



Fig XIII G

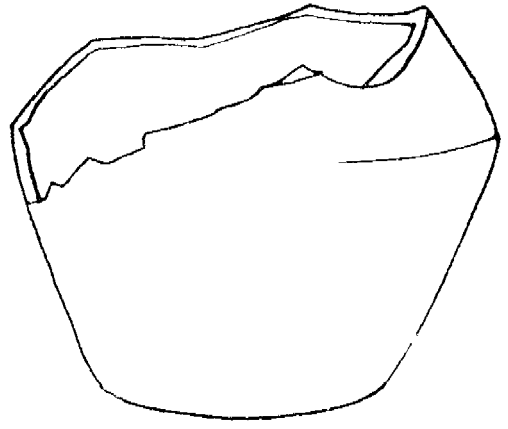


Fig XIII H

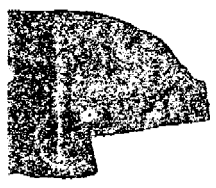


Fig XV

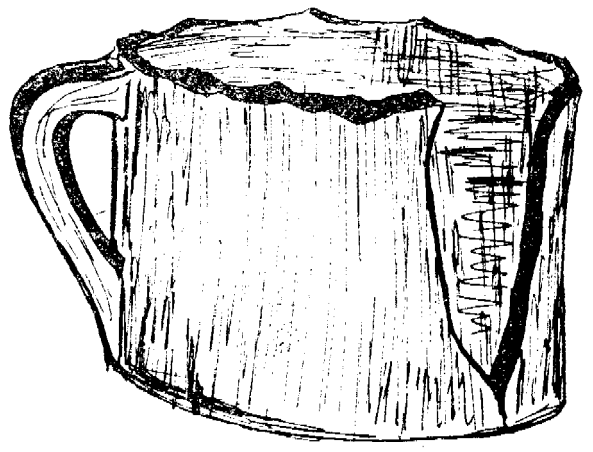
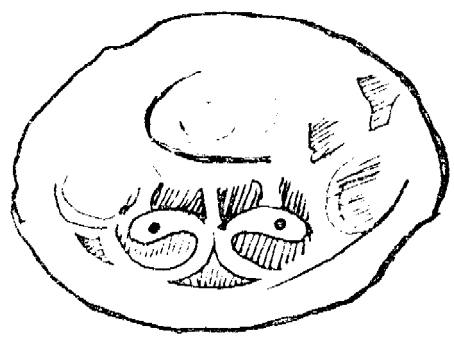


Fig XVI

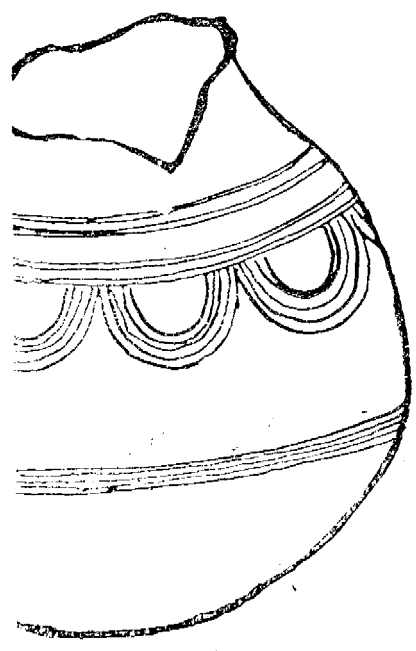


Fig XVI

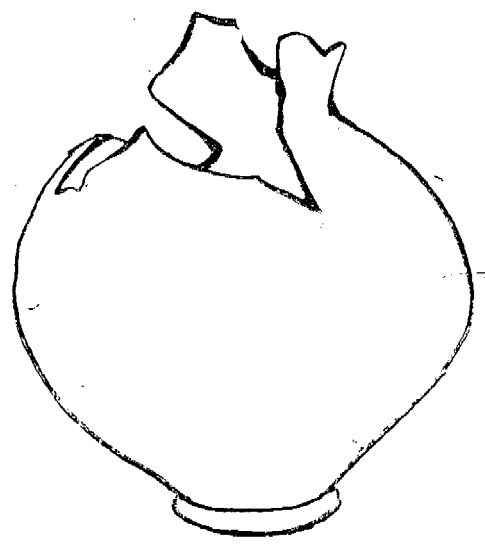


Fig XIII-E

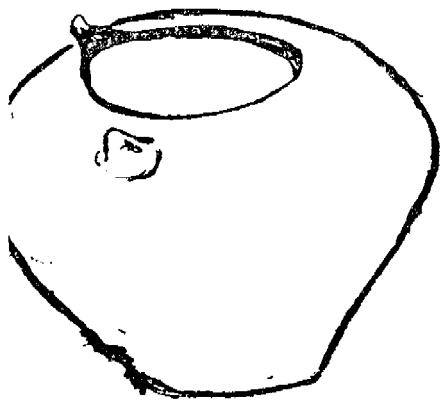


Fig. XIII - A

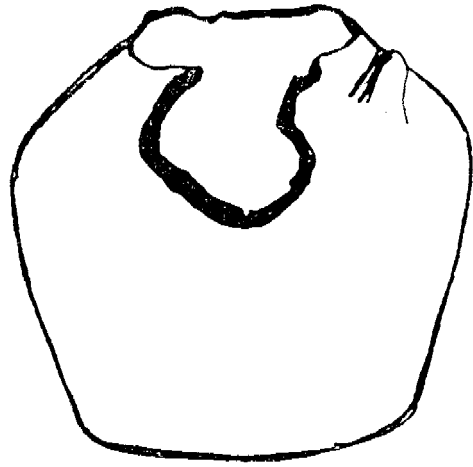


Fig. XIII B

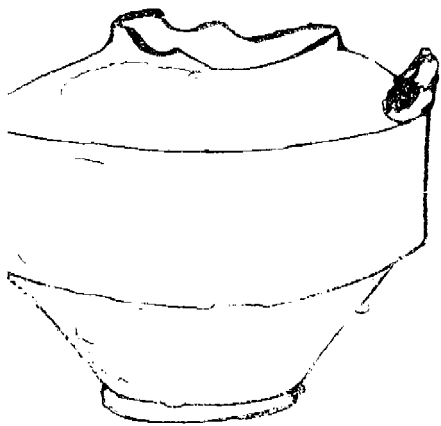


Fig. XIII - C

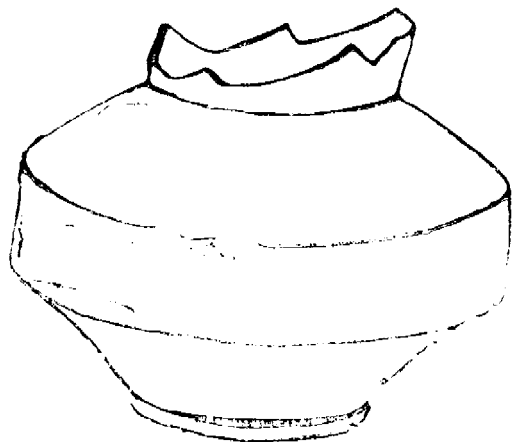


Fig. XIII D



Fig. XIII E

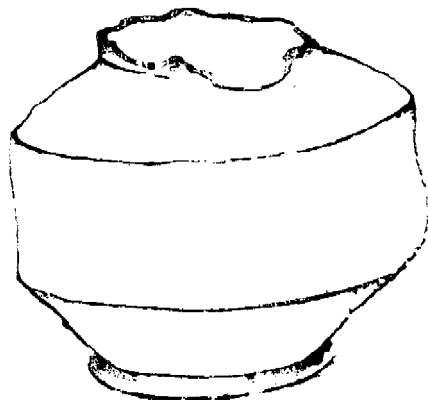


Fig. XIII F

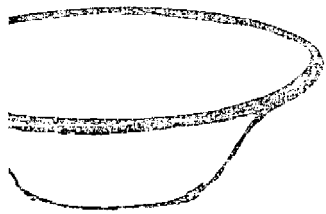
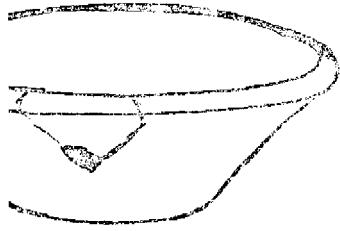
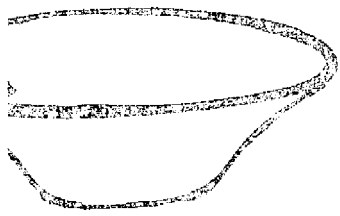


