

Preliminary Report
of
Archaeological Researches in Syria

Vol. I

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RUMEILAH AND MISHRIFAT

Excavations of Hellenistic Sites
in
the Euphrates Basin
1974 - 1978

by

Namio Egami Sei-ichi Masuda
and
Takuya Iwasaki

THE ANCIENT ORIENT MUSEUM

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Norio Egami and Seichi Minoda

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Takuya Iwase

All communications pertaining to this series should
be addressed to The Ancient Orient Museum, 1-4,
Higashi Ikebukuro 3-chome, Toshima-ku,
Tokyo 170, Japan

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Preface

On the left bank of Euphrates, which flows down into the low plains of Syria from the plateaus of the Taurus Mts. of Turkey, are located two archaeological sites, Rumeilah (No. 20) and Mishrifat (No. 19). We had been asked by the Syrian government to excavate these two sites, situated only 100 kilometres from the Turko-Syrian border. In this most remote region of Syria, a few small villages were dotted the river-terrace, but most of the villagers have abandoned their homes and moved elsewhere, for the fields have been flooded by the rising waters of the river, owing to the construction of the Tabqa Dam. As far as the eye can see, not a tree stands, and only very seldom does one meet a fellow human. Across the river are cliffs backed by the low but nevertheless imposing Mt. Jebel Khalid. According to the time of day, the hue of the mountains varies, and thus one never tires of their view. However, these mountains represent what little is left of nature untainted by the hand of man. Those few villagers still remaining also seem to be something forgotten and left behind.

Here, the innermost reaches of the Euphrates in Syria, the river waters have just begun to rise, and the natural features have not yet been inundated. We also felt as those left behind, for we came after most of the European and American archaeological parties had finished their respective excavations and were packing up for home. However, as our excavations got underway, each morning people from nearby villages came to work, and the landscape once again became filled with sounds and life, erasing that "left-behind" atmosphere. In the evening, when the day's work was finished and the people had faded back into the surrounding countryside, the feeling of having been left behind once again enveloped the camp and the surrounding landscape. This feeling became particularly prevalent as Mt. Jebel Khalid turned purple with the setting of the evening sun. At times like this, I am impressed again by the difference between the Euphrates and Tigris rivers.

Even this far upstream, the Euphrates flows between wide spread banks along which villages have been farming since time immemorial. Even without a dam, there is an abundance of water throughout the year. By contrast, the Tigris is narrow, and constricted as far downstream as Samarra by rocks and giant boulders along its banks and in its stream. Because of this current it flows rapidly and presents a forbidding visage to boatmen. Along the upstream portion of the Tigris, nowhere along the shore is there a concentration of archaeological sites representing various periods. Along the lower reaches of the river in southern Mesopotamia, the great majority of sites are of the Sumer-Akkadian period, with a few Parthian sites. Along the middle reaches of the Tigris, *tells* of the initial agricultural period and city sites of the Assyrian period numerically overshadow sites for other periods. On the other hand along the upstream Tigris, there are various kinds of archaeological sites of many ages

The contrasting pattern of sites distribution, both spatially and temporally, along the full course of the Euphrates, has been impressed by the results of archaeological work done by many teams to rescue sites soon to be inundated by the rising river waters due to the construction of the Tabqa Dam. In site areas Nos. 19 and 20 alone, both of which fell within our area of archaeological research, we found concentrations of sites, spanning a period from the Palaeolithic through to the Byzantine and Islamic periods. Thus far, we have identified a wide range of sites and features, including dwelling remains, stone implements and sherd scatter areas, citadels, underground chamber graves (so-called catacombs), pit graves, dolmens, stone circles, and other stone features. This picture of a great temporal span and a wide range of sites and features was further bolstered when we were shown the finds of other archaeological parties, or when we visited the National Museum of Aleppo and saw the wide range of artifacts on display. In other site areas, clusters of sites covering a span of many thousands of years were also unearthed, a fact that caused us to surmise that such a situation was characteristic for the most part of the Euphrates basin. If future surveys and excavations should show this supposition to be valid, a significant difference between the occupation patterns along the Euphrates and the Tigris can be postulated. This difference is probably due mainly to the dissimilarity of the natural environment of the two rivers. The main channel of the lower Tigris flows through a vast alluvial plain that was subject to yearly floods in the spring. Also, along the mid-region north of Samarra, the Tigris flows with great velocity through narrow chasms. Thus, man probably shunned the Tigris except in the regions of Baghdad and Mosul, because most of the lower and middle regions are unsuited to either movement by boat on the water, or to occupation along its banks. On the other hand, the Euphrates flows fully and evenly throughout the year, allowing relatively large boats to sail far upstream. Villages built upon the river-terraces were free from worry of flood and could avail themselves to the surrounding area for agriculture. It is therefore easy to accept the conclusion that a large population occupied the banks of the Euphrates over several millenia, leaving many sites as testimony to that occupation.

Until recent archaeological investigations along its banks, however, the cultural history of the Euphrates basin was almost unknown, and many researchers were slave to the notion that few sites would be found there, because, at a glance, the banks of the Euphrates appeared to be vast expanses of uninhabited wastelands. It is ironical that the construction of a dam, ultimately to be the agency by which these sites will be inundated, should also be the reason why scholars from many countries should gather on the banks of the Euphrates to know that the living conditions of man here were so different from those of the Tigris, but nevertheless cultural relations between the upper Euphrates and the lower Tigris basins were unexpectedly closely related.

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I Excavations at Tell Mishrifat

Since 1975, five seasons of the archaeological investigations at Rumeilah (Site No. 20) and Mishrifat (Site No. 19) both situated in the Euphrates Basin have been carried out by the Japanese Archaeological Mission. In the course of the investigations, several archaeological sites, for example, Bronze Age burials including so-called *dolmens* and the sites of Roman and Byzantine periods scattered along the edge of the second river-terrace of the Euphrates shown in Pl. 2, were excavated. Two sites, Tell Ali el Hajj (Tell Rumeilah) and Tell Mishrifat Hajj Ali Issa (Tell Mishrifat) are also situated on this terrace. Investigations of these two sites were started in the second season of our research in 1975. At Tell Rumeilah, digging from the top of the hill, eight building levels were uncovered. But two or three more levels must be excavated to clarify the full aspects of the site. From the several rooms of mud-brick buildings of the VIth and VIIIth levels, almost complete models of terracotta houses, decorated with a statue of the mother-goddess, were found in situ. At Mishrifat, some stone constructions arranged in a square plan were found (Pl. 25), while at Tell Mishrifat, situated on a cliff-top, a similar structure was built of dressed limestone blocks (Pl. 24).

The dressed limestone structure at Tell Mishrifat has a length of about 17 metres and with a width of 6 metres, and was built in a zigzag form (Pls. 4 and 29). Each limestone block of this building was dressed with one or two projecting square decorations on the face. As for each rank of the piled stones, the upper was laid a little inside of the lower (Pl. 4-Section B and Pl. 29, b). Extending the full length of the EW trench into the structure, a mud-brick wall as thick as 2 metres was uncovered. It is clear that this dressed limestone building was situated in the central position of the wall, which was built in a pentagonal shape following the natural contours of the hillock (Pl. 3) At the north and east corners of the wall, square-shaped sun-dried mud-brick buildings (watch towers) were built upon stone-piled foundations. Also at the south-eastern corner, two other constructions of the same plan were uncovered. The wall was built upon a cobble foundation which measured 2 metres at the widest point. The results of the excavation inside the wall revealed three distinct levels of human occupation. At the first level, stone foundations of the houses from the early Islamic period were uncovered and fragments of glazed and buff pottery, glass bracelets and other objects were obtained. In addition, a gold earring, a glass jar with a handle (Pl. 26, b) and some coins of the Islamic period were found. This level lay over the wall mentioned above. Therefore, it is clear that the structure including the dressed stone wall was abandoned in the early Islamic period.

No building was found from within the second level but some archaeological remains were uncovered, including fragments of pottery and a few coins of the Byzantine period. At the third level, related stratigraphically to the base of walls, stone foundations of

buildings were found. Also, investigations of these foundations at the third level revealed two building phases. The foundations of Buildings A-D shown in Pl. 5 belonged to the latter phase of this level and the hatched areas in the same plate were shown conclusively to be foundations belonging to the earlier phase. As a result of the excavations, it became clear that the buildings inside the wall, and the wall itself, were re-constructed for reasons yet unknown.

An entrance of dressed limestones was placed in the west wall of Building A, and its plan was large, as wide as 9.4 metres. Between this Building A and the wall of the latter phase, some fragments of glass vessels, pointed bone implements and two pots containing a total of 298 Roman copper coins were uncovered. The greater number of those coins were those minted in the 3rd century; those of Antonius Gordianus III (A.D. 238-244), Julius Phillipus (A.D. 244-249) and Trajanus Decius (A.D. 249-251). Judging from these finds, the latter phase of the building should be dated to the 3rd century. Also a limestone sculpture with Syriac inscriptions was found from Building D of this phase. Compared with those from the upper levels, the finds from the earlier phase of this level were not so rich in number but included a stone amulet with an Aramaic inscription and a fragment of amphora-type pottery with a pointed base, a type which prevailed in the 1st and 2nd centuries of this district.

In the last season of the research (1978), when we excavated the eastern area of the site, we found two watch tower foundations and also a gate-way. The archaeological finds from the site were not enough to make clear its full aspects. However, concerning the character of the site, the fact that it was surrounded with a wall indicates a military function. A watch tower was built at every corner of the wall and the zigzag shape of the building situated at the centre of the north side of the wall might also be regarded as a watch tower. This site might be the ruin of a small castle or a fort built in the 1st or the 2nd century.

II Excavations of the Burials with a Circular Stone Feature

At the edge of the second river-terrace of the Euphrates at Rumeilah, we found some archaeological monuments similar to so-called "stone circles" (Pl. 8). Most of monuments had been robbed and their burial mounds lost. But Burial D-1, situated on the top of a hillock at Rumeilah, had a circular feature of stones around its base and retained the mound. We excavated this feature and two others (Burials B-1 and C-1) at Rumeilah. In the course of the investigations of Burial B-1 and the surrounding area, a total of six burial features were found; Burial Chamber B-II; three burial cists (B-III, IV and V) and a burial in a large jar outside the stone circle. The wall of the underground Burial Chamber B-I was constructed of boulders and, inside the chamber, we found three rectangular burial spaces partitioned by upright flat stones. Also in the chamber, we found many bone fragments, all in disturbed situations. Examining these human bones, especially counting the number of tali, Mr. Masanori Nishida (physical anthropologist, the University of Kyoto) has shown that a total of 28 human bodies had been buried in this chamber.

In addition to Burial B-I, we found another burial chamber outside the south-eastern side of the stone-circle; Burial B-II. It was constructed of dressed limestone and consisted of four sections partitioned by some flat stones, as in the case of Burial B-I, though it was not encircled by a stone circle. It is not obvious whether Burial B-II originally had a row of stones around its base or not. Some fragments of human bones and the objects enumerated separately on the list on p. 8 were found here in a disturbed condition.

A total of 17 human bodies were buried in this chamber, including adults and children. The most remarkable of the funerary objects was a cameo with a figurine of a goddess holding a spear and wearing a helmet. The style of the goddess resembles closely to that of Athena, a style which prevailed during the Roman period in Syria (Pl. 41, b). The lamps and glass ware were typologically identical with those from the Catacombs E-I and E-II at Rumeilah (Pls. 41 and 42). From a typological point of view, apart from the difference in constructions, this site may be supposed to have been contemporaneous with the catacombs. A coin with the Greek number "M" is also suggestive as to the date of this burial (Pl. 41, f). Burials B-III, IV and V, outside the stone circle, were rather small and nothing was found from them.

On the lower slope of Tell Rumeilah, there was another burial with a stone circle; Burial C-1 (Pl. 40). In the centre of the stone circle, which had a diameter of about 9.50 m., we found a stone burial chamber with a passage-way. This burial which had two rectangular funerary features, had already been robbed but a few remains were found including terracotta lamps, copper rings and glass beads. A fragment of pottery with a painted eagle decoration was also recovered from this site (Pl. 41, g). As a result of

the examinations of a total of 64 human tali from this site, it is clear that 39 human bodies were buried in this chamber (see "Chart of Tali" on p. 8).

In Rumeilah, on the top of a hillock named Tell Dahara, we found three other burial mounds with stone circles around their bases. In 1975, we excavated one of these burials; Burial D-1 (Pls. 35 and 36). In the course of the excavations, two burial chambers and a burial in a large jar were uncovered from under the mound, which measured 10 metres in diameter and 1.5 metres in height.

One of the burial chambers was a simple grave covered with flat stones and had a substructure of rectangular mud-bricks. The other was a domed chamber constructed of both stones and mud-bricks, and had a stone-lined passage-way. The passage-way was about 2.5 metres long. Between the chamber and the passage, a large upright orthostatic stone was placed as to block the entrance to the chamber. One of the stones of the circular setting around the base of the mound was placed as a lintel over the passage way. As the site had been robbed in the past, we found only a few iron nails used for wood coffins on the floor of the chamber, which had been partitioned into three sections. From the passage-way, only an iron ring was found.

In Rumeilah and Mishrifat, of the total of 23 burials with stone circles, we excavated three; Burials B-1, C-1 and D-1. Each had a burial chamber, or chambers, inside the stone circle. Many bodies were buried in these chambers. In Burial D-1, more than 28 bodies were interred in the three funerary structures under a single mound. This suggests that burials with stone circles were not made for one person but for a family. But we must bear in mind the fact that Burial B-II was constructed for a family although no stone circle was found.

When compared one to the other, Burials B-1, C-1 and D-1 each with a stone circle, are revealed to show some differences. Inside the stone circles of Burials B-1 and C-1, one burial feature was found, while two burial chambers and a jar-coffin were arranged within the stone circle around Burial D-1. On the other hand, it could be considered that the stone circles around the burials had functioned as retaining or revetting walls of the mound. This conclusion comes as a result of detailed observation during the excavation at Burial D-1.

Burials in large jars were found at Burial D-1 and near Burial B-1 (Pl. 39, a). In C-area, a jar coffin was found in an upright position (Pl. 39, b).

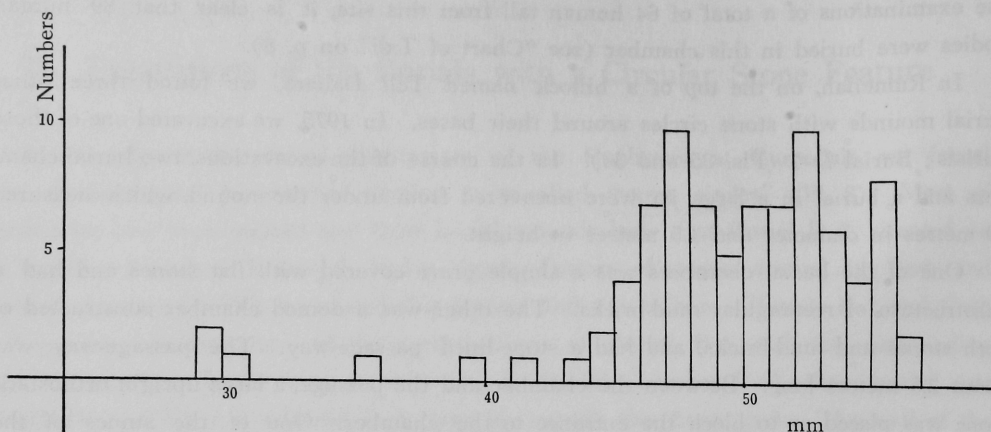


Chart of Tali

	North Section	East Section	South Section	Central Section
Silver rings	1	5		
Fragment of silver bracelet		1		
Bronze bracelet	1			
Bronze finger rings	6	3		
Bronze bracelet with an animal head			1	
Bronze pins	2	1		
Bronze coils	2	4		
Bronze coin		1		
Fragment of iron dagger			1	
Stone spindle whorls		2		
Cameo		1		
Glass beads	39	73		
Antler bead		1		
Fragments of glass ware	1	1		
Fragments of clay lamps		1	1	7
Cowrie shells	5	16		
Bivalve shell		1		

List of the Artifacts from Burial-II

III Excavations of Rock-cut Graves

At Jebel el Ghirre, there are several burials with a mound along the cliff eroded by the Euphrates. Most of them had been robbed in the past. The burial situated on the top of the cliff to the south of Tell Mishrifat had also been disturbed. Many fragments of limestone were scattered and a fragment of a relief was found on the surface here. In spite of the lack of its head, this relief was recognized as a funerary figurine of a woman wearing a bracelet on her right arm and sitting on a chair (Pl. 44, a). Its style is the same as those from well-known funerary reliefs from Palmyra and Membidj, and was common in the Hellenistic period of this district. If we compare the finds from Palmyra with those from Membidj, a few differences are recognizable between them. The reliefs from Palmyra are of a peculiar style often having Aramaic inscriptions, while the inscriptions of the Roman style reliefs from Membidj are with Greek letters. The material of the reliefs from Palmyra was generally marble but at Membidj, limestone was used. As concerns material, the relief from the burial at Jebel el Ghirre belongs to the Membidj style. The 1975 excavations were carried out to make clear the burial feature plan. Under a mound about 2 metres deep, an underground grave with a stair-passage was uncovered. Having been entered and robbed from the top, nothing but two fragments of glass-ware were found from the grave (Pl. 44, b). This shows how thoroughly secret excavations were done in the past.

Several underground graves situated at the foot of the second river-terrace of the Euphrates in this area were flooded because of the construction of the Tabqa Dam. Grave E-No. 1, found by a villager before the arrival of our mission in 1974, consisted of a burial chamber with sixteen funerary niches and a passage-way. The burial chamber was made by the hollowing out the limestone cliff of the river-terrace. Grave E-No. 2, located about 200 metres south of Grave E-No. 1, also consisted of a stone chamber and a passage-way dug in the same way as that of Grave E-No. 1. Generally speaking, the plans of these graves were similar, as they both were rock-cut tombs. But a comparison of the two burials reveals a few differences.

A door-case structure was arranged between the passage-way and the chamber in the both graves. But two steps were found at the end of the passage of Grave E-No. 2, while the passage of Grave E-No. 1 was flat. As already noted, at the grave of Mishrifat, 12 steps were found in the passage. Nearby, another underground grave with several steps in the passage was found. The two steps of the passage of Grave E-No. 2 were rather rudimentary compared with those of the graves mentioned above. From a typological point of view, we might point out the possibility of a transformation from the step-passage of the grave at Mishrifat to that of Grave E-No. 2 and then to that of Grave E-No. 1.

The three funerary niches in Grave E-No. 2 were hollowed at right angles to the

chamber walls, while the sixteen niches of Grave E-No. 1 were parallel to the walls. Consequently, there is a large difference in the number of the coffin niches. Of sixteen funerary niches of Grave E-No. 1, four were the features for two coffins of a married couple. As already noted, Grave E-No. 1 had been disturbed before our investigations and yielded nothing in situ, except several flat cover stones for the niches. But judging from the number of funerary niches, it is reasonably certain that 20 persons were buried in this grave.

In Grave E-No. 2 with three funerary niches in the walls, there was a partition wall of a dressed flat stone in the center of the chamber to allow for two more funerary niches, but no blocking stone was found in front of the niches. Many fragments of human bones were found in each funerary niche.

The objects from Grave E-No. 1 which had already been robbed were not so numerous as those from Grave E-No. 2. But the same types of pottery, glass ware and terracotta lamps were found in both graves (Pls. 20-22 and 49). In the category of glass ware, goblets with a stem and bottles were common. These items are transparent, but tinged with a light blue color. Compared with those from the grave of Mishrifat, the thickness of glass ware from Graves E-Nos. 1 and 2 was much thinner. The date of these glass items may be placed in the late Roman or Byzantine period. As to the terracotta lamps, the same chronological date can be applied, judging from their forms and decorations. Accordingly, the dates of Graves E-Nos. 1 and 2 are also regarded as being late Roman or Byzantine.

IV Excavations at the Hellenistic Sites in Rumeilah

We were privileged to have the opportunity of investigating several burial mounds of the Roman and Byzantine periods, situated on the east of the Euphrates River flowing through the hills of northern Syria. Artifacts retrieved from the burials, such as clay lamps, glass objects, etc., were separated into type groups which represented basically the same temporal period, which in turn suggests that the graves were contemporaneous. However, the grave structures themselves were of two differing types, one type being underground chamber grave (*catacombs*) situated along the river terrace slopes, and the other type being "stone circle graves", formed by a circle of stones arranged around pit graves, which were located on hill crests. The latter type was noted to be characteristically located near the crest or edge of a hill both at Rumeilah and Tell Mishrifat (Pl. 18). The former type was built into the side of a hill. Whether this alone accounts for the difference in geographical setting is not yet well understood, but it is evident that the two grave types, stone circle graves and catacombs, were constructed into different geomorphological features. If these two grave types were contemporaneous, the reason for the different styles must be explained. Thus, the possibility of a temporal disparity between the styles must also be considered.

The subsurface grave features on the river cliff near Mishrifat Village probably represent the oldest group of graves investigated thus far. In common with the "stone circle graves", these grave features are covered with a mound and are situated on hill crest, but they also exhibit the trait of having been dug into bed rock, a trait held in common with catacomb graves. "Stone circle graves" and catacomb graves are both characteristically subsurface features covered by mounds, but the two grave types differ in geomorphological setting, and therefore are thought to have developed independently.

In association with the graves of the above-mentioned types, scattered along the eastern shore of the Euphrates in the vicinity of Rumeilah and Mishrifat, and the several nearby *tells*, dwellings thought to have been built by the people who built these graves have been discovered. Noteworthy in this light also are the quadrangular stone features found on the Mishrifat terrace. Also of special interest are the fortifications situated on the edge of the hills around Tell Mishrifat. The quadrangular stone features are quite large and have been noted in large numbers. If these features prove to be dwelling remains, a relatively large population is anticipated for this site. However, the nature of these stone features remains a puzzle, as none have yet been excavated, and at present, we can only point out the fact of their existence.

Tell Mishrifat was excavated during four different seasons, as mentioned in Chapter I, three cultural levels were recognized. From the uppermost level, a cluster of houses of the early Islamic period were found. The middle level yielded only a copper coin of the Byzantine period, but no recognizable features. Level 3, the lowermost stratum,

represents the period of fortifications at the *tell*.

The fortifications from Level 3 appear not only to be of a single original construction, but to have been re-built after an unknown number of years. It is clear that the cut-stone north wall was constructed subsequent to the original fortifications. Also, a portion of the north wall west of the mid point of the original wall projects out to the north from the original structure. Features within the fortification also were of two temporal periods, and when separated into two groups, one group represents the original structure, and the other group represents a subsequent construction. In several cases, it was observed that features of the second period had been constructed on the same spot, overlying the original structure.

