

6th International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East

LOOKING NORTH:
THE SOCIOECONOMIC DYNAMICS OF THE NORTHERN
MESOPOTAMIAN AND ANATOLIAN REGIONS DURING THE LATE THIRD
AND EARLY SECOND MILLENNIUM BC

Proponents: N. Laneri, S. Valentini

Wednesday, May 7th 2008

h. 9.00-19.00

Giurisprudenza, Aula V

As demonstrated by recent publications (e.g., Schwartz and Nichols 2006; Cooper 2007), the period ranging from the end of the third to the early second millennia BC is marked by a dramatic transformation in the socioeconomic dynamics of the societies inhabiting northern Mesopotamia and Anatolia. More specifically, during the early second millennium BC, one of the outcomes of this transitional phase is a 'regeneration of societal complexity', which can be viewed as a socio-economic response to the historical and climatic events that affected these areas during the late third millennium BC (Dalfes, Kukla, and Weiss 1997). This regenerative process brought about a more complex form of cultural and economic exchange among the diverse social units inhabiting this broad geographical area; the resulting trajectories of this process can be recognized in a modification of the settlement patterns, as well as in a different approach towards the exploitation of means of production by elite groups.

Within this historical perspective, the purpose of the presented workshop is two-fold and aims to first define how the communities inhabiting the northern Syrian, northern Iraqi, and southeastern Turkish geographical and cultural units responded to the above-mentioned historical and climatic events of the late third millennium BC, and, second, how long-distance trade (e.g., the Old Assyrian long-distance trade phenomenon) affected the production, consumption, and exchange of local and exogenous material culture during the 'regenerative' early second millennium BC.

The workshop will try to reach these objectives through an in-depth comparison of different case studies presented by the workshop participants, as well as by the application of socio-economic theoretical models to be used in order to better interpret the empirical data.

References:

Cooper, L.

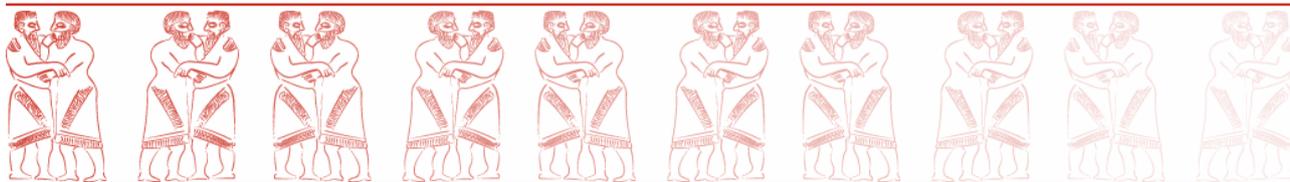
2007 Early Urbanism on the Syrian Euphrates, London, Routledge 2007.

Dalfes, N., Kukla, G., Weiss H. (eds.)

1997 Third Millennium Abrupt Climate Change and Old World Social Collapse, Heidelberg, Springer-Verlag 1997.

Schwartz, G.M., Nichols, J.J. (eds.)

2006 After Collapse. The Regeneration of Complex Societies, Tucson, The University of Arizona Press 2006.



6th International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East

PROGRAMME

9.00-9.20

N. **Laneri** (Istituto Italiano per l’Africa e l’Oriente), S. **Valentini** (Università degli Studi di Firenze),
Introduction

9.20-9.40

P. **Bartl** (Freie Universität Berlin),
The Middle Bronze Age at Giricano and Ziyaret Tepe

9.40-10.00

G.M. **Di Nocera** (Università degli Studi di Viterbo 'La Tuscia'),
The Beginning of the Second Millennium BC in the Upper Euphrates: Isolation or Strong Regional Identity?

10.00-10.20

L. **Swartz Dodd** (University of Southern California),
Filling a Niche: Settlement Expansion and Specialization in the Upper Tigris River Valley during the Middle Bronze Age

10.20-11.00 - Coffee Break

11.00-11.20

T. **Ökse**, A. **Görmüş** (Kocaeli University),
The Middle Bronze Age sites in the Upper Tigris Region Reflecting an Administrative System Basing on Agricultural Economy: A Case Study on Salat Tepe

11.20-11.40

S. Valentini (Università degli Studi di Firenze),
An Overview of the Architecture in the Upper Tigris River Valley during the End of the Third and the First Half of the Second Millennia BC: a Comparative Analysis

11.40-12.00

G. **Kozbe** (Ege University),
Evidence for the Societal Complexity of the Upper Tigris Region during the Late Third Millennium and Early Second Millennium BC from Kavusan Hoyuk

