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Archaeological Survey in the Hasake District, 1986

Polish Archaeology in the Mediterranean 1, 45-74

1990

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY IN THE HASAKE DISTRICT, 1986

Wiktor A. Daszewski, Franciszek M. Stępniewski

In October 1986, a team from the Polish Centre of Archaeology of Warsaw University conducted a brief archaeological survey of the area in the vicinity of Hasake in northeastern Syria. The area chosen constituted part of the terrain which was to be flooded pending the construction of a complex of dams on the Habur River and its tributaries. Prof. W.A. Daszewski, director of the Centre, headed the team which included Dr. M. Krogulska and Mr. F.M. Stępniewski. The survey was intended as a means of choosing a site, which the Centre would subsequently excavate, becoming one of several foreign teams participating in an extensive excavation program instigated in the endangered area by the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums of Syria. It is our pleasant duty at this point to warmly thank the Directorate General for inviting the Polish Centre to participate in the program and for taking a friendly interest in the project.

The survey covered eight tells: Tell Tnēnir, Tell Ta'bān, Tell Dhabab, Tell Ziyāde and Tell Knēdig lay to the south of Hasake, while Tell Djassā al-Gharbi, Tell Abū Hafur and Tell Abū Hadjarat were located northwest of Hasake along the Derbasiye road. (Fig. 1)

All the sites yielded rich collections of pottery as well as flint and obsidian objects, all of which were studied in detail. In the search for a site to excavate, the team had to take into account not only the nature of the surface finds, suggestive of the archaeological contents of the tell, but also the size and character of the tell itself. This was essential in order for the scale of work on the site to be feasible for the Polish Mission.



Fig. 1. Localization of the surveyed sites.

Finally, the surveying team had to consider the logistics of the sites. As a result, it was already in the preliminary phase of the survey that the team had to forgo the high and vast tells or rather complexes of tells: Tnēnir, Ta'bān, Dhahab and Knēdig, regardless of their undoubted attractiveness, limiting the choice to the remaining four tells.

The area in question has been surveyed frequently in the past and the results have been published more or less in detail.¹ Taking this into consideration, the authors concentrated upon the tells that were not presented in earlier publications. The descriptions of the tells and the material coming from them may constitute interesting comparative material for studies concerning neighboring sites.²

TELL ZIYĀDE

This is a small, roughly oval tell measuring c. 120 by 70 m at the foot (the N-S axis is the longer one). The eastern and south-eastern sides are probably the result of erosive action by the waters of the Habur River, which presently flows some 80 m away from the tell. Quite probably, a substantial part of the tell lying in the flat riverine area has been carried away by the river. The tell reaches a maximum height of about 9 m. J.Y. Monchambert dates the pottery he found at Tell Ziyāde to the following periods: Halaf, Obeid, Uruk, Early and Middle Bronze.³

(For the finds see tables I, II, X, XI:1-4).

¹ See the review in: K.J. Fielden, *The Chronology of Settlement in North-East Syria during the Later Fourth and Third Millennium BC in the Light of Ceramic Evidence from Tell Brak*, Ph.D. diss., Oxford 1981, 232-298. Furthermore: H. Kuhne, *Zur historischen Geographie am Unteren Habur* (2), *AfO* 26 (1978), 181-195; J.Y. Monchambert, *Prospection archéologique sur l'emplacement du futur lac du Moyen Khabour*, *Akkadica* 39 (1984), 1-7; J. Lauffray, W. J. van Liere, *Nouvelle prospection archéologique dans la Haute Jezirah syrienne*, *AAS IV-V* (1954-55), 129-148; H. Olbryś, *Dolina Chaburu – historia osadnictwa w epoce brązu i w okresie żelaza I-II* (ok. 3200-600 p.n.e.) [The Valley of the Habur River: a history of settlement in the Bronze and Iron Ages (ca. 3200-600 A.D.)], *Studia Archeologiczne* 7 (1989), 37-58.

² See J. Mellaart, *The prehistoric pottery from the Neolithic to the beginning of Early Bronze IV*, in: J. Hatthews (ed.), *The River Qoueiq, Northern Syria, and its Catchment*, Oxford 1981 (vol. I), 131: "An archaeological survey is of very little scientific use, if the basic material, in most cases potsherds, found during that survey remains unpublished".

³ *Akkadica* 39 (1984), table on p. 5.

TELL DJASSA AL-GHARBI

The tell lies just next to the Hasake-Derbasiye road, directly behind the dam (the neighboring Tell Djassa al-Sharqi is located already outside the area to be flooded in this case). Roughly circular, it has a diameter of 80-100 m and a height of c. 14 m. The steeply falling northern slope is probably the result of wadi erosion and, just as in case of the preceding tell, the preserved shape is but a part of the original mound. There is a small modern cemetery on the top of the tell, while the village is to be found at the bottom of the gentle southern slope. The shape of the hillock located southwest of the tell is difficult to determine; only sporadic sherds were found there.

(For the finds, see tables III, IV)

TELL ABŪ HAFUR

Tell Abū Hafur lies about 2.5 km northwest of the preceding one. It has the form of a crescent with a diameter of about 150 m at the base. The southern slope is gentle and the outline of the tell indistinct; the northern slope, however, had been highly undercut by erosion. The maximum height is 15-17 m above the surrounding plateau. At the foot of the southern slope, there are some ruins preserved to a height of 1.5 m. They belong to a modern rectangular structure made of irregular basalt blocks. About 100-120 m to the east, there is another crescent-shaped tell with an arc diameter of about 110 m and a height just about 2-3 m. A narrow modern wadi separates it from the main tell. At the top of both tells are modern cemeteries used by the inhabitants of the Abu Hafur village located at some distance to the north-west of the tell and, previously, by the people living in the small settlement on the southern slope, presently abandoned and ruined. The basalt structure mentioned above is the only trace of this village, which on maps of the mid-fifties was shown to have included several buildings.

(For the finds see tables V-VII, XI:5-8 and Fig. 2)

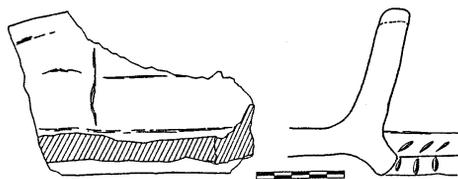


Fig. 2. Fragment of a chariot model from Tell Abū Hafur.

Inner surface 2,5 Y 8/4, pale yellow; fabric 10 YR 7/3, very pale brown; outer surface 5 Y 8/3, pale yellow. Grit temper, sparse straw traces; porous; very coarse.

Date: ED I.

TELL ABŪ HADJARAT

A crescent-shaped tell measuring c. 140 m at the base (longest dimension) with a depression beginning, as in the preceding case, just under the top and widening towards the base in an easterly direction. Height about 12-14 m. About 150 m to the north-west of the tell, there is a small hillock about 3-4 m high with indistinct boundaries. The material found on this hillock is scarce and indeterminate. At the top of the tell proper there is a triangular point, marked by a steel mast on a tripod, and about 30 modern tombs. Several of the tombs have oval basalt grinders with concave depressions used as part of the tomb walls or set up vertically at one of the tomb's ends; the grinders presumably came from archaeological strata disturbed by the digging of these tombs.

The modern structures adjacent to the southern slope of the tell deserve some attention. Beside the typical private households constituted by a closed complex inhabited by one family, there is a large spacious structure containing a room 12 m x 4 m and 5 m high, equipped with a large fireplace in one corner. The longer walls of the building are pierced by narrow windows reaching from the floor almost to the roof. The outer walls are decorated by recessed niches joined by arches at the top under the eaves. We were informed that as late as the early 1980ties, the room had served as

a meeting place for local sheiks, accommodating as many as 60 persons at a time. At the time of the survey, the inhabitants were slowly leaving the area, which was to be flooded upon the completion of the dam.

