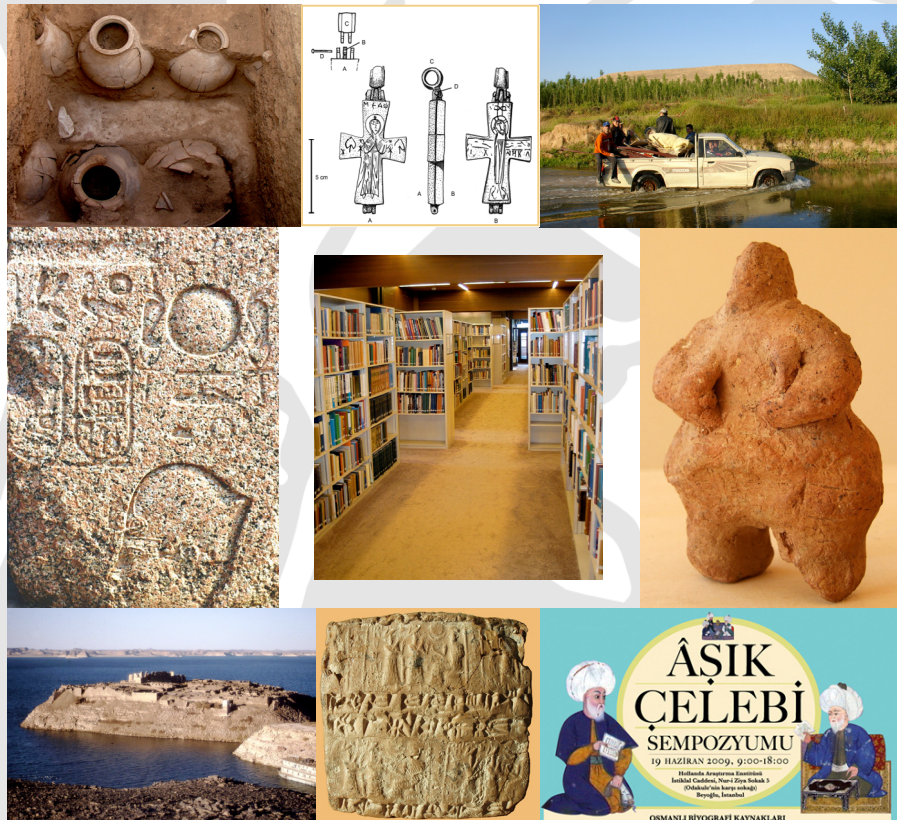




# ANNUAL REPORT 2009

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

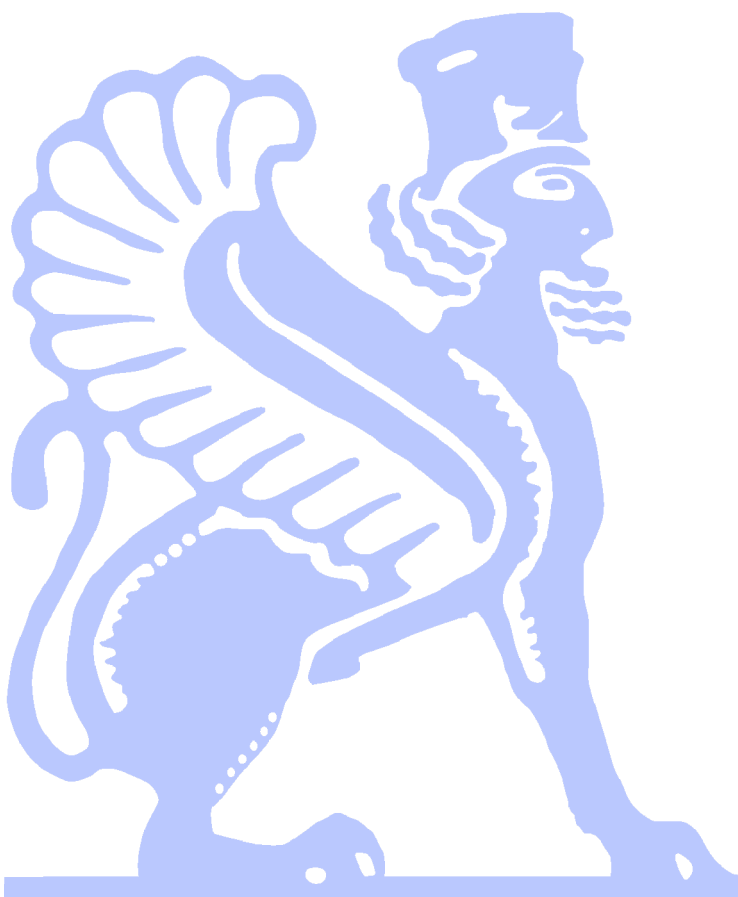
[www.nino-leiden.nl](http://www.nino-leiden.nl)

## **The Netherlands Institute in Turkey**

İstiklal Caddesi, Nur-i Ziya Sk. 5,  
Beyoğlu, Istanbul

P.K. 132, Beyoğlu 34431, Istanbul

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



# Preface

*Jan Peters*

*President-Curator NINO and NIT*

To say that the year 2009 has been a period of transition would be a real understatement.

It rather can be characterized as the closing of a period of strengthening the academic profile of the institute and solving some hard and long-term problems. It was our outgoing director, Dr J.J. Roodenberg, who has been at the very heart of these developments. We do owe him a lot of gratitude for his devotion to NINO and NIT, and for the work he has done.

Indeed Co Roodenberg, after his retirement still very active as editor-in-chief of our journal *Anatolica*, and as research fellow at NINO, has had a long and distinguished career with us. First as local director of NIT 1978-1993, and then at NINO, as publication officer, and later, from 1999 to 2009, as director.

Thanks to him, also our subsidiary institute in Istanbul has overcome some major problems, found a marvelous housing and a fruitful collaboration with the Koç University and is receiving an additional budget from the Dutch government, which gives our local director, Fokke Gerritsen, a somewhat larger scope.

With our new director, Jesper Eidem, who like his predecessor is an active field archaeologist, we can with full confidence embark on a new journey into the future. He is a renowned scholar with international experience and with fresh ideas concerning the positioning of NINO in the national and international context.

To support the new director, to introduce him into the Dutch academic milieu and to make it possible that he spends his time on the duties of an academic director and researcher, the Curatorium decided to constitute an executive board inside the Curatorium and to appoint a treasurer. The first experiences are truly positive.

Structures can support the work of an institute like ours, but for the real work it is dependent on the quality and the efforts of every member of its staff. We are very pleased that our staff members, both in Leiden and in Istanbul, are in open collaboration and in mutual trust working for the future of our institute, both as a research centre and a research supporting facility, both in its local contexts and in its function as a really national institute for the study of the Ancient Near East.



Figure 1. Qala'at Halwanji.

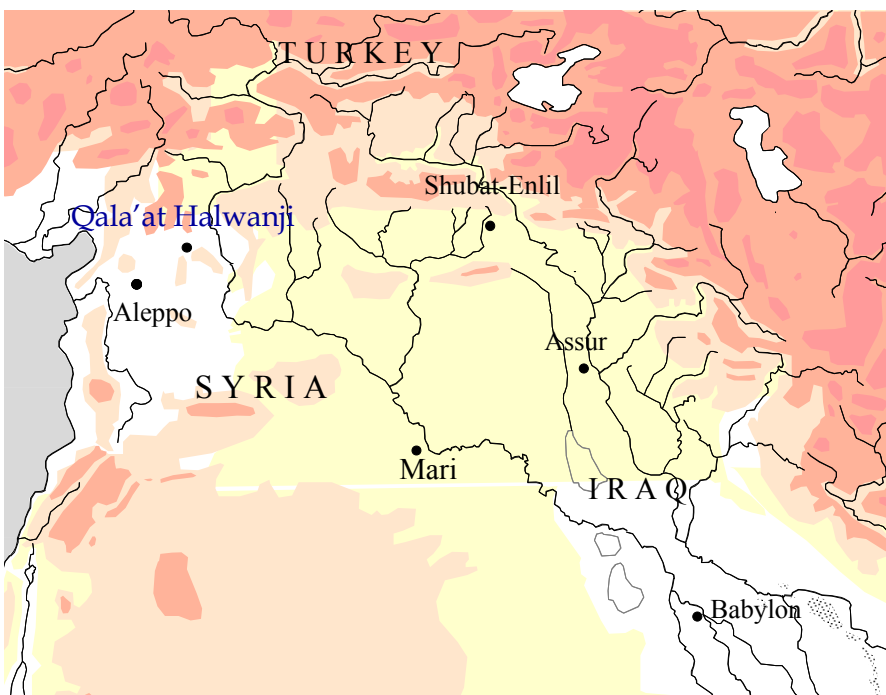


Figure 2. Map showing the location of Qala'at Halwanji (base map by Martin Sauvage).

# Qala'at Halwanji: A 4000 year old fortress in Syria

Jesper Eidem

*The eighth Lecture in honour of Prof. K.R. Veenhof was, as is tradition, held in the Taffeh Hall of the Rijksmuseum van Oudheden in Leiden (19<sup>th</sup> November). The 2009 lecture was delivered by the new director of NINO, and was followed by a ceremony to celebrate the outgoing director, J.J. Roodenberg.*

*The lecture was an introduction to a new archaeological field project initiated in 2008 in cooperation with the Directorate of Antiquities and Museums of the Syrian Arab Republic. This project will over the next years be a main focus for research by NINO. The article is a revised version of the lecture.*

## What soft drink can lead to...

Until summer of 2007 Qala'at Halwanji (Fig. 1) was apparently unknown to modern archaeology, but was then accidentally discovered Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June. That day, the weekly holiday, most members of the Danish team working at Tell Aushariye on the northern Euphrates headed east to visit the Dutch team at Tell Sabi Abiyad. Having a backlog of photography and other work I remained in camp, but in the afternoon went on a small trip, driving west into the narrow Sajour valley to visit a site called Arab Hassane. Some 5 km from the destination our driver felt thirsty, and stopped at a roadside shop to buy a cola. To our left was the thin line of the Sajour river, and behind that a tall, suspiciously regular cliff, and we asked the shopkeeper if there was anything up there. Oh yes, he answered, many traces of antiquities. Exactly what this meant was not clear, but we decided to have a look at the place on our way back. Later that day we found a place where the car could ford the Sajour, and continued on a very rough dirt track up the slope of Qala'at Halwanji. Having reached the plateau of the site we got out and looked around.

The surface was strewn with sherds from broken ceramic vessels. Most of them could be dated to the Middle Bronze Age II, i.e. the beginning of the second millennium BC. In a couple of places some locals had, fairly recently, dug shallow holes, clearly hoping to find treasure in jars probably located just

under the surface. Sherds of these jars now lay scattered in and around the holes. Inside the holes the soil was heavily burnt, and we could conclude that just under the modern surface were the ruins of a nearly 4000 year old settlement, apparently destroyed by a fire, possibly in an act of war. And this was not all. The layout and topography of the site was also remarkable. Located on a limestone cliff Halwanji literally towers over the valley of the Sajour river. It is almost rectangular and has an extent of ca. 5 hectares. Its perimeter features a broad ridge from which terrain slopes inward towards the center. This ridge and its inward slope seemed to represent an eroded rampart. The perimeter was broken by ca. 30 m wide gullies approximately in the centers of the southwest and southeast ridges. In sum the site had the appearance of a fortress with massive ramparts and two main gates.

Such a fortress could well have been built to control traffic through the Sajour Valley moving west towards the area of modern Aleppo – and of course traffic from there moving east to cross the Euphrates (Fig. 2). The site was clearly a tempting object for further study. We therefore arranged with the Syrian Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums for a joint investigation at Halwanji, and in autumn of 2008 and spring of 2009 we were able to conduct brief preliminary work at the site.

## The first investigations

Having completed a topographic map of Qala'at Halwanji and its immediate vicinity (Fig. 3), we proceeded to collect the ceramic sherds and other objects lying on the modern surface. 40 areas of each 400 square meters were completely sampled. In total we collected nearly 13,000 sherds. Most of them can be dated to the Middle Bronze Age, but some are older and belong to the last centuries of the third millennium BC. We found only very few sherds or other items which can be dated later than the Middle Bronze Age. So after the site was burned in the Middle Bronze Age, there had been

# Qala'at Halwanji: A 4000 year old fortress in Syria

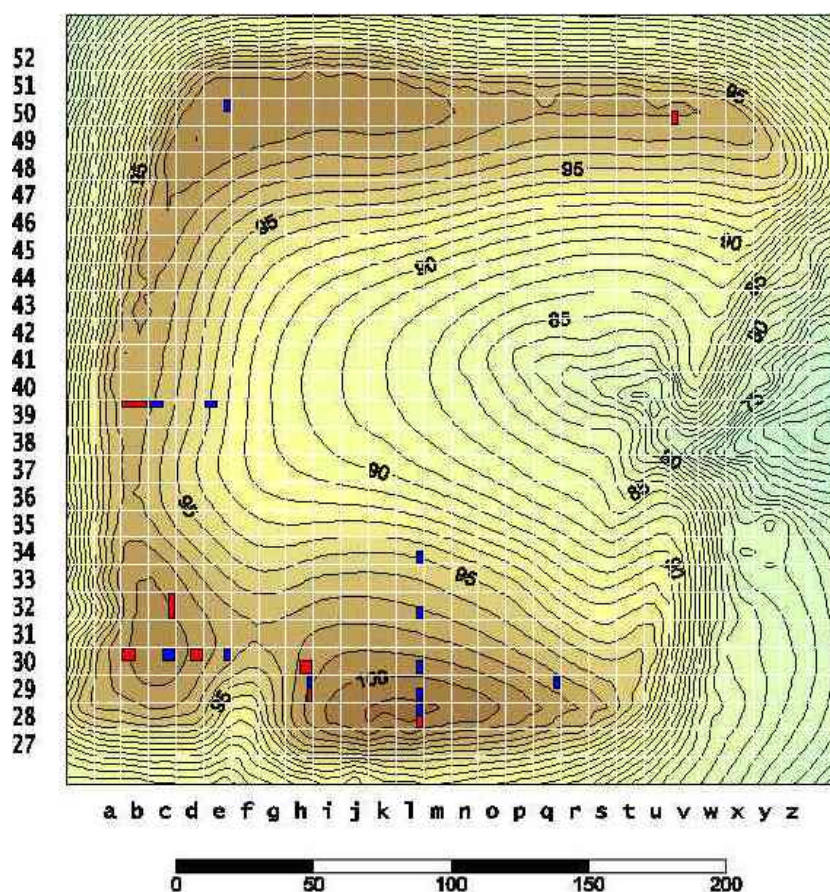


Figure 3. Map of Halwanji with test excavations marked.

