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Two Rosette Stamp Impressions from Tell en-Nasbeh

Tell en-Nasbeh, probably biblical Mizpah of Benjamin, located about 12 km northwest of Jerusalem, yielded a large number of stamp and seal impressions as a result of the excavations of Professor William F. Badè in the 1920s and 1930s. These include 87 LMLK (למלך) impressions, 30 M(W)ŠH (מ(ו)שח) impressions, 24 YH(D) (יה(ד)) impressions, 1 YRŠLM (ירשלם) impression, 7 animal impressions, and 4 private seal impressions (McCown 1947: 154–67, 169–72; Avigad 1958: 113–19). The stamp impressions cover the entire range of official stamp types from the kingdom of Judah, with one notable exception. No impressions of the rosette type were published, and since about two-thirds of the site had been excavated and McCown's 1947 report appeared to be very complete in its coverage of epigraphic finds, it seemed the site simply lacked this class of impression.

However, two rosette impressions did turn up during ongoing efforts to compile a computerized database of the Tell en-Nasbeh materials; and these are published here for the first time. It is beyond the scope of this short note to go into the chronological and cultural implications of the rosette stamp impressions.

The first impression (fig. 1) was found in surface debris in Square Z24 in the middle of the west side of the tell, and was given Museum Number 1502. It is ca. 17 mm in diameter, is located at the base of a two-ridge handle, and has eight "petals." The handle's exterior surface color is 10YR8/3

(very pale brown) and its subsurface, core, and interior surface are 7.5YR5/0 (gray), according to the Munsell color scheme.

A little more is known about the second impression (fig. 2). It was found in Cistern 156, of Room 60 of Building 177.04 in Square AH20 in the southwest corner of the site (Zorn 1993a: 836–41). This building is assigned to Stratum 3 of the site's revised stratigraphy, which runs from the tenth century B.C.E. to the fall of Jerusalem in 586 B.C.E.¹ The cistern was found covered with a stone slab and the deposit within it was relatively homogeneous, suggesting that it had been cleaned out several times during its use and contained materials only from its final phase. It contained almost complete examples of Assyrian-style bowls (Wampler's Types 1214–1216; pl. 54), high foot lamps (Types 1636, 1638, 1641; pl. 71) and another example of a late Iron Age bowl (Type 1316; pl. 57), as well as other types with longer periods of use. This would seem to indicate that the cistern's final use was in the seventh to sixth century B.C.E., and so suggests a *terminus post quem* for the impression itself.

This second rosette impression was stamped on the wall of a storage jar, high on the shoulder above two grooves running around the circumference of the jar; not enough of the jar survived to determine its type. The impression is ca. 19 mm in diameter and has 11 "petals." For some unknown reason it was not given a Museum number. The jar's exterior and interior surfaces were 5YR5/4

1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions and activities. This is essential for ensuring transparency and accountability in the organization's operations.

2. The second part of the document outlines the various methods and techniques used to collect and analyze data. This includes both qualitative and quantitative approaches, as well as the use of advanced statistical tools.

3. The third part of the document focuses on the interpretation and application of the collected data. This involves identifying key trends, patterns, and insights that can inform decision-making and strategic planning.

4. The final part of the document provides a summary of the findings and conclusions drawn from the analysis. It also offers recommendations for future research and areas for further exploration.

5. The document also includes a detailed appendix containing all the raw data and supporting information used in the analysis. This ensures that the results are fully reproducible and verifiable.

6. Additionally, the document provides a comprehensive list of references and citations, acknowledging the contributions of other researchers and experts in the field.

7. The document is structured to be easily accessible and readable, with clear headings and sub-headings that guide the reader through the content.

8. Finally, the document includes a section on the limitations of the study, acknowledging the constraints and potential biases that may have influenced the results.

Research Methodology and Data Analysis

The research methodology employed in this study is a combination of qualitative and quantitative approaches. The qualitative component involves the use of semi-structured interviews and focus groups to gather in-depth insights from participants. The quantitative component involves the collection and analysis of numerical data through surveys and experiments.

Data collection was conducted over a period of six months, during which time a total of 120 participants were interviewed and 500 surveys were distributed. The data was then analyzed using a combination of thematic analysis and statistical methods to identify key findings and trends.

The results of the analysis indicate that there is a strong correlation between the variables studied, with a significant positive relationship observed. This suggests that the factors being investigated are closely linked and may have a direct impact on the outcomes being measured.

Further exploration of these relationships is needed to fully understand the underlying mechanisms and to develop effective interventions. The findings of this study provide a solid foundation for future research and practical applications in the field.

The study also identified several limitations, including the potential for self-reporting bias in the survey data and the limited generalizability of the findings due to the specific sample used. Despite these limitations, the study provides valuable insights into the complex relationships being investigated.

The quantitative analysis revealed that the majority of participants (75%) reported a high level of satisfaction with the current state of affairs. However, there were notable differences in satisfaction levels across different demographic groups, with younger participants generally reporting higher satisfaction than older participants.

These findings suggest that while overall satisfaction is high, there are still areas where improvements are needed, particularly for older participants. The qualitative data further supported these observations, with many participants expressing concerns about the long-term sustainability of the current approach.

In conclusion, the research has provided a comprehensive overview of the current state of affairs and has identified key areas for future research and improvement. The findings are consistent with previous studies in the field and provide a clear direction for further exploration.

The study's contributions to the field are significant, as it has provided a detailed and nuanced understanding of the relationships between the variables studied. This information is crucial for developing effective strategies and interventions that address the needs of all participants.