(For finds see tables VIII-IX)

The ceramic material presented below in the "Catalogue" was first recorded and then studied in comparison with pottery from sites in northeastern Syria (Tell Chuera, Tell Melebiya, Tell Halawa, Tell Hadidi, Tell Brak, Tell Shaghir Bazar) and on the Middle Euphrates (Mari).⁴ Although Tell Ziyade material (excluding the interesting lithic finds) turned out to be relatively modest and in chronological terms not even encompassing the periods known to be represented at the site (see above, pp. 46-47 and note 1), the finds from the tells north of Hasake formed a chronologically rather homogenous group and appeared to represent fully the settlement phases known to be there. What we have here is almost exclusively Early Dynastic pottery with numerous typical, well known and described forms (rims and necks of pitchers, cooking pots with horizontal handles and triangular lug handles). This may seem to be a rather risky and premature conclusion for the chrono-

⁴ H. Kühne, *Die Keramik vom Tell Chuera und ihre Beziehungen zu Funden aus Syrien-Palastina, der Türkei und dem Iraq*, Berlin 1976; H. Lebeau *et al.*, Rapport préliminaire sur la deuxième campagne de fouilles à Tell Melebiye, *Akkadica* 46 (1986), 9-16, 21-41; ... troisième ..., *Akkadica* 51 (1987), 9-51, 61-68; ...quatrième..., *Akkadica* 61 (1989), 10, 20-23; W. Orthmann, *Halawa 1977 bis 1979*, Bonn 1981; R. Dornemann, Tell Hadidi: a millennium of Bronze Age city occupation, *AASOR* 44 (1979) 113-151; K. Fielden, Tell Brak 1976. The pottery, *Iraq* 39 (1977), 245-255; M.E.L. Mallowan, The excavations at Tell Chagar Bazar and an archeological survey of the Habur Region 1934-35, *Iraq* 3 (1936) 1-86; id., Excavations at Brak and Chagar Bazar, *Iraq* 9 (1947), 1-266; M. Lebeau, *Mari 1979. Rapport préliminaire sur la ceramique du chantier A*, M.A.R.I. 2 (1983), 165-193. The publications listed here are only some of the most important ones concerning sites, which are relatively close in both territorial and chronological terms to the tells we discuss. Widely ranged comparative studies of unstratified material seem at best premature. For a more complete review of the literature of the subject, see e.g. M. Lebeau, *op. cit.*, *Akkadica* 46, p. 19f; 51, p. 14ff.

logical categories ED I, II, III each encompass rather long periods of time, but we find it highly probable that the tells visited by us: Djassa al-Gharbi, Abū Hafur and Abū Hadjarat are linked (or form part of – this will be confirmed only after a survey of the neighboring tells) in a sort of "settlement chain", a complex of settlements contemporaneous to each other, which in the Early Dynastic period exploited a belt of fertile soil between the edge of a series of hills to the south and south-west (the limits of the intended lake) and the area of the settlements connected with the Wadi Awaj to the north. It is also of significance that the Abū Hafur and Abū Hadjarat tells have a specific crescent shape (distinguished by van Liere and Lauffray as "Type VII")⁵ and both open up, so to speak, to the east. Erosion as the cause of such a shape is to be excluded; rather the form is in both cases a reflection of the ancient pattern of settlement.

After analyzing the results of the survey the Centre chose the Tell Abū Hafur site for further study. The first season was planned for the spring of 1988.⁶

CATALOGUE OF POTTERY (by E.M. Stepniowski)

Unless otherwise specified (i.e. "hand + slow wheel" = hand-formed and turned on a slow wheel), all the fragments are of wheel-made pottery.

The description goes as follows:

1. Rim or base diameter (d).
2. Colours of: inner surface; fabric; outer surface; according to the "Munsell soil color charts" (ed. 1975).
3. Temper, other information as regards fabric, surface treatment.

⁵ W.J. van Liere, J. Lauffray, op. cit., 134.

⁶ The rescue excavations in the Hasake area have developed with such intensity that all of the sites discussed in this report are at the time of writing the object of regular excavations. A mission from the Polish Centre has completed two seasons of fieldwork at Tell Abū Hafur as planned and has also worked at Tell Djassa al-Gharbi. Tell Abū Hadjarat was excavated by a team of archaeologist from the German Democratic Republic, while an American team took up work on Tell Ziyāde.

TABLE I: TELL ZIYĀDE

- 1.1** Rim d. c. 41 cm. **1.2** 10 YR 8/4, very pale brown; 7.5 YR 7/4, pink; 10 YR 8/4, very pale brown. **1.3** Straw and limestone grit temper; porous.
- 2.1** Rim d. 16 cm. **2.2** 5 Y 8/3, pale yellow; 10 YR 6/2, light brownish grey; core 7.5 YR 7/4, pink; 5 Y 8/3, pale yellow; **2.3** Dense straw temper, sparse limestone grit; slipped?; hand + slow wheel.
- 3.1** Rim d. c. 22 cm. **3.2** 5 YR 8/4, pink; 5 Y 5/1, grey; 7.5 YR 7/4, pink; 2.5 Y 8/4, pale yellow. **3.3** Straw and limestone grit temper, very sparse basalt grit; slipped.
- 4.1** Rim d. c. 23 cm. **4.2** 5 Y 8/3, pale yellow; 10 YR 7/4, very pale brown; 2.5 Y 8/4, pale yellow. **4.3** Straw and limestone grit temper; slightly smoothed; hand + slow wheel (?).
- 5.1** Rim d. 19 cm. **5.2** 10 YR 8/4, very pale brown; 10 YR 5/1, gray; 10 YR 8/3, very pale brown. **5.3** Straw temper, sparse limestone grit; outer surface slipped, slightly smoothed; hand + wheel.
- 6.1** Rim d. c. 40 cm(?). **6.2** 7.5 YR 8/4, pink; 10 YR 8/6, yellow; 7.5 YR 8/6 reddish yellow. **6.3** Dense limestone grit temper.
- 7.1** Rim d. c. 15 cm. **7.2** 5 Y 7/2, light grey, 5 Y 6/2, light olive-grey; 5 Y 7/2, light grey, paint 5 Y 4/1, dark grey. **7.3** Sparse limestone grit temper; porous.
- 8.1** Rim d. 24 cm. **8.2** 7.5 YR 8/6, reddish-yellow; 10 YR 7/4, very pale brown; 5 YR 7/6, reddish-yellow. **8.3** Limestone grit temper, sparse traces of straw.
- 9.1** Rim d. 9 cm. **9.2** 5 Y 8/2, white; 2.5 Y 7/4, pale yellow; 5 Y 8/2 white. **9.3** No temper(?), very sparse limestone particles – natural contamination of the clay ?
- 10.1** Rim d. 8 cm. **10.2** 5 Y 7/3, pale yellow; 10 YR 7/4, very pale brown; 5 Y 7/3, pale yellow. **10.3** Limestone grit temper, sparse and minute straw traces.
- 11.1** Rim d. c. 40 cm(?). **11.2** 10 YR 7/4, very pale brown; as inner surface, core 10 YR 4/1, dark grey; 10 YR 7/6, yellow. **11.3** Straw and limestone grit temper, slipped.
- 12.1** Rim d. 12 cm. **12.2** 10 YR 7/4, very pale brown; 7.5 YR 6/4, light brown; 2.5 Y 7/4, pale yellow. **12.3** Dense limestone grit temper, sparse and minute straw traces.
- 13.1** Rim d. 13 cm. **13.2** 10 YR 4/1, dark grey; 10 YR 3/1, very dark grey; 10 YR 4/1 dark grey. **13.3** Dense and thick limestone grit temper; decorated with an applied pattern of flattened ovals.
- 14.1** Base d. 15cm. **14.2** 10 YR 6/3, light brownish grey; 10 YR 6/4, light yellowish brown; 2.5 Y 7/2, light gray. **14.3** Straw temper.

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Fragments 2-4, 7: Obeid; 1, 9, 11: ED II; remaining uncertain.

