

Pl. XXXVII. 1. Necklaces of carnelian and yellow glass beads, with a brown faience Hathor pendant, and scarabs described under pl. xii. Tomb 902.

2. Necklaces of carnelian, with uzat eyes of carnelian and syenite, and scarabs described under pl. xxii. Tomb 552.

3. Necklaces of fine sard, of much better quality than the previous, marking the supplies of the time of Solomon as being richer than those of the Egyptians at this age. Gold and silver earrings. Tomb 222.

4. Gold tassel earrings, of a pattern which is unique, from graves 211, 222, 514, 605, and gold beads from graves 231, 518, and 532.

## CHAPTER V

### BURIALS IN CEMETERIES 100 AND 200.

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33. The tombs of the Solomonic period at Tell Fara occupy the sloping ground leading up to the plain, north of the Tell and the Beersheba-Khan Yunis road. This rough track descends rapidly to the bed of the Wady Ghuzzeh, near Cemetery 100, which consists of late Philistine and Greek graves, and it appears to be the southern limit of both burial-grounds. Repeated soundings on, and directly south of, the road produced no further graves.

It is on the north-western end, where the marl is close to the surface, that the Solomonic tombs lie, but the area is limited by deep sand-drifts which were not suitable for burial grounds. Due north, a fairly large part was examined but the graves here gradually diminished, so that it seems possible that only the crest of the small ridge was used for the elaborate tombs of Solomon's well-to-do subjects.

The cemeteries were separated from each other by, roughly, 150 feet of unproductive ground and Cemetery 100 borders the road (see General Plan LI). These earlier and later tombs were small and carelessly constructed, and nearly all had been robbed anciently. Objects of interest were silver melon beads (plate xxxvi, Tomb 119) and a blue faience ring (plate xxxv, 402, Tomb 110) and an interesting bronze figure of a bear (plate xliii, No. 113). The latter was found in a rough hole, which may have been a grain pit, and there is no means of

assigning an accurate date. Tomb 107. Cowry shells were found in this tomb close up against the back of the skull, and this adds to the evidence that cowry shells were sometimes sewn on the women's caps, worn under the veil, as they are by the Bedawy today.

34. All the Solomonic graves, with the exception of 204-5 and 222, were stone-lined and covered with large slabs of limestone, from the Wady Ghuzzeh. The two exceptions may be explained by the fact that the burials were both of children. The graves were deeply cut into the marl and contained gold. Tomb 204 had a gold earring and 205 produced 15 gold beads, weighing 113 grs. Some are small cylinder beads, built up by soldering together a series of small gold balls. The work is most careful and the spaces between the balls are quite clear. The others are ring beads, built up in the same way (see plate xxxvii). These two burials were one below the other in the same grave.

Tomb 222 contained the finest group of carnelian, ball, barrel and drop beads (xxxvii), as well as heavy bronze anklets, toe rings, earrings, and a shallow bronze bowl, about 7 ins. diam., containing wafer beads of cut shell. There were five earrings, three gold, one silver and one electrum. A gold one is built up of granules in the same way as the beads in Tomb 205, and the whole gives the effect of a flower bud; even the calyx is built up of balls (plate xxxiii, 367-8). There were malachite and haematite pebbles with much red ochre lying near the heads, and the pottery was mostly in duplicate. The bodies were so close to each other that it was not possible to distinguish how the objects were divided between the two burials.

35. The great stone tombs present some interesting problems. Above the covering slabs, in nos. 201 and 202, pottery sherds were found and even a whole lamp, which suggests that these tombs were held in some reverence by later inhabitants. It was usual to find the ground by the entrance, on the east, blackened by the original mud sealing, and the blocking stones had obviously been removed and replaced at least once.

Tomb 201, the first of the group to be discovered, was the largest and contained more bodies than any other. It was difficult to keep pace with the numbers of fragmentary skulls, but at least 116 adults and six children must have been crammed into this tomb, only 12f8i x4fri x5f9i. Needless to say, the confusion inside made it impossible to

attempt any plan of the burials. Only the top layer was undisturbed. Four bodies lay extended, side by side, and on their feet rested another row of four bodies (see photo xxxix A). Below this all was chaos; pots, bones and beads were in hopeless disorder, but a general impression can be gained by the rough diagram on plate li.

