialized funerary ware. The favourite shape in this case is the globular juglet (attested to in the necropolis of Ruweise and at Tell Arqa). A unique specimen of the Collection Tabet, now in the Louvre, shows how these specialized productions were interrelated. This is a pear-shaped juglet of Orange Burnished Ware, which bears the same white punctured decoration of the Tell el-Yahudiyeh juglets. At Jericho the same type belongs to Tomb Groups I-II, to be ascribed to Period IVa-b, i.e. the very beginning of the MB II of Palestine (1800-1775 BC). In inner Syria and on the coast the Orange Burnished Ware is largely attested to also during the first part of MB II, thus covering the entire central phase of Middle Bronze Age (1850-1700 BC).

In the following period (MB IIA), the inventory of this production includes also bird-shaped keroi (a cultic vessel found at Ebla in the Tomb of the Lord of the Goats and in Temple B), which again find interesting comparisons in the Necropolis of Jericho (the specimen, now in the Archaeological Museum of Amman, has a snake on the top). One may suggest to identify the bird with the dove, sacred to Ishtar. The same bird appears in a limited class of cult vessels with applied figurines, which F. Pinnock has convincingly related to the cult of Ishtar.

Miniature Ware - Another distinctive class of MB IB pottery is Miniature Ware, made of a yellowish (2.5Y8/1) high sieved fabric or of the fabric of the Black Burnished Ware, frequently attested as far as specialised contexts (public buildings, religious areas, burials) are involved. The shapes are usually reduced replicas of Simple Ware vases, such as stepped rim bottles, trefoil-mouth pitchers, and deep carinated bowls. They should symbolically substitute real offerings.

Interesting comparisons are offered by a group of miniature vessels found in a jar burial at Mishrifeh/Qatna and by other assemblages of

---

102 Marchetti - Nigro 1997: 18, fig. 7:26-28.
103 Matthiae 1979a: fig. O:2; Nigro in press: pl. XCVI.
104 Pérard 1931: pl. XLI.
105 Guigues 1937: 63-64, figs. 23a, 24; 1938: 30, fig. 47, 59-60, fig. 93 g-h.
106 AO, 29886.
109 Pinnock 2000 in press.
110 Marchetti - Nigro 1997: 12-13, fig. 7: 15-20.
111 du Mesnil du Buisson 1927b: pl. LXIX:3.
miniature vases from sacred areas at Nahariya, Byblos (deposit 9445-9462 of the *Chapelle Orientale*), and Ugarit.

III.2.3. Painted productions

Middle Bronze IB is the flourishing period of painted productions. They have been recurrently used in order to assess cultural links and chronological relationships between Syria and Palestine, even though they have not yet been exhaustively filed and studied. Actually, direct and more careful examinations and analyses are needed before comparisons, import/export and chronological settings of painted wares might be established. The following is just an attempt to distinguish painted productions of northern inner Syria, as a case study epitomizing how difficult and unexplored this field of research is. A basic distinction must be done between “painted wares” that actually are Simple Ware vessels embellished with a painted decoration (but fabric and shapes are those of SW, thus called Inner Syrian Common Painted Ware), and specialized, or proper painted wares, where fabrics, shapes and decorations are an independent realization for specific symbolic, cultic or funerary functions.

During Middle Bronze IB-IIB (1900-1600 BC) painted productions of Syria-Palestine and Upper Mesopotamia underwent a renewed flow. Common traits may be recognized in patterns of decorations, which, however, are so schematic and ordinary (horizontal bands and hatched triangles or oblique lines filling continuous friezes), that cannot be considered reliable indicators of a unique shared tradition. Actually, when more detailed analyses are carried on, several distinctive features become evident. Three main areas may be identified where painted wares originated: the Levantine coast, the Aleppo/Ebla-Amuq province, and Assyria, including also the eastern Khabur basin. As stated above, specialized painted productions (e.g. the so-called North Syrian/Cilician Painted Ware) must be distinguished from common painted wares, which have a larger diffusion and adopted less canonic patterns of decoration.

The high range of cultural exchange between Syria and Palestine is shown by the parallel development of painted ceramic productions. Schematized decorative motives circulate over both areas reaching a wide diffusion, albeit the inventory of painted vessels was partly different. In northern Syria it included trefoil-mouth pitchers, globular juglets with double handle and carinated bowls, while in Palestine simple ovoid jars, stepped-neck juglets, kraters and flasks were favourite shapes.

