

TELL ES-SAWWAN  
Excavation of the Fourth Season (Spring, 1967)

Interim Report

by

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**Introduction**

The results of the first season's excavations at Tell es-Sawwan were reported briefly by ~~Dr. W. H. Wood~~ and the present writer in *Sumer* XXI (1965), 17-32. As no full account of the second season's work has yet been published\*, it may be as well to preface this report on the fourth season by a more general summary.

Sd. Khalid al-A'dami, who was in charge during the spring months of 1965, excavated in several areas, and confirmed that the site was one of outstanding importance. Many more graves, closely related to those originally discovered in 1964, were found to be situated under the floor of building 2, level I, and the area between building I and the cliffs overlooking the river (see *op. cit.*, pl. IX, and pl. IV, right foreground, in this volume). Another level I building beyond the street to the north

(\*) This is now published in the present volume of "Sumer".

of buildings 1 and 2, was also cleared, and found to contain more graves of the same nature. On the other side of mound B, Sd. al-A'dami located the north-west end of the defensive ditch, in a position corresponding to its south-western end opposite. He fully planned and partly excavated a Samarra building, (provisionally described as a temple in *Sumer* XX, 1964, p. 1), which overlay the ditch at this point (pl. II, building 12). He further ascertained the existence of a wall on the inner side of the ditch, and located, in the south-eastern corner of the enclosure, a comparable building (pl. II, building 10) whose upper floors, and parts of whose outer walls, were plastered with gypsum or *juss*.

This preliminary work had been aimed at determining the general nature of the site, which lies in a key position between northern and southern Iraq; we had hoped, in particular, to find occupation-levels of the Samarra culture, which had hitherto been represented by

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little more than pottery and graves. After the success of the first two seasons, the Directorate-General of Antiquities decided in 1966 that the site was sufficiently significant to deserve excavation on a much wider and more thorough scale, with a systematic investigation of all the remains in each successive level.

During the third season, therefore, it was planned that the uppermost levels on mound B should be entirely cleared. This work has been described by Sd. Ghanim Wahida, field-director during that season, in *Sumer* XXIV 1967, pp. 167-178; he completed the excavation of the highest layer, (level V), and part of level IV. The excavation of level IV was in fact completed during the first month of the fourth season, and these later results have been included in his report. It must be noted, however, that owing to a regrettable misunderstanding, the numbering of the levels was reversed in Sd. Wahida's text, and replaced by a system used provisionally in the field. Throughout the following article the level-numbers employed in the first season and now established in the literature have been preferred: level I is the earliest and lowest level of occupation, and level V the latest.

The fourth season of excavation at Tell es-Sawwan lasted from 1st. March to 8th June, 1967. The present writer was engaged elsewhere during March, and only directed the work from April onwards; during the first month Sd. Ghanim Wahida acted as field-director. Archaeological assistants, apart from Sd. Wahida, were Sd. Awad el-Kassar and Sd. Yasin Rashid. The photographs were taken by Sd. Antran Ivan. Sd. Isa Toma was foreman, and Sd. Muhammad el-Hamidha assisted as usual with the surveying and architectural planning.

Since then a fifth season (25th November, 1967-25th January, 1968) under

the same director has been completed; a report will follow in due course. It should be mentioned that the air-photographs showing general views of the site, and illustrated here on pls. III-V, were in fact taken during the fifth season, on Christmas Day, 1967.

#### The Architecture of Level III:

Limited areas of level III had been exposed in 1964 and 1965. During the fourth season we investigated part of the wall surrounding mound B, and several buildings within it. It became clear that we had to deal, usually, with at least two closely connected phases of occupation, the later of which (level III B) is

characterized especially by the widespread use of *juss*. The stratigraphic connections between possibly contemporary floors in different areas has still to be confirmed in some cases, while in others the necessary evidence has been destroyed by erosion, by graves, and by the use of the mound as a source of fertile topsoil. Various problems have not been resolved, therefore, and we must always bear in mind the possibility that some of the level III buildings which lay immediately below the surface may have remained in use during level IV. The evidence will be given and discussed in detail in a later report, together with results of further excavation; some general views of the architectural remains appear on pls. VI-VIII and XVII, and pl. II shows the level III plan.

Work on the massive buttressed wall lining the ditch on the perimeter of mound B demonstrated that it had originally been constructed in the first phase (A) of level III. It was subsequently reinforced in places, and sometimes coated with *juss*. On the north, however, it was eventually cut by building 12, a construction which is itself to be associated with level III B or the very beginning of level IV.

Within the village enclosed by this wall we identified during the fourth season at least eight buildings. The lines of their outer walls were traced, and all but one of them proved to have the same basic plan, T-shaped, like building 12 of 1965. Between the buildings were several open spaces, two of which contained ovens, and there were also narrow lanes running from east to west. Some fragments of a solid construction adjoining building 1 may in fact represent the continuation, on the western side of the enclosure, of the defensive wall.

We completely excavated the interior of buildings 1-2, and found that they had certainly been founded in level III A. They contain however, only one clear floor-level, and none of the agricultural tools and other objects characteristic of the level III B occupation-floors. They were eventually covered by level IV buildings. Buildings 4-8 were mostly cleared down to their upper floor-level. They appear to have been founded at the same time as buildings 1-3, but contain two distinct phases of occupation. In the later phase (III B) the floors were usually refaced with *juss* plaster, which extended up the walls as far as they were preserved. Many rooms were also subdivided, and some of them held thin *juss* partitions, apparently the walls of bins and other containers. As has been indicated above, it is possible that some of these remains should be associated with level IV.

#### Burials:

A number of graves was found during the fourth season. Some of these had been dug into level III from level IV or V, and some were of Old Babylonian or Kassite date; others belonged to level III itself. Nearly all are described cursorily below.

#### A. Samarran Graves:

5. Oval pit (c. 60 by 35 cm.) dug into the eastern wall of room 328. Partly disturbed. Child; contracted; head to west. A small plain Samarra vessel by the face; some small shell beads were scattered near the neck; and legs.
6. Level III A. Below floor of room 345. Adult; contracted; head to west. Two Samarra vessels, one painted, were found with it. See pl. IX, 1.
7. Level III. Below floor of room 345. Child; contracted; head to south. See pl. IX, 1. One could conjecture that this child, like those in graves 8 and 9, was related to the adult buried in grave 6.
8. Level III. Below floor of room 345 (western corner). Child; contracted; head to south. See pl. IX, 1.
9. Level III. Below floor of room 345 (northern corner). Child; contracted; head to south. See pl. IX, 1.
10. Level III. Below floor of room 346 (northern corner). Adult; bones in heap with skull separate. See pl. IX, 2.
12. Dug into the eastern corner of room 355. Adult; contracted; head to east. The body was wrapped in a reed mat coated with bitumen.
13. Dug into the eastern wall of room 352. Adolescent; contracted; head to south.
22. Outside northern wall of room 358. Adult; contracted; head to south. A bone awl was found.
23. Dug into the northern wall of room 358. Adult; kneeling; head to south.
20. Dug into the southern wall of room 348. Adult; contracted; head to south. A painted Samarra bowl and a painted cylindrical clay object were found (see pl. XII, 1, bottom row). Several contracted child burials,

contained in oval or circular *juss* receptacles, with lids of the same shape, were found (cf. *Sumer* XXI, 1965, p. 24). Examples were at the south end of room 365; in area 391; and in the western corner of room 402 (pl. IX, 3). All seem to belong to level IV or V. The skeleton were usually accompanied by strings of tiny shell beads, and small pottery bowls with trough spouts.

**B. Old Babylonian or Kassite Graves:**

11. Dug into the southern end of area 357. Adolescent; contracted; head to east. A small flask was found (see the standard types on pl. XI and pl. XII, 2).
14. Dug into the eastern side of area 357. Adult; on its back; head to west. The standard type of small flask was found near its head, and two bone needles near the chest.
15. Dug into area 357, near the southern corner of building 5. Adult; contracted; head to west. There was an elongated jar near the feet (see the standard type, pl. XI and pl. XII, 2).
16. Dug into area 357, outside the west wall of room 359. Adult; on its back, head to west. There was the standard type of elongated jar.
17. Dug into area 357, near the eastern wall of room 353. Adult; on its back; head to west. By the head was the standard type of small flask; a few small shell beads were scattered between the chest and the left arm; there were the remains of an ivory (?) comb, and round the right ankle a bronze anklet. The grave also contained some sheep/goat bones.
18. Dug into the western wall of room 359. Adult; contracted; head to west.
19. Dug into room 354. This grave consisted of an oblong chamber, 1.85 by 1.15 m. internally, which was originally roofed with a vault of mud-bricks on end and was lined and floored with mud-bricks 34 cm. square. The skeleton, which was adult, had been dismembered, and the tomb may have been plundered in antiquity. The only object was a small stone loom-weight or net-sinker.
21. Dug into the southern end of room 353. Adult; contracted; head to east. There was the standard type of small flask by the head.
24. Dug into the eastern end of area 340, near the northern corner of building 2. Adult; on its back; head to west. By the head was a small frit bowl with a flat base and bucket handle, and by the left arm some small shell beads. A sheep/goat bone was found by the mouth.
25. Dug into the platform by the west wall of building 6. Adult; on its back, with the legs drawn up towards the chest; head to west. There was the standard type of elongated jar.
26. Dug into the wall between rooms 359 and 363. Adult; on its back; head to west.
27. Dug into the southern part of the platform by the western wall of building 6. Adult; contracttd; head to south.
28. Dug into the south of room 420. Adult; on its back with the legs drawn up towards the chest; head to west. There was the standard type of small flask beside the head.

It will have been observed that most of these second millennium burials are located beneath the highest point of the mound; it is common practice today to use the highest points of mounds as

cemeteries, and it would seem probable that in the second millennium the mound was already entirely deserted. There have been no traces of historical occupation-levels.

#### **Odontological Material:**

It may be useful to present here the results of a very rapid examination of some of the skulls and teeth; I am indebted for this to my friends, Baghdad dentists, Dr. and Mrs. Jalal D. Jeorjis.

#### i) Samarra samples:

The occlusal surfaces, especially of the molar and premolar teeth, are heavily worn, apparently an effect of the diet. There were very few approximal cavities; most of the affected teeth had a notch on the occlusal surface, without decay (clean cavity). Sometimes the notch extended to the buccal and lingual, again without decay.

The alveolar bone was sometimes recessed; this could indicate periodontal disease, an infection of the soft tissues or gum. Some of these teeth showed calculus (tartar), which leads to irritation of the gum.

Some teeth were missing; this phenomenon could also have been related to periodontal disease, which may result in the loosening and loss of teeth.

#### ii) Three Old Babylonian/Kassite skulls:

The teeth are less worn than those of the Samarra period; one skull has a complete set of healthy teeth.

There were two cases of approximal decay.

A left lower wisdom tooth (third molar) shows mesio-angular impaction, and a left upper wisdom tooth was not fully erupted.

#### **Ground Stone Implements:**

(Cf. also pls. XVIII and XIX).

Buildings 1-2:

It is perhaps significant that no such tools were found in either of these buildings.

#### Building 3:

Room 344: two complete querns and one pounder; room 344a (a small enclosure attached to 344): one complete quern, three pestles, and three stone pounder.

#### Building 4 (level III B):

Room 370: two complete querns, and a flint sickle made of four blades stuck together with bitumen; room 380: one complete quern and two incomplete ones, one polisher, eight pestles or pounders, four pounders, and one large hoe or hammer; room 381: two complete querns and eleven incomplete ones, hoe, and three sling-bullets.

#### Building 5 (level III B):

Room 377: nine complete querns one saddle-shaped; room 360: one quern; room 364: four complete querns and eight incomplete ones, and five pestles or pounders; room 368: two complete querns, one of which is saddle-shaped, and one incomplete quern; room 373: one complete quern and three incomplete ones, five pounders, and one loom-weight.

#### Building 6 (level III B):

Room 377: nine complete querns fifteen incomplete ones, three pestles or pounders, one mortar, and three pounders; room 378: one pestle or pounder, and two pounders; room 379: six pestles, two pounders, and one loom-weight; room 392: two complete querns and seven incomplete ones, seven incomplete pestles, and one pounder; room 394: one complete quern and seven incomplete ones, one polisher, and four pounders;

room 396: one quern, two pestles, and two pounders.

