



Fig. 26. Amman Citadel, Temple of Hercules. Seventh-century B.C. Ammonite objects.

greater detail the temenos wall and the associated colonnades (fig. 25); 2) to investigate the relationship between Islamic and Roman walls; 3) to extend two trenches from the south and east sides of the temple area to the lower slope beneath the Islamic fortification wall to see what remains were preserved from the periods earlier than Roman.

More than 1800 m² have been exposed. At the time of writing we have been able to analyze on a very preliminary level a relatively large amount of the data. Four major and six minor architectural phases are represented by structures. The earliest one dates to the end of the 18th and the beginning of the 17th centuries B.C. The second goes back to the seventh century B.C. The third major phase could be dated to the "Classical" (Hellenistic, Roman, and Byzantine) period while the latest (fourth) phase dates to the eighth–13th centuries A.C. and is represented by the Abassid fortification walls and Ayyubid tower.

Probably the most significant result of the 1990 seasons is the discovery of the remains of an Ammonite temple. Although there was no direct evidence for the function of the building discovered to the east of the Roman temple (due to limited area of the excavations and the disruption of the building in the Roman period by the construction activities of the Roman temple), the nature of the finds suggests that the building may have served a special cultic community function (fig. 26).

In conclusion, the 1990–1991 seasons have considerably increased our knowledge of the occupational

history of the Amman Citadel. The six seasons of excavations were very successful in starting to provide us with answers for many of the outstanding questions regarding the Roman temple area.

Amman Citadel, Umayyad Palace. Antonio Almagro, Julio Navarro, and Antonio Orihuela report on the 1989 season of excavation and restoration of the Umayyad Palace on the Amman Citadel:

After several years of interruption, the work that the Spanish Archaeological Mission had begun in the Umayyad Palace of the Amman Citadel in the late '70s continued in the season of 1989. That season was made possible by the collaboration of the Ministry of Culture of Spain and DAJ.

One of the purposes of our work was the restoration of one of the residential areas of the Palace, the central building of the east side, "building B," after A. Almagro (*El palacio omeya de Amman*, Madrid 1983). This building (fig. 27) had nearly disappeared during the excavations of the Italian Mission in the '30s and with more recent work in the early '70s, both of which concentrated on the recovery of the Roman carved stones and ashlar reused by the Umayyads in their rubble walls.

Following the plans drawn by the Italian Mission and the remains of Umayyad foundations, it was possible to rebuild the Umayyad walls up to a height of 60–70 cm in order to help the visitor visualize the ground plan of the Umayyad building.

Besides the restoration of building B the main goal of the 1989 season was the excavation of building F



Fig. 27. Amman Citadel, Umayyad Palace. Building B after partial restoration.

(fig. 28), which is situated west of courtyard 2 and is one of the six residential units that the Umayyads built inside the Roman temenos.

Our first objective was to delimit the different rooms, and later to excavate them separately. The highest stratum was full of stones of several sizes, all of them coming from the debris of the building. The depth of this stratum is about 100 cm in the three ranges of surrounding rooms, but only 30 cm in the center of the central courtyard itself.

After delimiting the walls we realized that the hypothetical plan drawn by Almagro in 1983 was correct in the main lines, as the building has a courtyard with ranges of rooms on only three sides: east, south, and west. Both east and west ranges have five rooms or

spaces each, while there are only three on the south side. Although the number of rooms is the same as we expected, their size and shape are different. The entrance is not in the axis of the east facade but north of it. The staircase is in the west range, exactly in front of the entrance. Another difference is that the south range is deeper than the others and, therefore, the courtyard is rectangular in shape, instead of square.

The uncovering of walls less thick and differently constructed than the Umayyad ones is clear evidence of the reuse of the building at a later time. The pottery found in the upper strata indicates that the period of reuse was the Ayyubid–Mameluk period. Some of these late walls divide the former Umayyad rooms, as



Fig. 28. Amman Citadel, Umayyad Palace. Building F area during excavation.

in the entrance, which was blocked. A circular structure made of square bricks that is likely to have been a kiln probably also belongs to this later period.