*North Syrian/Cilician Painted Ware* - The foremost painted production of northern inner Syria is the so-called North Syrian/Cilician Painted Ware, the origin of which in the Ebba-Aleppo region is suggested by the pitchers

---

113 Marchetti - Nigro 1997: 36, especially notes 109-111.
114 Dumand 1950: pl. LXX.
114 Schaeffer 1949: fig. 110: 1, 8, 14, 25, 27-37.
found in the Tomb of the Princess at Ebla\textsuperscript{116} and by those now in the Aleppo Museum\textsuperscript{117} and in the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford\textsuperscript{118}.

Special funerary items are the trefoil mouth pitchers of fine ware, with twisted handle, of which we know two subtypes of different dimensions. The hallmark of this ware is the figure of a crouching ram, which is also attested on sherds at Mersin XI-IX, Tarsus,\textsuperscript{116} Alalakh XII-IX,\textsuperscript{139} Tell Judeyda\textsuperscript{8} VII (‘Amuq L),\textsuperscript{121} Umm el-Marra,\textsuperscript{122} Tell Rifaat; that means all over the area of the Ebba-Aleppo ceramic province; in one of these two major centres it seems reasonable to locate the painter’s workshop.

The globular juglet with small double arched handle is one of the most favourite shapes of the North Syrian/Cilician Painted Ware, though it never presents the figured decoration. Its earliest attestations are from the Graves VI (5B386) and II (5B485, 5B900) of Hama, from the multiple Tomb of Mourek (8M145) and from the Tomb of the Princess of Ebba, but it continues to be produced during MB II A, as the specimens found in the Tomb of the Lord of the Goats testify to.\textsuperscript{123}

\textbf{Khabur Ware} - A central question in the study of MB Syro-Palestinian painted productions is that of the so-called Khabur Ware,\textsuperscript{124} a ware too often

\textsuperscript{117} Tubb 1983: 51-52, fig. 1: 2; Margueron 1968: 75-79, fig. 1, pl. IX.
\textsuperscript{118} Pitcher n. 1967.1505: Moorey 1987: pl. IIIA.
\textsuperscript{119} Goldman 1956: pl. 291, n. 208.
\textsuperscript{120} Heinz 1992: pl. 65-66, 68:5, 69, 75, 77, 79.
\textsuperscript{121} Swift 1958: 45.
\textsuperscript{122} Curvers - Schwartz 1997: fig. 20:10.
\textsuperscript{123} Matthiae 1989: 307-311, figs. 5-7.
\textsuperscript{124} M.E.L. Mallowan was the first to identify this distinguished painted production at Chagar Bazar (Mallowan 1936: 12; 1937: 102-104, figs. 21-24), though it had already been found by E. Speiser at Tell Billa (Speiser 1933-34). Since that time, every site of Upper Mesopotamia where MB II layers were excavated has provided Khabur Ware vessels. The first to carry out a monograph study of it was B. Hrouda (1957; 1975), who fixed the period and the geographic distribution of Khabur Ware. Successively, the unnecessary association of Khabur Ware with ethnic and political elements dominated the studies, until C. Hamlin proposed a new social interpretation (Hamlin 1971; 1974), starting from the analysis of the painted inventory of Dinkha Tepe IV. A regeneration of the ethnopolitical interpretation was put forward by H. Kramer, who also hypothesised a direct relationship between this production and the political affirmation of Assyria around 1800 BC. A further step towards a less “evenemential” explanation is due to D. Parayre (1986), while D.L. Stein (1984), has proposed a finer chronological seriation for this production. Apart from the interpretations of the hypothetical relationships between this pottery and any ethnic group, the historical reliability of which is not existing, another important branch of the studies is that descending from R. Amiran’s identification of Khabur Ware in Palestine (Amiran 1969, 113-118). For a long while, almost every MB II painted ware of Northern Mesopotamia and Syria-Palestine was considered “Khabur Ware” (Gerstenblith 1983: 59-64), with quite low consideration of the important role played by the many painted productions of the coast of the Levant (Tubb 1983: 54-55). Among these studies, a reversing one is the identification by S. Mazzoni of Khabur Ware at Ebba, which is an excellent basis to distinguish Northern Inner Syrian painted productions either from Levantine painted wares either from locally manufactured Khabur Ware. Moreover S. Mazzoni, has pointed out the deep roots of Northern Inner Syrian painted wares into EB IV tradition. Recent excavations in the Khabur Basin and in Assyria have shown that Upper Mesopotamia was the homeland of this distinguished painted production (Spanos 1990, figs. 11-21), which, however, spread also outside of this region.
confused either with North-Syrian/Cilician Painted Ware, or with the
Levantine Painted Ware, or with the Common Painted Ware of Syria-
Palestine. Having been generally rejected the misleading interpretation
linking such a production to a specific ethnic entity, Khabur Ware yet
represents a very interesting phenomenon of interregional diffusion of a
feature of material culture. It cannot be used, however, to establish any
interconnection among Syria and Palestine during MB I, first of all since one
has to distinguish between proper KW and local imitations, and, secondly,
because a defined corpus of shapes and decorations of this production is still
lacking. Several interacting factors have contributed to enhance the
popularity of KW: 1) the above mentioned lack of a precise typology of its
favourite shapes and decorations; 2) its very simple decorative patterns
(hatched triangles, horizontal bands), which easily find counterparts in other
painted productions and could be easily transmitted (or confused by
scholars); 3) its diffusion over a wide range of pottery shapes, namely among
very popular vessels, such as necked jars or goblets with low carination,
which are “transprovincial” types; 4) its broad functional destination
(depending on the former typological variety). For these reasons, it is more
difficult to distinguish painted wares of Upper Mesopotamia, northern Syria,
the Levantine coast and Palestine during the following MB II, when KW
reaches its largest diffusion.