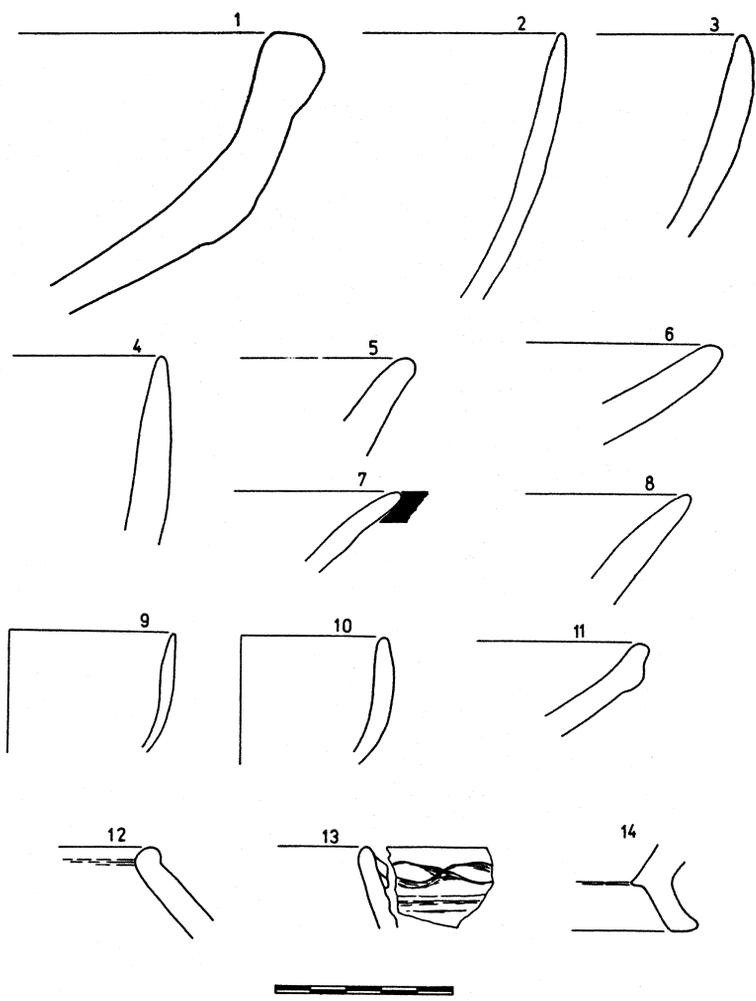


TABLE II: TELL ZIYĀDE

1.1 Rim d. c. 42 cm. **1.2** 5 YR 7/6, reddish yellow; as inner surface, core 10 YR 7/3, very pale brown. **1.3** Dense straw temper, limestone and pottery grit.

2.1 Rim d. 20 cm. **2.2** 5 Y 8/3, pale yellow; 10 YR 8/3, very pale brown, core 7.5 YR 7/2, pinkish grey; 5 Y 8/3, pale yellow. **2.3** Straw temper, porous; hand + slow wheel.

3.1 Rim d. 20 cm. **3.2** 7.5 YR 6/2, pinkish grey; 10 YR 6/4, light yellowish brown; core 10 YR 4/1, dark grey; 7.5 YR 7/6, reddish yellow. **3.3** Straw temper.

4.1 Rim d. 12 cm. **4.2** 10 YR 7/4, very pale brown; as inner surface; core 10 YR 4/1, dark grey; 10 YR 7/6, yellow. **4.3** Straw temper.

5.1 Rim d. c. 19 cm. **5.2** 10 YR 7/4, very pale brown; 5 YR 6/6, reddish yellow; 2.5 Y 8/4, pale yellow. **5.3** Straw temper, sparse limestone grit; outer surface slipped.

6.1 Rim d. 24 cm. **6.2** 2.5 Y 7/4, pale yellow; 7.5 YR 7/4, pink; 2.5 Y 6/2, light brownish grey. **6.3** Dense straw temper, porous.

7.1 Rim d. 17 cm. **7.2** 5 Y 8/3, pale yellow; 5 Y 4/1, dark grey; 5 Y 8/3, pale yellow. **7.3** Basalt grit temper; slipped, smeared with bitumen.

8.1 Rim d. 9 cm. **8.2** 7.5 YR 7/6, reddish yellow; 5 YR 6/6, olive yellow, 10 YR 7/4, very pale brown; 10 YR 8/3, very pale brown. **8.3** Dense basalt and limestone grit temper; outer surface slipped.

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Fragments 1, 6, 7 – ED I; 8 – ED III; remaining uncertain.

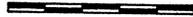
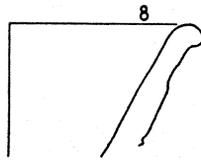
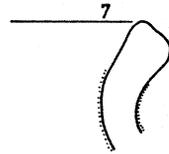
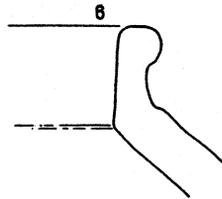
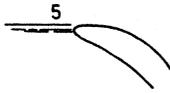
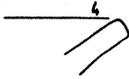
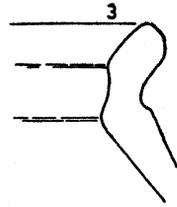
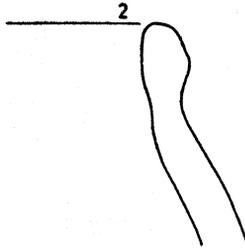
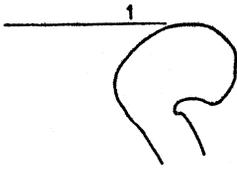


TABLE III: TELL DJASSA AL-GHARBI

1.1 Rim d. c. 23 cm. **1.2** 5 Y 8/3, pale yellow; 5 Y 7/3, pale yellow; 5 Y 8/3, pale yellow. **1.3** Limestone grit temper; outer surface slipped; distinct traces of scooping out; hand + slow wheel.

2.1 Rim d. 11 cm. **2.2** 10 YR 8/4, very pale brown; 5 YR 7/6, reddish yellow; 7.5 YR 8/4, pink. **2.3** Dense basalt and limestone grit temper; hand + slow wheel.

3.1 Rim d. 11 cm. **3.2** 2.5 Y 8/4, pale yellow; 2.5 Y 8/4, pale yellow; core 2.5 Y 8/2, white; 2.5 Y 8/4, pale yellow. **3.3** Straw and grit temper, porous; outer surface slipped.

4.1 Rim d. c. 28 cm. **4.2** 5 Y 7/2, light grey, rim edge 10 YR 8/3, very pale brown; 10 YR 7/4, very pale brown; 2.5 Y 8/4, pale yellow. **4.3** Grit temper, sparse traces of straw.

5.1 Rim d. 14 cm. **5.2** 5 YR 7/6, reddish yellow; 5 YR 6/6, reddish yellow; 5 YR 7/6, reddish yellow. **5.3** Grit temper; outer surface slightly smoothed.

6.1 Rim d. 22 cm. **6.2** 2.5 Y 8/2, white; 5 Y 8/2, white; 5 Y 8/3, pale yellow. **6.3** Straw temper, sparse grit, porous.

7.1 Rim d. 21 cm. **7.2** 7.5 YR 7/4, pink; 7.5 YR 7/6, reddish yellow; 10 YR 8/4, very pale brown (rim), 7.5 YR 7/4, pink (lower part). **7.3** Straw and grit temper.

8.1 Rim d. 22 cm. **8.2** 10 YR 8/4, very pale brown; 10 YR 7/4, very pale brown; 10 YR 8/4, very pale brown. **8.3** Dense grit temper, sparse traces of straw.

9.1 Rim d. 21 cm. **9.2** 10 YR 8/4, very pale brown; 10 YR 7/4, very pale brown; 10 YR 8/4, very pale brown. **9.3** Straw and grit temper.

10.1 Rim d. 9 cm. **10.2** 10 YR 8/3, very pale brown; 10 YR 7/4 very pale brown; 10 YR 8/3, very pale brown. **10.3** Straw and limestone grit temper.

11.1 Rim d. 22 cm. **11.2** 2.5 Y 8/2, white, 10 YR 6/4, light yellowish brown; 2.5 Y 8/2, white. **11.3** Limestone grit temper.

12.1 Rim d. c. 32 cm. **12.2** 2.5 Y 8/4, pale yellow; 2.5 Y 7/2, light grey; 2.5 Y 8/4, pale yellow. **12.3** Dense straw and grit temper; very coarse.