12.00-12.20

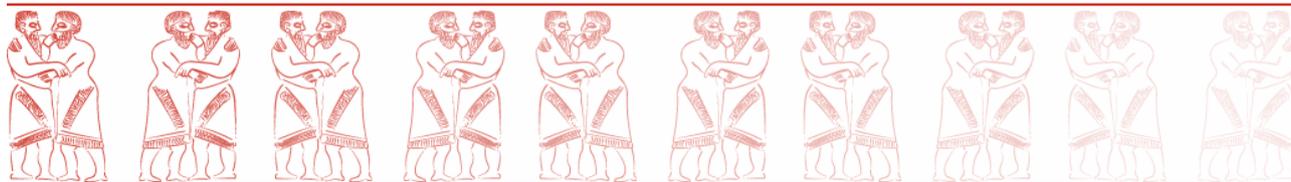
N. **Laneri** (IsIAO), M. **Schwartz** (Grand Valley State University),
Hirbemerdon Tepe. A Middle Bronze Age Site in the Upper Tigris River Valley

12.20-12.40

A. **D’Agostino** (Università degli Studi di Firenze),
Hirbemerdon Tepe and the Upper Tigris River Valley during the Early 2nd Millennium: a Ceramic Summary

12.40-13.00

A. **Özfiat** (Yuzuncu Yil University),
Üçtepe and Diyarbakır Area during the Early and Middle Bronze Ages



6th International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East

13.00-13.20

A. **Bianchi** (Tubingen University),

A Diachronic Case? Comparing Some Pottery Types Between the Northern Khabur Triangle and the Upper Tigris Region at the End of the Third Millennium BC

13.20-14.40 - Lunch Break

14.40-15.00

L. **Cooper** (The University of British Columbia),

New Perspectives on Inter-Regional Exchanges and Social Complexity along the Syrian Euphrates.

15.00-15.20

C. **Schmidt** (Tubingen University),

The Late Third and Early Second Millennium BC Pottery Tradition in the Syrian Gazira and Beyond

15.20-15.40

L. **Risvet** (Georgia State University),

Resettling Apum: Tribalism and the Rise of the Tribalised State in the Tell Leilan Region, Syria

15.40-16.00

Z. **Wyganska** (University of Warsaw),

Mortuary Practices of Early Second Millennium BC on Tell Arbid, Syria - Continuity and Changes

16.00-16.30 - Coffee Break

16.30-16.50

P. **Pfälzner** (Tubingen University),

The Chronology of 3rd to 2nd Millennium BC. Urbanism in the Syrian Gazirah

16.50-17.10

R. **Kolinski** (Adam Mickiewicz University of Poznań),

'... the Mountain Sheep are Sweeter...'

17.10-17.30

J. **Ur** (Harvard University),

Northern Mesopotamian Cities and their Hinterlands: Tell Brak and Hamoukar in the Late 3rd and Early 2nd Millennia BC

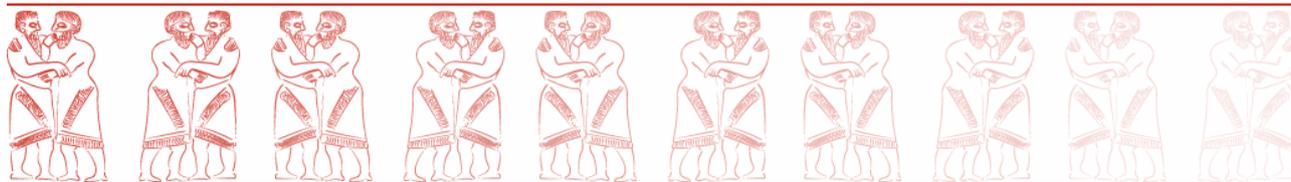
17.30-18.00

G. **Schwartz** (Johns Hopkins University),

Discussant

18.00-19.00

Discussion



6th International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East

ABSTRACTS

Peter Bartl
Freie Universität Berlin

THE MIDDLE BRONZE AGE AT GIRICANO AND ZIYARET TEPE

Since the 1960s, archaeologists and engineers working in eastern and southeastern Anatolia are tied up in a sort of unequal symbiosis. Indeed, the reasons behind the intensive archaeological fieldworks in this region are the several dam building projects concerning the river Euphrates and later the Tigris.

These international field projects concentrate today around the district town of Bismil, whose cultural heritage is endangered by the Ilisu-dam. There, the high number of excavations within a self-contained area makes it possible for the first time in Turkey to reconstruct a regional cultural history in a way already tested and commonly practised in middle-European archaeology.

