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palace. The tablets, which are being prepared for publication by O. Rouault, are juridical documents of the "Khana" type, some of them dating to the period of Saustatar of Mitanni.

In 1991 IIMAS plans to begin another archaeological project related to our current work in Syria, namely a joint excavation in the region of Sida-Kartli, or Inner Georgia, together with the National Museum in Tbilisi. Excavations, which on IIMAS' side will be under the direction of Dr. Ernestine Elster, will focus on third millennium sites because of the particular interest that Early Trans-Caucasian assemblages hold with regard to our current work at Tell Mozan.

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Tell Mozan

G. Buccellati and M.
Kelly-Buccellati
UCLA and USC

The fifth and sixth season of excavations took place in the Spring 1988 and the Spring of 1990, respectively, under the direction of the writers. Among the members of the staff were Mario Liverani and Lucio Milano of the University of Rome and Jon Ericson of the University of California, Irvine. Messrs. Muhammad Mukdash and Ali Ali were the representatives of the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums. Excavations are funded through a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, with matching grants from the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation and the S. H. Kress Foundation. - It was a special privilege to have as our guests towards the end of the

last season the Minister of Culture, Dr. Najah Attar, the Director General of Antiquities and Museums, Dr. Ali Abu-Assaf, the Director of Excavations, Dr. Adnan Bounni, and the Governor of Hassaka. A major characteristic of Mozan is that third millennium material is found immediately below the surface at most locations of the tell. We will concentrate here on three building complexes of this period, all located on the High Mound, in the East (Area B), the West (Area A) and the North (Area F). Excavations in the interior of Temple BA have been completed, except for a small deposit in the corner in the cella. Located at the summit of the tell, on top of one of five prominences which surround a central low depression, the temple dates to the middle and late third millennium. It is not inconceivable that the five hillocks may correspond to five distinct building complexes, and that the present configuration of the tell may correspond in some way to the ancient urban layout. At any rate, Temple BA appears to have been, because of its prominent location and its size, one of the major religious buildings of the ancient city.

Four major phases have been distinguished in Area B. On the western side of the structure, erosion of the hillock cut away all traces of walls. The sod layer on top of the tell rested directly over the top of the stone foundations of Phase 1, dated to the mid third millennium. The slope is highest on the east where the deposit reaches a maximum height of one and a half meters. The four phases are thus stratified within a relatively thin layer of cultural

deposit.

Phase 1 is the only one for which a complete floor plan is preserved. It is dated, both typologically and through C¹⁴ analysis, to the late Early Dyanstic period. This is the most important phase of the temple, the only one for which we have a complete architectural layout. During its first period of occupation (1a), the temple does not exhibit any dividing walls. It seems logical to assume, since curtain walls were constructed in the next phase, that the back part of the temple would have been screened by some kind of curtain hangings. We have, however, found no trace of any type of anchor on the floor. The floor is made of a very hard and thick white plaster, which is very well preserved over the entire temple area. In fact on the western side, where the walls have completely eroded, it is the edge of white floor that marks the location of the walls.

In Phase 1b, partition walls were built: they have no foundations, and sit directly on top of the white floor of Phase 1a. The temple is entered through an asymmetrically stepped ramp, which leads to a doorway in the southwest corner. Once entered, the bent-axis articulation of the temple points the visitors to the right, where they would face a monolithic stone table, with a narrow curtain wall behind it. A partition wall, further back, separates an interior space, which would presumably have served as a cella. This is the only part of the temple which has not been as yet fully excavated, so that further clarification of the function and layout of this area may hopefully

still be obtained. The walls are about 1.60 ms. wide and rest on large stone foundations. The two narrow sides have a double row of foundations, with brickwork on top (only minimally preserved to the west). It is possible that these outside walls did not reach the full height of the building. In the packed rubble behind the stone table, in the area which corresponds to what may have been a cella, we found the stone statue of a lion. This statue was found in an earlier season, and a stylistic analysis of this piece, and others from Mozan, has been provided elsewhere by M. Kelly-Buccellati. What we did not fully understand then was its stratigraphic significance. Knowing as we do now that it comes from the innermost part of the temple of Phase 1, one wonders if the statue may not have functionally belonged to the temple cella.

After Phase 1 was destroyed by an intense fire, the burnt rubble was packed and leveled in the back part of the structure (where the lion was found), while the front part of the structure remained at a lower level. A narrow corridor led to a row of three steps through which one could rise to the resulting higher floor level in the back. Since the stone table of the Phase 1 temple was now covered by the lower floor of Phase 2, and since the corridor walls blocked off what had been the entrance of Phase 1, it appears that Phase 2 resulted in a complete rearrangement of the Phase 1 layout. In fact, given the limited amount of actual floor remains for Phase 2, we do not know whether the building was still used as a temple or not.