DATE:

All fragments beside 1 and 10 – ED I.

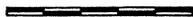
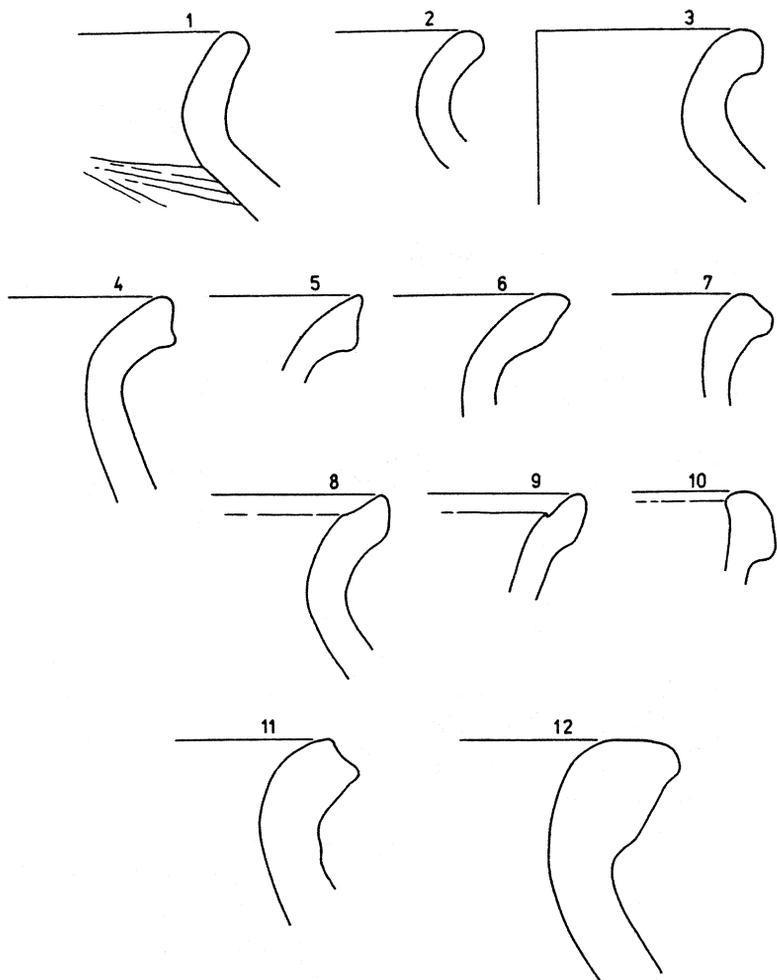


TABLE IV: TELL DJASSA AL-GHARBI (cont.)

1.1 Rim d. c. 35 cm. **1.2** 10 YR 5/1, grey; 10 YR 5/3, brown; 5 Y 8/3, pale yellow.
1.3 Grit temper; thickly encrusted inside; hand + slow wheel.
2.1 Rim d. 27 cm. **2.2** 10 YR 8/4, very pale brown; 10 YR 6/4, light yellowish brown; 2.5 Y 8/4, pale yellow. **2.3** Grit temper; lower part of the outer surface slipped and smoothed.
3.1 Rim d. c. 27 cm. **3.2** 10 YR 7/3, very pale brown; 10 YR 6/4, light yellowish brown; 7.5 YR 7/4, pink. **3.3** Dense limestone grit temper, sparse traces of straw.
4.1 Rim d. 11 cm. **4.2** 5 Y 7/2, light grey; same; same. **4.3** No temper.
5.1 Rim d. c. 12 cm. **5.2** 10 YR 4/1, dark grey; 5 YR 6/6, reddish yellow (wash); 7.5 YR 7/6, reddish yellow, core 2.5 Y 6/2, light brownish grey; 7.5 YR 7/6, reddish yellow, 2.5 YR 6/6, light red (wash). **5.3** Sparse fine grit temper, very fine fabric; smoothed, upper part washed with a watery wash.
6.1 Rim d. 12 cm. **6.2** 10 YR 8/3, very pale brown; 10 YR 7/4, very pale brown; 2.5 Y 8/4, pale yellow. **6.3** Fine limestone grit temper, fine fabric.
7.1 Base d. 6 cm. **7.2** 5 YR 7/4, pink; same; 5 YR 8/4, pink. **7.3** Grit temper.
8.1 Base d. 9 cm. **8.2** 2.5 Y 8/4, pale yellow; 2.5 Y 7/4, pale yellow; 2.5 Y 8/4, pale yellow. **8.3** Sparse straw temper.

