



ANNUAL REPORT 2010



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Front cover:

Still images of 3D model of shabti in the Böhl Collection (Inv. no. I342). Visit www.nino-leiden.nl to view or download this *Annual Report* as a pdf file, containing the full 3D model.

In the digital *Annual Report*, it is possible to turn the model in any direction and view the shabti from all sides.

For information on this and other Egyptian objects in the Böhl Collection, see the article by E.J. Holwerda on pp. 35-43.

3D model and stills by P. Del Vesco.



Preface

Jesper Eidem

General Director NINO and NIT

Both NINO and NIT enjoyed a busy and productive 2010. Due to a temporary moratorium on new excavation permits in Syria the NINO project at Qala'at Halwanji (see article pp. 19-25) was postponed to 2011. The interval was used to round off the investigations at Tell Aushariye (see www.aushariye.hum.ku.dk), where a successful final season took place in the spring of 2010. The NIT excavations at Barcın Höyük proceeded in summer (see article pp. 13-17), and in autumn the institute moved to new and better locations within the RCAC of Koç University.

To ensure the future of our archaeological projects applications were prepared and submitted by both NINO and NIT to

The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO), and in early 2011 we received official confirmation of substantial subsidies granted to both institutes. With this support our activities in the Middle East are funded for the next few years, and we have high hopes for important results from these endeavours.

Our work in the Middle East is of course much dependent on the local environments, and the recent dramatic developments in several parts of the region, which at the time of writing have not yet produced stable situations,

have already had some negative effects on archaeological sites. It is to be hoped that such effects remain slight, and that scientific work can soon be resumed everywhere. Our work is part of a global concern for shared cultural heritage, and as such not political. On a more personal level, however, thoughts are very much with friends, colleagues and associates in the Middle East, and we share their hopes for a peaceful and prosperous future.

The NINO library, where ready access to the books is much appreciated by the many users, both from the Netherlands and abroad, continued a healthy growth with close to 1000 new acquisitions. Plans for web-based, open access

to the NINO collections are being developed, and will hopefully reach maturity in 2011.

During the year the complete range of NINO publications appeared in new splendid covers, designed by C.H. van Zoest, and beautifully printed by Peeters in Belgium. The 2009 Annual Report, the first to appear in printed version and supplied with articles detailing aspects of our activities, was widely distributed, and solicited many positive comments. We hope this year's report meets with similar success!



Tell Aushariye, Syria.

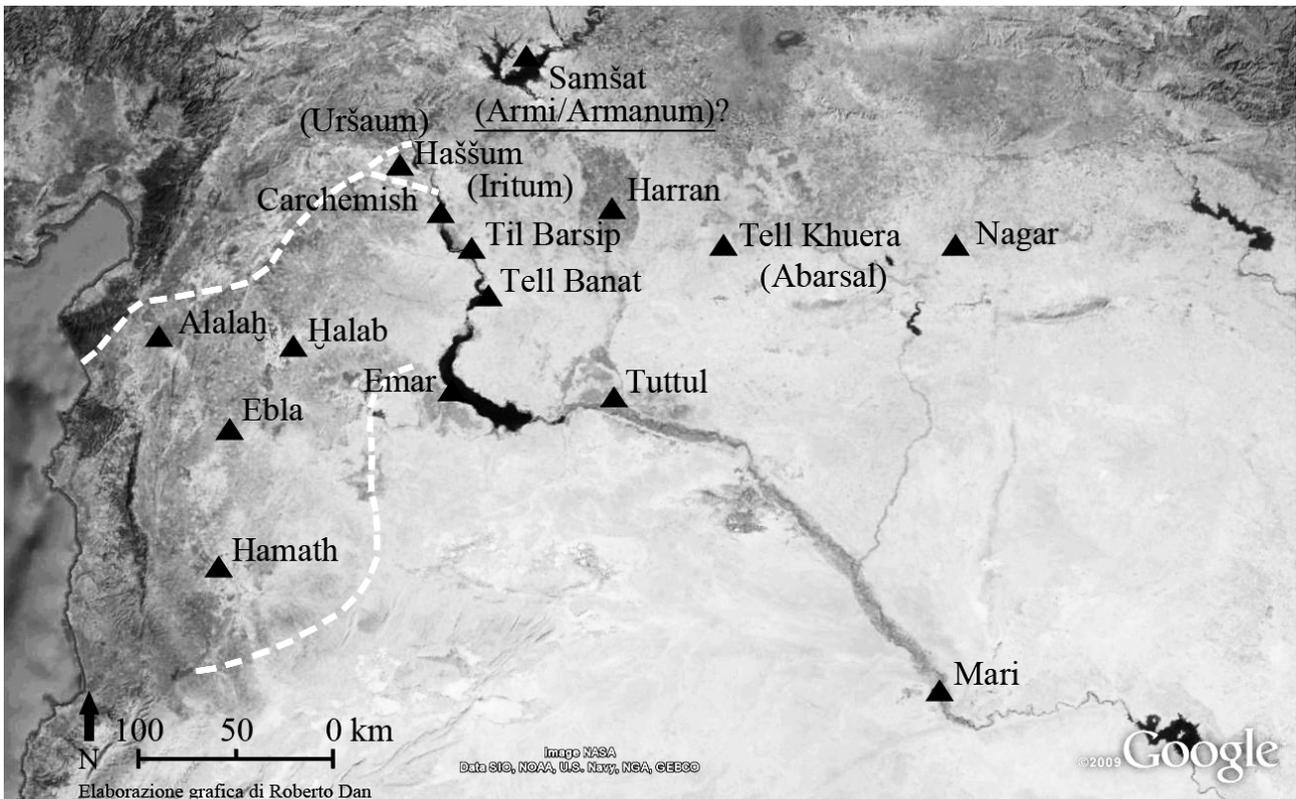


Figure 1. Major sites in the Levant and Syria ca. 2400 BC.
 The approximate extent of the Kingdom of Ebla is marked by a broken white line.
 Ebla conquered the city of Hashshum on its northern border ca. 2375 BC.

The Gods of Ebla

Alfonso Archi

Introduction

In the 1930's decipherment of newly discovered cuneiform texts from Ugarit on the Syrian coast evoked enormous interest: a new language and a new culture of the second millennium BC in the western Semitic area was suddenly revealed. According to the Ugaritic myths, the god El was about to be replaced at the head of the pantheon by a younger god, called Ba'al, "the Lord". This was something which appeared to provide some degree of analogy with the Old Testament, and poetic features in the myths were compared with those of the Psalms.

Even older texts from ancient Mari (in eastern Syria), discovered at about the same time, provided information on the West Semitic pantheon of the Amorites, who, emerging from the steppe between the third and the second millennia, settled down in the cities and towns of Mesopotamia and the Levant.

Almost fifty years after the discovery of Ugarit and Mari, the Ebla archives have yielded information about this same area, a thousand years earlier. Although only covering a period of some fifty years (2390-2340 BC, according to the traditional chronology) the archives reflect an historical

Veenhof Lecture 2010

The ninth lecture in honour of Prof. K.R. Veenhof was held in the Taffeh Hall of the National Museum of Antiquities in Leiden, on 23 November 2010. It was delivered by Prof. Alfonso Archi, Professor at Sapienza – University of Rome, and the leading expert on the cuneiform archives from Ebla.

process which began during the first centuries of the third millennium. We will never know more than this, as it is extremely unlikely that any earlier texts will be found. Truly, in the words of Thomas Mann: "the past is a bottomless well".

Local and Regional Gods

In its heyday the kingdom of Ebla stretched from the plain of Antioch southwards to Hama and beyond, and from the mountain ranges separating Syria from the sea (the Jebel Ansariye) to the Euphrates (Fig. 1). Ugarit reflects a religious experience in a cosmopolitan Syrian centre of the Mediterranean coast of the Late Bronze Age, during the 14th-13th centuries. Its priests (as shown by their library) were well aware of the great Babylonian

tradition and nor did they ignore the Hurrian cults, which formed in northern Syria during the first centuries of the second millennium.

Ebla, one thousand years earlier, maintained frequent contacts with the region of Kish in modern central Iraq. The culture of Kish was the result of a strong Sumerian influence on a Semitic-speaking population. Sumerian cultural influence at Ebla was, however, limited, with the exception of the use of cuneiform

writing (created by the Sumerians), and a few

Ebla

Ancient Ebla (modern Tell Mardikh) is located south of Aleppo in northern Syria. It has been excavated by an Italian archaeological team directed by P. Matthiae since 1964, and has produced sensational new evidence for the history of Bronze Age Syria. The large royal archives of cuneiform tablets found in the mid-1970's provide the earliest written panorama of the region, and rank among the greatest archaeological discoveries made in the Levant.

The Gods of Ebla



Figure 2. The foundations of the Temple of Kura (or “Red Temple”) discovered in 2008 under a later temple (first half of the second millennium BC) devoted to Ishtar.

The Gods of Ebla

texts like incantations and some lexical lists which the Eblaite scribes adapted and translated. These are the earliest vocabularies we have. Only five Sumerian gods appear in these lists for purely lexical reasons (including Enlil, the head of the pantheon, and the Moon god Nannar). Ebla not only constitutes the earliest Semitic culture known to us, but it is also that in which Sumerian and, more generally, Mesopotamian influence is least evident.

The administrative texts from Ebla document not only the city's pantheon, but that of the entire kingdom, that is to say, most of north-western Syria. Ebla confirms what we have known for a long time: there was no single, shared Semitic pantheon. Undoubtedly, there are the common celestial divinities: the **Sun** (see separate text box) and the **Moon** (see separate text box). The only fully-personified, shared Semitic divinity is **Ishtar**, probably connected with the star (planet) Venus as early as the third millennium. She was known throughout the Semitic-speaking regions, and was the most important goddess of Mari already from the third millennium. The epithet "Ishtar-of-the-poplar" (*populus Euphratica*), known at Ebla as

well as at Mari, points to the roots of her cult lying in the Euphrates valley. Ishtar was the object of a specific cult at Ebla as "Ishtar-of-the-palace", and also appears in the wedding ritual of the royal couple.

The concentration of political power in Syria into three regional states, Ebla, Mari and Nagar

(in the Habur River triangle) – a process that dates to the mid-25th century – did not promote the tutelary gods of these three cities to the status of regional deities. For example, the god of Ebla was **Kura** and allied kings swore allegiance in his temple (Fig. 2). His relevance, however, did not extend beyond the city boundaries. In the political treaty between Ebla and Abarsal (Tell Chuera), the only specific gods invoked are the Sun-god and Hadda. Representatives from the city of Nagar swore allegiance at Tuttul (Tell Bi'a, upstream of

Mari), in the temple of Dagan.

In the geo-political scenario described above, certain "principal gods" emerged, whose area of influence did not, however, coincide with any of the regional states.

Dagan was the god of the middle Euphrates. His main sanctuary was at Tuttul, a city that probably remained independent until

Utu or Shamash, the Sun Deity

The Sun was the god of justice, the guarantor of treaties, since it witnessed everything from heaven. This deity is referred to both as female and as male: in an incantation, the Sumerogram *Utu* (which was read *Shamash* in Eblaite) takes a verb in the feminine form, while in the marriage ritual for the royal couple, the name of the god is related to a masculine form of a verb.

The gender of this deity is not obvious in Old Akkadian either. In some personal names it is female: Ummi-Shamash "my mother is the Sun"; in others it is male: Sharru-ki-Shamash "the king is like the Sun". The latter is in line with the other Old Akkadian documentation, such as seals, where Shamash is portrayed as a masculine figure. It is hard to explain this duality at Ebla, because it was scarcely influenced by Babylonia. Originally the Sun had to be feminine in Semitic, according to Arabic and the West Semitic languages.

The Gods of Ebla

Zuen or Sin, the Moon God

This deity is rarely attested at Ebla, and usually preceded by the number 2: perhaps the two phases of the Moon. This name occurs not only in Old Akkadian but also in South Arabic, a conservative language.

Another deity, **Shanugaru**, represented the new Moon, because a ritual mentions his “two horns.” The cult of this deity was common to Syria and northern Mesopotamia, because it is attested in the second millennium in Syria at Emar and Mari on the Euphrates, and at Qattara, west of the Tigris. Marten Stol was able to identify it with the Jebel Sinjar, a range of mountains in the form of a crescent.

the middle of the 25th century when it was conquered by Mari. Dagan was known by the significant title of “king of the country” from the land of Sumer, in southern Mesopotamia, to Mari. Dagan maintained this role in the same area throughout the second millennium, even though he was now part of a more complex theological context.

West of the Euphrates was the realm of the storm-god **Hadda** of Aleppo. His temple lay on a rocky rise, now covered by the medieval citadel in the centre of Aleppo.

To the west, the area of the cult of the god **Hadabal** extended beyond the mountain ranges which form a natural border to the north-west and west of the Aleppo plain. The numerous cult places dedicated to this god were situated mostly in rural centres in the Orontes valley. One of the three main sanctuaries was at Hamadu, modern-day Hama, roughly seventy kilometres south of Ebla.

The **Lady of Nagar** was the goddess of the Upper Khabur, known at Mari also in the Amorite period. She has to be identified with Haburîtum, “the Lady of the Habur” of the Third Dynasty of Ur.

While these regional “principal gods” survived the invasion of the Amorites, the city gods like Kura and Hadabal disappeared.

There were goddesses who shared their power with their male partners, and others who had their own specific prerogatives and abilities. **Ishhara** was associated directly with the Eblaite



The Gods of Ebla

dynasty, and there was an “Ishhara-of-the-king”. Her cult was widespread in numerous small centres of the Ebla kingdom, as far as the Euphrates. At the end of the third millennium, Ishhara reached the kingdom of Ur, in southern Mesopotamia, together with other Syrian gods (e.g. Dagan) as a consequence of the relations of Sumer with the Syrian city-states of that period. In Babylonia she was in part assimilated with Ishtar. In Syria she remained the tutelary goddess of Ebla, as it appears from the Hurrian *Epic of Freeing*, of the 16th century.

The Amorite dynasty which settled in Ebla at the beginning of the second millennium venerated Ishtar. The inscription on a statue says: “For Ishtar, Ibbit-lim, the son of Igrish-Hepa(t), the king of Eblaite stock, offered a basin in the temple.”

Rashap (Reshef), who was widely venerated in the following millennia as a warrior-god threatening pestilence and death, was celebrated particularly in Atanni, a city mentioned in the tablets from Alalah (therefore in the Antioch plain), and in Tunip, the capital of a kingdom during the second millennium,

probably to be identified with Tell ‘Asharneh, on the Orontes not far from Hama. A common epithet of Rashap was “of-the-garden”, which does not seem to refer to “the cemetery”, neither at Ebla, nor at Ugarit.

Zilashu and Ea/Enki

Zilashu was at Ebla undoubtedly a god of wine, because his name is a dissimilated form from Eblaite *tirishu*, related to the Northwest-Semitic word for “(new) wine”. In Akkadian, **Sirash** is instead the goddess of beer, and also a common word for beer. Beer took the place of wine, since wine was not produced in Sumer.

The god **Ea**, Sumerian **Enki**, was the god of wisdom, who also had the function of trickster. The name has to be read **Hay(y)a**, probably from the root meaning “to live”. While the incantations and hymns imported from the region of Kish present a total fusion between Ea and Enki, the Eblaite administrative texts relate Ea to the wine-god Zilashu and **Rashap**.

Some of his rites were celebrated “in the garden”. Semitic Ea/Hayya was therefore originally a god of prosperity, probably of the subterranean water and perhaps also related to the underworld. All mythological thought concerning the Mesopotamian Ea was received from the Sumerians.

At Ebla, the spouse of Rashap was **Adamma** – there is also an “Adamma-of-the-garden”. In the second millennium this goddess was no longer associated with Rashap, but was included in the Hurrian pantheon and associated with the goddess of Karkamish, Kubaba, the “Goddess of the Lawsuit”.

What escapes us in a diachronic analysis is how a divinity could have its roots in a relatively large territory, as is the case of Rashap, who was a god of the Orontes region, and yet be specifically related to a universal and unavoidable fact like death. For Rashap one would

expect a great central sanctuary. When instead a god is given a particular function which many would need on particular occasions, such as that of oracles, one would expect him to have sanctuaries in various different localities.

The idea of cyclical renewal was a basic element of the cult. Kura (not a war-god) received each year 500 grams of silver to renew

The Gods of Ebla



Figure 3. Fragment of a male statue head, steatite. The lost face, originally in wood, was covered by gold or silver foil.



Figure 4. Statuette of bull with human face, an example of the composite style of Ebla: the wooden figure is covered by gold foil, with the beard in steatite.



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the face of his statue (Figs. 3-4). Rashap received, instead, a mace and two bull horns. The case of Hadda of Halab is peculiar: he is the only god who received a mace and two bull horns twice a year, in the third and eighth months. The semi-annual event must have been linked to the seasonal cycle: perhaps in April the triumph of nature was celebrated, a reawakening brought about by the end of winter and arrival of spring rains; the festival in September must have marked the period in which new rain is invoked to end the dry and hot season.

The ancestors

The ancestor cult is a common trait in Syrian and Mesopotamian religion (Fig. 5). Our evidence concerns just the dynastic cult, which was closely connected with the marriage ritual of the royal couple. This ritual lasted 21 days. The second week was spent at Nenash, a small place outside Ebla, seat of the mausoleum of some of the most ancient kings. There the Mother-goddess “makes the announcement that there is a new god Kura, a new goddess Barama; a new king, a new queen,” which means that through the ritual, the king and queen “substituted” their ancestors. Each year, in the month in which the king’s marriage had occurred, a commemorative ceremony took place at Nenash, which included a new dressing ceremony of the king and queen in the mausoleum, and a ritual meal.

The names of the deceased kings appear in the documents always preceded by the Sumerogram

dingir “god”, precisely as we find in the Ugaritic lists. There is no doubt that *dingir* “god” indicates that the king was deified. The ancestors were considered protective spirits.

