

Terqa Preliminary Reports, No. 6:
THE THIRD SEASON:
INTRODUCTION AND THE STRATIGRAPHIC RECORD

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Following a review of goals and procedures, the main substantive results pertaining to stratigraphy and architecture are described and illustrated. —In the Second Millennium, besides some interesting jar burials, a considerable exposure was obtained of a Khana period residential quarter: the date established by epigraphic data confirms the conclusions reached on typological grounds in 1976, whereby a major artifactual assemblage can now be safely attributed to this otherwise unknown period. —In the Third Millennium strata we were able to identify a massive monumental structure as a city wall of which several portions could be traced along the perimeter of the tell: its structural make-up is evidenced, at least in part, by a large exposure at one end of the tell and by a sounding at the opposite end. Just within the city-wall are well preserved remains of manufacturing and storage facilities (kilns and bins), followed in time by richly endowed burial.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Acknowledgments

The third season at Terqa was characterized by an enlargement of our scope of activities, both on the intellectual level and the operational level. In terms of archaeology, this means a considerably increased exposure at Terqa itself, and in addition new excavations at the nearby site of Qraya. We have also started work on a systematic survey of the region around Terqa.

This was made possible by a sizeable extension of the individual and institutional participation in the project, which raised the total number of members to 25. Under the direction of the writers, representing respectively the University of California, Los Angeles (G. Buccellati) and California State University, Los Angeles (M. Kelly-Buccellati), the Expedition continued to enjoy the association of Johns Hopkins University and welcomed in addition the

University of Arizona, Tucson. We also had the benefit of the unofficial participation of the University of Poitiers (France), which was represented by Prof. Olivier Rouault.

Funding for the project came once again from the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation of Pasadena and the Samuel H. Kress Foundation in New York. It is a pleasure for us to register here our appreciation, at the moment in which we are sending to press the published embodiment of the results which they have made possible through the enlightened understanding and support of their governing boards and officers. In particular, we would like to express our personal gratitude to their chief officers, respectively Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and Mr. Stanley R. Rader (AICF) and Dr. Franklin D. Murphy and Ms. Mary Davis (Kress).

As the official carrier of the Expedition, Alitalia helped us in the difficult task of delivering people and goods to Syria—where we operate as the most distantly based foreign archaeological expedition.

In Syria, we met with the unfailing warm support of the Directorate General of Antiquities, on whom we have come to rely more and more for the unequalled degree to which they can combine scholarly expertise and administrative effectiveness—in Damascus, Dr. Afif Behnassi, Director General of Antiquities and Museums; Mr. Adnan Bounni, Director of Excavations; Mr. Kassem Toueir, Assistant Director of Excavations; in Aleppo, Mr. Mahmud Hreitani, Director of Antiquities for Northern Syria; Mr. Wahid Khayyata, Director of the National Museum of Aleppo; in Der ez-Zor, Mr. As'ad Mahmud, Director of the Der ez-Zor National Museum.

Mr. Muhammad Muslim of Aleppo served as a most effective representative of the Directorate to our Expedition for most of the season, and was followed in the last few days by Mr. As'ad Mahmud of Der ez-Zor.

Given the public nature of an archaeological project, interaction with civil authorities is a necessity—in the case of Syria, a most pleasurable one. The Governor (*Muhafadh*) of Der ez-Zor, Mr. 'Abd el-Salam Bitar, continued to follow our work with interest and through him and all his officials we were always able to find a practical answer to whatever problems we had. We wish especially to register our gratitude to Mr. 'Abd el-Qahhar el-'Ubaid, Director of Tourism and Cultural Affairs, Mr. Bahij Abbas, Director of Structural Works, and Mr. Saleh Najjar, Advisor for Cultural Affairs. On a day-to-day basis we were especially dependent on Mr. Yusuf Qudsi, Mayor of the District (*Mudir Mantaqa*) of Mayadin, and Mr. Ibrahim Hasan, Mayor of the Town (*Mudir Nahya*) of Ashara: their readiness to assist in a variety of problems, small and large, contributed in a great measure to the success of our work. In Aleppo, we enjoyed the assistance of Iyad Kawakibi, Regional Director of Customs, who greatly facilitated some of the predictable complexities which go hand in hand with the need for specialized equipment. Finally, it was our distinct privilege to come in direct contact with the Ambassador of the Syrian Arab Republic to Washington, Dr. Sabah Qabbani.

U. S. Ambassador Richard W. Murphy and his wife Anne did us the honor of a day's visit, and extended themselves on our behalf on a number of occasions. We are also grateful to a number of Embassy officials, who helped us in a variety of ways, especially Deputy Chief of Mission Robert H. Pelletreau and his wife Pamela, and Administrative Officer Joseph Melrose and his wife Mary.

We also wish to record the opportunity we were afforded to deliver papers on our research at the National Museum in Damascus, the Arab Cultural Union in Aleppo, and the USIS in Damascus.

Finally, it is important to note what a distinct scholarly opportunity we have in working at this particular juncture in Syria, and especially in the area of Der ez-Zor. The unparalleled climate of scholarly and organizational cooperation is attracting more and more colleagues to this area, of which we are reaping the benefits. In our specific case, this means that we are in a position to collaborate actively with two other major expeditions currently operating in our area—the Syro-French expedition to Rahba and the Dutch expedition to Buqras. Besides the complementarity of cultural periods, ranging from Islamic at Rahba to early Neolithic at Buqras, we have also laid plans for active technical cooperation and exchanges. As symbolic of this broad-ranging collaboration in the archaeological recovery program of a major cultural area, we wish to refer here to the role which one of the writers (G. Buccellati) has had as editor in seeing to publication the latest volume of the final reports of the excavations at the nearby site of Dura-Europos (S. Downey, *The Excavations at Dura-Europos: The Stone and Plaster Sculpture*, Monumenta Archaeologica 5, Los Angeles 1977), as well as an interpretive study on what was at one time the capital of the area where we are now working (Y. Al-Khalesi, *The Court of the Palms: A Functional Interpretation of the Mari Palace*, Bibliotheca Mesopotamica 8, Malibu 1978).

1.2 The Staff

The complete roster of members consisted of the following individuals:

Academic and Professional:

Giorgio Buccellati, Director (University of California, Los Angeles [UCLA])
 Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati, Co-Director (California State University, Los Angeles [CSULA])
 William R. Shelby, Assistant Director (UCLA)
 Olivier Rouault, Epigraphist and Archaeologist (University of Poitiers and Collège de France)
 James Knudstad, Architect
 Wachtang Djobadze, Art Historian (CSULA)
 Dawn Chatty, Anthropologist (Damascus)
 Elizabeth Griffin, Ceramicist

Representatives of the Syrian Directorate General:

Muhammad Muslim, Aleppo
 As'ad Mahmoud, Der ez-Zor

Technical Staff:

Mary G. Brennan, Recorder
 Elizabeth J. Foster, Registrar
 Brenda Huffine-Sokolowski, Photographer (CSULA)
 Linda Mount-Williams, Illustrator (UCLA)

Eunice Saver, Restorer (UCLA)
 Eric Shiozaki, Cinematographer (CSULA)
 Samir Toueir, Illustrator
 Ronald L. Williams, Technician

Area Supervisors:

Curtis T. Brennan (Arizona)
 Jean-Michel Gaborit (Poitiers and UCLA)
 Maryse Gaborit (Poitiers and UCLA)
 Kathryn Ann Kamp (Arizona)
 Robert Keller (UCLA)
 Patricia A. McDonnell (UCLA)
 Robert J. McGuire (Johns Hopkins)
 Kay C. Simpson (Arizona)

The most important single addition to our staff was James Knudstad, leading member of many archaeological campaigns in the Near East, with unrivaled expertise in stratigraphic analysis and architectural recording. The progress of our project owes much to him, more in fact than it is possible to acknowledge in these pages. All the architectural plans in this publication are his work; but beyond that, he was directly involved in the stratigraphic interpretation of all operations, and contributed immeasurably to the training of students and workmen.

Professor Wachtang Djobadze served as Visiting Professor for a period of three weeks, and contributed his vast knowledge of early Christian art and archaeological surveying at the moment that we were laying the foundations for our regional survey.

A brief visit by Dawn Chatty, a Fulbright Professor at the University of Damascus, was also linked to our concern in developing an overarching scheme for our survey: her research interest in contemporary Bedouins is directly related to our interest in the study of ancient patterns of nomadic adaptation and to our plans for extensive surface exploration of the desert terraces beyond the valley floor.