Finally, the study has highlighted the importance of ongoing research and monitoring in this area. The dynamic nature of the field requires a continuous effort to stay up-to-date on the latest findings and to adapt strategies accordingly. The research presented here serves as a valuable resource for anyone interested in this field.

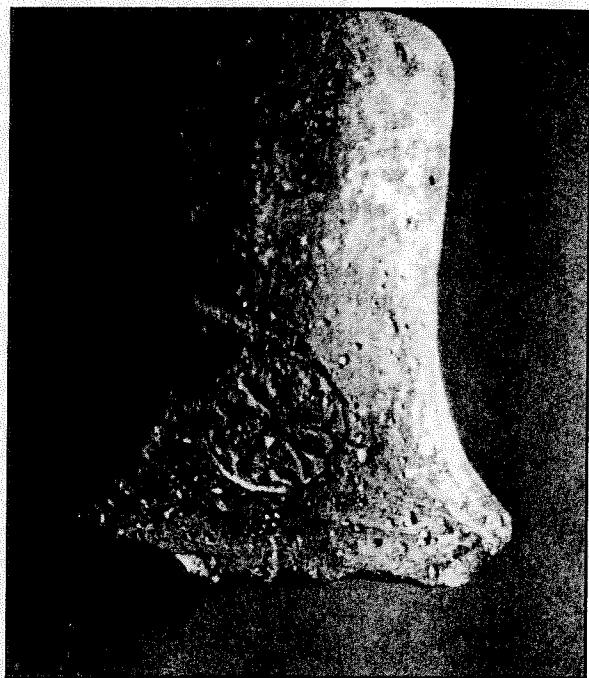


Fig. 1. Rosette stamp impression from Square Z24.

(reddish brown); its subsurface is 2.5YR5/6 (red). It was not possible to determine the color of the core of the sherd.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I thank Jane Cahill, who is preparing a definitive publication of the rosette class of stamp impression, for inquiring if any impressions of this type had been found at Tell en-Nasbeh. Her question prompted me to search the computer database of the Tell en-Nasbeh material. I also thank the Badè Institute of Biblical Archaeology for permission to photograph and publish these two impressions, and Walter Aufrecht and Dr. John Hayes for reading and commenting on a draft of this article.

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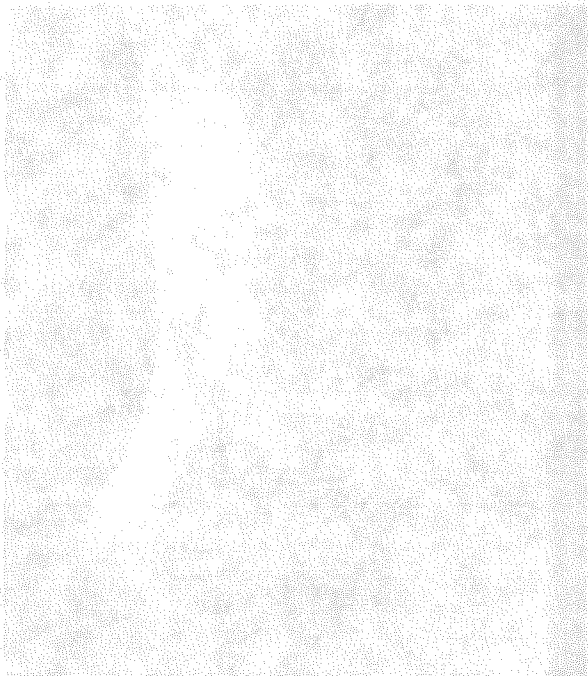
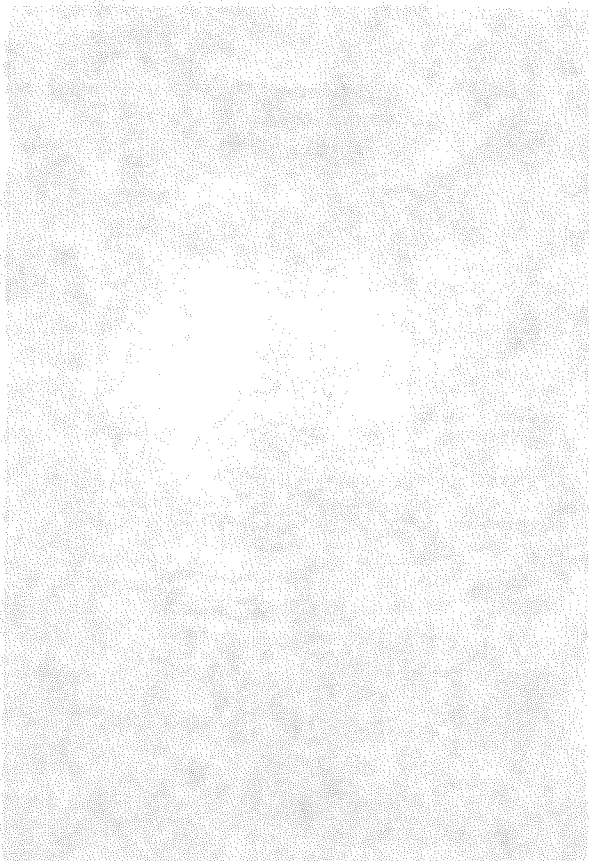
¹The scheme published in the 1947 report used roman numerals to designate the strata (McCown 179–88). The revised stratigraphy uses Arabic numerals to avoid confusion with the strata of the earlier work. For a summary of the new stratigraphy see Zorn 1993b.



Fig. 2. Rosette stamp impression from Cistern 156.

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