The funerary ceremony had a peculiar custom. In case of the death of an important person (belonging to the royal family or that of the minister) garments were “consigned for the funerary ceremony”, also for some illustrious ancestor, first of all to the direct previous kings Igris-Halab and Irkab-damu. Only if the deceased was a woman did female ancestors receive clothes together with two silver toggle-pins. Such clothing was used to dress figures representing the most important ancestors (possibly just a wooden frame with a mask), which were exhibited during the funeral ceremony. The presence of the ancestors, materialized in the funerary rites by means of images dressed with their usual garments, had the function of stressing the deceased’s appurtenance to the former members of the family; to reaffirm his/her status; to introduce him/her into the Netherworld. This is exactly what we find at Ugarit, a thousand years later: the king achieved his privileged status in the Underworld greeted by his ancestors who had been evoked in the funeral ritual precisely for this purpose.

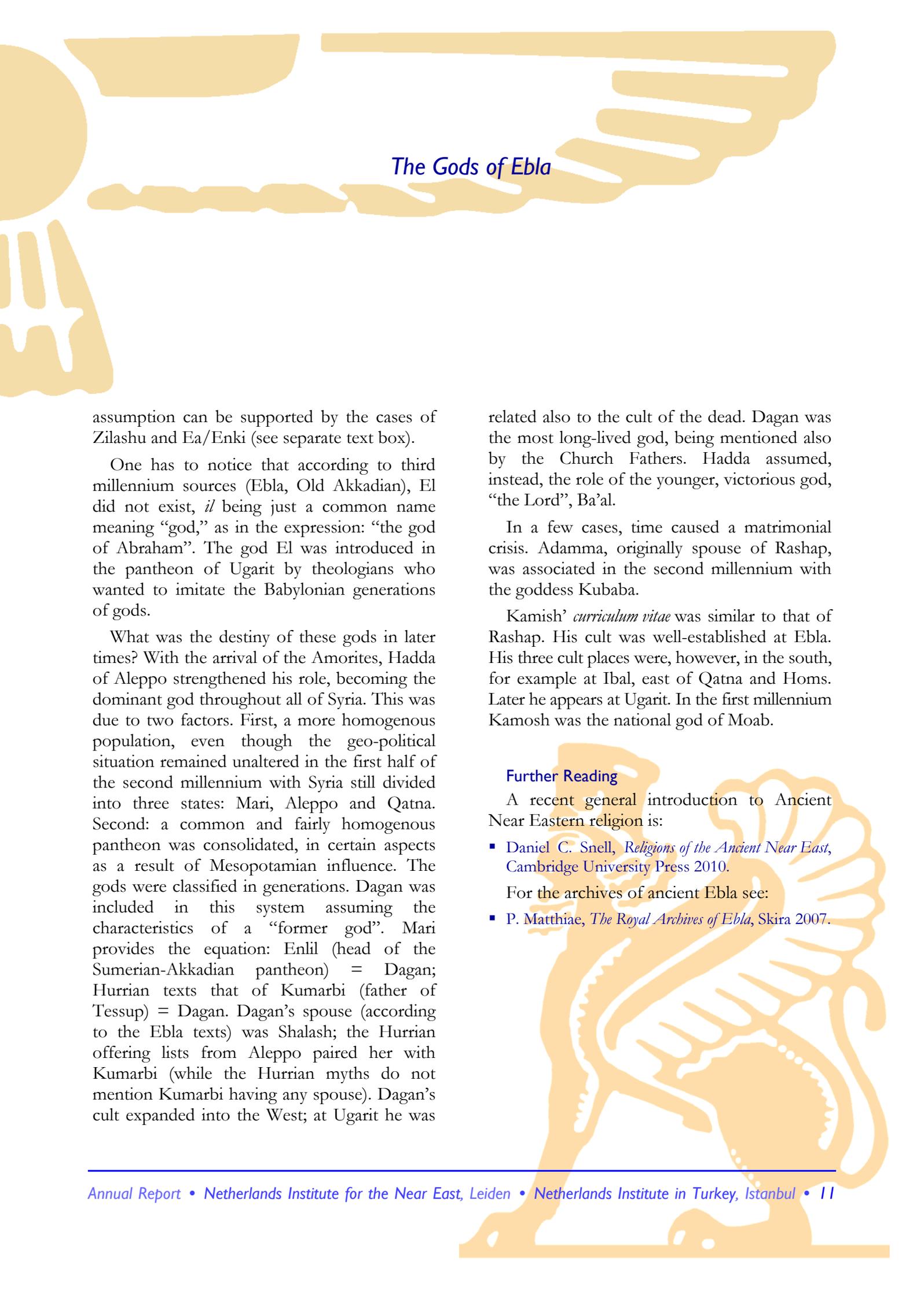
The Passing of the Pantheon

In conclusion, Ebla shows the pantheon of the Semitic speaking population of the northwestern part of the Near East, as yet uninfluenced by Sumerian culture. This

The Gods of Ebla



Figure 5. The royal *hypogeum* below the Palace, burial place of the kings of Ebla during the early second millennium BC.



The Gods of Ebla

assumption can be supported by the cases of Zilashu and Ea/Enki (see separate text box).

One has to notice that according to third millennium sources (Ebla, Old Akkadian), El did not exist, *il* being just a common name meaning “god,” as in the expression: “the god of Abraham”. The god El was introduced in the pantheon of Ugarit by theologians who wanted to imitate the Babylonian generations of gods.

What was the destiny of these gods in later times? With the arrival of the Amorites, Hadda of Aleppo strengthened his role, becoming the dominant god throughout all of Syria. This was due to two factors. First, a more homogenous population, even though the geo-political situation remained unaltered in the first half of the second millennium with Syria still divided into three states: Mari, Aleppo and Qatna. Second: a common and fairly homogenous pantheon was consolidated, in certain aspects as a result of Mesopotamian influence. The gods were classified in generations. Dagan was included in this system assuming the characteristics of a “former god”. Mari provides the equation: Enlil (head of the Sumerian-Akkadian pantheon) = Dagan; Hurrian texts that of Kumarbi (father of Tessup) = Dagan. Dagan’s spouse (according to the Ebla texts) was Shalash; the Hurrian offering lists from Aleppo paired her with Kumarbi (while the Hurrian myths do not mention Kumarbi having any spouse). Dagan’s cult expanded into the West; at Ugarit he was

related also to the cult of the dead. Dagan was the most long-lived god, being mentioned also by the Church Fathers. Hadda assumed, instead, the role of the younger, victorious god, “the Lord”, Ba’al.

In a few cases, time caused a matrimonial crisis. Adamma, originally spouse of Rashap, was associated in the second millennium with the goddess Kubaba.

Kamish’ *curriculum vitae* was similar to that of Rashap. His cult was well-established at Ebla. His three cult places were, however, in the south, for example at Ibal, east of Qatna and Homs. Later he appears at Ugarit. In the first millennium Kamosh was the national god of Moab.

Further Reading

A recent general introduction to Ancient Near Eastern religion is:

- Daniel C. Snell, *Religions of the Ancient Near East*, Cambridge University Press 2010.

For the archives of ancient Ebla see:

- P. Matthiae, *The Royal Archives of Ebla*, Skira 2007.

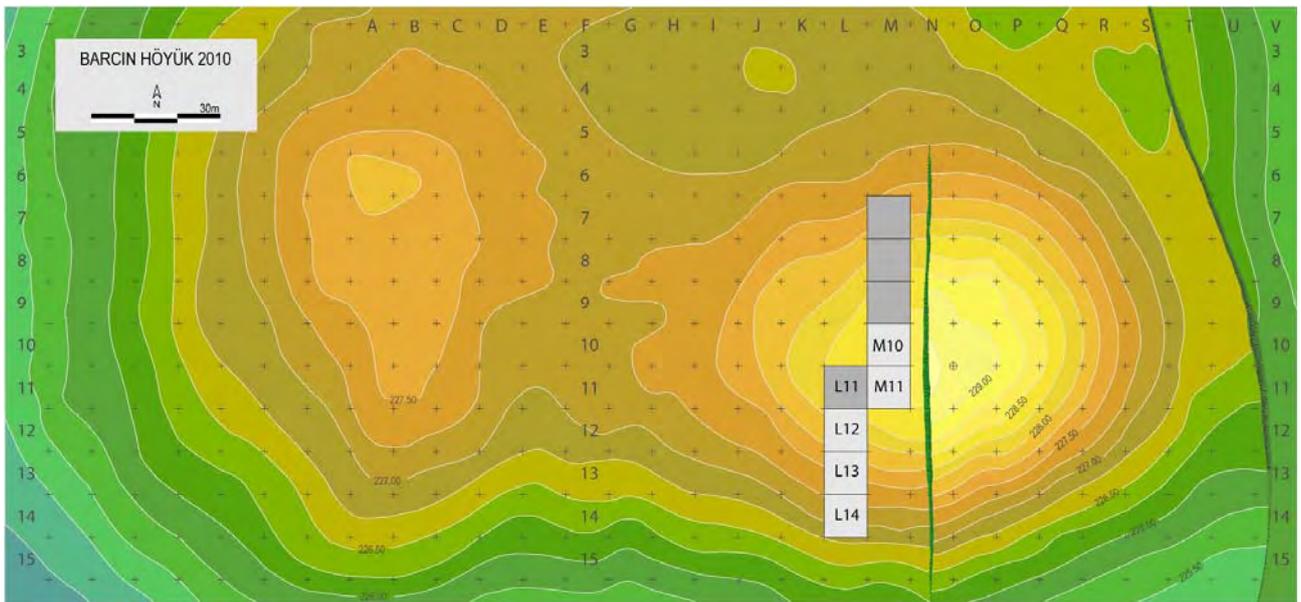


Figure I. Plan of Barcin Höyük with the location of the trenches excavated in 2010.

The NIT excavations at Barcın Höyük, 2010

Fokke Gerritsen and Rana Özbal

The excavations at Barcın Höyük continued in the summer of 2010. The previous NINO-NIT Annual Report presented an introduction to the site and the research project and described the activities of the 2009 campaign. In the current contribution we will focus on the first results of the 2010 season.

Introduction

Remains from several periods were encountered in the 2010 excavations, including the Early Bronze Age and Late Roman, but the emphasis of the investigations was on the Late Neolithic levels. From them, we hope to learn about the character and development of one of the earliest farming communities in northwestern Anatolia. On current evidence, the early periods of occupation represented at Barcın Höyük predate those of most other excavations in the Marmara Region, and the site offers an important opportunity to study the place and role of the Marmara Region in the development of agriculture and animal husbandry.

Excavations were carried out in five trenches (L12, L13, L14, M10 and M11), all of which were excavated also in previous years (Fig. 1). Investigations in L13 and L14 had the character of soundings, aiming primarily at obtaining stratigraphic information. The investigations in L12, M10 and M11 on the other hand aimed at exposing architectural remains and indoor and outdoor settlement spaces from a single stratum.

Houses and courtyards in trenches M10, M11 and L12

Three trenches were excavated over the full area of nine by nine meters, and as in previous years they continued to yield remains of domestic architecture and outdoor living areas. No work was done in trench L11 this year in order to give the other trenches the opportunity to reach the same stratigraphical level.

One goal for L12, for example, was to expose the remainder of the house whose northern half was first discovered in 2007 in L11. The southern and eastern walls of the house were found indeed, as was evidence for a complex use history of the building of which many aspects remain to be investigated. One, perhaps two, walls of an adjacent building to the south were encountered as well.

Similarly, trench M11 yielded several post-and-loam walls of houses, and indoor and outdoor floors and garbage deposits. Much more than in earlier years, the Neolithic remains encountered in this trench were more coherent and informative, and are beginning to produce a picture of an intensively used and inhabited area within a Neolithic settlement.

Whereas the upper levels dating to the Neolithic from trenches M10, M11 and L12 had been rather heavily disturbed by pits, the layers that were reached in particular in M10 showed many fewer disturbances. At the end of the season, the remains of (probably) three adjacent houses were exposed in M10, bounded to the north by an open courtyard

The NIT excavations at Barcın Höyük, 2010



Figure 2. Burnt rubble in the interior of a house in M10.
The row of small round pits in the foreground indicate the location of the post-built wall of the house.



Figure 3. Restored ceramic vessel with four vertically pierced lugs from which the pot could be suspended.

The NIT excavations at Barcın Höyük, 2010

area with a series of outdoor surfaces. One of the houses was destroyed by a fierce fire (Fig. 2). The small corner which we exposed in the 2010 campaign yielded many fragments of heavily burnt loam with impressions of wooden beams and reeds and among them two pot lids, originally unbaked, and a ceramic vessel completely contorted by the fire. There is a real chance that this house will provide us with a wealth of information on the building and the suite of activities that took place inside.

Through an ongoing program of micro-archaeological and soil chemistry analyses from indoor and outdoor surfaces we hope to gain an understanding of the character and distribution of daily activities within the settlement.

The artifacts collected from the Neolithic, made mainly from stone (flint and obsidian), bone and pottery, give further insight into the material culture of the period. The pottery from these levels (Fig. 3), dated provisionally to the 63rd and 62nd centuries BC, fits in with the material we know from other sites in the Marmara area, including Fikirtepe and Menteşe.

Towards the oldest occupation levels in trench L13

In the northeast corner of trench L13 a 4x4 meter deep sounding was dug with the aim of reaching the natural surface below the mound and establishing the date of the initial

occupation of the mound. While this goal was not reached, and we now know that there is about a meter of cultural deposits still to excavate to reach the base of the mound, the sounding yielded important information. It produced a long sequence of outdoor surfaces, predating the levels reached in the other trenches on the site. The surfaces incorporate a number of small pits with heavily burnt sides and bases, and two burials. Significant quantities of ceramics, chipped stone artifacts and faunal remains came from the surfaces and the deposits between the surfaces. This material represents mainly garbage, but as stratified garbage it is of great value to distinguish changes over time in ceramics, stone tool use and diet.

Many of these analyses are ongoing, but initial results regarding the pottery are very exciting. Project ceramicist Laurens Thissen reports: "In this year's trench L13 a hitherto unknown pottery assemblage is coming to light (Fig. 4). Representing the oldest pottery yet found on the site, and indeed from northwest Anatolia as a whole, technologically the material is outstanding. Although forms are simple and in line with the later tradition, the vessels display a sophisticated craftsmanship, which can be seen in their smooth walls, their highly and carefully burnished surfaces, and in a mastery over firing techniques.

Funding

The Barcın Höyük Excavations were funded between 2005 and 2010 by a grant from NWO, the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research, with additional funding from the NINO-NIT research budget.

Following the end of the 2010 season a new application was submitted to NWO, for funding for four more seasons of excavations and analysis at Barcın Höyük. Early in 2011 the news came that the application was successful!

The NIT excavations at Barcın Höyük, 2010



Figure 4. Neolithic ceramics from the sounding in trench L13.



Figure 5. Excavations in trench L13.
A Late Roman mudbrick wall runs from bottom right to center left. The area in front of it belongs to the Late Roman occupation phase. Excavator Stefan Kooi stands directly behind the wall on levels dating to the Neolithic period.

The NIT excavations at Barcın Höyük, 2010

Predominantly tempered with crushed calcite, pots are very well suited to cooking. Overall colours are shades of brown like those later on, but in the deepest layers yet reached there is also a tendency towards light grey, cream and pinkish surfaces. Especially the cream vessels have a smooth feel, are very well made, and by their characteristics seem to imitate stone vessels, fragments of which are found sporadically in Barcın Höyük. Despite this pottery being the oldest found so far on the site, it surpasses the later material technologically and esthetically, while simultaneously fitting the tradition in terms of shapes, decoration techniques, and, probably, of use.”

A Late Roman occupation phase

The excavations in L13 and L14 also led to the discovery of an occupation phase that we had only had some glimpses of in the form of small finds found out of context. It has now become clear that the southern slope of the prehistoric mound was dug into in the Late Roman period to create a terrace for a building made of mudbricks (Fig. 5). A section of the back wall of this building was found, set close against the artificially steepened slope of the Neolithic mound. The interior surface of this wall was covered with lime plaster. It had a square bin set against it, next to which a cooking pot lay squashed on a burnt floor.

The southern boundary of this Late Roman complex, possibly a farmstead, was formed by a ditch running southeast to northwest through trench L14.

Team members in 2010

Archaeologists: Fokke Gerritsen, Rana Özbal, Aysel Arslan, Elisha van den Bos, Gökhan Çakan, Kim Dekker, Cansu Demir, Kerim Kartal, Stefan Kooi, Emre Kuruçayırılı, Gizem Meşekoparan, Naz Özkan, Anestis Vasilakeris, Jolande Vos; *Archaeometry:* Hadi Özbal, Ayla Türkekul-Bıyık; *Ceramics:* Laurens Thissen; *Chipped stone:* Ivan Gatsov, Petranka Nedelcheva; *Faunal remains:* Alfred Galik, Doris Würtenberger; *Botanical remains and wood:* René Cappers, Reinder Neef; *Human remains:* Jessica Pearson; *aDNA:* Joachim Burger; *Conservation:* Pınar Güler; *Registrar:* Diane Özbal; *Turkish government representative:* Ebru Dumlupınar.



