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Papers



Abolfazl Aali
Iranian Center for Archaeological Research

NEW INVESTIGATIONS IN CHEHR ABAD SALT MINE NEAR ZANJAN, IRAN

Fourteen years ago, mine workers of Chehr Abad salt mine during extraction activities found parts of a human body and several items associated with it. These remains were sent to the National Museum of Iran in Tehran and the body was soon known as Salt Man. At the same time studies were started on the Salt Man, which dated it to 1700 BC by ¹⁴C analysis. In Nov. 2004 during mine activities in the same mine another Salt Man, in a very bad state of preservation, was found. Immediately a team of archaeologists of the Iranian Cultural Heritage and Tourism Organization from Zanjan Office began a salvage excavation in the mine. During the first season of excavation two other salt mummies were found. Specific environmental characteristic of the site has caused the conspicuous state of preservation of the bodies and of the other items associated with them. Salt Man number 4 is the best preserved among the Salt Men and is actually intact. His complete dress is nearly intact. In addition, the astonishing preservation of the body allows the see the soft tissues through his skin. Mummies no. 2 and 3 are fragmentary; one of them has been crushed by a large collapsed stone slab.

There are several items associated with the Salt Men, including textiles, pieces of skin, working tools, and wooden items. Based on radio carbon dating the oldest mummies (numbers 3 and 4) date from around 350 BC, namely the Achaemenid period in Iran. In the second season we continued excavation and we found again a lot of organic material. Also we found other human remains in the second season.

Yael Abadi-Reiss, Isaac Gilead
Archaeological Division, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer Sheva, Israel

THE TRANSITION NEOLITHIC-CHALCOLITHIC IN THE SOUTHERN LEVANT:
RECENT RESEARCH OF CULTURAL ASSEMBLAGES FROM THE SITE OF QATIF

The Qatifian entity existed in the southern regions of the Levant at the end of the 6th millennium and the beginning of the 5th millennium BC. This entity was defined two decades ago, by Gilead and Alon, on the basis of preliminary research of cultural assemblages from sites in the northern Negev. Currently, the cultural assemblages from the key site of Qatif Y3 are being analyzed by us.

The ongoing analysis of the flint, pottery, stone and bone tools assemblages, and their comparison to Neolithic and Chalcolithic assemblages from the southern Levant, enables us to obtain a comprehensive view of the cultural characteristics of the Qatifian entity. This research will enable a more precise definition of the Qatifian entity, and its place among the archaeological entities of the southern Levant during the transition between the sixth and the fifth millennia BC. Preliminary results of the analyses will be presented.

Ghorban Ali Abbasi
Islamic Azad University and Cultural Heritage Office of Golestan Province

RESULT OF EXCAVATION OF NARGES TAPPEH IN GORGAN PLAIN, SOUTHEAST OF CASPIAN SEA

Narges Tappeh is located at Gorgan-Airport Track and 7 km North of the town Gorgan 35 km East of the Caspian sea, 17 km West from Turang Tappeh and 6.5 km South from Shap Tappeh. The mound covers an area of about 17000 m² and is 2300 m above the ground, but cultural deposits are ca. 8200 m deep. The first archaeological investigation (Survey) at Narges Tappeh was conducted by Japanese archaeologists from Hiroshima University in 1974. The first excavation started in 2004 by Rajab Mohammad Zaruri and continued 2006 by Ghorban Ali Abbasi from Iranian Heritage Culture, Tourism Organization of the Golestan Province. The major goal of the Research was Rescue Excavation because of the extension of Airport Track. During the two seasons a great variety of materials, ceramic, metals, burials, remains of architecture, small

finds were brought to light. The site chronology for Narges Tapph is based on the combined evidence of stratigraphy, ceramics and radiocarbon (^{14}C). During the excavation we distinguished four periods, Cheshmeh-Ali period (early Plateau period), Bronze Age, Iron Age and Islamic period well preserved in Turang Tappeh, ShahTappeh and Jorjan.

M. Abdolahi^a, A. Sardari^b, M. Kalhor^c

^a Dept. of Archaeology, Azad University of Dezful, Dezful, Iran

^b Islamic Azad University - Dezful Branch

^c Khuzestan Road and Transporting Organization

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEYS IN THE AZNA PLAIN, CENTRAL ZAGROS, IRAN

The Azna district lies across the East of the Central Zagros in the Luristan Province. As a whole, it is the series of smaller intermountain valleys that include Gapelaq, Pachelak and Darband. Azna is tectonically active, being a continuation of the great plain of Silakhor (Borojerd) in the North-West. There are the high mountains of Oshtorankoh South of Azna springs and rivers begin which have created the Dez River in the Susiana plain. The Central Zagros is a connection bridge between central Iran and the lowlands of Mesopotamia and Susiana plains. Some investigation has been carried out in this area. But so far it no archaeological survey has been made East of Central Zagros. As a result, Azna is a suitable part for archaeological investigation. Main aims for surveying Azna have been to establish the pattern of settlement history from the Paleolithic period through to later historical phases and also to clarify previous chronology of Central Zagros. Surveys of Azna began in 2005 and continued in 2006. Sites were identified and measured and a total of 222 ancient sites were identified ranging various dates. These settlements include 33 sites from Late Neolithic and Early Chalcolithic, 29 sites of Middle and Late Chalcolithic, 17 of Bronze Age, 49 of Iron III, 27 from the Achaemenian period, 56 of the Parthian period, 47 Sasanian and 40 of the Islamic period. Studies indicate that during the prehistoric age every region with good springs and rivers was settled. In the Parthian and Sasanian periods there was a sharp increase in the number of settlements and population that extended beyond the seasonal and perennial rivers. This increasing is usual on the whole of the regions in Iran. On the basis of these surveys, the primary settlement pattern includes a hierarchy of sites ranging more than 3 hectares, 3 to 1 hectares, 1 to 0.5 hectare and less than 0.5 hectare that includes the largest amount of the settlements. The reason for this intensive quantity in the small intermountain plain may be the dominant presence of nomadic pastoralist who have lasted to the present days. Consequently, we are going to continue a third season of survey and a first season of excavation on one or two sites in this year.

Munther Ali Abdul Malik

Archaeology Department, College of Arts - University of Baghdad

THE EXCAVATION OF THE 24TH SEASON AT THE CITY OF SIPPAR 2001-2002

This paper deals with a new excavation in Sippar (Abu Habbah), in the 24th season (2001-2002). For the first part of this season we excavated in two squares (U/105 and V/105) which contain many units (C 3, 4, 5, B 3 and N 5, O 4, 5). In the second part, we unearthed the most part of these buildings and their rooms. Among them one (room no. 1) was interpreted as "tablets room", because we unearthed in it more than 700 tablets, and unburied human skeleton (burial no. 13), whose right hand was destroyed by fire. This fire caused the death of that man, when the roof fell down accidentally and unexpectedly by fire on him. We see this human skeleton laying on the ground and two legs are diverging on his two sides and between them some tablets and slice of bones (maybe the materials of writing) and another tablets beside his left legs. Maybe this human skeleton belongs to the writer or the keeper of this archive. We can classify all these tablets as letters, omen, economic and others. Some of these tablets are published and we try to publish the others later.

Khalid Abu Jayyab see Salam al Kuntar

Giorgio Affanni ^a, Angelo Di Michele ^b

^a Dipartimento di Scienze Antropologiche, Archeologiche e Storico Territoriali, Università di Torino/
Dipartimento di Studi Linguistici e Orientali, Università di Bologna

^b Dipartimento di Studi Linguistici e Orientali, Università di Bologna

THE DEVELOPMENT OF DEFENCE STRATEGIES AT TELL AFIS (SYRIA) FROM CHALCOLITHIC TO IRON AGE

Excavations in Tell Afis have revealed significant archaeological evidence of defensive structures dating from late Chalcolithic to Iron Age.

This paper will analyze the evolution of building technique, the different strategies of fortification of the site and will propose the reading of the data related to the defensive structures in the light of their urban context. Recent data from the excavations of Area N on the eastern slope of the acropolis will be presented.

Zahra Afshar

Teheran University

BIOLOGICAL AFFINITIES AND CRANIOMETRIC STUDY OF ANCIENT BRONZE AND IRON AGE PEOPLE OF NORTH IRAN: TAPE HISSAR, GOHAR TAPE, SHAH TAPE, DILAMAN

One of the challenging problems of Iranian archaeology has so far been the unexplained shift in archaeological record of the mid 2nd millennium BC in northern Iran. It has been suggested that there were some migrations from central Asia to northern Iran during 3rd and 2nd millennium BC. Accepting this hypothesis, which has been strongly supported by the archaeological data, the significance of working on the origin of the people of ancient sites belonging to the 3rd and 2nd millennium BC (e.g. Gohar Tape, Hissar) is obvious. The purpose of this study is to assess variation of skulls of people of ancient sites of North Iran belonging to the 3rd and 2nd millennium BC in order to find biological affinities of Bronze and Iron Age people of North of Iran.

Nuha Agha see Ianir Milevski

Bahram Ajourloo

Institute of Archaeology, University of Tehran

AZERBAIJAN IN THE LATE NEOLITHIC AGE:
AN INTRODUCTION TO SOME NEW STUDIED SITES AROUND THE URMIA LAKE

By the end of 7th millennium BC the ecological-environmental conditions in the Urmia Lake basin had been changed. So not only the geographical face of the region, but also its social environment were changed by the new climate. The Near Eastern Neolithization process however occurred around 9000 BC in the Fertile Crescent, specially in the Levant and Northern Zagros, but the harsh climatic conditions in the heartland of Azerbaijan did not let emerging the Proto-Neolithic and the Early Neolithic settlements in the region, as archaeologically those are visible in the Levant, Jordan Valley, Central Anatolia and Zagros.

Evidently the Neolithic settlements of the Urmia Lake basin are affected by the Northern Zagros at the beginning of 6th millennium BC, as the Playa stage of the Lake Urmia finished.

Archaeologically, at this article, based on the data from the eight sites around the Urmia Lake, it is argued that the Azerbaijan is settled during the Late Neolithic Age due to the population pressure in the Zagros, as it was argued before by P.E. Smith and T.C. Young Jr. in the 80s. The data from Ahrendjan, Araxes, Balli,

Jolbar, Merkid, Qara Tepe, Qosha Tepe, and Yanik prove such hypothesis, whereas the archaeological character of the eastern side of the lake is different from the western one in the Late Neolithic times.

Hassan Akbari
University of Teheran

FROM LATE CHALCOLITHIC TO PROTO-ELAMITE IN SHOHALI: A LOCAL TRANSFORMATION

The Chalcolithic period was known in central plateau of Iran thanks to the excavations by Girshmann and Malek Shahmirzadi in Sialk Kashan, Schmidt and Dyson in Hessar Damghan, Kabuli in Qomrud and the University of Tehran expeditions in the Qazvin plain. In the recent years Shoghali was excavated by Hessari; this site is located in Varamin Plain near Tehran and was discovered years ago. All finds belong to the periods from the Late Neolithic to proto-Elamite without gaps. Excavations at the site have yielded rich finds and we obtained considerable evidences from this excavation.

Our data from Shoghali indicate transformation from late Chalcolithic to proto-Elamite or early Bronze Age; thus in one undisturbed layer we found data both from the late Chalcolithic (Sialk III) and proto-Elamite (Sialk IV). These data settled side by side. Elamite or early Bronze Age proved to be a local and regional period we cannot term an incoming culture.

In this paper an effort has been made to compare finds of late Chalcolithic and proto-Elamite periods from this site and other sites of the central plateau of Iran, in order to define the transformation situation.

Ahmad Alali Alrawi
Altorientalisches Seminar, Tübingen Universität, Deutschland

TYPOLOGY OF THE BRONZE WEAPONS FROM THE ROYAL TOMB OF QATNA

This paper aims to provide a typological study of the bronze weapons found in the royal tomb of Qatna/Tall Mishrifeh in 2002. In addition an overview of the distribution pattern of these weapons and their function is presented. This study is a result of the research carried out on the bronze weapons stored in the museums of Damascus and Homs (Syria).

This research is part of a PhD-project (currently carried on at the University of Tübingen) which deals with the bronze weapons found in Middle and Late Bronze Age graves in Syria and Lebanon.

Wilfrid Allinger-Csollich, Sandra Heinsch, Walter Kuntner
Institut für Alte Geschichte und Altorientalistik
University of Innsbruck (Austria)

BABYLON-BORSIPPA PROJECT - PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE STUDIES

The Institute of Ancient History and Ancient Near East at the University of Innsbruck and the Department of Antiquities and Heritage (Baghdad) have conducted since 1980 comparative archaeological studies in Borsippa (*Vergleichende Studien Babylon - Borsippa*). During the over twenty years of field activities the focus has been on the Ziqqurat and the nearby Temple of Ezida.

Findings from Ziqqurat enable for the first time to allocate the sequence of the terraces based on archaeological criteria. While findings from Temple of Ezida reveal dating to Seleucid and not Late-Babylonian period. In light of these results it was necessary to reconsider the stratigraphy of the compared city of Babylon, too. The area of the Ninmah Temple and Ishtar-Gate was examined. It was found that also this temple remained in use till Parthian time.

The new project "Babylon-Borsippa", which begun in 2007, focuses on the stratigraphy of the whole city of Babylon based on the old documents of the German Excavations and the new results of Iraqi Excavations.

In addition to these results, new findings from Babylon will be compared. This is attributed to sacral architecture in a wider geographical context.

C. Alvaro

“Sapienza” Università di Roma

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS OF THE VIA MONUMENTAL COMPLEX AT ARSLANTEPE

Since 1961 continuous and accurate archaeological investigations have been carried on the mound of Arslantepe (Malatya, eastern Anatolia) by the University of Rome “La Sapienza”, currently under the direction of Prof. Marcella Frangipane. Due to this continuous research, the extensive excavations, and the accuracy of the investigations, archaeologists reconstructed a long stratigraphic and historical sequence. Period VIA (dated to the end of the 4th millennium BC) plays a very important role in this sequence due to the discovery of a large, well preserved and imposing public complex.

Aim of this paper is to present the architectural development and features of the VIA monumental complex and its sectors. The author will use architectural and topographic methods, emphasising materials and building techniques, analysing the building phases, the functional and architectural characteristics of single rooms or groups of rooms, pointing out routes and accesses inside the complex and proposing architectural volumetric reconstructions. Forms and dimensions of the bipartite temples inside the complex will be discussed in comparison to the bipartite domestic structures also found in the site.

Fariba Saiedi Anaraki see Bruno Genito

E. Andersson ^a, M.L. Nosch ^a, L. Peyronel ^b

^aCentre for Textile Research

^bIULM Università di Milano

NEW PERSPECTIVES ON THE BRONZE AGE TEXTILE PRODUCTION IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN. THE FIRST RESULTS WITH EBLA AS THE PILOT STUDY

In 2005, a large international research project on Bronze Age textile technology and terminology in the Eastern Mediterranean area was launched in Copenhagen. The Eastern Mediterranean is a particular challenge, since images and inscriptions testify to intensive fibre exploitation and a sophisticated use of dye stuff. Spindle whorls are a common find in all excavations, and loom weights as well in the areas using the warp weighted loom. The functionality as well as the modalities of the use of these tools, however, remain obscure to us today. Hence, recordings of textile tools are insufficient or even defective. In any case, the archaeologist today is often inadequately trained to identify and interpret textiles, tools and textile production.

The approach is three-fold:

1. Systematic experimental testing of Bronze Age textile tools allows for calculations and measurements of time consume, thread out-put and textile qualities.
2. Collection and procession of data on Bronze Age textile tools from app. 40 sites.
3. Integration of textile data within the contextual interpretation of a site.
4. Study of the developments of textile terminologies in the 3rd and 2nd millennia BC.

In the paper we will present the overall results of the investigation, and then focus on Ebla as a particularly rich site in data on Bronze Age textile production (written records, tools and archaeological textiles).

Ana Arroyo
Universidad Autónoma de Madrid

IL RAPPORTO TRA TESTO E OGGETTO NEI RITUALI ITTITI

Gli scavi condotti in Anatolia, specialmente nella capitale Hattusa, hanno portato alla luce diversi materiali interpretati come oggetti d'uso nei rituali ittiti. Con questo intervento vorrei proporre un'interpretazione della connessione tra il contenuto dei documenti testuale sui rituali e gli oggetti che ne sono il supporto materiale, cercando di comprendere il rapporto tra testo e oggetto.

Ali Asadi ^a, Tobin Hartnell ^b
^a ICAR, Iran
^b University of Chicago

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF WATER MANAGEMENT IN THE PERSEPOLIS REGION

Persepolis was a major city of the Iranian highlands during the Achaemenid Empire (ca. 521 - 330 BC). Past archaeological models suggested a precocious development of the city with a sophisticated regional system of dams and canals. Within this context, a joint ICAR-University of Chicago Project analyzed the history of the local water management systems in the Persepolis plain and the associated evidence for the industrial refinement of crops. The results suggest that intensive agricultural exploitation of the plain began much later during the Sasanian Empire (ca. 225 - 637 AD), probably as part of a royal economic program for Fars.

Enrico Ascalone
Istituto Italiano di Scienze Umane, Firenze

OLD-ELAMITE SEALS FROM BASTAN MUSEUM. A REASSESSMENT OF TYPOLOGY

The knowledge of the iconographical aspects of Bronze Age Iranian seals has been impossible for the absence of new archaeological projects on the Iranian Plateau from the end of the 70s; the excavations carried out at Shahr-i Sokhta, Tepe Yahya, Shahdad, Tall-i Malyan and the new analysis of the stratigraphical sequences known at Susa and Tepe Hissar have allowed only brief and not exhaustive considerations on the Elamite glyptic art; however a new intensive archaeological approach to the historical regions of Elam, south-eastern Iran and Luristan (new surveys and excavation's projects) and the evidence collected from so-called "Jiroft civilization" seem to be decisive to identify developing autonomies for glyptic art of Elamite reigns. At the same time, the evidence from Tall-i Malyan, the studies on the general aspects of Iranian south-eastern glyptic art, the Turanian/compartmented stamp seals corpora, new evidences from private collections and the seals conserved in Bastan National Museum of Tehran are crucial to distinguish an autonomous development and an internal division of main stylistic typologies. In particular, the so-called Old-Elamite seals corpus allows some specific and detailed considerations on their iconographical and stylistic aspects, identifying two main phases and five sub-phases of development during the Simashki and Sukkalmakh Dinasties (ca. 2050-1535 BC).

Hai Ashkenazi, Yuval Goren

The Jacob M. Alkow Department of Archaeology and Ancient Near East Cultures
University of Tel Aviv, Israel

ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE INDIVIDUAL IN PRACTICE:
RECONSTRUCTING THE LIFE OF A PERSON FROM THE END OF THE CHALCOLITHIC PERIOD

One of the fascinating things in archaeology is the ability to peer into the daily life of ancient people. The paper presented here reveals the daily life of a man whose burial was found in the Judean Desert accompanied by a wooden bowl, coiled basket, wooden stick, bow, arrows, a pair of sandals, and two flint blades.

The good physical state of the skeleton, the heavily worn teeth, the bowl that resembles bowls used by Chalcolithic pastoral nomads, herbivore dung on one sandal, the absence of pottery and the burial in a marginal region indicate the deceased was a pastoral nomad. The trees used to produce his items, the cowhide used to repair the basket and the wealth of items found indicate that his territory included the highlands. The sandals' wear pattern and the healed fracture on his left fibula show that on his last months he limped as he leans on his stick, steps on his right foot and drags the other.

The burial should be dated to the period "between" the Chalcolithic and Early Bronze periods. Thus, reconstructing this person's life demonstrates the life of pastoral nomads in a time when farmers were moving into areas that were solely nomads' territories by then.

Eleni Asouti

University of Liverpool

BEYOND THE ORIGINS OF AGRICULTURE: A RECONSIDERATION OF THE CONTRIBUTION OF
ARCHAEOBOTANY TO THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF NEOLITHIC SOUTHWEST ASIA

Research focusing on the "Origins of Agriculture" has been a staple of archaeobotanical investigations in the Early Neolithic of the Near East since the first formulation of the "Neolithic Revolution" by Gordon Childe. This paper questions the utility of established narratives and research agendas focusing on "origins" and the uncritical use of traditional categories such as "agriculture", "cultivation", "gathering", "village" and their variants. It argues instead in favour of approaches which aim at reconstructing the range and gradients of the different practices and social realities associated with early Neolithic plant procurement and consumption, and their full integration with mainstream archaeological debates dealing with the socioeconomics of the early Neolithic societies of South-West Asia.

Şengül Aydıngün

Kocaeli University Faculty of Arts and Science

SURVEY OF ISTANBUL PREHISTORY

In the chairmanship of Asst. Prof. Dr. Şengül Aydıngün from Kocaeli University, after getting the permission from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey in 2007, a scientific team begun a survey to gather more information about the prehistoric periods of Istanbul/Turkey.

The first survey point was the Küçükçekmece Lake environment. Küçükçekmece lake is situated 20 km West of the Bosphorus, İstanbul. To the North there are small rivers feeding the lake. The two most important ones are Sazlıdere and Eskinoz. The banks of these rivers near the lake had to be the most probable settlement places. The West Bank of Küçükçekmece Lake remains within the boundaries of the town of Avcılar-Firuzkoy. Our investigations brought us very important findings concerning pottery and stone tools. These were similar to the Low and Upper Paleolithic stone tools and Neolithic pottery as yet unseen anywhere near Küçükçekmece. The vases were poorly fired, hand made from black clay containing

different minerals. The lack of straw in their texture made us think that these pieces might belong to a time even previous to the beginning of agriculture.

The second survey point was Silivri-Danamandira village. We found there a cave including chalcolithic pottery and some rock carvings with a man and some graffitis at the mouth of the cave.

Ahmad Azadi

Iranian Center for Archaeological Research

NEOLITHIC SETTLEMENTS IN SOUTHERN ZAGROS, IRAN

As one of the most mountainous regions in Iran, Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province lies in southern part of the Zagros Mountain range. Although the surrounding regions, such as Khuzestan and Fars, have seen long-termed and goal-oriented archaeological researches as early as early 20th century, the region has never been investigated archaeologically. In 1999 we conducted a general archaeological survey in western part of the province. Summing up, we surveyed 50 sites from Epipalaeolithic to the middle Islamic Period. In this article we introduce 7 new Neolithic sites identified during this survey.

Geomorphologically, the surveyed Neolithic sites are located at the bottom of valleys and at the edge of alluvial intermountain plains. All sites have easy access to water sources like spring or river. The artefacts collected show similarities to each other which indicate that they are rather contemporary. The surface assemblage includes blade, notched, and bullet core, all diagnostic of early or pre-pottery Neolithic. The rarity or absence of the known Neolithic sherds on these sites is another indication which allows to date them to pre-pottery Neolithic.

Francesca Baffi

University of Lecce

TELL TUQAN, SEASONS 2006-2007: NEW DATA

Tell Tuqan is in the area of the lake of Maath. Always its weather strongly conditioned the economy, in contrast to other close towns, like Ebla, in whose political sphere it was. Tell Tuqan reflects the urbanistic peculiarities of the bigger site of Ebla, but with a different organization of spaces that defines its uniqueness. From the Early Bronze IV to the Iron III Period the site's settlement is now well documented. New discoveries from the last seasons showed the borders of the areas settled during different periods. During the 2006 and 2007 seasons in Tell Tuqan site (inland Syria) soundings were made in the high city and in the low city, focusing in the areas immediately sheltering the external and internal fortifications, and also the two central zones of both the areas. Information emerged from the excavation during the two seasons about the urbanistic organization of the low city during the 3rd and 2nd millennium BC, and about the use of the areas connected with the fortification at the embankment for the low city during the Middle Bronze. Whereas for the acropolis what emerged is a rich stratification relative to all the Iron Age, when only the citadel, accessible by the south-eastern city gate, contained dignified structures.

Alessandra Bagnera

Università degli Studi della Tuscia, Viterbo

THE UDEGRAM MOSQUE: AN ISIAO ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT IN PAKISTAN

In the years 1985-1996, on the site situated on the Rājā Gīrā mountain and overlooking the present day village of Udegram in Swāt region, the Islamic Archaeology team led by Umberto Scerrato and part of IsMEO/IsIAO Italian Archaeological Mission in Pakistan, brought to light a Ġaznawid *ġāmi'* mosque, an

11th-13th century dwelling area and a small Islamic graveyard connected to the site last active phase; under the Islamic levels two main pre-Islamic phases have been also detected.

The IsIAO project, aiming to a complete publication of the results of these excavations, started from a systematic digital storing of the rich documentation formerly collected in order to achieve an exhaustive and full interpretation of the context, still partly not studied. Extremely precious are the elements we can reckon on to define both historical events of the early Islamization of Swāt – never mentioned by the sources – and the social, economical and cultural peculiarity of the Islamic settlement itself. Many are also the items for more general discussions about continuity or breaking out with pre-Islamic know-how (i.e. pottery and building technologies) and traditions (i.e. funeral customs). This project, together with the others of the IsIAO program, can therefore be regarded as a good chance to both improve our knowledge and train younger scholars in having experience of archaeological research in that part of the Islamic world where the growing political insecurity (i.e. Afghanistan and Pakistan) makes every day more difficult to travel to.

Douglas Baird
University of Liverpool

THE ANTECEDENTS OF ÇATALHÖYÜK: EXCAVATIONS AT BONCUKLU HÖYÜK 2006-2007

The fluorescence of elaborate symbolic imagery in the earliest sedentary societies of late Pleistocene and early Holocene south-eastern Asia has been explained in a variety of ways. This has included suggestions it is a response to the increasing longevity and proximity of households in densely occupied increasingly large village settlements. This view has found support in the intensity of artistic expression at the largest and densest Neolithic settlements like Çatalhöyük. Alternatively it is suggested that new cosmologies found expression and practice in this manner, whether those cosmologies centred humans in their universe or drew new metaphorical distinctions between the domestic and world of the wild. This paper will present initial results from excavations in 2006 and 2007 at Boncuklu Höyük 9 km North of Çatalhöyük where decorated curvilinear buildings, light work structures, and middens have been exposed. These results allow us to discuss the appearance of elaborate material symbolism in contexts immediately preceding its fluorescence at Çatalhöyük and thus provide useful insights into the development of this phenomenon in relation to questions of the appearance of sedentary life, cultivation and herding in central Anatolia c. 8500-7500 BC calibrated.

**D. Baird^a, D. Carruthers^a, S. Hillson^c, C.S. Larsen^b, L. Martin^c,
J.A. Pearson^a, N. Russell^d, K. Twiss^e**

^a School of Archaeology, University of Liverpool, UK

^b Department of Anthropology, the Ohio State University, USA

^c Institute of Archaeology, University College London, UK

^d Department of Anthropology, Cornell University, USA

^e Department of Anthropology, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, USA

STABLE ISOTOPE APPROACHES TO NEOLITHIC DIET ON THE KONYA PLAIN: NEW RESULTS FROM ÇATALHÖYÜK AND PINARBAŞI

This paper discusses the new stable carbon and nitrogen isotope analysis at Çatalhöyük which have been undertaken to examine the importance of animal and plant protein to the population in general and to investigate any differences between different areas of the site as well as status versus gender differences in diet that may have occurred. Isotope evidence from three periods (13th, 9th and 7th millennia) at nearby Pınarbaşı is also discussed to examine evidence for changes in diet and animal exploitation with the onset of the Neolithic. Since Çatalhöyük and Pınarbaşı were both inhabited during the 7th millennium and are close to one another we can compare between these sites to develop a complex understanding of the relative importance of different species and how domestic resources were managed to provide food at these sites.

Francesca Balossi Restelli ^a, Paolo Guarino ^b

^a “Sapienza” Università di Roma, Dipartimento di Scienze Storiche, Archeologiche, Antropologiche dell’ Antichità

^b Institute of Archaeology, University College London

DOMESTIC BEHAVIOUR AND CULTURAL FACTORS IN THE POTTERY PRODUCTION OF TWO CHALCOLITHIC COMMUNITIES NORTH AND SOUTH OF THE TAURUS: ARSLANTEPE AND ZEYTLINLI BAHÇE

A functional approach to the study of vessels from two different regions of south-eastern Anatolia is used to investigate cooking habits, domestic behaviour and social contexts of food consumption. Social dynamics, which are linked to food preparation and consumption, are compared at the two sites of Arslantepe and Zeytinli Bahçe in the LC3-4 period (3700-3300 BC), with the aid of ethno-archaeological and interdisciplinary approaches. It will also be considered whether different practices can be read as the expression of distinct cultural identities/ethnic groups and the roots of these will be searched for in the earlier periods of the same regions (LC2).

Martin Bartelheim

The Queen’s University of Belfast

KING’S MOUNTAIN TREASURE: EVIDENCE FOR A NEW LATE BRONZE AGE URBAN CENTRE IN CYPRUS

On the hill Kraltepesi/Vasili (“Kings Mountain“), close to Kaleburnu/Galinoporni in Cyprus, a Late Bronze Age hoard, with twenty-six bronze objects consisting of sixteen vessels, three offering stands and seven tools, was found. The closest parallels to the stands and to some of the vessels were found in some of the most prominent sites in Cyprus and along the nearby Levantine coast.

The findings threw attention on a settlement unknown until then. The excellent quality of the bronze objects and its extraordinarily favourable strategic position point towards an important trade centre for maritime traffics in the eastern Mediterranean region.

Adi Behar see Francesco Berna

Ellen Belcher see Karina Croucher

John Berg see Francesco Berna

Celia J. Bergoffen

Fashion Institute of Technology, New York City

IMPORTS, IMITATIONS AND STATUS.

RED LUSTROUS WHEELMADE SPINDLE BOTTLES AND THEIR DERIVATIVES FROM ASHKELON

The existence of so-called “imitations” of Cypriot pottery in the western Levant has long been recognized. Tacit assumption (along modern lines) of an *a priori* difference in quality between a canonical, imported type and a derivative local imitation has led to the notion that Canaanite versions of the Cypriot shapes were produced as substitutes. It turns out, however, that not only were Canaanite imitations a highly heterogeneous group that echoed rather than reproduced its models, there is also no indication from funerary distribution that the imitations were more or less frequently associated with higher or lower status burials than the imported vessels. Instead, imports and imitations were usually found together. In a new twist, petrographic analyses of some rarely identified “imitation” spindle bottles, made in a coarser fabric than the standard Cypriot type, point to a Cypriote provenance. Once again, the two groups, standard and imitation,

have been found together, but now, both are imports and the “imitations” are identical in form and very similar in finish to the standard, Red Lustrous Wheelmade Ware spindle bottles. This new data requires further revision of the view of “imitations” as Canaanite substitutes for imported goods, and raises questions about the relationship of the different varieties produced on Cyprus and their uses abroad.

**Francesco Berna^a, Adi Behar^a, Ruth Shahack-Gross^a, John Berg^b, Elisabetta Boaretto^c,
Ayelet Gilboa^d, Ilan Sharon^e, Sarel Shalev^{a,f}, Sana Shilstein^g,
Naama Yahalom-Mack^e, Jeffrey R. Zorn^h, Steve Weiner^a**

^a Department of Structural Biology, Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot 76100, Israel

^b Far Western Anthropological, Research Group, Inc., Davis, CA, USA

^c Radiocarbon Dating and Cosmogenic Isotopes Laboratory, Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot 76100, Israel

^d Zinman Institute of Archaeology, Haifa University, Haifa 31905, Israel

^e Institute of Archaeology, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Mt Scopus, Jerusalem, Israel 91905

^f Institute of Marine Studies, Haifa University, Haifa 31905, Israel

^g Department of Particle Physics, Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot 76100, Israel

^h Department of Near Eastern Studies, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, USA

INTEGRATING MICRO AND MACRO EVIDENCE IN ARCHAEOLOGY:
RECONSTRUCTING PYROTECHNOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES AT TEL DOR (ISRAEL)

Many of the sediments analyzed from Tel Dor (Israel) show structural alterations indicating that they were exposed to high temperatures. This observation is consistent with the abundant evidence for use of pyrotechnology from the earliest exposed Middle Bronze Age strata through the Roman period. The specific aims of this research were therefore to develop the means for identifying local sediments that were altered by different pyrotechnological activities and to elucidate the varying circumstances whereby sediments were exposed to high temperatures. We first characterize natural sediments sampled on and in the proximity of the tell and monitor their transformations due to exposure to high temperatures in an oven and in open fires, focusing in particular on the transformations of the clay mineral components of mud-brick materials. The analytical techniques used include micromorphology, Fourier transform infrared spectrometry, X-ray diffractometry and X-ray fluorescence. Using the temperature “calibrated” data, we confirm that large volumes of sediments at Tel Dor were exposed to high temperatures and at times contained phosphate, copper and/or phytoliths. We therefore were able to identify the different pyrotechnological activities that produced and accumulated several deposits of heat-affected sediments. Most importantly we showed that analysis of sediments may be an invaluable means of reconstructing fire-associated activities, even when the actual installations have not been identified during the excavation or were not preserved.

Rémi Berthon see Timothy Matney

Alison Betts
University of Sydney

ART AND RELIGION IN THE WIDER IRANIAN SPHERE:
NEW EVIDENCE ON THE KAZAKL'I-YATKAN FIRE TEMPLE

Excavations at the massive fortified complex of Kazakl'i-yatkan in North-West Uzbekistan have revealed a monumental building of quite unique design, richly ornamented with wall paintings and painted and gilded mouldings. The site was founded in the last few centuries BC in a land that was strongly influenced by Zoroastrianism. The building is a ritual monument associated with the veneration of fire and contains evidence for complex cult practices. The paper will present a report on the findings to date and suggestions for an interpretation of the site in a wider regional context.

M. Bietak

NEW NEAR EASTERN PALACE OF THE HYKSOS PERIOD AT AVARIS/TELL ED-DAB'A

M.G. Biga^a, A. Otto^b

^a "Sapienza" Università di Roma

^b Institut für Vorderasiatisch Archaeologie der LMU München

NEWS FROM ARMI/TALL BAZI AT THE EUPHRATES?

Joint efforts of philology and archaeology have resulted in new information about the location of Armi/Armium, a city of prime importance in late 3rd millennium Syria. A new examination of the Ebla texts reveals many hints for the localization derived from itineraries and the reports of military campaigns against Armi. These itineraries will be compared with our knowledge about the contemporary archaeologically identified sites, with the natural resources and possible ways of circulation within the region North-East of Ebla. Further hints for a possible identification with the site of Tall Bazi in the Upper Syrian Euphrates valley are derived from the results of the last excavation campaigns.

Khrisat Bilal^a, Khaled Douglas^b

^a Conservation Science Department, ^b Sustainable Tourism Department,
Queen Rania Institute of Tourism and Heritage Hashemite University

SYMBOLISM OF THE PLACE: THE SACRED PLACE OF HADAD, UPPER WADI AL-ZARQA, JORDAN

Since the dawning of human history nearly every human group has sought to honor special places where the physical world seems to meet its spiritual beliefs. An elaborate broad range mythology of sacred places exists across Jordan. However, limited research has been achieved on this area. In this paper we are discussing the site of Hadad (Hadad is a name recognized by the present local inhabitants as one of the holy prophets) which is located on the mountain top representing the highest landform that have been the focus of religious life and a major source of stimulation to the mythic imagination which carry a rich symbolism for many local groups of shepherds settled along the Upper Wadi al-Zarqa even in the present time.

The holiness of Hadad site seems to be the results of collected reasons that might include awe-inspiring of the morphology of the mountain which has been connected to the saint Hadad, who is thought by the local as divine, mysterious, supernatural or extraordinary saint in some way. Ethnographic records reveal that a small sanctuary or shrine was built and cultic trees were used for ritual proposes adding more spirituality to the sacred place of Hadad.

The site will be analyzed using field and ethnoarchaeological researches to understand the carried rich symbolism of Hadad that made it a sacred place even in the present time. The research result will enlighten on the significance and the sacred values of the landscape of Wadi al-Zarqa especially on the flourishing of large settlements and dolmen fields during the Bronze Age.

Elisabetta Boaretto see Francesco Berna

Jeannette Boertien

University of Groningen, the Netherlands

MYSTERIOUS “POTTERY BUTTONS” USED FOR WEAVING?

All over the Middle East a mysterious small pottery object has been excavated. These pottery disks pierced with one or more small holes have been found within domestic structures. It has been suggested that they were used as toys, buttons or as an implement for weaving. The pottery “button” has been proposed to be the “card” in card-weaving, a technique to produce narrow pieces of cloth, used as belts or as multicolored strips to be attached to clothing or drapery.

Ethnological research on card-weaving from different parts of the world combined with experiments in card-weaving has shed light on the question whether the fascinating “pottery buttons” could be used to weave multicolored strips of textile.

Luca Bombardieri ^a, Olivia Menozzi ^b, Domenico Fossataro ^b

^a Università di Firenze

^b Università di Chieti

KOURIS VALLEY SURVEY PROJECT (CYPRUS): METHODOLOGIES AND PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Different institutions are involved in the KVSP, such as the Departments of Antiquities of the Universities of Florence and Chieti, the laboratory of CAAM (Centre of the Athenaeum for Archaeometry and Microanalysis) of Chieti University, in collaboration with the Department of Antiquities of Lefkosia and the Archaeological Museums of Limassol and Episkopi.

From the geo-morphological point of view the Kouris valley represents one of the largest and deepest valleys of the southern areas of Cyprus, cutting profoundly the limestone ridge belonging to the Trodos mountainous system. In antiquity the Trodos area has been extremely important for the presence of rich bronze mines, which have been intensively exploited since the beginning of the Bronze Age and exported widely in the eastern Mediterranean basin.

The Kouris valley, therefore, with its terraced slopes, offered in antiquity the possibility of an important natural road network, along several main and secondary tracks following the river and its secondary valleys, and connecting the Trodos mines with the southern ports of Cyprus.

The aim of the project is the intensive survey of the valley, in order to reconstruct the mechanisms of settling and the use of the local road network in the ancient landscape assessment and its changes and evolution from the Bronze Age to the classical period. Already during the first season, in 2007, the survey is giving interesting data, which are recorded in real time in a multilayer GIS, employing DGPS in recording the sites, a magnetometer and a geo-resistivimeter for non invasive geo-prospecting and remote sensing on multispectral high definition satellite images.

Simone Bonzano

Institut für Vorderasiatische Archäologie, Freie Universität Berlin

ETHNO-ARCHAEOLOGY TO WRITE A LANDSCAPE CHRONOLOGY

This paper presents the preliminary results of an ethno-archaeological project that is analyzing, through a cognitive ethno-archaeological approach, the settlement patterns around the Van Lake in southeastern Anatolia for the span of time between the 2nd millennium BC and the 1st century AD. The purpose of the whole research is to interrogate the local networks and consequently the regional ones, about the social and the cultural behavior addressing the main problem of “Territorial Social and Political Agency”.

The main focus during the first phases was to limit a specific chronology of the dynamics of the landscape, capable to address the relative complexity and to draw diachronic maps of the socio-political patterns' change.

This aim has been accomplished underlining three different “guidelines”, micro-political characteristics, cultural behavior, political assessment, to target cognitive and processually the palimpsest AGENT, the Local Territorial Networks, identified in the research as Mountain Community. That was done using primary and secondary historical sources, archaeological data, ethnographic descriptions and research, working both on the human side and on the dialectic between people and the environments. A special attention was given to deploy an analyzing tool from the interpretative agents.

Marianne Boqvist

Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul

A SURVEY OF WRITTEN SOURCES AND MATERIAL REMAINS IN THE 16TH CENTURY OTTOMAN PROVINCE OF DAMASCUS: THE WAQF OF LALA MUSTAFA PASHA AND FATIMA KHATUN

The waqf of Lala Mustafa Pasha and his wife Fatima Khatun offers a unique opportunity to study the types of buildings an Ottoman high official and his wife choose to erect in a recently conquered province. This foundation is particularly interesting as Fatima Khatun was the granddaughter of the last Mamluk sultan and thus includes some of the property she has inherited from his waqf that is transformed to one of the Ottoman Empire.

This paper will discuss how the comparative study of written Ottoman sources and architectural remains can contribute to the understanding the development of the countryside in the transition period from Mamluk to Ottoman rule. It offers an interpretation of the architectural expression of Ottoman presence in the countryside, in particular along the main trade and pilgrimage roads in the province of Damascus and in northern Syria and Anatolia.