Figure 4. General view of the excavations.



# *Qala'at Halwanji: A 4000 year old fortress in Syria*

no real occupation on it, only some occasional visitors.

We then opened a series of small excavations – sondages – to test the general situation at the site (Fig. 4). The general picture emerging from these sondages is that of a site partly heavily eroded, partly with excellent preservation. In the trenches on high ground near the edges of the site we have found a nearly 6 meter wide wall, no doubt the main fortification wall. Inside this are what appears to be small rooms with domestic installations, apparently terraced down the inner slope of the site. Provisionally we interpret these rooms as the “barracks” for the garrison of the fortress. In the southwest corner of the site is what appears to be ruins of a main building of the ancient settlement, and which we therefore interpret – also provisionally – as the “Governor’s Palace”, and the administrative center for the fortress. The sondages close to the center of the site and those on the northern edge revealed only shallow some foundations on virgin soil, and the very eroded east part of the site seems unlikely to preserve any substantial cultural remains. It is of course impossible to estimate at present how much structure is lost to erosion, but it seems likely that the most substantial built structures in the Middle Bronze Age were actually situated in the southwest part of the site, and that much of the interior was basically empty of structures.

On the well-preserved southwestern part of Halwanji, where it seems the main built structures were located, we may mention Sondage 11 (Fig. 5), on the high ground west of the south gate, and thus part of the so-called palace. Immediately under the modern surface appeared a 1.6 m thick wall running through the trench. Excavating the space to the east of this wall we reached nearly three

meters into heavily burnt fill before reaching a level close to the floor and lots of broken ceramic jars. It seems the room originally contained a large stack of empty jars, ready for use, and these were broken when the roof and walls collapsed during the fire.

In Sondage 13 east of 11 we have uncovered part of a room with rows of large storage jars embedded in the floor, and originally used for liquids, possibly wine (Fig. 6).

Another example from the same area is Sondage 1 immediately west of the south gate, where we found the corner of a room also filled with broken jars. Interestingly large storage vessels had been placed here in low platforms to stabilise them. The original phase had been destroyed by a fire, and new installations added, in some cases

covering crushed jars from the original phase. We can therefore assume that the Middle Bronze Age settlement at Halwanji was destroyed twice – within a very short period – before it was finally abandoned.

## **Seals**

Under the later phase installations in Sondage 1, and thus belonging to the earliest phase, we made a remarkable find. A small group of burnt lumps of clay with impressions of cylinder seals (see separate text box). The clay pieces come from covers for jars or other containers. The impressions were made with cylindrical seal stones with a motif in negative. The seals used to seal the clay pieces found at Halwanji are remarkable. One of them in particular is unique and certainly one of the finest seals known from the Syrian Bronze Age. The seal picture has no less than seven registers, each filled with several scenes and figures. Each register bulges slightly in the impression, and this shows that the original seal must have been heptagonal – that is seven-sided, and not quite cylindrical – another rare feature. The central register shows a deity wearing a hat with horns, and with wings and

### **Cylinder seals**

Small, usually perforated cylinders of stone with a motif engraved in negative. Widely used in the Ancient Near East from the late third millennium BC onwards. Used to make impressions on (still) soft clay surfaces: envelopes for tablets, or small lumps of clay placed on string used to close doors or lids of jars and other containers.

## *Qala'at Halwanji: A 4000 year old fortress in Syria*

Figure 5.  
Sondage I I.



Figure 6. Sondage I 3.

# *Qala'at Halwanji: A 4000 year old fortress in Syria*

rays emanating from its shoulders (Fig. 8). The deity holds a string or chain fastened to the head of a snake-like creature upon which it stands. Generally such attributes can be matched with a particular known deity of the ancient Near Eastern pantheon, but in this case the attributes do not match any well-known figure. No doubt this will be a subject of debate for the experts in the years to come, but for now I would suggest that we perhaps have here a goddess named Ishara, who was very popular in Western Syria, and whose character some times overlaps that of the better-known Ishtar, the famous Mesopotamian goddess of Love and War. Another important register on the seal shows what appears to be a narrative mythical scene – a hero figure fighting a monster-like figure – is approached by a row of soldiers armed with bows and headed by a lancer and yet another archer getting ready to shoot.

The sealings all come from containers, and the seals with which they were made must have belonged to very high-ranking individuals, most likely based in Western Syria, and who were responsible for shipments of luxury items to Halwanji.

## **The historical scenario**

Both the sealings and the pottery found at Halwanji date the Middle Bronze Age occupation to a short period in the 18<sup>th</sup> century BC. The fortified settlement was apparently twice conquered and burned. In its early phase at least it had high level international contact with western Syria – as shown by the sealings. What role did such a site play in this region? Who founded it and why? To answer such questions we must first take a brief look at the local region. The Sajour region in Syria

was the target for two archaeological surface surveys carried out some 30 years ago, and the basic image of ancient settlement is that of many small and tall, multi-period sites scattered along the banks of the Sajour itself and its tributaries. Removed from the fertile valley beds the landscape today clearly shows that there was little basis for settled life here, and the Sajour was the real life-line of the local communities.

So was our Middle Bronze Age fortress at Halwanji a new military capital for an ancient local king? Although an intriguing possibility it seems more likely that the fortress belongs to an international

horizon and was founded by one of the major powers of the time. Fortunately we have for the period in question very rich written sources, mainly from ancient Mari (see separate text box) which show that the Euphrates functioned as border between two major powers in northern Syria. To the east was the empire of the Mesopotamian king Shamshi-Adad (see separate text box), based in his capital at Shubat-Enlil in Northeastern Syria, while the land west of the Euphrates formed the kingdom of Jamhad, with its capital in Halab, the modern city of Aleppo.

Sources for interaction between these two kingdoms provides a possible scenario for Halwanji. The story includes three main elements. The first is an official note in a chronicle of the eastern king Shamshi-Adad, which states that he was victorious over the western king, a certain Sumu-Epuh, and founded two fortresses in his kingdom. Other sources show that these fortresses really existed and were located close to the Euphrates, but that Shamshi-Adad lost them again after just a few years.

### **Shamshi-Adad**

Although far less known than his famous contemporary, Hammurabi of Babylon, Shamshi-Adad (ca. 1850-1776 BC) was a key figure of his time. Originally king of a small area in central Iraq, he created a large, but short-lived empire covering most of modern northern Iraq and eastern Syria. He placed two sons as viceroys on the flanks of the empire: the older Ishme-Dagan in the east, and the younger Jasmah-Addu in Mari in the west.

Letters to Jasmah-Addu sent by his father have been found in Mari. A number of them scold Jasmah-Addu for his lack of courage and initiative!

## *Qala'at Halwanji: A 4000 year old fortress in Syria*



Figure 7. Sealing from Sondage I.



Figure 8. Close up of sealing.



Figure 9. Selection of cups and jugs.

# *Qala'at Halwanji: A 4000 year old fortress in Syria*

The second element is of a different character. Years later the son of the western king wrote in a letter:

“Sumu-Epuh, my father, revered the god, and [...] no other king could resist him. Then he took back what he had given Shamshi-Adad, and Sumu-Epuh, my father, was deprived of old age. Because he took back the land he had given to Shamshi-Adad, the god Adad let him die!”

This shows that Shamshi-Adad had established control west of the Euphrates as part of an agreement with the western king, who, for a while, tolerated this control. When he broke the agreement it was viewed as a violation of his oath and the god punished him.

These elements seem to fit the case of Halwanji quite well. The sudden establishment of a fortress in the middle of the Sajour region just west of the Euphrates could be the work of Shamshi-Adad. The high-profile contacts with the west – as shown by the sealings found – could be a reflection of the short period when the agreement was still honored. And – of course – the first destruction at Halwanji could be the end of the agreement!

A final element is the information that – some years later – at least one of the old forts was used as a stronghold for a local rebellion against the king of Jamhad, but quickly seized and probably destroyed. This might then be the final destruction and abandonment at Halwanji – and after that there was no longer any use for the place, except for the occasional Roman soldier or passing shepherd –

while life in the region returned to normal as it were – after the short episode of international imposition represented by the fortress at Halwanji.

## **Perspectives**

It must be stressed that we have no proof that this story applies to Halwanji. The pottery and sealings excavated so far can not be dated more precisely than within ca. 50 years, and so the settlement could be either a bit earlier or a bit later than the story known from the Mari archives. In any case we hope to get more information when real and extensive excavation of Qala'at

Halwanji proceeds. In the Middle Bronze Age in Syria the use of writing was widespread in official contexts, and it seems almost certain that a governor or the like of the Halwanji fortress would have kept small archives of letters and administrative records. If not removed in antiquity or destroyed by later erosion we may find some of these texts, and they may hopefully illuminate the historical setting.

This is only one of the perspectives for future research at Halwanji. The Middle Bronze Age settlement existed only a few years, and the extensive corpus of ceramic vessels found in the burnt ruins will give us a very precise profile of material from a distinct period, and provide a benchmark for dating

of similar material from more complex excavations (Fig. 9).

We are also intrigued by the earlier level at Halwanji. In several places we have reached quite massive foundations of this earlier level, which

### **Mari**

Famous ancient city on the Euphrates in Syria, excavated since the 1930'ies by French archaeologists. In the Middle Bronze Age palace, destroyed ca. 1760 BC, large royal archives of clay tablets inscribed with text in cuneiform writing were kept. These texts provide a sometimes very detailed historical panorama for the last ca. 30 years before the destruction.

### **How to build a fortress**

From Mari we have an interesting model for rampart construction on an exercise tablet. The text contains calculations of the volumes of earth needed for each side of a rectangular rampart and the number of man-days necessary for the work. Unfortunately the text does not provide dimensions of the walled area or indeed a name of the place, and is clearly an abstract exercise.

A rampart of this type, according to the Mari text, demanded some 27.000 workdays – and so could be completed by, for instance, a workforce of 1000 men in just one month. Even so, such a project would in total represent a considerable investment, and this plus the maintenance of a garrison force would no doubt have been beyond the resources available to a local king.

## Qala'at Halwanji: A 4000 year old fortress in Syria

dates to the late Early Bronze Age (IV), several hundred years before the Middle Bronze Age settlement. Finding written sources in this level is not a very realistic prospect, but it seems that the story of international intervention in the Middle Bronze Age has an earlier counterpart.

In a more general way Halwanji seems to offer us the chance to uncover, right below the modern surface of the site, an extensive area of an ancient settlement with virtually intact materials in situ, and thus the opportunity to reconstruct in great detail daily life here some 4000 years ago.

The archaeological work at Qala'at Halwanji was directed by J. Eidem (then Senior Fellow in the Cluster of Excellence "TOPOI", Berlin). Syrian co-directors were A. Nasser (2008) and Mhm. Fakhru (2009). The field work was generously sponsored by the Augustinus Foundation (Copenhagen) and the Danish Institute in Damascus.

### Further reading

The discovery of Qala'at Halwanji is reported in:

- J. Eidem, "Une forteresse du bronze moyen sur le Sajour", *Studia Orontica* 2 (2008).  
<http://studiaorontica.org/index.php>

Qala'at Halwanji is the first site in the Sajour valley to be scientifically excavated. The earlier surveys of the valley are reported in:

- P. Sanlaville (ed.), *Holocene Settlement in North Syria. Resultats de deux prospections archéologiques effectuées dans la région du nahr Sajour et sur le haut Euphrate syrien. BAR IS 238* (Archaeopress, Oxford 1985).

Syrian seals from the Middle Bronze Age have been studied recently in:

- A. Otto, *Die Entstehung und Entwicklung der Klassisch-Syrischen Glyptik. UAVA 8* (W. de Gruyter, Berlin 2000).

A recent summary of the period covered by the archives from ancient Mari is found in:

- D. Charpin and N. Ziegler, *Mari et le Proche-Orient à l'époque amorrite. FM V* (SEPOA, Paris 2003).

The text quoted on p. 9 is from a letter found at Mari, and published as Text No. 8 in:

- J.-M. Durand, *Le culte du dieu de l'orage d'Alep et l'affaire d'Alahtum. FM VII* (SEPOA, Paris 2002).

# The NIT excavations at Barcın Höyük, 2009

Fokke Gerritsen

*The 2009 field campaign of the Barcın Höyük Excavations Project took place between July 3<sup>rd</sup> and August 26<sup>th</sup> and included excavations as well as geoarchaeological studies at and around the site. Analyses of the ceramics, faunal and human remains took place at the same time at the excavation house in the nearby town of Yenişehir. As in previous years, archaeologists, specialists and students from several countries joined the project, including the Netherlands, Turkey, France, the United Kingdom, Austria and Japan.*

## Background of the project

Excavations at Barcın Höyük began in 2005, and initiated a new phase in a long-term research project in the Iznik region of northwestern Anatolia. The roots of this project go back to 1986, when Jacob Roodenberg set his sights on the early agricultural communities of this region. At that time the prehistory of northwestern Anatolia was practically unknown, but it was thought that it could yield important evidence for the study of the expansion of agricultural lifestyles from central Anatolia and the Near East towards southeastern Europe. More than 20 years of Dutch excavations at Ilıpınar in the Iznik Basin, and Menteşe and Barcın Höyük in the neighbouring Yenişehir Basin have demonstrated the importance of the region for prehistoric archaeology (Fig. 1). In more recent years, several Turkish teams have begun their own excavations to the north and south of the Marmara Sea.

Roodenberg selected the site of Barcın Höyük for investigation because it promised to shed light on an earlier chronological period than had previously been encountered at Ilıpınar, predating the beginning of occupation there around 6,000 BC. After permission for excavations had been secured from the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism, two campaigns in 2005 and 2006 brought evidence to light that confirmed this idea. A single radiocarbon date demonstrated occupation at the site at least as early as 6,200 BC, and the presence of yet deeper, unexcavated, layers indicated that the first communities had settled down already quite some time before then. It was an open question –

and at the end of the 2009 excavation season still is – how early in time the settlement began.