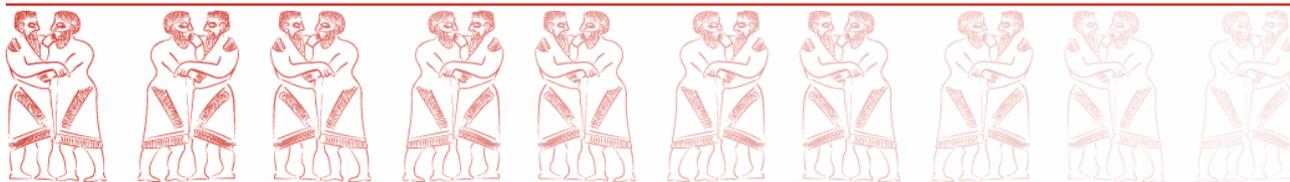
The Upper Tigris region forms a geographically closed settlement area between the mountain ranges of the Taurus and the Mesopotamian lowlands. Excavations of settlements like Çayönü and Halan Cemi brought to the attention of the scientific community the decisive role in the cultural history of the greater region played by this area in the aceramic Neolithic period. The Middle Bronze Age period, though, with whom my research is concerned, is in this region almost a terra incognita.

The results obtained in Giricano Tepe (excavated between 2000 and 2003 by a team of the University of Munich under the direction of Dr. Andreas Schachner) and Ziyaret Tepe (excavated by an international team under the direction of Dr. Timothy Matney, 1997-today) underline that at certain periods influence from Mesopotamia was predominant. These include the Early Bronze Age, the Mittanian and Middle Assyrian Period and the Late Assyrian Period. In the late Early Bronze and Middle Bronze Age local cultures thrived in the Upper Tigris Valley and from the results of the new excavations the picture arises of a relatively cultural autonomy, manifesting itself in monumental building complexes and a specific pottery tradition pointing to a remarkable complexity.

Gian Maria Di Nocera
Università degli Studi di Viterbo 'La Tuscia'

THE BEGINNING OF THE SECOND MILLENNIUM BC IN THE UPPER EUPHRATES:
ISOLATION OR STRONG REGIONAL IDENTITY?

Aim of this contribution is that of describing the cultural environment of the Malatya-Elaziğ region, along the course of the Upper Euphrates, between the end of the III and beginning of the II millennium BC, a period characterised by many rather homogeneous traits, but also by the presence of local peculiarities. During this period, well delimited territorial boundaries are visible, outside which it is difficult to find strong analogies with the described territories. The growth of local dominant centres, fortified sites and a general cultural continuity in this wide area up to the beginning of the Hittite reign, leaves open the issue concerning the supposed isolation of these regions, but, the opposite way round, as recent excavation and survey results let us hypothesise, these might also be read as testimonies of the formation of communities more politically integrated within the territory, which have selective relations towards Central and Eastern Anatolia, or, more rarely, with regions south of the Taurus.



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Lynn Swartz Dodd

University of Southern California

FILLING A NICHE: SETTLEMENT EXPANSION AND SPECIALIZATION IN THE UPPER TIGRIS RIVER VALLEY DURING THE MIDDLE BRONZE AGE

Seven seasons of excavation and study at Kenan Tepe by the Upper Tigris Archaeological Research Project have uncovered portions of a town that was established during the second quarter of the second millennium BC on a hill overlooking the Tigris River. On the eastern edge of the town, substantial stone-founded buildings abutted an intensively-used street in which at least one large kiln was built. This paper provides an overview of this material culture within an evaluation of the site's chronology. Additionally, the relationship between specialist production at Kenan Tepe, the site's strategic location, and evidence for long-distance connections between the Upper Tigris and the northern Levant are evaluated as a means of revising models of regional interaction among northern Mesopotamia, Anatolia, the Levant and the western Mediterranean.

Tuba Ökse, Ahmet Görmüş

Kocaeli University

THE MIDDLE BRONZE AGE SITES IN THE UPPER TIGRIS REGION REFLECTING AN ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM BASING ON AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY: A CASE STUDY ON SALAT TEPE

The salvage excavations at Salat Tepe, one of the sites within the flooding area of the Ilisu Dam, brought out a building complex dating from the eighteenth to sixteenth centuries BC. The MBA level 2 is composed of buildings encircling a large courtyard covering an area of ca. 1600 m² on the mound summit. Five of these 2-3-roomed buildings are unearthened; unit 2 covers an area of ca. 96 sqm, unit 4 of ca. 26.4 sqm and unit 5 of ca. 48 sqm. After the collapse of this building complex, level 1 has been built in the sixteenth century BC. On the southern slope, floors of a MBA building is excavated, so, the occupation extends to ca. 1.5 ha. From the mound, the cultivated land of ca. 1200 ha along the stream can be watched over. Similar buildings on earlier settlement hills are exposed at seven contemporary sites within the region.