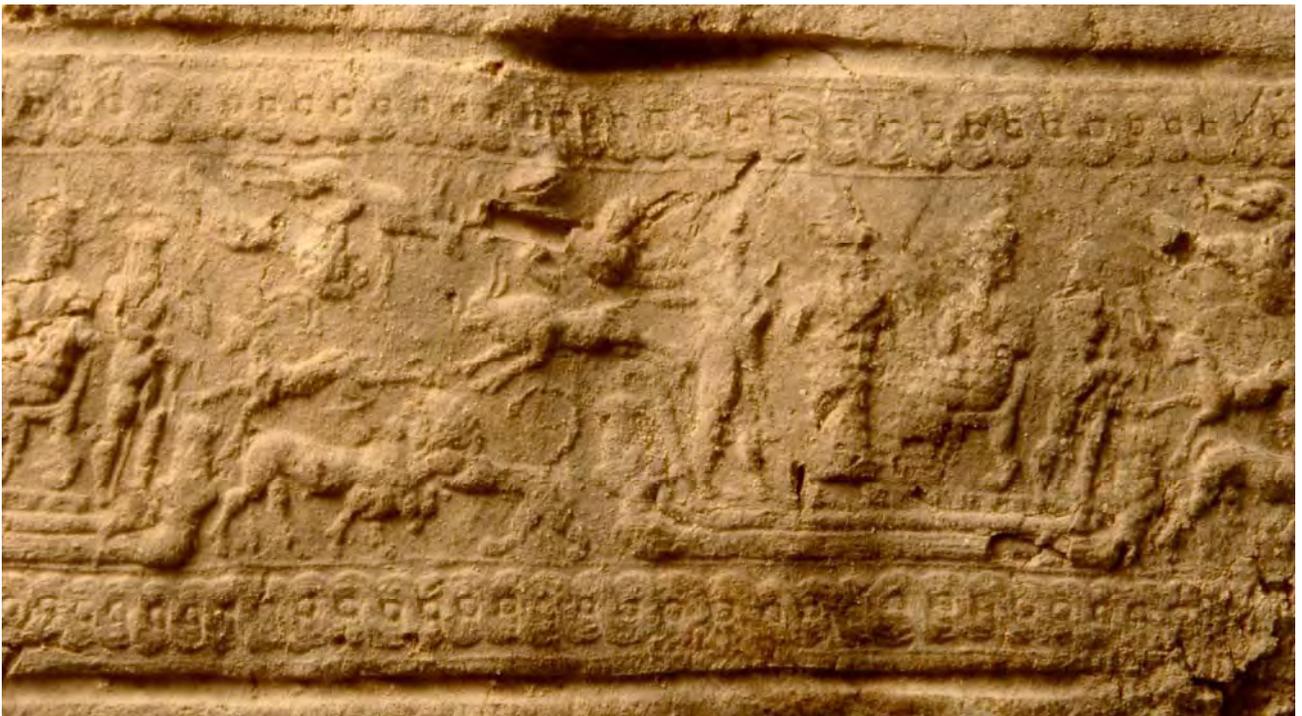


Figure 1. Seal image on QH.09-01.

Corks, broken jars, and the God of Wisdom.

A seal image from ancient Syria in context

Jesper Eidem

In the NINO/NIT Annual Report 2009 (pp. 3-10) an article described the first investigations at the site of Qala'at Halwanji in northern Syria 2008-9. In this issue a seal image is presented, found on clay corks excavated at the site in 2009.

Introduction

One day in the 18th century BC a shipment of jars arrived at a hilltop fortress on the Sajour river in present-day northern Syria. The jars were closed with corks made of unbaked clay, and across the corks were images, produced by a cylinder seal rolled upon the clay when still moist. This had been effected by an as yet unidentified individual, who was responsible for the shipment, and wanted to prevent any tampering with it until it reached its proper destination. This person was evidently an important figure – to judge from the quality of the seal used. Let us take a closer look at the image on the seal, as impressed on one of the corks (Fig. 1).

The central element is a boat with the god Haya (a Syrian form of the Sumerian Enki; see the article by A. Archi, text box p. 7), enthroned on a lion-footed chair on a platform. He is approached by his double-faced vizier (in Mesopotamia known as Isimud) leading a supplicant king by the hand. Behind the god is a naked figure punting the boat, which in both prow and stern is supplied with water gods joining as a stylized stream under the boat.

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 (ca. 20.000) inscribed with text in cuneiform writing were found. These texts provide a sometimes very detailed historical panorama of the last ca. 30 years before the destruction.

Next to this scene is a number of animal contest scenes involving lions, bulls, and a stag. Horizontal borders of guilloche bands frame the seal image.

Although the outlines and details of the impression are somewhat blurred, it is clear that the original seal image was executed with great skill. It was cut in negative on a surface of hard stone, probably haematite, and just a few centimeters square. The figures have realistic proportions and elegant poses; their faces, muscles, garments etc. are rendered with many details.

Who owned this seal? Where did the jars come from? What did they contain? Who was receiving them? What was the ancient name of the fortress? These are just some of the questions which intrigue us. Precise information is perhaps forthcoming as excavation of the hilltop fortress proceeds, but for now we must remain with some hints and suggestions.

Qala'at Halwanji

The modern name of the hilltop is Qala'at Halwanji, Arabic for “Castle of the sweet-vendor” – after the nearby modern village of Halwanji (Fig. 2). It is partly covered with the buried ruins of a fortress which was constructed here in the Middle Bronze Age, nearly 4000 years ago. The fortress existed briefly in the early 18th century BC until

*Corks, broken jars, and the God of Wisdom.
A seal image from ancient Syria in context*

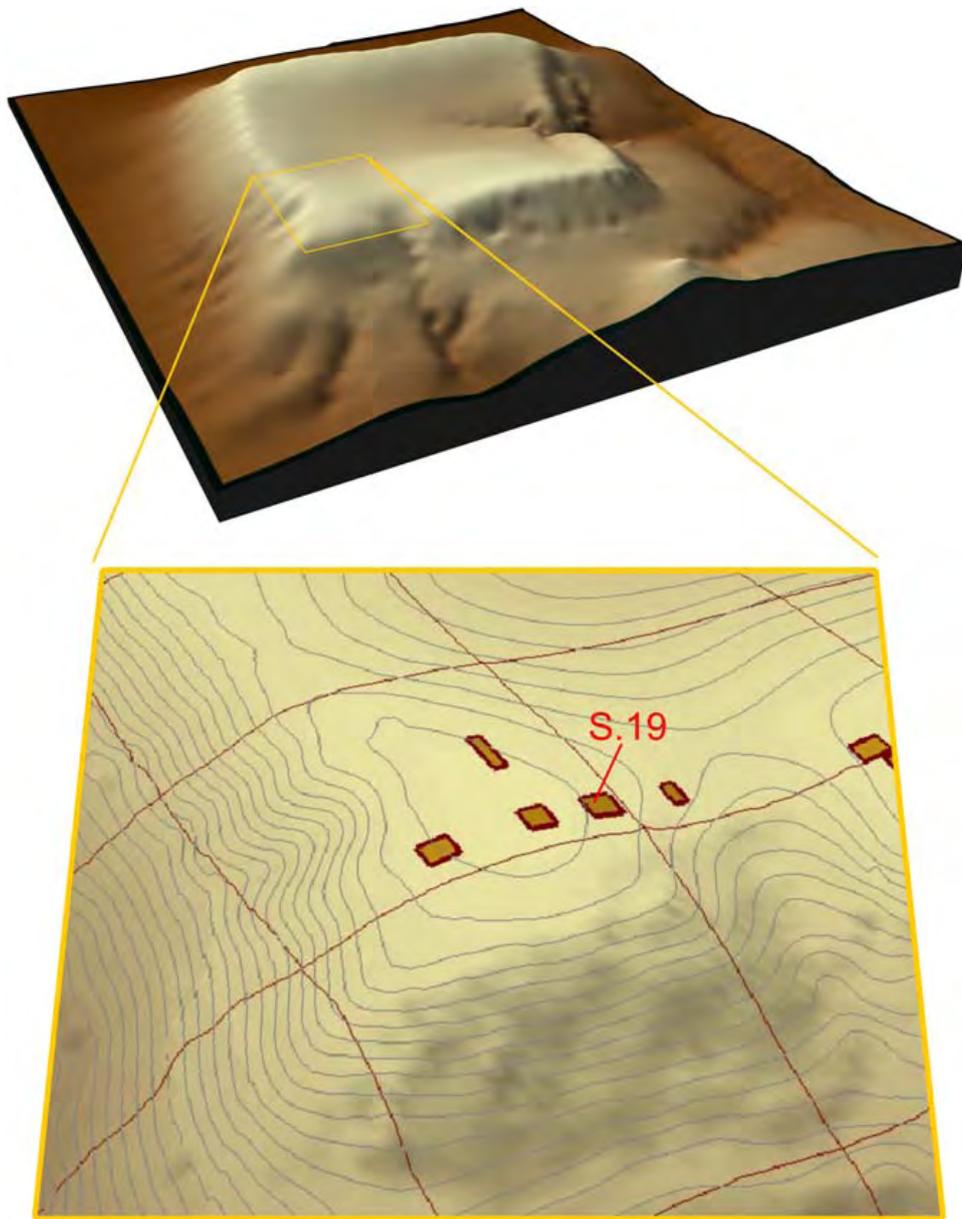


Figure 2. 3D model of Qala'at Halwanji with inset showing sondages in the area of the "Governor's Palace".

Corks, broken jars, and the God of Wisdom.

A seal image from ancient Syria in context

destroyed by fire, probably as a result of warfare. Qala'at Halwanji was first identified as an archaeological site in 2007, and in 2008-9 a Syrian-Danish expedition carried out preliminary investigations, mapping the site and excavating the first small trenches to get an impression of the archaeological situation. It emerged that the site was eroded over much of its ca. 5 hectare surface, but in places exceptionally well-preserved. Walls still standing up to three meters high were excavated in the southwest corner of the site, and they probably belonged to the administrative center of the fortress. Provisionally we refer to this structure as "The Governor's Palace".

The small sections of the building exposed so far has walls ca. 1,6 m thick and made of grey bricks, similar also in size (34 x 34 x 14 cm) to those in the contemporary rampart sections excavated. If we assume that the southwest corner of the site was occupied by a single, large building, we can estimate that it covers an area of ca. 50 x 50 m = 2500 sqm. This would make it comparable in size to another Middle Bronze Age 'palace', excavated by German archaeologists at Tell Bi'a, some 120 kms southeast of Halwanji.

The clay corks were found in Sondage 19, which featured a northern wall, parallel with –

and partly beyond the edge of the trench (Fig. 3). The room/space south of this wall contained numerous crushed vessels, both items from the collapsed roof or upper storey, and items

originally placed on the floor. An interesting assemblage on the floor was found close to the wall. It consists of four cups, five trifoil jugs, and three medium sized jars, all heavily burned, and smashed into many small pieces – so that restoration of this set is not yet completed (Fig. 4). Together with this pottery were two clay jar corks and a small limestone lid,

certainly once used to close the three jars found (Fig. 5). The clay corks are conical covers which originally was used to seal the opening of a jar with a rim dm of ca. 10 cm.

They were supplied with rollings from a cylinder seal, from the broader base and across the pointed upper end to the opposite base. One specimen (QH.09-2) had two – the other (QH.09-1) three rollings made with the same seal (Fig. 4).

Interestingly a small fragment from the top of a similar object and sealed with the same seal was found in Sondage 13 to the west. Similar objects have been found in Tell Bi'a (ancient Tuttul), where the sealings, however, were made on strips of

Vintage wine

Texts from Mari mention different qualities of wine, the best a kind of liqueur created by condensing wine of lower quality, and referred to as *simum*. Wine had to be consumed within a few years, and was usually diluted with water before serving.

The city of Karkemish (on the border between Turkey and Syria) was an important center for wine trade.

The price of wine

A ca. 10 litre jar with wine cost 60 "grain" of silver – including a mere 3 "grain" for the empty jar. 60 "grain" was 1/3 of a shekel (= 8 grams). It is not easy to translate this into a modern price, but we know it was possible to live fairly well (food, oil, firewood etc.) on 7 shekels a month.

*Corks, broken jars, and the God of Wisdom.
A seal image from ancient Syria in context*



Figure 3. Floor with crushed vessels in Sondage 19. The bottom of cork QH.09-1 is visible in the lower right corner (indicated).

Figure 4. Close up of cork *in situ*.



Corks, broken jars, and the God of Wisdom.

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finer clay attached to the cap, itself made of coarser clay. Most of the corks found at Tell Bi'a were apparently applied locally, so that the contents of the jars were either produced close to the site, or 'rebottled' there. Such a scenario is less likely for the Halwanji corks.

The Historical Context

We plan to carry out a programme of residue analysis on ceramic vessels from Halwanji, but until firmer evidence is available it seems likely that the sealed jars from Sondage 19 could have contained wine. Wine was widely consumed in elite contexts, and from the archives of cuneiform texts excavated at ancient Mari (see separate text box) we have a good deal of information on this (see separate text boxes). Thus we know that wine was usually transported in jars containing ca. 10 litres each, and this could fit the examples from Halwanji, which had a maximum capacity of some 15 litres. Wine was traded or exchanged as gifts, and reached central Syria (Mari) from the region of modern Aleppo and a number of towns in northern Syria or southern Anatolia.

Also the seal fits into this geographical horizon. Actual cylinder seals or impressions with similar style and imagery found elsewhere mostly derive from the same general region. We may therefore assume that the Halwanji jars arrived from a location within that region, but unfortunately not with confidence point to

a specific town. The closest parallel to the Halwanji sealing is found on an envelope for a cuneiform tablet excavated in Kültepe, ancient Kanesh (see separate text box), in southeastern Anatolia, and shown here in Fig. 6. On this seal

Kültepe

Ancient Kanesh was the capital of an Anatolian kingdom. In Kanesh was also a colony of merchants from the city of Assur in modern Iraq (some 1200 km to the southeast). The merchants exported tin and woolen textiles to Anatolia, where they sold these goods for silver (see article in *NINO/NIT Annual Report 2009*, 22-25).

the god Haya is not seated in a boat, but the association with water is indicated by streams emanating from his shoulders and surrounding the swirl of water gods next to the main scene. The supplicant led by the double-faced vizier is beardless and bare-headed, in contrast to the counterpart on the Halwanji seal, who is a royal figure. Apart from the main

scene, otherwise rare in this period, one notes the similarities in details and not least in style which the two seals share. Interestingly the swirl of water gods on the Kültepe seal, also a fairly rare north Syrian feature, is found, virtually identical, on another seal impression from Qala'at Halwanji. The two seals clearly belong in the same tradition, and must have been made not very far apart in time and space.

The Kültepe tablet is dated with the name of an eponym official, Tab-silli-Assur, and since the sequence of these eponyms is known, it can be established that the envelope with its sealing was made in the year 1776 BC (according to the conventional chronology). Use of the two seals considered here may of course have extended over a fairly long period, but hardly more than 50 years, which would date the arrival of our jars to Halwanji between 1800-1750 BC.

*Corks, broken jars, and the God of Wisdom.
A seal image from ancient Syria in context*



Figure 5. Partly reconstructed jars and jug from Sondage 19.

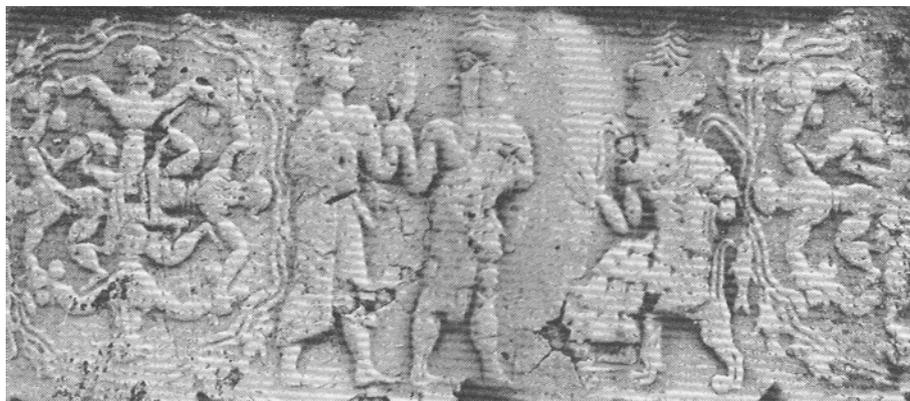


Figure 6. Seal image on tablet found at Kültepe.

Corks, broken jars, and the God of Wisdom.

A seal image from ancient Syria in context

As mentioned the jars were found together with broken jugs, which could have been used to serve wine – into the cups found. Did the fire which destroyed the fortress perhaps disturb a wine-tasting session – or a night-cap in the “Governor’s Palace”? Perhaps we shall know one day...

Incidentally 1776 BC is exactly the year in which the famous north Mesopotamian king Shamshi-Adad I died (see separate text box). In earlier presentations we have discussed the possibility that Qala’at Halwanji could be identical with a fortress established 1786 BC by this king, and modestly named Dur-Shamshi-Adad, “The Fortress of Shamshi-Adad”. The fortress was intended to guard the frontier between his kingdom and the kingdom of Jamhad to the west, but was conquered by Jamhad in 1779 BC. Recently other scholars have suggested that this fortress should be sought more to the south, and this can not be excluded. More evidence is needed to solve this problem, and we hope it may appear in the new series of Syrian-Dutch excavations at Qala’at Halwanji planned to begin in late 2011.

Acknowledgments

In 2008 and 2009 the archaeological work at Qala’at Halwanji was directed by J. Eidem, then senior fellow in the Cluster of Excellence

Shamshi-Adad

Although 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.

‘TOPOI’, Freie Universität Berlin, and Syrian co-directors were A. Nasser (2008) and M. Fakhru (2009). The work was generously sponsored by the Augustinus Foundation (Copenhagen) and the Danish Institute in Damascus.

Photos Figs. 1 and 3-5 by Henrik Brahe; 3D model Fig. 2 by Paolo Del Vesco; seal image Fig. 6 after N. Özgüç, *Seals and Seal Impressions of Level Ib from Karum Kanesh*. Ankara 1968, Pl. XIc.

Further Reading

For a general description of the site of Qala’at Halwanji see:

▪ J. Eidem, Qala’at Halwanji: A 4000 year old fortress in Syria, *Annual Report NINO/NIT 2009*, 2-10.

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

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

Texts from ancient Mari relating to wine have been studied in:

▪ G. Chambon, *Les Archives du vin de Mari*. FM XI. Paris 2009.

An alternative location of Dur-Shamshi-Adad (at Tell Qitar, some 35 kms south of Halwanji) is suggested by A. Otto and N. Ziegler in:

▪ Eva Cancik-Kirschbaum and Nele Ziegler (eds.), *Entre les fleuves 1*. BBVO 20. Berlin 2009.



Figure 1. PF 0688 with impression of seal PFS 0857s, the seal of Gobryas
(image courtesy Persepolis Fortification Archive Project).

Xerxes, Atossa, and the Persepolis Fortification Archive

Wouter F.M. Henkelman

Many nations, many tongues

When king Darius (521-486 BC) proudly proclaimed the vastness of his realm, the first ever world empire, he was hardly overstating its diversity by calling it an empire of ‘many tongues.’ Indeed, historians of the Achaemenid or Persian Empire (c. 550-330 BC) have to cope with sources written in Old Persian, Elamite, Babylonian, Aramaic, Hebrew, Demotic, Lydian, Greek and other languages, not to mention archaeological and iconographic material. Even more challenging, however, is the task to integrate these sources – each with its own limitations and problems – into a coherent perspective. Greek narrative historiography, especially the celebrated *Histories* of Herodotus, has long functioned as the central ‘story’ of the Achaemenid empire, but has now largely ceded that position, after critical re-evaluation of its (often unintentionally) biased and limited views. This, naturally, does not mean that Greek evidence should be ignored – if only because sources from within the Achaemenid empire hardly include any narrative historiography – but rather that it should be carefully evaluated against the background of primary evidence.

