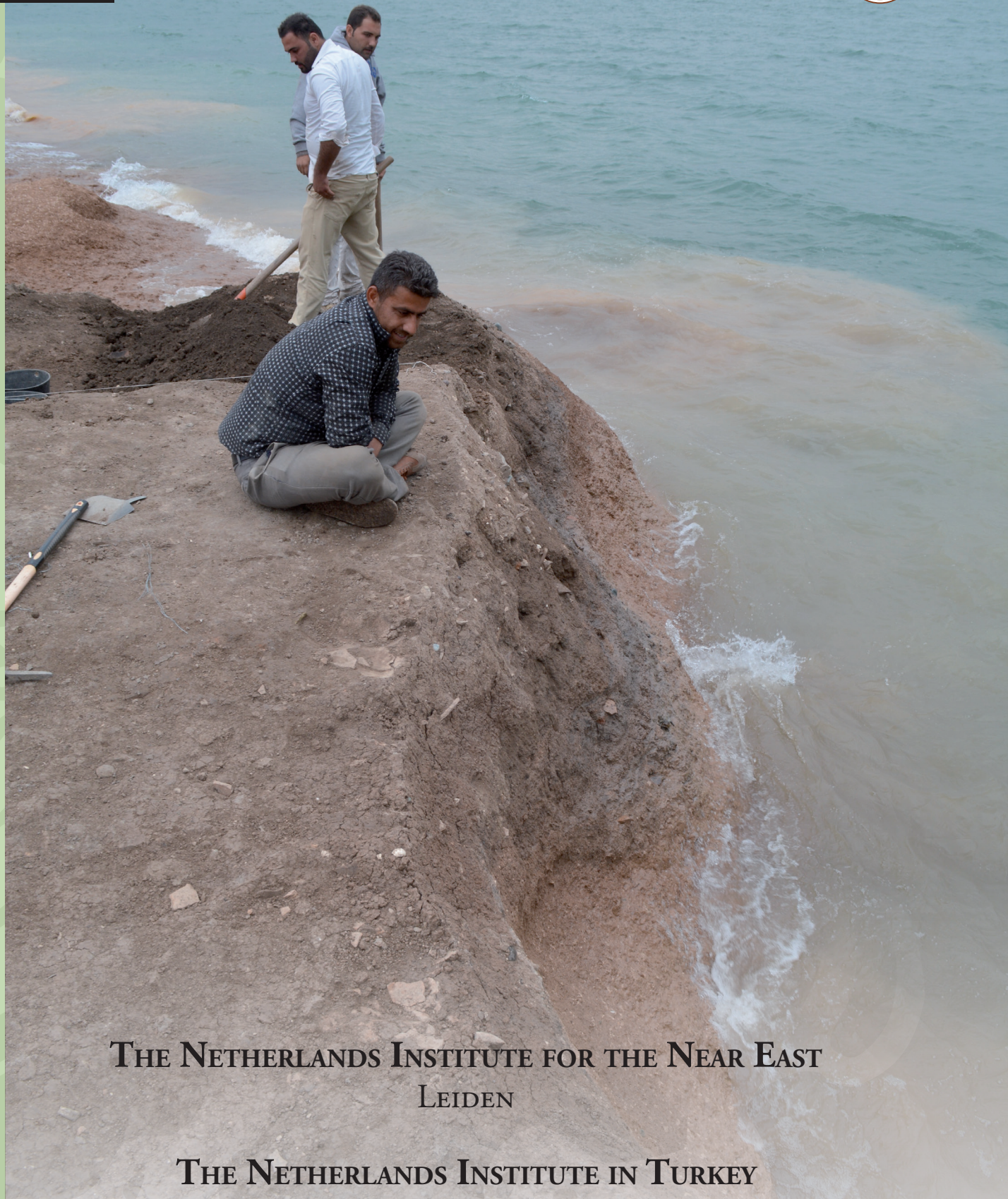




# ANNUAL REPORT 2015



THE NETHERLANDS INSTITUTE FOR THE NEAR EAST  
LEIDEN

THE NETHERLANDS INSTITUTE IN TURKEY  
ISTANBUL



## The Netherlands Institute for the Near East

Witte Singel 25  
2311 BG Leiden

P.O.Box 9515  
2300 RA Leiden

[www.nino-leiden.nl](http://www.nino-leiden.nl)



## The Netherlands Institute in Turkey

İstiklal Caddesi 181, Merkez Han  
Beyoğlu, İstanbul

P.K. 132, Beyoğlu 34433  
İstanbul, Turkey

[www.nit-istanbul.org](http://www.nit-istanbul.org)

### Front cover:

Salvage at the edge of Lake Dokan, at the  
site of Araban. *NINO Archaeological  
Project on the Rania Plain*, see pp. 2-13.

Visit [www.nino-leiden.nl](http://www.nino-leiden.nl)  
to download this *Annual Report* as a pdf file.

# Annual Report NINO and NIT 2015

## Table of contents

### Articles

Dams and Damage. Heritage loss and second phase salvage on the Rania Plain (Kurdish Region of Iraq). <i>Jesper Eidem</i> . . . . .	2-13
The Barcın Höyük excavations in 2015. <i>Fokke Gerritsen and Rana Özbal</i> . . . . .	14-17
From the NINO collections: Egyptian antiquities from Alnwick Castle. <i>Mariëtte Keuken</i> . . . . .	18-23
Women in Babylonia. <i>Marten Stol</i> . . . . .	24-29

### Report on NINO activities 2015

Introduction . . . . .	31-32
Institute administration . . . . .	32
Staff. . . . .	32-33
Activities and publications by staff members and research fellows . . . . .	33-36
Public Relations. . . . .	37-39
Library . . . . .	40-41
Collections . . . . .	42-46
Chair of Ecology and Palaeo-ecology of the Near East. . . . .	47-48
Publications. . . . .	49

### Report on NIT activities 2015

Introduction . . . . .	51
Staff. . . . .	51
Library. . . . .	51
Guestrooms . . . . .	51
Research and publications . . . . .	52-55
Barcın Höyük Excavations. . . . .	52
Ottoman Architecture in the Balkans . . . . .	53
Fethiye Camii . . . . .	53-54
NIT Visiting Scholar Richard Staring . . . . .	54
NIT Fellowships . . . . .	54-55
Academic meetings and courses. . . . .	55-56



Fig. 1. Modern toy doll embedded in lake deposition (west slope of Tell Shemshara Main Hill, Oct. 2015).



Fig. 2. Map of the Rania Plain with Lake Dokan at low level, showing the location of sites mentioned in the text.

# Dams and Damage

## Heritage loss and second phase salvage on the Rania Plain (Kurdish Region of Iraq)

*Jesper Eidem*

In autumn 2015 the NINO Archaeological Project on the Rania Plain conducted a sixth season of fieldwork in Iraq. This concluded the first phase of our project and we are now busy preparing more comprehensive reports on the results as well as the next phase. The work in Iraq 2015 included some additional investigations at Tell Shemshara, and further survey within the Flood Risk zone of Lake Dokan. In this short article we focus on the latter effort, which will be a main component of the next phase of the project.

NINO is grateful for the continued support of its work by the relevant authorities in Erbil and Sulaymania, and to the many individuals, Iraqi and European, who contributed to the results reported here. The fieldwork is since 2012 sponsored principally by NWO and NINO.

### Introduction

Some years ago a distinguished Turkish archaeologist commented on the deplorable fact that only a few of the many dam constructions in Turkey were accompanied by systematic heritage survey and salvage work, and continued: “However, even though Cultural Heritage work has been minimal, there has been a tremendous amount of new data recovered from these few projects on the culture history of the project regions. Thus, one cannot avoid wondering what has been lost.”

This statement neatly sums up a huge problem. Since the 1950’ies many scores of dams have been constructed throughout the Middle East, where the predominant heritage sites are mounds composed

of earth-built ruins, prone to severe damage if permanently flooded. When applied salvage work in dam zones have indeed often produced important new evidence. The concentration of investigations in small areas, and excavation of modest sites, which would not otherwise have attracted attention, have provided many new insights and also some surprises! On the other hand it has remained unknown what effects prolonged flooding actually causes to sites, whether investigated or not, and this brings us to the question posed by our Turkish colleague: what *has* been lost?

As one of the earliest dam zones where heritage work was performed prior to inundation the Dokan Dam Area provides vivid illustrations of the potential loss to heritage in the longer term. Water level in the artificial Dokan Lake, formed in 1959, varies yearly and seasonally up to 25 m or more, creating a wide “Risk Zone” in its perimeter, where sites are exposed to long periods of flooding, but also intermittently accessible. The NINO project, realising the enormous damage done to Tell Shemshara (see below), has therefore decided to investigate other sites in the area, with some immediate concrete goals and a more general agenda. Primarily the work will supplement meagre data on the settlement history of the Rania Plain from the old pre-1959 work, and “second Phase” salvage excavation at selected sites may retrieve important evidence now fast disappearing. In a wider perspective the results will serve as a first assessment of how flooding affects Middle Eastern heritage sites, and hopefully inspire and guide better planning and protection in future dam schemes.



Fig. 3. View from Basmusian towards Darband-i Ramkan; in foreground examples of baked brick "walls" (October 2015).



Fig. 4. Basmusian (October 2015).

## Dams and Damage

To demonstrate these aspects we offer here a small “tour” of some of the relevant sites, starting with the probably main ancient site of the Rania Plain, Basmusian, which was reachable by boat in 2015, and proceed to a site not formerly recognised as such, also by boat. The tour will then “land” and briefly consider another important site of the plain, also only recently identified, and finally end at one of the hills of the Shemshara site itself, a hill which archaeologically today appears virtually a “shop with empty shelves”.

### Basmusian

The high mound of Basmusian towers over the Rania Plain, although much less so than before 1959. Only completely submerged when the Dokan Lake is at its highest Basmusian is now mostly an island, and still visible from many angles on the plain, located more or less at its centre. With an original extent of some 9 ha and with a long sequence of occupation it may reasonably be regarded as a main and key site of the plain. Iraqi excavations 1956-58 recorded 16 successive levels, from a Medieval level on top down to Neolithic levels.

The site has clearly suffered immensely from the passing water of the lake. The high summit has retained the squarish shape it had pre-flood, partially perhaps a shadow of early second millennium BC temple platforms. The old report describes Temple 1 (Level III), with shallow foundations and built on top of the older Temple 2 (Level IV), founded on a “stepped mud-brick platform”, 6-12 courses high. The report also mentions a sounding which revealed an even older temple. During our visit we

noted what seem “walls” of baked bricks eroding out of the high summit (Fig. 3). It seems possible that these “walls” were the protective shells for another temple platform (of *terra pisé* or mudbrick), and perhaps that of a “Temple 3”. We hope to return and plan these and other features in a future season. The series of temples at Basmusian is of some interest to us, since at Shemshara the 1957 excavation found what the field director, H. Ingholt, referred to as a “cultural installation” on the high summit of the Main Hill, associated with a massive construction of bricks, and used through three successive phases of the early second millennium BC. Although the Shemshara structures were less clear, and now are almost gone, it is tempting to see them as a parallel to the Basmusian temples.

Elsewhere on Basmusian walls, foundations, baked bricks or features, ovens etc. are eroding out of the slopes in bewildering proportions. Our rather short visit was used to set up mapping points for UAV photography, and do a random collection of surface sherds. The photo here (Fig. 4) shows clearly how thousands upon thousands of ceramic sherds have washed out of the site, and since been re-deposited by the lake in thick braids on its lower parts. Thus normal systematic surface sampling is rather futile on this site, and the small selection of sherds we collected indeed represents many periods.

Of particular interest to our project are the rather many painted sherds of the early Ninevite 5 period, dated to the very beginning of the third millennium BC. Just to the west of the Shemshara Hills is the mound of Bardastee, where we in 2013 excavated levels of the same date, and which



Fig. 5. UAV photo of Baiz Agha (October 2015).



Fig. 6. Selection of Middle Assyrian (late second millennium BC) sherds from Baiz Agha.

## Dams and Damage

was only occupied in that period. On Shemshara itself we have found a few similar sherds, and the same material is found on a number of sites in the Rania and Pishdar Plains, the easternmost examples identified so far. This terminal-to-post Uruk horizon is of great interest for wider historical perspectives on the region: its trajectories following the Late Uruk period, and the apparent paucity of later third millennium occupation. On present evidence the early Ninevite 5 period seems to be followed by a long period of very limited settled occupation in this border-region.

Basmusian is a fascinating mound, steadily eroding, and in spite of the obvious logistic challenges working there we hope to conduct some further investigations in the near future. Some other aspects of the site will be discussed in our next *Annual Report*.