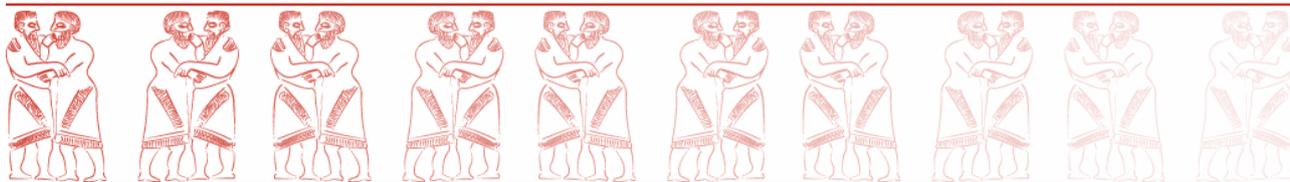
The cuneiform archives of contemporary sites in Northern Mesopotamia and Northern Syria depict an administrative system of the agricultural economy. Although no historical texts pointing to an administrative system within the Upper Tigris Region are found yet, these sites rather seem like the frontiers of an economical system managing the agricultural lands.

Stefano Valentini

Università degli Studi di Firenze

AN OVERVIEW OF THE ARCHITECTURE IN THE UPPER TIGRIS RIVER VALLEY DURING THE END OF THE THIRD AND THE FIRST HALF OF THE SECOND MILLENNIA BC: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

The architectural complex discovered during the year 2005 and 2006 at Hirbemerdon Tepe seems to be one of the most impressive architectural structures of the Middle Bronze Age period in the whole upper Tigris river valley. This complex was organized around two connected perpendicular axes. These two axes divided the whole area into four different units. Spatial distribution and functional analyses of the different districts of the architectural complex, reveal that each sector was divided into separated buildings adjoined in an agglutinated plan through the use of abutted double walls. Each building was characterized by a combination of small roofed and unroofed rooms that appeared to be connected in a manner designed to



6th International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East

serve a precise chain of production steps, as demonstrated by the material found in situ: mortars, grinding stones, pestles, portable hearths and ceramic containers used for the storage of goods at the end of this productive process. In addition to these data, the total absence of features that can be connected to domestic activities (e.g. hearths, central courts, etc.) confirms that the architectural complex appears to be entirely dedicated to specialized activities which may or may not have been controlled by some form of centralized administration.

All these elements confirm the uniqueness of this architectural complex located in the High Mound of Hirbemerdon Tepe. Even though, starting from the analysis of this complex, the first aim of this paper is to give an overview of the architecture of the Upper Tigris Valley sites (Salat Tepe, Girigiano, Ziyaret Tepe) during the end of the 3rd millennium and the first half of the 2nd millennium BC. The second one is to find parallels also in the neighbourhood regions. In fact, the structural elements of the architectural complex can be linked to other contemporaneous building examples excavated in northern Iraq (e.g. Tell Rijim), northeastern Syria (e.g. Tell Mohammed Diyab), southeastern Turkey (e.g. Girnavez) and Middle Euphrates river valley in Syria (e.g. 'Burned Building' and 'building complex' discovered at Tell es-Sweyhat).

Gulriz Kozbe
Ege University

EVIDENCE FOR THE SOCIETAL COMPLEXITY OF THE UPPER TIGRIS REGION DURING THE LATE THIRD MILLENNIUM AND EARLY SECOND MILLENNIUM BC FROM KAVUSAN HOYUK

The aim of this paper is to present some indicators of social complexity in the Upper Tigris region in the southeast of Turkey on the basis of data supplied from a site called Kavuşan Höyük.

Our knowledge on the Upper Tigris region is now more detailed, following the archaeological excavations, surveys, off-site analyses and sampling carried out in Ilisu Dam construction area during the last ten years. All these data allow us to receive more accurate descriptions of the social processes such as the management of natural resources or exchange systems and the mechanisms operated by those societies as well as different trajectories which determine the degree of social complexity and inequality seen in the area.