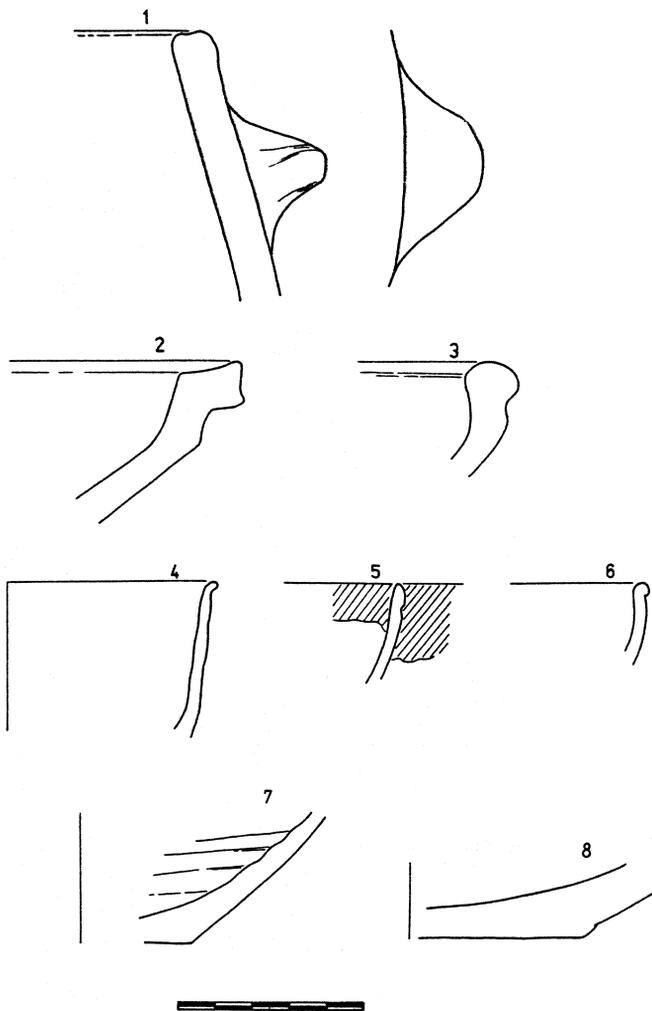


TABLE V: TELL ABŪ HAFUR

- 1.1** Rim d. 12 cm. **1.2** 10 YR 8/3, very pale brown; 10 YR 7/4, very pale brown; 2.5 Y 8/4, pale yellow. **1.3** Straw and grit temper; slipped.
- 2.1** Rim d. 17 cm. **2.2** 2.5 Y 8/4, pale yellow; 2.5 Y 7/2, light grey; 2.5 Y 7/4, pale yellow. **2.3** Dense and thick limestone grit temper, sparse basalt grit; porous.
- 3.1** Rim d. 10 cm. **3.2** 10 YR 8/3, very pale brown; 10 YR 7/4, very pale brown; 2.5 Y 8/2, white. **3.3** Dense and thick limestone grit temper.
- 4.1** Rim d. 11 cm. **4.2** 10 YR 7/4, very pale brown; same; 10 YR 8/4, very pale brown. **4.3** Limestone grit temper; inner surface coarse, outer smoothed.
- 5.1** Rim d. 11.5 cm. **5.2** 5 Y 8/4, pale yellow; 5 Y 8/3, pale yellow; 2.5 Y 8/4, pale yellow. **5.3** Basalt grit temper; inner surface coarse, outer smoothed.
- 6.1** Rim d. 11 cm. **6.2** 10 YR 8/4, very pale brown; 7.5 YR 7/6, reddish yellow, core 10 YR 7/3, very pale brown; 10 YR 7/4, very pale brown. **6.3** Straw and grit temper; inner verge of rim burnished.
- 7.1** Rim d. c. 24 cm. **7.2** 2.5 Y 8/4, pale yellow; 5 Y 8/3, pale yellow; 10 YR 8/4, very pale brown; 2.5 Y 8/4, pale yellow. **7.3** Grit temper; inner surface "wet-smoothed", slipped(?) on the outside.
- 8.1** Rim d. c. 20 cm. **8.2** 10 YR 7/4, very pale brown; 2.5 Y 8/4, pale yellow; 2.5 Y 7/4, pale yellow. **8.3** Dense grit temper, sparse traces of straw, slightly porous.
- 9.1** Rim d. 22 cm. **9.2** 5 Y 8/3, pale yellow; 5 Y 7/3, pale yellow; 5 Y 8/3, pale yellow. **9.3** Grit temper, porous ("spongy").
- 10.1** Rim d. 11 cm. **10.2** 5 Y 8/3, pale yellow; 5 Y 7/3, pale yellow; 5 Y 8/2, white. **10.3** No temper, fine fabric; "wet-smoothed".
- 11.1** Rim d. 12 cm. **11.2** 10 YR 8/3, very pale brown; 10 YR 7/4, very pale brown; 10 YR 8/3, very pale brown. **11.3** Straw and grit temper; inner surface coarse, outer smoothed.
- 12.1** Rim d. c. 23 cm. **12.2** 2.5 Y 8/4, pale yellow; same; 5 Y 8/3, pale yellow. **12.3** Dense straw and grit temper, porous outer surface slipped(?).

DATE:

Fragments 5-8 – ED I; 1, 1C 12 – ED III; 2, 4 – Akkadian period; 3, 11 – Ur III period.

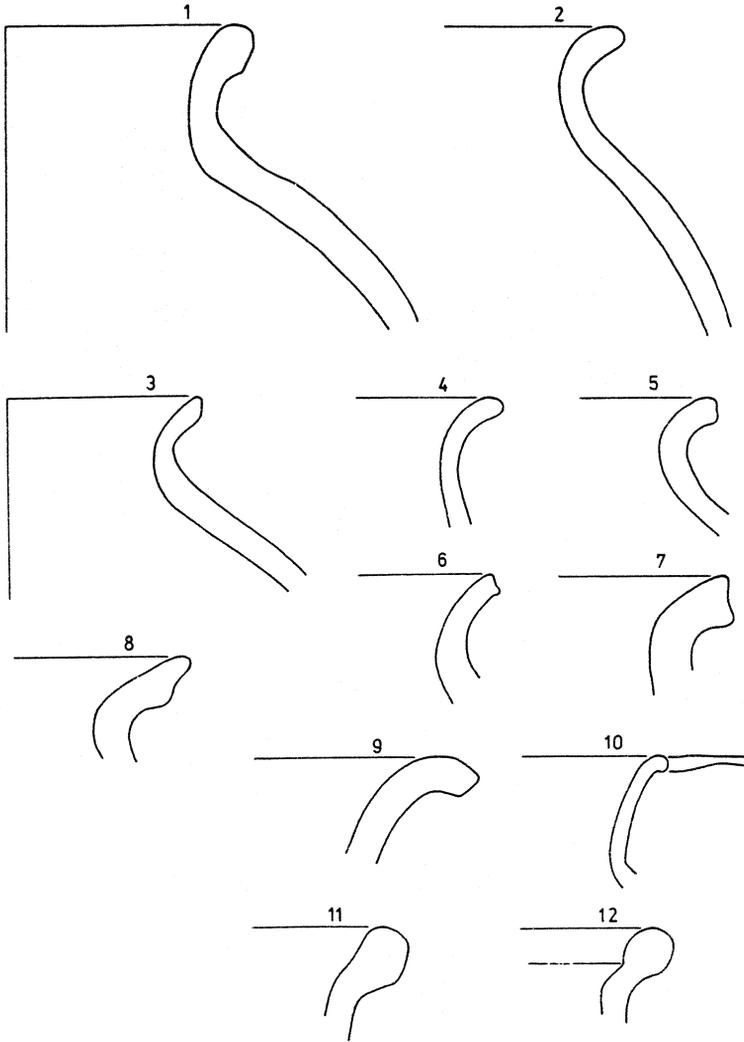


TABLE VI: TELL ABŪ HAFUR (cont.)

1.1 Rim d. c. 18 cm. **1.2** 10 YR 5/3, brown; 7.5 YR 6/4, light brown; 10 YR 7/2, light grey. **1.3** Basalt grit temper, very thick (particles up to 4mm); hand-formed.

2.1 Rim d. 19 cm. **2.2** 10 YR 7/4, very pale brown; 10 YR 4/2, dark grayish brown; 10 YR 8/3, very pale brown. **2.3** Basalt grit temper, thick (particles up to 2mm); rim verge burnished; hand-formed.

3.1 Rim d. 16 cm. **3.2** 5 YR 7/6, reddish yellow; 7.5 YR 7/6, reddish yellow, core 10 YR 8/2, white; 5 YR 7/6, reddish yellow. **3.3** Straw and grit temper, porous; outer surface smoothed, rim edge burnished.

4.1 Base d. 3 cm. **4.2** 10 YR 5/1, grey; 10 YR 5/2, grayish brown; 10 YR 6/4, light yellowish brown. **4.3** Grit temper; outer surface smoothed.

5.1 Base d. 6 cm. **5.2** 10 YR 7/4, very pale brown; 10 YR 8/4, very pale brown; same. **5.3** Straw and grit temper.

6.1 Base d. 4.5 cm. **6.2** 5 Y 8/3, pale yellow; 5 Y 7/1, light grey; 5 Y 8/2, white. **6.3** No temper, very fine fabric; outer surface smoothed.

7.1 Pot stand, upper rim d. 17 cm. **7.2** 7.5 YR 7/4, pink; 7.5 YR 7/4, dark grey, 7.5 YR 6/4, light brown; 5 YR 7/6, reddish yellow. **7.3** Straw and limestone grit temper.

8.1 Base d. 12 cm. **8.2** 10 YR 8/3, very pale brown; 2.5 Y 8/4, pale yellow; same.

8.3 Straw and grit temper; inner surface smoothed, outer coarse.

DATE:

Fragment 1 – ED I; 4, 7 – ED II; 2, 3 – ED III; remaining uncertain.

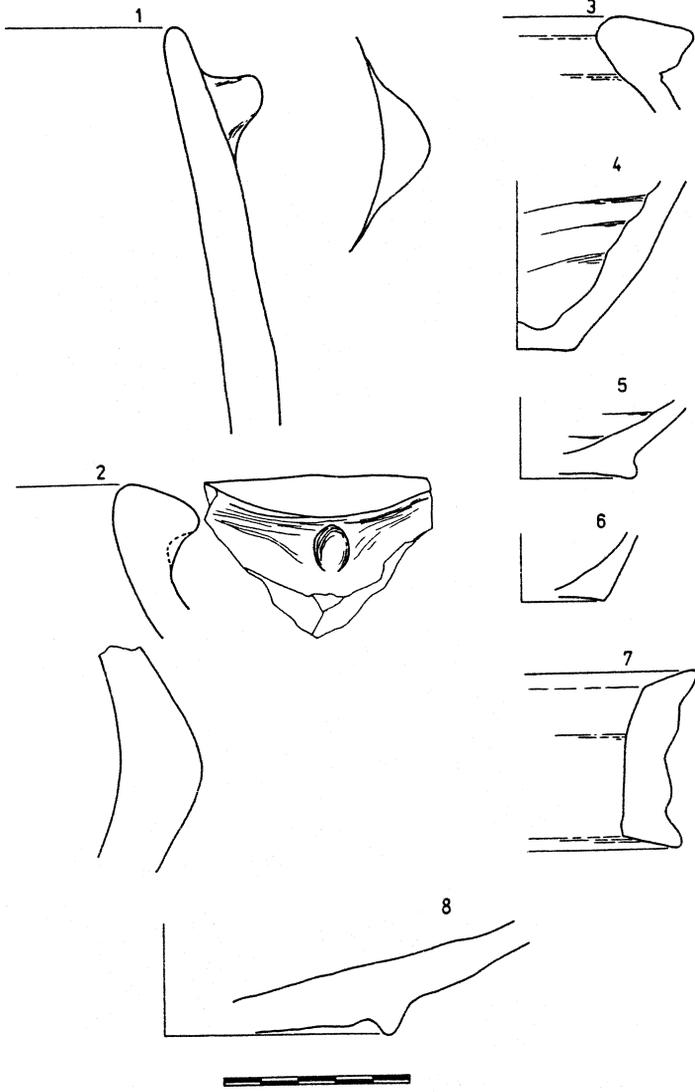


TABLE VII: TELL ABŪ HAFUR (cont.)

