

33

KAZI SONUÇLARI TOPLANTISI 3. CİLT



T.C.

KÜLTÜR VE TURİZM BAKANLIĞI

Kültür Varlıkları ve Müzeler Genel Müdürlüğü



T.C.

KÜLTÜR VE TURİZM BAKANLIĞI
Kültür Varlıkları ve Müzeler Genel Müdürlüğü

33.
KAZI SONUÇLARI
TOPLANTISI
3. CİLT

23-28 MAYIS 2011
MALATYA

Kltr Varlıkları ve Mzeler Genel Mdrlę Yayın No: 155-3

YAYINA HAZIRLAYANLAR

Dr. Haydar DNMEZ

mer TGN

Kapak ve Uygulama

Enver AYDIN

ISSN:1017-7655

Kapak Fotoęrafı: *Nurettin ARSLAN*

"Assos 2010 Yılı Kazı ve Restorasyon alıřmaları"

Not: Kazı raporları, dil ve yazım aısından Klâsik Filolog Dr. Haydar Dnmez tarafından denetlenmiřtir. Yayımlanan yazıların ierięinden yazarları sorumludur.

İsmail Aygl Ofset Matbaacılık

San. Tic. Ltd. řti.

ANKARA-2012

THE 2010 JOINT TURKISH-ITALIAN EXCAVATIONS AT TAŞLI GEÇİT HÖYÜK

Nicolò MARCHETTI*

The second and last campaign of salvage excavations and restorations at Taşlı Geçit Höyük (province of Işlahiye, Gaziantep; coordinates 36°55'34.99"N, 36°42'37.68"E; Fig. 1) took place in August-October 2010.¹ The intensive salvage project on this site, endangered by the artificial lake of Tahtaköprü (Fig. 2), was conceived on a two-years basis foreseeing at its conclusion the opening of an archaeological park, which took place in fact on 12th October.

* Nicolò MARCHETTI, Dipartimento di Archeologia, Alma Mater Studiorum – Università di Bologna, Piazza S. Giovanni in Monte 2, 40124 Bologna, Italy; nicolo.marchetti@unibo.it.

1 The project is carried out with the scientific direction of the Author on behalf of the Dipartimento di Archeologia of the Alma Mater Studiorum – University of Bologna, under the coordination of Gaziantep Museum and its director Ahmet Denizhanogulları. Thanks are due, for their financial support, to the University of Bologna and to the Italian Ministries of Education, Universities and Research (PRIN 2007 project) and of Foreign Affairs (DGPS directorate – 6th Office). To my colleagues Refik Duru, Gülsün Umurtak and Ahmet Beyazlar and to the colleagues of the *Kültür Varlıkları ve Müzeler Genel Müdürlüğü* in Ankara, especially the director general Osman Murat Süslü and director of excavations and researches Melik Ayaz, I express my warmest gratitude for their unfailing advice and support. I am also deeply grateful to *Gaziantep İl Kültür Müdürlüğü*, and especially to the director Salih Efilođlu, to the Representatives from Gaziantep Museum, Ümmügülsün Yaprak and Mehmet Sait Yılmaz, and to the personnel of the *Kültür ve Tabiat Varlıklarını Koruma Bölge Kurulu Müdürlüğü* in Gaziantep. The Governor of Gaziantep (Süleyman Kamçı and his Deputy Mehmet Taşdögen), the Metropolitan Mayor of Gaziantep (Asım Güzelbey), the Rector of Gaziantep University (Yavuz Coşkun), the Kaymakam of Işlahiye (Resul Kır) and the mayor of Işlahiye (Melike Uludağ) have constantly helped the Expedition during its stay. The Italian Ambassador in Turkey, Gianpaolo Scarante, and the directors of the Italian Cultural Institutes in Ankara and Istanbul, respectively Francesco Servida and Gabriella Fortunato, have always fully supported us. The participants to the 2010 season were archaeologists Andrea Adamo, Esra Alp, Stefano Bassetto, Giacomo Benati, Antonio Bonomo, Alessandro Campedelli, Marco Capardoni, Claudia Cappuccino, Luciano Cuccui, Luisa Guerri, Dilek Yılmaz and Federico Zaina, restorers Laura Benucci, Tiziana Francalanci, Deniz Hepdiñ and Eva Jorge Herrero, draftsmen Sara De Angelis, Kevin Ferrari and Meltem Kara, paleobotanist Maria Letizia Carra with the assistance of Aslan Feryal and Talip Özlem, architect Elena Rosa, topographers Giampaolo Luglio and Massimo Zanfini, land artist Chiara Castria. Figs. 1, 8 and 13 are by M. Zanfini. The multilanguage integrated software Almadig for recording all excavation and filing data (cf. fig. 17) can be downloaded from the research website www.orientlab.net.