The architecture and material culture from the levels dating to the end of the 3rd millennium/the beginning of the 2nd millennium BC at Kavuşan Höyük point out the intensification of an economical system, a considerable complexity in production and use of goods within the site while there is still inappreciable evidence of hierarchical organization from Kavuşan Höyük. At this point, we may consider the agricultural intensification as a trajectory leading towards a large-scale hierarchically organised society. Even though agricultural intensification does not necessarily mean a social stratification; we can not ignore the intensive agricultural practices and the storage buildings with their rich contents (wheat, peas, lentil, vine, barley, rye, common vetch, black nightshade and bedstraw) uncovered at Kavuşan Höyük on the other hand.

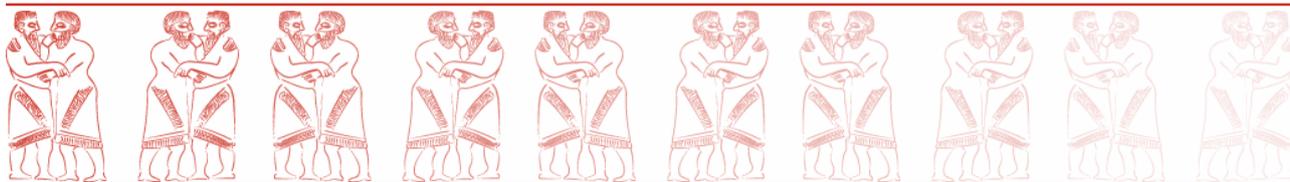
Nicola Laneri^a, Mark Schwartz^b
^aIsIAO

^bGrand Valley State University

HIRBEMERDON TEPE. A MIDDLE BRONZE AGE SITE IN THE UPPER TIGRIS RIVER VALLEY

Due to the upcoming construction of the Ilisu Dam, numerous rescue projects have been initiated at sites located in the upper Tigris river valley. One such excavation is the Hirbemerdon Tepe Archaeological Project, which has focused its attention on the recovery of the well-preserved architecture and material culture from the Middle Bronze Age, its most important occupational phase.

This paper will present a preliminary set of data from Hirbemerdon Tepe's Middle Bronze Age and will then attempt to interpret the relationship the site had with other sites located within its broader regional



6th International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East

network (i.e. the upper Tigris region) as well as with long-distance economic and cultural exchanges. In addition, the large 'architectural complex' discovered on the site's High Mound will be analyzed in-depth, accompanied by a preliminary interpretation of the material culture found within it. At Hirbemerdon Tepe, the Middle Bronze Age 'architectural complex' shows evidence of a complex socioeconomic organization in which a central organization, probably lead by emerging elites, wielded control over specialized working activities (e.g. the processing and storage of food) as well as the performance of ceremonial practices.

The final aim of this contribution is to reach a clearer understanding of the site's socioeconomic organization during the Middle Bronze Age through the use of a theoretical framework that sees the enactment of ideological forms of power by emerging elite as a fundamental step towards the overall control of the economic resources.

Anacleto D'Agostino

Università degli Studi di Firenze

HIRBEMERDON TEPE AND THE UPPER TIGRIS RIVER VALLEY DURING THE EARLY 2ND MILLENNIUM: A CERAMIC SUMMARY

The 2005-2007 excavations at Hirbermerdon Tepe yielded a high density of pottery sherds from a well preserved context dating to the first half of the II millennium BC (Middle Bronze Age). This period is still not very well known within the upper Tigris region. Thus, the Middle Bronze Age pottery from Hirbemerdon Tepe should be considered as a helpful tool to define the cultural profile of the region as well as to define connection with the neighboring Anatolian and Mesopotamian regions.

The aim of this paper is so to investigate these subjects through a detailed analysis of the Middle Bronze Age pottery production at Hirbemerdon Tepe and the possible analogies with other regions linked with the upper Tigris river valley through cultural and economic relationship. Furthermore, this analysis will be enacted through a detailed recognition of the important technological and morphological elements embodied by the pottery categories discovered at Hirbemerdon Tepe. In the specific, particular attention will be given to the significance of the Red Brown Wash Ware assemblage that highly marks the pottery production of the whole region.

In conclusion, the social and cultural values of the pottery homogeneity within the upper Tigris region will be underlined throughout the whole paper.