Levantine Painted Ware - Another specialized painted production,
spread over the coast of the Levant and inland Syria up to Homs region
(Tomb I at Qatna), is the Levantine Painted Ware, to be distinguished both
from North-Syrian/Cilician Painted Ware and from the Khabur Ware. It is
characterized by the simultaneous use of various colours (black, brown, red,
cyan) and the predilection for circular and continue decorative motives.
Levantine PW may be considered the Palestinian luxury counterpart of
North-Syrian/Cilician Painted Ware of inland Syria and Khabur Ware of
Upper Mesopotamia.

Common Painted Ware - Along with the above mentioned specialized
productions, the most largely attested painted ware in Syria-Palestine is
Common Painted Ware.

Among the favourite shapes of this production is a coarser replica of the
trefoil-mouth pitcher with twisted handle and large tapering body. However,
in respect of North Syrian/Cilician Painted Ware Common Painted Ware
shows a wider range of shapes, also including slightly carinated bowls,
Gublite and also collared bowls, pear-shaped and globular juglets, and,
sometimes, SW jars.

The reddish-brown decoration generally includes a frieze on the
shoulders made of hatched triangles or vertical lines, bordered by horizontal
bands. While the hatched triangles motive generates a continuous decoration,

125 The connection between the Levantine Painted Ware of the Middle Bronze I and the
Khabur Ware was originally proposed by R. Amiran (1969: 113-114; pl. 35), at a time
when a relationship with this production seemed essential to define any painted
production. However, as already stressed by J.N. Tubb, the resemblances between the
two productions are few (Tubb 1983: 55).
126 Gerstenblith 1983: 76-78.
127 Tubb 1983: 54.
vertical lines produce a metopic arrangement of the frieze, which, however, does not usually comprise figured decorations filling the gaps.

Another common type is the globular juglet with a star motive painted in red. The shape is exactly the same found in the Jericho tombs, where it is decorated according to LPW decorative taste.

IV. Conclusions

This very fast sketch of Syro-Palestinian ceramic interconnections during the initial phase of Middle Bronze Age does not allow to assess a firmly established chronology. Data are yet too sparse and occasional, and publications do not exhibit the same quality and level of analysis. However, this attempt was aimed at raising the problem of the cultural unity of Syria and Palestine as a problem (too often left apart) affecting the scientific reliability of scholarly approaches. A preliminary synoptic table summarises the proposed stratigraphic correlation among reference sites (Tab. 1).

In conclusion, a final topic must be highlighted. Since wares, classes, ceramic provinces and pottery traditions increase in number as research goes ahead, it is quite odd that comparisons are not the only clue for interpreting this mare magnum of evidence, and that filing methods and technical analyses, as well as a serious awareness of the “degree of reliability and representativity” of our materials, calibrated in respect of the whole interregional horizon, has to be always kept in mind. For instance, it is indicative that MB ceramic provinces of Southern Levant have not yet been even tentatively defined.128

On this last topic I would like to stress two ultimate points.