From 2007 onwards the excavations have continued under my directorship, with Rana Özbal as co-director, targeting the central part of the mound where the core of the Neolithic settlement appears to have been located, but also giving due attention to the later phases of occupation.

## Outline of the occupation history

The main outline of the occupation history has become clear in the previous excavation seasons. Barcın Höyük was not only inhabited in the Late Neolithic period. Several thousand years later, in the Late Chalcolithic period (early fourth millennium BC), another community made this place its home. They built houses of mudbrick and surrounded their settlement by a circular or oval ditch. A single find of a copper axe shows that the Barcın Höyük community was participating in networks of copper production and exchange.

After this phase, occupation seems to have become more intermittent, at least in the excavated part of the mound. There are several large circular pits, probably silos, dating to the Early Bronze Age, and there are traces of Iron Age and Roman Period activities. Archaeologically speaking much more visible is the Middle Byzantine cemetery which covered the upper southern slope of the mound. About 65 inhumation graves, with covers made of slab-like ceramic roof-tiles, form the excavated portion of this cemetery. It is likely that this cemetery belonged to a rural, Christian, community. Nicaea, nowadays Iznik, was the closest Byzantine administrative and religious centre, about 30 kilometres away.

## Work in 2009

The 2009 season resumed the work done in excavation trenches that had been opened in earlier seasons (M10, M11, L11, L12 and L13). In chronological terms, the biggest strides were taken in trench L12: documenting and removing the

## The NIT excavations at Barcın Höyük, 2009

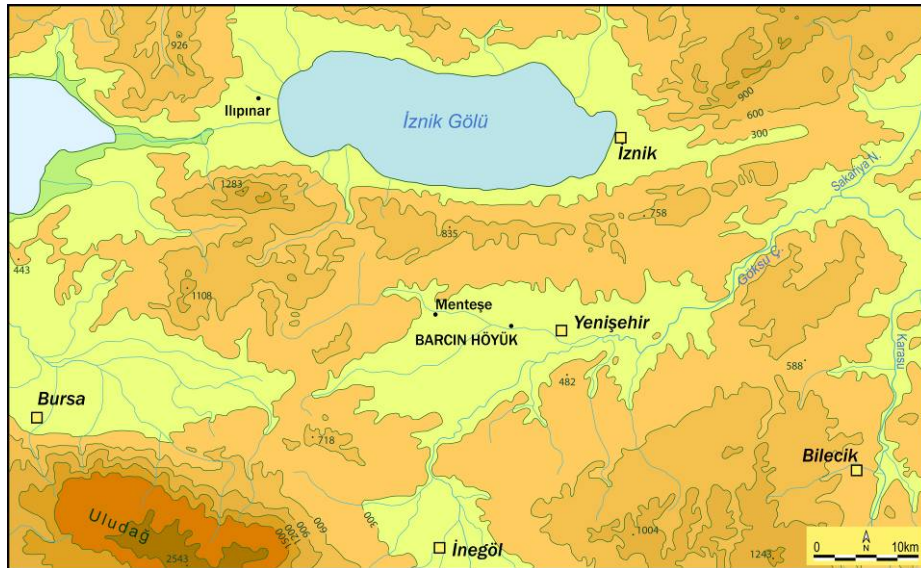


Figure 1. Excavated sites near Iznik and Yenişehir.



Figure 2. Foreground: Trench L11, with three walls of a rectangular Neolithic house.  
Background: Trenches L12, L13, and L14.



Figure 3. Late Neolithic female figurine.

## The NIT excavations at Barcın Höyük, 2009

oldest of the Byzantine graves, excavating several ovens, floors and fragments of mudbrick walls of a Late Chalcolithic house, and finally, exposing below that the latest remains of Late Neolithic occupation.

In the other trenches, less time depth was covered, but the results were no less significant for our understanding of the Neolithic settlement. Its inhabitants lived in rectangular houses built of a combination of loam slabs and wooden posts. Fragments of such houses were encountered in L11 and M10, together with informal indoor and outdoor surfaces (Fig. 2). In contrast, M11 appears to have been an open area, either on the edge of the settlement or in between houses. The remains consisted of deposits and pits rich in household refuse, but no architectural structures. At the end of the season burnt loam fragments started to appear, possibly indicative of the remains of houses in deeper levels. In all trenches there are still deeper and hitherto unexcavated levels; a major goal for the 2010 season will be to investigate these in at least one trench, and to complete the stratigraphic sequence. By then, we will hopefully also be able to confirm or refute our current idea that the settlement was comprised of built-up lots separated by open areas. Over time, it appears now, abandoned houses became leveled and turned into open lots, and open lots became built up again.

The open areas between houses were used, among many other purposes no doubt, for the burial of the dead. Excavations in M11 and in M10 encountered several inhumation graves. The dead were buried on their side with legs tightly folded in front of the chest. Burying grave gifts with the dead was not common in the Neolithic of northwestern Anatolia, and the graves at Barcın Höyük are no exception.

The inhabitants of the Neolithic community become visible not only from their houses and the spatial organization of their settlement, but also from their artefacts and even the refuse from their

meals. Analyses of the faunal and botanical remains and of the ceramic and chipped stone finds are ongoing. A few of the most eye-catching small finds are presented here. A clay figurine of a female appeared from the burnt rubble of a house, standing about 10 centimeters tall (Fig. 3). She supports her breasts with her arms, and wears her hair in a ponytail. Incisions indicate a skirt around her wide hips.

Such figurines are rare (although this lady has the company at Barcın Höyük of several whole and fragmentary fellow figurines), and little is known about their function and meaning. Much more common are utensils made from animal bones, such as spoons (Fig. 4), awls, needles, spatulas and even belt hooks. They were generally made with much care and were highly polished. Handles of spoons which had broken were often turned into pins. Stone was also shaped to make tools such as axes, bowls and very small beads.

### Geoarchaeology

Nowadays, the Yenişehir Basin is a fertile and intensively farmed area, with vegetables and sunflowers grown in the basin itself, and cereals and fruit trees on the slopes of the surrounding hill ranges. Notable in the landscape are the tall earthen banks of channels that were dug in the mid-20th century through the lowest parts of the basin. They betray a drainage problem that must have vexed inhabitants in past centuries, and perhaps also in prehistory. It is important to know what the landscape and the vegetation looked like during the periods in which Barcın Höyük was inhabited. The possible presence of a swamp or a lake in the lowest parts of the basin to the south of the site would have affected the availability of arable land. If it existed, it can help explain certain features of the subsistence economy, such as the striking occurrence of bones of big water birds. Likewise, an understanding of the available access to drinking water, and of the presence or absence of forests on the hills, are necessary to investigate the Neolithic

## *The NIT excavations at Barcın Höyük, 2009*



Figure 4. Bone spoon.



Figure 5. Michiel Künnel and Hüseyin Bakmaz preparing to drill a core.

# The NIT excavations at Barcın Höyük, 2009

settlement as an element within a larger landscape.

In order to collect evidence for a landscape reconstruction, Michiel Künnel and Hüseyin Bakmaz, both students in the VU University Amsterdam's Geoarchaeology Department participated in the 2009 campaign (Fig. 5). By manually extracting cores from the sediments around and below the site, some going as deep as 5.80 metres below the modern surface, they could identify layers of fine clay, silts and more sandy sediments – each indicative of different hydrological conditions. Once all this evidence is put together a schematic landscape history of the direct surroundings of the settlement can be drafted. Initial indications are that the mound did indeed border on swampy ground to the south.

## Barcın in the laboratory: lipid residue analysis of Neolithic ceramics

When a ceramic vessel holds dairy or meat-based products, tiny amounts of fats (lipid) will be absorbed in the pores of the baked clay. In the last couple of years techniques have developed that make it possible to collect and identify the residues of these lipids, even from pottery that is thousands of years old. This possibility enables investigations of what individual vessels were used for. Did they contain yoghurt or other milk products, or dishes with meat? And was this meat from ruminants or non-ruminants?

A large study published recently in *Nature* by Richard Evershed and colleagues looked at potsherds from excavations in southeastern Europe, Anatolia and the Near East (Evershed et al. 2008). A remarkable result was that the oldest examples of pottery vessels that had contained milk products came from sites in the Marmara region, and dated to before 6,000 BC. This is exactly the period and region of Barcın Höyük! If Evershed's conclusions are confirmed by further residue analyses, this suggests that it was in the Marmara region that cattle (perhaps also sheep and goat) began to be kept not only for meat and hides, and

possibly traction, but also for milk. It has long been recognized that the consumption of milk and milk products represented a secondary step in the development of a fully agrarian subsistence economy, but until now it was thought that this step took place several millennia later.

With financial support from Tübitak (the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey) we have now started a follow-up project. The aims are (1) to confirm the use of dairy products at Late Neolithic Barcın Höyük; (2) to date the beginning and further developments in the use; and 3) to investigate the relationship between milk products and the shapes of the vessels that held them. During the field season 150 sherds were selected for analysis and brought to the Archaeometry Research Center of Boğaziçi University in Istanbul. Hadi Özbal and Ayla Türkekul-Bıyık are in charge of the chemical analyses, Laurens Thissen carries out the ceramic analyses.

## Team members in 2009

*Archaeologists:* Fokke Gerritsen, Rana Özbal, Samira Ben-Mohamed, Yukiko Tonoike, Elisha van den Bos, Kim Dekker, Çiğdem Külekçioglu, Erme Kuruçayırılı, Ayşe Topaloğlu, Utku Erdal, Ulaş Kantemir, Ufuk Güngör; *Archaeometry & conservation:* Hadi Özbal; *Geoarchaeology:* Michiel Künnel, Hüseyin Bakmaz, Sjoerd Kluiving; *Ceramics:* Laurens Thissen; *Faunal remains:* Alfred Galik; *Human remains:* Jessica Pearson; *Illustrations:* Habibe Uzunoğlu; *Government representative:* Firat Güngör.

# The NIT excavations at Barcın Höyük, 2009

## Selected literature

The findings from the Ilıpınar excavations have been published in three volumes of NINO's *PIHANS* publication series. The most recent is:

- J.J. Roodenberg and S. Roodenberg-Alpaslan (eds.), *Life and Death in a Prehistoric Settlement in Northwest Anatolia. The Ilıpınar Excavations, Volume III. With contributions on Hacılartepe and Menteşe. PIHANS 110* (NINO, Leiden 2008).

On the Barcın Höyük excavations:

- J.J. Roodenberg, A. van As and S. Alpaslan Roodenberg, "Barcın Hüyük in the Plain of Yenişehir (2005-2006). A Preliminary Note on the Fieldwork, Pottery and Human Remains of the Prehistoric Levels", *Anatolica* 34 (2008), 53-66.
- F. Gerritsen and R. Özbal, "Barcın Höyük Excavations, 2007", *30. Kazı Sonuçları Toplantısı* 3 (2009), 457-464.
- F.A. Gerritsen, "Barcın Höyük Excavations, 2008", *31. Kazı Sonuçları Toplantısı* 1 (2010), 411-420.
- R.P. Evershed et al., "Earliest date for milk use in the Near East and southeastern Europe linked to cattle herding", *Nature* 455 (2008), 528-531.

# Byzantine encounters

Jacob Roodenberg

*Amongst archaeologists engaged in the investigation of multi-period settlement mounds in the Near East the Middle Ages are usually not a subject of particular interest. The reason is that ancient settlements are quite often covered with Medieval occupation layers which are seen as an obstacle to those in search for older civilizations. They lack the knowledge if not the interest in remnants from a period that is all too frequently considered as a mere shadow of Antiquity.*

## Syria

During the past decades of investigations in Near Eastern prehistory I was more than once confronted with – to my opinion – fascinating relics from the Middle Ages such as an early Christian graveyard at Tell es-Sinn on the Syrian Euphrates. Tell es-Sinn, situated southeast of the modern town of Deir ez-Zor on the left bank of the Euphrates river, was described as a Roman-Byzantine castrum by Sarre and Herzfeld (1911). During a survey as part of the excavation project at Tell Bouqras which was carried out in 1976-1979 by a joint team of the Universities of Groningen and Amsterdam, I noticed that es-Sinn's central mound concealed an important deposit of Neolithic habitation (Roodenberg, 1979-1980a). While these habitation layers were sounded I identified dozens of chamber tombs outside the ramparts of the fortress. These tombs – visible at the surface because of their looted state – were cut into the soft conglomerate of the Late Pleistocene river terrace. Each tomb possessed a flight of stairs that led to a low vaulted chamber which usually contained two lateral niches and one at the end. The tombs were undoubtedly of early Christian age and it should not be ruled out that they originally contained the mortal remains of occupants of the castrum.

## Southeast Anatolia

At the end of the seventies the Netherlands Institute in Istanbul started excavations on the Turkish Euphrates near the modern village of Hayaz (Fig. 1). It appeared that the prehistoric occupation layers of this site were covered by buildings dated to the 11<sup>th</sup> century A.D. (Roodenberg, 1979-1980b). Similar to the Early Bronze Age and Neolithic occupation remains, and today's village, there were Medieval constructions that reflected a rural settlement of restricted dimensions. However, since financial means had been awarded for prehistoric research only, the excavators were obliged to keep away from the Medieval vestiges, and a decade later the whereabouts of this hamlet disappeared under the surface of the reservoir created by the Atatürk barrage.

## Northwest Anatolia

The circumstances in which the Netherlands Institute more than 20 years ago started prehistoric investigations in the western alluvial plain of Iznik Lake were not much different.

Our assignment was to locate an early farming settlement in the eastern Marmara region – a research project that was eligible for longstanding financial support by the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research.

When it became evident that the settlement mound of our choice, Ilıpınar höyük near the modern town of Orhangazi, was covered with hundreds of tile-roofed graves that had to be removed before one could reach the prehistoric levels, my curiosity was aroused. Who were these deceased and where had they lived?

At that time a group of Byzantinologists carried out surveys around Iznik Lake and their enthusiasm

## Byzantine encounters



Fig. 1. Hayaz höyük on a cliff above the Euphrates and a tributary.



Fig. 2. Opened tile-covered Byzantine grave at Ilipinar.

