

Cuttings made into the lower portion of the mound at three different places (I-III) disclosed only solid masonry of what may be assumed to have formed part of the substructure for quarters higher up. It is from these that the potsherds found along the decomposed mass of sun-dried brickwork below are likely to have been washed down. Remains of glazed pottery and of glass vessels turned up with particular frequency at the cutting III made at the north-eastern end of the mound. There, under the closely adjoining rock face, some refuse had evidently accumulated. The same observation applies to the finds of ceramic ware made when clearing a mass of clay debris, IV, showing signs of burning, which lay between the south-western end of the mound and the ruined structure below it, V. Two cavities in the latter, indicating what seemed to have been small rooms, were partially cleared without any finds being made.

More useful results attended the clearing of the rock-cut trench, VIII, which, as previously noted, extends along the slope for some 200 feet from the western end of the wall closing the gap. Though completely filled with earth and rock debris the straight line of the trench was easily recognized by me when looking down from the crest of the ridge. The width of the trench at the top was from 7 to 8 feet; its depth on the average 6 to 7 feet. Pieces of pottery, both glazed and relief-decorated, together with plain ware and fragments of glass, turned up in plenty at depths of 1 to 3 feet from the surface. The specimens of ceramic ware recovered here agree so closely with the pottery found elsewhere at the site, whether on the surface or otherwise, that their types may all be conveniently described here together.

Among these types the most characteristic and best represented is that of the glazed pottery, which has its decoration, all in line, incised through a light slip and hence shows dark under the transparent glaze. Numerous specimens of this ware are reproduced in Pl. IV. As seen in the pieces of the large dish, Jam. VIII. 169, and in fragments like VIII. 258, 276, 277; IV. 155, and others, the designs comprise floral shapes, combined with arabesques and often with freely treated Kufic inscriptions on the rims. The designs are almost invariably shown on a hachured ground. The glaze varies from pale straw to yellow, brown or shades of green, often with splashes showing a mixture of these colours or of purple (manganese) added. Some glazed fragments, like surf. 23 with its 'pearl border', show a different treatment. Painted pottery, without glaze, is rare.

Relief-decorated ware is well represented by the large jar, VIII. 257 (Pl. V), cast in two portions from separate moulds and joined before firing. VIII. 202 (Pl. V), part of the handle of a large jar, is decorated with a wriggling snake