1. It is of basic importance in publications to distinguish the following broad functional classes of pottery, since they were technically and operationally distinguished by MB’s potters (see Tab. 2):
   a) Common wares: Simple, Coarse or Common Ware; Kitchen Ware; and Preservation Wares (too often typologies are built up mixing Simple and Kitchen Ware shapes).
   b) Specialized pottery productions: mainly devoted to funerary, or cult uses, and related with the distribution of luxury goods, such as wine, oils, perfumes, drugs; these are: Miniature Wares, Metallic Wares, Fine egg-shell Wares.
   c) Painted wares: in this field a monographic study is still waited, capable to distinguish decorative patterns from proper painted productions, and to identify whether painted vases were object of trade as luxury goods in themselves, or as containers of precious stuffs, or both.

2 Finally I would like to stress the importance of statistical analyses and models applied to pottery horizons variations; this is especially valid in the case of Simple Ware, where types have sometimes a long life, but vary sharply in distribution, thus offering a key for chronological

128 As it has been already proposed for EB III-IV in Northern Syria (Mazzoni 1985a; 1985b).
phasing. At Ebla, where with a computer aided database MB SW has been processed, patterns of distribution or decrease in attestations of common types correspond to the major structural and stratigraphic changes in the history of the site.\footnote{This task has been accomplished in studying the pottery assemblage of the Northern Palace, under the supervision of F. Pinnock; the results will appear in a forthcoming volume of the MSAE series.}

Bibliography

Albright, W.F.
1930-31 The Excavations of Tell Beit Mirsim I. The Pottery of the First Three Seasons (= AASOR 12), New Haven.
1938 The Excavations of Tell Beit Mirsim (Joint Expedition of the Pittsburgh-Xenia Theological Seminary and the American School of Oriental Research in Jerusalem), II. The Bronze Age (= AASOR 17), New Haven.

Amiran, R.

Archi, A. - Matthiae, P.

Artzy, M.

Baffi Guardata, F.

Beck, P.
1975 The pottery of Middle Bronze Age IIA at Tel Aphek, TA 2: 27-84.

Beck, P. - Khocavi, M.
1985 A dated assemblage for the late 13\textsuperscript{th} century B.C.E. from the Egyptian residency at Aphek, TA 12: 29-42.

Bietak, M.
1991 Egypt and Canaan during the Middle Bronze Age, BASOR 281: 27-72.

Bietak, M. (ed.)
Cole, D.P.
1984  Shechem I. The Middle Bronze IIIB Pottery, Winona Lake.

Curvers, H.H. - Schwartz, G.
1997  Umm el-Marra, A Bronze Age urban center in the Jabbul plain, Western Syria, AJA 101: 201-239.

Dever, W.G.


Dever, W.G. (ed.)
1986  Gezer IV: The 1969-71 Seasons in Field VI, the “Acropolis”, Jerusalem.

Dothan, M.

Dothan, M. - Conrad, D.

Dothan, M. - Raban, A.

Dunand, M.

Dunayevsky, I. - Kempinski, A.

Eitan, A.

Gerstenblith, P.
1983  The Levant at the Beginning of the Middle Bronze Age, Winona Lake.

Goldman, H.

Guignes, P.E.
1937  Lébè’a, Kafer Giarra, Krayé, nécropoles de la région sidonienne, BMB 1: 35-75.
1938  Lébè’a, Kafer Giarra, Krayé, nécropoles de la région sidonienne, BMB 2: 27-72.
Hamlin, C.

Heinz, M.

Helck, W.

Holland, T.A.

Hroud, B.

Ilan, D.
1991  “Stepped-rim” juglets from Tel Dan and the MB I-II (MB IIA-B) Transitional Period, *IEJ* 41: 229-238.
1992  A Middle Bronze Age offering deposit from Tel Dan and the politics of cultic gifting, *TA* 19: 247-266.

Illie, J.H.
1936  Pottery from Ras el-*Ain, QDAP* 5: 113-126.

Kempinski, A.
1989  *Megiddo. A City-State and Royal Centre in North Israel*, München.

Kempinski, A. - Niemeier, W.D.

Kenyon, K.M.
1958  Some notes on the Early and the Middle Bronze age strata of Megiddo, *EI* 5: 51*-60*.

Kenyon, K.M. - Holland, T.
1982  *Excavations at Jericho IV. The Pottery Type Series and Other Finds*, London.
1983  *Excavations at Jericho V. The Pottery Phases of the Tell and Other Finds*, London.

