

Keramik (*MDOG* 123, 1991, 30 f. Abb. 11). Durch begrenztes Tiefergehen unter das Niveau des «Alten Palastes» sollte nun die einmalige Chance genutzt werden, weitere stratigraphische Daten zu gewinnen. Hierzu wurden die Quadrate 23-25 / 46 für eine begrenzte Sondage ausgewählt

Beim «Älteren Palast» handelt es sich um Raumgruppen mit soliden Mauern, die entweder unmittelbar aneinander gebaut oder durch Bau fugen beziehungsweise Korridore voneinander getrennt sind (links neben der Akkadezeitlichen Pfeilermauer). Die Räumlichkeiten des «Älteren Palastes» sind noch nicht an allen Stellen geklärt, deshalb ist bei einer Gesamtinterpretation Zurückhaltung geboten. Später haben sie zwei architektonische Veränderungen erfahren. Zunächst wurden die meisten Türen im Untersuchungsbereich zugemauert, so daß die betroffenen Zimmer keinen Zugang mehr hatten. Einige dienten dann als Grabkammern für jeweils mehrere Personen. Noch später wurden die Westwände des Raumes 100 und der beiden nördlich anstoßenden Zimmer durch eine innen vorgesetzte Mauer verstärkt. Offensichtlich sollte dadurch - in Verbindung mit Kiesschüttungen und Lagen von Holzbalken - ein besonders solides Fundament für die Außenmauer des «Alten Palastes» geschaffen werden und zwar vor allem dort, wo dessen «Naßzellen» geplant waren. Bei dieser Baumaßnahme waren die Bestattungsreste offensichtlich in östlicher Richtung zusammengeschoben worden, um für die Einbauten einen ebenen Untergrund zu erhalten. Aber auch an anderen Stellen lagen die Knochen nicht immer im ursprünglichen Zusammenhang.

Die Räume waren außerordentlich fundreich. Noch nicht alle wurden abschließend untersucht. Erwähnenswert ist ein hölzernes Möbelstück mit Intarsienarbeit. Dazu fand sich ein sehr schöner goldener «toggle pin» mit gebogenem Schaft und blattähnlichem Kopf, Perlenschmuck aus Gold, Lapislazuli und anderen Steinen sowie sehr viel Keramik

7. Tiefgrabung in 21/62

Die Tiefgrabung war im Jahre 1985 begonnen worden (*MDOG* 119, 1987, 23 ff. Abb. 11-15; *MDOG* 121, 1989, 18 ff. Abb. 14), um am Zentralhügel die Höhe des gewachsenen Bodens festzustellen. Zugleich sollte eine Vermutung Wolfgang Schirmers geprüft werden, daß sich die ersten Siedler auf einer Kiesnase niedergelassen hätten, die weit in das Tal von Euphrat und Balich hineinreichte. Jetzt erwiesen sich die fröhdynastischen Schichten als außerordentlich stark. Wir verfolgten sie bis unterhalb des Niveaus der umgebenden Felder und mußten schließlich die Arbeit einstellen, ohne den gewachsenen Boden erreicht zu haben. Immerhin gewannen wir eine sehr gut abgesicherte Keramikabfolge, die zeitlich weit über das hinausgeht, was wir bisher im Palastbereich fanden. Funde der späthalkolithischen Zeit waren allerdings bis zum Schluß in den Schichten spärlich.

THE SEVENTH SEASON OF EXCAVATIONS AT TELL MOZAN, 1992

G. Buccellati & M. Kelly-Buccellati
(University of California State)

The seventh season of excavations at Tell Mozan took place in the summer of 1992, with a staff comprising faculty and students from the University of California, Los Angeles;

California State University, Los Angeles; University of California, Irvine; Harvard University; the University of Melbourne; and Ambassador College, Texas. The organization of the excavations is coordinated by IIMAS-the International Institute for Mesopotamian Area Studies, with funding provided through a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, and other grants from the Ambassador Foundation, the Institute of Archaeology at UCLA, and various private donors.

By the mid third millennium, Tell Mozan had already reached its full extent. The Outer Ring (which may or may not have been an outer city wall, but forms in any case a very prominent boundary to the area of cultural occupation) encloses some 140 hectares-with third millennium material to be found everywhere just below the surface. A detailed topographical survey has been completed by Stephen M. Hughey of UCLA, and a geophysical survey by Jon Ericson and Mark Peterson of the University of California, Irvine.

