The Late Pre-Pottery Neolithic B Arrowhead
Typology of Basta Area B, Southern Jordan and its
Chrono-Stratigraphical Implications

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Abstract

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This study is aims to present the typology of arrowheads from area B Basta, one of the late Pre-pottery Neolithic B (PPNB) sites in southern Jordan. Moreover, the study aims to investigate and establish the Chrono-stratigraphy of Basta.

The arrowheads classified and studied were selected among the flint assemblages excavated at area B during the seasons of 1987, 1988, and 1989. The study attempted to answer the following questions.

-- How many types of arrowheads are there at Basta area B?
-- Are there new types of arrowheads not attested at other late PPNB sites in Jordan?
-- Does the study of stratigraphy of the same area at Basta show different phases?

In order to establish the typology of Basta arrowheads, standardized arrowheads: Helwan, Jericho, Byblos, and Amuq related types and the typology of Beidha arrowheads are discussed in details. Classification approaches by scholars who studied the flint technology and summary of research on relative arrowhead chronology are discussed.
Details of the environmental setting and material culture of Basta are discussed in chapter II. The chapter also discusses the methods used in the classification of the collection of arrowheads from Basta with detailed definition of major types of arrowheads, and summary of Mortensen's typology as well as additional, types of arrowheads not attested at other Neolithic sites.

Results of the study are as follow: Twenty four types of arrowheads were identified including four types not attested at other Neolithic sites. The arrowheads are type A 29, A 30, A 31, and A 32. The study of the stratigraphy of the loci from which those arrowheads came indicate that, as a preliminary conclusion, Basta had two phases. The first phase being the lower part of the site and the second phase is represented in the upper part. The stratigraphical analysis of the loci from which those arrowheads came show that the arrowheads from the lower part of the area differ in size and quality from the arrowheads excavated from the upper part of the area. Further, existence of more than a phase is confirmed with the appearance of a floor that separates the two phases.