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mine whether the system is a replica of that used at Kish, and to discover the nature and organization of the units that border the street.

The western domestic quarter (chantier F). The trench intended to link the ED quarter and the second-millennium palace was deepened at various points, and extended to the east. It revealed new information on the succession of the levels extending to the south of the street that had defined the axis of the excavation.

Three major levels have been uncovered: 1) the Shakkanakku period, with subperiods defined by architectural constructions, and intramural burials with bronze weapons, jewelry, and pottery for grave goods. A potters' workshop, with work areas, turning elements, and parts of kilns, was also found; 2) Post-Early Dynastic period, or Early Akkadian, with a sewage system (similar to systems found in the area of the Ishtar temple and chantier B); and 3) Early Dynastic, with a characteristic domestic altar similar to those of chantier B and the *Maison rouge*.

The temples (chantier G). The work done in 1990 in the sacred areas was continued to complete the study of the Ninni-zaza temple. The northern foundation deposit was found: a nail fixed vertically in a ring, accompanied by small unincised lapis lazuli, alabaster, and silver tablets.

Under the threshold of the door a large rectangular slab of rock was placed within the foundations. Cup-shaped and geometric designs appear on its upper face.

A deep excavation undertaken along the western flank of the temple, joining the *Maison rouge*, has shown heavy erosion after the destruction of the temple, and before the massive works of the Shakkanakku period.

Excavation in chantier B. In order to define better the large building from which late ED (possibly Early Akkadian) tablets were retrieved in 1980, the excavation was extended to the west. This has permitted a clearer understanding of the stratigraphy on the summit of the tell (Shakkanakku period) immediately above the building. New rooms with complex bitumen installations have been uncovered here.

Stratigraphy. Since the resumption of excavation at Mari in 1979, investigations have been undertaken to determine the nature of the formation of the archaeological tells. It seemed worthwhile to define the ceramic deposit of a building falling apart before our very eyes. Room 77 of the Royal Palace, excavated by André Parrot, was chosen. Its cleared levels are currently in the process of being reburied. The quantity of sherds, stones, and other stratified material origi-



Fig. 17. Mari. A "protective cap" on one of the pillars of the Salle aux Piliers.

nates essentially from the decomposition of the walls; significant anomalies present in the ceramic deposit can be identified. A reevaluation of the significance of the stratigraphy and its role in ceramic studies is the primary consequence of this type of inquiry at Mari.

Conservation of mudbrick architecture. The work undertaken since 1988 with the CRAterre (Centre de recherche sur l'architecture de terre) of Grenoble has been continued on a large scale. Numerous measurements of wall humidity and erosion resistance have been taken. Many attempts to restore the walls and the arrangement of floors and subfloors have been undertaken in the Enceinte sacrée of the third-millennium palace (level P-2), in the Dagan Temple annex north of the Haute Terrasse, in the Palace of the Shakkanakku, in two pillars of the Salle aux Piliers of level P-1 in the third-millennium palace (fig. 17), and in the foundations of the Ninni-zaza temple.

Mozan. Giorgio Buccellati, University of California, Los Angeles, and Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati, California State University, report:

The seventh season of excavations at Tell Mozan took place in June and July 1992, under the direction of G. Buccellati and M. Kelly-Buccellati. Excavations are funded through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, with matching grants from the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation and various donors. Excavations concentrated on two areas where work had been started during the last season (1990), and on which we reported previously: in F1, on the northwest slopes of the High Mound, were the remains of a medium-sized structure, from which came two cuneiform tablets (now published in *Mozan 2*); and in AS, a stepped trench



Fig. 18. Mozan. Public building in area AS, from above.

was dug on the western side of the High Mound, where a sequence was established from the Nuzi period down to the middle of the third millennium.²³

The stratigraphic sequence of the building in F1 (dated to the Late Akkadian period because of the tablets found there) appeared relatively simple in the 1990 season, but turned out to be more complicated. The large storage room had at least two phases. In the earlier of the two, the storage room could possibly have been connected with the upper area where the two cuneiform tablets had been excavated in 1990. Instead, this upper level is connected with a series of small rooms found to the south. No additional tablets were found in this area.

As indicated in our last report in *AJA* (95 [1991] 712–14), the large stone building at the bottom of the stepped trench AS gave evidence of being one of the largest stone-based buildings known from third-millennium Syria. Our excavations this season indicated that the size is even larger than previously anticipated: what we assumed to be a perimeter wall on the north side appears now to be a large interior wall, with a number of doorways opening from the south to the north. Figure 18 shows this complex, photographed toward the end of excavations. The floor plan of the

building is quite symmetrical in its articulation, and it seems to indicate that on the east side there was a second wing with a layout arranged as a mirror-image to the part already excavated on the west; the considerable width of the wall to the north suggests that there was a major division between the southern two wings and another wing to the north. The excavated wing in the southwest measures about 15 × 20 m, and the complete building may be three times as large as the portion excavated so far.