One major corpus of primary sources is the Persepolis Fortification Archive. Excavated in 1933/34 at Persepolis, a royal residence in the Achaemenid heartland of southwestern Iran, the archive comprises about 7000 to 8000 legible tablets and fragments inscribed in Elamite cuneiform, up to 1000 tablets written

in Aramaic alphabetic script, and at least some 5000 tablets that have only impressions of cylinder and stamp seals. Most of the Elamite and Aramaic tablets are sealed as well. The thousands of seal images in the archive are a real gold mine for specialists of Achaemenid iconography (Fig. 1).

An Imperial Universe

The texts and intricate sealing patterns from the Fortification Archive bear witness to a highly complex institutional administration. This complexity lies, first, on the level of speech. Aramaic and Elamite (a language from southwestern Iran) were used as bureaucratic languages in a milieu where Old Iranian was the predominant spoken language, as appears from the many Old Iranian loanwords in the texts. Second, the territory under purview of the organisation was vast (roughly the size of Switzerland) and its dependent manpower ran in the tens of thousands, not to mention its innumerable fowl, sheep and cattle. But most important is the fact that, though dated tablets stem from a relatively short period (509-493 BC) and represent but a fragment of an even vaster documentation, they touch on many features central to understanding the Achaemenid empire. The archive pertains to the production, storage and redistribution of locally produced food commodities; recipients included gods, royals, nobles, officers and troops, officials and craftsmen, travellers, labourers and animals. As such, it informs us on crop production and livestock breeding, but

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Persepolis Fortification Tablet NN 1657

Transliteration

- Obverse (01) 7 QA ZÍD.DAMEŠ kur-mán HAL
 (02) mi-rīrī-iz-za-na HALtam₅-šá-ka₄-ma
 (03) hi-še HALba-ir-da AŠri-pi ku-
 (04) ti-ra! HALše-ir-šá da-ma
 (05) a-ak 3 HALak-ka₄-ia-rše i-da-ka₄ṭ
 (06) HALEŠŠANA-ik-ka₄-mar AŠba-ir-da
 (07) la-ak-ka₄ rhuṭ-pi-be gal
- Lower edge (08) du-rišṭ [1] ṛANṭna-an
- Reverse (09) ANTIMES ṛANṭsa-a-kur-ri-ṛzi-išṭ [(-na) AŠ]
 (10) be-ul 24 rum-meṭ-man-na [gal]
 (11) ap-pi-ṛe-naṭ 1 ṛQA tanMESṭ
 (12) 1 HALpu-hu 1 QA du-išṭ-da
 (13) AŠhal-mi HALEŠŠANA-na ku-iz-za

Translation

⁰¹ 7 l. flour, ⁰¹⁻⁰² allocation from Mīrizza, ⁰²⁻⁰³ a Parthian named Tamšakama, ⁰³⁻⁰⁴ spear bearer, ⁰⁴ sent/assigned by Xerxes (*Xšēršā), ⁰⁵ together with his three companions, ⁰⁶⁻⁰⁷ sent from the King to Parthia: ⁰⁷⁻⁰⁸ they received (it as) ration (for) 1 day. ⁰⁹⁻¹⁰ Third month, 24th year. ¹⁰⁻¹¹ Their ration (was) 1.5 l., ¹² 1 servant received 1 l. ¹³ He (Ṭ) carried a sealed document from the King.

Figure 2. NN 1657: obverse, lower edge and reverse (image courtesy Persepolis Fortification Archive Project).

Xerxes, Atossa, and the Persepolis Fortification Archive

also on bureaucratic principles, taxation, infrastructure, economic development, royal roads, status of women, organisation of labour, markets, the royal table, demography, royal building projects, cultic matters, the pantheon, etc. The tablets, tiny as they are and mundane as their individual content may be, offer us precious glimpses into an imperial universe.

Most of the Elamite tablets are tongue-shaped objects with a maximum width of only 6 cm. Such tablets record single transactions and are known as memoranda. They are usually sealed on the flattened left edge, and on the reverse. If, for example, a traveller on an official mission would receive provisions at one of the way stations along the royal roads, a memorandum would be written for each commodity issued. The store-keeper of the way station would role his seal over the left edge and the traveller would acknowledge receipt by doing the same on the reverse of the tablet. After a certain interval, such memoranda were collected at the way station and transported to Persepolis, where they were checked and processed into registers and accounts of various formats and layouts.

Economic power

Documents from the Fortification Archive show that Irdabama was owner of domains in southwestern Iran and in Babylonia, and director of a force of thousands of dependent labourers. She had a private administrative staff and headed her own royal household and 'royal table'.

Irdabama and Xerxes

One subject for which study of the Fortification Archive has proven to be particularly fruitful is that of the status of royal women, particularly Irdabama. This eye-catching personality, perhaps the mother of Darius, underlines the fragmentary perspective of the Greek sources, which never mention her name. By contrast, Herodotus treats us to some 'inside' stories about Xerxes' mother Atossa, who, as he claims, was a main force behind Darius' decision to invade Greece and the selection of her son as crown prince in 486 BC. As to the date and circumstances of Xerxes' selection, one text is of special interest:

Power behind the throne?

Herodotus tells us that Atossa was able to influence Darius to choose her son Xerxes as heir to the throne over his firstborn son.

It has long been suggested that Xerxes was actually selected because Atossa was a daughter of Cyrus the Great and belonged to the preceding Teispid dynasty. This way of saving Herodotus' face is, however, squarely contradicted by the tablets, which clearly show that queen Irtaštuna, another daughter of Cyrus, was the leader of the remaining Teispids.

7 litres of flour, allocation from Mirizza, a Parthian named Tamšakama, spear bearer, sent/assigned by Xerxes, together with his three companions, sent from the King to Parthia: they received (it as) ration (for) one day. Third month, 24th year. Their ration (was) 1.5 litre, one servant received 1 litre. He (T.) carried a sealed document from the King.

The document, first published here, dates to May/June 498, making it the earliest dated reference to Xerxes. It predates 486 BC, the date of Xerxes' selection as crown prince according to Herodotus, by twelve years. And

Xerxes, Atossa, and the Persepolis Fortification Archive



Figure 3. Persepolis, palace of Darius: image of crown prince Xerxes and attendants; the faces have been mutilated during the Macedonian invasion or at a later date (image Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago).

Xerxes, Atossa, and the Persepolis Fortification Archive

although our text does not state Xerxes' rank, it does indicate that he had at least attained a position of some importance. Parthian men, spear bearers, were assigned by him. The term used, *dama*, suggests in this context a role in the chain of command, perhaps as (a) commander in the important satrapy of Parthia. Since the Parthian men were travelling from the king to Parthia, and were carrying a sealed authorisation from the King, they may have been initially dispatched by Xerxes to report to his father. Having done so, they were now heading back with the king's response. The context makes the scribe's silence on Xerxes' title (or the fact that he was Darius' son) eloquent: his position was apparently well-known.

Other primary sources confirm the impression given by NN 1657. At Persepolis, in the palace (*tacara*) of Darius, most reliefs showing the figure of the king are inscribed with captions identifying "Darius the Great King, son of Hystaspes, the Achaemenid" (DPa). One caption, however, speaks of "Xerxes, son of king Darius, an Achaemenid" (XPk). The absence of the title king, and the fact that the palace was built in

the reign of Darius, leads to the conclusion that Xerxes is here referred to as crown prince.

If Atossa's status depended on Xerxes' election as crown prince, one would expect to find abundant references to her, starting, at the latest, in 498 (the date of our text). Instead, we

find only two texts referring to 'Udusana', dated to 500/499, and nothing beyond that. There is no indication that her status was comparable to that of Irdabama and Irtaštuna. Moreover, the royal lady Irdabama is, in contrast to Atossa, well attested in the later years of the archive.

Xerxes himself relates in an inscription (XPf) that Darius had chosen him among his brothers and made him "greatest" (i.e. crown prince). He does not mention his mother or the Teispid line, but instead highlights his patrilineal descent. Unless we force the Herodotean perspective of the all-powerful Atossa unto this primary source, its message is clear enough. The

Fortification Archive, too, time and again demonstrates the centrality of the King of Kings. Royal women indeed occur as responsible actors heading their own economic households, but their power is always a derivative of

Archive at Risk

Since 1935, the Persepolis Fortification tablets, Iranian state property, have been on loan to the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago for the purpose of study and publication. They are currently under threat of being auctioned to cover (a small) part of the damages awarded to survivors and relatives of the victims of terrorists' attacks in Beirut (1983) and Jerusalem (1997), who have successfully filed cases before US courts against the Islamic Republic of Iran, purportedly co-sponsor and co-organizer of the attacks.

Under the US Anti-Terrorist Act, the plaintiffs were awarded damages worth about 3.5 billion USD, and – if Iran does not comply with the verdict – have the right to lay claim on Iranian property in the US. A legal battle is now being fought to determine whether the law applies to cultural goods like the tablets. As Gil Stein, director of the Oriental Institute, has stated, "If this actually happens, it would be a loss to science of unprecedented scale, and it would rob the Iranian people of one of the most important symbols of their cultural heritage and identity."

Xerxes, Atossa, and the Persepolis Fortification Archive

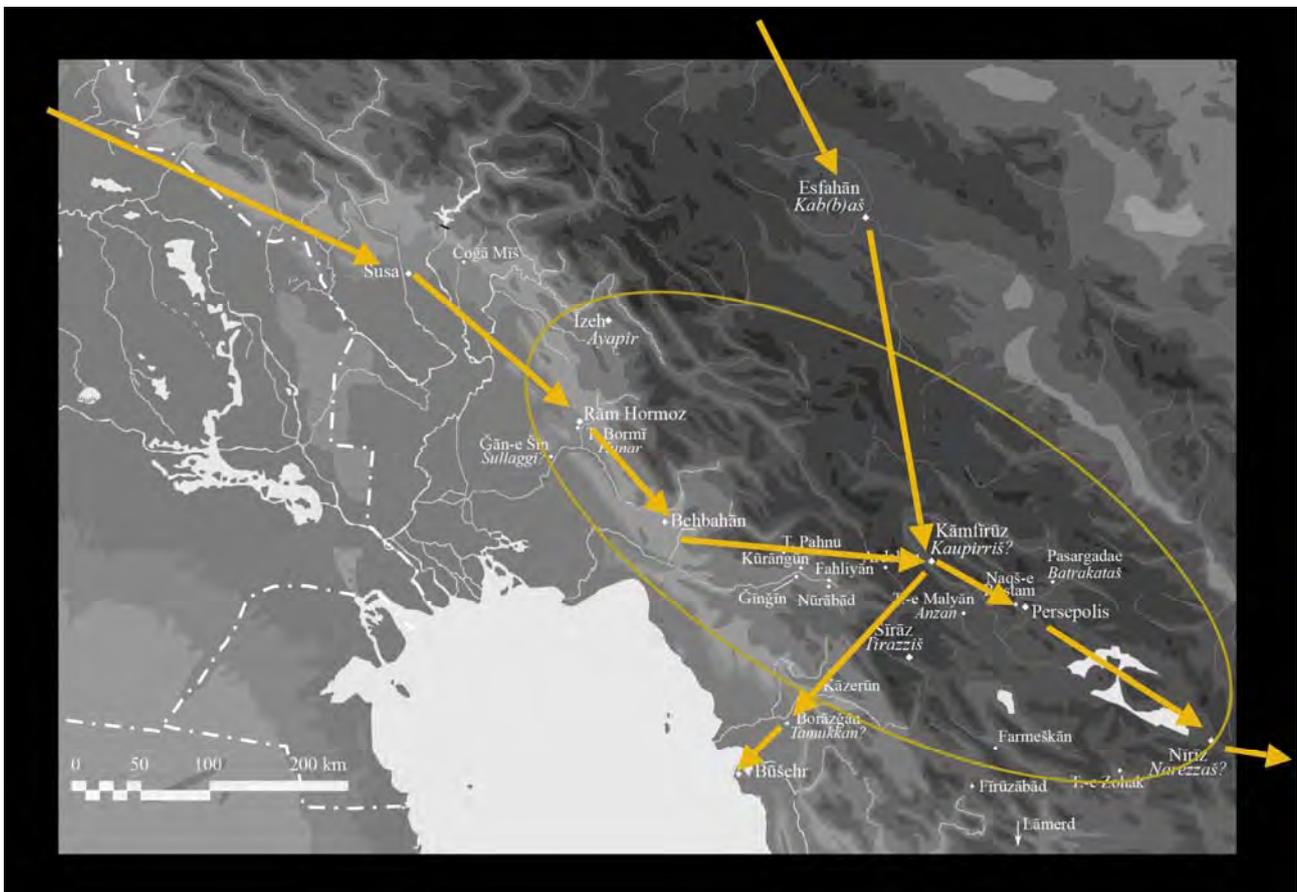


Figure 4. Map of southwestern Iran, indicating the approximate area covered by the Persepolis Fortification Archive and schematic trajectories of the main royal roads.

Xerxes, Atossa, and the Persepolis Fortification Archive

that of the king and does imply political status. Though their rights and status were unheard of in fifth-century Athens, they were not the plotting powers behind the throne that Greek historians liked to fantasize about.

As for Atossa: the evidence from the tablets suggests that she did not rise to real prominence before 493 BC (the end of the archive) and probably not until after the accession of Xerxes. She may subsequently have gained a role comparable to that of Irdabama during Darius' reign, but this is speculation.

Thanks to the Fortification Archive, Irdabama emerges as a historical person, whereas Atossa remains what she already had been for Herodotus: nothing but a name.

Virtual rescue?

In response to the threat of loosing the physical tablets (see previous text box), an emergency project and an international collaboration has been set up to save at least their contents. The members of the Persepolis Fortification Archive Project are currently working hard to photograph and publish all parts of the archive. Advanced photographic techniques are applied, including 'polynomial texture mapping' (PTM), which results in image files that allow users to change the direction and intensity of light (and therewith the shades in cuneiform signs and seal impressions).

Further reading

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- P. Calmeyer, *Aufreihung – Duplik – Kopie – Umbildung*, in: A. Kuhrt and H.W.A.M. Sancisi-Weerdenburg (eds.), *Method and Theory* (Achaemenid History 3), Leiden 1988, 101-119.
- M.B. Garrison & M.C. Root, *Seals on the Persepolis Fortification Tablets, Part 1: Images of Heroic Encounter*, 2 vols. (Oriental Institute Publications 117), Chicago 2001.
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Figure 1. Franz Böhl on a camel at Gizeh (Egypt) on April 15, 1928.



Figure 2. Fragment of textile with fringe, lines of light threads, and coloured tapestry-woven insets (Inv. no. BEg 1, 64 x 51 cm).

From the NINO collections: The Egyptian objects

Esther J. Holwerda

Since 1951, NINO is the owner of the Böhl Collection, named after its collector. Known for its cuneiform tablets, the Böhl Collection also contains 75 small Egyptian objects of great variety. Among them are figurines, amulets, groups of *shabtis* (funerary statuettes), the face of a coffin, a leather sandal, a wickerwork bag and an animal mummy. The Egyptian objects rarely left their storage drawers, and remained without proper research, description or publication until this year, when they were the subject of a Master's thesis.

Documentation, research and collection management

Research on the Egyptian collection was long overdue, as its existence was unknown to many, including most Egyptologists working in the NINO library. A full inventory list of the objects did not exist. Research therefore started with compiling this basic list. For the first time since the objects were collected by Böhl, each object received a full description, accompanied by photographs. An assessment of the objects' current condition was made, in order to undertake action towards optimal preservation. For instance, a piece of linen fabric, apparently left folded up since acquisition, received 'emergency' treatment by a textile expert and is now safe and stable due to these conservation measures

(Inv. no. BEg 1; see below and Fig. 2). Furthermore, the ancient history of the objects was investigated: an interpretation of their date, provenance, original use or owner, and so on. Unfortunately, written sources on this neglected part of the collection are scarce.

Interpretations were made of the collection's more recent history, concerning acquisition, locations and purpose.

Finally, the role of (ancient) Egypt and the Egyptian objects in Böhl's life and career was investigated.

History of the Egyptian collection

Böhl acquired his first antiquities in 1922, when he was able to buy the collection of the Assyriologist Felix Ernst Peiser († 1921), comprising 926 cuneiform tablets. A small piece of paper preserved in Groningen, presumably a caption, mentions an Egyptian object, 'collection Böhl' and 'Peiser'. It is the only indication that the Peiser collection also contained at least one Egyptian object, and that therefore the starting point of the Egyptian collection is June 1922.

The objects were kept and displayed for scientific and educational purposes at the *Semitistische Werkkamer en verzameling van Babylonische en Egyptische oudheden* in Groningen,

Prof. Dr Franz Marius Theodor de Liagre Böhl, 1882-1976

Böhl was a renowned expert on the Old Testament and later on a well-known Assyriologist. He was the son of Eduard Böhl, professor of Evangelic Theology in Vienna, and his Dutch wife Jacqueline Baroness of Verschuer. Böhl extended his surname to 'De Liagre Böhl' in 1949, in order to keep a family name alive.

After a professorship in Hebrew language and linguistics and 'Israelite antiquities' at the University of Groningen from 1913 to 1927, Böhl was appointed professor of Assyriology at Leiden University. He was co-director of the Netherlands Institute for the Near East from its foundation in 1939 until 1955. Until his death in 1976 he remained active in the academic world, publishing and attending events. In 1973, his bibliography counted 321 published books, articles, contributions and reviews.

