TELL ES-SULTAN/ANCIENT JERICHO
IN THE EARLY BRONZE AGE IV: A SUMMARY

Daria Montanari

The attempt of this paper is to re-examine Early Bronze IV attestations recorded by the four expeditions1 that operated at Tell es-Sultan over more than one century, and to outline some general features in the light of recent discoveries made by Sapienza-MOTA-DACH Joint Expedition2.

Keywords: Jericho; Early Bronze IV; scattered occupation; village; necropolis

1. FRAME OF THE EARLY BRONZE IV IN SOUTHERN LEVANT

During the Early Bronze IV3 the Southern Levant was generally characterized by villages and settlements dispersed in marginal areas, with seasonal occupation and sedentary nearby perennial streams, according to pastoral-nomad economy and domestic production, with gradual sedentarization throughout the end of the period4. This rural society5 had a tribal structure that can be reconstructed also thanks to numerous shaft-tomb cemeteries and distinguished mortuary practices6, as it is in the case of Jericho.

2. TELL ES-SULTAN/ANCIENT JERICHO: THE SITE IN THE EARLY BRONZE IV

First attestation of Early Bronze IV on the mound was recognized by Ernst Sellin and Carl Watzinger, in facts Captain Warren7 in his previous soundings (1868) had unwittingly discovered in the southern side of the mound just a few sherds dating back from the final phase of the Early Bronze Age, but they were identified only later by Kathleen Kenyon8.

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1 Sapienza University of Rome, Department of Oriental Studies.
2 Nigro 2016.
3 Numerous studies were devoted to the analyses and interpretation of this period, to its definition and chronology across almost one century: Iliffe 1937, 29; Amiran 1960; Albright 1962; Dever 1970; 1980; Oren 1973; Prag 1974; Richard 1980; Palumbo 1990; D'Andrea 2012; 2014.
5 Palumbo 1990, 134.
7 Warren 1869.
8 Nigro 2003, 122, fn. 4.
Sellin and Watzinger worked on the site between 1907 and 1909, at the end of excavations they concluded that Tell es-Sultan was sparsely dwelled during the Early Bronze IV, phase that they named *Spätkanaanitische Periode* (Late Canaanite Period). Most of the data were collected in the area of the northern plateau and on the northern slope. A series of houses, built up re-employing collapsed bricks, was uncovered along and over the EB III city-walls.

Moreover, materials and structures dating to the Early Bronze IV were identified also by the two British expeditions, and, later, by the Italian-Palestinian one.

A stratigraphic comparison between the site and the necropolis, and a re-appraisal of the early occupation of the tell during Early Bronze IV performed by the Italian-Palestinian Expedition led to a subdivision of the period into two stages: Sultan IIId1 = Early Bronze IVA (2300-2200 BC), and Sultan IIId2 = Early Bronze IVB (2200-2000 BC).

### 2.1. The site during the Early Bronze IVA (Sultan IIId1, 2300-2200 BC)

A small village with sparse dwellings, tents or no solid structures, arose on top of the tell during the Early Bronze IVA (fig. 1). On the Spring Hill and on the northern summit, structures were built directly upon flattened ruins of collapsed buildings, materials and structures laid directly upon - or cut into - the destroyed remains of Early Bronze IIIB.

The Italian-Palestinian Joint Expedition to Tell es-Sultan identified on the tell summit, after a short gap following the destruction of the Early Bronze IIIB14, some early installations just upon the abandoned ruins of the Early Bronze III Palace in Area G. Remains of a series of structures, namely a wall of a row of stones, a tannur and an oven (fig. 2), were upon the eroded Early Bronze IIIB walls (square BaIII8).

