

THEOLOGISCHE
HOCHSCHULE



FRIEDENSAU

BEITRÄGE ZUR ERFORSCHUNG DER ANTIKEN MOABITIS (ARḌ EL-KERAK)

BAND 7

CERAMICS FROM EL-BĀLŪ^c

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FÜR BIBLISCHE ARCHÄOLOGIE
AN DER THEOLOGISCHEN HOCHSCHULE FRIEDENSAU

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Introduction

The presentation of selected samples of Iron Age pottery from the site of el-Bālū' is not the final word on this important corpus of Moabite ceramics. However, it is intended to introduce to the archaeological community excavating in Jordan, particularly in the area of ancient Moabite occupation a first summary of ceramic types excavated in seven different areas at the site of el-Bālū'.

There are a few aspects which must be pointed out at the beginning. First of all, there is no stratigraphy of the site which would have enabled us to allow distinctive separations of various occupational phases. In all areas the rooms were filled with stones and blown sand mixed with pottery. In some areas and squares there was also no floor layer but only smooth and even bedrock which served as floor.

Only in area E we were able to locate the pottery in three strata: from top-soil to floor, the pottery immediately above floor, and the pottery from below the floor (see introduction to Area E).

Regarding the publication itself, I have decided to do without presenting parallels of sherds from far-away sites. This is a task still to be done when more sites have been excavated in the area north and south of el-Bālū'. However, this publication is also intended as »workbook«. There is purposely left room enough for personal notes and comments. For this reason I have also chosen to have only four to five rims presented on one page with only few comments. Besides that, I also want to give credit to Beate Dillmann, M.A., and Olga Gabelmann, Ph.D., for their excellent work of drawing the sherds and objects.

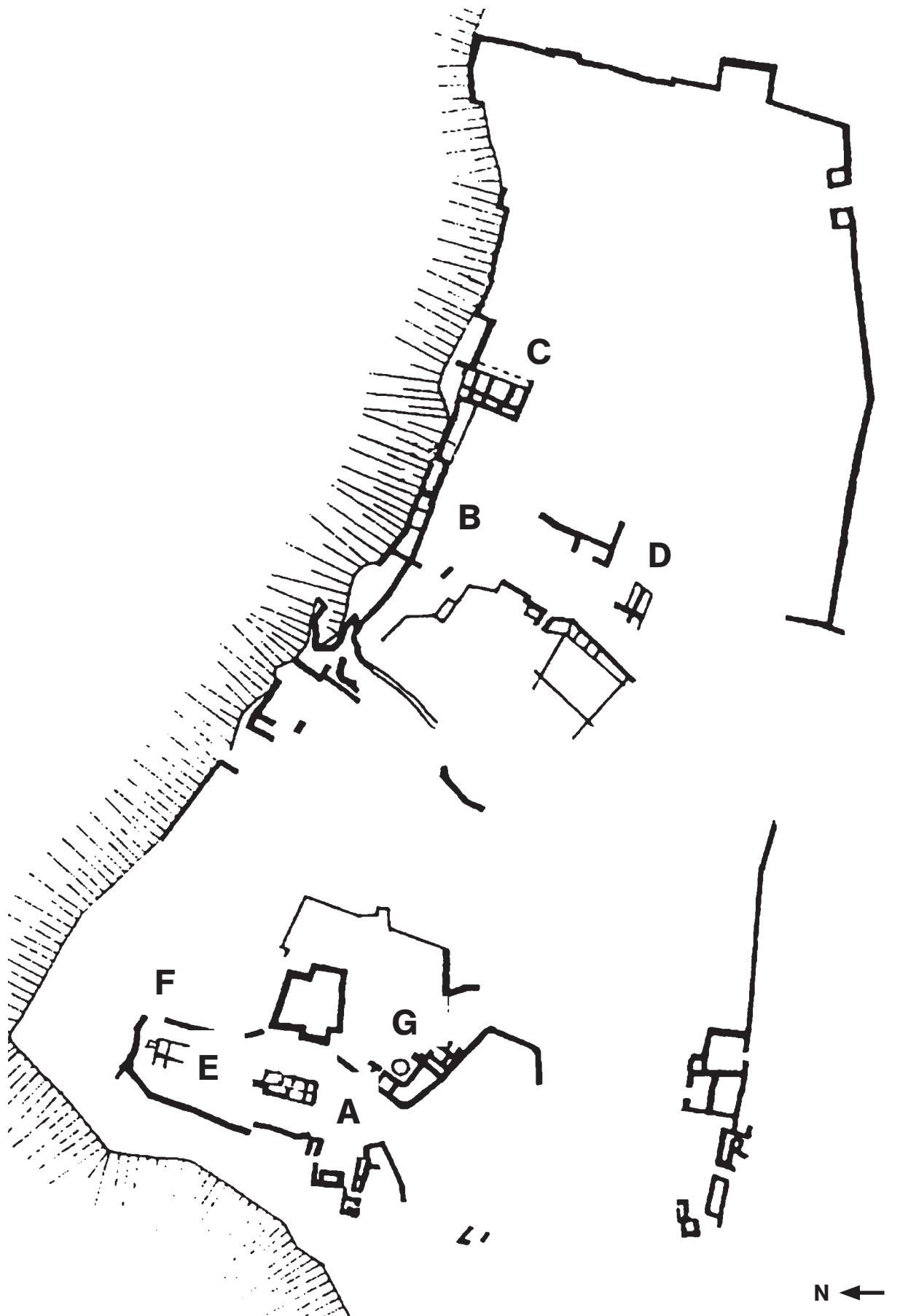
Finally, a short note on the legends. Regarding the ware, color, and inclusions I have followed the Munsell Soil Color Charts (revised 2000). My comment »levigation« refers to the way the potters have taken care to arrive at a concentration of finer particles and more homogenous clay, hence, »very well levigated«, »well levigated«, and »levigated«.

Only the rim forms of area E have received consideration regarding forms, inflections, and profiles of the lip and rim. It appears that a carefully drawn rim is more meaningful than any verbal description of it.

Finally, I would like to point to Robin Browns first and valuable discussion of the pottery samples from the Kerak region of the survey conducted by Maxwell Miller for comparison of the pottery presented here (see R. Brown, »Ceramic from the Kerak Plateau«, p. 169-280, in: J.M. Miller, (ed.): *Archaeological Survey of the Kerak Plateau*. Atlanta 1991).

Besides the pottery samples I have also included in this publication some of the important objects found in the various squares.

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The site of el-Bālū'

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