

Abstracts for Merpert Memorial Roundtable

G. Buccellati, *The Other Urban Revolution*

Our understanding of the early rise of cities is based on the Sumerian model. The excavations at Urkesh suggest the possibility of an alternative model, which we may tentatively call the Hurrian model. It reflects a situation where the hinterland plays a greater role in the development of the early state, because of the more extended nature of the territory and the more differentiated status of its population, drawing as it does on the far-flung mountain valleys of what is today the Tur-Abdin. The paper will present my understanding of this model, and summarize the evidence in its favor.

M. Kelly-Buccellati, *The Late Prehistoric Levels at Urkesh*

Recent excavations in Urkesh have brought to light important fourth millennium evidence for an urban setting in Urkesh for this early period including architectural evidence supported by seal impressions and a large amount of locally produced ceramics. After this period the urban layout during the very beginning of the third millennium is becoming clearer, exemplified by a number of areas on the site with Ninevite V evidence, especially in the area of the Temple Terrace and the plaza in front of it. The paper will concentrate on presenting the archaeological evidence for these two periods.

F. Buccellati, *The Political Dimension of the Urkesh City-State*

The AP Palace at Tell Mozan was the seat of power for King Tupkish and his wife Uqnitum. What can the life of this aspect of material culture tell us about the political dimension of this ancient polity, in relation to internal and external elements? The construction itself contains several components which lend themselves to a discussion of value and prestige, for example the use of stone. These elements, in conjunction with the architectural body itself, communicate on a phenomenological level the power of the king and the city. Finally, the seal impressions found within the palace, in particular those of queen Uqnitum, also suggest a distribution of satellite production centers which supplied the royal household.