

Considered together with other Jerablus-Tahtani finds, these objects emphasize the critical position of the Carchemish area at the interface between Anatolian and Syrian EBA worlds. Thus, the style of the horned animal plaque, the hammer-axe and pithos burials are northern traits, the majority of the pottery, Plain Simple Ware, southern.

*Area II : further evidence on the context of high status Tomb 302*

Below the northwest corner of T. 302 lay a curvilinear free-standing *tauf* structure. It is well preserved, with incurving walls currently excavated to a height of 1.9 m. Its exposed perimeter forms an irregular arc, 3.8 m. in length which, if projected, suggests a circular structure some 3.2 m in diameter. Its function and date still need to be resolved. What little sherdage there is belongs to the Uruk and EBA, so presumably it is an early EBA structure. It may be compared to *tholos* type silos at Mersin, or the domes on rectilinear granaries depicted on Uruk and Jemdat Nasr seals from Susa<sup>4</sup>. The overlying tomb, therefore, seems to have been founded in an area which had been reserved for radically different purposes. That the area was a communal one is suggested by the unenclosed situation of the silo (?) and its location at the foot of a 1.20 m. high terrace fronted by a battered stone revetment on which was founded a mudbrick wall. The terrace supported pre-Tomb 302 buildings, and was re-built to a total height of 3 m. when the tomb was constructed in front of and parallel to the terrace wall. The southern elevation of this wall has been traced for some 22 m. Washed away by the Euphrates in the east and extending beyond the limit of excavation in the west, it constitutes the protective skin for a large-scale, artificial extension to the site. The stone-lined passage reported in *OE* 1995/3, 71 was constructed over this terrace and at right angles to it. The stairs which were inserted in the passage enabled pedestrians to negotiate the drop in elevation from the lip of the underlying terrace wall conveniently. These stratigraphic observations make it clear that a public edifice, the terrace, antedates the construction of T. 302. We still need to establish the relationship between these architectural features and the fort wall, and this may be possible in a future season by linking excavation Areas I and II.

*Acknowledgments*

We are most grateful to Professor Dr. Sultan Muhessen, its Director General, Dr. Adnan Bounni, Director of Excavations and Dr. Wahid Khayatah, Director, Aleppo National Museum for inviting us to

participate in the programme and for their unstinting help to the project. Mr. Mohammed Ali capably acted as our Representative for the third year. The fifth season of investigations were generously supported by the British Academy, the British Institute at Amman for Archaeology and History and the British Museum.

Edgar Peltenburg  
Department of Archaeology  
University of Edinburgh  
Old High School  
Edinburgh EH1 1LT  
Scotland-U.K.

<sup>1</sup> For a summary of the Early Bronze Age deposits at Jerablus-Tahtani, see Jerablus-Tahtani, *Syrian-European Archaeology Exhibition : Working together*, p. 73-75 (Damas : 1996) ; for reports of results of previous seasons, see *Orient Express* 1994/3, p. 73-76 ; 1995/3, p. 70-72 ; and *Levant* 27, 1995, p. 1-28; 28, 1996, p. 1-25.

<sup>2</sup> See L. Woolley and R. Barnett, *Carchemish III. The Excavations in the Inner Town* (London : 1952) 214-7. The distinction between vertical jars and horizontal pithoi is chronological at Jerablus-Tahtani, and one that may have been confused in the early reports of excavations at Carchemish. There, two late pot burials, 16 and 17, could be horizontal pithoi. They have relatively rich grave goods, another characteristic of later pithos burials. These customs may be quite localized and hence of limited inter-regional chronological value : see E. Carter and A. Parker, *Pots, People, and the Archaeology of Death in Northern Syria and Southern Anatolia in the Latter Half of the Third Millennium BC*, in S. Campbell and A. Green (eds) *The Archaeology of Death in the Ancient Near East* (Oxford : 1995), p. 106-107.

<sup>3</sup> A. Jamieson, *The Euphrates Valley and Early Bronze Age Ceramic Traditions*. *Abr Nahrain* 31, 1993, p. 41-47, 88-89, Fig. 1.

<sup>4</sup> Cf. J. Garstang, *Prehistoric Mersin* (London : 1953) Pl. VIb ; P. Amiet, *Glyptique susienne* (MDAI 43) (Paris : 1972), pl. 16, p. 658-663.

