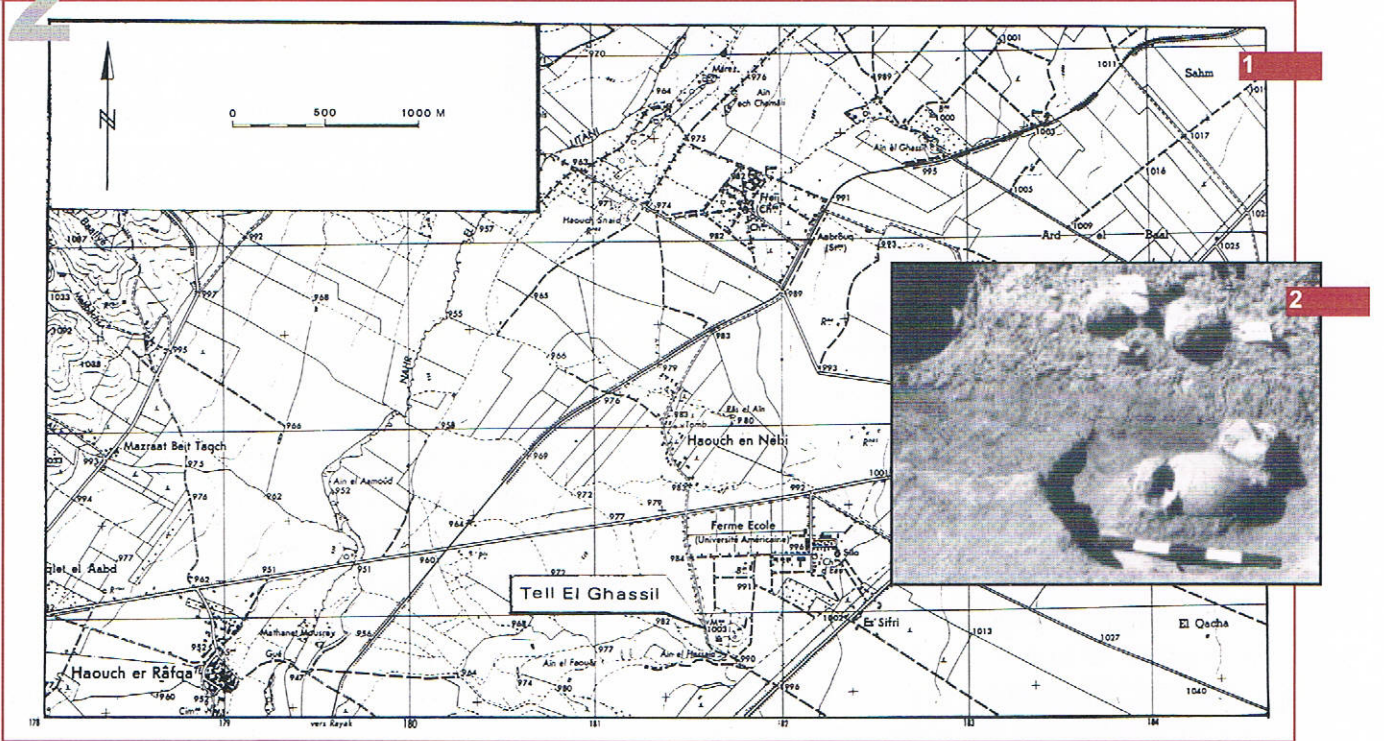


JARS FROM THE SECOND MILLENNIUM BC AT TELL EL GHASSIL (BEKA'A VALLEY): CHILD BURIALS OR FINDS IN DOMESTIC INSTALLATIONS

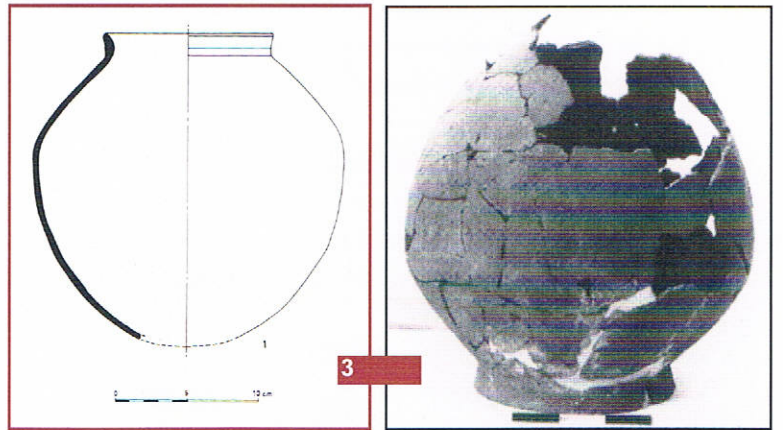
Claude Doumet-Serhal

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CHILD BURIALS OR FINDS IN DOMESTIC INSTALLATIONS



Tell el Ghassil, the site of the American University Expedition, is situated in the Bekaa valley approximately 16 kilometers southwest of Baalbeck. It was excavated by D. C. Baramki between 1956 and 1974. The last three campaigns were placed under the supervision of L. Badre (Badre 1982, 123-132) (fig. 1). The Middle Bronze Age material uncovered between 1972 and 1974 was published in 1996 (Doumet-Serhal 1996, 26-27).