Ali Bora see Ayse Tuba Ökse

Stephen J. Bourke

University of Sydney

FURTHER EXPLORATION OF THE BRONZE AGE TEMPLE PRECINCT AT PELLA: THE 2007 FIELD SEASON

The 2007 field season at Pella in Jordan continued the investigation of the largest Migdol (Fortress) Temple discovered in the southern Levant, this season concentrating on the three small mudbrick temples that lay at the base of the sequence of eight successive temple structures. The 2007 field season isolated distinct assemblages associated with three fragmentary phases of early Middle Bronze Age (ca. 1900-1700

BC) mudbrick temple architecture. The eight phases of temple architecture span a thousand years of Bronze and Iron Age occupation on the central tell of Pella.

Immediately West of the Fortress temple, another 6 rooms of the large orthogonal Iron Age II Civic Building was further explored. Now some 26 rooms have been exposed, containing distinct material assemblages sealed below thick destruction debris that marked the end of significant occupation in the area. The new ceramic assemblages and a suite of ¹⁴C dates further support previous chronologies, suggesting construction in the late 10th cent. BC and the destruction in the second half of the 9th cent. BC.

To the South of the Fortress temple, further patches of Late Neolithic (ca. 5200 BC), and Early Chalcolithic (ca. 4800 BC) architecture were uncovered, below extensive deposits of plaster-lined rectilinear Late Chalcolithic architecture and associated storage facilities (ca. 4200 BC), including a full exposure of the enigmatic raised rubble platform, first detected in 1997. This grain-covered structure may contain evidence for the earliest cultic activity on the main mound.

Major architecture, select finds and appropriate contextual details will be presented, along with a short discussion of how the new discoveries change our view of the functioning of the Pella temple precinct over time.

Kadir Böyükkusoy see Füsün Tülek

Jennie Nicole Bradbury
Durham University

SPACE, PLACE AND BURIAL: AN EXAMINATION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES
WITHIN THE INVESTIGATION OF BURIAL MONUMENTS IN THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST

Archaeologists examining the role of burial monuments within the Near East often focus upon their association with pastoral nomads (e.g. Zohar 1992). However, the monuments, and their role within the conceptualisation and construction of society and concepts of space and cosmology, remain under-theorised. The importance of space and place in both modern and ancient societies has been examined by a variety of disciplines such as cultural geography, social anthropology, as well as archaeology. However, these debates are only now beginning to cross subject boundaries, with a lack of communication between such disciplines being apparent. This paper aims to highlight the potential of considering such concepts through multi-disciplinary research and a variety of theoretical approaches. Through the use of a case study of the burial cairns from the Homs region (Syria), the importance of theorising and considering burial monuments and aspects of space and place within a wider framework of ethnographic, textual and anthropological data shall be emphasised. Additionally, the potential of examining such monuments using elements of theory developed in relation to West European prehistory (i.e. Bradley 1998, 2000) shall be considered.

M. Brown see E. Peltenburg

Federico Buccellati
IIMAS - International Institute for Mesopotamian Area Studies

THE MONUMENTAL TEMPLE TERRACE AT URKESH AND ITS SETTING

The monumental temple terrace at the site of Tell Mozan, ancient Urkesh, in northern Syria is significant for its construction, its position within the urban environment, the religious meaning that can be elicited from it, and its long life span.

The temple complex is a “high terrace” in the center of the upper city of Urkesh. It includes a large central plaza, a wide stone stairway which surmounts a massive stone revetment wall, and a sloped top

leading to the temple which crowns the complex. The importance of such a monument is further enhanced by its position in the urban landscape of Urkesh; this mountain-in-a-city is in sharp counterpoint to the *Abi*, which stretches below ground towards the underworld.

Remarkable is also the longevity of the temple terrace, the use of which as a focal point of the city spans most probably more than 2000 years. It was in full use by 2500 BC and it lasted with only minor alterations until 1300 BC. An earlier construction probably dates back one thousand years earlier, to the middle of the 4th millennium. What few parallels we have position this structure within a wider cultural spectrum.

Guy Bunnens
Université de Liège

THE MIDDLE AND LATE BRONZE AGE AT TELL AHMAR

Structures dating from the Middle and Late Bronze Age have been excavated at Tell Ahmar (Syria) over the past few years. This paper will focus on three buildings:

1. A casemate structure forming a curving line on the acropolis of the ancient site. Some of the rooms of this structure were totally empty, others were used as storage areas. Seal impressions indicate that the building was part of a complex administrative system. The date of this structure must be looked for in the Middle Bronze Age II.
2. An approximately square structure subdivided in 4 square rooms of various sizes. This structure too should be dated to the Middle Bronze Age II.
3. A four-room house consisting of three parallel rooms extending in approximately West-East direction and a fourth transverse room to the East of the other three. This house was built near the south-eastern edge of the acropolis and should be dated to the Late Bronze Age I.

Aaron A. Burke
University of California, Los Angeles

EGYPTIANS IN JAFFA: OBSERVATIONS FROM JACOB KAPLAN'S EXCAVATIONS AT TEL YAFO

During the excavation of Area A in 1958, Jacob Kaplan excavated 20 so-called Egyptian "flowerpots" and two other vessels, which he identified as the lower part of cult stands. These vessels were found in association with a number of other Late Bronze Age Egyptian vessels in the earliest Late Bronze Age levels of the so-called Egyptian fortress. Kaplan described their context briefly in the preliminary report of the 1958 season and mentioned that among the four Late Bronze phases from which these vessels derived were also Bichrome ware, Cypriot Base-Ring I, and "a number of complete vessels of Egyptian type." This paper provides a preliminary description of these vessels and their context, a suggestion regarding their function, and the cultural significance of these vessels for Jaffa during the first half of the Late Bronze Age.

Stuart Campbell ^a, Alexandra Fletcher ^b
^a University of Manchester
^b British Museum

HOUSES AND VILLAGE SCENES: REPRESENTATION AND MEANING ON HALAF POTTERY

Near Eastern prehistorians have been taught for decades that Halaf houses are circular and the pottery is decorated with abstract, geometric designs. Although it has also been known for a long time that neither belief is always true, this has rarely been more spectacularly demonstrated than by the discovery of a large pot at Domuztepe on which the painted decoration depicts an entire scene, including houses, birds, vessels and trees. The houses in particular are very different from what we might have expected in the Halaf. Having

seen this vessel, we now realise that such depictions do, in fact, appear rarely but consistently across the Halaf in northern Syria and northern Iraq as well as in south-eastern Turkey. The interpretation of these naturalistic scenes raises a key questions relating to the nature and meaning of what is depicted as well as the role these visual representations may have had in defining and developing social relations.

Stuart Campbell see Alexandra Fletcher

René Cappers^a, Pascal Flohr^b

^a University of Groningen

^b Leiden University

JUST ANOTHER BRICK IN THE WALL? THE USE OF BUILDING MATERIAL
FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES IN GRECO-ROMAN EGYPT

In the Greco-Roman period new rulers and Greek and Roman immigrants led to a new agricultural system in Egypt. More land was made suitable for cultivation by reclamation and new irrigation techniques, and new crops were introduced. Hulled emmer wheat was replaced by free-threshing macaroni wheat, and wheat being the staple crop of the country this was a major change in the daily life of the inhabitants. Not only was the crop itself different, also new a new harvesting technique was needed and huge quantities of threshing remains became available at the same time, leading to an economic significance of this by-product. This fits well in the development of an agricultural economy in which cash crops and profit became more important.

The reconstruction of former agricultural practices is based on information collected on sites. It is a challenge to optimize on-site sampling suitable for an off-site reconstruction of the agricultural system. With the help of ethnographic observations a model has been developed which links on-site contexts with off-site activities. This presentation presents the first results of the analysis of some of the suitable contexts from Karanis, illustrating that these contexts are valuable time capsules of former agricultural practices.

V. Caracuta, G. Fiorentino

Laboratorio di Archeobotanica e Paleoecologia, Università del Salento - Lecce (Italy)

EBLA EATING HABITS AND USE OF PLANTS IN RELATION TO THE PALAEO-CLIMATE PATTERN OF SYRIA
BETWEEN THE EARLY BRONZE AGE AND THE MIDDLE/LATE BRONZE AGE

Starting from 2003 several archaeobotanical campaigns have been carried out on the Ebla site, North-West Syria, in order to shed light on the use of plants between the Early Bronze Age IVA and Middle/Late Bronze Age. The results of the archaeobotanical analysis, here presented for the first time following a continuous chronological pattern, have revealed changes in plant exploitation according to cultural aspects, functions of use and climate. Plant remains found in the Early Bronze Age Royal Palace G are especially charred wood tissue of *Abies* sp. and *Cedrus* sp. used as carpentry. These essence, not locally available, results to be substituted by the more local evergreen oak as carpentry in the Middle Bronze Age palace FF.

The other Middle Bronze Age contexts (kitchen, small storehouse and refusal pit) let to collect several seeds and fruits which have led to an insightful look on the use of plants in domestic activities. Cereals, legumes seem at the base of the Ebla eating habits, even if the role of *Olea europaea* and *Vitis vinifera* seems not so marginal.

The eating habits and the use of plant at Ebla show a relationship with and within the ancient Syrian climate pattern inferred from the analysis of carbon stable isotope concentration in ¹⁴C AMS-dated plants collected in Ebla.

D. Carruthers see D. Baird

Elizabeth Carter

University of California, Los Angeles

AN OVERVIEW OF WORK AT DOMUZTEPE, TURKEY - A NEOLITHIC SETTLEMENT
ON THE SYRO-ANATOLIAN FRONTIER

Domuztepe is located in South central Turkey between the modern cities of Kahramanmarash and Gaziantep. At about 20 ha, Domuztepe is one of the largest known settlements of the 6th millennium BC date. Work has concentrated on the Late Halaf (Late Neolithic) layers within approximately 2.5 m of the surface of the south mound. ¹⁴C dates suggest a time range for these strata of between c. 5900 and c. 5450 BC (calibrated). The results discussed include: evidence of widespread artificial terracing; the excavation of a ritually elaborate mass burial; and, in the top-most layers, an extensive architectural plan comprised of both rectilinear and round structures. The archaeological evidence for the ritual activities that accompanied the fractional burial of 35-40 individuals is presented along with a recent interpretation of the evidence. Ceramic, glyptic and worked stone assemblages are described, and a brief overview of the paleo-economy outlined. The talk concludes with a discussion of the evidence for emerging social complexity at the site.

Jesse Casana

University of Arkansas

SETTLEMENT HISTORY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE IN DUBAI, U.A.E.

This paper presents results of the 2006 and 2007 seasons of the Dubai Desert Survey, a new project that seeks to document the settlement and environmental histories of Dubai, United Arab Emirates. While human settlements proliferated in deserts of south-eastern Arabia during a moist interval in the mid-Holocene (7000-4500 BC), environmental conditions in subsequent periods are conventionally thought to have been too harsh to support permanent occupation. However, the recent discovery of 3rd and 1st millennium BC settlements located more than 50 km from modern water sources challenges our understanding of the region's environmental and cultural histories. Utilizing regional archaeological survey, subsurface remote sensing, satellite imagery-based analysis, and geomorphologic investigations, the Dubai Desert Survey is working to record and interpret these and other sites in this fast developing region.

Corinne Castel

CNRS, Maison de l'Orient et de la Méditerranée

NEW DISCOVERIES IN AL-RAWDA (EARLY BRONZE IV, CENTRAL-WESTERN SYRIA)

Tell al-Rawda is a middle size circular and fortified town founded around 2400 BC in the arid zone of central-western Syria. It is a new built town with a very dense infrastructure organised around a radio-concentric road network. This organisation is the clear result of a planned urbanism. The tell is excavated by a French-Syrian team since 2002.

Our paper will insist on two main topics: first, the new discoveries in the sanctuary during the last two seasons of excavations; secondly, the dating of the site thanks to a new series of ¹⁴C dates, a new sounding to the virgin soil conducted between the habitation quarter and the rampart South-West of the tell and different stratigraphical observations on the site. These results allow us to conclude that al-Rawda was founded certainly before the destruction of Palace G in Ebla and was deliberately and quietly deserted before 2000 BC.

Carmen del Cerro
Universidad Autónoma de Madrid

SHARJAH'S ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE.
A MODEL FOR THE INTEGRATION OF THE PAST INTO THE HISTORICAL IDENTITY

The considerable wealth of the United Arab Emirates provides their inhabitants with one of the highest income per capita of the World, as well as with the possibility of a fast urbanization of its land, what has contributed to a fast disappearance of some buildings and also of many cultural aspects and heritage. However, since the foundation of the country in 1971, a kind of nostalgic feeling about the past has emerged, and has become a great interest in the conservation of an almost unknown archaeological heritage.

In only few years each emirate has created at least one new museum in its area and since the 90's the archaeological research has been healthy, especially in the emirate of Sharjah, currently the most active. The Archaeological, Islamic, Ethnographic, Natural History and Science and Technology museums of Sharjah compete in modernity and research, while local and foreign teams develop their activities in the emirate with no pause. Archaeological interventions in Sharjah and the preservation of its historical and archaeological heritage represent a reference of how integrate the past of the country in the science of the Near East, because like Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al Nahyan said: "A nation with no past has neither a present nor a future."

Ümit Çayır Büyükulusoy see Fusun Tülek

Ahmad Chaychi Amirkhiz^a, Sima Miri^b

^a Archaeologist in Iranian Center of Archaeological Research (ICAR)

^b Archaeologist in National Museum of Iran

STUDY OF A TANAGRA SHAPED FIGURINE
DISCOVERED IN MAFINABAD ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE NEAR TEHRAN

Mafinabad is an archaeological site located in the central part of Islamabad County, South-West of Tehran. It is a Prehistoric site, dated between Sialk II and Sialk III, and also there are a small number of Historic and Islamic remains.

In 2001, a team of archaeologists from National Museum of Iran, during an inspection mission, discovered a small female dressed figurine in Mafinabad and subsequently transferred it to the Museum. Unfortunately, head and legs of the figurine are lost and some other parts are damaged. The embroidery and decoration on its dress is very delicate and remarkably beautiful and comparable with Hellenic art. The clothing tail resembles to Tanagra figurines from Boeotia, North of Attica (Greece), made between 4th and 1st century BC. Despite the similarities, other fine features of clothe are inspired by eastern art. The main difficulty in studying Tanagra figurines is the fact that since they were discovered for the first time, hundreds were forged and distributed all over the world. It seems that to make this figurine an eastern craftsman has imitated Tanagra figurine and combined it with eastern art. The figurine, with its eastern features, is a display of an eastern goddess (Persian Anahita or Greek Athena). In this paper, the authenticity, similarities, and differences between this figurine and those outside of Iran are studied, and comparison of its eastern and western art features are concerned.

Meredith Chesson
University of Notre Dame

DAILY LIFE IN EARLY BRONZE AGE NUMEIRA: HOUSES, STORAGE, AND NON-RESIDENTIAL SPACES
IN A FORTIFIED TOWN ON THE SOUTHEASTERN DEAD SEA PLAIN, JORDAN

The southern Levantine Early Bronze Age (c. 3600-2000 BC) involved wide-scale population aggregation into fortified settlements, agricultural intensification, widespread use of irrigation technologies, investment in community-wide storage, increasing social complexity, and transformation of social and geographic landscapes. Excavations by the Expedition to the Dead Sea Plain at Numeira in southern Jordan revealed approximately 1700 square meters of an Early Bronze II-III town, and Numeira offers an intriguing case-study to track the dynamic political, social, and economic structures within one Early Bronze walled town. This presentation will focus on the organization of space within and between houses, particularly in terms of storage of agricultural products, as a vehicle for understanding the degree of social differentiation within the community.

Joanne Clarke
School of World Art Studies and Museology, University of East Anglia

THE SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE OF PLASTER IN THE PRE-POTTERY NEOLITHIC B OF THE SOUTHERN LEVANT

During the Pre-Pottery Neolithic B in the southern Levant, the use of plaster for surfacing built space, for creating imagery and for ritual treatment of the dead is widely attested to in the core regions of the Mediterranean zone and in the Rift Valley. Although the use of plaster is recorded in the Natufian and in the Pre-Pottery Neolithic A, it is not until the Middle Pre-Pottery Neolithic B that it becomes common. Indeed, it appears no coincidence that the escalation in use of plaster is broadly contemporary with the end of the process by which food procuring economies were replaced by early agricultural communities, and the range of material and social changes that this process entailed.

As populations expanded during the Middle Pre-Pottery Neolithic B and the availability of agricultural land decreased, pressure on site catchments should have led to social competition, yet there is no evidence of conflict in the archaeological record. Instead, society in general appears to have been able to manage and maintain established social systems over many centuries.

In this paper I will argue that increasing socialisation, exacerbated by pressures on land and resources will have given rise to a greater incentive to emphasise relationships between the living and the dead as a way of legitimising rights to land ownership. The use of plaster will have formalised these relationships through routine performance evidenced in the repeated re-plastering of built space and in its ritualised use in burial practices. Ultimately, the linking of built space, with imagery and with the supernatural through the use of plaster, was a means by which early sedentary communities, pressured to intensify by increasing population density and resource stress, managed and negotiated an increasingly socialised world.

Alessandro Colantoni
“Sapienza” Università di Roma

TYPOLOGY AND CHRONOLOGICAL PERIODIZATION OF POTTERY PRODUCTION
AT EBLA AND IN SYRIA DURING THE LATE BRONZE AGE

Late Bronze Age period in northern central Syria is till now poorly known. New archaeological evidence coming from the last seasons of excavations at Tell Mardikh/Ebla has shown, in some areas of the city, a partial reoccupation, probably linked to the continuity of cult activities, of the damaged structures after the Middle Bronze II destruction. This new archaeological material of the Late Bronze period has enlarged the stratigraphic sequence of the Tell and, together with the other local sequences of coastal and middle

Euphrates Syria, it is possible to fill a problematic gap in the understanding the final part of the 2nd millennium of northern inner Syria.

The stratified material of Tell Mardikh offers an opportunity to define the central Syria Late Bronze Age ceramic local production, its evolution within the 2nd millennium tradition, and its connections with the better known coastal and middle Euphrates sequences. Continuity and differentiation of regional types, as well as the typological renewal and evolution of the main types within the northern Syrian pottery horizon, and a regional chronological periodization will be considered in this paper.

Gila Cook see David Ilan

Eric Coqueignot

CNRS, Maison de l'Orient et de la Méditerranée

DJA'DE EL-MUGHARA (SYRIA): FEASTINGS AND A "COMMUNAL BUILDING"
WITH THE WORLD'S EARLIEST WALL PAINTINGS (EARLY 9TH MILLENNIUM BC)

The site is located on the left bank of the Euphrates River (Tishreen Dam area). The archaeological levels date mainly to the 9th millennium (early Pre-Pottery Neolithic B), after the main occupations of Mureybet and Jerf el -Ahmar and before Halula's one.

Dja'de is the only known settlement covering the entire period, and the extent of archaeological stratigraphy (deep more than 9 m) gives the opportunity to establish a precise seriation which allows to question the hierarchy of cultural changes.

This phase is crucial in the process of neolithisation, showing the change from a hunter-gatherer economy (with pre-domestic agriculture) to an economy of full production (agriculture and farming). Dja'de presents the end of this period of gestation and inventions, with archaeological levels rich in technical aspects and signs of social organisation (i.e. the "House of the Dead")

Current excavations focus on a ca. 11.000 years old communal building. This semi-subterranean round building (internal diameter ca. 7.50 m) presents three radial piers. The two main ones are adorned with polychrome geometric paintings (more than 7 sqm are already unearthed and strengthened *in situ*).

This paper will address the levels of the first half of the 9th millennium (DJ-I and DJ-II phases).

Joaquín M. Córdoba Zoilo

Universidad Autónoma de Madrid

ARCHAEOLOGY, ETHNOLOGY AND NATURE IN THE RECOVERY OF
AN IRON AGE VILLAGE (AM-2, SHARJAH, U.A.E.)

It has been a long time since a multidisciplinary kind of research is giving positive results for the Near Eastern archaeology. The archaeology of the Gulf countries is known in the last twenty years for a deep-rooted incidence of sciences such as physics, natural history and ethno-archaeology in order to get an appropriate understanding of the ways of life and the history of periods such as the Iron Age. In Al-Madam, such a perspective has allowed us to understand the nature of the human community and its connection with the environment like not many times in the past.

Eduardo Crivelli see Jesús Gil Fuensanta

Karina Croucher ^a, Ellen Belcher ^b

^a University of Liverpool

^b Columbia University

HIGH VERSUS LOW? MATERIALITY AND IDENTITY:
IS THERE MORE TO CRAFT AND VISUAL EXPRESSION THAN HIERARCHY AND STATUS?

In this paper figurines and other forms of material culture from the Halaf period in the Near East are investigated. Whilst craft has traditionally been interpreted as relating to concepts of hierarchy and social status, this paper explores how the materiality of objects can be viewed differently, including their roles in concepts such as embodiment, personhood, identity and belonging.

Aurelie Daems

Ghent University, Belgium

GHENT UNIVERSITY EXCAVATIONS AT KALBA (U.A.E., SHARJAH EMIRATE):
THE RECONNAISSANCE SEASON

From January to February 2008 the Archaeological Section of the Near Eastern Department at Ghent University, in close collaboration with the Sharjah Department of Antiquities, Directorate of Culture and Information, will be excavating the multi-period site of Kalba, a tell located on the eastern coast of the UAE close to the modern town of Kalba. A first surveying trip to the area in October 2007 provided ceramic evidence for continuous occupation of the site from at least the Middle Bronze Age (2nd millennium) through to the Late Iron Age (mid 1st millennium BC). Additional traces of stone alignments on the surface, fragments of steatite vessels and surrounding tells with ceramic scatters on top of them, indicate that this archaeological area promises to provide good insights into settlement patterns and settlement history within the Kalba region, as well as additional information on subsistence, trade, social and cultural identities.

A. Dadvar

Alzahra University, Teheran

THE DIFFERENT STAGES OF THE ART OF POTTERY IN KASHAN IN HISTORIC PERIOD

After prehistory period that has found very precious relics from different places of Kashan especially from Sialk hills, the process of artistic works in this area has changed after historic period. Totally these works can be divided in two chapters: Historic and Islamic periods.

This study concerns a research on the characteristics of Kashan pottery in the historic era. The importance of this part is to the extend that makes it possible to recognize and study Iranian pottery without reviewing these artworks. The archeological studies for recognizing general characteristics of prehistoric potteries of this region including making techniques, baking related aspects, furnace as well as form pattern and design of the potteries and finally the current condition of remnants forms the main subjects of this study.

Lorenzo d'Alfonso see Clelia Mora

Maria Bianca D'Anna

Freie Universität, Berlin

Missione Archeologica nell'Anatolia Orientale, "Sapienza" Università di Roma

WHAT WAS HIGH AND WHAT WAS LOW: THE CASE OF ARSLANTEPE VI A POTTERY

The analysis of pottery production constitutes a precious tool when trying to identify social relations, especially in pre- and proto-historic contexts. Among the Arslantepe Late Chalcolithic 5 ceramic assemblage, different technological choices and modes of production, as well as formal and functional types are recognizable. In this paper the distribution of various pottery classes and types in the main Arslantepe VI A areas will be presented and analysed with respect to their social and functional significance. In particular, the materials found in public buildings will be compared with those discovered in private architectures. The aim will also be to discuss the actual possibility of determining what was considered high and low status, public and private at the dawn of a complex society.

Michael D. Danti

Boston University

THE BRONZE AGE-IRON AGE TRANSITION IN NORTHWESTERN IRAN:
EVIDENCE FROM THE REANALYSIS OF HASANLU TEPE PERIODS V AND VI

Recent reanalysis of the later Bronze Age (Hasanlu VI) and earliest so-called Iron Age (Hasanlu V) levels of Hasanlu Tepe, Iran supports the original interpretation of a break in the occupation of the site between these periods. While Hasanlu Period V was originally given the designation Iron I, it is technically and culturally the Late Bronze Age. Thus, the VI–V hiatus dates to the Middle Bronze/Late Bronze transition. Hasanlu V exhibits close ties to the succeeding Hasanlu IV, the so-called Iron II, and has traditionally been viewed as marking the arrival of a new population in north-western Iran. While there are marked differences between Periods V and VI, much of the evidence cited to support the arrival of a new population in the Early Iron Age is at best equivocal, such as the shift to burial in extramural cemeteries and the arrival of columned-hall architecture in a fully developed state in Period V. Hasanlu Period V is far more stratigraphically complex and of longer duration than previously reported, was likely a small fortified citadel like the Period IV settlement, and, together with Period IVc, represents an in-place, gradual transition to the Iron Age.

Joris Dik, Niels C.F. Groot*

Department of Materials Science and Engineering of Delft University of Technology

THE CERAMIC TRADITIONS IN THE IRON IIC/PERSIAN PERIOD POTTERY REPERTOIRE
FROM TELL DEIR 'ALLA, JORDAN

The study of the pottery from Deir 'Alla phases VII-V (ca. 700-500 BC) is focused on mapping continuity and change within ceramic production and distribution.

The study of the Iron IIC-Persian period pottery is based on the characterization of ceramic traditions. This approach in contrast to the common typological studies aims to more fully characterize the Deir 'Alla repertoire by studying also the production techniques and clays in order to determine the presence of local production and the extent and nature of the production or acquirement of pottery. A reconstruction of the type of contact between the two regions can only be done when ethnographic models concerning pottery production are taken into account rather than only applying a historic framework on the results of the study.

The outcome of this study gives an insight into the relationship between the Central Jordan Valley and the region of Ammon, attesting that a strong connection with the pottery production at the highland region of ancient Ammon existed during the 7th and 6th centuries BC.

Alessandro Di Ludovico
 “Sapienza” Università di Roma

EXPLOITING PERCEIVING FRAMES IN LATE 3RD MILLENNIUM MESOPOTAMIA.
 REMARKS ON SOME CLUES FROM DECOMPOSED COMMUNICATION PHENOMENA

The main steps of the logical path followed in the execution of monumental art products can be partly located in the concrete remains, partly hypothesized on the bases of information which can be derived from them. Though remains of Ur III monumental art still appear very scanty, they can offer an interesting hidden potential for the understanding of some communication processes of that age. Some analytical approaches can allow to highlight a number of traces which witness a more or less explicit will of exploiting some specific learning channels. With a view to a systemic investigation of the interaction between the sender(s) and the receiver(s) of a non verbal and synthetic message, the mechanics' quality of a hidden dialogic level can be tentatively inferred.

Angelo Di Michele see Giorgio Affanni

Silvana Di Paolo
 CNR Roma

IMAGERIE, RANG ET POLITIQUE: LES CYLINDRES-SCEAUX DU BRONZE RÉCENT À CHYPRE

L'idée d'une stratification sociale à Chypre avait été supposée par E. Porada à propos de la classification stylistique des cylindres-sceaux chypriotes (Elaborate, “Coursened”, Common Styles). De cette tripartition “hiérarchique” du matériel glyptique local a été supposé, pour les cylindres du premier groupe, un emploi administratif (Elaborate Style). Cet étude veut vérifier ces hypothèses en examinant la provenance et les contextes archéologiques des cylindres locaux mais aussi du matériel glyptique proche-oriental (syro-mésopotamien en particulier) qui a été découvert dans l'île de Chypre.

Rita Dolce
 Università degli Studi di Palermo

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF A LONG LASTING POWER: THE EBLA PARADIGM. A SYNTHESIS

Over the last twenty years or so, the discoveries made at Ebla and expectations for the historical and cultural reconstruction of the Early Bronze Age site have been considerably enhanced by the results of excavations and surveys in the G area, and others.

The archaeological evidence that has gradually emerged has, in fact, confirmed data known for some time already from “special” documents from the Ebla Archives about the presence of a kingdom that was already well established long before its achievements in the period of the G Royal Palace; such evidence has opened further perspectives for research into the definition of a power centre held by a ruling dynasty at the time of the city-states of early dynastic Mesopotamia. This kingdom developed rapidly up until the height of the Classic Early Syrian Period, *without any break in the history of the settlement*. Recent discoveries have proved the existence and the consistency of an Eblaite kingdom in the Late Early Syrian Period, only previously known from Mesopotamian written sources. This kingdom rose up again a relatively short time after the famous destruction of the Ebla of the Archives and of the god Kura; such destruction can no longer be considered, with any certainty, definitive and should probably be seen in a new perspective in the historical importance of the enemy that perpetrated it. Here too the “Second Ebla” does not provide any evidence of a definitive break with the past and preserves aspects of the previous cultural heritage alongside aspects of a new culture and new royalty; and both these aspects persist right into the great city of the Old

Syrian Period. It could be said that life at Ebla prevailed for approximately a thousand years against all attempts to destroy the city and consign it to oblivion.

Paul F. Donnelly

Powerhouse Museum, Sydney, Honorary Associate, Department of Archaeology, University of Sydney

CHOCOLATE-ON-WHITE WARE OF MIDDLE BRONZE/LATE BRONZE LEVANT:
SOCIETAL AND CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Chocolate-on-White is a distinctive slipped and decorated fine ware produced in the southern Levant from the end of the Middle Bronze into the Late Bronze Ages. It was described by its original identifier, Flinders Petrie, as “the finest ancient fabric known” in the region from that time.

The presenter has recently completed a PhD on the ware where he found evidence of distinctive distribution patterns across the Levant and shared forms between limited numbers of sites. The variability of the ware in terms of form and decoration over time is examined, and its significance in terms of social relations and status discussed.

The study is the result of an integrated approach including an extensive elemental analysis interpreted in consideration of form and style. The study draws on evidence from the whole southern Levant and includes exclusive access to the extensive material from Pella (Tabaqat Fahal) in Jordan. This site is the source of the largest assemblage of both complete and stratified Chocolate-on-White yet found. The paper will also briefly present guidelines for establishing meaningful parameters in defining and dating the ware.

Rudolph Dornemann

American Schools of Oriental Research

EXCAVATIONS AT TELL QARQUR

The American excavations at Tell Qarqur have exposed very few features dated to the Middle Bronze Age. A basic corpus of Middle Bronze Age forms have been found in fills and pits. This paper will review the material available for the beginning of the Middle Bronze Age at Tell Qarqur and look again at the end of the Early Bronze Age IV sequence there for evidence of overlap between the two periods. This evidence will be reviewed in a regional context as well.

Francesca Dotti

Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes, Paris, France

QAL’AT AL-SHAWBAK: A LECTURE ON THE BASIS OF THE EPIGRAPHICAL DATA

The site of Qal’at al-Shawbak/*Crac de Mont Real* (Shawbak, Jordan), built by the Crusaders, held particular political and administrative relevance in Islamic periods. Archaeology contributed to highlight the occupational and constructive sequence for the site but, at the present state of research, we dispose of only fragmentary archaeological data for the post-Crusaders Ayyubid Mamluk and Ottoman periods.

The citadel preserved an important *corpus* of inscriptions, ascribable to the Ayyubid and Mamluk phases of occupation of the site. Inscriptions (3 inscription bands, 1 *plaque*, 18 fragmentary reused inscribed ashlar and 15 among out-of-context fragments), only partially published (inscription bands and *plaque* – translation and transcription), have never been subject to an epigraphic study (analysis of texts formulas and protocols, archaeological and historical contextualisation). Texts (construction and funerary) give important information on the reconstruction of patronages, dates and the nature of interventions.

This paper aims to give a preliminary synthesis of our study, undertaken in collaboration with the University of Studies of Florence, in order to bring to light overlooked and unpublished epigraphic

documentation of Qal‘at al-Shawbak, give a current picture of the documents at our disposal and make a contribution to the reconstruction of the phases of the Islamic occupation(s) and construction of the site.

Khaled Douglas^a, Abdel Hakim al-Husban^b

^a Department of Sustainable Tourism, Queen Rania Institute of Tourism and Heritage, Hashemite University, Zarqa (Jordan)

^b Department of Anthropology, Faculty of Archaeology and Anthropology, Yarmouk University, Irbid (Jordan)

SEMI NOMADIC SOCIETY IN THE UPPER WADI AL-ZARQA, JORDAN.
AN ETHNOARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDY: GHARISSA CASE STUDY

The transition from a nomadic or semi nomadic production model to the agricultural and sedentary way of life is a salient issue for many scientists.

The village of Gharissa, in the Upper Wadi al-Zarqa, as a case study would yield very important information on the mechanism of changing and shifting the society from pastoral nomadic cattle dependent one to a sedentary agricultural dependent society. Gharissa was settled by a semi-nomadic group at the beginning of the 20th century and abandoned at the second half of the same century.

Changes in the life model of Gharissa occurred gradually. The inhabitants were pastoral nomadic depending totally on raising cattle, and then simple agriculture and food systems storage were introduced and blended with the first system. In later phase a major change that occurred was movement towards a completely sedentary lifestyle. The village of Gharissa explains the ability of the inhabitants to take advantage of the two existing different ecological systems in a limited geographical region: the semiarid zone with a pastoral economy and the fertile with an agricultural economy.

Upper Wadi al-Zarqa witnessed intensive occupation by semi-Nomadic people during the Early Bronze IV, where major sites such as Jabal Rahil and Khirbet al-Batrawy were occupied. A study of the modern semi-nomadic society and the changes in the socioeconomic system at Gharissa will increase our understanding of the Early Bronze IV semi-nomadic way of life, since the two groups inhabited the same ecosystem and the same geographic region.

Khaled Douglas see Khrisat Bilal

Berthold Einwag

LMU-München, Institut für Vorderasiatische Archäologie

THE TEMPLE OF TALL BAZI

A monumental building in the centre of the citadel of Bazi was first uncovered in the 2004 campaign. Tall Bazi is the name of the southern third of the settlement cluster Bazi-Banat located on the east bank of the Euphrates, c. 170 km north-east of Aleppo in North Syria.

The rich inventory of the building included cuneiform tablets of the Mittanian king Saushatar and his successor. Further investigations in the last year revealed the complete ground plan and proved that it was a temple consisting of two rooms. Its complex history spanned the Middle and Late Bronze Ages. In its latest phase the temple had an entrance from the east which was flanked by two stone lion sculptures. The altar was discovered opposite this entrance in the 2007 season. Close to it lay various precious offerings and ritual objects as well as a large number of ceramic vessels, some of which still contained food. Apparently the city's main temple was deliberately destroyed by fire at the same time as the lower town.

Omur Dilek Erdal

Department of Anthropology, Hacettepe University of Ankara, Turkey

PLASTER BASIN BURIAL IN TITRIŞ HÖYÜK: AN EARLY CASE OF MASSACRE IN ANATOLIA

Human skeletal remains, which were buried in cist graves, pots, pithos etc., have been unearthed from Titriş Höyük, 45 km North of Sanliurfa on the southern bank of Euphrates River. But, an unusual mortuary practices was uncovered in a self-standing circular basin made by plaster. Skeletal remains belonging to nineteen individuals were fully disarticulated. Skulls of seventeen sub-adult and adult individuals placed around the edge of the plastered basin, postcranial bones were heaped in the center.

Thirteen out of seventeen skulls displayed unhealed traumas as a result of projectiles, sharp edged and blunt forced weapons. Cranial traumas are more frequent on males (92%) than females (33%). Prevalent unhealed cranial trauma, which were observed on both genders, and all age groups, permit us to infer an aggression to the group, maybe a family or a kin group. This type of aggression might be assumed as the first case of massacre in Anatolia. This unusually burial practice was different from the common burial custom we know in Titriş Höyük and it could be related to ritual purposes after the massacre.

Yilmaz Selim Erdal

Department of Anthropology, Hacettepe University, Ankara

A RETROSPECTIVE STUDY ON TREPANATION IN ANATOLIA

Cranial trepanation, the surgical removal of a bone piece of the skull without damage to the underlying blood-vessels, meninges and brain, is among the oldest form of surgical intervention practiced by ancient populations. Trepanation is one of the most significant issues dealt with by the anthropologists. Anatolia, where more than 50 cases of trepanations revealed, is one of the richest regions among the Eurasian countries. However, there is very little information considering the motives or causes of trepanation in Anatolia. This study aims to provide a review of the trepanations with respect to their techniques and its possible reasons in Anatolia. Although, the oldest examples came from Aşiklı and Çayönü settlements, trepanations began to be widespread in the Early Bronze Age, continuing up to the Ottoman period. The principal cause of the trepanation is the treatment. However, educational, magical and magical-therapeutic purposes might not be allowed. It can be said that cranial trepanations were independently practiced in many areas of the world throughout prehistoric times. Only the drilling was used in the Neolithic period and boring and cutting was used in the Urartian region in Anatolia. The data obtained from the trepanations show that these could also be used for solving the problem about the relationship among the populations.

Yilmaz Selim Erdal see Kameray Ozdemir

Aylin Erdem

Ege University, Prohistoria and Near Eastern Archaeology Department, Izmir

DOMESTIC ARCHITECTURE IN THE URARTIAN FORTRESS AT AYANIS

Urartian Fortress of Ayanis is located to the eastern shore of Lake Van and 38 km North of Tushpa, the capital city of the Urartian Kingdom. It has been excavating by Prof. A. Çilingiroğlu from İzmir Ege University since 1989. The excavations in Ayanis Fortress and the other Urartian fortresses usually inform us about the monumental buildings such as temple areas, storage rooms, columned halls and monumental gates and that is why most of the archaeological finds from the fortresses are related with royalty, as a state assemblage including weapons, bullae and decorative objects. Since 2005 campaign at Ayanis, in Area XI, some domestic buildings were unearthed to the West of the temple area on the citadel. Nine rooms with

rectangular plans and the connections between some of these demonstrate a building complex constructed outside of the temple area, in the centre of the citadel. The walls of the rooms were made of mud-bricks and the floors were beaten clay. Both the architectural features of the rooms and the objects obtained from these rooms indicate that these rooms were certainly used for domestic purposes, which is not a common result for most of the Urartian studies.

Deniz Erdem

METU, Settlement Archaeology Graduate Program

SOCIAL DIFFERENTIATION IN ÇAYÖNÜ AND ABU HUREYRA
THROUGH BURIAL CUSTOM AND SKELETAL BIOLOGY

This work aims to investigate the social structure of Neolithic period. To do this, both physical anthropological and archaeological data are used in order to understand whether burial customs and skeleton biology can be a parameter to understand social organization of an area in a given period of time. For this thesis the data comes from Abu Hureyra and Çayönü.

Quantified data of burial types and grave goods are used in order to create descriptive statistical graphics. Then, correspondence analysis is employed to detect statistical significance in data sets. Anthropological data is stemmed from previous researchers. On the other hand, they were still used to investigate gender and age distributions with the same tools employed before.

As a final study two settlements are compared each other in order to trace evidence of social differentiation.

Zeynep Eres

Istanbul Technical University, Architecture Faculty, Restoration Department

SOME OBSERVATION ON THE DOMED ADOBE ARCHITECTURE IN SOUTH-EASTERN TURKEY:
DEGRADATION AND MOUND FORMATION PROCESS

A cultural inventory program was conducted by the Turkish Academy of Sciences (TUBA) in the Birecik and Suruc Districts of the Urfa Province between 2000-2002. Within this project the rural architectural heritage of this region was documented by Prof. Dr.Günkut Akın, Prof. Nur Akın and Res. Assist. Zeynep Eres. With this paper will be briefly noting the architectural heritage of the rural areas of the Suruc plain with a special emphasis on our observations on the deterioration process of the mud-brick structures.

The traditional architecture of Suruc plain mainly consists of domed buildings; during our survey we recorded domed mud-brick structures in 137 villages. Most of the structures have a rectangular plan of 3, 5-4 m; the thick walls of the structures are covered by mud-brick dome. A house compound is formed by a conglomeration of such structures, some of which have more than 110 domed units.

During the recent years the tradition of making domed mud-brick architecture is almost completely given up and such buildings not being maintained have already began collapsing. In this process firstly surface coating deteriorates than the dome collapses and finally the walls gives up. In this process rather quickly the building turns into a heap of rubble and than with the deterioration of the adjacent units it forms a small mound.

