

Our Number 6224718
Their Number ILLNUM:113351210
Status Shipped p.7-9
Authorisation Status Read
Printed Date 06 Feb 2014

Request From UCLA Young Research Library - ILL

Bibliographic Details

Title Syrian archaeology bulletin.
ISBN/ISSN
Control Number 19034527
Publisher [s.n.]/Malibu CA
Verification source MELVYL-ucla.worldcat.org:worldcat

SCANNED

FEB 11 2014

Ariel
Relais # 10020163
By: R G

Article Details

Article Title Tell Ziyada
Article Author Buccellati, Giorgio
Article Date 1990

Action	Date	Item Notes
REQUEST	30 Jan 2014 17:44:03	OCLC #: 19034527

Patron Details

Name Buccellati, Marilyn (PROXY) (Faculty)
Email jenniferhz@ucla.edu
Patron Barcode P0002812310

Location	Action	Date	Public Notes
From OCLC - Direct Request	Status Report-ind.	30 Jan 2014 17:45:32	OCLC Intermediary Control: Current: (WLE) - Status:

Rota OCLC - Direct Request

Pickup Location UCLA Young Research Library - ILL
Return To N/A, United States

scribe), and that the onomastics include Hurrian as well as Sumerian and Akkadian names.

Several independent research projects were carried out during the two seasons. A new topographical survey of the mound was undertaken by S. Hughey, with a contour interval of 20 cm for the entire site. A geophysical survey undertaken by J. Ericson, M. Petersen and D. Miller was completed for the entire High Mound and for much of the Outer City. A geomorphological survey was begun during an initial working visit by B. Marcolongo, who plans more extensive research in future seasons. Human and animal bone remains were studied by J. Miragliuolo and Skia. Kite photography, which we have used often in the past, was developed to a standard routine that allows a constant coverage of the excavations, thanks to technical improvements by D. Ghidoli and R. Williams. Our data processing facilities continue to be fully operative, and our recording methodology has been further refined. We hope to have ready soon portions of the "global record" of the excavations. Finally, the expedition house has been completed and is now fully operational.

The first volume of the Mozan reports has appeared in print as Volume 20 of the series Bibliotheca Mesopotamica. It is authored by the writers, under the title: Mozan I: The Soundings of the First Two Seasons, Malibu: Undena Publications, 1988. The volume is available from Crescent Academic Services, 29528 Madera Str., Shafter, CA 93263,

USA. Two articles by M. Kelly-Buccellati on Mozan have also appeared: "A New Third Millennium Sculpture from Mozan," Essays in Ancient Civilizations Presented to Helene J. Kantor, ed. by A. Leonard, jr. and B. B. Williams. Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization No. 47. pp. 149-154, and Pl. 26, and "Three Seasons of Excavation at Tell Mozan," in S. Eichler, M. Wäfler, D. Warburton eds. Tell Al-Hamidiya 2, Freiburg and Göttingen, pp.119-132.

Tell Ziyada

Giorgio Buccellati and Stephen Reimer
UCLA

The third season of excavations at Tell Ziyada, a small site on the banks of the Khabur in the Salvage Project area south of Hassaka, Syria, took place in May-June 1990. Giorgio Buccellati is the over-all project director; the field directors have been Daniela Buia Quinn during the first two seasons, and Stephen Reimer in 1990: both Buia Quinn and Reimer are doctoral students in archaeology at UCLA.

As we have become accustomed, we have been warmly received and graciously assisted by the staff at the Museum Office in Hassaka. The Director General of Antiquities and Museums, Dr. Ali Abu-Assaf, and the Director of Excavations, Dr. Adnan Bounni, as well as their staff in Damascus, were extremely helpful in making all necessary arrangements for what turned out to be a very effective season of excavations. The Ziyada project is funded through grants

from the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation and the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History.