Building 7 (level III B):

Room 385: seven complete querns, six incomplete ones, eleven pestles, and one pounder; room 386: one complete saddle quern, two incomplete querns, one hoe, one mortar, and five incomplete pestles; room 389: one complete quern and two incomplete, one door-socket (?) six pestles, room 390: one door-socket (?); room 405: one pestle; room 412: four pestles.

Building 8:

Room 401 (III B): nine incomplete querns (three saddle-shaped), four pestles, one celt or polished axe, six palettes, five pounders, and one unworked pebble; room 402 (III B): four complete and seven incomplete querns, nine pestles, two palettes, and ten pounders; room 409 (III B): three complete and ten incomplete querns, one pestle, one door-socket (?) one broken mortar, and eight pounders; room 410 (III B): four complete and two broken querns, four pestles, and twenty pounders (sling-bullets ?); room 358 (III A): two broken hoes.

Open areas (all level III B):

357: five broken querns, five broken pestles, and two pounders; 374: one complete quern and one broken pestle; 391: one complete and one broken quern; 362: eleven complete and ten broken querns, three pestles, and one pounder; 403: four complete and seven incomplete querns, nine pestles, two palettes, and ten pounders.

The flint and obsidian tools of level III are to be published by Sd. Abdul Qadir Al-Tikriti when the excavation of this level has been completed.

**Pottery:**

The pottery presented here comes from level III (charts I-III) and from level IV (chart IV). Provenances are indicated either by room-numbers or by reference to the site grid (see the contour-map, pl. I). Each of the main squares (20 by 20 m.) has been divided into four quarters lettered a-d, and this letter appears above the line, with the basic grid-reference below.

Sometimes two groups of pottery have been ascribed to a single room; in such cases the first group consists of material found on the floor, and the second of material from upper fill. Material from adjoining rooms has, in the charts, been placed as closely together as practicable. Grid-references have been used for material from the denuded western parts of mound B, where stratified floors and architectural remains were scanty or have not yet been reached. The use of a grid-reference usually indicates that the pottery described came from fill; exceptions are the level IV and III B floor-deposits from squares d/15j and b/16j respectively. Most of the sherds with grid-references in the lower part of chart III are to be ascribed to level III B. The following list may facilitate clarification.

**CHART I.**

Building 1: rooms: 329 (floor and fill deposits); 330 (fill); 341 (fill); 367 (fill); 340 (fill and floor).

Building 2: rooms: 345 (fill and floor); 346 (fill and floor); 347 (A fill); 347 (A fill); 348 (A fill); 349 (A fill); (A fill); 350 (fill and floor); 351 (A fill); 352 (A fill); 353 (A fill); 354 (fill and floor); 355 (A fill); 356 (fill and floor).

Building 3: rooms: 343 (fill); 344 (fill).

Building 4: rooms: 380 (over B *juss* floor); 381 (over B *juss* floor); 384

(over B *juss* floor); 398 (over B *juss* floor).

#### CHART II.

Lane 361 (B fill); lane 362 (B fill).

Building 5: rooms: 359 (fill) 360 (fill); 363 (fill); 364 (fill); 365 (fill); 373 (fill); 374 (fill).

Building 6: rooms: 375 (B fill); 377 (B fill); 378 (B fill); 379 (B fill); 394 (fill); 396 (B fill).

Building 7: rooms: 385 (fill); 386 (fill); 387 (fill); 389 (B fill); 397 (fill); 404 (fill); 405 (fill, see chart III); 412 (fill); 413 (B fill); 414 (B fill).

Lane 403 (fill): open space 357 (B fill); open space 391 (B fill); 339 (B fill); 358, a room belonging to building 14 found in 1964, (A fill).

#### CHART III (above)

Building 8: rooms: 401 (fill); 402 (fill); 407 (B fill); 409 (fill); 410 (fill).

The terms R, S, and B in these charts refer to rims, body-sherds, and bases respectively. The charts classify the pottery into seven categories of ware or fabric, which will mostly be familiar to scholars. They are as follows:

Type 1: Samarra fine undecorated ware. See Abu al-Soof, *Sumer* XXI (1965) pl. XXII, nos. 14-15, 18-21; pl. XXIII, nos. 1-4.

Type 2: wares with a plain, rough surface, mainly from large vessels. See *op. cit.*, pl. XXII, nos. 11-13.

Type 3: soft coarse wares, with thick walls, black cores, and heavy chaff temper, belonging to medium and large vessels. See *op. cit.*, pl. XXI, 1-8, and pl. XXV, no. 2.

Type 4: plain burnished ware.

Type 5: standard painted Samarra pottery.

Type 6: incised Samarra/Hassuna pottery.

Type 7: painted and incised Samarra pottery; the incisions are usually deep, and alternate with or form part of the painted designs.

This classification by wares must eventually be accompanied by a classification by shape; this is not yet available, but the following general notes may be useful. The following shapes were observed in conjunction with the particular wares, and are listed in their order of popularity.

In type 1: subhemispherical bowls (frequent); sack-shaped bowls (frequent); small deep bowls; high-walled bowls; deep and shallow roundish bowls; shallow oval bowls; miscellaneous bowl shapes; bowls with S-shaped walls; low-collared jars; high-collared jars. bowls with S-shaped walls; low-collared jars; high-collared jars.

In type 2: large globular hole-mouth jars; large hemispherical bowls; small shallow oval plates or dishes.

In type 3: Husking trays; large open bowls; large flat-bottomed bowls; high-walled bowls; small open bowls; small deep bowls; oval and round large carinated bowls; straight-sided bowls; hole-mouth jars; low-collared jars; high-collared jars.

In type 4: sherds belonging to open bowls and carinated bowls.

In type 5: subhemispherical bowls; walled subhemispherical bowls; deep bowls; bowls with curved walls; crater-like jars; low-collared jars; high-collared jars.

In type 6: subhemispherical bowls; carinated bowls; sack-shaped bowls; beakers; hole-mouth jars; low-collared jars; high-collared jars.

#### Worked Bone:

Awls with articulated surface were found in the Samarra levels. There were some slender needles in much later

graves. Both are listed below. (Cf. also pls. XX, 1, and XXI).

1. Square c/17h, fill of level III B. Awl, with the head missing; extant length 5.8 cm.; IM 71452.
2. Square a/18c, fill of level IV. Awl, with the head and upper part missing. Extant length 4.3 cm. Sa<sub>1</sub>-488.
3. Room 385, level III B. Complete awl, length 6.1 cm. IM 71459.
4. Room 392, level III B. Complete awl, length 8 cm. IM 71479.
5. Room 402, level III B. Complete awl, length 7.8 cm. Sa<sub>1</sub>-559.
6. Room 402, level III B. Awl, with the head missing; extant length 8.2 cm. Sa<sub>1</sub>-560.
7. Burial 14, room 357, Old Babylonian or Kassite. Needle, with part of the head missing but the thread-hole visible. Extant length 12.7 cm. Sa<sub>1</sub>-538.
8. Burial 14, room 357, Old Babylonian or Kassite. Complete needle, 13.1 cm. long. Sa<sub>1</sub>-539.
9. Burial 24, room 340, Old Babylonian or Kassite. Complete needle, with four horizontal incisions decorating the head. Length 14 cm. IM 71480.
10. Burial 24, room 340, Old Babylonian or Kassite. Complete needle, 11.2 cm. long. Sa<sub>1</sub>-583.

#### Animal Remains:

Mr. and Mrs. M. R. Jarman worked through a small proportion of the great mass of material obtained by sieving and flotation during the first, fourth, and fifth seasons, and I am much indebted to them for the following provisional notes. An account of some of the larger faunal material obtained during the fourth season has already been published in *Sumer* XXIII (1967), pp. 179-182:—

The fauna collected at Tell es-Sawwan over a number of seasons was studied with a view to the acquisition and interpretation of economic data. The following faunal list resulted (see page 11).

It is evident from this table that sheep or goat and gazelle were important components in the economy of Tell es-Sawwan, deer and canids appearing consistently but in small quantities. At least for the time represented by Level III, fish constitute a significant portion of the material, and exploitation of the river obviously played an important part in the economy of that period.

No detailed study of the material has yet been possible, but a fuller report will follow.

#### Conclusion:

The purpose of the preliminary reports on Tell es-Sawwan is both to keep scholars informed of the general progress of the excavations and to make available as soon as possible a selection of the more detailed results. It would obviously be premature to reach definite conclusions about some of the problems which arise. Further work should, for instance, clarify the relationship between levels III A, III B, and IV, and an additional sub-phase of level III may perhaps have to be distinguished. It is also possible that the date of the defensive ditch around mound B, identified as level I in our first report, may have to be modified. The abandonment of one particular building need not reflect the wider fortunes of the village; distinct level-numbers have been provisionally assigned to remains in separate areas, sometimes before the stratigraphic connection between them has been established, and a summary description, such as this may be thought to imply a degree of oversimplification which would in fact be misleading.



Season	Level	Identified		Mammal		Fish		Unidentified	
		Bones		Frag.	Frag.	Frag.	Frag.		
1	I	88		336	--	--	--	--	--
-	II	1		--	--	--	--	--	--
4	III	1182		815	523	10,800			
5	III	117		130	90	--			

Taxon	1/I		-/II		4/III		5/III		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Tatera sp.	-	-	-	-	12	1.01	2	1.71	14	1.01
cf. Tatera	-	-	-	-	1	.08	-	-	1	.07
Muridae	-	-	-	-	3	.25	-	-	3	.22
Rodentia	1	1.14	-	-	23	1.94	4	3.42	28	2.02
Lepus sp.	-	-	-	-	1	.08	1	.86	2	.14
cf. Lepus	1	1.14	-	-	9	.76	-	-	10	.72
Canidae	5	5.69	-	-	18	1.52	1	.86	24	1.73
cf. Canidae	3	3.41	-	-	3	.25	-	-	6	.43
Carnivora	1	1.14	-	-	17	1.44	1	.86	19	1.37
cf. Carnivora	-	-	-	-	1	.08	-	-	1	.07
Equus sp.	1	1.14	-	-	2	.17	1	.86	4	.29
cf. Equus	-	-	-	-	1	.08	-	-	1	.07
Sus sp.	-	-	-	-	16	1.35	1	.86	17	1.23
cf. Sus	-	-	-	-	3	.25	-	-	3	.22
C. capreolus	3	3.41	-	-	4	.34	3	3.57	10	.72
cf. C. capreolus	-	-	-	-	2	.17	1	.86	3	.22
C. elaphus	2	2.28	1	100.00	11	.96	-	-	14	1.01
cf. C. elaphus	1	1.14	-	-	2	.17	-	-	3	.22
cf. Cervidae	-	-	-	-	1	.08	-	-	1	.07
Bos sp.	-	-	-	-	4	.34	1	.86	5	.36
cf. Bos	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	.86	1	.07
Gazella sp.	1	1.14	-	-	115	9.72	16	13.7	132	9.51
cf. Gazella	-	-	-	-	26	2.20	5	4.27	31	2.24
Ovis/Capra sp.	37	42.1	-	-	60	5.08	17	14.55	114	8.22
cf. Ovis/Capra	9	10.2	-	-	11	.96	5	5.13	26	1.88
Artiodactyla	7	7.95	-	-	113	9.55	17	14.55	137	9.88
cf. Artiodactyla	-	-	-	-	2	.17	-	-	2	.14
Mammalia	16	18.2	-	-	93	7.85	20	17.1	129	9.30
Teleostei	-	-	-	-	599	50.6	19	16.25	618	44.5
Lacertilia	-	-	-	-	23	1.94	-	-	23	1.66
Ophidia	-	-	-	-	3	.25	-	-	3	.22
Aves	-	-	-	-	3	.25	-	-	3	.22
Total		88		1		1182		117		1388

The function of the T-shaped buildings is another problem of the greatest interest, and we have yet to see whether those, which were apparently altered in level III B by the insertion of storage-bins and partitions, originally contained any comparable features. In any case the regularity with which this peculiar ground-plan was used, seems to indicate the high standard of co-operative organization reached by this community, and suggests (since building 12 overlies the ditch) that the construction of the village defenses was not an isolated uncharacteristic instance of communal enterprise. Excavations outside the mound B enclosure should show us whether the T-shaped plan is normal for the majority of dwelling-houses elsewhere; or whether there are many buildings with a more irregular design, like building 1 of level III. Should the latter be the case, we may be entitled to speculate that the T-shape was reserved for buildings employed as temples or store-houses, or for some other purpose; but for the moment it may seem preferable to regard each of them as the dwelling-house of one family or social unit, with its own facilities for storage, and to ascribe the standardization of their ground-plans to some religious or tradition prejudice. The solution of this problem is only one of the rewarding prospects offered by further work on this exceptional site.