Because of these reconstructed features, it was not a simple task to unravel the intricacies of the several sub-levels with Level 3. We arrived at the conclusion that this level represents a comparatively long period of occupation.

The rectangular feature shown in Plate 4 is not complete, as the southern portion has yet to be excavated. Within the excavated portion, an undisturbed cobble foundation was unearthed. On the west side of the feature, an entrance of cut stone was found. It may be assumed that a considerable area was encompassed, but it is not yet well understood what was the function of this intriguing feature.

As concerns the age of this structure, 2 vessels containing a total of 298 copper coins were discovered from between the north wall of the structure and the outlying fortification wall. This discovery was made in 1977. The two vessels, found side by side, were resting against the cobble foundation. We were not able to ascertain whether the two vessels had been set on, or into the floor, but it was clear that they had been put into that position an unknown number of years after the second phase of construction, and as such indicate a terminal date for the structure. Analysis of the coins is now in progress, and therefore not all have been inspected, but it is certain that over 2/3 of the total number had the following inscriptions: Antonius Gordianus III (A.D. 238-244), Julius Philippus (A.D. 244-249), Trajanus Decius (A.D. 249-251). Two coins had no inscriptions on either face, and several Imperial Roman coins minted at Antioch had eagles imprinted on one side. The date for this cache cannot predate that of the most recent coin, therefore suggesting a date around the middle of the third century for the cache. This date is also thought to correspond roughly to the second phase of construction within Level 3.

A stone object bearing a Syriac inscription was found in association with features of the second phase of construction in the same level, while a stone with an Aramaic inscription was derived from a context associated with the first construction phase. In addition to these stone objects, fragments of glass ware and pottery were also recovered. Dates concerning both phases of construction will hopefully be known pending a complete analysis of these artifacts. While it is premature to assign dates while excavations are still in progress, preliminary results of a field analysis of the artifacts recovered thus far indicate that, as it is to be expected, the pottery associated with the first phase of con-

struction is typologically older than that associated with the second phase. The first phase has been tentatively assigned to the first or second century. Based upon these observations, it appears the fortifications at Tell Mishrifat were constructed sometime during the first and second centuries, subsequently re-constructed, and continued to be utilized until the mid-third century.

Tentative dates for the fortification at Mishrifat are as noted above, so next let us consider why a small military outpost was built and subsequently re-constructed on this site, as well as to make a few comments concerning the historical events that took place at the time that the fortifications were being utilized.

The first to third centuries in West Asia were a period of confrontation between Rome and Parthia.

In 53 B.C., Crassus was defeated by the cavalry of Parthia on Carrhae, in northern Syria, and thereafter the Euphrates became the east-west border between these two powers. Later, after the Roman republican system was changed to an imperial one in 27 B.C., Emperor Augustus (30 B.C.-A.D. 14) fought and defeated Phraates IV (ca. 38 B.C.-A.D. 2), thus revenging the defeat of Crassus. However, Rome was still not able to cross the Euphrates. With these historical facts in mind, the significance of Greco-Roman forts on the hills of the western bank of the Euphrates, standing in opposition to the fortifications at Mishrifat on the eastern bank, assume proper historical perspective.

Arsacid Parthia, which arose in northeastern Iran around 250 B.C., was expanded by Mithridates I (ca. 171-138 B.C.) and Mithridates II (ca. 124-87 B.C.) into an empire extending from the Iranian Plateau to Mesopotamia. Although an empire, however, the cities of Parthia enjoyed a great degree of self-government and thus was formed a series of small kingdoms, with the Arsacid monarchs reigning over the individual kings of each city. Within this system, each city developed a distinctive culture, as seen in the military stronghold of Hatra in northern Iraq, and the present Turkish city of Urfa, thought to have been Edessa, the capital of Osrhoene. Both cities were made up of primarily Arabic populations and therefore an Aramaic alphabet was used. In the case of Palmyra, an independent and prosperous caravan city within the sphere of both Roman and Parthian influence, the Aramaic alphabet was used, and funerary statues were inscribed with Aramaic epitaphs. However, similar statues recovered from Membij, under Roman rule at the time, bear Greek inscriptions. Judging from this situation, the talisman recovered from the fortifications at Tell Mishrifat, bearing an Aramaic inscription, is important in determining under which sphere of influence this site was situated. By the same token, it should be clear to which camp the fort opposite Mishrifat on the west side of the river belonged.

In 54 B.C., Crassus crossed the Euphrates and attempted to invade Mesopotamia, but was obliged to return his army to the west side of the Euphrates and winter at Membij. The following year, Crassus' army again crossed the Euphrates, only to be defeated at Carrhae. The point at which the Euphrates was forded is thought to be Zeuguma. There are numerous references to the Greek and Roman armies crossing the Euphrates

at Zeuguma. Alexander the Great is mentioned as having crossed at this point. Zeuguma, the time honoured point for fording the Euphrates, is usually placed at Birecik, in Turkey. However there is the distinct possibility that this point may differ according to the period, so no one point has been unanimously agreed upon as being Zeuguma. It is not our wish to go into a discussion concerning the geographical position of Zeuguma in this report, but one point which we wish to bring out is that Jebel Khalid, a mountain fort on the west bank of the Euphrates, cannot be ignored when considering the location of Zeuguma.

Next, there is the problem of the great difference in size between the two fortifications facing one another across the Euphrates. Measuring only 50 metres to a side, the fortifications as Mishrifat would be more aptly be termed an outpost. There is doubt as to whether this outpost could actually have served military purposes. However, the Arch of Triumph for Septimius Severus (A.D. 193-211) in Rome provides some information that may help to interpret the manner in which Mishrifat was used. On the Arch of Triumph, there is a relief depicting the attack on Parthia and in this relief the Parthian forces are represented as deploying mounted troops into the field rather than fighting from within a fortification. This shows the tactical deployment of the Parthians and allows one to surmise that even a small outpost would serve the purposes of such a method of warfare. There remains the problem, however, of why the fort at Mishrifat should have had to be rebuilt.

Trajanus (A.D. 98-117) was the first to upset the military parity along the east-west line on the Euphrates, a parity which had remained static since the times of Crassus and Augustus. Trajanus forced Petra, the capital of the kingdom of Nabatae, to submit in A.D. 106, and reached as far as Babylon on the Persian Gulf, by way of Osrhoene and northern Iraq. This area was subjugated between A.D. 114 to 116, although one wonders what real meaning the campaign had, for after the failure by the Roman Army to bring about the downfall of Hatra, revolt followed revolt within the newly occupied lands. The Imperial army was forced to retreat and withdraw back to the traditional Roman area west of the Euphrates. During this retreat, Trajanus died. Abgar VII (A.D. 109-116), descendant of Abgar II (68-53 B.C.) the king of Osrhoene who was instrumental in the defeat of Crassus by the Parthian army, is said to have played an active part in bringing about the rout of the Roman army. Also, it is highly improbable that Trajanus, in his initial move toward the east, could have passed unscathed the Parthian outpost at Mishrifat, but be that as it may, Abgar VII was able to once again restore Parthian supremacy to the eastern bank of the Euphrates. Possibly it was at this time at which the fortifications at Mishrifat were reconstructed. If such were the case, we here can find a plausible explanation for the reconstruction of the fortifications.

Before 50 years had passed, Marcus Aurelius (A.D. 161-180), when invading Dura Europos and Ctesiphon, subjugated Osrhoene, theretofore within the Parthian sphere, and totally incorporated it into the Roman Empire. Thereafter, Osrhoene was not able even to mint its own coins. By the middle of the third century A.D., Rome exerted an

overwhelming influence over all northern Syria, as reflected in the high incidence of Roman coins among the 298 coins collected for this period at Mishrifat. By this time, the outpost at Mishrifat had lost all of its military character, and was undoubtedly little more than a decaying shell of its former glory.

In this chapter, the vicissitudes of Mishrifat from the first to third centuries have been presented against the background of confrontation between the West (Rome) and East (Parthia) in West Asia during the same period.