## Byzantine encounters

was contagious. Furthermore the late R.M. Harrison, at that time the excavator of Amorium near Emirdağ, who emphasized the generally poor knowledge of cemeteries in Medieval Anatolia, convinced me to consider these burials as an integral part of our research.

During seven thousand years people had lived and buried their dead around the spring that rises at the foot of the settlement mound of Ilpınar. The Roman period was represented by a farmhouse. Foundation walls still visible today show that the probably sacred spring was built over and provided with an open-air basin. When conversion was effected in the early Christian era the spring may have been sanctified by the building of a chapel, while in turn the presence of a chapel would have justified the layout of the cemetery. Although the existence of a chapel near the spring is speculative, because in spite of thorough investigations no evidence of such building was found, the accompanying cemetery was very much in evidence.

In the area exposed by excavation two hundred Byzantine tombs were uncovered and investigated (Roodenberg 2009, 154-167). When extrapolated to the total surface of the settlement mound the number of burials probably reaches one thousand. Since there is no reason to assume that the cemetery was confined to the mound itself but extended into the surrounding fields, the number of burials may have been much higher.

Two questions arise: did this cemetery belong to a village or to a bigger agglomeration, and how long was this cemetery in use?

We can only base our opinion on the investigated section of the cemetery. In the excavated area the burials showed a systematic order and very few overlap, a fact that suggests a

rather short time of use. This is confirmed by the dating of several burials with grave goods pointing to the 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> century, but does not necessarily apply to the cemetery's largest non-excavated part which may have been in use during the following centuries. Still, it is evident that a regular cemetery could develop within a short period of time, and the conclusion must be that the Byzantine cemetery near the spring was large enough to constitute the deceased population from a town rather than a village community.

Unfortunately the human remains were not analyzed, and as a result we have no firm anthropological data such as sex and age determination at our disposal, other than what the drawings and photos tell us. The first impression is that all age categories are present, but that fetuses and newborns are underrepresented. The majority of the burials were arranged in an orderly manner: the dead were interred on the back, oriented east-west, legs straight, hands folded on the pelvis or breast, the slightly lifted head facing eastward (Fig. 2). The burial construction, well known in the Byzantine world, is simple and effective: the moulded tiles are specially made for funeral purposes, and measure ca. 40 by 60 cm. They are slightly concave with folded upper rims, in order to make perfect joints. These joints are subsequently covered with Roman tiles (Fig. 3). We have noticed that the tiles frequently carry marks. These imprints were made in the wet clay with the fingers of one hand or with an indented tool; showing different patterns from wavy lines to (semi-)circles, they may be labourers' marks made during production.

To which community did the dead belong?

Historical documents provide us with a few clues. Between the V<sup>th</sup> and IX<sup>th</sup> centuries A.D. the name of a bishopric called Basilinopolis can be

## Byzantine encounters

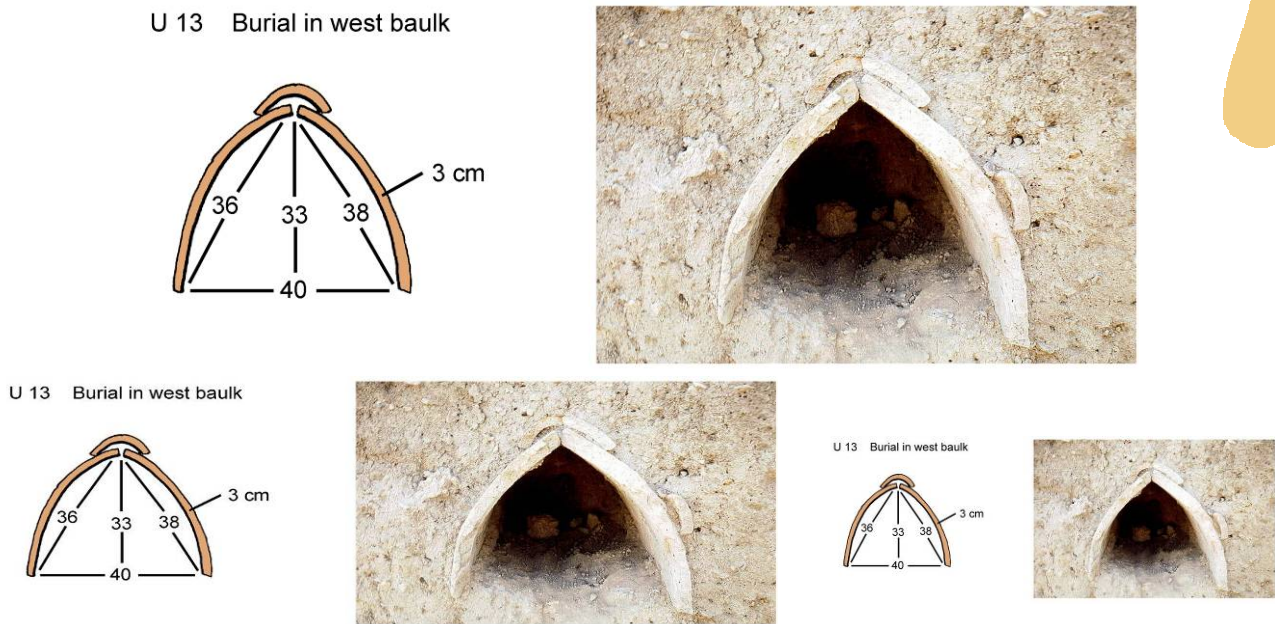
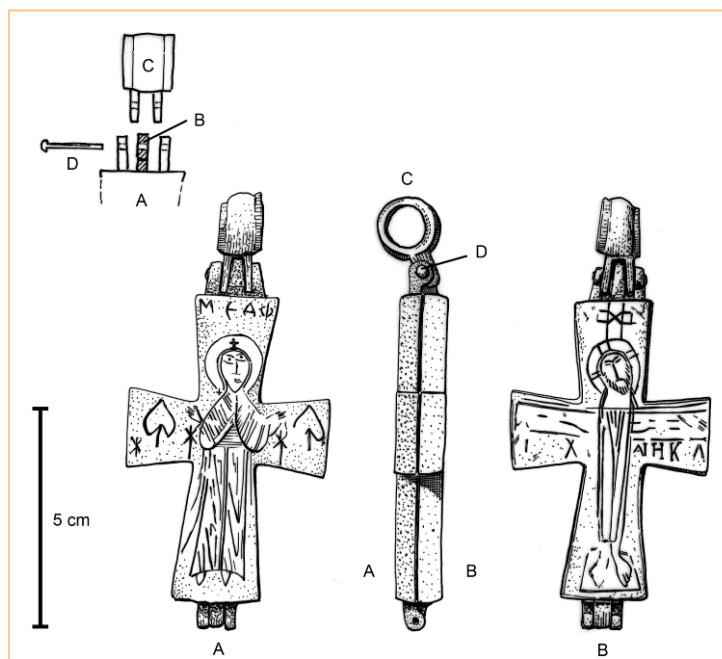


Fig. 3. Grave tiles from Ilipinar and their application.



Drawings by  
B. Claasz Cockson.

Fig. 4. A bronze reliquary cross from a grave at Barcin with engravings of Christ and the Virgin Mary.



## Byzantine encounters

found which would be located between today's towns of Iznik and Gemlik. According to different sources candidates for this episcopal residence would be the modern town of Orhangazi and a village a few kilometers to the south called Çeltikçi – known from a Medieval fortification nowadays disappeared. Both are situated on the ancient main road connecting Constantinople with Bursa (ancient Prussa). Although direct evidence to link Ilıpınar's cemetery to one or the other candidates for the bishop's residence fails, the dimensions were large enough to host the deceased of a locality of such importance.

### Northwest Anatolia (2)

My most recent encounter with the Byzantines occurred on a low settlement mound in the plain of Yenişehir called Barcın, ca. 30 km southeast of Ilıpınar as the crow flies (cf. the article by Fokke Gerritsen in this report). During the summer seasons of 2005-2006 excavations were carried out to locate and investigate another early farming settlement. Here again the prehistoric occupation debris happened to be intersected by tombs of the type described above (ibid. 157ff.; Alpaslan Roodenberg 2009, 169-175). This graveyard was of a much later date (approx. the 11<sup>th</sup> century) when compared to Ilıpınar, and it had a somewhat careless outlook – indeniably the result of hosting the dead of a rural community (Fig. 4). The investigations are continued under the auspices of the Netherlands Institute in Turkey, directed by Fokke Gerritsen.

Looking back as an archaeologist who was involved in Near Eastern prehistory for many years, I realize that there always has been tension between the policy of financing authorities who are keen on applying the stipulations of the endowment and the practice of archaeological fieldwork. While sponsors prohibit the spending of time and money on topics unacknowledged in the research program, the host countries that issue investigation permits rightly prescribe that nothing – “not even Medieval vestiges” – should be disregarded. It took some time before the rightness of this requirement penetrated my scientific consciousness and I acted accordingly, which resulted in publication on the Byzantines as a by-product of prehistoric fieldwork.

### References

- F. Sarre, E. Herzfeld, *Archäologische Reise im Euphrat- und Tigris-Gebiet*, I (D. Reimer, Berlin 1911).
- J.J. Roodenberg, “Sondage des niveaux néolithiques de Tell es-Sinn, Syrie”, *Anatolica* 7 (1979-1980), 21-33.
- J.J. Roodenberg, “Premiers résultats des recherches archéologiques à Hayaz Höyük”, *Anatolica* 7 (1979-1980), 3-19.
- J. Roodenberg, “The Byzantine graveyards from Ilıpınar and Barcın in Northwest Anatolia”, in: T. Vorderstrasse and J. Roodenberg (eds.), *Archaeology of the Countryside in Medieval Anatolia. PIHLANS* 113 (NINO, Leiden 2009), 154-167.



Fig. 1. Envelope with sealings and address (inventory no. LB 1209A).

# From the NINO collections: An unread letter

Jan Gerrit Derksen

In the second volume of his *Mededeelingen uit de Leidsche verzameling van spijkerschrift-inscripties* (Amsterdam 1934), the late Professor Böhl presented four ‘Cappadocian’ (now called Old Assyrian) documents. Böhl characterized the Old Assyrian texts in his collection as consisting of “about 150 numbers, only 30 of which are of real significance. The remainder consists of fragments.” The documents were purchased from antiquity dealers before the Second World War. These Old Assyrian documents in the Böhl collection form a cross-section of what local inhabitants discovered while excavating in the fields at the foot of Kültepe, a site about 25 km north-east of Kayseri. They include texts from the archives of Assyrian merchants such as Imdī-illum, Innāya and Pūšu-kēn, as well as of some Anatolian traders. A comprehensive publication of these texts is being prepared by K.R. Veenhof and the author.

Probably all texts in the Böhl Collection were found in what is now known as Level II of the lower city or *Karum* of Kültepe, dating to ca. 1900-1840 BC. Most of the texts are letters, deeds and memos dealing with commerce. It is thought that the first Assyrian traders visited Kanesh for a short period only, to sell their wares and to collect the proceeds. With the expansion of trade into other regions it became necessary to stay in Anatolia for a longer time and houses were bought in the lower city. These houses served to the merchants as a pied-à-terre from which to coordinate activities in Kanesh and other towns in Anatolia. The elder generation, represented by Imdī-illum, Innāya and Pūšu-kēn, also owned a house in Assur where their wives and small children lived. Those of their sons who worked in Anatolia, however, began marrying local Anatolian women, mostly as “maids”, by

whom they got offspring. We also know of some Assyrian women marrying Anatolian men.

Pending the definitive publication, I would like to present here a remarkable letter that was sent to an Anatolian woman by an Assyrian trader. Since

it was found still inside its envelope, it was apparently never read. Unfortunately, this letter is the only surviving part of the correspondence between these two persons. Photographs and a copy of the envelope with a translation were published by Veenhof in 1969.

## The Böhl Collection

NINO is the owner of a large collection of cuneiform tablets, cylinder seals, and other Ancient Near Eastern and Egyptian objects, collected in the 1920's and 30's by F.M.Th. de Liagre Böhl, Professor of Assyriology.

Böhl travelled widely in the Middle East, and the collection also includes several thousands of his photographs (slides) from these travels. Several volumes with selections of the Böhl cuneiform tablets have been published, and plans are under way for a complete publication of all the materials in the collection.

## Translation

### Envelope

To Mamala. Seal of Aššur-šamši. The servant-girl has no sense. I will finish her case and send her away. You despised me. Who does not experience losses?

### Tablet

Speak to Mamala, this is what Aššur-šamši (says):

When I was on my way to you, the merchant took away from me 1 pound of silver. I had to travel after him. I will come within 10 days. Should I not come I will send copper, 5 or 6 pounds.

Aššur-rē'i, the deaf, brought 1 ½ pounds (of copper) to you.

Do you not hear that the country of Kunanamit is in revolt? It is not convenient to demand payment from people who owe (as little as) 10 pounds of copper.

I said: ‘You (m.) will certainly experience welfare for all the hardship you had.’

You despised me and you even sold the girl. Moreover, you do not take care of the boy. Now then, divine Aššur certainly knows your actions! I said: ‘Now then, you are my mother, would you hate me?’