#### Notes on the Illustrations:

##### Pl. III

Aerial view of Tell es-Sawwan taken from the north. The river Tigris is on the right; in the left foreground are seen modern fields, and in the far left corner some first world war fortifications. In the right foreground are modern graves scattered on the northern fringes of mound "A". On mound "A",

and beyond the excavated area of mounds "B" and "C" are seen the pits caused by farmers taking topsoil for their fields over the last fifty years. The three squares in the foreground were soundings made during the third season; no architectural remains were found.

##### Pl. IV

Aerial view, taken from the west, showing in the foreground the cliff and the excavation of seasons 1 and 2. In the far left are seen the excavations of level III.

##### Pl. V

Aerial view, taken from the east, showing clearly the excavations of level III on mound "B" during seasons 4 and 5. Between mounds "A" and "B" is a zigzag first world war trench. In the far left are the excavations of the first and second seasons. The Tigris is seen at the left.

##### Pl. VI

1. General view taken from the west showing building remains of level III as excavated by the end of season 4. In the foreground behind the sitting figure lies building no. 1 (level III).

2. View taken from the south-west showing in the foreground parts of buildings 1 and 3 (near squatting figure in the left); behind the squatting figure on the right are buildings 5 and 6. Between the two standing figures is building no. 4.

3. View taken from the south showing buildings 1 and 3.

4. View taken from the west showing building no. 2; and beyond it open space no. 357.

##### Pl. VII

1. View taken from the south show-

ing building no. 6 and part of 5 (in the foreground).

2. View taken from the south showing buildings 5 and 4, and parts of 6 and 3. Room 359 in building 5 occupies most of the foreground.

#### Pl. VIII

1. View taken from the south-west showing parts of buildings 7 and 8. The figure on the left sits by the northern corner of building 8 where some libn reinforcements are visible.

2. View taken from the west showing much of building 7 and the southern part of 8. The figure is squatting in the open space between building 8 and the southern side of enclosure wall; several bread ovens appear against this side of wall.

3. View taken from the west showing much of building 7. The figure on the right sits opposite the southern corner of building 7; highest L-shaped wall in the foreground belongs to a *juss* store-room of level III B.

#### Pl. XVII

1. One of the *juss* bins with its contents; level III B, building 4.

**Pl. X** (also cf. pl. XII, no. 1): Samarra pottery from level III.

1. Bowl; reddish clay, buff-slip. Rim diameter 14.5 cm., height 5.5 cm., base dia. 5.5 cm.; room 401. IM. 71435.

2. Bowl; buff. Rim dia. 9.2 cm., ht. 3.2 cm.; room 349. IM 71442.

3. Bowl; buff. Rim dia. 8 cm. ht. 3.2 cm.; room 328. IM 71440.

4. Bowl; reddish-buff. Rim dia. 23 cm., ht. 14 cm. base dia. 10 cm.; Sq. C/17h (upper fill of level III).

5. Bowl; reddish-buff. Rim dia. 10.5 cm.; ht. 5.8 cm.; in grave no. 7, open space 357.

6. Bowl; reddish-buff. Rim dia. 5.1

cm.; ht. 4 cm.; room 358. IM. 71443.

7. Miniature bowl with a trough spout; reddish-buff. Rim dia. 5.2 cm.; ht. 3 cm.; open space 357, in fill. (It belongs, most probably, to an infant burial, as this type of vessel was found elsewhere in infant burials). IM. 71430.

8. Bowl; painted, greenish-buff. Rim dia. 14 cm., ht. 7.6 cm.; base dia. 5.6 cm., in grave no. 9, room 345 IM. 71424.

9. Bowl; reddish-buff. Rim dia. 12 cm., ht. 9.4 cm., base dia. 4 cm.; Sq. d/16h.

10. High-necked jar with bulging body; reddish-buff; the incised design on upper body perhaps a potter's mark. Rim dia. 11.2 cm., ht. 18 cm. base dia. 8.2 cm.; room 363.

11. Hemispherical bowl; reddish-buff. Rim dia. 19 cm., ht. 14 cm.; room 394.

12. Small jar; reddish-buff. Rim dia. 4.6 cm., ht. 7.4 cm., base dia. 3.2 cm.; open space 406. IM. 71444.

13. Bowl; painted, greenish-buff. Rim dia. 14.2 cm., ht. 7.6 cm., base dia. 5.4 cm.; in grave no. 20, room 348 (building no. 2). IM 71423.

14. Bowl; painted, greenish-buff. Rim dia. 14 cm., ht. 7.6 cm., base dia. 5 cm.; room 345 (building no. 2). IM. 71432.

15. Bowl; painted, buff. Rim dia. 13.5 cm., ht. 8 cm.; room 347. IM. 71422.

16. Hollowed cylindrical clay object, painted with horizontal bands (cf. also pl. XII no. 1, bottom row, left) resembling an alabaster object found below the skull of a prominent adult burial below the floor of room 5, level I (cf. *Sumer* XXI, 1965, p. 26, and pls. XXXIII, fig. 71; XXXIV). Dia. 4.2 cm., ht.

15.4 cm.; grave no. 20, room 348 (building no. 2). IM. 71425.

**Pl. XI**

(Also cf. pl. XII, no. 2): Old Babylonian/Kassite pottery from the graves.

1. Jar with a small button base; buff. Rim dia. 7.6 cm., ht. 13 cm., base dia. 3.6 cm.; in grave no. 14, open space 340. IM. 71431.
2. Jar with a small button base; buff. Rim dia. 7.4 cm., ht. 14 cm., base dia. 3.8 cm.; in grave no. 16, open space 340.
3. Jar with a small button base; buff. Rim dia. 8 cm., ht. 14.8 cm., base dia. 4.4 cm.; in grave no. 21, room 353.
4. Jar with a small button base; buff. Rim dia. 7.4 cm., ht. 14 cm., base dia. 3.5 cm., room 408. IM. 71436.
5. Tall jar; buff. Rim dia. 7.2 cm., ht. 20 cm., base dia. 6 cm., in grave no. 15, open space 357. IM. 71433.
6. Tall high-necked jar with a small button base; buff. Rim dia. 6 cm., ht. 19.8 cm., base dia. 4.4 cm., in grave no. 25 (dug into the southern corner of building no. 6).
7. Tall jar; buff. Rim dia. 8.8 cm., ht. 29 cm., base dia. 5.2 cm., in grave no. 11, open space 357.

**Pl. XIII**

Seven rim-fragments from effigy vases, with representations of human faces; all from level III.

Upper row (from the left):

1. IM. 71491; open space 357.
2. IM. 71490; Sq. c/18i.
3. IM. 71497; room 409 (building no. 8).
4. IM. 71496; open space 357 (photographed upside down).

Bottom row (from the left);

1. IM. 71493; Sq. c/17h.
2. IM. 71495; open space 357.
3. IM. 71494; Sq. c/17h.

**Pl. XIV**

1. (a, b). Bifacially pressure-flaked flint dagger; incomplete; perhaps the handle is missing. Length: 8 cm., width: 3.1 cm., open space 357. IM. 71488. For a comparable object from chatal Huyuk, level VI, cf. J. Mellaart, *Earliest Civilization of the Near East*, p. 87, fig. 55.
2. A clay object representing a stylized female figurine. The buttocks and lower body are exaggerated, while the upper trunk is shown by a cylindrical knob (broken). Small plastic clay pellets indicate a bead belt. Open space 340. IM. 71492.
3. Two small clay stamp seals with perforated lugs. Each is 2.1 cm., in height. Both were found on floor of room 330 (building no. 1). IM. 71428, and IM. 71429. Level III.

**Pl. XV**

1. Alabaster statuette showing a bending woman; her posture need not have significance, and may have been dictated by the quality of the stone from which it was carved. Ht. 5 cm., width at shoulders 1.9 cm., room 347 (building no. 2). Probably made in level I, and reused later. IM. 71426.
2. Small alabaster statuette; ht. 4.2 cm., width at waist 1.1 cm.; head and part of right leg lost in antiquity. Sq. c/17h (fill of southern corner of level III). Presumably another reused piece. IM. 71427.
3. Clay animal figurine (bottom left) length 5 cm., ht. 1.6 cm.; Sq. b/17h. IM. 71489.

**Pl. XVI**

## 1. Upper row:

Small bone beads arranged in four necklaces; found with burial no. 7, rooms 345 (building no. 2); and 328 (building no. 1). IM. 71462 and IM. 71441.

## Bottom row (from the left):

A necklace of cowrie shells; from burial no. 7, room 345. IM. 71461. A necklace of bone beads; in a child burial; open space 357. IM. 71463. Five large clay beads, perforated to form a necklace. Room 347 (building no. 2). IM. 71459.

**Pl. XVII**

## 2. From the left:

Disc-shaped *juss* object with incised design, perhaps a mark of ownership or a potter's mark. Upper fill of level III. Such signs recur both on painted Samarra vessels, and as an isolated design incised on otherwise plain Samarra vessels. The sign was also used to represent a mouth on one of the human faces illustrated above (pl. XIII, lower row, in the middle). A broken *juss* object stamped twice with a rectangular seal (?). Upper fill of level III. IM. 71487.

## 3. Stone polisher, and stone pot-boilers. Two of the latter came from within a circular oven in the northern corner of room 345 (building no. 2); also cf. pl. XVII, 4.

**Pl. XVIII**

- Three stone hoes with traces of bitumen on them used perhaps as ploughs, or for stirring bitumen as is still done today in some places. From various places in level III.
- A hoe, perhaps used also for stirring fire (also cf. pl. XVII, 4).
- Stone pounders collected from various places in level III.

**Pl. XX**

## 2. Upper row

Figure in the middle:

Perhaps the foot of a vessel, decorated with a human face, with tattooed cheeks and pronounced ears. Ht. 4.4 cm.; found in front of room 328 (building no. 1).

## Bottom row Left:

Clay animal-head; length: 4.3 cm.; level IV Sq. d/17h. IM. 71448.

## Right:

Clay animal; length: 5 cm. level IV. Sq. b/17h. IM. 71489.

