

April 26th 1938

Mr. E. Gjerstad
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Dear Dr. Gjerstad,

I am sorry not to have been able to reply immediately to your letter of April 10th. I have just returned for a couple of days from my excavations at Tell el-Kheleifi near Aqabah. We think it is the site of Ezion Geber.

With regard to your question concerning the black on red ware in Transjordan, I may say definitely that it appears in such masses on almost all of the Early Iron age sites in Transjordan that I have thus far excavated, and is so closely related with other typical Transjordanian painted wares, that for the present at least, it may be called Transjordanian. In the enclosed copy of the letter I wrote recently to Dr. Sjöqvist you will find some additional remarks which I have made with regard to this particular subject. I may say that you are free to make whatever use of my letter you may think necessary. With regard to your statement which I quote: "As far as I understand, the Transjordan sites were more or less abandoned in the 9th cent., i.e. at the time when the Black-on-Red ware became Cypriote. Is this a mere coincidence or may we suppose an ethnic movement in the Transjordan district to the north and via North Syria to Cyprus, i.e., that a part of the Transjordan people took refuge to Cyprus in the 9th and 8th centuries?", I should like to say the following: As I pointed out in my letter to Dr. Sjöqvist the main sedentary civilization in Transjordan goes down to about the end of the 8th century B.C., but does not completely cease till about the 5th. The main pottery finds belong to the period ending about 8th century B.C. I previously thought that what happened to the Edomites and Moabites from the 8th century onwards is what happened to the Nabataeans after their being conquered by the Romans. The central government weakened, some of the Moabites and Edomites remained on the spot and were absorbed either into the later Nabataean groups or into Beduin groups, and other Edomites, for instance, migrated to Palestine, there to become known as the Idumaeans. I am sending you under separate cover a copy of an article of mine on the boundaries of Edom which deals with this particular subject. However, on the other hand it is not impossible that a large number of Transjordanians at about the 9th or 8th century B.C. may have migrated northward to Syria and then to Cyprus, and in Cyprus influenced the development of pottery. I must point out, however, what I

have already pointed out in my letter to Dr. Sjöqvist, that the common source for the Transjordanian and Cypriote types in question may be in Syria. I am sending you under separate cover Bulletin 65; on page 12 you will find some remarks I have made in that connection. See also Bulletin 68.

I should say that both white painted and bichrome wares occur contemporaneously, featuring particularly horizontal bands of decoration, and to a considerably lesser extent, concentric circles. Speaking approximately, I should say that there is about an equal amount of black on red, white painted, and bichrome wares, the latter occurring on the finer types of pottery. Let me add that concentric circles occur particularly on a type of pilgrim flask, and to a certain degree, on small fine juglets.

I do not know whether these answers will satisfy you, but until I have had a chance to go over my pottery collections with these particular questions in my mind, I cannot be more definite than I am in this letter. I am greatly pleased to hear from you with regard to these questions, because they are stimulating and perforce informative. I should be glad to hear from you again.

Sincerely yours

Nelson Glueck, Director

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