Excavations were carried out in nine areas (numbered from A to Q), the main results being outlined below.²

In the easternmost sector of area A, some MB IB structures (W.1575, W.1571) were found cut by the massive tower-like building discovered in 2009, a fortress of the type of those of Tilmen Höyük with two square rooms and two corridor-like rooms for the stairway (L.845, L.1577, L.1576, L.1579). This huge building (Fig. 3) was completely excavated this year (its northern sector is lost because of the erosion of the slope) and dates from LB I. On its south-eastern walls (W.838 and W.846/W.1512) some mudbricks are still preserved (which proves that the building was not an unfinished one, as first thought in 2009), while to the south a further stretch of the outer street area was exposed. Against the eastern boundary wall of the tower, a smaller building with three rooms was built (L.1578, L.1514, L.1573). After the destruction of the LB I town, what seems a squatters' phase has been documented (represented by an oven and some installations on floor L.831), from which come a frit cylinder seal (Fig. 4) and a bronze chisel. This phase was followed by a domestic occupation dating from Iron III.³ From the Hellenistic period date some superficial remains of substantial buildings, a deep stone-lined well and some installations.

In area B, located along the western edge of the upper terrace, the LB I residency identified last year was completely delimited this year (Fig. 5): a further stretch of the western boundary wall W.186 was brought to light in 2010 too and to the west of it there was a well preserved cobbled street (L.1052). The easternmost limit of the residency was removed by an Iron III robbery trench, as has been the case with the south wall, separated by a street from some LB I houses (L.1031, L.1044) with flimsier walls than those of the nearby residency. North of the reception suite (hall L.178 with side rooms L.197 and L.196) the productive area, not well preserved due to later levelling, was investigated: it consists of one room (L.195) with orthostat doorway - in

2 Cf. Marchetti 2011a for a preliminary report on the first season and Id. 2011b: 42-51 for a synthesis on the 2009 and 2010 results.

3 The pottery assemblage of this phase was preliminarily dated, besides a few typos, to Iron II in the first report (Marchetti 2011a), but ongoing analysis has then lead to a slight lowering of that date.

which two large grinding tables and some pithoi were present - and a large space to the east of it (L.194), in which an oven (T.1018) and some pottery concentrations have been documented. North of L.195 there was another space (L.1079) with storage ware, which lies already outside of the residency, which was thus delimited by W.1065 to the north. The Iron III phase is documented, to the south, by the foundations of two houses with massive walls (W.1006 and W.1007 to the east and room L.1082 with its two column bases L.1054 and L.1055 to the west), separated by an alley (Fig. 6). To the north, a working area (L.1072), delimited to the west by a massive wall (W.110), was exposed. The pottery assemblage dates from the 7th century BC (Fig. 7).⁴

In area C, on the central part of the upper terrace, the 2009 excavations were deepened in order to investigate earlier phases. In the western sector, a large robbery pit (F.1220) destroyed earlier levels, which however survived in the central and eastern part of the excavations. This phase, dating from LB I, contained many complete pottery shapes, identical with those from areas B and D, and consisted of two rooms (L.1223 and L.1240) delimited by flimsy walls with stone foundations (W.1226, W.1230).

In area D, on the eastern flanks of the mound, we wanted to expose extensively the Iron III residential quarter identified in 2009 to the west of presumed fortification wall W.300 (Fig. 8). The westernmost sector was occupied by a large street (L.1348): along its eastern limit there were three single-room houses, directly built against W.300 (Fig. 9). The southernmost house was not well preserved, while the middle one (L.1344) had a stone mortar in its center and a heap of fifty unbaked clay loom weights in its southwestern corner (Fig. 10). The northernmost house (L.320) had a mortar on the floor too, some mudbrick installations and stone benches and an orthostat doorway (L.1343) towards the street. In a limited area to the south (Fig. 8 bottom left), we reached the LB I destruction layer (a phase which was already noted in 2009 to the east of W.300 and to which most probably belongs also the stone glacis W.308 at the foot of the slope), which gave a rich pottery

4 Cf. a similar contemporary juglet from Zincirli which is thought to be an import or a local imitation of a Cypriote type (Wartke: 2005: 74, fig. 71 center).

assemblage (Fig. 12): the sector exposed consists of two intact ovens (T.1358 and T.1355) in a courtyard (L.1361) and of the corner of a mudbrick building (L.1363; Fig. 11).