**Evidence for a Royal Palace at Tell Mozan/Urkesh**

During the ninth season of excavations at Tell Mozan/Urkesh (Summer 1996) our work was concentrated in three main areas of Building AK. We had understood this building to be a Royal Storehouse, and had projected a layout that assumed the presence of administrative quarters to the North. Our three primary goals were : (1) removal of the earliest floor deposit in the Eastern Sector (Area A6) ;

(2) identification of the Eastern perimeter (Area A8) ; (3) exploration of the presumed administrative quarter to the North (Area A7).

*Discovery of a monumental Entry Way in Area A7*

The major surprise came in Area A7. Immediately upon beginning excavations, we found that, in terms of their content, the floor accumulations matched exactly those of the Storehouse, and we also found the Eastern wall and doorjamb of what we presumed to be a room of the administrative quarter. The first unexpected find came with the discovery of a round, brick platform next to the southern wall of Area A7, while the second surprise resulted from our inability to find any trace of either a Western or a Northern wall. We began therefore to expand our excavations in both directions, in a search for either of these two walls. Since there was no evidence of later erosion, the lack of walls became more and more puzzling. Four major new elements came to light in the process of the excavations. (1) A second round, brick "platform" was found within the same stratum as the previous one, though larger in size and slightly out of alignment. (2) A 4 m wide stone platform was found some 22 meters to the north, jutting out from the line of the presumed perimetral wall. (3) A ramp flanking a flight of steps, each about one meter in width, came to light in front of the platform, aligned with the line of the presumed perimetral wall. (4) We were able to trace continuous floor accumulations running all way from North to South along the same line of the presumed perimetral wall, and extending across this line from East to West. The conclusion is inescapable that we have here all the elements of a monumental entrance, consisting of a stairway leading to a portico. (We call it "Porch" on our plan to retain a more neutral term until the exact architectural arrangement is fully defined.) In turn, such a columned entry strongly suggests that we are dealing with the Royal Palace itself. The following reasons argue in favor of this identification. (1) While not entirely certain, the floor plan of the portico is similar to that of the entry way of the much later bit hilani, which is known as a feature of royal palace architecture in Northern Syro-Mesopotamia. (2) In

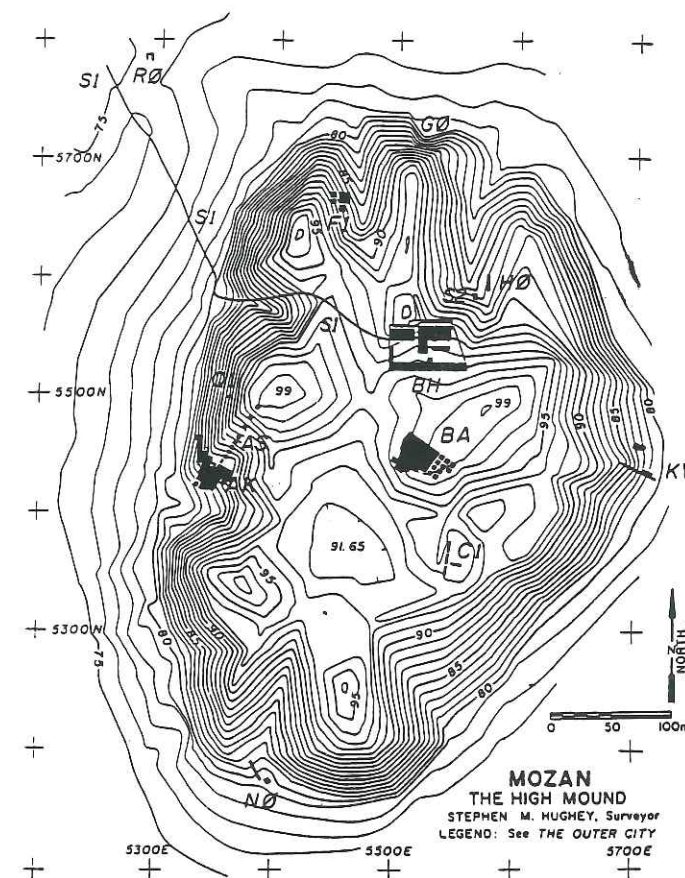


Fig. 1 : Site plan.