1.1 Rim d. c. 19 cm. **1.2** 10 YR 7/3, very pale brown; 10 YR 5/2, grayish brown, core 2.5 Y 7/2, light grey; 2.5 Y 8/2, white. **1.3** Straw and limestone grit temper.

2.1 Rim d. c. 28 cm. **2.2** 7.5 YR 8/4, pink; 7.5 YR 7/4, pink; 10 YR 8/4, very pale brown. **2.3** Straw and grit temper, porous.

3.1 Rim d. c. 28 cm. **3.2** 2.5 Y 8/4, pale yellow; 5 YR 7/6, reddish yellow; 2.5 Y 8/4, pale yellow (rim), 7.5 YR 7/4, pink (lower part). **3.3** Straw and limestone grit temper, porous.

4.1 Rim d. c. 22 cm. **4.2** 2.5 Y 8/4, pale yellow; same; same. **4.3** Fine limestone grit temper, fine fabric; smoothed.

5.1 Rim d. 12 cm. **5.2** 7.5 YR 8/4, pink, 5 YR 7/6, reddish yellow, 10 YR 7/4, very pale brown; 5 Y 8/2, white. **5.3** Dense limestone grit temper.

6.1 Rim d. 13 cm. **6.2** 2.5 Y 8/4, pale yellow; same; 2.5 Y 8/6, yellow. **6.3** Very dense grit temper.

7.1 Rim d. 16 cm. **7.2** 10 YR 8/4, very pale brown, 10 YR 7/4, very pale brown, 10 YR 8/4, very pale brown. **7.3** Straw and fine basalt grit temper.

8.1 Min. neck d. 5 cm. **8.2** 2.5 Y 8/4, pale yellow; 7.5 YR 7/4, pink; 5 Y 8/2, white. **8.3** Limestone grit temper, sparse traces of straw; outer surface has a thick, smeared on slip.

9.1 – **9.2** 2.5 Y 8/3, pale yellow; 5 Y 6/4, pale olive; 5 Y 8/3, pale yellow. **9.3** Grit temper; hand-formed, with incised decoration.

DATE:

Fragments 1, 3, 6 – ED II; remaining uncertain.

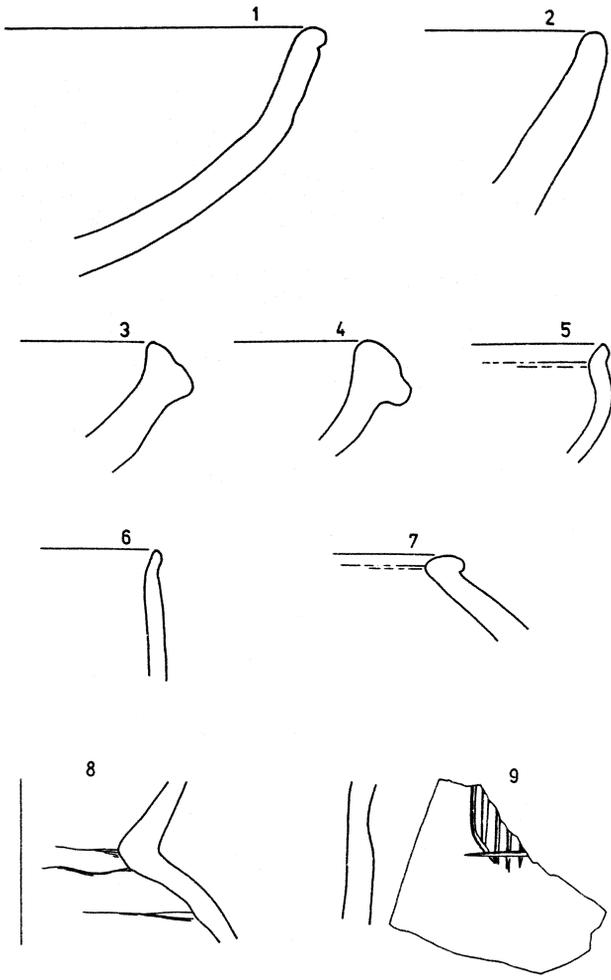


TABLE VIII: TELL ABŪ HADJARAT

1.1 Rims both d. 10 cm. **1.2** 5 Y 8/3, pale yellow; 5 Y 7/4, pale yellow; 5 Y 8/3, pale yellow. **1.3** Straw and limestone grit temper, porous ("spongy"); outer surface slipped.

2.1 Rim d. 12 cm. **2.2** 5 Y 8/3, pale yellow; 2.5 Y 7.2, light grey; 5 Y 8/3, pale yellow.

2.3 Grit temper, sparse straw traces; outer surface slipped.

3.1 Rim d. 35 cm. **3.2** 2.5 Y 8/4, pale yellow; 7.5 YR 5/2, brown; 5 Y 8/4, pale yellow.

3.3 Thick limestone grit temper (particles up to 3 mm); inner surface coarse, outer slipped.

4.1 Rim d. 20 cm. **4.2** 10 YR 8/2, white; 5 Y 8/6, yellow; 5 Y 8/4, pale yellow.

4.3 Straw and basalt grit (dense) temper; inner surface coarse, outer slipped.

5.1 Rim d. 28 cm. **5.2** 5 Y 8/3, pale yellow; 2.5 Y 7/2, light grey; 5 Y 8/2, white.

5.3 sparse grit temper, unequally distributed.

6.1 Rim d. 10 cm. **6.2** 2.5 Y 8/4, pale yellow; 10 YR 7/4, very pale brown; 10 YR 8/3, very pale brown. **6.3** Sparse limestone grit temper, denser at the surfaces; thin, watery slip(?).

7.1 Rim d. 22 cm. **7.2** 10 YR 8/4, very pale brown; 10 YR 7/4, very pale brown; 10 YR 8/3, very pale brown. **7.3** Dense limestone grit temper, sparse traces of straw.

8.1 Rim d. 20 cm. **8.2** 7.5 YR 7/6, reddish yellow; 10 YR 6/4, light yellowish brown; 10 YR 8/3, very pale brown. **8.3** Grit temper.

9.1 Rim d. c. 30 cm. **9.2** 7.5 YR 7/6, reddish yellow; 7.5 YR 7/4, pink; 10 YR 8/4, very pale brown. **9.3** Grit temper, sparse traces of straw; inner surface coarse, outer slipped.

10.1 Rim d. 23 cm. **10.2** 5 Y 8/3, pale yellow; 2.5 Y 8/4, pale yellow; 5 Y 8/3, pale yellow. **10.3** Dense straw temper, porous; inner surface coarse, outer slipped.

11.1 Rim d. 13 cm. **11.2** 7.5 YR 7/6, reddish yellow; same; same. **11.3** Dense grit temper.

12.1 Rim d. 11 cm. **12.2** 10 YR 6/1, light grey; 10 YR 6/2, light brownish grey; 10 YR 7/4, very pale brown. **12.3** No temper, very fine fabric, "Metallic Ware".

13.1 Rim d. 7.5 cm. **13.2** 7.5 YR 7/6, reddish yellow; same; 7.5 YR 6/4, light brown.

13.3 No temper, very fine fabric, "Metallic Ware".

DATE:

Fragments 3-5, 9-10 – ED I; 1-2, 6-8, 11-13 – ED III.