In area G, on the south-eastern lower terrace, the earliest phase dates from MB IB (Figs. 13-14). A street (L.635, identified in 2009 and further excavated in 2010) has some building façades along it. Some other emerging structures (oriented obliquely in respect of the later ones) were noted inside the newly excavated Iron III storeroom to the south (L.1414). The latter is the largest of the three thus far discovered in the area (the other two, L.615 and L.630, were excavated in the first season): its shape is rectangular and it has two round column bases instead of only one as in previously excavated storerooms. It is separated from storeroom L.630 to the north by courtyard L.1428. Several installations in storeroom L.1414 attest to the production activities which took place there. Some medium-sized *pithoi* and some jugs represent a slightly different functional assemblage than those of the other two storerooms (which had larger *pithoi* and many cooking pots). The entrance to the storeroom must have been from the south, but it has been destroyed by a large Hellenistic pit (P.1411). The public nature of the complex is confirmed by the scale and the regularity of the architecture exposed.

Area L is located immediately to the north of area G. Besides a working installation to the west (L.1617), with some complete pottery shapes dating from Iron III, all the rest of the architecture exposed there dates from MB IB. The main feature is a large street paved with pebbles and sherds (L.1630), which continues to the north-east the street L.649 discovered in 2009 in area G (visible in Fig. 14 at top right of area G). Mudbrick superstructures of the walls (W.1601 and W.1620) flanking street L.1630 had fallen over it after the abandonment of the town (Fig. 15). North of the street, a spacious single-room house (L.1640), with some internal partitions and installations, has been brought to light. Interestingly, it rests directly upon an earlier building with the same orientation of which the top walls could be exposed (W.1638 and W.1646).

Area M is located next to area A along the northern edge of the acropolis. The cultural sequence already retrieved elsewhere at the site has been completely confirmed in this area, as well as getting some significant topographical results. The area was selected because it was noted that all layers in the eastern sector of area A sloped upwards towards this spot. The lowest level reached is a flimsy MB IB wall (W.1749). This was followed - in LB I - by an open area (L.1745), paved with stones and sealed by a destruction layer: right under the eastern margin of the excavation there is a doorway between two walls (W.1742). This may possibly have been the entrance of an important building, perhaps even a temple if the perfectly round basalt column base (L.1739), found in the squatters' layer immediately overlying the stone pavement, originally comes from the latter. Some houses on both sides of a narrow alley with a regular layout were documented in an upper layer: both small objects (like a miniature table for cosmetic use) and the pottery assemblage supply a firm and coherent dating to Iron III.

The history of this settlement is now sufficiently clear after two seasons of excavations: on top of a thick third millennium BC occupation, we could identify at least two phases dating from MB IB in all areas of the mound (A, B, D, E, G, L, M). In fact, some monumental buildings are located outside of the main mound: the structures in areas F, N and especially Q seem to be dated, although on scanty evidence due to the heavy erosion by the lake, precisely to that period, when the mound itself seems to have been unfortified. After a hiatus in MB II, the site was rebuilt on a monumental scale and fortified in LB I but only in the upper terrace (areas A, B, C, D, H): this phase ended in a conflagration. Abandonment lasted until Iron III when a settlement occupies both the upper (which is unclear whether was defended by a wall) and the lower terraces (areas A, B, C, D, G, H, L, M): this flourishing phase ended in a destruction, although without evidence of fire. The late Hellenistic village was limited to the upper terrace, in the lower one being present only some isolated superficial structures. Finally, in the early Ottoman period, Turkmen nomads built sparse pens in dry-stone masonry on the mound.