## From the NINO collections

### The tablet in Akkadian transliteration

#### Case (LB 1209A)

Obverse	(cylinder seal impression)
1	<i>a-na ma-ma-la kišib a-šur-utu-ši</i> <i>géme lá ta-ši-im-tum</i> (seal A) <i>a-wa-sà : a-ga-mar-ma</i>
Lower edge	(cylinder seal impression; upside down)
Reverse	(cylinder seal impression) <i>a-lá-ra-sí : a-tí šé-tù-tí</i> <i>tal-qí-i ma-nu-um i-bi4-[sà-e]</i> <i>lá e-mar</i> (cylinder seal impression)
Upper edge	(cylinder seal impression)
Left edge	(cylinder seal impression; upside down)
Right edge	(cylinder seal impression)

#### Tablet (LB 1209B)

Obverse 1	<i>a-na ma-ma-la qí-bi-ma</i> <i>um-ma a-šur-utu-ši-ma</i> <i>ba-ra-ni a-mi-ša-ma</i> <i>kù.babbar 1 ma-na dam.gàr-ru-/um</i>
5	<i>i-ta-áš-a-ni wa-ar-/kà-sú</i> <i>ú-kà-ši-dam a-dí</i> <i>10 u4-me a-lá-kam šu-ma</i> <i>lá a-tal-kam urudu lu 5 ma-na</i> <i>lu 6 ma-na ú-še-ba-lam</i>
10	<i>1 1/2 ma-na a-šur-sipa</i> <i>sà-ku-ku-um ub-lá-ki-im</i>
Lower edge	<i>lá ta-áš-ta-na-me-/i</i> <i>[k]i-ma : ma-at</i>
Reverse	<i>ku-na-na-mi-it</i>
15	<i>sà-ab-a-at-ni-ma</i> <i>lá na-aṭ-ú-ma a-šar</i> <i>10 ma-na urudu-am ba-bu-/lu-ni</i> <i>lá né-ri-iš</i> <i>um-ma &lt;&lt;be&gt;&gt; a-na-ku-ma</i>
20	<i>ma-lá du-lá-am ta-mu-/ru</i> <i>du-um-qám : lu ta-mu-ur</i> <i>a-tí šé-tù-tí ta-al-qí-i-/ma</i> <i>šú-ba-ar-tám ta-ta-/ad-ni</i> <i>ú šú-ba-ra-am</i>
25	<i>lá ta-sí-ri a-[n]a</i>
Upper edge	<i>a-wa-tù-ki a-šur</i> <i>lu i-de8</i>
Left edge	<i>um-ma a-na-ku-ma a-na</i> <i>um-mi : a-tí</i>
30	<i>ta-ze-ri-ni</i>



Fig. 2. Old Assyrian letter (inventory no. LB 1209B).

## From the NINO collections

### A letter from a son to his mother

The typical Old Assyrian envelope to a letter contains an address and identifies the sender who is introduced by the cuneiform sign for 'seal'. This cylinder seal was rolled on practically the complete surface of the case to prevent it from being opened by an outsider. The name of the sender, Aššur-šamši, does not correspond to the name inscribed on the seal itself (which reads "Aššur-mūtappi[] son of Ilī-tūr[am]"). This demonstrates that he was not the original owner (who is unknown from any published text), but had obtained an older, second-hand seal. The inside of the envelope shows impressions of the signs on the tablet in negative. The text written on the envelope and the sealings are turned by 90 degrees compared to the tablet inside. The envelope was first sealed and then written.

The name of the addressee, Mamala, is non-Assyrian and presumably Anatolian. Aššur-šamši calls her his mother, which indicates that the sender was the son of an Assyrian father and an Anatolian mother. More than ten different people are attested with the name Aššur-šamši and it is difficult to identify the sender with any of these.

Mamala may have lived in Kanesh. Like most women, she depended on her male relatives for maintenance. In this letter, which she never read, Aššur-šamši promises her to send copper to buy food and firewood. This suggests that his father had died, perhaps not long ago, making Aššur-šamši responsible for taking care of his mother and the household in Kanesh. At the moment of writing, he was a junior trader and recently had suffered losses. Political turmoil made it impossible for him to collect outstanding debts in the country

of Kunanamt, situated in the Pontic region and famous for the copper mined there.

The tension between Mamala and her son emerges clearly from this dramatic document. She damaged his reputation by criticising him for not being able to trade without losses. The household managed by Mamala included a "girl" and a "boy". She had sold the first and neglected the second, which shows they must have been slaves. Another slave-girl soon to be dismissed is referred to in the extra text on the envelope.

This letter demonstrates that even a relatively small collection like that created by Böhl contains important source material for the study of social conditions in pre-Hittite Anatolia.

### The mound of Kültepe

The presence of Assyrians in Kanesh (the ancient name of Kültepe) and other towns in Anatolia was the result of a highly developed trade. Merchants from the town Assur in Northern Iraq exported tin and woolen textiles to Anatolia to sell these for silver and gold.

Assur had established trading posts at towns of economic relevance, the most important of which was at ancient Kanesh. The lower city, where the Assyrians possessed houses, is systematically being excavated under the auspices of the Turkish Historical Society since 1948.

### References

- F.M.Th. de Liagre Böhl, *Mededeelingen uit de Leidsche Verzameling van Spijkerschrift-Inscripties: II. Oorkonden uit de periode van 2000-1200 v. Chr. MKN/IV 78, serie B, No. 2* (Noord-Hollandsche Uitg.-Mij., Amsterdam 1934).
  - K.R. Veenhof, "Een Assyrische handelskolonie in Klein-Azië uit het begin van het 2<sup>e</sup> millennium v. Chr.", *Phoenix* 15 (1969), 284-304.
- For a general survey of the Old Assyrian archives see:
- K.R. Veenhof and J. Eidem, *Die Altassyrische Zeit. Annäherungen. Orbis Biblicus et Orientalis* 160/5 (Academic Press Fribourg, 2008).



# NINO activities

Jesper Eidem

General Director NINO and NIT

## Introduction

The year 2009 witnessed, among many other things, the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Netherlands Institute for the Near East. Founded on the eve of dark times, NINO has for seven decennia now been a pillar of Dutch scholarly interest in the Ancient Near East. Vibrant publication and research activities continue within the Leiden Institute and its subsidiary institute in Istanbul. With this Annual Report, conceived in new format, we hope to inform a wider audience about our activities, both in our archaeological excavations and in our libraries and collections.

Although our Institute is thriving, and we are busy planning special activities to mark our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2014, the study of the Ancient Near East (Near Eastern Archaeology, Egyptology, Assyriology) is, internationally as well as domestically, under some pressure from shrinking public funding. In this situation it is comforting to witness also an opposite trend, and a growing awareness of the modern relevance of these subjects in a new, multi-cultural environment. Where museum collections, university departments and research libraries for Near Eastern Studies were once the preserve of a small European elite, they are now used also by a growing number of students and scholars with a Near Eastern background, whether resident in the Netherlands or on visit. The early civilisations of the Near East, of Egypt and Mesopotamia are truly a common point of reference and an object of pride for all to share!

Lecture 29 January



2009 was a busy year, as should be evident from the contents of this report. Jesper Eidem, who in August succeeded Dr J.J. Roodenberg as General Director, took over a well-run organisation, and thus had time to get his bearings in relative calm. For this, and his warm reception by board and staff of NINO and NIT, as well as many Dutch colleagues, he is truly grateful. He looks forward to promoting both Dutch and international studies of the Ancient Near East through NINO in the years to come...

## Staff

Having reached the age of 65 in February 2009, Dr J.J. Roodenberg retired as director. However, he remained in function as interim director until 1 August 2009, when the new director Dr J. Eidem was installed.

W. Hovestreydt, MA, editor of the Annual Egyptological Bibliography, retired as per January 2009. The AEB has been transferred to Oxford University; Hovestreydt continues to work as a consultant for the project.

Staff members of NINO are:

Dr J. Eidem, director (0.7 fte general management, 0.3 fte research), Mrs. G.H. Bolten, library assistant (1.0 fte); Mr R.T. Dickhoff, administrator (1.0 fte); Mrs. C. Hoorn-Janssen, financial administration assistant (0.6 fte); Mrs. M.W. Keuken, MA, library assistant (0.4 fte); Mrs. A.M. de Vries-Heeroma, MA, librarian (1.0 fte); Ms. C.H. van Zoest, MA, secretary and publications assistant (1.0 fte).

# NINO activities

## Staff members' activities and publications

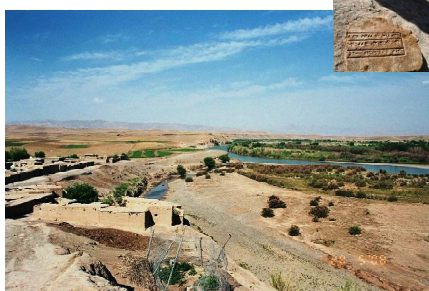
### Dr J.J. Roodenberg

During the first three months of the year editorial work was done on *Archaeology of the Countryside in Medieval Anatolia* (*PIHLANS* 113) and *ANATOLICA* Vol. 35.

There was contact with Ms M.E.N. van den Heuvel (Print Room, UL) concerning the Scholten photographic collection. Digitizing and publishing the materials will be taken up by the new director.

He participated in the Round Table on Neolithic in West Anatolia, held at Istanbul University (March). July was spent in the field in Turkey, surveying and visiting excavations in Central Anatolia.

Lecture 19 February



#### Publications:

T. Vorderstrasse and J. Roodenberg (eds.), *Archaeology of the Countryside in Medieval Anatolia*. *PIHLANS* 113 (NINO, Leiden 2009).

- "The Byzantine graveyards from Ilipinar and Barcin in Northwest Anatolia", in the above mentioned volume, 154-167.

### Dr J. Eidem

Ended his work as Senior Fellow in Berlin (Cluster of Excellence "TOPOI") in July, and took up residence in the Netherlands in August. The first months were much devoted to getting acquainted with NINO and NIT and the Dutch academic milieu. With the assistance of the board and the staff various new policies and plans were contemplated and discussed.

In October he attended the opening of an exhibition with objects from ancient Qatna, and gave a lecture at the accompanying conference, "Qatna and the Networks of Bronze Age Globalism" (Stuttgart).

He continued work on the data from his recent excavations in Syria, and in November delivered the Veenhof Lecture in Leiden (see article in this report).

## Research fellows' activities and publications

Research fellows Dr W.F.M. Henkelman (Amsterdam, Paris) and Dr A. Mouton (Strasbourg), although with main academic affiliations outside Leiden, made use of NINO facilities and library during several visits, and offered valuable advice on library acquisitions as well as other scientific matters.

### Prof. Dr J.F. Borghouts

Supervised PhD work by Viviana Massa (Demotic temple oaths), Clara ten Hacken (the Arabic legend of St. Aur), Joost Hagen (papyrus documents from Qasr Ibrim), Magdalena Kuhn (Coptic music), and Leo Roeten (mastaba decoration in the Old Kingdom).

He was promotor to Magdalena Kuhn, who defended her thesis entitled "Die Struktur der koptischen liturgischen Melodien" in December. Also in December, he acted as member of the dissertation committee of Rune Nyord at Copenhagen University. The thesis was entitled "Breathing Flesh. Conceptions of the Body in the Ancient Egyptian Coffin

## NINO activities

Texts". There was also regular contact with a former Israeli promovenda, Dr Racheli Shalomi-Hen.

In January Prof. Dr J. van der Vliet gave his inaugural lecture at Nijmegen University. Borghouts is a member of the board of trustees of this chair of Egyptology, which is specially endowed.

As a member of the Koninklijke Nederlandse Akademie van Wetenschappen, he was in regular contact with the KNAW.

In the preparation of publications, priority was given to a two-volume teaching grammar of Middle Egyptian, a much extended and revised version of his 1993 grammar in Dutch. The book is scheduled to be published in 2010 in the *Egyptologische Uitgaven* series. Work on the Reference Grammar of Middle Egyptian (to be published in Brill's *Handbuch der Orientalistik*), temporarily set at a lower pace, was gradually resumed. Work on this publication will now take precedence over other publications, among which the edition of two large magical papyri in the Museo Egizio in Turin.

### Prof. Dr J. de Roos

Continued editorial work in the field of Hittitology for Bibliotheca Orientalis, receiving contributions by many European and overseas scholars. He organized the Dutch Hittitological Convention's yearly study day, attended by all Dutch Hittitologists living in Holland or Germany. He attended the Rencontre

Assyriologique Internationale in Paris in July.

A small group of Museology students initiated an exhibition in memory of Prof. Emilie Haspels, Professor of Classical Archaeology at the University of Amsterdam. De Roos collected materials and brought together former students of Prof. Haspels. The exhibition will be held at the University of Amsterdam in 2010.

Preparations were made to continue and complete the comprehensive project of treated passages in Hittite texts.

Next year a 0.5 fte assistant, privately funded, will be working on the project.

His work was hampered by a serious vision problem, which had improved by autumn.

### Prof. Dr M. Stol

Taught weekly classes at Leiden University in February-May, reading Old Babylonian incantations with staff and students. He gave specialised short courses on Babylonian medicine in Leiden (March) and Amsterdam VU (October). Filling the gap left by the departure of the professor of Assyriology at Amsterdam VU, he taught classes on king Nabonidus and the Phoenicians in September-January. He assisted several students at Leiden and Amsterdam VU working on master theses, and was advisor in a thesis prepared in Utrecht.



Lecture 19 March



Lecture 16 April

# NINO activities

Scientific work included writing an article on Old Babylonian bride prices, continuing work on the book on Women in Babylonia, and attending the Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale in Paris in July.

Publications:

“Embryology in Babylonia and the Bible”, in: V.R. Sasson, J.M. Law (eds.), *Imagining the fetus. The Unborn in Myth, Religion, and Culture* (Oxford University Press, 2009), 137-155.

“Insanity in Babylonian sources”, *Le Journal des Médecines Cunéiformes* 13 (2009), 1-12.

“To be ill’ in Akkadian: the verb *salâ’u* and the substantive *sili’tu*”, in: A. Attia and G. Buisson (eds.), *Advances in Mesopotamian Medicine from Hammurabi to Hippocrates. Proceedings of the International Conference “Oeil malade et mauvais oeil”*, Collège de France, Paris, 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2006 (Brill, Leiden-Boston 2009), 29-46.

“Šar-II”, *Reallexikon der Assyriologie* XII/1-2 (2009), 61.

“Šarbat(um)”, *Reallexikon der Assyriologie* XII/1-2 (2009), 35-36.

“Schuh(werk)”, *Reallexikon der Assyriologie* XII/3-4 (2009), 288-292.

■ “Schwefel”, *Reallexikon der Assyriologie* XII/3-4 (2009) 317-319.

Four books were reviewed in *Bibliotheca Orientalis* LXVI (2009).

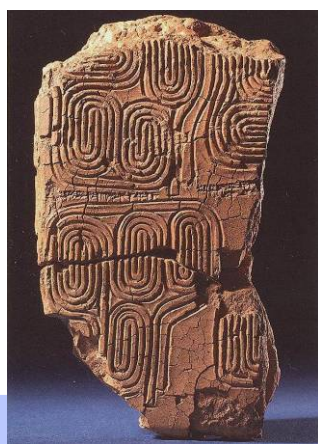
*Dr T.K. Vorderstrasse*

Spent two weeks at the Victoria and Albert Museum and Eton College working on the Central Asian collection of Major Meyers and his diaries chronicling his journey, having received a Barakat Trust Award to do this work.

