

SOUNDINGS ON THE HADERA-HAIFA ROAD BETWEEN NAHSHOLIM AND HABONIM

ASHER OVADIAH

Soundings were carried out in April and May 1967 along the proposed route of the coastal highway, in the section between Nahsholim and Habonim.¹ Uncovered along the kurkar ridge were many rock-cut tombs, quarries, an aqueduct and an industrial installation (a wine press?). Also, a small mound, Kh. Dureihima, was partially excavated. Most of the sites investigated have since been covered over by the Tel-Aviv-Haifa highway.

TOMBS (Plans 1, 2)

A total of 60 tombs was recorded,² 14 south of the Institute for Fishing Research (Nos. 1–14, map ref. 14344/22382, Pl. XXXIX:1–3) and 46 north of it (Nos. 15–60, map ref. 14353-14360/22463-22474, Pl. XXXIX:4–5). The orientation of the tombs varies and was most likely determined by the character of the bedrock. Chisel marks indicate the tool with which they were hewn.

The tombs, which vary in size, are rectangular. A few were hewn with a head-rest. A feature which occurs in most of the tombs is ledges, which were cut along the upper part of the long walls. The ledges were probably intended to support rectangular stone covering-slabs, which were covered over with earth. Covering-slabs were preserved in Tombs 24, 30 and 41 (Pl. XXXIX:4). In two tombs, Nos. 24 and 27, there is only one ledge. Tombs Nos. 8–13, grouped closely together (Pl. XXXIX:2–3), could possibly be a family burial-ground.

Tomb 24. — This is the only tomb which was undisturbed. It contained remains of a human interment as well as a number of funerary offerings, including a pottery bottle and a

bronze vessel, found near the skull, and an iron ring and nail, near the remains of the right hand.

1. Piriform pottery bottle (*unguentarium*), almost intact (Pl. XL:1).

Ht 13.4 cm; diam 7.5 cm.