Moreover, some pottery sherds and two ditches in Trench 1 (Stage XLI-phase liii) and III (Stage XX-phase lxxvii), recognized by K.M. Kenyon and recently re-attributed by L. Nigro, testified an earlier occupation of the upper terrace in the site during the Early Bronze IVA.
Fig. 1 - Plan of the village of Tell es-Sultan during the Early Bronze IVA (Sultan IIId1, 2300-2200 BC; after Nigro in press, fig. 17).
2.2. The site during the Early Bronze IVB (Sultan IIIId2, 2200-2000 BC)

During a later stage of the Early Bronze IV, the village extended over the flanks of the tell (fig. 3). In this phase houses and installations showed the same distinguished building technique all over the site, employing greenish mudbricks on a single row and plastered with greenish clay\(^{22}\).

Just over the ruins of the North Western Tower, a hoard of arsenical copper items was found by E. Sellin and C. Watzinger in a bend-combed lug-handle jar\(^{23}\), hidden under the floor of an Early Bronze IVB house\(^ {24}\), where also K.M. Kenyon at later time dug (see below). The hoard included: chisels, simple axes and adzes\(^ {25}\), two copper ingots, similar to those known from storerooms at Khirbet Hamra Ifdan\(^ {26}\), and a broad fenestrated axe.

The first British Expedition directed by John Garstang between 1930 and 1936, identified Early Bronze IVB occupation layers in the dwelling quarter cut by the

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\(^{23}\) Sellin - Watzinger 1913, 116-119, figs. 104-105, pl. 22:2a.
\(^{24}\) Sellin - Watzinger 1913, 25, figs. 4a-4b, 6c, 10-11, pls. 4a, 6a, plans I, III; Nigro 2016, fig. 16.
\(^{25}\) Miron 1992, 3-29.
\(^{26}\) Levy 2007, fig.7.5.
Middle Bronze I-II East Tower at the foot of the Spring Hill\textsuperscript{27}, where a goblet with combed decoration\textsuperscript{28} and a jar\textsuperscript{29} were retrieved.

Moreover, he brought to light a wall in Trench e-e’ and some structures to the north, possibly belonging to this later phase of the Early Bronze IV, and erroneously attributed by the archaeologist to the Late Bronze Age\textsuperscript{30}. Sparse Early Bronze IV pottery sherds were collected by J. Garstang also in the north-eastern sector of the site (Square E\textsuperscript{7})\textsuperscript{31}.

The second British Expedition, conducted by K.M. Kenyon between 1952 and 1958, allowed to distinguish “EB-MB Intermediate Period” occupation in all of three trenches and frequentation in Square H II\textsuperscript{32}.

In Trench I, Stage XLII and Stage XLII.phase lvii\textsuperscript{33}, the Early Bronze IVB occupation consisted of houses, detected in two separated spots, on the top of EB IIIB Outer Wall (to the east) and on a terrace at the bottom of the slope (to the west). They seemed to have more phases. Also a small shrine\textsuperscript{34} with an altar was erected in the central terrace on the slope, looking west.

In Trench II, Stage XXI\textsuperscript{35}, houses, partially excavated by E. Sellin and C. Watzinger, were recognized on top of the northern Outer City-Wall. Here they seemed to have only one phase and probably occurred only in the later part of the period.

In Trench III, Stage XX.phase lxxviii-lxxx and Stage XXI.phase lxxxi\textsuperscript{36}, Early Bronze IVB remains, identified in the southern edge of the tell, were superimposed to the EB IIIB phase. The first occupation was represented by a ditch, suggesting the existence of a village on the top of the mound; dwellings were to the north and to the south of the ditch\textsuperscript{37}.

The Italian-Palestinian Expedition uncovered Early Bronze IVB remains in the northern plateau\textsuperscript{38} (Area F), in Area G, where a double-lined stone wall was\textsuperscript{39}, in Areas B\textsuperscript{40} and E\textsuperscript{41}, where a stretch of a stone built up house was uncovered\textsuperscript{42} (fig. 4).

