1. Introduction - G. Buccellati and M. Kelly-Buccellati

1.1 The sixth season of excavations at Tell Mozan

We present in this fascicle a brief preliminary report on the sixth season of excavations at Tell Mozan, in which pride of place is given to the single most important find of that season – two cuneiform tablets of the latter part of the third millennium. As the second in our sequence of official excavation reports, this monograph deals first with the broader background of the sixth season as a whole; it also takes up is some detail the issue of the general archaeological and specific stratigraphic context in which the tablets are situated.

Excavations at Tell Mozan are made possible through grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation, the S. H. Kress Foundation, the Martin Foundation, Neutrogena Corporation, and various private donors. The Mozan Archaeological Project is under the overall sponsorship of IIMAS – The International Institute for Mesopotamian Area Studies, with the collaboration of the University of California, Los Angeles; California State University, Los Angeles; and the University of Rome.

¹The sixth season lasted from April 30 to July 5, 1990. The staff included the following individuals: Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati and Giorgio Buccellati, directors; Sharyn L. Crane, assistant director and archaeologist; Mario Liverani, Antone J. Mathys, Barbara Cifola, Alessandra Asteriti, archaeologists; Stephen M. Hughey, surveyor and archaeologist; Lucio Milano epigraphist and archaeologist; Daniele Ghidoli, Patricia D. Kent and Federico A. Buccellati, photographers; Carla Pearson, Darlene A. Siedschlag and Kathy King, draftspersons; Suzanne Robey and Karen Nathan, registrars; Chiara Sogno Buccellati, conservator; Judith Thompson-Miragliuolo and Skia, palaeoecologists; Mark L. Peterson and David Miller, geophysicists; Bruno Marcolongo, geomorphologist; Jean Mathys, hydrologist; Peter Nathan, technical manager; Pamela Hughey, house manager. Messrs. Muhammad Muktash of the National Museum in Raqqa and Ali Ali of the Hassaka section of the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums were the representatives of the Directorate General. Mr. Jean Lazar, Director of the Office in Hassaka, and his assistants, Mr. Ibrahim Nano and Ms. Najah Touer, were also particularly helpful during our season of excavations.

As always, we benefitted fully from the invaluable assistance of our hosts and colleagues in the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums, both in Damascus and in Hassaka. We wish in particular to acknowledge the warm spirit of collegiality with which we were received by Dr. Ali Abu-Assaf, the new Director General. It was in fact a great pleasure for us that during our first season in Mozan since his taking the leadership of the Directorate General, he was able to accompany the Minister of Culture of the Syrian Arab Republic, Dr. Najah Attar, on a visit to the site, together with the Governor of the Province of Hassaka, Mr. Muhammad Mustafa Miro, and with Dr. Adnan Bounni, Director of Excavations. We are always mindful of the fact that if we have been able to a make a strong commitment to a long term and ambitious program of archaeological work in Syria it is due in large measure to the unqualified support that we have received over the years from the Syrian authorities, who have been unfailing in both providing every possible assistance in all practical needs and showing at the same time the greatest interest in our intellectual concerns. The official visit of the Minister and the Director General was in this respect especially symbolic coming as it did upon completion of our new Expedition House, which will allow us to implement a much more effective program of excavation and laboratory research over the coming years.

1.2 Archaeological objectives

A major objective of the sixth season was to open two new areas of excavation on the High Mound (see below, Fig.1), chosen from the particular perspective which we had gained in earlier seasons about the layout and occupation of the site. One of these areas was Area F, where we anticipated that we might be able to obtain a substantial horizontal exposure of strata dated to the earliest periods of the history of the site. The reason for this assumption was based on the results of our 1984 surface ceramic collection, and on the observation that here the gradient of the tell is not very steep, thus allowing for a fairly broad excavation unit situated by the toe of the slope. Work in this unit is described briefly below by M. Liverani.