While the building is impressive because of its structural layout and construction techniques (well-laid stone foundations and substructures, well-laid floors, and some extremely thick and cement-like pavements), it is significant that its walls were not plastered. These characteristics, together with the regularity of the layout and the nature of the finds (see below), suggest that it was a large storehouse, most likely public in nature and possibly serving the gate, which is likely to have been located in the wall that encircled the High Mound some 30 m to the west. As for the layout, we assume the main entrance to be on the south side (only wall foundations are left there, so we have no direct evidence; future excavations may tell if an analogous doorway is still to be found in the

²³ L. Milano, *Mozan 2: The Epigraphic Finds of the Sixth Season* (*Syro-Mesopotamian Studies*, Malibu 1991).



Fig. 19. Mozan. Akkadian seal with lyre player as a secondary motif.

eastern wing); if so, the rooms that have been completely excavated to the southwest may be understood as an accession suite, in which goods were received and registered by the scribes. Just beyond this suite, immediately south of the large transverse wall, was a large room (possibly a courtyard) with a closet in the corner. Because the interior area is so small (a little over 1 m²) and the walls are, in contrast, quite thick, this closet (as well as its counterpart in the eastern wing) may properly be understood as a vault. The large number of seal impressions found in the floor deposit in front suggests that this vault may correspond to what is called in the texts E₂.KISIB, "the house/room of the seal(s)," i.e., an area where sealed containers, such as boxes or jars, were kept in safe storage behind a sealed door.

The sealings from this area consist of over 80 unbaked clay fragments with seal impressions on them. The majority of the seals had been rolled on box sealings but some were jar and door sealings. For the most part, the reconstructed seal designs fit into the standard Akkadian corpus. One secondary motif placed under an Akkadian inscription (fig. 19) shows two facing, seated figures, one of whom is playing a lyre. Another impression shows an adult figure holding a child on its lap.

A total of 27 sealings are inscribed. In addition, there is one inscribed bulla, two fragments of tablets, and one complete tablet. The latter is a school tablet, with an excerpt from the ED LU E list of professions known from Abu Salabikh and Gasur.

Qara Quzaq. G. del Olmo Lete, UAB, reports:

The University of Barcelona's Archaeological Mission in Syria resumed work in 1991 by digging six contiguous 10 × 10 m units, some of which had already been excavated in the last season.²⁴ They were all situated in the upper part of the tell.

Middle Bronze IIB (ca. 1800–1700 B.C.). One of the biggest surprises that Tell Qara Quzaq has provided is the fact that during the MB all of the tell, and even its lower part, was occupied by an installation for storing grain, made up of "silos." To date, 42 of these have been excavated. They have walls made of plastered stone; some are separate, others are in groups of three, and they have flat floors that include layers of chaff of varying thickness. Their diameters vary between 1.8 and 3.2 m and they are 2.5 m in height, although originally they would have been higher. There does not seem to have been any urban settlement in the upper part of the tell at this stage of its occupation, and there are only a couple of houses on the northeastern slope. Use of a temple of the earlier level was resumed, possibly for administrative purposes.

Middle Bronze IIA (ca. 1900–1800 B.C.). This level was destroyed in order to build the silos mentioned above. A temple *in antis*, excavated in the second season (1990), dates from this period. Its structure underwent a thorough transformation, which suggests a change in its function. It was blocked in by the silos surrounding it, except for the front part, which permitted access. Abundant indications of what may

²⁴ For previous reports, see G. del Olmo Lete, "Mission arqueológica de la Universidad de Barcelona en Siria," *Aula Orientalis* 7:2 (1989) 269–77; del Olmo Lete et al., "Excavaciones en Tell Qara Quzaq. Informe provisional: primera campana (1989)," *Aula Orientalis* 8:1 (1990) 5–13; del Olmo Lete and E. Olavarri Goicoechea, "Excavaciones en Tell Qara Quzaq. Informe provisional: segunda campana (1990),"

Aula Orientalis 10:1 (1992, in press); del Olmo Lete and Olavarri Goicoechea, "Excavaciones españolas en Siria," *RArq* 11:108 (1990) 29–33; del Olmo Lete and Olavarri Goicoechea, "Excavaciones españolas en Siria," *RArq* 12:123 (1991) 52–56; del Olmo Lete and Olavarri Goicoechea, "Tell Qara Quzaq enclave comercial en el reino de Karkemis," *RArq* 13:135 (1992) 12–15.