As always, archaeological work is teamwork, hence the results which we are presenting in these fascicles of the *Terqa Preliminary Reports* owe much to the competence and dedication of all individuals who participated in the various phases of the operation. For the contributions which lie behind this fascicle special mention, besides James Knudstad, goes to Brenda Huffine-Sokolowski, who is responsible for all still photographs; to Linda Mount-Williams for the final preparation of the architectural drawings; and to the area supervisors who worked in the following areas:

- Area A: Curtis Brennan, with the assistance of Robert Keller and Robert McGuire;
- Area B: Jean-Michel Gaborit, Maryse Gaborit, Brenda Huffine-Sokolowski, Olivier Rouault, and Eunice Saver;
- Area C: William Shelby and Kay Simpson, with the assistance of Kathryn Kamp, Patricia McDonnell, Robert Keller and Robert McGuire;
- Area D: Kathryn Kamp with the assistance of Jean-Michel Gaborit.

1.3 Archaeological Activity

1.3.1 Terqa

The third season of the Joint American Expedition to Terqa lasted from September 10, 1977 to December 3, 1977. Excavations were carried out from September 21 to November 24.

Excavations were conducted in the same areas as in 1976, redesignated in 1977 as Areas A, B and C, plus one new area (D) in the northwest corner of the tell, which was an open area near modern houses. In addition, we did preliminary surface clearing at various points along the perimeter of the tell, where we suspected that there might be evidence of construction of the city wall. Occasional finds were also turned in to the Expedition by townspeople from various locations on the tell. All of these data are recorded on the plan in Fig. 1.

In this fascicle (*TPR* 6) we report only on the Second Millennium occupation from Area C (and minimally from Area A), and on the Third Millennium occupation from Areas B and D. The major architectural evidence from Area A is omitted because, while considerable in size, preservation and presumable importance, the relevant exposure is still too incomplete to allow for any meaningful overall understanding. Islamic occupation (both medieval and modern) is also omitted because it is represented almost exclusively by dumping and burial activities which, although extensive, do not hold any particular clue yet for the depositional and occupational history of the site in that period.

As in our previous reports, we make a clear distinction between the stratigraphic record, which is reported here, and the typological record, which is reported in subsequent fascicles—as shown below in the section on publications.

1.3.2 Qraya

Excavations at Qraya were carried out from November 8, 1977 to November 24, 1977.

The site was chosen because a number of surface finds pointed to extensive occupation in the Protoliterate period; no other sites are known for this period from the region of Terqa, and new pertinent material seems especially significant if we are to obtain a clearer picture of the cultural context from which developed the phenomenon of Ebla—and more generally of literate, urban Syrian civilization in the Third Millennium. In addition, there was the contingent reason that the site was endangered by incipient construction activities on top of the tell, activities made possible by the fact that the site had gone apparently unnoticed and was not among the registered archaeological sites.

It was in the course of the reconnaissance work preliminary to our systematic regional survey that the site was discovered. Merit for this goes to Wachtang Djobadze and Olivier Rouault, who immediately called our attention to the significance of the site. Our urgent request for an excavation permit on the part of the Directorate General in Damascus was granted within a matter of days, with the remarkable effectiveness to which we have by now become accustomed.

Since the decision to excavate at Qraya came late in the season, we only had time for a limited sounding directed by Olivier Rouault with the assistance of William Shelby. We fully intend, however, to continue our excavations on a fuller scale in the coming years—a report on this year's soundings is planned as a separate fascicle by O. Rouault (see below, 1.5).

1.3.3 Khana Survey

As indicated above, and as adumbrated in our first report (*TPR 1*, 1.1.6), we have begun concrete plans for the implementation of a regional survey in the area of Terqa. This included various reconnaissance trips and the collection of pertinent surface collections and research materials, primarily under the direction of Wachtang Djobadze and Olivier Rouault. The excavations at Qraya were part of this initial work on the survey, and we hope in the coming years to develop an ongoing pattern of excavations, soundings, and surface survey, so as to acquire a uniquely integrated documentary basis for an in-depth understanding of the nature and growth of a broadly based cultural area.

No published account will be given of the reconnaissance activities in 1976, since they were only preliminary and their results will be integrated in future fascicles on the survey. A separate series of preliminary reports will be devoted exclusively to the survey, entitled *Khana Survey Preliminary Reports (KPR)*. The title embodies the name "Khana" which is primarily political in that it refers (in different contexts and at different times) to a tribal entity and to an expanded territorial kingdom. The latter is an interesting and potentially important feature of political nomenclature whereby a territorial entity is known by the name of a region rather than the name of a city—a feature which seems to distinguish Syria, i.e. northwestern Mesopotamia, (e.g. Yamhad/Aleppo, Khana/Terqa) and northeastern Mesopotamia (e.g. Warum/Eshnunna) from southern Mesopotamia. It is for these reasons that the name Khana has been chosen to identify our survey, even though it will admittedly be anachronistic for some of the periods represented by the evidence.

1.3.4 Methodological Considerations

Substantive and organizational issues loomed large in the third season, because of the need to develop a closer familiarity with the terrain and the emerging cultural assemblage, in addition to the need of establishing proper permanent facilities for a large staff. Methodologically, most of our efforts were directed toward the definition of a structurally rigorous recording system. This was to serve both the theoretical purpose of identifying with maximum clarity the conceptual universe within which the process of excavation and of analysis unfolds, and the practical need of channeling the rapidly emerging data within a uniform configuration. We consider this a most important methodological goal because it gives a measure of the awareness with which we approach the data and their documentation. It also has a most useful technical side-effect in that a proper recording system, for all its initial complexity, allows for speedy retrieval of the information and hence for a rapid integration of the data in an inclusive framework (partly represented by the Preliminary Reports in their published form). The essence of the Terqa recording system is now incorporated in the *IIMAS Field Encoding Manual (Non-Digital)*, published as *ARTANES 2* (Malibu 1978). If there is a generalized value to our own type of recording it is in the emphasis it places on the need for the most accurate understanding of stratigraphy. We feel that great attention should be paid, systematically, to patterns of depositional history and to the crucial problems of documentation of

what is by definition the impermanent moment of excavation. If there is a degree of specificity to archaeology as an intellectual endeavor (as distinct from a craft), we believe that it is to be found in the understanding and attendant recording of stratigraphy as the frozen embodiment of deposition. Our work toward a classification of these problems has been our chief methodological concern in 1977.

1.4 Organizational Framework

1.4.1 Resources

Besides standard photographic and surveying equipment, and new entries in our microfiche library, the main technical additions of the third season were a well equipped darkroom for developing and printing black and white film, a copier especially for reproduction of drawings and field notes, and a set of typewriters for a formally more controlled rendering of the record as well as for safety and convenience: at the end of the season there are four sets of records, one of which remains in the field house, while a second is deposited in the Der ez-Zor Museum and the others are brought back to the home archives.

A simple device was introduced for the reading of elevations by area supervisors (see Fig. 4). A sight level is mounted on a wooden platform which slides up and down a 2 meter metal rod, and may be locked into position at any point along the rod. A paper roll with centimeter marks (much like a stadia rod) is nailed to one baulk in such a way that the elevations match the pertinent datum point (which corresponds to 0 in the sequence of centimeters on the paper roll). Whenever needed, the sight level is locked into position at a convenient height along the rod: one can then read the elevation by resting the rod on the point to be measured, sighting the paper roll through the sight level, and adding the height of the level on the rod to the number read off the paper roll. The system has the advantage of allowing elevations to be taken rapidly by a single person, with greater ease and precision than with a line level.

1.4.2 Field School

In conjunction with the Joint American Expedition to Terqa, there is a field school which is academically operated by UCLA under the direction of one of the writers (G. Buccellati): students obtain regular academic credit through various Departments at UCLA, for stratigraphic and typological analysis and for cultural interpretation. A distinctive feature of the Field School is that it has a programmed approach, whereby students go through a well defined cycle of experiences covering a total period of three seasons. In the first season, the student concentrates on stratigraphic analysis with all the pertinent recording. In the second season the student becomes familiar with a variety of technical and typological aspects, from photography or surveying to object analysis, osteology, etc. In the third season, the student takes on primary responsibility for an excavation unit and serves as assistant in a given technical or typological activity. The intended result is to train individuals to a high degree of competence in (1) the specific act of excavation, (2) the attendant recording and (3) a given technical or typological activity, besides providing a direct familiarity with all other technical, intellectual, and organizational aspects. In 1977 a total of ten students were enrolled in the program.