Parallels point to a date at the end of the first cent. BCE — first cent. CE.³

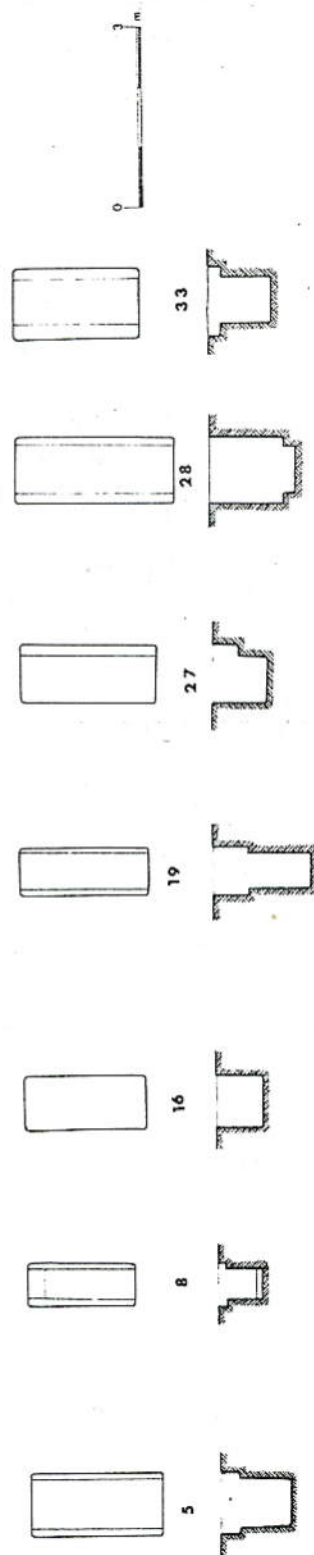
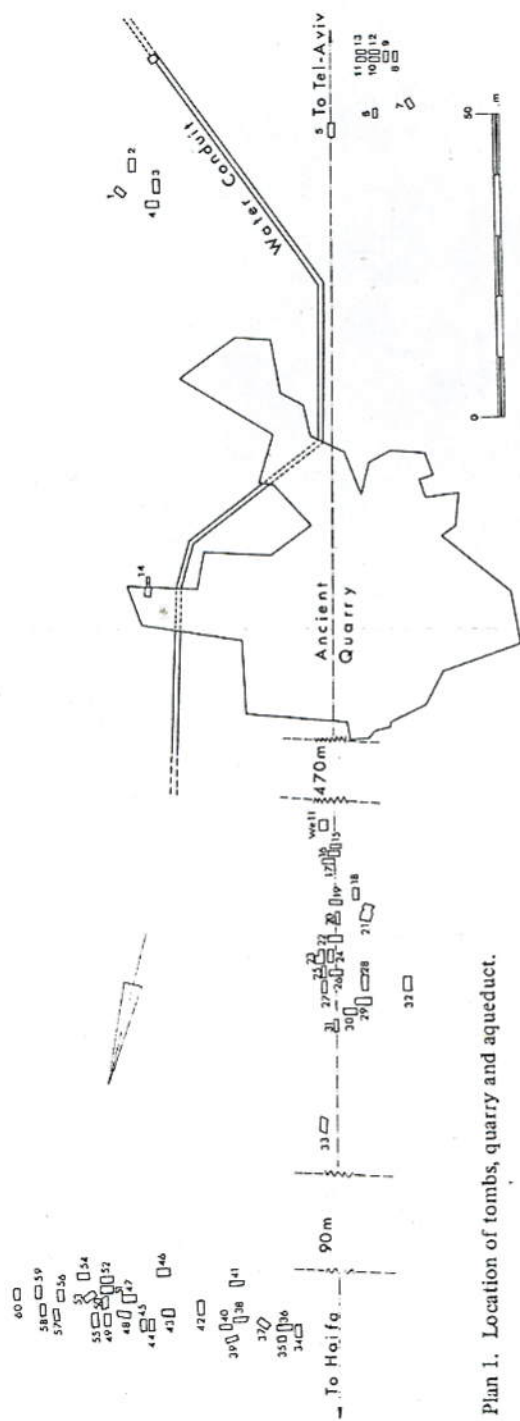
2. Bronze perfume bottle (Fig. 1; Pl. XL:2). Flaring flat rim; narrow elongated neck; convex shoulder. Lathe's marks on ring base. Separately cast loop handles, terminating with animal paws at the lower end, stressed by the extension of the claws.⁴ Stylized floral dec-

¹ The rescue excavations were carried out by the writer on behalf of the Israel Department of Antiquities and Museums. My thanks are due to Dr M. Prausnitz, District Archaeologist, for his help during the excavations, to M. Feist and F. Reznik for the preparation of plans and to M. Eichelberg for the drawing of the bronze perfume bottle.

² Some of these tombs were surveyed by von Mülinen who emphasizes the existence of a large necropolis in this area and identifies the tombs as ancient, without determining their date. See E. von Mülinen, *ZDPV* 31 (1908), p. 213 f., Fig. 94. The average measurements of the excavated tombs are as follows: length 1.40–2.90 m; width 0.60–1.60 m; depth (without ledges) 0.40–1.70 m; depth of ledges 0.10–1.30 m.

³ Cf. M. Stekelis, *Qovetz (Journal of the Jewish Palestine Exploration Society)* (ed. N. Slousch), 3 (1934–1935), p. 28, Pl. IV: 1–3, especially No. 1 (Hebrew); L.Y. Rahmani, *IEJ* 17 (1967), p. 82, Fig. 13, Pl. 23A (middle row, right); J.W. Crowfoot et al., *Samaria-Sebaste* III, London, 1957, p. 299, Fig. 69:2; J.B. Pritchard, *The Excavations at Herodian Jericho*, 1951, *AASOR* 32–33 (1952–4), Pls. 46:5, 6; 59:22, 27, 29.