Our project at Taşlı Geçit highlighted regional dynamics in settlement patterns and the varying degree of integration of urban sites into a settled landscape over a time span of circa 1500 years.⁵ The settled periods at the site belong to a consistent pattern of diffused occupation: MB I was a period of medium to large, unwalled settlements throughout the Islahiye valley (ample evidence is also known from Tilmen), LB I is documented, although with some slightly different chronological nuances, at Tilmen too and, finally, Iron III is documented also at Zincirli and Coba (indicating that Assyrian domination was a flourishing phase in the area).⁶ The periods undocumented at Taşlı Geçit are at least in part a consequence of shifts linked to the marked growth of other nearby sites in the Islahiye valley during times which may have witnessed different settlement strategies: the MB II phase is best documented at Tilmen, while the late Iron I and Iron II phases are especially well known at Yesemek, Zincirli and, farther north, Gerçin and Coba. Important pinpoints for the absolute chronology of some of these processes are supplied by 14C datings: the 14th century BC for LB I and the late 7th century BC for Iron III.⁷

After the experience of the Tilmen archaeological and environmental park opened in 2007 (Marchetti 2008; 2010; 2011b: 18-19), another archaeological park has been completed in 2010 at Taşlı Geçit, an important stride towards a regional system of touristic enhancement and global conservation, which had in Yesemek the only highlight until a few years ago. Taşlı Geçit was protected in spots from the heavy erosion of the artificial lake; Marchetti 2011b: 21 top), monuments were restored, a network of paths, signs and other facilities for visitors has been implemented, together with a program of weed control and site maintenance round the year.⁸ The official opening took place on 12th

5 For sites in the area cf. Alkım 1969; Duru 2004: folder; Marchetti 2011b: 6.
 6 Cf. some very typical Iron III shapes from Zincirli (Wartke 2005: 76, fig. 73, a pithos) and Coba (du Plat Taylor, Seton Williams, Waechter 1950: 115, fig. 27, which is the assemblage of the layer above the Iron II palace precinct).
 7 Calibrated AMS datings on 2009 samples from area B were measured by E. M. Wild and P. Steier at the VERA Laboratory in Wien within the framework of the SCIEM 2000 project coordinated by M. Bietak: one sample (VERA-5457HS) from the LB I Residency has a calibrated range 1530-1380 BC, while two samples (VERA-5460 and VERA-5461) from the Iron III layers have ranges of 800-520 BC and 800-540 BC respectively.
 8 We are glad to acknowledge the support, as technical sponsors of the archaeological park, of the Maccaferri Group for the antierosion devices, of Mapei for the restorations of monuments

October 2010 at the presence of the Italian Ambassador Gianpaolo Scarante and of Gaziantep Authorities.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

ALKIM, U. B.

1969 The Amanus Region in Turkey: *Archaeology* 22, pp. 280-289.

DURU, R.

2004 *Eski Önsaya dünyasının en büyük heykel atelyesi. Yesemek. The Largest Sculpture Workshop of the Ancient Near East*, TÜRSAB, İstanbul.

MARCHETTI, N.

2008 ARCHAIA. From Excavation Strategies to Archaeological Parks: Marchetti - Thuesen (eds), *ARCHAIA*, pp. 11-16.

2010 A Preliminary Report on the 2007 and 2008 Excavations and Restorations at Tilmen Höyük: Matthiae et al. (eds), *Proceedings*, Vol. 2, pp. 369-383.

2011a The 2009 Joint Turkish-Italian Excavations at Taşlı Geçit Höyük, in 32. *kazı sonuçları toplantısı. 2. cilt*, T.C. Kültür ve Turizm Bakanlığı, Ankara, pp. 297-310.

2011b (ed.) Kinku. *Sigilli dell'età del Bronzo dalla regione di Gaziantep in Turchia*, Dipartimento di Archeologia-Ante Quem, Bologna (2nd ed.). (*the book can be freely downloaded at www.orientlab.net/kinku*)

MARCHETTI, N., Thuesen, I. (eds)

2008 ARCHAIA. Case Studies on Research Planning, Characterisation, Conservation and Management in Archaeological Sites (BAR S 1877), Archaeopress, Oxford.

and of Abet Laminati for the info panels at the site (designed by architect Elena Rosa). Two land art installations fulfilled the task of conveying into the different, more immediate language of art the values embedded in an archaeological salvage project, both for the critical aspects of conservation (Marchetti 2011b: 21 bottom) and for setting the park into its barren landscape.