### Baiz Agha

Proceeding south we reach another island, the site of Baiz Agha. It is marked only as a village on the Iraqi survey map from 1956, but clearly this village was located on an ancient site. The ruins of the old village are now long washed away, and the 2015 photos (UAV photo Fig. 5) instead show the rather massive stone foundations of much older ruins, principally a large structure with a central courtyard and surrounding rooms. The photos also show traces of mud brick walls below the stone foundations, and thus from an even older level, and again of a fairly substantial structure. The sherds collected (randomly) during the rather short visit provide some tentative clues to the history of the

site. A fairly large segment of the sherds represents the clearest Middle Assyrian ceramic profile we have yet seen on the Rania Plain (Fig. 6). It is surely of interest to note that the local antiquities' inspector has heard rumours of tablets ("at least ten – some in envelopes") found by casual visitors at the site of Baiz Agha. Possibly these tablets derived from a Middle Assyrian level. In spite of the logistic challenges clearly also this site deserves further scientific attention.

### Araban

The site of Araban was already visited and documented (mapping, UAV photos, geophysical prospection, systematic random sampling) in autumn 2014. It is located on the east bank of the Zab/Lake Dokan, and appears as a very low-contour extended area with scatters of surface sherds, mostly of Late Uruk and Early Ninevite 5 date. A small sondage in 2014 revealed only very shallow remains of stone foundations, and the site seems almost exclusively to have survived sub-surface, represented by numerous, mostly circular trash pits and fireplaces along its west edge, close to the water of Lake Dokan. Already in 2014 it was clear that the site extended actually into the water and that many of the pits were being washed out. Large fragments of ceramic vessels, bones, and shells were visible, half buried in the extant pit-surfaces.

We decided to return to this site in 2015 to salvage some of the eroding pits, and on a first visit discovered that a number of the pits had been disturbed by casual visitors (fishermen, shepherds etc.), evidently curious about the objects protruding

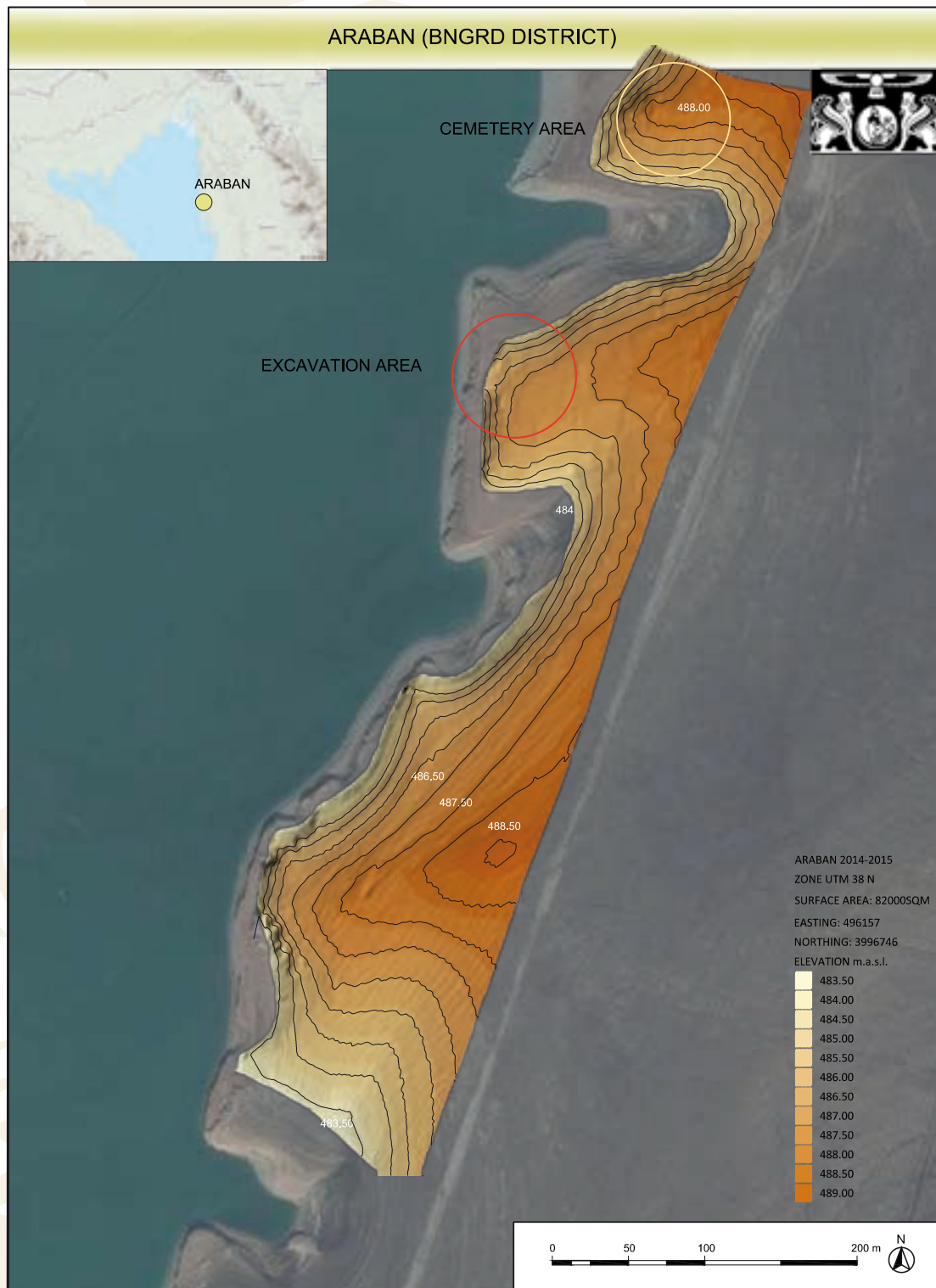


Fig. 7. Map of Araban (2015).

## *Dams and Damage*

from them. We also discovered that the site extended much further north along the edge of the Lake. These observations made it even more imperative to extend our investigations, and we therefore devoted a few days to work at Araban. The 'new' portions of the site were mapped, and a small sondage opened in a very large pit in the northern part.

The general situation is shown on the map (Fig. 7): The topography, extended north ca. 100 % in relation to 2014, is superimposed on a Quickbird image from November 2010, when the level of Lake Dokan was ca. 478,5 m (ca. 5 m less than in 2015). The site is represented by exposed pits and fireplaces (the latter predominantly in the southernmost part) close to the lake, and surface



Fig. 8. View from the northern extension of Araban towards the 2015 sampling area.



Fig. 9. Araban: Uruk jar in – and out of the lake!



Fig. 10. Araban: Uruk period sherds from the 2015 sampling.

## Dams and Damage

sherds extending inland to ca. the line of the old road (which led from Dokan to Qaladze), visible in the map sub-layer as a whitish line (of limestone pebbles). The northernmost promontory, recorded in 2014 as Araban II, also has pits with fourth millennium BC sherds eroding out at the lake edges, but on higher ground a cemetery. Around the graves and scatters of stones from the graves are numerous baked bricks and some sherds of later date, so that this hill also had post-Uruk occupation. The promontory to the south is where the 2015 sampling took place (Fig. 8).

This sampling produced a pure Late Uruk horizon of sherds, many seemingly joining fragments of broken vessels or segments of vessels. Fragments of the famous Late Uruk bevelled-rim bowls, red slipped, and grey ware sherds are frequent (Fig. 10).

Based on the extent of the pits and surface sherds (the latter only a rough guide due to the passing water of the lake!) the area mapped is ca. 8 ha – making Araban one of the largest sites identified on the Rania Plain. It must have been a rather short-lived Late Uruk settlement, with some limited (to the southern part) occupation in the Early Ninevite 5 period. While many sites on the Rania Plain have contemporary occupation, they are much smaller or span a longer fourth millennium horizon. Hence our very tentative suggestion to interpret Araban as a planned ‘colony’ – a *pied-à-terre* to facilitate contacts between Mesopotamia proper, the Rania Plain, and not least areas further east, beyond the pass at Darband. The Araban site thus seems a crucial element in the history of the Rania Plain in the mid-to-late fourth millennium BC.

### Shemshara

This site has been a main target for the NINO Project, as described in previous *Annual Reports*, and still merits further, also urgent, investigation. The archaeological site straddles several natural hills, and one in particular is almost lost to the lake. This is North Hill, an elongated and pre-1959 regularly oval mound just north of the Main Hill and its important palace and archives. There is no record of any pre-flood excavation on North Hill, which in retrospect seems a great pity. A sounding on high ground has produced only a very shallow and heavily eroded archaeological layer on the natural soil. Almost certainly the east slope once comprised several terrace-built structures, now washed away by the lake, leaving the large, semi-circular ‘scars’ on the slope (Fig. 11). A few features remain to substantiate this idea.

In early 2013 the water of Lake Dokan rose to surround the Shemshara hills which became islands. In autumn when the water receded we could observe exposed features on most slopes of the hills, which we quickly proceeded to document and salvage. At the north slope of the Main Hill, for instance, erosion had revealed the remains of a thick wall of mudbrick which once surrounded the hill (Fig. 12). Behind it were rooms, one with the remains of a large storage jar embedded below floor level. These rooms, however, were subsequently cut down and covered with a huge terrace of *terra pisé*, which originally would have protruded from the hill, but today is heavily eroded. A small corner of a similar arrangement was found at the very northeastern

Fig. 11. Drone image of Shemshara North Hill (October 2013); embedded jar shown in Fig. 13 marked at northeast corner of hill.

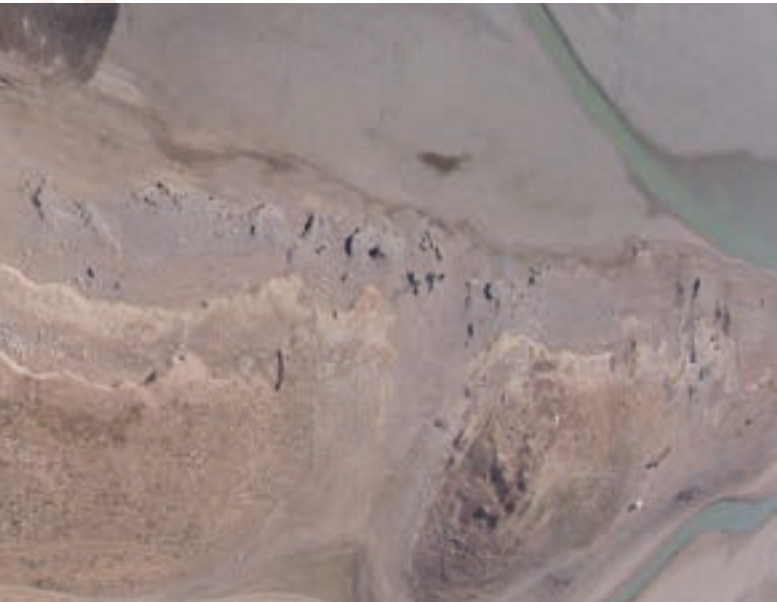


Fig. 13. Exposed remains of embedded storage jar at northeast corner of North Hill (Oct. 2013).



Fig. 12. Lower north slope of Main Hill (view towards west) showing large brick wall (Level IX), founded directly on the natural hill, but “anchored” with a shallow layer of sherds and pebbles.

## Dams and Damage



corner of North Hill (Fig. 13), indicating that the bulk of the terrace and the underlying earlier level had been flushed out by the lake.

### A future for the past?

The rather sad situation of many sites in the Dokan Lake flood area is no doubt found in numerous other dam zones throughout the Middle East. A close example is that of the Darband-i Khan dam and lake, finished just a few years after the closure of the Dokan Dam. Here too many archaeological sites are periodically flooded, and in danger of progressive destruction. Fortunately also here archaeologists are busy with “second phase” salvage. A German team has begun new excavations at the important site of Shamlu, while a Dutch project, directed by the Leiden archaeologist O. Nieuwenhuyse, targets Tell Begum. While heritage endangered by artificial flooding may seem a less compelling concern than

that posed by the current conflicts ravaging much of Syria and Iraq, it is in fact equally serious and deserving of urgent action. We hope in coming years to address this problem more comprehensively with added resources.

### Further reading

For general information on the NINO project on the Rania Plain see the menu ‘research projects’ on our website [www.nino-leiden.nl](http://www.nino-leiden.nl), and short articles in *Annual Report NINO and NIT 2011, 2012, and 2013-2014* (all downloadable from the same website).

The NINO project proceeds in cooperation with a co-investigating team from Denmark, which focusses on clusters of fourth millennium BC sites south of Shemshara. For this work see:

<https://www.facebook.com/babwkur>

Pre-flood Iraqi survey of the Rania Plain and excavation at Basmusian (1956) was described by B. Abu as-Soof in an article in the journal *Sumer* 1970. It is available as download here:

[https://brown.edu/Departments/Joukowsky\\_Institute/resources/alsoof/files/9507529.pdf](https://brown.edu/Departments/Joukowsky_Institute/resources/alsoof/files/9507529.pdf)

For the Leiden based project at Tell Begum, in the Shahrizor Plain, see:

<http://tell-begum.com/Page.aspx?pageType=page&pageID=315>

The Kurdish Region of Iraq has in recent years become a focus for much new archaeological work. For a convenient overview of projects see:

<http://dash.harvard.edu/handle/1/14022526>



Fig. 1. Overview of the excavations from the west. The postholes indicate the location of two phase VIe structures. The upstanding walls and foundation trenches belong to the VIId1 houses that replaced them.



