

PHOTOGRAPHIC DATA SETS

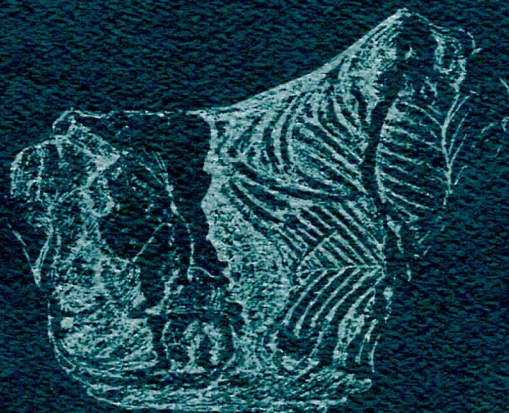
A publication series of
IMAS — The International Institute for Mesopotamian Area Studies

Editors: G. Buccellati (data) and D. Ghidoli (photography)

PDS 4

**MOZAN:
THE ARTIFACTS
FROM TEMPLE BA**

Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati



Malibu 1991
Undena Publications

PDS 4 — Mozan: Artifacts from Temple BA

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INTRODUCTION

The excavations in the Temple BA started with the first season in 1984 and continued through the fifth season in 1988. A separate Photographic Data Set will cover the stratigraphy of the temple in detail, therefore only a short summary will be given here. We have excavated most of the plan down to the stratigraphic phase of the white plastered floor but some ^{minor} details remain to be completed. ~~We are planning to do this in the 1993 excavation season.~~ The Temple is stone founded with three main stratigraphic phases excavated thus far. The most important phase exhibits a temple plan with one large room entered from one end of the long side. A monolithic stone ~~altar or more~~ ^{Set into the white floor} probably an offering table stands near the center of this large room. It had a clay apron around it and a narrow trench or trough leading from this apron to a ceramic vessel embedded into the white floor (see PDS 4.17 below). In this stratum, destroyed by fire, several important objects were found, including a small mother-of-pearl inlay in the shape of a vessel discovered in the debris close to the white floor (PDS 4.14). The most important object from the debris was a small stone crouching lion statue (PDS 4.1-4). The lion was carved on all sides including the bottom (PDS 4.3). Its face and hindquarters are partially destroyed. Lion figures from the middle of the third millennium in southern Mesopotamia are highly stylized and some of this can be seen in the Mozan lion, especially in the way the leg pattern reflects the outline of the hair pattern emphasized by the smooth body between. However the major impression of the Mozan lion is one of a more naturalistic rendering of the hair pattern, both on the head and on the body. The eyes are deeply cut but it cannot be determined, because of the poor preservation in this area, whether or not they would have originally been inlaid. Thus the Mozan lion conveys the feeling that while the carving is rougher than usually found in the south, there is an attempt at realism not characteristic of the southern examples. Near this lion was part of ^{an elegant} a beautiful ceramic bowl made from a very fine and well fired clay (PDS 4.18). In the next phase the temple plan was rearranged and a small wall was built on top of the white floor just behind the stone which now probably served as an altar.

Excavations have also been carried out in the immediate environs of the temple. To the east, part of the destruction stratum was preserved, and below it was a street. In

-2.
in this phase
of which the
white floor
is the main
component

this area and just under the surface of the mound was found a portion of a bowl made of obsidian (PDS 4.12-13). On the north side of the temple it appears that there were small ephemeral structures with reed roofs located between the north temple wall, and a street or pathway paved with sherds. In this area, just under the surface of the mound a small, round top, double sided stele with a flat bottom was discovered (PDS 4.5-7). On one side a herd of animals is depicted with the three animals preserved, all shown in movement (PDS 4.11). On the opposite side a plowman with a dog(?) above him is seen behind his draft animal. The man has a pointed beard and is wearing a short skirt (PDS 4.10). The most striking feature of this side is the prominent diagonal line which is the basis of a forward push by the plowman (PDS 4.8-9).