\textsuperscript{27} Garstang 1935a, 156; Garstang - Ben-Dor - Fitzgerald 1936, 74.
\textsuperscript{28} Garstang 1932a, 10, fig. 4.
\textsuperscript{29} Garstang 1934, 119, pl. XVII:14.
\textsuperscript{30} Garstang 1930, 130, pls. 9-10; 1931, 190, pls. III-IV; 1935a, 147; Nigro 2003, 125.
\textsuperscript{31} Garstang 1935a, 144-156; Prag 1986, 64-65.
\textsuperscript{32} Kenyon 1981, 339; Nigro 2003, 129.
\textsuperscript{33} Kenyon 1981, 105-108, pls. 231, 236.
\textsuperscript{34} Kenyon 1954, 56, 58, pl. XIII.
\textsuperscript{35} Kenyon 1981, 166-167, pls. 255a, 259.
\textsuperscript{36} Kenyon 1981, 213-215, pl. 273.
\textsuperscript{37} Nigro 2003, 129.
\textsuperscript{38} Marchetti - Nigro 2000, 123.
\textsuperscript{39} http://www.lasapienzatorjericho.it/Season.php?Res=2011#.
\textsuperscript{40} Marchetti - Nigro 2000, 18; Nigro 2003, 129.
\textsuperscript{41} Nigro 2016, 14; in press.
\textsuperscript{42} Nigro et al. 2011, 584.
Fig. 3 - Plan of the village of Tell es-Sultan during the Early Bronze IVB (Sultan IIIId2, 2200-2000 BC; after Nigro in press, fig. 17).
3. TELL ES-SULTAN/ANCIENT JERICHO: THE NECROPOLIS IN THE EARLY BRONZE AGE IV

The Jericho necropolis, one of the largest of the Near East, and one of the more vastly studied\textsuperscript{43}, was extended to the north and to the west of Tell es-Sultan, and the time span in which it was used is encompassed between the beginning of the Early Bronze I and Roman Period (1st century AD).

It was discovered by J. Garstang in 1930\textsuperscript{44} and afterwards explored by K.M. Kenyon in years 1952-1958\textsuperscript{45}.

Garstang, except the major discovery of the EB I-III Tomb A\textsuperscript{46}, excavated mainly burials all dating back to the Middle Bronze Age.

Kenyon, during the systematic exploration of the Jericho necropolis identified tombs dating back from the EB I until the Roman Period. She and her team excavated more than 350 EB IV tombs and subdivided them into groups according to location, shape of the rock cut chamber and shaft, burial custom and furnishing.

The seven groups are\textsuperscript{47}: Dagger\textsuperscript{48} (skeleton flexed on a flank allied with a copper dagger); Pottery\textsuperscript{49} (skeleton disarticulated, furnishing represented by a few pottery

\textsuperscript{44} Garstang1932a; 1932b; 1932c; 1934; Garstang - Ben-Dor - Fitzgerald 1936.
\textsuperscript{45} Kenyon 1960; 1965.
\textsuperscript{46} Garstang 1932a, 18-22; 1932b, 41-43; Polcaro 2005.
vessels); Square-Shaft (a few tombs characterized by a square shaft, buried corpses either flexed or disarticulated, furnishing usually constituted by some pottery vessels, except Tomb D1 where dagger and javelin were found); Bead (disarticulated burial, small chamber, a few beads as grave-goods); Outsize (a few tombs of large dimensions, hosting one or two disarticulated burials with a rich funerary assemblage, including pottery, bronzes, and wooden furnishings); Composite Types (ten tombs with elements of the burial custom of the other groups); and Multiple Burials (many burials in the same tomb, with a rich pottery assemblage).

Other tombs were recently re-discovered by Nigro in the Vatican’s Collection.

3.1. Early Bronze IVA tombs

Bead, Dagger, Square Shaft, Outsize, and Pottery Type tombs are generally attributed to the early phase of the Early Bronze IV, with some possible exception. As it regards the case of Dagger Type group, it was surmised that Tombs L1, 4, 6 can be dated to the later phase of the Early Bronze IV; it seems quite possible for Tomb L1, according also to weapons found inside it which could be dated to the Early Bronze IVB with a certain confidence.