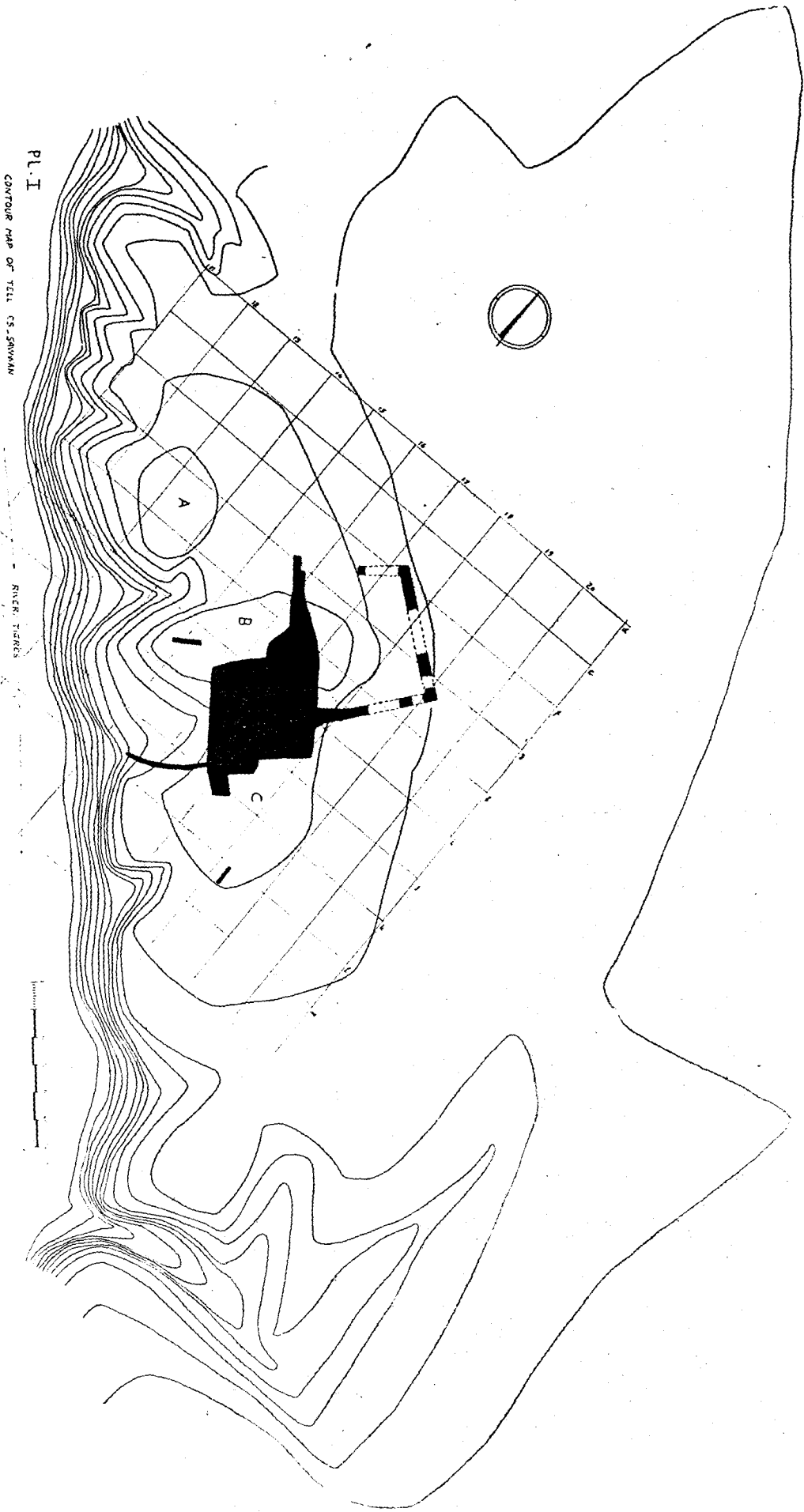
**Post Script**

The writer is much indebted to Dr. S. Bokonyi, from the Hungarian National Museum, who has studied in Baghdad, during the spring and Summer, 1969, the animal bones excavated at Tell es-Sawwan during the previous five seasons, among materials from other sites, and provided us with the following provisional results.

	level I	level II	level III	level IV
fish	3	1	120	1
bird	—	—	5	—
hare	1	—	3	—
small rodent	1	—	4	—
wolf	1	—	1	—
badger	—	—	1	—
onager	3	2	1	—
wild swine?	—	—	1	—
fallow deer	3	1	3	—
red deer?	1	1	—	—
gazelle	7	—	18	—
aurox	2	1	4	—
domestic dog	4	1	—	—
domestic sheep	—	—	—	—
goat	159	10	85	—
Total	185	17	246	1