⁴ Decoration of the paw, with an emphasis on the nails, and convex profiles of the body, cf. W. Lamb, *Ancient Greek and Roman Bronzes*, London, 1929, pp. 236 ff., Pls. LXXXI, LXXXIV (a,b), XCV; F.B. Tarbell, *Catalogue of Bronzes, etc., Field*



oration along the handles,⁵ which are somewhat crudely soldered to the body.

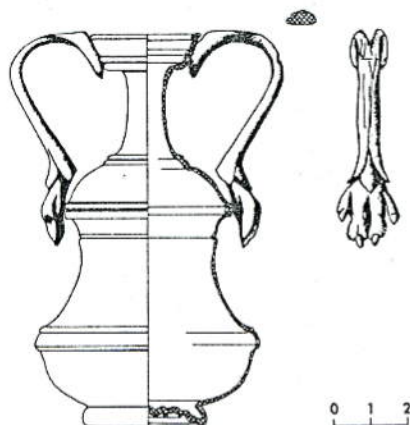


Fig. 1.

Ht 10.4 cm; diam rim 3 cm, base 3.4 cm.

This vessel appears to be an import. The decoration on the handles⁶ as well as other elements of the vessel, have parallels throughout the Roman world, dating to the first cent. BCE – first cent. CE.⁷

3–4. Iron nail and ring, apparently of a wooden coffin (Pl. XL:3).

Nail, L 10 cm. Ring, int diam 5.5–6.0 cm, th 0.7–2.0 cm.

Tomb 22. – This tomb had evidently been robbed, but a glass bottle was found in it.

Glass bottle (Pl. XL:4).

Bluish. Blown. Base somewhat concave, with omphalos, globular body, long cylindrical neck, outward folded rim. Body and neck decorated with wavy engraved bands in low relief.

Ht 17.3 cm; diam 8.3 cm.

This vessel should be dated to the first cent. CE, almost certainly its second half.⁸

Tomb 5. – A complete glass bowl was recovered in this tomb.

Glass bowl (Pl. XL:5).

Light olive-green. Mould-blown. Concave ring (or disc) base with omphalos, vertical to

convex sides. Horizontal projecting rim, slightly thickened.

Ht 5–6 cm; max diam 11 cm, base diam 5.5 cm.

This bowl is comparable with vessels dated to the second half of the first cent. CE.⁹

Museum of Natural History (Anthropological Series VII, 3), Chicago, 1909, Pls. LXIII, LXIV (Figs. 94–94 A), LXV, LXVI (Figs. 100–101), LXXI (Figs. 117–118), LXXII.

⁵ Loop handle attached to the rim, reaching the shoulder, and stylized floral decoration above the animal paw, cf. Tarbell, *ibid.*, Pls. LXVI (Fig. 132), LXVII (Fig. 135), LXXIX (Fig. 142), LXXIV (Fig. 160), LXXXV (Fig. 159), LXXXVIII (Fig. 177).

⁶ Cf. Tarbell, *ibid.*, Pls. LXXII (Figs. 121–122), LXXIV–LXXXI. Most of these examples were found in the Campanian cities destroyed by the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in 79 CE. Cf. also, Lamb, *op. cit.* (above, n. 4), Pl. XCVI.

⁷ Cf. E. Pernice, *Gefässe und Geräte aus Bronze (Die Hellenistische Kunst in Pompeji IV)*, Berlin–Leipzig, 1925, Figs. 5, 6, 14, 18, 46–48, 51, 55–56, 59, 62, 65–69, 75–79, 84–86; Pls. II–IV, VII, XII, XIV–XVI. Similar metal vessels found in the royal tombs at Ballana and Qustul, of the third–sixth centuries CE, exhibit in several respects the development of our vessel: cf. W.B. Emery, *The Royal Tombs of Ballana and Qustul I–II*, Cairo, 1938, pp. 254–355 (Cat. No. 780; Tomb No. 121–17), Pl. 92-H (B. 121–17); cf. also: J. Strzygowski, *Koptische Kunst (Catalogue général des antiquités Egyptiennes du Musée du Caire)*, Vienna, 1904, p. 274, Pl. XXX: Nos. 9084, 9085 (fourth–eighth centuries CE). For technical methods, see A. Mutz, *Die Kunst des Metaldrehens bei den Römern*, Basle-Stuttgart, 1972.