Hayat Erkanal see Vasıf Şahoğlu

Fernando Escribano Martín

Universidad Autónoma de Madrid y “Sapienza” Università di Roma

¿INFLUENCIAS DE LA ARQUITECTURA MESOPOTÁMICA EN ESPAÑA? ALGUNAS LÍNEAS DE BÚSQUEDA

Las características de la arquitectura mesopotámica trascienden de sus fronteras y de su época. Es muy difícil marcar una línea de final en los modos de construcción, y las soluciones suelen trascender al lugar donde se originaron y se utilizan allí donde son prácticas, útiles o necesarias, a menudo trasladadas de un lugar a otro por aquellos que las conocen.

Estas características las podemos seguir en la arquitectura que hoy encontramos en España, según una línea de investigación que hemos empezado recientemente, y de la que queremos exponer sus líneas principales en este Congreso.

Yasemin Esentürk see Ayse Tuba Ökse

Azarmidokht Esfandiari

Iranian Cultural Heritage and Tourism Organization

A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON THE HISTORY OF YAZD PROVINCE BASED ON EXCAVATIONS IN THE ANCIENT CEMETERY OF GHARBALBIZ OF MEHRIZ

Yazd province is like a ring that connects the eastern parts of Iran including the Gorgan plain, the greater Khorassan area, Kerman, and Sistan and Balouchestan, and the northern and northwestern parts to the centres of civilization in Khouzestan and Fars in the southwestern part. This characteristic, as well as the existence of large metal and stone mines in various parts of the province have focused a lot of archaeologists' attention on it.

Excavation in the ancient area of Gharbalbiz is the first program there begun by the author in the year 2000 and which continued until 2004. Gharbalbiz is in the southern half of Yazd province and West of the town of Mehriz at the foot of the Shir-kooch mountains. In the northern part of the area one of the two main springs of the province can be seen. In adjacent valleys, there are metal mines and remnants of ancient mining. During five seasons, the following discoveries have been made in the ancient area of Gharbalbiz:

- 1) Remnants of a large mud-brick building with two mud-brick structures adjacent and related to it dating back to the late Achaemenid and early Parthian periods.
- 2) A brick structure related to the Safavid era in the northwestern part of the area.
- 3) A very large Bronze Age cemetery in the northeastern part of the area.

Mohamad Esmaeel Esmaeeli Jelodar

Iranian Center for Archaeological Research

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY IN VARZANEH AREA (GAHV KHOUNI MARSHLAND), EAST OF ISFAHAN

In winter 2006 an archaeological survey has been conducted by the author in a desert area, Varzaneh, about 30 km East of Isfahan. The area, locally known as Saba City, lies on eastern coast of Gahv Khouni marsh. Summing up, we surveyed 95 sites spanning the Paleolithic to middle Islamic period. This area has never been visited by archaeologists.

The area today is characterized by a desert rolling hills landscape of sand dunes and harsh weather. Today the Zayande Rud River flows 5 km to the East of the site, but we found evidence showing that it once flowed close to the site. Due to running sands most sites have been covered to some extent. For this reason, the real size of most of the sites can not be calculated. The survey materials show some relations with those of Fars,

Khuzestan, and the Central Plateau. The preliminary analyses of the data suggests that from Neolithic to Iron Age most of the sites were inhabited temporarily.

Jean Evans

Department of Ancient Near Eastern Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art NY

EARLY DYNASTIC SCULPTURE AND THE DISCOVERY OF SUMER

This paper considers the reception of Early Dynastic sculpture in the early 20th century and its transformation from an ethnographic artifact of a new Sumerian civilization into an aesthetic object subject to art historical inquiry. Hundreds of surviving examples of temple sculpture from the Early Dynastic period of Mesopotamia belong to a type described as a dedicatory, worshiper, or votive statue. The first excavations of such sculpture in the early 20th century signified a new stage in human history by providing a large artifactual corpus for studying the Sumerians. Consequently, Early Dynastic statues were subjected to various analyses with the aim of identifying the movements of distinct ethnic groups. These methodologies were subsequently supplanted by art historical inquiry, in which the perceived development from a geometric sculpture style to a realistic sculpture style was considered so significant that the formulation of 3rd millennium BC chronology was largely dependent upon it. Yet the chronological significance of Early Dynastic sculpture styles is open to criticism, especially when the initial development of such inquiries is understood as a deliberate attempt of early 20th century archaeologists to reject the ethnographic methodologies of older generations.

Vincent van Exel

University of Leiden

CITY COUNCILS IN THE LATE BRONZE AGE SOCIETIES OF THE UPPER SYRIAN EUPHRATES

The recently published research of the Late Bronze Age sites of Tell Munbaqa, Tell Bazi and Meskene Qadime has provided a wealth of information on these societies and their power structure. This paper will present the results of my analysis of the archaeological and textual data concerning the two most important institutions of local governance: the so-called Elders and Brothers. While previous research has mainly focused on the abundance of data available from Emar, it has recently become apparent that the Hittite occupation had a great influence on local traditions there. Instead, my analyses will focus on the evidence from Tell Munbaqa phase II-4, which precedes the Hittite conquest. A close analysis of the sealing and witnessing practices at this site allows us to reconstruct the roles and functions of the Elders and Brothers and forces us to reinterpret the nature of the local traditions of kingship during the Late Bronze Age in this region. By subsequently viewing these ancient Near Eastern communities in their sociological context as agricultural urban societies a fruitful comparative analysis can be made that enriches our understanding of the ancient Near East.

Hamid Fahimi

Frei Universitaet, Berlin

PRELIMINARY REPORT OF FIRST ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH
IN SHAMSHIRGAH, QOM, CENTRAL PLATEAU OF IRAN

Shamshirgah is located 20 km South of Qom and on the road Qom-Kahak. This site was reported for the first time by Kleiss (Kleiss 1983) under the name of Khowrabad, but since the first archaeological activities season under its local name “Shamshirgah”. Shamshirgah is located between two rock ridges, lining the southern edge of the Dasht-e Kavir. Unfortunately some part of the architectural remains in this important

Iron Age site in the central Iranian plateau was destroyed by illegal digging and also other activities. After visiting the site in 2003, I started an archaeological project in Shamshirgah (Fahimi 2003). In 2005 we began with topographical mapping, systematic survey and also excavation of a trench (CX57) in the center of site, North of natural gate of Shamshirgah. According to this excavations, the architectural remains and archaeological finds in this part of the site dated to Iron Age II (1200-800 B.C). The most important architectural remain from this period is a mudbrick wall, with a floor and stone wall. The size of the mudbricks is 36x36x10 cm. These mudbricks can be compared with mudbricks found from the Platform and other buildings of Sialk VI in Sialk South mound (Ghirshman 1939: Pl. XXXIII-XXXIV; Fahimi 2006: 110). In the excavated trench a stone wall 80 cm large, forming the outer wall of one corner of a building, was documented, that was covered, especially in the northern part, by debris and wall collapse. Three rooms inside the building were constrained within the limits of the trench (Azarnoush and Helwing 2005: 226). Shamshirgah was a great fortress with two big stone walls to the east and west and two long natural walls (rock ridge). The pottery associated with the building in trench CX57 is grey ware dating from Iron Age II.

Shamshirgah is an important Iron Age II site in the centre of the Iranian plateau for the study of the architecture of this period and of the relations between Iron Age II sites in the North (north of Alborz Mountain and also of Tehran plain), northeast of Iran (Gorgan plain) and in South part of Iranian plateau (Kashan plain and Esfahan).

Mohammad Feizkhah

Iranian Cultural Heritage and Tourism Organization, East Azerbaijan, Tabriz

SALVAGE EXCAVATIONS AT DRAINAGE BASIN OF SAHEND DAM OF AZERBAIJAN, NORTHWESTERN IRAN

Qaranqu Chai is one of the most important permanent rivers in the East slope of the Sahend Volcanic massif, which flows to Qizil Uzan River. A dam construction project has been started here since 2001. Therefore an archaeological expedition was directed to the region by the author from 2004 to 2006. During the survey project 10 sites were recognized, dating from the Bronze Age to the end of the Ilkhanid Empire. The expedition staff to the region conducted a salvage excavation on the highest mound of Kul Tepe. The following levels were identified:

1. Late Bronze Age;
2. Iron Age I-III;
3. Post-Achaemenid;
4. Ilkhanid;

Despite the high potential of Qaranqu Chai valley, the stratigraphic results at Kul Tepe show a hiatus in the Achaemenid era, which matches a similar hiatus on the West side of Lake Urmia, from the Urartian kingdom onward. Through the Post-Achaemenid times, however, one faces with a new style of pottery that is named Qaranqu Style by the author. It seems that from Qaranqu phase there is again a gap onward.

Barbara Feller

Vorderasiatisches Museum Berlin/Assur-Projekt

SEAL IMAGES AND SOCIAL STATUS - SEALINGS ON MIDDLE ASSYRIAN TABLETS FROM ASSUR

Grundlage des Vortrages bildet die Forschungsarbeit der Autorin zu ca. 1200 Siegelabrollungen auf größtenteils datierten mittelassyrischen Urkunden aus dem Vorderasiatisches Museum Berlin. Diese Tafeln, die vor allem aus der ehemaligen Hauptstadt Assur stammen, datieren in die Regierungszeiten der Könige Assur-nirari II.(1424-1418 v. Chr.) bis Assur-bel-kala (1073-1056 v. Chr.), erstrecken sich also über ca. 350 Jahre.

Als ein wichtiges Ergebnis dieser Gesamtuntersuchung anzusehen, ist die Analyse der Zuordnung der Siegelabrollungen zu einem bestimmten Individuum. Damit verbunden ist die Frage nach den möglichen Beziehungen zwischen dem gesellschaftlichen Stand bzw. Beruf der Siegelbesitzer und den

Bilddarstellungen auf den von ihnen benutzten Siegeln. Gerade in diesem Punkt sind nun generelle Aussagen möglich geworden. Einige Abrollungen, die hohen Beamten zugewiesen werden konnten, verweisen auf qualitativvolle, z.T. großformatige Siegel, die mit Kappen versetzt waren. Darüber hinaus lässt u.a. die ikonographische Analyse der Siegelabrollungen, speziell derjenigen auf mittelassyrischen Tafeln des 13./12. Jh. v. Chr. schlußfolgern, dass einige Motive bestimmten Berufs- bzw. Personengruppen vorbehalten waren. Somit ist davon auszugehen, dass in der mittelassyrischen Glyptik ein Zusammenhang zwischen der Komposition bzw. dem Motiv des Siegelbildes und dem Beruf/Aufgabenbereich des Siegelbesitzers bestanden hat.

S. Festuccia^a, L. Mori^b

^a Università degli Studi “Suor Orsola Benincasa”, Napoli

^b “Sapienza” Università di Roma

ROAD NETWORKS IN THE CITIES ON THE UPPER EUPHRATES IN THE LATE BRONZE AGE:
AN INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH FOCUSING ON ARCHAEOLOGY AND EPIGRAPHIC SOURCES

The study of road networks provides a major insight into the origin and development of the urban setting and can help us to understand whether the builders intentionally planned the urban areas. Newly built cities are designed according to urban planning approaches, unlike older cities that have expanded progressively and spread. The present paper will deal with the major town excavated in the Upper Euphrates valley, dating to the Late Bronze Age, analyzing the different typologies of internal city roads, each presenting different features, ranging from their starting point, to their direction and size. A further step will be the comparison of the excavated areas with the epigraphic sources, where found, mainly taking into consideration sales of real estates where the description of the sold property usually gives precious information on urban layout, roads included. The epigraphic sources can surely help the archaeological investigation in the interpretation of the excavated areas and, thus, the aim of the present paper is to compare the archaeological data and epigraphic sources in order to understand the functionality and variety of the road system.

G. Fiorentino see V. Caracuta

P.M. Fischer

SCIEM 2000, Austrian Academy and Science Fund, Vienna; Gothenburg University

TELL ABU AL-KHARAZ, JORDAN VALLEY: THE IRON AGE

The Jordan Valley town of Tell Abu al-Kharaz has after eleven seasons of excavations disclosed three periods of major occupation: the Early Bronze Age IB-II (roughly 3100-2900 BC; Fischer 2008), the Middle Bronze Age II/III - Late Bronze Age I and II (roughly 1700-1300 BC; Fischer 2006 a, b) and the Iron Age I-II (Fischer forthcoming). The present paper summarizes the investigation of the Iron Age remains. Imported Iron Age material comes mainly from Cisjordan and the Cypro-Phoenician sphere of culture. Egyptian iconography is represented but Egyptian cultural material is extremely rare and only attested at the end of the Iron Age. Settlement pattern, economy and trade, and relative and absolute chronology are discussed.

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Alexandra Fletcher ^a, Stuart Campbell ^b

^a British Museum

^b University of Manchester

BREAKING AND MAKING: THE FRAGMENTATION OF POTTERY AND EXPRESSION
OF SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS IN THE HALAF PERIOD AT DOMUZTEPE

The human and animal bone deposited in a late Neolithic multiple burial, the so-called Death Pit (ca. 5570 BC), at Domuztepe showed significant patterns of selection and division. The burial formed a physical location in time and space where a shared ancestral heritage was reiterated and reinforced, thereby masking emergent social inequalities and tensions. It was thought that pottery found within this context may also have been subject to structured deposition and, owing to an almost total recovery of artefacts from the Death Pit; it was possible to assess the nature of breakage among the ceramics and the presence of spatial relationships between sherds. The Death Pit assemblage was therefore carefully examined in order to assess enchainment patterns of breakage; links between parts of an object where one fragment can represent a relationship with the whole. This gave a fascinating insight into the interplay between different ritual and symbolic systems in a complex mortuary deposit. Although the ceramics were treated differently from the bone assemblage, the same themes of deliberate selection and division were seen to be important.

Alexandra Fletcher see Stuart Campbell

Pascal Flohr see René Cappers

Maria Vittoria Fontana
Università degli Studi di Roma “La Sapienza”

THE ISLAMIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECTS OF ISIAO SINCE 2004

The first survey was conducted in 1956 and in 1957 the first Islamic archaeological campaign was carried out by an Italian archaeological mission. The location was Ghazni (Afghanistan), and the Italian mission, directed by Alessio Bombaci, was under the aegis of IsMEO, today IsIAO (Istituto Italiano per l’Africa e l’Oriente). Since then, the IsMEO/IsIAO, and, more specifically, Umberto Scerrato - who first held a chair of Islamic Archaeology in an Italian University - undertook several campaigns in the field of Islamic archaeology: in Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan.

After Scerrato’s death, in 2004, the IsIAO entrusted the author with collecting all its still incomplete Islamic archaeological projects, and publishing them.

Two specifically archaeological projects (the excavations at Ghazni in Afghanistan, and at Udegram in Pakistan) were identified, together with two cataloguing architectural projects (the wooden mosques of Pakistan and the religious architecture of Yemen), and an ethnographic project (the wooden artifacts of Pakistan).

A responsible has been appointed for each project and has been entrusted with establishing a team of both specialists and young scholars (undergraduates, graduates, PhD candidates, and PhDs, i.e. the future of the Italian Islamic archaeology), in order to collect and study (supported by the new technologies) all the archaeological data and materials and, finally, publish the results of the activities.

Rebecca M. Foote
University of Reading

WEALTH IN WATER:
ASSESSING SETTLEMENT IN THE SYRO-JORDANIAN *BADIYA* DURING THE EARLY ISLAMIC PERIOD

The steppe and semi-desert of the eastern and southern Levant (the *badiya*) receive less than 300 mm of annual rainfall today. During the 1st millennium AD, hydraulic installations were constructed at many sites in this arid zone to harvest water from wadi flows and run-off as well as springs and aquifers. Significant (non mechanical) water management in the Syrio-Jordanian *badiya* had not been ventured before and has not been since.

This paper assesses the nature and scale of water management in the Levantine *badiya* during the Nabataean, Roman, Byzantine and Early Islamic periods, emphasizing the latter and sites of the *qusur*. The nature of settlement and use(s) of water at each site in each period are analyzed to address potential political, religious, social, economic, demographic, etc. factors for undertaking the considerable water harvesting. Determining the locus of agency as well as the sources of labour, expertise and capital seeks to answer why and how the investment in this landscape occurred during these periods.

The research has become a part of the Water, Life and Civilization project of the University of Reading (UK), which chiefly addresses precipitation patterns. Historical factors and interpretations are therefore also evaluated against the models of meteorologists, hydrologists and geologists to answer whether increased rainfall possibly led the development.

Jean-Daniel Forest, Régis Vallet
CNRS (UMR 7041, Nanterre)

TELL FERES AL SHARQI: UN SITE LC DANS LE KHABUR

Tandis que le 5^e millénaire ne connaît que des communautés villageoises (Obeid du Nord), des sociétés urbanisées apparaissent au 3^e dès le Ninivite 5. Le millénaire intermédiaire apparaît donc comme une époque charnière sur laquelle on aimerait être mieux informé. Dans ce but, des fouilles extensives ont été entreprises à Tell Feres, un site de 4ha abandonné à la fin du 4^e millénaire, avec pour principal objectif de dégager autant de vestiges architecturaux que possible. Les deux campagnes qui ont eu lieu en 2006 et 2007 ont déjà livré des résultats substantiels: un complexe d'habitat LC 5, des greniers LC 4 et LC 2, un grand bâtiment de réunion LC 1.

Domenico Fossataro see Luca Bombardieri

Giorgia Francozzi, Paola Piccione
"Sapienza" Università di Roma

CONTINUITY AND CHANGE AT ZEYTLI BAHÇE HÖYÜK (URFA-TURKEY) THROUGH
THE 3RD MILLENNIUM BC: THE TRANSFORMATIONS OF THE CERAMIC PRODUCTIONS AND THEIR CONTEXTS

At the beginning of the 3rd millennium BC, archaeological data stress that a deep crisis in the Late Uruk-related centralised societies must have taken place in the whole northern part of Mesopotamia. After the interruption of the state formation process in the Upper and Middle Euphrates area, the general lack of archaeological evidence for economic centralization and the emerging of new burial customs (cist graves with metal items including weapons) suggest a deep change in the definition of political and social relations.

In the present paper, a dia-chronical analysis of the transformations in pottery craft production through the long 3rd millennium stratigraphical sequence of Zeytinli Bahçe Höyük will be carried out. Through an

integrated analysis addressed to point out changes and continuity in this common and widespread craft, the aim of the paper is to shed light on the way in which changes in pottery production can reflect major changes in the cultural and political relationships of the Turkish Middle Euphrates valley as well as in the social aspects of the pottery use.

Marcella Frangipane
“Sapienza” Università di Roma

LATE CHALCOLITHIC DEVELOPMENTS AND THE TRANSITION TO EB I IN THE TURKISH MIDDLE EUPHRATES VALLEY, AS SEEN FROM THE RECENT EXCAVATION AT ZEYTLİ BAĞÇE HÖYÜK, BIRECİK (URFA)

James Fraser
The University of Sydney

THE DOLMENS AND CAIRN TOMBS AT TELL ER-RAS, NORTH JORDAN

The ongoing North Jordan Tomb Project investigates prehistoric tomb megaliths in the eastern flank of the northern Jordan Valley. During the 2007 season, several fields of dolmens and cairns were surveyed on the ridgeline of Tell er-Ras, along the Wadi Rayyan. While trilithon dolmens and rubble *rijm* cairn tombs were the most common monuments encountered, the field-work documented several different sub-types. Select examples of the cairn-tombs were excavated with the aim of establishing a dated typology. This talk presents the preliminary results of the field-work, and contrasts the monuments found along the Wadi Rayyan with those previously recorded in the immediate hinterlands of the nearby *tell* site of Pella.

Jesús Gil Fuensanta^a, Eduardo Crivelli^b
^a Prehistory section, University of Alicante/MAET, Madrid
^b CONICET, Buenos Aires

LATE IRON AGE, “POST-ASSYRIANS” AND PERSIANS IN TURKISH EUPHRATES: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL OR “HISTORICAL” APPROACH?

An increase of Projects in the Dam areas of Eastern Turkey since the 1990s has contributed in high degree to improve the archaeological record of Northern Mesopotamia. Research on several periods (i.e. Early Bronze Age) is being better settled into the general scheme. On the other hand, periods as the latter part of the Iron Age, previously less known, yielded new data. The new coming archaeological record claims for a re-definition of some concepts inherited from older excavations or from a misuse of some terms (i.e. “post-Assyrian”). The paper presented tries to connect recent archaeological data with a comparative historical approach for the periods prior to the Classical Age.

Alejandro Gallego López
Universidad Autónoma de Madrid

TOOLS AND BUILDING IN THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE IRON AGE IN AL-MADAM (SHARJAH, U.A.E.)

In the archaeological site of al-Madam (Sharjah, UAE) there is a unique and already regarded area for the making and preparation of mud-bricks (AM1). Among the traces left on the surface, such as human footprints in different basins or fingerprints in some mud-bricks, we may also find traces of what might have been the tools and implements used in the extraction of the rocky material as to produce mud-bricks of a special composition. In this paper we will recognize the typology of the implements and tools, specially the

metal ones used in the AM1 within the Iron Age, and to propose and draw an hypothesis of what kind of tools, occasionally similar to those studied for the agriculture in the same period, were used in al-Madam, which, at the same time, tells us about the constructive techniques of the same period. Given the certain use of metal tools, this paper will try to enlighten the scene of metallurgy in the Iron Age in Sharjah and clarify if there is a separation according to its functionality. To sum up, we will determine the impact and causes for the use of the tools and implements considering the special features of the rocky soil of this area and the technological background of the period.

Agnès Garcia-Ventura, Mireia López-Bertran
Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Barcelona)

EMBODYING NEO-SUMERIAN TERRA-COTTAS

Sometimes, little remains like terra-cottas fall into oblivion because of the presence of other luxury or monumental remains. For this reason, in this paper we want to concentrate on some Neo-Sumerian terra-cottas.

In order to elucidate some aspects of the Neo-Sumerian gender roles, rituals, or hierarchies we describe and analyse some terra-cottas, mainly from two settlements: Tell Asmar and Girsu.

First of all we concentrate on the physical features of the terra-cottas themselves. We point out the relevance of the presence or absence of eyes, mouth, ears, hands, feet, genital organs, etc. Secondly we pay attention to their ornamentation, dress or hairstyle. After these two levels of description, we analyse the uses and contexts of the figurines and the possible social roles of the people they are representing.

Bruno Genito
Università degli Studi di Napoli “L’Orientale”

THE ACHAEMENID EMPIRE AS SEEN AS FROM ITS EASTERN PERIPHERY; THE CASE OF DAHAN-I GHULAMAN IN SISTAN. FORTY YEARS LATER, A REVISION OF DATA

The activities of the archaeological research of Is.M.E.O., today Is.I.A.O., in Seistan began in 1959. From 1962, Umberto Scerrato started to concentrate his attention on the site of Dahan-e Ghulaman, in the proximities of the village of Qal’a-ye Nou, already visited twice during the 1960 and 1961 campaigns. The analysis of the material collected on the surface and of the planimetry of the buildings, immediately led to the conclusion that it could be an imposing site of the Achaemenid period, whose importance would have been well soon not only underlined by the historical-archaeological point of view, but also from the historical-religious one. The inhabited area of Dahan-e Ghulaman, around 30 kilometers South-East of Zabul, was dug from 1962 to 1965, and has revealed an urban context dating from the Achaemenid period. Forty years later it still appears as one of the very few settlements, “urban” in character of the Empire.

Bruno Genito^a, Fariba Saiedi Anaraki^b
^a Università degli Studi di Napoli “L’Orientale”
^b Sazeman-e Myras Farhanghi Sanaye Dasti va Gardesghgari, Tehran/Isfahan

THE ADAMJI PROJECT:
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIGITAL ARCHIVE AND GIS FOR THE FRIDAY MOSQUE AT ISFAHAN:
A WAY FORWARD

The Italian restoration activities carried out in Isfahan during the 70s of last century was followed by an archaeological work continuing up to 1978. During those seven years of trial-trenches and extensive excavations, an ample part of the sectors of the Mosque has been brought to light. The Mosque, as is well

known, is one of the most interesting Islamic buildings of Iran and this not only for its undoubtedly great historical importance (from the Abbasid, Buyid, Seljuk, Il-Khanid, Muzaffarid, Timurid, to Safawid and Qajar time), but also for the numerous cultural, topographical, and archaeological aspects come to light between 1972 and 1978. Different circumstances did not allow for long time (1979-1998) the Italian team to go on working at Isfahan on the same project. Only between 1999 and 2002, though very irregularly, an Italian team of IsIAO, under the invitation of I.C.H.H.T.O., went back to Isfahan, starting again the work jointly with the Iranian colleagues in the Friday Mosque. The very preliminary short activities in 1999 and 2000 were mainly aimed at re-organising the old deposit of the finds collected during the previous excavation seasons; a more detailed work was conducted in November and December 2002 aiming at selecting the archaeological sectors to start the cataloguing work and put the base for an integrated study project. In 2003 an enlarged Italian team, under the scientific coordination of Prof. Bruno Genito (IsIAO and Università degli Studi di Napoli “L’Orientale”), went to Isfahan in the frame of a new joint Iranian/Italian project aiming at selecting and cataloguing the large amount of finds. This project, jointly coordinated and directed from the Iranian side by Dr. Fariba Saeidi Anaraki, is strictly planned inside a definite program of cataloguing and managing data.

Hermann Genz

American University of Beirut

REFLECTIONS ON THE EARLY BRONZE AGE IV IN LEBANON

The Early Bronze Age IV (ca. 2400 -2000 BC) is a period that is so far little known in Lebanon, except for the long-term excavation project at Tell Arqa in the North of the country. Yet it remains problematic whether Tell Arqa with its undoubtedly urban layout of the settlement is representative for this period in Lebanon.

This paper will provide an overview of the major discoveries concerning the Early Bronze Age IV in Lebanon, combining the evidence of well known and already published sites with hitherto unpublished material, for instance from Tell Hizzin in the Bekaa valley, where excavations already conducted in 1949 and 1950 have brought to light several tombs from the Early Bronze Age IV period.

Lilly Gershuny

Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA)

HOW DO WE READ ANCIENT FINDS?

The studying of ancient finds has been a major feature of archaeological research over the years. We are understandably concerned only with finds that come from legitimate archaeological excavations and, as such, does our reading of the finds clearly reflect their context? Can we judge objectively the value and purpose of ancient finds or do we view them through the eyes of modern and highly technical society? To what extent does our own background determine our observation? In this respect, we would like to look at the often used term imitation, when talking about ceramics or other forms of ancient arts and crafts. Imitation is equivalent to copying and when applying this term, the user clearly states his/her point of view with regard to ancient craftsmen, namely the inability to create an original piece. In a way, this is the crux of the matter, which will be examined through various examples that hopefully, will clarify the issue and put it into a more viable perspective.

Nasrin T. Ghahremani

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY IN NORTHEAST OF IRAN IN OCTOBER 2007

Northern Khorasan province limited North from Turkmenistan, South-West from Semnan province and West from Golestan province has joint border. In October 2007 we had surveyed with Japanese group for recognition of the Parthian and Sassanid periods. This point is very original for archaeological studies, and this project was a good chance for future researches. Our aim was to study the Buddhism and the Zoroastrian religion.

Two years ago we made a survey in various points of Iran with the attempt to find buddhistic sacred places. But in this project our aim had been restricted to Zoroastrian religion. In this survey we found 40 sites from Parthian and Sassanid periods. We found 6 religious sites. This province didn't lionize because of it is good chance for archaeological studies that I will pay to its.

Romel Gharib

Department of Antiquities, Jordan

RESULT OF RECENT EXCAVATION AT KHIRBAT AL-RUSSAYFA

Al Russayfa city occupies a strategic place on the map of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Al Zarqa River passes through it and it was easy for the city to be in contact with its surroundings cities in the kingdom, as well as near by countries. Al-Hijas rail road. This site was an important station connection Basra-Syria-Petra and the Roman roads passed through it as well. At about 15 km North-West of Amman to the left side lies the Zarqa River, and on near by hill lies the city of Al-Rusayfa, which is estimated to be some meters above the River level, and about 70 acres more in land space. About 675 m above the sea level lies an artificial hill, better known as khirbat Al-Russayfa spreading throughout the natural hill.

A number of Antiquity scholars visited the site and described it at the end of the 9th century and the beginning of the 20th century. Among those were Pierkhart (1812), Conodor (1889), Ghlok (1939). Five major field excavation seasons were conducted by the Department of Antiquities. Studies proved that Khirbat Al-Russayfa passed through different historical periods, starting from the early Bronze Age Passed through many periods that represents this historic site up to the late Islamic period. A large number of the findings in the site assure that Khirbat Al-Rusayfa had a significant place in past historical periods, as we mentioned it was important road connection between Basra-Damascus-and Petra. The talk about Khirbat Al-Russayfa can last long, but we hope that we were able to identify the site in such short terms.

Ayelet Gilboa see Francesco Berna

Isaac Gilead see Yael Abadi-Reiss

Roberta Giunta

Università degli Studi di Napoli "L'Orientale"

THE RENEWAL OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ITALIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MISSION IN AFGHANISTAN:
THE EMERGING RETRIEVAL OF DOCUMENTS AND FINDS OF ISLAMIC EPOCH IN GHAZNI

The year 1999 marks the return of the Italian Archaeological Mission to Afghanistan, directed at the time by Maurizio Taddei who made an inspection in Ghazni and restored the cooperational agreements with the Afghan authorities established for the first time by Giuseppe Tucci in 1956. This renewed relationship allowed to undertake, starting from the following year, excavations (supervised, along the years, by Bombaci, Scerrato, and Adamesteanu) and the eventual dig of two Islamic buildings. Taddei could then

ascertain the severely compromised state of preservation of the archaeological areas and the serious degree of dispersion of the finds. Since 2002, numerous campaigns have been conducted in Ghazni and Kabul (where a good number of findings are preserved) in order to both carry out further surveys of the sites and identify the current location of the materials. At the same time, the conspicuous documents of the excavation held by the IsIAO in Rome have been collected and examined, and the verification of the materials transferred by the Afghan authorities to the IsIAO and preserved by the latter and by the Museum of Oriental Art has been undertaken. The current situation in Afghanistan does not allow any access to the archaeological areas and storehouses in Ghazni and limits the possibility to use the depositories of the Museum of Kabul. In this critical situation, the reconstructive study of the excavations started in Afghanistan and currently feasible only in Rome seems to be of extreme importance.

Claudia Glatz

AHRC Centre for the Evolution of Cultural Diversity
Institute of Archaeology
University College London

A NEUTRAL EMPIRE? EXPLORING LATE BRONZE AGE ANATOLIAN CERAMIC PRODUCTION
FROM AN EVOLUTIONARY PERSPECTIVE

The relationship between state power and craft production and its spectrum of possible manifestations is one of the central issues in the study of complex social networks. In this paper I will explore the development of the Late Bronze Age north-central Anatolian ceramic tradition and its often proposed connection with Hittite imperial expansion and exercise of control from the perspective of an evolutionary approach. The aim of this project is to move forward a debate that has until now relied primarily on traditional stylistic comparison. An alternative perspective of pottery production and its relationship with state control and conformity pressures may be gained through the concept of neutral drift and mathematical models to identify some of the mechanisms underlying change in material culture traditions. In this paper, I will focus on the first results of the analysis of ceramic data from the Hittite capital city at Boğazköy-Hattusa.

Amir Golani

Israel Antiquities Authority

JEWELRY AS A CULTURAL MARKER IN THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORD

As one of the minor arts, jewelry often inspires an interest beyond its diminutive size, yet archaeological research to date has generally not given this class of small objects much attention. In the past as well as the present, jewelry fulfilled a wide variety of functions. In modern times, people often wear certain symbolic items not only for adornment, but also to publicize an association or identification with a cultural group or a set of beliefs. Jewelry is thus used to convey information about the cultural, religious or ethnic affiliation of its wearer. While this is often readily apparent in our own society, can we identify similar uses of jewelry in past societies?

The present paper seeks to evaluate how we may identify ancient jewelry as a cultural marker in the archaeological record. This may be done through a study of its stylistic origin and development along with its geographic and chronological distribution. As a case in point, an example of such an object is discussed, providing new directions for research that may one day identify more such markers in the archaeological record.

Haim GoldfusTHE EXCAVATIONS OF THE 10TH ROMAN LEGION KILNWORK IN JERUSALEM**Yuval Goren** see Hai Ashkenazi**Ahmet Görmüş** see Ayse Tuba Ökse**Amir Gorzalczany**

Israel Antiquities Authority

THE DIFFERENCES IN ORIENTATION OF THE LATE ISLAMIC BURIALS FROM ISRAEL/PALESTINE:
A MATTER OF SEASONALITY?

Analysis of the differences in orientation of burial within Late Islamic cemeteries shows a consistent range in the axes of such burial features, mostly between 65° and 90° East or North. The common practice of burying the deceased facing towards Mecca is a well-known Islamic tradition long practiced in Israel/Palestine, and attested in very early literary sources.

While this practice was a determining factor in burial orientation, on its own cannot explain the constant variation in this orientation within a given range, as observed in actual burial grounds. This paper argues that such variability is best explained by taking account of the seasonal variation in the azimuth of sunrise, probably by which orientation to Mecca was established.

If this is correct, it enables us to define for the first time Late Islamic burials according to the season of the year (roughly, Summer *vs.* Winter), and to establish in what season of the year the burial was carried out.

John D.M. Green

Ashmolean Museum

CREATING PRESTIGE IN THE JORDAN VALLEY: A RECONSTRUCTION OF RITUAL AND SOCIAL DYNAMICS
FROM THE LATE BRONZE AND EARLY IRON AGE CEMETERY AT TELL ES-SA‘IDIYEH

Recent research on the Late Bronze and Early Iron Age cemetery at Tell-es Sa‘idiyeh, Jordan has enabled a partial reconstruction of ritual sequences within both primary and secondary burials, due to the *in situ* preservation of objects with individual interments. Through a statistical analysis of co-occurring features in tombs, some objects and materials are identified as “high rank types” within the cemetery, and viewed as symbols conferring prestige upon the deceased and the survivors. Co-occurring features, including Aegean and Cypriote imports, precious metal and Egyptian-style jewellery, multiple ivory objects, stone vessels, and bronze vessels, are employed largely amongst within “elite” funerals of the late 13th - early 12th centuries BC. A nuanced picture emerges of how specific objects are employed within funerary rituals. This indicates a high degree of ritual innovation, repetition, and individualised status expression. The distribution of occasional “high rank types” and lower quality products in other tombs of this period indicates participation within similar value systems by lower status groups, and perhaps a “trickle-down” effect that helped blur distinctions between elites and non-elites. These distinctions could also indicate a contrast in the availability and accessibility of local products from the Jordan Valley and its fringes, and more exotic items from major urban or coastal production centres. It is argued that idealised social distinctions in death at Sa‘idiyeh were not only marked and created through distinctions in quantity, quality and diversity of materials and objects, but also in the way they are presented, manipulated and deposited with the body.

Rafael Greenberg, Sarit Paz
Tel Aviv University

TEL BET YERAH 2007:
NEW EVIDENCE FOR THE EARLIEST OCCUPATION, AND A NEW PLAN FOR THE “GRANARY”

Following our work on the results of the 1945-6 excavations, we returned in 2007 for further investigation of the Early Bronze III granary (“the Circles Building”) and its environs (Area SA).

In the building we conducted several probes that revealed valuable information regarding the careful planning and construction technique of the building. The most significant discovery is an external north-eastern façade of the structure, sealed by a late period building, where previously an additional circle was reconstructed. Thus, we present an updated plan, with 7 (instead of 9) circles arranged in a U-shaped plan around an open courtyard. West of the granary we revealed parts of an Early Bronze III dwelling complex, bounded by paved streets to its East and South.

Salvage work to the North of the granary revealed, *inter alia*, superimposed middens representing the earliest settlement on the mound in Early Bronze IA. A rich pottery inventory includes a new type of painted ware alongside the familiar Early Bronze IA types. Organic remains provide important radiocarbon dates for this phase of the Early Bronze Age.

Zvi Greenhut see Ianir Milevski

Niels C.F. Groot see Joris Dik

Paolo Guarino see Francesca Balossi Restelli

Eleanor Guralnick
Oriental Institute, University of Chicago

COLOR AT KHORSABAD

The earliest discoveries of color at the Palace of Sargon II at Khorsabad were made by Paul Emile Botta. He found color on surviving sculptures in at least five major areas. He published color enhanced drawings in the *Journal Asiatique* in 1843-45 for some of the sculptures of Façade L and rooms 2 and 4. In *Monument de Ninive* and *Ninive et l'Assyrie* fragments of painted plaster and color glazed bricks were published. Examples of color usage were retrieved by the Oriental Institute excavations at Khorsabad between 1928 and 1935.

Recent cleaning and reinstallation of the well preserved sculptures from façade “n” and room 7 in the Oriental Institute Museum, and examination of 355 sculpture fragments, revealed that bright colors, red, blue, black, and white decorated the stone. Fragments from the throne room ceiling and glazed bricks from Court VIII also retain these colors. Private residence K had two wall paintings, possible models for the palace walls. A selection from the surviving evidence for the use of color to enliven the stone, plaster, and brick surfaces of Sargon’s palace at Khorsabad will be presented.

Tobin Hartnell see Ali Asadi

Basema Hamarneh
Libera Università degli Studi Kore di Enna

DYNAMICS AND TRANSFORMATION OF THE RURAL SETTLEMENTS OF *PROVINCIA ARABIA* AND *PALAESTINA TERTIA* IN THE OMAYYAD AND EARLY ABBASID PERIODS. ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

This paper approaches the aspects of settlement dynamics and transformation of the topography of rural settlements in the territory of Jordan especially in the area of former *Provincia Arabia* and *Palaestina Tertia* during the 7th-9th centuries.

The high density occupation of the countryside attested by excavations and surveys since the early Byzantine period shows constant growth of the wealth and prestige of the settlements especially in the first decades of the 7th century. A key to understand the impact of the Islamic conquest of the territory is to approach the changes that can be observed on the topographical assessment of the villages starting from the second half of the 7th century in terms of internal space reorganization, growth of the industrial potential (olive and wine production implants), construction-restoration and paving of new churches, adaptation of geometrical mosaic decoration of church pavements, obliteration of figurative decoration – iconophobic phenomenon –, diffusion of painted ceramic manufactures and so on. In this panorama it is important to compare the *status* and aspect of the Byzantine *kore* with the earlier models of Omayyad agricultural settlements set in the countryside.

Khalil Mahmoud Hamdan
Department of Antiquities of Jordan, Excavation Sector

SUGAR FARMING AND INDUSTRY IN SOUTH JORDAN VALLEY DURING AYYUBI MAMLUKI PERIOD

This paper will analyze the material evidence of the sugar industry in the South Ghor-Karak and the historical evidence of sugar farming and industry: how large was the farming and industry; the relative social and economy issues. Material evidences indicate that sugar farming and industry was taken as one of the main recourses in Ghor Assafi as well as it was considered in the northern Jordan valley.

Jutta Häser
German Protestant Institute of Archaeology, Amman

INFLUENCE OF RAINFALL, GEOLOGY, AND INNOVATION
ON PREHISTORIC SETTLEMENT PATTERNS ON THE OMAN PENINSULA

Only little is known about the reasons for the shift of settlement locations on the Oman Peninsula from the start of settled live to modern times. In the frame of the project “Transformation Processes of Oasis Settlements in Oman”, a new model of prehistoric settlement patterns will be presented on the conference in a multidisciplinary approach.

The basis of the investigation are firstly, recent investigations in climatic long-term records on the south-eastern Arabian Peninsula which give new insights in the change of rainfall over the millennia; secondly, a study of the position of 2428 modern oases with a vegetated area larger than 0.4 ha derived from a digital elevation model, the topography of northern Oman, and a detailed geological map of that area; thirdly, the results of intensive archaeological surveys in several oases in different landscapes in Oman like Izki, Nizwa, Ibra, Tiwi, Balad Seet etc.; fourthly, the results of archaeological excavations in settlements extracted from publications. These data provide evidence for at least seven major phases of settlement development from the beginning of settled life to the Islamic period.