A second new operation (labeled AS) was a stepped trench chosen for just the opposite reasons. The area in question corresponds to the highest rise on the the

High Mound, where our 1984 ceramic survey had resulted in the largest concentration of later material. Another important consideration for the choice of this area was its particular topographic configuration: its long and gradual slope followed the orientation of the city wall in a parallel line, rather than cutting across it at a perpendicular. The trench was so laid out that it followed the slope in this particular direction, ending in its lowest part with a fairly large and level area, not much higher in elevation than the level of the Outer City, but still well within the projected perimeter of the inner City Wall. Our expectation was to obtain thereby a complete stratigraphic sequence for the occupational history of the site, with the possibility of further horizontal excavation where the stratigraphy would warrant it. The results did indeed match very closely our expectations. From small private houses of the Nuzi period at the top, and through sizeable brickwork remains of the Khabur period, we came, about half way through the slope, to late third millennium strata, and began to excavate at the bottom of the trench a large structural complex of the mid third millennium, which appears to be a relatively well preserved public building. We are currently working on the publication of a preliminary monograph which will be devoted entirely to this trench.²

Two other major ancillary projects were brought to completion during the sixth season, and a third one was begun. The first two are a new topographical survey of the site, including a much finer coverage of the Outer City, and the geophysical survey, which had been started in 1988: a separate publication is being prepared for each of these projects, by S. M. Hughey and by J. Ericson and M. L. Peterson respectively. A geo-morphological survey of the immediate environs of the site was begun by B. Marcolongo, who also plans to continue his work at the site in 1992.

²We had also intended to complete, during the sixth season, the excavations of the Temple BA, but we were hampered by the fact that some key members of our projected staff were not able to join us in the field, so we had to postpone that particular operation. We intend to resume it in the 1992 season (since we are working on a two year cycle, according to the current policies of the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums). Publication of the temple excavations is thus postponed until after that date. See for now *Mozan 1*, 59-61; *SAB 2*; Kelly-Buccellati 1990a; 1990b.

1.3 The epigraphic finds

The present monograph is devoted primarily to the epigraphic finds which were made in area F1 during the sixth season. We are especially grateful to Lucio Milano for the speed and competence with which he has prepared this material for publication. This find is clearly sufficiently important to warrant immediate publication in this form. To be sure, no one more than Milano himself is aware of the fact that the discovery of additional tablets may significantly increase our understanding of these documents; and given the fact that the tablets came from the very top layers of a deposit contained within a well preserved building, we may in fact expect that future excavations in this area may yield additional epigraphic finds of the same nature. Similarly, in spite of the relatively clear stratigraphic definition of the structural remains in F1, it is obvious, as Liverani emphasizes in his presentation below, that we may well expect a finer resolution as a result of an increased exposure.³ In this sense, therefore, this is truly a preliminary report. And yet both the degree of definition which is already possible at this juncture, and the significance of the finds in themselves, are such that we felt immediate publication was needed within the official sequence of the Mozan reports.

The tablets published here represent the northernmost cuneiform epigraphic finds of the third millennium excavated to date. Though not at a great distance from Tell Brak, Mozan appears to fit in a milieu rather different from Brak: hence the fact that the preponderance of names in our tablets are Akkadian, and even more importantly the fact that the tablets themselves were most probably written in Akkadian (as argued by Milano, below), is significant because it marks a stronger link with the south than one might at first have expected. Since the date of the tablets appears to be relatively late in the Sargonic period, we may have here evidence of the spreading of Akkadian cultural, and possibly also administrative, influence, suggesting perhaps that the Akkadian kings had suc-

³For instance, one wonders if the deposit in which the tablets were found (f73) is a levelling in function of a higher terrace, or a floor accumulation; or what the fuller stratigraphic connections might be between the "upstairs" and the "downstairs" strata; or again whether some details of the comparisons in ceramic typology may not have to be revised.