PL. I  
CONTOUR MAP OF TELL ES-SAMMAN



PL. I





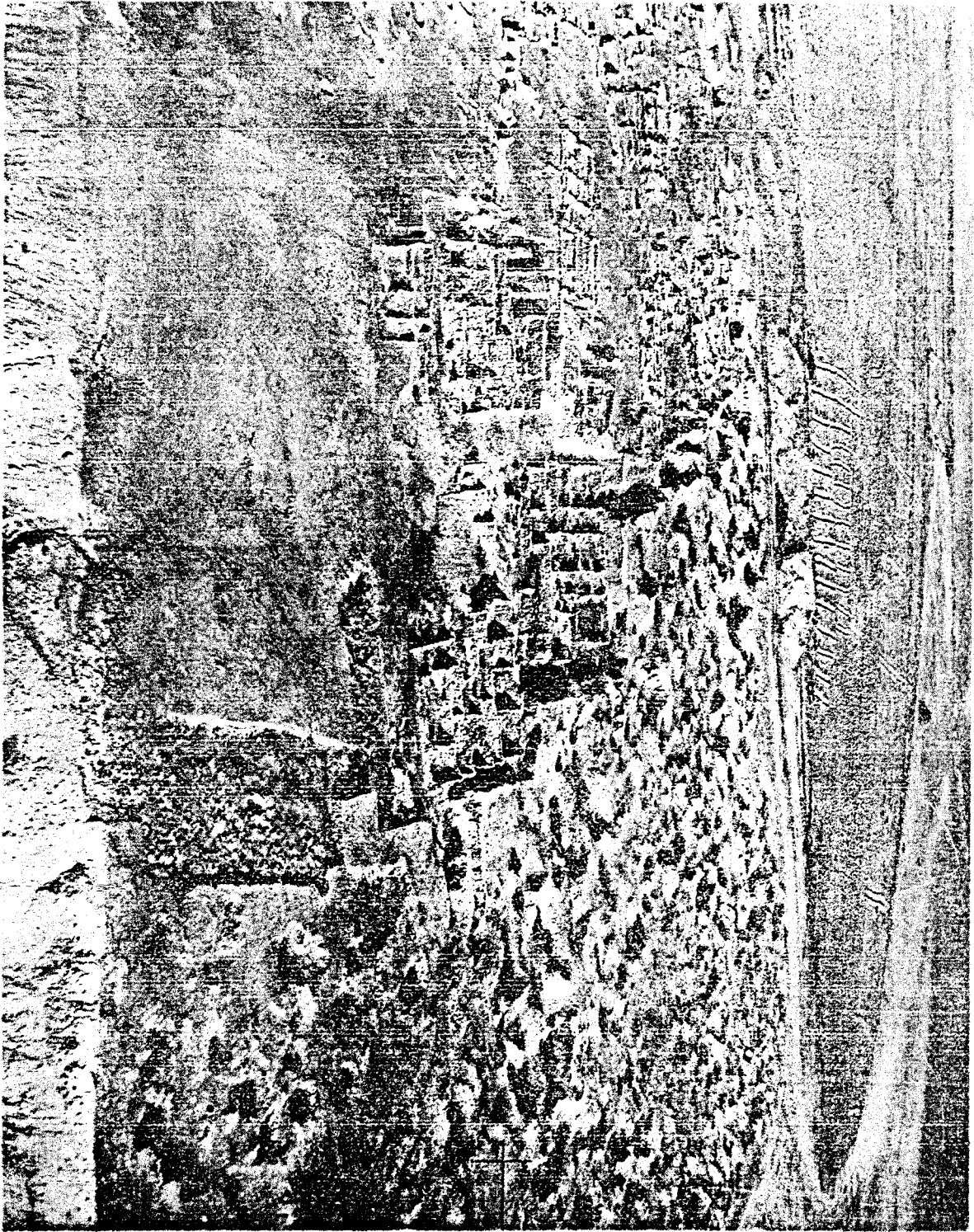


Pl. III



BUILDING No. 2

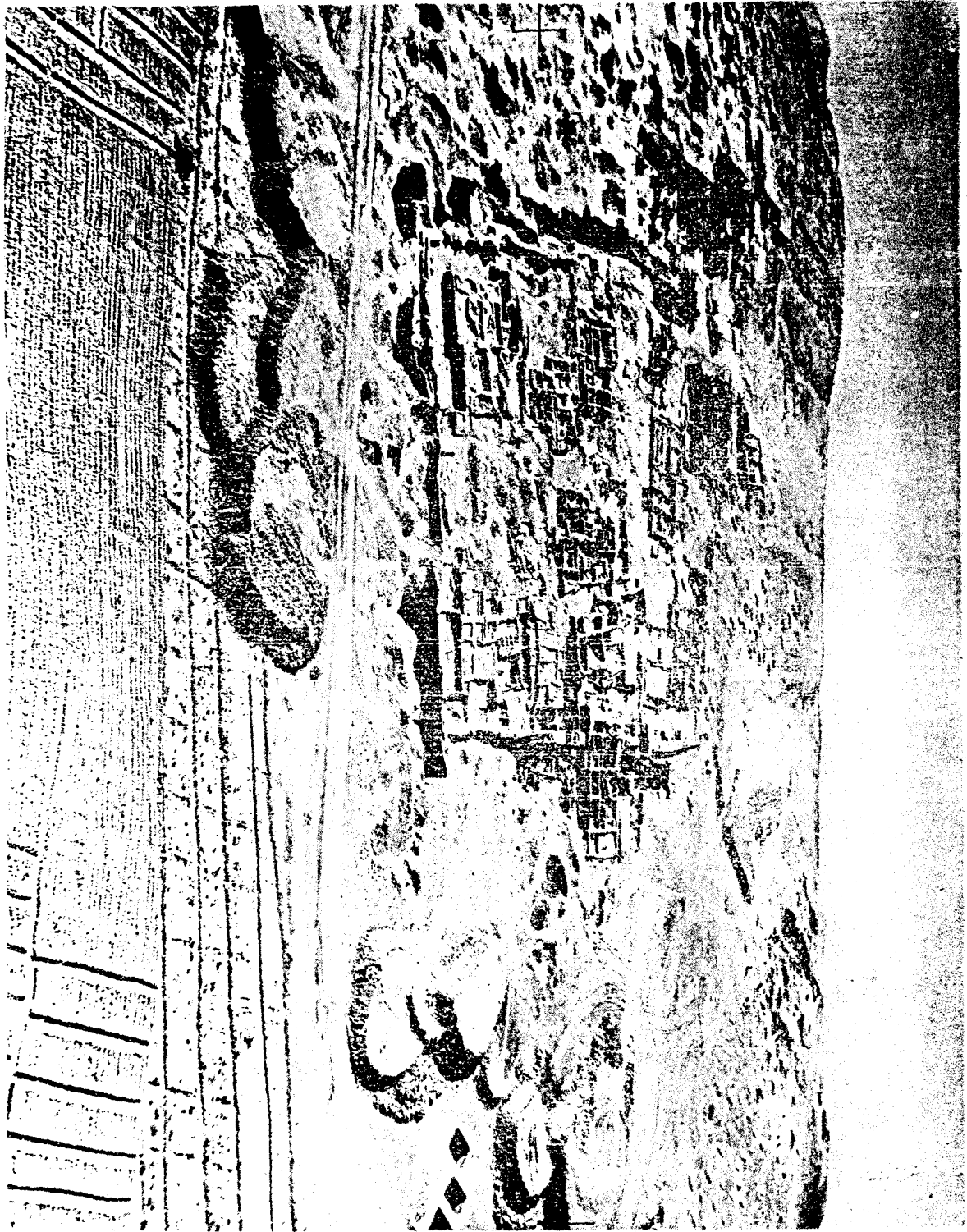




Pl. IV



Pl. V



Pl. V



3



1

Pl. VI



4



2





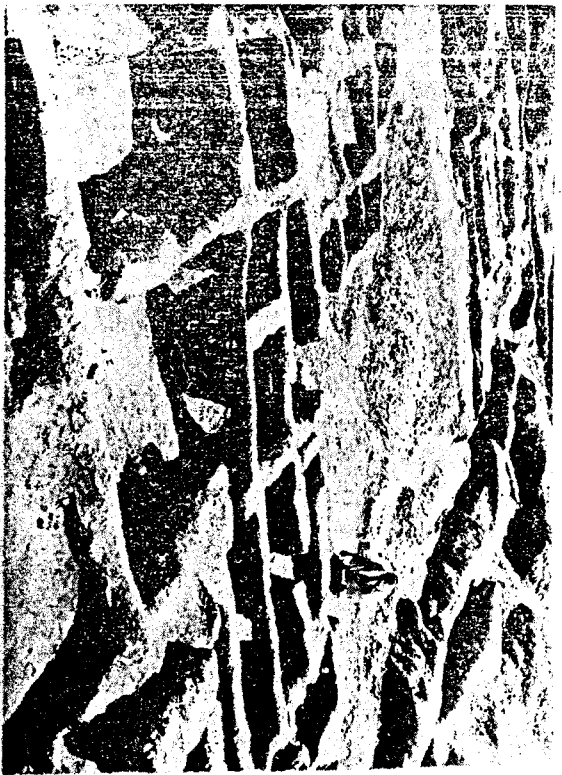
Pl. VII



Pl. VIII



1



2

Pl. IX

4

3



3



1

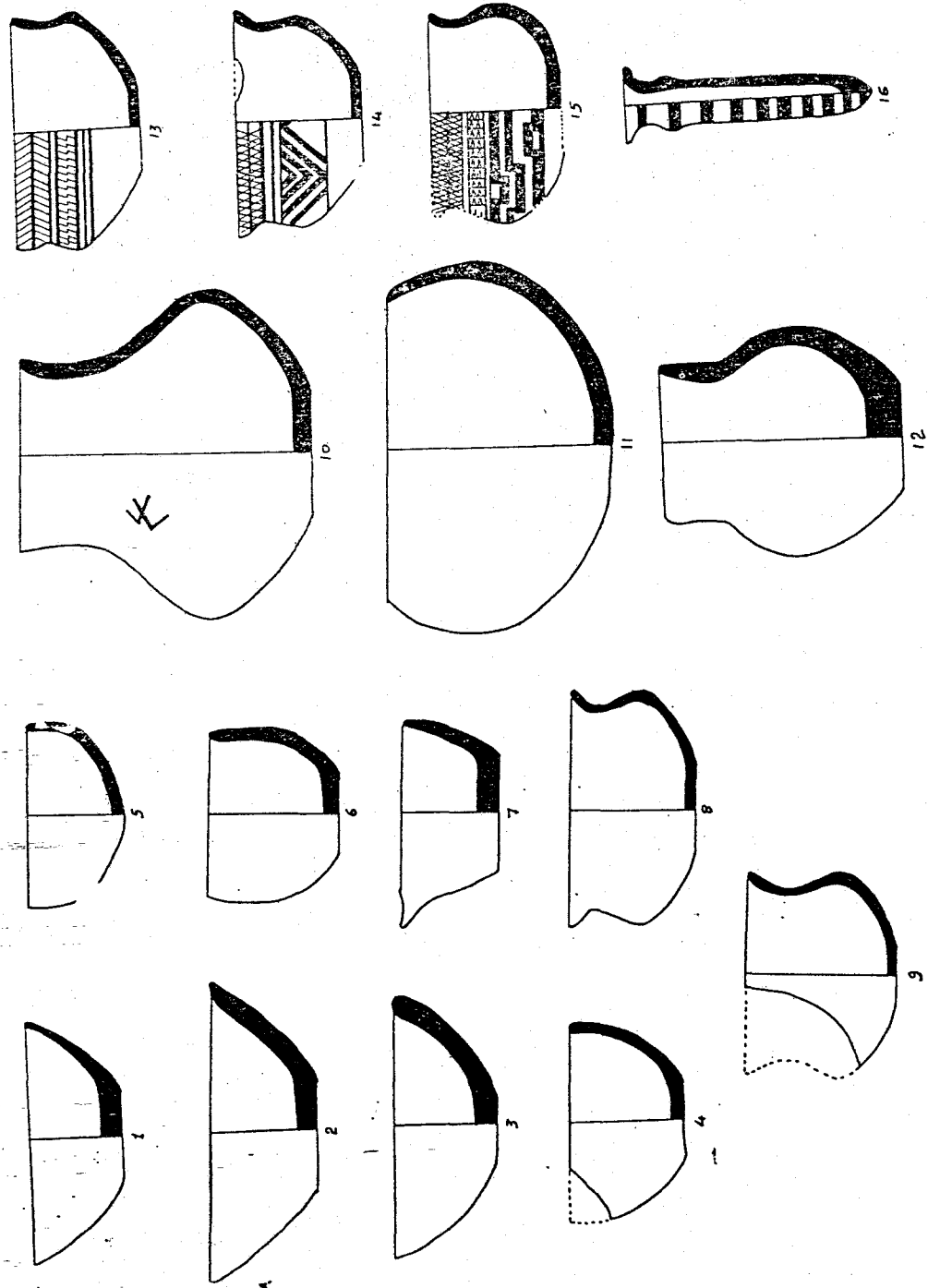


4



2

Pl. IX



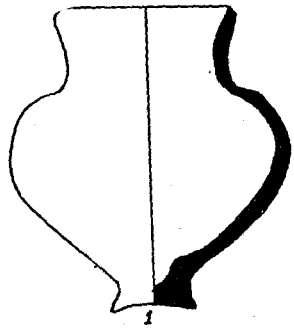
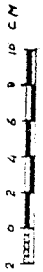
PL. X

TELL ES-SAWWAN SAMARRA POTTERY  
 FOUND DURING THE FOURTH SEASON 1967  
 SCALE 1/2. EXCEPT NOS 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 12, 14

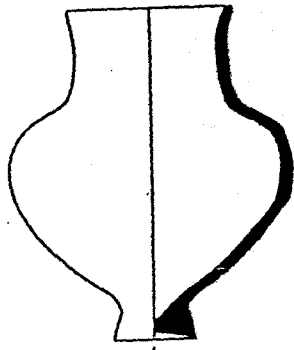




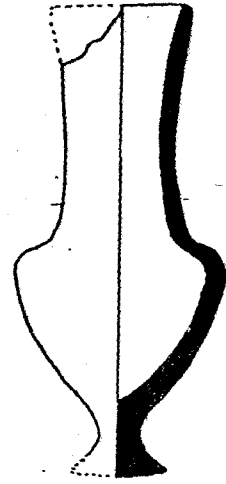
SCALE 1/2. EXCEPT NOS 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 12, 1/4.



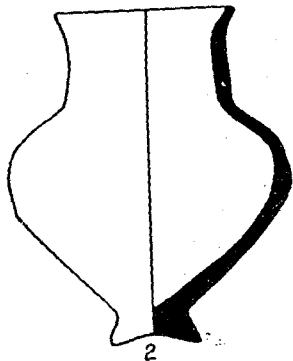
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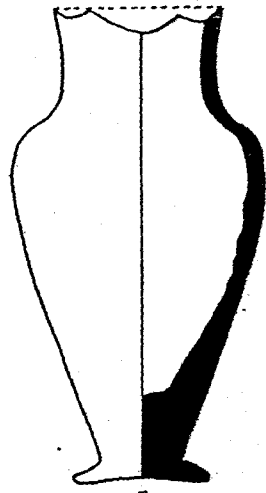
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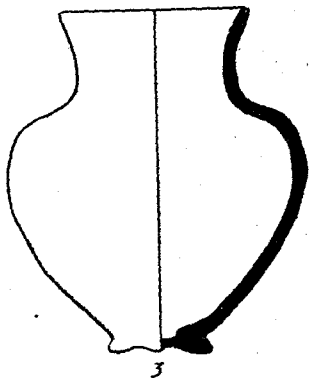
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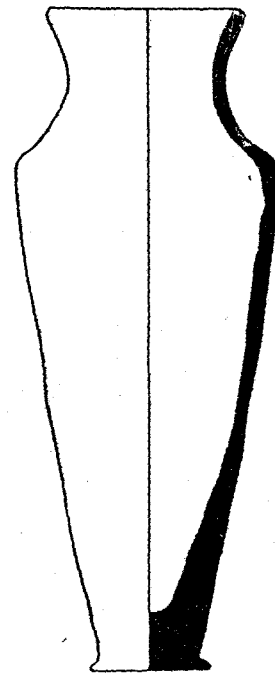
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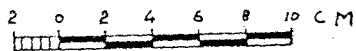
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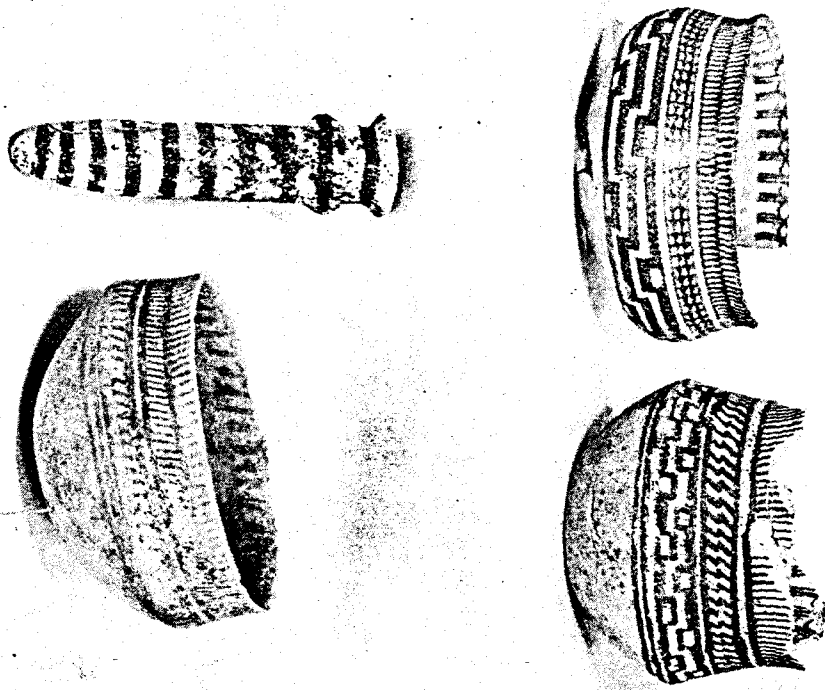


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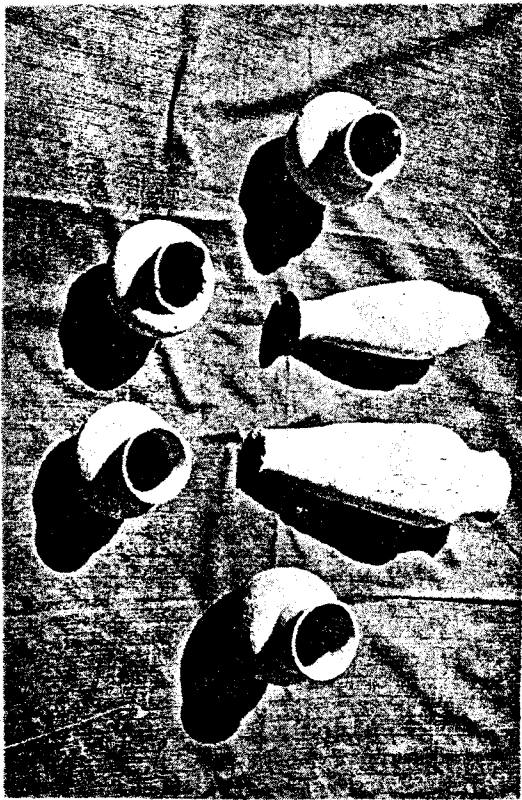
PL. XI

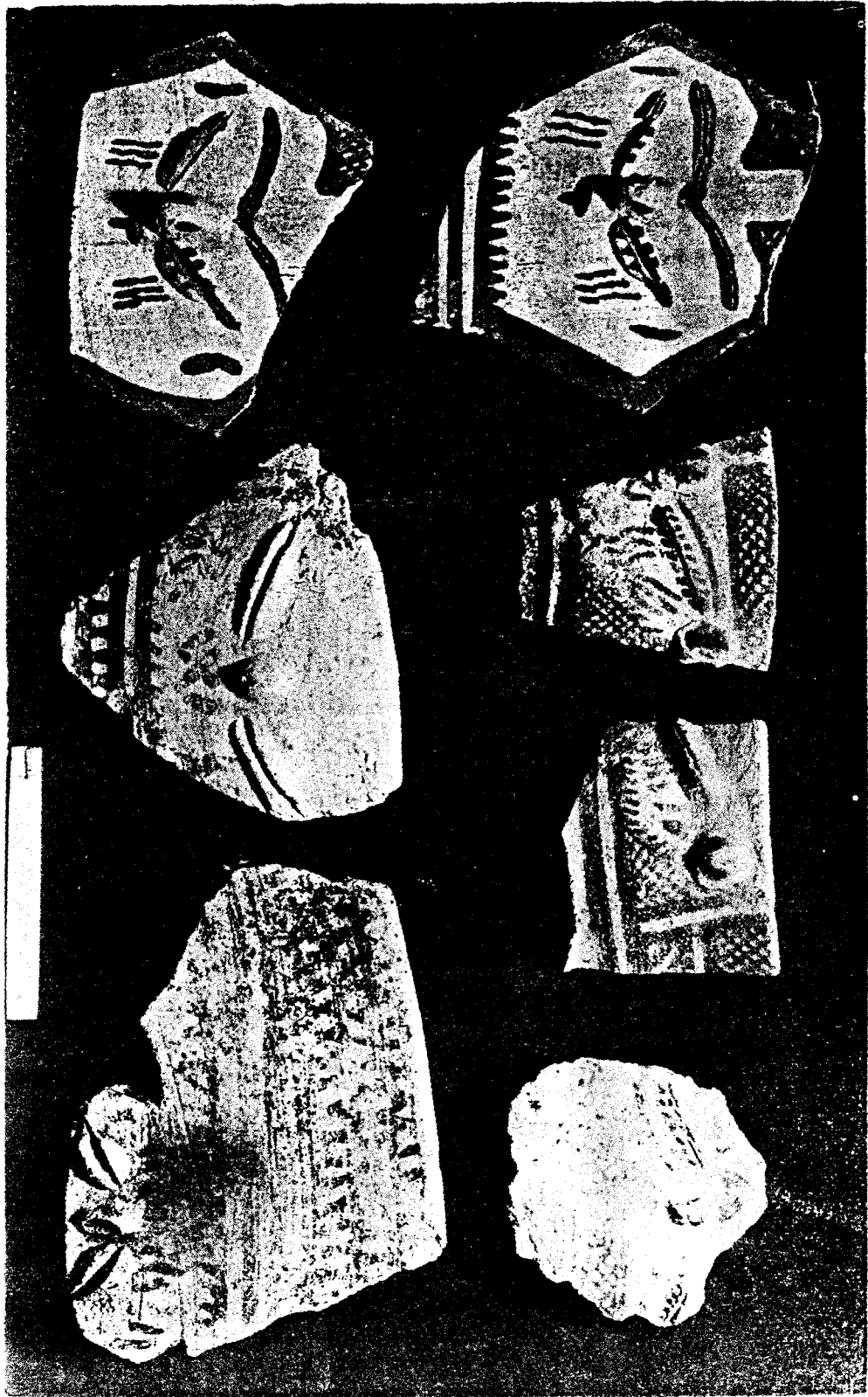
TELL ES-SAWWAN OLD BALLYONIAN/KASSITE  
POTTERY FOUND DURING THE FOURTH  
SEASON 1967. SCALE 1/2