PLATES

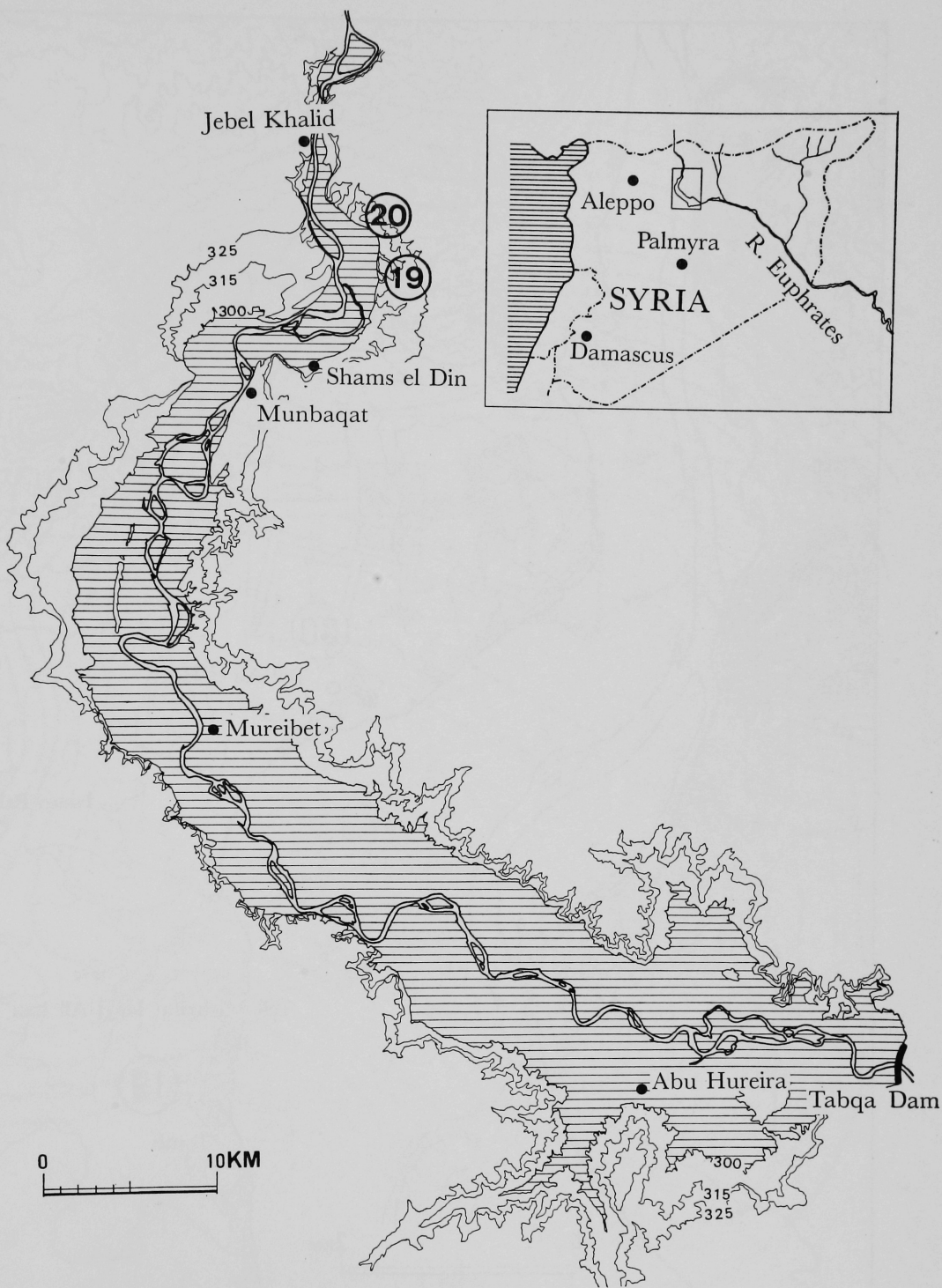
Submerged area of the Egyptian Delta

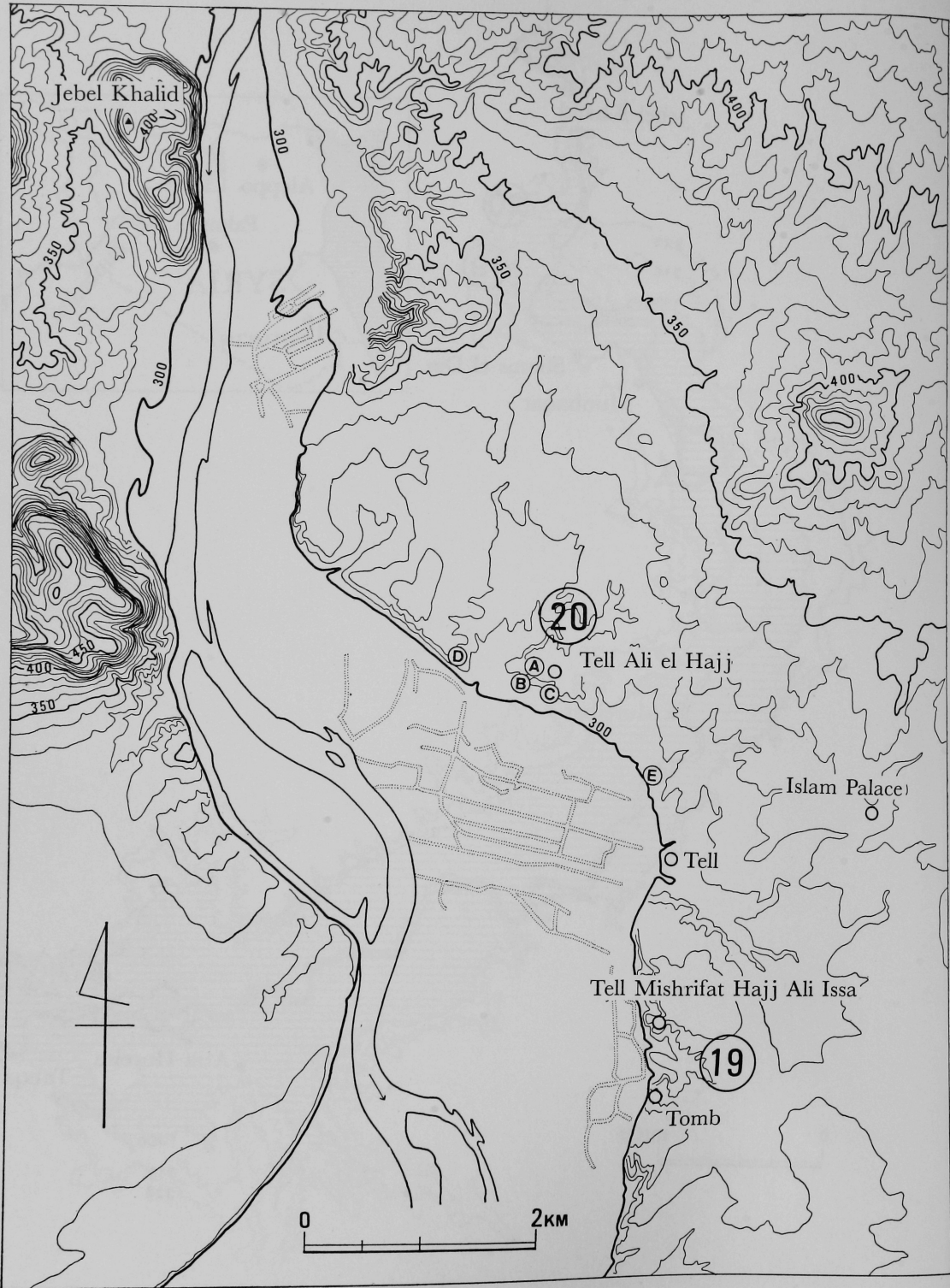


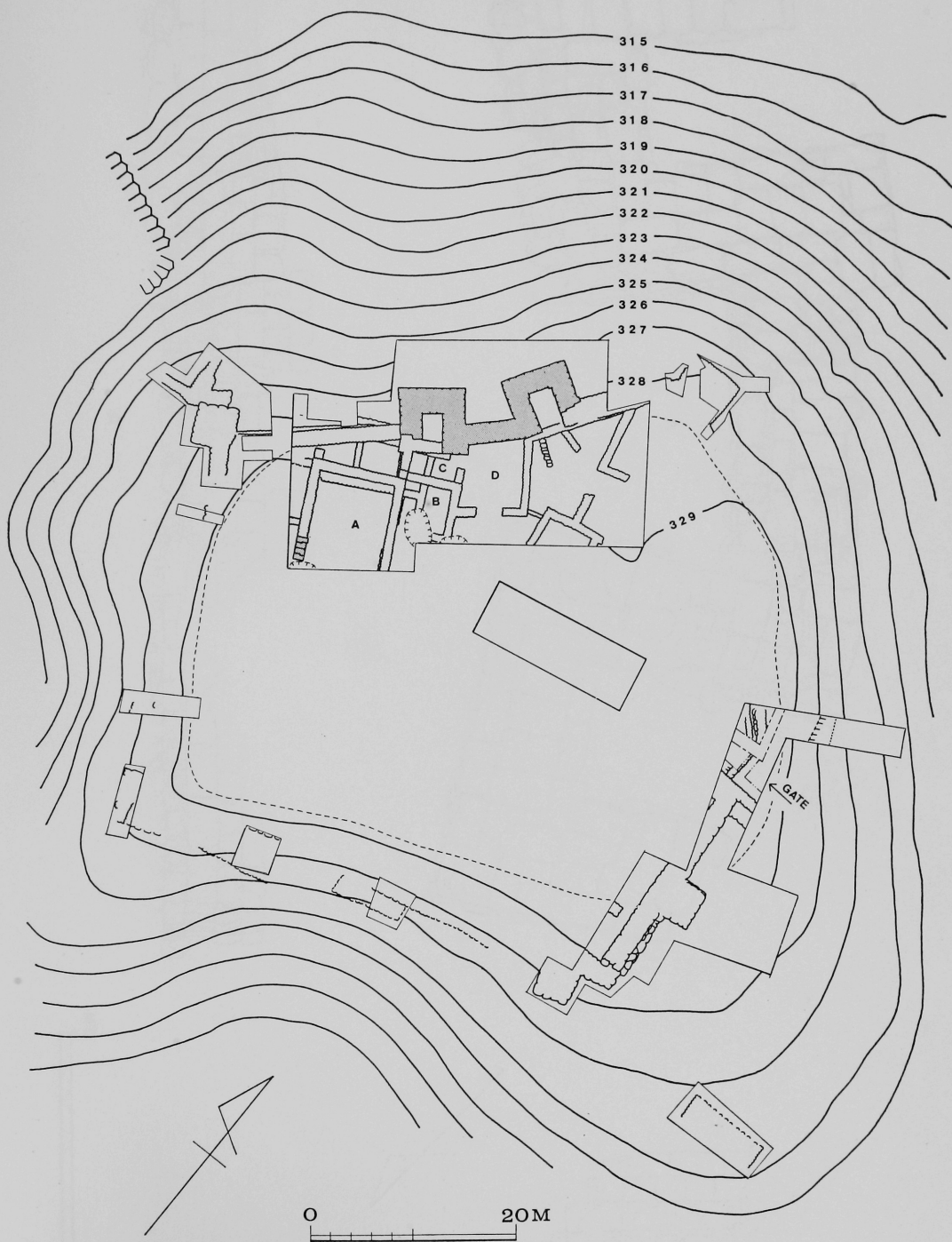
PLATES

Pl. 1 Submerged area of the Euphrates basin

図版一
タブカ・ダムによる水没地区

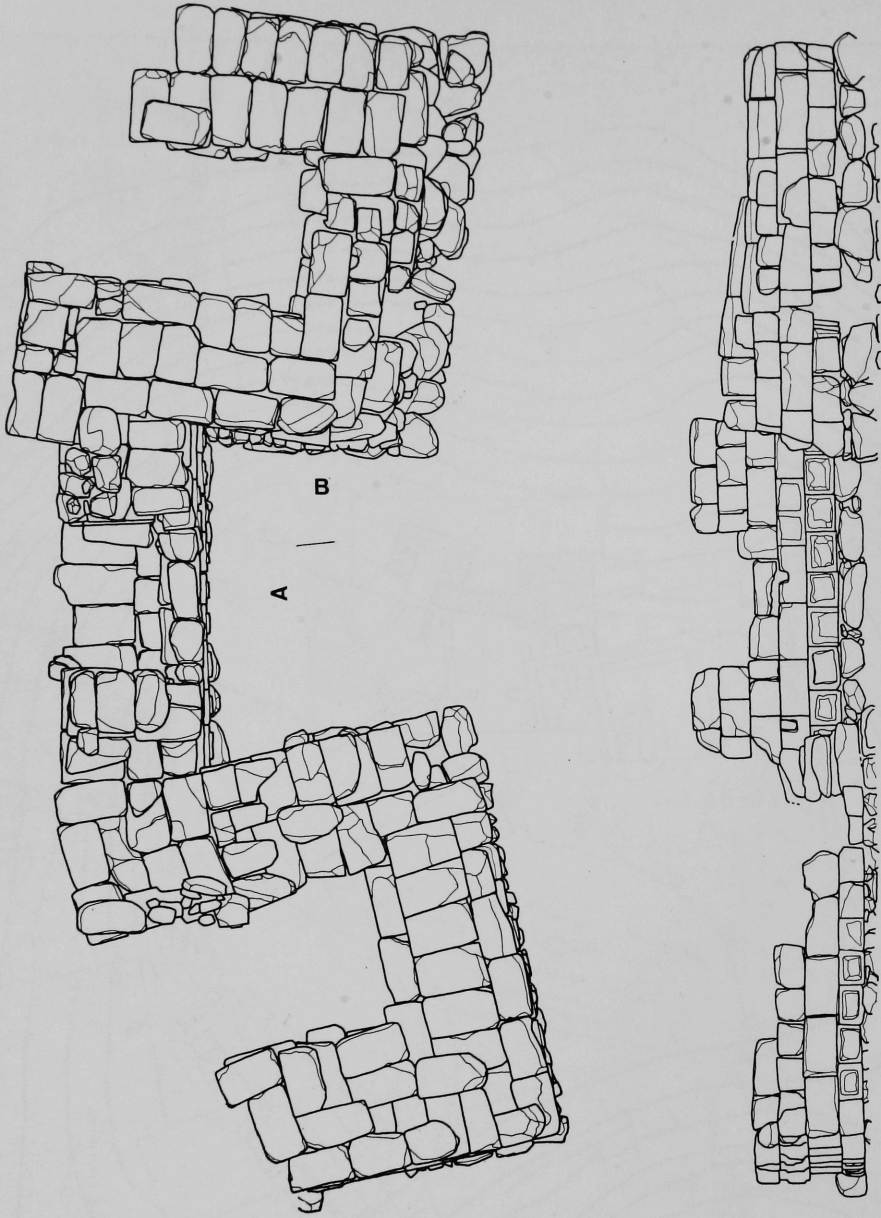


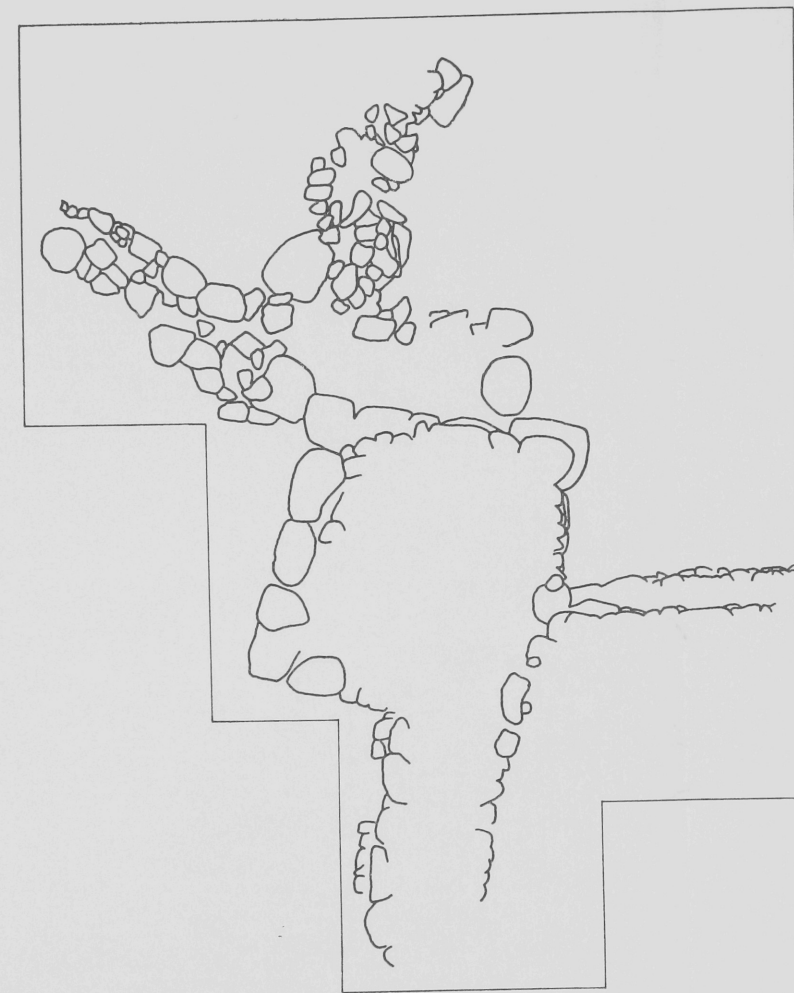
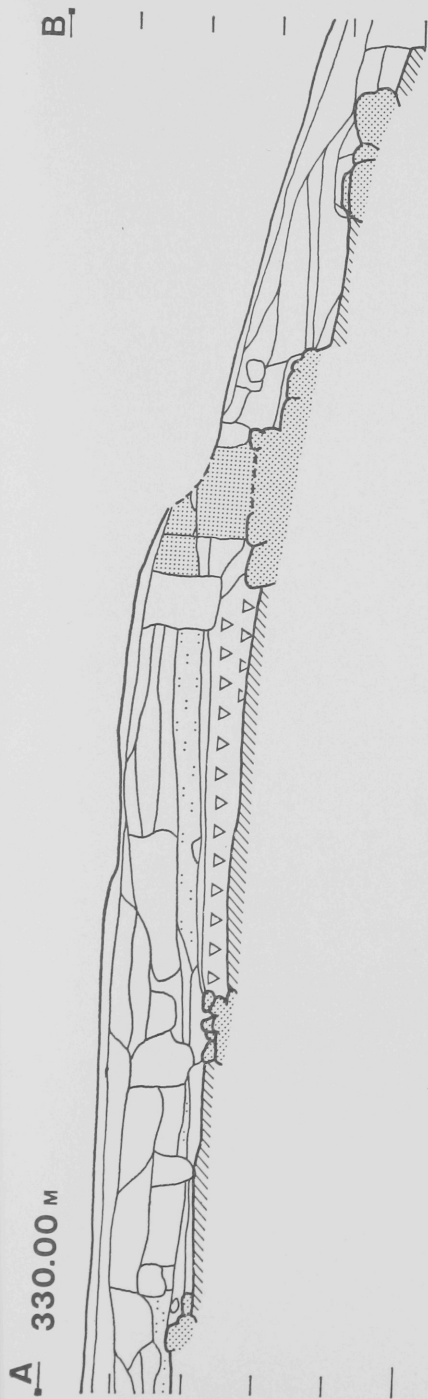




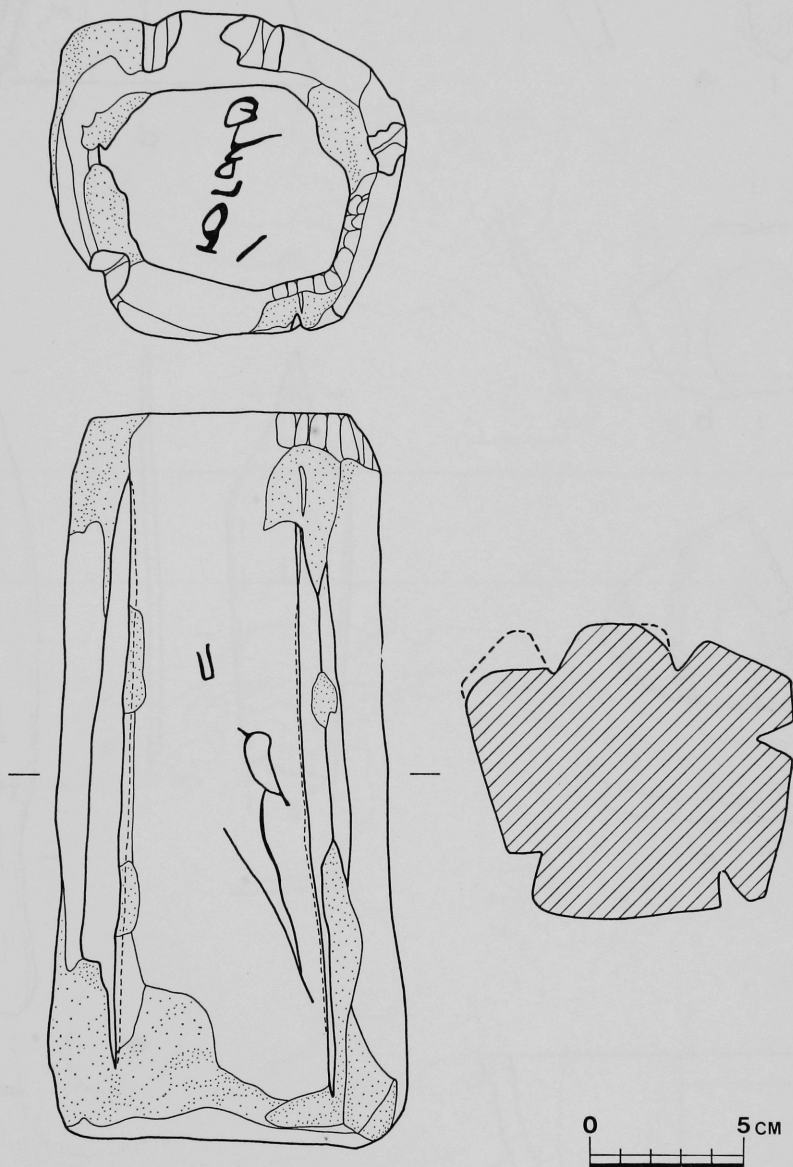
Pl. 4 Stone wall, Level III, Tell Mishrifat

図版四
テル・ミシヨルフエ
第三層石墨遺構

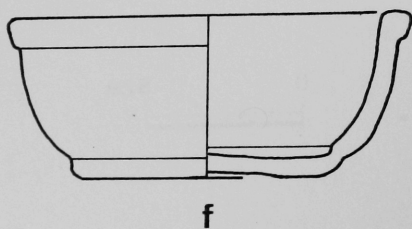
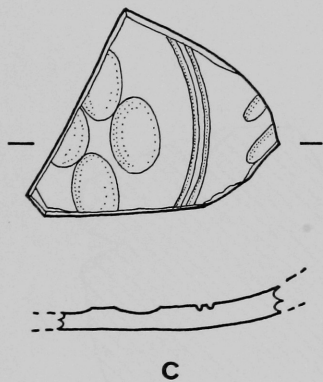
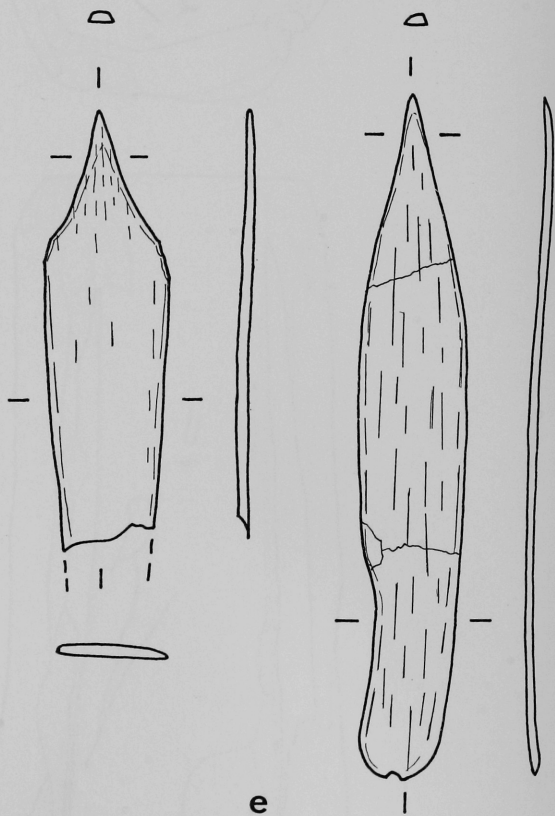
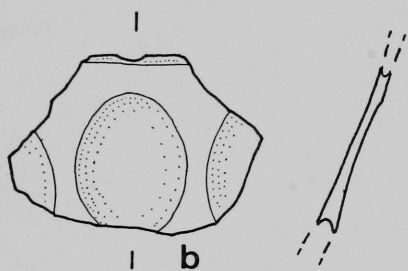
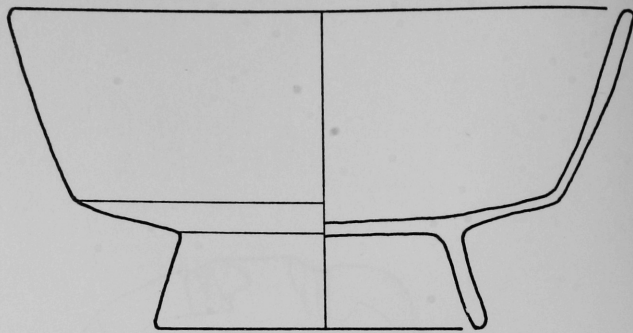
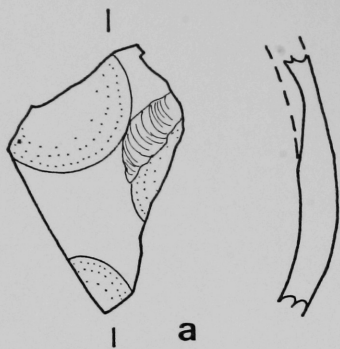




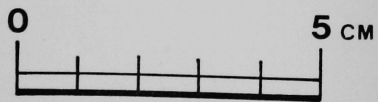
Pl. 6 Stone sculpture with Syriac inscription from Level III, Tell Mishrifat

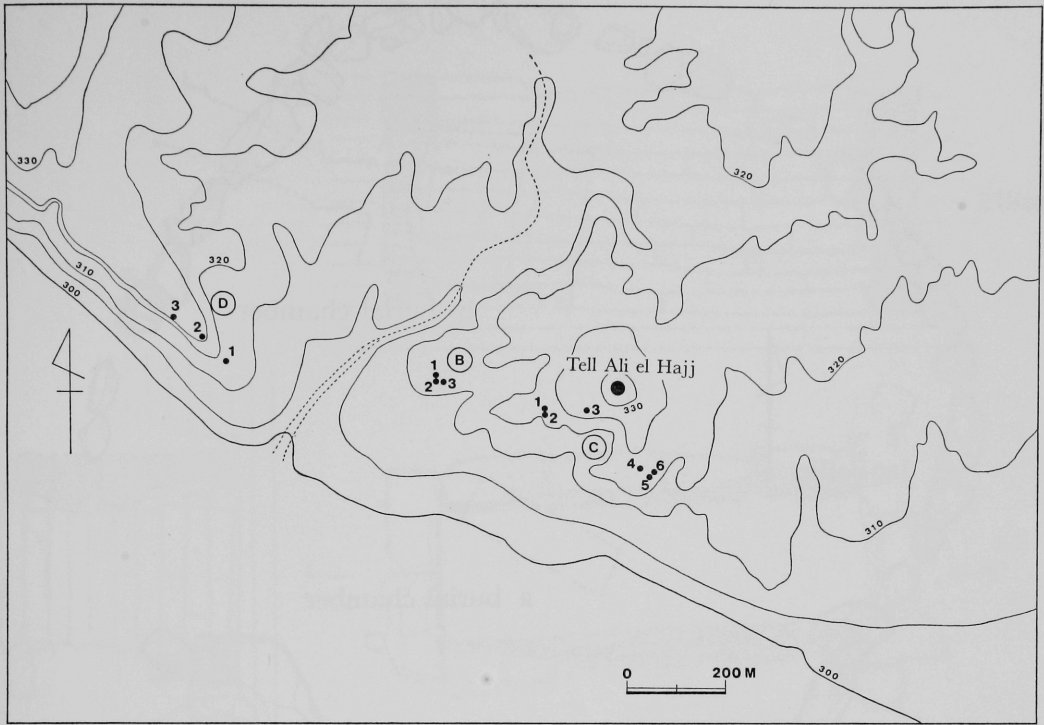


図版六
テル・ミシヨルフエ
第三層出土
シリアック銘石彫

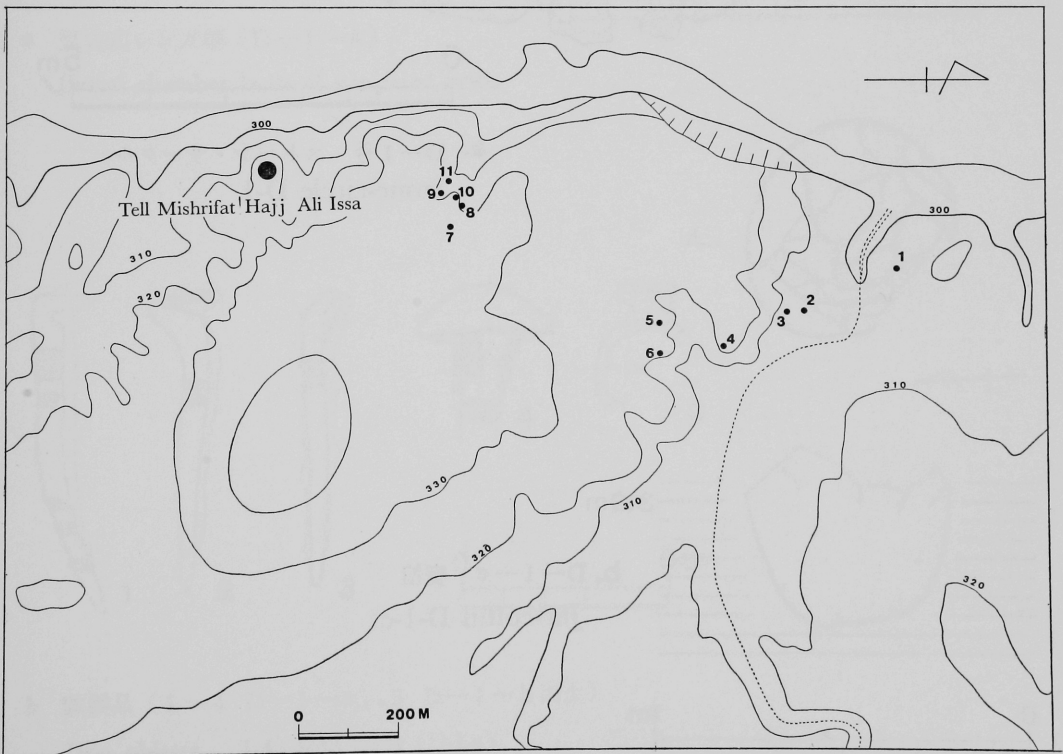


a - d ガラス製、 e 骨製、 f 青銅製
Glass, Bone, Bronze



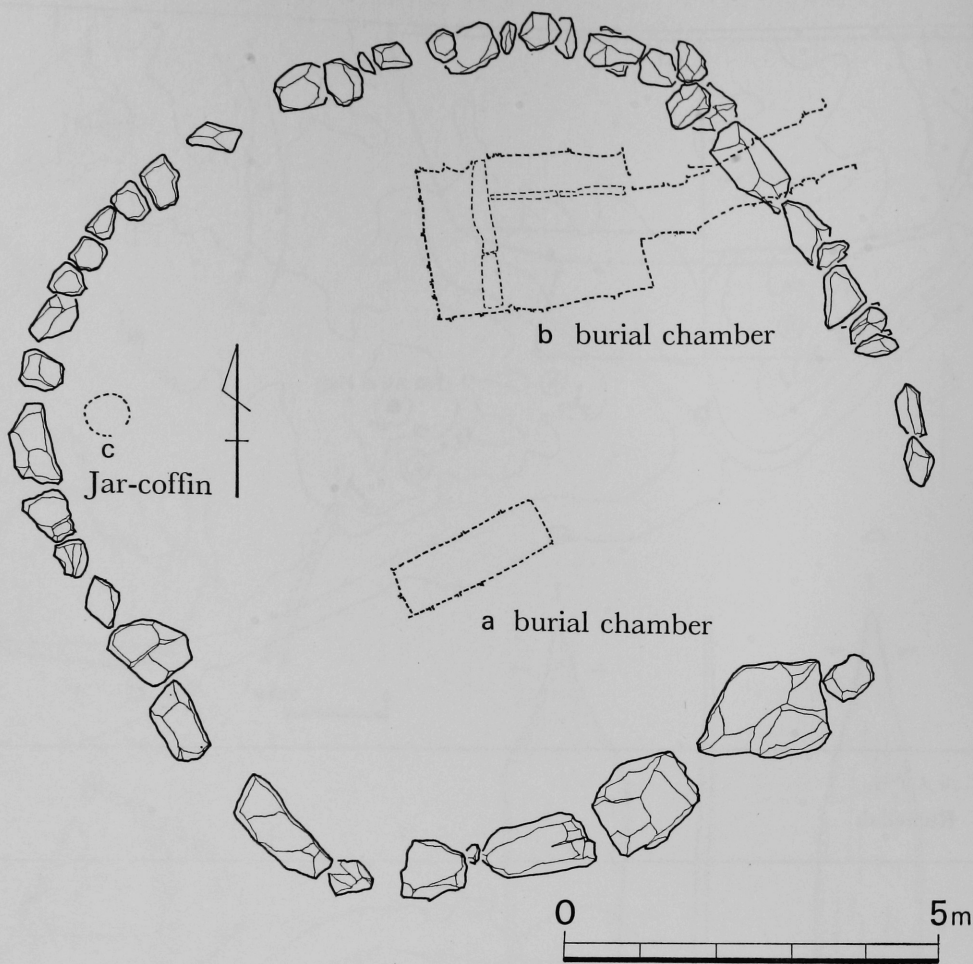


a ルメイラ
Rumeilah

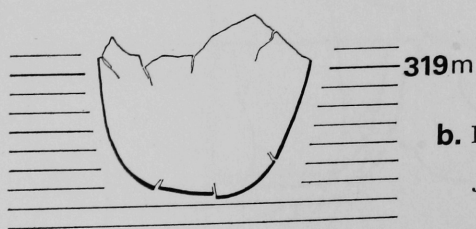
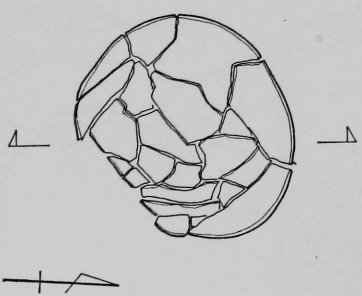


b ミシヨルフエ
Mishrifat

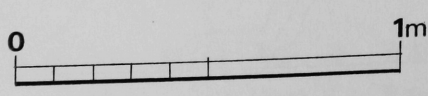
図版九
ルメイラ
D-1号ストーン・サークル

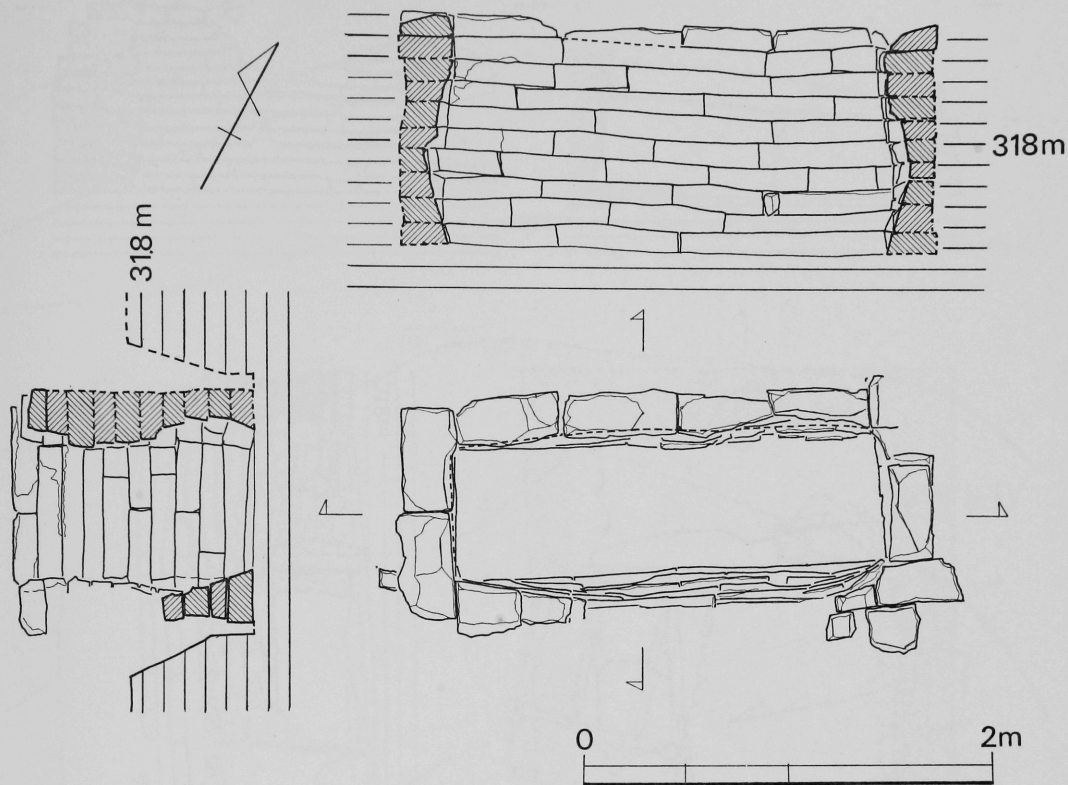


a. D-1号 ストーン・サークル
Stone-circle D-1



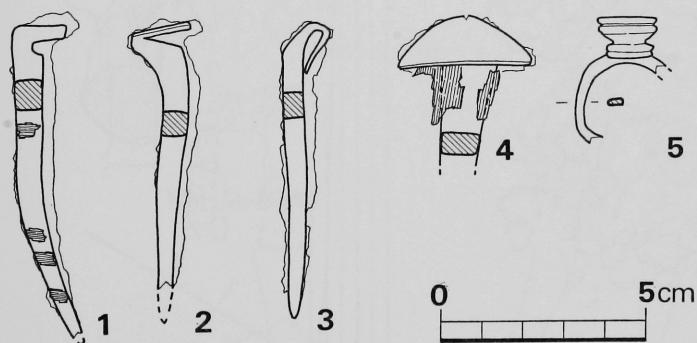
b. D-1-c 甕棺
Jar-coffin D-1-c





a 竪穴式レンガ塚 (D-1-a)