From the NINO collections:
The Egyptian objects

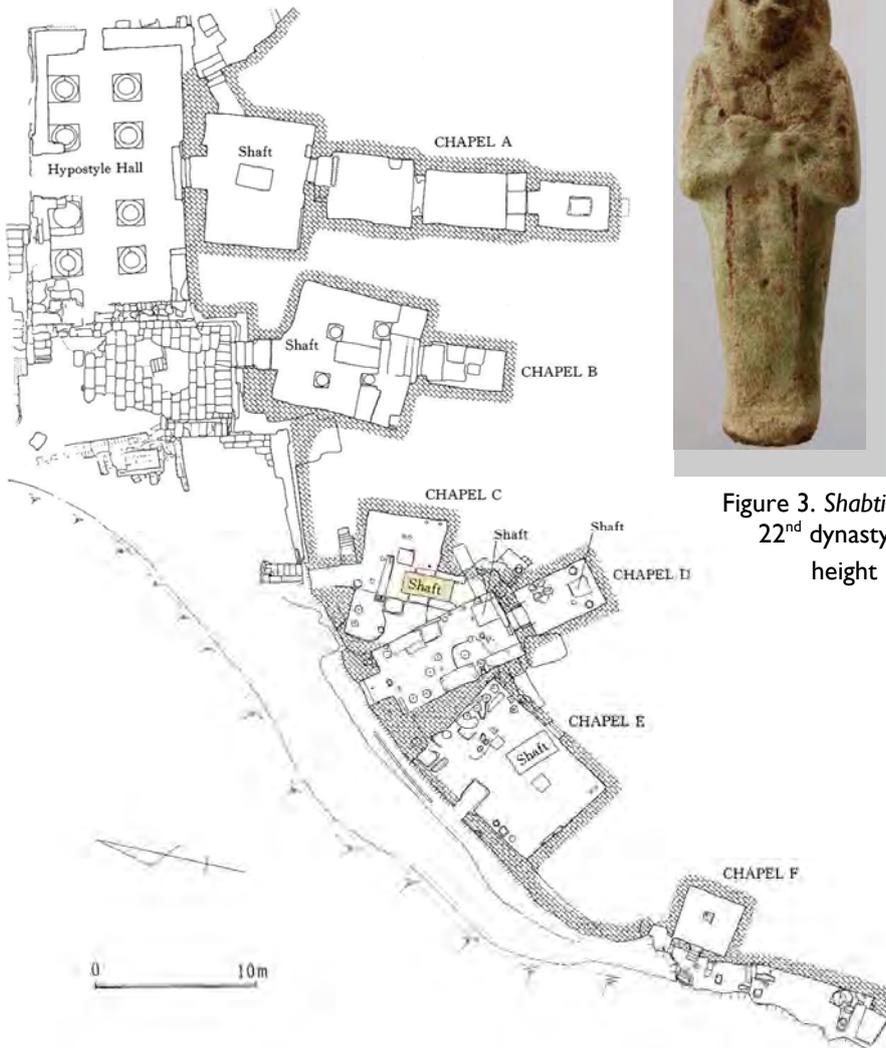


Figure 3. *Shabtis* belonging to Ankhefendjehuty, 22nd dynasty (Inv. nos. 1339, 1340, 1342, height 14.1, 15.7 and 14.3 cm).

Figure 4. Plan of “chapels” A-F at Tehneh (after: Paleological Association of Japan, *Report of the excavations at Akoris in Middle Egypt 1981-1992*, Kyoto 1995, Fig. 11). Inv. nos. 1339-1342 were among the *shabtis* found in the ‘southern room’ of Tomb 2 (entrance through indicated shaft) during the 1926 excavations by Abu Seif.



From the NINO collections: The Egyptian objects

which Böhl opened on November 7, 1925. The earliest documentation of the *Semitistische Werkkamer* may provide information on Böhl's private collection, but its archive is yet to be located.

After having accepted the position of professor of Assyriology at Leiden University in 1927, Böhl left behind several Egyptian objects from his private collection for the *Semitistische Werkkamer*. The current location of these objects is presumably an external storeroom of the University Museum at Groningen.

Once settled in Leiden, Böhl founded the *Assyriologische Werkkamer* and housed his collection there. Due to the proximity of the National Museum of Antiquities, the Egyptian collection lost its educational value and would rarely be seen again. The collection was relocated to the nearby building of the National Museum of Ethnology in two installments in 1935 and 1937, and would remain in two basement rooms for the duration of sixteen years.

On July 13, 1951, the entire Böhl Collection was sold to NINO. As co-director of the Institute, Böhl was ensured of partial governance over the collection, as well as the right to publish (about) the objects. The focus being on the cuneiform tablets, the Egyptian objects were neglected. In the absence of a catalogue, publications and even a full inventory list, the

existence of the Egyptian collection was by this time already virtually unknown to employees, students, and visitors at the Institute. When NINO moved into a newly built Leiden University building in 1982, the Böhl Collection was housed in a purpose-built vault. Despite being at hand for educational use, the Egyptian part of the collection hardly ever served this purpose, as most of the Egyptology staff was – until recently – not aware of the existence of Egyptian material in the vault.

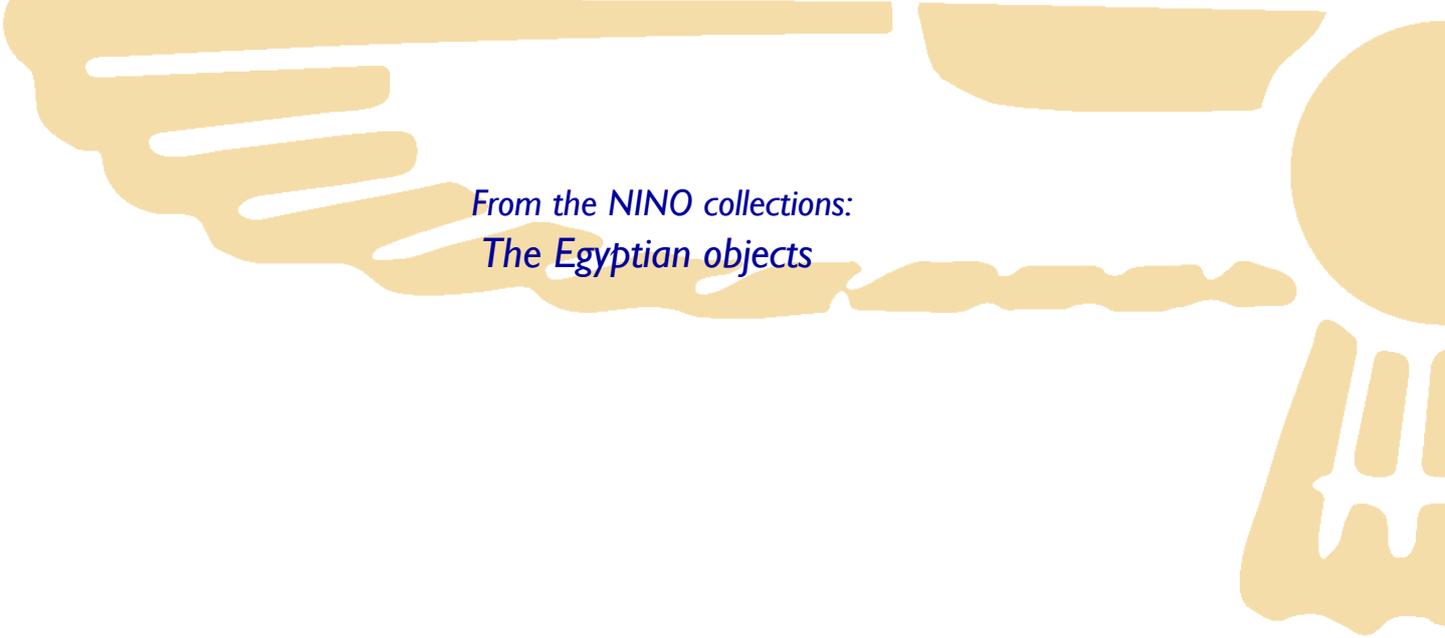
Acquisition of Egyptian objects

Unfortunately, Böhl's extensive private correspondence and the few other remaining documents, with one exception, give no clues as to how the objects were acquired. A single receipt is preserved, written by a dealer at Luxor called Mohareb Todrous and dated January 4, 1930. It concerns the purchase of ten Egyptian objects, of which several are in the present collection. At the time, Böhl visited sites throughout Egypt in his capacity as travel guide. Since he travelled to Egypt almost yearly from 1925 to 1930, it is most likely that some or all of the other objects were purchased during similar travels or stop-overs in Egypt. However, European and Middle Eastern auctions must be considered possible sources, as well as the possibility that some Egyptian objects were mere 'bycatch' with purchases of cuneiform tablets at auctions or art dealers.

The travelling years: 1925-1936

In April 1925, Böhl visited Egypt for the first time, having afternoon tea on top of the Great Pyramid – something which “every proper tourist must experience”. He then briefly visited Egypt every year on his way to and from the excavations of Sichem in Palestine, which he attended in 1926, 1927 and 1928. Böhl was a travel guide in Egypt in 1928, 1930 and 1936.

Having lost his heart to Iraq, Böhl simply ceased to long for Egypt (as he himself stated) and would not visit the country again after 1936.



From the NINO collections:
The Egyptian objects

Face of the Egyptian collection

The object presented on the opposite page was connected to a human burial: a face, with part of a wig, and neck, of a wooden coffin (Inv. no. 1356; Fig. 5). A layer of dark material has been applied to the wood, and over it, a layer of greyish plaster with organic additives. The plaster is painted with red and black paint. Several peg holes, some still containing a peg, were made to attach the face to a coffin.

The red skin-tone implies that it was probably made for a male deceased. The execution of the piece, with its disproportionately large eyes, long and narrow nose bridge, and small mouth, is somewhat lacking in finesse. This would suggest that the piece was made for someone ranking not too high on the social ladder, or in a provincial workshop.

Böhl dated the object to the 22nd dynasty – but this is feasible only if he had specific knowledge of the original context of the piece. No specifics are known about its acquisition; there is no note of information mentioned by an antiquities' seller, for instance. On stylistic grounds, the face should rather be attributed to the Ptolemaic period.

Visit www.nino-leiden.nl to view or download this *Annual Report* as a pdf file, containing a 3D model of this object. In the digital *Annual Report*, it is possible to turn the model in any direction and view the object from all sides.

3D model by P. Del Vesco.



*From the NINO collections:
The Egyptian objects*



Figure 5. Face of a coffin (Inv. no. 1356, 26.5 x 11.0 x 4.8 cm).

From the NINO collections:
The Egyptian objects



Figure 6. CT image showing the contents of the animal mummy
(courtesy Amsterdam Medical Center).

From the NINO collections: The Egyptian objects



Figure 7. “Falcon” mummy (Inv. no. 1355),
purchased in Luxor on January 4, 1930; height 23.8 cm.

A highlight of the collection

The overall quality of the collection may be considered mediocre, but investigations brought to light interesting stories behind several objects. For instance, it was possible to identify the exact room in a tomb within a cemetery at Tehneh, in which a group of *shabtis* (Inv. no. 1339-1342; Figs. 3-4) were excavated in 1926. After the piece of textile (Inv. no. BEg1; Fig. 2) was treated by an expert, it turned out to be part of a reused interior hanging, showing an unusual combination of decorative techniques. It dates to the Roman period, 3rd-4th century AD.

Animal mummies

Millions of mummified animals have been found throughout Egypt, as they became popular votive offerings mainly during the Roman period. They range in size from mature crocodiles to dung beetles.

Most Egyptian gods are associated with one or more animals and were regularly depicted in animal form or with animal heads.

The falcon is connected to Horus, the sky-god associated with the king, as well as the funerary deities Sokar and Qebehseuef, and the war god Montu.

However, surely the most exciting discovery concerns the elaborately wrapped animal mummy from the Roman period (Inv. no. 1355; Fig. 7). It has painted facial markings of a falcon, and the front of the body is decorated with an intricate pattern of alternating light and dark linen.

In the first to second centuries AD especially, animal mummies were produced on a large scale. Priests sold them to temple visitors, who in turn would have them offered to the god of the temple. Animals were bred in

captivity on temple terrain, to be purposely killed and mummified. Falcons, however, were difficult to breed or keep in captivity. It is therefore not surprising that mummies representing falcons often contain other bird

From the NINO collections:
The Egyptian objects



Figure 8. CT image showing the bone structure in the animal mummy (courtesy Amsterdam Medical Center).



Figure 9. Detail of painted falcon markings on the face of the animal mummy.



Figure 10. Udjat amulet – human eye with a falcon's facial markings (Inv. no. BEg 6, 1.6 x 1.7 cm).

From the NINO collections: The Egyptian objects

species, a few bones or feathers, or no animal material at all. Böhl's animal mummy proved to be an unusual specimen.

The mummy was brought to the Academic Medical Center in Amsterdam and scanned in a CT-scanner, which revealed its contents for the first time since the mummy was wrapped some 2000 years ago (Fig. 6). An ornithologist, experienced in analysing and determining birds within mummies, used the CT images of the mummy's contents for a determination of species. It turned out to be the head and rump of a church-owl (*Tyto alba*), with legs of another, undeterminable species of bird (Fig. 8). The legs are not attached, but their position is such that the overall look is anatomically correct. It is a purposely made, full substitute for a falcon, which must have been unavailable.

All this considered, the mummy with its elaborate interior and exterior, is the result of some considerable effort and an unexpected highlight of the Egyptian collection.

Object photos: Fig. 2 by Gillian Vogelsang-Eastwood, Figs. 3, 5, 7, 9, 10 by Sigrid M. van Roode.

Selected literature

General information on Böhl:

The fleshpots of Egypt

Böhl was, according to his lively accounts in a Dutch newspaper, deeply impressed by the ancient sites in Egypt itself. Yet he sought out Iraq as his promised land in 1932 and would "hanker no more after the fleshpots of Egypt".

Böhl's scientific work was only on rare occasions – and then mainly indirectly – related to ancient Egypt. His comparative studies confirm an interest in and knowledge of ancient Egypt. This knowledge must have given Böhl some insight into the background of the objects he purchased during his travels.

However, at a time when quality antiquities were readily available in Egypt, Böhl compiled a somewhat mediocre collection with little cohesion, compared to contemporary private collectors. The question remains: did Böhl have a true appreciation for Egyptian antiquities?

Perhaps one event in 1952 is a case in point. When the opportunity was presented to him, Franz Böhl consented to a trade of a funerary statuette (Inv. no. 1341), one of a set of four, for his true passion: a cuneiform tablet.

▪ Th. C. Vriezen, Levensbericht F.M.Th. de Liagre Böhl, *Jaarboek van de Koninklijke Nederlandse Academie van Wetenschappen*, Amsterdam 1976, 218-223.

Böhl's accounts of his 1928 travels in Egypt:

▪ R. Casimir, *Met de "Telegraaf" naar de oorden der Oudheid. Reisbrieven van R. Casimir*, Amsterdam 1928.

Böhl's reflections on various of his travels:

▪ F.M.Th. de Liagre Böhl, *Oudheidkundige verkenningen in oosterse landen, Jaarbericht van het Vooraziatisch-Egyptisch gezelschap Ex Oriente Lux* No. 12, Leiden 1952, 171-183.

Böhl's bibliography can be found in two parts in:

- F.M.Th. de Liagre Böhl, *Opera Minora – Studies en bijdragen op asyriologisch en oudtestamentisch terrein*, J.B. Wolters, Groningen/Djakarta 1953, 534-549.
- M.A. Beek, A.A. Kampman, C. Nijland, J. Ryckmans (eds.), *Symbolae Biblicae et Mesopotamicae – Francisco Mario Theodoro de Liagre Böhl Dedicatae*, Leiden 1973, 412-416.



Figure 1. Tablet LB 2783, donated by Mrs Anna C.M. Vijn.
Dimensions: 2.0 x 4.4 x 4.0 cm.



Figure 2. Tablet LB 2782 (obverse and reverse),
donated by Mrs A.M. van Ingen Schenau.
Dimensions: 5.4 x 5.3 x 2.1 cm.

From the NINO collections: Two new cuneiform tablets

Theo J.H. Krispijn

On Thursday November 25, 2010, during a short ceremony in the office of the Director of NINO, two private owners of two cuneiform documents formally donated their tablets to the Institute. The two tablets are now entered into the catalogue of the Böhl Collection as LB 2782 and LB 2783.

Some time earlier the previous owners had consulted me, as daily curator of the collection and staff member in the Department of Assyriology, for a professional opinion on these documents. One tablet, which belonged to Mrs Anna C.M. Vijn, is a fragment of a word list; the other, which belonged to Mrs A.M. van Ingen Schenau, is an administrative document from the Ur III period. Once I had given them an assessment of the texts and had explained the context of the documents and their importance for Assyriology, both owners were convinced that the tablets should not remain isolated in a private collection, but rather form part of a larger and public collection where they will be accessible to specialists from all over the world. Both of the newly acquired documents are of limited interest in isolation, and only gain real importance when placed in the wider context of cuneiform studies.

From head to toe

The fragment of the word list (LB 2783) comes from the Sumerian lexical series *Ugu-mu* “my cranium”, well-known in the Old Babylonian period (ca. 1800 BC). It lists the parts of the body, starting at “the cranium”

down to “my toe nails”, and then lists some diseases. The provenience is almost certainly Larsa. The interesting aspect of this fragment is that it very likely joins a tablet from the Cotsen collection (Princeton, USA) recently published by Mark Wilson, in *Education in the Earliest Schools* (Los Angeles, 2008), text 122 on p. 217f. Monolingual (Sumerian) and bilingual (Sumerian-Akkadian) versions of this text are known, and it was an important work in the Old Babylonian school curriculum.

Groceries for Tummal

The tablet (LB 2782) from the so-called Ur III period (\pm 2000 BC) records a labour force of 60 persons for the transport of vegetables from Umma to Tummal, a temple-city near Nippur where the goddess Ninlil was venerated. It is dated to “the ninth month (November-December) of the seventh year of King Shu-Suen (2030 BC)”, and is sealed by the scribe Gududu, the servant of the king. This seal is known from other tablets from Umma, and registered as no. 163.1 in R.H. Mayr, *Seal Impressions of Ur III Umma* (Leiden, 1997).

NINO and the Department of Assyriology at Leiden University welcome such donations. We hope that other private owners of cuneiform tablets might be inspired by the example, and give their cuneiform documents a new and better home in our collection. For our part, we will do all we can to preserve them for posterity and make them accessible to the international scholarly world.