Pl. XII





Pl. XIII

20.73



1

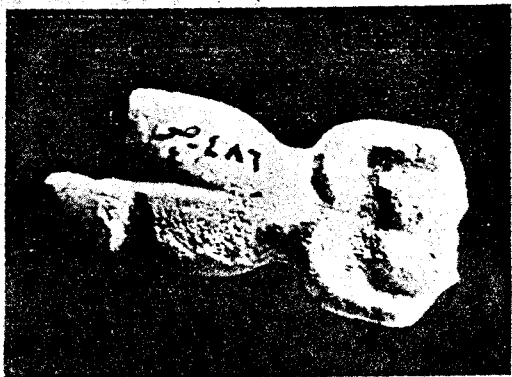
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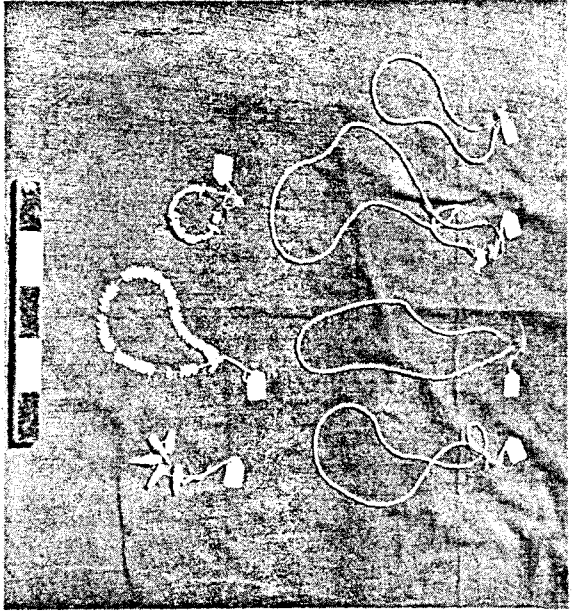
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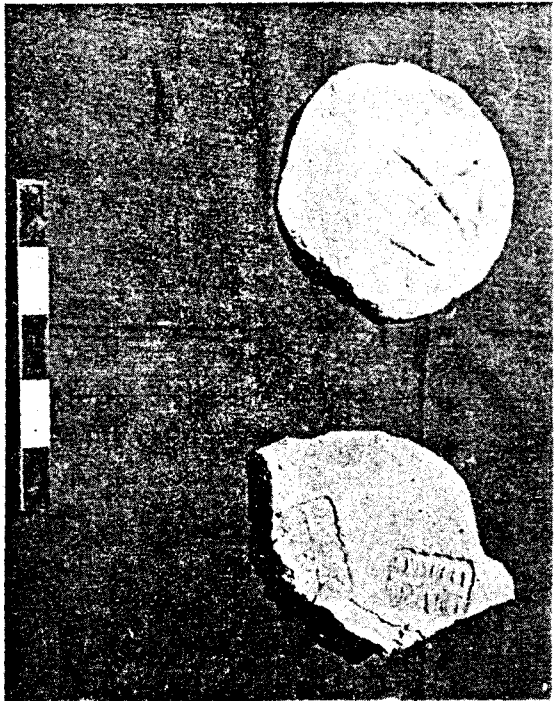


PL. XV

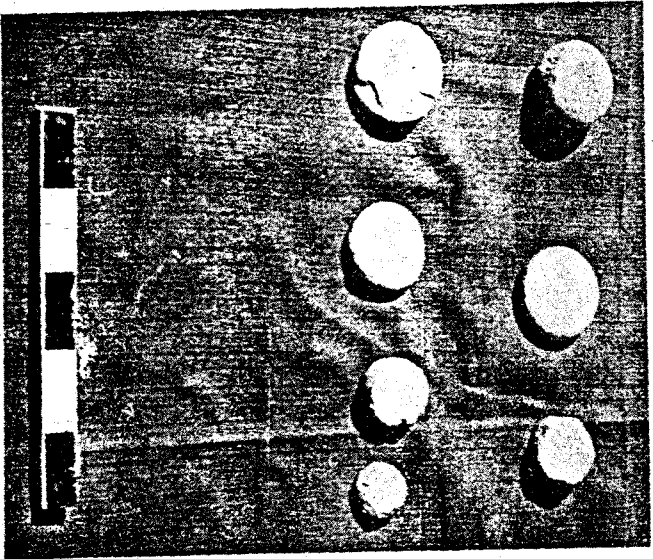
PL. XV



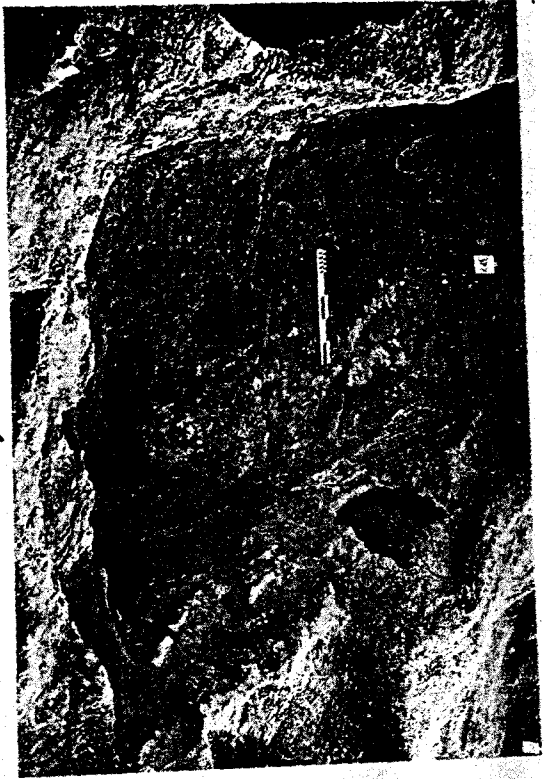
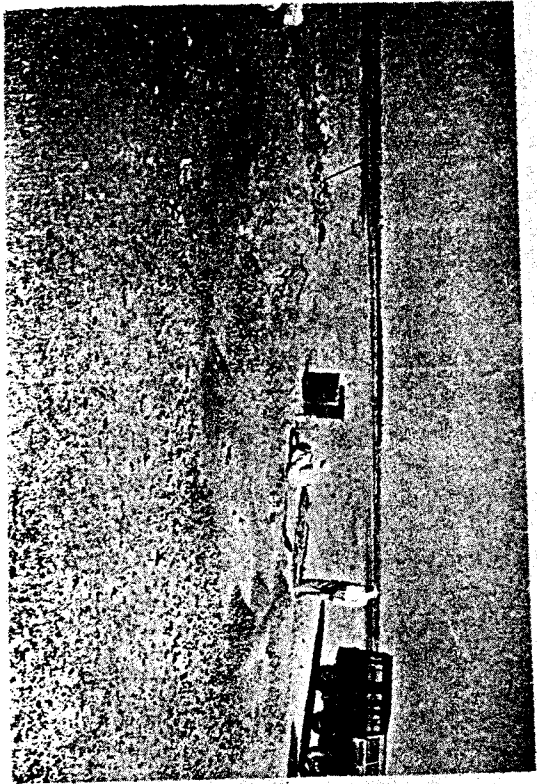
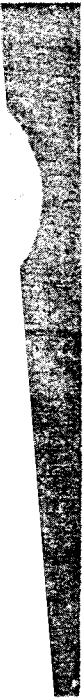
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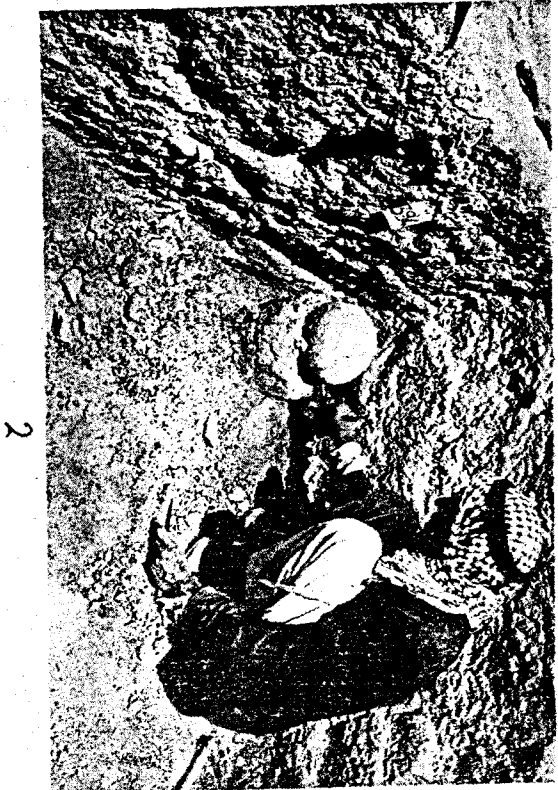
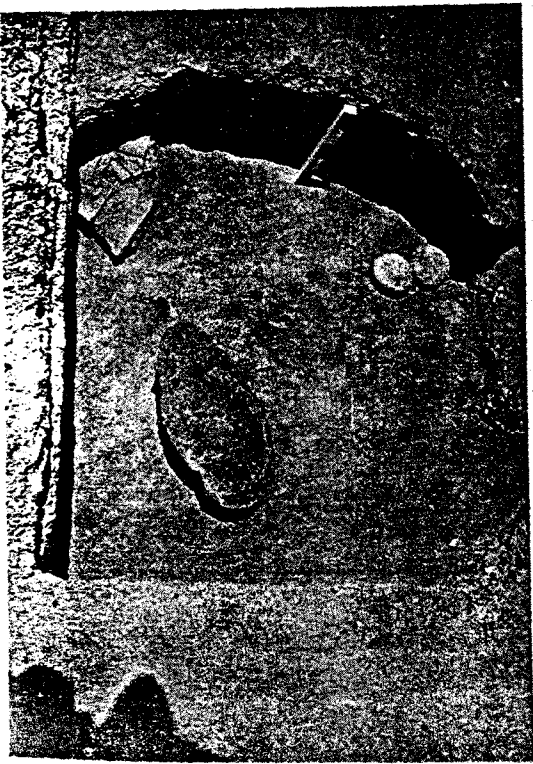
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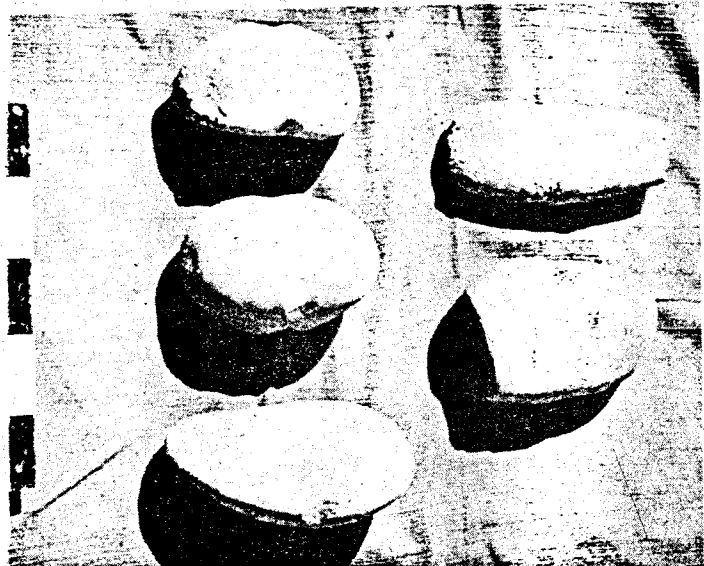