Fig XI

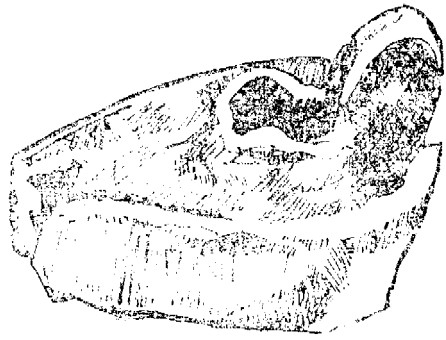


Fig. IX

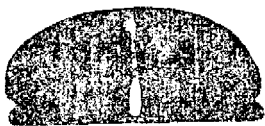
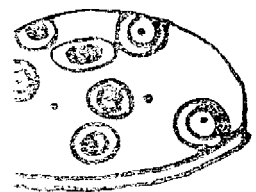
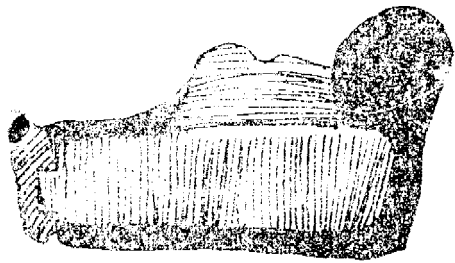


Fig XII

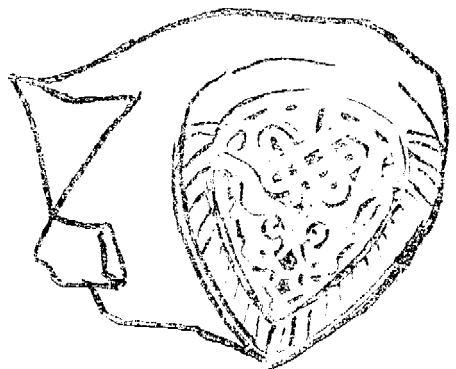


Fig. XIII

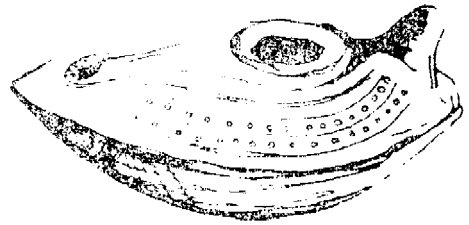


Fig. VI

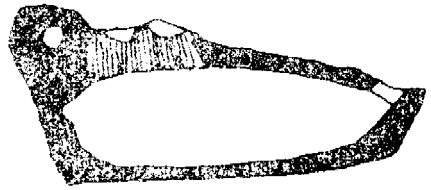


Fig. VII



Fig. VIII

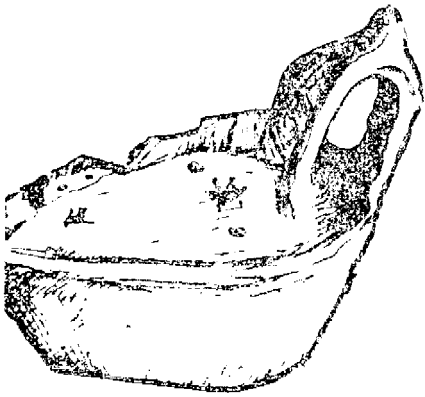


Fig. X-A

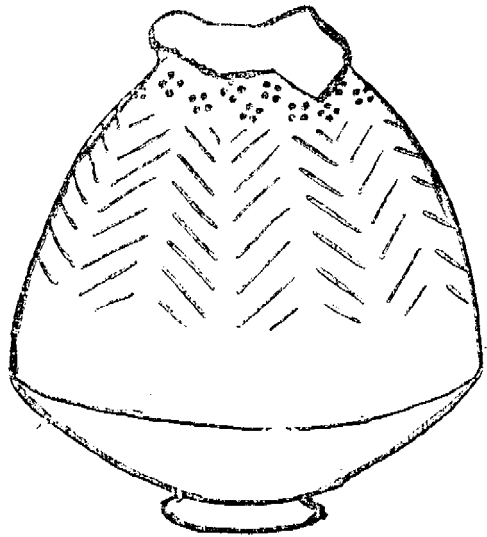
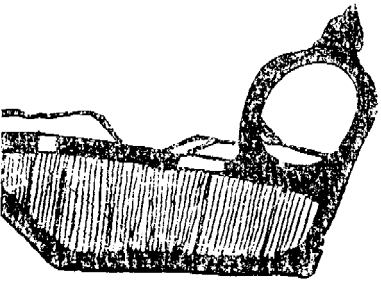