⁸ There are only a few parallels to this type of bottle, several from Pompeii and one from Siphnos in the southern Aegean, where it was found with a coin of Vespasian; cf. C. Isings, *Roman Glass from Dated Finds*, Groningen, 1957, p. 90 (Form 71: first century CE, probably the second half). A similar glass bottle is from Herodian Jericho (Tulul Abu el-Alaiyq); see Pritchard, *op. cit.* (above, n. 3), p. 54, Pl. 53 (No. 8). It is also Prof D. Barag's opinion, that the outward folded rim, elongated cylindrical neck and engraved lines on the globular body indicate an early period, i.e. end of the first century CE.

⁹ Cf. Tomb IV at Huqoq, P.P. Kahane, *'Atiqot ES III* (1961), p. 142, Fig. 4 (9), Pl. XIX:5 (and references therein). A similar glass bowl, dated to the first century CE, was found at Dura-Europos; cf. C.W. Clairmont, *The Glass Vessels, The Excavations at Dura-Europos IV*, Part V, New Haven, 1963 (ed. Ann Perkins), p. 22, Pl. II (76). Cf. also, Isings, *op. cit.* (above, n. 8), p. 58 (Form 42: second half

Tomb 30. — From this tomb, which had been badly disturbed, two fragments were recovered, possibly belonging to one and the same alabastron.

1. Alabastron, upper part damaged (Pl. XL:6). Rounded, everted rim, wide neck, elongated piriform body; rounded base slightly flattened in centre.

Ht 14.7 cm; diam 8 cm.

It is difficult to determine whether the banded alabaster is local.

2. Alabastron, upper part.

Rounded, everted rim, wide neck.

A few iron nails were found in Tombs 2 and 3. In Tomb 14 fragments of metal sheet plates, bearing traces of small nails, were recovered. These seem to support the assumption that in at least a few of these tombs the bodies were placed in wooden coffins, perhaps covered over with metal. Further support for this may be the dimensions of a few of the tombs (Nos. 1–5, 9), which were longer, wider and deeper than the others, and lacked head-rests.

Conclusions

All the tombs are of one basic type. This cemetery, along with other unexcavated tombs several hundred metres to the east of Tel Dor, possibly comprised the necropolis of Dor (Kh. el-Burj, map ref. 142/224), which was occupied through the Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine periods.¹⁰ The finds, in particular the glass bowl and bottle, as well as the pottery juglet, the bronze bottle and the small amount of Byzantine pottery, indicate a time-span for this cemetery from the late first cent. BCE — first cent. CE (in particular the second half) through the Byzantine period, as late as the fifth-sixth cent. CE.

AQUEDUCT

(Plans 1, 3)

The course of an aqueduct, which probably carried water to the eastern slope of Tel Dor, was followed along 930 m of the kurkar ridge near Nahsholim (map ref. 14340–14348/22358–22541) (Pl. XL:7, 8). Its water source was not located.¹¹ Some of the remains were excavated, whereas other parts were surveyed.

The aqueduct is hewn in the bedrock and has ledges on both sides to accommodate covering slabs (Pl. XL:7). The width of its floor is 10–25 cm, widening to 60–100 cm at the top. The overall depth varies according to the topography, but averages 50 cm from ledges to floor.