⁴See Fig. 7. The Naram-Sin inscription of Pir Hüseyn is the only one coming from a location even farther to the north, but this text was not found in an excavation, and doubts have been raised as to whether it was found in or even near its original emplacement, or was brought there in later times, see references cited in Börker-Klähn 1982, p.134.

ministrative, influence, suggesting perhaps that the Akkadian kings had succeeded in securing not only the lower funnel of the Khabur (where Brak was the major center), but also the upper plains in the piedmont region of Mozan.

The presence of Hurrian onomastic elements in our tablets is however even more significant. The case should not be overstated, because only one name (Una-ap-šè-ni) can be matched as a full name in the later onomastic Hurrian repertory, while in the other cases we can only isolate individual onomastic elements (see Milano's comments below, 3.6 and 3.7). Nevertheless, our data do provide some meaningful new evidence for the presence of Hurrian linguistic elements in this region at this date. Conversely, the total absence of Amorite names provides a strong intimation as to the presumed absence of such a linguistic element. This is in line with the thesis advanced in Mozan 1 as one of the research objectives of our excavations, to the effect that the Khabur plains were an early Hurrian enclave. What the overall influence of the Hurrian linguistic element may have been, how far back in time the Hurrian scribal tradition extended (first clearly attested in the Tiš-atal inscriptions), how widespread the Akkadian cultural and administrative presence was - these are clearly questions that cannot be answered at this stage. But the very fact that we can pose them in such detail is indicative of the significance of our epigraphic finds from 1990, and of the interest and determination with which we will pursue this particular set of problems in our future work at the site.

1.4 Notes on third millennium ceramic chronology at Mozan

The ceramics found in the two storerooms of Area F1 are consistent with those from other third millennium deposits excavated so far at Mozan, and yet sufficiently different to warrant a brief comparative discussion here. Through the sixth season (Spring 1990), we have excavated major deposits with a significant corpus of ceramics from: two burials in the Outer City (Oa4 and especially Ob1, where there were over 50 vessels found as part of a grave); the burnt deposit (f16) in Area K1 immediately outside the city wall; the Temple BA; and now the two storerooms in Area F1. In the Ob1 grave a substantial corpus of late Ninevite V vessels was found including the large pointed base, globular bowls with deeply grooved designs (Fig. 8e) also excavated at Tell Ailun west of Mozan and Tell

with geometric designs painted in red and black (Moortgat and Moortgat-Correns 1976, Abb. 28a,b) were placed in this tomb along with small, roughly made and poorly fired Metallic ware cups (Fig. 8a-d). As will be demonstrated in detail in the publication of this pottery, on which I am currently working, it appears that the contents were placed in this tomb at a point late in terms of the Ninevite V and Scarlet ware tradition (at least in our area) and early in the Metallic ware tradition. This then means that Ob1 represents the earliest third millennium deposit thus far excavated at Mozan. It is not, however, the earliest third millennium deposit extant at Mozan since surface sherds of earlier Ninevite V incised ceramics have been found. In fact it was especially this earlier material which gave us the impetus to excavate in Area F1 (see below 2.1).

Between this deposit and the next chronological segment of the pottery chronology there is probably a short gap since the city wall burnt deposit (f16) in Area K1 does not overlap with the material from the tombs. This, however, may also be due to the nature of the burnt deposit and the fact that a limited range of types was found there (Mozan 1, pp. 65-67). The ceramics from this burnt deposit are dated partly through comparison with other sites but also by the date of the seal impressions on the door sealings (Mozan 1, pp. 67-81). Storage vessels with plastered interiors and some of the Simple ware shapes overlap the ceramics found in Temple BA. Most of the ceramics from the Temple BA are from the Simple ware tradition but a significant proportion is Metallic ware. This is also true for the vessels in the storerooms in Area F1. Some overlap of types may be seen in the decorated storage vessels but confirmation of this awaits the restoration of the F1 material. Certainly both the Simple ware and the Metallic ware of these rooms are somewhat different in both shape and manufacturing technique from that of the wares excavated in Temple BA.

