

THE TREPINED SKULL FROM
THE EARLY BRONZE PERIOD
AT ARAD

Offprint from

ERETZ-ISRAEL

Archaeological, Historical and Geographical Studies

VOLUME TWENTY ONE

Ruth Amiran Volume

Published by
THE ISRAEL EXPLORATION SOCIETY
JERUSALEM 1990

THE TREPHINED SKULL FROM THE EARLY BRONZE AGE PERIOD AT ARAD*

PATRICIA SMITH

Laboratory of Physical Anthropology, Hebrew University

During the course of the excavations carried out at Arad by Ruth Amiran and co-workers, a tomb cave was accidentally discovered outside the northwestern wall of the Early Bronze Age II city. The cave was small, measuring some 1.6×2.5 m in area, with the maximum height *ca.* 1 m (Ill. 1). A number of secondary burials were found, together with a material assemblage which indicates that the

burial cave belonged to the non-urban settlement of Stratum IV at Arad (Amiran et al. 1978; Amiran et al. 1986).

The bones had been placed in two piles. The skulls were found on a roughly semicircular platform, while the long bones were concentrated in the western corner of the cave (Ill. 2). Four of the eight skulls excavated were identified as male, two were



Ill. 1. Burial at Arad, photographed after destruction of outer wall