It can be seen that filling A, pl. li, was the residue of the first and original burial of some wealthy man or family. The tomb was plundered, only some six pots were left purposely, and the gold bands (xl, xxxvi) remained unobserved against the stone lining. There were two straight bands, the edge of the longer one is decorated with raised dots, punched from below, the second one is quite plain. The long one was under one of the three skulls which were on the floor, the other was slightly higher in the same clean filling. On the floor, below the sand filling, were ivory fragments of small disks, about  $\frac{9}{16}$  in. in diameter, also round pointed pieces of bone of varying lengths. There were no beads in filling A, so it seems likely that the original interment was that of a man.

Filling B was the outcome of many years' burial in the same tomb. There was much household rubbish from the Tell; many pottery fragments had no connection with pots in the tomb and there were small pieces of charcoal. As each new body was put in, the earlier occupants were bundled more towards the west end, and it seems probable that the sexton had a good chance of removing any valuables, as no gold objects were found beyond a few insignificant scarab mounts. Some years must have elapsed between the first burials in this layer, and the eight bodies which were pushed in, when it was no longer possible to press into the tomb.

There is no means of knowing at present, if 201 was a family vault or one that had been plundered and re-used as a communal burial-place. From the state of the pottery, in this and other similar tombs, the former seems more probable. There was no evidence of wholesale burial owing to battle or plague, and each body seemed to have some small personal objects with it.

Tomb 202 appears to have been built at the same time as its neighbour 201; it is the only other one to have a stone floor lining. The sand filling was much cleaner and no definite layers were observed. There were fewer bodies and much pottery below (pls. xlii-iii).

36. Tomb 220 was filled with clean sand, but here again it had been disturbed, and a pile of bones found outside the tomb had been thrown out to make room for a man's burial. Two fine scarabs (xxxv, 385-6) came from his fingers, and many bones from previous burials were piled up behind his head. Five other heads were found and two child burials, one with small silver earrings (xxxv, 390) and a scarab. An ivory gaming board was unique (pl. xxxiv, 188) and there was a knife (189), with the copper rivets intact and a whetstone (183) with it, and a larger one (190) about 12 ins. long, with a bone or ivory hilt. Low down in the filling was a seal of smoky quartz (xxxv, 388), together with an interesting haematite seal in the form of a bull's head (pl. xxxv, 389, xxxvi).

Tomb 221 produced, among much pottery and many beads, a large square crystal bead curiously bored, and an ivory drop toggle (xli, 292) which can be compared to one from Gerar, see pl. xxxiii, 12.

37. Three burials in Cemetery 200 belonged to a later period.

Tomb 230, roofed with four flat stones, was intact and differs from the usual type, as the grave was mud-lined, contracting towards the feet. It contained a male burial, body extended, head east. By the right side was a group of six iron arrowheads of varying sizes, and near the head (S.E. corner) stood a xxvith dynasty ewer.

Tomb 226 was a rectangular grave cut in the marl; there were no stones above and no pottery. The skeleton was in good condition. There were copper rings on the fingers and toes, four scarabs (xlili, 518-21) and some small metal beads, probably of antimony.

Tomb 235 was a shallow grave cut in the marl, and was filled with burnt earth and charred bone. The only objects were some heavy bronze bangles.

These are the few exceptions to the general type of stone-lined graves and multiple burials, which are usual in the area under discussion.

38. It should be noted that the cinerary urns, containing partly charred bones, are never buried above or closely adjoining the large tombs. They seem to be put in between, suggesting that the stone tombs were still visible or at least known.

The pottery types used as urns are not found in the tombs among the numerous pots buried with the dead; in one instance only (Tomb 223), a jar 33 S, obviously inserted later, stood at the west end, just under the roofing slabs, and con-

tained charred bones. No beads were found, but a silver aegis of Bast (xliv, 328) and an iron bangle come from No. 223, and a group of iron arrowheads were found in No. 262. Fragments of iron or copper bangles were common.