Two phases may be noted, the early one, in which the walls and floor were coated with plaster containing pebbles and sea-shells, and the later phase, in which the earlier layer was covered over with a plaster which contained pottery sherds of the Byzantine period (fifth–sixth centuries CE). Several of the covering slabs were found, some of them *in situ*. These are large crude slabs of kurkar.

The aqueduct is cut by the quarries in several places (Pl. XLI:2). It is plausible however, that at least during a certain length of time (perhaps in the Roman-Byzantine

of the first century CE, not earlier than the Flavian period). I wish to thank D. Barag for drawing my attention to the fact that this type of glass bowl made its first appearance toward the end of the first century CE and continued in use till the end of the second century CE. In his opinion the concave disc base in our bowl indicates an early form.

¹⁰ See J. Leibowitz, *Alon (Bulletin of the Israel Department of Antiquities)* 3 (1951), pp. 38–39; 5–6 (1957), p. 35 (Hebrew); *EAEHL* I, 1975, pp. 334–337, s.v. 'Dor'; *Encyclopaedia Biblica* II, 1954, cols 579–581, s.v. Dor (Hebrew).

¹¹ See von Müllinen, *ZDPV* 31 (1908), p. 217. The larger part of the conduit is concealed by the highway. Two and a half kms of the conduit, south of the Fishing Institute, were found in the survey carried out by Y. Olami in 1968. My thanks are due to Mr. Olami for this information.

basin (diam c. 1.5 m) with a rock-cut channel linking the two. There were no associated finds. This installation most probably functioned as a wine press.

Kh. DUREIHIMA

Kh. Dureihima (map. ref 14351/22448) is a small mound, approximately 400 m east of Tel Dor.¹⁴ The western slope of the tel is relatively steep. Many Byzantine sherds, as well as fragments of marble capitals and other architectural elements, were found on the surface. A sounding was carried out on the tel in six squares and bedrock was reached in each of them.

Uncovered in the central area were two superimposed stone walls, associated with foundation trenches. The earlier wall, 6 m long, is of large, well-dressed stones, founded on the bedrock. The later wall is of rough, undressed stones and is 10 m long. The ceramic material in this area is of the Byzantine period (fifth-sixth centuries CE).

In the eastern part of the probe two superimposed plaster floors were found overlying a bedding of small dressed stones. The associated sherds are also of the Byzantine period.

It is possible that these walls and floors are the remains of a small Byzantine fort or watchtower. The topographical position of Kh. Dureihima would seem to support this supposition.

On the western slope of the tel a pit containing pottery was uncovered:

Lamps. — a. Three fragments of round lamps produced in a mould (IDAM No. 67-1332; e.g., Pl. XLI:5).

Description: Very narrow shoulder, shoe-impression on base; nozzle has two volutes on sides, terminates with triangular tip. The decorated disc was broken.¹⁵

Clay: Reddish-yellow and light greenish-grey; reddish-brown and dark-grey slip peeling off.

b. Five large spouts, mould-produced (Pl. XLI:6).

Description: Volute decorates both sides of each fragment.¹⁶

Clay: Same as above

c. Four thumb-plates, either heart- or ivy-shaped, each made in a different mould (IDAM No. 67-1333; Pl. XLI:7).

Description: The decoration consists of an identical pattern of a 9-leaved palmette. From its base springs a double volute in the shape of two leaf-bearing bands. These thumb-plates form the frontal decoration of handles of the rounded lamp type.¹⁷

Clay: Same as above.

Parallels lead us to the conclusion that these lamps are of the first century CE.

Amphorae. — The two stamped handles belong to the later type, dated 220 BCE onward.

a. Handle bearing Greek inscription (Pl. XLI:8; IDAM No. 67.1334).

Below is a *caduceus* with the double anchor at its end.

Inscription: ΕΥΚΛΕΙΤΟΥ = of Eukleitos (the potter).

This type of stamped handle is extremely common in the country in the Hellenistic period,¹⁸ most likely belonging to the first half of the second century BCE.