NINO activities

Jesper Eidem

General Director NINO and NIT

Introduction

NINO continued, during its 71st year of activity, to serve Near Eastern scholarship both in the Netherlands and internationally. Some of the activities are listed below: the research of staff and fellows, lectures, library facilities, and publications. More will be added in the coming years. We hope to obtain support for publication online of our collection of Near Eastern objects (the Böhl Collection), as well as our collections of photographs and slides. We also hope to be able to expand our activities in the Middle East. As a modest preview of things to come we have supplied the cover of this Annual Report with a still of a 3D model (of an Egyptian *shabti* statuette from the Böhl Collection). The 'real' 3D model can be downloaded and manipulated from our website, where more models should become available soon...

2010 was my first complete year as director of NINO/NIT, and also the year my family and I settled in earnest in the Netherlands. I remain grateful for the warm and generous

welcome we have received in our new country, within NINO and other academic institutions, as well as in Dutch society at large.

Staff

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).

Activities and publications by staff members and research fellows

Dr J. Eidem, Director

Continued review of NINO/NIT plans and procedures with staff and colleagues. In January he travelled to Brussels for the annual meeting of the ARCANE Steering Committee, and to Berlin to participate in the international workshop "The Mesopotamian Piedmont in the 2nd Millennium BC". In February he visited Istanbul and

Lecture 28 January



Lecture 18 February



NINO activities

Damascus, and gave lectures at the Dutch Institutes in both cities. In April and May he directed final excavations at the site of Tell Aushariye in Northern Syria, and made preparations for the new NINO project at Qala'at Halwanji in 2011 (see article pp. 19-25). He continued to work as epigrapher for the Italian Mission to Tell Mishrifeh (Syria) and the Danish Archaeological Expedition to Kuwait, and deciphered new inscriptions retrieved by these projects in 2010. In October he again briefly visited Istanbul and Damascus.

He continued work on data from his recent excavations in Syria, and did editorial work on the proceedings of the workshop “Constituent, Confederate, and Conquered Space in Upper Mesopotamia” (held in Berlin 2009) in cooperation with the Cluster of Excellence ‘Topoi’ at the Freie Universität in Berlin.

Prof. Dr J.F. Borghouts, research fellow

Spent the larger part of the year under review on finalising a grammar of Middle Egyptian, titled *Egyptian. An Introduction to the Writing and Language of the Middle Kingdom*. Preparing the camera-ready manuscript took a considerable amount of time, as it involved multiple fonts, one of which hieroglyphic. It was published in November, in two volumes, altogether a good 1050 pages.

He spent the remainder of the year on a *Reference Grammar of Middle Egyptian*, intended to appear in the *Handbuch der Orientalistik* with Brill Publishers. Most effort went into rewriting the extant text, updating and systematizing it. Once this is completed – in a few years – he will continue working on the edition of a large magical papyrus kept in Turin (transcription and the larger part of the commentary are ready), and a monograph on Apopis (several chapters have been written, and the entire material has been kept up to date).

This work was done in the continual benefit from the immediate accessibility of older and recent publications in the NINO library.

On 22 November he delivered a lecture on *Egyptian Magic* in the National Museum of Antiquities, Leiden, at a symposium accompanying the Museum’s exhibition on the subject.

Borghouts supervised the following PhD students: V. Massa (Demotic temple oaths), C. ten Hacken (Arabic “Life of St. Aur” of Naqlun), J. Hagen (Qasr Ibrim texts) and L. Roeten (Old Kingdom tomb decorations).

Together with M. Stol, first steps were taken for the description of research in the field of the Ancient Near East in the Netherlands on behalf of the Royal Academy of Sciences (KNAW).

Lecture 18 March

The poster is titled "NINO LEZING" and provides details for a lecture. The location is "plaats: Rijksmuseum van Oudheden, Informatiecentrum (begane grond)", the time is "15.00-16.00u", and the date is "18 maart 2010". The speaker is "Prof. dr. O.E. Kaper" and the topic is "De 400 goden van Kellis: nieuwe inzichten uit het veldwerk in de oase Dachla, Egypte". The text on the poster describes the discovery of 400 gods in the Kellis oases, mentioning fragments of papyrus and the reconstruction of a temple. It also includes a small image of a papyrus fragment with hieroglyphs and a drawing of a temple interior.

NINO activities

Dr W.F.M. Henkelman, research fellow

Made three visits to the Oriental Institute in Chicago where he continues to work on the publication of the Elamite texts in the Persepolis Fortification Archive. More than 2000 new texts have been read since 2008 and will soon be published online on the website of the Oriental Institute and on www.achemenet.com.

Henkelman also organized an expert meeting of editors working on a new, synoptic edition of the Bisotun inscriptions of Darius the Great, which will be published by NINO.

He worked on articles and encyclopaedia entries on a range of subjects and presented papers at the American Oriental Society, at the Collège de France, in Oxford (Corpus Christi) and Hildesheim.

In addition to his research, Henkelman taught courses at Innsbruck, Paris (École Pratique des Hautes Études) and Amsterdam (VU University) and, as series editor, prepared a monograph for publication in the Achaemenid History series: C. Waerzeggers, *The Ezida Temple of Borsippa: Priesthood, Cult, Archives* (AH 15), Leiden 2010.

Dr A. Mouton, visiting research fellow

Visited the NINO library during summer to work on several research projects she is supervising or co-supervising:

1) A four-year international research project on *Individual rites of passage in the Ancient Near East*, funded by the French National Agency for Research. Several scholars in Leiden are involved in this interdisciplinary project:

Dr C. Greco (National Museum of Antiquities, Egyptologist), Dr D. Katz (Sumerologist), and Drs. C. van den Hoven (Egyptologist);

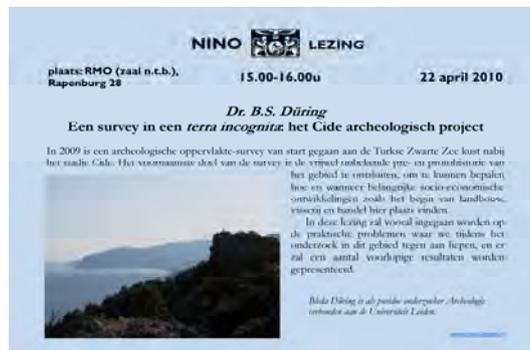
2) A British-French research project on *Luwian Religion* funded both by the British Academy and the Direction of European Affairs of the French CNRS. This will result in, among other things, a monograph by Mouton and Prof. I. Rutherford (Reading University);

3) Editions of Hittite religious texts for the “*Textzeugnisse der Hethiter*” Project of Mainz Academy and Würzburg University (www.hethport.uni-wuerzburg.de/txhet_besrit/textindex.php?g=besrit&x=x).

Among other publications:

- with I. Rutherford, *The Sun deity of the*

Lecture 22 April



Lecture 20 May



NINO activities

bilammar: an unnoticed “pan-Luwian” deity?
Bibliotheca Orientalis 67 3/4, 276-281.

Dr J.J. Roodenberg, research fellow

Prepared the 2010 issue of *Anatolica* during the winter months, working in close cooperation with the members and secretary of the editorial board. The journal was published in June and contained articles on Hittite history, on archaeological surveys and excavations covering different periods.

During the summer season he selected material samples in the store rooms of the Iznik Museum. The samples include animal and human skeletal remains uncovered in the past years at the Neolithic settlements of Ilipinar, Menteşe and Barcin, and will be used in isotope, ancient DNA and other analyses. In particular the unique preservation of organic and non-organic remains from Ilipinar’s large-scale find complex will give rise to further analyses and studies in the years to come.

Prof. Dr J. de Roos, research fellow

Devoted much time to the project *Treated passages in Hittite texts*, planned to be completed in 2011. He was assisted by K.V.J. van der Moezel, Egyptology student at Leiden University. The results of the project will be made available online; publication of a print edition is under consideration. The expected total size is some

20,000 lines of data plus a bibliography of books and articles quoted.

He organized the annual Dutch Hittitologists’ Meeting in Amsterdam. As editor of *Bibliotheca Orientalis*, he tended to articles as well as reviews of Hittitological publications, and contributed a few short announcements.

An important event for the field of Dutch Hittitology was the PhD defence by W.J.I. Waal in September. As a member of the promotion committee he reviewed her thesis *The Source as Object. Studies in Hittite Diplomats* and made several suggestions for improvements.

Prof. Dr M. Stol, research fellow

Oversaw the completion of two Master’s theses, one at Leiden University and one at VU University Amsterdam. He assisted a PhD researcher at Utrecht University in preparing his dissertation, and assisted at the defense of A.H. Jagersma’s

PhD dissertation *A descriptive grammar of Sumerian* at Leiden University in November.

He gave a class on Babylonian medicine at Leiden University (10 November), and a paper on “Babylonian skin diseases” at a meeting at Utrecht University of medical historians (17 December).

The Dutch-language manuscript of a book on women in Mesopotamia, to be published in



Sancisi Lecture 24 June

NINO activities

2011, was completed. A translation into English is envisaged.

As editor of *Bibliotheca Orientalis*, he tended to reviews of Assyriological publications, articles, and contributed several short announcements.

Publications:

- “An unequal division of property in Old Babylonian Sippar (CT 48, 8)”, in: J. Stackert, B.N. Porter, D.P. Wright, *Gazing on the Deep. Ancient Near Eastern and other studies in honor of Tzvi Abusch*, Bethesda 2010, 253-272.
- “Sesam”, *Reallexikon der Assyriologie* XII/5-6 (2010), 400-404.
- “Silakku”, *Reallexikon der Assyriologie* XII/5-6 (2010), 484.
- “De gevoelens van de patient in Babylonië”, *Phoenix* 55,3 (2009), 120-129.

Dr P. Del Vesco, visiting research fellow

Started his fellowship at NINO in August. In September and October he made use of the institute's facilities and library for research in his field of specialization, Egyptian archaeology and religion, focusing in particular on the study of

Lecture 21 October

NINO LEZING
 plaats: filmaal RMO, Rapenburg 28, Leiden
 15.00-16.00u
 21 oktober 2010

Prof. dr. W.H. van Soldt en dr. D.J.W. Meijer
 Archeologisch onderzoek in Koerdistan: de eerste resultaten van de opgraving in Satu Qala

Onder leiding van Wilfried van Soldt en Diederik Meijer startte de laatste opgravingsovername op de noordelijke Sagar Qala in Irak in Koerdistan. Het is de 70de stad die, die vooral in de Middele en Nieuwste ijzertijd (ca. 1150-850 v.Chr.) een belangrijke politieke rol speelde. Het is voor het eerst dat een dergelijke grootstad ten oosten van de Taurus wordt ontdekt.

In de herfst zullen de resultaten van het eerste seizoen worden gepresenteerd. Naast de archeologische vondsten als huizen en aardewerk zullen we ook aandacht besteden aan de reïconstruering die gevonden zijn en de omvang van een aantal koninkrijken hebben opgeleverd.

W.H. van Soldt is hoogleraar Assyriologie, Diederik Meijer is universitair hoofdwetenschappelijk medewerker van de Universiteit Leiden.

a sandstone lintel of the Egyptian Museum in Cairo (JE 32016) for future publication.

As collaborator in the new NINO archaeological project at Qala'at Halwanji in Syria (see *Annual Report NINO/NIT 2009*, pp. 3-10, and

this issue pp. 19-25), he worked on topographic and other data collected at the site during the first two campaigns in 2008 and 2009, producing digital maps and a 3D model of the site.

In the same period he performed editorial and secretarial tasks for *Bibliotheca Orientalis*.

In October his PhD thesis on unusual terracotta objects from Thebes (present-day Luxor, Egypt) and connected household rituals, performed in the first millennium BC, *Letti votivi e culti domestici. Tracce archeologiche di credenze religiose nell'Egitto del Terzo Periodo Intermedio*, was published in Italy by PLUS, Pisa University Press.

In November-December he participated as field director in the University of Pisa excavation in the Theban necropolis of Dra Abu el-Naga, on the West Bank of Luxor, directed by Prof. M. Betrò. In December he guided a group in a 10 days tour to archaeological sites and museums in Egypt.

Veenhof Lecture 19 November

NINO LEZING
 vrijdag 19 november 2010
 19.00-20.00u
 plaats: RMO, Rapenburg 28, Leiden

Prof. Dr. A. Archi — The Gods of Ebla

Ebla was the second Ebla, based in the 24th century BC, after the first Ebla, a pre-urbanization of rural villages. They probably, however, as a result of the fall in Southern Ebla, suffered a massive population decline from the city of Ebla, and are found in a single context, having 'come back' and regained their status, with three major sanctuaries in major centers: Ebla, the Temple of the Goddess, and the Temple of the Gods. The latter two sanctuaries were built by the Eblaite king, Iku-sisu, and were dedicated to the goddesses of Ebla, the goddesses of the Eblaite pantheon.

The Eblaite pantheon is unique in the ancient world, and is characterized by the presence of a goddess, the goddess of Ebla, who is depicted as a woman with a snake around her neck. The goddess of Ebla is also depicted as a woman with a snake around her neck, and is associated with the goddesses of Ebla, the goddesses of the Eblaite pantheon.

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NINO activities

Dr T.K. Vorderstrasse, research fellow

Focused on finishing up research on several projects. She continued working on an Arabic ostraca project with a visit to the Berlin museum, where she photographed and studied ostraca. She also continued her studies on the Central Asian collection of Major Myers in the National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh, the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, and Eton College. Research was also done at the National Museum of Ireland in Dublin on their collection of Islamic art, and at Trinity College, Dublin, on some Chinese manuscripts.

Published articles:

- New Evidence for Coin Circulation in Byzantine and Early Islamic Egypt, in: A. Oddy (ed.), *Coinage and History in the Seventh Century Near East 2*. London (7th Century Syrian Numismatic Round Table) 2010, 57-60.
- Trade and Textiles in Medieval Antioch, *Al-Masaq* 22.2 (2010), 151-171.
- with T. Matney, Medieval Remains at the Site of Ziyaret Tepe (Diyarbakır) in Southeast Turkey, in: P. Matthiae, F. Pinnock, L. Nigro, and N. Machetti (eds.), *Proceedings of the 6th ICAANE Conference, Rome, May 2008. Vol. 3: Islamic Studies*, Wiesbaden 2010, 251-263.

Lecture 9 December



Lectures

Monthly lectures were held with the kind cooperation of the National Museum of Antiquities, Leiden, in the Museum's lecture rooms. Aimed at a broad audience and held in the afternoon, they drew a public of minimum 15 to more than 60 people. Two special lectures, honouring Near Eastern scholars Prof. H.W.A.M. Sancisi-Weerdenburg and Prof. K.R. Veenhof respectively, were held at the Museum's Taffeh hall in the evening.

Lecture series 2009-2010

28 January: J.G. Dercksen (Leiden University),

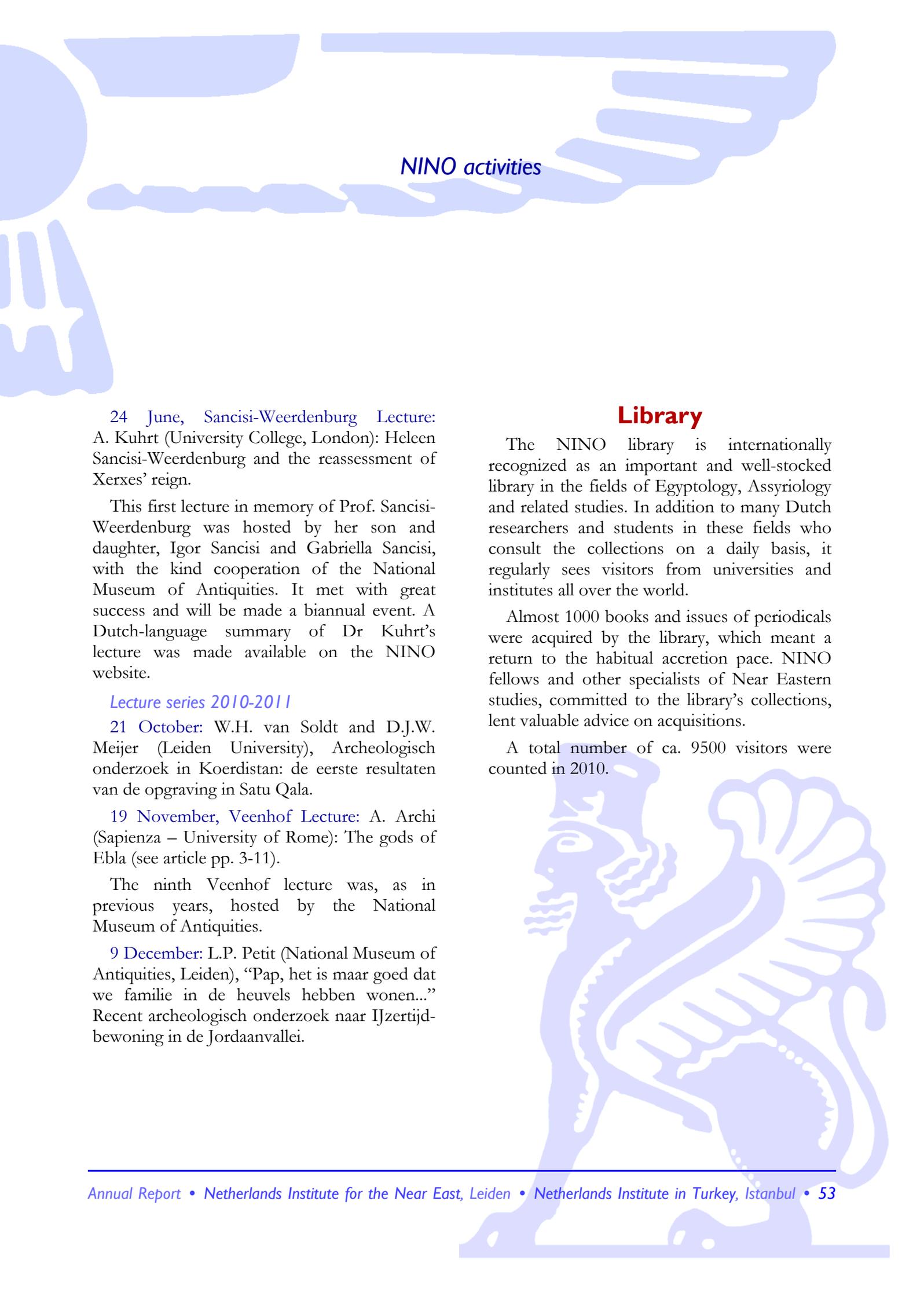
Dood van een handelsreiziger. De ontdekking van het archief van een Assyrische koopman in Turkije (1880 v. Chr.).