Here, we will concentrate on building AK, a large storehouse of the mid third millennium, located near the presumed location of a city gate. We will give a descriptive presentation of the architecture of this building, with special reference to the epigraphic material and the glyptic. We started this operation as a stepped trench (AS), which gave us a well documented sequence, from Nuzi at the top to the Akkadian period at the bottom. The sector in the lower part of the trench was the most promising. Already by the end of the 1990 season, when we first started work on the trench, we had expanded our lateral exposure to a point where we could see evidence of a large public building, of which we had what appeared to be the two perimetral walls on the south and the north, and several large transversal walls each with a substantial lower portion in stone, and the upper part in mud brick. Last summer, during our second season of excavation in this building, which we labeled AK, we obtained a larger exposure. As a result, it turned out that the presumed perimetral wall in the north was in fact an interior wall. The size of the building, as well as the regularity of its layout, are considerable. We have lost to erosion the south-western corner, and portions of the walls have been lost because they were apparently quarried for stone both in antiquity and in modern times; the resulting empty space was quickly filled by accumulations deposited by small wadis which criss-crossed the area, so that a negative impression of the walls was retained for us. On the whole, the plan is relatively clear, and we can suggest a preliminary hypothesis on the articulation of the spaces within the building. For reasons which will be mentioned in a moment, we postulate an entry doorway on the lower left, leading to a reaction area (sector A), with a larger central space and smaller rooms on either side. This is a part of the building which has been most damaged by erosion. A distinctive architectural feature is the drain on the eastern end, which starts on the side of a doorway and winds its way presumably towards the outside of the building. Another distinctive item found in this sector (already during the 1990 season), is a very small, but beautifully modeled, clay figurine which we found very near the surface, though it was possibly still part of a floor deposit belonging to this phase of the building (a brief description of this figurine will be found below). Beyond sector A, there is a larger space characterized by two distinctive elements, at either end. Much of the wall between Sector A and B had been removed in antiquity, but the negative space was filled by wadi debris, which held in place the floor deposit within the adjacent spaces. In the Northeastern corner there is a small enclosure (about 1.20 by 1 m in size), which is neither a niche, nor a bin nor a small, but rather a closet or, it would appear, a vault, enclosed by large walls, and with a functional rabbeting, presumably serving to secure a strong door in place. Access to the vault was through an area that looks like an antechamber, marked by a wide doorway on the side of the court and narrow doorway on the south, leading directly to

Sector A. This antechamber is reconstructed in part on the basis of the eastern half of the building, which is a mirror image of the western side. Here, clearly marked thresholds are also preserved. In front of this vault in Sector B on the West side, we found over 80 seal impressions, mostly on box and door sealings, over 20 of which were inscribed. It seems possible to assume that this vault corresponds to what is known the Sumerian term E₂.KIŠIB, the «room of the seal,» i.e. a vault with a sealed door in which sealed containers were deposited.

A second distinctive feature of Sector B is the presence of what appears to be a very thin partition wall, one brick thick, on the western side. The wall had fallen to the west, and was not removed in antiquity. The glyptic and epigraphic finds from the 1992 excavations came from a floor deposit which continues under the brickfall, clearly visible in section—the section, that is, which was provided for our benefit by the quarry excavation that removed the stone wall which had stood here. It is the remainder of this floor deposit that will form the focus of our excavations next summer, since it is likely that the western part of the room may contain more seal impressions and epigraphic finds, as in the eastern portion.

The structural layout of the building becomes more hypothetical as one proceeds to Sector C, because so little has been excavated. It appears that we are still within the perimeter of the building. If so, it may represent a large central court, presumably flanked on the East and West by smaller rooms. This assumption is based in part on the observation that the longitudinal wall that delimits Sectors A and B from Sectors A' and B' does not continue to the north.

This brings us to some final considerations about the overall layout of the building as we may expect it on the basis of the present exposure. What little has been excavated to the east of the longitudinal wall shows that we have a marked symmetry in the layout of the building. This is especially apparent in the matching vault which we have to the east, but also in the portions of other walls which are beginning to appear. It would seem as though we have on the east the mirror image of the layout on the west, and it is thus that we have reconstructed it. Obviously, this reconstruction is quite hypothetical, and should only be taken as a heuristic anticipation. We have referred earlier to the drain. It should be noted that it is stratigraphically later than the wall foundations, and thus uses doorways for its path; if it leads towards an outside doorway, this points in the direction shown as the possible main access to the building.

Some indications suggest that we have here, i.e. along the southern wall of the building, a major street. A plan of the resulted documentation shows that this street leads from a possibly city gate, along building AK, up towards to the center of the city.

The gradient must have been steep already by the latter part of the third millennium, since the temple BA which is today at the top of the tell is roughly contemporary with building AK. The third millennium skyline of the city may then have had proportions rather similar to those of the tell today.