1.4.3 Archaeological Park

The nature of the excavations at Terqa, and the close relationship between the ancient city and modern Ashara, are particularly suited for a presentation of the archaeological finds to the public which goes beyond that of a museum or of publications. It is our intention to preserve permanent structures as much as possible and to favor a general insight into the nature of archaeological work and stratigraphic analysis. This we intend to achieve by means of an Archaeological Park, of which a modest beginning was made in 1977. At the end of the season we placed a balustrade around the perimeter of excavations in Area C (Ill. 4), and provided a simple plastic and mud protection for walls and floors; at various points along the balustrade we have placed posters with drawings, photographs, narrative explanations (in English and Arabic) and three-dimensional aids such as a stratigraphic cube showing each level on a lucite sheet with the relevant features marked in color (Ill. 1). We also prepared flyers, in English and Arabic, to be handed to visitors. It was a distinct pleasure to have U. S. Ambassador Richard W. Murphy and his wife Anne join us for an informal inauguration of what we hope will become over the years a well structured and landscaped park.

1.5 Publications

Continuing with the pattern begun in 1976 and outlined in *TPR* 1, 1.2, we have carried out an active publication program of which the *new* items are listed below. It may be noted especially that we have two additional general reports (in English and Arabic) besides the official one published in *AAS*, and that the *Field Encoding Manual* represents a new category of ancillary publications stemming from the project.

General Reports:

- TAP* 3: G. BUCCELLATI and M. KELLY-BUCCELLATI
 "The Terqa Archaeological Project: General Report on the Third Season,"
 forthcoming in *AAS*.
- G. BUCCELLATI and M. KELLY-BUCCELLATI
New Archaeological Harvests from Syria. Pasadena 1977.
- M. MUSLIM
 Adaptation and translation into Arabic of preceding title. Der ez-Zor 1977.

Modular Preliminary Reports—Terqa:

- TPR* 5: A. MAHMOUD
 "Die Industrie der islamischen Keramik aus der zweiten Season," *SMS* 2/5
 (1978).
- TPR* 6: G. BUCCELLATI and M. KELLY-BUCCELLATI
 "The Third Season: Introduction and the Stratigraphic Record," *SMS* 2/6
 (1978).

- TPR* – O. ROUAULT
 “Documents épigraphiques de la troisième saison,” *SMS* 3/2 (1978).
- TPR* – E. GRIFFIN and W. R. SHELBY
 “Ceramic Vessel Typology of the Third Season,” *SMS* 2/7(1978).
- TPR* – L. MOUNT-WILLIAMS
 “Object Typology of the Third Season (Excluding Vessels and Lithics),” *SMS* 3/1 (1978).
- TPR* – N. M. MAGALOUSIS, *et al.*
 “Sourcing Techniques Applied to Soils and Ceramics from Terqa and Dilbat,”
 forthcoming in *SMS*.
- TPR* – O. ROUAULT
 “Cuneiform Texts Found at Terqa before the Joint Expedition: A New Edition,” forthcoming in *SMS*.
- TPR* – B. HUFFINE
 “Third Millennium Burials,” forthcoming in *SMS*.
- TPR* – M. KELLY-BUCCELLATI
 “Seal Impressions from the Third Season,” forthcoming in *SMS*.

Modular Preliminary Reports—Khana Survey:

- KPR* 1: O. ROUAULT
 “Soundings at Qraya—The Protoliterate Period,” forthcoming in *SMS*.

Ancillary Reports:

- ARTANES* 2:
 G. BUCCELLATI and M. KELLY-BUCCELLATI
IIMAS Field Encoding Manual (Non-Digital). Malibu 1978.

Audio-Visual Module:

- DS* 2: G. BUCCELLATI, M. KELLY-BUCCELLATI and W. R. SHELBY
Terqa 1977. Malibu 1978.

2. Second Millennium Strata

2.1 Residential Quarter in Area C

2.1.1 Stationary Units

The most significant result of our excavations in Second Millennium layers was the considerable exposure obtained of a well defined set of residential units: the overall plan (Fig. 1) and a panoramic view (Ill. 3; *DS* 2, 19) give a good idea of the extent and layout of the structures. The walls are standing almost evenly to a height of about two meters, except in SG7 (see Fig. 2 for an outline of the grid) where only a few courses of bricks are left standing as the result of a deep Islamic intrusion. (This "intrusion" is not structurally defined by, or related to, any Islamic brickwork, and may be described as a large hollow obtained partly by scalloping the earlier and lower walls, with superimposed bands of fill.)

The uppermost living floor was reached in most rooms, with absolute elevations considerably at variance one from the other. In STA1 only a small portion of the floor debris was cleared (Locus 9, see Ill. 2, 3-5, and *DS* 2, 20-23): this was opened as a test locus starting from the inside of the Islamic pit FT14, and it revealed important epigraphic material (see below, 2.1.2) which dates the stratum to the Khana period. This is the main Old Babylonian stratum (14), and it includes the living floor as exposed so far, the major walls shown on the plan and the floors which presumably go with them. In STA1, STA2 and STA3 there is vivid evidence of a fierce fire, which caused the roof to fall and vitrified in places some of the debris.

Earlier floors may be connected with the same walls (judging from a 1976 sounding in STB2 and from the section showing along the cliff), thus possibly providing an earlier Khana stratum (15).

The occupational floor debris in STA1 was compacted by a later reuse of the room, still in the Khana period. The room adjacent to it, STA2, also shows that it was reused after the fire without any major work on the structure: a rectangular bin, FT28 (Ill. 8), was built up against the burnt face of the wall and sunk into the burnt floor. It is impossible to say whether the structures were reroofed or whether the reuse took place simply within the walls as they were standing under the open sky: the little care shown by the lack of replastering may point toward the second alternative. Be that as it may, we consider this as an intermediate stratum, when the structures were still in use as such. It is followed in turn by a period when the houses were no longer inhabited. These strata (10 and 11) are characterized by loose fill and jar burials, of which the largest number was found in 1976 in SG4 ST2.

Excavations in the southern part of Area C did not reach the same level as in Structures A and B. From structural details it appears that STD was built at a later time, though still within the Khana period (Stratum 9). This is also suggested by the fact that the living floor in STD is at a considerably higher elevation than in STA (see Fig. 3). Future excavations will tell if there is a lower floor to show that STD was built originally at the same time as Structures A and B (Stratum 14); also if the alley STC originated in Stratum 14 or in Stratum 12 against the partly fallen walls of Structures A and B.

In summary, the strata of Area C are listed below, including, for the sake of completeness and clarity in identifying the sequence, the Islamic strata and some other details which have not been discussed above:

Phases	Strata
1 Modern	1 Modern refuse
2 Modern/Islamic	2 Fill overriding packed-mud walls
	3 Fire pits and bins cut into Stratum 4
	4 Mud packed walls and fill contained therein
	5 Scalloping of second millennium walls and fill contained therein
3 Late Khana	6 Burials in STD1
	7 Fill within STD1 and D2
	8 Possible reuse of STD1 and D2
	9 Building and occupation of STD1 and D2
4 Middle Khana	10 Burials in STA
	11 Fill into which burials are deposited
	12 Reuse of STA1, A2, A3.
	13 Fill after burning of STA
	14 Building and occupation of STA, and possibly of STB1, including burials below living floors (SG4 BR6; STB1 BR1).
5	15 Sounding in STB2 and floors showing in section on cliff side

NOTE: The sorting order was changed in 1977 from the one used in 1976, in such a way that structures are numbered sequentially within the entire Area C rather than within the individual Squares. A concordance of the pertinent items follows:

1976	1977
SG4 (<i>TPR</i> 1, Fig. 6)	Area C (<i>TPR</i> 6, Fig. 3)
ST1	= STB2, STB4
ST2	= STA2
ST3	= STB1, STB4
ST4	= STA3

2.1.2 Movable Items

The most important aggregate was found in STB1 (FT24, Ill. 6-7; *DS* 2, 31). A corner of one floor had been spared by a wide and deep Islamic intrusion; here were tucked away a variety of utilitarian artifacts much like the ones found in 1976 in SG4 ST2 (*TPR* 1, Figs. 6, 7, Ill. 14-16). The items include a cylindrical jar (TQ4-427), a ring stand (TQ4-320), a grinding stone (TQ4-422), two bronze points (TQ4-417 and TQ4-441), and, most importantly, a cuneiform tablet (*TPR* 9, 6). The contents of the tablet are not clear, but it may be a school

text. It is impossible to say whether its association with the rest of the aggregate was primary (their clustering reflects an intentional deposition) or secondary (the tablet fell or was discarded).