In March, she gave a lecture at the Leiden Institute of Area Studies Arabic talks: “Minai Ware from Persia”. A grant from the Oosters Instituut made it possible to attend the conference of the International Society for Arabic Papyrology at Vienna. She gave the talk “Museum Archaeology in the Early Islamic Period”, and had the opportunity to view the Arabic ostraca in the

Vienna collection.

In April, she gave the talk “Monetary Circulation in Byzantine and Early Islamic Egypt: An Archaeological Approach” at the Coinage and Money in the Seventh-Century Near East (11<sup>th</sup> Numismatic Round Table) in Cambridge, UK. This was followed by research in Oxford, into the William Mitchell Ramsay papers at the Sackler Library and Crum papers at the Griffith Institute.



Lecture 28 May

NEDERLANDS  
INSTITUUT  
VOOR DE  
NAE-ORIENTE

Rijksmuseum van Oudheden  
Nationaal Museum  
van Oudheden

vrijdag  
20 november 2009

**Veenhof-lezing**

tijd: 19.30 uur  
plaats: Rijksmuseum van Oudheden,  
Rapenburg 28, Leiden

*Jesper Eidem*  
Qala'at Halwanji — a 4000 year old fortress in Syria

Archaeological investigations at Qala'at Halwanji in northern Syria were initiated in 2008-9 by Jesper Eidem, in collaboration with the Syrian Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums.

Qala'at Halwanji is a 5 ha large fortress of the mature Middle Bronze Age (18<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> cent. BC) located on the Sajour river ca. 15 km west of the Euphrates. A series of sondages have revealed extremely well-preserved architectural remains, all heavily burnt in a destructive fire in antiquity. Among the finds are clay

seal impressions made with some of the finest seals known from ancient Syria, and revealing high-level international connections. The Halwanji fortress must have been established by one of the major regional powers of the period, but the precise identity of this power and the whole historical scenario is as yet unclear.

The site will be the focus for a large project of regional survey, excavation and restoration planned as one of the activities of NINO in the coming years.

Dr J. Eidem is Director of the Netherlands Institute for the Near East since 1 August 2009.

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

Lecture 20 November

# NINO activities

A research trip to Dublin was made to investigate the Meyers collection of Central Asia at the National Museum of Ireland, and to examine a hoard of Byzantine coins at the Chester Beatty Library.

Publications:

- T. Vorderstrasse and J. Roodenberg (eds.), *Archaeology of the Countryside in Medieval Anatolia. PIHANS 113* (NINO, Leiden 2009).
- T. Matney et al., "Excavations at Ziyaret Tepe 2007-2008", *Anatolica* 35 (2009), 37-84.
- "Coinage of Justin II and its Imitations: Historical, Papyrological, Numismatic, and Archaeological Sources", *Anatolica* 35 (2009), 15-35.
- "Mina'i ware: Questions and Problems", *Al-Usur al-Wusta* 20.1 (2008), 9-12.
- "Old Excavations in the Anatolian Countryside", in: T. Vorderstrasse and J. Roodenberg (eds.), *Archaeology of the Countryside in Medieval Anatolia. PIHANS 113* (NINO, Leiden 2009), 215-233.

## Lectures

### Lecture series 2008-2009

29 January: M. Stol (VU Amsterdam and NINO), *Het Gilgamesj-epos*. Audience: ca. 25.

19 February: D.J.W. Meijer (Leiden University), *Survey in Iraqi Kurdistan: een nieuw*

*Leids archeologisch project*. Audience: ca. 80.

19 March: J. van der Vliet (Leiden University & Radboud University Nijmegen), *Engelen en demonen in Oud Dongola, Soedan*. Audience: ca. 40.

16 April: L. Limme (KMKG Brussels), *De Egyptische collectie van de Koninklijke Musea voor Kunst en Geschiedenis (Brussel): een kijkje achter de schermen*. Audience: ca. 60.

28 May: J.C. Fincke (Leiden University), "... into the lamb I am sacrificing put reliability!" *How to perform an extispicy ritual in Mesopotamia*. Audience: ca. 35; article in *Bibliotheca Orientalis* LXVI (2009) 5/6, 519-558.

### Lecture series 2009-2010:

16 October: J. Schmidt (Leiden University), *Fritz Rudolf Kraus in Istanbul (1937-1949)*. Audience: ca. 25; article in *Bibliotheca Orientalis* LXVII (2010) 1/2, 5-21.

20 November: the annual Veenhof Lecture was given by new director J. Eidem on *Qala'at Halwanji, a 4000 year old fortress in Syria*. Audience ca. 175; article in this report. The lecture was followed by a farewell reception for outgoing director J.J. Roodenberg.

11 December: opening lecture of the Qasr Ibrim symposium (see below), W.Y. Adams, *5000 years of cultural continuity and change in Nubia*. Audience ca. 110.

Lecture 11 December



Lecture 16 October



# NINO activities

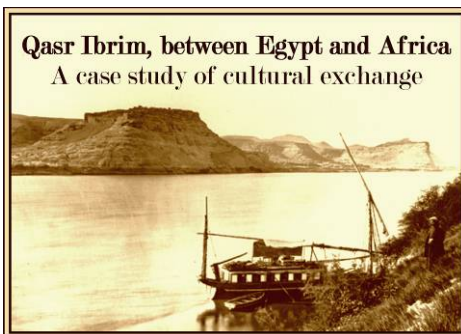
## Symposium

In December, the symposium “Qasr Ibrim, between Egypt and Africa: A case study of cultural exchange” was co-organised with the Department of Egyptology of Leiden University and hosted at the National Museum of Antiquities. The symposium was opened with an evening lecture by noted Nubiologist Dr W.Y. Adams for the broader public.

A total of thirteen specialists presented papers and discussed archaeological and historical finds from Qasr Ibrim in front of an audience of ca. 40 scholars and students. The participants agreed that the symposium constituted a much needed impulse to the study into this Nubian key site, and it will likely be followed by a symposium at a different venue in a couple of years.

The proceedings will be published in the *Egyptologische Uitgaven* series.

Symposium 11-12 December



**Qasr Ibrim, between Egypt and Africa**  
A case study of cultural exchange

## Library

The NINO library is internationally recognized as an important and well-stocked library in the fields of Egyptology, Assyriology and related studies. In addition to many Dutch researchers and students in these fields who consult the collections on a daily basis, it regularly sees visitors from universities and institutes all over the world.

An average of 50 visitors per working day were counted. Closing days were kept to a minimum.

About 480 books and 310 issues of periodicals were acquired by the library. Several specialists of Near Eastern studies, committed to the library's collections, lent valuable advice on acquisitions.

Due to budget cuts some acquisitions had to be postponed during the latter part of the year. The usual accretion rate of the library will be resumed in 2010.

## Website

The NINO website ([www.nino-leiden.nl](http://www.nino-leiden.nl)) was regularly updated with information on lectures, new publications, and the December symposium.

# NINO activities

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

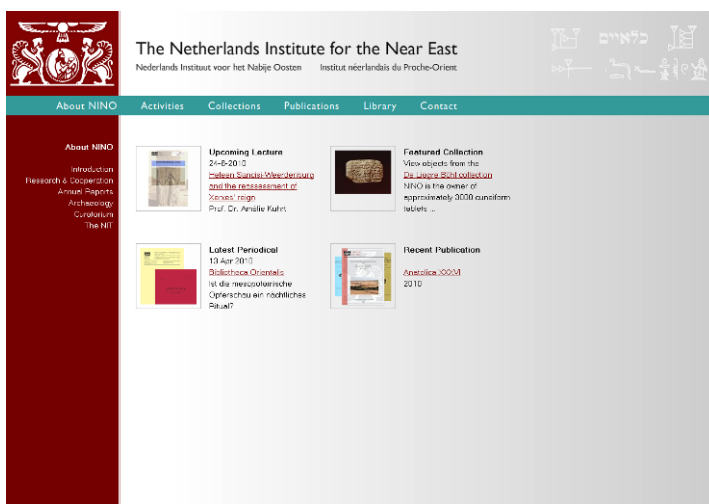
A special chair for Paleobotany at the Faculty of Archaeology of Leiden University is endowed by NINO. Prof. Dr R.T.J. Cappers (Rijksuniversiteit Groningen) was installed on 14 November 2008.

In 2009, he taught courses in Ecology and Environmental history of the Near East (Leiden University), and in Archaeobotany (Istanbul and Fayum, Egypt). He supervised six students, from BA to PhD-level, in specialised subjects of archaeobotany.

He continued his association with a large number of archaeological fieldprojects (in Egypt, Turkey, Syria, Italy, and Greece).

### Publications:

- With R. Neef and R.M. Bekker, Digital atlas of economic plants (book and website of University Library Groningen). *Groningen Archaeological Studies* no. 9 (Barkhuis & Groningen University Library, 2010).
- With J. Prummel et al., “Terug naar Swifterbant: een kleinschalige opgraving te Swifterbant-S2 (gemeente Dronten)”, *Archeologie* 13 (2009), 17-45.
- Plant remains from Middle Chalcolithic Güvercinkayası (Central Anatolia, Turkey). *Interim report*.
- “Knoflook uit Sabi Abyad”, *Nieuwsbrief FOSA* (2009), 8.
- with R. Neef and R.M. Bekker, “The digital plant atlas: an international project”, *Seed testing International, ISTA News Bulletin* 137 (2009), 8-11.
- Akkers in muren. De reconstructie van vroege akkerbouw in het Nabije Oosten. *Oratie Universiteit Leiden*.

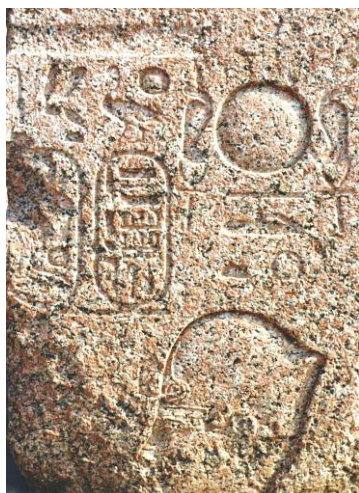




# Publications

The following NINO publications appeared in 2009:

## Egyptologische Uitgaven 23



G.P.F. Broekman, R.J. Demarée and O.E. Kaper (eds.), **The Libyan Period in Egypt**. Historical and Cultural Studies into the 21<sup>st</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> Dynasties. Proceedings of a Conference at Leiden University, 25-27 October 2007 (*EU* 23), 2009. 27 cm, softcover; XIII, 457; € 80,-. ISBN 978-90-6258-223-5.

Proceedings of a conference held in October 2007 at Leiden University on the Libyan Period in Egypt. The chronological issues surrounding Dynasties 21-24, the Libyan Period, formed the principal focus of discussion. In addition, several scholars were invited to present recent archaeological finds from their own field work, as new material is needed to solve the remaining problems.

Apart from chronology, several papers deal with the cultural developments of the period. An interesting joint theme is the appearance of archaism in the art of the second half of the Libyan period. Several papers include comments on a newly found interest in the proportions and iconography from the classical periods of the past, notably of the Middle Kingdom.

## PIHANS 113



T. Vorderstrasse and J. Roodenberg (eds.), **Archaeology of the Countryside in Medieval Anatolia** (*PIHANS* 113), 2009. 27 cm, softcover; VII, 284; € 61,-. ISBN 978-90-6258-324-9.

Acts of a symposium held at NINO in 2008 on the archaeology of the countryside in medieval Anatolia.

The articles examine different aspects of the medieval Anatolian countryside, which prior to this symposium, had not been a separate focus of research. The articles largely concentrate on the results of recent excavations or archaeological and architectural surveys and include more general overviews of sites, as well as specialized studies focusing on different aspects, such as pottery, mortuary practices and paleoecology. All of the different studies demonstrate the complexity and diversity of the medieval Anatolian countryside.

# Publications

## Journals



*ANATOLICA* Volume 35 was published, containing seven articles on Anatolian archaeology and Hittitology, on a total of 224 pages. (ISSN 0066-1554; € 60,—)

*Bibliotheca Orientalis* LXVI (738 columns, published in three fascicles) contained seven articles, and reviews of ca. 170 books in the fields of Egyptology, Assyriology, Near Eastern archaeology, Hebrew and Old Testament related studies, Arabic, Turkish, Islam and related studies. (ISSN 0006-1913; € 140,—)

## Egyptologische Uitgaven 25



B.J.J. Haring and O.E. Kaper (eds.), **Pictograms or Pseudo Script?** Non-textual identity marks in practical use in Ancient Egypt and elsewhere (*EU* 25), 2009. 27 cm, softcover; VII, 236; € 45,—. ISBN 978-90-6258-225-9.

Papers of a conference hosted by the Egyptology Department at Leiden University in 2006. This volume brings together for the first time the results of research on practical marking systems in ancient Egypt and other cultures, making it possible to define the common characteristics of their appearance and their uses. The great geographical and chronological range covered by the volume, the sign corpora added to many of the contributions, and the indices also make it the first important reference work on this intriguing topic.

Marking systems such as masons' marks, property marks, pot marks, quarry marks and team marks confront us with the large variation in the use of graphic signs. They are often similar to writing, yet they are not script in the strictest sense of the word. The marking systems are seen to operate in combination with writing, but frequently also in isolation. In this sense they may be called a pseudo script, for in spite of their resemblance to writing, the signs remain mere pictograms.



## Publications

The editorial boards of NINO publications series and journals were composed as follows:

### PIHANS

J.G. Dercksen, J. Eidem, K. van der Toorn, and K.R. Veenhof.

### Egyptologische Uitgaven

J.F. Borghouts, R.J. Demarée, O.E. Kaper, R. van Walsem, and H.O. Willems.

The series is co-published with Peeters Publishers, Leuven, starting from Volume 23.

### Achaemenid History

W.F.M. Henkelman (series editor), P. Briant, A. Kuhrt, J. de Roos, M.C. Root, and J. Wiesehöfer.

### Anatolica

J.J. Roodenberg (editor in chief), G. Algaze, J. Eidem, F.A. Gerritsen, A.H. de Groot, M. Özdoğan, Th.P.J. van den Hout, T.K. Vorderstrasse, C.H. van Zoest (editorial secretary).