3.2. Early Bronze IVB tombs

In the case of Pottery Type group, the sub-type P.E. (Tombs D4, D11, G85, M1, M5, M6, M8, M9, N2) can be convincingly attributed to the later stage of the period.

Composite Type is attested in both stages, showing a strong continuity in burial customs in the necropolis of Jericho. Conversely, Multiple Burials (Tombs M17, TS.VAT.4, TS.VAT.5) marks the final phase of the Early Bronze Age.

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49 Kenyon 1960, 186-199; 1965, 57-80.
50 Kenyon 1965, 87-92.
51 Kenyon 1965, 81-87.
52 Kenyon 1965, 92-143.
54 Kenyon 1965, 157-160.
55 Nigro 1999.
57 Nigro 2003, 137.
4. EARLY BRONZE IV POTTERY AT TELL ES-SULTAN/ANCIENT JERICHO

The pottery of the Early Bronze IV\(^\text{59}\) inherited traditional features of the preceding millennium\(^\text{60}\), and was generally coil-building, thinner-walled and lighter in colour\(^\text{61}\). Vessel types mainly attested during this period are ledge-handles jars, amphoriskoi, hole-mouth cooking pots.

Moreover, some specialized wares ceased to be produced\(^\text{62}\), such as Red Polished Ware and Red Painted Ware, and some innovation\(^\text{63}\) appeared in the ceramic repertoire of the period, such as four-spouted lamps, and cups, variously attested to in Jericho necropolis.

4.1. Early Bronze IVA pottery

Generally the ceramic horizon of the Early Bronze IVA is characterized by a limited typological inventory, by a domestic production and a technological reversion to hand-made manufacturing due to the demise of wheel\(^\text{64}\).

As it concerns the pottery of this initial phase at Tell es-Sultan, the ceramic assemblage is roughly hand-made and has a limited repertoire\(^\text{65}\). Fabrics show big calcite and straw inclusions, and there are no combed decorations. Pots are irregularly modelled, and the firing is also irregular. The use of the wheel is not yet noticeable. This early horizon marks a distinct break in the ceramic development of the site\(^\text{66}\).

4.2. Early Bronze IVB pottery

In Southern Levant at the end of the Early Bronze Age pottery repertoire is in continuity with the early phase, but is marked out by the adoption of the wheel and the techno-stylistic features related to such device\(^\text{67}\).

As it concerns the Jerichoan pottery of the later phase of the Early Bronze IV, the repertoire shows a strong continuity as regards types and clays, and is characterized by the introduction of the slow wheel for the realization of jar necks, which were applied upon hand-made bodies\(^\text{68}\). The junction ridge was incised with a comb in order to hide it, changing the shape of the necks, which often resulted stemmed out of an acute angle. Small jars often exhibit a couple of lug-handles applied between the shoulder and the neck. Hole-mouth jars have a peculiar rope-like applied ridge all around the rim. Spouted jars are also common, which balance the absence of proper

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\(^{59}\) Amiran 1969, 79-89.

\(^{60}\) Prag 1974, 81-83; Richard 1980, 12.

\(^{61}\) Prag 2014, 391-392.

\(^{62}\) Nigro 2003, 133.

\(^{63}\) Prag 1974, 85.


\(^{65}\) Nigro 1999, 27; 2003, 133; D’Andrea 2013, 23, 25.

\(^{66}\) Nigro 2003, 133-134.


\(^{68}\) D’Andrea 2012, 25.
jugs in the inventory. A diagnostic feature of this phase is the introduction of the comb tool for decorating with horizontal and wavy bands small and medium sized jars on the shoulders, in order to hide the junction between body and neck\textsuperscript{69}.