18 February: W.H. van Soldt (Leiden University),
De stad Ugarit in de Late Bronstijd: bestuur en topografie.

18 March: O.E. Kaper (Leiden University),
De 400 goden van Kellis: nieuwe inzichten uit het veldwerk in de oase Dachla, Egypte.

22 April: B.S. Düring (Leiden University),
Een survey in een *terra incognita*: het Cide archeologisch project.

20 May: M.J. Raven (National Museum of Antiquities):
Resultaten van opgravingsseizoen 2010 in Saqqara, Egypte.



NINO activities

24 June, Sancisi-Weerdenburg Lecture: A. Kuhrt (University College, London): Heleen Sancisi-Weerdenburg and the reassessment of Xerxes' reign.

This first lecture in memory of Prof. Sancisi-Weerdenburg was hosted by her son and daughter, Igor Sancisi and Gabriella Sancisi, with the kind cooperation of the National Museum of Antiquities. It met with great success and will be made a biannual event. A Dutch-language summary of Dr Kuhrt's lecture was made available on the NINO website.

Lecture series 2010-2011

21 October: W.H. van Soldt and D.J.W. Meijer (Leiden University), *Archeologisch onderzoek in Koerdistan: de eerste resultaten van de opgraving in Satu Qala.*

19 November, Veenhof Lecture: A. Archi (Sapienza – University of Rome): *The gods of Ebla (see article pp. 3-11).*

The ninth Veenhof lecture was, as in previous years, hosted by the National Museum of Antiquities.

9 December: L.P. Petit (National Museum of Antiquities, Leiden), *“Pap, het is maar goed dat we familie in de heuvels hebben wonen...”* Recent archeologisch onderzoek naar IJzertijd-bewoning in de Jordaanvallei.

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.

Almost 1000 books and issues of periodicals were acquired by the library, which meant a return to the habitual accretion pace. NINO fellows and other specialists of Near Eastern studies, committed to the library's collections, lent valuable advice on acquisitions.

A total number of ca. 9500 visitors were counted in 2010.

Chair of Ecology and Palaeoecology of the Near East

The special chair at the Faculty of Archaeology of Leiden University, endowed by NINO, is held by Prof. Dr R.T.J. Cappers (Rijksuniversiteit Groningen).

Cappers taught courses in *Ecology and Environmental History of the Near East* (Leiden University), and in *Archaeobotany* (Workshop in Istanbul and Field school in the Fayum, Egypt). He supervised nine students, from BA to PhD-level, in specialized subjects of archaeobotany of the Near East.

He was co-applicant for NWO support in two projects (Barcın Höyük excavation, with Dr F.A. Gerritsen; Qala'at Halwanji excavation, with Dr J. Eidem). Both have been accepted in early 2011.

He was member of the Organizing Committee of the international conference held at the Netherlands Institute in Athens in March, entitled *Subsistence, Economy and Society in the Greek World: Improving the integration of archaeology and science*.

A field trip was made to sites in Turkey from which plant material has been secured for a large-scale study of modelling ancient landscapes.



Participants in the Archaeobotany workshop at NIT.

Publications:

- with R. Neef, K.U. Heussner & H. Woldring, *Manual of Paleoecology*. Groningen 2010.
- with R. Phillipps, S. Holdaway & W.Z. Wendrich, Mid-Holocene Occupation of Egypt and Global Climatic Change, in: *LAC Quarternary International* (in press).
- with Aylan Erkal, Plant remains from the Amuq C Levels of Tell Kurdu, in: R. Özbal & F. Gerritsen (eds.), *Tell Kurdu, Volume 1: The Sixth Millennium Amuq C Levels*. Oriental Institute Publications, Chicago (in press).

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.

Achaemenid History

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

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).

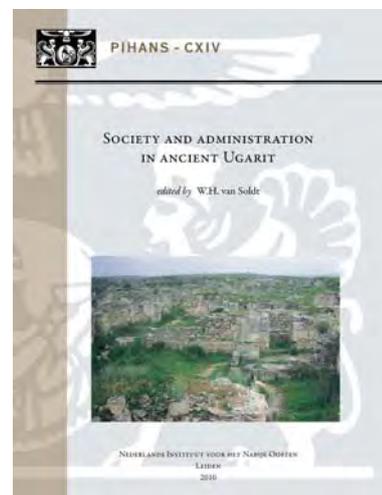
Ms. E. Zomer, Assyriology student at Leiden University, assisted the work of the editorial secretary.

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).

NINO publications were sold from book tables at the 56^e *Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale* at Barcelona, in July, and the Leiden symposia *Current Research in Egyptology XI* (January) and *Dutch Symposium of the Ancient Near East* (March).

The following NINO publications appeared in 2010:



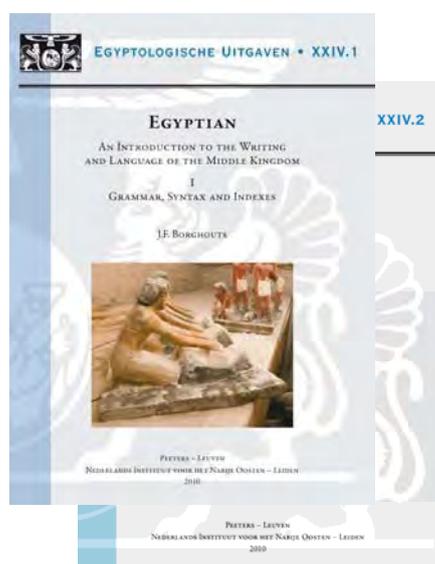
W.H. van Soldt (ed.) – **Society and administration in ancient Ugarit**. Papers read at a symposium in Leiden, 13-14 December 2007 (*PIHANS* 114), 2010. 27 cm, softcover; II, 196; € 29,-. ISBN: 978-90-6258-325-6.

Papers presented during a symposium held in Leiden, the fourth in a series of symposia jointly organized by the Department of Languages and Cultures of Mesopotamia and Anatolia (TCMA) of Leiden University and NINO.

The focus is on the aspects of society and administration that we can deduce from the syllabic and alphabetic cuneiform texts found at Ras Shamra since 1929. Although the organization of the society and its administration at Ugarit has received much attention many questions concerning the administrative texts still remain unsolved and new theories have changed our view of that society. The aim of the symposium was to look into a number of these unsolved questions and to discuss theoretical approaches that have recently been proposed.

Publications

Egyptologische Uitgaven 24

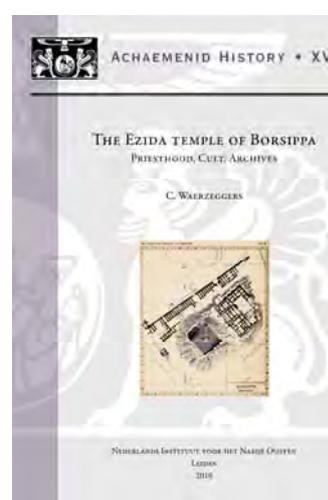


J.F. Borghouts – **Egyptian**. An Introduction to the writing and language of the Middle Kingdom. Volume I: Grammar, Syntax and Indexes; Volume II: Sign lists, Exercises and Reading Texts (*EU* 24), 2010. 27 cm, softcover; I: XXXII, 581; II: VII, 482; € 120,-. ISBN: 978-90-6258-224-2.

A data-oriented grammatical description of Middle Egyptian, first spoken and written during the Middle Kingdom and regarded by the Egyptians as a classical stage of their language. It remained in use for a long time after that period.

The first volume is a systematic description of the language, illustrated by a great number of quotations from original texts, and provided with word lists and other indexes. The second volume leads the reader in a gradual way in 33 lessons through the grammatical description of the first volume, and moreover contains an extensive list of hieroglyphic signs and their values, exercises and, finally, original texts for reading.

Achaemenid History 15



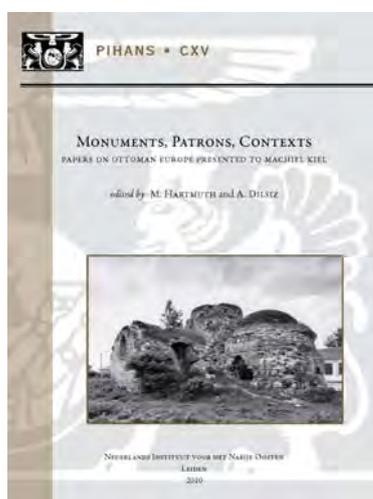
Caroline Waerzeggers – **The Ezida temple of Borsippa**. Priesthood, cult, archives (*Achaemenid History* 15), 2010. 25 cm, cloth; XXIV, 803, images on dvd-rom; € 94,-. ISBN: 978-90-6258-415-4.

This book provides an insight into the world of the priests of the Ezida temple in Borsippa, covering the period when this sanctuary dedicated to the god Nabû was Babylonia's second most important place of worship (c. 750-484 BC). The backbone of the book is the extensive corpus of cuneiform texts that these priests have left behind. Discovered in the 19th century, these archives have largely remained unstudied.

Apart from offering an edition of the texts (Part II), this study reconstructs the professional and social lives of Nabû's priests, and outlines the workings of the cult of a major Babylonian deity (Part I).

Publications

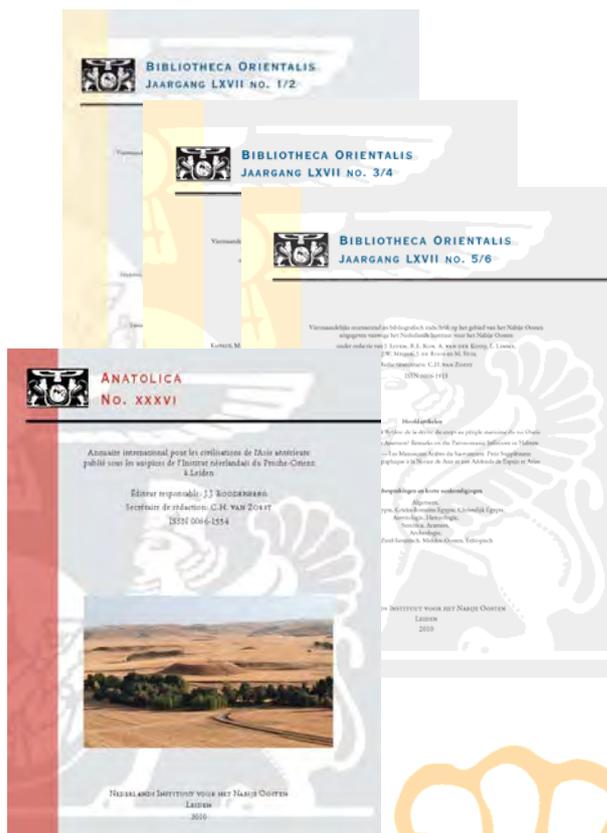
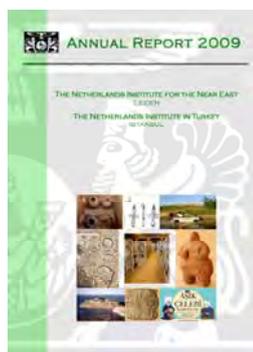
PIHANS 115



Maximilian Hartmuth and Ayşe Dilsiz (eds.) – **Monuments, patrons, contexts.** Papers on Ottoman Europe presented to Machiel Kiel (*PIHANS* 115), 2010. 27 cm, softcover; III, 207; € 43,-. ISBN: 978-90-6258-326-3.

Proceedings of a symposium held on 27 June, 2008 at NIT, Istanbul, in honour of the historian Machiel Kiel. Best known for his often pioneering work on the Ottoman Balkans, the scope of the contributions by friends and colleagues is as wide as the honouree's lifework.

The research articles are followed by the thus far most complete bibliography of Kiel's work.



Periodicals

Bibliotheca Orientalis LXVII (632 columns, published in three fascicles) contained eight articles, and reviews of ca. 160 books in the fields of Egyptology, Assyriology, Near Eastern Archaeology, Hebrew and Old Testament studies, Arabic, Turkish, Islam and related studies (ISSN 0006-1913; € 140,-).

ANATOLICA Volume 36 contained six articles on Anatolian archaeology and one on Hittitology; a total of 225 pages. (ISSN: 0066-1554; € 60,-).

J. Eidem et al. – **Annual Report** NINO and NIT 2009. 29 cm, stapled; 48 pages.



NIT activities

Fokke Gerritsen

Local Director NIT

Introduction

The year 2010 was a busy – and thus a good – year for the NIT, with a full agenda of activities that each helped us foster research on the history and heritage of Turkey, and support the academic and cultural relations between Turkey and the Netherlands. In addition to the yearly lecture series and symposia, the staff of the NIT was able to intensify the educational programme of the institute, offering courses to Dutch and Turkish MA and PhD students, and hosting courses taught in Istanbul by Dutch historians, classicists and heritage specialists.

Since 2006, the NIT has found housing in the heart of the city in the wonderful premises of the Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations (RCAC) of Koç University. Following several years of planning and renovations, the third and final building of the complex became available in autumn. After an internal move, the NIT library and offices now occupy new, adjoining spaces on the first floor of the building. We greatly appreciate the opportunities offered to us in this way by RCAC and Koç

Lecture 10 February



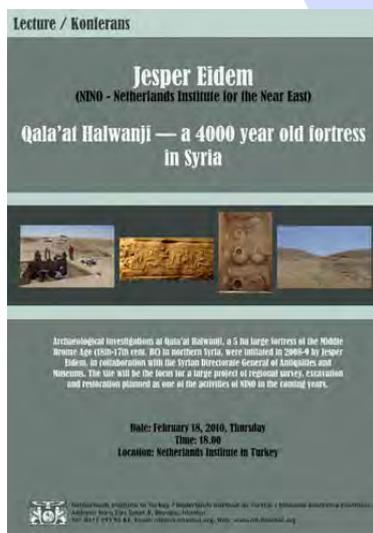
University to serve the international scholarly community that has Turkey as its subject of research and education.

In terms of funding, 2010 was the second year of the initially two-year subsidy provided by the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science. In the autumn we received the excellent news that this funding will be extended into future years! This is a major step in realizing our aim to strengthen and expand the

programs of the institute. The NIT also joined the NWIB, the organization of Dutch academic institutes abroad, and looks forward to expanding the cooperation with its sister institutes around the Mediterranean.

Leiden University administrates the NIT with respect to the Ministry's funding and the NWIB organization.

Lecture 18 February



Staff

The year 2010 saw no changes in the staff of the NIT: Fokke Gerritsen (director, 0.9 fte), Funda Demir (adjunct director, 0.5 fte), Charlie Smid (staff member heritage studies, 0.4 fte), Gülten Yıldız (librarian, 1.0 fte), Ayşe Dilsiz (assistant,

NIT activities

1.0 fte), Machiel Kiel (senior research fellow). In January Eva Schieveld and from October through December Elisha van den Bos worked on a temporary basis for the NIT.

Research projects and publications

The staff of the NIT currently conducts research projects in the fields of archaeology and architectural history. As in previous years, much time and energy was devoted in 2010 also to providing support to research projects by scholars and students from the Dutch and Turkish academic communities. Again and again it proves useful, sometimes even critical, for researchers to be able to rely on local expertise and advice, to establish contacts, obtain permits and locate resources.

Barcın Höyük Excavations

The NIT long-term archaeological fieldwork project at Barcın Höyük continued during the summer of 2010. A note on the results from the season can be found elsewhere in this annual report. In the course of 2010, the following publications related to the excavations appeared:

- Barcın Höyük Excavations, 2008, 31. *Kazı Sonuçları Toplantısı*, Vol. 1 (2010), 411-420.

- with R. Özbal, Geç Neolitik Tarımcılar, Barcın Höyük, *Aktüel Arkeoloji* 13 (2010), 51.
- with R. Özbal, L. Thissen, H. Özbal, and A. Galik, The Late Chalcolithic Settlement at Barcın Höyük, *Anatolica* 36 (2010), 197-225.
- with H. Özbal, A. Türkekul-Bıyık, L. Thissen, T. Doğan, and R. Özbal, Linking Milk Processing To Pottery Function In Prehistoric Anatolia: Diachronic And Regional Perspectives, *Conference paper presented at Materials Research Society Annual Conference*, Boston 2010.

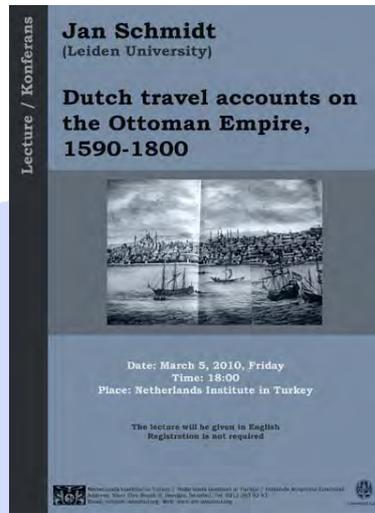
Ottoman Architecture in the Balkans

Senior research fellow Machiel Kiel continued his busy schedule of archival research, study trips across the Ottoman lands and publication efforts. In particular the work on entries for the *Islam Ansiklopedisi* has demanded much time, since the editors have begun a major push to

publish the remaining volumes within a reasonable time frame.

Among his 2010 publications are:

- The Külliye of Gazi Turhan Bey in the Village of Kırkkavak, District of Uzunköprü. Research and Resurrection of a Disappeared Early-Ottoman Building Complex, in: K. Pektaş et al. (eds.), *Proceedings of the XIIIth Symposium of Medieval and Turkish Period Excavations and Art*



Lecture 5 March

NIT activities

Historical Researches, 14-16 October 2009, İstanbul. Pamukkale Üniversitesi Yayınları 2010, 371-381.