Thus even at this preliminary stage we may propose that the F1 storage rooms are among the latest third millennium ceramic material excavated at Mozan. One of the goals of the Mozan excavation is to reconstruct a well articulated ceramic chronology for the third millennium through substantial deposits of well stratified material combining not only the ceramics but also their associated objects which

⁵A useful link for establishing the internal third millennium ceramic chronology at Mozan will probably be not so much the conical cups as in the south (see comment by Oates 1986, p. 272) but rather the Simple ware spouted vessels. Already we have a progression of types from the city wall through this new deposit in the F1 storerooms. In general, the earliest spouted vessels have short spouts attached to the shoulders of small, squat jars while the later examples have longer spouts on taller, somewhat larger jars.

material combining not only the ceramics but also their associated objects which can give independent evidence for the date of these deposits. The vessels found in situ in the two storerooms of Area F1 are an important step in this direction. If these storeroom vessels do indeed also turn out to be dated by the tablets published here, then we will have a secure anchor for the later part of the Sargonic period.

1.5 An inscribed sherd from the fifth season (M2 3)

By way of a complement to the tablets from F1, we also publish here a sherd inscribed with a few cuneiform signs which was found in 1988 during the fifth season of excavations. Discovered on the surface of the tell by J. Ericson during his work on the geo-physical survey, it came from the an area immediately west of the Temple BA. It was assigned the field number Z1.66, and is published here under the label M2 3 (see Illustr. 6). To date, this is the only other epigraphic find demonstrably from Mozan.⁶

A reading of the few signs remains uncertain. The best interpretation is the one which has been offered privately by W. W. Hallo, whom we wish to thank for his kindness in sharing his insight with us. He suggests that the signs may be read as the logogram E₂.LUH,⁷ possibly referring to a lustration establishment – which would fit with the fact that the findspot of the sherd happened to be near a temple, though this may of course be purely accidental.

⁶For our tentative suggestion that the Tiš-atal lions may also have been found at Mozan see *Mozan 1*, pp. 36-38.

⁷For a comparable sign which is "remotely similar" in shape to our second sign, Hallo (private communication) refers to a Kassite LUH listed in Fossey 1926 as # 19735. He also notes that the sign LUH may of course be read as SUKKAL, so that, "if the signs are read correctly, they can be interpreted as 'house of the messenger' as well as 'bath house,' 'house of lustration(s)' or the like." We conclude, as he does, with a sober *non liquet*.

4. References

- AAN E. Cassin and J.-J. Glassner, Anthroponimie et anthropologie de Nuzi, Vol. 1. Les anthroponimes, Malibu 1977.
- AOAT 3/1 O. Loretz, Texte aus Chagar Bazar und Tell Brak, Teil 1, (Alter Orient und Altes Testament, Band 3), Neukirchen-Vluyn 1969.
- AlT D.J. Wiseman, The Alalakh Tablets, London 1953.

Börker-Klähn, J.

- 1982 Altvorderasiatische Bildstelen und vergleichbare Felsreliefs, Mainz.
- ChS I/1 V. Haas, Die Serien itkahi und itkalzi des AZU-Priesters, Rituale für Tašmišarri und Tatuhepa sowie weitere Texte mit Bezug auf Tašmišarri (Corpus der Hurritischen Sprachdenkmler. I. Abteilung: die Texte aus Bogazköy, Band 1), Roma 1984.
- CT Cuneiform Texts from Babylonian Tablets in the British Museum, London 1896 ff.
- Dossiers G. Buccellati and M. Kelly- Buccellati, "Tell Mozan," Les dossiers d'Archéologie 155 (1990) 18-23.
- FAOS 7 I.J. Gelb and B. Kienast, Die altakkadischen Königsinschriften des dritten Jahrtausends v.Chr. (Freiburger Altorientalische Studien, Band 7), Stuttgart 1990.

Fossey, Ch.

- 1926 Manuel d'Assyriologie, Vol. II, Paris 1926.
- HS I.J. Gelb, Hurrians and Subarians (The Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago. Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization, No. 22), Chicago 1944.
- ITT Inventaire des tablettes de Tello conservées au Musée Impérial Ottoman, Paris 1910-1921.