### Bibliotheca Orientalis

J. Eidem (editor in chief), R.E. Kon, A. van der Kooij, L. Limme, D.J.W. Meijer, J. de Roos, M. Stol, C.H. van Zoest (editorial secretary).

During the month of October, a special book sale of older NINO publications was held. Widely announced, it resulted in a large number of publications sold.

New cover designs for the current NINO series and journals were prepared, aiming at a recognisable institutional style. Starting from 2010, all new publications will have a cover in the new design.



# NIT activities

Fokke Gerritsen

Local Director NIT

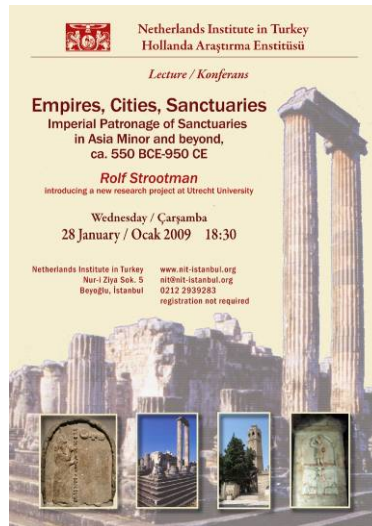
## Introduction

In March 2009, the Netherlands Institute in Turkey (NIT) in Istanbul received word that funding to implement a development plan had been granted to the institute by the Dutch Ministry of Education, Science and Culture (OCW). This excellent news set the theme for much of what happened at the institute throughout the year. Having been awarded initially for 2 years, the funding will be used to broaden the scope of academic fields for which NIT is active, to strengthen NIT's position as a centre of expertise, and to enlarge the contribution by NIT to the internationalization of Dutch higher education.

Made possible by this funding, several exciting developments have taken place over the course of 2009.

Administratively, Leiden University (ICS), has become a governing institution, next to the Netherlands Institute for the Near East. The staff of the institute welcomed a new member, heritage and museum specialist Mrs. Charlie Smid. The first activities were instigated by NIT to become active in the fields of museum and heritage studies, in addition to the ongoing research, educational and bridge-building activities of the institute. In collaboration with the Netherlands Institute for Higher Education (NIHA), NIT has become more active in advising Turkish and Dutch students about studying abroad.

Lecture 28 January



As part of an agreement with Koç University, NIT has been housed since 2006 in the building complex of the university's Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations (RCAC). In 2009, the institutional and scholarly collaboration made possible by this agreement continued to be highly appreciated by NIT and NIT's users. In 2009 renovations

began on an adjacent building, which will house some of the main functions of RCAC, as well as the offices of NIT.

As in previous years, NIT was grateful to receive permission from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Turkish Republic to continue its excavations at Barcın Höyük. A successful campaign was held in July and August. The initial results are presented elsewhere in this report.

NIT profited again on numerous occasions from having the Netherlands Consulate-General as its Dutch neighbor in Istanbul. Contacts, especially with its Culture and Media Section, will undoubtedly intensify further in 2010 and beyond, as the Consulate-General and NIT are gearing up towards 2012, when Turkey and the Netherlands will celebrate 400 years of diplomatic contacts.

Another highlight of 2009 that deserves special mention in these pages is the honorary doctorate that Machiel Kiel, senior research fellow and former director of NIT, received in August from Manas University in Kirgizistan.

# NIT activities

## Staff

Mrs. Charlie Smid began work for NIT in September 2009. She is a specialist in museum and heritage studies and will take on a key role in developing these as NIT focus areas. Charlie Smid will divide her time between Turkey and the Netherlands, where she holds a part-time faculty position at the University of Amsterdam.

As part of the activities made possible by the OCW subsidy, Funda Demir's position at NIT was made formal and became more substantial. She now divides her work-time equally over NIHA and NIT activities, focusing on higher education internationalization and study abroad programs.

The current staff list is as follows: Fokke Gerritsen (director, 0.9 fte), Funda Demir (adjunct director, 0.5 fte), Charlie Smid (staff member, 0.4 fte), Gülten Yıldız (librarian, 1.0 fte), Ayşe Dilsiz (assistant, 1.0 fte). Machiel Kiel is senior research fellow.

During May and June, Ms. Jasemin Demirel joined the NIT staff as a temporary assistant.

## Publications

Fokke Gerritsen authored and co-authored the following articles:

- F.A. Gerritsen et al., "Prehistoric Barcın Höyük: 2007 Excavations and Chipped Stone Artifact Analysis", in: F. Drasovean (ed.), *Ten Years After: The Neolithic of the Balkans as Uncovered by the Last Decade of Research* (Museum of Banat Publications, Timisoara,

in press).

- F.A. Gerritsen and R. Özbal, "Geç Neolitik Tarımcıları, Barcın Höyük" [Barcın Höyük's Late Neolithic Farmers], *Aktüel Arkeoloji* 13 (2010), 51.
- F. Gerritsen, "Barcın Höyük Excavations 2008", *31. Kazı Sonuçları Toplantısı* 1 (2010), 411-420).

- F. Gerritsen and R. Özbal, "Barcın Höyük Excavations, 2007", *30. Kazı Sonuçları Toplantısı* 3 (2009), 457-464.

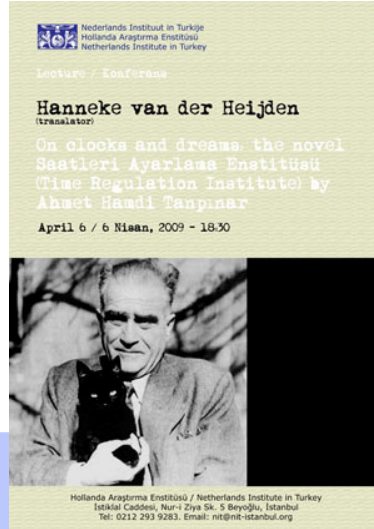
An article written in 2008 appeared belatedly:

- G. Danışman, F. Gerritsen et al., "Kırklareli-Demirköy Osmanlı Dökümhanesi 2006 Sezonu Endüstri Arkeoloji Kazıları Ön Raporu", *Türk Arkeoloji ve Etnografya Dergisi* 8 (2008), 107-124.

Machiel Kiel wrote the following book and encyclopedia chapters:

- "Chapter V: The Incorporation of the Balkans into the Ottoman Empire", in: K. Fleet (ed.), *The Cambridge History of Turkey* (Cambridge University Press, 2009), 138-191.
- "Samakov", in: T.D.V. *İslam Ansiklopedisi*, vol. 36 (Türkiye Diyanet Vakfı, İstanbul 2009), 62-64.
- "Sarı Saltuk", in: T.D.V. *İslam Ansiklopedisi*, vol. 36 (Türkiye Diyanet Vakfı, İstanbul 2009), 147-150.
- "Selanik (Thessaloniki)", in: T.D.V. *İslam Ansiklopedisi*, vol. 36 (Türkiye Diyanet Vakfı, İstanbul 2009), 352-357.

Lecture 6 April



## NIT activities

- “Selvi/Sevlievo”, in: T.D.V. İslam Ansiklopedisi, vol. 36 (Türkiye Diyanet Vakfı, İstanbul 2009), 451-452.

He also taught courses in Islamic architecture at the University of Bonn, and gave lectures in İstanbul, Denizli, Bursa and Sofia, Bulgaria.

Ayşe Dilsiz co-edited together with Max Hartmuth:

- *Monuments, Patrons, Contexts: Papers on Ottoman Europe presented to Machiel Kiel*

which will appear in 2010 in the *PIHANS* series. Many of the chapters are based on lectures given at a symposium held in honor of Machiel Kiel in June 2008.

Symposium 13-14 November  
Lecture / Konferans



Three publications about the Barcın Höyük Excavations appeared in 2009, by former and current members of the research team:

- S. Alpaslan-Roodenberg, “Demographic data from the Byzantine graveyard of Barcın”, in: T. Vorderstrasse and J. Roodenberg (eds.), *Archaeology of the Countryside in Medieval Anatolia. PIHANS 113* (NINO, Leiden 2009), 169-175.
- M. Künzelt, “Geoarcheologisch onderzoek in Barcın, Turkije”, *Geo.brief* 34/7 (2009), 9-11.
- J. Roodenberg, “The Byzantine graveyards from Ilıpınar and Barcın in Northwest Anatolia in: T. Vorderstrasse and J. Roodenberg (eds.), *Archaeology of the Countryside in Medieval Anatolia. PIHANS 113* (NINO, Leiden 2009), 154-167.

## Fellowships

NIT has a small budget to sponsor a few excellent Master and PhD level students who come to İstanbul for research purposes. There are two types of fellowships: sponsored accommodation at the guest facilities of the institute, or sponsored accommodation as well as a modest monthly allowance for living expenses. In 2009, four young scholars and a film director/photographer joined NIT as fellows for periods of between one and three months.

Christina Williamson of the University of Groningen did research for her dissertation on ‘City and Sanctuary in Hellenistic Asia Minor. Sacred and ideological landscapes’.

Her stay in Turkey allowed her to visit a number of key sites and discuss her work with their excavation directors, and to use the library resources of NIT and other institutes in İstanbul.

Logan Sparks of Tilburg University also combined a study period in the library with travels to places that are important to his research on ‘The Role of Shared Pilgrimage in Relationships Between Muslims and Non-Muslims’.

Karin Schuitema, Leiden University alumnus, came to İstanbul for a period of three months in the autumn to prepare a dissertation proposal on the topic ‘In Pursuit of the Symposium in the Aegean and the Near East (3000 BC-500 BC)’.

Rik Vaessen of Sheffield University travelled

# NIT activities

to archaeological sites in western Turkey and spent three months at NIT for his dissertation research on 'Communication and the landscape on the west coast of Turkey in the Early Iron Age'.

Cindy Jansen used her time in Istanbul to make a series of photos of historical summer residences on the island of Büyükada near Istanbul, as well as a short film set in two cafés after closing hours. In between these activities she found several art galleries interested in a future exhibition of her work.

## Academic activities

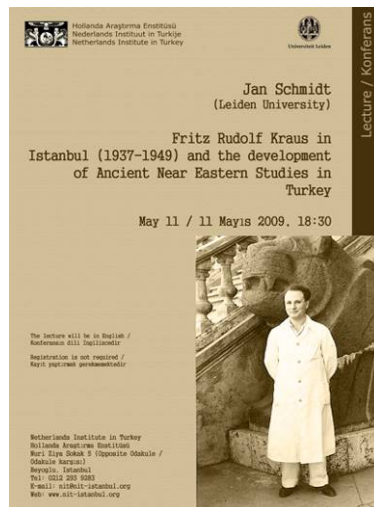
A series of academic and educational activities is organized by NIT every year. They serve several of purposes: to facilitate intellectual exchange and debate between scholars and professionals from the Netherlands and Turkey, to create foundations for further collaboration between partners in both countries, to enable network building, and to stimulate the international mindset of students (bachelor, master and PhD level) from both countries. Whenever feasible, academic and educational activities were used by NIT staff member Funda Demir to distribute information to students about opportunities for study in Holland, and to academic staff about formats for institutional exchange and collaboration.

In several instances in 2009, activities were organized together with local and Dutch institutions, not only for obvious practical reasons, but also to use the organizational process as an opportunity to strengthen the ties between NIT and these partners and between Dutch and Turkish partners.

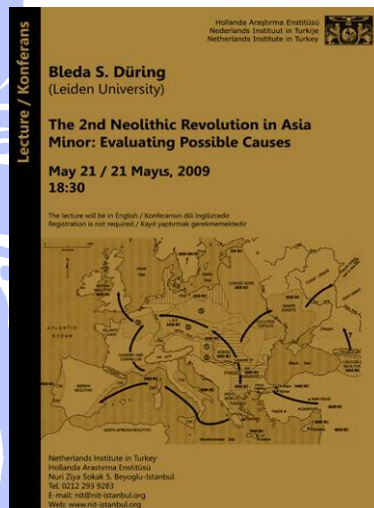
The two-day symposium *Museums and Display. Stories in a Showcase* was one of the main events organized by NIT in 2009. It successfully positioned NIT in Turkey as a participant in academic and professional debates on museums and cultural heritage issues. The topic

at hand was the ways in which objects and displays in museums connect to broader social and cultural themes, the way they bring out particular stories and ignore other stories. Four invited speakers came from the Netherlands: Robert Verhoogt of the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, Kees Zandvliet of the Amsterdam Historical Museum, Mirjam Hoijsink of the University of Amsterdam, and Susan Legêne of VU University Amsterdam. Together with five speakers from Turkish research institutions and museums, they addressed the topic both through abstract reflection and actual case studies. Discussion among the participants was further stimulated by visits to the

Lecture 11 May



Lecture 21 May



## NIT activities

Archaeological Museums, the oldest museum in Turkey, and one of the very young museums, Istanbul Modern.

### Symposia, workshops and lectures

Lecture 28 January: R. Strootman (Utrecht University), *Empires, Cities, Sanctuaries. Imperial Patronage of Sanctuaries in Asia Minor and beyond, ca. 550 BCE-950 CE*. Audience: ca. 45.

Workshop 2-3 March: *The Neolithic Period in Western Anatolia and Thrace*. Organised by Istanbul University, Aegean University Izmir, and NIT. Participants: ca. 12 senior scholars (Netherlands, Turkey, Bulgaria), ca. 25 students (Turkey).

Lecture 6 April: H. van der Heijden, literary translator: *On clocks and dreams: the novel Saatleri Ayarlama Enstitüsü [Time Regulation Institute] by Ahmet Hamdi Tanpınar*. Audience: ca. 50.

Lecture 6 May: S.-J. Moenandar (Groningen University): *Depraved Borderlands – Love Affairs Between Muslims and non-Muslims in Dutch Literature from the Middle Ages until today*. Audience: ca. 15.

Lecture 11 May: J. Schmidt (Leiden University), *Fritz Rudolf Kraus in Istanbul (1937-1949) and the development of Ancient Near Eastern Studies in Turkey*. Audience: ca. 35.

Lecture 21 May: B.S. Düring (Leiden University): *The second Neolithic Revolution in Asia Minor: Evaluating possible causes*. Audience: ca. 30.

Lecture 11 June: P. de Bruijn (Leiden University): *Experimentalism in Turkish literature: Adalet Ağaoğlu's Yaz Sonu*. Audience: ca. 12.