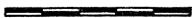
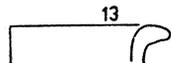
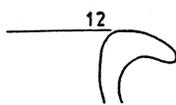
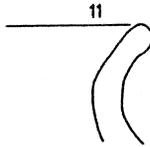
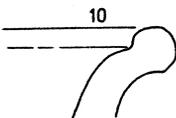
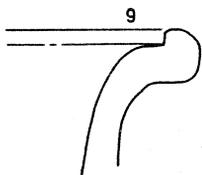
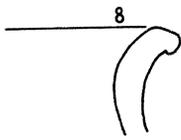
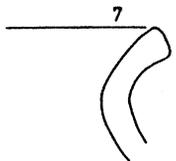
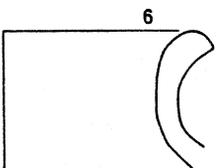
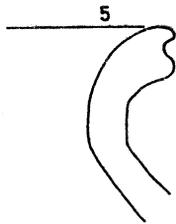
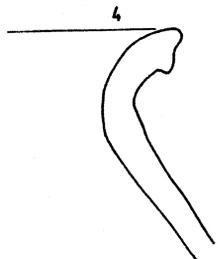
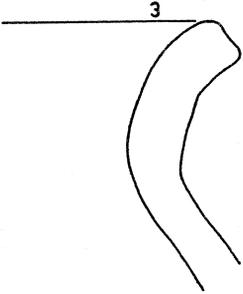
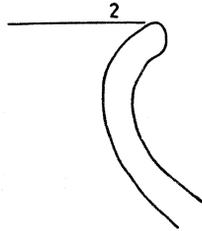
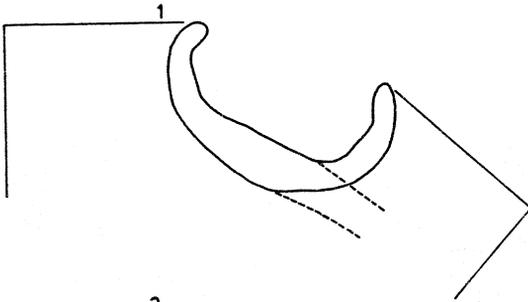


TABLE IX: TELL ABŪ HADJARAT (cont.)

1.1 Rim d. 24 cm. **1.2** 2.5 Y 8/4, pale yellow; same; same; **1.3** Dense grit temper, sparse traces of straw, slightly porous; slipped.

2.1 Rim d. c. 20 cm. **2.2** 10 YR 7/3, very pale brown; 7.5 YR 6/4, light brown; 10 YR 7/3, very pale brown. **2.3** Straw and grit temper, porous; slipped.

3.1 Rim d. c. 25 cm. **3.2** 10 YR 8/3, very pale brown; 10 YR 6/4, light yellowish brown; 5 Y 8/2, white. **3.3** Dense basalt grit temper, slipped.

4.1 Rim d. 16 cm. **4.2** 10 YR 8/4, very pale brown, 7.5 YR 7/6, reddish yellow; 7.5 YR 8/4, pink. **4.3** Dense limestone grit temper.

5.1 Rim d. 17 cm. **5.2** 7.5 YR 7/6, reddish yellow; same; 2.5 Y 8/4, pale yellow. **5.3** Dense grit temper; inner surface coarse, outer slipped.

6.1 Rim d. 16 cm. **6.2** 10 YR 8/4, very pale brown; 7.5 YR 6/4, light brown; 2.5 Y 8/2, white (upper part), 7.5 YR 7/4, pink (lower part). **6.3** Very sparse grit temper (natural contamination of clay ?), slipped (outer upper part only).

7.1 Base d. 5 cm. **7.2** 10 YR 7/3, very pale brown; 10 YR 7/4, very pale brown, core 10 YR 7/2, light grey; 10 YR 8/3, very pale brown. **7.3** Sparse grit temper; smoothed.

8.1 Base d. 6 cm. **8.2** 10 YR 8/4, very pale brown; 7.5 YR 6/4, light brown; 10 YR 7/4, very pale brown. **8.3** Very dense limestone grit temper.

9.1 Base d. 4 cm. **9.2** 7.5 YR 7/6, reddish yellow; 5 YR 6/6, reddish yellow; 10 YR 8/4, very pale brown. **9.3** Grit temper; inner surface slipped, outer slightly smoothed.

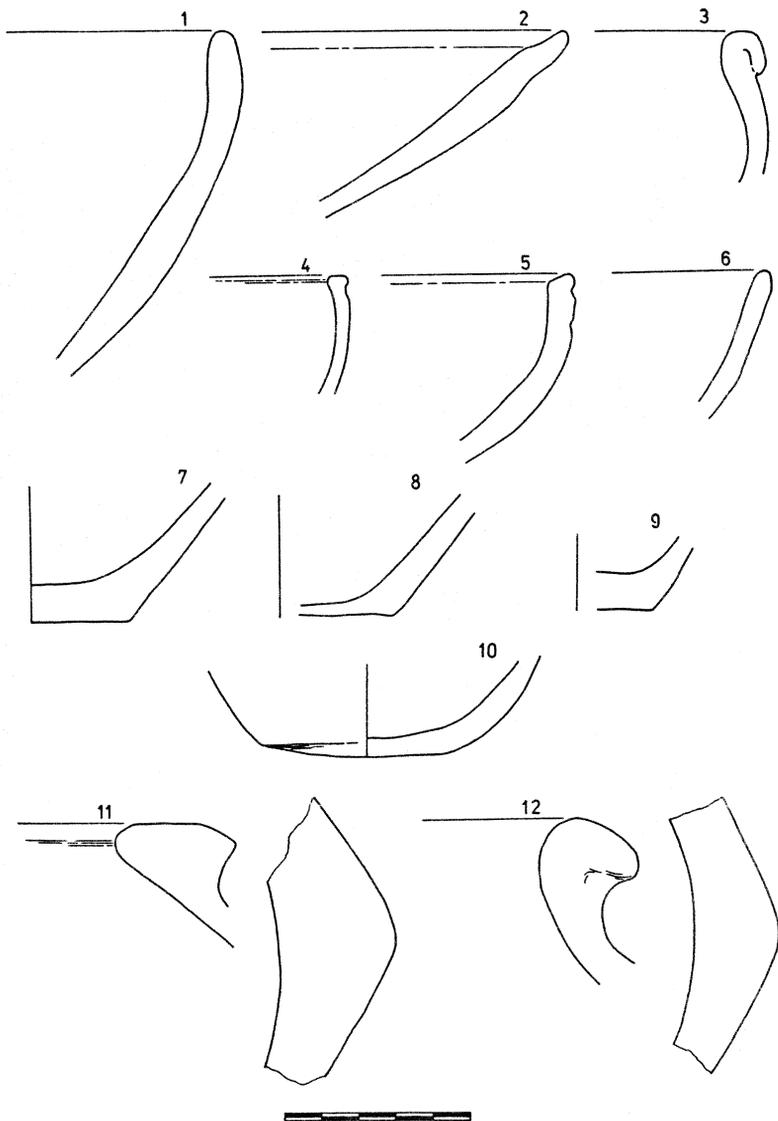
10.1 – **10.2** 2.5 Y 8/4, pale yellow; 10 YR 7/4, very pale brown; 2.5 Y 8/4, very pale brown; **10.3** Straw and grit (dense) temper; inner surface slipped, outer slightly smoothed.

11.1 Rim d. c. 20 cm. **11.2** 7.5 YR 7/4, pink; 7.5 YR 6/6, reddish yellow; 10 YR 7/3, very pale brown. **11.3** Dense and thick grit temper; rim edges burnished.

12.1 Rim d. 22-25 cm. **12.2** 7.5 YR 7/4, pink; 7.5 YR 6/6, reddish yellow; 7.5 YR 7/4, pink. **12.3** Dense and thick basalt grit temper (particles up to 2 mm); inner rim edge burnished.

DATE:

Fragment 10 – ED I/II; 4-5, 9, 11-12 – ED III; rest uncertain.



