



JUB-E GOWHAR

JUB-E GOWHAR, an archeological site in the Eyvān plain, Ilām province (Poštkuh, Lorestān). A total of sixty-six tombs of a partially plundered graveyard were excavated at Jub-e Gowhar in 1977 by the Belgian Archeological Mission in Iran, directed by Louis Vanden Berghe (q.v.). The Mission excavated fifty-six stone lined tombs covered with flat slabs, nine pit graves of which some were covered with stone slabs and one pithos grave (Figure 1). The far majority were individual tombs, but some of the stone lined tombs contained up to four skeletons. The graveyard belongs to a single period, the Iron Age III (ca. 800/750-600 BCE), known from other sites such as Gol Kānān Morda, Čamahzi Mumah, and War Kabud (Vanden Berghe, 1987; Haerinck and Overlaet, 1998, 1999, 2004). The burial goods included pottery, a bronze mace and shield, bronze vessels, jewelry, iron armament (arrowheads, daggers, swords, spearheads, and axe-heads), flint arrowheads, and tools and beads of various types and materials (Figure 2). Silver was the only precious metal, but was used only in small quantities (some rings, hair-coils, and earrings). The pottery, which amounted to more than 45 percent of the finds, included cooking, common buff, fine buff, and fine grey ware, some with incised patterns. Diagnostic Iron Age III shapes were teapots with tubular spouts, sometimes bridged, and a vertical and/or basket handle, as well as jugs. The fine buff (3 percent of the pottery) and particularly the fine grey wares (20 percent) are characteristic for the Poštkuh Iron Age III. Small vessels are often decorated with incised geometric patterns, some of which can be linked to Baba Jan III painted designs (Piškuh, Lorestān; cf. Goff, figs. 1-9). Noteworthy among the pottery was the discovery of five bull- and cow-shaped vessels, one



in fine grey and four in common buff ware.

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