Kelly-Buccellati, M.

- 1990a "Three Seasons of Excavation at Tell Mozan," in S. Eichler, M. Wäfler, D. Warburton, *Tall al-Hamidiya 2*, Orbis Biblicus et Orientalis: Series Archaeologica 6, Göttingen 1990, 119-132.
- 1990b "A New Third Millennium Sculpture from Mozan," in A. Leonard and B. Williams, eds., Essays in Ancient Civilization Presented to Helene J. Kantor, SAOC 47, Chicago, 149-54, Pl. 26.
- MAD 1 I.J. Gelb, Sargonic Texts from the Diyala Region (Materials for the Assyrian Dictionary, No. 1), Chicago 1952.

- MAD 2 I.J. Gelb, Old Akkadian Writing and Grammar (Materials for the Assyrian Dictionary, No. 2), Chicago 1961².
- MAD 3 I.J. Gelb, Glossary of Old Akkadian (Materials for the Assyrian Dictionary, No. 3), Chicago 1957.
- MAD 5 I.J. Gelb, Sargonic Texts in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford (Materials for the Assyrian Dictionary, No. 5), Chicago 1970.

Moortgat, Anton

1959 Archäologische Forschungen der Max Freiherr von Oppenheim-Stiftung im nördlichen Mesopotamien 1956, Köln.

Moortgat, Anton and Ursula Moortgat-Correns

- 1976 Tell Chuera in Nordost-Syrien: Vorläufiger Bericht über die siebente Grabungskampagne 1974, Berlin.
- Mozan 1 G. Buccellati and M. Kelly-Buccellati, Mozan 1. The Soundings of the First Two Seasons (Bibliotheca Mesopotamica, Vol. 20), Malibu 1988.
- NPN I.J. Gelb, P.M. Purves and A.A. MacRae, Nuzi Personal Names (The University of Chicago Oriental Institute Publications, Vol. 57), Chicago 1943.

Oates, Joan

- "Tell Brak: The Uruk/Early Dynastic Sequence," in Uwe Finkbeiner and Wolfgang Röllig, eds., *Ğemdat Naşr Period or Regional Style?*, Wiesbaden.
- OSP 1 A. Westenholz, Old Sumerian and Old Akkadian Texts in Philadelphia Chiefly from Nippur. Part One: Literary and Lexical Texts and The Earliest Administrative Documents from Nippur (Bibliotheca Mesopotamica, Vol. 1), Malibu 1975.
- OSP 2 A. Westenholz, Old Sumerian and Old Akkadian Texts in Philadelphia. Part Two: The "Akkadian" Texts, the Enlilemaba Texts, and the Onion Archive (The Carsten Niebuhr Institute Publications, Vol. 3), Copenhagen 1987.
- PTU F. Gröndahl, Die Personennamen der Texte aus Ugarit (Studia Pohl, Vol. 1), Roma 1967.
- RTC F. Thureau-Dangin, Recueil de tablettes chaldéennes, Paris 1903.
- SAB 2 G. Buccellati, G. and M. Kelly-Buccellati, "Tell Mozan," Syrian Archaeology Bulletin, 2 (1990), pp. 47.
- ShT J. Laessøe, The Shemshāra Tablets. A Preliminary Report, København 1959.
- USP B.R. Foster, *Umma in the Sargonic Period* (Memoirs of the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences, Vol. 20), Hamden 1982.

Wilhelm, G.