Kochavi, M. - Beck, P. - Gophna, R.
1979  Aphek-Antipatris, Tel Poleg, Tel Zeror and Tel Burga: Four fortified sites of the Middle Bronze Age IIA in the Sharon plain, *ZDPV* 95: 121-165.

Kramer, C.
Kühne, H.

Loud, G.

Maeir, A.M.

Mallowan, M.E.L.
1936 The excavations at Tell Chagar Bazar and an archaeological survey of the Khabur region, 1934-1935, Iraq 3: 1-86.
1937 The excavations at Tell Chagar Bazar and an archaeological survey of the Khabur Region, 1936, Iraq 4: 91-154.

Marchetti, N. - Nigro, L.
1997 Cultic activities in the sacred area of Ishtar at Ebla during the Old-Syrian period: the Faviisac F.5238 and F.5237, JCS 49: 1-44

Margueron, J.-C.
1968 Trois vases du bronze, Syria 45: 75-96.

Matthiae, P.
1979b Principly cemetery and ancestors cult at Ebla during Middle Bronze II: A proposal of interpretation, UF 11: 563-569.
1980c Two princely tombs at Tell Mardikh-Ebla, Archaeology 33: 8-17.

Matthiae, P. - Pinnock, F. - Scandone Matthiae, G. (eds.)

Mazar, A.
Mazzoni, S.

Merrillees, R.S. - Tubb, J.N.
1979 A Syro/Cilician jug from Middle Bronze Age Cyprus, *Report of the Department of Antiquities, Cyprus:* 223-229.

du Mesnil du Buisson, R.
1927b L'ancienne Qatna ou les ruines d'el-Mishrife au N.-E. de Homs, deuxième campagne de fouilles, 1927, *Syria* 8: 276-301.
1930 Compte rendu de la quatrième campagne de fouilles à Mishrife-Qatna, *Syria* 11: 146-163.
1935a *Le site archéologique de Mishrife-Qatna,* Paris.

Montet, P.

Moorey, P.R.S.

Nigro, L.
1994a *Ricerche sull'architettura palaziale della Palestina nelle Età del Bronzo e del Ferro. Contesto archeologico e sviluppo storico (= CMAO 5),* Roma.

in press Materiali e Studi Archeologici di Ebla, IV. I corredi vascolari degli Ipggei Reali di Ebla e la cronologia ceramica della Siria interna nel Bronzo Medio, Roma.

Ory, J.
1936 Excavations at Ras el-'Ain, *QDAP* 5: 111-112.
1937 Excavations at Ras el-'Ain, *QDAP* 6: 99-120.

Paley, S.M. - Porath, Y.
Mazzoni, S.

Merrillees, R.S. - Tubb, J.N.
1979 A Syro/Cilician jug from Middle Bronze Age Cyprus, Report of the Department of Antiquities, Cyprus: 223-229.

du Mesnil du Buisson, R.
1927a Les ruines d’el-Mishrifé au nord-est de Homs (Émèse), Syria 8: 13-33.
1927b L’ancienne Qatna ou les ruines d’el-Mishrifé au N.-E. de Homs, deuxième campagne de fouilles, 1927, Syria 8: 276-301.
1930 Compte rendu de la quatrième campagne de fouilles à Mishriﬁ-Qtan, Syria 11: 146-163.
1935b Sourân et Tell Masin, Berythus 2: 121-134.

Montet, P.

Moorey, P.R.S.

Nigro, L.
1994a Ricerche sull’architettura palaziale della Palestina nelle Età del Bronzo e del Ferro. Conferenza archeologico e sviluppo storico (= CMAO 5), Roma.

in press Materiali e Studi Archeologici di Ebla, IV. I corredi vascolari degli Ipogeoi Reali di Ebla e la cronologia ceramica della Siria interna nel Bronzo Medio, Roma.

Ory, J.
1936 Excavations at Ras el-‘Ain, QDAP 5: 111-112.
1937 Excavations at Ras el-‘Ain, QDAP 6: 99-120.

Paley, S.M. - Porath, Y.
Parayre, D.

Peltenburg, E. et al.

Pézard, M.

Pinnock, F.

Rybolt, K.S.B.
1997 The Political Situation in Egypt during the Second Intermediate Period, c. 1800-1550 B.C., Copenhagen.
1998 Hotepibre, a supposed Asiatic king in Egypt with relations to Ebla, BASOR 311: 1-6.