MATTHIAE, P., Pinnock, F., Nigro, L., Marchetti, N. (eds)

2010 *Proceedings of the 6th International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East, May, 5th-10th 2008, "Sapienza" - Università di Roma, Harrassowitz, Wiesbaden.*

du PLAT TAYLOR, J., Seton Williams, M. V., Waechter, J.

1950 The Excavations at Sakce Gözü: *Iraq* 12, pp. 53-139.

WARTKE, R.-B.

2005 *Sam'al, ein aramäischer Stadtstaat des 10. bis 8. Jhs. v. Chr. und die Geschichte seiner Erforschung*, von Zabern, Mainz am Rhein.

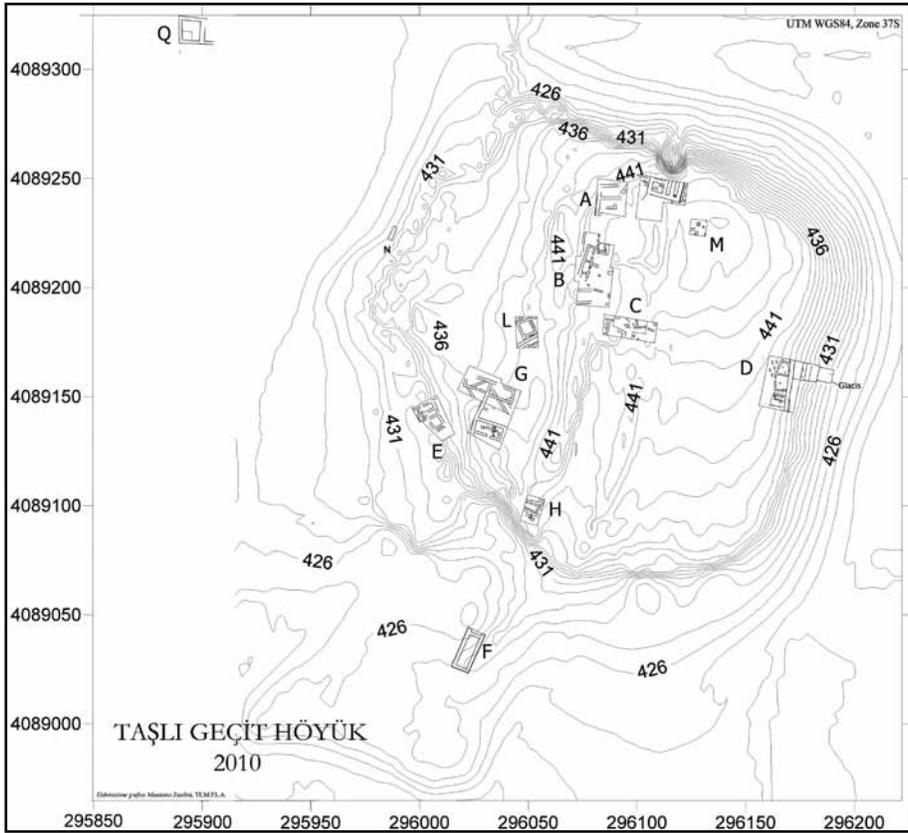


Fig. 1 - Topographic map of Taşlı Geçit Höyük with indication of the main features excavated.



Fig. 2 - Taşlı Geçit Höyük surrounded by Tahtaköprü lake in the season of its maximum depth (late May 2010), from west.



Fig. 3 - Area A: Fortress A from south-east, LB I; note the single course of mudbricks preserved over the eastern foundations, the contemporary adjoining building to the right and the MB IB wall scraps cut by the fortress.



Fig. 4 - Area A: LB I frit cylinder seal from F.816 over the outer paving L.831 (TG.11.O.290, h. 2.2 cm, diam. 1 cm).



Fig. 5 - Area B: Residency B from north-west, LB I; in foreground, the western boundary wall of the building, beyond which is the service wing (left) and the annexes of the reception hall (right).



Fig. 6 - Area B: foundations of two houses separated by an alley from north-east, Iron III.



Fig. 7 - Area B: Iron III juglet painted with brown circles and stripes from F.1070 over floor L.1072 (TG.10.P.47/1, h. 9.7 cm).