Fig. 2. View of one of the structures from the east.



Fig. 3. Burial of a child at the base of a wall of which three circular postholes can be seen at the bottom of the photo.

# The Barcın Höyük excavations in 2015

*Fokke Gerritsen and Rana Özbal*

The final season of excavations at Barcın Höyük took place during the summer of 2015. The National Geographic Society was the main sponsor of this year's campaign, providing a grant for fieldwork as well as selected laboratory analyses. The Barcın Höyük Research Project investigates the beginnings of sedentary farming life in northwest Anatolia. Excavations had established in previous years that the settlement was founded around 6600 BC and lasted for about six centuries. These dates place the site during the earliest period of farming communities in northwest Anatolia.

Our main goal for 2015 was to expose the earliest phase of occupation, phase VIe, in a segment of the central part of the settlement. This phase had been encountered previously in soundings below the southern slope of the mound, where the majority of deposits consisted of garbage-filled layers. At the end of the 2014 season, we had encountered the first traces of this oldest phase also in the central part of the settlement, and our hopes were high of finding architectural remains belonging to the first settlers.

We were not disappointed. On the contrary, our work exposed the remains of two adjacent, rectangular buildings (Figs. 1, 2). These were constructed with a framework of heavy posts (with post diameters of 20 to 30 cm) spaced wide apart and set deeply into postholes in the ground. While prehistoric buildings excavated in the Marmara Region often use timber as the main structural element to carry the roof, the posts are always rather thin and set closely together in foundation trenches. The buildings uncovered by us in 2015 are the first

examples in the Anatolian Neolithic of a building type with heavy posts in individual postholes. At present it is still unclear whether the floors and walls were laid down on ground level, or raised above ground level. The settlement was founded at the edge of a retreating lake or marsh, and a house on stilts may have served to keep out moisture. Until more examples are found, it is difficult to say what the antecedents of this building type are and whether it had local roots or represented a building tradition brought in by immigrating farmers.

The discovery of the two oldest buildings also confirmed a hypothesis that we had formulated before, that the Neolithic community at Barcın Höyük strictly adhered to the same settlement layout from the foundation of the settlement. The oldest houses were found directly underneath a row of houses from the succeeding phase VIId1 (Fig. 1), which burnt down and had been largely investigated in 2014 (for a description the reader may turn to the *Annual Report NINO and NIT 2013-2014*).

The material culture of these first settlers is strikingly local in the first occupation phase, and shows few obvious links with Central Anatolia. Pottery is nearly absent and probably not yet part of the assemblage of items for daily use. The bone tool industry is already relatively well developed and eventually turns into one of the hallmarks of the regional cultural horizon. The chipped stone industry has long been assumed to continue pre-Neolithic regional traditions, different from Central Anatolia, and a first assessment of the assemblages excavated in 2015 confirms this picture.

## *The Barcın Höyük excavations in 2015*



Fig. 4. Small bone spoon from grave.



Fig. 5. Stone and shell beads  
from a necklace.



Fig. 6. Skeleton of an adult, buried with several grave goods.

## The Barcın Höyük excavations in 2015

Among the other noteworthy finds of the season were two graves. They date from slightly later (c. 6300 BC) occupation phases and were dug down into the earliest levels. Two graves were especially noteworthy: a child's grave that included a carved bone spoon and a stone and shell necklace (Figs. 3, 4, 5), and an adult buried with a bone spoon and a bowl carved from marble with a fragment of fossilized woven textile attached to the outside (Figs. 6, 7).

A number of publications on the results of the excavations have appeared in 2015, as well as on the ongoing analyses of several categories of finds. A list of publications can be found on p. 52 of this *Annual Report*. As excavation in many respects constitutes only a first step in archaeological research, the Barcın Höyük Research Project is far from finished.

A lot more remains to be analyzed, discovered, and published in coming years.

The Barcın Höyük Excavations have been conducted with permission of the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism, with funding from NWO (Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research), National Geographic (2015) and NINO-NIT. In addition to the NIT, institutions that are closely involved in the project include, among others, VU University Amsterdam and Rijksuniversiteit Groningen in the Netherlands, and Koç, Boğaziçi and Ege Universities in Turkey. As always, our gratitude goes to these institutions as well as all the students, specialists and numerous people in the village of Barcın and the town of Yenişehir making the 2015 season run smoothly and successfully.



Fig. 7. Marble bowl from grave.



Fig. 1. *Catalogue* cover with Egyptianising decoration printed in gold.



Fig. 2. *Catalogue* title page.



Fig. 3. Alnwick Castle (photo from [www.coquetcottages.co.uk/alnwick-castle-and-garden](http://www.coquetcottages.co.uk/alnwick-castle-and-garden)).

# From the NINO collections: Egyptian antiquities from Alnwick Castle

*Mariëtte Keuken*

## Introduction

In July 2012 Dr. John Ruffle (retired curator of the Oriental Museum at Durham, England) visited Leiden and generously donated a unique, albeit slightly damaged, book to the NINO Library: *Catalogue of the collection of Egyptian Antiquities at Alnwick Castle* / by Samuel Birch. Illustrations by Joseph Bonomi. London: R. Clay, Sons, and Taylor, 1880.

The cover is made of green buckram, a coarse cotton fabric stiffened with glue, used in bookbinding and to stiffen clothing. The damage, probably caused by water, is restricted to the cover and the first few pages. The format is Large 4°, XX + 374 pages and [22] leaves of plates.

The book has been placed in our library's "Special Collection". It is the only library copy available in the Netherlands, and it can be consulted only after permission of the NINO library staff. The value of this book may be glimpsed from a copy of this title recently offered for sale on the Internet, which was commended as an "extremely rare first edition". That copy – in very good condition and with a stamp of BVM (Brian Victor McEvedy) – was estimated at € 760.

## Prominent names in early British Egyptology: Birch and Bonomi

The author, Samuel Birch (1813-1885), was a British Egyptologist and Sinologist. Being the first Egyptologist in the British Museum, he was Keeper of the Egyptian and Oriental Antiquities as well as President of the Society of Biblical Archaeology. Both functions are mentioned on the book's title page. Under his direction the Egyptian collection became the base for serious Egyptology in Britain. From his appointment in 1836 until his death in 1885 he was tireless in building up, organising, nurturing and publishing the rapidly increasing Egyptian collections, making them available to the general public and to the scholarly world through his many books and articles.

The illustrations in the *Catalogue* were made by Joseph Bonomi (1796-1878), artist, sculptor and traveller who worked in Egypt with some of the best-known scholars of the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, such as James Burton, Edward Lane, Sir John Gardner Wilkinson and Samuel Birch. He also was a member of Lepsius's expedition to Egypt in 1842-1844. Bonomi was very important to early Egyptology and had close connections to the British Museum. He was appointed Curator of Sir John Soane's Museum in 1861. His brother Ignatius, an architect, designed the original Elvet Hill, the present home of the School of Oriental Studies in Durham.

*From the NINO collections:  
Egyptian antiquities from Alnwick Castle*

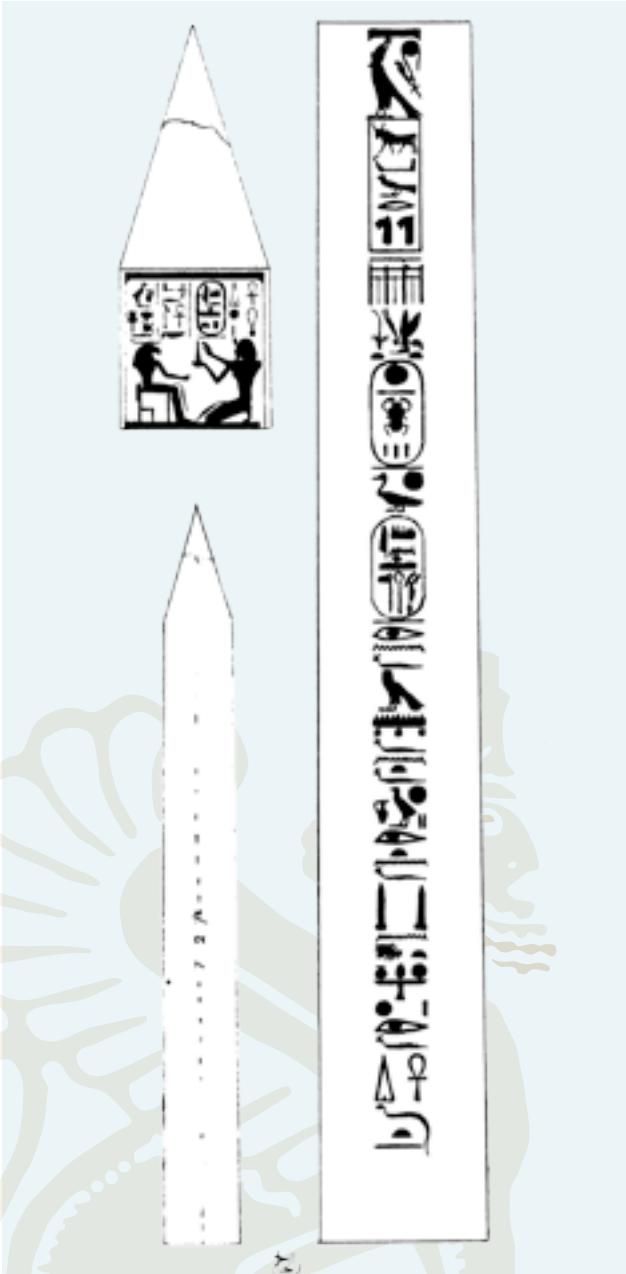


Fig. 4. Alnwick obelisk as published by Bonomi.



Fig. 5. Algernon Percy, 4<sup>th</sup> Duke of Northumberland (painting by Francis Grant, 1834).

## *From the NINO collections: Egyptian antiquities from Alnwick Castle*

### **Alnwick Castle and its Egyptian collection**

The castle in the town of Alnwick, in the English county of Northumberland, was built in 1096, shortly after the Norman conquest. It has been owned since 1309 by the Percy family, the Earls and later Dukes of Northumberland, who renovated and remodelled it a number of times. After Windsor Castle, Alnwick Castle is the second largest inhabited castle in England.

The current Duke and his family live in a part of the castle; throughout summer the castle is open to the public. Since World War II, parts of the castle have been used by various educational establishments and special exhibitions are housed in three of the castle's perimeter towers. Although Alnwick Castle has been used as a setting in many films and television series, it is especially famous as "Hogwarts" in the Harry Potter films. Unlike many other English castles which are ruinous and unfit for habitation, Alnwick Castle is an example for the public's imagination regarding what castles should look like.

### **A Duke with a penchant for the Orient receives an Egyptian obelisk**

The collection of Egyptian antiquities was assembled by Algernon Percy, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Prudhoe and 4<sup>th</sup> Duke of Northumberland (1792-1865). He was created a peer in 1816 after which he took the title Lord Prudhoe. Algernon joined the Royal

Navy in 1805 and retired with the rank of Captain in 1815. As the second son of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Duke of Northumberland he had the time and resources to follow his taste for travel and adventure. With his draughtsman companion Major Orlando Felix he made several travels to Egypt, stopping at all the major sites of antiquarian interest. During his journeys he met various leading Egyptologists of the time, including Champollion, and he became close friends with Sir John Gardner Wilkinson. In 1826 Percy met the Arabist Edward Lane in Cairo, and undertook to financially support his preparation of an Arabic-English lexicon. Returning to Egypt in 1838, Pasha Muhammad Ali presented him with a red granite obelisk (220 cms in height) of Amenophis II. It had recently been found by Prisse d'Avennes in a house in Aswan, where it was in use as a threshold. With its companion obelisk – also found used as a threshold in Aswan – it had originally been erected on the island of Elephantine, the site of the principal temple of Khnum, to whom the pair of obelisks was dedicated. On its arrival in England it was transported to Alnwick where it was viewed and described by Joseph Bonomi. But by the time Samuel Birch was composing the catalogue of the collection, the obelisk had been moved to Syon House, near Brentford. It was later returned to Alnwick where Wallis Budge, writing in 1926, said he had often seen it. This most imposing monument in the Egyptian collection of Alnwick was mounted on a fine granite pedestal and joined the other Egyptian antiquities which Algernon Percy had begun to collect since 1832.

*From the NINO collections:  
Egyptian antiquities from Alnwick Castle*



Fig. 6. *Catalogue* Plate B: Various Tools.



Fig. 7. *Catalogue* Plate I: Tablet of Tatau.



## *From the NINO collections: Egyptian antiquities from Alnwick Castle*

### Composition and relocation of the Alnwick Collection

The Duke's Egyptian collection of over 2,500 objects was largely purchased via auctions in England, rather than during his travels to Egypt. It includes objects originally acquired by James Burton, and by the British consul in Egypt, Henry Salt – the Salt collection was acquired at an auction in 1835.