Burial chamber built of sun-dried brick

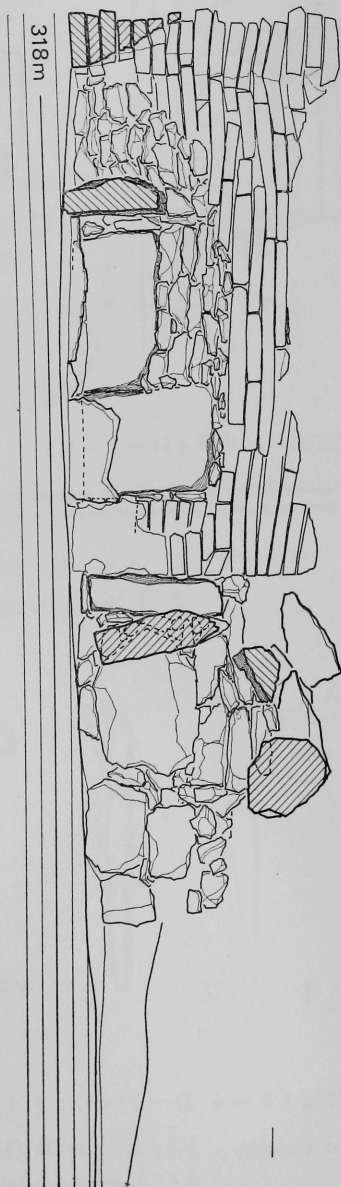
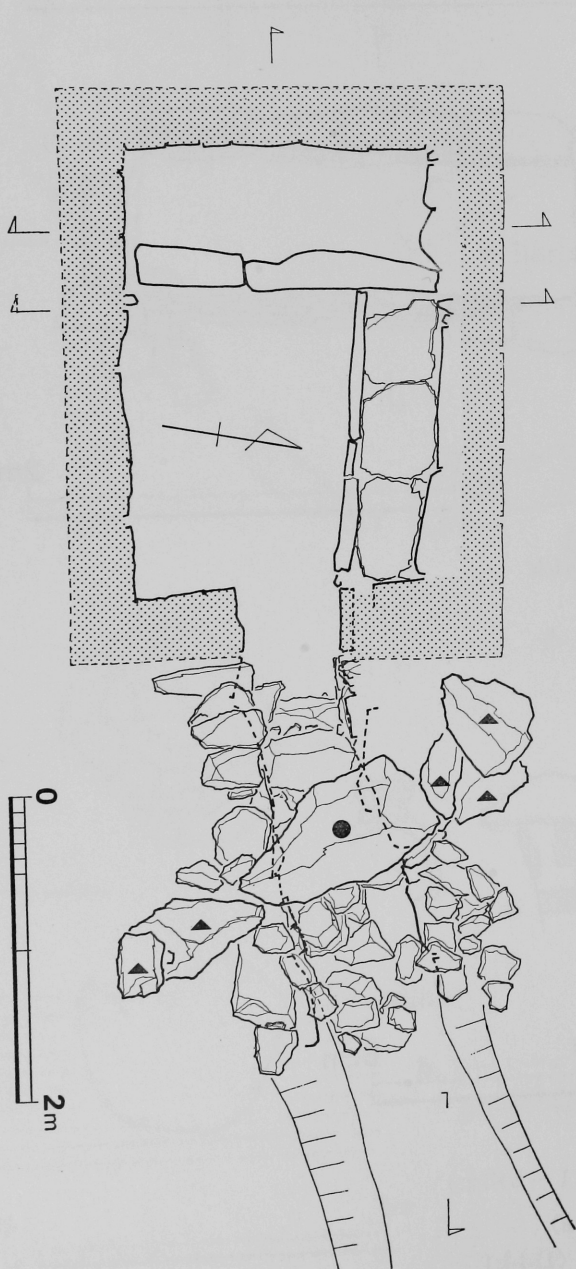
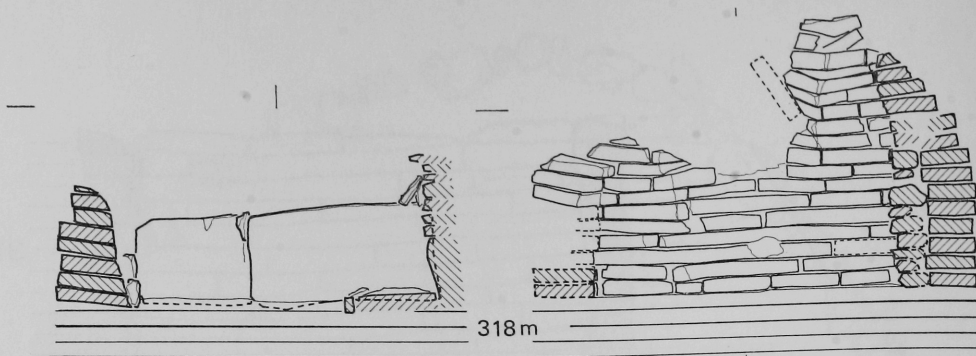


b 鉄製品 (1~4 D-1-a, 5 D-1-b出土)

Iron objects. 1-4: Iron nails (D-1-a)

5: Iron finger-ring (D-1-b)

図版一
ルメイラ
D-1号ストーン・サークル

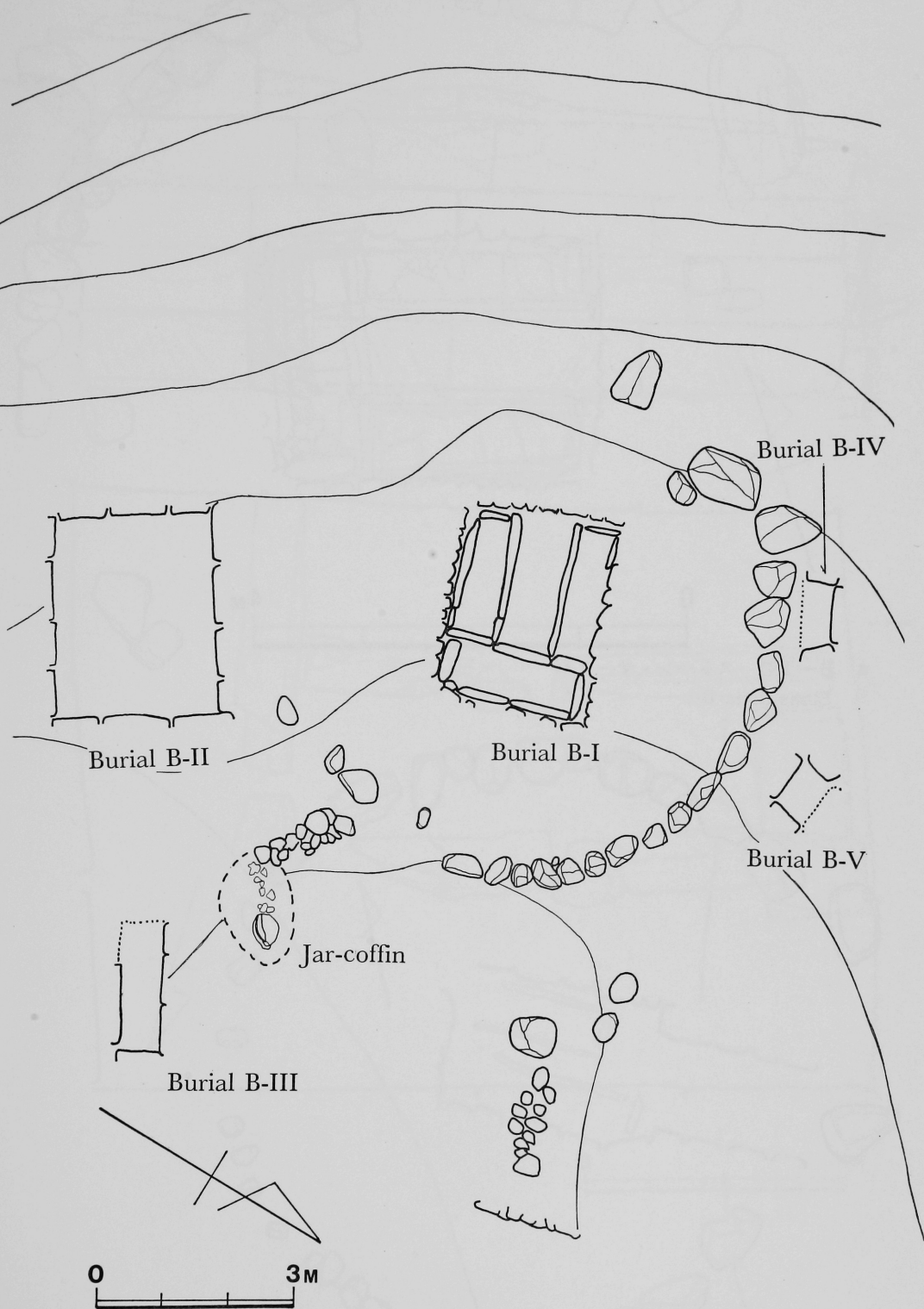


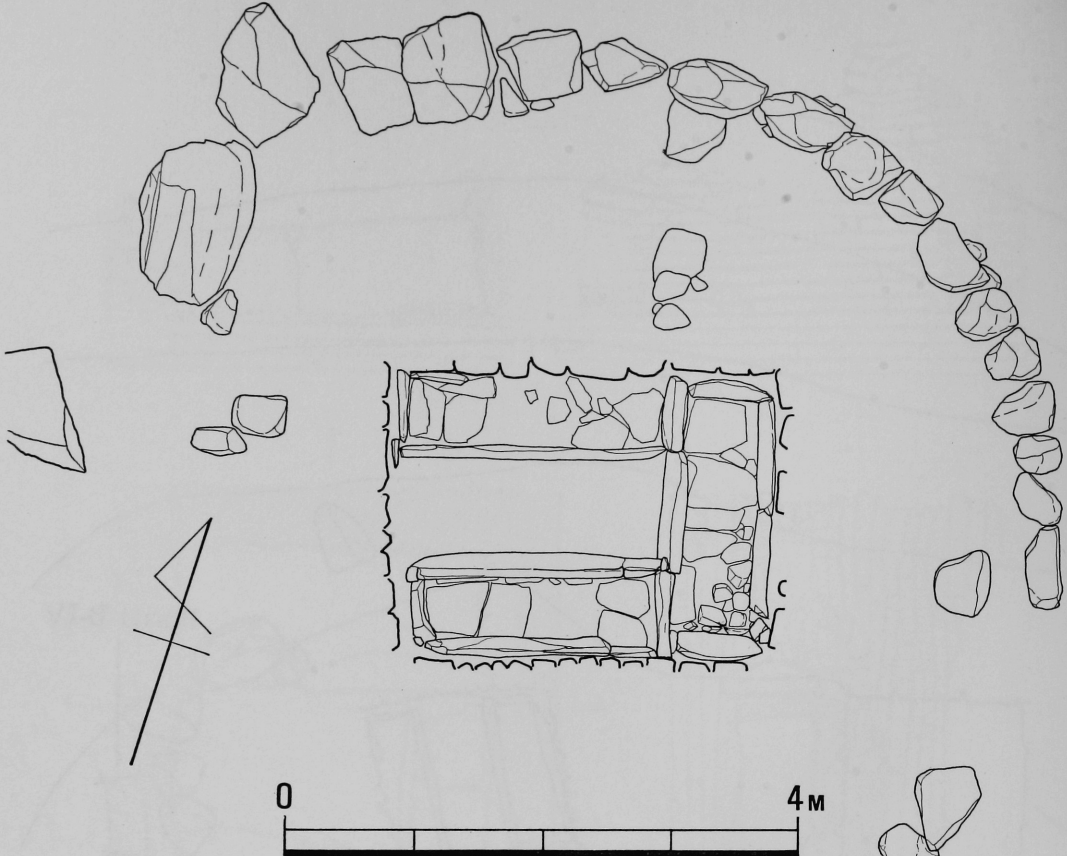
横穴式墓室

Burial chamber with dromos (D-1-b)

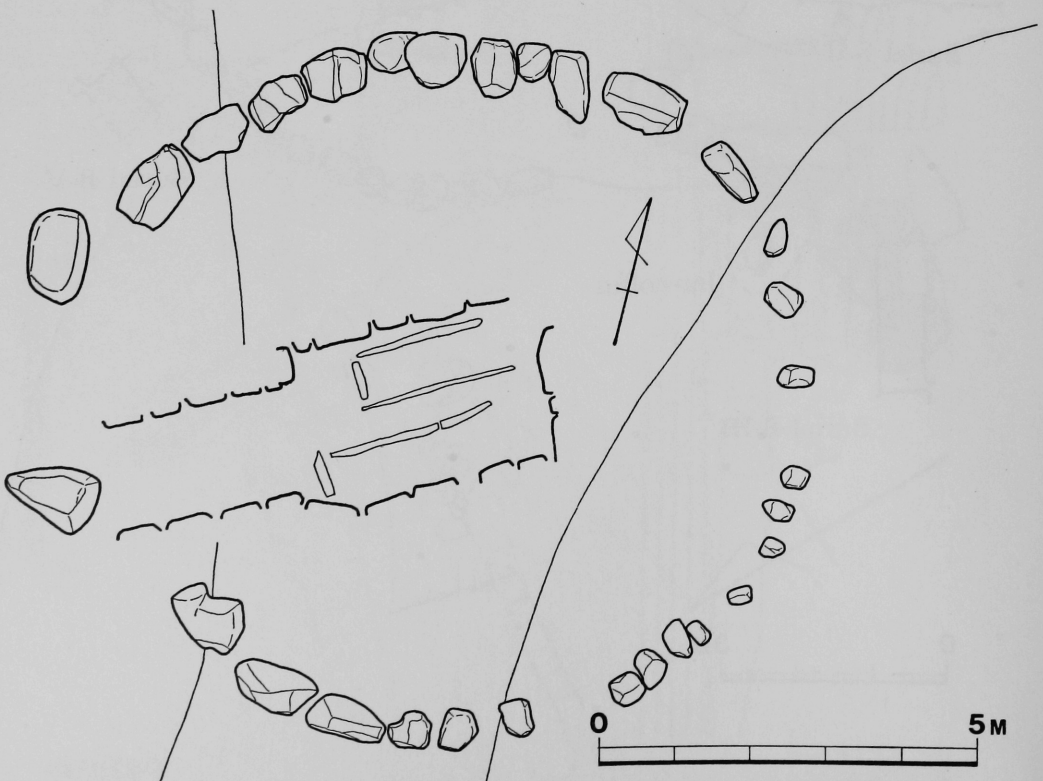
Pl. 12 Burial Constructions including Stone-circle B-1, Rumeilah

図版二二
ルメイラ
B-I号ストーン・サークル及び周辺の遺構

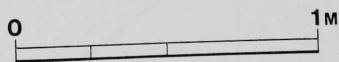
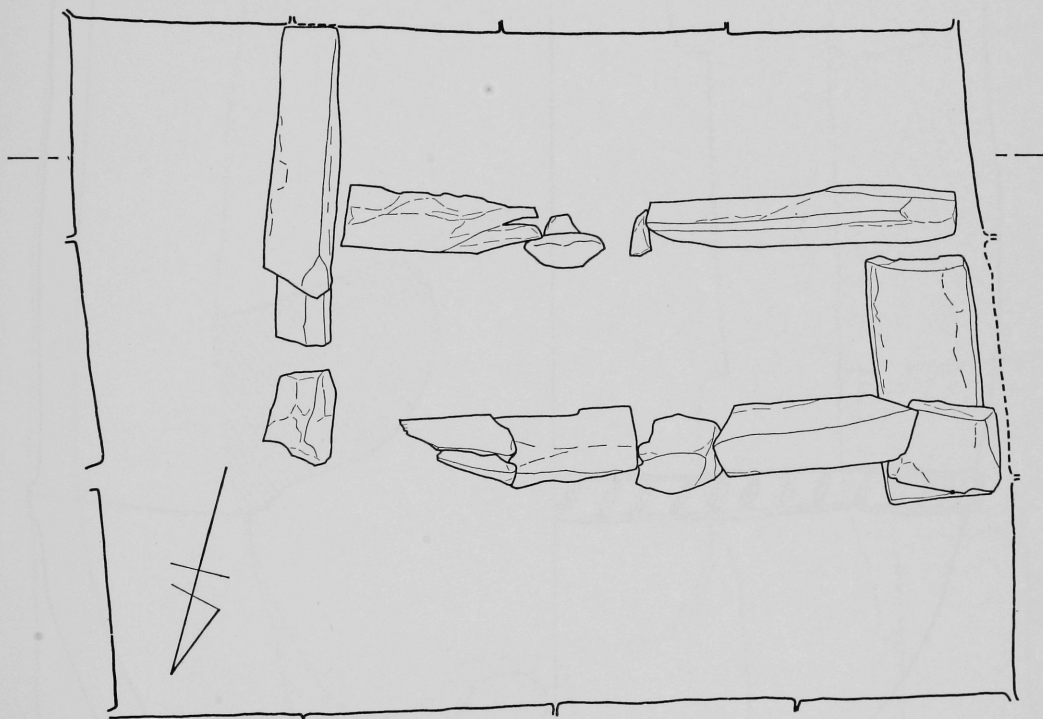
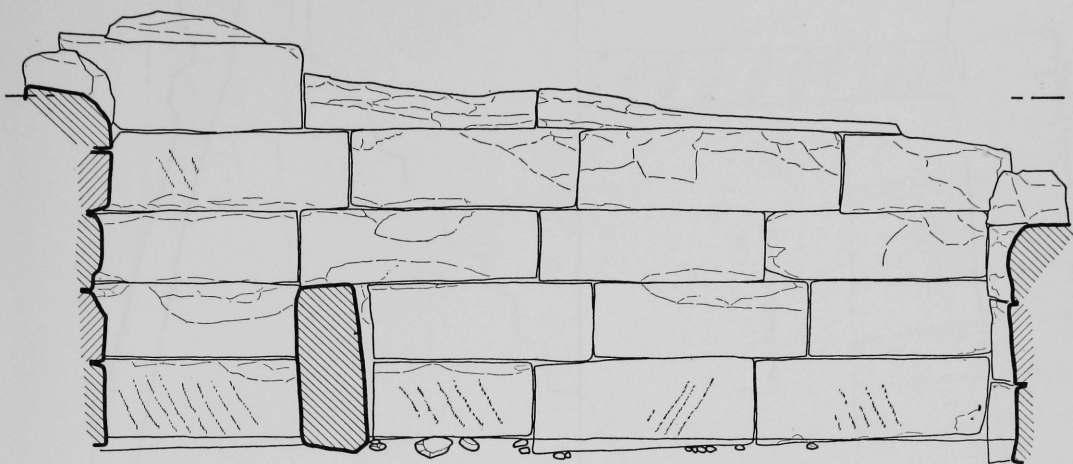