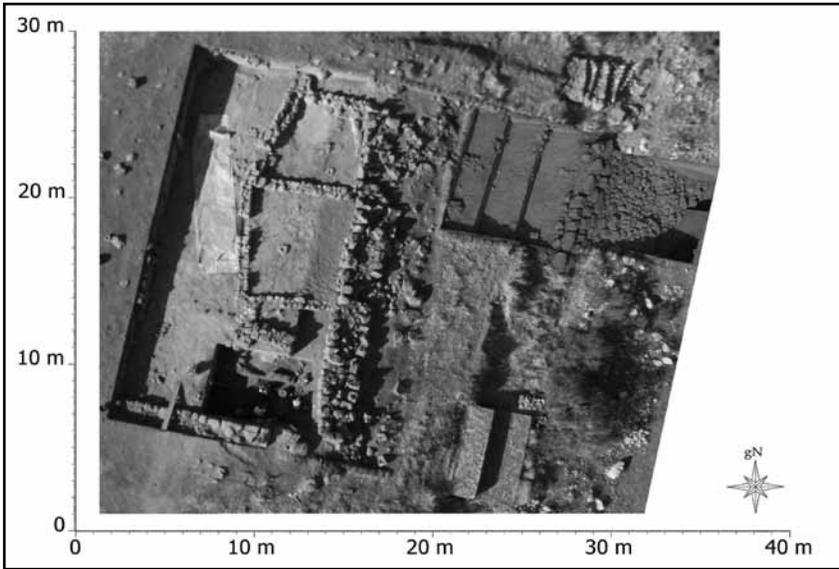


Fig. 8 - Area D: aerial orthophoto towards the end of the 2010 season; the two large Iron III single-room houses and the boundary wall W.300 are clearly visible; note the LB I remains in the deeper excavation at bottom left; to the right the LB I glacis excavated in 2009.



Fig. 9 - Area D: courtyard, ovens and mudbrick building from south-west, LB I.

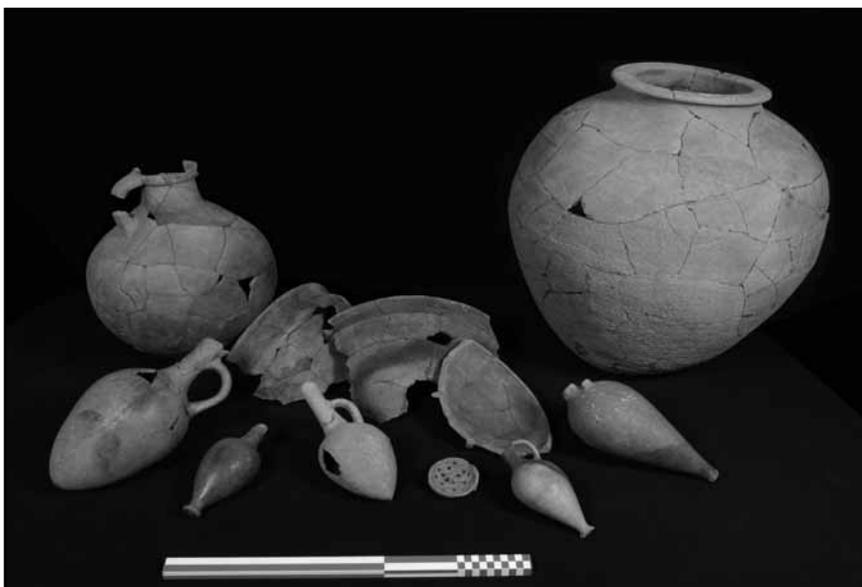


Fig. 10 - Area D: LB I pottery assemblage from F.1351 above courtyard L.1361.



Fig. 11 - Area D: House L.1344 and (in background) House L.320, to the left boundary wall W.300 and to the right street L.1348 in the course of excavation from north, Iron III.



Fig. 12 - Area D: fifty Iron III unbaked clay loom-weights from F.1328, in the south-west corner of House L.1344.



Fig. 13 - Areas G (left) and L (right): aerial orthophoto at the end of the 2010 season; note the three Iron III storerooms above MB IB streets and houses in area G and the MB IB house and street in area L.



Fig. 14 - Area G: courtyard L.1428 between storerooms L.1414 (left background) and L.630 (right) from north-east, Iron III; note the MB IB street L.635 in foreground.



Fig. 15 - Area L: street L.1630 and House L.1640 from south-west, MB IB.