Similarly to Sidon, two Middle Bronze Age jars were used as burials (fig. 9-10) and others were found in domestic installations.

Age hole-mouth jars (see p. 4), and compares with vessels from the Amuq region and Hama. It measures 28, 8 cm high.

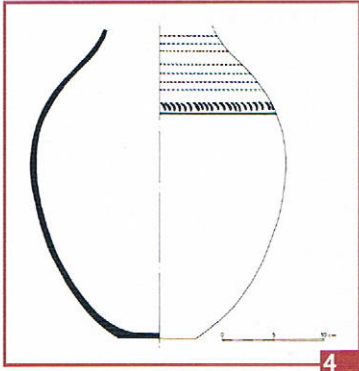
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THE HOLE-MOUTH TYPE (LEVEL XI APPROXIMATELY AROUND 1775) (FIG. 3).

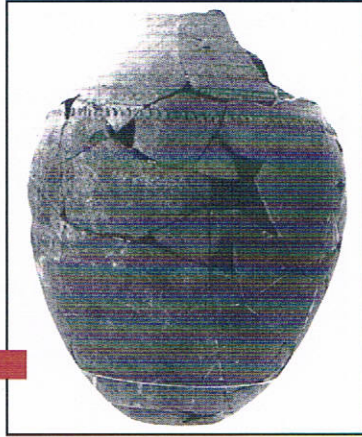
This jar has an almost globular body and a short collared-rim very similar to Sidon's Early Bronze

THE HANDLELESS JAR (LEVEL XI & IX (1650-1500) (FIG. 4-7).

The handleless type (height ranges from 29-36 cm) is a popular Middle Bronze Age type of jar (see p.11 for the Sidon material of the same period). One jar (fig. 7) resembles Early Bronze Age jars



4



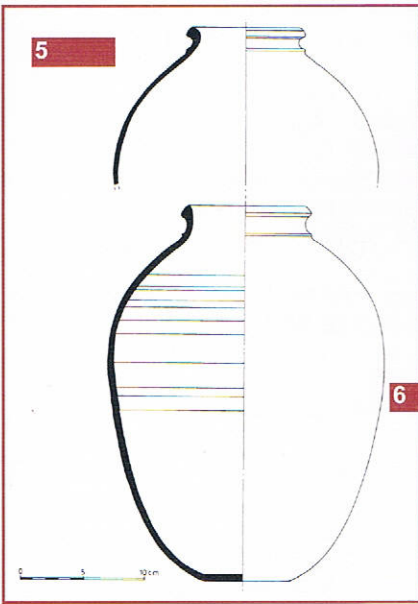
91 n. 1 for a dating around EB IV–MB I, Selimiye (Du Mesnil du Buisson 1926, pl. XXXII, 1) and Tell Bi'a (Einwag 2002, 157, fig. 15, typ 114, MBIIA). Only flat bases occur.

The most common type of decoration is the one found on Sidon's MB I vessels, namely the incised horizontal band, the incised rope pattern, the row of fingernail impressions (fig. 4) applied on the upper part of the shoulder vessel as well as the tree-like and vertical curved lines (fig. 7).

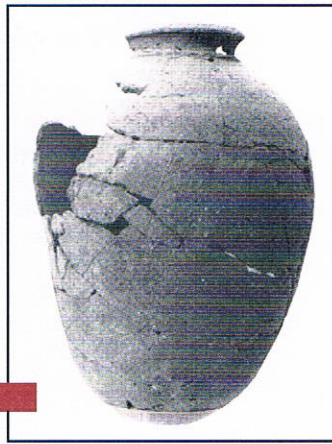
THE JAR WITH HANDLES (LEVEL XI-X (1775/1750-1650) (FIG. 8-10).

There are three circular-shaped vessels with flaring rims and varying in height between 23 cm and 33 cm. The loop handles are attached at mid body. Simple horizontal lines are incised on the junction between neck and shoulder as well as on the upper shoulder (fig. 9). Bases are flat.

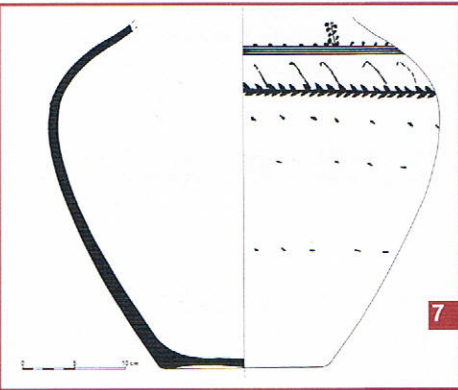
The ridge that is applied on the intersection of neck and shoulder (fig. 10) is also found on Syrian vessels from the same period namely at Tell Nebi Mend.