5. EARLY BRONZE IV WEAPONS AT TELL ES-SULTAN/ANCIENT JERICHO

As it concerns weapons collected on the site, these consist for the Early Bronze IV of those discovered by E. Sellin and C. Watzinger in the hoard. They are simple axes and adzes, belonging to a type widespread in Southern Levant, with rectangular or rounded butt and fan-shaped blade, distinctly attested to in hoards and foundation deposits since the Chalcolithic Period and during the whole Early Bronze Age\textsuperscript{70}. The Jerichoan broad fenestrated axe thus represents one of the oldest specimen of a new type. It can be compared with those retrieved in funerary contexts, as in the cases of Ma'abarot\textsuperscript{71}, Tell el-Mutesellim/Megiddo\textsuperscript{72}, and ‘Enot Shuni\textsuperscript{73}.

The most of weapons from Early Bronze IV Tell es-Sultan are represented by that retrieved within burial sets. These weapons are daggers and javelins; they can find comparison with main cemeteries of that period, as like as Tell el-Ajjul\textsuperscript{74}, Tell ed-Duweir/Lachish\textsuperscript{75}, el-Jib\textsuperscript{76}, in Palestine, and Tiwal esh-Sharqi\textsuperscript{77} in Jordan.

Daggers were made both of arsenical copper and tin bronze, and can be distinguished among short type and long type\textsuperscript{78}. Short daggers, mainly dated to Early Bronze IVA, have a blade roughly up to 18 cm and were made of arsenical copper; long daggers, dating back to both phases of the Early Bronze IV, have a blade long by 20 cm in on\textsuperscript{79}.

Javelins, a class imported from Mesopotamia\textsuperscript{80}, can be distinguished in simple\textsuperscript{81} or poker-spear type\textsuperscript{82}, and leaf-shaped type\textsuperscript{83}, dated to Early Bronze IVB and made of arsenical copper.

\textsuperscript{69} Nigro 2003, 134.
\textsuperscript{70} Montanari 2012.
\textsuperscript{71} Gophna 1969, 174-177, fig. 2.
\textsuperscript{72} Guy 1938, 115, pl. 163:8.
\textsuperscript{73} Caspia \textit{et al.} 2008, fig. 1.
\textsuperscript{74} Petrie 1931; 1932; 1934.
\textsuperscript{75} Tufnell 1958.
\textsuperscript{76} Pritchard 1963.
\textsuperscript{77} Tubb 1990.
\textsuperscript{78} These daggers correspond to types 18 of K.R. Maxwell-Hyslop’s classification (Maxwell-Hyslop 1946, 21), 2 of G. Philip’s typology (Philip 1989, 103-104), and by P.3 and P.5 listed by G. Gernez (2007, 472-480, 482-486)
\textsuperscript{79} Montanari 2014.
\textsuperscript{80} Braun-Holzinger 1991, 88, pl. 5:MW4; Woolley 1934, pl. 227:U.7925.
\textsuperscript{81} The simple type corresponds to A. De Maigret’s types A4ii and A4iii (De Maigret 1976, 70-77, figs. 14-15), and to G. Philip’s types 5 and 13 (Philip 1989, 75-77, fig. 15).
\textsuperscript{82} Tufnell 1953, 165; Kenyon 1965, 49; Lapp 1966, 51.
\textsuperscript{83} Montanari 2013.
Weapons were collected in tombs belonging to Dagger, Square-Shaft, Outsize and Composite Types of Kenyon’s typology, and they seem to be displaced according to recurring customs: the lonely dagger, and dagger + javelin.

Fig. 5 - Dagger from Tomb A132 at Jericho, Early Bronze IVA (after Montanari in press, fig. 2).
In this wide repertoire, some sets can be taken as clear example⁸⁴: Tombs A132 (Dagger Type - Sultan IIId1; fig. 5) for the first case⁸⁵; Tombs M16⁸⁶ (single chamber,}

⁸⁴ The existence of weaponry sets in funerary male equipment of Early Bronze IV Southern Levant has been already stressed (D'Andrea 2013, 138-139; 2014, Vol. 1, 235-244 with related
single crouched burial; Composite Type - Sultan IIId2; fig. 6) and G83A (double chamber, two depositions; Composite Type - Sultan IIId2; fig. 7) for the second case.