LITHIC OBJECTS (by J. Lech)⁷

TABLE X: OBSIDIAN OBJECTS FROM TELL ZIYĀDE

Fourteen objects in all. Black, highly translucent obsidian with a slightly greenish tinge, surface smooth and lustrous (only no. 1 differs).

1. Irregular flake similar in size to a blade (different material – faintly translucent, black suspension, surface less shiny).

2. Blade with broken top part.

3-4. Blades with broken top and base.

5-6. Base fragments of blades.

7-12. Middle fragments of blades.

13. Top part of blade.

14. Splinter from base fragment of blade.

The majority of the objects clearly demonstrate some retouching on the edges; this is most often utilized retouch (e.g. nos. 3, 13), but there is also some intentional tool retouching (nos. 7, 8?).

⁷ The authors wish to thank Assoc. Prof. Jacek Lech (Institute of History of Material Culture, Polish Academy of Sciences) for undertaking a description and identification of the lithic finds.

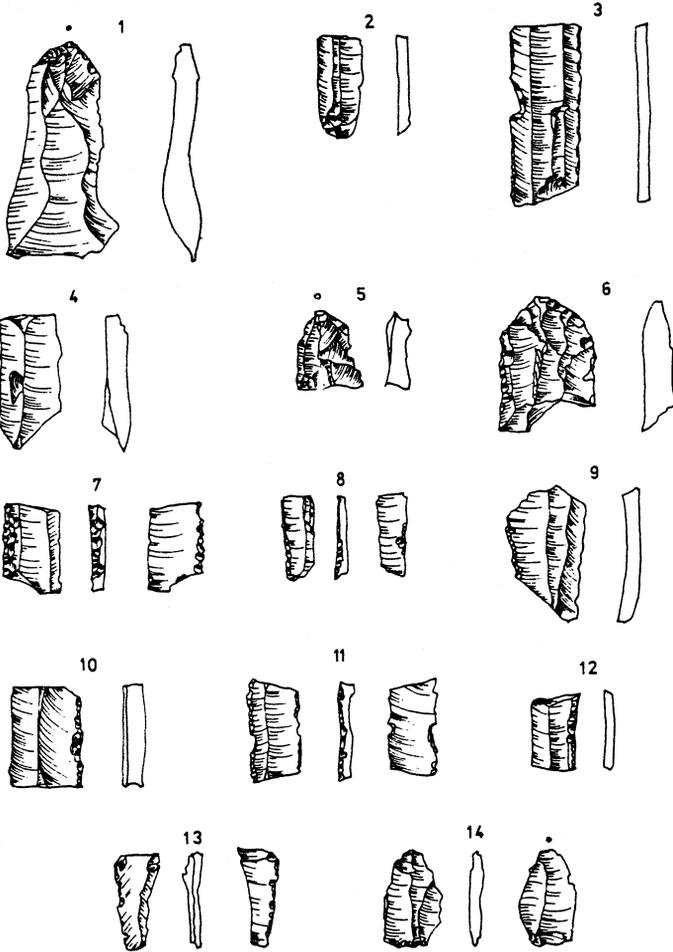


TABLE XI: CHERT OBJECTS: TELL ZIYĀDE (nos. 1-4)

1. Massive blade with utilized retouch of one edge and natural backed blade. Grayish-brown chert with black, irregular spotted suspension.
2. Blade with broken top part. Light beige chert. Utilized retouch on one of the edges.
3. Middle part of blade with retouch (utilized) of both edges. Grayish-brown and grey chert.
4. Fragment of blade with evident steep retouching of one edge. The retouch on the inner side is accompanied by a slight harvest sheen, which is also visible on the ridges of the retouch. Light pinkish brown chert.

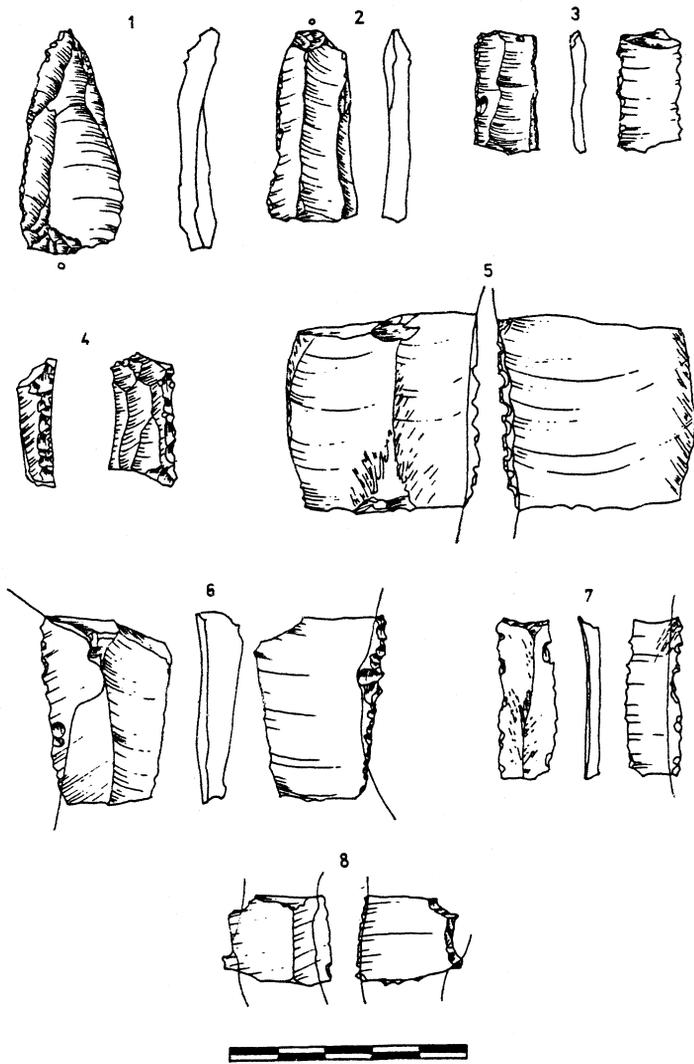
The four fragments are of different material.

These pieces represent the entire chipped stone industry from Tell Ziyade. It merits attention that there are no waste fragments, either flakes or core fragments, or concretions. Basically, all of the finds represent blades and were made of different materials, originating doubtless from different deposits. Most were used as tool insets. Some may have been waste products from the production of such tools in a settlement (as X.5, for instance, see below). On the whole, it would appear that the settlement was supplied with half-products (blank blades, as X.I), which were subsequently worked into tools, and with ready-made tools as well.

CHERT OBJECTS: TELL ABŪ HAFUR (nos 5-8)

5. Middle fragment of blade with denticulated retouch of one edge. Retouch accompanied by slight harvest sheen. Sickle inset. Beige-brown chert.
6. Middle fragment of blade with denticulated retouch of one of the edges, accompanied by harvest sheen (sickle inset). Brown chert.
7. Truncated blade with retouch of one edge, from a blade without cortex on the ridge. Other edge of blade broken away. Slight harvest sheen accompanying the retouch on the percussion side. Brown chert.
8. Middle fragment of blade with utilized retouch of one edge and modern accidental retouch of the other edge. Harvest sheen on both edges (sickle inset). Beige-brown chert.

The objects discussed here represent the entire flint material collected from the surface at Tell Abu Hafur. The raw material probably originated from one, maybe two centers of exploitation, most probably from one geological formation. A characteristic of this group is the function of these objects as parts of composite tools, most probably sickle insets, considering the harvest sheen present on all of them. On the grounds of the size of these objects, it may be said that three different sickles were involved. These objects were produced from carefully chosen blade blanks. Since there are no waste products, it may be assumed tentatively that either a blade blank or a ready-made tool was brought to the site. Naturally, waste materials may not have been discovered yet.



In summary, one notices in the material from both sites a clear tendency for separating places of production (where blade blanks were produced) from places of use (the two tells). There is no other explanation for the lack of waste products at the sites on the one hand, and the exclusive presence of blades and their fragments on the other. In settlements lying nearer the deposits and processing raw material on the spot (that is, in the settlement), the near-core and core fragments constitute usually the majority (over 50%). This fact would be suggestive of an advanced division of labor, either within the local community or among various groups.