Aynur Özfirat

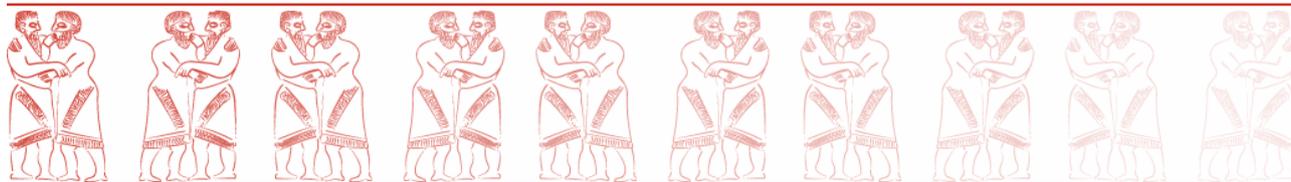
Yuzuncu Yil University

ÜÇTEPE AND DIYARBAKIR AREA DURING THE EARLY AND MIDDLE BRONZE AGES

Excavations at Üçtepe mound and Diyarbakır survey were carried out by Prof. Dr. V. Sevin between 1988-1992 in Southeastern Anatolia. The east border of our survey area- was extensively surveyed by G. Algaze (1988-1990) for it will be flooded under reservoir lake Ilisu Dam in Southeast Anatolia Project. The Üçtepe mound is located 40 km southeast of Diyarbakır and just to the west of Üçtepe village. Üçtepe is one of the largest mounds south of the Tigris. The mound is found right bank of Tigris and in a plain and its proximity to the river-crossing point. Üçtepe is known also from Kurkh Monoliths.

During the five-year long excavations a total of 14 building levels were identified. These levels continue almost uninterrupted starting from the Late EBA through Roman Imperial Period.

The EBA levels (12-13th Building Levels) of Üçtepe can be dated to EBA III and IV. Because of the very restricted area of excavation, not much information is architecture of the thirteenth and twelfth building levels. Not only wares widespread North Syria and Southeast Anatolia such as Simple Ware and Metallic Ware were found but also wares with local features such as Dark Rimmed Orange Ware indicate a strong



6th International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East

local character. This ware found quite frequently as surface finds in the region points that these wares could actually be special feature to this basin. The EBA levels of Üçtepe can be placed into the pottery region including Belih and bordered by West Khabur on the east and the Upper Euphrates on the west.

In Middle Bronze Age (11th Building Level), Üçtepe mound seems to have gained in importance. Although only its corridor has been uncovered partially, a monumental building complex was built in the southwest part of the mound in this period.

The main group of Üçtepe Middle Bronze Age pottery is the Red-Brown Wash Ware, which represents the Üçtepe's eleventh building level, is the decisive element.

Khabur Ware and Dark Rimmed Orange Ware seen since the end of the EBA, constitute almost all the MBA pottery and this proves that Upper Tigris valley has a strong local character and the local cultural elements are continuous. There is mainly a typological parallelism with North Syria and North Mesopotamia. Üçtepe share local properties with Belih valley and Upper Euphrates.

Alice Bianchi
Tubingen University

A DIACHRONIC CASE? COMPARING SOME POTTERY TYPES BETWEEN THE NORTHERN KHABUR TRIANGLE AND THE UPPER TIGRIS REGION AT THE END OF THE THIRD MILLENNIUM BC

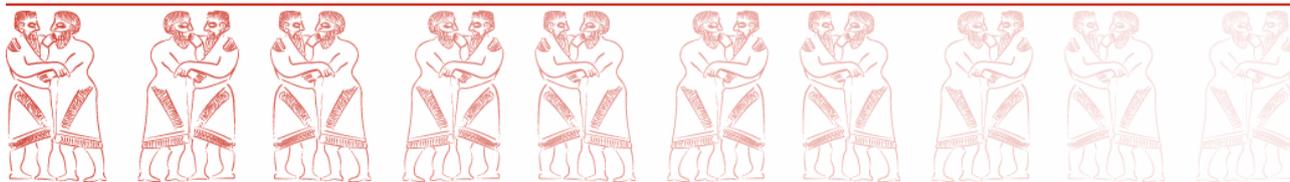
This paper is mainly focused on a particular pottery type, the so-called "Dark Rimmed Orange Bowls ware" (DROB-ware) retrieved in the northern part of the Khabur triangle as well as in the Upper Tigris region.

This type of bowl has been object of intense research from an archaeological as well as a microscopic and geochemical point of view with the aim to determine its characteristic elements, its geographical provenance and diffusion and its chronological extension. A selection of similar bowls from different sites within the Khabur triangle and the Upper Tigris valley have been compared and analysed. The results of that comparison show a clear compatibility of individual types, but point also to a chronological discrepancy between the two regions with regard to the current periodization.