1982 Grundzüge der Geschichte und Kultur der Hurriter, Darmstadt 1982.

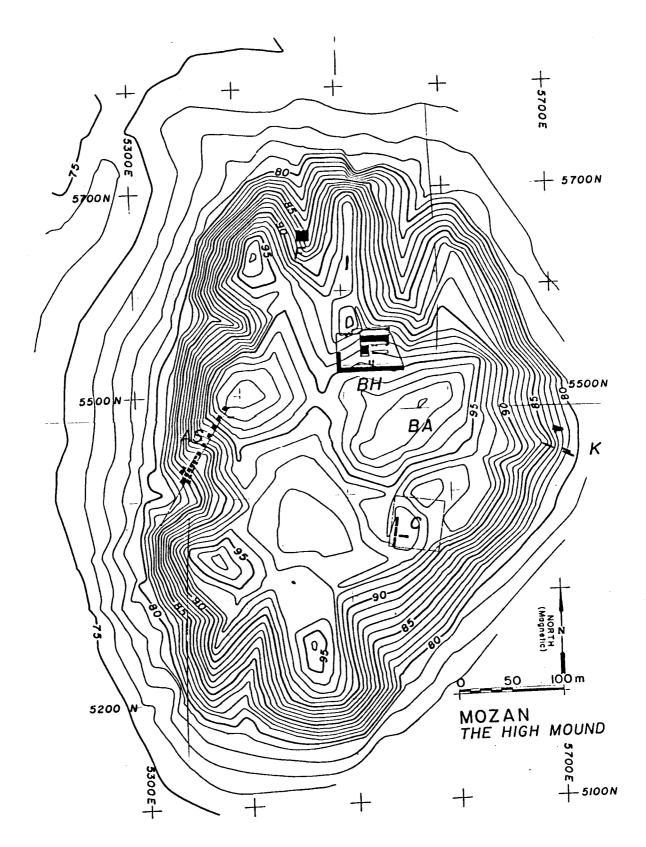


Figure 1 Site plan of Mozan

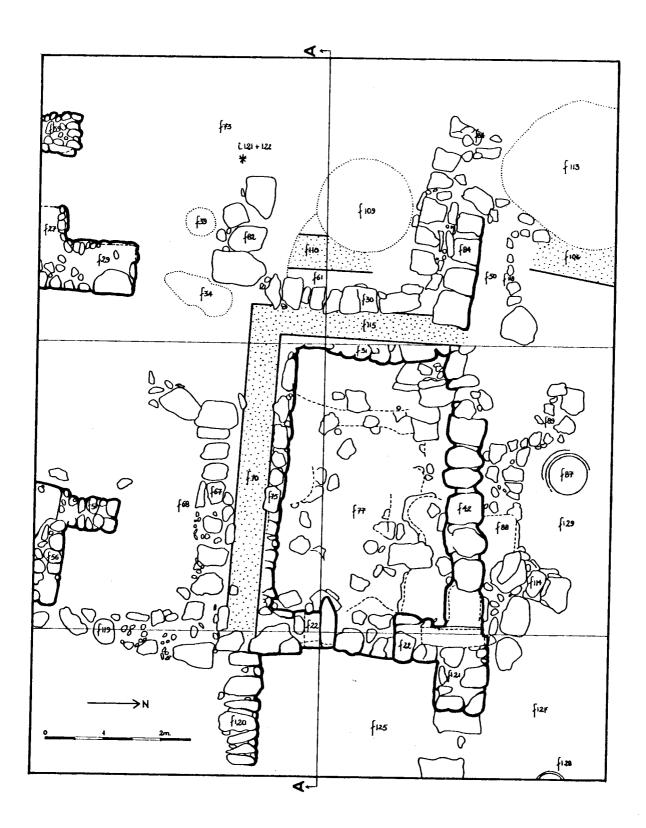
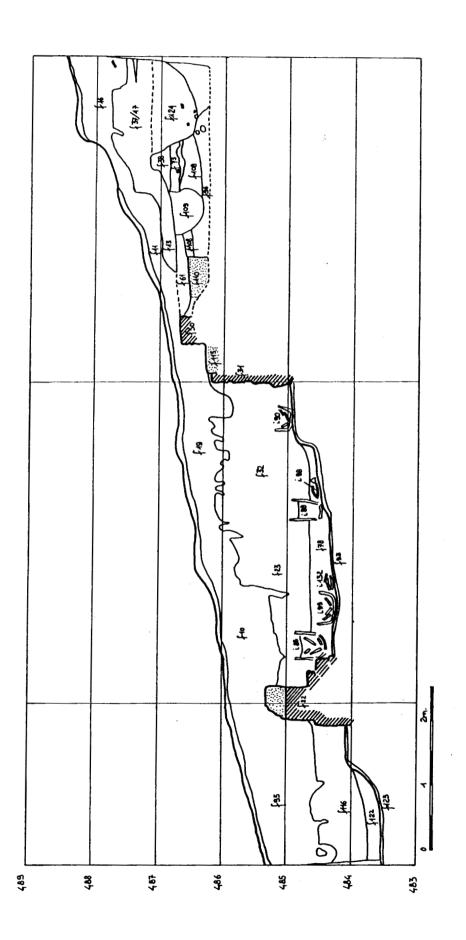