Arnulf Hausleiter

Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, Orient-Abteilung

THE OASIS OF TAYMA, NORTHWEST ARABIA: NEW EVIDENCE FOR THE 2ND AND 1ST MILLENNIA BC

Mostly known by the stay of the last Babylonian king, Nabonidus (556-539 BC), the oasis of Tayma had relations to neighbouring regions before (and after) the Neo-Babylonian period – due to its location on a branch of the main trading routes of the ancient Near East, the so-called “frankincense road”. Since 2004 excavations by a Saudi-Arabian-German joint expedition (http://www.dainst.org/index_3258_en.html) have revealed new data for the history of the occupation of the site. Large parts of the fortifications can be dated to the early 2nd millennium BC; the Bronze to Iron Age transition can be newly defined by stratified contexts; in the period of the last centuries of the 1st millennium BC, during the reign of the Lihyanite dynasty, common cultural features arise on a regional level. Based on these examples, the paper discusses the diverse lines of “influence” on the cultural development of the oasis during the 2nd and 1st millennia BC.

Mahmoud Hawari

University of Oxford

THE CITADEL OF JERUSALEM: AN EXAMPLE OF MILITARY ARCHITECTURAL CONCEPT
OF FORTIFICATIONS IN THE LEVANT IN EARLY 13TH CENTURY

Rebuilt by the Mamluks in 1310, the Citadel of Jerusalem had been already modified several times under the Seljuks, Crusaders and Ayyubids. The Mamluk construction is largely derived from the architectural concept that was developed and matured in Islamic fortifications of the Levant in the early 13th century. A comparative examination shows that it is built in the style of the main works of Ayyubid fortifications found in the principal citadels and strongholds of Bilad al-Sham and Egypt, such as Damascus, Aleppo, Bosra, ‘Ajlun and Cairo. It includes quadrangular towers and curtains of large dimensions, multi-level galleries on curtain walls and towers, loopholes, machicolations, and a gate with a bent access. Few additional elements were also introduced which represent a final phase of improvements to that architectural concept: upgrading of circulation, loopholes and box machicolations as decoration, and the use of portcullis. The Mamluk defensive system, as found in the Citadel of Jerusalem and other contemporary citadels and castles, represents the apogee of Islamic military architecture that witnessed a remarkable development in a space of a century.

Sandra Heinsch see Walter Kuntner**Sandra Heinsch** see Wilfrid Allinger-Csollich**Barbara Helwing^a, Mohsen Makki^b, Mojgan Seyedin^c**^a German Archaeological Institute^b Geographisches Institut Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin^c Iranian Centre for Archaeological ResearchPREHISTORIC SETTLEMENT PATTERNS IN DARRE-YE BOLAGHI, FARS, IRAN:
RESULTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND GEOARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK

Rescue excavations in 5th millennium BC Bakun period sites the Bolaghi Valley of Fars/Iran in 2005 and 2006 addressed questions on the origin of pastoral nomadism as a lifestyle, which is assumed by some scholars to have happened during the 5th millennium BC. Since the research design required a detailed reconstruction of the ancient landscape, sampling series on botanical, faunal, isotope and geological samples

were conducted in combination with extensive geoarchaeological investigations and GIS-based modelling. The results indicate that the Bakun period population based their choices of settlement and camp site locations consciously on information on natural resources availability. The chosen sites remained in use for some time and are rather to be regarded as sedentary. The investigations also revealed that major geological events after the 5th millennium transformed the appearance of the landscape considerably, so that future research in such intermountain plains will have to take these observations into account. The interpretation of survey data, often based on the visible appearance of sites, proves to be especially unreliable here. The question on the first appearance of pastoral nomadic lifestyle in the Zagros Mountains can therefore not be answered on the basis of survey data, but has to investigate other venues, such as environmental data and especially isotope analysis.

Morteza Hessari see Rouhollah Yousefi Zoshk

S. Hillson see D. Baird

Abdel Hakim al-Husban see Khaled Douglas

Marco Iamoni
Università di Udine

LATE BRONZE AGE CERAMICS FROM THE EASTERN PALACE OF QATNA:
TRADITION AND VARIATION IN THE CERAMIC HORIZON OF MID 2ND MILLENNIUM SYRIAN METROPOLIS

Recent excavations at Tell Mishrifeh (ancient Qatna) have uncovered a large public building, the so-called “Eastern Palace”, which has been provisionally dated to the very early Late Bronze I, with a very likely pre-existing phase possibly datable to the Middle Bronze Age. Subject of this paper is a preliminary presentation of the associated ceramic assemblages, with particular focus on those which may belong to the Late Bronze I. A further section of the paper will be devoted to a preliminary analysis of the implications of the main emerged traits (i.e. the occurrence or absence of specific diagnostic types from the examined contexts). In particular adopting a multidisciplinary approach (archaeometric and statistical analysis), variation and changes will be taken into examination as possible signs of innovation or persistence/standardisation in the material culture of central-western Syria of mid 2nd millennium BC.

David Ilan, Giora Solar, Gila Cook
Nelson Glueck School of Biblical Archaeology, Hebrew Union College

THE TRIPLE-ARCHED MUDBRICK GATE OF MIDDLE BRONZE AGE TEL DAN:
NEW EXCAVATIONS, NEW INSIGHTS AND THE DILEMMAS OF RESTORATION

An intact monumental mudbrick gatehouse of the Middle Bronze Age was excavated at Tel Dan (Tell el-Qadi), Israel in 1978-1982. Restoration work over the last decade, and new excavations that this work required, have led to a more complete understanding of the gate’s cultural origins (Syria/Mesopotamia), its method and techniques of construction and the reason for its demise. All these have important implications for the archaeology of immigration. The process of restoring a unique, monumental, mudbrick edifice has also raised a series of technical and ethical issues, the consideration of which should be of relevance to restoration projects elsewhere in the Middle East.

Silvia Imberti see Martine de Vries-Melein

Kaan İren

Muğla University, Department of Archaeology

NEW DISCOVERY OF THE PERSIAN DESTRUCTION LEVEL IN DASCYLUM

At the beginning of the 20th century the ancient city Dascylum had been localized in the North-West of Anatolia. It was a prominent centre during the archaic and classical periods because of its geographical location, and is still important today thanks to its multi-cultural society and material culture (Phrygian, Lydian, Mysian, Greek and Persian).

The Phrygian character of the city changed to Lydian, according to the tradition, during the 7th century. After the Persian occupation in the middle of the 6th century, the city was chosen by the Persian as a regional Achaemenid capital of the empire. This literary evidence was supported by the archaeological finds, but despite of more than 20 years of excavations, it was impossible to find an untouched level of the early periods of the city.

The aim of this paper is to show to the world of archaeology a new discovery, a level showing the characteristics of a destruction dated to the middle of the 6th century, and propose some reflections on the newly discovered materials. It is very plausible to interpret this level and its context as the last witnesses of the capture of this Lydian city by Persian army.

Mehmet Isikli

Atatürk University Erzurum

THE RESULTS OF SURVEY IN THE ENVIRONS OF URARTIAN FORTRESS OF ALTINTEPE IN ERZINCAN,
EASTERN ANATOLIA. THE INVESTIGATIONS OF PUBLIC SETTLEMENT AREAS AND
THE OBSERVATIONS ON POST-URARTIAN PERIOD

The Urartians managed to build a central state in a mountainous and hard ecological zone between 9th and 6th centuries BC. The current evidence shows that the north/north-western border of the zone of cultural and political influence had reached to Erzincan Plain. The Altintepe Fortress was a regional centre in economic and political terms in this area. In the beginning of the last century, Altintepe Fortress was discerned on the archaeological side because of the illegal excavations. Then, the excavations started in 1959. The excavations at Altintepe were executed by T. Özgüç and continued during ten years. His studies were focused on citadel. Those studies displayed monumental buildings that have political, religious and economical usage. The evidence clearly shows that Altintepe Fortress had been a regional centre for a long period. The second-season excavations on Altintepe Fortress started in 2003 and still continue. The new campaigns are carried on by Prof. Dr. Mehmet Karaoğlu from Atatürk University, Erzurum. New campaigns provided the new projects, besides solving the problems related to the previous excavations. One of these new projects is the survey at Altintepe and its vicinity, executed by the author between 2006-2007. The secondary aim of this intensive survey is to determine all kind of archaeological units involved directly or indirectly with Altintepe Fortress. The actual target of this project is to ascertain the public settlement areas (outer town) and economical activity areas (involving husbandry and cattle breeding) of the political and economical regional centre of Altintepe. The survey was performed in a circle, where Altintepe created the centre, and holds a radius of 5 km. Although the results of the survey are striking, they can not satisfy expectations. There should be several reasons because of this situation. Geological and geographical reasons can be listed as a part of these reasons. As is known, Erzincan Plain is one of the most active areas in Anatolia Peninsula. As previously mentioned, the results of the survey are conspicuous. For instance, they show that continuity of the habitation around Altintepe seems to be rigorous and uninterrupted from Early Bronze Age (may be Chalcolithic Period) to the end of the Medieval Age. In this process, the most interesting chronological period is Late Iron Age, or in other words, the Post Urartian period, the period after the Urartian period. As is well known, the end and decadence of the Urartian State subsisted in a forcible ecological zone almost during three centuries still remains problematic. This problematic state progressed for the Post Urartian Period in Eastern Anatolia. In this essay, in the light of available evidence, the author tried

to make a fictional attempt for the Post Urartian Period in Erzincan Region and analyse the Late Iron Age period in this area.

Babak Jalilinia
Tehran University

SHEYKH SHAHAB AL-DIN MAHMUD-E AHARI'S TOMB

The historical monument called Sheykh Shahab Al-din Mahud-e Ahar's tomb is placed in Ahar –eastern Azerbaijan Province. The architectural style of this monument is a combination of two Ilkhanid and Safavid styles. It was registered as one of Iran's national heritage in 1311 AH (1933 AD). This building of 1476 m² (41 x 36 m) is separated from the old town in the South. It is not possible to understand the connection between this building and the old structure of the city by means of the remained evidence. The Sheykh's grave was a simple brick-made structure that is fenced by a carved stony wall 1.5 m high.

The whole building is brick-made too. Some historical literature and inscriptions of building call it Safavid Architecture style relying on the portico, minarets, tiling and carved parapets. The aim of this paper is to clarify the date of building and describe art and architectural styles by analyzing its architectural details (portico, *shabistan*, mosque and other places) and decoration. This paper, which mainly focuses of architecture, refers to classification of physical modifications and their connections to each other.

Eric R. Jensen
University of Arkansas

SIX METERS DOWN: THE EARLY IRON AGE AT TELL QARQUR

Continued research into the historical circumstances of the transition from the Late Bronze into the Early Iron Age period establishes the necessity of determination on the local level of the continuity of occupation or the variable causes for the interruption or abandonment thereof. Excavation and the application of subsurface remote sensing survey techniques to map settlement remains have clearly demonstrated a temporally and spatially significant Iron Age occupation at Tell Qarqur, a multi-period site in north-western Syria on the Orontes River. While the initial phase of Iron Age levels has yet to be reached, an unbroken cultural sequence from as early as the 12th century BC into the Late Iron II period is clear from several meters of contiguous Iron Age deposits. Cultural material from these layers, the most abundant of which is pottery, display a tradition of visual expression parallel to contemporaneous polities in the region, while providing examples of local stylistic innovations in craft production at Qarqur. This paper examines the material culture from the Early Iron Age levels at Qarqur in its local and regional social contexts, adding color to the social and political picture of the Iron Age coming into focus in north-western Syria.

Michael Jung
Museo Nazionale d'Arte Orientale

PRE-SELJUK WALL-PAINTINGS OF THE MASĠID-I ĞUM'Ā AT ISFAHAN
EXCAVATED BY THE ITALIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MISSION, ADAMJI PROJECT

Among the findings made during the excavation (1972-1978) within the Friday Mosque at Isfahan, under the direction of the late Umberto Scerrato, there were fragments of wall pictures. Their discovery had been only shortly mentioned in the preliminary reports of the *IsMEO*.

When the Italian Archaeological Mission returned in 1999 after a long lapse of time due to the interruption following the Islamic revolution, the study and the restoration of the paintings had been considered as one as the most urgent tasks to be carried out.

The checking of the wall paintings and their inventory and their partly restoration make already possible to propose a first preliminary typology and to draw some interesting clues. They regard the chronology of the paintings, their making and their setting within the prayer hall, their composition and their overall relation to the stucco decorations excavated in the same sectors of the *haram*.

Seiji Kadowaki
University of Tokyo

BLADE PRODUCTION IN THE LATE NEOLITHIC IN THE SOUTHERN LEVANT:
A VIEW FROM WADI ZIQLAB, NORTHERN JORDAN

Lithic technology of the Late Neolithic in the southern Levant is generally characterized by the production of amorphous flakes and their use for informal tools. However, such technology is not totally “expedient” but shows some degree of structure with temporal and spatial variations. One of the significant diachronic changes is a development of blade production towards the later part of the Late Neolithic (6th millennium BC), and this trend appears to have continued in the Chalcolithic period, followed by the emergence of Canaanite blades in the Early Bronze Age. New evidence for the blade production in the Late Neolithic was obtained from the recent excavations at al-Basatîn and the re-analyses of Late Neolithic lithic assemblages at Tabaqat al-Bûma in Wadi Ziqlab, northern Jordan. The paper aims to clarify Late Neolithic blade technology with regard to the use of raw material, core-reduction methods, and retouched tool types made on blades. Diachronic examination of the lithic assemblages from Tabaqat al-Bûma indicates the increase in the use of blades for the production of sickle elements.

Zeidan A. Kafafi
Yarmouk University Irbid-JORDAN

THE EARLY BRONZE AGE IN NORTH JORDAN: SITES AND STRATIGRAPHY (CA. 3500 -2000 BC)

Unlike the complex urban cultures and civilizations of Egypt and Mesopotamia, where writing developed during the second half of the 4th millennium BC, Jordan did not use writing until over a thousand years later. In addition, it has been proposed that the South Levantine Early Bronze Age polities, which have been identified as city-states, were neither cities nor states.

However, the prevailing views in recent years of the origin of the Bronze Ages have been thoroughly modified. Some scholars see that urbanisation was introduced to this part of the world by newcomers, while others argue for local development and do not exclude external influences.

The appearance of self-sufficient towns in the Early Bronze II is parallel to the First Dynasty in Egypt, and the subsequent period the Early Bronze III was marked by the growth of numerous sedentary communities. Moreover, the Early Bronze II-III periods are considered as the first major expression of the Canaanite urbanism. The Early Bronze Age IV (ca. 2300-2000 BC) has been referred to as an interlude of non-sedentary pastoral life between the town urbanism in the Early Bronze II-III and the cities in the Middle Bronze Ages. The *tell* sites in Jordan had been abandoned, with the exception of very rare sites such as Khirbet Iskander, and regional Early Bronze IV settlement patterns imply extensive use of dry farming land. It has also been proposed that the inhabitants of the Early Bronze IV adopted a new economic strategy and turned to be semi-nomadic pastoralists. This hypothesis has been combined with the literary evidence documenting the expansion of the semi-nomadic “Amorites”, but has been denied by some scholars. Paul Lapp suggested that the source of the newcomers to Palestine during the Early Bronze IV is the North.

The aim of this paper is at presenting a study to the Early Bronze Age major sites either surveyed or excavated in the area extending from the Zerqa Basin in the South to the Yarmouk River in the North.

M. Kalhor, see M. Abdolahi

Eva Kaptijn
University of Leiden

FIVE NEWLY DISCOVERED LATE CHALCOLITHIC AND EARLY BRONZE AGE I SITES
IN THE ZERQA TRIANGLE, JORDAN VALLEY

During the landscape survey of the Leiden University *Settling the Steppe* project several previously unknown flat surface sites were discovered. A large proportion of these newly discovered sites stemmed from the Late Chalcolithic and the Early Bronze I period. Together with the already known and sometimes excavated sites like Tell Umm Hammad, Tell Ruweiha, Qataret es-Samra, Khirbet Mafluq and the slightly later Tell Handaquq South these sites show that this part of the Jordan Valley was densely occupied during this period. This paper will elaborate on the pottery and other finds collected at these sites and focus on location choice, settlement distribution, subsistence strategies and changes in these over time. A second focus will be on the transition from the Late Chalcolithic to the Early Bronze Age I period as the pottery from one of the sites shows characteristics of both periods.

Melissa Kennedy
University of Sydney

THE EARLY BRONZE AGE IV AT TELL NEBI MEND, SYRIA

The 10 ha site of Tell Nebi Mend or ancient Qadesh on the Orontes is located in the middle Orontes valley at the confluence of the Orontes and a major tributary, the Mukadiyah. The site also sits strategically at the eastern end of the Homs-Tripoli Gap, one of the three major East-West routes from the Mediterranean coast through into inland Syria. Initially excavated by Maurice Pézard during the early 20s, and then for 20 years by Peter Parr (1975-1995), the site has revealed a long and rich history of occupation spanning the 6th millennium BC through to the later Byzantine period. The Nebi Mend sequence is of crucial importance to understanding the developmental history of inland western Syria.

This presentation will focus primarily upon the ceramics from the late 3rd millennium BC (Early Bronze IV) deposits from Peter Parr's excavations at the site, specifically the material uncovered in Trench I, where the Early Bronze/Middle Bronze interface was intensively explored. This Early Bronze IV occupation consists of at least five building phases and a large and diverse ceramic corpus, which will prove to be of fundamental importance in developing detailed and nuanced sequential assemblages charting the 500 year long developmental sequence within a distinctive southern inland culture-province. Understanding this regional developmental sequence is crucial to fully articulating the changing pattern of relationships between South-central Syria and the southern Levant at this time. This presentation will outline the Nebi Mend Early Bronze IV assemblage, and examine the varying regional interrelationships revealed through an exploration of individual form parallels. One key aspect will be to outline the Nebi Mend Early Bronze IV goblet typology and explore its varying patterns of association across the region. Finally we will explore a potential changed symbolic meaning when moving from regional to inter-regional analysis.

Christine Kepinski
Maison René-Gnouvès

TILBESHAR, A MAJOR CITY OF THE EARLY AND MIDDLE BRONZE AGE, WEST TO THE BIG BEND OF THE
EUPHRATES (SOUTHEASTERN TURKEY): LAST RESULTS

Tilbeshar offers a complete sequence from the beginning of the 3rd millennium through to the end of the 17th century BC, after which it was abandoned for a long time. The new data from the last seasons of excavations at Tilbeshar essentially concerned with the different phases of the city, the planned urbanization and the transition between the Early and the Middle Bronze Age.

The initial large town of Tilbeshar was spread out at the base of the citadel, to the North as well as to the South, around 2600 BC; it is contemporaneous with the construction of a burial chamber that accompany the emergence of an elite. Several elements point to the development of a planned city as soon as ca 2450 and may be earlier. Two centuries later, this second city experienced a strong destruction before being built again. Tilbeshar was never abandoned but it suffered a major reduction in size at the beginning of the 2nd millennium. The regeneration of the whole town in the Middle Bronze II was associated with important preparation works.

Susanne Kerner
Carsten Niebuhr Institute, University of Copenhagen

RANK AND STATUS IN CHALCOLITHIC SOUTHERN LEVANT

The existence of a ranked society has often been claimed for the Chalcolithic Southern Levant. But although the material evidence points towards such an assumption, there are few systematic studies of the ways craft production or visual expression might support this notion. The clearly regionally determined distribution pattern of objects with cultic or social meaning (such as the basalt stands from the Golan or the ivory objects from the Negev) and their possible importance for the negotiation of social identity and prestige will be discussed in this paper.

The pattern of production and consumption in craft production of pottery as well as metal will form the background for such a discussion. Both materials clearly indicate the existence of craft specialisation in the Late Chalcolithic and in the case of metal also of controlled production – another possible indication for a ranked society. The different categories of metal finds might be interpreted as standing for different levels of prestige (or authority?).

David Kertai
University of Leiden

THE PUBLIC REALM IN THE PRIVATE DOMAIN:
AN ANALYSIS OF ELITE HOUSES IN THE MITANNIAN AND MIDDLE-ASSYRIAN EMPIRES

Elite houses combine a complex set of, among others, economical, political, and residential functions. They can be seen as the places where these realms interact. The spatial organisation of these buildings is an important aspect of how these societies are organised. This paper will focus on the notions of the public and private. Empires call into question the common distinction made between these spheres. The modern notion of the public outdoors versus the private indoors does not stand up to scrutiny. This is because the empire itself is the private property of its monarch where as the royal residence can be seen as the most important public building. The labels of public and private do not grasp the organisation of space and its use in ancient societies. This paper will take the elite houses of the Mitannian and Middle-Assyrian Empires as its case study and look at the relationship between the organisation of these residences and society in general.

Levent Keskin
Ankara University

THE DEVELOPMENT OF WEST ANATOLIAN METALWORKING UNTIL THE END OF THE EARLY BRONZE AGE:
NEW EVIDENCE FROM IZMIR REGION

Anatolia has been one of the major centers where earliest metallurgical and metalworking activities began in the Old World. Remarkable examples with a variety of materials, forms and techniques throughout the whole peninsula represent the technical skills achieved by different local schools. Western Anatolia was one of the leading regions as shown by the wealthy treasure finds from Troia.

The results of the Izmir Region Excavations and Research Project (IRERP) show important metalworking activities in the heart of the western Anatolian coastal zone. The project aims to achieve a wider perspective and a better understanding of the prehistoric cultures of Izmir region and its contribution to the Anatolian and Aegean cultures by systematic surveys and excavations. The finds from the project sites show that the first activities began in the Late Chalcolithic period and achieved a remarkable level during the Early Bronze Age, supported by the advantages of its geographical position and natural resources. Archaeological finds and results of the preliminary analysis indicate intensive contacts of the region both with overseas and inland zones.

This paper deals with the beginning and development of western Anatolian metalworking with a special emphasis on the latest results related to metallurgical and metalworking activities from Liman Tepe and Bakla Tepe, excavated within the frame of Izmir Region Excavations and Research Project (IRERP).

Sepideh Khaksar
Tehran University

ARCHAEOLOGIC AND ETHNOGRAFIC ANALOGIES BETWEEN THE ANCIENT ELAMITE LUTE
AND CONTEMPORARY LUTE LIKE INSTRUMENTS IN IRAN

This research aims to present a study of contemporary and ancient musical instruments from an archaeological point of view.

My focus is on the ancient Elamite musical instruments, especially the Elamite lute (from around 3300 BC to 600 BC), based on archaeological finds from the different Elamite sites such as Susa, Haft Tappe and other sites. My main interest lies in the relationship between ancient and contemporary musical instruments in this area. Here the Musician figurines which have been made of terracotta are the most valuable resources for my present subject of studies. In following text I would give a general view of Elam civilization, which unfortunately has been neglected.

This study tries to face issues like:

1. the history of Lute in Middle East;
2. the structural study of elements and matter of Elamite Lute;
3. the possible playing styles;
4. the musical instruments which could be derived from Elamite Lute;
5. the comparison between reconstructed and the contemporary instrument.

Esmail Khald Rehman
Sulaimanyie Muséum (Kurdistan, Iraq)

PALEOLITHIC SURVEY IN NORTHWEST ZAGROS, IRAQ-KURDISTAN (NEW DISCOVERY)

Zarda rock shelters, located between Darbendikhan and Sangaw in the Kirkuk province, are sites recently discovered by author in September of 2006. In this region, sites that were complex of two rock shelters and one cave have been recognized. These rock shelters had produced rich artifact assemblage. All stage of the tool making processes had been done in the sites. From typo-technological point of view, Middle Paleolithic Period is important in the Zarda rock shelters but also elements from the late Middle Paleolithic, Upper and Epi-Paleolithic (Zarzian) periods exist in the assemblage. Typical and atypical Levalloisian flake, points [type1, 2, 3, 4] and Mousterian scrapers plus Levalloisian core flake and blade are representing in the lithic material. Core flake and blade bear the uni- bi- and multi-directional platforms. Existence of burins, notched and denticulate pieces in the assemblage are notable. Here, like other Mousterian lithic materials in Zagros region, radial cores preparations are absent. Zarda rock shelters are the first Middle Paleolithic sites in the region characterized by Mousterian scrapers, Levalloisian flake and points. Sites were used as basic camp by the Middle Paleolithic hunter-gatherers. More or less, these sites are similar with other Middle Paleolithic site of the Zagros region like Shanidar (D), Hazar Myrd and also Warwasi in Iran. Geographically, neighboring of the Shakhy Zarda site with Mesopotamian top hills and its independence to the Zagros region, it had a strategic location for the better understanding the Middle Paleolithic cultural/technological changing and ancient human inhabitation methods in the Zagros and Mesopotamian steppes. More and next survey in the region and establishing excavation in the mentioned sites that have preserved archaeological deposits will open new horizons to Paleolithic archaeology of the Zagros and Mesopotamia areas.

Lamya Khalidi ^a, Salam al-Kuntar ^b

^a CEPAM - CNRS, Université de Nice

^b Department of Antiquities, Damascus

OBSIDIAN PRODUCTION AND EXCHANGE DURING THE LATE CHALCOLITHIC II PERIOD
AT TELL HAMOUKAR AND TELL BRAK

Two seasons of excavation in the Southern Extension (Area Z) at Tell Hamoukar have established the site as an active participant in inter and intra-regional exchange during the Late Chalcolithic 2. During this period, Hamoukar acted as a regional production center and its economic growth was in step with the wider regional trend towards urbanism. The Southern Extension comprises an area of 280 ha. that includes variable settlement density within which three phases of Late Chalcolithic 2 occupation have been identified. Evidence reveals that there was extensive production of obsidian which appears to be denser than the expected needs for local consumption, unlike at Tell Brak, and insinuates exchange. The Southern Extension provides the densest occurrence of non-local obsidians known to date in the region. A pressure blade technology supported by a complete obsidian blade production sequence is present throughout the site in large numbers. The scale of obsidian production is matched by local pottery production and a number of smaller scale specialized crafts. The Hamoukar lithic assemblage implicates the site as an important center of production and exchange in the Late Chalcolithic 2. This data will be compared to results from recent excavations in area TW at Tell Brak.

Alireza Khosrowzadeh
Iranian Center for Archaeological Research

PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF THE 1ST SEASON OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY
IN FARSAN, BAKHTIARI REGION, IRAN

Farsan District is located in the North of the Bakhtiari region, South of Zagros Mountains. The area consists of a rather small plain (20 x 10 km) and several side valleys. This highland area has never been investigated archaeologically. Our information about the archaeology of Bakhtiari Region are restricted to Zagarell's works in the 70's, who conducted several fieldworks in central and southern Bakhtiari.

The survey took two months (summer 2007); thereby we could recognize 216 sites from the Palaeolithic to the late Islamic period. The Palaeolithic sites include cave, open-air sites, and workshops. Neolithic sites, both nomadic and permanent, are usually found in side valleys. During the Chalcolithic, the number of sites increases drastically. The sites of this period were mostly located in side valleys and their materials show similarities with contemporary sites on Fars (South), Khuzistan (West) and the Central Plateau (East). We could recognize few sites dated to 4th and 3rd millennia BC maybe because of the few information we have of the pottery assemblages of this periods.

In 2nd millennium BC (the Elamite Period in south-western Iran), the number of sites in the surveyed area is still low. The sites of this period were located on the mountain foot and in small side valleys. The pottery assemblages show some similarities with those of Khuzistan.

During the Iron Age the number of sites increases and includes both settlements and cemeteries. Their materials are similar to those from well known sites of western Iran. In Achaemenid, Parthian, and Sasanid periods the number of sites ever increases and again are distributed mostly in side valleys.

We surveyed many sites of Islamic period; these include settlements, Imam zadeh, bridges, fortresses, cemeteries, and small and large mounded sites.

Fiona Kidd
University of Sydney, Australia

EXPRESSIONS OF STATUS ON THE KAZAKLY-YATKAN WALL PAINTINGS

A portrait gallery dated to the 1st century BC is one of many subjects represented in the extensive mural art of the monumental site of Kazakly-yatkan in ancient Chorasmia. Portraying an essentially uniform physiognomy, those depicted in the portraits are differentiated predominantly on the basis of their costume. This emphasis on costume is critical because it is a primary signifier of status. It seems that the portraits represent personages of defined status categories. Although these categories are unclear, the homogeneity of the physiognomy seems to highlight the significance of the status of these personages, rather than the personages as individuals. Is status emphasized over individuality? Key to this question is the identity, including the gender, of those depicted. The wall paintings at Kazakly-yatkan, the second largest site in ancient Chorasmia, are being excavated by the Karakalpak-Australian Expedition to Chorasmia. The paintings are among the most extensive and best preserved in pre-Kushan Central Asia and are to be seen in the broader context of the Iranian world. The portraits in particular have clear parallels in Parthian Iran. They present a unique opportunity to explore visual representations of status in an elite context in ancient Chorasmia during the 1st century BC.

Winfried Kockelmann see Martine de Vries-Melein

Maryam Kolbadinejad see Ali Mahfrozzi

Lorenz Korn
Universität Bamberg

SELJUK FRIDAY MOSQUES: TRANSFORMATION OF URBAN SPACE IN WESTERN IRAN

The architectural transformation of the mosque in Iran under the Seljuks is a major step in the history of Islamic architecture. Dome chambers and iwan courtyards were introduced where the hypostyle type had hitherto prevailed. Conflicting theories and different interpretations have been connected with this phenomenon. The key monument to the development of the Seljuk Iranian Mosque, the Friday Mosque of Isfahan, has been thoroughly researched; but the relationship between Isfahan and other monuments is far from clear. Archaeological soundings in the Friday Mosque of Golpayegan have been conducted in 2007 by the University of Bamberg in cooperation with the Iranian Cultural Heritage Organisation, to identify building phases of this monument, with its dome chamber built shortly after that of Isfahan. In addition, research at Golpayegan aims at clarifying the position of the mosque in the urban structure of the city.

Tatiana Kornienko
Voronezh State Pedagogical University, Russia

TWO STAGES IN THE PROCESS OF FORMING CULT CONSTRUCTION TRADITION
IN PREHISTORIC MESOPOTAMIA

The documentary basis of my research is represented by archaeological reports and publications on excavations in the earliest farming settlements of Mesopotamia (from the end of 9th to the first half of 4th millennium BC). This period can be characterized as one of the stages in the history of the ancient Mesopotamian society development, from the earliest farming villages up to the first city-states. Taking into consideration time and space limits, 25 sites were chosen for thorough analysis, data of which prove the facts of cult actions where not ordinary constructions were situated. To summarize, I would like to mention that formation of the cult construction tradition in prehistoric Mesopotamia was a long and complicated process, and not single-lined. It was the result of a number of the earliest farming communities' development. There were two stages in the process, the Aceramic Neolith period (Northern Mesopotamia) and the period of the first developed farming cultures of a specific flat country type settling over the huge territories in northern, central and southern parts of Mesopotamia. The process finished at the so-called proto-city stage of Mesopotamian history when prerequisites for constructing special cult buildings developed by the earliest farming cultures resulted in a united architectural complex. The comparable evidence of the complex formation was found both in southern and northern Mesopotamia. Since that period temples had become large religious, administrative and economic centers in ancient Mesopotamian urban settlements.

Gulriz Kozbe
Aegean University, Turkey

THE NEW ASSYRIAN BURIALS RECOVERED AT THE EXCAVATIONS
OF KAVUŞAN HÖYÜK IN THE UPPER TIGRIS REGION

Kavuşan Höyük is located on the South bank of the Tigris River in Diyarbakir Province of southeastern Turkey. The archaeological excavations have been conducted at Kavuşan since 2001 in the Upper Tigris river region in the frame of Ilisu Dam construction project. It is well known that the Upper Tigris River Valley was an outstanding province on the northern edge of the Assyrian Empire with its provincial capital of Tushhan by the middle of the 10th century BC due to its economical potential.

Based on the results of the ongoing excavations, Kavuşan Höyük is a site that was fully occupied during the New Assyrian period and especially with its contemporary burials it has been gained a significant status

in the region. The burials are recovered mostly at the top of Kavuşan Höyük's main mound and on the southern slope. There are differences in burial practices such as cremations, simple pit inhumations and burials in jars. But there is no severe boundary between the practices in the burial area. Among the total of twenty-two urns, sixteen inhumations and five burials in jar, a high proportion of the burials in the cemetery is female adults while children stand as the second. Most of the child inhumations and burials in jar contained jewellery. Noteworthy grave goods discovered in the child burials include bead necklaces and bracelets, a bronze bracelet and several beads. The poor state of some skeletal preservations did not permit us to determine the sexuality of all burials. The meaning of the difference between burial practices may reflect distinctions within the community in social identity such as age, gender, and/or socio-economic status.

Harmut Kühne

Frei Universität Berlin

ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL CHANGE - AN ISSUE IN NEAR EASTERN ARCHAEOLOGY?

Since the 60s concepts of formation of society and social change were introduced to Near Eastern History and Archaeology. They permeated and changed archaeological ideas on culture which until then were structured by and large by conceptions of the Fine Arts. During recent years, environmental studies have increasingly demonstrated that there is what may be labeled a third dimension to the interpretation and explanation of society of the past, present and future. However, what is the mutual relation between environment and socio-economic behavior of cultures and has it become an issue in Archaeology by now?

Salam al-Kuntar^a, Khalid Abu Jayyab^b

^a Co-director of the Tell Hamoukar Excavations, Department of Antiquities, Damascus & University of Cambridge.

^b Doctoral Researcher, Faculty of Archaeology, University of Leiden

NEW CHRONOLOGICAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE LATE CHALCOLITHIC IN NORTHERN MESOPOTAMIA.
"CURRENT PERIODISATION: RECONSIDERED"

In this paper we will present a preliminary chronology based on analysis of the ceramics recovered from recent excavations of late Chalcolithic date, mainly at Tell Hamoukar and Tell Brak in the North-East of Syria. A preliminary late Chalcolithic ceramic typology has been established for the two sites and a wider region, defined to extend between the Zagros foothills to the East and the Khabur Basin to the West. The ceramic assemblages of Tell Hamoukar pertain to three distinct areas of the site, including the main mound and the Southern Extension, and are thus stratigraphically discontinuous. This discontinuity can be complemented by materials from other stratified northern Mesopotamian sequences such as those at Tell Brak and Tepe Gawra. The integration of the ceramic sequences from these sites will produce a more comprehensive ceramic chronology for this wider region. This paper will re-assess the late Chalcolithic 2 and 3 periodisation as defined during the Santa Fe Conference held in 2000, by including identifiable subdivisions in the pottery sequences of these periods.

Salam al-Kuntar see Lamya Khalidi

Walter Kuntner, Sandra Heinsch

Institut für Alte Geschichte und Altorientalistik, University of Innsbruck

THE “OSTBURG OF ARAMUS” - AN URARTIAN AND ACHAEMENID FORTRESS

Since 2004 the University of Yerevan and the University of Innsbruck are conducting archaeological researches at the Iron Age Fortress of Aramus 20 km Northeast of Erebuni. The results attained so far enable to distinguish two main fortification periods - period I (Achaemenid) and period II (Late Urartian) - lasting together from 7th to 4th century BC, thus performing a valuable parallel to the excavation results from Erebuni attained by Felix I. Ter-Martirosov since 1998.

One of the most remarkable results at Aramus was the evidence that the period interface between period I and period II is marked by a transitional unfortified phase datable to the 6th century BC. The “unfortified intermezzo” in the Fortress of Aramus may reasonably be seen in a context of the shift from decline and re-emergence of a centralized power in the Ararat plain region. On the other hand, it signals the continuity of rural settlement albeit the political changes.

Walter Kuntner see Wilfrid Allinger-Csollich

Denis Lacambre

Université Charles-de-Gaulle Lille 3

ON THE WEIGHT OF OBJECTS IN THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST:
FOR A DIALOGUE BETWEEN EPIGRAPHY AND ARCHAEOLOGY

The ancient Near East has left us a sizeable body of written documents, of which the archives about metal make up a not inconsiderable part. Metal was a rare material, and its circulation gave rise to detailed book-keeping. To an administrator in antiquity it was not the object's appearance that primarily mattered, so much as its mass. The important thing was to be able to note the weight of the metal changing hands. The texts from the ancient city of Mari in Syria, dating from the 19th and 18th centuries BC, provide us with some particularly interesting certifications. Among the 15,000 to 20,000 tablets discovered, at least a thousand of them have to do with accounting for metal. But, despite this plentiful documentation, it is hard to correlate the written data with the objects coming from the archaeological digs. Indeed, the great majority of archaeological studies, one finds, are based on typological analysis and so do not take weight into account as a datum (besides objects made of precious materials or a few extraordinary discoveries). The point is not to deny the contributions of typology, essential as it is for the scientific analysis of artefacts, but rather to draw attention to the benefits of collecting one objective piece of information: mass. The information would be the more worthwhile for not entailing damage to the object. This would enable us to compare the written sources with the archaeological data, and perhaps then to identify and date objects with more confidence.

C.S. Larsen see D. Baird

Gaëlle Le Dosseur
Centre de Recherche Français de Jérusalem

CONTRIBUTION OF A CRAFT PRODUCTION, BONE INDUSTRY, TO THE QUESTION OF THE TRANSITION FROM
PRE-POTTERY NEOLITHIC B TO PRE-POTTERY NEOLITHIC C IN SOUTHERN LEVANT

Our research deals with the place of a craft production, bone industry, in the process of Neolithization in the Levant. After having studied the three initial phases - Natufian, Pre-Pottery Neolithic A and B - we started to enlarge our perspectives to the last steps of Neolithization - Pre-Pottery Neolithic C and Pottery Neolithic - in order to understand the full process.

In this congress, we decided to present our contribution, from the bone industry point of view, to the definition of Pre-Pottery Neolithic C, a period still hardly known. How people exploit animals when herding is intensified? How the production is organized, from a technical point of view as from an economical and social point of view, when the structure set up during the Pre-Pottery Neolithic B seems to become more flexible? According to the characteristics of bone industry during Pre-Pottery Neolithic C, we would like to evaluate the place of this period in the process of Neolithization. Is it in continuity with Pre-Pottery Neolithic B?¹ Or is it in complete rupture, as it is suggested by G. Rollefson and H. Khalaily after him?² From the bone industry point of view, the first proposition is the most relevant. We don't contest that there are some important changes between Pre-Pottery Neolithic B and Pre-Pottery Neolithic C, specially in the lithic field, but we balance the idea of rupture between the two periods. Doing so, we balance the abruptness of some divisions in the process of Neolithization, often set up without taking into account the bone industry.

Marie Le Mière
Archéorient (UMR 5133 - CNRS)

IN SEARCH OF THE BEGINNING OF POTTERY IN THE NEAR EAST: THE NEW DATA IN JEZIRAH

Recent discoveries in Jezirah, particularly in the Khabur valley, at Tell Seker al-Aheimar, and in the Euphrates valley, at Akarçay Tepe, provide new data about the context of appearing of pottery technique as well as about the type of productions and the development of the technique. New questions raised by these data will be presented concerning the origin and the possible reasons of the first uses of this technique.

Anna Rita Lisella
"Sapienza" Università di Roma

MONSTERS FROM THE DEEP:
THE CRUDE CLAY FIGURINES FROM THE *FAVISSA* P.9308 (TELL MARDIKH/EBLA)

More than 200 crude clay figurines were found during the excavations of the new area (HH) in the south-eastern part of the lower town of Ebla. They come from the Middle Bronze Age *favissa* P.9308 found in the southern part of the excavation area, outside the Middle Bronze Age Temples of this sacred area.

¹ O. Bar Yosef and R. H. Meadow, The origins of agriculture in the Near East: T.D. Price et A.B. Gebauer (éds.), *Last Hunters - First Farmers: New Perspectives on the Prehistoric Transition to Agriculture*, School of American Research Press, Santa Fe, New Mexico 1995, p. 39-94.; N. Goring-Morris and A. Belfer-Cohen, The Articulation of Cultural Processes and Late Quaternary Environmental Changes in Cisjordan: *Paléorient* 23/2 (1998), pp. 71-93.

² G. Rollefson and I. Köhler-Rollefson, The collapse of Early Neolithic Settlement in the Southern Levant: I. Hershkovitz (éd.), *People and Culture in Change* (B.A.R.-I.S. 508), Oxford 1989, pp. 73-89; G. Rollefson and I. Köhler-Rollefson, PPNC Adaptations in the first Half of the 6th Millenium BC: *Paléorient* 19/1 (1993), pp. 33-42.; H. Khalaily, *Lithic Traditions During the End of the Pre Pottery Neolithic B Period and the Question of the Pre Pottery Neolithic C Period in the Southern Levant*, PhD thesis, University of Beersheba 2006.