Lisa Cooper
The University of British Columbia

NEW PERSPECTIVES ON INTER-REGIONAL EXCHANGES AND SOCIAL COMPLEXITY ALONG THE SYRIAN EUPHRATES

Previous research of the Syrian Euphrates region of northern Mesopotamia by the author has stressed the continuity that existed between the urban phase of the Early Bronze Age of the third millennium and the regenerative Middle Bronze Age of the second millennium BC. Specifically, it has emphasized the persistent tribal character of the region's inhabitants, its flexible subsistence economy arising from a marginal environment, and its relative remoteness to major Near Eastern centres of state control. While these factors do appear to have promoted a degree of continuity, however, Middle Bronze Age society of the Syrian Euphrates cannot be regarded as a total replication of the cultural and economic traditions of the earlier period. Several developments, arising at the end of the third millennium BC and continuing into the opening centuries of the second millennium, brought about a few changes that affected the population demographics of the Syrian Euphrates, the layout and composition of its individual settlements, and its means of economic livelihood and exchange. Such changes will be explored in this paper, along with suggestions as to which political, economic and environmental forces account for these interesting developments.



6th International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East

Conrad Schmidt
Tubingen University

THE LATE THIRD AND EARLY SECOND MILLENNIUM BC POTTERY TRADITION IN THE SYRIAN GAZIRA AND BEYOND

My paper will concentrate on the level C07 and C06 pottery of Tall Mozan, which was studied in-depth by the author for his PhD during the last four years. While the level C07 represents the Early Gazira V period, which is contemporary to the Ur III period in Southern Mesopotamia, the C06 (and C05) level marks the beginning of the Middle Bronze Age in the Khabur triangle with its main characteristic the Khabur-Ware. With the pottery of level C07 it can not only be proved that a decline of the villages in Northern Mesopotamia, as suggested by some scholars, is hardly to hold up for at least Tall Mozan and some other sites in the Syrian Gazira, where the same pottery is attested, but also that the assemblage is restricted to a short time span between the Early Gazira IVb period and the beginning of the second millennium BC after the Middle Chronology. By this means the pottery of level C07 is easily recognizable also beyond the spheres of the Khabur Region and therefore offers a very welcome opportunity for comparison. Examples which show such parallels will be shown and some suggestions for a relative chronology of selected sites be given.

Lauren Risvet
Georgia State University

RESETTLING APUM: TRIBALISM AND THE RISE OF THE TRIBALISED STATE IN THE TELL LEILAN REGION, SYRIA

At approximately 2200 BC, the majority of settlements in the Tell Leilan region, and across Northern Mesopotamia, were suddenly abandoned. For the following 300 years, only a few permanent, agricultural settlements marked the previously crowded plains of Northern Mesopotamia. When people resettled this region, they developed new tribal states that contrasted with earlier political forms. The capital of one such state, the Kingdom of Upper Mesopotamia, was Tell Leilan-Šubat-Enlil. Although this state did not survive Samsi-Addu's death, Šubat-Enlil/ Šehna continued to be the capital of a much-reduced kingdom, the land of Apum, roughly coinciding with the Tell Leilan survey area. The Leilan treaties demonstrate how Apum stressed its tribal identity and links to nomadic pastoralists, by explicitly describing this kingdom as consisting of cities and pastoral camps "the land of Apum... and the whole of the land of Hana". Letters inform us of the location of both fortified towns and areas of pasture in this region. Letters, treaties and administrative texts also illustrate how Apum's political borders shifted over the course of the 18th century BC. This paper will combine evidence from the Tell Leilan treaties, letters and administrative texts with settlement data collected during the Tell Leilan Regional Survey and excavation data from Tell Leilan. It will consider the "tribalisation" of this area from 2200-1700 BC by focusing on transformations in economic, political, urban and ideological landscapes.



6th International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East

Zuzanna Wynnanska
University of Warsaw

MORTUARY PRACTICES OF EARLY SECOND MILLENNIUM BC ON TELL ARBID, SYRIA - CONTINUITY AND CHANGES

Tell Arbid (north-eastern Syria) at the end of the third millennium BC witnessed a well known phenomenon of a urban demise. This crisis did not mean however a total collapse and one can observe also a regeneration process of the Arbid community during the early second millennium BC. The settlement survived, although on much smaller scale and during all MBA the site remained rather a village than a small city.