The location of building AK near a possible city gate agrees with what else we have already seen about the nature of the building, which seems to imply strongly that it was a storehouse of some importance particularly on account of the two vaults or, if we may so say, the two E₂.KIŠIBs. That it was not a residential building is also shown by the fact that the walls, though very well built, were certainly not plastered, while at the same time the relatively modest size of the walls seems to exclude the possibility of a second storey.

Since the building seems to be protected by later strata to the north and the east, future excavations should indicate what merit there may have been to our projections.

Of the seal impressions, 26 are inscribed, with one legend occurring on seven rollings, and another on 4 rollings, while 15 other rollings may or may not have distinct legends. In addition to the seal impressions (see presently), a few epigraphic finds were also made in this same floor deposit. One is a school tablet which contains an extract from the profession list LU E found in its entirety at Abu Salabikh and also at Ebla. A comparison of the three texts is interesting. While very similar to each other, there are certain variations which place the Mozan text slightly closer to that from Ebla, and which seem to show a certain increase of graphemic definition from Abu Salabikh to Ebla to Mozan. Only the first two lines are identical in all three texts. In the third line, there is a doubling of the second component in both Ebla and Mozan, and the addition of the determinative in Mozan. The fourth and fifth line are identical in all three texts, except that Ebla and Mozan add the determinative in front of the second component. The last line is the only one which shows a substantial difference between Abu Salabikh and Ebla on the one side, and Mozan on the other. The Mozan school tablet was broken in antiquity, and the two fragments were found about one meter from each other. The tablet may have been dropped by accident, since there is unfortunately at this point no indication that building AK may have otherwise housed a school.

Another epigraphic find, instead, fits well within the horizon of the box and door sealings. It is a docket, which is sealed on its two faces, and preserves on its edge the numeral 100 written in Akkadian.

During the 1990 field season a bearded male head made of clay was excavated just below the surface on the south end of the AK building. This head is 4.1cm high and 2.6cm wide (from ear to ear), therefore rather large for a figurine. While it is made of clay, it does not appear to have been baked and was found with deep cracks, especially in the upper portion. The clay on the exterior is fine but along the broken edges small pebbles can be seen on the interior. It was broken below the neck with its full beard preserved, except for one corner. Lightly incised hair pattern can be seen on the top and back of the head. His face is prominently highlighted by a high forehead and subtly modeled eyebrows. His deeply set eyes have the distinction of being small pierced holes instead of the more usual large eyes. Below, his high cheeks are modeled so that they have the bulging appearance of some Mari statues. The deeper modeling around the mouth and the inset eyes give an impression of movement to the face. The wide nose is flattened and appears unbroken. His mouth is small above a somewhat pointed chin. There is no visible break between his ears and his head so that they were formed with the same clay as the head and not added later; they appear to be oval in shape, although somewhat broken at the edges, and pierced with holes in the center. His beard starts on the side of his head at the level of the eyes as lightly incised parallel wavy lines and continues in heavier wavy lines down the beard which is squared off at the bottom.

The proportions of this head are striking in that it is essentially divided into three: the forehead, the face and beard. He appears to be connected with the building in AK even though not found directly inside it; therefore this head should date from approximately late ED III to early Akkadian.

This report on the sealings from building AK is preliminary because the floor has not yet been completely excavated. We expect to find more impressions of the same sealings

and additional seal impressions in the remaining portion of the floor which we will excavate during the 1993 season. From the floor in front of the westernmost vault we have excavated thus far over 80 seal impressions. The seals had been rolled for the most part on the bullae used to seal small containers which in some cases can be identified as boxes. Door sealings and jar sealings were also present¹.

The seal impressions are usually small, ranging in size from approximately one centimeter to five centimeters. In one case we still have the cloth impression which must have been wrapped around the container on top of sealing. Some seal designs have only one example in the corpus while others have several. We can not at this point tell how many individual objects have been sealed but we now have at least 15 seal designs which we can reconstruct either entirely or in part. The sealings from this floor are dated to the beginning of the Akkadian period with continued influence from late ED III.

The style and iconography of our sealings indicate that Mozan was an important center for seal cutting in northern Syria, distinct even from the prominent third millennium cities of Brak² and Ebla. The Mozan seal cutters emphasized the heads of the figures both in size and in a way the eye is shown. The large proportion of the heads to the body is clearly indicated in the two figures on a platform. The carving of the eyes can be seen in a contest scene where the human is shown with a large head and long neck. His eye is composed of two distinct circles with the inner raised dot emphasized. This deliberate carving of the eye appears somewhere else showing a seated woman holding a cup; here, her face is elongated and balanced by its division into a large eye, prominent nose, small mouth and a long narrow chin which comes to a point. Her elongated neck is accentuated by her long hair. This long, pointed chin is again shown in the face of a child.