Excavations at Tell Ziyada during the previous two seasons had confirmed two major occupational periods. The Halaf period is represented by a kiln on the East edge of the tell, and by a large walled building on the South side of the Tell. Third millennium occupation has been recovered on the top of the tell. In addition, a significant deposit of what appears to be volcanic ash from the Kaukab has been recovered in both of the areas in which Halaf material has been found. Because of the importance of these presumed volcanic deposits, a primary focus of this season's excavations has been to open areas on the tell which have not been excavated before in order to determine if the same ash material exists in all areas of the tell, while laboratory analysis is underway on the ash deposits recovered during the previous seasons. It was also our goal to obtain a continuous sequence of stratified material from the upper levels to the lower levels in order to confirm the cultural periods extant at the site. The modus operandi for obtaining these goals has been to open one major operation on the North quadrant of the tell and a small operation on the West side of the site. The Northern excavations (Area N) extend from near the top of the tell to the very bottom. This season we opened ten 5 x 5 m units in this area. We also opened an excavation on the West, thus completing our series of soundings for each of the cardinal points. We started two

5 x 5 m units called Area P, one near the bottom and one about half way up the tell. Area N has been by far the most interesting excavation area.

In Area N, the transition from the prehistoric to the historic period is clearly documented only in a small area, about 1.5 x 1 m, in the eastern portion of the lowest square. Beneath the large brick structure of the third millennium (for which see below) we encountered some ash and then found two parallel 20 cm walls forming a small room. Inside and beneath this room we found high percentages of painted sherds, most likely from the Ubaid period. In addition to the pottery, we also found a nice stone axe head.

In the western portion, we found the top of a single wall, and did not as yet excavate any floors connected with it. Because of the general stratigraphic situation and the absolute elevation, we assume that this wall may belong with the one excavated in the Eastern portion of the unit, with which associated deposits of the Ubaid period were excavated.

While we have no evidence of volcanic deposits in this area, we must note the following. First, we have not reached the floor level of the Ubaid deposit, hence we do not know how high the building was standing when abandoned. Since it is our general working hypothesis that the buildings were abandoned, or not permanently reoccupied, after the presumed volcanic flare-up, it is important to know how high the walls and their respective deposits are. Second, the over-lying third millennium levels, which we will describe presently, imply that (a) some

major building activity took place here, with much levelling and compacting, which would have altered substantially the previous layout, and that (b) the lower absolute elevation of the prehistoric remains may have allowed the flooding activity of the river to remove what ash might have accumulated above the prehistoric levels.

The early third millennium building levels at Ziyada, as represented in our excavations this year, seem to separate into two distinct building phases, number 1 being the earliest. Only Phase 1 is adequately preserved and may be explained as filling a specific functional need, that of a large public building used for storing grain staples in the service of some other major site, such as Tell Brak. We will first review the stratigraphic details, then give some preliminary comments on this presumed functional definition of the building and, in fact, of the whole site.

Phase 1 is represented primarily by a large brick area, abutted by a paving and a sloping glacis which leads to its base from the adjacent plain. This structure has all the appearance of a major public project, because of its size and some building details, such as buttresses on the outside.

The glacis consists of a hard packed surface, sloping up towards the outside face of the building from the plain level. On top of it, there is a mudbrick platform, found in two adjacent units at the same elevation; it is over a meter deep, 2.5 m wide, and as long as the area we have excavated (about three meters).

We believe that a major brick area above this feature can be

associated with it although there are no definite stratigraphic links. This upper feature of brick is about 2 m wide and exists in all three 4 x 4 m units we have opened at that level. This is a building complex containing at least five small chambers with single 30 cm brick walls as partitions between them. The chambers are very small, about 1 x 3 m wide, and the walls are standing to a height of over 1.5 m. The floor is not particularly well compacted, but it rests on a brick structure which is at least half a meter thick, and which lines up with the outer platform described above. The unbaked mudbrick measures 5 cm thick and 30 cm square, and is founded on stones between 10 - 15 cm in diameter.