Fig. 7 - Early Bronze IVB weaponry from Tomb G83A, long dagger (Ashmolean Museum AN1958.628) + leaf-shaped javelin (Ashmolean Museum AN1958.629) (after Montanari in press, fig. 4).

bibliography): dagger + javelin/spear; dagger + spear + arrow. Actually, in the first pattern the two thrown-weapons seem to counterbalance each other, due to the fact that the javelin is mainly attested to in Southern Palestine and just scantily in the northern region, instead the spearhead is almost absent in Southern Palestine and vastly spread in the northern region.

85 This case (single burial with short dagger with four rivets) can easily find some comparisons within the Jericho necropolis Tomb A110 (Kenyon, 1960, 196, fig. 73), or in other major cemeteries, namely Tell el-Ajjul (Petrie 1932, pl. X:47) and Tiwal esh-Sharqi (Tubb 1990, 51-52).
86 Kenyon 1965, 151-155, figs. 41:14-15, 85-86, pl. IX:2
87 Kenyon 1965, 149-150, figs. 41:10-11, 83.
The equipment long dagger + simple javelin, found in Tomb M16, is known in Palestine, in Tombs 50 (single chamber, two depositions)\textsuperscript{88} and 52 (single chamber, single deposition)\textsuperscript{89} at el-Jib, and in Jordan in Tomb 1 at Amman (double chamber; multiple depositions)\textsuperscript{90}.

The equipment composed by long dagger + leaf-shaped javelin, found in Tomb G83A, is known also at Tiwal esh-Sharqi, in Tombs SE1 (double chamber; two depositions)\textsuperscript{91}.

Jericho funerary customs during the Early Bronze IV, coherently to what happened in the other cemeteries, were characterized by single burials with weapons, what it has been called “warrior tomb”\textsuperscript{92}, suggesting, as previously stated by G. Palumbo, a social differentiation, according to gender and specialization\textsuperscript{93}. Moreover, different weaponry allow also to surmise a chronological distinction\textsuperscript{94}: Sultan IIIId1 for the lonely dagger, and Sultan IIIId2 for dagger + javelin.

6. Final remarks

The village of Tell es-Sultan, initially made of tents, camp-site\textsuperscript{95}, or no solid structures, during the first stage of the Early Bronze IV was extended only to the summit and the northern \textit{platan} (Sultan IIIId1). Gradually the village grew up in dimensions and houses were more densely built (Sultan IIIId2), and some important works were undertaken all around the site slopes; outside the line of the previous city fortifications, houses were built, reemploying the ruins of the EB III city-walls.

The eastern sector, on the Spring Hill and the nearby quarter, was occupied during both stages of the Early Bronze IV, as it is indicated by some remains in the area of the Spring of ‘Ain es-Sultan\textsuperscript{96}, and it represented the nucleus of the site also during the final phase of the 3rd millennium BC.

New approaches engage social interpretation\textsuperscript{97} of the necropolis of Jericho of the Early Bronze IV. Actually, the evidence from the tombs suggests a tribal organization in the early stage (Sultan IIIId1), and integration into a large rural community in the mature stage of the period (Sultan IIIId2), with a time sliding of the settlement in respect of the necropolis. The renewed excavations by the Italian-Palestinian Expedition made it possible to compare data from the necropolis with a more clearly temporally scanned picture of the site.

\textsuperscript{88} Pritchard 1963, 54-55, 140, fig. 56:8-9.
\textsuperscript{89} Pritchard 1963, 55-56, fig. 58:6-7.
\textsuperscript{90} Zayadine 1978, 66, fig. 4:6-7.
\textsuperscript{91} Tubb 1990, 53-58, figs. 39-40b.
\textsuperscript{93} Palumbo 1990, 125, 131-132; Greener 2012; D’Andrea 2013, 139.
\textsuperscript{94} Nigro 2003, 139.
\textsuperscript{95} Prag 1974, 96.
\textsuperscript{96} Mellaart 1962, 156-157.
\textsuperscript{97} Palumbo 1990; Nigro 1999; 2003; D’Andrea 2013.
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