The Alnwick collection eventually became one of the finest private collections of Europe. When in 1847 Algernon Percy unexpectedly succeeded his elder brother as the 4<sup>th</sup> Duke of Northumberland, he continued, encouraged by Wilkinson, to add to his collections of British and Egyptian antiquities.

In the Egyptian collection stelae from all periods of ancient Egyptian history are included, as well as a unusually high number of objects bearing royal names. It contains pieces from all periods in Egyptian antiquity, but especially from the New Kingdom. A representative selection of the commoner artefacts is present, and also many fine pieces associated with funerary beliefs are included. The collection is characterized by the general high quality of workmanship and the almost complete absence of items of dubious authenticity. Some later additions to the collection were made by another member of the family, Lord Warkworth.

Until the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the collection remained at Alnwick Castle, but about 1935 it was removed to the British Museum for

conservation. Because of the outbreak of the Second World War this work was interrupted, and the collection was placed in storage. In the 1940's the heirs took the decision to sell the collection. Both the British Museum and the Brooklyn Museum showed interest in all or part of the Alnwick collection, but the Duke's successors were keen that the collection should remain intact and, if possible, in the North East of England. Thanks to a generous grant, Durham University was able to purchase the collection in 1950. The British Museum was offered a choice of six pieces; the larger part of the Alnwick collection formed the basis of the present Oriental Museum collections in Durham, located near the Percy family seat. It now is one of Durham's two core collections: in 1971 the University's Egyptian collection was enlarged by part of the collection formed by Sir Henry Wellcome, the museum's second core collection.

### *An exquisite present from Durham*

The *Catalogue of the collection of Egyptian Antiquities at Alnwick Castle* is an important document for the study of the antiquities described, as well as for the history of Egyptology. Originally printed for private distribution, it is a valuable addition to our NINO library.



Fig. 1. The 'Lady of Uruk-Warka', probably a depiction of the goddess Inanna (marble; from Uruk, ca. 3100 BC; National Museum of Iraq).



Fig. 2. Sumerian husband and wife, double statuette (gypsum; from Nippur, ca. 2600 BC; National Museum of Iraq).

# Women in Babylonia

Marten Stol

In August 2016 my book *Women in the Ancient Near East* is published by Walter de Gruyter (Berlin); it is also available in Open Access. The volume is a translation of my earlier book, in Dutch, with the more appropriate title *Vrouwen van Babylon* (2012). During the twenty years of preparation and writing of this book, the Netherlands Institute for the Near East was the main location for my research. It is therefore a pleasure to highlight a few topics in this *Annual Report*.

The sources on women are to a large extent thousands of clay tablets, found in Iraq and Syria, inscribed with cuneiform signs representing syllables and words in the local languages, Babylonian, Assyrian, and Sumerian – the latter then already extinct.

## Married life

### The respectable wife

In the ancient Near East, the most important event in a woman's life was her marriage, so it comes as no surprise that documentation on the topic is abundant: many marriage contracts have been found in family archives. One is inclined to compare their stipulations with what contemporary law-books tell us about marriage, assuming that they all reflect customary law. We need however to realize that most marriage agreements were oral, put into writing only when extra provisions had to be recorded – about finances, like the dowry or bride-price, or a secondary wife in case no children are born. As to the law-books, a section may begin with common law but then turn to exceptional situations in which the king gives his wise verdict.

Preparations for the event of the wedding must be inferred from letters, casual notes on expenditures (beer for the party, for example), myths, and poetry. We can for instance reconstruct the presence of a romantic aspect from songs recited during the Sacred Marriage between the goddess of love and the king. Extispicy – inspecting the liver of a young sheep – was performed in order to discover how the gods viewed the union. At the royal courts, young women's appearances were closely observed; we cite from the Babylonian handbook of 'physiological omens': "If her navel lies deep, she is fertile". There are a few betrothal contracts extant specifying the first instalments of the bride-price to be paid – the last payment will follow much later, after the birth of the first child. A betrothed girl legally was a "married woman, wife". At that time she was usually a teenager, whereas her husband was in his twenties; he was likely to die before his wife. This is the reason why there were so many widows in the ancient Near East – most of them poor.

The wedding lasted five to seven days. The myth of the creation of man mentions "nine days of pleasure" as the time-span for the first union of man and wife; according to the Gilgamesh Epic, Enkidu was introduced to love-making by his girlfriend during six days, seven nights. – Those were the days!

Marriage was in principle monogamous, but extraordinary circumstances could require a secondary wife of lower status. Outside Babylonia, in Syria, one could engage in such a second marriage after seven or ten years of childlessness; Abraham had to wait ten years (Genesis 16:3). Rich people

## *Women in Babylonia*



Fig. 3. Babylonian woman nursing a child (terracotta; from Tello, 2000-1800 BC; Louvre).



Fig. 4. The Babylonian mother goddess, depicted with children's heads, embryonic figures and stylized womb symbols (terracotta; 2000-1800 BC; National Museum of Iraq).



Fig. 5. Neo-Elamite woman spinning (bitumen; from Susa, 8<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> cent. BC; Louvre).

# Women in Babylonia

always could marry two wives – not to speak of the hundreds in the royal harems. Sometimes we hear of concubines, slave-girls. In this letter: “Take for my lap one slave-girl, who is good-looking and has given birth to one or two children”.

## Problems

A marriage could end in divorce, and here we see a marked difference between Assyria, in the North, and Babylonia, in the South. In Assyria (and Syria) it was possible for a woman to initiate a separation, but in the Babylonia of King Hammurabi the union between husband and wife was not on equal terms. Marriage contracts state: “If a woman says ‘You are no longer my husband’, they will throw her into the water” (or: “they will push her from a tower”) which means that leaving her husband was impossible. The husband, however, could leave her after having payed thirty shekels of silver. The laws of Hammurabi discuss these terms of divorce, confirming the harsh punishment for a woman who attempts to leave the marriage – the only possible exception is when the husband treats her exceedingly bad. Clearly this is an attempt at innovation on Hammurabi’s part. Modern humane scholars have difficulty explaining such severe sanctions, and suppose that a suspicion of adultery was at the background. A thousand years later we indeed see this divorce clause: “If the wife is found with another man, she will die by the iron dagger”.

The Babylonians tended to blame women for instigating adultery. In wisdom literature, warnings against loose women abound (as in the Biblical

book of Proverbs, and remember Potiphar’s wife). In the laws of Hammurabi it is the woman’s responsibility to exculpate herself from slander. In general, a woman was suspected of three sins: adultery, performing black magic, and letting out secrets. To disprove such suspicions she could be exposed to an ordeal by stepping into a fast flowing river, hoping to emerge safely.

## Women’s occupations

### Daily business

Most women were occupied by the daily chores in their home. Since the earliest times, however, hundreds, even thousands, were employed in the workshops of temples, royal palaces, or in rich households: they spun wool and weaved cloth, or milled grain. Their food allowances were half of those of the male employees. A woman needs less calories, but not to this extent, one would think. Some acted as midwife, others fed babies as a wet-nurse during three years, as evidenced by the contractual agreements. Best known is the female inn-keeper; her husband was the brewer. Musicians and singers performing at the courts were slave-girls, some captured as booty. We know much of women married to rich men: they took care of the husband’s business or had their own shops. Assyrian merchants traded with cities in (modern) Turkey and there many letters were found, exchanged with their wives at home, in Assur. From these letters (and other sources) it is clear that some women were able to read and write the cuneiform script.

## *Women in Babylonia*



Fig. 6. Female musicians playing double pipes, zithers and the tambourine; Phoenician pyxis decoration (ivory, burnt; from Nimrud; 900-700 BC; British Museum).



Fig. 7. Banquet scene: the Assyrian king and queen are feasting in a garden; relief from the palace of king Ashurbanipal at Nineveh (gypsum; ca. 645 BC; British Museum).

# Women in Babylonia

## Turning tricks

Women could be involved in less respectable activities. Most detested were the witches who tried to hurt or kill people by spitting into their food, and many more mean tricks. When a woman was identified as witch (witches were always female) she could only exonerate herself by an ordeal. The fear of their sorceries was great and handbooks with many anti-witchcraft incantations are known.

Neither was the prostitute respectable. She lived close to the city wall (like Rahab in Joshua 2:15) and found her clients in the drinking-house. In myth – the Epic of Gilgamesh – the god Enlil had cursed her, “she shall live in filth and haunt the slums, surrounded by drunkards”, but the god Shamash had remedied this by promising her rich and generous company. Whore becomes courtesan.

## Convents and harems

What was expected from a woman was praying for her family, to make intercession with the gods. Also, the divine spouse of a god was asked

to intercede with him on behalf of us, down here on earth. During a few hundred years after 2000 BC, convents existed in ancient cities where unmarried daughters from rich families (even foreign princesses) lived, praying for their kin, as they assure in their letters. They owned land, cattle and houses outside the convent walls, ensuring a comfortable life.

Most telling are the letters princesses wrote to their father – perhaps the most readable part of my book, p. 505 ff. They were found in the archives of Zimri-Lim, king of Mari (1775-1762 BC). Several of his daughters had been married off to vassal-kings and one wrote home: “The king, my lord, is fine. Two hundred women, singers or weavers or kitchen staff, work for me and do what I say”. Another daughter was less fortunate; she writes about the queen: “He lets me live in a corner and lets me grab my cheeks like a mad woman. He eats and drinks in the company of that woman”. Later Zimri-Lim would conquer the city and his texts record the booty he pillaged. – Serves them right!

## Further reading

M. Stol, *Women in the Ancient Near East* (W. de Gruyter, Berlin 2016), 696 pp.; <https://www.degruyter.com/view/product/203691>

M. Stol, *Vrouwen van Babylon* (Kok, Utrecht 2012), 496 pp.



Fig. 8. The scribe Inim-shara is introduced to king Shu-Sin by a goddess (modern impression of hematite seal; Ur III period, ca. 2040 BC; Vorderasiatisches Museum Berlin).



# Report on NINO activities 2015

## Introduction

On reflection we all remember our early history classes in school. After an introduction the text books usually provided a few chapters on Ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia, before turning decidedly to Greece, Italy, and European history. The Middle East typically reappeared when relevant for recent European imperial ambitions. The implication of this was of course that although the ancients of the Middle East did sort of stumble on the roots of civilisation, they could not do much with it, and further advances had to be made by “us”! While this idea is long discredited among scholars and discerning laymen/women, it probably lingers on at large. Perhaps recent events in the Middle East, however tragic and sad, may help to dispel this mistaken perception. The barbaric endeavours of ISIS to obliterate the past is fortunately met with genuine horror by world public opinion and seems to further a broader understanding of what is at stake. What ISIS so provocatively destroys is not just “local stuff”, but world heritage. ISIS does it primarily to provoke “us”, but actually also mobilises many local opponents, and this inspires hope for the future. Many international initiatives, incorporating local institutions, are under way to safeguard, save, or salvage damaged or threatened cultural heritage in Syria and Iraq. NINO and NIT will continue to support these endeavours.

In 2015 both NINO and NIT could finish major phases of our archaeological field projects, on the Rania Plain in Iraq (see pp. 2-13), and at Barcın Höyük, Turkey (see pp. 14-17), and we can now

turn to the preparation of more detailed and final reports on these projects, and eventually plans for new efforts.

After several years of preparations we could finally in 2015 update and modernise the physical and climatic environment for our most important collection, the some 3000 tablets and other objects in the Böhl Collection, unchanged since the early 1980’ies. This major work (see pp. 42-44) was generously supported by Leiden University, and carried out with great energy and enthusiasm by NINO staff and helpful colleagues. We are sincerely grateful to all!



Following an agreement of cooperation with Centro di Ricerche e Scavi di Torino ([www.centroscavitorino.it](http://www.centroscavitorino.it)), signed by the NINO director and his Torino counterpart, Prof. Dr Stefano de Martino, in 2014, the two institutes in 2015 organised the first of hopefully many joint ventures. A workshop titled “From Torino to Leiden” took place in Leiden in December. We hope in the coming years to expand cooperation with the Torino institute, which is very active in not least Iraq.

# *NINO activities 2015*

## *Institute administration, staff*

Last, but not least, we were sad to say goodbye, in December 2015, to our very active and wise President-Curator (Chairman of the NINO Board), Prof. Dr Jan Peters, who has served NINO since March 2002, from December 2005 as President. Since Jan lives far from Leiden we know that we will not see him often in the future. In this perspective it was easier to say goodbye to another member of the Board (since June 2004), Prof. Dr Marten Stol. Marten could in 2015 celebrate a rare jubilee: 40 years as editor (*Assyriology*) for our journal *Bibliotheca Orientalis*, and he will continue this work, and also remains a much appreciated Research Fellow at NINO, where we see him often.