The text of another tablet (*TPR* 9, 2, Ill. 2; *DS* 2, 10-12) is clearly understood as a contract of the Khana period, and is thus the most important single discovery in Area C since it dates the main OB stratum. As shown in *TPR* 9, the tablet was covered by an envelope (*TPR* 9,3), and it was shattered in many fragments which were found scattered within the small test locus in STA1. Since it was recovered at the end of the season, we do not know what are the other items possibly present on the floor, but it seems likely that we may find here a larger epigraphic aggregate. Various assumptions were entertained as to the depositional processes which may explain the stratigraphic situation of the tablet—whether it was broken and dropped on the floor before the fire, whether it broke in falling during the fire from a higher place such as a shelf, whether it exploded as a result of the intense heat produced by the house fire, whether it was broken as the fill was compacted for reuse as a floor. No clear answer emerged from the available data, but further excavation of the floor remains may provide some clues.

The remaining three fragments of cuneiform tablets found this season come from Islamic fill immediately above the Khana strata. Two of these fragments (*TPR* 9, 2-3) belong to Khana contracts, while the third (*TPR* 9, 1) dates back to Zimri-Lim of Mari and is a beautiful calligraphic text referring to the building of an icehouse. It is of course impossible to say whether these pieces came originally from the same general area in which they were excavated or from elsewhere on the mound. But it is interesting to note that these fragments are of the same type as the other cuneiform texts from Terqa known from before the excavations. The Khana contracts, in particular, are of the same type as the ones for which Thureau-Dangin and Dhorme undertook their work at Terqa (*TPR* 1, 15-18); if we are correct in assuming that their soundings were in the proximity of or within Area C (*TPR* 1 18), then it appears that our excavations are indeed next to the area from which the earlier tablets reportedly came.

While numerous other movable items were found, no other aggregates deserve special mention at this point. Important individual items are described elsewhere in *TPR* 7 and 8.

2.1.3 Chronological Remarks: the Khana Period

The Old Babylonian ceramic assemblage found in 1976 had been dated to the period between Zimri-Lim and Nuzi on the basis of typological considerations (*TPR* 4, p. 11). The new epigraphic finds confirm very closely this conclusion. For the first time, we have a precise stratigraphic correlation between the Khana tablets and a vast assemblage of items of material culture. For the first time, then, we can provide a concrete definition of what was otherwise a skeletal chronological outline. Predictably, Terqa is giving us the Khana period, and with it a major cultural period of Near Eastern history in an age which has heretofore remained largely in darkness. Two interesting questions await us in the ground. First, how wide and coherent an exposure will we be able to obtain for this period, and specifically for the residential quarter? Second, how did Khana period constructions affect those of the Mari period—i.e., were they so massive that little was left of the earlier period? The general situation in Area C

is favorable to both horizontal and vertical exposure, so we expect the continuation of our work to shed much light on the nature and cultural connections of the Khana period.

2.2 Considerations on Area A

Two additional squares were opened in 1977 in Area A, SG6 and SG9. Our goal was to locate possible remnants of an architectural complex which had been intimated by the 1976 season, but could not be clearly documented in the exposure obtained then, because of the high number of burials which had cut into the structures. Our expectations were fulfilled, but to such a degree that a different problem emerged: the structures were too large for the narrow limits imposed by just two additional squares. Besides, the small portions of floors which could be cleared in the narrow area between walls and baulks were remarkably void of occupational debris. For these two reasons, no account will be given here of the operation, leaving the pertinent data for a later report, after more squares are opened in the direction of the Municipal Park.

A single feature which deserves special mention is an interesting jar burial which contained the remains of a child. As shown in Ill. 10, DS 2, 40-42, the burial consisted of two jars neck to neck; the child was wrapped in a cloth material which was remarkably well preserved (Ill. 11, DS 2, 43-46). A small bowl was laid inside the jars by the feet of the child (Ill. 12, see TPR 7, 5). The shaft into which the jars were lowered could be identified to some extent, and within the shaft were two clay wheels (Ill. 13), presumably belonging to a toy which had been the child's, in whose company they were laid to rest.

3. Third Millennium Strata

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The *Status Quaestionis* in 1976

At the end of the 1976 season we had established that the irregularly shaped sunken area on the southeastern part of the mound measuring approximately 20 meters north/south and 10 meters east/west contained a single monumental brick structure (TPR 1, 33-38). It was called SG5 in 1976 and Area B in 1977 (see Fig. 6). Elements found within this massive brickwork were a well and a drain—the date of which could not be determined. Just inside the wall was a room which contained a later burial dating to the mid-Third Millennium and two rock cairns.

Our work in 1976 gave us enough information to determine that we were excavating a monumental mud brick structure but left us with a number of questions—the main ones being the nature and extent of this structure. We knew in 1976 that the brickwork was at least 12 meters wide but its extent was unclear; this was due both to our limited investigations and the fact that the river had washed away an undefined portion of it. Another aspect of this problem had to do with the relationship of the part of the structure we had cleared and the higher portion of stratigraphy on its southeastern side called the “Sheikh's tomb”

(TPR 1, 33). While our structure appeared to continue into this higher section of the nearby mound, the exposed faces of this area were so eroded that considerable work needed to be done before any firm conclusion could be reached and the exact nature of the connection investigated.

In addition to these stratigraphic problems we also had to determine the depth and extent of the contemporary refuse deposit overlaying the ancient stratigraphy in Area B. At the beginning of our work in 1976, the modern refuse layer was only a few centimeters thick on the eastern part of the wall but was increasing rapidly in depth as we worked westward. At the end of excavations in 1976 it was more than a meter thick on the west.

3.1.2 Research Strategy for 1977

At the beginning of the 1977 season the terminology for this part of the mound was changed to reflect our changeover from what was essentially a cleaning operation in 1976 to an excavation area in 1977 (Ill. 15). This portion of the mound was generally termed Area B while the excavation itself was divided into regular squares termed SG11-16 (Fig. 5). Besides these squares, Area B also includes the so-called "Sheikh's tomb," a higher flat-topped area southwest of SG11-16 on which some cleaning was undertaken in 1977. This section was called SG02 in 1976 (TPR 1, 15-18).

The first problem approached was the determination of the depth and extent of the contemporary refuse deposit. To this end, we placed a series of trenches one meter wide at various levels in the deposit. Its northwestern extent was fairly clear since at this point the stratigraphy stands higher and the darker color of the contemporary deposit stood out against the lighter colored ancient layers (see Ill. 16). The test trenches along the western and higher portion of Area B showed that the ancient stratigraphy dropped off sharply, leaving a layer approximately four meters deep of contemporary refuse on the western side of the bowl. On the southwestern side it soon became clear that the refuse was not as high there since a portion of the wall appeared soon after the trench was started.

From the shape of this deposit it appears that the refuse was pushed over the side probably by a bulldozer in a recent cleaning operation undertaken by the municipality of Ashara. This part of the mound was chosen probably because a depression created by the river already existed there. The state of decomposition within this buildup of deposit seems to indicate that it is all recent (i.e., within the last 20 years), as there were fairly well preserved leather shoes and metal found near the bottom!

In order to clear away this refuse dump we hired a backhoe for two days during which we indicated to the operator the horizontal limits of the garbage through a series of stakes. The depth of the deposit was constantly checked to monitor and control its vertical removal. We left a one-meter covering over all the ancient stratigraphy which was later dug out by hand.

The 1977 excavation established that this area had been used through essentially three phases: (a) its earliest use thus far was as part of the city wall, confirmed both in Area B and elsewhere on the mound, (b) sometime after the wall was built its interior was used for storage and manufacturing activities and (c) after the wall and activity areas fell out of use the area was finally utilized for burials. These phases will now be discussed starting with the latest and going to the earliest.

3.2 A Large Shaft Burial

The latest strata we were able to distinguish in Area B below the modern refuse dump are all within the Third Millennium. This stratigraphy consisted of a series of ash layers with charcoal flecks seen in the cleaning of the high north baulk of ST14 (Stratum 2). These layers ran under a vessel embedded in the baulk which was of a typical Third Millennium cooking vessel type.