- The History and Development of Ottoman Turkish fortified towns 16th-19th centuries shown by the examples of Avlonya/Vlore (S. Albania), Vidin, Varna and Silistra (Danubian Bulgaria), in: D. Yavaş (ed.) *Savunma hatlarından yaşam alanlarına Kaleler: 19. Kaleli Kentler Sempozyumu 8-11 Ekim 2009 Bursa-Osmangazi = 19th walled towns symposium October 2009, Bursa 2010, 278-286.*

Eleven scholars who in some way or another have been inspired by Machiel Kiel's work contributed to a Festschrift which appeared in October, co-edited by NIT assisant Ayşe Dilsiz:

M. Hartmuth & A. Dilsiz (eds.), *Monuments, patrons, contexts. Papers on Ottoman Europe presented to Machiel Kiel* (PIHANS 115), Leiden 2010.

Cide Archaeological Project

The NIT is one of the supporting organizations behind an archaeological survey project directed by Dr Bleda Düring of Leiden University and

Lecture 1 April



colleagues. He reports the following on the 2010 field-work season:

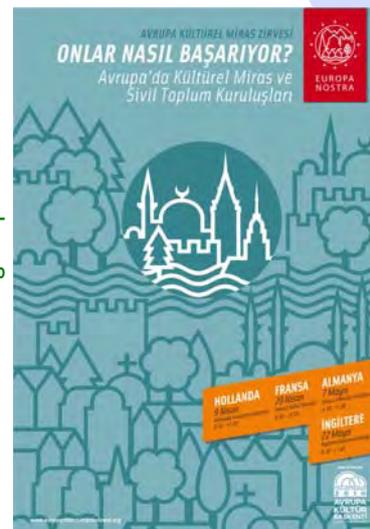
The Cide Archaeological Project (CAP) is an intensive and targeted survey project on the Black Sea coast of Kastamonu province. CAP's two main research objectives are the documentation of the region's culture historical development and its cultural connections with inland Anatolia and the circum-Pontic.

At the end of 2009 we were left with a fair number of gaps in our record. These included the Neolithic, the second millennium BC, and the Iron Age, whereas the Hellenistic and Ottoman periods were poorly represented. With the exception of the Neolithic, we were able to plug almost all chronological gaps in the local occupation history during the 2010 season.

Among the most exciting results of this year's campaign are two lithic scatters found during intensive unit walking in Şenpazar. The assemblages appear to represent *in situ* knapping debitage, most likely from the Mesolithic, ca. 10,000 to 6000 BC.

For the Chalcolithic and Bronze Ages, the most important site investigated in 2010 is the cave of

Meeting 9 April



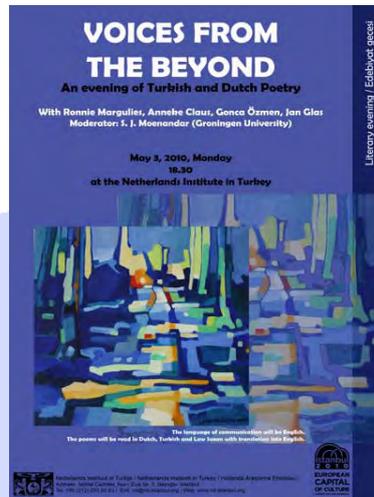
NIT activities

Kılıçlı Mağarası located in the Loç area of Cide. This cave is subject to ongoing illegal excavation. Possibly a burial site, Kılıçlı Mağarası yielded large quantities of EBA pottery as well as Chalcolithic and second millennium BC materials.

Another period which we had been unable to document with confidence in 2009 is the second millennium BC. The evidence for this period again is richest in the caves, particularly Kılıçlı Mağarası. Intensive surface investigations at Okçular, however, also yielded likely candidates.

At Gideros the discovery of part of a fortification system consisting of dry masonry, makes possible an Iron Age occupation at the site, although the walls may also date to the Hellenistic period. We were also able to identify a range of Hellenistic pottery, including a discrete concentration, in the intensive units at Okçular. Finally, we found a cemetery on the scenic Gökçekale promontory, consisting of a large number of cist burials, and probably dating to the Hellenistic period. Coastal Cide and its hinterland was home to thriving Late Roman and Early Byzantine communities. We have investigated numerous churches, fortifications, and farmsteads dating to these periods. The presence of a dense network of churches and fortifications remains puzzling in a mountainous landscape such as Cide.

Event 3 May



The Cide Archaeological Project is a collaboration between Bleda Düring (Leiden University), Claudia Glatz (University of Glasgow), and Emre Şerifoğlu (Çanakkale University). We would also like to thank the staff of the General Directorate and the Kastamonu Museum, our representative, Ünver Göcen, from the Ereğli Museum, and the British Institute at Ankara and the Netherlands Institute in Turkey for their assistance. For more information see: www.cidearchaeology.com.

Research fellows

Among the researchers hosted and supported by the institute in the course of the year, two PhD students and one Research Master student received fellowships from the institute:

Historian Seçkin Özdamar of Maastricht University came to do research for her PhD dissertation on *Urban Space and National Memory in Turkey*. The institute is

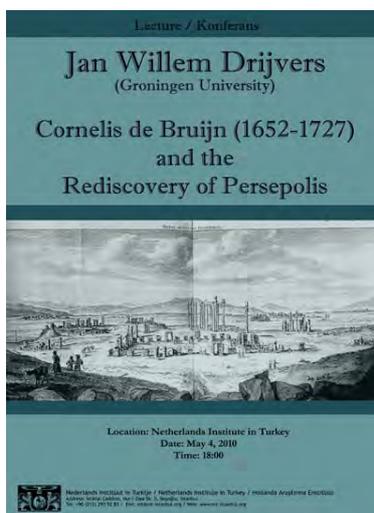
located close to some of the key places and monuments that helped shape early republican Turkey.

Ancient historian Sanne van Poppel works on a PhD dissertation at Nijmegen University with the preliminary title *Urbs et Augustus. The city of Rome in politics and representation of power during the reign of the Constantinian dynasty*. Her stay in Istanbul gave her the opportunity to gain a comparative perspective on the cities of Rome and Constantinople.

NIT activities

Archaeologist Elisha van den Bos, VU University Amsterdam, profited from the extensive collections in the NIT library on Anatolian and SE European prehistory, for her work on a Research Master thesis on *Neolithic houses and households in NW Turkey (6500-5000 BC)*. With this thesis Elisha won the Research Master thesis award of the Faculty of Arts!

Lecture 4 May



Jewish migration: voices of the Diaspora (ICOJIL 4)

Organized with Utrecht University Research Institute for History and Culture and the 500 Year Foundation, Istanbul. A concert by *Los Pasbaros Sepharadis*, an ensemble that researches and performs music in Judeo-Espanyol (ladino), was generously sponsored by the Dutch Consulate-General in conjunction with the symposium.

Conferences

Over the course of the year, the NIT organized four academic conferences and a literary evening, each in collaboration with different partners in Turkey and the Netherlands, and relating to the different focus areas of the institute.

9 April: Europa Nostra. Turkish and Dutch heritage NGOs share experiences

Organized in collaboration with Europa Nostra Turkey and Erfgoed Nederland. The lectures of this symposium, including those presented by NIT staff members Fokke Gerritsen and Charlie Smid, will be published in English (online) and Turkish (print) by Europa Nostra Turkey in a 2011 volume.

23-25 June: Fourth International Conference on Jewish Italian Literature:

Symposium 23-27 June



25-26 November: When women enter the public space... Men and families in women's architectural heritage in East and West

A conference on women's architectural patronage, comparing case studies from the Ottoman Empire and early modern western Europe, organized with the Institut Français d'Études Anatoliennes in Istanbul.

21-22 December: Conservation and Creativity: Comparative experiences of creativity for the conservation of Istanbul's World Heritage Sites

Organized with Istanbul 2010 Capital of Culture.

Literary Evening 3 May: Voices from the Beyond. An Evening of Turkish and Dutch Poetry

Organized with the student organization of Groningen University's Arts, Culture and

NIT activities

Media Department. Performing poets: Ronni Margulies, Anneke Claus, Gonca Özmen and Jan Glas; moderator: Sjoerd-Jeroen Moenandar.

Lectures

The following lectures were held at the institute in 2010.

10 February: Nicole van Os (Leiden University), Doing research on Ottoman women and the International Women's Movement or, how to turn into an armchair scholar.

18 February: Jesper Eidem (NINO), Qala'at Halwanji – a 4000 year old fortress in Syria.

5 March: Jan Schmidt (Leiden University), Dutch travel accounts on the Ottoman Empire 1590-1800.

1 April: Hans Theunissen (Leiden University), Ottoman Tile Culture in the 18th Century: the Dutch Connection.

4 May: Jan Willem Drijvers (Groningen University), Cornelis de Bruijn (1652-1727) and the Rediscovery of Persepolis.

A modified version of this lecture was translated into Turkish and appeared in the popular-scientific journal *Toplumsal Tarih* (July 2010).

20 October: Hedda Reindl-Kiel (Bonn University), Luxury, Power Strategies and the Question of Corruption. Gifting in the Ottoman Elite (16th-18th Centuries).

Lecture 20 October



Lecture / Konferans:
**Luxury, Power Strategies
and the Question of
Corruption.
Gifting in the Ottoman Elite
(16th-18th Centuries)**
by

Hedda Reindl-Kiel,
University of Bonn

October 20 / 20 Ekim 2010
18:00

The lecture will be followed by the
presentation of the book "Monuments,
Patrons, Contexts. Papers on Ottoman
Europe presented to Machiel Kiel"

Rek: International Institute for the Study of the History of the Ottoman Empire
Address: Steynvorstraat 5, 3584 CA Utrecht
www.rek.uu.nl

25 October: Mineke Schipper (Leiden University), Never Marry a Woman with Big Feet. Women in Proverbs from Around the World.

8 November: Aleksandr Gavrilov (Petersburg University), From Roman Authepsa to Russian Samovar: Anatolian Crossroads, Chinese Tea, Dutch and British Commerce.

15 December: Mehmet Tütüncü, Correspondence between the Prince and the Pasha: Diplomatic and Personal letters between Halil Pasha and Prince Maurits of Netherlands.

Educational activities

As part of the expansion of the range of activities that the NIT is involved in, a number of courses at BA, MA and PhD level were organized and facilitated in 2010.

One course first held in October 2009, a series of Master classes on archaeobotany, had created such interest that Prof. René Cappers of Groningen University decided to return to Istanbul for two weeks in February 2011 to continue his training program for a selected group of Turkish students. Since then, two of them have decided to come to Groningen for further research and specialization.

In early June, an intensive one-week course was offered to PhD students affiliated with the

NIT activities

Huizinga Institute under the title *Istanbul, city of contrasts. Cultural transfer between Europe and Turkey*. A series of lectures at the institute by Turkish and Dutch academics, policy makers and journalists was combined with site visits and a meeting with PhD students from Sabancı University.

With varying degrees of involvement, the institute hosted and provided support for a series of other BA and MA level courses, receiving students from many of the universities in the Netherlands.

The Study in Holland Desk in Turkey

NIT adjunct director Funda Demir coordinates NIHA and NIT's activities to support the internationalization of Dutch higher education under the heading *Study in Holland Desk in Turkey*. In 2010 she was again invited by Nuffic to their annual conference as one of the speakers during the session on the Netherlands Institutes abroad. After the conference she attended a day of workshops for NIB/NWIB employees.

Furthermore, Funda Demir organized in close cooperation with Nuffic the Dutch participation to the 18th International

Lecture 25 October



Never Marry a Woman with Big Feet
Women in Proverbs from Around the World

a lecture by
Mineke Schipper
Professor of International Library Studies at Leiden University, author of
"Zehirli Aci Çiğdem Kaldırı Buha Dünyası: Dilinçe Dilinden Atasözleriyle Kadınlar"

October 25 / 25 Ekim 2010, 18:00

Netherlands Institute in Turkey / Netherlandisch Instituut in Turkije / Hollands Instituut Istanbul
Adres: Nispetiye Sok. No: 2, Beşiktaş, İstanbul
Tel: +90 212 281 81 81, E-mail: niti@niti.nl, www.niti.nl

Education Fairs of Turkey (IEFT) in autumn. Leiden University, Tilburg University and the three technical universities, TU Delft, TU Eindhoven and the University of Twente, presented their programs at the fair. Besides supporting the promotion of Dutch higher education institutions at the IEFT, on 12 October the NIT participated in the study abroad fair at VU University Amsterdam. Elisha van den Bos, who was a NIT-fellow in the spring of 2010, represented the institute at the fair. Here she informed students who are thinking about spending a period of study or research in Istanbul about the facilities and support that the NIT can offer.

Lecture 8 November



From Roman Authepsa to Russian Samovar:
Anatolian Crossroads, Chinese Tea,
Dutch and British Commerce

a lecture by
Prof. Dr. Aleksandr K. Gavrilov
(St. Petersburg University)

November 8 / 8 Kasım 2010, 18:00

Netherlands Institute in Turkey / Netherlandisch Instituut in Turkije / Hollands Instituut Istanbul
Adres: Nispetiye Sok. No: 2, Beşiktaş, İstanbul
Tel: +90 212 281 81 81, E-mail: niti@niti.nl, www.niti.nl

The 22nd Annual Conference of the EAIE (European Association for International Education) took place in Nantes in the fall. For the *Study in Holland Desk in Turkey* this was the first but certainly not the last participation. On and around the fair Funda Demir established numerous contacts with Turkish and Dutch universities and universities of applied sciences, and was able to set up many meetings on the

NIT activities

spot between representatives from institutions from both countries. Educational match-making at its most efficient!

Besides being present at these international events, over the course of the year guidance was provided to over 600 students who consulted the *Study in Holland Desk in Turkey*, both in Ankara and Istanbul. Of these students 1/5 were interested in BA level education, 3/5 in MA level education and 1/5 in PhD and post-doc level.

Study trip Ministry of Education, Culture and Science

In the framework of a project to renew Dutch cultural heritage policies, a delegation from the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science came to Istanbul for a study trip in April. The NIT assisted in putting together a program of meetings and work visits, intended to provide the delegation with a solid grasp of the role of cultural heritage in a context both very different from and at the same time similar to the situation in the Netherlands. Istanbul offers unique possibilities in this respect: it is full of remains from its almost two thousand year long history as the capital of world empires; the pressures of urban development are immense; and, it is inhabited in part by recent immigrants to the city who do not necessarily have a close identification with the city's past.

Lecture 25 November

When women enter the public space... Men and families in women's architectural patronage in East and West

25 November 2010
9:30 - 17:30
Gezginer Salon
Hacıyay Cad. 16, Galatasaray,
Beşiktaş, İstanbul

26 November 2010
10:00 - 12:30
Netherlands Institute in Turkey
Şişli 1 Ziya Gökalp 5
Beşiktaş, İstanbul



Meetings were organized for the delegation with policy makers and academics, with the Istanbul Municipality urban planning department, representatives of NGOs and members of the Istanbul 2010 European Capital of Culture Steering Committee. Visits to urban restructuring projects, museums and an archaeological park rounded off the program.

Library

In 2010 the NIT library witnessed an increase in the number of external users (714 in total, not counting the NIT and RCAC fellows who use the library on a daily or weekly basis), partly due to the fact that it remained open in the summer months for the first time since the reopening. The library was closed only for three weeks in September during the move to another floor.

The cataloguing process was completed – now the whole collection, including the periodicals, can be reached online.

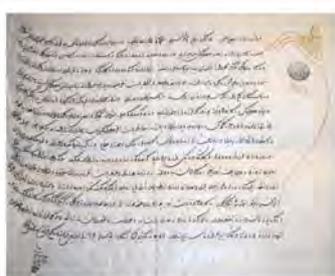
The library continued to grow both by acquisitions and exchange agreements with other institutions worldwide. The total number of volumes received in 2010 was 305. The majority of these volumes consist of books on Anatolian and Near Eastern archaeology, heritage and museum studies, Ottoman and Byzantine history and art history, and the city of Istanbul.

NIT activities

Guestrooms

In 2010, the NIT continued to house visiting researchers and students in its three guestrooms. Overall occupancy was 63%, by 81 different guests. Most of these were in Istanbul for research purposes and made extensive use of NIT's facilities such as 24-hour library access and practical and academic support. The remainder came to participate in conferences, give lectures, teach courses or hold meetings with Turkish colleagues.

Lecture 15 December



Correspondence between the Prince and the Pasha
Diplomatic and personal letters between Halil Pasha and Prince Maurits of Netherlands

a lecture by
Mehmet Tütüncü

December 15 / 15 Aralık 2010, 18:00



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Through a competition for graphic design students from Dutch art academies, also organized for the NIT by Eva Schieveld, the NIT found Mareike Bode. Mareike came to Istanbul to design a new visual style for our letters, posters and website.

The NIT website continued to be continuously updated throughout the year in order to be able to announce the activities to a wider audience. The continuing growth in daily

average visitor numbers indicates that the institute is successful in garnering greater interest for its activities and facilities.

Communication

In January Mrs. Eva Schieveld was part of the NIT staff for one month to develop a communication plan for the institute. Given the growing numbers of contacts and increasing diversity in the nature of our contacts, we felt that it was necessary to bring more structure, clarity and efficiency in our communication with these contacts. We introduced many elements of her plan in the course of the year, while some of the more visible aspects such as a new website will follow in 2011.

Lecture 22 December



The digital NIT newsletter was started in 2006 to inform our contacts in the Netherlands of the recent activities that took place in Istanbul. Over the last few years there has been a growing interest from a diverse and international public in the latest developments, and beginning in 2010 we have switched to sending out newsletters in English. The spring and autumn issues were received by close to 900 subscribers. Both newsletters are archived on the NIT website.

Curatorium

Curatorium of NINO and NIT

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

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 July and December 2010.

Executive Board

The Executive Board represents the Curatorium between its semi-annual meetings. Members:

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 February, April, June, October and December 2010. The meetings were attended by J. Eidem (general director), R.T. Dickhoff (financial administrator) and C.H. van Zoest (minutes).

Scientific committee

A committee within the Curatorium of NINO and NIT advises on scientific matters.

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 January, July and December 2010.

Curatorium of the Chair of Ecology and Palaeoecology of the Near East

The special chair, created by NINO at the Faculty of Archaeology at Leiden University in November 2008, is overseen by a Curatorium that meets annually. Members:

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

The Curatorium of the Chair of Paleobotany met in April 2010.



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Annual Report NINO and NIT 2010

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



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