Fig. X-B





I

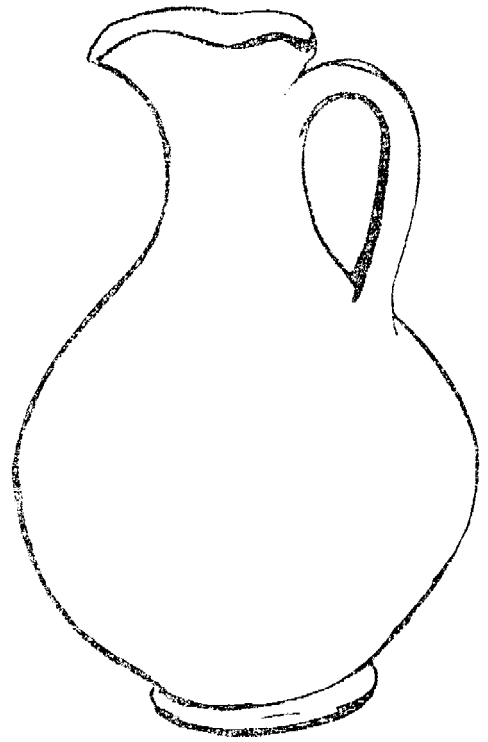


Fig. II

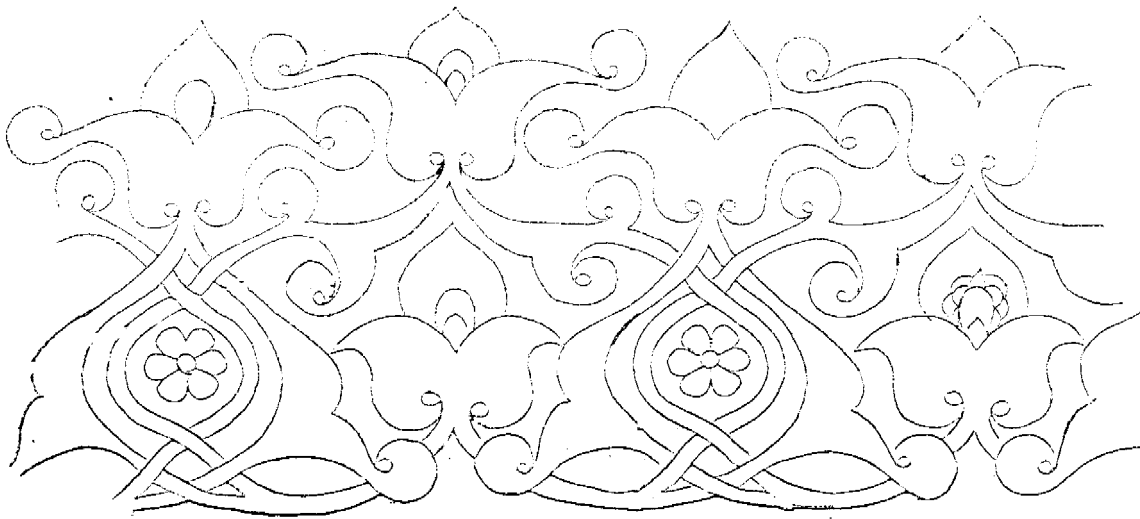


Fig. III



Fig. IV

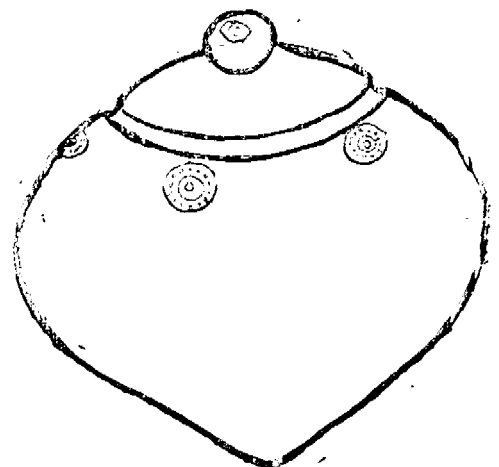


Fig. V

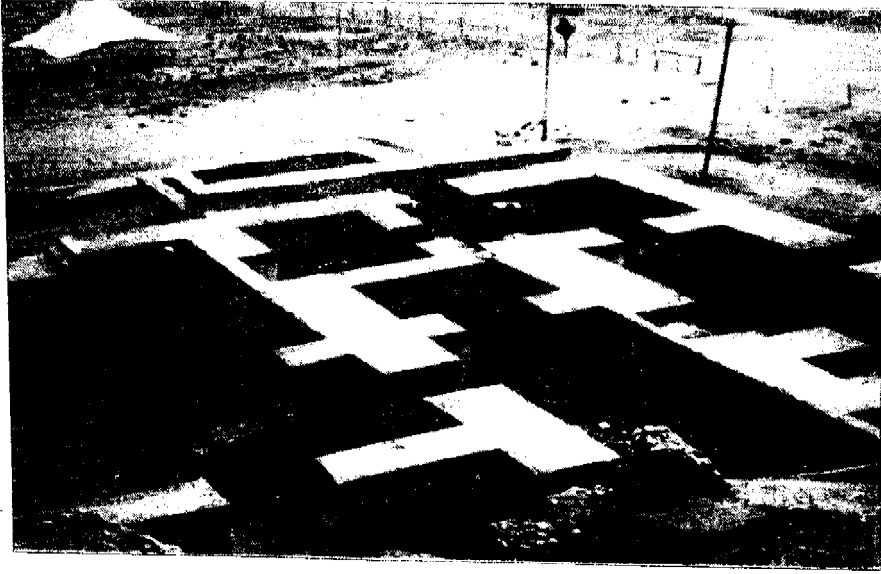


Plate V

توضيح صيانة الرسم الثاني بالنسبة لحدران الموقع

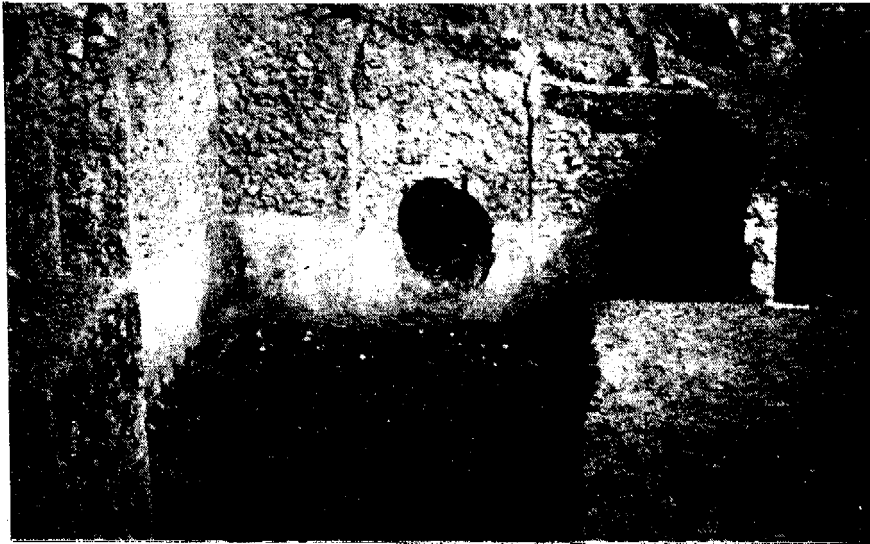


Plate VI

المدخل الكائن بين الغرفة رقم ٦ . ب والغرفة رقم ٥ . ب



Plate VII

المدخل الكائن بين الغرفة رقم ٨ . أ والغرفة رقم ٩ . أ



Plate III

صورة اخذت من الاعلى تمثل جانباً كبيراً من حفريات  
باشطابيا

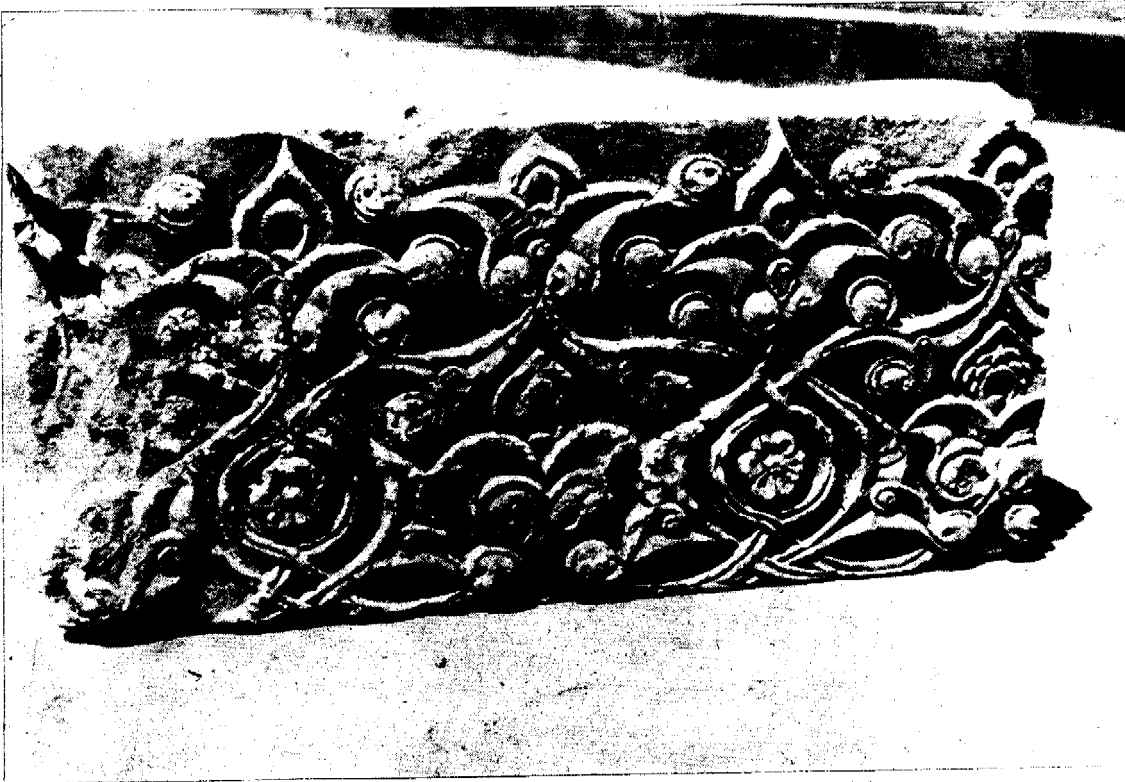


Plate IV