The latest use thus far established for the area was for burial purposes. In 1976 a woman's burial was discovered near the inner edge of the monumental brickwork and in 1977 we discovered a second burial in SG14. The 1977 burial was generally of the same type as the 1976 burial, that is, it contained a woman in a flexed position lying on her left side, her head toward the south. She was buried in a pit which was 2.35 meters long and 1.95 meters wide. The burial discovered in 1976 was slightly lower in absolute depth. Because of the thickness of the deposit of contemporary refuse over this area, we found no trace of the stratum from which the pits were dug; in the case of the 1977 burial the sides of the shaft could be traced for 90 cm. above the floor of the pit.

While there was no built up structure associated with either burial, the body of the 1977 burial was probably covered with a reed mat as we found a piece of bitumen with reed impressions near the head (Ill. 17, Fig. 8; *DS* 2, 90).

The placement of offerings was similar in both graves. Some at least of the jewelry was put on the body, possibly attached to the clothing, while large vessels (e.g. *TPR* 4, 58 and *TPR* 7, 47) and one or more smaller forms were near the flexed arms (see Ill. 18; *DS* 2, 91, and *TPR* 1, 15:27). In the 1977 burial it appeared that one forearm and hand had been draped over the large vessel which contained the two long pins and beads used to fasten the garment (see *TPR* 3, 3). In both graves several other jars as well as bottles were placed near the head (*TPR* 4, 47, 59-63 and Shelby, *TPR* n.d. Type Nos. 45-48). The grave discovered in 1977 was richer than the one from 1976 with the major difference being in the number of luxury items such as jewelry and an ostrich egg, as well as the presence of a large flat-topped stone with three cups placed on its upper surface with a jar, possibly for storage, next to it (Ills. 18 and 19; see Huffine, *TPR* n.d., for a full discussion of these burials).

One further point to note about these burials is that the rock cairn and drain associated with the 1976 burial did not reappear in connection with the 1977 example.

The assemblage of objects found in the 1977 burial closely link it in time to the 1976 burial dated on the basis of ceramic typology to the mid-Third Millennium, about 2400 B.C. The more complex assemblage found in the 1977 burial allow us to see that there are close parallels between Terqa and the Early Dynastic cities to the south such as Mari, the Diyala region, Kish, Abu Salabikh and Ur. The striking parallels linking all the burials in these sites points to a considerable homogeneity of culture in the mid-Third Millennium in Mesopotamia. This is another indication that the strong contacts between the Syrian cities such as Terqa and Ebla and the cities to the south later in the Third Millennium were the result of a long standing relationship. The excavations of Habuba Kabira and Jebel Aruda and our excavations at Qraya are pushing our information about these contacts farther back in time.

3.3 Manufacturing and Storage Facilities

3.3.1 Introduction

Some time before the area was used for interments the interior of the city wall contained areas for manufacturing activities as seen in a large oven or kiln in SG15 with a number of smaller ovens immediately around it. Traces of burning and the beginning of the collapsed bricks of this large oven began to appear in Stratum 9 of SG15. Smaller baking ovens made from crude ceramics also were found in SG11 and SG14. The arrangement by which large ovens were placed just inside the city wall was found repeated in SG21, a cleaning operation on the southern portion of the mound. During approximately the same period the area was used for storage as seen by two rectangular bins in SG11 and a partially excavated circular feature (silo?) in SG14 (Fig. 6, Ill. 20).

3.3.2 The Large Kiln in SG15

The kiln in SG15, designated Feature 17 (FT17), first appeared as a large burned area with many fallen and tumbled bricks. Several feature numbers were given to this complex as the bricks at first seemed to form clusters, making it seem like several fire pits rather than one large kiln. Thus parts of this kiln were also called in the beginning Features 9, 10, 12 and 13.

The kiln was constructed of two parallel side walls with a rounded one at the rear (see Fig. 9). On the western side we have preserved the earliest stage of construction. This appears to be the case since this wall is well preserved and shows no traces of reconstruction although several replasterings are visible. The eastern side is instead badly damaged, having gone through several poorly done repairs and replasterings; the original construction has been obliterated because of this activity (Ill. 22; *DS* 2, 82). The bricks in the kiln measure 7-8 cm. x 18-20 cm. x 36 cm. From the evidence of the western side we can see that the oven had four corbelled arches spanning the width of the fire chamber with a fifth, larger arch at the entrance. These arches formed a grill-like base for the baking chamber above, of which nothing is preserved. Between these arches were flues which carried an intense heat as seen from the vitrified and molten clay still preserved inside. The interior of the fire chamber too was vitrified and molten (*DS* 2, 85-86). The entrance to the fire chamber as we found it preserved part of the original arch. The arch would have been about 60 cm. high as a means for the insertion of fuel into the fire chamber. The arches are founded on a shelf near the bottom of the kiln. This shelf could have been part of an earlier kiln but its utilization in the latest major stage of the kiln construction has the effect of making the fire chamber smaller at the bottom than at the top. In order to investigate this point as well as the earlier history of the kiln we placed a test trench, Locus 3, near the entrance, i.e., on the southeastern side.

Before discussing this test trench, however, the two mudbrick walls near this kiln must be considered (Fig. 6). On the north side of the kiln there is a mudbrick wall, FT15, running northwest/southeast while on its east side another mudbrick wall, FT16, runs north/south. These two walls seem to abut a third wall, FT19. One of our aims in placing a test trench in Locus 3 was to see the relationship of FT15 and FT16 to each other and to the kiln.

Strata 2 and 3 in Locus 3 correspond to the shelf in the kiln which is the foundation for the corbelled arches; however this shelf and Strata 2 and 3 may have been connected with an earlier kiln. In these two strata also we found the remains of an earlier wall, FT18, under the later wall (FT16) which may be connected with an earlier kiln. There was a period of abandonment between the latest use of FT18 and the time when FT16 was first constructed, as evidenced by the fact that one of the greenish laminations of Stratum 2 goes over FT18. Also the wall, FT16, is constructed farther west than FT18; this latter wall probably continues under FT16 and perhaps also under FT15.

While we have no definite proof that Strata 2 and 3 are contemporary with an earlier kiln, the fact that they abut the shelf within the oven and their consistency of layers of burned clay both indicate a burning activity in the area.

The kiln itself was filled with slag and broken bricks which were burnt to a wide variety of colors from dark gray to red and finally green. These brick pieces were scattered within layers of burnt earth also having a wide range of color. While there was little pottery in the kiln the sherds did include some metallic ware and a spout which indicated a time toward the end of the Early Dynastic period.

3.3.3 Other Burning Areas and Kiln

Near FT17 on the south and west were a series of other smaller burning areas. None was as large or formally constructed as this kiln but they did contain tumbled baked brick pieces as well as slag. One, FT13, was lined near the top with two human leg bones which were poorly preserved; these were the only human bones found in the area. FT13 also contained a fire dog, the only other example of which came from near the wall FT15.

Just inside the city wall in an area we cleaned southwest of Area A, designated SG22 (Ill. 23, Fig. 1) we found another kiln. This kiln is smaller than the example in SG15 and not as well preserved since it was cut by two Islamic burials. The construction as far as it is preserved is very similar to the example in SG15. It has traces of three arches which are founded on the floor of the kiln, the bricks of which are laid flat with the corbelling not evident. The arches formed a grate above as in SG15 with the bricks being the same size as well. The inside of the kiln had been replastered two or three times; its entrance was not preserved (Ill. 25).

The purpose of these kilns is not clear at present. The example in SG15 did not have sufficient slag to indicate its use in metallurgical activities nor was there a large number of sherds to indicate pottery-making activities.

3.3.4 Rectangular Bins

Just inside the northeastern section of the city wall in Area B we excavated two rectangular bins in Stratum 6 of SG11 (Fig. 6, Ill. 21 and *DS* 2, 80-81). These were designated ST1 and ST2 because they were originally thought to be small compartments. The northeastern bin (ST1) has an exterior face of half bricks or bricks set on edge with a thick plaster on the

exterior of the brick; the interior face of these half bricks also had a thick layer of plaster, possibly indicating a refacing. This bin contained sherds, and brick-like material.

The southwestern bin (ST2) was constructed in the same manner as the other, i.e., with a half brick facing plastered on both sides (Ill. 26). In this case the exterior had two layers of plaster. The interior contained the same hard bricky material with sherds and some bone.

The two rectangular bins are set at slightly different angles in relation to each other and ST2 is founded on a slightly higher ashy floor than ST1. Because of these two factors it is possible that ST2 is later than ST1; however the similarity in shape and construction techniques seems to indicate that they were built close in time. It is possible too that the ashy floor on which ST2 was built was the same ashy floor on which ST1 was constructed, the floor in this case being between 5 and 10 cm. thicker under ST2. The northeastern bin, ST1, was constructed on the ashy floor first discovered in 1976. On the same floor were two rock cairns. The northernmost rock cairn, FT5, was excavated down to this floor in 1977 with nothing found inside. The second rock cairn remains unexcavated.