¹⁴ See von Mülinen, *ZDPV* 31 (1908), pp. 213, 216, Pl. I, map — sq. 15 D, where the site is referred to as Ch. ed-drëhime. Von Mülinen explains that this is the name of an edible plant. The western part of the tel was destroyed by the highway.

¹⁵ Cf. *Samaria-Sebaste* III, pp. 372–373, Fig. 88 (n. 6); T. Szentlőky, *Ancient Lamps*, Amsterdam, 1969, pp. 61, 63–64, 77–79, Figs. 56–57, 66–67, 93–94, 96–106. In Szentlőky's opinion the origin of these volute lamps is Italy, and they became dominant as early as the end of the first century BCE.

¹⁶ See above, n. 15; cf. also, D.M. Bailey, *Greek and Roman Pottery Lamps*, Portsmouth, 1963, Pl. 7 (g, h, i, k).

¹⁷ Cf. Szentlőky, *ibid.*, pp. 61–62, Figs. 56, 56a, 56b, 61, 61a, 61b, 63, 63a, 63b.

¹⁸ Cf. Ashdod: M. Dothan & D.N. Freedman, *Atiqot (ES)* VII (1967), pp. 31, 64–65 (Fig. 12:2), Pl. X (10); Samaria: *Samaria-Sebaste* III, p. 383; Marissa: F.J. Bliss & R.A.S. Macalister, *Excavations in Palestine 1898–1900*, London, 1902, p. 133, Pl. 64 (19); a similar Rhodian handle was found on the

b. Handle bearing a fragmentary Greek inscription (IDAM No. 67.1335).

Eponym: [ΕΙΠΙ]. ΤΜΗ [in the term of
office of]. . yme
MACTE Maste
Month: ΤΑΚΙΝΘΙΟΥ (in the month of
Hyacinthios

This type of stamp is also common in the Hellenistic period¹⁹ and should be dated to 180–150 BCE, although V. Grace is inclined to date similar stamps to the second half of the second century BCE, more precisely toward the end of that century, or the beginning of the first century BCE.

Other finds included a ribbed faience bead (Pl. XLI:9), 12 mm in diameter and 10 mm

long, with parallels dating to the first century CE.²⁰ Pottery sherds from the Byzantine period included bases, body sherds, handles and rims.

eastern slope of Tel Mastaba (exhibited in the Shean Museum, inv. No. 1344). It is important, similarly, with the name Eukleitos and the caduceus. It most probably dates to the first half of the second century BCE.

¹⁹ E.g. Ashdod: H.C. Kee, *apud* M. Dothan, *'Atiqot (ES) IX–X* (1971), p. 63, Fig. 26 (2, 4), XIX (8); Marissa: Bliss & Macalister, *ibid.*, p. 1, Pl. 64 (29, 49); Delos: V. Grace, *BCH* 76 (1954), p. 538 (No. 31b), Pl. XXIV (31b).

²⁰ E.g. Huqoq: B. Ravani, *'Atiqot (ES) III* (1961), p. 123; Kahane, *ibid.*, Pl. XVIII (6); Ashdod: Dothan, *op. cit.* (above, n. 19), Pl. XXIV (13). A, Stratum 3-4b.



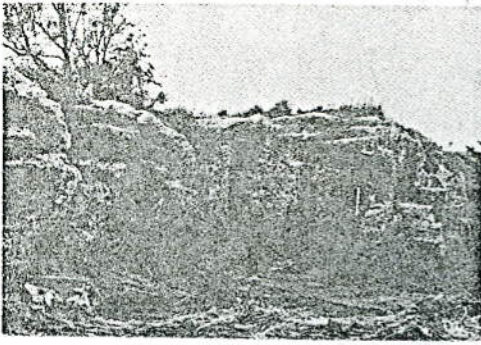
1-6. Finds from the tombs.