Plate II

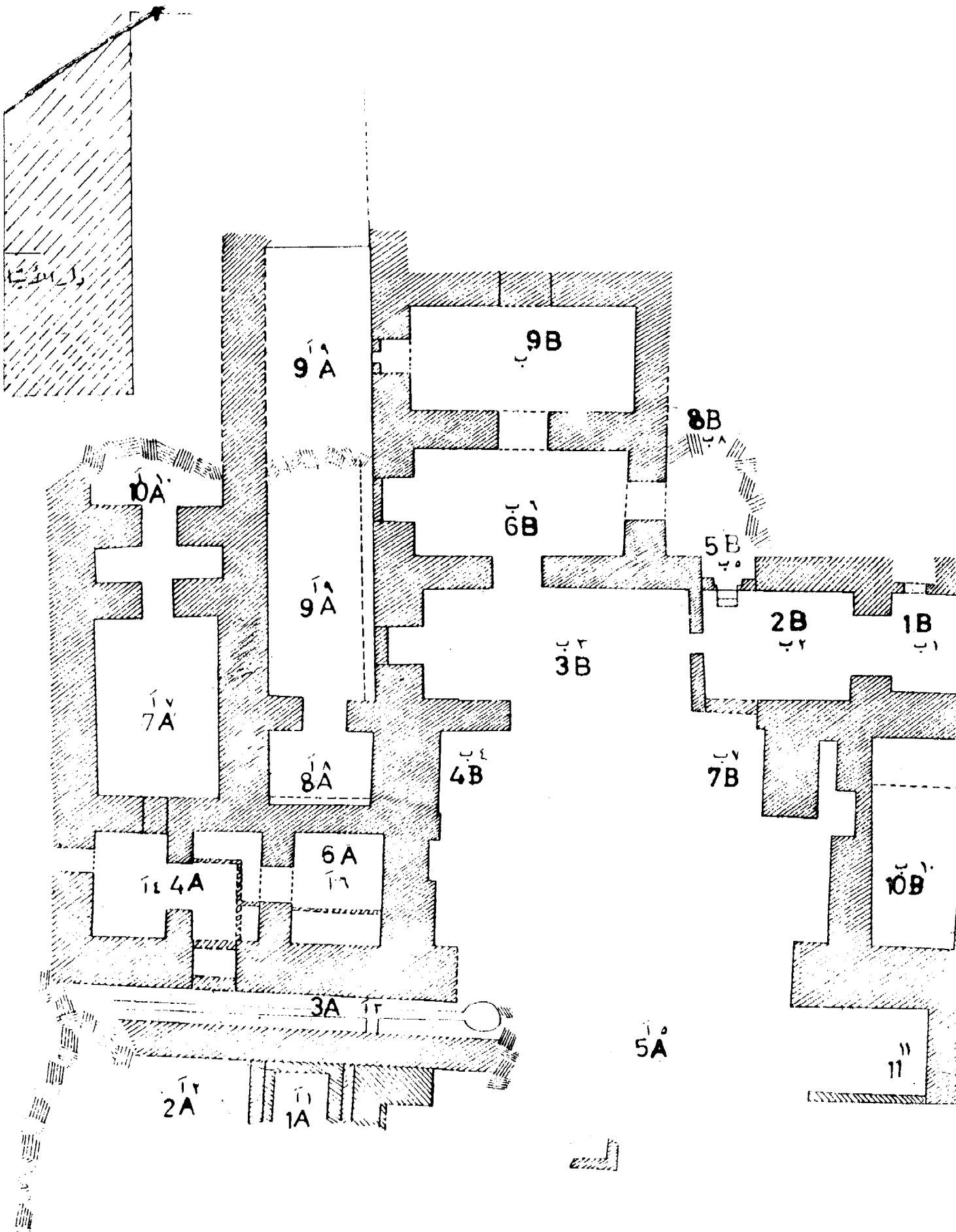
صورة تمثل النقطة (٧) والنقطة (١٠) من المنطقة (آ) ويظهر  
فيها جدران هذه النقطة بشكل واضح.





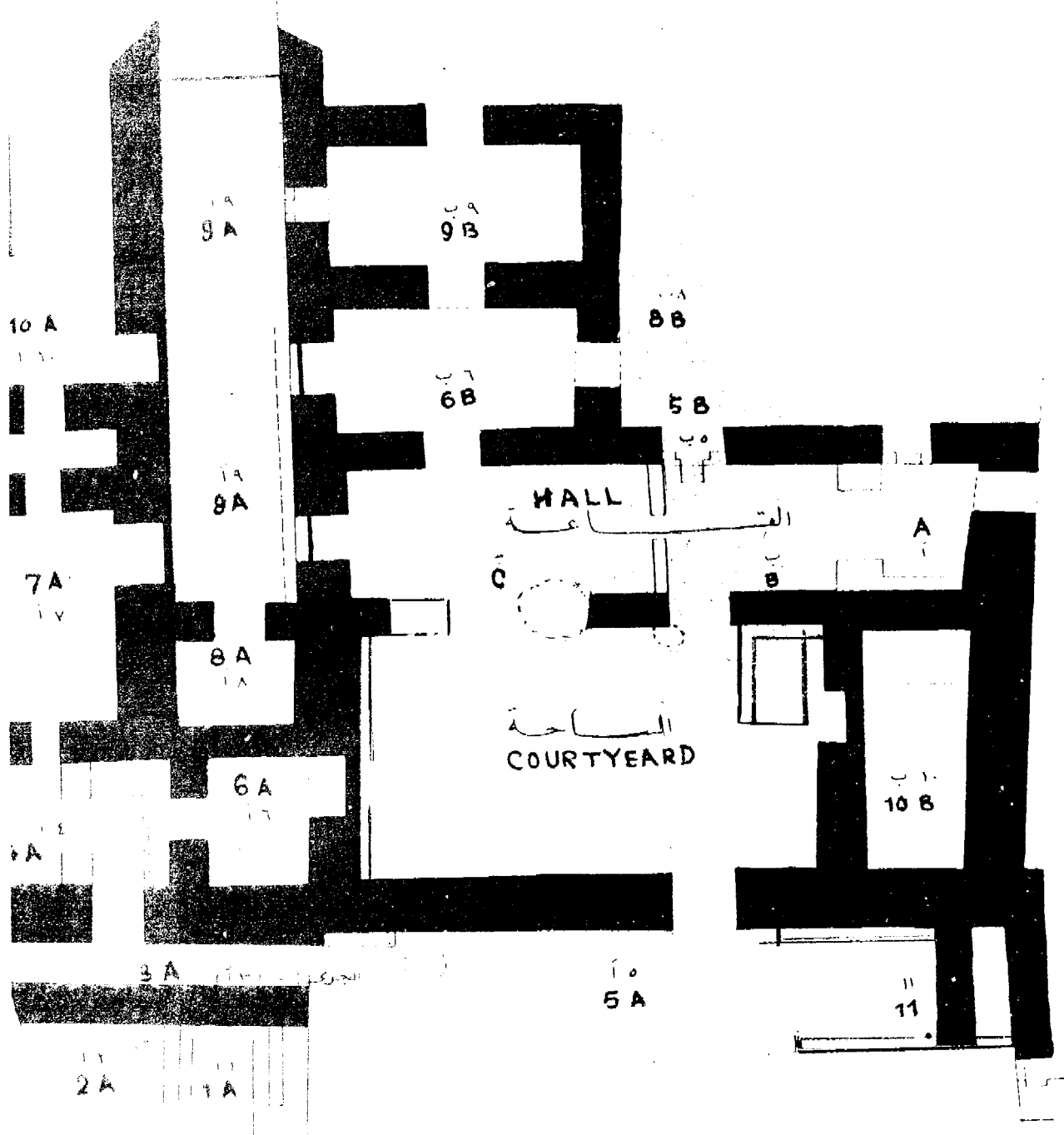
Plate I

Bash Tabiya



ERST SEASON

الموسم الأول



مخطط حفريات موقع باش تابيا

the EXCAVATION of the SITE of BASH TABIYA

there is a small ball is to put the thumb on it. On the top of the lamp on the outside edge there is a deep cut around and beneath the top and on the cuts there are holes. These holes were used to get the surplus oil from the top to inside of the lamp ( see Fig. X - A ) .