Area A7, a total of 110 seal impressions were excavated this season, of which eleven were duplicates of ones found previously in the Storehouse ; additionally, there may be a new seal of the queen. This points clearly to a correlation of function and chronology between the two parts of the building, just as the inscribed material from the storehouse speaks for a direct royal presence in the building. (3) We can now project a much larger size for the building, which certainly extends to the East and the North. We are considerably fortunate in this respect, since in those two directions there is no evidence of later erosion, so that we ought to be able to uncover in the course of the coming years the full extent of the "Palace". (4) This is the only place in the tell where we can assume that the early third millennium city wall was razed to make room for the stairway and to open up a vista towards the west — an urban restructuring on a scale which would be in keeping with royal planning.

*The Eastern Sector of the Storehouse (Area A6)*

In contrast to Area A7, excavations in Area A6 matched closely our expectations. We reached the earliest floor of the building in the smaller rooms,









Fig. 5 : Standing Figures with Offerings (A6q385.3).

which proposes a general abandonment of the Khabur region following cataclysmic events at about 2200 B.C. Since there is a continuous sequence of floor accumulations within the building (including at least one reconstruction) up to a depth of some 3 m, and since there is later third millennium material on top of these remains, no longer connected with the "Palace" we clearly have at Mozan/Urkesh a continuous occupation which goes to the end of the millennium and beyond into the early second millennium. The later the date of earliest floor, the more compact does this sequence become.

#### Acknowledgments

The ninth season of excavations was made possible through grants from the National Geographic Society, the S. H. Kress Foundation, the L. J. and M. L. Skaggs Foundation, the Cotsen Family Foundation, Syria Shell Petroleum Development B.V., and various donors. Excavations were under the direction of the writers, with the participation of S. Abdel-Ghafour, L. Aho, F. A. Buccellati, H. Cooper, A. Frigerio, R. Hauser, R. Kunjummen, J. Myers, C. Noyes, J. Omar, P. Pozzi, B. Pritzkat, J. Walker, C. Wettstein, C. Woods, F.-X. Xu. Our representative was Ali Ali from the Department of Antiquities in Hassaka. As always, we are very grateful for the assistance and support of the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums, in particular the Director General, Dr. Sultan Muhesen ; the Director of Excavations, Dr.

Adnan Bounni ; and the Director of the Office in Hassaka, Mr. Jean Lazare.

Giorgio Buccellati and Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati  
IIMAS - The International Institute for  
Mesopotamian Area Studies  
6760 Dume Dr. - Malibu, CA 90265 - USA

#### Bibliography :

Buccellati, G. and M. Kelly-Buccellati

1995 "The Identification of Urkesh with Tell Mozan (Syria)", *Orient-Express* 1995/3, cover page and p. 67-70.

1996 "The Royal Storehouse of Urkesh : The Glyptic Evidence from the Southwestern Wing", *Archiv für Orientforschung* 42-43 (1995-96), p. 1-32.

in press "The Courtiers of the Queen of Urkesh : Glyptic Evidence from the Western Wing of the Royal Storehouse AK", for *Subartu*

in press "The Seals of the King of Urkesh : Evidence from the Western Wing of the Royal Storehouse AK", for *Wiener Zeitschrift für die Kunde des Morgenlandes*

Kelly-Buccellati, M.

1996 "Nuzi Viewed from Urkesh, Urkesh Viewed from Nuzi : Stock Elements and Framing Devices in Northern Syro-Mesopotamia", *Studies on the Civilization and Culture of Nuzi and the Hurrians* 8, p. 247-268.

Weiss, H. and M.-A. Courty, W. Wetterstrom, F. Guichard, L. Senior, R. Meadow, A. Curnow

1993 "The Genesis and Collapse of Third Millennium North Mesopotamian Civilization" in *Science* 261/5124 (August 1993), p. 995-1003.

#### Tell Mohammed Diyab (Syrie), huitième campagne (1996)

La huitième campagne de fouilles à Tell Mohammed Diyab (Syrie du nord-est) s'est déroulée à l'automne 1996 sous la direction de J.-M. Durand. Les recherches ont porté sur les trois chantiers principaux : opérations 1, 3 et 5.

##### Opération 1

Les travaux de l'opération 1 menés cette année ont permis d'achever la fouille d'un îlot de maisons d'habitation du Bronze Moyen (période pendant laquelle est attestée la céramique dite « du Khabur »). Il pourra donc désormais être publié dans son intégralité.

Sous la couche de surface, vierge de toute occupation, a été atteint dans l'ensemble du secteur ouvert un niveau d'époque mitannienne. Deux pièces d'un bâtiment et une cour adjacente ont été mises au jour. L'épaisseur des murs de la construction permet de l'interpréter comme un édifice public. Il est malheureusement extrêmement érodé, notamment à