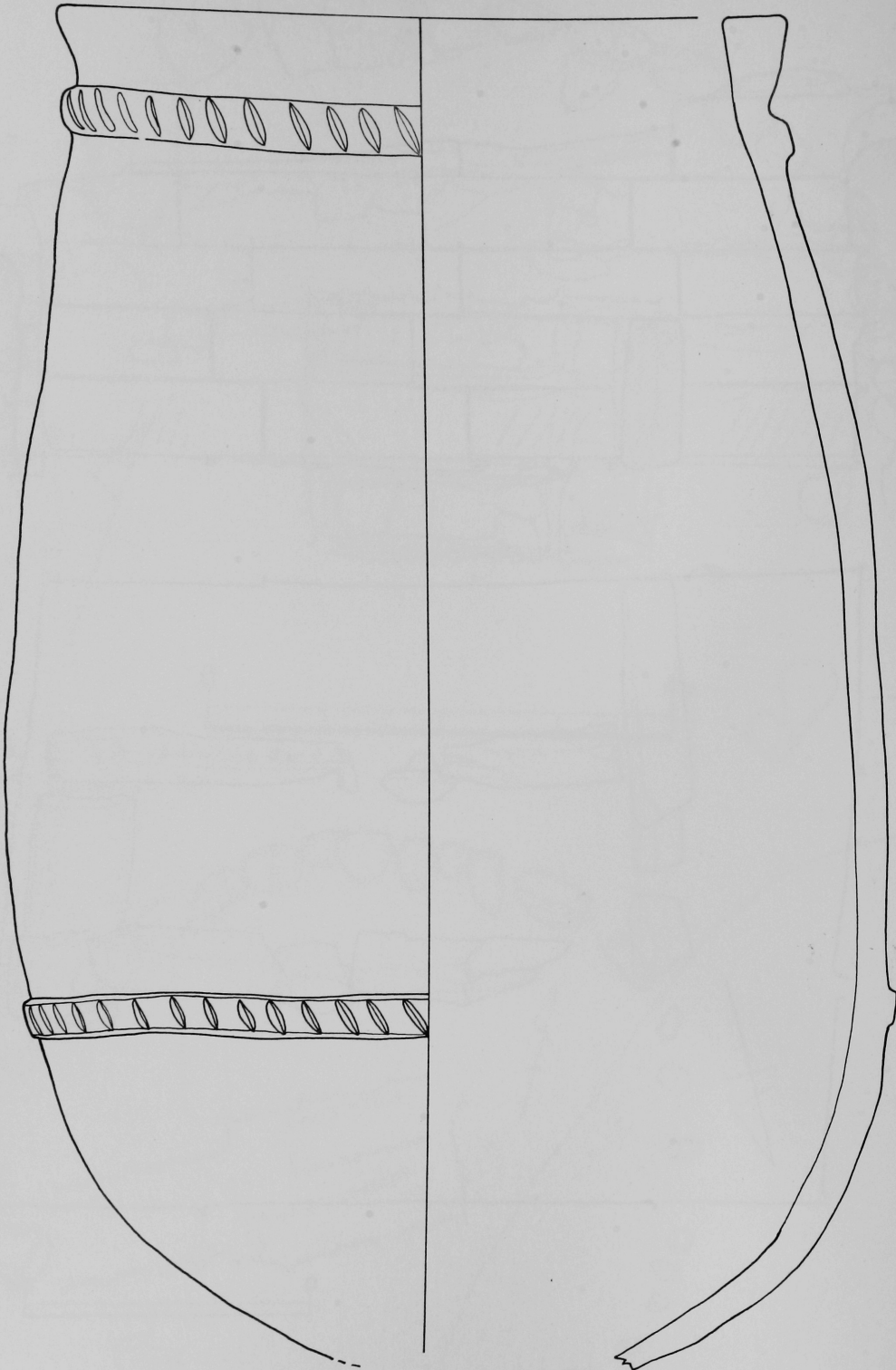
a B-1号 ストーン・サークル
Stone-circle B-1



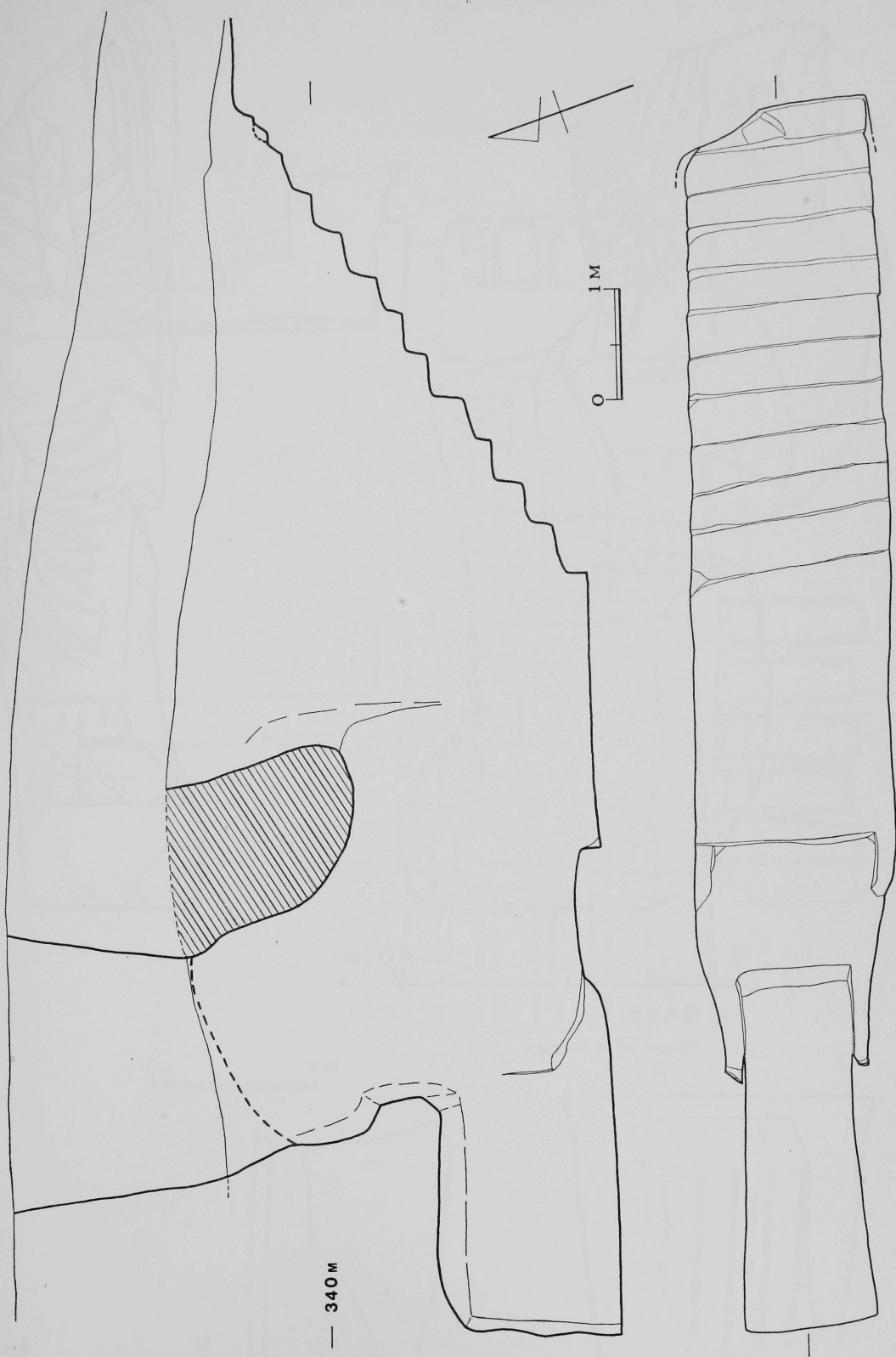
b C-1号 ストーン・サークル
Stone-circle C-1

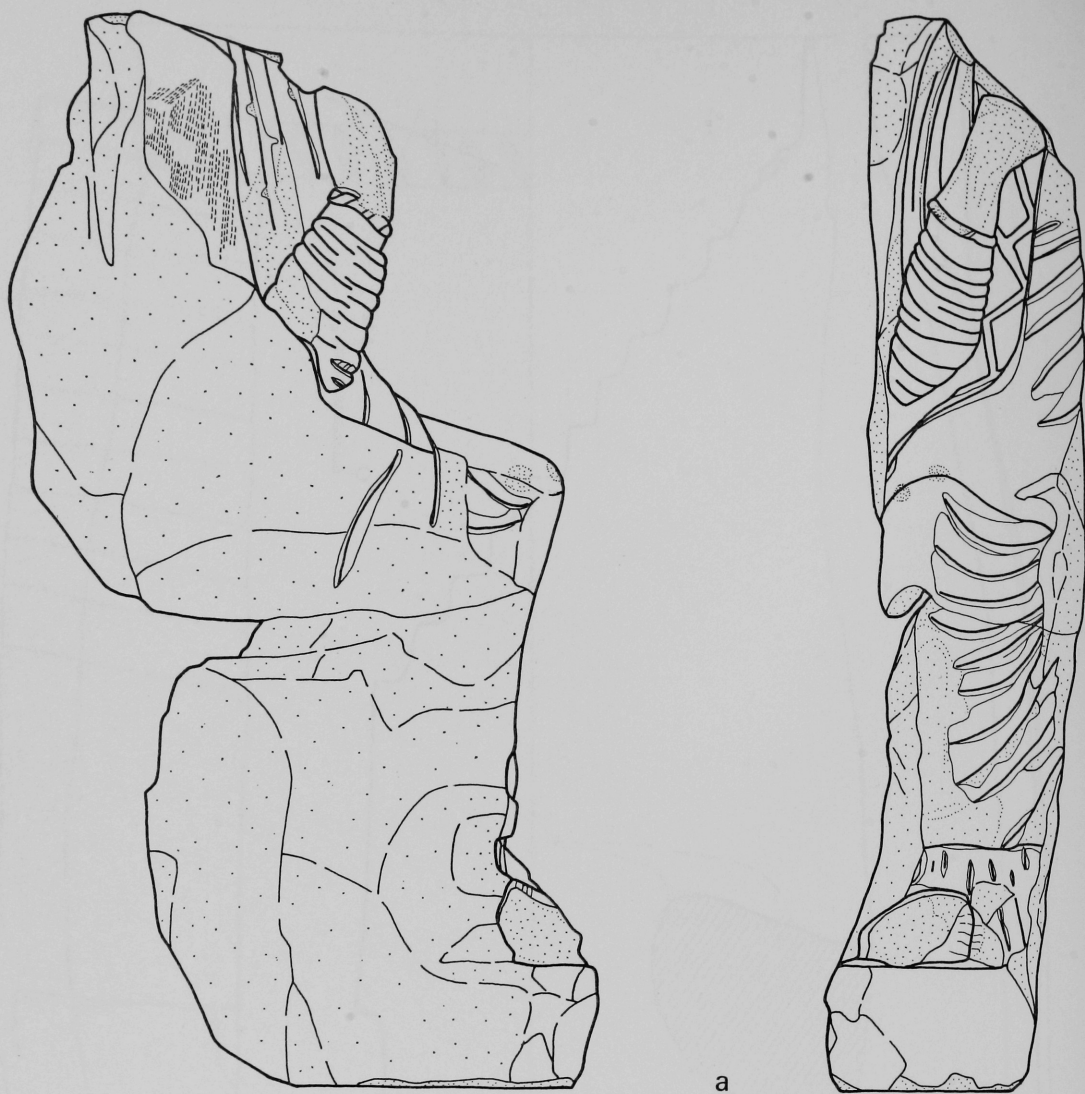


図版一五
ルメイラ
C地区
甕棺



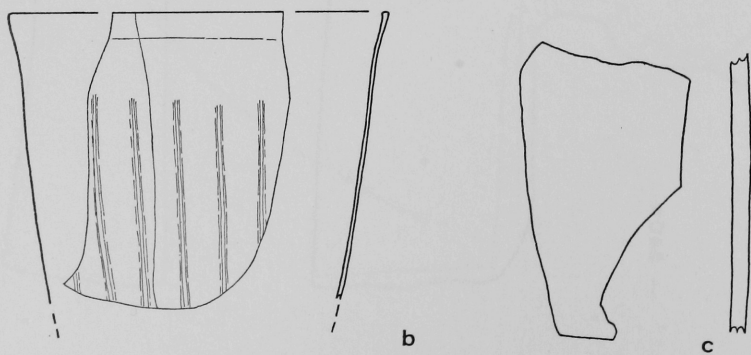
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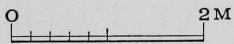
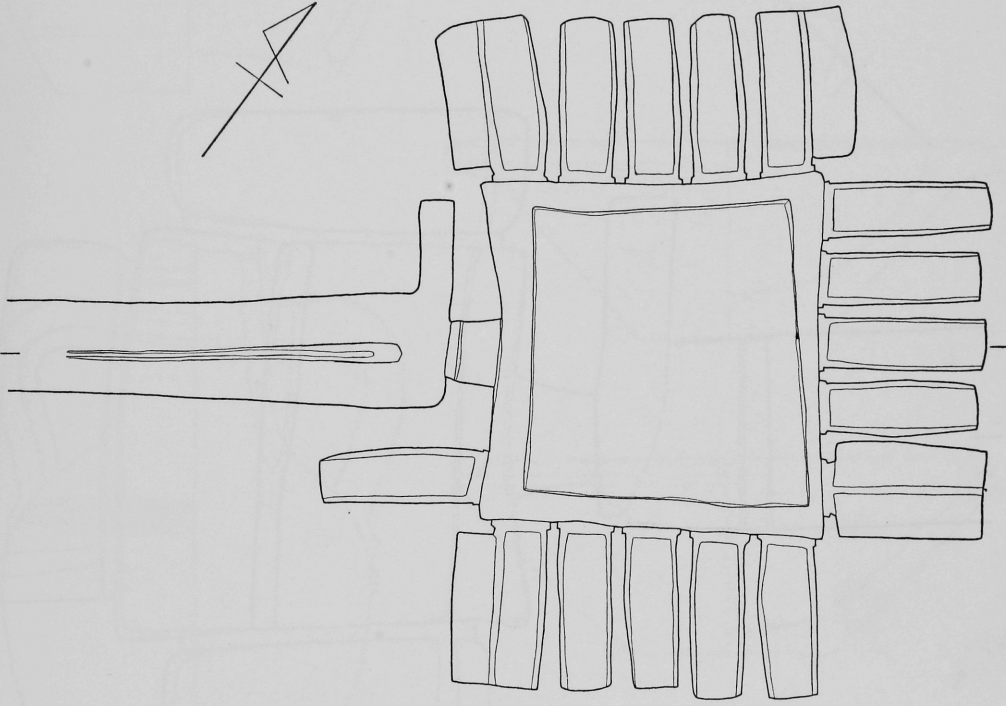
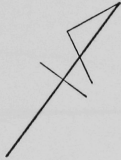
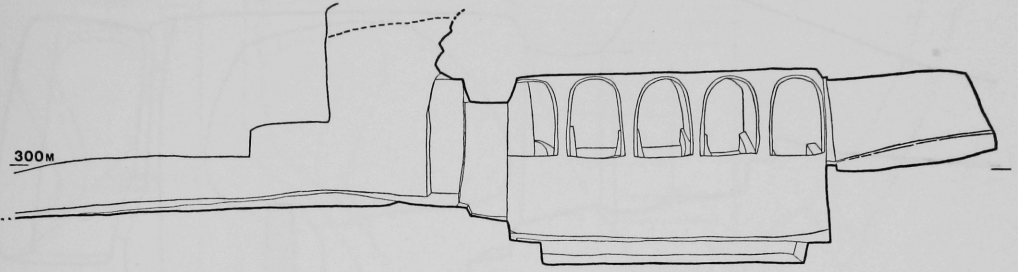
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a 婦人石彫
Statue of a woman

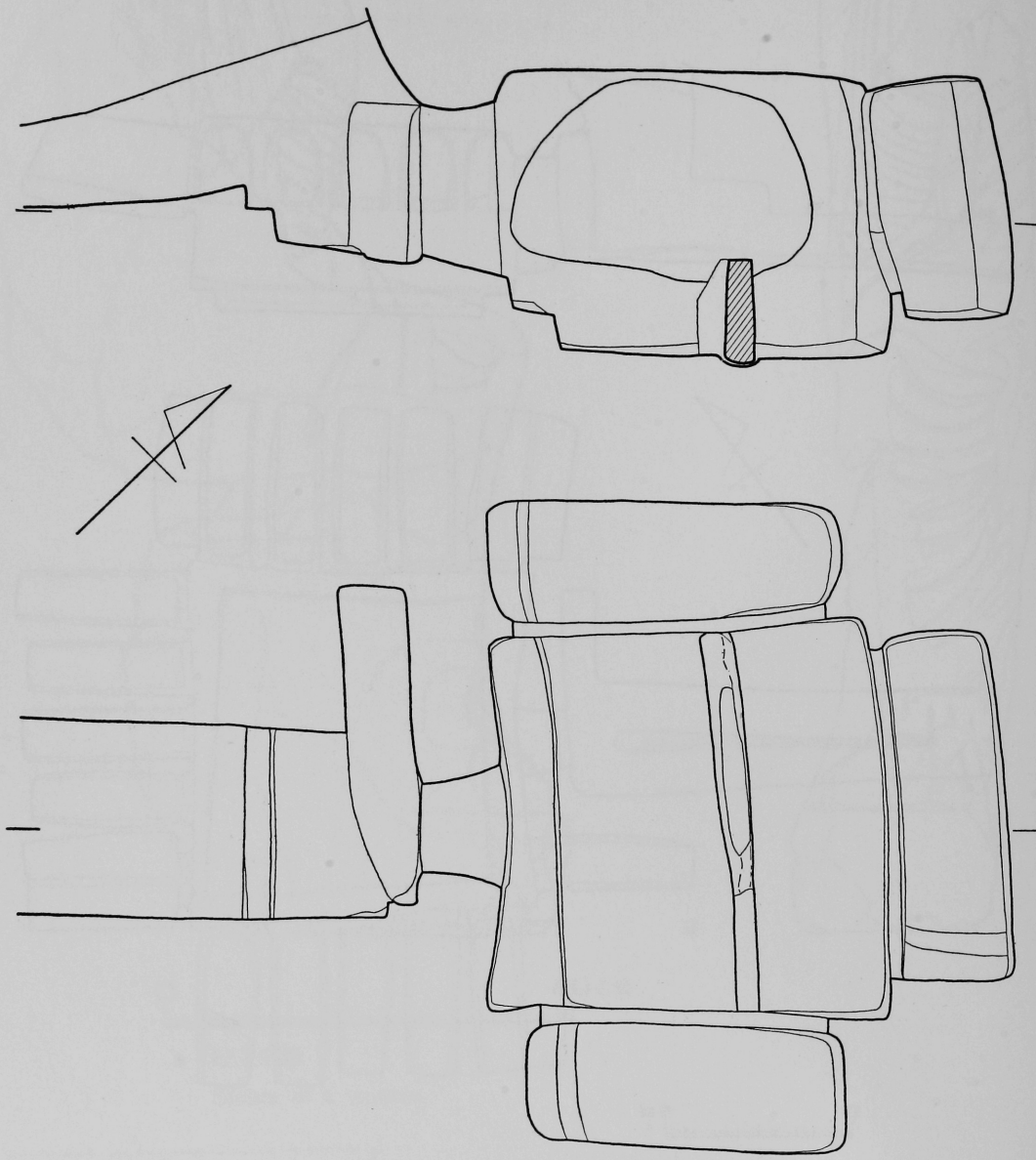


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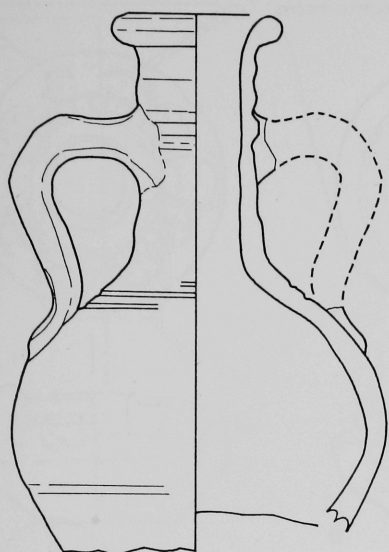
b - c ガラス器片
Fragments of Glass wares



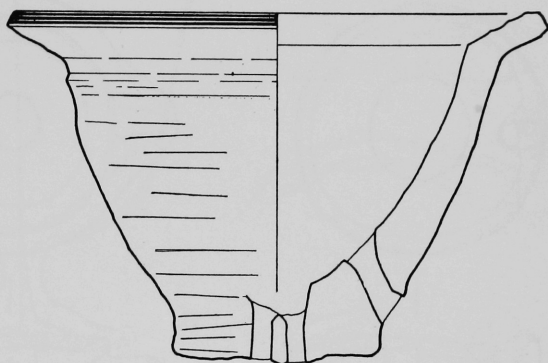
図版一九
ルメイラ
E-2号横穴墓



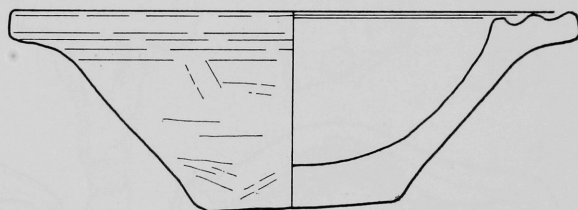
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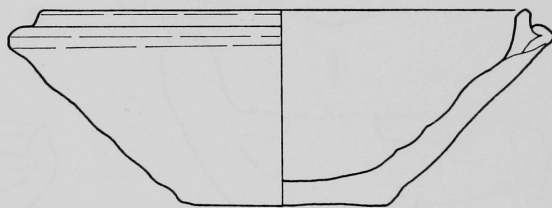
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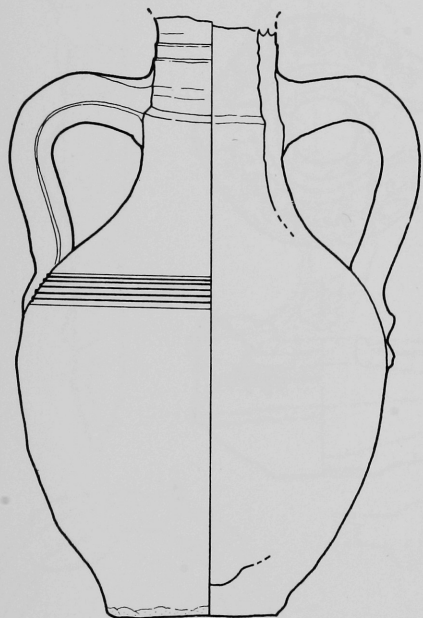
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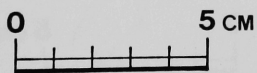
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e



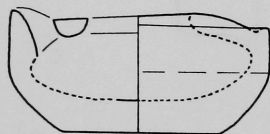
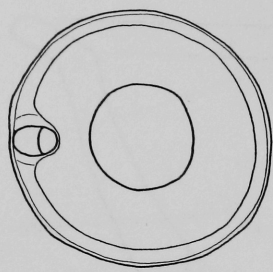
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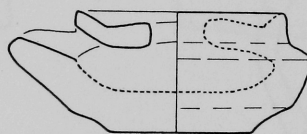
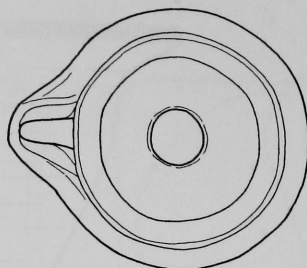
a 壺 (1号墓)、b 壺 (2号墓)、
Jar (E-1) Jar (E-2)

c 有孔土器 (2号墓)、
Bowl with holes (E-2)

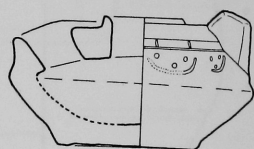
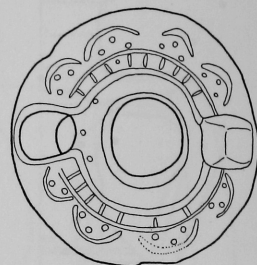
d - e 浅鉢 (2号墓)
Bowls (E-2)