This class of objects is particularly interesting since are an *unicum* at Ebla/Tell Mardikh and they belong to a close stratigraphic context such as the *favissa* P.9308.

The aim of this paper is the study of the crude clay figurines found in their stratigraphic contexts and the layout of a preliminary typology of the main classes of them: human figurines and objects made with a crude clay. Although this collection is fragile and raw in shape and solidity, they possess an high symbolic meaning in the cult traditions at Ebla as an expression of low piety.

Kenneth Lönnqvist ^a, Minna Lönnqvist ^a, Martti Nissinen ^a, Milton Nuñez ^b, Jari Okkonen ^b, Helena Riihiahio ^c, Margot Stout Whiting ^a, Markus Törmä ^a

^a University of Helsinki, Finland

^b University of Oulu, Finland

^c University of Uppsala, Sweden

DESERTIFICATION AND ETHNOARCHAEOLOGY:
STUDYING HAZARDS IN THE NOMADIC ENVIRONMENT OF JEBEL BISHRI IN SYRIA

Climate change and its impact on nomadic life can be scrutinized from a long-term perspective at Jebel Bishri belonging to the Palmyride mountain belt in Syria. The area has been a nomadic habitat for millennia. A satellite image perspective provides information about desertification and its pace in modern times in the region. Ethnoarchaeology in this vulnerable area opens a loop to possible past choices that nomadic people have had during environmental hazards. The movement of the desertification line can nowadays be monitored by Landsat satellite images covering several decades, and the relationship of the line to the shifting cultivation of Bedouins can be studied. The ethnoarchaeological study of the Bedouin life and the living compounds in the region reveals the dynamics leading to sedentarization vis-à-vis site abandonment processes. The impact of availability of water and periods of droughts on this life cycle are analyzed taking into account the socio-political situations. Implications of the results of these ethnoarchaeological studies are discussed in the light of the archaeological evidence and the past situations in the region.

Minna Lönnqvist see Kenneth Lönnqvist

Mireia López-Bertran see Agnès Garcia-Ventura

Kirsi O. Lorentz
Newcastle University

HAIR, BONE AND TEETH: RECONSTRUCTING LIFE FROM HUMAN REMAINS
AT 3RD MILLENNIUM BC SHAHR-E SOKHTE (SISTAN, IRAN)

This paper has four objectives: 1) to review the current status of analyses of the Shahr-e Sokhte human remains, including hair, nail, bone and teeth; 2) to present new evidence on ante-mortem tooth loss and activity induced dental wear at Shahr-e Sokhte; 3) to present new results on the analyses of non-osseous remains, including human hair, from Shahr-e Sokhte; and 4) to interpret these patterns and their implications for understanding life ways at Shahr-e Sokhte. The evidence for irregular and diffuse dental wear, directional grooving, and specific patterns of ante-mortem tooth loss are consistent with the hypothesis that the human dentition was used as a “third hand”, or a tool, at Shahr-e Sokhte, a site renowned for its extensive crafts activities. Exceptional preservation of non-osseous human remains allows stable isotope analyses of human hair, providing access to nutritional status shortly prior to death, as opposed to the averaged longer-term values available through bone. Patterns of sub-adult skeletal growth further aid reconstructions of life. Human remains from Shahr-e Sokhte provide a rich source of evidence for reconstructing life during the 3rd millennium BC, both in terms of its cultural and physical aspects.

Jaimie Lovell

Amman Research Officer, Council for British Research in the Levant

THE RITUAL LANDSCAPE PROJECT - ARCHAEOLOGY UNDERGROUND IN JORDAN

The Ritual Landscapes Project was designed to investigate differential burial practice in the Chalcolithic period. In particular the project has focused upon the use of caves for burial and caching of objects in the Chalcolithic period in the southern Levant. In addition we have been documenting cairns and dolmen because these also form part of the complex ritual landscape of the late prehistoric periods.

Mortuary practice is seen to be a key element for understanding socio-political structures, but the project is also opening up new views of how prehistoric people traversed and saw their landscape - both above ground and underground. It allows us to integrate the little understood underground world with a network of above ground sites.

Late Neolithic and Chalcolithic cave burial is a practice heavily documented in Israel but no sites are known from Jordan. The reason that they are becoming more widely known in Israel is perhaps the speed and level at which development is proceeding there. However, an emphasis on more ephemeral evidence for cult in the Chalcolithic obscured the much more concrete evidence for elaborate burial ritual and sophisticated landscape use that were characteristic features of the Chalcolithic period. Karstic cave systems are present only in certain geological zones. In Israel and the occupied territories these caves appear in what is termed the Bina formation. In Jordan the Wadi as Sir limestone overlies an active aquifer system within the Shu'yaib, Humar and Fuheis formations, and these form the basis of the karstic cave formation.

The well known "Cave of the Treasure" at Nahal Mishmar (Bar-Adon 1981) in the Judean desert was thought to be an isolated albeit astonishing find but recent discoveries West of the Jordan River have demonstrated clearly that Chalcolithic ossuary cave sites are widespread. The impressive wealth in these caves, in the form of gold ingots (now famously on display in the Israel Museum, Jerusalem) and other metallic artefacts has made their discovery even more astounding.

The Ritual Landscapes Project has surveyed two major blocks of Wadi es Sir limestone (one in the northern highlands and the other in the Mujib/Hidan/Wadi Zerqa-Ma'in zone). During the survey we located a large number of previously unknown caves in the lateral wadis of the Rift Valley that demonstrate use in the Late Neolithic, Chalcolithic, Bronze and Iron Ages and beyond. This paper outlines the challenges in exploring underground landscapes and presents some new insights into how in different sub-regions, late prehistoric people may have used their landscape differently.

Bertille Lyonnet

CNRS, Paris

THE LATE CHALCOLITHIC CULTURES IN WEST AZERBAIJAN: RECENT EXCAVATIONS AND SURVEYS

The Caucasus area has recently been the focus of many new researches from archaeologists coming from the Near East. This helped to establish that the so-called pre-Uruk expansion in the first half of the 4th millennium did not stop in Arslantepe but went well further North into Transcaucasia (Leilatepe and Berikldeebi) and on the northern slopes of the Great Caucasus (Maikop culture). Recent excavations in western Azerbaijan (Soyuq Bulaq and Boyuk Kesik) have given more evidence of the close relationships in the material culture between these areas and northern Mesopotamia, but also with the Urmia zone (Sé Girdan). It provided new information about the possible way of life of the local population and their mortuary rituals. The paper will present the major discoveries and will try to underline the interactions at work between Mesopotamia and the Caucasus during the Late Chalcolithic.

Jodi Magness

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

EARLY ISLAMIC POTTERY:
A REVOLUTION IN DIET AND DINING HABITS?

Over the course of the 8th century, the repertoire of fine table wares that had been common around the eastern Mediterranean under Roman and Byzantine rule was replaced by new types. By the 9th century, the inhabitants of this region were setting their tables with colorfully glazed dishes and fine buff wares instead of the red-slipped wares of the Roman tradition. In this paper I consider what this evidence tells us about changes in diet and dietary habits. I suggest that these developments not only reflect stylistic (fashion) preferences but reflect the introduction of new types of foods under Muslim rule. These foods were prepared and served differently from traditional Roman cuisine and affected the manner in which people set their tables and dined.

Ali Mahfroofi ^a, Maryam Kolbadinejad ^b

^a Iranian Cultural Handicraft, Heritage and Tourism Organization of Mazandaran

^b Tarbiat Modares University, Tehran, Iran

ECONOMICAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH AND SOUTH-EAST REGION OF CASPIAN SEA FROM 3RD
TO 1ST MILLENNIUM BC ON THE BASIS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDIES AND INTER-FIELD SCIENCES

This research project was designed for choosing a model of studies in South and South-East of Caspian sea. Almost 10 professionals and 120 researchers cooperated for 5 years. This region is 4000 km² and is suitable for agriculture and pastoralism with great climatic condition and mineral potentials (even nowadays this area is the main part for this in Iran). Because of political and social reasons, economical powers and governments necessarily took shape in this region from late 4th millenium BC.

With inspection about settlement models in Neolithic and Early Chalcolithic, this area based on irrigation model (with permanent and temporarily rivers) and seems probably because of some social and political forces from beyond region led to forming governments and urbanism. GoharTepe is the one of the most supreme sites from that time. The extent of GoharTepe is about 50 ha and excavated for 5 season .

The condition of forming governments and urbanism happened for less than 2000 years and in the middle of 2nd millenium BC most of these sites like GoharTepe, HisarTepe, YarimTepe and ToorangTepe were abandoned or became small and mountain area of south and south-west and south-east of Azerbaijan to KoopDagh in Turkmenestan for the first time in the middle of 2nd millenium B.C. in the form of fertile crescent became important. This subject could be followed in forming inter-mountain plains like GhalepeyTepe and TepeKelar in Kelardasht.

This process will inspect in the article completely.

Mohsen Makki see Barbara Helwing

Nicolò Marchetti

Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna

THE 2006 AND 2007 TURKISH-ITALIAN EXCAVATIONS AND RESTORATIONS AT TILMEN HÖYÜK

The 2006 and 2007 excavations of Bologna University, with funds also by the Italian Ministries for Foreign Affairs and for Education, University and Research, have been undertaken at Tilmen Höyük in cooperation also with Genova, Istanbul and Adana Universities. On the acropolis, a detailed sequence spanning the Middle Bronze Age and early Late Bronze Age was obtained in area G, while in area K-5 we

discovered a monumental Middle Bronze II residency. In the north-eastern corner of the acropolis (area Q) a large fortress was brought to light, in which several clay sealings were collected, one of which brought seven impressions of the seal of a servant of Sumulael, king of Babylon. In the north-western corner of the lower town, two MB II fortresses were investigated in area P, while some other operations were effected in the countryside around the site (in areas R, V, Z). The Tilmen Archaeological and Environmental Park was officially opened in October 2007, supplying a new integrated concept of site conservation, presentation and management.

Giulio Maresca

Università degli Studi di Napoli, L'Orientale

RECONSIDERING THE POTTERY FROM DAHAN-I GHULAMAN (IRAN, SISTAN - 6TH CENTURY BC):
NEW TYPOLOGICAL AND PRODUCTIVE DATA

The site of Dahan-i Ghulaman, in Iranian Sistan, at some 30 km South-East of Zabul, was excavated in the years 1962-1965 by a team of the former IsMEO (Istituto Italiano per il Medio ed Estremo Oriente), nowadays IsIAO (Istituto Italiano per l'Africa e l'Oriente), directed by the late Prof. Umberto Scerrato, and was identified as the capital city of the Achaemenid satrapy of Zranka.

Since then, the pottery recovered was only preliminary described by Scerrato and by Genito. The present reappraisal of the pottery from Dahan-i Ghulaman is part of a PhD research on material culture and settlement developments in Sistan from Achaemenid to Sasanid period and is based upon over 3000 fragments stored in Rome, in the IsIAO's Centro Scavi e Ricerche Archeologiche and in the Museo Nazionale d'Arte Orientale, according to an agreement between the IsMEO and the former Imperial Service for the Antiquities of Iran.

From the analysis of this unpublished assemblage, beside enrichments in typological classification, interesting details emerge regarding a pottery production which, despite the presence of various different fabrics, seems largely morphologically standardized, well reflecting the nature of the site, considered by the excavator an urban centre entirely pre-ordered by the Empire's central administration.

Catherine Marro

CNRS-UMR 5133 Maison de l'Orient et de la Méditerranée Lyon

LATE CHALCOLITHIC OR EARLY BRONZE AGE? TRANSITIONS AND OTHER METHODOLOGICAL PROBLEMS
IN THE MIDDLE EUPHRATES BASIN AT THE END OF THE 4TH MILLENNIUM BC

The excavations carried out at Horum Höyük (Birecik valley, Turkey) in the late 1990s revealed a long occupation sequence, uninterrupted from the end of the 4th well into the 3rd millennium BC. Continuity in the material culture is evident first of all through building techniques together with ceramic shapes and technology. Comparisons with other excavated sites in the area suggest that this cultural sequence corresponds to the end of Late Chalcolithic and the beginning of the Early Bronze Age, but what value should we attribute to these terms within the frame of the overall cultural and occupational continuity, perceptible not only at Horum Höyük but also at neighbouring sites in the Carchemish area? After a short presentation of the archaeological evidence at hand, this paper will concentrate on few methodological problems relating to the definition of this period.

L. Martin see D. Baird

Maria Grazia Masetti-Rouault ^a, Sabrina Salmon ^b

^a Sorbonne University, Paris

^b Lyons 2 University (France) and Catholic University - Louvain -la Neuve (Belgium)

THE NEO-ASSYRIAN COLONY OF TELL MASAĪKH IN THE SYRIAN LOWER MIDDLE EUPHRATES VALLEY AND ITS REGION: A REPORT ABOUT THE LAST EXCAVATIONS

The excavations and epigraphic finds of the French archaeological Mission in Tell Masaikh, in the Syrian lower middle Euphrates Valley (in the Terqa area, but in the eastern bank, on the Jazirah side), have already shown the complexity of the history of this Neo-Assyrian colony during the Iron II period. Founded on an ancient tell by king Assurnasirpal II, Kar-Assurnasirpal has been completely reorganized, at the beginning of the 8th century, by Nergal-eresh, governor of the Rasappa province. He rebuilt the town as his own residence, with a palace, to function as a political and economic centre, a basis for his new project of agricultural exploitation of this part of the Euphrates valley. Recent researches on the site, finding evidence of the architectural change in the palatial and urban structures, and also surveys in the region around, demonstrating a different pattern of occupation, throw new light on the evolution of the town under Nergal-eresh and his local successors, stopped by a strong reaction of the Imperial power, probably already under Tiglath-pileser III's rule.

Serena Massa

THE "ADAMJI" ARCHIVE:
SAMPLING CRITERIA AND CLASSIFICATION PROCEDURES
FOR THE CHARACTERIZATION OF UNGLAZED CERAMIC MANUFACTURES OF OLD ISFAHAN

The immense ceramic assemblage deriving from the archaeological contexts of the Masjed-e Juma of Isfahan represents a unique document to outline the chronological, manufacturing and distributional frame of the different pottery categories present on the site. Their classification has been conducted in order to single out the production centres, the area of pottery distribution and the relationships between producing and consuming centres, as well as other aspects related to the technological, functional and social meaning of the differing ceramic types.

In the excavations of the Masjed-e Juma of Isfahan the most frequent finds are glazed and unglazed ceramics.

A first selection has been made, therefore, amongst these two broad classes. A second step in the classification of the unglazed pottery is the distinction between diagnostic (rims, bases, decorated walls, handles) and un-diagnostic fragments (morphologically unidentifiable walls). In the third phase the diagnostic fragments have been classified and counted according to the corresponding fabric, in time identified by the macroscopic correspondence with selected samples.

The samples have been selected according to their significance in relation to statistical meaning, morphology and stratified provenance. After the macroscopic classification archaeometric analyses will follow.

Catherine Masserey
Université de Lausanne

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES IN TWO SETTLEMENTS OF COLCHIS,
WESTERN GEORGIA, 1ST MILLENIUM BC

The aim of the paper is to show the results of three campaigns of expedition done in 2006 and 2007 in two archaeological settlements in Colchis (western Georgia): Vani and Nokalakevi.

The first one is very well known as temples' city in the 3rd century BC and has also shown occupations layers between 8th and 1st centuries BC, in particular very rich burials were unearthed. Nokalakevi, an important administrative centre in the late Roman and Byzantine periods (4-5th centuries AD), has also deeper anthropic layers of the 1st millenium BC.

In these two sites, new pluridisciplinary researches have be done under the form of some stratigraphical trenches in interesting and well preserved parts of the settlements. The archaeological material and soil samples have been carefully collected in the aims to elaborate a chronotypology of the pottery, to describe the sedimentary history of the sites and to reconstitute a picture of the ancient landscape through the study of the palaeovegetational remains. In this paper the main accent will be put on the new data obtained in 2006 and 2007.

Timothy Matney^a, Tasha Vorderstrasse^b, Rémi Berthon^c

^aUniversity of Akron, Ohio

^bNetherlands Institute for the Near East

^cMusée National d'Histoire naturelle, Paris

ISLAMIC ARCHAEOLOGY AT ZIYARET TEPE IN THE DIYARBAKIR REGION OF TURKEY

Current understanding of Islamic archaeology in eastern Turkey remains problematic due to the lack of excavated and published sites. The investigation of the site of Ziyaret Tepe, located East of Diyarbakir on the Tigris, has added considerably to our understanding of the region. The site was either a small village or farm-holding, whose primarily period of occupation was in the Middle Islamic period. The site was not highly monetized, nor does it seem that the inhabitants used many expensive luxury goods. The pottery at Ziyaret Tepe has connections with site on the Euphrates and in North Syria pointing to connections between various regions. This paper will look at the evidence for Islamic occupation at Ziyaret Tepe, focusing on the information that the pottery and faunal remains can tell us about the inhabitants at the site and the different cultural influences that they lived under.

Valérie Matoïan

Maison de l'Orient, Lyon

A PLURIDISCIPLINARY PROGRAM FOR THE STUDY OF THE ROYAL PALACE AT UGARIT: THE OBJECTS AS AN EXPRESSION OF THE ROYAL SPHERE

The excavations carried out during the 20th century on the site of Ras Shamra revealed one of the most important palace complexes in the Near East for the Late Bronze Age (16th - beginning of 12th BC), that of the ancient city of Ugarit. Although the royal palace was the largest building in the city and its excavation has produced several thousand objects, this monumental ensemble has essentially remained unpublished except for a few exceptional objects and the text archives that were published rapidly in the series "Le Palais royal d'Ugarit". The first volume, which was to have been devoted to the history and the organisation of the building, and to the objects discovered therein, never appeared nor did the volume on the architecture which was to have been authored by W. Forrer. Parallel to the architectural study, a program of multidisciplinary and collective research concerning the objects discovered in the palace was undertaken, as part of the Syro-French archaeological mission of Ras Shamra-Ugarit. This approach gives new data on the objects as an expression of the royal sphere.

Kimiyoshi Matsumura ^a, Takayuki Omori ^b

^a Japanese Institute of Anatolian Archaeology

^b Center for Chronological Research AMS group, Department of Earth and Environmental Science, Nagoya University

RECONSIDERING THE IRON AGE CHRONOLOGY IN ANATOLIA:
AN APPROACH STARTING FROM THE EXCAVATIONS AT KAMAN-KALEHÖYÜK

The Iron Age absolute chronology in Anatolia relies entirely on the dating of the burned layer at Yassı Höyük, Gordion. Recently a new dating of this layer was proposed and according to this the layer should be dated ca. 100 years older than before. But from the traditional relative chronological point of view there is a disagreement about this new dating. To cast new light on this problem, we are attempting to construct a new Iron Age chronology, that is independent from the dating at Gordion, at Kaman-Kalehöyük by combination of stratigraphic analysis and the AMS (Accelerator Mass Spectrometry) ¹⁴C dating method. In the stratigraphic analysis we use the Harris-Matrix method and, in order to estimate calendar age more precisely as well as accurately, we analyzed the measured ¹⁴C ages based on Bayesian statistics using an OxCal program.

Wendy Matthews, Roger Matthews

THE CENTRAL ZAGROS ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT (CZAP):
NEW RESEARCHES INTO PREHISTORY AND EARLY HISTORY OF CENTRAL WEST IRAN

Amihai Mazar

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

THE DISCOVERY OF IRON AGE BEE-KEEPING INDUSTRY AT TEL REHOV, ISRAEL

Excavations at Tel Rehov in northern Israel have revealed the only apiaries known so far from excavations in the ancient Near East. Though apiaries are seen in several Egyptian depictions and in texts from various parts of the ancient Near East, no such industry was ever discovered. The Tel Rehov apiaries were discovered inside a large and densely built 10-9th centuries BC city. Study of the unique Tel Rehov beehives entails archaeological and scientific data alongside rich iconographic and ethnographic comparanda.

The hives, shaped as elongated hollow cylinders averaging 80 cm long and 40 cm in diameter, were made of sun-dried mud mixed with straw and dung. In shape they recall traditional hives known from the entire eastern Mediterranean until recently. Three parallel rows were uncovered, with a reconstructed total of some 75 or even more beehives, containing over one million bees which could have produced as much as half a ton of honey per year and about 50-70 kg of wax. This magnitude alludes that this industry must have been organized under the control of some central authority, be it municipal, regional or federal. Evidence was found from ritual related to the production.

The research of the apiaries includes three types of scientific investigations: chemical, biological and pollen analysis. In addition ethnographic data is assembled as well as textual data from the ancient Near East related to beekeeping and the uses of honey and wax.

Andrew McCarthy
University of Edinburgh

“LET US SUBMIT TO THE HOUSE OF KISH”:
CYLINDER SEALS AND THE GENESIS OF STATE-LEVEL IDENTITY IN SUMER

The city of Kish was the seat of kingly authority and a central focus of state-level identity in southern Mesopotamia, such that anyone who sought control of the region assumed the title “the King of Kish”. The occupation of Kish does not predate the Jemdet Nasr period (3100-2900 BC) however, meaning that a collective Sumerian identity was either newly formed at the turn of the 3rd millennium, or the attribution of Kish as the political centre was projected upon a newly founded site. To understand the meaning of Sumerian state-level identity, we therefore must understand the role that Kish played in helping to solidify this concept. Unfortunately, while the results of the Oxford University/Field Museum excavations in the 1920’s and 30’s were published in a series of preliminary reports, no final report has yet been published for the site. While important and well-executed efforts to clarify the results of these excavations have been made by McGuire Gibson and Roger Moorey, much remains unpublished and surprisingly little is known about Kish. For this reason, information on the seals and seal impressions from Kish have been compiled into a single database and studied. The reassessment of the glyptic evidence shows that a standardised canon was established at the turn of the 3rd millennium, acting as a cultural marker or “flag” for the newly emerging and increasingly solidifying state-level identity in Sumer. This glyptic stylistic canon was highly influential in the 3rd millennium, and helped to hold together the group-identity of Mesopotamia. A reassessment of this old information demonstrates the vital role the Kish glyptic had as the conservative marker of a strong regional identity.

A. McCarthy see E. Peltenburg

Stephen McPhillips
Laboratoire d’Archéologie Médiévale Méditerranéenne, Aix-en-Provence, France

DEFINING THE MATERIAL CULTURE OF DAMASCUS FROM THE 9TH TO 13TH CENTURIES AC:
POTTERY FROM THE CITADEL EXCAVATIONS

A large body of ceramics found in association with the construction and first use of the citadel of Damascus, many of high status, reflect the presence of the Burid, Zangid and Ayyubid courts from the end of the 11th century through to its removal to Cairo in the 13th century. This paper presents some of the results from typological analysis within the structure of a solid relative chronology, providing a view of this city’s distinctive local identity and its place within regional and interregional exchange networks. It is argued here that Damascus played an important role in the production of fine Syrian stone-paste ceramics. Indeed, this study offers strong support for the hypothesis of a technological evolution of this distinctive pottery class in Syria from the 11th to the 13th century, suggested also by other works in the same region. The more limited ceramic evidence from pre-Seljuk Islamic Damascus suggests strong trends of continuity in the local material culture, while a development into the Mamluk and Ottoman periods can likewise be followed.

Diederik J.W. Meijer
University of Leiden

SEAL CUTTERS AND PALACES: A FORCED RELATIONSHIP?

On the basis of what is known about the so-called //in.na.ba// seals, an attempt will be made to ascertain the social position of seal cutters and other craftsmen involved in the production of luxury articles, especially

during the Late Bronze Age, when, according to some, the economy was primarily a palace economy. I shall try to emphasize the element of “private entrepreneurship”, also among such craftsmen.

Lara Meneghini

Università Ca' Foscari di Venezia

NEW METHODOLOGICAL APPROACHES TO THE ISLAMIC ARCHITECTURE OF IRAN (11TH-15TH CENTURIES): “MENSIOCHRONOLOGICAL” APPLICATIONS IN VARAMIN AND SHAHR-E REY AREA

This paper aims to produce evidence on the application of new methodologies still not employed in the field of the Islamic archaeology in Iran.

This presentation deals with the first data obtained with the employment of the *mensiocronologia* applied to a sample area of Iran. The *mensiocronologia* is a dating method developed in the last twenty years by the Italian archaeologists working on medieval brickwork architecture.

The results show the existence of significant brick-size changes between 11th and 15th centuries in the Varamin and Shahr-e Rey area. These results are encouraging to elaborate and develop the use of this dating method for the study of the Iranian Islamic architecture.

Olivia Menozzi see Luca Bombardieri

Nebal Mhisen

Université de Lyon II

THE THEME OF ROYAL ALLIANCE IN SYRIA THROUGH GLYPTICAL AND TEXTUAL EVIDENCE DURING THE MIDDLE BRONZE AGE

The aim of this paper is to deal with the representation of the Syrian kingship during the Amorite period (ca. 2000-1600 BC), essentially through glyptic evidence, supplemented by sculpture, wall paintings, and written sources from the same period.

Our main interest here concerns those objects which derive from clear, stratified archaeological as well as cultural contexts. The epigraphical record will allow us to confirm or to infirm some iconographic models, in particular regarding gestures and attitudes adopted by the rulers while concluding a diplomatic accord between their kingdoms (Alalakh and Qatna) in front of deities such as Ishtar or the “Syrian goddess”.

We may distinguish different notions of the ceremony of the alliance and its iconographic reflection on the glyptic of Middle Bronze Age in Syria, especially which comes from ancient Yamhad and Ebla region.

It seems that there were two iconographic distinctive but matching styles that represented rulers in both: popular iconography and official related to élite imaging world.

The contribution offered by our study is based on the confrontation of the glyptic evidence on one hand and the textual data on the other, in order to characterize aspects of political and religious power in the society of ancient Syria.

Maria Gabriella Micale
 “Sapienza” Università di Roma

DESIGNING ARCHITECTURE, BUILDING IDENTITIES:
 THE DISCOVERY AND USE OF MESOPOTAMIAN FEATURES IN MODERN ARCHITECTURE BETWEEN
 ORIENTALISM AND THE DEFINITION OF CONTEMPORARY IDENTITIES

In the course of the 19th century, the discovery of the artistic and material culture of ancient Mesopotamia gradually replaced knowledge of the ancient Near East, which, until then, had been “filtered” by classical and biblical traditions. This discovery determined changes both in the telling of the ancient history and in the relationships with it, not only in Europe and Western Countries but also among the peoples who were living in the modern countries which made up the ancient Near East. In particular, the unearthing of the Assyrian and Babylonian architectural culture gave birth to an idea of Mesopotamian architecture which began with the archaeological assumptions of the excavators and finished existing only in the imagination of the architects and artists who got inspiration from their publications. Indeed, an image’s power to evoke place, people and culture, and therefore also history, was instrumental in assisting the development and the definition of the identities of the local peoples. This paper will try to focus on the reception and use of the image of Mesopotamian architecture in various places and contexts where “Assyrian” was both the common adjective of European artistic language as well as that of the local people which helped keep alive both their threatened identities and an ideal union with a lost homeland.

Ianir Milevski, Zvi Greenhut, Nuha Agha
 Israel Antiquities Authority

EXCAVATIONS AT THE HOLYLAND COMPOUND:
 A BRONZE AGE CEMETERY IN THE REPHAIM VALLEY, WESTERN JERUSALEM

Salvage excavations conducted by the Israel Antiquities Authority prior to the expansion of the Holyland Park building project (Jerusalem) exposed the core of a cemetery dated to the Intermediate Bronze Age (ca. 2300-2000 BC) and the Middle Bronze Age IIB (ca. 1750-1550 BC). The ancient burial site sat atop the hill where the model of Jerusalem during the Second Temple period was located, within the compound of the Holyland hotel. The cemetery is believed to have belonged to the Canaanite settlement situated where the Malha mall now stands, in the Rephaim Valley.

The excavation project begun years ago, but was during the last seasons (2006-2007) that the majority of the tombs (ca. 50 in number) were excavated. The graves are of the type of shaft tombs consisting of a duct quarried into the rock, and a chamber dug underground which housed the bodies and the funeral tool kit. Among the findings pottery vessels, metal weapons and tools, jewelry and other personal objects as scarab-amulets were found. Animal bones were found as well and it is believed that animal were part of the offerings for the dead. The finds of the cemetery help us to complete the regional picture of the ancient settlements in the Rephaim valley.

Sima Miri see Ahmad Chaychi Amirkhiz

P. de Miroschedji
 Centre de recherche français de Jérusalem (UMIFRE 7 CNRS-MAEE)

RECENT EXCAVATIONS AT TEL YARMUTH

The last two seasons of excavation at Tel Yarmuth (2006-2007) have cast new light on several aspects of the history of the site. The excavations were concentrated on the Early Bronze Age II fortification system, on

the Early Bronze Age III dwelling quarters located on Terraces J and K and on the adjacent and contemporary Palace B. The discovery of the continuation of Fortification Wall A to the South, with a gate and a sequence of monumental bastions with inner rooms, modifies our understanding of the first fortification system at Tel Yarmuth and contributes to a better understanding of the evolution of fortifications in the southern Levant during the Early Bronze Age II-III. The Early Bronze Age III dwelling quarters excavated on Terraces J and K give an image of the surroundings of Palace B to the South and of the context of their building. The sequence of construction of these palaces is now better understood. In particular, the building of Palace B1 appears to have been a complex operation conducted on a much larger scale than previously assumed.

Yutaka Miyake
University of Tsukuba

EXCAVATIONS AT SALAT CAMII YANI 2004-2006:
POTTERY NEOLITHIC SITE IN THE TIGRIS VALLEY, SOUTHEAST ANATOLIA

The Excavations at Salat Camii Yani, located in the Turkish Tigris Valley, provide good evidence for the Pottery Neolithic sequence. At least three Pottery Neolithic phases are recognized; Phase 1-3 from the earliest to the latest. The Phase 3 pottery of Salat Camii Yani bears close resemblance to that of Proto-Hassuna. If this is the case, the earlier two phases might precede the Proto-Hassuna period. While the Phase 2 pottery almost exclusively consists of vegetal tempered coarse ware as in the Phase 3, the pottery of Phase 1, heavily tempered with coarse grits and well burnished, is comparable to the earliest pottery found at Akarçay Tepe and Mezraa Telailat in the Middle Euphrates, and also at Seker al-Ahaimar in the Khabur Basin. The Phase 1 can be dated to the very beginning of the Pottery Neolithic period. The new evidence in the Turkish Tigris Valley enable us to reconsider the cultural relationship between the south-eastern Anatolia and northern Mesopotamia during the Pottery Neolithic period.

Elisabeth Monamy
Institut für Vorderasiatische Archäologie

DOES THE BIT HILANI STILL EXIST? AN ETHNO-ARCHAEOLOGICAL APPROACH

Le Bit Hilani est une forme architecturale archéologique très discutée que l'on trouve au nord de la Syrie et au sud-est de la Turquie. L'auteur donnera une courte définition récapitulative des principales caractéristiques du Bit Hilani (les éléments qui font d'un bâtiment un Bit Hilani), abordera rapidement la question de la fonction de ce bâtiment (la problématique de la fonction en tant que temple ou palais sera brièvement abordée) et présentera des maisons du village de Biadeh au nord de la Syrie qui ont un plan très similaire. C'est lors d'un voyage le long de l'Euphrate syrien que l'auteur a vu des maisons qui offrent à première vue une architecture extérieure proche de celle d'un Bit Hilani. Le but de la conférence sera donc de montrer, d'un point de vue ethnologique, les similitudes et/ou les différences architecturales qui existent entre le Bit Hilani archéologique et les maisons du village de Biadeh pour répondre à la question initiale: "le Bit Hilani existe-t-il encore?"

Clelia Mora, Lorenzo d'Alfonso
Università degli Studi di Pavia

SURVEY IN NORTHERN TYANIS (CAPPADOCIA): RESULTS OF THE FIRST TWO CAMPAIGNS (2006-2007)

Since 2006 the University of Pavia conducts a survey in southern Cappadocia (Turkey). The area under research includes the southern mountain sides of Hasandağ and Melendizdağları and the plain directly

adjoining these mountains. This plain was known in classical times as Tyanis, from the name of the most important city of the region, namely classical Tyana. This old city had a long history, since it corresponds to pre-classical Neo-Hittite Tuwana and Hittite Tuwanuwa. Although the region is known from the epigraphic sources to have been occupied already from the Old Hittite period (16th century BC), and prehistoric presence on the plain is well known, archaeologies have worked here only sporadically. The eastern part of the plain was surveyed by Mellaart and Meriggi between the end of the 50's and the beginning of the 60's, but in both cases they devoted a very short time to it and therefore considered only the most evident and biggest sites. After the first two campaigns more than 30 archaeological sites have been registered in the area under investigation, and only 6 of them were known from previous investigations. Because of size and stratigraphy the site-guide of the region has been identified in Kınık-Höyük, where surface finds date from the Islamic back to the Early Bronze Age.

Since some sites lie under the sediments of an old lake, now disappeared but mentioned already in the Hittite sources, the mission contacted the sedimentologists of the University of Nigde and plans now to project a joint geo-archaeological mission to investigate expansion and retraction of the lake in pre-historical and historical times.

Yousef Moradi

Iranian Culture Organization in Kerman Shah Province

RECENTLY DISCOVERED SASANIAN FIRE TEMPLE OF MIL-E MILEGAH

A newly found Sasanian Fire-temple, Mil-e Milegah, is built, like considerable number of similar monuments from this period, of rubble stone and gypsum mortar. The discovered structure appears to be the main part of a larger architectural complex now mostly disappeared or destroyed. It comprises 4 pillars of various dimensions, shaping a cruciform space once, most probably, domed. This space is surrounded by ambulatory corridors.

A plastered platform is discovered in the center of the main structure. Although much of the platform is destroyed, comparisons with several better preserved examples enable the author to suggest that it once housed the fire altar. In addition, several socles of smaller dimensions and various forms, made of stone and gypsum, have also been discovered.

Discussions on Sasanian fire temples have so far been mainly based on architectural considerations. The discovery of these ensembles of platform and socles of various forms and dimensions, a so far unique phenomena, undoubtedly enable new discussions about Sasanian religious architecture in general and Iranian fire temple in particular. These may possibly include Zoroastrian rites of the Sasanian period as performed in this and similar fire temples.

Daniele Morandi Bonacossi

Università di Udine

THE "EASTERN PALACE" AND THE UPPER CITY OF LATE BRONZE AGE QATNA

A new building with palatial character was discovered and partly investigated by the joint Syrian-Italian Expedition to Mishrifeh in 2006 and 2007 to the East of Qatna's Royal Palace. Due to its location the building has been dubbed "Eastern Palace".

The discovery of this monumental building, which was built in the Middle Bronze Age and remained in use until the Late Bronze Age II, makes possible to understand the layout and functional organization of Qatna's centre of power during the Late Bronze Age.

The paper will discuss the new archaeological evidence brought to light by the Italian components of the joint Syrian-Italian Mission concerning the "Eastern Palace", the graves which were found in it, and the late Late Bronze Age II residential quarter built on the ruins of Qatna's Royal Palace.

L. Mori see S. Festuccia

Simone Mühl
Universität Heidelberg

BETWEEN THE BORDERS - THE LOWER ZAB REGION, IRAQ: THE PROJECT “CULTURAL LANDSCAPE AND SETTLEMENT PATTERNS AT THE LITTLE ZAB, IRAQ” AT THE ZAW, HEIDELBERG

The area in the surroundings of Ashur is known as the heartland of Assyria lying within the triangle between the Upper and the Lower Zab in North and South, the Tigris River in the West and the Qara Chauq mountains in the East. There is a long tradition of cultural diversity between the northern and southern areas divided by the Little Zab, since the emergence of Mesopotamian civilizations. From the second half of the 2nd millennium onwards the Lower Zab is considered to be a cultural border between Babylonia in the South and Assyria in the North.

The Project of “The cultural landscape and settlement patterns at the Little Zab, Iraq” at the Center of Sciences of Antiquity of the University of Heidelberg is dealing with archaeological material from a salvage project carried out by members of the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage, Iraq. The so called “Makhul dam” was planned to flood up an area of about 260 sqkm stretching from ruins of Kar Tukulti Ninurta to about 20 km South of the estuary of the Lower Zab into the Tigris, hence destroying many sites, especially on the eastern bank of the river.

This contribution aims an introduction on selected material of the sites investigated within the project. The survey covers sites from the Pottery Neolithic to the early Islamic period, excavations revealed residential as well as palatial structures, burials and isolated finds.

A multi-scale analysis of material culture and settlement patterns regarding these sites in the middle-eastern Tigris region can be achieved by the means of integration within a geographical information system and remote sensing. Hollow way systems and canals detectable via CORONA satellite imagery of 1969 can be chronologically correlated to the bigger centers within the core land of Assyria, reflecting thus diachronic and interspatial changes in the region.

Judith Mulder see Martine de Vries-Melein

Béatrice Muller
CNRS, Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines

L'UNIVERS ICONOGRAPHIQUE DU GRAND PALAIS ROYAL DE MARI

La synthèse sur les peintures murales présentée au 2nd ICAANE avait fait ressortir les diverses modalités du rapport entre le roi et les dieux: serviteur de ceux-ci dans la salle 132, investi du pouvoir par Ishtar ou conduisant le défilé sacrificiel dans la cour 106, complètement affranchi de la présence divine dans ses appartements privés (salle 220). La prise en compte, avec leur contexte de découverte, de tous les objets comportant une ou des images - statues, sceaux-cylindres, terres-cuites, amulettes et parures, éléments d'incrustation...- complète et nuance ce point de vue et met en lumière des degrés différents de sacralité - ou de religiosité - selon les secteurs du palais, tout en faisant pressentir des mutations, tant dans l'architecture que dans l'iconographie, au fil des quelque trois siècles de la vie de ce prestigieux édifice, détruit et pillé par Hammurabi de Babylone vers 1760.

Uwe Müller

Eastern Mediterranean University, Famagusta

TOWN-PLANNING, TOPOGRAPHY AND POWER:
EVIDENCE FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL STRUCTURES

It is common knowledge that the lay-out, the planning and the internal structure of settlements has enormous potential for the reconstruction of ancient societies. Recently it was convincingly demonstrated for several sites in eastern Turkey (i.e. Arslantepe and Norsuntepe) that even dramatic changes in the appearance of settlements can be explained as the outcome of social or political changes. A discussion of 13th century sites in eastern Turkey and Cyprus will attempt to develop new ideas about the social and political structures of societies for which no sufficient written evidence is available.

Stefan Münger^a, Juha Pakkala^b, Jürgen Zangenberg^c, Wolfgang Zwickel^d

^a University of Bern

^b University of Helsinki

^c Leiden University

^d Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz

KINNERET REGIONAL PROJECT - THE 2007 FIELD SEASON

The paper reports on the recent results of archaeological investigations at Tel Kinrot/Tell el-Oreimeh (ancient Kinneret) and its environs undertaken by the Dutch-German-Finnish-Swiss “Kinneret Regional Project” under the auspices of the Universities of Bern, Helsinki, Leiden and Mainz.

Kinneret (located on the north-western shores of the Sea of Galilee, Israel) is emerging as one of the major sites for the study of urban life in the Iron Age IB in the southern Levant in the dawn of the 1st millennium BC. Its material culture witnesses a lively and multilayered urban culture and shows a variety of cultural influences on the ancient population of the city.

Work concentrated in the past years on a large excavation field in the lower city with well-preserved Iron IB structures and installations. The architecture of those areas belonging to the main Iron Age IB phase at Tel Kinrot was fully exposed and subsequently prepared for conservation. The paper also presents the most recent finds, the results of current research programs and future developments within the “Kinneret Regional Project”.