3.3.5 Semi-circular Structure

The ashy floors connected with the bins, ST1 and ST2 in SG11, continued into SG14 and on them was found a semi-circular wall, FT19. These floors went up to the wall already described in SG15 as FT15, which is associated with the latest rebuilding of the large kiln in SG15. Therefore the bins, cairns, silo and the large kiln are all contemporary.

The semi-circular wall of SG14 FT19 probably continues to form a circular silo. Since however this wall was excavated at the very end of the season, we did not trace it completely. Connected to this wall was a smaller semi-circular pit lined with bricks, FT20.

3.3.6 Chronological Remarks

Within all the levels excavated so far in Area B, we have found metallic ware and imitation metallic ware ceramics and crude spouted vessels typical of the middle of the Third Millennium i.e., around 2400 B.C. (see *TPR 4* and Rouault *TPR* n.d. for a complete publication of the ceramics).

3.4 The City Wall

3.4.1 Structural Make-up of Wall in Area B

The city wall as we have thus far investigated it in Area B has at least two main phases (Fig. 7). The original (inner) wall ran north/south in this area; at its northern end we found an interior corner forming part of what was called Room 1 in 1976 (*TPR 1*, Fig. 9, Ill. 22, 24, 26). The western side of this area is created by a wall abutting the main city wall; it is this short wall which was cut by the rock cairn and burial excavated in 1976. What appeared in

the 1976 excavations to be a buttress next to the rock cairn turned out on excavation to be a portion of the rectangular bin called ST1 in the 1977 season. Into this phase of the wall construction the well and the drain discovered in 1976 were cut (see *TPR* 1, 33).

The second phase of the wall's constructional history consisted of a new wall built up against the first one. Possibly at the same time as the construction of this second wall, the foundation of large boulders was placed against the original inner wall. The same type of foundation of large uncut boulders was incorporated into the base of the wall during this second phase (Ill. 7). According to the reports of the local people, these boulders were to be found until recently between the extent city wall and the river. We also found them in a test we made on the uppermost surface of the wall. Here we had come across an area which appeared to be a bricky fill rather than bricks; digging deeper in this material we came across more boulders.

After this second major phase of the wall we have not as yet cleaned and excavated sufficiently to be able to trace its history. It is clear that rebuildings and additions continued; we also can see traces of activities connected with the wall in the form of floors, burned areas, etc. The wall as we have exposed if does continue into the higher portion of the mound on the southeastern side, called the "Sheikh's tomb." However the nature and date of these later rebuildings has yet to be determined (Ill. 27).

This season we also investigated the base of the wall on the eastern side toward the river. There we discovered a base of clean clay without any cultural debris such as sherds, beads, etc. within it. This clay could have been an intentionally laid foundation for the mud brick and stone wall above or, alternatively, it may have been a water laid deposit put down by the natural action of the Euphrates.

On the interior of the wall we excavated two test trenches, one in SG15 (Locus 3, see 3.2.2) and the other at the interior corner of the room excavated in 1976. In both these trenches we found evidence of earlier walls under the main city wall as we have it now preserved. The existence of an earlier phase of the city wall and the date of its construction will have to be further investigated.

3.4.2 Sounding in Area D

In 1976 a local woman turned in to the Expedition two Third Millennium vessels (SF2, *TPR* 1, Fig. 4). In 1977 a Third Millennium metal axe was given to us which reportedly came from the western side of the mound (CF 7). Because of these finds we decided to put in a sounding in a vacant lot on the western edge of the mound called Area D. Our inspection of the site in 1977 to check for traces of the city wall (see below, 3.4.3) led us to believe that we might find part of the city wall in this area also.

With these factors in mind we excavated a trench in Area D, two meters wide by 20 meters long. Since this area had been leveled in the recent past we found traces of brick walls dating to the Third Millennium quite near the surface. On excavation these walls could be divided into three building phases of the city wall. On the interior of this wall a deep uninterrupted series of floors had built up against it which contained an unmixed deposit of Third Millennium sherds including metallic ware, some bone and lithics, thus giving us a good date for the wall. At its interior face we have this city wall standing 2.75 meters high.

The earliest building phase of the city wall, to the east, is 5.20 meters wide made with bricks measuring 10 by 20-22 by 45-46 cm. all laid as headers. In the second phase of the wall the bricks were slightly larger. They were laid against the exterior of the first phase with the possibility of an overlapping of the masonry at the present wall top. The outer face of the second phase wall was either badly eroded when the third phase was built or it was cut by the third phase construction.

We have not reached the base of this wall in Area D for any of the phases including the first. Therefore we do not have as yet the original date of its building. The fill against the inside of the earliest phase contained the largest amount of sherd material giving us the Third Millennium date of about 2400 B.C. There were fewer ceramics associated with the later phases so that a more precise chronology for the later phases within the Third Millennium could not be determined.

3.4.3 Surface Remains

Since one of our objectives for the 1977 season was to determine the nature of the monumental structure in Area B, we began to investigate the present edge of the mound to determine if there were still traces of similar wall constructions. Starting from Area B we began by checking a road cut between Areas A and B. By cleaning the section created by this cut we were able to find what appears to be a part of the inner core of the city wall. The bricks measure 9-10 by 20-22 by 40-45 cm. and are all laid as headers. These bricks however are made of a poor quality clay and therefore are not well preserved. They are in the same alignment as the bricks in Area B, i.e., northeast/southwest.

In a cleaning operation southwest of Area A we discovered another part of the city wall (FT2) with a kiln (FT4) nearby (Fig. 1 and Ill. 23). It appears that we have here the inner face of the city wall in this area although whether or not the exact wall face is preserved can only be ascertained with further work. Against this inner face is a hard packed fill including brick-like material. Over this fill is a series of floors, FT3, which come up to the inner face of the wall, FT2. Some of these floors contain a white gypsum plaster. High up on one of these floors is the kiln, FT4 (see above 3.3.3). This kiln is about a meter below the bottom of the excavated levels in Area A in which we found Third Millennium ceramics. The similarity in the kiln construction, the alignment with a portion of the city wall in Area B and its absolute depth below excavated levels in Area A indicate that in SG22 we are uncovering Third Millennium levels.

The city wall can be traced along various portions of the western and northern sides of the mound with the best exposure thus far seen in our excavations in Area B. On the basis of this evidence we have reconstructed the city wall around the existing mound and projected out into the river (*DS* 2, 67).

While we have no direct evidence for its existence in the area of the river there are three lines of argumentation which have led to this reconstruction: (1) the line of the wall as we have it in Area B makes this appear likely; (2) the present configuration of the mound with its highest point on the eastern side cut by the river makes it appear logical that the mound would not

have ended abruptly but that there would have been a gradual slope in an easterly direction and (3) the presence of sherd material on islands which appear during low water level in the middle of the river indicates that the cultural deposits extend that far.

Abbreviations

<i>AAS</i>	<i>Annales Archéologiques Arabes de Syrie</i> , Damascus.
<i>ARTANES</i>	<i>Aids and Research Tools in Ancient Near Eastern Studies</i> , Malibu.
<i>DS</i>	<i>Audio-Visual Modules: Documentary Series</i> , Malibu.
<i>KPR</i>	<i>Khana Survey Preliminary Reports</i> , published in <i>SMS</i> .
<i>SMS</i>	<i>Syro-Mesopotamian Studies</i> , Malibu.
<i>TAP</i>	<i>Terqa Archaeological Project: General Reports</i> , published in <i>AAS</i> .
<i>TPR</i>	<i>Terqa Preliminary Reports</i> , published in <i>SMS</i> .