Pl. XVII

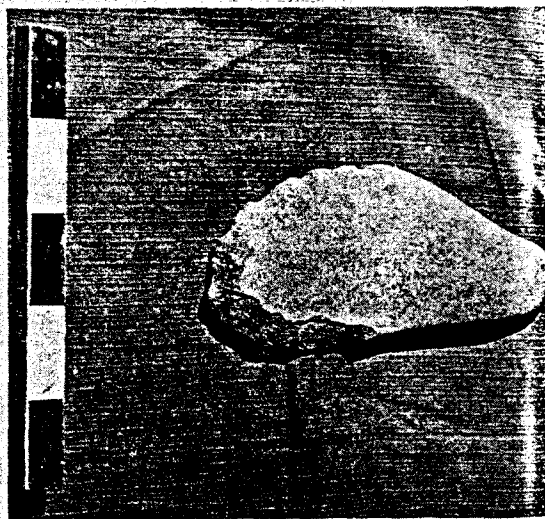




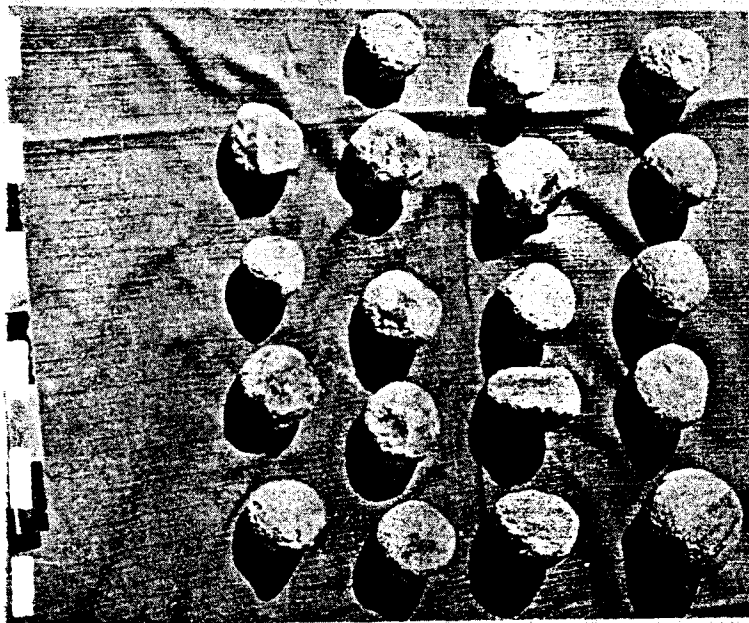
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3



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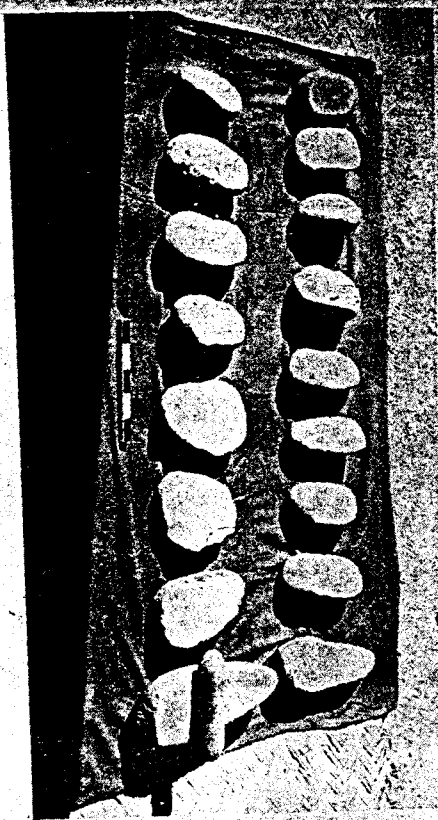


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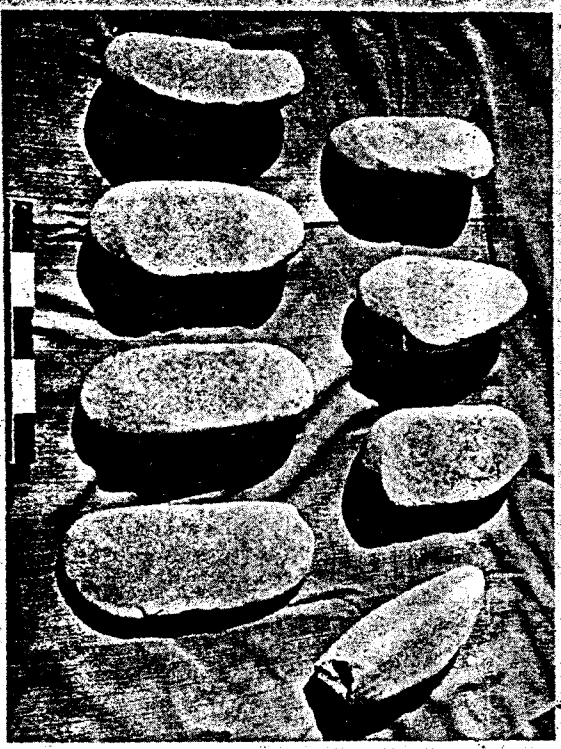
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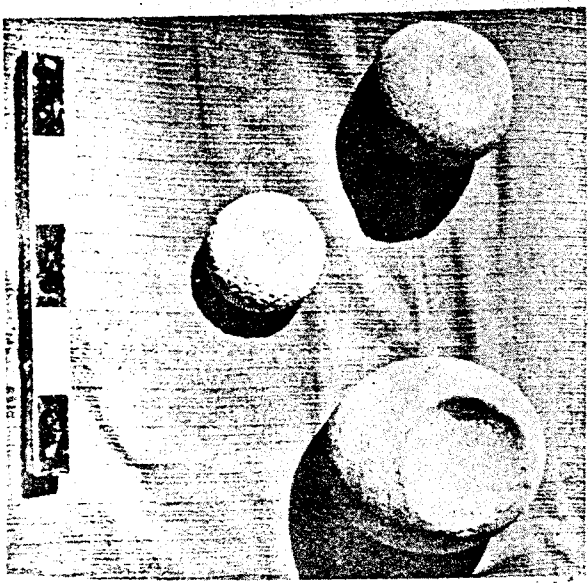
PL. XIX



3

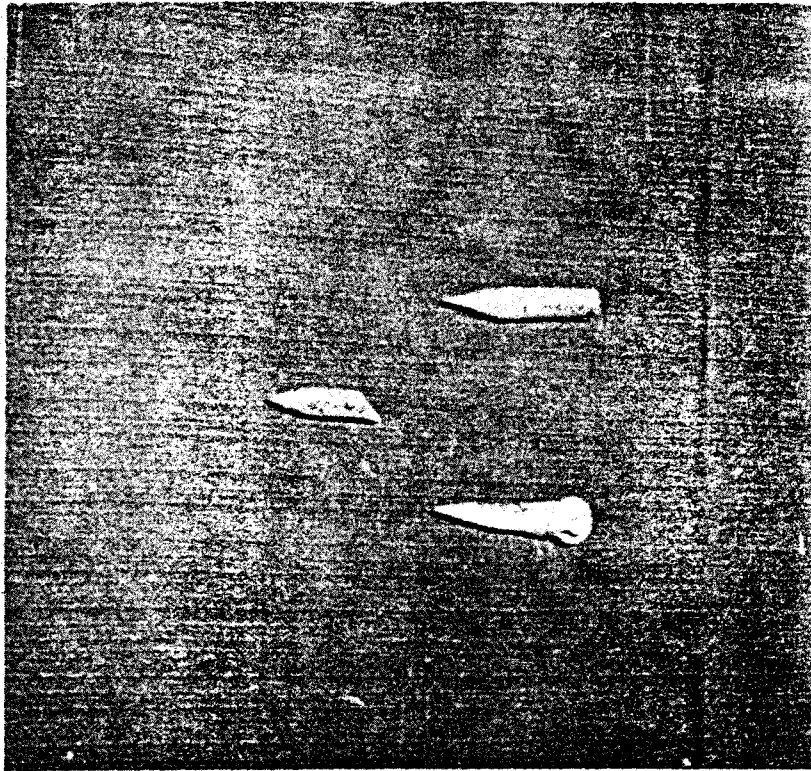


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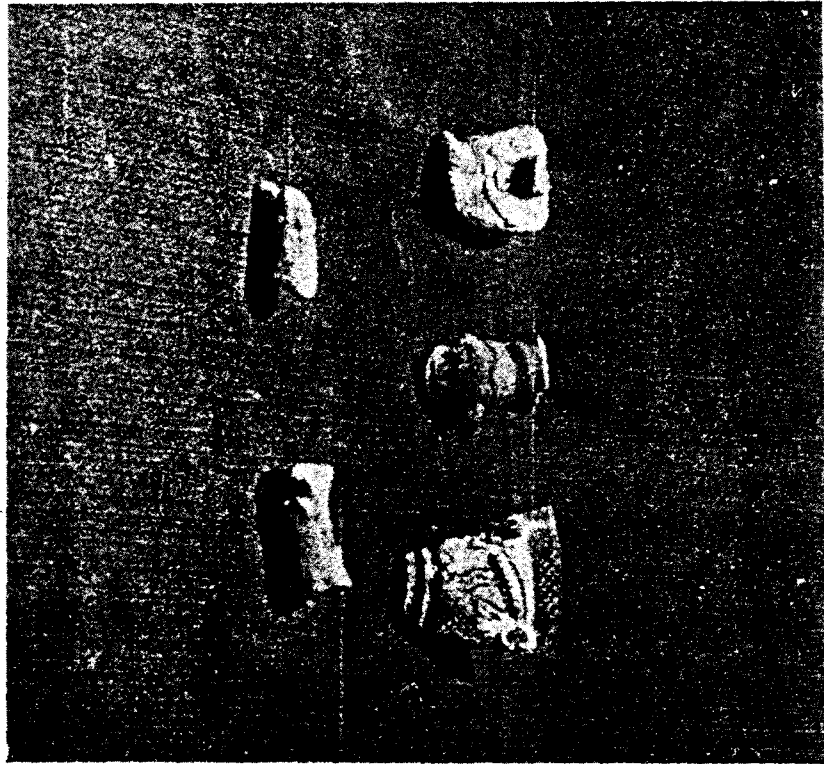
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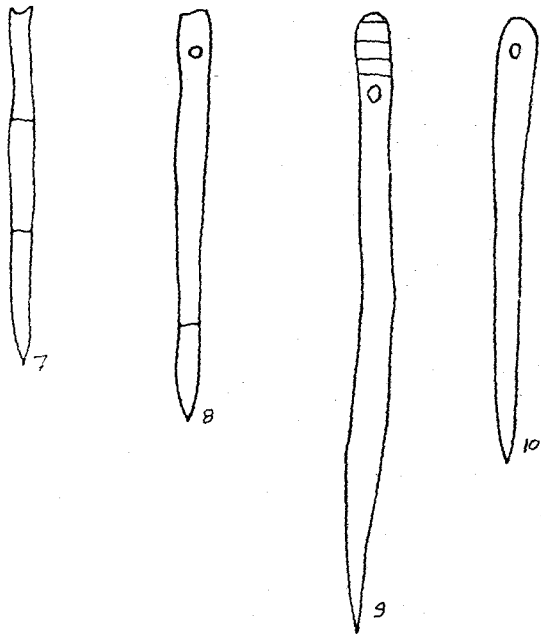
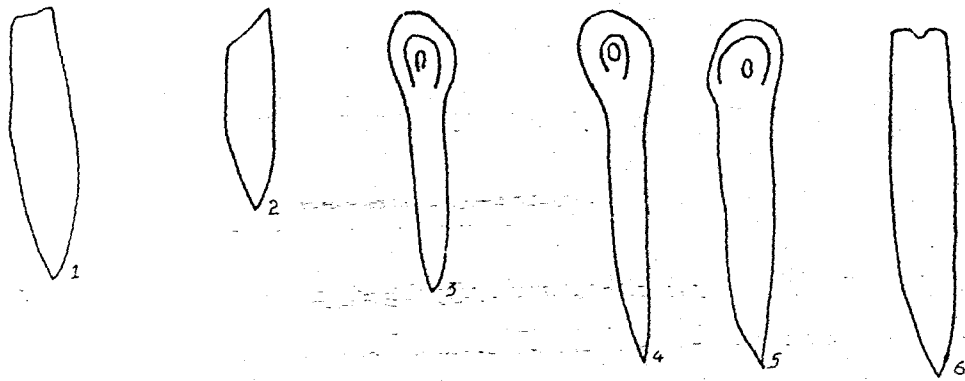