Another indication that the seals were carved at Mozan can be observed in the arrangement of motifs on two seals. Another illustration shows a portion of a seal design which consists of two small seated figures arranged under an inscription. The figure on the right is playing a lyre while the one on the left has a hand up toward the face and may be singing. In this case the secondary motif is placed within the larger design which has two attendants in front of a seated deity. This same motif however is also located under an inscription on another seal which shows the seated deity with an attendant in front. However behind this attendant there is a high table followed by a servant who seems to be doing something on top of this table. The Mozan seal cutter then has rearranged the main figures, added a table and reused the lyre player motif on this second seal. Another indication that it is the same set of motifs rearranged is suggested by the unusual gesture of the attendant; the attendant in front of the deity is touching the lap of the deity in both cases.

While contest scenes are the most prevalent motifs in the seal designs from the south during the whole of the Akkadian period, another scene with a child sitting on the lap of an adult (both male and female) is unusual³. In this Mozan corpus we have a similarly seated child. However our example shows the child as more independent than the previously known examples, sitting upright, and with his hand gesturing toward someone in front. Above his hand is a star.

This latest corpus of excavated seal impressions from Mozan is published here, even though the excavation of this floor is not complete, because of its considerable significance. With the discovery of large monumental Akkadian buildings with seal

impressions form Brak and now this corpus from Mozan, we are beginning to gain a fuller picture of this period in the Habur region.

- 1 See Giorgio Buccellati and Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati, *Mozan I Malibu*, 1988, pp. 67-80 for the publication of previously excavated door sealings and a reconstruction of how they functioned on the doors.
- 2 Recently excavated Early Dynastic and Akkadian seal impressions from Tell Brak indicate two provincial styles were present there; both are quite different from our Mozan examples. See David and Joan Oates: *Excavations at Tell Brak 1990-91*; Iraq, LIII, 1991, pp. 127-145 and Donald Matthews: *Tell Brak 1990. The Glyptic*; *ibid.*, pp. 147-157.
- 3 R. M. Boehmer: *Die Entwicklung der Glyptik Während der Akkad-Zeit*, Berlin, 1965, Taf. XLVII: 555-560; D. Collon: *Catalogue of the Western Asiatic Seals in the British Museum: Cylinder Seals II*, London, 1982, Pl. XX: 142 and drawing.

TELL AFIS 1992 RAPPORT PRÉLIMINAIRE SUR LA CAMPAGNE 1992

S. Mazzone (Université des Études à Pisa)

La campagne en 1992¹ a été achevée avec des résultats très intéressants soit à cause de la découverte sur le sommet de l'acropole d'un grand bâtiment datant de la période entre le Bronze Récent et le Fer Ancien soit par la mise au jour d'une longue sériation d'établissements de l'âge du Fer I sur la pente ouest de l'acropole soit encore pour la découverte à la base ouest de l'acropole du mur d'enceinte de l'établissement de l'âge Chalcolithique final².

Sur le sommet de l'acropole Est près d'un petit cimetière moderne sur le côté ouest de la tombe du Sheikh Hasan (11 s aglt en effet d'un monument funéraire) on a élargi sous la direction de S.M. Cecchini le chantier G déjà actif en 1989. Dans cet endroit on avait découvert sous les niveaux de l'âge perse archaïque et néo-babylonien une large et profonde fosse comblée par des centaines d'ossements et des tessons de céramique fine en grande partie de «Red Slip» locale datant du Fer I (VIII-VII siècles). En 1992 le chantier a été réouvert et élargi sur une aire de plus de 100m² et jusqu' à une profondeur de plus de 5m. A cette profondeur on a dégagé sur une longueur de plus de 11m et une largeur de 650m une large cour ou place pavée par des cailloux. Son côté Est est bordé par la longue façade en briques crues d'un bâtiment encore à fouiller mais qui semble fort mal conservé à cause des aménagements successifs de l'âge du Fer I; ce mur pourtant bien que coupé par les fondations postérieures a une largeur de deux mètres et devait à l'origine s'élever pour une hauteur de plus de 8m qui a pu être calculée en mesurant les débris glissés sur la place même. Le côté Sud est bordé par un deuxième mur en briques conservé pour une hauteur de plus de 2m; le coin entre le deux murs est très probablement renforcé par une sorte de contrefort ou tour massive en briques.

La date de cet ensemble sûrement unitaire peut à l'heure actuelle de façon approximative être fixée du moment que a été fouillée une seule partie de la grande cour qui était presque vide de trouvailles. L'on comprend pourtant que le pavage en cailloux n'était



CHRONIQUE ARCHÉOLOGIQUE
EN SYRIE

VOLUME 1, 1992

Publication Spéciale Consacrée aux Rapports Annuels
de l'Archéologie en Syrie

Ministère de la Culture

Direction Générale des
Antiquités & Musées

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