CHAPTER EIGHT

THE POTTERY OF THE CHALCOLITHIC AND EARLY BRONZE I PERIODS IN THE JORDAN VALLEY AND SOUTHERN DESERT FRINGES OF SAMARIA

INTRODUCTION

The aim of this chapter is to present the characteristics of the ceramic finds from the surveys and excavations. Although most of the study deals with the spatial settlement pattern, there is significance to the many pottery finds that are also connected to the settlement pattern and what we determine from it.

In this chapter we will make a preliminary attempt at offering a regional ceramic typology based primarily on surveys, including general remarks about the pottery of the study region in the different periods. Um Hammad ware, which is a regional group unique to the study area in the EB I, will also be discussed.

REGIONAL POTTERY TYPOLGY

The data are based on the Manasseh Hill Country Survey collection, with additional data based on the Survey of Ephraim, the Emergency Survey, and also derived from the salvage excavation at Fazael (Porath 1985).

The aims of the typology are:

1. To become familiar with the predominant ceramic types and those that are absent from the periods addressed in this study.
2. To create a database for referral from the Site Catalogue to the finds in this chapter, in order to assist in analyzing the chronological characteristics and segmentation probability of each site.

To ensure the reliability of the typology, the criteria for a type were determined as a regional periodic characteristic:

1. It must appear a number of times at a number of different sites.
2. It must appear at a site that is classified as having at least a medium or higher level of probability.¹

¹ In exceptional instances types that appeared at sites that have only a medium
3. Finds from single period sites were preferred.

Many types were not included in the typology due to a failure to meet the criteria.

The finds were sorted into five categories:
1. Bowls.
2. Deep bowls, kraters and basins.
3. Holemouth jars.
4. Jars – including other types such as pithoi and amphoriskoi.
5. Miscellaneous – various items and characteristics such as chalices and handles.

The main sub-types are defined in each category, and are presented below graphically, with a description. For a more complete picture we suggest also using the typologies that were presented from the excavations conducted as part of the study.²

_Ceramic Typology of the Chalcolithic in the Southern Jordan Valley and Desert Fringes of Samaria_

_Bowls_ (Fig. 8.1)

Six types and sub-types of bowls were identified, although in the surveys relatively few bowls were discovered compared to other vessels. The bowls are thin, small and delicate, and their parts were difficult to discern during the survey (for comparison – at 'Ein Hilu bowls constitute 44% of all the finds and are the largest group, whereas the surveys indicate that bowls are less than 5% of the finds at the site).

_Type B1a_ (Fig. 8.1: 1–2): a deep bowl with straight sides inverted near the rim. The rim is plain, sharp or bevelled. Sometimes there is a red painted decorative stripe on the inside or outside of the rim, and the outside of the vessel is occasionally slipped red. The bowl occurs in various diameters, ranging from 10 to 25 cm. This bowl is very common in the southern Jordan Valley and at many Chalcolithic sites throughout the country.

Parallels: 'En Esur (Yannai et al. 2006: fig. 4.18: 26–30), Teleilat Ghas-

² The two typologies have been separated because of the difference between the pottery data from the survey and the excavations, and because the excavations at the Fazael valley sites are still going on, and the final typology has not been completed for each site.