Figure 2
F1: Floor plan





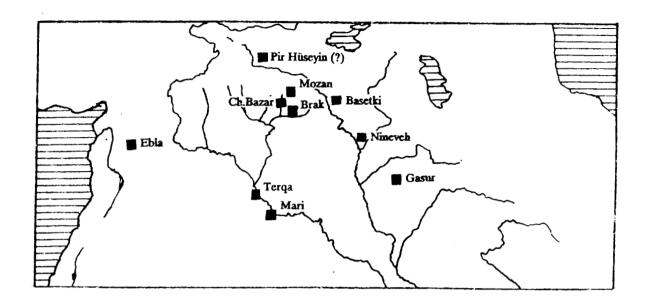


Figure 4
Third millennium epigraphic finds from Northern Syro-Mesopotamian sites

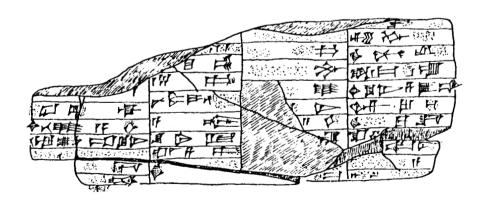


Figure 5 M2 1: Obverse (?) (1:1)

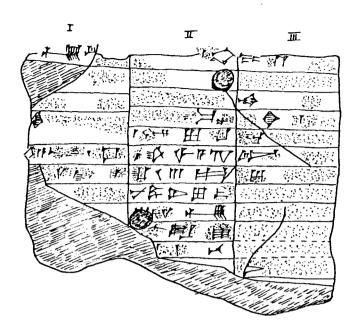


Figure 6 M2 2: Obverse (1:1)

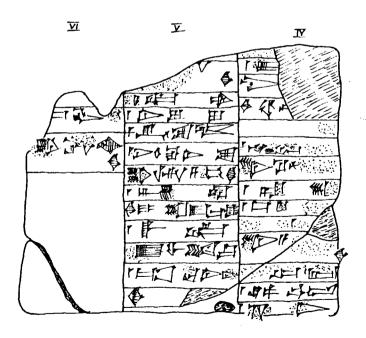


Figure 7 M2 2: Reverse (1:1)

Figure 8
Early third millennium ceramics from grave Ob1

a-d: Metallic ware cups; e: Ninevite V deep bowl; f: Scarlet ware stand Field numbers: a: Ob1.25; b: Ob1.26; c: Ob1.57; d: Ob1.36; e: Ob1.47; f: Ob1.52

MONOGRAPHIC JOURNALS OF THE NEAR EAST SYRO-MESOPOTAMIAN STUDIES 5/1 (July 1991)

A publication of

IIMAS - The International Institute for Mesopotamian Area Studies

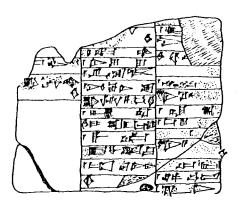
SMS 5/1

MOZAN 2

THE EPIGRAPHIC FINDS OF THE SIXTH SEASON

Lucio Milano

with contributions by
Giorgio Buccellati, Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati, and Mario Liverani



Malibu 1991 Undena Publications The series Monographic Journals of the Near East includes medium size monographs, published independently of each other and without any periodical schedule. For convenience, they are grouped into volumes which are closed when a total of about 200 pages is reached. Individual titles are available on a standing order basis, which can be placed with the publisher for each of the various journals. – Beginning with 1991, the text portion of most monographs is available on disk in MS-DOS/ASCII format, within the series Cybernetica Mesopotamica: Electronic Editions, which is also distributed by Undena Publications.