The Board and the NINO and NIT directors officially parted with Jan and Marten at the December Board meeting. Here we also congratulated Prof. Dr Karel van der Toorn, member of the Board since June 2007, as new President-Curator, and welcomed three new members of the Board: Erik Jan Zürcher, Bert van der Spek, and Koos van Oord.

### **Institute administration**

#### **Curatorium NINO-NIT**

NINO and NIT are both governed by a Curatorium (Board of Governors). Members:

- Prof. Dr J.R.T.M. Peters (President until June 2015; retired from Board in December 2015)
- Prof. Dr K. van der Toorn (President starting from June 2015)
- Ir. H.G. Dijkgraaf (Treasurer)
- Prof. Dr R.T.J. Cappers
- Dr A.H. de Groot

- Prof. Dr O.E. Kaper
- Ing. Jac.G. van Oord (starting from December 2015)
- Prof. Dr R.J. van der Spek (starting from December 2015)
- Prof. Dr M. Stol (until December 2015)
- Prof.mr. C.J.J.M. Stolker
- Drs. W. Weijland
- Prof. Dr E.J. Zürcher (starting from December 2015)

The General Director of NINO and NIT is secretary to the Board. The Curatorium of NINO and NIT met on 22 June and 14 December 2015.

#### **Scientific committee**

A committee within the Curatorium of NINO and NIT advises on scientific matters. Members: Prof. Dr R.T.J. Cappers, Dr A.H. de Groot, Prof. Dr O.E. Kaper (president), Prof. Dr M. Stol, and the director of NINO/NIT. The committee met in April 2015.

### **Staff**

In the period under review staff assignments remained unchanged. The staff members of NINO in Leiden are:

- Prof Dr J. Eidem, General Director NINO and NIT (0.7 fte general management, 0.3 fte research)
- Mr R.T. Dickhoff, financial administrator (1.0 fte)
- Mrs C. Hoorn-Janssen, financial administration assistant (0.6 fte)

# *NINO activities 2015*

## *Activities and publications by staff members and research fellows*

- Mrs A.G.M. Keizers MA, head librarian (1.0 fte)
- Ms O.T.C. Hoogzaad MA, library assistant (1.0 fte)
- Mrs M.W. Keuken MA, library assistant (0.5 fte)
- Ms C.H. van Zoest MA, secretary (0.5 fte) and publications officer (0.5 fte)

As Local Director of NIT, Dr F.A. Gerritsen is stationed in Istanbul – see p. 51 ff.

### **Activities and publications by staff members and research fellows**

#### **Prof. Dr J. Eidem, General Director**

In January Eidem lectured in the National Museum of Antiquities in Leiden on the latest results of the NINO Archaeological Project on the Rania Plain (Kurdish Region of Iraq) in autumn 2014 (see *Annual Report NINO and NIT 2013-2014*, p.

#### **(Visiting) Research Fellows**

- Prof. Dr J.F. Borghouts
- Dr J.C. Fincke
- Dr D. Giannessi
- Dr W.F.M. Henkelman (EPHE, Paris)
- Dr A. Mouton (CNRS, Paris)
- Dr J.J. Roodenberg
- Prof. Dr J. de Roos
- Prof. Dr M. Stol



View of Lake Dokan in the Rania Plain, central location of the NINO Archaeological Project on the Rania Plain.

#### **Volunteers**

Under the direction of Dr D. Giannessi, several colleagues worked on NINO's collections (see report on pp. 42-44).

The only regular volunteer in 2015 was Mr S.R.L. Berntsen MA (one day per week).

2-9). In April-May he assisted the reorganisation of the Böhl Collection (see this *Annual Report*, pp. 42-44). In September-October he organised and directed excavations and survey on the Rania Plain in Iraq (see pp. 2-13). In November-December he

## *NINO activities 2015*

### *Activities and publications by staff members and research fellows*

taught a course on West Asian Archaeology at the University of Amsterdam (UvA). In December he organised and lectured at the First NINO-CRAST Workshop in Leiden (see p. 38).

#### ***Publications***

- Four Kings in Qatna, in: P. Pfälzner and M. Maqdisi (eds.), *Qatna and the Networks of Bronze Age Globalism*, QS Supplementum 2. Wiesbaden: Harassowitz, 219-222.
- The NINO Archaeological Project on the Rania Plain 2013-2014, *Annual Report NINO and NIT 2013-2014*, 2-9.
- (ed.) *The NINO Archaeological Project on the Rania Plain. Summary Report on Work Autumn 2014: Pilot Survey in the Rania Plain* (unpubl., submitted to the Directorate of Antiquities, Sulaymania), 79 pp.

#### **Dr A. Mouton, Visiting Research Fellow**

Dr Mouton (CNRS Ivry sur Seine and Catholic University of Paris) progressed on the scientific researches she was engaged in. In 2015, she focused her attention on the completion of French

translations of Hittite religious texts for the “Littératures Anciennes du Proche-Orient” series (LAPO 21, Le Cerf, Paris). The 715-page volume of translations and presentations (see illustration) has been published in March 2016.

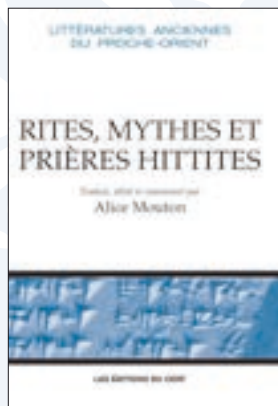
In May 2015 she worked in the NINO library, where she was able to view all new publications in Hittitology, as well as in adjacent fields.

In 2015, Dr Mouton gave six papers in seminars or conferences. Her presentations dealt with Hittite ritual traditions, the anthropology of the body, historiography and the ground as a ritual location. She published eight articles in various collective volumes and journals on divination, the divine witnesses of the Egyptian-Hittite peace treaty, rituals from Arzawa and the Lower Land, ritualized violence and the notion of sacred.

As in the previous years, Dr Mouton took part in the Fasillar survey campaign (September 2015). She also started supervising one PhD student and one Master student.

#### **Dr J.J. Roodenberg, Research Fellow**

In his capacity of Editor-in-Chief of the annual *Anatolica* Dr Roodenberg devoted work on issue 41 to preparing a Festschrift in honour of professor Klaas Veenhof's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, as a token of gratitude for his long-standing involvement in the work of NINO. Dr Jan Gerrit Dercksen, Assyriologist at Leiden University, was engaged as assistant editor. Thanks to his collaboration important contributions were included written by various colleagues active in the field of ancient civilisations of the Near East.



## NINO activities 2015

### Activities and publications by staff members and research fellows



An archaeological site in Bulgarian Thrace where human bone samples were collected for ancient DNA analysis.

In addition, the volume as always included reports on archaeological research in the region.

As in previous years, the summer season was spent in assisting Dr Songül Alpaslan Roodenberg in her anthropological fieldwork at several locations. This includes in particular selecting human bone fragments out of archaeological collections for ancient DNA analysis performed in laboratories of the University College, Dublin and the Department of Genetics at Harvard Medical School, Boston. Apart from being a travel companion, helping to avoid insecure situations, Dr Roodenberg had an advisory role in archaeological matters with regard to materials to be collected. These sampling tours in the Eastern Balkans and Turkey have proven successful, and results of the analyses have already contributed to various publications, *inter alia* in Nature (doi:10.1038/nature16152).

#### Book reviews

- HASPELS, C.H.E., and D. BERNDT — *I am the Last of the Travelers. Midas City Excavations and Surveys in the Highlands of Phrygia*. 2<sup>nd</sup> revised and enlarged edition. Archaeology and Art Publications, Istanbul, 2012. In: *Bibliotheca Orientalis* 72, 161-162.
- MORTENSEN, P. — *Excavations at Tepe Guran. The Neolithic Period* (Acta Iranica, 55). Editions Peeters, Leuven, 2014. In: *Bibliotheca Orientalis* 72, 514-516.

#### Publications

- Adaptation as a constante in early farming village economy – an eight thousand years old case. In: *Social and Economic Changes in the Second Half of the 7<sup>th</sup> Millennium in the Near East*, conference volume edited by Arkadiusz Marciniak. Lockwood Press, Atlanta (in press).

#### Prof. Dr J. de Roos, Research Fellow

Prof. De Roos spent his research time this year on the extensive “Treated Passages from Hittite Texts” project, which started in 1975 and has now entered the final stage of completion. Over the past 30 years, many people worked under his guidance to gather all the translations, transliterations and commentaries on Hittite texts that have been published between 1907 and 1960, a unique undertaking and one that could aid research in the field of Hittitology immensely.

Important developments this year were obtaining a grant to finance the publication of the project from the Leiden Institute of Area Studies (LIAS),



Prof. Dr M. Stol, Research Fellow



# NINO-LEZING 19-2-2015

## Kleine stappen, grote stappen. Recente ontdekkingen bij de NIT-opgravingen van de Neolithische nederzetting van Barcın Höyük in Turkije *Fokke Gerritsen*

NINO-lezing 19 februari 2015  
Vertaal: Nederlands

In het zevende millennium trokken boeren vanuit Noord-Azië voor het eerst naar het noordwesten en vestigden zich in het Marmaragebied van centraal-Anatolië. De opgravingen door het Nederlands Instituut in Turkije op Barcın Höyük onderzoeken hoe de eerste boeren in de regio hier geleefd en gewoont leefden. Deze lezing zal vooral ingaan op de resultaten van de campagnes van 2013 en 2014, en laten zien hoe de geschiedenis van de nederzetting en haar bewoners er een was van kleine stappen én van grote passen.

**NINO-lezingen op Nederlandse instellingen**

Maandelijkse presenties bij Nederlandse instellingen voor het Nijmegen Centrum van Lezing over Archeologie met het maatschappelijk centrum van Oudheidkundige Verenigingen van Oudheidkundige Verenigingen, 28 Leden. Alle geïnteresseerden zijn van harte welkom. Na afloop van de lezing heeft het NINO een drankje aan de hand.

*Lezing 19.02.2015 met 1000 bezoekers*

**Lezing: Rijkdommen van Oudheden, Levenswijzen**

*Lezing: Groot veldwerk op een boerderij aan de rivier Maas (Maastrichtse gids).*

Voor afmeldingen bij het NINO, een melding in het museum en anderszins bij de kassa.

Dr. Fokke Gerritsen is directeur van het Nederlands Instituut in Turkije en co-director van het NIT Research Project 'Early Farming Communities in the Eastern Marmara Region'.



www.nino.nl  
NINO Lezingen



## *Publications*

- “Ur-Iškura” (a petty king), “Uruk A. Die altbabylonische Zeit” (the oldest city in the world), in *Reallexikon der Assyriologie* XIV/5-6.
- King Samsu-iluna’s financial problems. A new text, *Anatolica* 41, 23-35.
- Waffen im alten Mesopotamien, *Bibliotheca Orientalis* 72, 613-626.



## Annual Report • Netherlands Institute for the Near East, Leiden • Netherlands Institute in Turkey, Istanbul • 37

## *NINO activities 2015*

### *Public Relations*

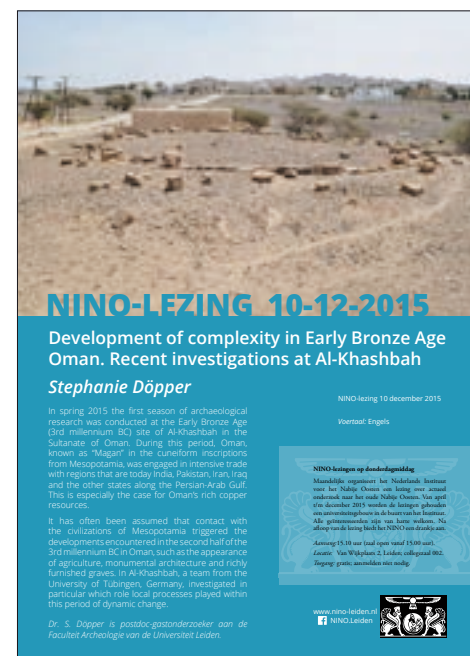
balsemingshuis? Business as usual in het Thebe  
van Sjabaka en Taharqa” [attended by ca. 25]

- Tuesday 29 September: Edward Stratford (Brigham Young University, Utah), “Caravans, Cuneiform, Clay. Social geography of Anatolia during the Old Assyrian period through pXRF analysis” [attended by ca. 35]
- Thursday 22 October: Ben Haring (UL Egyptology), “Egypte en de oorsprong van het alfabet” [attended by ca. 55]
- Friday evening 20 November: Veenhof Lecture by Cécile Michel (CNRS), “The Assyrian settlement at Kültepe/Kaneš” [attended by ca. 80]
- Thursday 10 December: Stephanie Döpper (UL Archaeology), “Development of complexity in

Early Bronze Age Oman. Recent investigations at Al-Khashbah” [attended by ca. 25]

## Symposium

As a first joint activity, the NINO-CRAST workshop “The Ancient Near East from Torino to Leiden” was held in Leiden on 18 December. Presentations of the main research projects currently conducted by both institutes were given by Jesper Eidem, Jeanette Fincke, Ivan Kisjes, Matteo Merlino & Deborah Giannessi, Songül Alpaslan Roodenberg (NINO); Stefano De Martino, Roberta Menegazzi, and Carlo Lippolis (CRAST). A further 20 people filled the audience. The RMO graciously offered use of their upstairs lecture room.



