

Dec. 10th 1928. Tell Fara.

Dec. 10th 1928. Tell Fara. ... A fine bronze dagger with complete ivory inlay handle was found along with a bronze chain and two bronze ~~XXXXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXXXX~~ ends one a triangular sheet, the other a frame quite new to me. A very rare group, about XVII dyn.

... The work is running at about £60 a week: on (1) the fort at north end, (2) the cemetery to the north, (3) the saddle between the ends, where some hope to get a temple site, (4) the entrance ravine. The last is very curious; the ravine is very steep at the sides, and 50 ft deep; across it askew is a line of big blocks, two courses deep. They have shifted rather, owing to seepage of water through the sand, but the double course proves them to be nearly in place. Now this seems to be the foundation of a skew gate, such that ~~xx~~ no battering ram could beat it, and only a few men could stand in a few feet before it, and would then be easily knocked over by stones rolled down on them in the narrow space. This seems to be a type of defence quite new to us, and very effective.




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Tell Fara. 18 Dec. 1928.

(2)

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A beautiful find was a ~~brass~~ bronze strainer with duck head handle,  bowl pierced with minute holes in a pattern, and inlay of silver lines on the handle. It is very like Pompeian work, but as early as 700 B.C. It suggests that the fine 1st century bronze work was inspired from Oriental models, which continued to be made for centuries.... Large water worn palaeoliths are to be picked up in the wady here among the stream bed flints, half a dozen have come in; on the hills are many little scrapers, and now a delicate arrowhead, and another half made showing how the form was blocked out before working it down thin.

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... I do not say all I could in the Anc.Eg.paper, as we must not excite dealers or the museum. But the line of great tombs here is a valuable find. In one tomb were 80 pots, a bronze dagger, and an iron dagger with a massive bronze handle. Several pots painted with swans &c. in good state. Another tomb had in it a perfect painted pot, only the brim lost with the paint firm and strong as new; I scrubbed it with wet sponge without the least injury! Hitherto we have been glad to see merely tender colour that would scrub off. Then Albright (who did not see the prizes) said he had never seen that type of tomb.



G gangway
B raised benches at side on which
bodies lay.
8 or 10 skeletons, with pots
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There are at least two more such tombs to clear,
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[R]
(B - B
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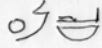
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Tell Fara. 13 Feb. <14 Jan.> 1929.


(4)

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Tell Fara. 13 Feb. 1929. ... At the fort we are now clearing away the fort and buildings of Shishak, which have been fully planned, levelled, photographed, and brick sizes measured. No lots of jewellery have been found like those of Gerar; only the group of three bone figures, which I sent for A.E. A stray find has been an ivory knife handle, finely carved as a couchant lion, in Assyrian style. The great north wall has been cut through in three places; it was of tough yellow clay bricks, 17 feet thick, with an inside lining of 7 feet thick, probably later. This great wall seems to be pre-Shishak, as it goes down far below that level, and is still about twenty feet high.

The cemeteries still are very productive. The tomb of 80 pots is almost rivalled by others. The earliest is of the Hyksos time, with 6 scarabs, one with a new Hyksos name  Three or four more daggers have been found, one with bone handle.

We ran a track out westward from the Ramesside west wall. It proved that a great depth of sand had been blown up here, to over 20 feet. At last we thought the job done, when the deepest part suddenly shewed a blocked up tomb door. So we have to pile on about 50 workers to clear the ground so as to work in safety at that depth. This is much nearer the town than any other graves, and likely to be of the earliest.

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From Tell Fara (Beth Pelet)
29 Jan. 1929.

Extract:

Here we are going on actively on Hyksos tombs, with many scarabs and fine pots. Plans of each are made. The great trench we cut on the west in search of any desert tombs, went down 12 feet through blown sand, and then disclosed an immense rude trench 20 feet deep, ~~sloping~~ ^{sloping} up to a steep glacis, the Hyksos style of defence; a slope of 30 ft. long down, and then 70 ft. long up to the wall of the camp, all too steep for anything to lie on it. Near the bottom were XVIII-XIX tombs cut in the gebel, one had 3 bodies and about 15 scarabs. To reach this we had to make a pit about 40 ft square at the top. Now we are trying at the end of the West side to see if we can find the start of the trench running down into the end wady.... (the Hyksos) pottery is the most beautiful in form of any that I know, quite equal to the best Greek..

13 Feb.

The great development here is the flints. We have many hundred Palaeolithic from the wady bed, and as there is no detail of site - being washed down - we buy up all we can at 1/4 or 1/2d each. Boys & men rake all the bed for 6 or 8 miles both ways. Then many sites of settlement have come to light, and we refuse to pay for any flints from such, in order to keep them for our work; but give 2/s for showing a site. These sites are mostly about 1st dyn. time and before, and have much pottery fragments. All that wants careful working, which must wait till next year, and I shall earmark the region to Richmond for our work. But as that will not need close levelling and surveying, probably I shall not come next year, but do writing in Rome.

From one day's dig with 3 or 4 men we got out 150 pigmy cores with many flakes. We shall get the connection of pigmy flints with pottery, and so fix the dating of them. It is a field better for flints than any in Egypt.

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The palace flints are vast, many hundreds, probably 1000 or more, of every grade, mostly bordering on eoliths. The later settlements with pottery we are leaving for next season.

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14

Tell Fara. 13 March, 1929.

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