

RJ Hall

Subject: FW: TeHEP UPDATE 13 JANUARY 2010

Tall el-Hammam Excavation Project

Trinity Southwest University,
Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA

in a Joint Scientific Project with the

Department of Antiquities,
The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

TeHEP UPDATE

13 January 2010

An Exclusive Report for TeHEP Alumni, Financial Supporters, and Friends

[GLOSSARY OF CHRONOLOGICAL TERMS FREQUENTLY USED IN TeHEP UPDATES:

Chalcolithic Period = Copper/Stone Age, 4400-3300 BCE; EBA = Early Bronze Age, 3300-2350 BCE; IBA = Intermediate Bronze Age, 2350-2000 BCE; MBA = Middle Bronze Age, 2000-1550 BCE; LBA = Late Bronze Age, 1550-1200 BCE; IA1 = Iron Age 1, 1200-1000 BCE; IA2 = Iron Age 2, 1000-586 BCE; IA3 = Iron Age 3/Persian Period, 586-332 BCE; HP = Hellenistic/Greek Period, 332-63 BCE; ERP = Early Roman Period, 63 BCE-168 CE]

Hello All:

What a great day! We had amazing weather (as has been the case since we got here), and all the dig squares found important things.

The newly discovered mudbricks in the south part of Trench LA.28 are widening out into what appears to be yet another significant (fortification?) wall. I'm simply amazed with this discovery. Our working theory from today is that these bricks are part of the Middle Bronze Age fortification system (rampart and/or glacis) that, when it was built, swallowed up the entire 5m-thick EBA city wall, many structures.



DONNA EXPOSES A SURPRISING UDBRICK WALL



ROCHELLE WITH ROMAN RIM-HANDLE

It's hard to get a perspective on just how big the MBA defensive system is, but let me try to describe it. The stone foundations are built of large, tightly-laid boulders with chinking stones between, and ranges from 4m to 8m thick. The stone foundation of the wall rose to height of about 5m, and was topped with a mudbrick superstructure raising the overall height of the wall to over 15m (nearly 50 ft.). A sloping rampart/glacis made of fill and mudbricks ramped up 35 degrees to the main city wall from a retaining wall some 12m away, with a mudbrick-and-mud-plaster footing sloping away from the retaining wall forming the bottom of the glacis. The entire outer face of the walls and the outer glacis (protective slope) were once covered with a thick coating of cream-colored clay-ash-lime plaster. It would have been an impressive sight, as well as providing formidable defenses.

Also today, Ken led a team in the excavation of what we think might be an intact dolmen chamber beneath a medium-sized capstone. The capstone had to be removed (with great effort), and also two of the side stones. We'll let you know what happens.



KEN EXCAVATES A DOLMEN FOR EVIDENCE OF A BURIAL

Several have asked about what dolmens are. Please see my previous Update that dealt with that subject.

Enjoy the pics!



SUNSET OVER THE DEAD SEA

Digging the Bible,

Steven Collins, TeHEP Director
Dean, College of Archaeology, Trinity Southwest University

P.S. Please forward this to whomever you like!

You can make donations to TeHEP at the TSU shopping website: www.shop.tsu-edu.us.

Donations can be mailed to: [TSU; 5600 Eubank NE, Suite 130; Albuquerque, NM USA 87111](#).

For detailed information about the Tall el-Hammam Excavation Project, visit the official TeHEP website: www.tallelhammam.com.