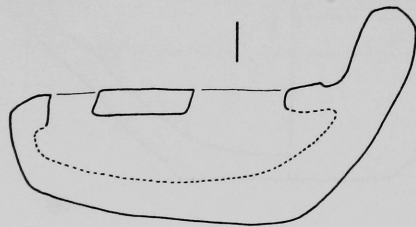
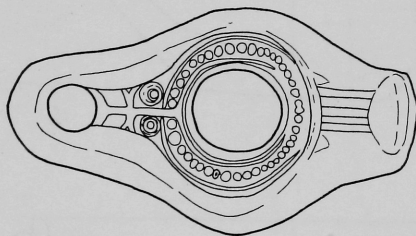
a



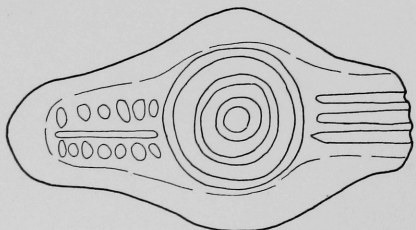
b



c

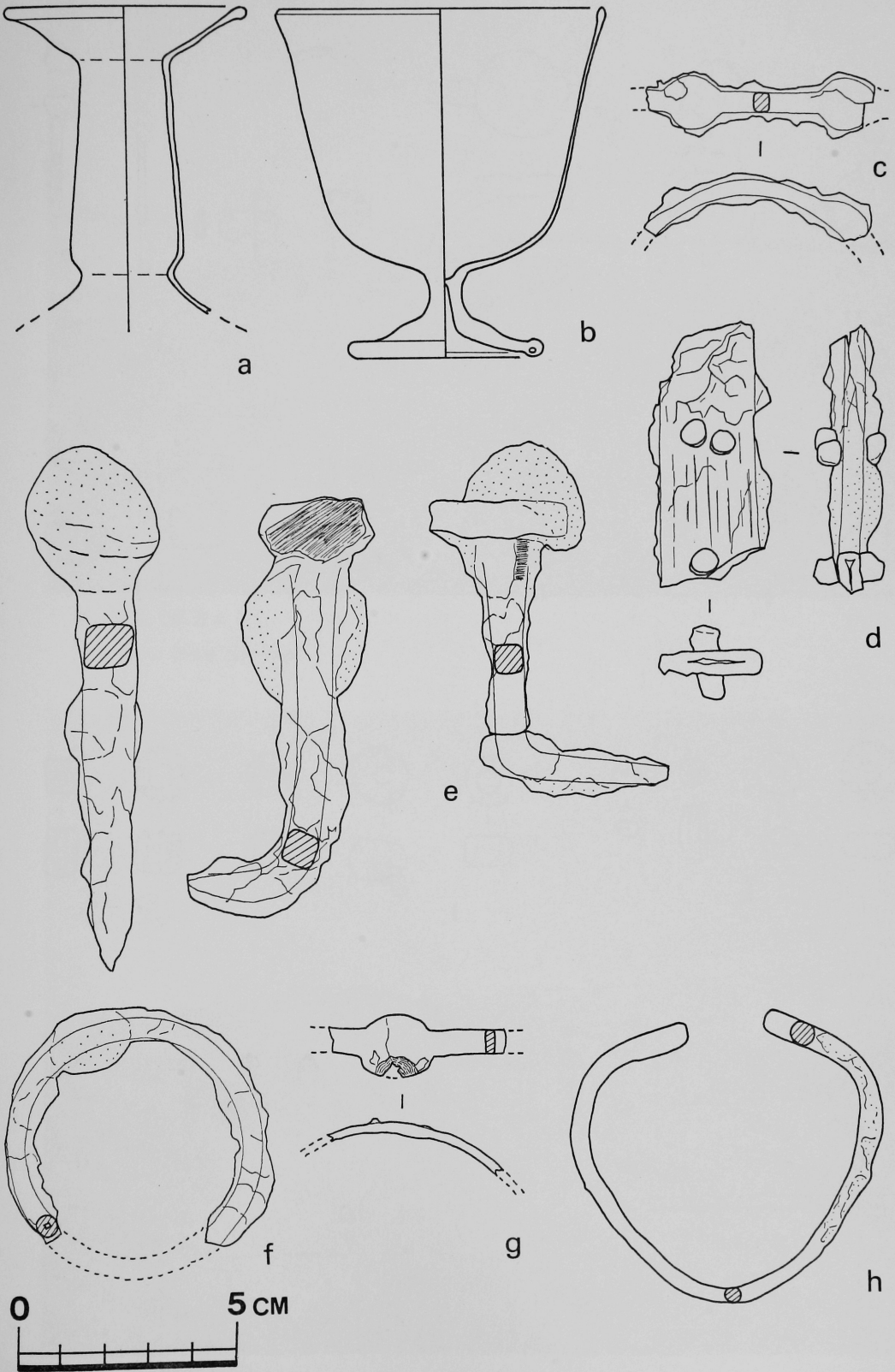


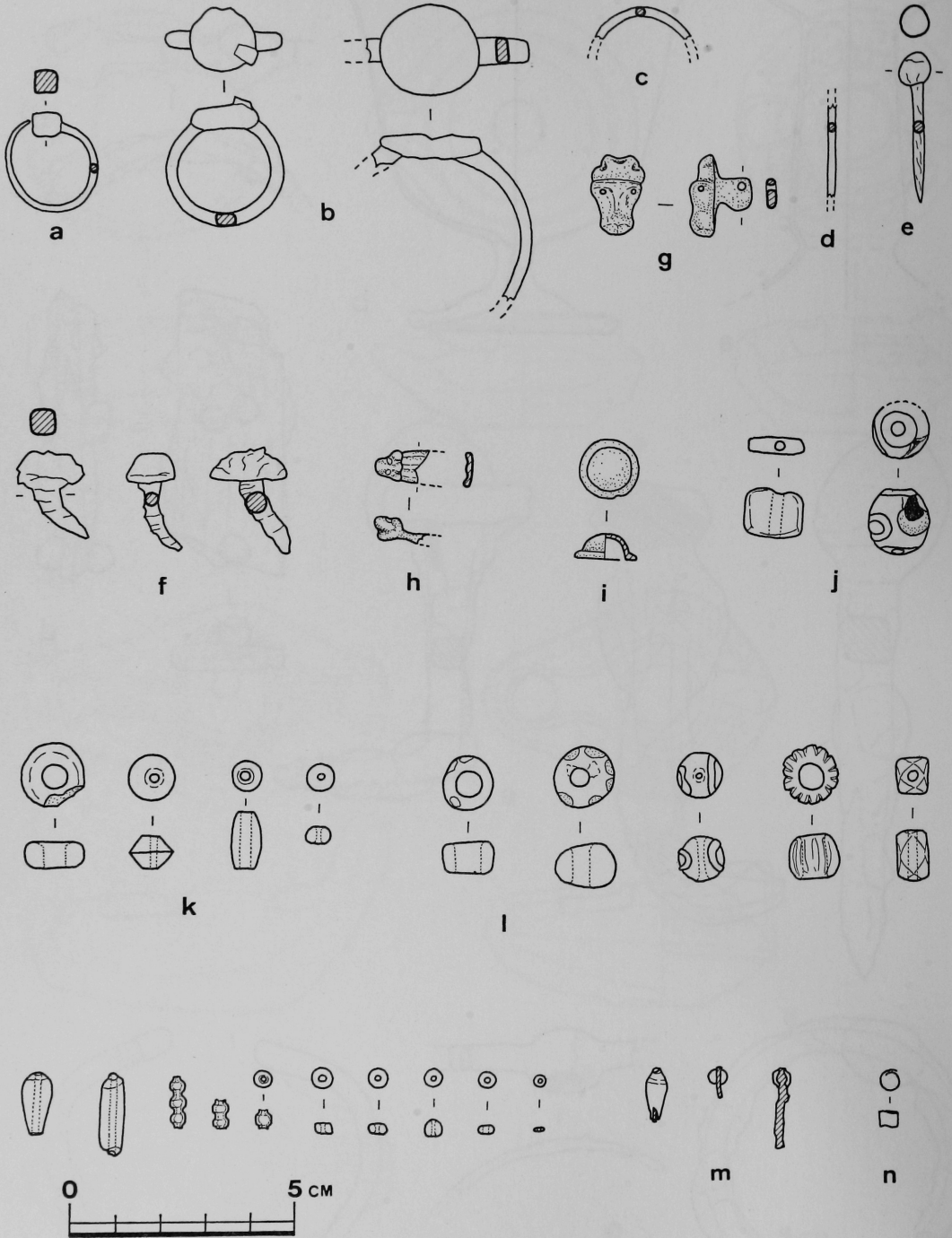
d



e









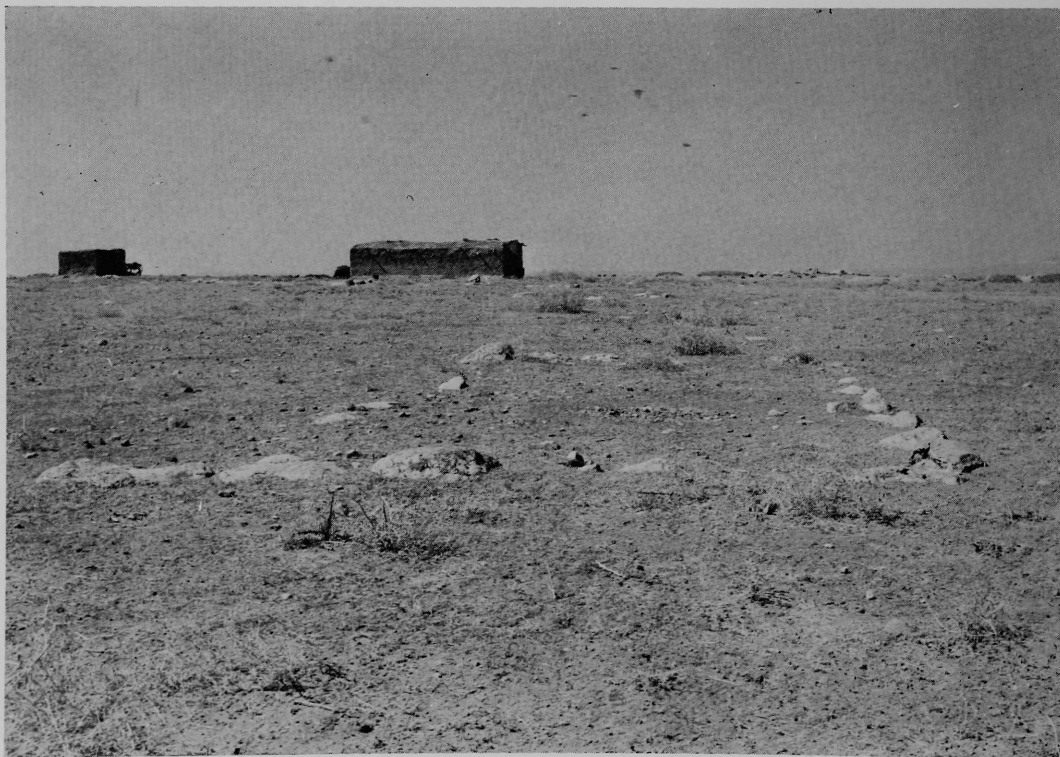
a 全景（東方より）
View from the east



b 全景（北方より）
View from the north



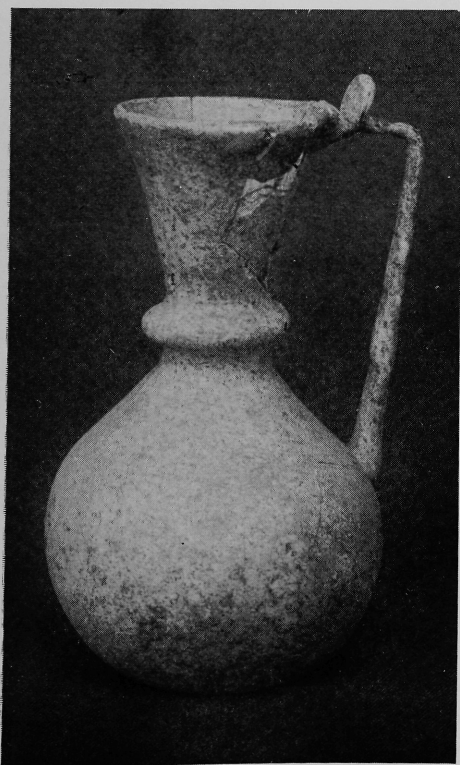
a



b



a 第1層遺構
Construction of Level I



b 第1層出土ガラス器
Glass ware from Level I



c 第1、第2層出土貨幣
Coins from Levels I and II



a 東方より
View from the east



b 西方より
View from the west



a 建築A

View from the east

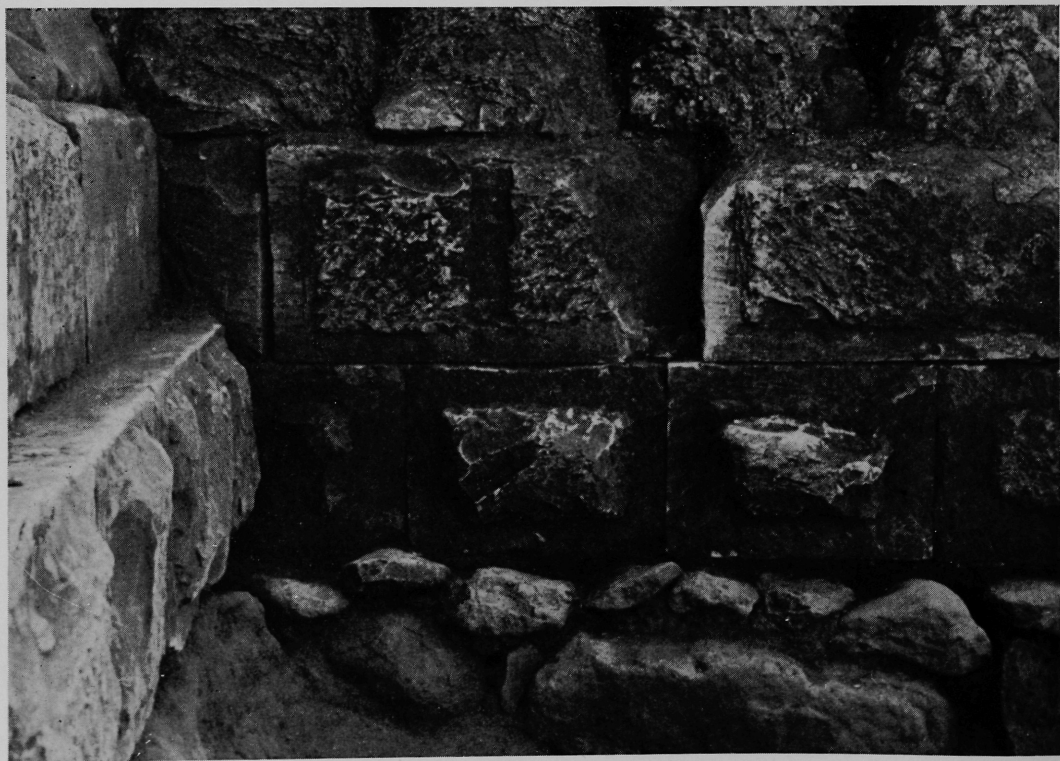


b. 1、2次建築の重複

View from the south



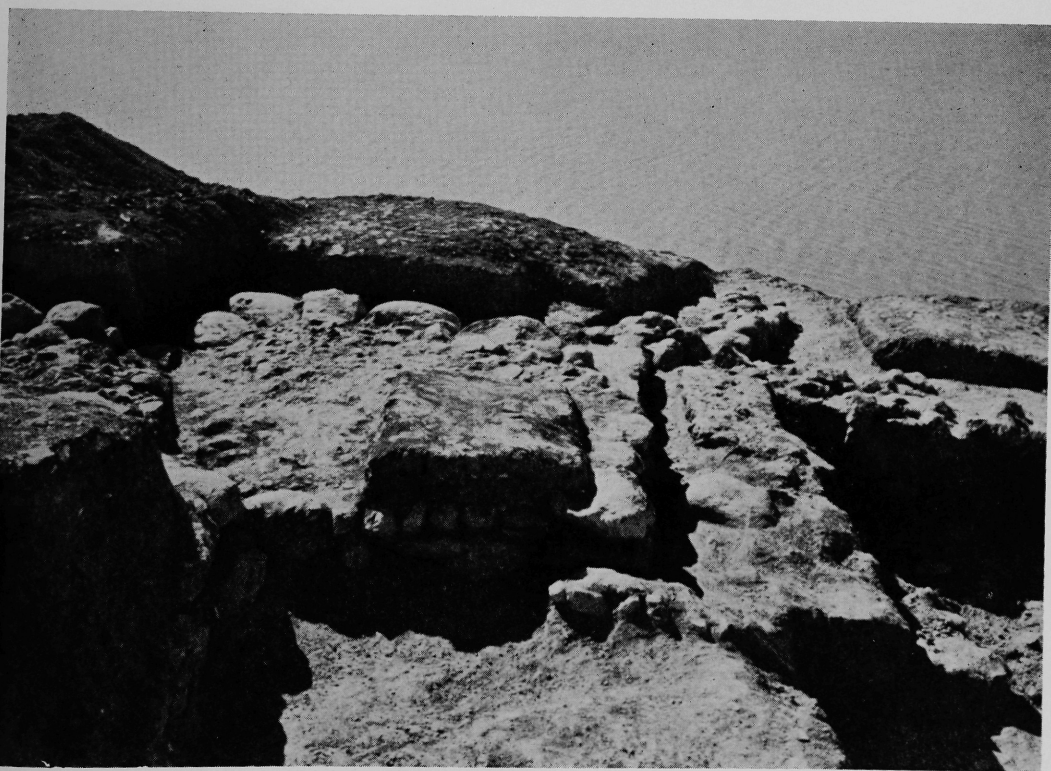
a 石塁遺構正面
Façade of Stone wall



b 石塁遺構細部
Detail of Stone wall



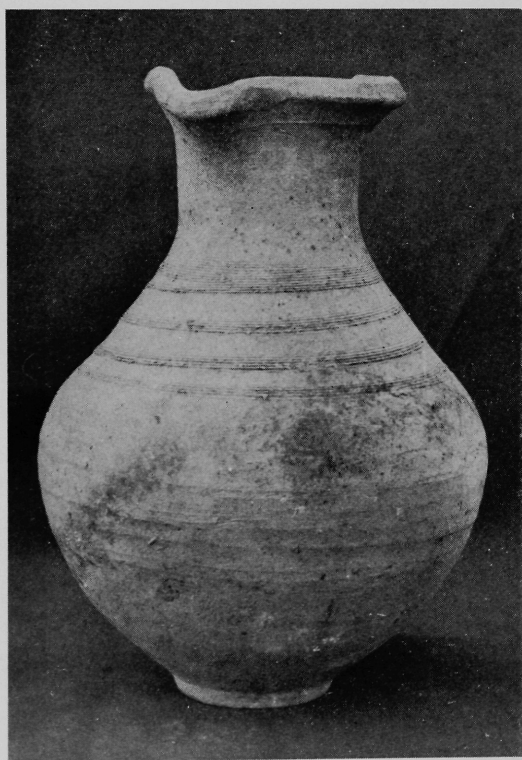
a 石壘遺構とレンガ壁接合部
Stone wall and sun-dried brick building



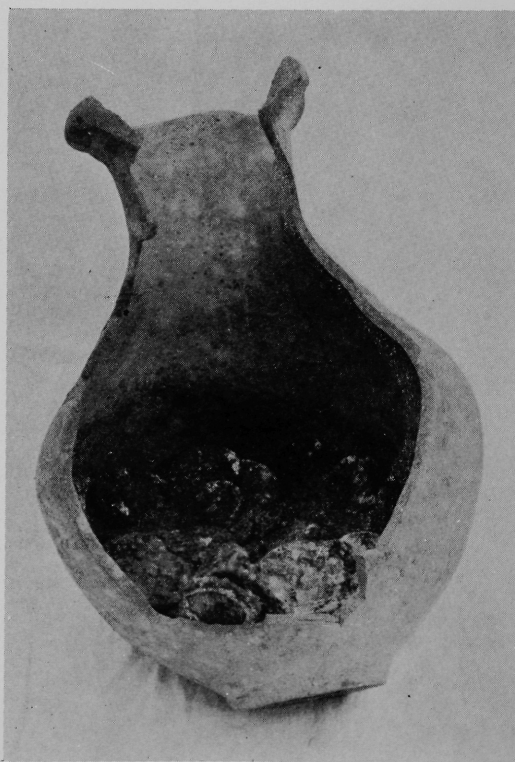
b 城壁西端方形遺構
Square construction in west corner of the fort