- 7 . A pot of pottery with circular bass the top of the pot is lost. It is decorated with ziqzag lines. The hight of it is 13 cm and its diameter 7.5 cm The diameter of the bass in 4.5 cm. It was found in entrance which connects the room 6.B. with 9.B. ( See Fig. X. B ) .
- 8 . Three pots of the same size each one is in an half oval shape with a wide open top. The bass is in circular shape. The hight is 5 cm. The diameter is 16.5 cm. The diameter of the top is 14 cm. The diameter of the bass is 5.5 cm. It was found in the ruins which is outside the fortress. ( See Fig. XI ) .
- 9 . A piece of ivory of a half oval shape decorated with crossed circles inside each circle there is a hole. The diameter is 2 cm and the hight is 4.25. It was found in the ruins which is near to the spot I. A. ( See Fig. XII ) .
- 10 Eight pottery pots with different shapes. It was found in the ruins which is near to the spot I. A. ( See Figs. XIII - A. B. C. D. E. F. G. H ) .
- 11 A pot of pottery with a cylindrical shape. The bass of the pot is flat with a wide open top. The hight of it is 10 cm and the diameter is 13 cm. It was found in the ruins near the spot I. A. ( See Fig. XIV ) .
- 12 A piece of white marble with a half oval shape on one of its sides there is a plant decorations which is not clear on the other side which is flat and we can see the remains of a circular bass . The diameter of the marable is 5 cm and the hight is 4 cm. The diameter of the bass is 2.5. It was found in the ruins which was the indor wall. ( See Fig XV ) .
- 13 A pottery jar of a cylindrical shape. The top of it is lost. There are two groups of a circular lines on the body of the jar. Between these two groups there is a third group of decorations of arches. The bass is of a carved shape. The hight of the jar is 39 cm. The diameter is 28 cm. It was found in the ruins which is near the indor wall. ( See Fig. XVI )
- 14 A mosaic plat with a circular bass glazed with a deep red colour . Inside the plat there is a Kufic Script. The plat is broken into pieces and most of it is lost. It was found in room 7. A. ( See Fig XVII )
- 15 A fragment of their pottery the top of it is decorated with plant leaves framed with lines and there are two birds between crossed leaves. The length of it 8 cm and the breadth is 6 cm. It was found in the ruins near the spot I. A. ( See Fig XVIII ) .

of Hall B. The others are found near spot 1 A. are the descriptions of some of them .

a / the description of pottery lamps no. 10. The general shape is oval. It has an edge in the middle. This edge covers half of the size of the lamp . it has a dome cover with two openings. These openings are circular. The front is to put oil besides there is a small hole to put the wick. The top is decorated with lines and dots in relieve. These dots are around the oil opening. There is no handle for this lamp and the lamp is colourfully glazed ( see Fig . VI ) .

b / a lamp no. 20. The length 9 cm, breadth 4 cm. Glazed from inside and outside with red colour - this colour is still used in some pottery in Mosul . The top of the lamp is curved and there is a hole for the wick and the hole for putting oil. There is a handle for this lamp with a hole in the middle of the handle. see Fig. VII .

c / a lamp without a number. Its length is 7,5 cm and its height 3 cm. Glazed inside and outside with green colour. There is no handle for this lamp .In the top there is a circular opening to hold oil and there is another opening in the front of the lamp to put the wick. The shape of the lamp in general is like a boat. In the sides of the lamp there are deep cut lines for the the oil to go to the lamp inside later, by the wick opening. ( see Fig VIII) when it overflows .

d / a long shape lamp with a natural size, its height is 6.5 cm. It has a handle and a place for the wick to be put in, it is in good condition . The inside and the outside of the lamp is glazed with a pale green colour to prevent it from leaking. The top of the lamp is circular with a hole to hold the the oil ( see Fig IxI ) .

e / a mosaic lamp glazed inside and outside with a green colour. Its top is decorated with holes. In the front of the lamp there is a big hole for the wick and near the handle there is a hole for oil. We noticed that there are many holes in the sides of the lamp as well as in the top these holes probably served as outlets for while it was lighted and probably they were also for decoration. The edges of the top of the lamp are broken and the colour red of the clay appears and shows that this pottery is half baked . This is usually used in making glazed pottery and to change them into mosaic. After the mosaic is done they glaze it with green colour. This colour was usually used in Mosul and still is. This stuff is from copper acid and, mixed with glaze. In the back of the handle of the lamp there is a ribbon from clay it is used to put the finger through. At the top of the handle

Its height is about 30 cm and its width about 2 m. The walls of the room 2 m. 75 height and the thickness of the walls is 1. 70 m.

The most important archaeological findings .

1 . 2 pottery basins. There are some black ashes on them . Each bass is of cylindrical shape. From the top and from the bottom it has a circular opening and there is a bent in each circle. The height of each cylinder is about 21 cm and the diameter is 9 . 5 cm while the opening of each side , has a diameter is 14 cm. It was found in the remains of spot 1 A . ( see . Fig . 1 ) .

2 . One pottery jar with one handle. On the opposite of the handle is a place to get the water through and the neck of the jar and its top are ornamented with dark green colour. The height is 13. 5 cm the diameter is 7.5 cm while the top of the jar has a diameter of 3 cm. It was found in the remains which are situated between the rooms 4 A - 7 A. ( see Fig . 2 )

3 . A piece of rectangular marble decorated with vegetables and some curves of flowers with leaves. The length 70 cm the width 35 cm., the thickness 20 cm. It was found in the remains of the entrance which was mentioned above and was found not in a normal position ; if must have been moved from its original place. ( see Fig. 3 ) and plate IV . 1

4 . A bottle of thick pottery in a round shape with a sharp bass and a narrow mouth . The mouth is circular . There are circular curvings on the bottle. This was probably used as a bomb by putting phosphate. The height is 12 cm and the diameter is 9 cm while the diameter of the mouth of the bottle is 6 cm. It was found in the remains of the courtyard near the south wall ( see Fig. IV ) .

5 . A small jar from thin pottery and of round shape, its basin is round while the top of the jar is lost . There is one handle on one side of the jar. The height is 8 cm. the diameter is about 6 cm while the diameter of the mouth of the jar is 5 cm. This jar was found in the remains of the second part of Hall B .

6 . A number of delicate pottery lamps. Each lamp consists of a flat bass which stands on it, the main body of the lamp is of an oval shape. It has two openings. One of them bigger than the other and most of these lamps are of a deep green colour. The lamps are of different sizes. Some of them are large, the length 9 cm and the height 7 cm. and the smallest is 3 cm high 5.5 cm long. These lamps are found in the remains of the second part

these two rooms were reconstructed in a height about 70 cm - 1. 10 m and breadth about 1. 75 m ( see plate VI ) .

7 . The hall It is of a rectangular shape. Its length is about 22 m and its breadth about 5 m. It is divided into three parts because of the two entrances of the hall which was built in the middle of the hall in the late period. We gave these three parts the symbols A. B. and C.

In the middle of part B there is an entrance going to the place 5.B which is situated in the westside of this part. The entrance of this place narrow in the late period and two steps were built there. On the opposite of the entrance there is another entrance which goes to the courtyard which is situated in the east of the hall. The wall which is extended in the left corner of the entrance to the south side finishes in a place where an oven was built by the inhabitants. This oven was probably used to make plaster. An entrance was found also in the first part (A) which goes to the north side There is another entrance going to the west side of this part. The two entrances were closed lately. The team reconstructed the original wall of the hall with a height of 1. 70 m - 2. 35 m and breadth about 1. 65 m.

8 . The courtyard. It is of a rectangular shape. Its length is about 16. 5 m and its breadth about 9,5 m. Outside the court in the east there is an entrance. Its breadth about 2, 20 m. Its east walls were removed in the late period . In this season , the wall which is mentioned was rebuilt with a height of about 2, 90 m and the breadth about 2, 05 m. This court is joined in room 10. B which is situated in the north side and is linked to the court with an entrance. This entrance was closed in the late period . A wall was discovered in the court. Its breadth was about 3 m. in the north west of it and this wall end in the entrance which is situated between the court and the room mentioned above. It is probable that this wall was built in the time when the entrance which is mentioned about was closed to make a new room in this place.

It was found in the left side of the entrance of the court in part B from the hall a circular hole probably used as a septic tank. The team did its duty by reconstructing the original wall of the court with a height about 1. 70 m 2. 90 m and breadth about 1. 70 m.

9 . Room no. 1 B

This room is of rectangular shape. Its breadth is about 3.50 m. The ground is covered with plaster and in the west side there is a stone bench.

### 3 . Room no. 7. A.

This room is in a rectangular shape. Its length is about 7, 75 m and its breadth about 4,85 m. It is joined to room no. 4.A with an entrance which was closed in the late period. The outer wall was discovered by the team. Its breadth is about 2, 05 m. The team also discovered the foundation of the wall part of which it was built with smooth marble in the outside of the wall. The depth of the foundation of the wall is about 2. 50 m - 3, 50 m from the level of the earth. There is an entrance in the wall from the outside which is in the south of the room. In the west of the room there are two corners, these corners go to the orphanage building. The distance is about 2 m. On the same side, there are two corners and in these two corners there is a second entrance. In this season the team rebuilt the original walls of the room and also the north wall of the room.

M4. Page 11. Faredz.