Associated pottery dates Phase 2 towards the end of the third millennium. Phase 3 remains are only the traces of a massive intervention, possibly for the construction of a building which we do not have and which may in fact never have been built. The most noticeable feature was a large and deep trench, which cut through the deposits of Phases 2 and 1 down to just above the original white floor. The trench was roughly U-shaped in plan at a slight offset from the perimeters of both the Phase 1 temple and the Phase 2 building. The trench was packed with very clean, grey fill. Some rubble, associated with this trench, contained a complete Khabur ware jar which dates Phase 3 to about 1800 B.C.

The trench, whatever its intended function, may not have been used, because it was covered by series of laminations which constitute Phase 4. Located immediately beneath the modern sod layer, which follows their contour, these laminations appear to have been deposited in antiquity, and may correspond to the period of decline and abandonment at the end of the Khabur period.

An important issue pertaining to the temple of Phase 1, to which we have devoted special attention, is that of its **size and roofing**. The lack of any drainage and the very nature of the building suggest that it was roofed, yet the span of some 9 meters between walls, demonstrably without central supports, poses some special structural problems. A similar situation is encountered, for instance, in two buildings at Tell Chuera, known as "Aussenbau" and "Steinbau 1," which have

the same size as the Mozan temple. For a number of reasons, these two Chuera buildings may be considered as temples of the *in antis* type, as others are in Chuera. It is also interesting to note how these Chuera buildings, as well as the Mozan Temple BA, are very nearly identical in the dimension of their outer perimeter to Temple D in Ebla. The Ebla temple walls are twice as thick, so that the inner space of the Ebla temple is considerably narrower. Roofing in Ebla could therefore have been managed much more easily, with timber of normal length, because of the reduced inner span. To account for the exceptionally wide span in Mozan and Chuera, on the other hand, we may assume a roof with a central pitch; Mr. Gabriel Pesce, a civil engineer on our staff, has made precise calculations to show how this was possible with the resources and know-how then available. The similarity between Mozan and Chuera in size and in presumed roofing techniques is paralleled by a similarity in the location of the buildings. Steinbau 1 in Chuera was placed near the top of a hillock surrounding a central depression; the case is much the same with Temple BA in Mozan. The commanding position in the urban landscape, the unusual roofing requirements, and the similarity in size with important buildings such as the Steinbau in Chuera or Temple D in Ebla indicate that Temple BA in Mozan must have served a role of primary importance in the ancient settlement.

A large stepped trench was opened in Area A, where the most significant feature was the

large public building A1. The wide walls, the overall width of the building the great number of doorways - all indicate that this was a major building, which extends in the unexcavated areas to the East and the West. The walls have a high stone base above the foundations (preserved up to a meter and more in several portions), on which a mudbrick wall rested. At its northern end, where the wall stands at its highest level, the mudbrick with its stone base stands up to 2.5 m in height. It would appear that this is one of the largest stone based buildings known from third millennium Syria, because those from Tell Chuera do not have as many rooms, and those from Tell Brak, Mari or Ebla are not stone based. Since we have concentrated on articulating the outline of the walls, we have only reached the top of the floor accumulations.

It is from one of these trenches that an exquisite piece of sculpture comes which, though very small in scale, bears all the marks of the best third millennium Syro-Mesopotamian art. It is a **bearded human head** found in the levels of the city gate in Area AS, at an depth of only 30 cm below surface. It is in excellent condition, except for a small corner of the head which seems to have been broken in antiquity. The material apparently is fired clay, though the weight of the piece, the appearance of the head and the color is that of stone. It is only 4.1 cm high, but the detail is superb. Hair incisions on top of the head are very light and are at a slight diagonal to the face. The hair pattern on the back of the head is difficult to see both

because it is lightly incised and because the head is encrusted in this area. There may be a diagonal hair piece extending down from the crown of the head toward the middle of the head. This is similar to the prisoner figures on the Hai relief who have a similar piece of hair but in that case on an otherwise bald head. A high crown is a general prominent feature of the head in general. The eyebrows are pronounced and the small round holes for the eyes are deeply pierced. This small hole must have been inlaid but the rest of the eye clearly was not. Therefore the figure did not have the large eyes we find in Southern third millennium statues.

Another new excavation area was opened on the northern slope of the tell, called Area F1. Two major strata, both of the mid to late third millennium, appeared here immediately under the topsoil. This area was chosen because the surface survey (published in Mozaan 1) indicated that here we had the largest concentration of the earliest pottery types (Nineveh V). Even though the amount of Ninevite V pottery on the surface was small, we hoped quickly to reach sizeable, relatively undisturbed levels of these earliest periods. This turned out to be the case. We completely uncovered a **large storage area here**, where a considerable number of vessels were buried in place when the roof collapsed. There are several large jars and a great number of medium and small vessels, all sitting on a good floor which we have completely exposed. In the material immediately overlaying the floor deposits, and thus not