Saidah, R.

Scandone Matthiae, G.

Schaeffer, C.F.A.
1949 Ugaritica II. Nouvelles études relatives aux découvertes de Ras Shamra (= BAH 47, Mission de Ras Shamra 5), Paris.

Seton-Williams, M.W.
1953 A painted pottery of the second millennium from southern Turkey and northern Syria, Iraq 15: 57-68.

Spanos, P.Z.
1990 Ausgrabungen in Tall Ahmad Aga as-Sagir 1988, MDOG 122: 89-123.

Speiser, E.A.
1933 The pottery of Tell Billa, MJ 23: 249-308.

Stager, L.E.

Stein, D.L.
1984 KhaburWARE and NuziWARE: Their Origin Relationship and Significance, Malibu.

Swift, G.F.
Toombs, L.E.  
1976  The stratification of Tell Balatah (Shechem), *BASOR* 223: 57-59.

Tubb, J.N.  

Tufnell, O.  

Tufnell, O. - Ward, W.A.  

Yadin, Y.  
1972  *Hazor, The Head of All Those Kingdoms (Joshua 11: 10)*, London.

Ward, W.A. - Dever, W.G.  

Weinstein, J.M.  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PERIODS</th>
<th>NORTHERN INNER SYRIA</th>
<th>EBLA</th>
<th>PALESTINE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PERIODS</td>
<td>HAMA</td>
<td>Sacred Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>MB IA</td>
<td>H5 IIIA1</td>
<td>F.5242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>H4</td>
<td>F.5327- Intermediate</td>
<td>F.5238ii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>MB IB</td>
<td>H3 IIIA2</td>
<td>F.5327-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1850</td>
<td>H4</td>
<td>T. of the Palace</td>
<td>1181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1800</td>
<td>MB IIA</td>
<td>H2 IIIB1</td>
<td>Favi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1750</td>
<td>H1</td>
<td>T. Lord of the Goats</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1700</td>
<td>MB IIB</td>
<td>Alalakh</td>
<td>IIIB2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1650</td>
<td>VII</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tab. 1
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ORDINARY PRODUCTIONS</th>
<th>SPECIALIZED PRODUCTIONS</th>
<th>PAINTED PRODUCTIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Simple Ware</strong></td>
<td><strong>Miniature Ware:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Inner Syrian Common Painted Ware</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>open shapes</td>
<td>- reduced replicas of SW vases;</td>
<td>carinated bowls; globular juglets; trifoil-mouth pitchers; SW jars.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>carinated bowls</td>
<td>- special vessels for cult or burial uses.</td>
<td><strong>North Syrian/Cylician Painted Ware</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>collared bowls</td>
<td><strong>Metallic Wares:</strong></td>
<td>globular juglets; trifoil-mouth pitchers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bowls with high carination and everted rim</td>
<td>(mainly for funerary equipments)</td>
<td><strong>Khabur Ware</strong> (end of MB IB-MB IIA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>closed shapes</td>
<td>- Black Burnished Ware</td>
<td>carinated beakers; carinated kraters; jars.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>double everted rim jars</td>
<td>- carinated bowls; inner stepped-rim bottles and juglets;</td>
<td><strong>Imitation of Khabur Ware</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>globular bar-handle jugs</td>
<td>- Orange/Red Burnished Ware</td>
<td>carinated beakers; carinated kraters; ovoid jars.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>trifoil-mouth jugs and juglets</td>
<td>- carinated bowls; globular juglets; piriform juglets.</td>
<td><strong>Imitation of Levantine Painted Ware</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Kitchen Ware</strong></td>
<td>- Tell el-Yahudiyah Ware</td>
<td>pitchers, piriform juglets; jars.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hammer-like rim dishes;</td>
<td>collared and carinated bowls (Southern Syria); piriform juglets (“export”).</td>
<td><strong>Levantine Painted Ware</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>carinated cooking pot;</td>
<td><strong>(MB II)</strong></td>
<td>carinated bowls; kraters; globular juglets; piriform juglets, jars.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>incense-burners with cylindrical pedestal;</td>
<td>- White Slip (or Fine Palatial Ware)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no lamps</td>
<td>- bowl with pronounced shoulder and everted rim;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Preservation Ware</strong></td>
<td>- emispherical bowls with inner grooved rim.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>horiz. expanded rim jars</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>double everted rim jars</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>double everted rim <em>dolia</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tab. 2