# NINO activities 2015

## Public Relations

### Website, Facebook, and mailing lists

New websites for NINO and NIT were designed and built by Thirdwave (Leiden). Preparations started in mid 2014 and both websites were put online in March 2015. They are at the same urls as before: [www.nino-leiden.nl](http://www.nino-leiden.nl) and [www.nit-istanbul.org](http://www.nit-istanbul.org). The website structure was kept as simple as possible, with tabs for activities, collections, publications, the institutes' respective libraries, research projects, and facilities.

On the NINO website, the homepage was the most viewed page, followed by the Publications and Library pages.

<i>NINO website</i>	Total March-December 2015	Average per day
Number of sessions	19.967	67,0
Number of page views	50.318	168,9
Average number of pages viewed per session	2,5 pages	
Average session length	94,7 seconds	

NINO's Facebook page [www.facebook.com/NINO.Leiden](http://www.facebook.com/NINO.Leiden) started with 327 likes and ended 2015 with 668 likes, or followers of the page's posts. An average of 128 people viewed the page, which posted 150 messages throughout the year.



The Dutch-language mailing list "NINO lezingencyclus", used to announce our lectures and other local activities, reached ca. 370 addressees on average (this is the number of people who opened the email newsletter). 12 messages were sent.

In August, a second list was started to announce news related to NINO publications internationally, in English. Addresses were collected from previous customers, book sellers, colleagues and libraries in our field. 5 messages were sent (mainly on the Summer Sale with discounted prices for our publications), which were read by ca. 320 addressees on average.

## *NINO activities 2015*

# Library

The NINO library is an independent academic research library, open to the public but mostly used by researchers and students from Leiden University and other universities in the Netherlands and abroad. The library is an open shelf library where visitors can consult the book collection themselves, except for items from our special collections which have to be retrieved by the library staff. Books cannot be borrowed but copying facilities are available in the library.

### Visitors' numbers and evaluation

The library is open on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; 8931 visitors registered in the guestbook in 2015, mostly from the departments of Egyptology, Assyriology, Archaeology and Old Cultures of the Mediterranean World. The library can host a maximum of 65 visitors at once, and there are approximately 30-40 visitors daily. As in previous years, also in 2015 we were happy to welcome a number of renowned visitors from abroad, who spent shorter or longer periods doing research in our highly appreciated library. Due to the renovation of the vault the library was closed occasionally during the months of April and May.

A questionnaire was distributed among visitors in spring 2015. The building at Witte Singel 25, sometimes described as a bit of a labyrinth, can make it difficult to find our library – but once found, most visitors are very pleased with the collection and the services provided by the library personnel. Climate control and opening hours could do with some improvements though. Visitors are especially happy with the newly installed wifi connection for users with UL accounts.

### Regular operations

Beside the regular ongoing library activities – assisting visitors, keeping the collection up-to-date and cataloguing – the staff members have busied themselves in the year under review with conservation of the collection, reorganisation of shelves, and cleaning considerable parts of the collection. The annual check of the collection takes places during the summer when visitor numbers are lower than during the study semesters. This year nine titles were found missing from the collection. Work meetings are held bi-monthly to keep each other informed of ongoing developments.

This year four mini-exhibitions were displayed in the small showcase placed at the entrance of the library. The subjects of the exhibition of items chosen from the different collections in our library were: Old scriptures from Yemen & stèles in Aksum (Ethiopia), Pyramid climbers, 40 years jubilee of students' association "Pleyte", and Travels in the Orient.

### Library collections and acquisitions

The main NINO library collection consists of monographs and periodicals. The titles are available in the online Leiden University Libraries Catalogue, <http://catalogue.leidenuniv.nl>, under the subcategory "Leiden collections". Visitors can consult this catalogue on two computers in the library. Beside the online catalogue there is a list of periodicals and a library classification folder which visitors can use to locate publications on the shelves.

## *NINO activities 2015*

### *Library*

The main fields of interest and largest categories are Egyptology, Assyriology and the Near East in general. The library can be considered one of few excellent libraries in the world with many essential reference works for

these subjects. Notable are also the many important publications on the Middle East, including Turkey, Iran, Hebraïca and the archaeological reports from the Levant area (the “Scholten” collection). The library further hosts an impressive collection of travel literature and country descriptions, and the special collections of Seyyidah Salme (Emily Ruete), D. van der Meulen, R. Hoogland and G.H. de Knecht. The publications are in western languages, Hebrew, Arabic, Persian, Turkish and in several other non-western languages.

Acquisitions are mainly restricted to the fields of Egyptology, Assyriology and archaeological reports on the Levantine area. These acquisitions are



New acquisitions on display in the bookcases near the library's entry and photocopy machines.

based on publishers' catalogues, reviews in journals, as well as advice from NINO fellows and other specialists in Near Eastern studies.

In 2015 398 new monographs were acquired and 177 periodical issues. Occasional gifts and

donations are accepted if appropriate for the collection; in 2015 these counted to 88 items. Every four months a list of new acquisitions is published on the NINO website.

As for the periodicals, there are 844 titles of periodicals spanning the categories available in the collection; 136 of these are dynamic (including some titles we receive in exchange for NINO publications), and some are just single volumes.

In total ca. 42,500 titles are catalogued for the NINO library; the number of volumes present on the shelves is understandably a lot more. These volumes occupy approximately 1,650 km of shelf space in the 500 m<sup>2</sup> floor space of the library.

## *NINO activities 2015*

# Collections

*Deborah Giannessi*

### **The Böhl Collection: introduction**

The largest and most important collection owned by NINO is the Böhl Collection, named after its original owner, the late Professor of Assyriology at Leiden University, F.M.Th. de Liagre Böhl (1882-1976). His activities, as an academic, collector, and an energetic and inspiring lecturer and writer for the general public earned him the following recent praise: “without him, the Dutch interest in the Middle East would have come only much later... Böhl’s work forms the basis of the study and research of the Near East in the Netherlands.”.

Böhl travelled widely in the Middle East. In the 1920’ies he co-directed important excavations at Tell Balata (ancient Sichem) in Palestine, and visited Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, and Israel. In the 1930’ies he travelled twice to Iraq and Iran, where he spent long periods working with the German team at Uruk/Warka (Iraq), visited a large number of heritage sites and active excavations, and purchased antiquities (while this was still legal!) for the National Museum of Antiquities in Leiden or for his own collection. Personally Böhl focussed on cuneiform tablets, and over the years acquired some 2500 specimens, forming the by far largest such collection in the Netherlands. With tablets of virtually every period and genre the Böhl collection offers materials for a wide range of scholarly studies, but has also for decades proved pivotal for training many scores of students in Leiden to read and copy cuneiform originals. After retirement in 1951 Böhl sold his collection to NINO, where it has since continued to serve the same purposes.

As one of the founders of NINO the vision of Böhl was a place where scholarship of the Ancient Near East comes together: library, collections, and the scholars and students who know and care about these materials. This vision created – and has to this day sustained – the unique and fruitful cooperation between NINO and its resources and the Near Eastern scholars at Leiden University, which makes Leiden one of the first-class centres for the field in Europe.



Fig. 1. Interior of the vault holding the Böhl Collection prior to renovation.

## *NINO activities 2015*

### *Collections*



Fig. 2. Interior of the vault holding the Böhl Collection after renovation.

#### Creating a modern environment for the collection

During the 75 years from the foundation of NINO the Böhl collection was stored under different conditions, since the early 1980's in a fortified room adjacent to the library, commonly referred to as the "vault". Inside this were metal cabinets with drawers for the tablets and objects, mostly kept in cardboard boxes. Thus except for

basic security no particular museum standard measures were applied. Over the last few years we observed that there was a clear decaying process of the clay of the tablets, which in quite a few cases presented flaking and peeling off of clay on the surfaces, and in a few cases tablets had at some point in the past turned literally to dust. As a first step it was decided to monitor humidity and temperature in the vault, and the values were measured weekly during 2013 and 2014, for the length of one and half year. From the assembled data it was clear that fluctuation of the values in relation to the seasons was far too large and unhealthy for the Collection. In the spring of 2014 Prof. Dr J. Marzahn, curator of the tablet collection at the Pergamon Museum in Berlin, was invited to NINO to advise us, and made a number of important recommendations to improve the storage environment. Ventilation, plastering of the walls and floor, climate control system, and acid free environment were key issues.

Subsequently preparations were made to implement the recommended changes, and these resulted in major works done in 2015. In April 2015 the vault was completely renovated, walls and floor plastered, the ceiling was isolated, and in autumn ventilation and climate control systems were installed. NINO is extremely grateful to Leiden University for sharing the costs of these important changes.

The vault of course had to be emptied for the restoration works, and while kept in a temporary location the whole collection was checked and numbered. The cardboard boxes were discarded and the objects returned to the cabinet drawers

## *NINO activities 2015*

### *Collections*

now fitted with bases of acid-free foam. The initial plan to return the tablets to the vault in two weeks proved too ambitious – the amount of work needed was so huge that it took six weeks in total. This enormous job would have been impossible without the dedicated aid of NINO staff and colleagues. Foremost I must thank Dr Jeanette Fincke for her indefatigable help with the objects, and the collection's volunteer, Sebastiaan Berntsen, for many hours of valuable assistance. Many others, however, lent a hand: NINO staff members were

continuously flexible and helpful during a rather trying period; Theo Krispijn, Rients de Boer, and Matteo Merlino aided with numbering of objects.

With our “treasure” now under safe and up-to-date conditions we are ready to pursue further work and study of the collection. One important aspect is the renewed focus on the considerable portions of the Böhl collection which are not cuneiform tablets. This will be discussed further in an upcoming *Annual Report*.



Fig. 3. Work on the Böhl Collection in progress.

## NINO activities 2015

### Collections



Fig. 4. Tablets in the Böhl Collection in the cardboard boxes used since acquisition.



Fig. 5. Tablets in the Böhl Collection in their new acid-free foam "nests" in drawers.

### Archival and other materials

General efforts to sort, catalogue, and digitise collections held at NINO continued through 2015. The collections of slides made by Böhl and Kampman, the many folders of papers in the *Nachlass Böhl*, as well as other materials, were prepared for major reorganisation and repacking in acid-free conditions planned for 2016. Likewise a first comprehensive inventory of the Scholten photo collection, temporarily held in the Print Room/Special Collections Dept. of Leiden University Library, was made, in preparation for a scheduled transfer back to NINO. Again all this work was only possible thanks to help and assistance of NINO staff, especially Sebastiaan Berntsen, who went through and sorted many of the Böhl papers and other archival materials in NINO.

### Restoration of the bird mummy (Carolien van Zoest)

During the preparations for the NINO jubilee exhibition in the National Museum of Antiquities (1 October 2014-3 May 2015), the bird mummy in the Böhl Collection (inv. no. LB 1355) was found to be too fragile to be included in a small display of Egyptiaca. It was replaced in the vitrine by a photograph of the object, while a small project was undertaken to restore the mummy. Subsidies were obtained from Ex Oriente Lux, Friends of Saqqara, Huis van Horus, Mehen, and Leiden University's Egyptology department. Together these small amounts were sufficient to imburse restorer Emmy de Groot and the materials she used. The National Museum of Antiquities kindly offered working space in their restoration workshop. Ms. De Groot fixated the outer linen wrappings by enveloping

them in tulle, dyed to match the colour. The handwritten label carrying the inventory number (in Böhl's handwriting) was purposely included in the tulle casing. A detailed restoration report is on file.

On 5 March two groups of Egyptology students visited Ms. De Groot while she was working on the mummy – in keeping with the collection's original educational goals. Drs. E.J. Holwerda, who has previously investigated the Egyptian objects in the Böhl Collection and lent valuable advice on this specific project, gave a lecture on the mummy and its restoration on 17 March. For more information on the bird mummy, see her article in *Annual Report NINO and NIT 2010*, pp. 34-43. The photograph in the display case was replaced with the original object; it was revealed to the public after the lecture.

When the jubilee exhibition ended, the bird mummy remained temporarily in the climatized depot of the Museum. After completion of the NINO vault renovation in autumn – ensuring a suitable climate for organic materials – the bird mummy, as well as a few other organic objects, was returned to



Fig. 8. The bird mummy during restoration.

**NINO-miniproject**  
**Elk meent zijn uil een valk te zijn\***

**De vogelmummie in de Böhl-collectie**  
Ondersdend van de De Liagre Böhl-collectie van het NINO, die voornamelijk uit kleitabletten bestaat, is een kleine collectie oud-Egyptische voorwerpen. Hieronder bevindt zich een vogelmummie (inventarisnummer LB 1355). Het is een mooi voorbeeld van een dierenmummie uit de (Late Periode of) Grieco-Romeinse tijd, met windsels in een ruwvormig cassettepatroon. Op de kop zijn de gezichtsmarkeringen van een heilige valk aangebracht.