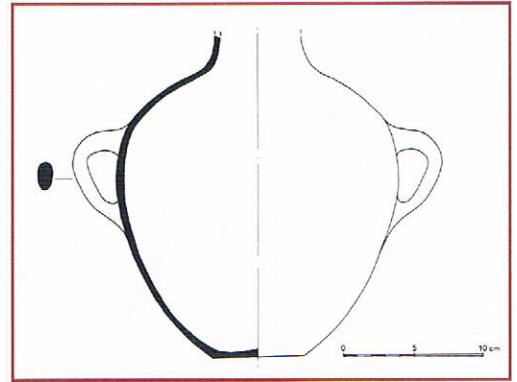
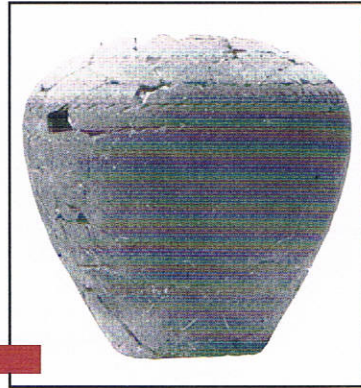
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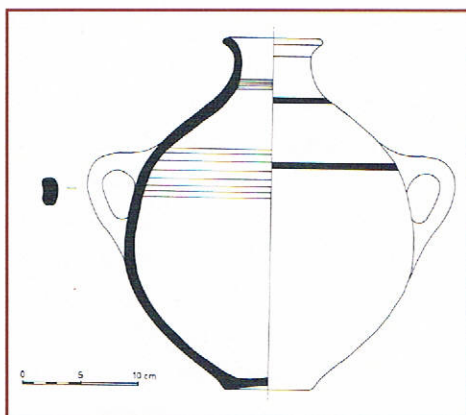


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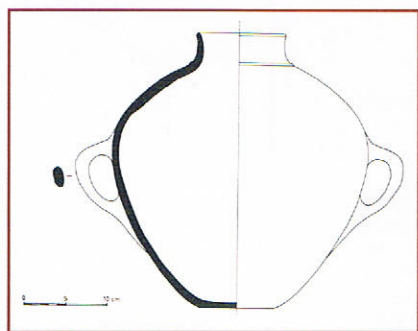
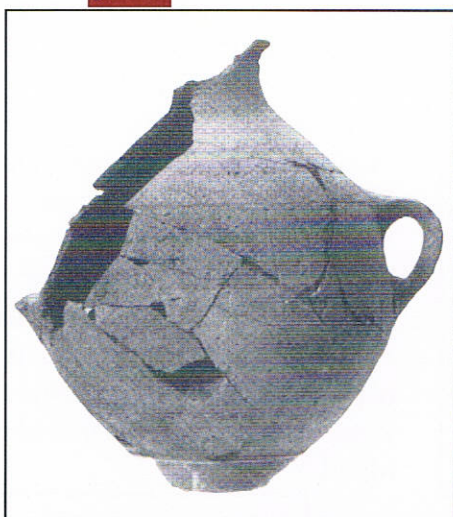


with its wide flat base and incised decoration. Necks are short, straight (fig. 5 b) or flaring (fig. 5 a) with a thickened cut outer edge comparable to Syrian examples from the Amuq region (Braidwood 1960, fig. 314, 8, level I, EB IV A & fig. 345, 6 level J, EB IV B), Tell Nebi Mend (Mathias & Parr 1989, pl. 26, 43 7 pl. 27, 60 EB; Parr & 1983, 110, pl. III (MB), Mishrife (Du Mesnil du Buisson 1926, pl. XXXII, 8) Masin (Du Mesnil du Buisson 1926, pl. L, 74; Matthiae 1965,

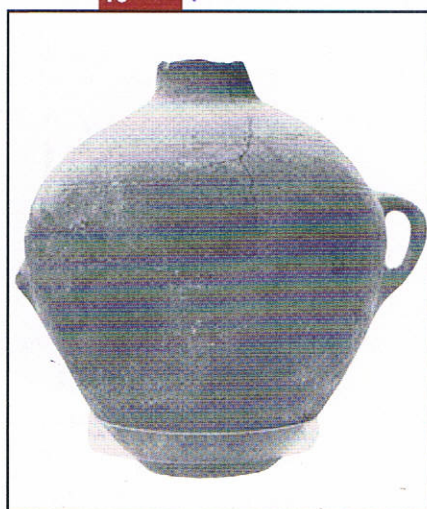
(Bourke 1993, p. 181 (!8th- mid 16th century) and Hammam et-Turkman in the Balikh region (Curvers 1988, pl. 130, 84-89 level VII, MB).



9



10



REGIONAL VARIATIONS AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS

Similarly to Sidon, the hole-mouth-type jar (see p. 4 & 9) is also found in a late MBI context. As we have seen, many similarities between Ghassil and inland Syria have been underlined. The overwhelming circular to oval-shaped vessels with flat base and incised decoration is a distinctive Tell el-Ghassil style very similar to the conservatism in Syrian material culture (see also p. 38-41).

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