Davide Nadali

“Sapienza” Università di Roma

ARCHAEOLOGY AS A SCIENCE OF HUMANISM

As a science that studies the relics of human beings, archaeology is a science of humanism in itself. This short presentation aims at pointing to the centrality of humanity in the archaeological studies and researches. In particular, humanism in archaeology is not only expressed by the results of the excavations - architecture and artefacts as products of the human action and thought; it is also actively part of the everyday work and activity of archaeologists. Humanism in archaeology has a double nature: passive since it is the object of our studies; active since it becomes a meaningful and founding principle of the archaeological thinking. We think that archaeologists should act according to this principle to understand the distances and differences between “us” and the past and between “us” and the contemporary societies where we live and work.

Alexander Nagel see Hasan Rahsaz

Pirhiya Nahshoni
Israel Antiquities Authority

A NEWLY EXCAVATED PHILISTINE TEMPLE IN THE NEGEV

In order to facilitate the construction of the Ashkelon- Beer-Sheva railroad track, a small scale excavation was carried on the southern bank of Nahal Patish in southern Israel that revealed a village dated to the Late Iron Age I.

A building complex found in the center of the excavated area comprises of two structures (1, 2) belonging to two different phases which were close in time. In the earlier structure (2), a “Head Cup” (Rhyton) was uncovered. The later structure (1) comprised of a shrine, a small courtyard and a storeroom. An altar made of undressed stone and a small pit, were situated in the midst of the courtyard. A figurative cultic stand was found on the floor. The shrine had an indirect entrance, a stepped podium in the north-eastern corner and low benches along the walls. Two fenestrated, tall cultic stands and other objects were found on the floor, covered by a destruction layer, which had been levelled with another floor placed above. The storeroom contained storage jars and other pottery types including Egyptian amphorae.

The finds discovered in the excavation shed light on aspects of cult in the rural eastern fringes of southern Philistia in the Late Iron Age I.

Joyce Nassar
Université Bordeaux I

BURIAL PRACTICES AND BIOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF THE INHABITANTS OF MARI

The Mesopotamian funeral world is known essentially from the architecture of the burials and the artefacts found inside. Hopefully ongoing excavations on some sites have passed these considerations and new methodological perspectives are being introduced. The recent anthropological fieldwork carried out on the site of Mari in the Middle Euphrates-Syria (2900-1760 BC) has two objectives. The first is the comparison between the funerary treatment and the skeletal biology in order to understand the rich and complex burial customs of the city inhabitants and their evolution through time. The second is the comprehension of the biological aspect, still unknown, of this population. This paper will present some of the latest results obtained after analysing over 150 skeletons and archaeological data of 500 burials discovered since the 1930's.

Lili Niakan
Iranian Centre for Archaeological Research

ANALYSIS OF DISTRIBUTION PATTERN OF SITES AT KARAJ AND QAZVIN PLAINS
FROM PREHISTORIC TO EARLY ISLAM BY GIS

From archaeological point of view, geographical area of this study consists of some parts of centre of Iran plateau. Centre of plateau is that part from North limited to Alborz mountains, and from North-West and West limited to Zagros mountains. In the South area, low and dry land and in South and South-East, Kavir plain is located. Edge of Kavir plain is located from Kashan in South to Bastam at North of Shahroud.

Based on archaeological, historical and geographical remains, it is one of the main communicational routes of central plateau and Near Eastern areas of plateau. In the route of this ancient main road environmental context and strategically location of this area have provided some facilities and development of human settlement from Prehistory until now.

However the large scale of information that gained from previous surveys and excavation at cultural Basin of Karaj and Qazvin did not answer to late Sassanid and Early Islamic Periods. Results of recent

studies with systematic survey tried to give answer about cultural evolution at North-West of central Plateau and could provide basic information about quantity and quality of settlements in this area.

Lorenzo Nigro
“Sapienza” Università di Roma

TELL ES-SULTAN/JERICO AND THE ORIGINS OF URBANIZATION IN THE LOWER JORDAN VALLEY:
RESULTS OF RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCHES

Tell es-Sultan/Jericho as a case study of Early Bronze Age urbanization in Southern Levant offers a favourable set of data on this crucial phenomenon in the history of Palestine. New data made available from the unpublished J. Garstang's archives (PEF, London) matched with Roma “La Sapienza” and DAP-MOTA (National Authority of Palestine) joint excavations in 1997-2000 allow to draw out a preliminary picture of the earliest urban stage in the history of the site, characterised by the erection of a massive fortification system, and an organisation of its urban layout during the Early Bronze II. Jericho in the Lower Jordan Valley, thus, stands up as a cogent example of what happened in the first centuries of the 3rd millennium BC, an archaeological phase (Early Bronze II) somewhat neglected in the last years, which, conversely, marked the full affirmation of the urban model in this region of the ancient Near East.

Martti Nissinen see Kenneth Lönngqvist

Jebrael Nokandeh
Iranian Cultural Heritage - Handcraft & Tourisms org

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY IN THE MEHRAN PLAIN, SOUTH-WESTERN IRAN

The Mehran Plain to the North-West of Deh Luran plain, is located between two rivers, the Kon jan cham and the Changouleh. In the North the Plain is bounded by the southernmost ridges of the Zagros Mountains. To the South it is bordered by the Badland, the Jebel Hamrin (a ridge at the Iraqi border).

In March 1997 an Expedition from the Iranian Center for Archaeological Research (ICAR) led by Ali-Mohammad Khalilian (the field director) started an archaeological survey of the Mehran plain. This general survey recorded a total of 62 archaeological sites from the Neolithic to the Islamic period.

In 1998 a team from ICAR directed on the field by Jebrael Nokandeh continued surveying the prehistoric sites of the Mehran plain by compiling topographical maps by means of GPS (Global Positioning System) and gathering samples of ceramics, lithics as well as other objects.

The archaeological evidence of human settlement in this area provides an important record of long term socio-cultural change from the Paleolithic to the Islamic period. Cultural materials from the Mehran plain show the earliest evidence of human settlement in the Lowland region of south-western Iran. This article tries to present the results of the survey and their relations to the adjacent lowland and highland.

Jebrael Nokandeh see Hamid Omrani Rekavandi

Alastair Northedge
University of Paris 1

MILITARY CANTONMENTS IN THE ABBASID PERIOD

The earliest form of military cantonment in the Abbasid period was integrated with the state apparatus in the Round City of Baghdad. This model was copied ten years later at al-Rafiqa, which was dedicated, according to al-Baladhuri, to a military settlement. In Baghdad, new recruitment under al-Rashid and al-Ma'mun was settled outside the fortified city in suburbs (rabad), notably al-Harbiyya. The suburban model was developed at Samarra, where a wide variety of imitations of the Baghdad 'suburbs' were built under the name of qata'i'. However in the later royal cities of the Mediterranean, such as al-Qahira, military settlement was again within the walls.

M.-L. Nosch see E. Andersson

Hani Nur el-Din
Institute of Archaeology, Al-Quds University-Jerusalem

RE-EXCAVATION AT TELL ET TELL. REPORT ON THE 2003, 2005, 2007 SEASONS

The joint dig on the site of Tell et Tell, which is defined by Biblical Archaeologists as "A", was taking place since 2003 between the Department of Palestinian Antiquities and the Institute of Archaeology, Al-Quds University. Beside the educational goals and the future aims for protecting the site, our understanding of the tell and the development of its settlement pattern were also the major purpose for this project. The survey of 2003 on the tell has promoted us to insist more on the understanding of large scale of the tell which was called "lower city", by the previous excavations in the last century. In 2005 and 2007 seasons, our excavations focused on the eastern limit of the tell, where good indications about the first settlement of the tell have been recovered.

Hani Nur ed-Din see Hamed Salem

Milton Nuñez see Kenneth Lönnqvist

Birgül Ögüt see Melanie Wasmuth

Jari Okkonen see Kenneth Lönnqvist

Ayse Tuba Ökse, Yasemin Esentürk, Ahmet Görmüş, Ali Bora
Kocaeli University, Kocaeli

THE COLLAPSE OF A MIDDLE BRONZE AGE BUILDING COMPLEX AT SALAT TEPE, DUE TO AN EARTHQUAKE

The salvage excavations at Salat Tepe, one of the sites within the flooding area of the Ilisu Dam, brought out a building complex composed of buildings encircling a large courtyard covering an area of ca. 1600 m² on the mound summit. The mud-brick walls of the complex have been collapsed. The collapsed walls belonging to the building complex are registered in all trenches on the mound summit. The walls filled the courtyard and several rooms within the preserved height of the walls and the rooms encircling the courtyard were filled with mud bricks torn asunder. On the floors of some rooms several crushed vessels are collected, depicting the collapse of their ceilings on the floor. Moreover, the walls preserved in their original positions

show several deformations. The mound summit was immediately reoccupied after the collapse of the building complex, so there is no gap between both Middle Bronze Age levels. At six contemporary sites within the region, similar buildings were built on the mud-brick debris of earlier collapsed buildings. The region is close to the Bitlis Suture Zone and seems to have been touched by an earthquake in the 16th century BC.

Takayuki Omori see Kimiyoshi Matsumura

Sachihiro Omura

The Japanese Institute of Anatolian Archaeology of the Middle Eastern Culture Center in Japan

THE SETTLEMENT PATTEN OF THE LATE BRONZE AGE IN CENTRAL ANATOLIA

The Japanese Institute of Anatolian Archaeology of the Middle Eastern Culture Center in Japan has been carried out a general archaeological survey in Central Anatolia since 1986. The survey is carried out annually in conjunction with excavations of the site of Kaman-Kalehöyük. The primary aims of the annual survey are to identify archaeological sites in Central Anatolia, and to document the geographical distribution of the same material culture types as have been discovered during the excavations of Kaman-Kalehöyük. In the general survey conducted in Central Anatolia from 1986 through 2007, with its main focus on Höyük, Tepe and flat sites, a total of 1500 sites have been surveyed. The sites where the surveys was conducted in theses seasons had five different shapes: a) flat, b) mound whose shape is in the process of changing from a mound to a trapezoidal mound, c) trapezoidal mound, and d) flat on the hill. The settlements of the Late Bronze Age were identified at flat, mound, and flat on the hill. In this paper, some of the distinctive features of the Late Bronze Age in Central Anatolia will be described.

Bart Ooghe

Ghent University (Belgium)

MESOPOTAMIAN ARCHAEOLOGISTS AND EARLY MODERN TRAVELLERS:
TWO CENTURIES OF SHIFTING RELATIONSHIPS

The study of early Near Eastern archaeology has in recent years moved away from the disciplinary histories painted before the 1980's, looking for the first time at socio-political influences on archaeology or at the Near Eastern adventures of lesser famed nations. However, very limited attention has yet been given to the literature produced before the 19th century. This paper examines why these earlier writings remain so marginalised in our disciplinary histories, by exploring the conceptual relationships between Mesopotamian archaeologists and early modern travellers as these developed over the past two centuries. It argues that travel, travel writing and early archaeology were closely linked to eachother during most of the pre-20th century period, but that the academic positioning of archaeology as a scientific discipline after the late 1800's has created a conceptual differentiation between the "mere" traveller and the "real", "pioneering" archaeologist. Suggesting that this differentiation is basically anachronistic, and that it has led Mesopotamian archaeologists to focus heavily on the excavations of the 19th century and to perceive their disciplinary history in terms of "great individuals", the paper pleads for a renewed appreciation of the exploits of earlier travellers and explorers in the development of our discipline.

Jocelyn Orchard, Jeffery Orchard
University of Birmingham

A 5000 YEAR OLD *FALAJ* IN THE WADI BAHLA, OMAN

On the basis of what is known about northern Oman's earliest agricultural settlements which we have named *The Hajar Oasis Towns* - viz., their longevity, size (200-400 ha), spatial organisation, reliance on groundwater held in a complex aquifer of buried water channels, and the cultivation of the date-palm as their primary perennial crop - it has long been our opinion that, in view of the low yield, unreliability and labour intensity of wells, they were watered by sub-surface to surface irrigation channels called *aflāj* (sing. *falaj*). The discovery and ongoing excavation of a 5000 year old *falaj* by our Hajar Project team at its Ghubrat Bahla site in the Wadi Bahla, Oman, confirms this hypothesis. Our paper will cover the history of discovery, the influence of climate and sedimentary history on the *aflāj* of the Hajar region, a physical description of our 5000 year old *falaj* (including the features that hint at its role within the community), our search for the irrigation network within each ancient oasis town on our sites in the Wadi Bahla, and our incipient research into *falaj* management, time measurement and *falaj* rituals.

Jeffery Orchard see Jocelyn Orchard

Eliezer D. Oren
Ben-Gurion University

ASSYRIAN ADMINISTRATION ON THE BORDER OF EGYPT: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH

The integration of Assyrian and Egyptian documents with the archaeological records from the western Negev (South Philistia) presents an intriguing case study of imperial Assyrian administration on the border of Egypt and may serve as a model for the study of Assyrian military and civil organization elsewhere on the frontiers of the empire. This paper will examine the rich archaeological data in the western Negev during the 8th-7th century BC against the historical record from Assyria and Egypt. The archaeological record comprises an impressive military, economic and administrative network of sites, including fortified citadels and garrisons, residences for officials, ports and trading centers as well as cult installations for Assyrian personnel stationed in this region. Typical Neo-Assyrian construction techniques such as vaulted ceilings, foundation platforms as well as imported Assyrian palace wares and bronze weapons contribute to a better understanding of Assyrian administration in this strategically important region.

Valentina Orsi
Università di Firenze

THE PASSAGE FROM THE EARLY BRONZE TO THE MIDDLE BRONZE AGE IN JEZIRAH:
A PARALLEL BETWEEN TELL MOZAN AND TELL BARRI CERAMIC SEQUENCES

Despite recent archeological efforts in this field, the subject of the passage from the Early Bronze to the Middle Bronze Age in Upper Mesopotamia is still being discussed.

Researches have been focused on chronology and cultural regionalism; on continuity or discontinuity in material culture; on growth, decline and regeneration of societies and on internal and external developments. One of the difficulties in comprehending this period, especially in Jezirah, is the still inadequate understanding of compared ceramic sequences, and this aspect that constitutes the starting point of this communication.

This paper will offer a synchronic analysis of unpublished ceramic evidences provided from Tell Mozan and Tell Barri excavations. In particular, diagnostic types in relation to the different provenance contexts will

be stressed. Aim of the paper is the setting up of a comparative analysis in order to give a contribution towards the building up of a chronological framework at a regional level.

A. Otto see M.G. Biga

Kameray Özdemir, Yılmaz Selim Erdal

Hacettepe University Department of Anthropology, Ankara, Turkey

METAL OBJECTS IN IKIZTEPE: MANUFACTURED OR IMPORTED ITEMS?

Ikiztepe (Samsun) is one of the most important archaeological settlements of the Middle Black Sea region in Anatolia. Besides skeletal remains, findings from the settlement include a great number of metal objects such as weapons (spearheads, javelin heads, harpoons, daggers, arrowheads and axes), jewellery (pins, pendants, necklaces, earrings, bracelets, rings and fibula), tools (i.e. piercers, chisels, crochet, blade and spatula) and symbols. Weapons, which were made of arsenical copper, mostly were related to male individuals. Ornaments, such as beads and earrings made of arsenical copper, were related to females and sub-adult individuals. Whether these metal artefacts were produced by the Ikiztepe Early Bronze Age population is a significant archaeological question. This study aims to answer the question.

An examination of the cortical bones based on the trace element accumulations has shown that Ikiztepe individuals didn't have any contact with arsenic during the production of weapons.

However, both the lower limits of accumulation and its slight increasing in old people were observed. Besides, higher amounts of arsenic were observed in males. It has to be concluded that Ikiztepe people did not produce these metal objects. The amount of arsenic in their bones depended on the contact between the metal objects and skin (skin exposure).

Mehmet Özdoğan

Istanbul University

WESTWARD EXPANSION OF THE NEOLITHIC WAY OF LIFE: RESORTING THE NEOLITHIC PACKAGE

The Neolithic way of life, after remaining in the region of its origin for several millennia, rather suddenly by the beginning of the 7th millennium BC dispersed to other regions. The mode and the pace of this expansion have been much debated. Evidently, the problem remained unresolved due to the lack of research from the peripheral areas of primary neolithization, and in particular from the contact zone between Anatolia and south-eastern Europe. During the last decade, there have been a number of new excavations in this critical zone, for the first time providing concrete evidence on the expansion of the Neolithic way of life. Thus, it is now possible to define in the regions of secondary neolithization, not only the changes in the demographic composition, but also distinct assemblages that took place in the course of this process. It seems evident that before formulating new models, it is essential to have an analytical assessment of the cultural inventories in the primary and in the secondary zones of neolithization. Based on this approach, the paper will attempt defining distinct neolithic packages and their trajectories.

Aynur Özfirat

Yüzüncü Yıl Üniversitesi, Van (Turkey)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS IN THE MT. AĞRI REGION: BRONZE AND IRON AGES

Our campaigns in the region of Mt. Ağrı contain survey for the period from the Late Chalcolithic period to the Late Iron Age and a new excavation at the Bozkurt kurgan necropolis. The region is located on the

eastern Anatolia district. Our survey show that eastern Anatolia high plateau together with Transcaucasia and Iranian Azerbaijan, which are the geographical continuation, in terms of culture, shares the same culture despite the various regional differences. And this line is also the western border of kurgan culture. Many new sites have been discovered in survey. One of the most important finds of survey is kurgan type graves. Results of survey indicate that this tradition which was known in Transcaucasia has also spread in the East Anatolia.

The sites we explored around the Mt. Ağrı all show comparable traits, whether it be in their locations, their architectural structures or their material. They are all situated within the lower lava ridges of the mount, at a point where the lava flows meet with the sedimentary plain. The fortresses stand a top the lava mounds, where they dominate the plain. They are surrounded with large fortification walls. The cemeteries extend along the foot of the fortresses, mostly in the depressions formed between the lava mounds. We numbered more than 800 tombs. They contain mostly a single inhumation buried under a kurgan. Excavation of Bozkurt kurgan necropolis has been started in 2007. It is a big necropolis on the western slope of Mt. Ağrı. There is no settlement traces nearby. Surface material dated to from Late Chalcolithic to Late Bronze/Early Iron Age. It can be a temporary settlement in the Late Chalcolithic period. 7 kurgan and 2 grave have been excavated.

Juha Pakkala see Stefan Münger

Samuel Paley
University of Buffalo

ART DECO OR ASSYRIAN REVIVAL IN AMERICA AND ELEMENTS OF MESOPOTAMIAN DESIGN:
A RE-ASSESSMENT

There are two famous buildings in the United States constructed within two years of each other, on opposite coasts - one in New York City, New York, on Fifth Avenue near Grand Central Station (1927), and the other, now with in view of Route 5, a major highway which runs across Los Angeles, California (1929). The former is known as the Fred F. French Building; the latter, the Sam(p)son Tire and Rubber Company (but now the Citadel, a budget shopping mall). The Fred F. French building is said to have been inspired by Babylon, the Ishtar Gate and the Hanging Gardens; the Samson Tire Company has been described as “Assyrian-themed” or Assyrian Revival. The Samson Tire building is certainly “Assyrian” and is said to be a recreation of Sargon II’s palace at Khorsabad done at the direction of the founder of the tire company, Adolph Schleicher, by the architect Stiles O. Clements of Morgan, Wall & Clements - he also designed an Art Deco masterpiece in LA, the Wiltern/Western Theater. However, the Fred French building, the structure of which was created by an in-house, French Co. architect, H. Douglas Ives, but its “skin” and inside décor by John Sloan of the firm of Sloan & Robertson, has elements it in that are also Assyrianizing. Neither of these skilled architectural firms was familiar with archaeology and excavation but must have relied on popular images, created by the excavators, also architects. This paper will re-evaluate the common thinking about these two buildings based upon drawings known to the architects. It will also refer to other contemporaneous *objets d’art* (ex. card boxes, cigarette boxes) that have architectural decoration.

Giulio Palumbi
“Sapienza” Università di Roma

POTS OR PEOPLE? COEXISTENCE AND COMPETITION BETWEEN DIFFERENT SOCIO-CULTURAL IDENTITIES
IN THE UPPER EUPHRATES VALLEY AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 3RD MILLENNIUM BC

In the second half of the 4th millennium, the developments of the Upper Euphrates communities consisted in a growth of the organisational complexity (the public complex of Arslantepe VIA) as the outcome of the

final emergence of local power groups strengthened and legitimised by the increasing volume of relationships entertained with the southern “Uruk” world.

But the end of the “protourban experience” and the crisis of this socio-economic cycle, marked by destructions and abandonment, underline the contradictions hidden behind the adoption of an alien and strongly hierarchised political system. This opens a phase of long-lasting transition which left to the eastern Anatolian and southern Caucasian communities the opportunity to interfere and interact more freely in the social and cultural life of the Upper Euphrates region which becomes a competing arena between radically different social and cultural worlds: the eastern-oriented Kura-Araks traditions and the Late-Uruk heritage integrated in the new identity of the northern Syrian communities.

Which one of these competing cultural models will be chosen by the local population as the optimal solution for facing the political and cultural reorganisation of the region in the following phases of the 3rd millennium BC?

Nava Panitz-Cohen

THE IMPACT OF EGYPTIAN DOMINANCE ON FORMATION TECHNIQUES AND THE ORGANISATION OF CERAMIC PRODUCTION DURING THE 13TH-12TH CENTURIES BCE IN SOUTHERN CANAAN

Valeria Paoletti

Altorientalisches Seminar, University of Tübingen, Germany

THE CERAMIC INVENTORY OF THE ROYAL GRAVE OF QATNA

The destruction and abandonment of the Royal Palace of Qatna during the campaign of the Hittite king Šuppiluliuma I represents a *terminus ante quem* for the chronology of the Royal Grave and Antechamber, which were part of the same complex. The ceramic inventory found in situ inside the sealed subterranean chambers, comprising more than two hundred complete vessels, includes diagnostic shapes of the local Late Bronze I-II A ceramic tradition, associated with vessels, which can be surely related to the late Middle Bronze Age ceramic horizon. Some imported wares (or imitations?) from the coastal and the southern region are also present.

In this paper the inventory of the Royal Grave of Qatna will be presented and the typological and technological aspects of this repertoire will be analysed, in order to bring to light these evidences. Emphasis will be placed on the distribution of the ceramic material inside the chambers, as well as on the relationship between vessels and installations, with the aim of furnishing a contribution to the study of funeral costumes and ritual activity in central-inner Syria during the 2nd millennium BC.

Bradley J. Parker

University of Utah

BREAD OVENS, SOCIAL NETWORKS AND GENDERED SPACE:
AN ETHNOARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDY OF *TANDIR* OVENS IN SOUTHEASTERN ANATOLIA

Combining ethnographic and archaeological data to produce ethnoarchaeological interpretations presents a number of theoretical and methodological problems. Because these two types of data are by their very nature completely disconnected, most researchers are hesitant to draw even the most general conclusions from what are often very elaborate datasets. By combining archaeological data pertaining to ovens and cooking from the site of Kenan Tepe in southeastern Anatolia with ethnographic research on *tandır* ovens in a number of living communities in its environs, this study attempts to bridge this gap by suggesting specific ways in which these two types of data can be combined to form a more productive ethnoarchaeology. In doing so I propose a framework that allows the integration of these datasets at various levels of abstraction. I

argue that it is only through innovative combinations of ethnographic and archaeological datasets, applied with proper caution and disclosure and at explicit levels of abstraction, that ethnoarchaeologists can hope to construct an ethnoarchaeology that is greater than the sum of its parts.

Sarit Paz
Tel Aviv University

CONTINUITY, DISCONTINUITY, AND THE EARLY BRONZE AGE HOUSE: THE CASE OF TEL BET YERAH

In her recent studies on early walled settlements as heterarchical “house societies”, Chesson identified a high degree of continuity in residential complexes as one of the main indicators of the centrality of the “house” in the Early Bronze Age. A new analysis of architectural sequences at Tel Bet Yerah reveals patterns of both continuity and change in Early Bronze Age domestic architecture, the latter related to the influx of new people into the built environment.

Excavations in different dwelling areas show considerable continuity in residential units during Early Bronze II. Despite significant changes in the urban layout, the external definition of houses was maintained over several strata. If we view houses and their material contents as means for constructing individual and group identities, such continuity affirms the identity, authority, and the legal entitlement of households over several generations.

At the end of Early Bronze II several houses were evidently abandoned, leaving vacant residential spaces within the neighbourhoods. These abandoned places were subsequently occupied by producers and consumers of Khirbet Kerak Ware, plausibly interpreted as newcomers from the distant North.

This paper explores the utility of the “house” model and of competing ideas on the nature of Early Bronze Age urbanism to interpret possible modes of interaction between the newcomers and those living in the continuously occupied households.

Sarit Paz see Rafael Greenberg

Yitzhak Paz
Ben-Gurion University

TEL REKHESH EXCAVATIONS PROJECT: THE FIRST AND SECOND SEASONS (2006-07)
OF EXCAVATIONS AT TEL REKHESH, JAPANESE EXPEDITION

Tel Rekhes is located in the river-bed of the Tavor stream, at eastern lower Galilee, Israel. It is considered one of the most important archaeological sites in Israel that were not yet excavated. Former surveys, conducted by N. Zory, Z. Gal and A. Joffe, revealed an extremely rich site, whose accumulations encompass strata from the Early, Middle and Late Bronze, Iron and Persian periods, as well as Roman and Byzantine remains.

It is accepted that Tel Rekhes may be recognized as *Anaharath*, a major town during the Late Bronze Age, that was conquered by the Egyptian rulers Thutmose III and Amenhotep II of the 18th Dynasty.

The pioneering excavation project at the tell is being carried out by a Japanese expedition from various universities. It is directed by Prof. M. Okita from Tenri University and A. Tsukimoto from Rikkyo (Tokyo) University with cooperation of Prof. M. Kochavi and Dr. Y. Paz.

The current paper will describe the results of the first two seasons of excavations at the site (March 2006 and 2007; August 2007). It will discuss the following themes:

- history of research of Tel Rekhes;
- the occupational history of the site as reflected in our excavations;
- the Early Bronze remains at the tell;
- the Middle Bronze fortifications of the tell;

- a cultic complex of the Late Bronze, located at the eastern side of the high mound;
- the zenith of the settlement at the tell during the Iron Age I. During this period, the settlement spread on the maximum 4.5 ha. of the mound and lower terrace. At the eastern side, a monumental compound existed. The settlement was violently destroyed and the conflagration remains are well seen in the ruins of the monumental compound;
- unique finds that were found during our excavations;
- the relation between the historical Anaharath and the Late Bronze town that flourished at the tell in light of the discovery made by Y. Goren of the Amarna letters that may have originated at the vicinity of the site;
- future research issues for the next seasons of excavation.

Yitzhak Paz

Ben Gurion University, Beit Berl College

LAST BUT NOT LOST - NEW VISTAS ON CERAMICS OF THE PROTO-URBAN HORIZON (LATEST EB IB):
EVIDENCE FROM A SMALL SITE AT THE CENTRAL COAST OF THE LAND OF ISRAEL

Researches of the recent two decades tend to fracture the classic tri-partite division of the Early Bronze Age at the southern Levant. The most elaborate divisions were related to the first stage of the period, known as Early Bronze I. The highly regional nature of the material culture that prevailed in the second half of the 4th millennium and the typological complexity of ceramic assemblages of every region, best discerned during the Early Bronze IB, yielded definitions and sub-phases like Early Bronze IA1, Early Bronze IB2 etc., all meant to define clear cultural and chronological horizons. Of those, one of the most important is situated right on the threshold of south Levantine urbanity. The “Proto-Urban” phase, as defined by the author, reflects the embryonic stage when the earliest concentrated and often fortified centers appeared, during late Early Bronze IB. The themes of sites like Megiddo, Tel Shalem and Beth Shean tells this very story.

The close examination of the pottery that characterizes the very final stage that preceded the well-known full-fledged urban Early Bronze II, reveals a curious picture of its own. The current paper reveals for the first time a phenomenon that was only recently recognized. A small Early Bronze IB site in the vicinity of Tel Aviv, called Rishpon 4, yielded, besides normative classic Early Bronze IB pottery, dozens of sherds of bowls, small jars and jugs, that were made of fine orange colored, well fired clay, namely “Metallic Ware”. Bearing in mind the common later (Early Bronze II) date for the onset of the type, some sherds from Rishpon 4 were examined petrographically. The result was astounding: all sherds were made from Lower Cretaceous clay, just like Early Bronze II-III NCMW, well defined by Greenberg and Porat (1996). Thus, Rishpon 4 furnished us with a clear evidence for an earlier appearance of NCMW: the shapes and the finishing techniques of the vessels were of Early Bronze IB “normative” style, but the clay and the firing was completely new. Sherds and vessels that follow the same principles were detected at other sites, like Bet Yerah, Tell Abu Al-Kharaz and the 'slaughterhouse' site at Tel Aviv. The evidences is yet to scanty, but one is obliged to the notion that the pottery revealed at Rishpon 4 must have been parallels at larger and central Early Bronze IB sites. The study of this phenomenon has just began, but one may imagine its implications on our comprehension of various aspects of socio-political relations within southern Levant towards the full fledge Urban phases, namely Early Bronze II-III.

J.A. Pearson see D. Baird

Brigitte Pedde

RECEPTION OF MESOPOTAMIAN ARCHITECTURE IN GERMANY AND AUSTRIA
IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE 20TH CENTURY

In Germany several architects were inspired in their layouts of monuments or buildings by the excavations in Babylon (since 1899) and in Assur (since 1903). Their drawings followed the archaeologists' reconstructions. Already in 1909 Otto Kohtz published sketches of tower-blocks in ziggurat-shapes. In 1911 Ernst Weinschenk planned a monument for Otto von Bismarck in a corresponding form. Twelve years later Adolf Loos drew up a sketch for a hotel, called *Grand Hotel Babylone*, which showed two stepped towers in its upper part. In the first two decades of the 20th century, however, none of the designs was realized. In the beginning of the twenties in the USA high-rise buildings were erected, connected with the idea of the *Babylonian Tower*. Shortly after, in Germany and Austria corresponding multi-storey buildings were raised. Two examples in Berlin were the *Scherlhaus* by Otto Kohtz from 1925 and the department store *Karstadt* at the *Hermannplatz*, constructed by Philipp Schäfer in 1927-29.

Friedhelm Pedde

Assur-Projekt, Berlin

THE ASSUR-PROJECT: A NEW ANALYSIS OF THE MIDDLE AND NEO-ASSYRIAN GRAVES AND TOMBS

During the German excavation in Assur between 1903 and 1914, more than 1300 graves and tombs were excavated. Because of the difficult situation in the decades after, the burials were investigated and published not before 1954 by A. Haller. Unfortunately, for most of them Haller provided only a rather scanty description and very few illustrations. For that reason it was so far impossible to have a clear picture of the burial customs in Assur and, moreover, to compare and correlate Assur with burials from other places. The majority of the graves are to be dated to the Middle and Neo-Assyrian period. They show a great variety of forms - simple earth graves or pot burials - and different kinds of coffins and tombs. The graves were found under the house floors and in the ruins of the town wall, some also in official buildings. Most of the burials contain grave goods, some of them a large number - like vessels of pottery and bronze, pearls of stone, metal and frit, cylinder seals, rings and bracelets, fibulae, sometimes even cuneiform tablets.

It is the aim of the Assur-Project to publish the graves and the grave goods extensively. Here the main points are the typology, the dating, and the question, how the different kinds of burials and the grave goods correspond to each other and to the surrounding architecture.

Tatiana Pedrazzi

Università di Pisa

AT THE ROOTS OF NEAR EASTERN ARCHAEOLOGIST'S IDENTITY:
THE CONTRIBUTION OF ITALIAN TRAVELLERS IN THE SECOND HALF OF 19TH CENTURY

This paper deals with the wider subject of the origins of archaeologist's identity in the second half of the 19th century, within a singular perspective. In fact, the role played by 19th century Italian travellers throughout the Near East - mainly in search of archaeological evidence of Biblical stories - is analysed here. The goal is to investigate the western public awareness of the archaeologists work in eastern countries in that period, and to discuss the assumed gap between archaeologists, on the first side, and adventure travellers with an antiquarian/archaeological expertise, on the other side. Some legs of the journey across Syria and Mesopotamia by Alfonso Garovaglio, an Italian traveller from Como, are then considered in order to offer a case-study. Finally, in comparison to the past, some short remarks are made on modern adventurers and today's ways of diffusing the recent achievements of archaeological research.

Martin Peilstöcker
Israel Antiquities Authority

THE JAFFA CULTURAL HERITAGE PROJECT:
A NEW APPROACH TO THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL RESEARCH OF JAFFA (ISRAEL)

At the first ICAANE in Rome the author introduced the renewed archaeological work at ancient Jaffa (published in the proceedings of the 1st ICAANE). Since then, numerous excavations, conservation projects, historical studies, publication programs and other research projects were begun at the site. In an effort to coordinate these different subjects in an interdisciplinary project the Jaffa Cultural Heritage Project (JCHP) was initiated by the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) and the Cotsen Institute at UCLA (Los Angeles) in late 2006 and joint by other institutions in 2007. The lecture will introduce to the work of the JCHP, directed by the author and Aaron Burke and will summarize the results of the 2007 season including excavation and publication work and will present the main goals for the coming years.

E. Peltenburg, T.J. Wilkinson, A. McCarthy, E. Barbanes Wilkinson, M. Brown
Universities of Edinburgh and Durham

LAND OF CARCHEMISH 2006 SURVEY RESULTS

The first season of Edinburgh-Durham Universities survey on the West bank of the Euphrates to the South of Carchemish, conducted in March and April 2006, demonstrated the existence of occupations from the Neolithic to the early Islamic period. In contrast to numerous tell-focused earlier investigations between Carchemish and the confluence of the Euphrates and Sajur Rivers, our assessment of the Euphrates Valley and its immediate hinterland is based on systematic intensive survey of the total settlement and landscape. This approach has additionally disclosed a number of hilltop and flat sites, as well as distinct traces of human activities such as canals and quarries. As a result, it is now possible to gain a much more comprehensive record of the settlement pattern in the region and to provide a landscape context for both the city mound of Carchemish and for Tell Jerablus Tahtani some 7 km to the South than was shown by previous surveys. This report seeks to place our preliminary survey results in the context of the known developments of the city of Carchemish.

Luca Peyronel
IULM Università di Milano

ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN ECONOMICS:
THE SILVER QUESTION BETWEEN METHODOLOGY AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA

The role of silver in the economic mechanisms of exchange of the ancient Near East has been studied especially in relation with the large amount of epigraphic data which testifies for its use as a standard of equivalence and means of payment from the Mid 3rd millennium BC onwards. The possibility of an adoption of standardized pieces of silver (and other metals) as a pre-coinage currency are linked with the more general and debated questions on the existence of a “money” and “market” economy in the Near East and on the “weight” of private and free-market exchange in respect of other interaction modes (redistribution, gift-exchange). Silver seems to be used as a reference-value, a medium of exchange, and a store of value, covering the classic “money” functions, but never the metal passed from hands to hands without verifying its weight through metrological procedures, lacking the acceptance obligation. Moreover information gathered from the written documents is not satisfactory regarding practical procedures and mechanisms and is not clear how much and how frequently silver was physically exchanged. Therefore the silver circulation is still to be clarified. The presence of hoards and funerary assemblage with amount of precious metals shaped as rings, coils, bars, ingots, scraps, allows to investigate the “silver question”, starting with a contextual and

typological analysis of the objects. Different examples from Mesopotamia (i.e. Larsa, Nippur, Tell Asmar, Khafaja, Tell Taya), Syria and the Levant (i.e. Ebla, Mari, Nagar, Ekron), including new unpublished materials, will be taking into account trying to link the archaeological approach with the economic and exchange models.

L. Peyronel see E. Andersson

Peter Pfälzner
University of Tübingen

NEW RESULTS FROM THE ROYAL PALACE OF QATNA

The excavations in 2006 and 2007 of the Syrian-German mission in the Royal Palace of Qatna yielded new information on the chronology, building history and building technique of this monumental construction. The existence of an original building plan with a partially different layout could be proven. At this early planning stage crucial elements of the construction were not yet present, such as the covered audience hall, the western wing, and the royal hypogeum with the corridor. A Middle Bronze Age II date for the original plan could be established by pottery analysis. The modification of the original plan into the executed plan took place within a very short time interval during the Middle Bronze II period. One of the most interesting discoveries of the excavations in 2006 and 2007 were abundant remains of wood in the well of the palace, consisting of floor planks and roof beams. The wood is especially well preserved because it is deposited in wet earth layers.

Kristina Pfeiffer
German Archaeological Institut

NEW STUDIES IN THE ARCHAEOMETALLURGY OF SINAI

The lecture is a result of an interdisciplinary project between the German Archaeological Institute, the German Mining Museum and the Faculty of Geology of the Giza University in Cairo. The studies represent the dissertation subject of the lecturer as well.

In the 4th millennium BC the exchange of copper goods between the southern Levant and the Nile Delta had played an important role. In the southern Levant the metallurgical technology was sophisticated whereas in Lower Egypt the technology was at its beginnings. Which role the Sinai had played in this copper exchange and how the early technology had developed in this “isolated” geographical location is subject of our studies. With the help of lead isotope analysis the provenience studies can be improved: so some insights into the trade routes and the early technological transfer can be achieved. The Sinai is rich in minerals and raw materials, already in Neolithic times turquoise was mined, but for the metallurgical works it is commonly expected that the exploitation had begun in the late Early Bronze Age. The 4th millennium in Sinai is an unknown field and due to the human activities in the neighbouring regions we study this period with the aim to find its place in the supra-regional contacts, especially in the exchange of metallurgical goods.

Graham Philip
Durham University

BEYOND THE TELLS:
THE NATURE OF PRE-CLASSICAL ACTIVITY IN THE BASALT LANDSCAPE OF HOMS

In many parts of the Middle East the archaeological record is dominated by tell sites, generally of Bronze and/or Iron Age date. However, archaeological research on those areas where mud-brick was not commonly used in construction, has generally focused upon standing architecture of Graeco-Roman date. As a result our knowledge of earlier periods in these areas remains limited. This paper will address this topic by presenting a summary of the evidence for pre-classical activity identified by the Syrian-British survey project *Settlement and Landscape Development in the Homs Region*. This includes: thousands of stone burial monuments which are present at a density of more than 200 instances per sqkm, settlements characterised by clusters of stone walls, small tell sites, and a large circular enclosure which, might be best understood as some kind of ritual structure. Taken as a whole, the evidence points to a wide range of activity dating between the 4th and the 1st millennia BC, which adds an important new dimension to our current understanding of human activity in the regional landscape.

Paola Piccione see Giorgia Francozzi

Sedigheh Piran
National Museum of Iran, Tehran

ARDEBIL STYLE POTTERY: UNPUBLISHED FORMS AND MOTIFS

The Ardebil style Pottery has been found in North-West Iran during the illicit excavation of the cemeteries. For the first time Charles Burney, the excavator of Yanik Tepe, identified the layer of this kind of painted pottery as belonging to Iron Age III. Robert Dyson dated the same material found in to layer III A Hasanlu to the Achaemenid period. According to E. Haerink, who has also studied it, this pottery type is dated from the middle of Achaemenid to early Parthian period.

The latest chronology of Ardebil pottery was proposed by the writer in a thesis of master degree in Tarbiat Modares Tehran University, National Museum of Iran, based on results from analysis done jointly with the Termoluminescence department of Tehran Conservation & Restoration Institute. The result of this analysis was to date this style of pottery to the late Parthian period.

E. Haerink studied carefully the Ardebil style. He developed its typology on the basis of all known examples; he assorted them to bowls and jugs. I found two additional shapes of the type of pottery in National Museum of Iran collections which can be added to Haerink's classification. In addition, I identified more motifs of painted decoration, which have never been studied before.

Scientific excavations have never brought to light Ardebil pottery. Therefore scientific study in North-West of Iran is helpful for its better identification. Thanks to this pottery, we can find out the patterns of communication between this place and the others.

Specific identification of the shape and structure of this pottery can be helpful in stratigraphy of archaeological sites. In the North-West of Iran some very similar pottery to the Ardebil one have been found in Bronze Age levels. With identification of motifs and shapes of these potteries we can distinguish imitations from the original Ardebil styles pottery, which is restricted to the late Parthian period.