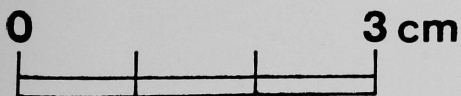
a 貨幣收藏土器
Pottery in situ



b ローマ貨幣收藏土器
Pottery containing Roman coins



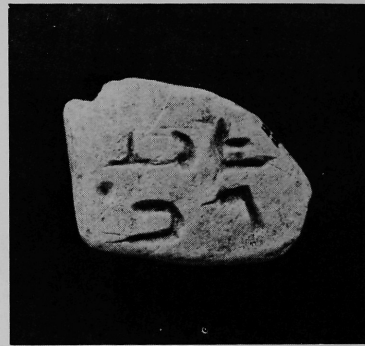
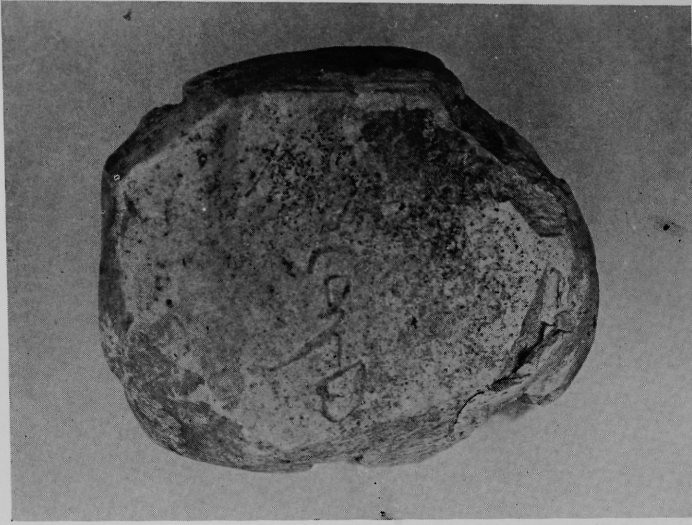
c bに同じ
Same as b



a : Antonius Gordianus III

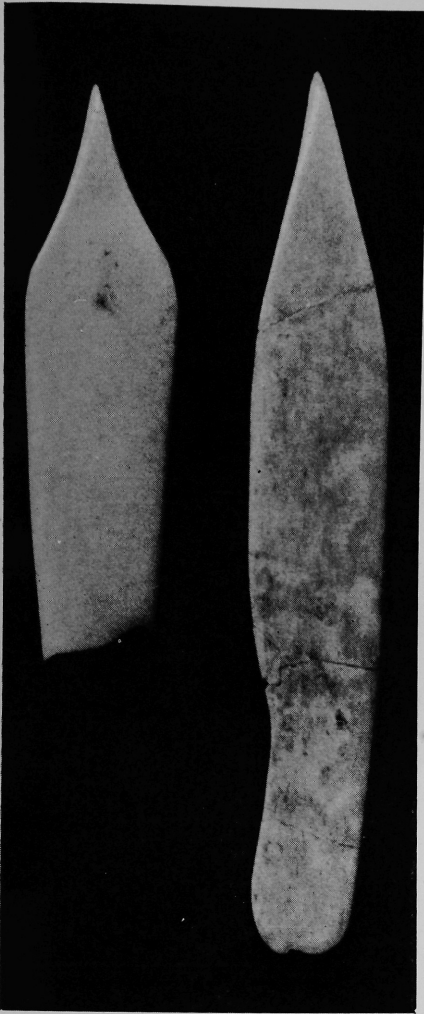
b : Julius Philippus

c : Trajanus Decius



a アラマイック銘石製護符
Stone amulet with
Aramaic inscription

b シリアック銘石彫
Stone sculpture with Syriac inscription



b 骨製ヘラ
Bronze bowl



a カットガラス器片
Fragments of Cut glasses



c 銅碗
Bone spatulas



a 発掘前

Before excavation



b 発掘後

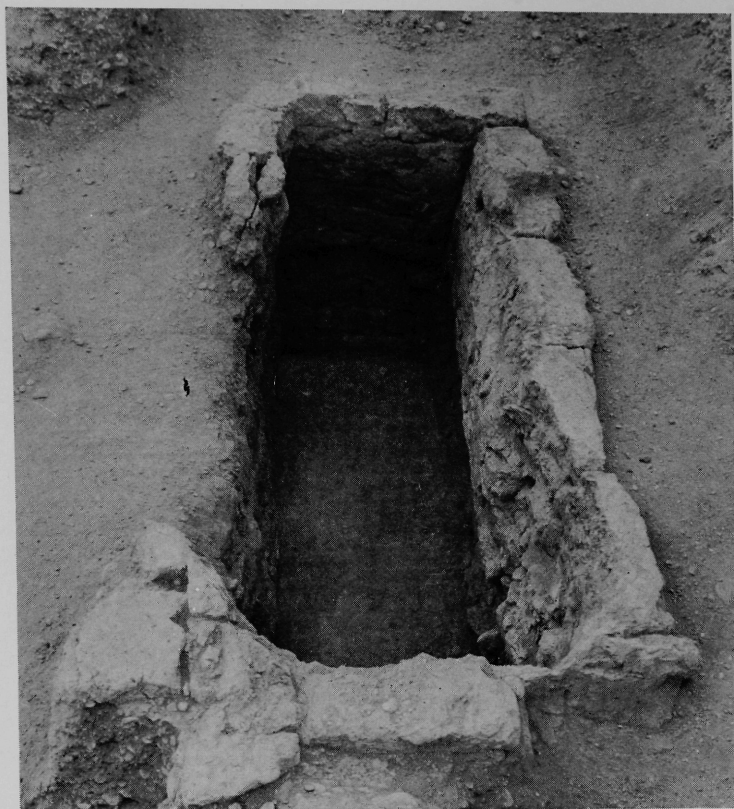
After excavation



a 横穴式墓室 (D-1-b) 入口
Entrance of Burial chamber D-1-b (view from the east)



b 横穴式墓室 (西方より)
Burial chamber D-1-b (view from the west)



a 竪穴式レンガ塚 (D-1-a)

Burial chamber D-1-a

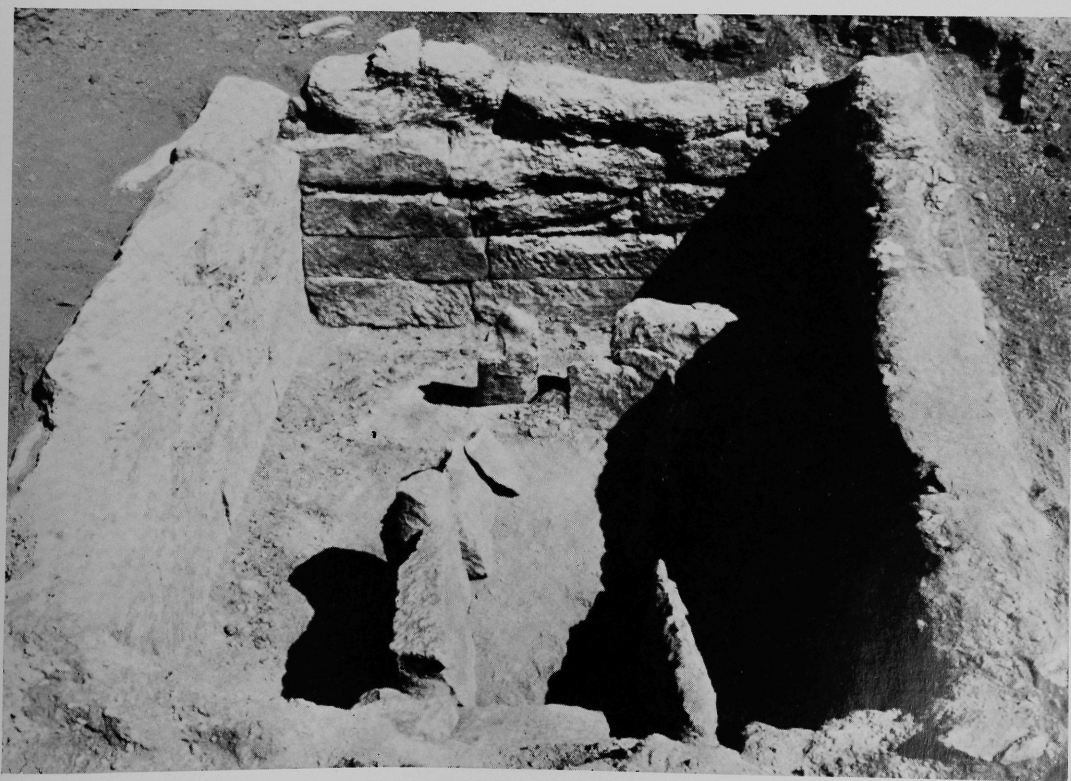


b B-1号ストーン・サークル

Stone-circle B-1, before excavation



a 竪穴式礫積石室 (B-I)
Burial I



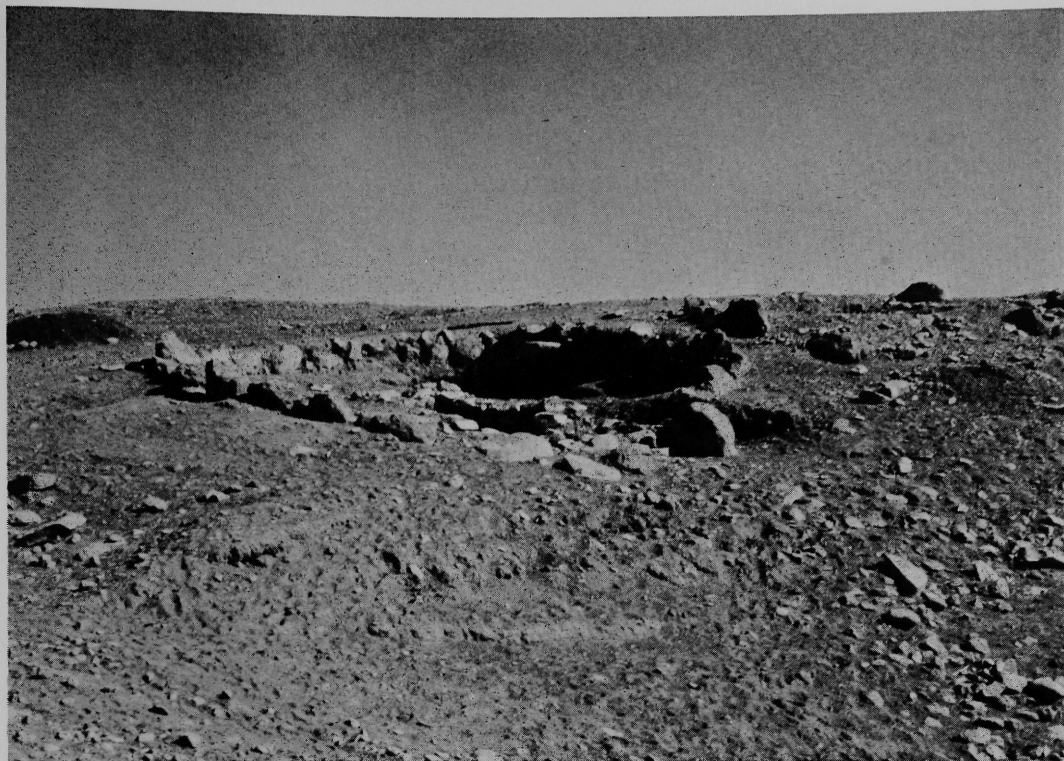
b 竪穴式切石積石室 (B-II)
Burial II



a B地区甕棺
Jar-coffin, B area



b C地区甕棺
Jar-coffin, C area



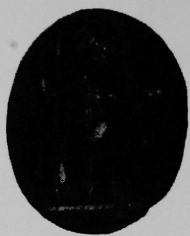
a C-1号ストーン・サークル
After excavation



b 横穴式石室 (C-1号)
Burial chamber with a passage



a



b



c



d



e

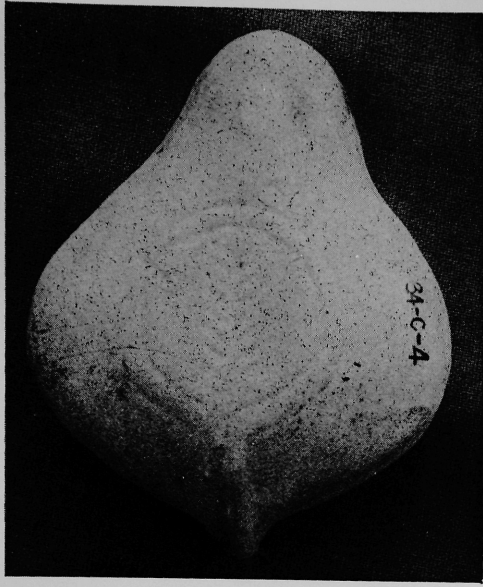


g

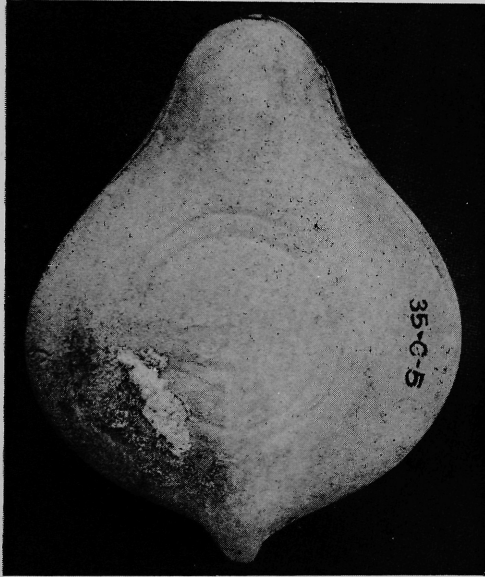
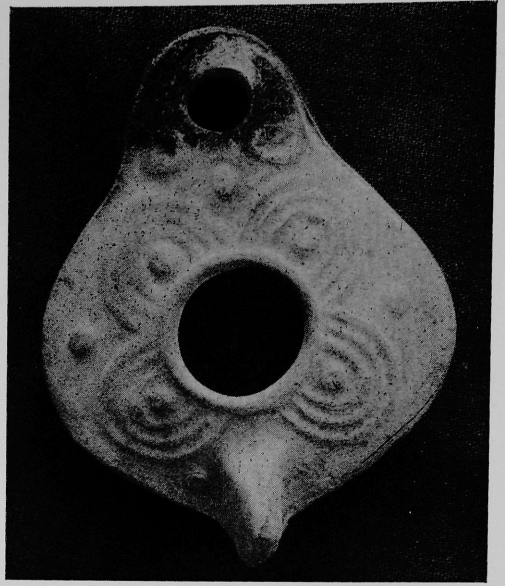


f

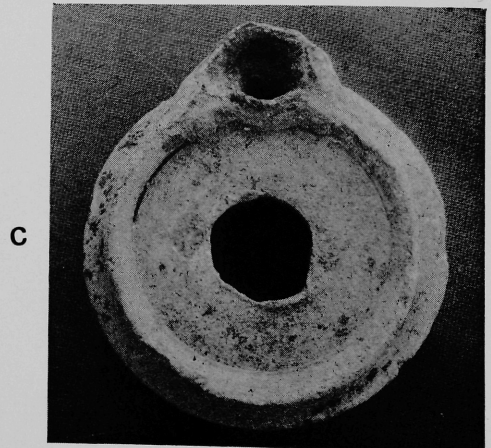
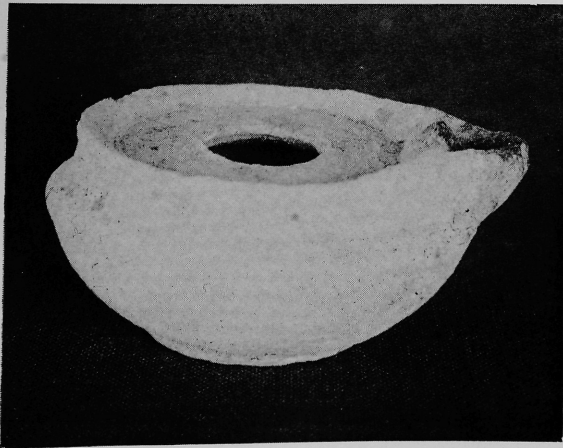
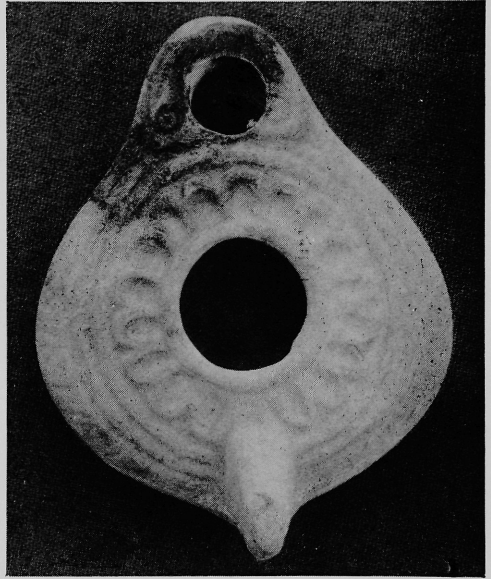
a ~ f 玉、カメオ、子安貝、ガラス製坏脚台部、
青銅製指輪、銅貨 (B-II号)、g 鳥翼彩文土器片 (C-1号)

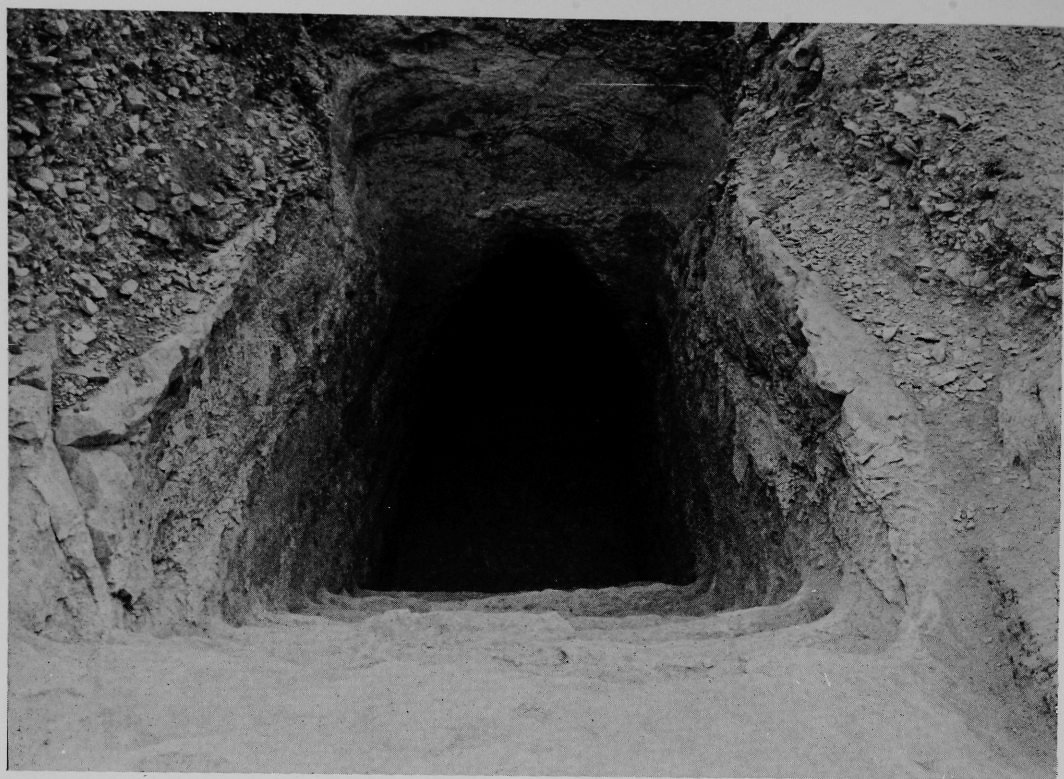


a



b

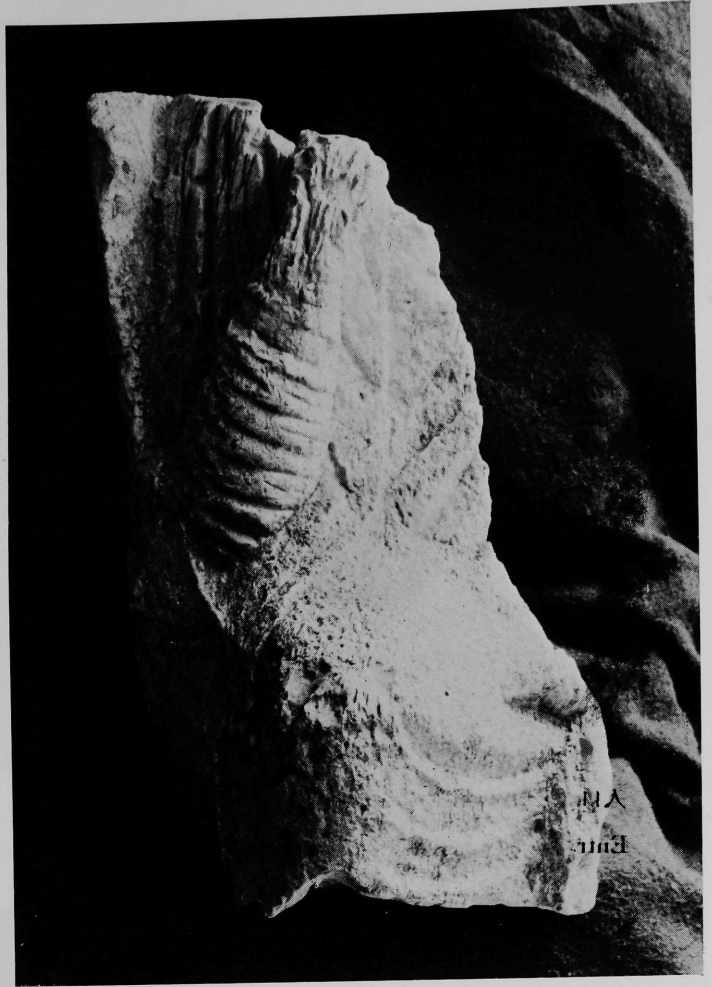




a 入口（外側より）
Entrance (view from the outside)