Symposium 19 June: *Ottoman Biographical Sources I: The Sixteenth Century Ottoman Biographer Aşık Çelebi and his work*. Organised by NIT, Leiden University, Koç University, and Yıldız Technical University. Participants: 10 speakers

(Turkey, Netherlands, USA), ca. 60 audience (students, scholars, general public).

Workshop 25-26 September: *Global Collaboratory on the History of Labour Relations*.

Organised by International Institute of Social History (IISG), hosted by NIT. Participants: ca. 12 senior scholars (Netherlands, Turkey, France).

Lecture series 6-7-8 October: R.T.J. Cappers (Groningen University): *Archaeobotany in the field and in the laboratory; The food economy of Ilipınar; Fields in clay. The reconstruction of agricultural practices in Roman Egypt*.

Audience: total ca. 80.



Lecture 11 June



Symposium 19 June

## NIT activities

Symposium 13-14 November: *Museums and Display. Stories in a showcase*. Organised by NIT. Participants: 9 speakers (Netherlands, Turkey), ca. 60 audience (students, scholars, general public).

Symposium 19 December: *Connections in Past and present. Istanbul Graduate Symposium on Archaeology*. Organised by NIT. Participants: 16 speakers (MA and PhD students, Turkey, Netherlands, USA), ca. 50 audience (students, scholars).

Announcements, abstracts and posters for each of these activities can be found at: <http://www.nit-istanbul.org/nitactivities.htm> (right column: previous activities)

### Courses and master classes

#### *New Approaches in Archaeobotany*

Under the heading of masterclasses, NIT organized a week-long series of classes and lab sessions (5-9 October). Professor René Cappers of Groningen and Leiden Universities taught a selected group of twelve advanced students in archaeology and biology about the latest developments in the field of archaeobotany, which uses plant remains from archaeological sites to study ancient diet, agricultural practices and vegetation history. There is a long tradition of Dutch ecological archaeology research in the Near East and Anatolia. Students from universities in Istanbul, Ankara, Şanlıurfa and Izmir joined the course. A follow-up will take place in February 2010.

#### *Archaeological ceramics*

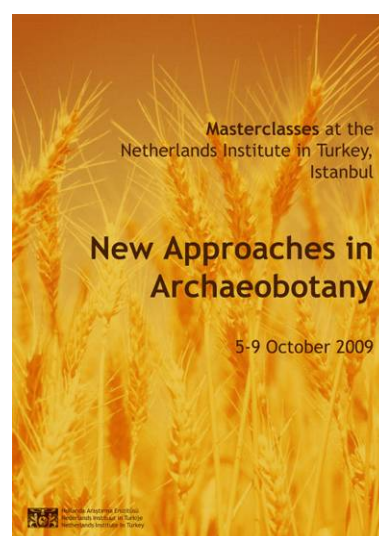
Arranged by NIT, archaeologist Laurens Thissen spent two months (October-December) as a visiting lecturer at Boğaziçi University in Istanbul, and taught a weekly class on archaeological ceramics to MA students. His stay was made possible by a grant provided by Tübitak, the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey.

#### *Fieldwork training*

The NIT excavations at Barcın Höyük offer students the opportunity to receive training and experience in archaeological fieldwork techniques and methods. In 2009, four Dutch and six Turkish BA and MA level students were part of the team for periods of one to two months.



Workshop 25-26 September



Masterclasses 5-9 October

# NIT activities

## Research and education support

One of the more important tasks of NIT is to assist and advise Dutch and Turkish academia, whether researchers, teaching faculty, departments, or universities.

In the case of individual researchers, NIT offers practical and administrative support to facilitate research projects, study trips, visits to archives, collections and museum store rooms. NIT's network in Turkey, which it actively maintains and extends by means of its academic and educational activities and its own research program, is continuously tapped into to assist Dutch academics and professionals from museum and heritage institutions. Ranging from brief telephone or e-mail exchanges to recurring support activities over the course of the year, currently the best estimate is that between 30 and 50 projects and researchers were assisted in this way in 2009.

Considerable time was invested in 2009 by Fokke Gerritsen and Charlie Smid to assist Dutch university departments and graduate schools in developing bachelor and post-graduate courses on ancient, historical and modern Istanbul. These courses will take place in 2010, with teaching components at the home institution in the Netherlands and at NIT in Istanbul. The institutions involved are:

- Huizinga Institute for Cultural History,
- Utrecht University (two courses: Ancient History and Descartes college),
- University of Amsterdam (two courses: Classics and Heritage and Museum Studies),
- VU University Amsterdam (Classics),
- Groningen University (Classics),
- Nijmegen (Ancient and Medieval History).

Not listed are excursions by students groups that regularly include a visit to NIT in their program. NIT welcomes these visits because of the possibility to raise awareness among students of the facilities of the institute and the opportunities of study and research in Istanbul.

In time, NIT intends to develop and offer at least one course on Istanbul's history and heritage that will be open for (bachelor or master level) students from Dutch and

Turkish academic institutions.

With the growing interest of university departments and teaching units for international exchange and collaboration, NIT is consulted regularly about finding suitable partners in the other country. With the assistance of NIT, a collaborative agreement was signed in 2009 between VU University Amsterdam's CLUE Heritage Institute and Koç University's Department of Archaeology and Art History. Plans include student and faculty exchange and, in the future, research collaboration.

Lectures 6-8 October



# NIT activities

Funda Demir's task of coordinating the activities of the Study in Holland Desk in Turkey became a shared NIHA and NIT activity in 2009, as part of the development program made possible by the OCW subsidy. The Study in Holland Desk in Turkey, which was previously coordinated by NIHA under the name Study in Holland Desk @ NIHA, can now develop a more permanent presence among the many higher education institutions in Istanbul. Since 2009 Funda Demir has divided her time over Istanbul and Ankara, as a half-time staff member of NIT and a half-time staff member of NIHA. Funda Demir provided interested students information about opportunities for study and research in the Netherlands at the masterclasses *New Approaches in Archaeobotany* and at the NIT conferences *Connections in Past and present*, *Istanbul Graduate Symposium on Archaeology* and *Museums and Display. Stories in a showcase*.

Besides giving counseling at NIT seminars and lectures Funda Demir provided guidance to approximately 200 students in Istanbul who contacted the Study in Holland Desk in Turkey. Of these 200 students 2/6 were interested in BA level education, 3/6 in MA level education and 1/6 in PhD and post-doc level.

Symposium 13-14 November



## Library

More than a support facility, the NIT library belongs to the core of the institute's presence and recognition in Turkey. After a period during which poor accessibility brought visitor numbers far down, the number of NIT library users has grown every year since its reopening in 2006. In ten months of 2009 it reached around 800 visitors. During the months of July and August, the library was closed to visitors for the final part of the reorganization project that began in 2006. With the exception of the journals, all volumes have now been entered in the digital catalogue and can be found online. In 2010 the creation of the electronic catalogue will be completed.

The collections grew by about 275 volumes (books and periodicals) through acquisitions, exchanges of NIT/NINO publications with other institutes worldwide and through donations.

## Guestrooms

Throughout the year, NIT received visiting students and researchers in its three guestrooms. A total of 81 guests spent one or more nights. Overall occupancy reached 65%. In addition to enabling visitors to stay within the institute itself, with 24-hour access to its research library, the guestrooms are an important means for NIT to provide a 'home base' and to create an environment that is both welcoming and scholarly, and that invites guests to participate in the day to day activities of the institute.

# NIT activities

## Website

The website (at [www.nit-istanbul.org](http://www.nit-istanbul.org)) was continuously updated to provide the most recent information about NIT activities and facilities. Average daily visitor numbers varied between 60 during the summer break and 100 during the academic year.

## NIT Newsletter

As in previous years, two NIT newsletters appeared in 2009. These highlight new and ongoing projects, research by staff and fellows, and upcoming activities.

The 2009 newsletters can be found online:

[www.nit-istanbul.org/nieuwsbrief2009-1/nieuwsbrief2009-1.htm](http://www.nit-istanbul.org/nieuwsbrief2009-1/nieuwsbrief2009-1.htm)

[www.nit-istanbul.org/nieuwsbrief2009-2/nieuwsbrief2009-2.htm](http://www.nit-istanbul.org/nieuwsbrief2009-2/nieuwsbrief2009-2.htm)

## Collaborative partnerships

In addition to the collaborative activities presented above, NIT maintained and initiated partnerships with institutions and projects in the Netherlands and abroad. These include:

- CLUE Research Institute for the Heritage and History of the Cultural Landscape and Urban Environment (VU University Amsterdam), in particular concerning its Research Program *A new Mediterranean Panorama. The Identity of the Mediterranean World c. 300 BC – 2000 AD*. Fokke Gerritsen participates as a researcher in CLUE and holds a part-time teaching position in the

Faculty of Arts at the VU University Amsterdam.

- School of Middle Eastern Studies, Leiden University, in particular concerning the research and study programs of the Department of Turkish Studies.
- The ‘circle’ of Dutch institutes around the Mediterranean, i.e. Rome, Florence, Athens, Istanbul, Ankara, Damascus, Cairo and Rabat.
- Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism, General Directorate for Cultural Heritage and Museums, Department of Excavations and Research.

- Dr Joanita Vroom of the University of Amsterdam, project leader of the NWO (Vidi) research project *The Material Culture, Consumption and Social Change: New Approaches towards Byzantine and Ottoman Archaeology in the Mediterranean* (starting date 2010).
- Archaeometry Research Center, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, in particular concerning the research project: Dairy Consumption and Ceramics in Early Farming Societies in Northwest Anatolia.
- Archaeology Department, Uludağ University, Bursa.
- New Bulgarian University, Sofia.
- Institute for Geo- and Bioarchaeology, VU University Amsterdam.

Symposium 19 December





# Curatorium

NINO and NIT are each governed by a Curatorium (Board of Governors), both boards being composed of the same members. A committee within the Curatorium advises on scientific content. In August 2009, an Executive Board was instated.

## Curatorium of NINO and NIT

Prof. Dr R.T.J. Cappers, Ir. H.G. Dijkgraaf (treasurer), Dr A.H. de Groot, Prof. mr. P.F. van der Heijden, Prof. Dr O.E. Kaper, Prof. Dr J.R.T.M. Peters (president), Prof. Dr W.H. van Soldt, Prof. Dr M. Stol, Prof. Dr K. van der Toorn. The general director of NINO and NIT is secretary to the Curatorium.

The Curatorium met in June and December.

## Scientific committee

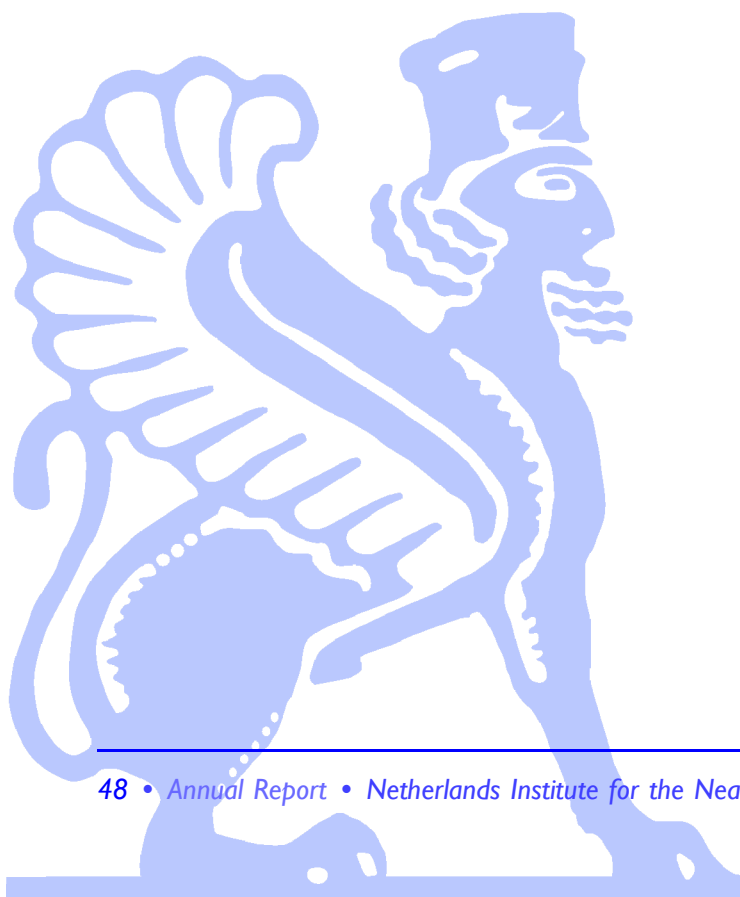
Prof. Dr R.T.J. Cappers, Dr A.H. de Groot, Prof. Dr O.E. Kaper, Prof. Dr W.H. van Soldt (president), Prof. Dr M. Stol, and the director of NINO.

The scientific committee met in November.

## Executive Board

Prof. Dr J.R.T.M. Peters (president), Ir. H.G. Dijkgraaf (treasurer), Prof. Dr W.H. van Soldt (president of the scientific committee), Prof. Dr M. Stol (member of the scientific committee).

The Executive Board met in August, September and November 2009. The meetings were attended by J. Eidem (general director) and R.T. Dickhoff (financial administrator).





## **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, Nur-i Ziya Sk. 5,  
Beyoğlu, Istanbul

P.K. 132, Beyoğlu 34431, Istanbul

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

### **Annual Report NINO and NIT 2009**

*edited by Jesper Eidem and Carolien van Zoest;  
design and layout by Carolien van Zoest.*



The background of the page features a large, stylized, light gray illustration. On the left, there is a classical bust of a man's head and shoulders, facing right. To the right of the bust, there are architectural elements, including a column capital and a section of a wall with a decorative pattern. The overall style is minimalist and modern.

## Table of Contents

Preface – 1

### Articles

Qala'at Halwanji: A 4000 year old fortress in Syria – 3

*Jesper Eidem*

The NIT excavations at Barcin Höyük, 2009 – 11

*Fokke Gerritsen*

Byzantine encounters – 17

*Jacob Roodenberg*

From the NINO collections: An unread letter – 22

*Jan Gerrit Dercksen*

### Reports

NINO activities – 27

Publications – 35

NIT activities – 39

Curatorium – 48