In 2009 heeft het Academisch Medisch Centrum in Amsterdam een CT-scan en een slingerfoto gemaakt van de mummie. Toen bleek dat de gemummificeerde resten niet van een valk zijn, maar bestaan uit kop, lichaam en vleugels van een kerkuil (*Nyctaleus*) en poten van een tweede, onbekende vogel.

**Voor studenten Egyptologie/OCMW**  
De restauratie vindt plaats op **donderdag 5 maart** in het restauratie-atelier van het Rijksmuseum van Oudheden. Studenten OCMW kunnen in groepjes tussen 11.00-13.00 uur een bezoek brengen. Emmy de Groot zal uitleg geven en er kunnen vragen gesteld worden. Er wordt een indeling in kleine groepjes gemaakt, want er is beperkte ruimte in het atelier. Meld je aan bij Carolien van Zoest, 071-527 2036, c.van.zoest@hum.leidenuniv.nl, kamer 113a in het NINO-gebouw.

**Voor alle geïnteresseerden**  
Op **dinsdag 17 maart** wordt het resultaat van het miniproject gepresenteerd. De foto in de vitrine in het RMO (eerste verdieping, in de afdeling Oude Nabije Oosten) wordt vervangen door de vogelmummie zelf. Om 15.00 uur geeft dr. Esther Halwerda een lezing over oud-Egyptische dierenmummies (in de Leermanszaal), met speciale aandacht voor dit exemplaar en de restauratie. Leden en donateurs van de sponsorverenigingen zijn van harte welkom, evenals studenten, museumbezoekers en andere geïnteresseerden.

**Literatuur**  
Halwerda, Esther J. 2010. *The Egyptian objects in the Collection Böhl at the Netherlands Institute for the Near East in Leiden*. Ongepubliceerde doctoraatscriptie, Universiteit Leiden.  
Halwerda, Esther J. 2011. *From the NINO collections: The Egyptian objects. Annual Report NINO and NIT 2010* 34-43.  
Esther Halwerda en Carolien van Zoest, *Vergen Egyptische oudheden. Phoenix* 59/3 (2013): 89-90.

Rijksmuseum van Oudheden  
Universiteit Leiden  
Oude Culturen van de  
Mediterrane Wereld  
Molen, Studiecentrum  
voor het oude Egypte

\* Oud sprekeelwoord: iedereen denkt dat zijn prestatie enz. het beste zijn. Achtergrond: Mummy wrappings, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford; Foto van Scott D. Hadlow van Flickr.

Fig. 6. Poster describing and promoting the small restoration project.

NINO. Stabilisation of the object has been realised insofar possible; the present adequate storage conditions should prevent further deterioration.



Fig. 7. Mrs De Groot shows her work.

# Chair of Ecology and Palaeo-ecology of the Near East

The special chair was established by NINO in 2007 at the Faculty of Archaeology of Leiden University. It is held by Prof. Dr. R.T.J. Cappers (Rijksuniversiteit Groningen). Below is an overview of his activities in 2015.

## Education

### Courses taught

- Environmental history of the Near East
- Paleo-diet course
- Economy of food

### Supervision of students

#### **PhD-students:**

- F. Fantone (Leiden), participating in the *Dunnu*-project (Bronze Age Sabi Abyad, Syria; Dr Bleda Durning & Prof. Dr P.M.M.G. Akkermans).
- C. Cilingir (Istanbul): Archaeobotanical remains from Tepecik (Neolithic-Chalcolithic; Turkey).
- R. Neef (Berlin): Archaeobotany of Jordan.
- H. Madina (Paris): Archaeobotany of the West Bank (Palestine).
- F. Heinrich (Groningen): Modelling crop selection in Roman Italy: The economics of agricultural decision making (Mediterranean).
- A. Hansen (Groningen): The agricultural economy of Islamic Jordan, from the Arab conquest to the Ottoman period (Jordan).

#### **MA-students:**

- D. Alshawish (Leiden): Processing of Bitter vetch (*Vicia ervilia*).

## Lectures

- IWAA (Modena, Italy): The processing of Barley in Kerma (Sudan).

## Research

### Participation in excavations

#### **Turkey:**

- Archaeobotanical research at *Barcın Höyük* (Turkey: Neolithic until early Chalcolithic): from 2007 onwards. Directed by Dr F.A. Gerritsen (NIT).
- Archaeobotanical research at Tepecik-Çiftlik (Turkey; late-Neolithic until Middle Chalcolithic): from 2004 onwards. Directed by Dr. E. Biçakçı (Istanbul University).
- Archaeobotanical research at Güvercinkaya from 1996 onwards (Turkey; Middle Chalcolithic). Directed by Prof.dr. Sevil Gülçur (Istanbul University).
- Ethnoarchaeobotanical research in Central Anatolia dealing with traditional agricultural processing.
- Ethnoarchaeobotanical research in the Black Sea area dealing with traditional food production (Einkorn).

#### **Syria:**

- Archaeobotanical research at Sabi Abyad (Syria; late-Neolithic and late Bronze Age): from 2000 onwards (previously by Prof. Dr. W. van Zeist). Directed by Prof. Dr. P.M.M.G. Akkermans (UL).

# NINO activities 2015

## Chair of Ecology and Palaeo-ecology of the Near East

- Archaeobotanical research at Qala'at Halwanji (Syria; Early and Middle Bronze Age), directed by Prof. Dr J. Eidem (NINO).

### **Jordan:**

- Archaeobotanical research at Tall Hisban (Jordan; Umayyad-early Ottoman period). Directed by Prof. dr B.J. Walker (Middle East and Islamic archaeologist and director of the Northern Jordan Project; currently: Missouri State University, USA, when the project commences: University of Bonn, Germany).

### **India:**

- Ethnoarchaeobotanical research dealing with traditional crop processing and food preparation.

### **Sudan:**

- Archaeobotanical research at Kerma (2014).

### **Publications**

- Cappers, R.T.J. (2015): Archaeobotanical evidence of agriculture in Neolithic Turkey. In.: Özdoğan, M., N. Basgelen & P. Kuniholm (eds.): *The Neolithic in Turkey. Vol. 6: 10500-5200 BC: Environmental settlement, flora, fauna, dating, symbol of belief, with views from north, south, east, and west.* Archaeology & Art Publications, Istanbul, pp. 205-222.
- Deun, J. van, R.T.J. Cappers, M. Schepers & A. Maurer (2015): A 19<sup>th</sup> century endocarp of the Chilean wine palm (*Jubaea chilensis*) in the Netherlands. In: *Palms* (59/1), pp. 15-20.

### **Memberships**

- Korrespondierenden Mitglied des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts (DAI);
- Member of the scientific committee of the Netherlands School of Archaeological Research (ARCHON) (graduate school);
- Member of the Curatorium of the Netherlands Institute for the Near East (NINO);
- Member of the Management Team of the Groningen Institute of Archaeology;
- Editorial board *Advances in archaeobotany*;
- Editorial board *Palaeohistoria*;
- Editorial board *Groningen Archaeological Studies*;
- Editorial board *Electronic Journal of Indian medicine*.

### **Curatorium of the Chair**

The special chair of Ecology and Palaeo-ecology of the Near East, created by NINO at the Faculty of Archaeology at Leiden University, is overseen by its own Curatorium.

Members: Prof. Dr W.H. van Soldt (president), Prof. Dr M.H. Field, Prof. Dr O.E. Kaper, Dr D.J.W. Meijer.

# NINO and NIT Publications 2015

## PIHANS

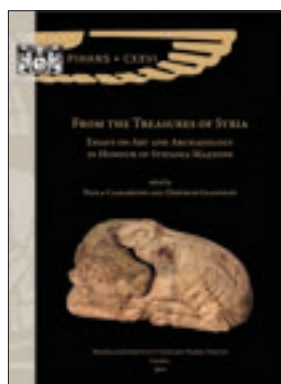
The PIHANS series presents studies on the history of Western Asia, from prehistory to early modern times, with a focus on archaeology and philology. Published in 2015:



### **PIHANS 125**

*Understanding Hegemonic Practices of the Early Assyrian Empire. Essays dedicated to Frans Wiggermann.* Edited by Bleda S. Düring.

VI, 314 pp.  
ISBN 978-90-6258-336-2  
€ 41.34 (incl. VAT)



### **PIHANS 126**

*From the Treasures of Syria. Essays on Art and Archaeology in Honour of Stefania Mazzoni.* Edited by Paola Ciafardini and Deborah Giannessi.

XXXII, 298 pp.  
ISBN 978-90-6258-337-9  
€ 65.72 (incl. VAT)

## Annual Report

NINO and NIT yearly publish an Annual Report on their activities. Published in 2015:



### **Annual Report NINO and NIT 2013-2014**

72 pp.  
Online only; available as a free pdf file from [www.nino-leiden.nl](http://www.nino-leiden.nl)

## Anatolica

*Anatolica* is NINO's periodical on the civilizations of Western Asia, annually published in May/June under the aegis of the Netherlands Institute in Turkey. Published in 2015:



### **Anatolica vol. XLI (2015)**

Numéro spécial en l'honneur du 80<sup>ème</sup> anniversaire de Klaas Veenhof

V, 240 pp.  
ISSN 0066-1554  
€ 63.60 (incl. VAT)

## Bibliotheca Orientalis

Bibliotheca Orientalis (*BiOr*) is NINO's quadrimonthly journal containing reviews and bibliographical data on books published on the ancient and modern Near East. Published in 2015:



### **BiOr vol. 71 (2014)**

Fascicle 5/6 (col. 651-880) + year index

### **BiOr vol. 72 (2015)**

Fascicles 1/2 and 3/4 (col. 1-560)



# Report on NIT activities 2015

## Introduction

For the Netherlands Institute in Turkey, 2015 was not an easy year. The budget cut from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, announced in the *Annual Report* over 2013-2014, took effect in this year. Working with a smaller staff, the task for the local director was to try to keep the programs, projects and services of the institute up and running as much as possible, while developing plans together with the NINO-NIT Curatorium to increase the financial means of the institute through external partnerships and thus to ensure the institute's stability for the longer-term. In this situation, the institute was unable to organize its annual summer school and other courses for Dutch and Turkish students, and the number of public activities such as lectures and conferences remained limited in comparison to other years. A big loss to the NIT was the discontinuation of the Tophane Urban Heritage Project, that over the last four years had been of real significance in positioning the institute in the realm of heritage studies, urban studies and studies of contemporary Turkey. In addition it had offered varied opportunities for students and junior researchers to participate in oral history and neighborhood fieldwork projects, to write theses and conduct internships.

These difficulties notwithstanding, the year ended with better prospects than it had begun. Positively assessing the diverse forms of support guaranteed by partnerships with Koç University and the Netherlands Consulate-General in Istanbul, the NINO-NIT Curatorium decided to maintain its branch in Istanbul, the NIT for at least the next five years.

## Staff

Throughout 2015, the core of the Istanbul-based NIT team consisted of: local director Fokke Gerritsen (0,8 fte), librarian Gülten Yıldız (0,8 fte) and assistant Güher Gürmen (0,8 fte). Due to shrinking budgets, the appointments of NIT staff member Karin Schuitema and Funda Demir, coordinator of the Study in Holland Desk in Turkey in Ankara, were not renewed after 2014.

## Library

Through acquisitions, exchanges and gifts, the collections of the library expanded by about 175 volumes over 2015, adding to its collection of c. 25.000 monographs and journal volumes. The main subject areas of the library are archaeology and history of Anatolia, the Near East and Southeast Europe, and Istanbul.

## Guestrooms

The NIT had access to three single guestrooms in the institute building for visiting researchers and fellows in 2015. The overall occupancy was at about 70 %, showing that the lodgings are a much-valued element of the NIT facilities.



## Research and publications

NIT research proceeds along two tracks: research conducted by NIT staff members, and research conducted by others with support from the NIT. The long-term Barcın Höyük Excavations and the Ottoman Architecture in the Balkans projects continued in 2015, and the NIT hosted a research project by Mariëtte Verhoeven dealing with one of the many Byzantine churches in Istanbul that were converted into a mosque in the Ottoman period.

Research supported by the NIT covers a much wider range of topics from the humanities and social sciences, with ‘Turkey’ as the common denominator. It includes work by NIT fellows and visiting scholars, residents in our lodgings and numerous library users. The research topics of the recipients of NIT fellowships listed below gives an impression of the wide scope of research supported by the NIT.

### Barcın Höyük Excavations

The final season of excavations at Barcın Höyük took place in July and August 2015. The main funding was provided by a grant of the National Geographic Foundation. A short report on the results of this season can be found elsewhere in this *Annual Report*. In the course of 2015, several reports were published by scholars working on materials from the excavations. The scientific significance of the findings from the excavations is highlighted by publications in international top-tier journals such as *Nature* and *PloS ONE*.

