

The "Chalcolithic Fine Ware" From Kataret es Samra, Jordan

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Pottery (Posters)

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Kataret es-Samra is strategically located on the interface of the ghor and the zor of the East Jordan Valley ca. 40 km. NW of Amman and ca. 5 km. north of the confluence of the Jordan River and the Wadi Zarqa (Biblical Jabbok). In 1985, as part of a larger project, I directed the excavation of a small (three-week) sounding on the Kataret es-Samra plateau that produced a decorated pottery that I described in the preliminary publications as a "Chalcolithic Fine Ware" and suggested possible connections with the Amuq (Phase D) and other manifestations of the entity formerly known as Ubaid. This pottery is now housed at the Harvard Museum of the Ancient Near East (formerly, the Harvard Semitic Museum) where I had been preparing it for integration into the HMANE catalogue system when the Covid-19 virus struck. After the campus reopens, I plan to continue that work with the goal of expanding access to the material and eventual publication. Specifically, following a review of the stratigraphy of the sounding, this poster will consider the definition of the Kataret es-Samra Fine Ware, as well as its chronology and the terminology used to describe it – all with an eye towards reintroducing the results of a 1985 sounding to a 2020's audience.