### 4 . Room no. 9. A.

The length of the room is not discovered yet because of the earth which covers the west side of the room but the breadth of the room is about 4,50 m and it is joined to the room no. 8. A. with an entrance and it is also linked with the hall (C) which is situated in the north of it. The hall is joined to the room with an entrance. The room is also joined by another entrance to the room 6. B. It was closed in the late period. In the north east corner of the room and which extends to the west there is a stable for keeping animals near to the two entrances of the room .

Two stands built of plaster and stones were used for columns which were probably used to support the room. There is another circular mass of marble with a rectangular hole in it used also to put a column in it to support the 1, 50 - 2, 50 m and breadth 2 m .

### 6 . Rooms no. 6.B - 9. B.

These two rooms are of rectangular shape. Their length about is 9 m and their breadth about 4, 75 m. They are joined with an entrance, breadth about 2 m and each of these rooms is joined to room no. 9.A by an entrance . This entrance was closed in the late period .

There is in the room no. 9 an entrance which is joined to place 5.B which is situated in the north. We do not know yet the measurements of this place . There is another entrance going to room no. 6.B and joining the place (C) from the court which is situated in the east of the room. The walls of



third one was written ( You who read my book, weep about my youth ) . It is possible that these three pieces were used as epitaphs in the graveyards which were removed from their original place .

Preservation and reconstruction .

The team started in this season the task of preservation and reconstruction of some of the original walls of the site by using plasters and stones . These two materials were used to build the fortress in the Atabik period.

The team started first of all by building a wall separating the channel which is given the number 3 A and the two places ( 1.A - 2.A ) . These two places were not reconstructed because they were of a late, period but we repaired the other wall which separates rooms ( 4.A - 6.A ) . It is to be noticed in this wall that it extends to the north direction which makes the left corner of the court which is in the east while the west site of the wall joins the south wall of room no. (4.A) , in the south east corner of the room mentioned. This wall has the height of about 1.25 m - 2.90 m and in the broadness of it 2.05 m.

1 . Room no. 4. A.

This room is of rectangular shape. Its length is about 6, 75 m, its broadness about 4, 75 m and it is divided in the late period into two even rooms joined to each other with a corridor, its breadth is about 2 m. The first room is joined with room no. 6.A which is situated in the north directly. It has an entrance which was closed in the late period. It is also linked with the channel no. 3.A. In the east there was another entrance. This was connected to room no. 7.A with an entrance which was closed in the late periods. The team repaired all the original walls of the room. The height of the walls which were built in this season is about 1, 18 m the breadth 1, 70 m.

2 . Room no. 6. A.

Its length is about 4, 75 m breadth about 3, 50 m. It was built in the late period. Its walls are very thin. In the middle of the room there is a thin wall starting from the north of the room and reaches the left corner where there is the entrance which joins the room to room no. 4. A. The team rebuilt the walls of the room with the height of about 1. 50 m. The breadth of the walls is about 1, 75 m. Their walls were also rebuilt by the team which were related to the space which was discovered in this season. This space is situated in the north west of the room which is mentioned above. ( see plate II ) .

them is about 70 cm and the diameter is about 8 cm. A piece of sharp bone was put in the middle of the hole and was probably used to torture some of the prisoners. About 80 cm from the ground of the room, we found the remains of another room. This room was probably built in the late period. About the room which is in the east of the corridor, we discovered in the north wall remains of a blind window. The distance of this window from the south west corner is about 1 m, and the height of the window from the ground of the room is about 45 cm, and its depth in the wall is about 20 cm.

At the end of the season, the team started digging parallel to the indoor wall in a place which is between the cemetery of Yahya about alqasim and the basement. It was discovered there a shapeless room of unequal measurements and there was an added building on it specially to the walls, this took place in the late period. The depth of this room is about 6 m from the level of the earth and its foundation is covered with stones. The room is connected with a long corridor which goes to the south. we have not discovered yet the end of the corridor. In the north of the room, there is an entrance to the room .

On the east of the room, there are many walls linked to the wall of the fortress ; these were probably not rooms or halls , they probably used to support the fortress wall from falling .

In the outside of the wall of the fortress there was another wall which was built in touch with the wall. This was done probably in the late periods. We discovered this wall whose broadness is about 8 cm while the original wall of the fortress is about of 2. 15 m.

In general it is to be noticed that the wall was built, during two periods. Of the first period there is nothing left from the wall only a little part of it while of the second period, the wall was built on the remains of the first period adding on the wall some openings which are like towers for watching long distance .

The team also dug in the east and south of the site of the fortress. Nothing was discovered there except three pieces of stones, on one of them were written verses from the Qoran ( he who has the the heavens and what is in earth who will . . ) and on the other one was written the verse ( He will not forgive only by His permission He knows what is in your hands ) . There was a drawing on this piece which looked like a lamp. While on the

the north part of the wall while in the south of the wall it was part of the room (7.A) . The distance between these two entrances is about 5,50 m. The first was covered with tarmacadam. The depth of it is 1.70 m while the breadth is about 2.30 m. The second was covered with plaster only. It measures about 1,50 m in depth while its breadth is about 1,70 m. These two entrances were closed by plaster and stones probably in the later periods and were added to the main wall which has been mentioned.

Digging also took place in the place B of the site and especially parallel to the east wall of the rooms ( 1.B - 2.B - 3.B ). We called this place the hall and it was divided into three late periods and we gave them the symbols A, B, and C from north to south. In this place was also discovered a big hole which is circular and it is attached to the eastern wall. It is to be noticed that this hole is surrounded with stones in a depth of 30 cm, while the depth goes on without the stones, which proves that this was a basin to get rid of the dirty water. About 2,50 m from this hole we found a bigger hole which is beside the wall mentioned above but it is situated in the south. The diameter of the hole is about 3.30m, the depth of it is 2,50 m. In the bottom of it there were remains of black ashes. This place was probably an oven for making plaster in the late periods.

The team also started digging in the south wall which separates the room (1.B.) from room no. 11. It seems that most of the stones were removed in the late period and we discovered the remains of the plaster and the stones on the earth. The extension of this wall makes the corner of the entrance of the court. The team removed all the stones in the left entrance which is mentioned above and which connects the wall which separates the channel (3.A) and the rooms (4.A - 6.A) .

The team also started digging in the north east of room no. 11 in which they discovered two rooms. In the middle of each room there was a stair of four steps. It was noticed that on the ground of the room south of the stairs, there were columns. They were probably to support the roof of the room. But we could not continue digging in the north part of the room because of the electric and telephone pillars. The stair which has been mentioned before was used to connect the first story of the building to the second story. There was a corridor connected with the top of the stairs and on each side of the corridor there was a room. In the ground of the west room of the corridor we found two circular holes. The distance between

the membership of Muslim Muhammad Ahmad, and with the team were 45 workers and four skilled workers and a builder.

### **Excavations .**

The team started its digging in two places ( 1.A - 2.A ). They found the remains of a channel which is parallel to the first channel which was found in the first season. It is noticed that this channel was the place to collect the water from the roofs. It is usual that the roof has tubes of clay which come down from the roof to the channel . The channel ends usually in another channel which reaches the septic tanks. It is probable that this channel and the wall were built in the late periods because the walls were not connected with the original wall which separates the first channel and the two places ( 1.A - a.A. ) . In addition the foundations which are under walls are built from clay and are of black colour.

The team started also to dig in the place ( 5.A ) and it was discovered that there were walls not very thick and they were not organized in their direction. they were probably built temporarily in the late, period.

The team reconstructed the north wall to the rooms ( 8.A-6.A ) and they revealed the separation between the ancient wall, of which the breadth is 1,65 m and the other wall which was built in the north side with a breadth of 70 cm probably in the late periods. It is worth mentioning here that we discovered a space in the north corner near to the room ( 6.A ) . This space was closed in the late period by plaster and stones and was added to the wall mentioned above. In this emptiness, there were remains of tarmacadam on the walls. This was probably used to keep grains.

The team started digging in the outer door wall which was situated south of wall and to know its foundation. The team was able to discover the breadth of the wall and to know its foundation. The team was able to discover the foundation which part of it was built of smooth marble from the outside and the breadth of this wall is about 2,05 m. It was discovered also an entrance to the wall which goes to the room ( 7.A ) to the outdoor ( south ). This wall extends to the west till it reaches the orphanage at the present time.

