

## Tall Zira'a: Gadara Regional Project Publications

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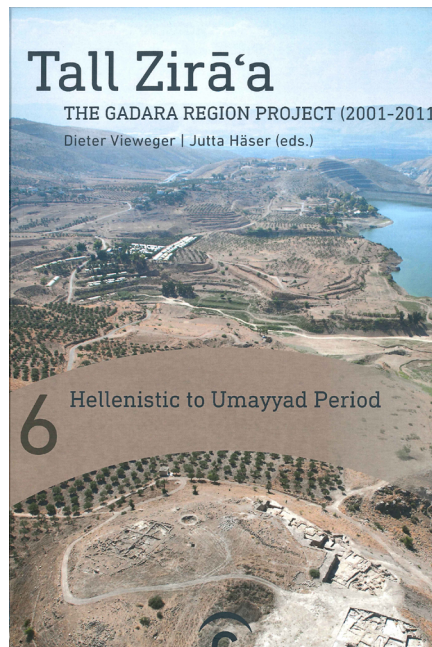
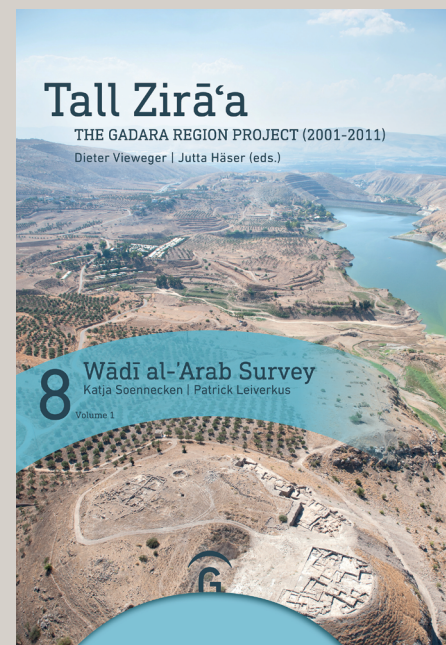


Fig. 1. *Tall Zira'a: The Gadara Region Project (2001-2011): Final Report 6. Hellenistic to Umayyad Period (Strata 8-3) Ceramic, Glass and Metal Finds*, published in 2020.

Fig. 2. *Tall Zira'a: The Gadara Region Project (2001-2011): Final Report 8, volume 1. Wādī al-'Arab Survey*, published in 2021.



The settlement hill Tall Zira'a is located in the Wadi al-'Arab in northwest Jordan, only 4.5 km southwest of Gadara/Umm Qais. Situated in a fertile landscape rich with water and arable soil and equipped with an artesian spring in the middle of the hill, it provided excellent living conditions for settlers. Therefore, the site was inhabited from the Early Bronze Age to the Islamic period.



The investigation of Tall Zira'a began in 2001 within the framework of the Gadara Regional Project conducted by the Biblical Archaeological Institute Wuppertal and German Protestant Institute of Archaeology in the Holy Land and directed by the editors. After an archaeological survey in 2001 and different geophysical explorations, excavations started in 2003 and continued until 2011. During this period, eighteen seasons were carried out in three areas comprising 3,500 sq m. Twenty-five strata from the Early Bronze Age to the Ottoman period were excavated in area I. The Iron Age II stratum was reached in area II and the Byzantine stratum in area III.

Volumes 1 (*Introduction*) and 2 (*Early and Middle Bronze Age*) of the final publication were published in 2017 and 2019. Volume 6 was published in 2020 (Fig. 1). It contains the detailed analysis of the ceramic finds from the Hellenistic to Umayyad strata 8 to 3 on Tall Zira'a, undertaken by Frauke Kenkel, as well as the metal and glass finds from the same strata and periods by Stefanie Hoss.

The double volume 8/1 and 8/2 presents the results of the Wādī al-'Arab survey carried out by Katja Soennecken and Patrick Leiverkus during the summer campaigns 2009 to 2011, also within the framework of the Gadara Regional Project (Fig. 2). The study area comprises the catchment of the Wādī al-'Arab except for the wider area of the modern city of Irbid. The aim of the survey was the diachronic analysis of the settlement history in the Wādī al-'Arab, complementing the results of the excavations on Tall Zira'a as the most prominent archaeological site in this region. Furthermore, Wādī al-'Arab is one of the easily passable ascents from the Jordan valley to the Irbid-Ramtha-basin, and it was part of trade routes connecting the Mediterranean region with Syria, Mesopotamia, and the Jordanian Highlands. The survey focused on the importance and shift of this route.

Volume 8/1 presents the research history, the methodological background of the survey, and an outline of the settlement types characteristic of the different periods, a section written by Katja Soennecken and Patrick Leiverkus. Selected ceramic, stone, and glass finds were studied and published by Frauke Kenkel, Benjamin Schröder, and Stefanie Hoss. Related research projects in the Wādī al-'Arab encompass studies on the landscape, vegetation, and natural resources which are reported by Katja Soennecken, Patrick Leiverkus, Linda Olsvig-Whittaker, Avi Shmida, Sabine Kraushaar, and Marwan Al-Raggad.

Volume 8/2 contains the detailed site catalog and photo documentation, as well as a list of finds for each site. Further results of the survey will be scrutinized in another study. Since the information about the archaeological sites in the wadi and its vicinity should be as up to date as possible, a review of former publications was included and evaluated.

## References

- Vieweger, Dieter, and Jutta Häser (eds.). 2020. *Tall Zira'a: The Gadara Region Project (2001-2011): Final Report 6. Hellenistic to Umayyad Period (Strata 8-3) Ceramic, Glass and Metal Finds*. Gütersloh: Gütersloher Verlagshaus. < [https://tallziraa.de/Endpublikation/1\\_477.html](https://tallziraa.de/Endpublikation/1_477.html) >.
- Vieweger, Dieter, and Jutta Häser (eds.). 2021. *Tall Zira'a: The Gadara Region Project (2001-2011): Final Report 8. Wādī al-'Arab Survey*, 2 vols. Gütersloh: Gütersloher Verlagshaus. < [tallziraa.de/Endpublikation/1\\_481.html](https://tallziraa.de/Endpublikation/1_481.html) >.

Project website: [tallziraa.de](https://tallziraa.de)