General Editor: Giorgio Buccellati

The journal Syro-Mesopotamian Studies is devoted to the study of the civilizations which flourished in the area characterized by the use of Sumerian and Akkadian, from late prehistory to the end of the First Millennium B.C., providing an outlet for the publication of primary sources and a forum for the archaeological, linguistic and historical analysis of pertinent phenomena.

Editor: Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati

Assistant Editor: William R. Shelby

Advisory Board: Jean Bottéro

Giorgio Gullini Thorkild Jacobsen Olivier Rouault Maurits Van Loon

SMS 5/1. – The tablets recovered in Mozan during the sixth season of excavations in 1990 represent the northernmost find to date of well stratified cuneiform texts for the third millennium. They are accounts of people listed by name, profession and sometimes provenience. The language in which the texts are written is plausibly Old Akkadian, and so is a majority of personal names, but several names may be explained as Hurrian. The date is that of the later portion of the Sargonic period. Besides providing a complete philological treatment of the texts, this fascicle briefly describes the archaeological context – a stratigraphically well defined deposit within a sizeable stone building; it also provides a brief report on the work of the sixth season of excavations.

An electronic version of the text portion of this monograph (labeled CM E2) is available from Undena.

Publication of this monograph was made possible through a grant from the National Endowment of the Humanities.

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	1
List of Figures	2
List of Illustrations	2
1. Introduction - G. Buccellati and M. Kelly-Buccellati	
1.1 The sixth season of excavations at Tell Mozan	3
1.2 Archaeological objectives	
1.3 The epigraphic finds	
1.4 Notes on third millennium ceramic chronology at Mozan	
1.5 An inscribed sherd of the fifth season (M2 3)	
2. The archaeological context - M. Liverani	
2.1 The general setting	10
2.2 Stratigraphy of Area F1	
2.3 The ceramic horizon	12
2.4 The findspot of the tablets	14
3. Philological presentation – L. Milano	
3.1 Introduction	15
3.2 Description of the tablets	17
3.3 Texts in transliteration	18
3.4 Palaeography	
3.5 Content and structure of the texts	22
3.6 Notes on the personal names	22
3.7 Conclusions	
4. References	27
Figures	29-34
Plates	after n 16

List of Figures

Page	Fig.	Description
29	1	Site plan of Mozan
30	2	F1: Floor plan
31	3	F1: Section AA
32	4	Third millennium epigraphic finds from Northern Syro-
		Mesopotamian sites
32	5	M2 1: obverse (?)
33	6	M2 2: obverse
33	7	M2 2: reverse
34	8	Early third millennium ceramics from grave Ob1

List of Illustrations

Numbers in brackets refer to the Mozan photo archive.

Plate	e Illustr.	Description [Photo #]
I	1	F1: General overhead of entire unit [V6B2026]
	2	F1: Closer view of Western portion of unit [V6C1902]
	3	F1: Close-up view of locus with tablets [V6N2830]
II	4	M2 1: obverse (?) of tablet [V6N4303]
	5	M2 1: reverse (?) of tablet [V6N4305]
	6	M2 3: inscribed sherd [V5C6130]
Ш	7	M2 2: obverse of tablet [V6N4234]
	8	M2 2: reverse of tablet [V6N4230]
IV	9	Sherds (F1.108) covering tablets M2 1 and 2 in situ (note goblet
		fragment F1.119, and stone wall F1f82 on the right) [V6N2634]
	10	M2 1 and 2 in situ, with goblet fragment F1.119 [V6N2805]
	11	M2 1 and 2 in situ, after removal of goblet F1.119 [V6N2832]