The team, discovered the original walls which surround the rooms (4.A-6.A - 7.A - 8.A - 9.A ) they also discovered that there were two entrances to the middle wall which formed part of the rooms (8.A - 9.Z ). This is in

period but the place of their issue and the time and the name of the issue are unknown.

2. Findings of fragments of glazed pottery and some coloured glasses.
3. Findings no. 9 in spot A, a piece of marble whose length is 26 cm and broadness 22 cm, ornamented with plant decorations.
4. Findings of a flat plate of clay. The face of it is 90cm while its back is 8 cm. The depth of it is 5 cm. its thickness is 1 cm. ( See no 7 ).
5. The team found in no. 9 from the spot A, a piece of marble with inscriptions. Its length is 43 cm and its breadth 30 cm. The script is framed with plant decoration. Its breadth is 12 cm. The marble is surrounded from top to bottom with various decorations. ( See form no. 2 ) . It is written on it” What is on the earth . . . .  
It is probably a marble from a part of a big piece, which many verses of the Quran were written . It is used to decorate the place.
6. It was found in no. 9 from the spot A, bracelets and necklaces and jewelry, ( some are ) black and ( some are ) green.
7. Many lamps , were found, some in perfect condition and some in different shapes and sizes. All of them are decorated with plant decorations .
8. There was found a valuable ring, joint with it , was a piece of bronze.
9. An Ottoman bayonet was found in no. 9 from the spot A in the upper layer and in the place whose height is about 96 cm above the earth. It is in a very bad condition and is rusted. Its hand was broken from one side of it . The place which joins the rifle was also in very bad condition probably because of dampness.
- 10 The most important, thing that the team found in different parts of the site were fragments of jars and plates of different sizes and shapes They are decorated by the method of ceramic ( barbotine ) 2. The decorations are of different style and different pictures. Some are of plants others human or animal pictures. Among these decorations there are two pictures of girls with two plaits reaching the waist, carrying in their hands a stick and in their belts a big knife and beside a lion of which the face and the front legs appear.

### **The second season**

The team of excavation started its work in the site of Bash Tabiya for the second season in the 6th March 1971 headed by Dr. Talat al Yawer and

them, only one wall which is of a small height. As we said we found a new building which was built in the late period. It is of a low height like the height of a bench. Inside this building there is a pool which was built with plaster and stones supported in the north by marble. Also we found in the east of the building a long stable situated in the length of a wall. It was for sheep that is why we could stress what we say that this place was a stable, and a place for slaughtering animals. The measurements of this stable are as follow :

Length 46 cm

depth 13 cm

breadth from inside 45 cm breadth from outside 56 cm while the middle building is of 52 cm of depth, the length 3,30 m, the 2,29 m the length 95 cm.

About the room no. 9 from the place A and the place B, it was joined directly with another room. It was given the number 3. The room was numbered from the east directly that means from the direction of the Tigris River. The room which is mentioned is rectangular also its length is 10,90m and its breadth 5m. between its north walls a there is a door, its breadth is 2m. It joined directly with the back wall on which had fallen a big mass of the building of the fortress. It weighs about tens of tones. It was removed by the team to save the other walls from falling.

This room is also joined with another room. It is of a rectangular shape the back of the room had been closed by a second wall but it was removed after the fortress was ruined. The inhabitants of Mosul used the remains of this building to build their houses.

The length of this room is 6,10 m the breadth 4,80 m. In its north wall there is a door, its breadth is 2m. which was joined with the court at the back of the room, mentioned before. In the east of the room there is another door, its broadness is 2,55m, its is joined directly to the room no. 1 which is of a rectangular shape. The breadth of it is 3,50 m its length 4,40 m. This room is a passage under the north wall of the fortress which is facing the Tigris river directly and was joined with a long passage going directly to the shore of the river.

Archaeological findings.

1. The discovery of many bronze coins which were very rusted; they were cleaned and are now in the museum. Some of them are still of unknown origin because they are worn out. They are probably of the Atabik

of the fortress.

Beside room no. 4 a and at the east direction, we found room no. 6 A which was joined with a corridor with no. 4. This room was of rectangular shape. Its length was 5.20 m and its breadth was 3.60 m and the entrance of the room its breadth was 1.60 m while the breadth of the wall was less from the first wall about 10 cm., i.e. 1,20 m.

In the north of these two rooms there were other two rooms numbered 867. A They were not linked in the south with the two previous rooms but they were linked in the north with another room. They were also of a rectangular shape but the wall which divided them was very thick, the breadth of it was 2,20 m.

Room no. 7.A Its length was 8m, its breadth was 5,20 m.

About room no. 8 it was joined with the room in the north which was given the number 9.A It was also of a rectangular shape. Only its breadth was measured which about 4,80 m, but its length could not be discovered because part of the room is in the orphanage building. This room is in the north-west.

The most important archaeological findings which were discovered in this site were in the kitchen. The kitchen was of a large size. It was part of the apartment which was linked to the military fortress which confirms that the inhabitants of this fortress were soldiers and of great number.

We discovered during our excavation that the rooms and the corridors septic tanks were all in the north west of the fortress and its foundations were at the level of the foundations of the original building. This makes it easy to get rid of the dirty waters which ran in the south of the kitchen. These inhabited apartments were joined with corridors, their breadths are equal, they are without roofs and have remained like that for different periods. Some of these corridors were covered with roofs in the later decades.

The team found in these rooms places to keep animals ready to be killed for the inhabitants of the fortress. A stable in the south of room no. 7 was found also. It was of a small depth and it was ruined because of the years. It was also found in the middle of no. 8 a bench which slopes to a small basin. This was a place to slaughter animals. Beneath the basin there were remains of blood which has become black ( See form 11 ).

To clarify the place from different points, the team joined no.7.8.9 of the place B with other numbers. It seems that there is no wall separating

The first week of the excavation was the week of discovering the added walls on the original walls. the heights of the walls were short and of medium thickness and they were stuck on the two walls mentioned above . But after the cover from the wall, a new sheet of wall was seen. This wall was also covered with tarmacadam. It was built as a bath with lavatories for the inhabitants. To this we gave no. (1). The two sides of this place were built with bricks and stones and it was covered with tarmacadam The roof was built with stones and covered with tarmacadam .

About no. (2) which is situated directly on the Tigris River, the added walls were directed towards the North and its depth reached the bed of the dirty waters. From it there is a branch which goes directly to the river. The cover was removed. We found only two edges of the wall. The levels of these walls were at the same level of the earth. The breadth was 1,50 m. It was found in store no. (3) , many potteries, stones, grains and mud accumulated for ages. The number division which the site was divided into and number, was of a great use we would not confuse the discovered rooms and the things which were found in it. It made it easy for us to know the remains of each room. ( See maps 224 ) .

We started reconstructing the rooms and the corridors from down to up, from no.4A which was of rectangular shape and was divided into two between it a corridor. The length of the first part was 2, 65 m and the second 3 , 40 m. The breadth of the room was 5, 20 m and the thickness of its walls was 1, 75 m from the north while the thickness of the south wall of the room was 1, 90 m. The thickness of the wall of the corridor was less than the thickness of the two walls which were beside It was about 1, 30 m. It was discovered on two ruined ovens for making bread . The team took the photos and the measurements of the ovens. The diameter of the mouth of the ovens was about 46 cm. The ovens were full of ashes and stones. They were cleaned after the foundations of the ovens were discovered .

About no.(A) which was a corridor separating the septic tanks and the bath and situated between the north kitchens. The heights of this corridor were less than the other building in the fortress. The team tried to discover the original layer which rested on mountains. ( It is believed that the fortress was built on the mountain ) . The team removed the earth and found very hard yellow stones . These hard stoses were built on by the inhabitants



## Bash Tabiya First Season

The University of Mosul appointed in the 12th June 1969 a team for excavation headed by Dr. Talat al - Yauer with Abd al - Wahid ar - Ramadanani as supervisor on the excavation team which took place in the Islamic Archaeological site of Bash Tabiya in Mosul. The team consisted also of Muwafaq Ahmad as civil engineer and representative from the General Directorship of Antiquity. Five skilled workers from Shirkat known for their previous work with excavation teams in Nineveh helped the excavation team ; while the unskilled workers who joined the team were over fifty who worked constantly during the first season of excavation , which lasted over four months .