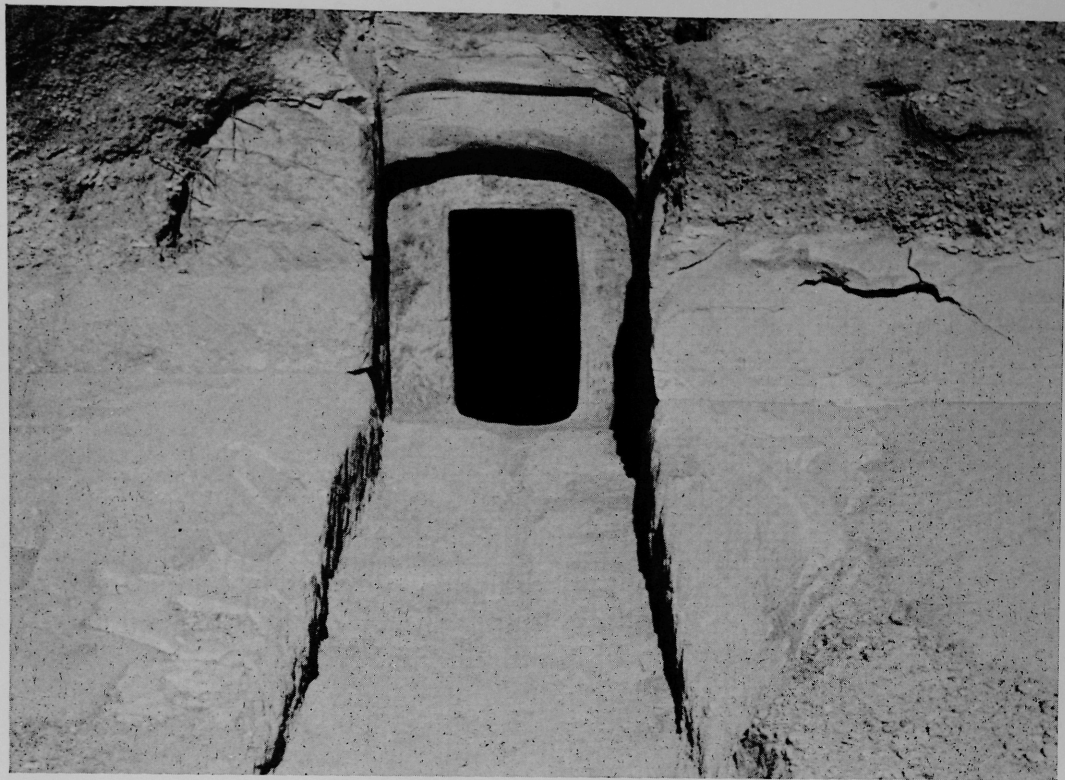
b 同（内側より）
Entrance (view from the inside)



a 埋葬用婦人石彫
Funerary relief, Statue of a woman

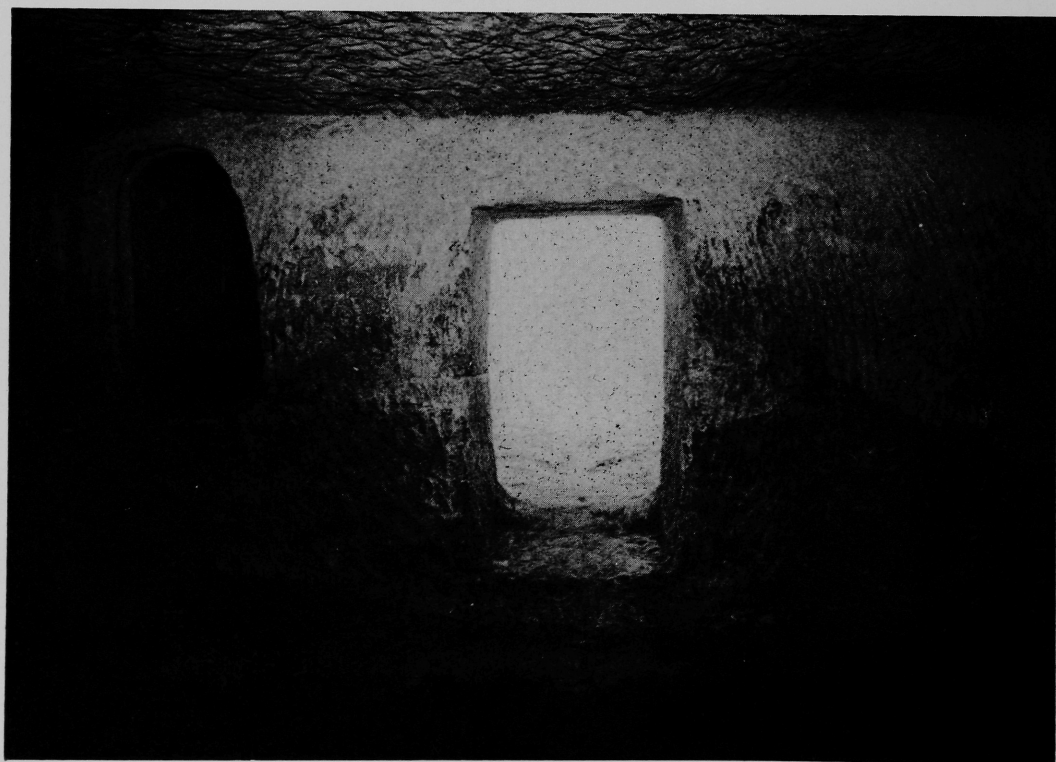


b ガラス器片
Fragments of Glass ware



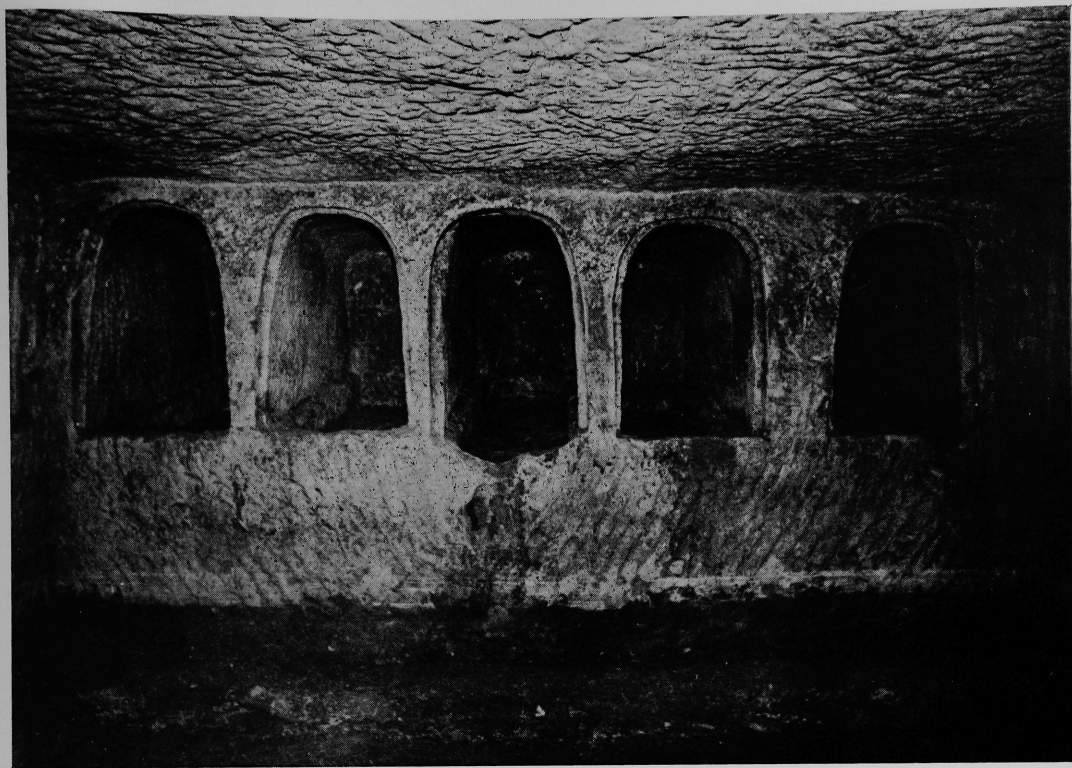
a 入口（外側より）

Entrance (view from the outside)



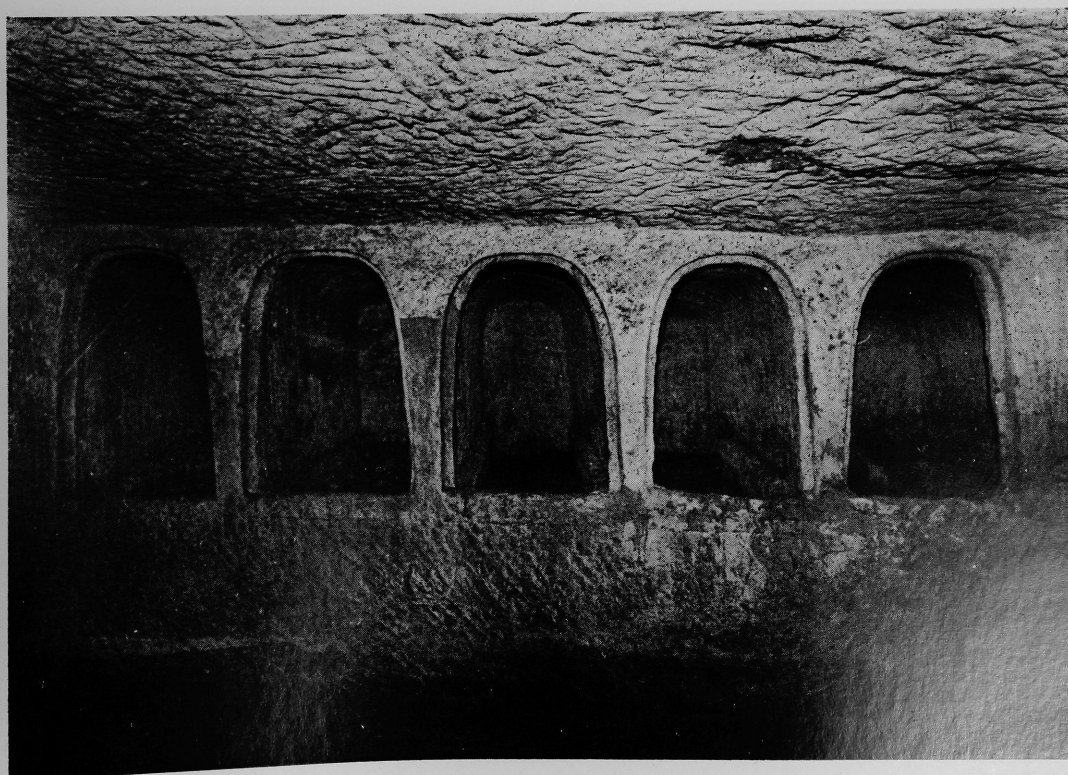
b 同（内側より）

Entrance (view from the inside)



a 墓室内棺床（正面）

Niches of the Funeral chamber (front)

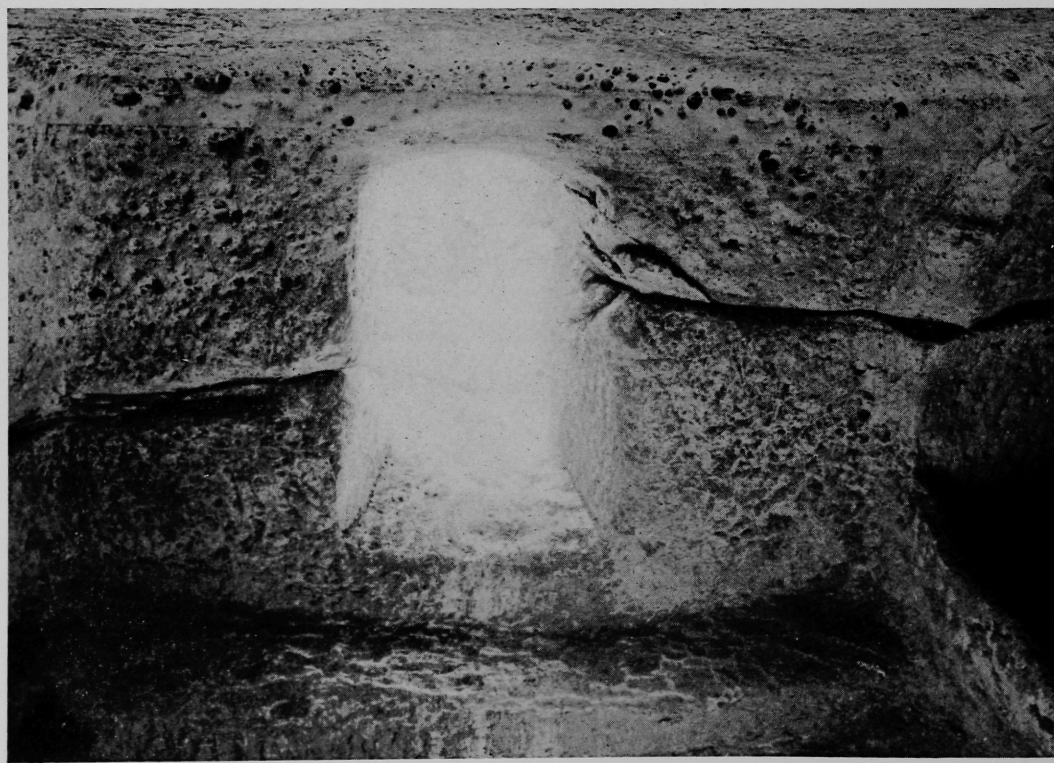


b 同（右側面）

Niches of the Funeral chamber (right)



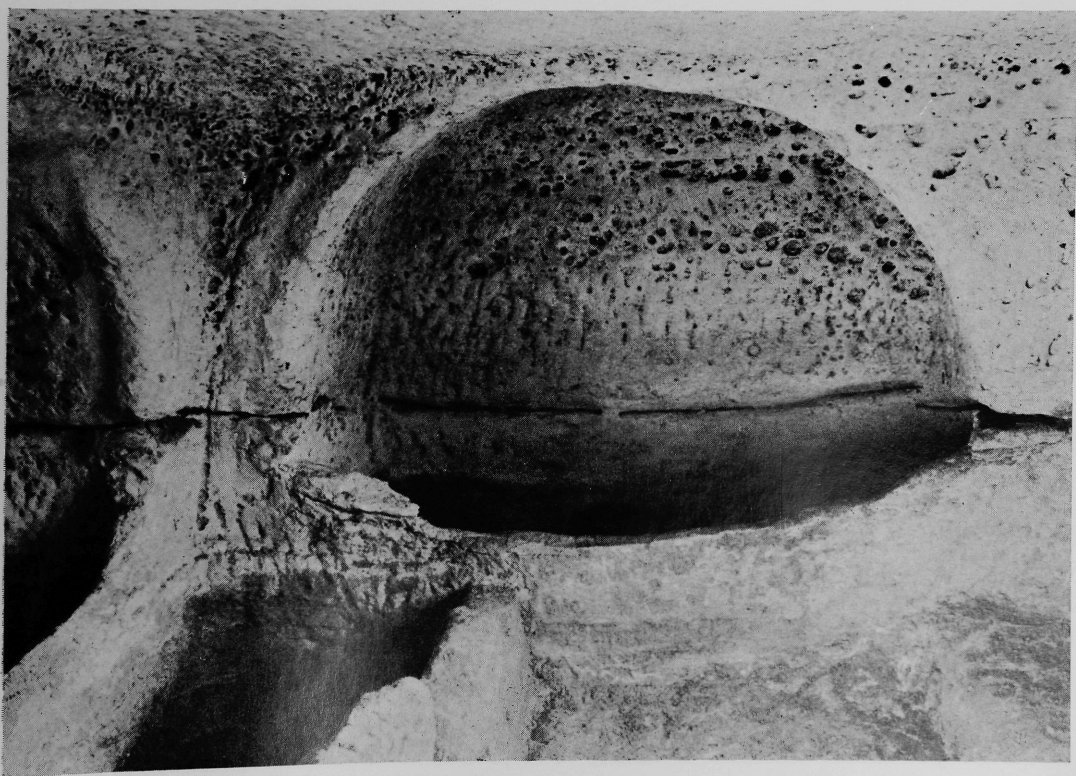
a 入口（外側より）
Entrance (view from the outside)



b 同（内側より）
Entrance (view from the inside)



a 石室内正面棺床
Front

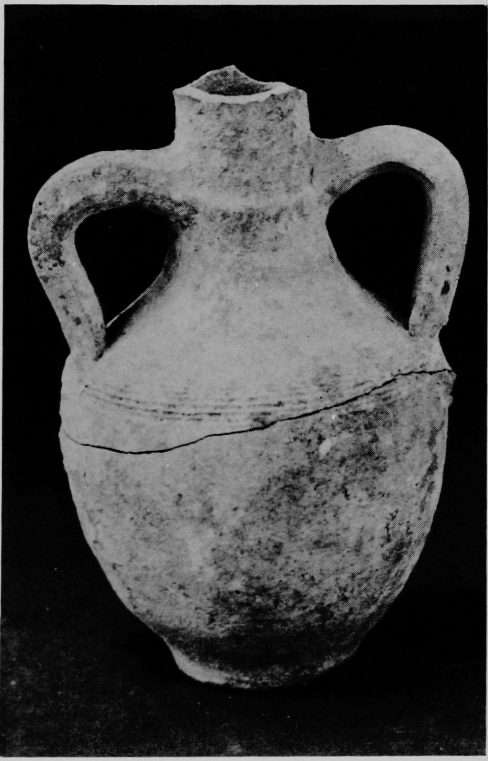


b 石室内右側棺床
Right side

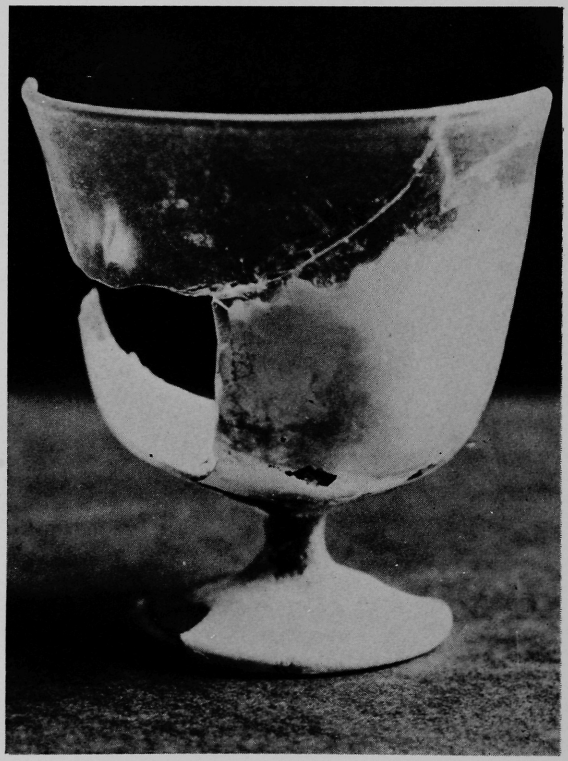
図版四九
ルメイラ
E-2号横穴墓出土遺物



a ランプ
Lamps



b 土器
Jar



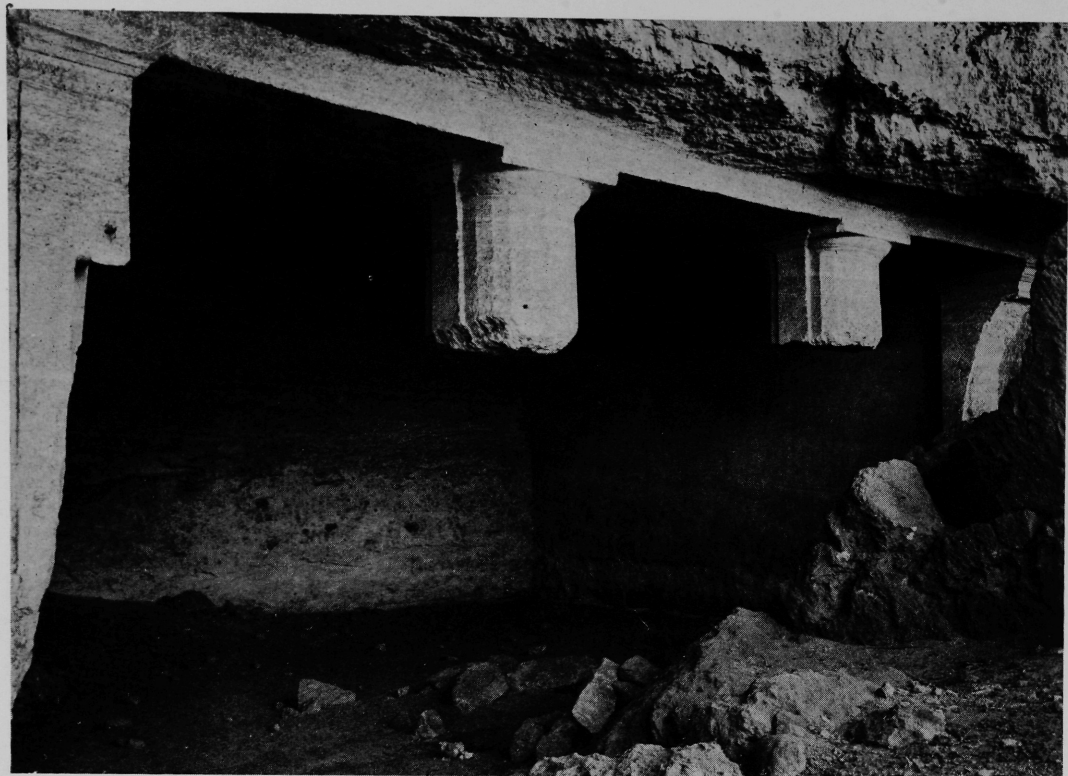
c ガラス杯
Stem glass



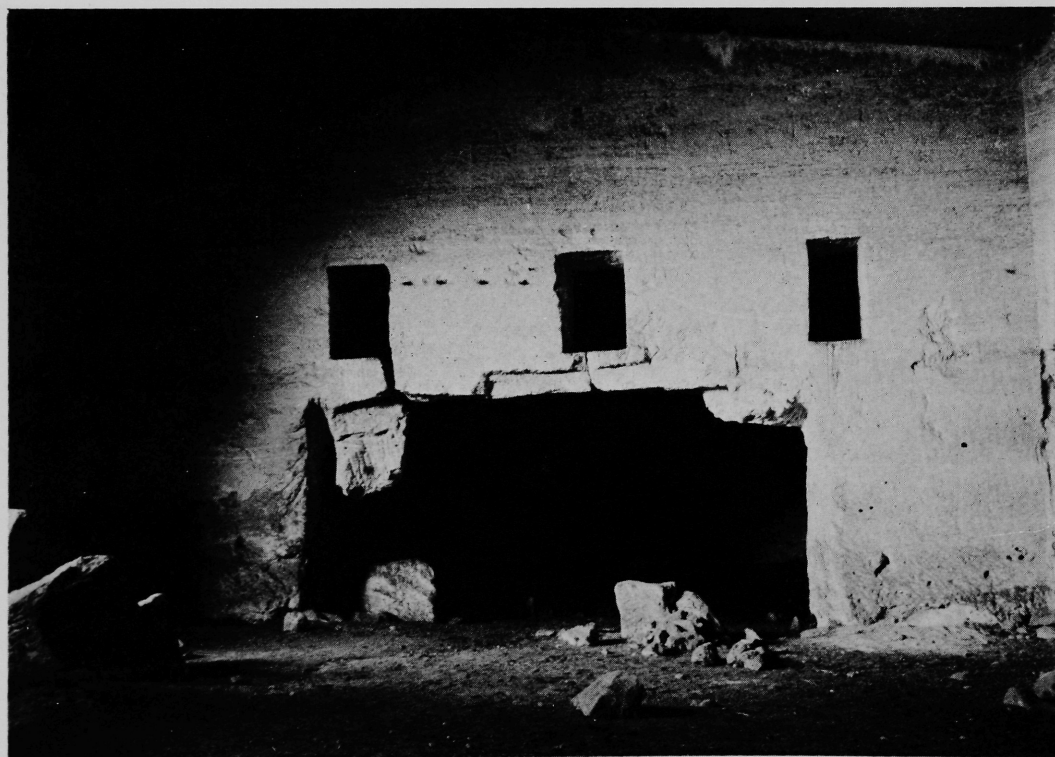
a テル・ミシオルフェより遠望
View from Tell Mishrifat



b 洞窟住居群
Caves



a 石柱を伴う建築
Cave with columns



b 洞窟住居の内部
Inside of Cave