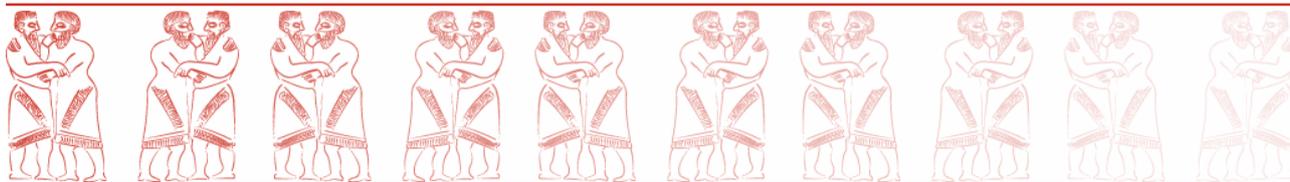
Processes that took place during this regeneration period were reflected in significant changes in mortuary practices, i.e. introducing of new grave types, grave goods and a different spatial distribution of burials. These new features occurred gradually between the end of the EB and the MB period, indicating a change of a social organisation. For example, spatial organisation of burial places on the site and traces of ancestors cult rituals reflect tribal organisation of the community, focused on family ties more than on anything else. Considering grave equipment, which was standardised and deprived of luxury or prestige items, it can be concluded that this community after regeneration process was pauperised.

The mortuary practices observed in MB burials differed apparently from those know from earlier EB/ MB phase. Sometimes it is difficult to understand if they were an effect of a slow transformation of a social organization or rather a change caused by some external factors, e.g. appearance of a new population. Should we assume a change of a life mode of the community that survived the crisis or rather some kind of co-existence of the “survivors” with a new settlers? Whatever the answer is, the observation of mortuary practices attested that life conditions changed at the beginning of the second millennium BC and it was followed by apparent social changes.

Peter Pfälzner
Tubingen University

THE CHRONOLOGY OF 3RD TO 2ND MILLENNIUM BC. URBANISM IN THE SYRIAN GAZIRAH

At the site of Tell Mozan, ancient Urkesh, the German team working in the Central Upper City (Area C2) was able to document an uninterrupted stratigraphical sequence from the Early to the Middle Bronze Age, extending from around 2500 to around 1700 BC (levels C 16 to C 4). This sequence can be precisely dated by pottery typology, by numerous seal impressions from different phases (Early Dynastic - Akkadian / Ur III), and by an Ur III-cuneiform tablet. The most interesting chronological observation is the evidence of a direct continuity from the end of the 3rd mill. to the beginning of the 2nd mill. within one single building, indicated by superimposed floors and a modification of interior walls. Although there is an architectural continuity of single buildings we can observe a decisive change in the principles of urbanism at Tell Mozan/ Urkesh during this time. Of particular importance is the evidence of the earliest appearance of painted Khabur-Ware in this level at the turn of the Early to the Middle Bronze Age. The pottery sequence which could be established at Tell Mozan helps to date and re-date sites in the Syrian Jezirah and South-Eastern Anatolia at the turn of the 3rd to the 2nd millennium BC.



6th International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East

Rafal Kolinski

Adam Mickiewicz University of Poznań

‘... THE MOUNTAIN SHEEP ARE SWEETER...’

Animal economy of human communities may be influenced by a number of factors among which the environmental one is probably the most obvious and the easiest to determine. As recently demonstrated by Gil Stein in the case of Hacinebi Late Uruk/Late Chalcolithic settlement (*Paleorient* 25/1, 2000, 11-22) sometimes an influence of cultural factor on animal economy may be identified as well.

The proposed paper aims at looking for cultural-biased features in the animal economy of human communities of Northern Mesopotamia during the 3rd and 2nd millennium BC, with possible affinities to neighboring areas: first of all of South-East Anatolia, but Northern Syria, North-West Iran and Southern Mesopotamia as well.

The proposed analysis of archaeozoological data will be performed in three steps. Firstly, general characteristic of animal economy of Northern Mesopotamia will be presented. Secondly, features resulting from environmental conditions will be identified. It will be assumed that inconsistencies which could not be explained by influence of environment will result very likely of the cultural background of local human communities. The last step of analysis will comprise of comparing of these inconsistencies in search for any regional and supra-regional patterns in animal economy. The identified patterns will be summarized in synchronic and diachronic perspective and compared to the known patterns of development of Northern Mesopotamian cultures of the 3rd and 2nd millennium BC.

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NORTHERN MESOPOTAMIAN CITIES AND THEIR HINTERLANDS: TELL BRAK AND HAMOUKAR
IN THE LATE 3RD AND EARLY 2ND MILLENNIA BC

The EBA-MBA transition in northern Mesopotamia was accompanied by dramatic social and economic changes. Our understanding has been complicated by recent research and publications, which suggest that the nature of this process varied in time and space. This paper will focus on the spatial and demographic dimensions at the regional level, based on field research from two of the largest EBA centers: Hamoukar and Tell Brak (ancient Nagar).