The task given to the team was to discover from the ruins of the fortress of Bash Tabiya what was unknown , hidden and unrevealed. Therefore the team started its task by making a careful survey of the fortress and the mounds around it. The survey covered also the lands which surround the fortress. The team also took photos of the site from its different sides and specially the remains of the ruined tower of the fortress and the remains of its extension towards the north-west; besides the team took the photos of the fallen walls and roofs and the indoor corridors and the wall which surrounds the fortress .

The team chose the system of alphabetical order naming the buildings of the fortress and also giving a number to each building which was going to be excavated. By this way the team would make the task easy and better organized to get exact historical information about the site and would avoid confusion with the archaeological findings in different parts of the building .

The digging started between two standing walls which were partly ruined. These walls were extended to the south. The team followed this extension in opposite directions ( east and west ) . In this way the team would know the extension of the two walls. Moreover the team would know the late period which were stucked on the original walls which were built from plaster and stones. The foundations of the walls were covered with tarmacadam to stop dampness from penetrating the walls, which happens usually because of the water used by the inhabitants of the fortress . ( see plates II . III . )

walls and towers when the army of Tahmasib retreated. In the year 1236-1830 Ahmad al-Jalili reconstructed the fortress of BashTabya. After this date we know nothing about reconstructing the fortress because it was ruined and nothing was left except part of its tower and its wall. At the present time the University took the task to reconstruct the building.

The fortress of Bash Tabiya was built to accommodate thousands of soldiers. It has stores for munitions and weapons. This is mentioned by Ibn al-Athir when he spoke about Chawli in the year 502-1108. Chawli left the city leaving his wife and his son Yusiq. In the city lived a thousand and five hundred Turkish horsemen and other soldiers: 1

One of those people who were interested in building the fortress and strengthening its towers after it was ruined, was Fakr al-Din b. Abd-al-Masih, the minister of Sayf al-Din Ghazi who took his viziership in 566-1170 . 2

The city was visited by Ibn Jubayr, the Andalousian, in the year 579-1183. He described the city by saying "in the top of the city there was a great fortress built firmly, around the fortress there was an ancient wall with towers and there were houses belonging to the sultan and there was a street separating the city from the fortress." 3

This fortress extends from Bash Tabiya in the North to the tomb of Yahya b. Qasim, to the south and from there to the ruins of the graveyard al-Naqib in the east. and from these ruins it goes to the north to the street which goes to the Hospital . It ends in the western wall west of the gate of Huriya. Its dimension is about 6300m2.

It is regretted that nothing about the apartments of the fortress has reached us, but we know the names of the gates of the fortress. They are as follows.

1. Bab al-Qala which goes to the square of the city in the west.
2. Bab al-Sir which goes to the river. When Salah al-Din Ayubid came to Mosul in 578-1182, Mujahid al-Din b. Qimaz went out for some nights from the gate of al-Sir carrying torches with them, chasing the army of Salah al-Din .

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1. Ibn al-Athir, *al-Kamil fi al-Tarikh*, X, 172.

2. Ibid, *op.*, *Cit.*, XI, 134.

3. Jubayr., *Rihla*, p 188.

rounded the city fortress taken by Basasiri who pulled down the fortress.<sup>4</sup>

This secret gate is very important and one of the strongest gate of the fortress. In the year 566-1170, when Nur al-Din Zinqi surrounded the city of Mosul' he swore that he would never enter the city by the secret door to defeat the rebel Abd ql-Masih Fakhr al-Din who oppressed his nephew Ghazi . 1

The fortress is connected with Qara Saray. It was called before the house of al-Hilka or the houses of Saray. These houses were built by Imad al-Din Zinki. They were situated on the Tigris river and it is said by Ibn Jubayr that these houses were separated from the top till the bottom with a large street. This street was built by the Uqaylids. 2

In addition to that the fortress was a headquarter of the army and it was a prison for the outlaws. In this prison lived Qutb al-Din Mawdud who was previously governor of Mosul in 558-1162 and, his minister al-Jawas al--Isfahani . 4

It is mentioned also that in this prison lived Izz al-Din Masud, governor of Mosul in 559-1162, and his minister Mujahid al-Din Qimaz. 5

The fortress remained in good condition till the year 660-1261, when it was surrounded by Sindraghwa. In that year it was reconquered and it was pulled down . 6

The rest of the fortress was demolished by the Turkish invader Taymur Leng who came to Mosul in 796-1393 . 7

After this period the city of Mosul was taken by the Ottmanids and the governor of the city Bakr Basha b. Ismail ordered to build a wall for the the city in the year 1035-1625 . 8

It should be mentioned that the fortress was taken as a headquarter by Husayn Basha al-Jalili and he took care of the fortress by rebuilding its

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4. Al-Daywachi, *op cit*, p 119. Ibn Kuthayr *al-Bidaya wa al-nihaya fi al-Tarikh*, Cairo, 1351 AH, 1932 A.D. IIIIX' p234. Ibn al-Futi, *al-Hawadith al-Jamia wa al-Tajarib al-naft a* , ed Mustafa Jawad, Baghdad, 1351-1932, pp 346-347.

1. Ibn al-Athir, *al-Kamil*, IX, 198. *Ibid, Loc., cit.*, IX, 147.

2. Ibn Jubayr, *Rihla*, p 188

3. Ibn Khallikan, II, 72.

4. Ibn al-Athir, IX, 46 .

5. *al-Hawadith al-Jami a*, p 346-347; Dhahabi, II, 188; Ibn Kuthayr, *al-Bidaya wa al-nihaya*, IIIIX, 234; Ibn al-Ibri, p 294-295 .

6. Ibn A'arb Shah *AJa ib, al-Qudur Fi Akhbar Taymur Leng*, 188-47;

7. Al-Ummari, Yasin, K. *al-Udaba*, Manus .

8. *Ibid, op., cit, loc. cit.*

## THE FORTRESS OF BASH - TABIYA

T. R. Yawer (Ph.D.)

### Historical background.

The fortress is situated in the city of Mosul on the westside of the Tigris river, built on a hill near to the bank of the river. The founder of the fortress is unknown and the time in which it was built is also unknown. But from the references we have, mention is made that the wall of Mosul is known in the periods following : In the time of the Umayyad it is said that Marwan B. Muhammad was the one who made it as a city with a diwan and he built a bridge connecting both sides of the city and he also built a wall for the city. In the time of the Abbasid period, the caliph al-Abbas appointed Yahya b. Muhammad instead of Muhammad b. Sul. The new governor looted the city and killed thousands of citizens and pulled down the wall of the city. It is said also that the city revolted against the caliph al-Rashid, this caliph is said to have pulled down also the wall of the city. 1

At the time of the Uqaylid, it is said that the miribn Qurmis built a new wall and its remains can still be seen at the present time. 2 While at the time of the Atabiks, mention is made that Sayf al-Din b. Mawdud re-erected the wall of the city, in the year 564 A.H. It is said also that the founder of the Atabik dynasty was the first to re-erect the wall of the city and that ibn Mawdud rebuilt the wall of the fortress and strengthened its towers. 3 When the great Mongol invasion came from the east, Mosul was a target, the city was looted and the walls pulled down in the year 660 A.H.

Reference is made that the fortress of Bash-Tabiya is mentioned in the Vth century after Hira in the year 450 AH 1085 AD. A fight broke out between Ibrahim b. Yanal and al-Basasiri . It is said that al-Basasiri sur-

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1. Yaqut al-Hamawi, *Mu jam al-Buldan* Leibzig, 1286-1869, II, 196; Al-Uzdi, *IQd al-Jumman*, Munus. No. 1584; (*Tarikh al-Mawsil*) ed. Dr. Ali Habiba, Cairo 1387-1967, II, 25; Abu al-Fida, *al-Mukhtasar fi Akhbar al-Bashar*, Istanbul, 1286 II, II, p16; Al-Buladhuri, *Futuh al-Buldan*, Cairo (1957) II, p408.

2. Al-Ma'adidi, Kh., *Dawlat Bani Uqayl fi al-Mawsil*, Baghdad, 1968, p164;

3. Al-Maqdisi, Abu Shama, *al-Rawdatayn Fi Akhbar al-Dawlatayn Nuriya wa al-Salahiya* Cairo 1287, I, 43; Ahmad al-Sufi, *Khutat at-Mawsil*, Mosul, 1953, 12-13.