

UCLA Open House 2015 - Mesopotamian Lab

Announcement

The annual Open House of the UCLA Cotsen Institute of Archaeology took place on May 2. The Mesopotamian Lab featured a presentation on the Institute's first field project: the excavation of the ancient site of Terqa in Syria beginning in 1976. The excavation was under the direction of Giorgio Buccellati and Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati.

The primary exhibit demonstrated that the original multimedia publication of the Terqa excavation provided a recording structure suited to all the technological advances up to the present day -- from neat packages of about 100 35mm slides, two narrative cassette tapes and a booklet with a black-and-white thumbnail photo and description of each slide, up to the complete Web-based all-digital publication (www.terqa.org).

Selected slides from the 1976-77 seasons were displayed on a large light box that has proven to be an eye-catching attraction as visitors enter the Lab. In addition, the Web-based narrated video introducing the site and the excavation was running on two screens. A separate laptop ran the video: *Working Together at a Distance: The Staff of Tell Mozan*. The video features Ibrahim and Hammadi describing the conservation and recording work they carry on today, and Amena showing the handicraft produced for sale by the women of Mozan. This video is always viewed with surprise and emotion at the realization that this work is carried on in a place just a few miles from the site of murderous atrocities.

UCLA COTSEN INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY

OPEN HOUSE 2015

Mesopotamian Lab

Audio-visuals before their time...

In 1976, we started our excavations at the ancient site of Terqa in Syria, on the banks of the Euphrates. It was the first field project of the Institute of Archaeology.

For each of the first three seasons, we produced an audio-visual module. Each box contained some one hundred slides, a cassette tape with a narration, and a booklet that described each slide.



It was twenty years before audio-visuals as we know them today came into use. But the substance of the audio-visual communication was all there already.

We have now transferred these data to the digital medium, and they still convey the richness of the information and the freshness of the medium.

You can view them at www.terqa.org, under the heading Audio-visuals.





