

THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

July 20th, 1938

Dear Nelson,

Just a few lines to give you the latest reactions. Torrey, with nothing but the text of the Aramaic graffiti to go by, dates it provisionally in the fifth century B.C. As I pointed out, the men suggests a date in the early sixth century and the pottery is, of course, opposed to so late a date as the fifth. An elongated amphora from stratum IV (which McCaugland had photographed) belongs to a type which does not appear yet at the end of Tell Beit Mirsim A or Beth-shemeesh II and which Petrie, Gerar, dates in the period following the ^{the} appearance of the pottery characteristic of TBM A (especially miniature black-burnished juglets and miniature amphoras, etc.). Moreover the Gerar-Kholeifeh type is the direct progenit of the still more elongated amphora of the Persian period (fifth-fourth centuries).

I am rushing whatever information I can to you so you can consider it and make whatever revision of the original chronology may be needed. You see that it would have been imprudent to have rushed into print in dealing with novel material. I may say in passing that Fisher has really never worked ~~with~~ with stratified deposits of this period, so his chronology might very well be materially off.

With best wishes,

Very sincerely yours,

W. F. Albright