The following publications appeared:

- Baysal, E., 2015: Neolitik dönem kişisel süs eşyaları: yeni yaklaşımlar ve Türkiye’deki son araştırmalar, *Tüba-ar* 18, 9-23.
- Erdalkıran, M., 2015: Neolithic Bone Spoons from Barcın Höyük. Barcın Höyük Neolitik Dönem Kemik Kaşıkları, *Tüba-ar* 18, 25-36.
- Erdalkıran, M., 2015: Barcın Höyük 2013 Yılı Kemik Aletlerinin Ön Raporu, *Arkeometri Sonuçları Toplantısı* 30, 115-128.
- Groenhuijzen, M., S. Kluiving, F.A. Gerritsen, M. Künz, 2015: Geoarchaeological research at Barcın Höyük: implications for the Neolithisation of northwest Anatolia, *Quaternary International* 359-360, 452-461.
- Mathieson, I., I. Lazaridis, N. Rohland, S. Mallick, N. Patterson, S. Alpaslan Roodenberg, F.A. Gerritsen et al., 2015: Genome-wide patterns of selection in 230 ancient Eurasians, *Nature* 528, 499-503.
- Özbal, R., F. Gerritsen, 2015: Barcın Höyük Excavations: The 2014 Season in Perspective, in: S. Steadman, G. McMahon (eds), *The Archaeology of Anatolia: Recent Discoveries (2011-2014)*, Cambridge, 26-45.
- Özbal, R., F. Gerritsen, M. Erdalkıran, H. Özbal, 2015: 2013 Yılı Barcın Höyük Kazıları, 36. Kazı Sonuçları Toplantısı, 1. Cilt, 615-630.
- Pinhasi, R., D. Fernandes, K. Sirak, M. Novak, S. Connell, S. Alpaslan-Roodenberg, F.A. Gerritsen, V. Moiseyev, A. Gromov, P. Raczky, A. Anders, M. Pietruszewski, G. Rollefson, M. Jovanovic, et al., 2015: Optimal Ancient DNA Yields from the Inner Ear Part of the Human Petrous Bone, *PloS ONE* 10(6): e0129102.

## NIT activities 2015

### Research and publications

#### Ottoman Architecture in the Balkans

Senior Research Fellow Machiel Kiel continued his long-term research on the Ottoman Balkans. In 2015, the following publications appeared:

- Kiel, M., 2014/2015: Avret Hisar, Doyran ve Koçane Bölgeleri: Osmanlı Resmi Kayıtları Göre Makedonya'nın Üç Bölgesinde Nüfus ve Yerleşim, in: M. Pekin (ed.), Mübadil Kentler: Mekan ve İnsan, Istanbul, 209-244.
- Kiel, M. 2015: Athènes, in: F. Georgeon, N. Vatin, G. Veinstein (eds), Dictionnaire de l'Empire Ottoman, Paris, 132-133.
- Kiel, M. 2015: Morée, in: F. Georgeon, N. Vatin, G. Veinstein (eds), Dictionnaire de l'Empire Ottoman, Paris, 815-817.
- Kiel, M., 2015: Patronage of Ottoman Architecture at the Frontier: Thoughts and Materials. A Preliminary Overview, in: M. Baramova, G. Bojkov and I. Parvev (eds), Bordering Early Modern Europe, Wiesbaden, 221-224.
- Kiel, M. 2015: review of Mark Stein, *Defending the Border*, *Bibliotheca Orientalis* 80 1/2, 202-208.
- Kiel, M., 2015: Témoignage: La Zaviye de Mahmud Bey à Ihtiman (Bulgarie) (1385/90 au bord de l'effondrement. Projects de restauration et obstruction locale, in: M. Anastassiadou (ed.), Anatoli VI, Dossier Thématique, Patrimoines culturels et fait minoritaire en Turquie et dans les Balkans, Paris, 225-262.

#### Fethiye Camii

Mariëtte Verhoeven's research focuses on the meaning and value of Fethiye Camii, the former Pammakaristos Church, as a cultural heritage site in Istanbul. In 2015, this resulted in the following activities. A presentation of preliminary research results was presented at the international conference 'Heritage, Tourism & Hospitality, organized at the VU University Amsterdam (27 November 2015). Title of the paper: 'Revealing the Past for the Future. Fethiye Mosque and Museum as a Cultural Heritage Site in Istanbul. The written version of this paper will be published in a peer-reviewed volume in the Landscape & Heritage Series of Amsterdam University Press (2017).



Kadin Most Bridge (photo from M. Kiel Archive)



Fethiye Camii, formerly Pammakaristos Church

## NIT activities 2015

### Research and publications

The Fethiye Mosque and Museum was also the main subject in two public lectures on Christian Byzantine Heritage in Istanbul (held respectively on 7 March for the Genootschap Oudchristelijke Studiën in Amersfoort and on 27 March for the Kunsthistorische Kring Nijmegen).

#### NIT Visiting Scholar Richard Staring

In the later part of 2015, the NIT hosted Richard Staring as Visiting Scholar. Prof. Dr. Richard Staring holds a chair on Mobility, Control, and Crime at the Criminology department of the Erasmus School of Law (Rotterdam, the Netherlands). Trained as an anthropologist, he studies divergent aspects of irregular migration, irregular stay and migration related (organized) crimes as human smuggling and human trafficking in the context of surveillance and control policies.

Staring stayed at the NIT from 15 August 2015 onwards for a period of nearly five months. During this time he spent many hours in the NIT library working on several ongoing research projects, on the social embeddedness of crime within specific immigrant groups in urban areas, and on Dutch youngsters with a Turkish background, their sense



Richard Staring

of belonging and their attitudes towards religious inspired violence. The latter project was published in December 2015 in the SCP (Netherlands Institute for Social Research) report *Werelden van Verschil* (Worlds of Difference). In addition, Staring used his time in Istanbul, coinciding with the height of the recent migrant crisis, to initiate a project on Syrian refugees living in Istanbul.

During his stay, Staring gave lectures at the NIT and at Koç University's MiReKoc Migration Research Center, and played an advisory role in the preparations for the graduate winter school 'Migration in the Margins' that the NIT organized together with the Netherlands Institute in Athens for January 2016.

#### NIT Fellowships

During 2015 it was again possible to award a number of junior researchers with a fellowship for a research stay of up to one month at the NIT. Below-mentioned are these researchers together with their research projects. Together, they give a view of the wide range of themes addressed by Dutch researchers interested in Turkey, covering ancient, Byzantine, Ottoman and Turkish Studies, and incorporating the sciences, humanities and social studies:

- Michèle Meijer (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam) – Ishtar and Kybele: the role of Anatolia in the transmission of religious ideas between Mesopotamia and the Greek-Roman World;
- Noëlle Steneker (University of Amsterdam) – Storytelling and Children in an International Classroom;

## *NIT activities 2015*

### *Academic meetings and courses*

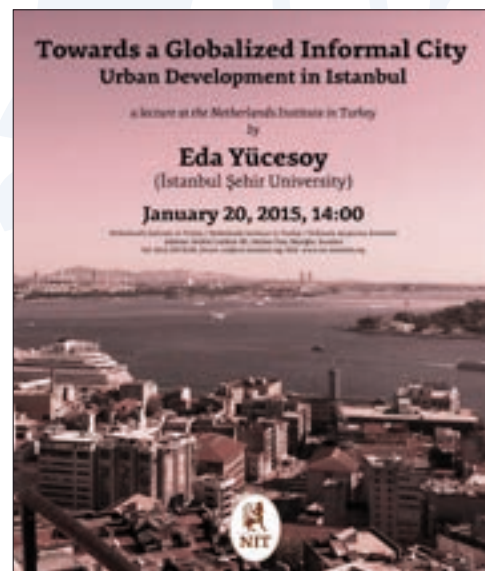
- Tanya Sieiro van der Beek (Utrecht University) – Reassessing Hellenism in Pergamon;
- Zara Toksöz (University of Amsterdam) – Istanbul's Saturday Mothers;
- Konstantina Kapsali (Leiden University) – Soil Chemistry analysis of Neolithic floor sediments in Barcın Höyük;
- Beril Çakır (University of Amsterdam) – Geographies of Assimilation and Resistance: Urban Space, Memory and Identity in Diyarbakır;
- Ian D. Morris (University of Amsterdam) – The 'royal court' between Byzantium and early Islam: Difference, diffusion or convergent evolution?
- Sean Patrick Smyth (Leiden University) – Sâmiha Ayverdi: the incongruity of the modern in Republican Turkey.

### **Academic meetings and courses**

January 8: New discoveries at Barcın Höyük. A step towards understanding the Neolithic of Northwest Anatolia. In this lecture, the findings from the 2013 and 2014 seasons of the Barcın Höyük Excavations in Bursa were presented. These excavations allowed us to draw up a picture of how these first farmers of the Marmara Region lived and died.

January 20: Towards a Globalized Informal City: Urban Development in Istanbul. This lecture was given by Eda Yücesoy (Istanbul Şehir University).

March 22-29: Istanbul: An emerging Global City. The Center for Urban Studies of the University of Amsterdam in collaboration with the NIT organized a city trip to Istanbul. The trip was to explore social,



## *NIT activities 2015*

### *Academic meetings and courses*

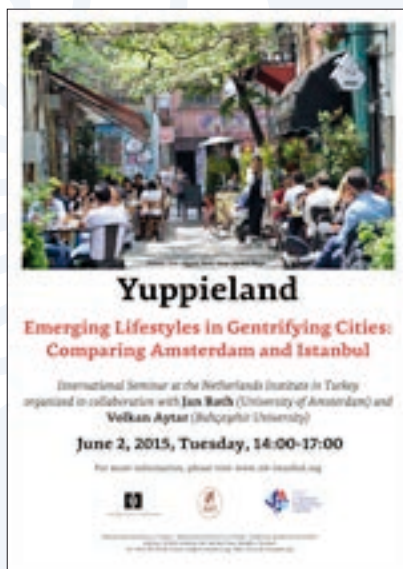
cultural and economic developments in Europe's only mega city. A number of international experts from local universities and other institutions in Istanbul shared their knowledge with participants in this field trip.

April 15-19: UL Honours College Social Sciences Istanbul Study Trip, hosted by the NIT.

June 2: Yuppiesland: Emerging Lifestyles in Gentrifying Cities – Comparing Amsterdam and Istanbul. This international symposium organized in collaboration with Jan Rath (University of Amsterdam) and Volkan Aytar (Bahçeşehir University) addressed new types of urbanism which becomes visible and palpable in various urban scenes, for example at farmer's markets, in gyms, hotel lounges, pop-up stores, and—in this particular case—in specialty coffee bars. These scenes, then, are often associated with gentrification processes and epitomize the economic, socio-demographic

and cultural changes in urban milieus. In this seminar, these issues were discussed by comparing experiences in Istanbul and Amsterdam.

November 3: The meaning of Turkey for Turkish Dutch youngsters. On feelings of belonging in the face of current international events. This presentation by NIT Visiting Scholar Prof. Dr. Richard Staring on the feelings of belonging of the Turkish Dutch youngsters in the face of current international events was based on fieldwork among 82 Turkish Dutch youngsters with different religious and ethnic backgrounds as well as with 23 board members of divergent Turkish Islamic organizations and movements. The research not only tried to make sense of the outcomes of the FORUM research, but above all tried to answer the question on how Turkish Dutch youngsters identify with Dutch society and by what processes these identifications are being influenced.





## The Netherlands Institute for the Near East

Witte Singel 25  
2311 BG Leiden

P.O.Box 9515  
2300 RA Leiden

[www.nino-leiden.nl](http://www.nino-leiden.nl)



## The Netherlands Institute in Turkey

İstiklal Caddesi 181, Merkez Han  
Beyoğlu, İstanbul

P.K. 132, Beyoğlu 34433  
İstanbul, Turkey

[www.nit-istanbul.org](http://www.nit-istanbul.org)



[www.facebook.com/  
NINO.Leiden](http://www.facebook.com/NINO.Leiden)  
NIT-Netherlands-Institute-in-Turkey

Annual Report NINO and NIT 2013-2014

*Edited by Jesper Eidem*

*Editing, design and layout by Carolien van Zoest*





## Contents

### Articles

Dams and Damage. Heritage loss and second phase salvage on the Rania Plain (Kurdish Region of Iraq)  
*Jesper Eidem*

The Barcın Höyük excavations in 2015  
*Fokke Gerritsen and Rana Özbal*

From the NINO collections:  
Egyptian antiquities from Alnwick Castle  
*Mariëtte Keuken*

Women in Babylonia  
*Marten Stol*

### Reports

NINO activities 2015

Publications

NIT activities 2015

The *Annual Report NINO & NIT 2015* is available as a free download from [www.nino-leiden.nl](http://www.nino-leiden.nl).