PL. XX

PL. XX



PL. XXI



TELL ES-SAWWAN  
BONE TOOLS, AWLS & NEEDLES  
FOUND DURING FOURTH SEASON 1967  
SCALE 1:1



Provenience	Type 1			Type 2			Type 3			Type 4			Type 5			Type 6			Type 7			Additions
	R	S	B	R	S	B	R	S	B	R	S	B	R	S	B	R	S	B	R	S	B	
q b/h	45	150	32	2	25	2	8	7	5	9	10	5	7	7			12					One little body-herd of incised Hassuna va
c		1		7	10	1							8				1					One incised Hassuna body-herd.
17 h	3	12											3	3	1		1					On the inside base of type 5 is a potter's mar
17 h	9	20	10	4					1				10	4			4			2		One base fragment of a crude husking tray. C
1 h	17	13	2			2							12	8		1			4			
d	31	158	10	8	32		1	7	2	3	4		34	60		1	8		1			
17 j	37	44	6	8	16	4	6	10	7				12	18	2	4			4			Painted Halaf pottery is popular in this squar
10 j	30	36	5	8	5	2	4	8	3				4	3		1						Six painted Halaf rim-fragments.
d	48	132	15	5	7	3	10	12	3	1			10	11		4						Four large fragments from crude husking tray body
16 j	3		1	1			3							1								1
16 j	26	82	5	9	16	2	4	11					8	8		2				3		One neck fragment of type I has a little
d	3								3													
15 j	35	26	6	3			1						15	24	1	8						One painted Halaf rim-herd. One large fr
18 i	15	83	7	7									13	11		2				3		
18 i	47	130	30	6		11	4						16	34		7						1
18 i	15	30	5	2	8		3						7	10		3						

ES IN LEVEL IV

onal Remarks and Occurrences

riety.

k in the shape of a letter Z.

ne Hassuna incised body-herd.

e (24 body and rim-fragments).

ays. One painted Samarra body-herd with a little pierced lug. 25 painted Halaf rim-herds 2 incised Hassuna body-herds.

pierced lug on shoulder. 2 painted Halaf body-herds.

agment from a husking tray.

Chart

TELL ES-SAWWAN POTTERY OCCURRENCES IN LEVEL III

Provenience	Type 1			Type 2			Type 3			Type 4			Type 5			Type 6			Type 7			Additional Remarks and Occurrences	
	R	S	B	R	S	B	R	S	B	R	S	B	R	S	B	R	S	B	R	S	B		
329	6	1		1	2								1	1		1							
329	32								2				22	3	1					1			The two bottom fragments of type 3 are from two husking trays.
330	11	1											10			1	1			1	1		
341	18			2									15	3						1			
367	72	2		3			3						38	9	1	1	5	1		4			3 bottom fragments from husking trays.
340	172	27		11	1	2		2	1	2			107	12	4	3	10		3	2			2 sharply carinated body-fragments of type 1 perhaps from a tortoise-shaped vessel, known in gawra xvii-xix & Eri
340	11			3									10	1					2	1			
340	33	77	2	2	4			1	2				12	16			3						
345	20	2											12		1					1	1		One rim-herd of type 5 painted after firing.
345	31	37	1	5	2	1				1			13	5	2		2		2	2			
346	9	6		2			1						6				2			1			One rim-fragment of type 5 with a loop handle
346	12	92	3	4	8					2			8	5						1			The two rim-fragments of type 4 are dark-grey almost black and are burnished on both the inside and outside.
347	42	21	2	4	1			1					25	1	2		11						4 rim fragments of type 5 painted after firing. One body-herd of painted and incised Hassuna.
347	13	47	1		5								3	5	2		4			2			One rim-fragment of type 5 painted after firing.
348	3	18											3	6									
349	30	60	2	1									5	27	2	1	2				6		
350	4	19			1								4	4			1						
351	20	7		4	1								11	2						1	1		
350	13	29	1	1			1	1					4				2						One rim-fragment of type 5 painted after firing. Two bottom fragments of type 3 from husking trays.
352	9	11	2	2									10				3			1			
353	11	30	3	3	14	1							14	11			2		1	1			
354	4	1		2									4	2			1						
354	5	3		1	1				1				3	2									
355	17	84	1		3	4	1			4			9	15			4						One bottom fragment of a husking tray. The four rim-fragments of type 4 are from dark-grey, almost black, burnished
355	19	48		3	2				2	1			4	4			3						A rim-fragment of type 1 bears a loop-handle. The body-herd of type 4 is in grey ware. One rim-herd of type 5 p
356	22	92	5	1	12		1	1	1	1			19	7	1		3			1			One body-fragment of type 4 is in grey ware.
343	25	1	1	3		1	2	2	2				21	5	3	1	1			2			
344	15	7		2	1	1			1				11	2	1	1				2			A large bottom fragment of a husking tray.
380	42	128	2	19	24	9	5	6	4				18	7		2	2		1	1	1		
381	40	185	3	8	29	3		2					12	4	1		5						
384	14	60	2	11	3	2		2	1				7	4	1								
398	5	44											1	1						1			

TELL ES-SAWWAN POTTERY OCCURRENCES IN LEVEL III

5	Type 6			Type 7			Additional Remarks and Occurrences
	B	R	S	B	R	S	
	1						
1					1		The two bottom fragments of type 3 are from two husking trays.
	1	1			1	1	
				1			
1	1	5	1		4		3 bottom fragments from husking trays.
4	3	10		3	2		2 sharply carinated body_fragments of type 1 perhaps from a tortoise-shaped vessel, known in gawra xvii-xix & Eridu viii-xiii. Two bottom fragments of type 3 from husking trays
				2		1	
		3					
1				1	1		One rim_sherd of type 5 painted after firing.
2		2		2			
		2		1			One rim-fragment of type 5 with a loop handle
				1			The two rim-fragments of type 4 are dark-grey almost black and are burnished on both the inside and outside.
2		11					4 rim fragments of type 5 painted after firing. One body_sherd of painted and incised Hassuna.
2		4		2			One rim-fragment of type 5 painted after firing.
5							
7	2	1	2		6		
4		1					
2				1	1		
		2					One rim-fragment of type 5 painted after firing. Two bottom fragments of type 3 from husking trays.
		3			1		
11		2		1	1		
2		1					
2							
15		4					One bottom fragment of a husking tray. The four rim-fragments of type 4 are from dark-grey, almost black, burnished small bowls.
4		3					A rim-fragment of type 1 bears a loop-handle. The body-sherd of type 4 is in grey ware. One rim_sherd of type 5 painted after firing. One incised Hassuna body_sherd.
7	1	3			1		One body-fragment of type 4 is in grey ware.
5	3	1	1		2		
2	1	1			2		A large bottom fragment of a husking tray.
7		2	2		1	1	1
4	1		5				
4	1						
1					1		



	R	S	B	R	S	B	R	S	B	R	S	B	R	S	B	R	S	B				
361	17	5		1	1								14	4					1	One fragment of type 1 with double rim.		
362	64	114	10	9	19	1							31	7	3	2	3		3	1	A broken sickle-like gypsum object.	
359	25	40	4	2	5								1	1								
360	9	53	2	2	5								15	12					1	1		
363	23	52	6	3	5				1				15	9	5					1	2	
364	40	95	9	5	3	4							40	25	5		2		1	2		
365	4	19	2	1	1								6	3								
373	11	27	5		2	1								1					1	1		
374	12	27	2	1	4								3	2			1					
375	7	19	1	1									4	3								
377	9	21	2	2	3								2	2								
378	14	35	1										6	6		2	1					
379	10	62	2	4	11	3							7	1			4					
392	71	143	11	3	10	5	5	6	3				26	26	1	1				3	1	
394	33	108	5	4	11			1					10	11	1	1	2	1	1	1	Two painted Halaf fragments, a rim and a body-shoulder.	
396	8	6	1		2	1								1	1							
385	26	107	3	1	4			1	1				21	14	2							
386	20	88	3	1	12			1	1				14	11	2						1	
387	15	33	2	2	1								2	11			1			1	1	
389	12	70	2	1	2			1					4	3	2					1		
389	3	10			2															1		
387	8	26			3								4	13		1	1					
404	11	38		2	5			2					7	9		1					2	
412	27	99	6	4	3								21	11	6		1		1	1		
413	1	24	1										4	3								
414	1	10			1								1									
403	55	131	2	3	7								37	29	4		5		1	1	2	
357	203	633	28	24	22	6	11	9	9	1	2	1	146	114	5	14	13		6	10	3	A painted loop-handle of type 5.
391	14	3	2										12	2	1		1		1	1		
330	128	136	3	5	9			2	4	2			108	41	42	5	13		3	8		One bottom fragment of a husking tray. One rim-shoulder of type 5 painted after firing.
358	13	1	1	5	1								6	2		1	1		1	1	1	One bottom fragment of a husking tray.

Provenience	Type 1			Type 2			Type 3			Type 4			Type 5			Type 6			Type 7			Additional Remarks and Occurrences
	R	S	B	R	S	B	R	S	B	R	S	B	R	S	B	R	S	B	R	S	B	
361	17	5		1	1								14	4					1			One fragment of type 1 with double rim.
362	64	114	10	9	19	1							31	7	3	2	3		3	1		A broken sickle-like gypsum object.
359	25	40	4	2	5								1	1								
360	9	53	2	2	5								15	12					1	1		
363	23	52	6	3	5				1				15	9	5				1	2		
364	40	95	9	5	3	4							40	25	5		2		1	2		
365	4	19	2	1	1								6	3								
373	11	27	5		2	1								1					1	1		
374	12	27	2	1	4								3	2			1					
375	7	19	1	1									4	3								
377	9	21	2	2	3								2	2								
378	14	35	1										6	6		2	1					
379	10	62	2	4	11	3							7	1		4						
392	71	143	11	3	10	5	5	6	3				26	26	1	1				3	1	
394	33	108	5	4	11			1					10	11	1	1	2	1	1	1		Two painted Halaf fragments, a rim and a body-shoulder.
396	8	6	1		2	1							1	1								
385	26	107	3	1	4				1	1			21	14	2							
386	20	88	3	1	12			1	1				14	11	2						1	
387	15	33	2	2	1								2	11			1			1	1	
389	12	70	2	1	2				1				4	3	2					1		
389	5	10			2															1		
397	8	26			3								4	13		1	1					
404	11	38		2	5			2					7	9		1					2	
412	27	99	6	4	3								21	11	6		1		1		1	
413		24	1										4	3								
414		19			1								1									
403	55	131	2	3	7								37	29	4		5		1	1	2	
357	203	633	28	24	22	6	1	9	9	1	2	1	146	114	5	14	13		6	10	3	A painted loop-handle of type 5.
391	14	3	2										12	2	1		1		1	1		
330	129	136	3	5	9		2	4	2				108	41	42	5	13		3	8		One bottom fragment of a husking tray. One rim-shoulder of type 5 painted after firing.
358	13	1	1	5	1								6	2		1	1		1	1	1	One bottom fragment of a husking tray.