Andrea Polcaro
 “Sapienza” Università di Roma

JEBEL MUTAWWAQ DOLMENS: CULT OF ANCESTORS IN EARLY BRONZE I WADI AZ-ZARQA VALLEY

The patterns of dolmens distribution along Wadi az-Zarqa valley testify a large diffusion of these megalithic structures in Early Bronze I Transjordan. Surveys of “Sapienza” University of Rome, performed in seasons 2006-2007 under the direction of Lorenzo Nigro, identified the extension of dolmens distribution along the valley, in relation to Early Bronze I settlements and sacred areas. The most important dolmen field along Wadi az-Zarqa valley is Jebel Mutawwaq. The site, excavated by the University of Oviedo, under the direction of Juan Antonio Tresguerres, has a large dolmen field with thousand of megalithic structures, and a fortified settlement, with an important sacred area. This work points to investigate in Jebel Mutawwaq megalithic field, the pattern distribution (analysis based on Geographical Information System-GIS software), and the typological architectural features (reconstruction of the structures operated by CAD software) of dolmens. These analyses can help to identify different social groups that use the site as a cultic area. Some other detailed statistical analyses on these dolmens, also with studies about orientations, can identify the rituals linked to the cult of the ancestors of these populations.

Paola Poli
 Università degli Studi di Pavia

THE NEO-ASSYRIAN GLYPTIC FROM TELL MASAikh : PRELIMINARY RESULTS

The aim of this paper is to offer a first view of the seals and sealing impressions discovered in an Assyrian colony, situated in Tell Masaikh, on the East bank of the Syrian lower Middle Euphrates, excavated since 1997 by a team directed by M.G. Masetti-Rouault. Among the different archaeological levels attested there, the Neo-Assyrian ones are certainly the most impressive. This occupation has been identified as Kar-Assurnasirpal, the “Port of Assurnasirpal”, founded as a military colony in the middle of the 9th century. The town, with a palace, has been completely reorganized by Nergal-eresh, governor of the Rasappa province, at the beginning of the 8th century and transformed again probably under Tiglath-pileser III’s rule. About one hundred seals and seal-impressions have been found until now in the acropolis. If it can be observed that this Iron II glyptic material shares styles and iconography of the Neo-Assyrian imperial tradition, certain variations pointed out by the analysis are of interest, because they let us see the variation of the figurative tradition as an aspect of the acculturation in progress in a Neo-Assyrian colony in an Aramean-Babylonian context.

Anne Porter
 University of Southern California

SEX AND SUBVERSION IN THE REPRESENTATION OF NARAM SIN

The relationship between representations of king and divinity on the stele of Naram Sin and other works raises important questions about agency. It is usually assumed in the ancient Near East that the artist has none. His is merely to execute the wish of others. Or perhaps he is representing what has become a widespread cultural belief. The first is the position of historians, who see past events as the result of the will of outstanding individuals, the second, processual archaeologists who see the passage of time as the result of forces beyond any individual (although archaeologists too subscribe to the idea that all power is held in the hands of the elite). A comparison of the depiction of gods, kings and humans in both “high” and “low” cultural contexts dating to the late Akkadian period onwards, suggests that the artist does indeed exercise agency in the Stele of Naram Sin, subverting a royal discourse of divinity by rendering the king as the epitome of human-ness, in a way that obscures the essential disobedience of this artistic act.

M. Pucci

University of Chicago

‘AMUQ, CHATAL HÖYÜK.

STRATIGRAPHY AND POTTERY OF THE LATE BRONZE AND IRON AGE OCCUPATIONS

In the 1930s the Oriental Institute investigated the ‘Amuq plain, modern region of Hatay, with a team led first by McEwan and later by Braidwood. Initially the team pursued large scale excavations at Tell Tayinat, Tell Judeideh and Chatal Höyük as well as small scale ones at Dahab and Kurdu. In a second time they surveyed the whole plain. That research brought to the establishment and publication of the survey, of the ‘Amuq pottery sequence for the 4th and 3rd millennium and of the architecture of the Late Bronze and Iron Age levels at the main three excavations. In the last years the Oriental Institute promoted the analysis and the publication of the materials and the stratigraphy of the three large excavations.

The present paper will provide an overview on the stratigraphy, small finds and pottery from the site of Chatal Höyük focusing on the Late Bronze and Iron Age occupations with the materials related to these levels. It will also discuss methods used in dealing with documentation and materials from past excavations.

Marina Puturidze

Tbilisi State University

CONCERNING THE PROBLEM OF ICONOGRAPHY OF SOME HIGH ARTISTIC CRAFT PRODUCTION
OF THE TRIALETI CULTURE

The present paper deals with a special study of the iconography of images represented on rich metal items of high artistic craft of the Trialeti Culture. Rich metal items decorated with images of different style are widespread in the Middle Bronze Age Trialeti Culture and represent a very characteristic kind of artefacts from the point of view of Near Eastern cultural influence. Currently, can be indicated several gold and silver vessels decorated in very well known near-eastern fashion. Typological and stylistic systematic study of these decorative images still requires to be done, though some of them have already been the subject of specific and successful research.

It seems essential to study this valuable production by a comparative analysis with examples from the ancient Near Eastern world. In our presentation we consider South Caucasian-Near-Eastern cultural interrelations, focusing on a few precious goods of high artistic craftsmanship. Among this artifacts can be distinguished different groups from the stylistic and typologic point of view, being this one of the most characteristic features of the famous Trialeti Culture. The appearance of these items seems to be one of the indicators of deepest social stratification, which indicate the stimulating process of concentration of wealth by the ruling elite. At the same time numerous burial sites of the Trialeti Culture show clear evidence of the interaction between various cultural traditions both local and of the Near Eastern world. The Trialeti Culture seems to be created at the end of the 3rd and at the very beginning of the 2nd millennium BC, where different cultural layers and orientations can be easily distinguished.

Hasan Rahsaz^a, Alexander Nagel^b

^a Archaeological Institute of Persepolis, Parsa-Pasargadae Foundation, Fars

^b University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

NAQSH-E-ROSTAM RE-VISITED: NEW STUDIES ON THE FAÇADE OF THE TOMB OF DARIUS I
AND REMARKS ON THE ROLE OF COLOUR IN ACHAEMENID ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY

Colours and gilding were extensively used by the Achaemenids to decorate all types of monuments between the late 6th and late 4th centuries BC. Given the relative scarcity of energy and research spent so far on the detection and scientific study of the residues and designs on ancient Near Eastern monuments, new

data collected from recent investigations at the tomb façade of the tomb of Darius I at Naqsh-e-Rostam and Persepolis are important when trying to understand the role of colour in the iconography of Near Eastern relief and sculptural art and archaeology.

In the first part of our paper, recent work at the façade of the tomb of Darius I, conducted by a team of the Parsa-Pasargadae Research Foundation will be introduced. This allows not only for an identification of pigments, colours and colour schemes, but reveals important information on the history of the tomb itself, allowing for the first time a tentative virtual reconstruction of the original appearance of the tomb façade in the Achaemenid period. The second part of the paper presents preliminary results of an ongoing study on the extent and role of polychromy at Persepolis. Detailed technological analysis conducted through various techniques and approaches on the colours at a selected group of monuments on the site will be introduced and discussed. Since until recently, little attention has been paid on the polychromatic surface to monuments in Near Eastern archaeology in general, the theoretical framework, methodologies and research perspectives for a new research project on the role of polychromy in Achaemenid archaeology will be outlined. Intrinsic components of the original appearance, the paint applications invite for new discussions in scholarly and theoretical debates on Near Eastern Archaeology. Both, the potential and limits of polychromy studies in Near Eastern Archaeology will be introduced and discussed.

Marco Ramazzotti
“Sapienza” Università di Roma

THE EBLA ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK.
NATURAL, ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND ARTIFICIAL ITALIAN PORTRAIT OF THE ANCIENT SYRIAN CAPITAL

The paper will be centred on three interacted topics. At least, the methodological guidelines of the Ebla Archaeological Park that were listed in Paris during the 3rd ICAANE will be critically discussed; secondly, some of the archaeological discoveries strictly related to those methodological guidelines will be presented, discoveries that were hypothesized and located during the 4th ICAANE in Berlin; third, some of the archaeological monuments and landscapes visual transformations related to the archaeological and restoration works will be projected. The main subject of the paper is particularly dedicated to the “Sapienza” University that made possible to coordinate and to complete archaeologically this pilot project and - at the same time - gave us the precious opportunity to present here, in Rome, the last results and perspectives of an experimental, multidisciplinary archaeological enterprise.

Clemens Reichel
Oriental Institute, University of Chicago

URBANISM, ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEXITY AND WARFARE IN NORTHEASTERN SYRIA DURING THE LATE
CHALOLITHIC PERIOD. THE 2005 AND 2006 EXCAVATIONS AT TELL HAMOUKAR

Traditionally the cradle of urbanism in the Middle East was sought in the 5th and 4th millennium BC cities of southern Mesopotamia; later urban centres in other parts of the Middle East such as northern Mesopotamia (northern Syria / southern Turkey) generally were seen as “transplanted” concepts following the southern Mesopotamian Uruk Expansion during the 4th millennium B.C. Recent work on archaeological sites in this area, however, has shown a development of cities during the Late Chalcolithic independent from southern Mesopotamia. This presentation summarizes recent work at Hamoukar, a large site in north-eastern Syria excavated jointly by the University of Chicago and the Syrian Department of Antiquities since 1999. Recent work has shown the presence of a walled city with administrative units that predate the arrival of the Uruk Culture during the later part of the 4th millennium BC by several hundred years. The recovery of over 2000 clay sealings in storage and manufacturing units indicate the presence of a complex bureaucracy. The destruction of this city around 3500 BC by warfare appears to be connected with the takeover of northern Syria and southern Turkey by the Uruk Culture, highlighting the not-so-peaceful aspects of this expansion.

H. Rezvani see H. Vahdati Nasab

Suzanne Richard

EXCAVATING THE EARLY BRONZE AGE AT KHIRBAT ISKANDAR, JORDAN

This paper presents the final results of the completed study of the Khirbat Iskandar Area C gateway, the Early Bronze IV cemeteries in the immediate vicinity, and the quantitative study of the corpus of Early Bronze IV ceramics. A consideration of these data, in the context of recent excavations of the preceding urban settlement on the mound, offers considerable insight into Early Bronze IV society. Fieldwork in 2004 and 2007 has confirmed the reuse of the outer fortifications in the Early Bronze IV period, as well as reuse of earlier walls in the construction of buildings on site. Study of the defenses at the site provides, in particular, a context for the unique Early Bronze IV Area C gateway. Finally, study of the megalithic structures near the site, along with the the cemeteries, provides a context for understanding connections between the living and the dead at Khirbat Iskandar in the Early Bronze IV period.

Helena Riihiaho see Kenneth Lönnqvist

Beatrice Robert

Maison de l'Orient Méditerranéen

NEW INSIGHTS INTO HALAF-UBAID-TRANSITIONAL CERAMIC PRODUCTION.

FROM RAW MATERIALS TO RECYCLING:

THE OBJECTS IN HISTORY AS AN INDICATOR OF SOCIAL LIFE *VERSUS* SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

Generally speaking, for prehistoric periods, pottery is compared to people, and by extension, to culture concept. Evidence of such a combination was noted for Halafian remains. However, ceramic production can't be reduced to shards, even less to vessel typology. Above all, it's a raw material (clay) which is affected by various transformations' stages. Final object is just the result of a previous project answering to life necessity (utilitarian or not). The execution requires a specific "chaîne opératoire", which takes allowed time. Identified with simple vessel type, disks, spindles whorls, figurines, ceramic object has a specific life and sometimes more, when it is re-used or recycled. Thanks to ethnology, ethnoarchaeology and archaeometry, it's now possible to outline that Object can't be assimilated to Culture concept and to reconsider importance of Objects not for typological or decorative reasons, but for human behaviours. Ceramic production is not only vessel but foremost material. More than a cultural marker, Halafian Ceramic production can be considered as a technical or a social indicator, which gives information about activities and way of life of various communities.

Licia Romano

"Sapienza" Università di Roma

THE BARBER'S GIFT: VOTIVE PLAQUES AS EXPRESSION OF THE ELITE'S *PIETAS*

The aim of this paper is to analyze the votive plaques from the point of view of the worshipper. Even though they are often badly executed and show homogeneous themes, these widespread bas-reliefs were dedicated especially from the members of the elite. Among these worshippers, as we know from some inscribed plaques, there were a governor, a Palace's prefect, a scribe, some merchants, a stone-cutter and a barber. I will briefly analyze their roles in the Sumerian and Akkadian society in the light of epigraphical data. Indeed I will focus on the different value of this votive gift compared to the stela and the other

monuments dedicated by kings, thus showing this difference from both the qualitative and iconographic points of view.

Marie-Odile Rousset

CNRS, UMR 8167, Orient et Méditerranée, laboratoire “Islam Médiéval”

L’ASSEMBLAGE CERAMIQUE DES NIVEAUX OMEYYADES DE HADIR (SYRIE DU NORD)

Les fouilles de la mission archéologique syro-française à Hadir (Syrie, région d’Alep) ont permis la mise au jour de niveaux du début de l’époque islamique sans antécédents byzantins. Le site correspond à un établissement satellite de la ville de Qinnasrin, un faubourg hors les murs, né de l’installation de tribus au début de l’époque omeyyade, non loin de l’ancienne métropole régionale de l’époque byzantine. Les niveaux I et II de Hadir ont livré un assemblage céramique caractéristique de la fin du VII^e - VIII^e siècle, avec un nombre restreint de formes de Brittle Ware (pots de cuisson, casseroles et cruches), une quasi absence de formes de sigillées tardives et la présence de quelques amphores romaines tardives locales ou importées. Mais l’apport principal de cette étude est d’avoir mis en évidence une nouvelle catégorie de céramique commune. Une même pâte semble avoir été utilisée pour réaliser un grand nombre de formes: bassins, jattes, coupelles et couvercles, pichets, jarres et surtout des amphores sans col, sans doute destinées au transport du vin. Cette catégorie est originale et n’est que rarement signalée sur d’autres sites de Syrie du Nord.

Kouros Roustaei

Iranian Center for Archaeological Research

TEPE HISAR: ONCE AGAIN

As one of the key sites in the North-East of Iranian Plateau, Tepe Hisar has a well-appreciated position in the archaeology of Iranian Plateau and south-western of the Central Asia. The site extensively excavated by Erich Schmidt from University of Pennsylvania in 1933-34. Schmidt’s work established a cultural sequence for the site from 5th to mid-2nd millennia BC. In 1976 a Restudy Project was launched at the site with several objectives. This Project, directed by Robert H. Dyson of University of Pennsylvania and Maurizio Tosi of Turin University, showed the importance of Hisar as a major manufacturing center of several items in the Central Plateau and also provided some ¹⁴C dates for upper deposits. In 1995 Esmail Yaghmaii of Iranian Center for Archaeological Research started rescue excavations at the site. He could find something that neither Schmidt nor Dyson and Tosi could find: several pieces of clay sealing with cuneiform writing.

In 2006 we made some soundings in surroundings of the site with primary objective of defining its real extents. During this fieldwork we could discover a cemetery, remains of Iron Age occupation and strong evidence for existence of a river near the site. These new findings never reported by previous scholars who worked at the site.

K. Roustaei see H. Vahdati Nasab

Martina Rugiadi

Università degli Studi di Urbino “Carlo Bo”

IRANIAN GLAZED POTTERY OF THE 11TH CENTURY:

THE MATERIAL FROM THE EXCAVATION OF THE MASJED-E JOM’E IN ISFAHAN, ADAMJI PROJECT

The excavations of the Masjed-e Jom’e of Isfahan (carried out by Umberto Scerrato in 1972-1977) represent a unique opportunity to improve our knowledge of the Iranian pottery from the Late Sasanian/Early

Islamic up to Safavid and Qajar periods. The importance of this assemblage lies not only in its quantity (around 500000 sherds, of which 40000 are glazed, fully selected and organized in an integrate future GIS system), which ensures an extensive and representative typology for all the identified wares, but also for the intrinsic features of the excavated areas, which give important dating of the materials.

Among the glazed pottery, the 11th century material is of great interest: while safely dated with a *terminus ante quem* of the last quarter of the century (corresponding to the building of the southern and northern domed halls by the viziers Nezam al-Molk and Taj al-Molk), this assemblage demonstrates that the production of fritware was already established and that some of its morphological features are quite close to other wares consumed in the same period.

Salah S. Rumaydh

Statebord of Antiquites and Heritage, Baghdad

SHE SHEEN FORTRESS CONTROL ON THE EUPHRATES

Shesheen lies on the left bank of the Euphrates, about 35 km South of Haditha city, 50 km Northwest of Hit city. Shesheen is the most important of the many sites excavated in the Al- Baghdadi Dam, which lies on high cliff more than 40 m above the level of the river. Initially the area was investigated and a map was drawn. It was divided into interlinking squares (10 x 10 m each) in order to keep an exact record of the archaeological finds during the excavations. The excavation included the eastern sections of the site, because we did not find any structural remains building at surface in the middle and West. As result of the excavation in this site within one season we found two towers of different sizes. We found two small units, as well as a large wall extended more than 120 m from the central large unit to the North where the larger tower lays. But we found a building in the middle of this wall and, because of its buttresses, we thought that it could be a religious building. Among the material there were about 14 cuneiform tablets and fragments (containing names of kings, names of many cities), letters with date formula, cylinder seals and cylinder seal impressions, clay figurines, and different types of pottery. In conclusion, according to the remained building and the different material we thought that Shesheen is watchtower at another side of the river used to controll a large area on the Euphrates between Hit and Mari.

N. Russell see D. Baird

Iman Saca

Saint Xavier University, Chicago

COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY IN PALESTINE:

AN INVALUABLE WAY TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE SITES

The field of community archaeology is still considered a new subfield in archaeology aimed at engaging and involving local communities in protecting, promoting, interpreting as well as benefiting from archaeological and heritage sites within their communities.

The Palestinian People has gone through monumental and unprecedented changes in the last few decades. Many are displaced and are refugees within their own country and in the Diaspora. Many of the archaeological sites in the Palestinian Territories are neglected or even destroyed due to the harsh economic and political realities. As a result of these realities a heritage-less future seems to await, especially the younger generation of Palestinians. Involving the community in exploring their heritage and the heritage of the land they live on, seems to be the optimal way to protect and preserve this heritage, both archaeological and cultural, through creating a sense of shared history, cultural identity and cultural awareness. Involving communities in archaeological research projects have proven to be successful. Ian Hodder's work at Çatalhöyük, Turkey and the work of Stephanie Moser and others at Quseir, Egypt are very encouraging

examples of the benefits of community involvement to the discipline of archaeology as a whole, as well as the local communities living within close proximity to these sites.

This paper explores the work that has been done mainly in the West Bank, and suggests a strategy based on active community involvement and participation in a collaborative process between researchers and community representatives. Community archaeology is a collaboration amongst all participants, which promotes a sense of civic involvement, and leads to sustainable long term benefits to all parties involved. Community archaeology has a very unique and critical role in transforming archaeology into a discipline that contributes to the betterment of society and the protection of human heritage worldwide.

Hélène Sader

American University of Beirut

TELL HIZZIN IN THE BIQAA: DIGGING UP NEW MATERIAL FROM AN OLD EXCAVATION

Tell Hizzin, ancient *Hasi*, is located in the northern Biqaa valley, eleven kilometres Southwest of Baalbek. The site was excavated in 1949 and 1950 by Maurice Chéhab after the accidental discovery of a statue fragment of Sebekhotep IV. The excavations yielded important materials - which were unfortunately never published - from both the settlement and the tombs. They indicate that the site was intermittently occupied from the Early Bronze Age IV to Ottoman times. The paper presents the results of a research project initiated by the author and Hermann Genz to study and publish these important finds. It gives a preliminary assessment of the occupation history of the site and of the excavated material, mainly the pottery and small finds assemblages from Early Bronze Age IV, Middle Bronze Age and IA tombs.

Vasıf Şahoğlu, Hayat Erkanal

Ankara University

EARLY BRONZE AGE BURIAL HABITS IN WESTERN ANATOLIA: NEW EVIDENCE FROM BAKLA TEPE - IZMIR

The site of Bakla Tepe is located in the former village of Bulgurca in the Menderes district, on the Cumaovası Plain to the South of Izmir. The site is situated ca. 15 km inland and connects easily with the Aegean Sea via a narrow valley. Excavation of the site was undertaken as a joint Project of the İzmir Archaeological Museum and the İzmir Region Excavations and Research Project (IRERP). Bakla Tepe was continuously inhabited from the Late Chalcolithic to the end of the Early Bronze Age I. Following a short gap, the site was used as an extensive cemetery during the Late Early Bronze Age II. The Early Bronze Age I cemetery shows a variation in burial types such as inhumations, pithos burials and stone cist graves. On the other hand, the Late Early Bronze Age II cemetery contains only pithos burials. The pottery and metal finds from the earlier cemetery have more affinities to Aegean types whereas the later cemetery is likely to indicate closer links with Central Anatolian cultures. This dramatic change in burial customs, following the gap at the end of the Early Bronze Age I, can be explained within the social context since it might reflect a change in the socio-cultural structure of the settlement.

Hamed Salem ^a, Hani Nur el-Din ^b

^a Birzeit University

^b Alquds University

AN ETHNOARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDY OF JERICHO WATER IRRIGATION SYSTEM (RIBAS)

The traditional irrigation system of Jericho, known as Rbat (*dwaleeb*), probably follows the same pattern since the Neolithic times. Jericho is fed from several springs, mainly from Ain el Qilt, Ain es Shoseh, Ain Diewik (*beer*) and es- Sultan springs. The system is composed of: collecting reservoirs dug next to the

springs, a main aqueduct, leading to *dawleeb* and most recently replaced by the pools system, and sub channels leading to the fields. The pool system was introduced during the last few decades. More than 100 pools could be found, many of them are used today and others were abandoned. Also, the aqueducts are disappearing after being replaced by modern pipes. Some used to reach a distance of 10 km from the main source. The irrigation system of Jericho is disappearing due to modern development projects.

The following study aims at documenting the aqueduct systems before they disappear for ever. The study is based on interviews of the old farmers, evaluation of historical resources, use of aerial photos, GIS mapping and land survey. Some of the aqueducts may follow the same stream of the archaeological ones, especially those from the Islamic period. We hope that this case will represent a model to understand the ancient land use and water irrigation system of Jericho.

Beate Salje

Vorderasiatisches Museum Berlin

ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE AND ITS PRESENTATION IN A MUSEUM - PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

The Museum of the Ancient Near East (Vorderasiatisches Museum) in Berlin has been shaped by the monumental architectural reconstructions of some of the most important places in Mesopotamia, excavated by German specialists like Koldewey and Andrae at the beginning of the 20th century: the Ishtar-Gate and the Processional Way of Babylon, an Assyrian Palace Room and a Temple Façade from Uruk. This concept goes back to Walter Andrae's visionary idea of a conceptual rebirth of the ancient Near Eastern Empires. Thus the objects could be presented as signs of their knowledge in their reconstructed ancient spaces with additional wall-paintings and models. The extension of the Museum of the ancient Near East on the upper storey permits a rethinking and further development of Andrae's ideas. The investigations are part of the Berlin "Cluster of Excellence" from Universities, Museums and other Institutions. Under the title "Topoi" the interdependence of space and knowledge in the civilizations of the ancient Near East will be studied concerning their processing in later cultures until the present day. Museum Presentations of archaeological heritage always had a significant influence on the knowledge of ancient cultures. Especially the architectural reconstructions in the Vorderasiatisches Museum made the Museum itself into a presentation of Ancient Spaces.

Sabrina Salmon see Maria Grazia Masetti-Rouault

Michela Sandias

University of Reading

STABLE ISOTOPE ANALYSIS OF FAUNAL AND HUMAN SKELETAL REMAINS FROM JORDAN: ENVIRONMENT, DIET AND SOCIETIES OF PAST SOUTHERN LEVANT

Relatively few bioarchaeological studies have so far employed stable isotope analyses of skeletal remains to investigate environmental variability and use of resources by humans and animals of past Jordan. This talk will present preliminary results of a project which was designed to research the impact of cultural preferences and environmental change on human and animal diet in Jordan from the Early Bronze Age to the Byzantine Period. A set of more than three hundred samples comprises material from both rural and urban sites, from two distinctive geographical areas, the north-western Highlands and the Jordan Valley, and includes the World Heritage sites of Pella and Jerash.

Preliminary results from the multi-period site of Tell Ya'amun in North Jordan show that human diet was remarkably consistent between the Bronze Age and the Late Roman-Byzantine period being mainly based on C₃ resources. In contrast, significant differences can be observed in the diet of herbivores between these periods with the isotopic data for the Bronze Age fauna being far more diverse and suggesting that animals

were herded in desert environments, while in the Late Roman period they were kept closer to the settlement. Human and faunal data from other Highlands sites and from the Jordan Valley will also be presented and discussed in terms of geographical variability, settlement type and date of occupation.

A. Sardari see M. Abdolahi

Hamid Omrani Rekavandi^a, Eberhard Sauer^b, Tony Wilkinson^c, Jebrael Nokandeh^d
Presenting author: Eberhard Sauer

^a Iranian Cultural Heritage and Tourism Organisation & University of Tehran

^b University of Edinburgh

^c University of Durham

^d Iranian Cultural Heritage and Tourism Organisation & University of Berlin

SASANIAN FRONTIER WALLS IN NORTHERN IRAN

The territory between the Caspian Sea and the Elburz Mountains contains the ancient Near East's largest and most sophisticated system of linear barriers: the Great Wall of Gorgan and the Wall of Tammishe (the former over 195 km long). Dating proposals for these installations have ranged over some 900 years. Since 2005 a joint Iranian and British team has been exploring these walls, associated forts and hinterland fortification. It succeeded in narrowing down the date of the system to one century. Geophysical surveys and excavations revealed interior buildings in forts in so much detail that we can venture estimates for the size of the garrison. A landscape survey yielded major insight into how the Gorgan Wall relates to contemporary and earlier landscape features on either side. An extensive water supply system associated with the Wall powerfully demonstrates the skills of the Sasanian creators of this massive system. Our project has also shed new light on water level fluctuations in the Caspian Sea, with parts of the walls now being submerged, while others, now on dry land again, were temporarily flooded.

Eberhard Sauer see Hamid Omrani Rekavandi

David Schloen
 University of Chicago

NEW EXCAVATIONS AT ZINCIRLI (ANCIENT SAM'AL)

In 2006, the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago began excavating the site of Zincirli (ancient Sam'al) in the Gaziantep province of Turkey. These are the first excavations at Zincirli since the German excavations there in 1888-1902. The German excavations uncovered monumental architecture of the Iron Age and a number of inscriptions in Aramaic, Phoenician, and Akkadian. During the Iron Age, Zincirli was the capital of a small kingdom called Sam'al and the site grew to occupy 40 ha, surrounded by a circular double-walled fortification; but there were also substantial earlier and later occupations of the site which are not well understood, ranging in date from ca. 2500 to 300 BC. The University of Chicago expedition has returned to the site with modern methods to determine the settlement history and stratigraphy of the mound and to explore the large lower town, which was not excavated by the Germans. This paper will present the results of the 2006 and 2007 field seasons.

Glenn M. Schwartz
The Johns Hopkins University, USA

EXCAVATIONS AT UMM EL-MARRA, SYRIA, 2006:
NEW RESULTS FROM THE THIRD AND SECOND MILLENNIA BC

In May-July 2006, the Johns Hopkins University of Amsterdam project conducted its eighth excavation season at Tell Umm el-Marra on the Jabbul plain of northern Syria. For the 3rd millennium BC, new evidence of the elite (“royal”) mortuary complex was acquired, including excavation of the two-chamber Tomb 8, dating to EB III (Umm el-Marra VI). Tomb 7 was a multi-chamber edifice apparently dating to EB IVB, supplying a rare example of an EB IVB monumental tomb and suggesting new ramifications for our understanding of the period subsequent to the fall of Ebla Palace G. Additional installations contained more skeletons of sacrificed equids and other ancillary features. Below the mortuary complex, excavations revealed EB III contexts with indications of ritual deposits. New evidence for the Middle Bronze occupation (earlier 2nd millennium BC) includes expanded exposure of the large, round stone Monument 1, built above the 3rd millennium mortuary complex, and excavations at the Northwest gate of the community, with a Middle Bronze sequence including a destruction episode.

Peta Seaton
University of Sydney

CHALCOLITHIC CULT AND RISK MANAGEMENT AT TELEILAT GHASSUL: THE AREA E SANCTUARY

The Area E Sanctuary at Teleilat Ghassul in the southern Jordan Valley represents a new development in public cult architecture and iconography in the Chalcolithic, and a significant change from the domestic cult expressed in settlement shrines which pre-date the emergence of this new cultic and political institution. Despite a period of “competitive diversity” between the two different cult expressions at the site, its social, political and economic influence apparently prevailed, before itself collapsing, along with the abandonment of the site around 3900-3800 BC.

Distributional analysis of sanctuary and settlement materials, along with other agro-industrial and economic evidence, suggests that this new socio-political dynamic emerged in response to imperatives for more successful risk and resource management associated with the increasingly complex agro-industrial Chalcolithic economy at the site. Increasing aridity and public health risks may have prompted political responses expressed through a new cult involving a “sacred pair”, along with specialized storage, production, and intellectual infrastructure.

Deborah Sebag
University Paris 1: Panthéon - Sorbonne

ARCHITECTURE AND BUILDING METHODS AS AN ILLUSTRATION OF THE SOCIAL DIFFERENTIATION
IN THE EARLY BRONZE AGE CITY-STATES OF THE SOUTHERN LEVANT

The appearance of the first city-states, during the 3rd millennium BC, accelerates the process of social differentiation initiated during the Neolithic period. The city-state political system established by the new elite class represents a concentration of population and economical, military, religious and political powers in one place. This centralisation of persons and powers requires new architectural solutions. It is answered, on one side, by the building of monumental architecture: palaces, temples, fortifications or huge storage facilities. And in the mean time, the domestic architecture had to adapt itself inside a close space with an increasing density. Thus, the new urban situation creates the need for new building methods, whether local innovations or inventions borrowed from other civilisations.

The purpose of the paper is to focus on the development of architectural methods in the Early Bronze Age urban context and to characterize if some methods are specifically related to a type of architecture: domestic, monumental; then to study if and how this knowledge is transmitted especially after the urban collapse of the Early Bronze IV.

Guillaume Sence

Université Michel de Montaigne, Bordeaux 3, France

KHORSABAD: IMAGERY ANALYSIS AND 3D RESTITUTION

We present here a spatial and semiological analysis of low-reliefs from the palace of Dur-Sharrukin, built by Sargon II from 713 to 707 BC, carried out while being detached from the aesthetic and iconographic approaches, and associated with a 3D restitution. The restitution using the imagery 3D allows the handing-over in situation of the images in architecture, in order to perceive the spatial organization of it and, thereafter, to understand the structure of the decoration of the monument, contrary to the diagrammatic boards which one finds in certain articles or works, or the photographic folders that there are in others, those showing generally only the images best preserved, and thus the more “beautiful ones” aesthetically speaking, with depends on overall comprehension. The spatial and semiological analysis of these images allows, as for it, to show that they form, when they are studied in their architectural context and as a whole, an ideological portrait of the king put in scene on the walls of the palace, and to understand that they are the subject of a strong investment symbolic system. When one arrives at the level of the ideology, one can say that these low-reliefs, the texts of the palace and the city itself, not recount the life of the king, but the king himself, such as it represents himself and not such as it is.

Kemal Sertok

Gaziantep Museum (Turkey)

**EARLY BRONZE AGE DIAGNOSTIC CERAMIC GROUPS FROM NEW FUNERARY CONTEXTS
IN THE GAZIANTEP AREA (SOUTH-EAST TURKEY)**

The use of earth-moving machines for public work in modern towns and industrialized agriculture cause fortuitous occasions for uncovering archaeological remains. Therefore archaeologists of local museums necessarily are forced to carry out rescue excavations. In a very limited time they record remains and finds, and carry them in the museums. Unfortunately these data and materials remain often unpublished and far away from scholars knowledge. For these reasons, in this paper is presented a survey of recent data from rescue excavations of Early Bronze Age graves uncovered by the Gaziantep Museum during the last years. The preliminary analysis of these data is thought useful for understanding the distribution of graves and ceramics, as well as aspects of the funerary traditions in the Gaziantep area.

Kemal Sertok ^a, Cristina Simonetti ^b, Filomena Fausta Squadrone ^c

^a Gaziantep Museum (Gaziantep, Turkey)

^b Università di Roma "Tor Vergata"

^c Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Istanbul, Turkey)

**THE INCISED SIGNS ON METAL OBJECTS FROM THE BIRECIK DAM
EARLY BRONZE AGE CEMETERY, NEAR CARCHEMISH (SOUTH-EAST TURKEY).
NEW PERSPECTIVES ON THE LATE URUK AND POST-URUK PERIODS IN THE MIDDLE AND UPPER EUPHRATES**

This paper deals with an archaeological and philological approach to Middle and Upper Euphrates finds from contexts of the Late Uruk and post-Uruk periods.

An analysis and interpretation of interesting incised signs on some metal objects from the graves of the Birecik Dam Early Bronze Age Cemetery (Gaziantep) will be presented. In our analysis these signs are compatible with the proto-cuneiform signs, as well as with the tokens. On the basis of this and other evidences, will be discussed the presence and significance of the cultural and socio-economic dynamics in the Middle and Upper Euphrates during the Late Uruk and post-Uruk periods.

Mojgan Seyedin see Barbara Helwing

Ann Shafer
American University in Cairo

CROSS-CULTURAL COMPARISONS IN ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN ART:
THE CASE OF THE ASSYRIAN “SACRED TREE”

Comparative iconographic studies across space and time have been relatively few in the study of ancient Near Eastern art. Controversial in their approach and conclusions, such studies nevertheless raise important questions about the ancient material and how it is perceived. This paper revisits one important iconographical motif from ancient Neo-Assyria: the so-called “Sacred Tree”. Previous scholarship is summarized, and possible avenues of investigation are explored.

Ruth Shahack-Gross see Francesco Berna

Sadegh Malek Shahmirzahi
Tehran University

THE ZIGGURAT OF SIALK

The prehistoric site of Sialk, which consists of two mounds (North and South) and two cemeteries (A and B), was until recently located 4 km South-West of the town of Kashan, on the right side of the Kashan-Finn road. Today, due to the urban expansion of the last two decades, Sialk is located inside the town of Kashan. As a result of nearly over 70 years of neglecting the site of Sialk had been vastly ruined. The first archaeological investigation at Sialk was conducted by the late professor Roman Ghirshman from 1934 to 1937. At the present the remains of the South Mound of Sialk is measuring 350 North–South to 230 m East–West. The highest point on the southern Mound, measured at the top of the Ziggurat of Sialk, is 967.94 m and the plain surrounding the mound is 950 m above sea level. The virgin soil was reached at the depth of 946.14 m above sea level in the Section A.

The “Sialk Reconsideration Project”, which ended five seasons of field work on December 31, 2005, was organized as a multidisciplinary archaeological research project by the author in January 2001. The major goal of the project was to collect new data in order to update earlier recorded information, in turn allowing us to re-evaluating the past interpretation of culture at the site.

In the process of clearing the noticeable mud bricks of the huge construction on the southern Mound it became clear that the structure was a ziggurat by the simplest definition of such construction. At the end of the first season three corners of the first platform, three corners of the second platform and the first two rows of the third platform of the ziggurat became clear. In addition the remaining part of the ascending steps and the two semi-conical half-towers attached to the north and south corners of the eastern façade of the second platform were also uncovered. The recent ¹⁴C analysis indicates that it has been constructed during the Proto-Elamite period of the Central Iranian Plateau.

Sariel Shalev see Francesco Berna

Ilan Sharon see Francesco Berna

Gouhar Shamdin

Heritage Adviser - Ministry of Tourism and Heritage
Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) - Iraqi Kurdistan

PROTECTING THE HISTORIC SITES OF IRAQI KURDISTAN

Sana Shilstein see Francesco Berna

Uwe Sievertsen

University of Constance

IRON AGE POTTERY INVENTORIES FROM THE NEW EXCAVATIONS AT TELL HALAF (2006-2007)

In 2006 the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin and the Direction Générale des Antiquités et des Musées Damascus started new excavations at Tell Halaf. The exposure of the Iron Age settlement concentrated on several monumental buildings on the Citadel, namely the Western Palace (Hilani) and its surroundings, the large mud-brick massive in the southern part of the Citadel and the North-Eastern Palace. In Oppenheim's excavations many questions concerning the chronology of these buildings had been left unanswered. However, a large number of newly found ceramic room inventories coming from successive floor levels of the mud-brick massive and the North-Eastern Palace now give us a much clearer picture of the chronostratigraphy of Tell Halaf during the Neo-Assyrian and Late Babylonian Periods. The pottery from these inventories readily can be compared for instance to the pottery from the "Red House" in Tell Sheikh Hamad. In contrast to that, the ceramics from the area of the Western Palace manifestly belong to an earlier phase of the Iron Age. Here, presently it is difficult to show up any close connections with other sites with the exception of Tell Jurn Kabir and Tille Höyük.

Zsolt Simon

Ungarische Akademie der Wissenschaften

DAS PROBLEM DES LUWISCHEN NOMADISMUS

Trotz der verschiedenen Bemühungen (vgl. die früheren Studien von Tr. Bryce, I. Singer, und O. Carruba, aber vor allem M. Forlanini, *SMEA* 40 (1998), 222-224, und J. Yakar, *Ethnoarchaeology of Anatolia. Rural Socio-Economy in the Bronze and Iron Ages*, Tel Aviv 2000), den angenommenen Nomadismus im spätbronzezeitlichen Südanatolien zu charakterisieren, bleibt die Natur dieser Erscheinung zumeist unklar, wie die vage Formulierung ("nomadic or semi-nomadic") der Autoren des luwischen Handbuchs (H.Cr. Melchert (Hg.), *The Luwians* (HdO 68), Leiden-Boston 2003, *passim*) zeigt. In diesem Vortrag versuche ich, anhand der gegebenen geographischen und ökologischen Umstände die spärlichen archäologischen, bzw. schriftlichen Quellen mit den Ergebnissen der Typologie der Nomadismusforschung in Einklang zu bringen, vor allem mit Hilfe der ethnoarchäologischen Beobachtungen über den türkischen Nomadismus derselben geographischen Region.

Cristina Simonetti see Kemal Sertok

Ian Simpson
University of Copenhagen

CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF ISLAMIC ARCHAEOLOGY AND HERITAGE AS INTERRELATED SOCIAL PRACTICES

This paper is concerned with how archaeological practice in the Middle East has an influence on the way heritage is defined and valued. Conducting critical analyses of this problem is one of several growing sub-fields of heritage studies which have recently developed. Focussing on sites in the East Mediterranean, particularly Jarash in Jordan, the paper explores how 19th and early 20th century European surveying, photography and archaeology shaped our understanding of the modern and ancient past which fitted a European mythical narrative of the end of “classical” antiquity. The paper will illuminate the effect this understanding has had on more recent heritage practices by considering tribal, national, and regional uses of the past. By presenting a critical analysis of Islamic archaeology and heritage as interrelated social practices, the paper suggests how research designs in general may incorporate examination of the reflexive relationship between archaeological and heritage practices.

Christiane Singer
Institut für Archäologische Wissenschaften/Abteilung Vor- und Frühgeschichte
J.W. Goethe Universität, Frankfurt/Main, Germany

PALYNOLOGICAL RESULTS FROM THE EUPHRATES RIVER NEAR RAQQA

From an archaeological viewpoint Syria is one of the most important areas in the Near East. It is located South of the Taurus Mountains and crossed by the large Euphrates river. Furthermore it forms the central part of the so called “fertile crescent”. Almost one century of intensive archaeological research has been carried out, to investigate the Syrian settlement history. In contrast, hardly anything is known about the vegetation history of this landscape

Palynological investigations are used to reconstruct the vegetation cover and imply climatic conditions of a landscape through time. Pollen records from the comparably humid Ghab-valley in West Syria, play a major role in Holocene vegetation and climate reconstructions. Palynological investigations from the inner, semiarid Syrian steppe contrariwise are very rare, because it seemed extremely difficult, even impossible, to trace suitable pollen archives in this area. During the course of the “DFG” (German Research Foundation)-project: “Vegetation history of the Syrian Jazira”, pollen records from different sites have been uncovered. The paper will present the results of one of these records, a 9 m pollen bearing sequence, from a location within the Euphrates river system, near the major town Raqqa.