In addition to the large number of metal weapons found in the temple, a small gold bead was discovered embedded in the white gypsum floor of the main phase of the temple (PDS 4.15). Some objects from the temple can be identified as temple furniture. Also embedded in the white floor was a low bowl with a wide flaring rim of which PDS 4.17 is a similar example. This bowl was placed at the end of a trough which led from the altar. The body of the bowl was inside this trough with its rim at the level of the top of the white floor. From its stratigraphic position it then appears that it was a receptacle for offerings (?) made in conjunction with the altar. A brazier (PDS 4.16), with rectangular holes, had traces of burning both inside and out (the bottom is shown here). It came from a shelf which also had a number of storage jars in a rebuilding phase. Two seal impressions on sherds are shown here (PDS 4.19-29). One (PDS 4.19) is in a style similar to the door sealings found in the burnt deposit next to the city wall (see *Mozan I and PDS I*). The second sealing (PDS 4.20) is crudely cut and is in the so-called Piedmont Jemdat Nasr style. It shows dancing men and women.

flaring rim

20

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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1988 *Mozan I. The Soundings of the First Two Seasons*. Malibu: Undena Publications.
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- Kelly-Buccellati, Marilyn
1990 "A New Third Millennium Sculpture from Mozan," A. Leonard and B. Williams, eds., *Essays in Ancient Civilization Presented to Helene J. Kantor*, SAOC 47, Chicago 149-54, Pl. 26.

List of slides

1. Lion from Temple BA; three-quarter view.
2. Lion from Temple BA; profile.
3. Lion from Temple BA; view of bottom.
4. Lion from Temple BA; top view.
5. Mozan stele; plowman side.
6. Mozan stele; herd side.
7. Mozan stele; view showing base.
8. Mozan stele; detail of plowman.
9. Mozan stele; detail of plowman.
10. Mozan stele; detail of plowman.
11. Mozan stele; detail of animal heads.
12. Obsidian bowl; front view.
13. Obsidian bowl; profile.
14. Mother- of-pearl inlay in shape of vessel.
15. Tiny gold bead.
16. Ceramic brazier.
17. Wide lipped ceramic bowl.
18. Fine ceramic bowl.
19. Seal impression on sherd.
20. Seal impression on sherd.

PHOTOGRAPHIC DATA SETS

Editors: Giorgio Buccellati (data) and Daniele Ghidoli (photography)

List of Titles

- PDS 1 **Mozan: The Soundings of the First Two Seasons**, by G. Buccellati and M. Kelly-Buccellati, 1986¹; 1991².
- PDS 2 **Ziyada: The Early Seasons**, by G. Buccellati, 1991.
- PDS 3 **Mozan: The Ceramics of the First Five Seasons**, by M. Kelly-Buccellati, 1991
- PDS 4 **Mozan: The Artifacts from Temple BA**, by M. Kelly-Buccellati, 1991
- PDS 5 **Terqa: General Introduction**, by G. Buccellati, M. Kelly-Buccellati and R. Clayton, 1977¹; 1991² (originally published in 1977 as *Audio-Visual Modules 1*)
- PDS 6 **Terqa 1977**, by G. Buccellati, M. Kelly-Buccellati and W. R. Shelby, 1978¹; 1991² (originally published in 1978 as *Audio-Visual Modules 2*)
- PDS 7 **Terqa 1978**, by G. Buccellati, M. Kelly-Buccellati, 1979¹; 1991² (originally published in 1979 as *Audio-Visual Modules 3*)
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- PDS-A 1 Companion audio-tape to PDS 4
- PDS-A 2 Companion audio-tape to PDS 5
- PDS-A 3 Companion audio-tape to PDS 6

Note. Superscripts after dates refer to different editions of the same set. PDS 4-6 are identical in content to the first edition except for the technical details pertaining to slide duplication, and for the separate availability of slides and tapes (title slides are provided with the audio-tape only).

Also available: **Terqa: The First Six Seasons**, by G. Buccellati and R. Hauser, *Video Module 1*, 1991.

V6a
P24
B4 17
i69

V6a
P54
Temple
Stand
4 16

Replot
Site Plan
if necessary
pages = mult. of
4

PDS4 - 18
Need Bow
or
Replac.

V6a P33

4 12
M2 81.184
Pg 17

4 18
V6a

P33

very
Fine
Vessel

Top Phase (Phase 1):

Middle phase (Phase 2?): Ear wall
built on top of white fl. behind
offering table prob. converting it to
an altar. New entrance, bench w/
frayier + storage vessels in corner near
the altar.

Bottom Phase (Phase 3) white fl -
stone offering table

Temple Module

Add Tripod bowl

Vessel w/ spout
in bottom ?

MZ B5c1

NO

V6a P25