It is usual to find two or three small pots inside the cinerary jars, and they conform to two types, with only a few exceptions. The local imitations of Cypriote ware (type 83) occur in most instances, as well as types 52, 53.

The urns were never more than 30 ins. below the surface; a flat dish (types 2 or 3) was often inverted over the mouth of the jar and sometimes there would be a pile of small stones on top.

Type 44 Z4, of which only one example was found (270), has a duplicate among the Punic funerary urns which the Conte de Prérock found in 1924 at Carthage. His examples, which range between 800 and 200 B.C., contain burnt bones of children, cowries, copper bangles and Egyptian amulets, and the jar mentioned above is dated to 600 B.C. The site formed part of the precinct of the temple of Tanit, the Phoenician Moon goddess.

It seems possible that some small areas of mud plaster, partly burnt red by fire, and covered with black ash, may have some connection with the cinerary urns.

39. Professor Karl Pearson's Report on the Incinerated Bones, from Cemetery 200, Tell Fara.

These are undoubtedly all human bones, the only exceptions being small snail shells, a few bits of pottery, and a bone needle, the latter found in F. 257. While it is easy to assert that the bones are human, it is not easy to determine the age and sex of the individuals, for the fragments are small. The sutures of the inner table of the skull are as a rule closed, not those of the outer. But all the fragments of the cranial bones are remarkably thin (not from senility) and most of the bone fragments are slender. The race was probably a small race.

- F. 215. Probably child, small femoral head and small fangs of a tooth.
- F. 219. Adult, probably female.
- F. 250. Adult? Female? but jaw very small, sutures however closed on inner table.
- F. 251. Sutures closed internally. Female? *circa* 40.
- F. 253. Young adult, 15-25, might as a female be somewhat older; 3rd molar cut.
- F. 255. Age 35 or over. Male?

F. 257. Adult, probably male. Two teeth very much worn down.

F. 262. Young adult, sex? Mandible fragment would even suggest child; iron arrowheads found.

F. 264. Child.

The above conclusions are very tentative, as there is so little to go upon.

## CHAPTER VI

### OBJECTS OF THE XXI<sup>ST</sup> TO XXIII<sup>RD</sup> DYNASTIES.

40. Pl. XXXVIII. The entire group from tomb 240. The chafing dish 17 P4, with drooping edges cut zigzag, seems to be a late adaptation. The Cypriote oil flask 83 L1, with inserted neck, is of xxiind dynasty, as also the bone wand with a hand, 223. The horse's bit is of bronze, 239, while the cheek pieces are of iron.

Pl. XXXIX. Another entire group from tomb 229. The chafing dish 17 K7 is of the best work in painting, and probably of the richest age,—that of Solomon, when "flowers of lilies" were the favourite decoration; this Egyptian influence was probably due to the marriage with Pharaoh's daughter. The style of the scarabs does not show any indication of the xxiind dynasty.

Pl. XL. In this tomb group, 201, the work of the xxiind dynasty is clear, in the Hathor figures 482-7, the mechanical ornament of the chafing dishes, the increase of Cypriote flasks, 83, and the late phrase *khet neb nefer* "all good things" on scarab 470. The most valuable objects were the gold band 499, and the shorter one 500. Such things rarely survive plundering.

Probably these were overlooked owing to the great number of later burials in this tomb. The calendar tablet of bone, 481, shows the Egyptian reckoning of the month as 3 × 10 days. This is curiously like a modern Javanese calendar board, which is accompanied by a list of lucky and unlucky days. What may be the use of the curious pieces of ivory 488, and on pl. xlii, is not understood. The bone toggle, 498, is doubtless for fastening dress.

Pl. XLI. This plate continues the group 201. The horse's bit, 264, is of Mykenaeen pattern, with straight cheek pieces bearing loops for the bridle. The weapons are of iron, as are nearly all the bracelets. Two long knives are at the foot of pl. xliii. For the appearance of the whole group, see pl. xxxvi.