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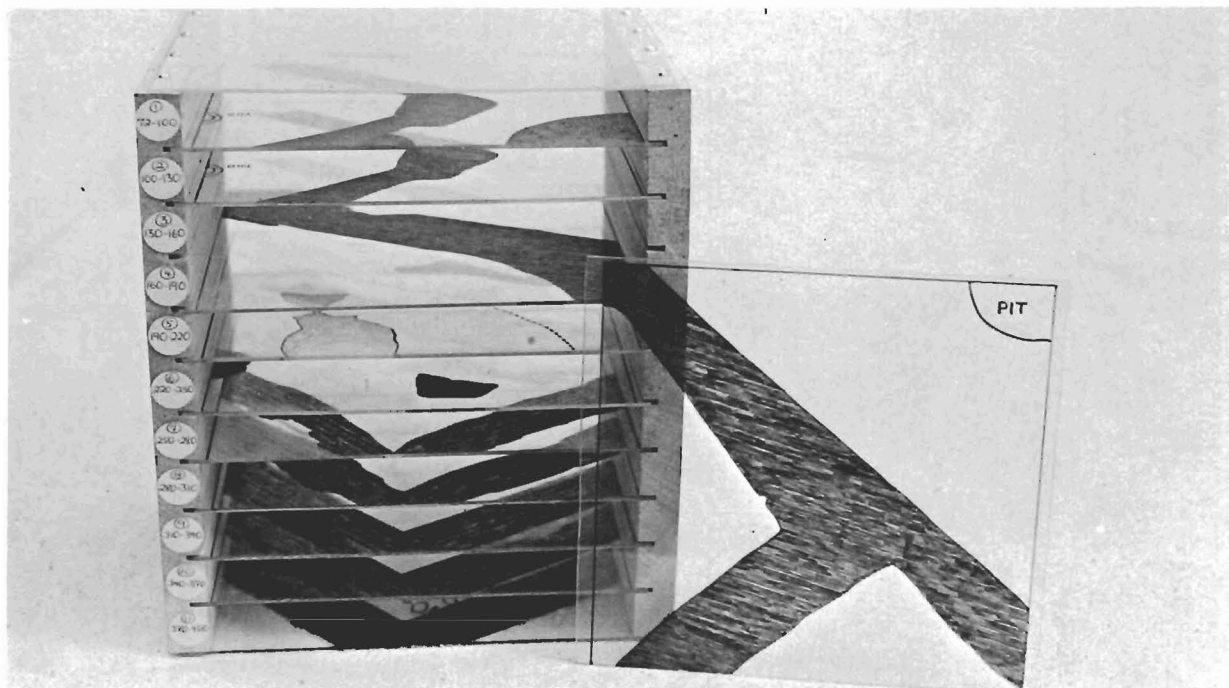
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Erratum

On Figure 6 read SG15 FT16 instead of SG15 FT14.

PLATES



1. Stratigraphic cube

Model designed and executed by Linda Mount-Williams.

Each cube corresponds to a "Square," and each lucite sheet corresponds to a level; major features are shown with color overlays, to scale. Cubes are exhibited as part of the Archaeological Park display overlooking the excavations.



2. Stratified context of Khana contract

Area C, STA1, SG18, Locus 9. Khana Period.

Fragments of envelope (TPR 7, 3) and sherds are shown to the right of the North arrow. Test locus is dug from a compacted floor resulting from a reuse of the room after a fire: the debris within the test locus is all occupational material belonging to the latest floor of the house. On the upper right one can see part of the outline of a later Islamic pit (SG8 FT14).



3. Street with adjacent houses

Area C, from above looking SE. Khana Period.

The street (STC) is only partially excavated, hence the different elevations resulting in artificial steps. STB1 is shown in foreground, after objects have been removed from floor. Note scalloping in eastern wall of STB1 resulting from Islamic intrusive activities.



4. General view of residential quarter

Area C, from above looking SE. Khana period.

In the foreground, to the left, the wall has been largely destroyed by an Islamic intrusion. Along the edge of the excavations are the stratigraphic cube (Ill. 1) and explanatory posters next to the balustrade.



5. Detail of Ill. 4

Area C, from above looking SE. Khana period.

To the right of center is the Islamic pit which cut into the wall of STA1, with Locus 9 in front of it, a detail of which is shown in Ill. 2.



6. Floor remains within room

Area C, STB1, from above looking SW. Khana period.

This is the entire artifactual aggregate which was spared by a deep Islamic intrusion; only three complete vessels and a cuneiform tablet (shown in Ill. 7) were removed at the time the picture was taken.

7. Cuneiform tablet on living floor

Detail of Ill. 6.

The tablet is to the left of the legend.



8. Reuse of room after fire

Area C, STA2, looking NW. Khana period.

Bin on center left was built against the scorched walls of the room and sunk into the compacted debris which was reused as floor (showing to the right). The pile on the lower left is a green colored mass of debris which may represent a roof fall.



9. Room with floor surface

Area C, STD1, looking E. Khana period.

The floor is highly compacted but with numerous cracks.



10. Jar burial with shaft

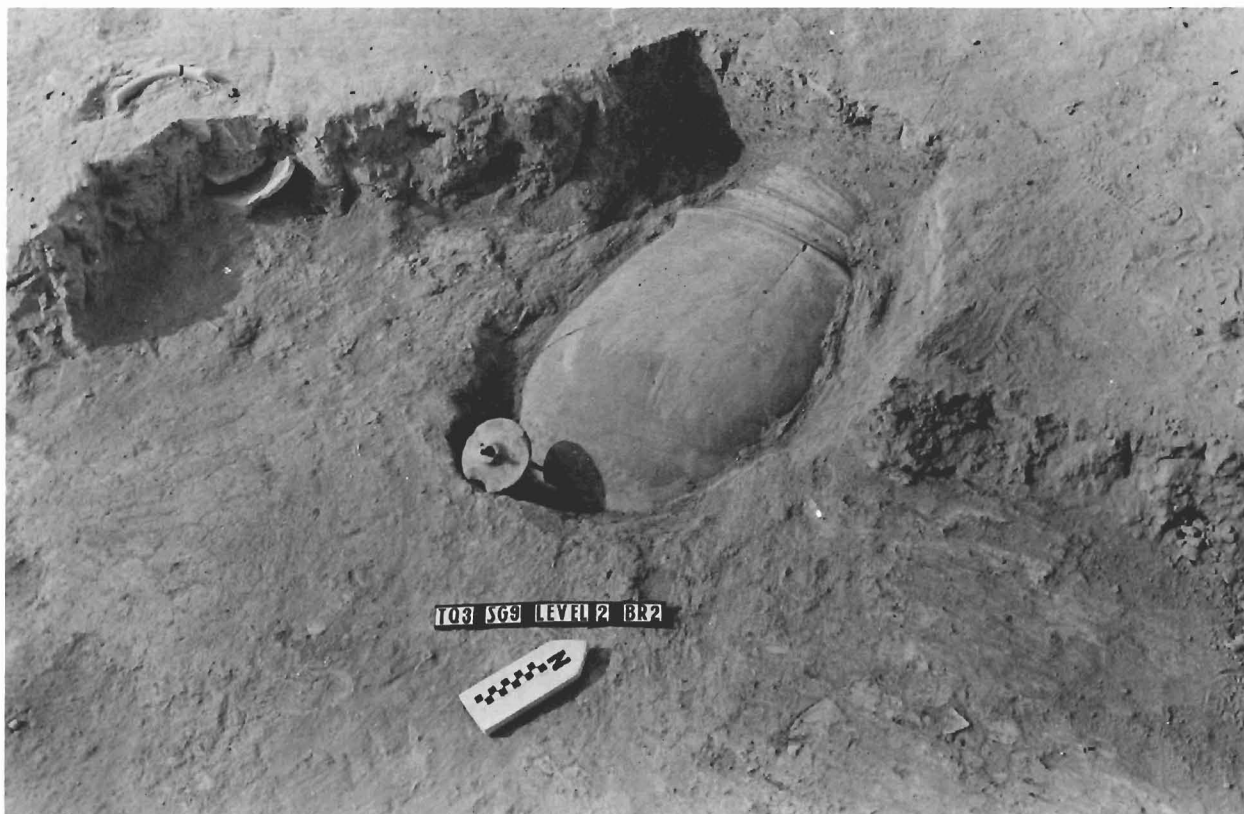
Area A, SG9, Burial 2, looking W. Khana period.

Jar to the left was cracked, and the rims of the two jars were not sealed, yet there was no intrusion of dirt or roots inside the burial.



11. Detail of Ill. 10

Having removed the large sherds of the jar on the left, the remnants of a child appeared, with a good preservation of the cloth material. A bowl was placed by the feet (showing partly on the right).



12. Detail of Ill. 10

Shortly after excavation of burial began, two wheels were discovered inside the shaft, hence they were associated with the burial and may have belonged to a toy cart.



13. Detail of Ill. 10

Bowl placed by feet of child.