clearly datable stratigraphically, we found a beautiful object made of multicolored vitreous paste wrapped around a core pin in bronze. While beginning to excavate the floor deposits of this upper area in F1 we came across the most important find of the season: **two cuneiform tablets**. They were preserved for only about half their original size, which was fairly large (some 12 x 20 cm). This is of course a major find, since they are the first stratified epigraphic remains from Mozaan (an inscribed sherd had been found earlier on the surface). Their significance is enhanced by a consideration about their date. From both palaeographic and stratigraphic indicators, it appears that the texts are to be dated to about 2300-2200 BC. This would make them the first third millennium texts of the upper Khabur plains. They would date slightly later than Ebla, and, except for those from Tell Brak, would be the only ones from Northeastern Syria. They are, at any rate, the northernmost third millennium cuneiform texts ever found. Since they were laying in a floor accumulation, which we had just begun to excavate, it is quite possible that more might be found in the course of future excavations. Lucio Milano is preparing an edition of these tablets, which will appear as a fascicle of Syro-Mesopotamian Studies. His preliminary conclusions are that the tablets, administrative in character, are probably written in Akkadian (because of the presence of the conjunction u and the preposition in), that there are several profession names written logographically (including a

scribe), and that the onomastics include Hurrian as well as Sumerian and Akkadian names.

Several independent research projects were carried out during the two seasons. A new **topographical survey** of the mound was undertaken by S. Hughey, with a contour interval of 20 cm for the entire site. A **geophysical survey** undertaken by J. Ericson, M. Petersen and D. Miller was completed for the entire High Mound and for much of the Outer City. A **geomorphological survey** was begun during an initial working visit by B. Marcolongo, who plans more extensive research in future seasons. **Human and animal bone remains** were studied by J. Miragliuolo and Skia. **Kite photography**, which we have used often in the past, was developed to a standard routine that allows a constant coverage of the excavations, thanks to technical improvements by D. Ghidoli and R. Williams. Our **data processing facilities** continue to be fully operative, and our recording methodology has been further refined. We hope to have ready soon portions of the "global record" of the excavations. Finally, the **expedition house** has been completed and is now fully operational.

The first volume of the Mozan reports has appeared in print as Volume 20 of the series Bibliotheca Mesopotamica. It is authored by the writers, under the title: Mozan I: The Soundings of the First Two Seasons, Malibu: Undena Publications, 1988. The volume is available from Crescent Academic Services, 29528 Madera Str., Shafter, CA 93263,

USA. Two articles by M. Kelly-Buccellati on Mozan have also appeared: "A New Third Millennium Sculpture from Mozan," Essays in Ancient Civilizations Presented to Helene J. Kantor, ed. by A. Leonard, jr. and B. B. Williams. Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization No. 47. pp. 149-154, and Pl. 26, and "Three Seasons of Excavation at Tell Mozan," in S. Eichler, M. Wäfler, D. Warburton eds. Tall Al-Hamidiya 2, Freiburg and Göttingen, pp.119-132.

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Tell Ziyada

Giorgio Buccellati and Stephen Reimer
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The third season of excavations at Tell Ziyada, a small site on the banks of the Khabur in the Salvage Project area south of Hassaka, Syria, took place in May-June 1990. Giorgio Buccellati is the over-all project director; the field directors have been Daniela Buia Quinn during the first two seasons, and Stephen Reimer in 1990: both Buia Quinn and Reimer are doctoral students in archaeology at UCLA.

As we have become accustomed, we have been warmly received and graciously assisted by the staff at the Museum Office in Hassaka. The Director General of Antiquities and Museums, Dr. Ali Abu-Assaf, and the Director of Excavations, Dr. Adnan Bounni, as well as their staff in Damascus, were extremely helpful in making all necessary arrangements for what turned out to be a very effective season of excavations. The Ziyada project is funded through grants

from the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation and the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History.

Excavations at Tell Ziyada during the previous two seasons had confirmed two major occupational periods. The Halaf period is represented by a kiln on the East edge of the tell, and by a large walled building on the South side of the Tell. Third millennium occupation has been recovered on the top of the tell. In addition, a significant deposit of what appears to be volcanic ash from the Kaukab has been recovered in both of the areas in which Halaf material has been found. Because of the importance of these presumed volcanic deposits, a primary focus of this season's excavations has been to open areas on the tell which have not been excavated before in order to determine if the same ash material exists in all areas of the tell, while laboratory analysis is underway on the ash deposits recovered during the previous seasons. It was also our goal to obtain a continuous sequence of stratified material from the upper levels to the lower levels in order to confirm the cultural periods extant at the site. The modus operandi for obtaining these goals has been to open one major operation on the North quadrant of the tell and a small operation on the West side of the site. The Northern excavations (Area N) extend from near the top of the tell to the very bottom. This season we opened ten 5 x 5 m units in this area. We also opened an excavation on the West, thus completing our series of soundings for each of the cardinal points. We started two