We have excavated two of the interior chambers of the building complex, one to its floor, about 1.6 m below surface, and one about a meter down. Both chambers contained a significant amount of discarded vessels in the upper level of the fill. Unfortunately these are all simple cooking vessels and are not as diagnostic as some of the finer wares. The floor of the one chamber that we excavated completely, contained no objects. It seems that this chamber was first cleaned and then filled rapidly, most likely in preparation for a remodeling phase which represents the final third millennium phase.

These chambers cannot be understood as rooms which are part of a dwelling structure, because they are too small in size and have neither doors nor windows. The most likely explanation is that these were in fact receptacles of a large

storehouse for grain staples. The heavy brickwork, including the thick subfloor, would have served against rodents and humidity (note that the stone and ash subfloor may also serve the same purpose). The partition walls are very thin because they have no structural purpose, but only serve to separate different loads of grain. There would have been no permanent roofing structure, but only covers or lids, presumably made of wood, which would have covered the individual receptacles. It even appears from the details of the top of one of the walls that we have their original height.

The building would have been approached from the glacis and the platform. One would have climbed to the top by means of ladders (a standard representation on cylinder seals) and the grain would have been dumped, and then retrieved, from the top.

What else we know about the occupation of the site during the third millennium matches this interpretation. Last year we found only the remnants of some very small private houses and otherwise large dumps. It appears then that the site was a special function site, destined to the gathering and storing of the grain from the surrounding plain. There was a single major public building (the storehouse excavated this year), plus the remnants of seasonal activities implying the presence of large groups of people (the dumps excavated last year), and small houses used as administrative quarters (also excavated last year). Since the closest known third millennium urban site is Tell Brak, it is a probable

conclusion that the site served as a specialized farming center for the needs of the city (somewhat as Tell Atij seems to have done for the fishing needs, or as Puzrish-Dagan did for the needs of animal husbandry for the bigger site of Nippur in late third millennium Sumer).

While Phase 1 is preserved apparently to its very top, Phase 2 is preserved only minimally, and seems to be a remodeling of Phase 1. The exterior walls of the complex seem to conform to the previous phase, but we only have the lowest courses of bricks. The width is once again about 60 cm, two bricks wide, and the orientation is the same. We do have two floors which were used with the walls and some pottery associated with this last phase of occupation, including one whole vessel.

On the Western face of the tell (Area P), we have opened two units. The lower of these units contained similar material to the lowest unit in Area N, i. e. loose clean dirt. Here again we have evidence for the original occupation being placed on a small hill about one meter above field level. Farther up the tell we opened another 5 x 5 m unit. In this unit we seem to have a wall, on the upper side of the unit, below which there is only very clean (no pottery) hard material, similar to what we might find outside a city. This supports the possibility of the original occupation beginning at about one meter above field level. Virtually no cultural material has been found in this area.

In conclusion, our excavations this season have served to define the role and function of Ziyada in the third millennium. While

not providing any conclusive evidence as to the working hypothesis concerning a volcanic destruction of the late Halaf/Ubaid strata, we have no new evidence against it either. It should be stressed that the glacis/ramp of the storehouse would have reached the plain level, and thus it would logically have destroyed what remains there might have been of earlier levels.

A joint preliminary report on the three seasons by the present writers and Daniela Buia Quinn was presented at the symposium on Recent Archaeological Research in Third Millennium North Syria organized by M. Fortin in Toronto, and will be published in its Proceedings. Plans are currently underway for a new cycle of three seasons of excavations to begin in 1991. The major focus of this second cycle will be a more thorough exposure of the Halaf period strata, and a full analysis of the ash deposits.

113351561

Experiments in Salt Production at Tell Qraya

G. Buccellati
UCLA

Earlier work at Qraya (a small Uruk period site north of Terqa) was reported in SAB 1, p.6 by S. Reimer. Here I will report on some experimental work undertaken in 1989 to test certain aspects of a theory pertaining to both the nature of the ancient occupation at the site and the function of the stratigraphic assemblage of which the bevelled rim bowls are a part (I have written about this in the introduction to the first Qraya report, Syro-