Due to the shortness of the season, we were only able to reach the Umayyad level in some rooms. The Umayyad pavement is about 3 m under the present surface level. There is another level of occupation 1.20 m above the Umayyad level. This great difference between the levels shows that the eighth-century building was reused after suffering an important destruction. We could find other evidence of post-Umayyad use in the entrance as well: the gate was reduced in size, reusing Umayyad carved ashlar blocks upside down for this purpose.

In our estimation, only 50% of the work has been done to finish the excavation of building F; further work is planned.

Wadi Jerash. Gaetano Palumbo, ACOR and Università di Roma, reports:

Four months of salvage excavations were conducted by Ali Musa, Chief Inspector of the Jerash office of DAJ, at the site of a large Roman building of the second century A.C. at Palestine Grid coordinates 234.03/180.66, on the path of the new Amman–Irbid highway. The building is located on a slope above Wadi Jerash, close to its confluence with Wadi Zerqa, 7 km to the south of Jerash. It was probably a fort or a watchpost, and was identified by chance during the recording by the DAJ/ACOR CRM team of some rock-cut tombs threatened by destruction due to road works. Unfortunately, only salvage excavation could be conducted at the site of the building. Road construction was already at an advanced stage and no protection could be provided for the structure; however, it had already been heavily disturbed by road and construction works conducted in the area in the last 30 years.

Excavation revealed a large portion of the south corner of the building, with well-preserved external walls and internal partitions. The external west wall was excavated for a total length of 18 m and its height was preserved to between 2 and 3.5 m. The external south wall was excavated for a length of 29 m and was preserved to a height of between 1.5 and 3.5 m. The main entrance to the building was found along this wall, at approximately 17 m from the south corner. This entrance may have been located in the center of the southern wall. Unfortunately that hypothesis could not be verified, since the east and north corners and the entire eastern wall (together, of course, with the internal partitions) had been bulldozed during previous road works. The exterior walls were built on one to five courses of foundation stones, roughly squared, with some gaps between them. More nicely built are the three or four courses of stones above the

foundations, many of which are embossed with a “corniche” characterized by two or three parallel incisions surrounding the embossed area. There are also stones not embossed, showing only a pattern of incisions inclined 45°. All the stones used for the construction of the building come from quarries in the area, where sandstone rocks of light brown color prevail. Most probably the structure was built on a slope, with the southern corner exposed for two to four courses more than the upper southern and western walls.

Inside, a well-preserved series of four rooms were found along the west wall. From a central courtyard only two of those rooms could be accessed. No passage between these two rooms was found, while both of them had an entrance leading into a smaller room.

Quantities of restorable pottery were found in the rooms as well as a number of coins. One coin was minted during the reign of Marcus Aurelius. This points to a construction date in the second half of the second century A.C. Other coins range in date between the second and the third centuries A.C.

Two more rooms found along the external south wall are later additions to the building. A later kiln, probably Byzantine, was found in the rooms to the west of the main entrance, partially sitting above earlier walls, and using the entrance to the room as the access to the kiln itself.

The courtyard probably had a portico surrounding the central area. Pillar bases were found in front of the entrance (one still with the base of a square pillar sitting on it), and between the entrances to rooms 2 and 3.

Squatter reuse of the building was evident in almost all the rooms of the building. Under a later, heavy collapse, the pattern was usually that of ephemeral walls built of stones reused from the building or unhewn stones. Three out of five entrances were found blocked at a later stage. In a further reuse a large basalt millstone was found on top of a wall. Unfortunately this later phase of occupation was found very close to the surface and heavily disturbed, so that only a tentative date between the Late Byzantine and the Mamluk period can be provided.

At the end of the excavation and documentation phase the building was covered with wadi gravel, and the new road built above its remains.

Yasileh. Zeidoun al-Muheisen, Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, Yarmouk University, reports:

The discovery of two burial caves in 1988, on a bank of the Wadi Yasileh (or Wadi Shellaleh), was the beginning of a long-term project directed by Zeidoun al-Muheisen and funded by the Yarmouk University Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology in coop-