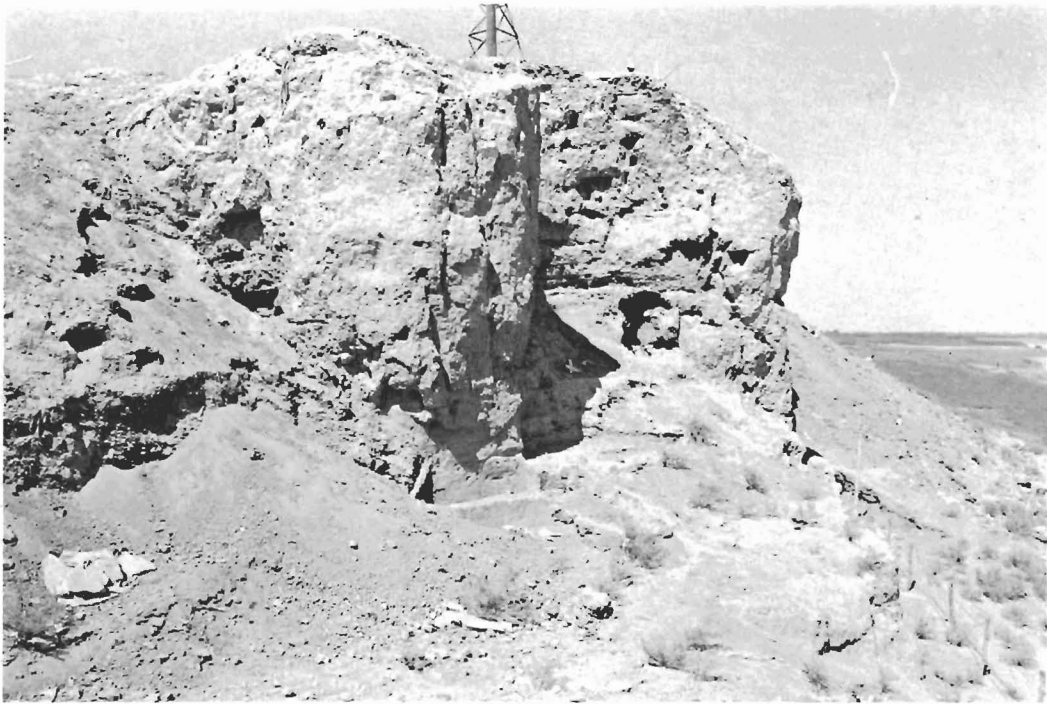
14. Detail of Ill. 10

Cloth material in which child was wrapped with detail of eyelet.



15. General view of Area B

View of city wall looking southeast showing higher, flat stratigraphy on the upper right called the "Sheikh's Tomb." A well and drain were dug into the wall sometime after it was built.



16. Modern refuse next to ancient stratigraphy

On the left the darker accumulation is contemporary refuse while the second and third millennia strata are seen to the right.



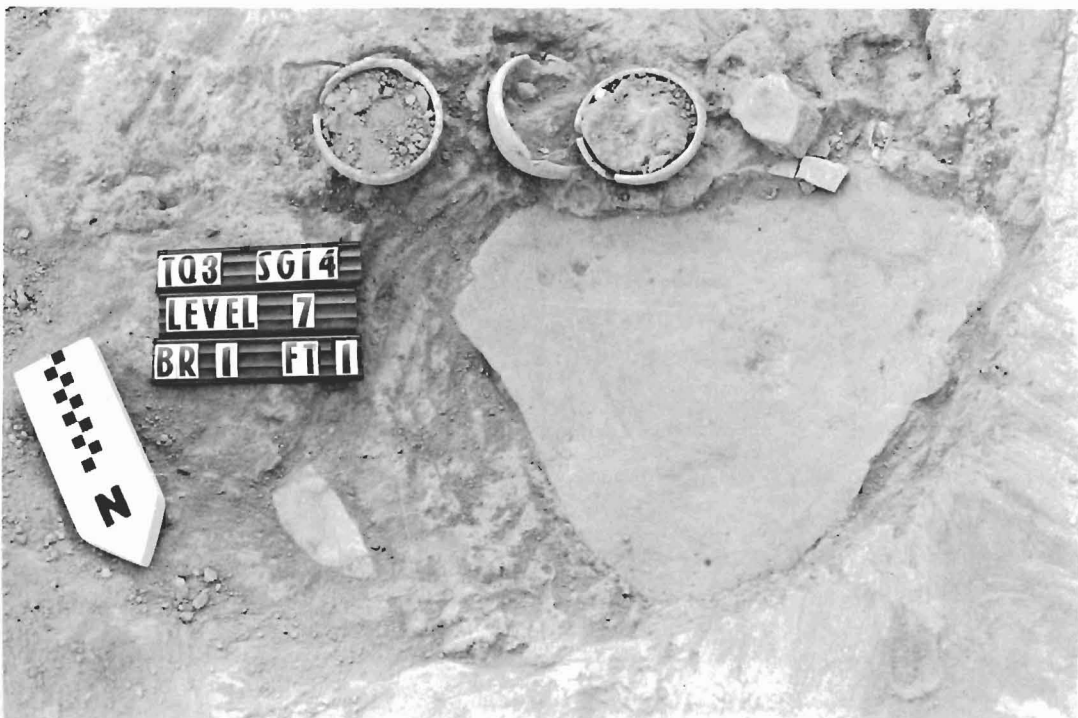
17. Third millennium woman's burial

The body was placed in the shaft grave with jewelry and luxury items such as pins, beads and an inlaid ostrich egg with a pottery stand and rim.



18. Reconstruction of third millennium burial

With the skeleton reconstructed by means of a rope the complete assembly of grave offerings can be seen. Vessels in lower right are placed directly on slab, although they were found as shown in Ill. 19.



19. Three cups placed near a large stone

Detail of Ill. 18 showing what were probably drinking vessels in connection with a flat, table-like stone.



20. Manufacturing and storage facilities inside the city wall
Kiln on left and rectangular and semi-circular storage bins on right.



21. Rectangular bins
Detail of Ill. 20 showing bins and two rock cairns.



22. Third millennium kiln

Portions of four corbelled arches can be seen on south half with a fifth larger arch spanning the entrance to the fire chamber.



23. Kiln in SG22

The interior of the city wall with the kiln located nearby was uncovered in this brief cleaning operation south of Area A.



24. Rear wall of kiln in SG15

The intense fire inside the kiln turned the clay green and molten along the rear wall and flues.



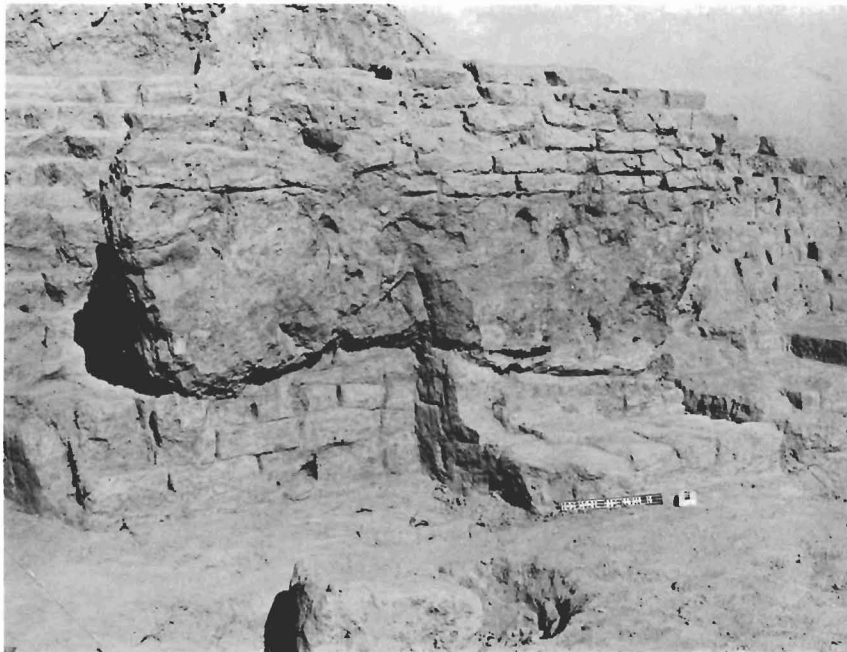
25. Interior of kiln in SG22

Detail of Ill. 23. Portions of four arches can be seen here.



26. Rectangular bin from SG11

The wall of the bin was plastered both on the outside and inside, possibly indicating a repair or rebuilding.



27. Late phase of the city wall

Larger bricks were placed against an eroding face of the city wall in a later attempt at repairing it.

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Introduction and the Stratigraphic Record

by

Giorgio Buccellati and Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati



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