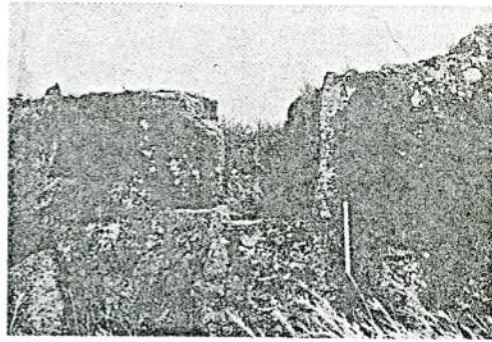
7. Aqueduct with covering-slabs *in situ*.



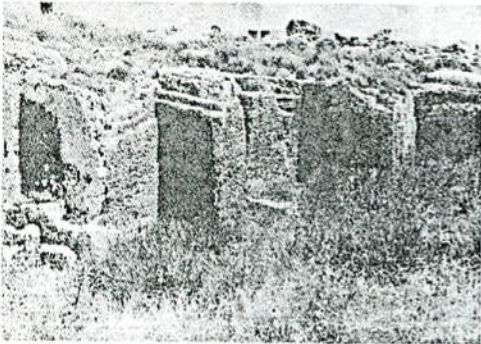
8. View of aqueduct.



1. The stepped rock-wall of the quarry.



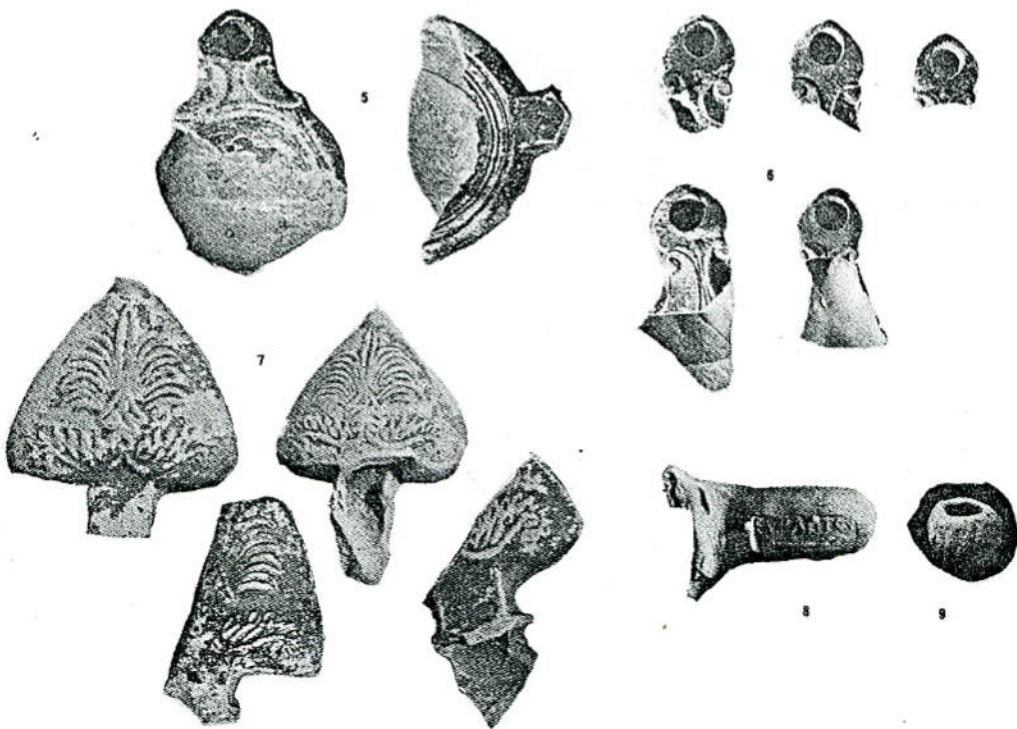
2. The aqueduct, as cut through by the quarry.



3. View of quarry.



4. Industrial installation.



5-9. Finds from Kh. Dureihima.