Hakan Sivas
Anadolu University/ Eskişehir-Turkey

RECENT RESULTS OF THE SURVEY IN PHRYGIA EPICETOS/TURKEY

As a consequence of the generally low level of survey and archaeological excavation, our knowledge of the cultural sequence of Phrygia Epictetos is scanty and based on limited archaeological data. In order to evaluate the longer term processes of change and continuity in the region, since 2001 we have been conducting a new program of survey in the region. This presentation provides an overview of the results of seven seasons of survey, subsequent analysis of the data collected, and associated researches. For the first seven years, the survey activity was focused mainly on the districts of the province of Eskişehir in the heart of Phrygia Epictetos. During the fieldwork, not only many fortresses, open settlements, tumuli and necropolises with rock cut tombs dating to the Byzantine and Roman periods, but Iron Age Phrygian rock cut monuments and settlements were also recorded. On the other hand, quantities of pottery fragments were

collected on many mounds. The majority of the mounds lies in the fertile valleys. But, there are also a group of mounds located at the strategic edges of the wooded hills which are bordering the deep valleys. The pottery and small finds collected from most of the mounds are dating to the Early Bronze Age.

Giora Solar see David Ilan

Arkadiusz Soltysiak
The University of Warsaw, Poland

OSTEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE OF THE AGRICULTURAL CRISIS IN NORTHERN MESOPOTAMIA
BETWEEN 12TH AND 9TH CENTURY BCE

Both textual and archaeological evidence strongly suggests that there was dramatical population decline in Mesopotamia in the early Iron Age. Recent studies on human remains from northern Mesopotamia (Assur, Tell Barri, Tell Ashara, Tell Masaikh) support the explanation that this decline was a consequence of the agricultural crisis. In the early Iron Age populations the frequency of enamel hypoplasia was higher, the frequency of dental caries much lower, and the mortality of children greater than during the Bronze Age and after the recovery in later Neo-Assyrian period. Such pattern strongly suggests undernutrition and decrease of food quality.

Filomena Fausta Squadrone
Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Istanbul, Turkey)

A CASE STUDY ON THE METAL OBJECTS FROM THE GRAVES OF THE BIRECIK DAM EBA CEMETERY,
AYYILDIZ HÖYÜK AND DIBECIK HÖYÜK (SE TURKEY)

Filomena Fausta Squadrone see Kemal Sertok

Maria Theresia Starzmann
Binghamton University (SUNY)

“COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE” AT FISTIKLI HÖYÜK:
THE TECHNOLOGICAL ORGANIZATION OF HALAF STONE TOOL PRODUCTION

Archaeological studies of craft production often argue that craft specialization is characterized by artifact standardization. These studies locate standardization in homogeneity of artifact classes, thus focusing on products rather than processes of production. Coming from a practice-theoretical perspective, in my own research I am looking at processes of stone tool production at the Early Halaf site of Fıstıklı Höyük (5980-5740 BC). With this perspective, I investigate the technological practices involved in *chaînes opératoires* of lithic manufacture and detect artifact standardization in “by-products”, not just “end-products” of a reduction sequence. Drawing on ethnographic literature, I explain artifact standardization as the result of shared technological knowledge and embodied gestures of a “community of practice”. I describe my methods of measuring different forms and degrees of standardization that are indicative of various “communities of practice” in the archaeological record. Based on this approach I argue for the possibility that different levels of specialization, as well as varying scales of participation in craft production, may have existed within a prehistoric society.

Eveline van der Steen

THE RED SEA-DEAD SEA CANAL PROJECT: THE ARCHAEOLOGY

Over the past years the Dead Sea level has sunk to below - 400 m. This lowering of the water level has serious impacts on life in general in the region: water supplies, agriculture, ecosystems and tourism are affected, among others.

A plan to bring water from the Red Sea to the Dead Sea through a canal/tunnel system in the Wadi Arabah is now being researched under sponsorship of the World Bank. The archaeological effects of the plan will be researched in the coming year through the analysis of existing excavations and surveys and the execution of new ones. In this paper I will explain what is happening, and give an overview of the various strategies involved in researching the archaeological impact of the project.

Margreet Steiner

THE CASE OF THE ENIGMATIC “CYPRO-PHOENICIAN” JUGLETS

In several Iron Age tombs in Jordan large quantities of small, 2-handled, painted juglets have been found. In excavation reports these juglets are commonly called “Cypro-Phoenician”, and they are seen as products of the interregional trade over the King's Highway and as direct proof of contacts with Phoenicia.

However, attempts to place the origin of these juglets in either Cyprus or Phoenicia have so far failed. These luxury items were most likely locally made. In the emerging states of Ammon and Moab they may have been used as markers of status and identity by the elites buried in the tombs.

Geoffrey D. Summers

The Oriental Institute, University of Chicago, University of Buffalo, SUNY

FROM PICKS TO PIXELS: NINETY YEARS OF DEVELOPMENT IN THE TOOLS
OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXPLORATION AND INTERPRETATION, 1927-2007, AT KERKENES DAĞ

The city on the Kerkenes Dağ in Central Turkey was first investigated in 1927 when von der Osten and Blackburn used a plane table and staff to map the seven kilometres of stone defences. The following year E.F. Schmidt excavated 14 Test Trenches in 5 days, employing workmen to dig in 50 cm spits. This work established the Iron Age date. In 1993 a new program of remote sensing applied new methods on an innovate scale. By 2000 improvements in hardware, such as the availability of digital photography, powerful desktop computers, as well as in software, had made much of the work seem archaic. With the development of GIS, new tools for spatial analysis have become available, thus permitting archaeologists to see ancient cities in new ways, to ask new questions and to develop new research programs. This paper provides an outline of these developments and assesses their potential. It will be stressed that the new opportunities must not be selfishly confined to the academic world, but that archaeologists should and must develop them to speak to wider audiences.

Claudia E. Suter

LUXURY GOODS IN ANCIENT ISRAEL: QUESTIONS OF CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Between 1908 and 1935 a large amount of ivory carvings were brought to light in the area of the palace at Samaria, capital of the ancient kingdom of Israel. They form not only the most substantial art collection from early Iron Age II Israel (c. 900-700 BC), but also the largest and most varied collection of 1st millennium Levantine ivories from the Levant itself. Tens of thousands of similar ivory carvings were found in Nimrud, capital of the neo-Assyrian empire and smaller collection or scattered finds over an area stretching as far East as Iran and as far west as Spain. While it is generally assumed that these ivory carvings were produced in the Levant in the 9th and 8th centuries BC, the identification and location of different workshops still pose problems in spite of the variety in types of objects, the repertory of motifs, the carving techniques, and the quality of workmanship. In regard to the collection from Samaria, the question is whether the ancient kingdom of Israel only imported Phoenician ivories or whether it entertained its own workshop(s). This paper will address this question from a new angle, asking not only about production but also about

consumption of these luxury goods, which the Bible condemns as symbols of paganism, decadence and social injustice.

Matthew Jamie Szudy
University of Vienna

THE SQUARE PATTERN ON ASSYRIAN GARMENTS

The discovery of a small, square copper plaque in Fort Shalmaneser in 1957 necessitates a closer look at the square pattern sometimes applied to garments in Neo-Assyrian reliefs. In many cases, the square pattern clearly represents the pattern or decoration of high-status textile garments. However, it is also often depicted on soldiers, both on shirts and on kilts, in situations where it could represent a form of armor. One representation is unambiguous - an archer from the Central Palace in Nimrud (BM118903) wears a sleeveless square pattern shirt, on the bottom of which there is a fringe (possibly pteruges) that is only used in conjunction with armor corselets. This, combined with the actual find of a suitable metal square, suggests it was a genuine form of armor. It is possible that the armor and textiles appear identical on reliefs because this type of armor was specifically intended to resemble high-status garments (for which there are many historical parallels), and wearing such could have been a statement of social status.

Hamdan Taha

NEW EXCAVATIONS AT KH. EL-MAFJER, 2006

The Umayyad site of Hisham's Palace is located on the northern bank of Wadi Nueima, ca. 2 kms north of Jericho in the Jordan Valley. It is identified with the ruins of Kh. el-Mafjer. After 60 years of the last season of excavation in the site, a small scale excavation was carried out in December 2006 in the northern part of the main bath.

The excavation was carried out on behalf of the Palestinian Department of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage, under the scientific supervision of H. Taha, within the framework of the of the project "Stone Conservation at Hisham's Palace", funded by the UNESCO Office in Ramallah. The main objective of the excavation was to explore the northern extension of the bath area housing the menial services connected with storage of fuel, heating and cleaning. Four main strata were discerned in this area, with two architectural phases, indicating a continuous occupation of the area after the earthquake. The excavation managed to fix preliminarily the stratigraphic history of the bath area.

Hamdan Taha

ARCHAEOLOGY AND IDEOLOGY IN PALESTINE

Cinzia Tavernari
University of Sorbonne - Paris IV

MEDIEVAL ROAD CARAVANSERAI IN SYRIA:
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL APPROACH

Since 2004 three missions were conducted in Syria which aimed at surveying and studying the extant road caravanserais of the Ayyubid and Mamluk eras in this country. Road caravanserais consist in a kind of sheltered stopover which are reported to be a frequent feature along the roads of the Near and Middle East during the Islamic period, till the end of the Ottoman time.

The aims of these researches are first to investigate all the aspects dealing with the caravanserai as a building (from its function and facilities to his plan and building techniques) and secondly to propose a reconstruction of the Syrian road network during the considered period which could be supported by archaeological data.

Dealing with a corpus of nearly fifteen still extant caravanserais, this paper wishes to present a summary of the analysis of the masonry techniques conducted so far, particularly attempting to point out the elements giving information on the technical and economical environment of these buildings.

Halil Tekin

University of Hacettepe, Ankara

NEW DISCOVERIES ON A HASSUNA/SAMARRAN SITE ON THE UPPER TIGRIS REGION: HAKEMI USE

Hakemi Use is one of the excavations conducted within the Salvage Project of the flooding area of the Ilisu Dam at south-eastern Turkey. The excavations have been carried out by a team from the Hacettepe University in Ankara, since 2001. Virgin soil has been reached at some trenches where three periods are attested: New Assyrian Period, Middle Assyrian Period and the Middle Neolithic Period (Hassuna/Samarran Period) which is the main occupation period of the site. The excavations brought out pottery, intramural burials, terracotta figurines, loom weights, bone and stone artefacts. Hakemi Use is an important site since it is so far the only excavated Hassuna/Samarran site in Turkey and marks the northern border of the expansion of this culture.

Allison Karmel Thomason

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, Edwardsville, IL, USA

TRASH OR TREASURE? THE CONSUMPTION AND RECEPTION OF IVORY IN ASSYRIA

The hundreds of ivory furniture plaques and small objects excavated from the palaces at Nimrud have consistently received attention by scholars of the ancient Near East. Several recent articles have continued the earlier scholarly focus on determining the style and origins of production of excavated ivories, especially those found in the palaces at Nimrud. A few recent studies have also focused on the consumption and reception of ivory objects in the Neo-Assyrian world. This paper will explore the different explanations that have been advanced about the amassing by royal entities of such large quantities of ivory. An analysis of the ivories carved in the North Syrian style in particular will demonstrate that ivory objects received from regions to the West of Assyria were purposefully stored and demonstrably curated by palace personnel for symbolic and even metonymic reasons beyond their utilitarian function. This analysis of the reception of ivories within Assyria will suggest that these “minor” arts played a major role in the construction of Assyrian royal identity.

Yukiko Tonoike

Yale University

BEYOND STYLE: PETROGRAPHIC ANALYSIS OF DALMA CERAMICS IN TWO REGIONS OF IRAN

This project examines cultural process: the nature of regional interaction in the ancient world. Although ceramics as chronological markers have been emphasized in the study of early complex societies, they also help define cultural and interaction spheres. Traditionally, decorative style of ceramics has been used for this purpose. However, this alone does not necessarily clarify the nature of interaction. The use of archaeometric methods to study technological style complements the study of decorative style. This research is based on the petrographic analysis of Dalma ceramics from 5th millennium western Iran to better understand the nature of their distribution and to further the understanding of early villages and the possible role of transhumant populations.

Preliminary analysis presented at 5ICAANE had shown that Dalma ceramics from the Naqadeh and Qaleh Paswah valleys, both of Northwestern Iran, are in general homogeneous in both technological style and mineral component. This paper will present the results of further analysis, comparing the northwestern Zagros Dalma ceramics to those from the central Zagros. Petrographic analysis is crucial in this study, since the majority of Dalma ceramics from the two regions have previously been described as being impossible to distinguish by macroscopic observation, in spite of their great distance.

Markus Törmä see Kenneth Lönnqvist

Akira Tsuneki
University of Tsukuba

A NEWLY DISCOVERED NEOLITHIC CEMETERY AT TELL EL-KERKH, NORTH-WEST SYRIA

Tell el-Kerkh is one of the largest Neolithic settlements in West Asia, located in North-West Syria. The 2007 season's excavations at Tell el-Kerkh produced a communal cemetery, consisting of at least forty individuals. This cemetery measures 10 x 8 m in its extent, and was discovered next to a habitation area. It belongs to the El-Rouj 2c period (the middle phase of the Pottery Neolithic period), dating to around 6500 BC. Primary pit graves comprising individual inhumation was the main burial type, but there are some structured burials with a small stone square or a lime-plastered cover. The secondary burials, consisting mainly of skulls and long bones, were also discovered within the cemetery. A few cases among the secondary burials showed signs of cremation. The dead were children, adolescents, young adults and mature adults, though young adults aged in the 20s and 30s were the major individuals. About half of the primary burials produced funeral gifts, including stone bowls and stamp seals. This is one of the oldest communal outdoor cemeteries uncovered in West Asia until now. We are carrying out some scientific research to analyze the kinships and marital relations among the dead individuals.

Füsun Tülek
Kocaeli University, Turkey

CAN ÖRENŞEHİR: IS THE *RUINED CITY* AN UMAYYAD PALACE IN THE CILICIA PLAIN?

Archaeological survey of the City of Osmaniye conducted in 2006 recorded a site named Örenşehir- the *Ruined City* by locals. The survey team utilizing a total station recorded the geographical position of the site, measured its dimensions and collected sherds. A team of geophysic engineers examined the ground to detect wall foundations and to determine the plan of the outer enclosure. The site was also recorded formerly by two separate survey teams as a Roman military station, and as an early Byzantine military camp.

A preliminary examination having the goal of a precise identification of the site analyzed Roman and Early Byzantine military activities and building program in the region. The study has been extended pursuing examination of sherds, of which ninety percent are coloured in green or yellow and glazed. Initial results of the pottery examination yielded that half of the sherds are of Islamic ware dating as early as the end of the 7th century, including the ten percent of the sherds that constitute unglazed earthenware. Results of the pottery examination shed light on the plan type of the site which is analogous to the plan of the Umayyad palaces.

Füsun Tülek, Ümit Çayır Büyükkulusoy, Kadir Büyükkulusoy
Hacettepe University, Ankara

PREHISTORIC POTTERY OF THE FIVE MOUNDS IN THE EAST PLAIN CILICIA

Eastern part of the Plain Cilicia within the territory of the City of Osmaniye houses numerous mounds. Osmaniye Archaeological Survey documented thirty mounds in three years. Five of these mounds are documented in year 2005 in the area of the central town of the city. These are Telkovan, Kamışlı, Kırmıtlı, Karataş and Şemsihöyük. Among the five the Karataş Höyük is a registered cultural property. Şemsi Höyük, has been investigated and enlisted during a major survey conducted in Plain Cilicia in the 1950s, and probably so is the Telkovan Höyük under the name of "Tilwa" or "Manaralı - Minareli". Three of the five; Kamışlı, Kırmıtlı and Karataş have not been investigated at all. Potsherd finds of these mounds display

settlements from the late Chalcolithic to the Roman period, and Medieval as well. Sherds of these five mounds dating from the prehistoric to the Early Iron Age, are the subject of this preliminary examination.

Sherds dated to the late Chalcolithic period are grouped in two: the Chaff Faced Ware and ware painted dark on light colour. Early Bronze Age sherds are brown and red slipped and burnished. Middle Bronze Age sherds are mostly red or buff in colour. Vessel shapes belong to the type of S-profile bowls. Loop-handled vessels are prominent. Painted Early Iron Age pottery samples are black painted on red or, red or Brown painted on cream. Concentric circles or linear motives are common decorative elements.

K. Twiss see D. Baird

David Ussishkin
Tel Aviv University

MEGIDDO: INVESTIGATING SCHUMACHER'S "CHAMBER F"

The renewed excavations at Tel Megiddo, Israel, are conducted since 1992 by Tel-Aviv University in cooperation with a consortium of academic institutions, under the direction of Israel Finkelstein and me, with Eric Cline as Associate Director. During the 2002-2006 seasons, excavations took place in the large trench excavated by Gotlieb Schumacher in 1903-1905. The renewed excavations at this spot, supervised first by Robert Deutsch and then by Norma Franklin, aimed at elucidating the problems of Schumacher's "Nordburg", "Mittelburg" and "Chamber f". The latter – a unique, huge, monumental, subterranean chamber with corbelled roof and a shaft entrance – still stands complete as uncovered a century ago. Found empty, its date and function could not be firmly established.

The large "Nordburg" complex was dated by the Chicago excavators and by Lorenzo Nigro to the Middle Bronze Age. The new data indicate its association with Stratum VII dated to the end of the Late Bronze Age. An unique building, possibly a sanctuary, was uncovered above and East of "Chamber f". It belongs to Stratum VI, the last Canaanite settlement destroyed in the 10th century BC. As to "Chamber f", there are two possibilities for interpreting its stratigraphic context. Finkelstein and Franklin maintain that it had two phases: in the first phase it was incorporated in the "Nordburg"; in its second phase the entrance shaft was added and it was incorporated in the Stratum VI building. Ussishkin maintains that "Chamber f" had a single phase: incorporated as a subterranean chamber into the ruined "Nordburg" it was built in Stratum VI together with the overlying building. The function of "Chamber f" remains unclear – it could have been a monumental burial-chamber which was never used, or a subterranean cult-place associated with the overlying building.

H. Vahdati Nasab^a, H. Rezvani^b, K. Roustaei^b

^a Department of Archaeology, University of Tarbiat Modares, Tehran, Iran

^b Institute for Archaeological Research, Iranian Cultural Heritage and Tourism Organization (ICHTO),
Tehran, Iran

DELAZIAN (MIRAK 1), AN EVIDENCE OF PALEOLITHIC SETTLEMENT AT THE NORTHERN PART OF IRANIAN CENTRAL DESERT

The Iranian Paleolithic is relatively unknown. Based on information gathered from periodic surveys and excavations, it is clear that Paleolithic societies have resided within the geographical boundaries of Iran since the middle Pleistocene. Most Paleolithic surveys and excavations conducted in Iran have occurred within the Zagros region. Studies suggest that Pleistocene societies used to migrate from high elevated Zagros toward low land regions during the cold seasons. Geomorphological studies indicate that the Alborz Mountains area, containing numerous caves and rock shelters, was an ideal place for upper Pleistocene hunter-gatherer societies to inhabit. Therefore, the authors of this paper believe that due to the close similarities between

Zagros Mountains in West and Alborz Mountains at North of Iran this migratory model could be implied to the Paleolithic settlements in Alborz too. In order to search for the low land Paleolithic settlements within Alborz region and to test the migratory hypothesis archaeological surveys were conducted at the northern part of Iranian Central desert. These surveys resulted in the discovery of Mirak Paleolithic sites. Delazian (Mirak 1) has exhibited the presence of Paleolithic settlements and was chosen for this research. Lithic material found within surface collections of Delazian suggests the area was occupied by the Middle/Upper Paleolithic period. Delazian is the first Paleolithic open site at the southern slope of Alborz, which its lithic materials have been analyzed intensively. The primary results derived from stone artifacts imply that there might have been clear differences between Zagros and Alborz Upper Paleolithic lithic typology.

Carmen Valdés Pereiro
Institut del Pròxim Orient Antic (UB)

TELL AMARNA ON THE EUPHRATES. NEW ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH
BY THE UNIVERSITY OF BARCELONA

This paper is devoted to introduce the first step of the new research that is currently taking place at the Syrian site of Tell Amarna, carried out by a team of the Institute of the Ancient Near East of the University of Barcelona. The site, some 8 km South of the Turkish border, on the Syrian Euphrates Valley, was previously cited by Leonard Woolley in the 20s, and partially excavated by a Belgian team in the 90s. Its chronological framework ranges from the Halaf period to the Islamic times.

Régis Vallet see Jean-Daniel Forest

Valentina Vezzoli
Università Ca' Foscari di Venezia

POTTERY PRODUCTION FROM NORTHERN SYRIA BETWEEN 11TH AND 14TH CENTURIES:
NEW DATA FROM SHAYZAR AND APAMEA

This paper presents the preliminary results of the study of the Islamic pottery from two sites of northern Syria: the Muslim castle of Shayzar and the rural settlement of Apamea.

The analysis of the ceramic assemblages from these two settlements provides a significant contribution, from a typological and chronological point of view, to our knowledge of pottery productions between the 11th and 14th centuries in northern Syria allowing us to describe a usually underrepresented territory.

It is possible to identify and investigate new local ceramic types (luxurious and common table wares, cooking wares, hand made wares) and to define systems of production, distribution and imports.

The archaeological data, together with the textual sources, reveals the presence of different social and economical layers in the region.

Dieter Vieweger
German Protestant Institute for Archaeology Jerusalem/Amman

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH ON TALL ZIRĀ‘A - THE GADARA REGION PROJECT.
5000 YEARS OF CULTURE, TECHNOLOGY AND TRADE IN NORTHERN JORDAN

There are only a few areas in Palestine where its history can be studied in such a concentrated manner as in the Wadi al-‘Arab. This valley, which is located 4.5 kilometres to the South-West of the ancient Decapolis city of Gadara provided excellent living conditions: numerous springs, fertile soils and a moderate climate.

In addition, an important trade route ran through the wadi which once linked Egypt with Mesopotamia. Over one hundred sites mark out the distinguished history of human settlement in the region from the advent of sedentism to the Islamic period.

The most prominent site of them is Tall Zirā'a. Intensive surveys on the tall and geophysical investigations (2001-2002) showed the great potential of the site for excavations. It could be presumed that an almost continuous stratigraphy from the Early Bronze Age to the Islamic periods might demonstrate the history of north-eastern Jordan. This lecture will focus on the results of the excavations on the tall that have been carried out since 2003.

In 2001, the "Gadara-Region Project" was initiated by Prof. Dieter Vieweger. Since 2004, it has been jointly directed by Prof. Dieter Vieweger and Dr. Jutta Häser.

Tasha Vorderstrasse see Timothy Matn

M. de Vries-Melein^a, J. Mulder^a, W. Kockelmann^b, D. Visser, S. Imberti^b

^a Institute for Geo- and Bioarchaeology, VU University, the Netherlands

^b ISIS, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, UK

ANALYSES OF "HEMATITE" SEALS FROM THE DE LIAGRE-BÖHL COLLECTION
(NINO, LEIDEN, THE NETHERLANDS)

In the framework of my PhD-thesis on the use of iron oxide stones (hematite, goethite and magnetite) in Mesopotamia, thirteen seals from the De Liagre-Böhl Collection (NINO, Leiden, the Netherlands) have been analysed with a non-destructive scattering technique: neutron diffraction (ND).

The seals were visually determined as "hematite". The present analyses, however, showed that their compositions range from pure hematite to a calcite-quartz mixture.

The results of the ND will be compared with also non-destructive XRF-analyses of the seals. In addition to this, raw iron oxide rock from the region of Tell Bazi, Syria, is being analysed.

The aim of this part of the study is to determine the composition of the artefacts and to compare it with geological data of deposits of iron oxide stones which could have served as sources for the production of seals. Based on a thorough literature study several of such deposits have been mapped in Anatolia, the Negev, Iran, and northern Syria, a number of which could have been mined in Antiquity.

Melanie Wasmuth^a, Birgül Ögüt^b

^a Basel, Ägyptologisches Seminar

^b München, Institut für Vorderasiatische Archäologie

A SYRO-HITTITE WEATHER-GOD IN EGYPT

Displayed behind a small statue, Cairo Museum hosts the unusual Stele JE 25147 from Tell Daphnae of mixed cultural heritage featuring Levantine, Syro-Hittite, and Egyptian elements. Framed by an Egyptian type of stele, an adoration scene is depicted focussing on a weather-god on top of a lion of originally Syro-Hittite design. Though the Stele is included in recent works on foreigners in Egypt and on multicultural aspects of early Phoenician art, it is still scarcely known and not analysed in detail. Based on the identification of the different elements regarding style and composition as well as an analysis of their cultural background we would like to present a new proposal for the date of the Stele, its function, and its relevance for the study of representations of multi-cultural societies in the eastern Mediterranean.

Celine Wawruschka-Firat
Austrian Academy of Sciences, Istanbul

GEOPOLITICAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF SETTLING IN THE PREHISTORIC CILICIAN PLAIN

The Cilician Plain in the south-eastern Mediterranean of Turkey has been subject to archaeological fieldwork and research for more than a century. Throughout history this region has been of major importance due to its strategic position in the landscape of the Ancient Near East. Nevertheless, the prehistoric periods of the Cilician Plain are well known from single local sites but never there has been an attempt to analyse the landscape from a macro-perspective, including the study of environment, settlement patterns and trade.

It seems to be significant for the landscape of the prehistoric Cilician Plain, that all the known prehistoric sites are situated on settlement mounds. However, the biggest mounds are located along the main trading route on crossing points of one of the three big rivers of the plain and smaller roads leading from the Taurus Mountains to the Mediterranean. In my paper I try to analyse the effect of trade on the prehistoric settlement patterns considering two geographic theories: the central place theory and the system of gateway settlements, whereas the differentiation between regional, interregional and long-distance trade seems to be crucial.

Steve Weiner see Francesco Berna

Matthew Whincop
Department of Archaeology, Durham University

IN BETWEEN HIGH AND LOW:
SYRIAN IRON AGE CERAMICS AND THE EXPRESSION OF SUB-ELITE IDENTITIES

Local ceramic vessels are often regarded as a non-elite (low) expression of communal identity, with only imported vessels and exotica considered indicative of elite (high) identity. Such functionalist interpretations view material culture as the result of purely political and economic processes and fail to isolate different motivations behind the creation, use and discard of ceramic material culture. A number of forms and decorative techniques within the ceramic assemblages of Iron Age Syria are indicative of a sub-elite category, where elite cultural behaviours are being replicated in a “less-elite” medium (ceramics); the ceramic assemblage is employed in the negotiation of sub-elite social structures. For instance, the burnished red slip surface treatment of the Iron II period appears to be mimicking elite bronze vessels, which rarely appear in the archaeological record. Within these contexts, there appears to be a much more complex system of social structures than simply elite (high) versus non-elite (low). Locally produced ceramics are an important medium for visual expression of a diverse range of social behaviours and identities.

Margot Stout Whiting see Kenneth Lönnqvist

Dirk Wicke
Johannes Gutenberg-Universität, Mainz

IVORY - INDICATOR FOR PRESTIGE?

From ancient times onwards, ivory was regarded as a synonym for luxury, exclusiveness and being exotic. Frequent finds of elaborate carvings and references in texts mainly from the Late Bronze and Early Iron Age seemed to underline this assumption and have coined the current opinion until recently.

The growing awareness of the distinction between bone and different types of ivory requires a new evaluation of these commodities. Considering certain types of objects, it is possible to state a great amount of

exchangeability between the raw materials. It becomes clear, that it is not “prestige” but its properties which are relevant in the choice of the material. The use of ivory for common objects such as pins, combs, handles, or gaming pieces reduces the prestigious significance of ivory; other aspects such as the aesthetic become relevant as well. Moreover, the distribution of objects made of ivory on sites such as Assur or Ugarit suggests that ivory was much more common than previously thought. Evidence for serial manufacture implies are larger amount of production than what is to be expected from highly prestigious objects. Finally, the great amount of ivory in the magazines of Nimrud cannot be considered as an indicator for esteem and prestige, when critically reviewed.

The paper will present the evidence and scrutinize the general issue of prestige and prestige-goods and argues for a critical interpretation when dealing with ivory.

Eleanor Barbanes Wilkinson
Honorary Research Fellow, Durham University

NINEVEH GOES DIGITAL: ONE PROJECT’S APPROACH TOWARD
INTEGRATING AND PRESERVING A COMPLEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL HISTORY

Many archaeological sites have been investigated by multiple excavators over lengthy periods, but no site in Mesopotamia has been excavated for as long, or by so many international teams, as Nineveh. During the past 160 years, efforts to record and interpret the archaeological record there have occurred with remarkable constancy. Unfortunately, but perhaps not surprisingly, more often than not the separate excavators have operated in isolation from one another, not just chronologically and spatially, but also by an inability to integrate the field records of preceding projects. Consequently, attempts to understand the site’s past are necessarily fragmented, and the contributions of some archaeologists - particularly Iraqi archaeologists with limited means for disseminating their work - have often been minimally recognized if not completely invisible in the published record. The Digital Nineveh Archive (DNA) is a multi-institutional, multi-lingual online data archive initiated by the University of California at Berkeley in order to address these challenges, which are in fact common to many sites. A repository for preserving past investigations, it is also a platform for the comprehensive reckoning of work by current and future archaeologists in Nineveh. This paper presents the DNA as a template for other archaeological projects with similar concerns.

E.B. Wilkinson see E. Peltenburg

Tony James Wilkinson
Dept. of Archaeology, Durham University (UK)

SETTLEMENT NUCLEATION IN MARGINAL ZONES OF THE NEAR EAST

This paper will draw on ethnographic models to examine the nucleation of settlements in climatically and politically marginal areas of the Near East. Specifically it will use case studies from North-East Iran and northern Syria to examine the process of settlement nucleation of tell and qaleh type settlements. In the Iranian examples, drawn from Partho-Sasanian settlements in the steppe North of the Gorgan wall, the prevailing land use appears to have combined nomadic pastoralism and irrigation systems. On the other hand, in northern Syria, rain-fed farming and nomadic pastoralists are the primary forms of land use and the tells achieve their maximum scale in the 4th and 3rd millennium BC. The paper will draw upon recent satellite image and field survey data from the two regions to discuss settlement morphology and land use in comparative perspective. A main focus of this paper will be to examine how nomadic pastoral communities in either politically or climatically marginal areas are sometime attracted to key centres of power in the landscape with the result that settlements grow (and perhaps collapse) very rapidly.

T.J. Wilkinson see E. Peltenburg

T.J. Wilkinson see Hamid Omrani Rekavandi

Irene J. Winter
Harvard University

THE UTILITY AND LEGITIMACY OF CROSS-CULTURAL ANALOGY: INDIA AND MESOPOTAMIA

The use of ethnographic analogy in archaeology has been both productive and severely criticized since it was first introduced as a component of scholarly inquiry into the past. Work to date has largely taken place within the same geographical territory as the ancient culture under study, with the underlying assumption that, despite historical, religious, cultural and environmental change over time, some continuity in material culture, belief and practice can be demonstrated that will prove illuminating in filling gaps of knowledge dependant upon the archaeological record alone.

An argument will be made here for the legitimacy of moving further afield for purposes of comparison and the utility of analogy across both spatial and temporal boundaries, when sufficient conditions pertain to suggest that parallels might be revealing. One test case - contemporary practice and historical ritual texts related to worship of deities manifest as images in Hindu temples - is offered as a window into Mesopotamian ritual and religious tradition.

Pawel Wolinski
University of Sheffield, UK

WILL THE REAL PHILISTINE PLEASE STAND UP?
A CASE STUDY OF ETHNIC IDENTIFICATION IN THE EARLY IRON AGE SOUTHERN LEVANT

Possibilities and limits of ethnic identification in the Early Iron Age southern Levant have been a matter of endless debate in Near Eastern archaeology. The main question is how to “extract” ethnic groups from the archaeological record. The Philistines tend to be treated with some negligence, because they seem to be easily identifiable by their conspicuous material culture. As a result, too many groundless opinions have been taken for granted. It is time to reassess the archaeological data pertaining to the Philistines and set precise rules for their identification in the archaeological record. Such a methodological framework should include the following points: 1. compatibility with written sources; 2. a focus on people using artefacts, not on the artefacts themselves; 3. a thorough analysis of the “ethnically-sensitive” elements of culture, such as religion, language or burial customs; and 4. the application of ethnic studies principles developed by social anthropologists. Adhering to these suggestions will shed new light on the interpretation of so-called “Philistine material culture” and hopefully will make a “real Philistine” stand out.

Katherine I. Wright
Institute of Archaeology, University College London

CRAFT PRODUCTION AND THE SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE OF BODY ORNAMENTS
IN THE NEAR EASTERN NEOLITHIC: MANUFACTURE AND USE OF STONE BEADS
IN NEOLITHIC JORDAN AND AT CATALHOYUK, TURKEY

Neolithic sites in Wadi Jilat and Azraq Oasis (eastern Jordan) have revealed some of the most extensive evidence for manufacture of stone beads in the Near Eastern Neolithic. About 10,500 artifacts were recovered, including unworked nodules, cores, flakes, shatter, micro-debitage, roughouts, bead blanks and finished beads. The material is mainly “Dabba Marble”, a range of metamorphosed limestones, chalks and

cherts. This paper describes the lithic technology of the stone beads produced at two sites, Jilat 13 and Jilat 25. Both date to the Pre-Pottery Neolithic C (PPNC)/Early Late Neolithic (ELN). Both revealed beadmaking equipment such as drills, workbenches, saws, sawing tables, and abraders.

This technological tradition is compared to the stone beadmaking traditions of Çatalhöyük, Turkey, broadly contemporary with the Jilat-Azraq Neolithic sites. Here, research on manufacture techniques reveals very different technological traditions. Evidence concerning manufacturing areas is also very different. However, there is extensive information on stone beads in burials.

The social significance of stone bead production areas is discussed, along with questions about (1) early forms of craft specialization; and (2) the use of stone beads as a visual expression of social identity.

Naama Yahalom-Mack see Francesco Berna

Nurcan Yalman
Türkiye-Istanbul

UNDERSTANDING THE SHAPES OF THE SETTLEMENTS:
THE CONTRIBUTION OF AN ETNOARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDY IN CENTRAL ANATOLIA

The settlements that are found in archaeological excavations are always questioned, beside others, about social organization, social structure and its components. Particularly the location of the buildings among each other, the relationships and the differences between the buildings and the clustering systems can give us an extraordinary knowledge about the social organization and the internal relationships between the members of a society where the settlements were excavated horizontally and relatively wide. The ethnological and anthropological samples, together with the ethnoarchaeological studies, can redound our insights and possibilities at the interpretation stage of an archaeological site.

The questions about the social organization of Çatalhöyük in Central Anatolia, have generated this study. In a region like Anatolia, which has a variation and activation in its social geography, it is not possible to follow a historical continuity and to embrace the methodology of a direct analogy in ethnography. In this study, I have examined the relationships between the settlement formations and the social organizations by using the “cause-effect” explanatory method.

Nurcan Yalman
Türkiye-Istanbul

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS ON ÇATALHÖYÜK POTTERY

Çatalhöyük presents a large amount of data on Pottery Neolithic Period in Central Anatolia, with its uninterrupted layers. In terms of the pottery studies, it gives us a long sequence of pottery development with the data about the emergence of pottery and its participation in daily life.

Recent research at Çatalhöyük has developed a new point of view. In this presentation, the pottery found during the current excavations will be introduced in terms of the form and the production characteristics whilst the perception of pottery by Çatalhöyük people will be discussed.

Sergey A. Yatsenko

Russian State University for the Humanities, Moscow

ETHNIC SPECIFICITY AND THE INFLUENCE OF OTHERS ON THE COSTUME OF ANCIENT IRAN
(LURISTAN, ACHAEMENID AND ARSACID EMPIRES)

Analysis of the “costume” traces of the early penetration of Iranians into the West Iran of today on the verge of 2nd-1st mil. BC shows their small number even in Luristan. Such features were met only in two types of bronze items and can be connected not with the active presence of the Iranians themselves but rather with a certain influence of their clothing. The list of 12 Median elements in the gala costume of the Achaemenides is specified. They were mainly introduced into practice for the Persians as a result of the costume reform in 539 BC, defining the nobility costume looks. The clothing of the Parthian State appears as an international imperial phenomenon, having been formed for a rather short period of time and being actively brought in vogue (in contrast to the Achaemenid time) for the nobility in the territories under their dominion. There is a new reconstruction of the initial looks suggested for men’s costume of the nomadic Parni - the founders of the Arsacides’ power.

Ozge Yıldız

Hacettepe University, Beytepe/Ankara, Turkey.

DEATH AND FIRE IN ANATOLIA THROUGHOUT HISTORY

Although the first samples of cremation in the Near East date back as early as eight thousand years, the facts around its first occurrence and evolution in Anatolia are not sufficiently known. In this study, the evolution of the cremation in Anatolia is discussed from a chronological and regional perspective.

Anatolia is uniquely situated at the intersection of the Asian and European continents, and has welcomed many different cultures throughout its history. However the concept of death and fire emerged together for the first time during the Mesolithic period in Beldibi. The co-existence of death and fire, whether intentional or not, has also been observed in the early Neolithic period in ancient settlements such as Asikli, Catal Hoyuk and, Cayonu. The tradition of cremation in Anatolia, which started in Gedikli in 3000 BC, became widespread in the 2nd millennium BC and peaked in the 1st millennium BC. The practice ceased to exist in Anatolia after the beginning of the Roman period. It is concluded that the evolution of cremation and the comparing of its techniques can be useful in solving the problem of the relationship among ancient populations.

Jürgen Zangenberg see Stefan Münger

Rouhollah Yousefi Zoshk^a, Morteza Hessari^b

^a Tehran University

^b Islamic Azad University of Tehran Central Branch

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE SOUTHEASTERN CASPIAN SEA, NORTHEASTERN IRAN:
A LANDSCAPE OF INTERACTIONS FROM THE NEOLITHIC PERIOD TO THE LATE BRONZE AGE

Traditionally, Golestan is one of the 30 provinces of Iran. It is in the North-East of the country, South of the Caspian Sea. The major townships of the province are: Bandar Torkaman, Bandar Gaz, Ali Abad, Kord Kooy, Gorgan, Gonbad Kavous, and Minoo Dast. Within the province, the South-East corner of the Caspian Sea in which fast-moving rivers, Atrek and Gorgan, flows, has been surveyed as part of concise Archaeological survey of Golestan province. However, no archaeological research has taken place in this region to verify its cultural model since then. This work presents new data from the three marginal plains of

south-eastern Caspian Sea include of Agh Qala, Gorgan and Bandar Gaz, conducted in 2006, which provide basic data to solidify our understanding of an archaeologically poorly researched area and examine its role in interactions with the neighbouring archaeological areas, specially southern Turkmenistan and northern central plateau of Iran. The methodology used combine archaeological survey, artifact analysis, and ethno-archaeological research. A full-coverage systematic pedestrian survey was conducted covering an area between Atrek and Gorgan rivers and recorded more than 100 new sites. Three research approaches were set to discern and define the archaeological tradition within the area of south-eastern regions of Caspian Sea and then examine extra-regional interactions with neighbouring archaeological areas. Those are (1) building a local chronology and a diagnostic inventory of material culture; (2) establishing the landscape structure and settlement patterns of the area; and (3) collecting and analyzing evidence for the manufacture, use, and exchange of trade goods. At the end of the material analysis, the authors conclude that the archaeological sites within south-eastern side of the Caspian Sea had more cultural relation with the southern Turkmenistan archaeological traditions than Iranian central plateau archaeological traditions. Finally a comparison of the cultural landscape of south-eastern region of Caspian Sea with those of the central plateau, and Turkmenistan traditions was made, to see different cultural developments in similar geographical condition using same methodological and analytical framework.

Jeffrey R. Zorn see Francesco Berna

Wolfgang Zwickel see Stefan Münger

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